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15 The recreational potential of upland areas

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INTRODUCTION

For the purposes of this paper recreation is distinguished from tourism as an activity involving day visitors only, whereas the latter involves overnight accommodation away from home. A tourist, however, can indulge in recreational activities by making day visits to local attractions in the area where he or she is staying. In this respect, for example, a tourist on holiday in the Lake District may be assumed to be indulging in a recreational activity if he takes a boat out on Windermere or goes on a day's pony trekking in Langdale. The latter, of course, may be borderline in definition since many pony trekking enterprises include accommodation as part of the enterprise. I shall not encompass visits to farm open days or other interpretational facilities under my heading of recreation, since interpretation is considered separately in Terry Stevens' paper.

Given these exclusions, I shall limit my review to recreational enterprises, as defined in the Dartington Amenity Research Trust/Rural Planning Services Ltd. (1974) report, *Farm Recreation and Tourism* (See Appendix 1, items B and C). The list is not exhaustive of recreational possibilities. The reader will be able to add other enterprises not mentioned as well as delete those not necessarily suited to upland areas.

POTENTIAL RECREATIONAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN UPLAND AREAS

Upland areas are in plentiful supply in the UK. The official figure adopted in the proposals for a EC Less Favoured Areas Directive (1974) is 7.654 million ha. Our National Parks are contained almost entirely within this and extend to 1.362 million ha. Respectively these areas constitute about 32% and 6% of the entire UK land

resource. Almost all of these areas are remote from the main centres of population. Figure 1 shows the designated less-favoured areas in the UK together with the main conurban areas surrounded by 50 mile (80 km) radius.

Over a decade ago Burton and Wibberley (1965) suggested that the total amount of land available for recreational use amounted to 1.2 million ha in England and Wales and 400 000 ha in Scotland. These figures included only forest land, commons and institutional land where the public had right of access. In addition to these areas they estimated that there were some 5 million ha of private rough grazings and deer forest and a substantial area of private rough grazings in England and Wales where the public has *de facto* right of access.

Gibbs and Whitby (1975) exploring the extent of access areas (either by agreement, acquisition or order) discovered that their total extent in England and Wales, as at April 1st 1977, amounted to 35 295.5 ha, of which 30 203.0 ha were in upland areas. Of this total, 19 752.2 ha occurred in the Peak District National Park. The Gibbs and Whitby figures exclude much of the areas defined by Burton and Wibberley.

One way and another there would appear to be a fairly massive potential supply of recreational land in the United Kingdom uplands. This supply, however, is of little meaning unless it may be realistically used, and there are a number of constraints affecting the use of it. These constraints are mostly to do with demand.

Patmore (1970) noted that, "... of all the problems which bedevil the relationships between leisure and land use, none is more severe than the locational imbalance between the areas of greatest demand and those of readiest supply." Also that, "... south east England, with nearly one third of the population of England and Wales, has no National Park nearer than Derbyshire or South Wales. It is 120 miles (192 km), as the crow flies, from the centre of London to the nearest point on the boundaries of the Peak District or the Brecon Beacons, which may be compared with the average distance travelled in one direction on day trips of 50 miles (80 km) and on half day trips of 29 miles (47 km)."

Patmore's figures for distance travelled come from the survey conducted by the British Travel Association (BTA) and the University of Keele (1967). The BTA/Keele survey demonstrated the importance of car ownership in recreational activity (although car ownership itself is a function of many other variables), with car owners being up to 300% more active in certain recreational pursuits than non-car owners. Of car owners, 73% covered less than 100 miles (160 km) in their last day trip, and 24% travelled over 100 miles (160 km). These figures are reinforced by the findings of a survey undertaken by the North West Sports Council (1972) which showed that the median one-way distance travelled on half day trips was between 10 and 20 miles (16 and 32 km) and on full day trips was between 40 and 50 miles (64 and 80 km). In this case the coast was the

destination for 35% of the full day trippers and for 52% of the half day trippers, whilst only 29% on half day trips and 31% on full day trips went into the countryside. These results were obtained in a region, it must be remembered, with an ample share of uplands within reasonably easy driving distance (generally, the Pennines, North Wales and Cumbria; specifically, the Peak District National Park, the Lake District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Snowdonia National Park).

The BTA/Keele Survey also found that a greater proportion on day trips preferred the seaside to the country, although in this case 47% of half day trippers visited the countryside and only 19% the coast.

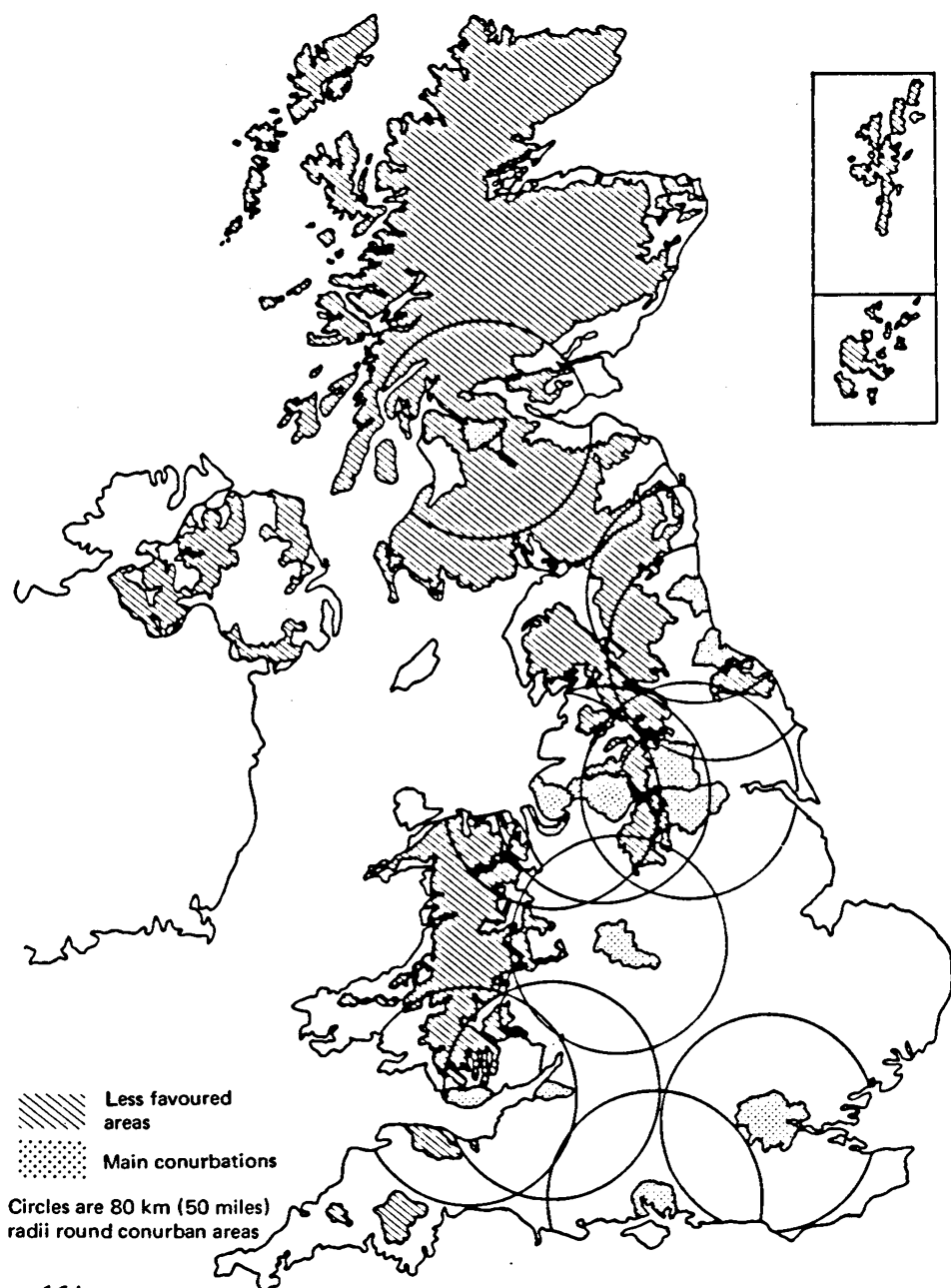
It is possible that Patmore, and others of his persuasion, are over-stating the case in considering the limited availability of the supply (notably in the uplands) of recreational land close to centres of demand. It must be recognised, of course, that these statements are quite accurate in terms of the South East. However, Figure 1 shows that a substantial proportion of the uplands of England and Wales are within the 50 mile (80 km) radii of our major conurbations. It is of interest to note that the only areas excluded are Bodmin, Dartmoor (and Exmoor in reality) central and North West Wales, and the Lake District. Nobody can claim that any of these areas suffer from a lack of demand. Ian Mercer, Chief Planning Officer of the Dartmoor National Park, is fond of stating that the area of his responsibility is now linked by continuous motorway or dual carriageway to Glasgow. He could well include Birmingham, South Wales, the Yorkshire conurbations, Tyneside, Teesside, Perth and London.

These comments should also be seen in the somewhat sobering context of recent statements by the Department of the Environment's Countryside Review Committee (1976). For example: "The number of private cars in England and Wales is expected to rise from its 1974 level of 12.6 million to about 22-23 million by the end of the century." "On present plans a trunk road network linking all the main centres of population and industry should be completed by the 1990's. This will have sufficient capacity to meet the 70% increase in traffic forecast by the end of the century . . .". "There are too many uncertain factors to allow a worthwhile quantitative forecast to be made (of countryside recreation). However, with the prospect of a doubling of private car ownership by the end of the century, continued growth in recreational trips to the countryside seems inevitable."

This growth of recreational demand was well summarised in the Second Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on Sport and Leisure (1973): "The Scottish Office say in evidence that they expect the amount of outdoor recreation to treble by the end of the century and they mention that tourism in Scotland is increasing at the rate of 12% per annum. The Director of the Countryside Commission says that there is 'something like a 10 to 15% compound increase in

Figure 1

LESS FAVOURED AREAS IN RELATION TO CONURBATION AREAS



the rate of recreational activity in the countryside'. The British Waterways Board say that the growth of boating has to be controlled at 10% per annum to keep in line with the availability of new facilities. The Northern Region Planning Committee's Survey estimated increases between 1967 and 1980 of 74% in golf, 64% in camping, 52% in motor sports and 42% in trips to the country. The National Anglers' Council quote a growth rate for angling of 8% per annum."

These figures are, of course, national and do not necessarily reflect upon the likely increase in demand for outdoor recreation in the uplands. In any event the pressures tend very often to be localised. Because the majority of visitors to upland areas tend to be car borne the greatest pressures tend to occur on and around the road network — particularly at parking places close to good views and interesting sites. The work of Burton (1966) and Wager (1964) showed that between 70 and 80% of visitors to the countryside prefer to stay in or near their cars. Whilst the upland areas of the UK may cover nearly 8 million ha, the road network is relatively sparse, so that the quantum of land available for recreation, *de facto*, to the vast majority of the recreating public is extremely small.

This localised pressure gave concern both to the Sandford Committee (Department of the Environment, 1974) and the Countryside Review Committee (1976). The former states: "The first purpose of national parks, as stated by Dower and by Parliament — the preservation and enhancement of national beauty — seems to us to remain entirely valid and appropriate. The second purpose — the promotion of public enjoyment — however, needs to be reinterpreted and qualified because it is now evident that excessive or unsuitable use may destroy the very qualities which attract people to the parks. We have no doubt that where the conflict between the two purposes, which has always been inherent, becomes acute, the first one must prevail in order that the beauty and ecological qualities of the national parks may be maintained."

The Sandford Committee suggested a number of ways in which the pressures could be alleviated by channelling visitors away from more sensitive areas and this theme was taken up by the Countryside Review Committee: "The problems of 'people pressure' are far from academic: they are dramatically illustrated by the physical damage to the land at places of heavy visitor concentration, for instance, the top of Snowdon and the Malvern Hills, parts of the Pennine Way, and the many areas in or near the urban fringe. In the Committee's view the key factor in tackling this subject is the continued development of techniques for managing land and people. These can take many forms — nearby alternative attractions, interpretation centres, 'park and ride schemes', self-guided trails — some at least of which can make a virtue of necessity by enriching the experience offered to visitors."

Inevitably the provision of further recreational opportunities for visitors must

be made and this in itself may help to relieve pressure on more sensitive sites. But what sort of facility should be provided?

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITORS

We know something of visitors' activities in upland areas as a result of various surveys undertaken over the past 10 years or so. Yapp (1969) interviewed 3 879 visitors to the Lake District to discover their present activities and their desire for more facilities. His findings are reproduced in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1
LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF VISITORS TO THE LAKE DISTRICT

Activity	Half-day visitors %	Day visitors %	Holiday makers %	All not on holiday ¹ %
Picnic in or around car	18	46	47	29
Picnic away from car	1	7	19	4
Meal in restaurant etc	26	38	51	29
Drink in pub	6	16	49	16
Rock climb, fell walk for over 1 mile	4	15	47	10
Walk less than 1 mile	32	44	60	34
Trip on pleasure boat	5	10	21	6
Boating/sailing	2	7	20	5
Fishing/angling	x	5	3	4
Field studies	1	2	5	1
Swimming	—	2	4	2
Sitting by lake	13	28	51	20
Others	10	11	22	13
No answer	36	11	5	29
Size of sample	666	1 211	1 955	3 879

¹ Includes those staying with friends and those passing through the Lake District while on holiday elsewhere.

Source: Yapp (1969)

Table 2
FACILITIES DESIRED BY VISITORS TO THE LAKE DISTRICT

Facilities	% of respondents
None: Leave it as it is	11
Parking and laybys	9
Swimming	6
Boating and sailing	6
Camping	6
Miscellaneous outdoor sports	5
Better roads	4
Walking, hiking	4
Fishing	4
Picnic areas	4
Lavatories	3
Eating places, public houses	3
Evening entertainment	3
Access to lakes and fells	3
Caravanning	2
Indoor entertainment	2
Horse riding, pony trekking	1
Other	4
No answer	14

Source: Yapp (1969)

It is clear from Table 1 that the majority of people prefer to indulge in fairly inactive pursuits — eating, drinking, and sitting around account for between 50 and 60% of all the pursuits listed. Really energetic pastimes such as rock climbing, fell walking, boating, sailing and swimming account for a maximum of 20% of activities; and this maximum is achieved by visitors on holiday.

The category labelled 'no answer' includes, according to Yapp, those who drove about without getting out of the car. This category declines rapidly with the length of time spent in the area.

Table 2 shows that about 30% of the respondents required further provision of facilities for outdoor recreation of one sort or another — although this figure may be inflated by double counting since respondents were not limited to one answer.

A study of tourists in the Lake District by P A Management Consultants (1973) found even less desire for outdoor recreational facilities amongst a sample of

7 116 respondents (including day trippers and tourists on holiday). Of the whole sample only 2% stated that they would like to see (more) swimming pools, and no other outdoor recreational facilities were mentioned – and this was an unprompted question. The other requirements expressed by visitors ranged through lavatories, car parks, restaurants, indoor entertainment, better roads, signposting and shops. Some 55% of visitors were satisfied with the facilities offered. The P A Survey also examined the type of activity presently undertaken by holidaymakers in the area and the results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3
LEISURE PURSUITS OF HOLIDAYMAKERS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

Activity	% of respondents
Driving around the area	70
Sightseeing in towns and villages	58
Shopping for presents and souvenirs	52
Visiting a pub	47
Climbing, hiking, rambling, caving	43
Visiting historic buildings etc	36
Visiting museum, exhibition etc	30
Going to the beach	30
Trip on steamer, other passenger boat	29

Source: P A Management Consultants (1973)

According to this break-down only 43% of the sample engaged in some active form of pursuit, whereas a more detailed table shows sailing and boating enjoying 16%, water skiing and sub aqua 3%, horse riding and pony trekking 8%, fishing 11%, golfing 3% and other sports 4%. Again, there is probably a considerable degree of double counting between all of these groups. The P A report highlights the importance of active pursuits amongst the young, of cultural activities amongst the higher socio-economic groups and of sightseeing amongst the foreign visitors.

I want to turn now to two reports on the Yorkshire Pennines. The first is the work of the North Riding Pennine Working Party (1975) and covers an area substantially the same as the administrative area of the North Pennines Rural Development Board – 1 361 km². It includes Aysgarth and Reeth Rural Districts, most of Leyburn and Startforth Rural Districts, and parts of Masham and Richmond Rural Districts. The report estimates that 2 800 000 people visited the area in 1972 and of these only 116 000 were staying visitors, demonstrating the importance of the area as a day-visitor attraction rather than a holiday base.

The report lists the following activities as being important in the study area:

- (i) Informal and sightseeing activities;
- (ii) Caravanning and camping;
- (iii) Active pursuits on foot and horse;
- (iv) Motor sports;
- (v) Winter sports;
- (vi) Water sports.

In so far as the first category is concerned the report states: "Both in terms of numbers of participants and in terms of demands made upon the countryside this is by far the most important category of activity. Participation in all the activities falling within this group is overwhelmingly car-orientated." Also that, "Picnicking ranked highest but other informal activities such as 'sitting in or around the car', 'walking less than two miles', 'having a meal or a drink', and 'visiting sites of interest' all figured prominently."

Riverside sites are most important as stopping places and the report emphasizes the attraction of water as a focal point for visitors.

The third category is also important and the report suggests that there is considerable potential for the development of continuous riverside footpaths and long distance routes along ridge lines and watersheds. There are also opportunities for increased activity in caving, orienteering, canoeing and sailing. It is noted that there is a high potential for pony trekking, a pursuit growing at 7% per annum nationally. However, the experience of the Brecon Beacons may serve all authorities in good stead here: in that area pony trekking has come into oversupply and there are consequent problems for conservation.

The second study was undertaken by the Yorkshire and Humberside Economic Planning Board (1976) and covers all parishes in the former West Riding of Yorkshire in which hill cow or sheep subsidies are paid to farmers. This area is entirely outside that studied by the North Riding Pennines Study Working Party and stretches from Sedburgh in the north west to Sheffield in the south east. It has the whole of the Yorkshire and Lancashire industrial Pennines on its doorstep or within it (including Greater Manchester): "Over 1 million people can reach Grassington within one hour's travelling time by car and about 3 million are within one hour of Skipton and 7.5 million within one hour of the central part of the South Pennines."

The importance of day visitors, as opposed to tourists, in the area is demonstrated by the Planning Board's estimates that about 7 million people visited the study area in 1972 and, of these, only 200 000 were tourists staying one night or more. The planning Board anticipate that the number of visitors will increase without any attempts to attract them. The report quotes the work of Dartington Amenity Research Trust (1974) in assessing the range of recreational

activities pursued by visitors in Wharfedale and this, again, stresses the importance of passive pursuits — motoring, sightseeing and picnicking — amongst visitors: an importance which tends to decrease with length of stay.

The Planning Board accept a similar classification of recreational activities to that used by the North Riding Pennine Working Party (see above) but develop this into a tabulated assessment of the degree to which potential exists and is exploited. The tabulation is reproduced as Appendix 2 to this paper.

These studies all show that the vast majority of visitors wish to engage in very passive pursuits, although tourists are often more likely to get involved in active recreation. Many of the more active recreational pursuits are resource-based — canoeing, sailing, swimming, fishing, caving or pot-holing, rock climbing, and so forth — so that it is difficult to plan for further provision. Most of these facilities which can be expanded relate to the passive enjoyment of the countryside — road improvements, picnic sites, laybys and view spots — and fall within the purview of the local authority rather than private individuals such as farmers or landowners. The next section reviews two reports prepared by my firm — Rural Planning Services Ltd (RPS) and are concerned, at least in some part, with the opportunities for private investment in recreation in upland areas.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN RECREATION

In 1975 the Countryside Commission asked RPS to study the Hartsop Valley in the Lake District and one of our terms of reference was to examine the current and likely future recreation use of the area and assess this in terms of National Park objectives. We were also asked to examine the relationship between farming, landscape, recreation and the local community and to suggest the extent to which these are interdependent or in conflict.

In some respects the valley is typical of others in the Lakes but only in so far as it is one of these which is not actually a focus for large numbers of visitors. In general it tends to act as a corridor for visitors passing between Windermere and Ullswater and the main attraction is the summit of Kirkstone Pass which lies at the southern end of the valley. The main recreational activity can thus be described as pleasure motoring, generally *en route* from one location, outside the valley, to another: a very secondary activity is fell walking or mountaineering or rock climbing.

Our analysis of the potential development of tourist and recreational activities showed that the emphasis lay overwhelmingly with the former. We identified no recreational activity in which local farmers could participate as entrepreneurs, with the possible exception of establishing craft workshops in old buildings. We might also have mentioned farmbased catering as an area worthy of investigation.

The other study was concerned with the massive privately owned forest of

Eskdalemuir in Dumfriesshire. The forest extends to about 12 000 ha and is in a number of ownerships but under the common management of the Economic Forestry Group. It is some 45 miles (70 km) south of Edinburgh and 35 miles (65 km) north west of Carlisle: although the A7 and A74 trunk roads are each within 5 miles (8 km) of the forest boundary, accessibility cannot be regarded as one of its assets.

A 12 000 ha estate in the remoter parts of the Southern Uplands might appear to offer considerable opportunities in recreational development — especially when a considerable proportion is devoted to forestry. The Forestry Commission has shown the way in many respects here and their recreational sites in the Lake District, Kielder and many parts of Scotland contain many good ideas (although most are based on tourism or interpretation). The possibilities at Eskdalemuir are similarly legion but these too are heavily dependent upon accommodation since no major investment could be expected to show a satisfactory rate of return on capital if it were dependent upon a highly seasonal passing trade.

The enterprises identified for implementation were as follows:

Educational:

- (i) interpretation centre/museum;
- (ii) field study centre;
- (iii) educational trails;
- (iv) observation towers and hides.

Gaming and sporting:

- (i) shooting school;
- (ii) duck fighting;
- (iii) deer stalking;
- (iv) pheasant and grouse shooting.

Recreation:

- (i) pony trekking;
- (ii) picnic sites;
- (iii) motor safari routes.

Accommodation:

- (i) self catering cottages;
- (ii) caravans;
- (iii) field study centre hostel;
- (iv) pony trekking centre hostel;
- (v) safari lodge.

Almost every enterprise mentioned included the provision of accommodation if it were to be successful. It is thought that in most upland areas accommodation is the key to private investment in leisure facilities. A brief appraisal of Appendix 1 shows that there are few recreational enterprises which lend themselves to

private investment *unless* an individual landowner happens to hold the key to a particular resource which is in demand. Such a resource might be an area of water, a pot hole, access to some site such as a rock climb or a waterfall, or simply a convenient field or wood for car parking or picnicking.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

There may well be a national demand/supply imbalance in so far as countryside recreation in upland areas is concerned but most upland areas appear to be fairly well subscribed in terms of numbers of visitors. Naturally the pressure of visitors is felt mainly in the April-October period and tends to be fairly localised within the upland areas. This concentration in time and space is giving rise to countryside management problems which may only be solved by spreading the load. There are considerable problems here since the road network in upland areas tends to be of a low density and, on the whole, visitors are not prepared to move far from the road. Considerable road building programmes in upland areas may be necessary if the recreational potential is to be realised — or even if the expected increase in visitor numbers comes about.

This emphasis upon roads as a focus for recreation in upland areas derives from observations that the majority of visitors prefer to enjoy the countryside passively from within or near their cars. Most of the facilities required or desired tend to be linked to the car. This is more the case where recreational pressure derives from day visitors (much of the Pennines, Northumberland, North Yorks Moors, North East Wales and South Wales) as opposed to tourists (Bodmin, Dartmoor, Exmoor, mid Wales, the Lake District and most of Scotland).

The whole nature of recreational supply and demand in the uplands is different to that in lowland Britain. The uplands do not generally possess the house historic, the garden beautiful or the ruin spectacular. The attractions in upland areas are more of a national character and may be enjoyed without approaching closely or are readily accessible without charge.

Under these circumstances it seems that the main onus is upon Local Authorities to provide the sort of facilities necessary for the passive enjoyment of the countryside (good roads, car parks, picnic sites, laybys etc) and to ensure that there is access to the open countryside for those who require it. The main potential for private investors would seem to be in the provision of accommodation. In many respects this is sad, especially for local farmers who need all the diversity of enterprises they can get to supplement, and give stability to, their marginal and fluctuating incomes.

Appendix 1

LIST OF RECREATION AND TOURIST ENTERPRISES WHICH CAN OR COULD BE LOCATED ON A FARM

A Tourist Accommodation

- 1 In the farmhouse: bed and breakfast; farm guesthouse; farmhouse holiday; farm auto-holiday
- 2 Self-catering accommodation in converted farm buildings, cottages, chalets
- 3 Second homes, including redundant farm buildings (leased or sold) and long-let caravans
- 4 Camping sites
- 5 Caravan sites — transit/touring/static
- 6 Specialised holidays ie accommodation plus an activity (field studies, sketching etc)

B Resource-based activity

- 7 Riding, pony-trekking, equestrian centres
- 8 Fishing, swimming, boating, boat moorings
- 9 Game — rough shooting, pigeon-shooting, pheasant and duck shooting, clay-pigeons

C Day-visitor enterprises

- 10 Informal recreation — car parks, picnic sites, country parks
- 11 Access for caving, climbing etc.

12 Special attractions:

- (i) Rare breeds, wildlife parks, museums of farm machinery etc
- (ii) Sporting facilities: squash, tennis, swimming pool, sauna, golf driving range, golf course, grass-skiing, plastic ski slopes etc
- (iii) Wildlife hikes

13 Farm catering — teas, meals etc

14 Farm produce:

- (i) farm-gate sales to public
- (ii) home-ground wheat
- (iii) self-picking of fruit and vegetables

15 Indoor activities and events — barn dances, concerts, plays etc

16 One-day/occasional events:

- (i) Related to farming — hedge-laying, ploughing matches
- (ii) Unrelated to farming — traction engine rallies, motor cycle scrambling, archery, clay-pigeon shooting, autocross, pop concerts

17 Educational visits — farm open days, farm trails, school visits, demonstration farms etc.

Source: Dartington Amenity Research Trust and Rural Planning Services Ltd (1974)

Appendix 2

RECREATION IN THE PENNINE UPLANDS

Category of Recreation	Location	Number of Visitors (where known)
Informal and sightseeing activities	The whole area has much to offer, including parts of two National Parks, and area of outstanding natural beauty and many attractive villages. Noteworthy individual sites include:	
	(i) the Malham area, famous for its limestone scenery;	About 275 000 in 1972
	(ii) Bolton Abbey;	
	(iii) Hardcastle Crag, Brimham Rocks, Rombalds Moor and the St Ives Estate;	
	(iv) historic buildings such as Browsholme Hall, East Riddlesden Hall Skipton Castle, Sawley Abbey and the Bronte Parsonage Museum;	154 000 visitors to Bronte Parsonage museum in 1972
	(v) historic towns including Haworth, Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall;	
	(vi) the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway and the Yorkshire Dales Railway	Keighley-Worth Valley railway carried over 100 000 visitors in 1972
	(vii) two National Nature Reserves in Ribblesdale, one of which is open to the public without need of permit.	
Active pursuits on foot and horseback	The study area is excellent walking country. There are rights of way throughout the area together with access agreements and <i>de facto</i> access to the Fells.	
	(i) Walking: The Pennine Way passes through the study area from Black Hill in the south to Cam Fell. There are also nature trails at Bolton Abbey, Keighley, Clapham, St Ives, Hardcastle Crag, Saddleworth, Ripponden and North Dean Wood, Elland.	A survey on four days during the summer of 1971 at six points in the study area on the Pennine Way counted 348 long distance and 295 day walkers. Use of the Pennine Way has increased approximately threefold since 1965
	(ii) Pot-holing: With at least 327 major pot-holes in the Craven district, there are considerable opportunities for caving and pot-holing. There are also pot-holes in Upper Nidderdale.	

(iii) Rock climbing: There is little serious rock climbing because of the lack of crag faces and the special climbing techniques demanded on limestone. However Goredale Scar and some crags on Ilkley Moor are popular. The character of the area means that it is more suitable for fell walking than for mountaineering.

(iv) Orienteering: Apart from Bolton Abbey area and the Washburn Valley the North Yorkshire Moors have been used more than the study area in the past, but the need for new sites means the study area may be more popular in the future.

The Yorkshire and Humberside Orienteering Association has about 250 regular members, with the number increasing by about 10% per annum.

(v) There are a few centres for horse riding and pony trekking, but this activity is not well developed in the area at the present time.

Motor sports

The country is well suited to motor rallying, but various controls limit the extent to which it can be used.

Winter sports

There is little potential for winter sports because of the shortness and unreliability of the season, though some slopes are satisfactory for skiing.

Water sports

There are 114 water supply reservoirs of an acre or more in the area (many in the South Pennines) and 11 canal feeders. The main recreational activities are angling and sailing, though water sports and even access are prohibited at some reservoirs. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal is important for pleasure cruising. Little use other than angling is made of the rivers, except for the Wharfe at Appletreewick which is used for canoeing and under water swimming.

Source: Yorkshire and Humberside Economic Planning Board (1976)

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