

The University of Manchester  
Oxford Road  
Manchester  
M13 9PL

16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

To whom it may concern,

**RE: Invitation to contribute to Natural England Evidence Review on ‘Recreational Activity in the English Uplands’**

This is an invitation to contribute to a [national review of evidence](#) that Natural England has commissioned on ‘*Recreational Activity in the English Uplands*’. This work is undertaken by a team of researchers at the University of Manchester in conjunction with Karen Rogers (Natural England Lead Advisor for Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Lancashire) and Alistair Crowle (Natural England Senior Environmental Specialist, Uplands).

The outputs of this project will be made widely available and will be used by Natural England to inform their strategic planning and conservation work in upland areas. Upland areas, for the purposes of this study, have been defined using the Less Favoured Areas (LFA) land classification. **You are being contacted because we have identified that part of the land area that your organisation owns and/or manages contains upland areas or your organisation are closely involved in upland management.**

Please note that this is an open call for evidence, so **we strongly encourage you to circulate this request to other relevant stakeholders both within and external to your organisation.**

Details of the research project, the research questions that the request for evidence is hoping to address and the types of evidence being requested (with examples) are provided below. **We kindly request that responses should arrive no later than 18:00 hrs on Tuesday 30th November 2021**, with early responses encouraged where possible.

**About the research**

This project aims to systematically review material to establish existing knowledge on recreational activity in the English uplands and the potential influence on biodiversity since the year 2000. In particular, the search is interested in:

- the types of recreation occurring in the English uplands,
- the receptors and stressors affecting the levels of potential impact on biodiversity,
- and potential mitigation and adaptation options.

The review is searching within relevant academic literature. To augment this, we are additionally seeking **any evidence collected by organisations (both statutory and non-statutory) that might be relevant to these areas of interest**. The relevance of potential evidence is guided by 6 research questions, which are detailed below. Although the evidence review is focused on England, we are exploring all relevant information from across the UK owing to the similarity of upland ecosystems and recreational activity in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

All the evidence that is collected will be validated against an evidence review standard set out by [Natural England](#) to assess the objectivity, rigour and transferability of the material.

### **How can your organisation contribute to this review?**

You can contribute to this review by submitting data or documentation (collected or published since the commencement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act in 2000) that you feel are relevant to any of these research questions:

- 1. What form does recreational activity take in the uplands?**
- 2. What factors influence the level of recreational activity?**
- 3. What impact does recreational activity have on upland habitats and species or broader ecosystem processes?**
- 4. What relationships, if any, exist between types of recreational activity and severity of impact?**
- 5. What are 'appropriate levels of use'?**
- 6. What evidence exists of adaptation or mitigation measures in response to recreational impacts?**

The questions are broad in nature to give you the scope to focus on specific issues or priorities that relate to your own location or your organisation's area of expertise.

Examples of the types of evidence that will be relevant to this review are provided below.

- Documents that provide summaries of evidence regarding the type, extent, and demographic details of visitors such as visitor or user survey reports. [Example here](#)
- Key documents that detail overarching strategic analysis of the impacts of visitors, such as topic papers or evidence reports. [Example here \(p49-p51\)](#)
- Key sections of planning or strategy reports that outline your organisations approach to recreation and visitor management. [Example here](#)

Please respond by sending your data and documentation to:

[recreationreview@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:recreationreview@manchester.ac.uk) quoting the reference 'Upland Recreation Review 2021-22'.

It would be extremely helpful if in your response, you could clarify which research questions you feel the documentations help contribute to, by referring to the relevant number assigned to each question above. You do not need to respond to all the questions if you do not have relevant evidence. Alternatively, you may feel one single document supports multiple research questions, in which case please indicate this in your submission.

If you have any further questions on any of the above or the review process in general, please contact Dr Anna Gilchrist ([anna.gilchrist@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:anna.gilchrist@manchester.ac.uk)) who is the academic lead for the project.

Kind regards,



Anna Gilchrist (MCIEEM)  
Lecturer in Environmental Management and Ecology