

Why these amendments are needed

Benefits to society

There is growing evidence that access to nature and green space supports better physical and mental healthⁱ, and consequently helps

Proposed amendments on public access to and enjoyment of nature

We believe that the conclusions of the Environment Agency's report and the Landscapes Review is indicative of the clear imperative of why targets for access to, and enjoyment of, nature must be included in the Environment Bill as a priority area.

Amendment: Long term targets for public access to and enjoyment of nature

As currently presented, Clause 1 of the Environment Bill sets out that:

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations set long-term targets in respect of any matter which relates to—
 - (a) the natural environment, or
 - (b) people's enjoyment of the natural environment.

- (2) The Secretary of State must exercise the power in subsection (1) so as to set a long-term target in respect of at least one matter within each priority area.

- (3) The priority areas are—
 - (a) air quality;
 - (b) water;
 - (c) biodiversity;
 - (d) resource efficiency and waste reduction.

We are concerned that the Bill omits to include public access to and enjoyment of nature as a priority area for target-setting, and that, accordingly, funding will be almost entirely allocated to meeting targets in outlined priority areas.

Potentially, this could, if no amendments were made, mean that public access to, and enjoyment of, the natural environment would be

