

## **Assessment of Access Proposals DETR (now DTLR)**



*Cost of compliance  
assessment of  
proposals for  
access to the open  
countryside*

The Government had issued a consultation paper in which it set out a range of proposals for ensuring access was made available to open country in England and Wales. Entec was commissioned to investigate the costs and benefits associated with the different options including the way they impacted on different sectors of society.

The effects of the proposals were quantified as far as possible within the timetable, either in monetary or other numerical terms, giving priority to those areas where impacts were likely to be greatest. Effects on land managers, landowners and nature conservation interests were amongst the detrimental effects considered possible from the proposals, with the main benefits being increased enjoyment of those wishing to undertake recreational activities in the newly available areas.

Advice was also provided on how the detrimental effects may be mitigated through the use of limited closures as well as other practical means. Limited findings from the public consultation process were incorporated in addition to input from a range of direct contacts with interested parties.

Entec's report provided a detailed summary of the cost and benefits of the individual options being considered and made recommendations on how benefits could be maximised whilst costs were minimised. The recommended option was subsequently incorporated into the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

