

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



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Summary Report for Lower North West England

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 Lower North West England (Area 2) was issued by the Countryside Agency in November 2002 and was subject to a three month appeals period until February 2003.

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Each appeal that was not withdrawn resulted in one of three decisions: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

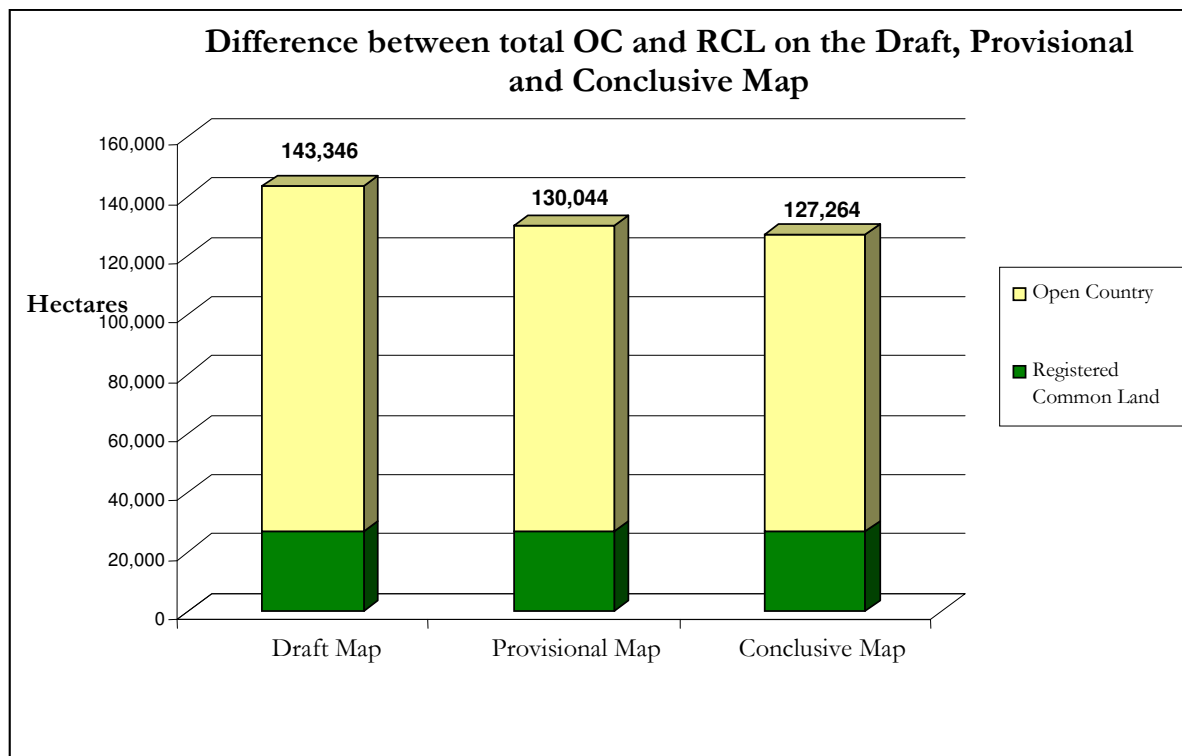
As the appeals process only allowed land to be removed from the provisional map there was a net reduction in the amount of open country and registered common land shown on the conclusive map.

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Table 1. Comparison of Open Country (OC) and Registered Common Land (RCL) between the Draft, Provisional and Conclusive Maps for Lower North West England, indicating that 97.9% of the total area mapped at Provisional stage has remained on the Conclusive map.

| Area (hectares) of Lower North West (area 2) | 1,069,000 | 1,069,000 | 1,069,000 |
|--|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Draft Map | Provisional Map | Conclusive Map |
| OC & RCL | | | |
| Total area (hectares) | 143,346 | 130,044 | 127,264 |
| % of mapping area covered by OC & RCL | 13.4% | 12.2% | 11.9% |
| OPEN COUNTRY | | | |
| Area of OC mapped (hectares) | 116,453 | 103,081 | 100,311 |
| % of mapping area covered by OC | 10.9% | 9.6% | 9.4% |
| REGISTERED COMMON LAND | | | |
| Area of RCL mapped (hectares) | 26,892 | 26,962 | 26,953 |
| % 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



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4. Summary description of the Area 2 Conclusive Map

The Lower North West mapping area covers 1,069,000 hectares (10690 square kilometres) of England, and includes Lancashire (excluding a small area north of the A65), a small part of Cumbria south of the A65, part of North Yorkshire (including Craven), part of West Yorkshire (including Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees), Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and the parts of Staffordshire, Derbyshire and South Yorkshire that lie within the Peak District National Park.

11.9% of the Lower North West area has been shown on the conclusive map as registered common land or open country. This consists of 26,953 hectares of registered common land, and 100,311 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 2.1%, 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 2 indicating Open Country and Registered Common Land cover.

| County | Total Area of Land (hectares) | Total OC and RCL (hectares) | % of region is OC/RCL | OC (hectares) | % of region is OC | RCL (hectares) | % of region is RCL |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Blackburn with Darwen | 13,701.2 | 2,608.2 | 19.0 | 2,232.4 | 16.3 | 375.8 | 2.7 |
| Blackpool | 4,318.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Bolton | 13,980.3 | 524.2 | 3.7 | 524.2 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Bradford | 36,641.8 | 5,776.1 | 15.8 | 3,320.1 | 9.1 | 2,456.0 | 6.7 |
| Bury | 9,948.4 | 330.1 | 3.3 | 126.0 | 1.3 | 204.0 | 2.1 |
| Calderdale | 36,392.3 | 12,034.5 | 33.1 | 6,510.2 | 17.9 | 5,524.2 | 15.2 |
| Cheshire | 210,750.2 | 2,180.0 | 1.0 | 1,791.3 | 0.8 | 388.7 | 0.2 |
| Halton | 9,033.2 | 14.4 | 0.2 | 12.6 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 0.0 |
| Kirklees | 40,859.7 | 5,719.0 | 14.0 | 3,098.4 | 7.6 | 2,620.6 | 6.4 |
| Knowsley | 8,646.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Liverpool | 13,354.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Manchester | 11,564.5 | 8.1 | 0.1 | 8.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Oldham | 14,236.5 | 3,674.8 | 25.8 | 3,206.2 | 22.5 | 468.6 | 3.3 |
| Rochdale | 15,808.2 | 3,265.7 | 20.7 | 666.2 | 4.2 | 2,599.5 | 16.4 |
| Salford | 9,718.9 | 18.7 | 0.2 | 11.8 | 0.1 | 6.9 | 0.1 |
| Sefton | 20,477.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| St Helens | 13,638.2 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 |
| Stockport | 12,606.4 | 37.9 | 0.3 | 37.9 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Tameside | 10,317.2 | 1,323.6 | 12.8 | 1,322.3 | 12.8 | 1.4 | 0.0 |
| Trafford | 10,603.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Warrington | 18,237.9 | 11.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 11.2 | 0.1 |
| Wigan | 18,819.3 | 143.3 | 0.8 | 30.1 | 0.2 | 113.2 | 0.6 |
| Wirral | 25,503.1 | 146.5 | 0.6 | 74.1 | 0.3 | 72.4 | 0.3 |

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Table 3. Statistics for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Area 2 indicating Open Country and Registered Common Land cover.

| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | Total Area of Land (hectares) | TOTAL OC and RCL (hectares) | % of region is OC/RCL | Area of OC mapped (hectares) | % covered by OC | Area of RCL mapped (hectares) | % covered by RCL |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Forest of Bowland | 80,246 | 36,201 | 45.1 | 29,520 | 36.8 | 6,680 | 8.3 |
| | | | | | | | |

Table 4. Statistics for National Parks in Area 2 indicating Open Country and Registered Common Land cover.

| National Park | Total Area of Land (hectares) | TOTAL OC and RCL (hectares) | % of region is OC/RCL | Area of OC mapped (hectares) | % covered by OC | Area of RCL mapped (hectares) | % covered by RCL |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Peak District | 143,414 | 54,738 | 38.2 | 53,270 | 37.1 | 1,469 | 1.0 |
| | | | | | | | |