

**COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000:  
SUMMARY REPORT ON THE CONCLUSIVE MAP FOR NORTH EAST  
ENGLAND**



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## **1. Introduction**

Under Part 1, Chapter 1, Section 4 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, the Countryside Agency has a duty to prepare maps of registered common land and open country in England. This mapping process has three stages and involves producing draft and provisional maps before issuing maps in conclusive form.

For mapping purposes, England has been divided into eight areas. When provisional maps for each area have been issued, people with a legal interest in land that has been mapped as open country or registered common land have a three month period in which they can appeal. The appeal is made to the Planning Inspectorate on one of the following grounds:

- the land is incorrectly shown as registered common land
- the land is incorrectly shown as open country
- the Countryside Agency has inappropriately used its discretion with regard to the boundaries of open country.

An Inspector appointed by PINS will hear the Appellant's and the Agency's case and will make a decision. If the appeal is upheld the Secretary of State will instruct the Countryside Agency to make modifications and include these on the conclusive map.

The provisional map for North East England (Area 5) was issued by the Countryside Agency in November 2003 and was subject to a three month appeals period until February 2004.

## **2. Production of the Conclusive Map**

After the close of this appeals period the Planning Inspectorate considered all the valid appeals. Each appeal that was not withdrawn resulted in one of three decisions:

- if the appeal was 'allowed' the whole appeal site was removed and does not appear on the conclusive map;
- if the appeal was 'allowed in part' part of the site was removed and the remainder of the site appears as open country or registered common land on the conclusive map;
- if the appeal was 'dismissed' no changes were made to the map.

## **3. Results of the appeals process**

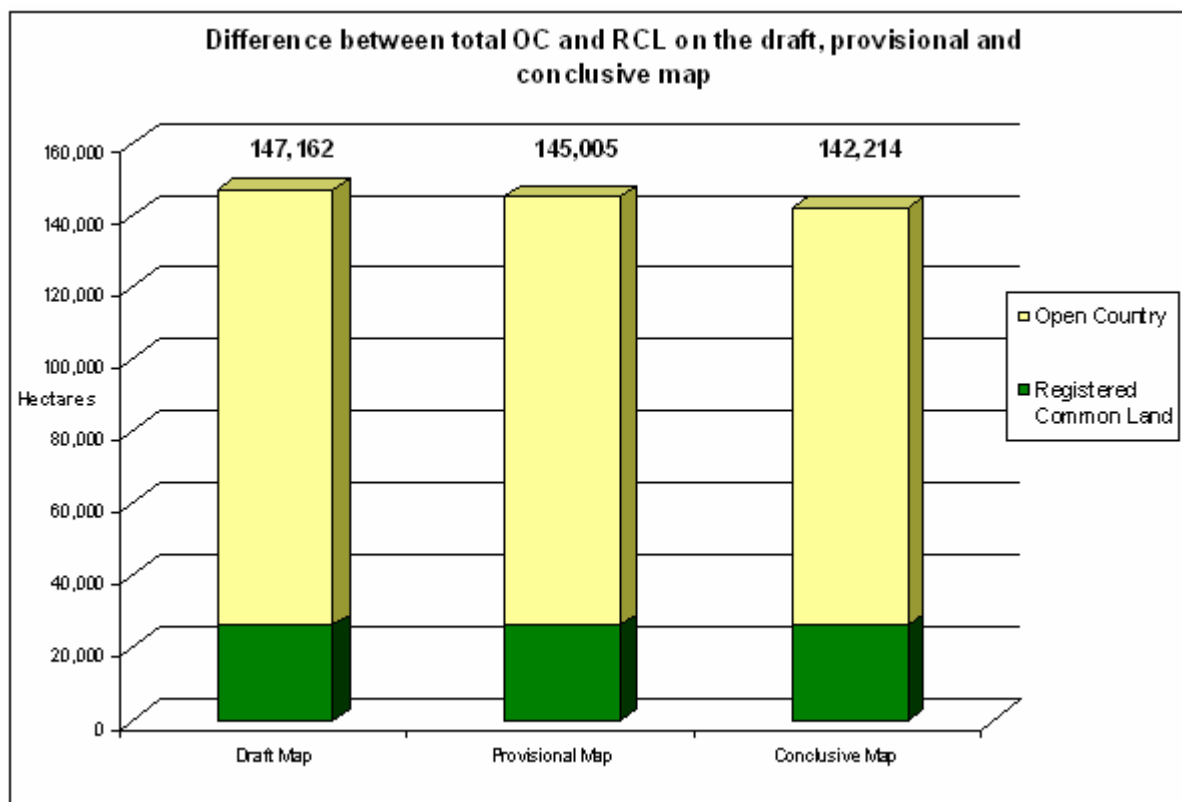
As the appeals process only allowed land to be removed from the provisional map there was a net reduction in the amount of open country and registered common land shown on the conclusive map.

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**Table 1. Comparison of open country (OC) and registered common land (RCL) between the draft, provisional and conclusive maps for North East England, indicating that approximately 98% of the total area mapped at provisional stage has remained on the conclusive map.**

Area (hectares) of the North East (Mapping Area 5)	1,066,060	1,066,060	1,066,060
	<b>Draft Map</b>	<b>Provisional Map</b>	<b>Conclusive Map</b>
<b>OC &amp; RCL</b>			
Total area of OC & RCL mapped (hectares)	147,162	145,005	142,214
% of mapping area covered by OC & RCL	13.8%	13.6%	13.4%
<b>OPEN COUNTRY</b>			
Area of OC mapped (hectares)	120,989	118,836	116,045
% of mapping area covered by OC	11.3%	11.1%	10.9%
<b>REGISTERED COMMON LAND</b>			
Area of RCL mapped (hectares)	26,173	26,169	26,169
% of mapping area covered by RCL	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%

**Fig 1. Illustrates the land change between total open country and registered common land shown on the draft map, provisional map and conclusive map**



**4. Summary description of the Area 5 Conclusive Map**

The North East England mapping area covers 1,066,060 hectares (10,660 square kilometres). The mapping region includes parts of Cumbria, Northumberland, North Yorkshire and Durham.

13% of the North East area has been shown on the conclusive map as registered common land or open country. This consists of 26,169 hectares of registered common land, and 116,045 hectares of open country. The overall change in land shown on the conclusive map as registered common land or open country from that shown on the provisional map is a reduction of 1.9%, with the majority of this change being due to a reduction in the amount of open country.

**Table 2. Statistics for Access Authorities in Area 5 indicating open country and registered common land cover.**

County / Local Authority	Total Area of Land (hectares)	Total OC and RCL (hectares)	% covered by OC/RCL	OC (hectares)	% covered by OC	RCL (hectares)	% covered by RCL
Cumbria	718,219	217,285	30.2	100,729	14.0	116,556	16.2
Darlington	19,748	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Durham	223,274	61,439	27.5	32,771	14.7	28,668	12.8
Gateshead	14,408	42	0.3	0	0.0	42	0.3
Hartlepool	9,844	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Middlesbrough	5,456	<1	<0.1	0	0.0	<1	<0.1
Newcastle	11,510	404	3.5	0	0.0	404	3.5
North Tyneside	8,519	<1	<0.1	0	0.0	<1	<0.1
Northumberland	507,842	112,578	22.2	102,895	20.3	9,683	1.9
Redcar and Cleveland	25,390	2,534	10.0	2,235	8.8	299	1.2
South Tyneside	6,715	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Stockton-on-Tees	20,975	<1	<0.1	0	0.0	<1	<0.1
Sunderland	13,964	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

*Please note that statistics in table 2 (page 5) are provided for counties and local authorities that are wholly covered by a conclusive map. Some counties are predominantly in area 4 but are completed now that area 5 is finished. Statistics for North Yorkshire will not be completed until Area 8 is issued.*

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**Table 3. Statistics for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Area 5 indicating open country and registered common land cover.**

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Total Area of Land (hectares)	TOTAL OC and RCL (hectares)	% covered by OC/RCL	Area of OC mapped (hectares)	% covered by OC	Area of RCL mapped (hectares)	% covered by RCL
Northumberland Coast	28,017	48	0.2	0	0.0	48	0.2
Howardian Hills	20,389	3	<0.1	0	0.0	3	<0.1

**Table 4. Statistics for National Parks in Area 5 indicating Open Country and Registered Common Land cover.**

National Park	Total Area of Land (hectares)	TOTAL OC and RCL (hectares)	% covered by OC/RCL	Area of OC mapped (hectares)	% covered by OC	Area of RCL mapped (hectares)	% covered by RCL
North York Moors	143,433	47,948	33.4	24,384	17.0	23,564	16.4
Northumberland	105,295	60,043	57.1	59,874	56.9	169	0.2

## Annex 1 Area 5 Conclusive Map Public Notice



### Conclusive map of open country and registered common land in the North East of England

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 will create new rights to walk on 'access land' - generally mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land. The Countryside Agency is required to produce maps of registered common land and open country in preparation for the introduction of the new public access rights.

The conclusive map for the North East of England was issued on 7th March 2005. The map includes changes to the provisional map of registered common land and open country previously issued by the Countryside Agency. These changes are the result of appeals decisions.

The **digital conclusive map** may be viewed:

- on our website  
[www.countryside.gov.uk/access/mapping](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/access/mapping)
- or at our London, Cheltenham, Bristol or Manchester offices - phone the Open Access Contact Centre for an appointment

A **reduced scale conclusive map** in paper form will be sent to:

- local authority offices - within a month of issue date
- Countryside Agency offices - within a month of issue date
- Parish Councils (for their local area) - within two months of issue date.

**Please note that the conclusive map is not a walking guide.**

A copy of your local conclusive map sheet at a reduced scale is available to purchase for £15.00 (paper copy) and £22.00 (laminated copy), plus £5.00 P&P per order by calling 0870 122 1242.

For more information on **access mapping** phone the Open Access Contact Centre on **0845 100 3298** or visit our website [www.countryside.gov.uk/access/mapping](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/access/mapping)

## Annex 2

### Area 5 Conclusive Map Display Venues

LOCAL AUTHORITIES				
Alnwick District Council	Allerburn House	Alnwick	Northumberland	
Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council	Council Offices	Wallace Green	Berwick-upon-Tweed	Northumberland
Blyth Valley Borough Council	Civic Centre	Renwick Road	Blyth	Northumberland
Carlisle City Council	Civic Centre	Carlisle	Cumbria	
Castle Morpeth Borough Council	Council Offices	The Kylins	Morpeth	Northumberland
Chester-Le-Street District Council	Civic Centre	Newcastle Road	Chester-Le-Street	County Durham
Council of the City of Newcastle upon Tyne	Civic Centre	Barras Bridge	Newcastle upon Tyne	
Cumbria County Council	Citadel Chambers	Citadel Road	Carlisle	Cumbria
Darlington Borough Council	Town Hall	Darlington	Durham	
Durham City Council	Town Hall	Market Place	Durham City	
Durham County Council	County Hall	Durham		

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Easington District Council	Council Offices	Seaside Lane	Easington	Durham
Gateshead Council	Civic Centre	Regent Street	Gateshead	Newcastle upon Tyne
Hambleton District Council	Civic Centre	Stone Cross	Northallerton	North Yorkshire
Hartlepool Borough Council	Municipal Buildings	Church Square	Hartlepool	Cleveland
Middlesborough Borough Council	Vancouver House	Gurney Street	Middlesborough	Cleveland
North Tyneside Borough Council	Town Hall	Walls End	Tyne and Wear	
North Yorks Moors National Park Authority	The Old Vicarage	Bondgate	Helmsley	York
North Yorkshire County Council	County Hall	Racecourse Lane	Northallerton	North Yorkshire
Northumberland County Council	County Hall	Morpeth	Northumberland	
Northumberland National Park Authority	Public Reception	Eastburn	South Park	Hexham
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	Belmont House	Rectory Lane	Guisborough	
Ryedale District Council	Ryedale House	Malton	North Yorkshire	
Scarborough Borough Council	Town Hall	St Nicholas Street	Scarborough	North Yorkshire
Sedgefield Borough Council	Council Offices	Spennymoor	Co Durham	

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South Tyneside District Council	Town Hall and Civic Offices	Westoe Road	South Shields	Tyne and Wear
Stockton on Tees Borough Council	Public Reception	Kingsway House	West Precinct	Billingham
Sunderland City Council	Civic Centre	Burdon Road	Sunderland	
Tynedale District Council	Council Offices	Tyne Mills Industrial Estate	Hexham	Northumberland
Wansbeck District Council	Council Offices	Front Street	Bedlington	Northumberland
<b>NATURAL ENGLAND OFFICES</b>				
Natural England	John Dower House	Crescent Place	Cheltenham	
Natural England	3rd Floor, Bridgewater House	Whitworth Street	Manchester	