

Project 4 and 5 – Development of regional strategies for water related sport and recreation

- On going work for the Environment Agency and partners
- Coastal and inland water
- Stakeholder workshops, interviews, posters, blogs
- Completed strategies for Wales and South West region
- www.brighton.ac/waterrecreation

Nuclear particle found on Dounreay beach

A radioactive nuclear particle has been found on a beach near Dounreay. This is the 23rd on the beach in just under twenty years.

Milton Keynes – Bedford route selected

BW have chosen the most expensive of the options for the proposed Milton Keynes – Bedford canal link. It will run from Newlands Park in the centre of Milton Keynes to Kempston, following the A421 except west of Wavendon. It could be open by 2010.

Kennet & Avon restriction call

West Reading MP Martin Salter has called for numbers of boats on the Kennet & Avon Canal to be restricted. The return of boats to the restored navigation has made the water silty, to the irritation of anglers.

Yorkshire canal work appreciated

The Institution of Civil Engineers Yorkshire 2003 awards for excellence feature

ACCESS & environment

Fred → Andrew,
See info'ys.
28.5.03.

Alun Michael announces Brighton University will conduct Countryside Agency access study

After opening the OS Outdoor Show, Rural Affairs Minister Alun Michael talked about how the water affects our landscape and our use of it.

'Children and young people are those who benefit most and I say that as a retired youth and community worker. We need to ensure that this importance is recognized in our policies. Broader water policies make a difference to this. Cleaner water enhances the recreational value of water, as does good access, and that can boost the rural economy through resulting increasing tourism revenues but standards for water quality need to be proportionate to the benefits provided and not raise costs for little return. Last November we published a set of guidelines for the Government priorities on water and this stressed the need for better integration between water and other policies with the context of sustainable development. We also recognize the important success of individuals on an increase in participation levels in sport and recreation.'

He announced that 'the Countryside Agency has now awarded the contract to Brighton University to explore the feasibility of extending access along stretches of inland waterways for canoeists, another important development', something which has been 'difficult and controversial for many years.'

Canoeist pointed out that the timescale was long and the exercise well funded with the weight of all the leading agencies behind it yet, even if it succeeded where all such previous exercises had failed, it would, at best, produce 6 pieces of water out of some 650 rivers in England and Wales. Was it realistic as a pointer to the way for canoeists to achieve access for themselves? He replied that it is a congested country

Government whitewash but Andrew's claims of independence were completely vindicated and are the reason we have moved forward. It is probably fair to say that if his team cannot produce results, nobody can, and that he will fully record all the obstacles. The concern is that the anglers, knowing they are under the spotlight, will give ground this time but not do so in future negotiations once the team have finished their work. The EA handed out forms to canoeists at the exhibition to ask which three pieces of river in England and Wales they would like to see opened. It's a bit like asking which three pieces of road or which three lengths of footpath we would like to use in England and Wales. It is said that the EA are miffed at the study being coordinated by the CA. There is nothing to stop them taking half a dozen more rivers and showing that they can produce better results faster. They may have no financial resources allocated but this places them more realistically in the position faced by canoeists.

A meeting of minds

A benefit of the show was the bringing together of those with complementary interests. Passing a lecture theatre in the walking area, my attention was drawn caught by slides of politicians and campaigners who pushed through the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill. The speaker, Cameron McNeish, a leading walker and the editor of *The Great Outdoors*, was denouncing the Countryside & Rights of Way Act as a waste of time and calling for free access to all land above a given contour. Afterwards I returned to talk to him. We agreed that the success in Scotland had been because all the access interests had worked together. The failure in

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Brighton study abandons large sections of river despite picking easy options

The Countryside Agency have issued another progress report on the Brighton University access study in which they detail what will be examined.

Area 1: Mersey, Irwell, Goyt, Etherow

Following extensive discussion with local stakeholders, the proposal is to concentrate on the entire length of the River Mersey from its confluence with the Rivers Tame and Goyt in Stockport to its entry into the Manchester Ship Canal at Carrington. This will provide a 30km length of flat water suitable for beginners and intermediate paddlers close to major conurbations and linking a number of key water recreation sites close to the river. This proposal will further develop the BCU's concept of the Mersey Passage Canoe Trail and has the support of a number of local authority stakeholders.

Area 2: East Anglia

The original rivers identified for further study included the Waveney, Little Ouse and Dove. Upon initial inspection, the Dove was discounted as being unsuitable for canoeing, while the River Thet was added, as the Little Ouse becomes narrow and weed infested north [south?] of Thetford. As a result, it is proposed that the case study involves the River Thet upstream of Thetford and the Little Ouse downstream of Thetford. This will offer good touring potential (about 32km to the Ouse navigation) with 3 play sites and 6 - 7 portages, depending upon water levels. One of these portages, where the rivers meet, is relatively long but could be improved through good management. There is considerable local support for this

Area 4: The Teme

Although it rises in Wales, the study is concerned with the river west [east?] of Knighton (the England/Wales border), through Shropshire and Worcestershire to its confluence with the River Severn at Worcester. This is a distance of approximately 100km. The upper reaches of the river are characteristically steep with fast flowing but relatively shallow waters. There are also mills and weirs. Below Tenbury the river is more tranquil but still quite shallow with strong cross currents. Water levels in the river are highly variable, exacerbated by increased water extraction for agriculture in recent years. The entire length of the Teme is designated as a SSSI on account of its natural character while freshwater pearl oyster beds at the mouth of the River Onny are similarly protected.

There are no formal access agreements for canoeing on the Teme. However, canoeing does occur and there are many claims about the resulting conflict. As a result of its character, the demand for canoeing is seasonal when there is enough water in the river and is more in the upper reaches where the faster water can be found. However, this part of the river is also the most valuable for fishing with riparian owners keen to protect their interests and prevent canoeing on the grounds that the Teme is not suited to canoeing under any circumstances. While there is probably less conflict below Tenbury there is also less interest in canoeing and probably less opportunity, given the water levels.

We make the following comments:

Thet/Little Ouse

The garden

85% of households –
access to a garden

Domestic spaces

Frustrations and
disappointments



Writing the landscape of everyday life: lay narratives of domestic gardens

- Small AHRC project
- Meanings of home, power relations, practices, memories and emotions in the garden
- Recent articles in journal *Social and Cultural Geography*
- Gardens, health, exercise and ageing

Data – Narrative analysis of the Mass Observation Archive

- British writing project started in 1937
- ‘Ordinary’ writing
- Currently panelists respond to themes and prompts from directives
- Directives gardening and growing older – quotes and visual material
- Mass Obs is NOT a conventional survey: unrepresentative, self-selected sample
- tend to be older (50+), female
- ‘Lower middle class’ often from SE, Midlands (changing)
- Anonymous - offers freedom to write

I have seen through my Spanish sojourn and the many television programmes of continental gardens that paradise can be attained here on earth.'

MOA/R450



‘We are very blessed really because we have a lovely view of the field at the back and at the moment we are not overlooked. If no-one else is about I feel very much at peace out there’
MOA/C1713



'I would put up a six foot fence tomorrow but Dave won't let me because he says it will upset them. Me I don't care, my opinion is it's my garden and I will do what I want with it. I think the fence will go up simply to give us a bit of privacy,.'

MOA/F1634

Risk and exercise?

My greatest regret is lack of good mobility. I would love to go walking on the Downs, play tennis....but at least I can swim, run my own home and do some gardening with the help of long handled tools and a good kneeling stoolI hope to be able to stay in my own home for the rest of my life but realise that may not be possible. I would hate to leave my bungalow and garden, but it is so often the garden that causes elderly people to move'. [D1685 F. 63]



forecasts

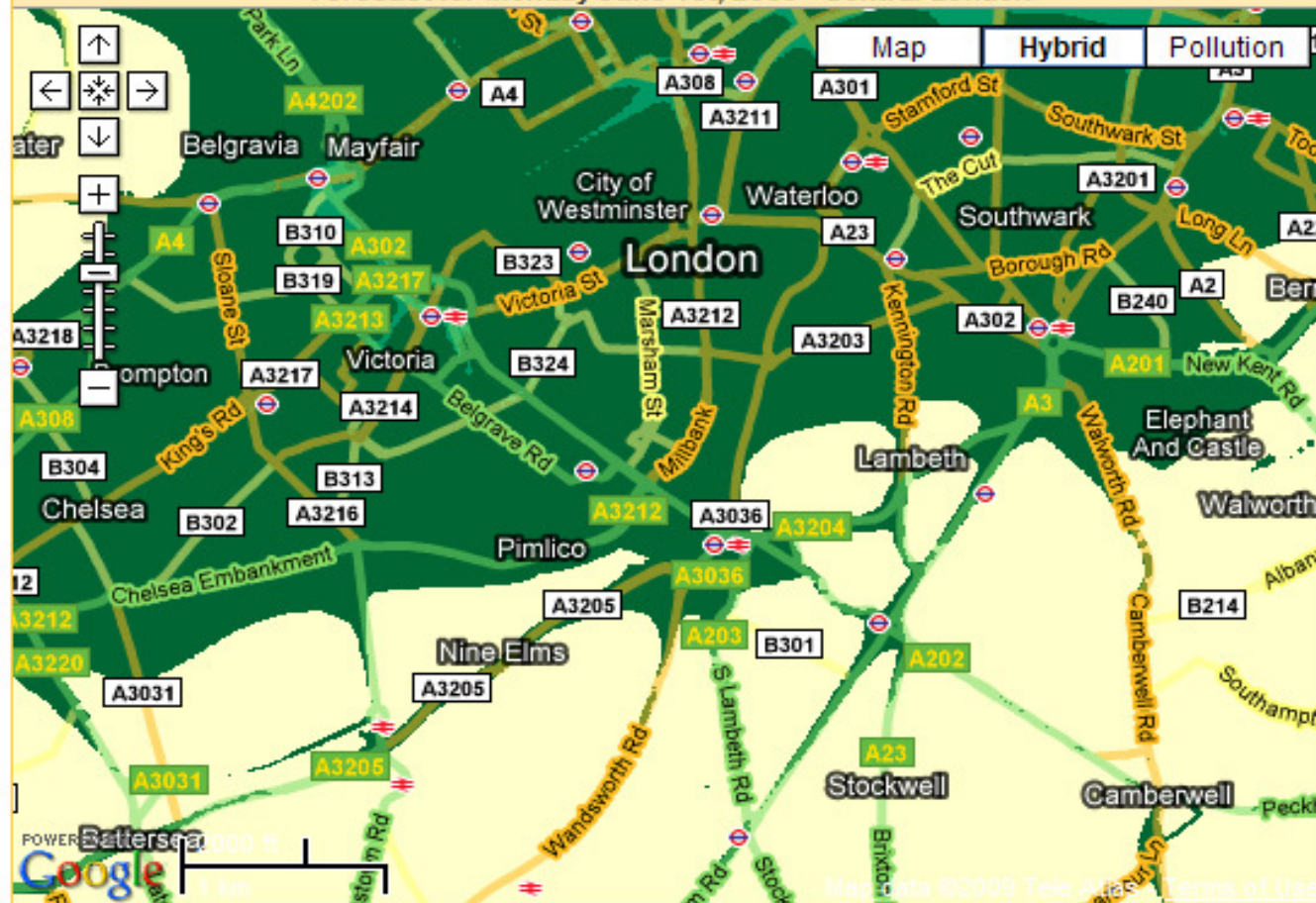
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Forecast for Monday June 1st, 2009 - Central London



sign up here

free alerts
 text - email - voice

airTEXT alerts you if elevated pollution is expected in your chosen area:

Forecast of Air Pollution Index for:
 Monday June 1st, 2009

Central London:
 Mostly MODERATE air pollution expected, with areas of LOW

Forecast selector:

- Choose a Zone -

Total Health Index

[Calendar: archived forecasts](#)

Zoom map to your post code:

Search

Delivering predictive air quality information

Example SMS message:

Moderate air pollution for Thur. You may notice health effects but these are unlikely to require action. If unwell contact your GP.



Self-Management

- 88% of users felt that alerts helped them manage their condition
- 67% took specific actions in response:
 - 44% took a preventative dose of medication.
 - 39% took additional medication to relieve symptoms.
 - 27% took less strenuous exercise.
 - 25% avoided areas specified in the alerts.