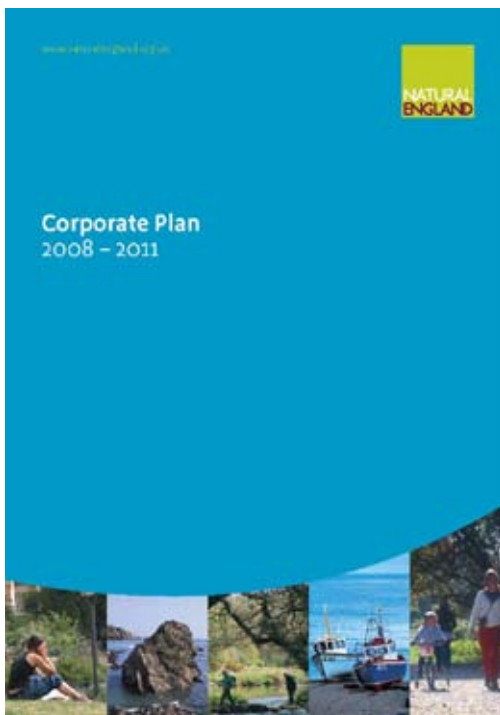


Another Nail in the Coffin of Motor Sport in the Countryside?

Two major new policy documents from Natural England set out a vision for the countryside that is firmly based on 'conservation' and 'healthy outdoor lifestyle', with scarcely a mention of active outdoor sport and recreation.



Back in 2004 the Government commenced the merger of English Nature and the Countryside Agency into the new body, Natural England. Where the Countryside Agency and its forerunner, the Countryside Commission, had considerable interest in and input into 'outdoor recreation' and public rights of way, in the new organisation, English Nature's 'conservation remit' seems to have smothered and buried any stated interest in any activity other than walking, and cycling on Sustrans-type tracks.

'Climate change' now seems to drive most policy, and 'healthy lifestyles' the rest. You can download both documents from the Natural England website and judge for yourself.

Corporate Plan (NE 93)

<http://naturalengland.communisis.com/NaturalEnglandShop/product.aspx?ProductID=2c2f296d-2653-4220-81ab-502d20c2d595>



Strategic Direction (NE 92)

<http://naturalengland.communisis.com/NaturalEnglandShop/product.aspx?ProductID=56981451-eb16-4c7f-ab7b-543e8bab612b>

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No. 43, 17 September 2008, page 1/1

