



## Access to Nature - Guidance Note 3

### Recreation/Outdoor Pursuits guidance

#### Summary:

**Access to Nature may fund projects that include recreation elements, but only where the focus of the project is on connecting and engaging people with the natural environment through appropriate recreational activities, rather than the focus being on the activity itself.**

Access to Nature aims to increase people's opportunities to experience and enjoy the natural environment. Access to Nature through passive and active recreation can be a useful means of achieving this; engaging people, involving them and enabling them to discover more about the natural environment. It can act as a first step to motivate people to get outdoors, benefit their health and inspire them to value the world around them.

Access to Nature is focused on engaging and connecting people with the natural environment. Projects involving recreation activities must address Access to Nature's outcomes which include: improved opportunities to access the natural environment; and learning about the natural environment and gaining new skills. Overall, Access to Nature has the aim to make a lasting change in people's involvement with nature. The inclusion of any recreational activity within a project would need to be identified as an appropriate way of delivering this.

It is not enough for a project that includes sport and recreation activities to simply take place in the natural environment. If sport or recreational activity is the primary focus of the project, it is likely it would not meet the Access to Nature outcomes sufficiently to be awarded funding and funding should be sought from more appropriate sources elsewhere.

There may also be some instances where sport and recreation activities might be considered to have high risks of degrading natural environments. In such cases, applicants to Access to Nature will need to demonstrate how they have considered the impact of their project on the natural environment and outline any potential conflicts. Access to Nature may place special conditions in any grant offer, insisting that applicants adopt 'Best of Both Worlds' (BOBW) principles. In any case these principles form a nature sensitive approach to outdoor recreation and are well worth incorporating in your plans. They aim to improve and increase opportunities for outdoor sports and recreation for all, in ways that respect and safeguard our natural and cultural heritage.

BOBW link: [www.bobw.co.uk](http://www.bobw.co.uk)