

Open Access at a glance

Open access to more countryside

September 19th 2004 was an historic date for all users of the countryside. From this day, a major new right of access has been introduced that gives people the opportunity to walk freely across mapped access land, without having to stay on footpaths.

In England, this has given the public open access to approximately 865,000 hectares (6.5% of the country).

Where can the public find more information?

For the most up-to-date information and maps showing where you can go and what you can do on access land, including details of any local restriction and closures – visit the [Places to Go](#) pages on the Countryside Access website.

This website also contains information about access to all of the countryside and has useful advice and links for various types of recreational users. [See our leaflets](#) - Countryside Access and the new rights- and the new Countryside Code, also available on the Countryside Access website.

The new Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps are now widely available in bookshops and outdoor stores.

You can also order OS Explorer Maps by telephoning: 0845 200 2712 or + 44 1233 211108 outside the UK. Calls are charged at local rate in the UK.

Both the website and OS Explorer maps show the location of local 'Access Information Points', and walkers are advised to look out for local signs indicating any closures or restrictions.

A new access symbol - shown below - may be displayed to help guide you at some entry and exit points

