

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Amendment) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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TO

Amend the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to extend the right of public access to the countryside, including to grasslands, woodlands, the green belt and waters; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Definitions in Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

- (1) Section 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (2) (definition of “mountain, moor, heath or down”), omit “or semi-improved”.
- (3) In subsection (2) (definition of “open country”), for “heath or down” substitute “heath, down, woodlands, Green Belt or river banks”.

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2 Right to access waterways

- (1) The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is amended as follows.
- (2) After section 1(1)(d) insert—
 - “(dza) includes any river, stream, lake, pond, canal or other waterway physically capable of navigation, and any such river banks or land adjacent as necessary for the act of navigation and for other purposes incidental to navigation or to bathe,”
- (3) In section 1(2)(definition of “access authority”)—
 - (a) in paragraph (a) omit “and”,
 - (b) in paragraph (b), for “;” substitute “, and (c) in relation to any waterway and adjacent land, means Natural England;”.
- (4) In Schedule 1, part 1, after paragraph 13 insert—
 - “14. Waterways under the ownership or control of a statutory navigation authority.”
- (5) In Schedule 2, paragraph 1(b), before “vessel” insert “powered”.

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- (6) In Schedule 2, paragraph 1, omit “(i) bathes in any non-tidal water,”.

3 Right to camp on access land

- (1) Any person may camp on access land, provided that they comply with codes of conduct issued under section 20 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. 5
- (2) In Schedule 2 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, paragraph 1(s), omit “camping,”.
- (3) “Access land” has the meaning given by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

4 Extent, commencement and short title 10

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 90 days beginning on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Amendment) Act 2022. 15

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*Presented by Caroline Lucas
supported by Sir Peter Bottomley, Clive Lewis,
Bell Ribeiro-Addy, Ian Byrne, Wera Hobhouse and
Rachael Maskell.*

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