

What is Countryside Survey?

Countryside Survey is a unique and world-leading study of the natural resources of the UK's countryside. It gives us information about gradual changes in the countryside over time. The 2007 Survey, which will report in 2008, is the fifth to be carried out since 1978.

The survey:

- Measures and analyses habitat and landscape features, vegetation, water courses, ponds, soils and land cover
- Allows us, by comparison with earlier surveys, to track the effects of change in land and freshwater habitats, which helps to inform countryside policy and planning for the future

Surveys are being completed for England, Scotland and Wales and Northern Ireland. This will allow the project to report at UK and individual country levels.



Who is involved?

Countryside Survey is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council and a partnership of government departments and agencies headed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The partnership contracts the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology to carry out the field survey and produce a Land Cover Map of the UK.



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



Environment & Heritage Service
www.ehnsi.gov.uk



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru
Countryside Council for Wales



SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE
DUALCHAS NADAIR na h-ALBA



Forestry Commission

For more information please contact the Countryside Survey Project Office or visit the website at www.countrysidesurvey.org.uk

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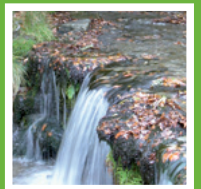
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Countryside Survey

measuring
change
in our
countryside





What will the survey do?

Countryside Survey records and reports on changes in the quality and quantity of natural resources throughout our countryside.

Countryside Survey will:

- Provide information on land cover, habitats, landscape features, soil, and freshwater habitats
- Assess change in our countryside - by comparing what is found in 2007 with earlier surveys
- Improve our understanding of how these changes occur and how they affect our use of the countryside
- Make the data and results available for others to use

The findings from Countryside Survey will help to inform decision-making for policies and plans that affect our countryside.



How is Countryside Survey carried out?

The Field Survey involves sending teams of surveyors into the countryside to measure and record features such as field boundaries and plant communities in a selection of 1km squares. The squares are chosen so that they represent all the types of land in the UK. During summer 2007, 629 squares will be surveyed using the latest survey methods and electronic recording devices. Surveyors are rigorously trained; most are specialised botanists or freshwater ecologists.

The Land Cover Map is produced using satellite imagery to map vegetation types across the whole of the UK. The map planned for 2007 will be created by combining satellite data together with existing maps of the UK. The team of scientists who produce the map are international leaders in their field.

