

Memorandum of Understanding  
between the  
National Park Service  
of the  
United States Department of the Interior  
and the  
Countryside Commission  
for  
England and Wales of the United Kingdom  
on the  
Conservation and Management of  
Cultural, Natural, and Recreational Resources

Introduction

1. The United States and the United Kingdom have respectively established systems of national parks and other protected areas, natural and cultural reserves, and recreational parks. These systems have been established for conservation purposes, for recreation, for public enjoyment and education. The United States and the United Kingdom have also ratified the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972). As parties to the Convention, both governments have pledged themselves to the proper management and conservation of natural, cultural and recreational resources and to cooperation with each other and with other member governments in advancing the purposes of the Convention, including the conservation of resources of outstanding national and international significance.
2. The United States National Park Service, established in 1916, is responsible for conserving the scenery and the natural and historical objects and wildlife of the areas under its jurisdiction and to provide for the enjoyment of the same by the public in such manner as will leave the areas unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. The National Park Service also assists in establishing and manages portions of long distance hiking trails, studies and documents historic structures, sites and districts through the National Register, studies and documents architectural and industrial/engineering works and manages the procedures for evaluation and designation of National Natural and National Historic Landmarks.
3. The Countryside Commission, established in 1968, is an advisory and promotional body responsible for the conservation of the natural beauty of the countryside of England and Wales, and for recreation and access in the

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countryside. It has statutory responsibilities for the designation of national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty. The Commission is the United Kingdom Government's adviser on these matters in England and Wales.

Purpose and Scope of Cooperation

4. This memorandum provides a framework for cooperation between the National Park Service and the Countryside Commission. The framework identifies initial opportunities available for cooperation and indicates the ways in which these opportunities may be pursued. The memorandum does not establish a detailed programme for cooperation.
5. The purpose of cooperation is to contribute knowledge, expertise and ideas from each country so as to improve and make more effective the efforts of each country in the conservation and use of its national parks, other protected areas and recreational areas.
6. This is a memorandum of understanding between the Countryside Commission for England and Wales and the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Either or both parties to the memorandum may encourage and invite participation from other government organizations, including local government and state government, private groups or individuals. The Director of the National Park Service and the Director of the Countryside Commission will be responsible for the supervision of cooperative action within their own countries and for ensuring that the extension of participation under the agreement to other parties remains clearly within the object and purpose of this memorandum.

Means of Cooperation

7. Cooperation will be achieved in a variety of ways, including the exchange of technical and policy level information, publications, videos and films, exchange of staff members on secondment, specialists and consultants, and participation in other activities such as seminars, conferences and training courses. Such cooperation shall be subject to the laws and regulations of each country.

Areas of Cooperation

8. The following are seen as the principal areas for cooperation. Additional areas may be included through written agreement of both parties.
  1. Cooperation in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

- II. The conservation and management of protected landscapes, i.e. IUCN Category V protected areas, including historic and cultural elements;
- III. The conservation and management of the undeveloped coast line;
- IV. Techniques for securing the public interest in the conservation of privately owned land;
- V. The development and management of long distance and other trails;
- VI. The development of, support for and liaison with, voluntary organizations involved in conservation and countryside recreation;
- VII. Environmental education and interpretation as they relate to conservation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources; and,
- VIII. The role of public and private sectors in conservation and recreation programs.

#### Duration of Memorandum of Understanding

9. This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force on signature and will remain in force for 5 years unless terminated by either party on 3 months written notice. The termination of the Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the completion of any projects or arrangements then in progress. The terms of the Memorandum will be reviewed jointly by both parties at the end of the second year to evaluate progress and to make any amendments that are necessary. Activities developed under this Memorandum of Understanding will be contingent upon the availability of funds and personnel. Both parties will discuss with other potentially involved organizations and individuals the terms and scope of funding for their own participation.

10. In relation to the exchange of staff, the sending side will provide international and incountry travel, lodging, meals, and related expenses for its exchange participants. For occasional requested consultant services, through formal invitation of either party, the benefitting party may specify payment of exchange expenses. Such arrangements will be specified in invitations/requests for services.

These exchanges will be designed and scheduled to achieve a balanced investment of expenses and return of benefits to the maximum extent practicable.

FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:

FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION:

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Signature

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Signature

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