



National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

1949 CHAPTER 97 12 13 and 14 Geo 6

PART III

NATURE CONSERVATION

20 Byelaws for protection of nature reserves.

- (1) [^{F1}the appropriate conservation body] may, as respects land which is being managed as a nature reserve under an agreement entered into with them or land held by them which is being managed as a nature reserve, make byelaws for the protection of the reserve:

Provided that byelaws under this section shall not have effect as respects any land in a reserve unless a declaration under the last foregoing section is in force declaring that the land is being managed as a nature reserve and notice of the declaration has been published in pursuance of that section.

- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the last foregoing subsection, byelaws under this section—
- (a) may provide for prohibiting or restricting the entry into, or movement within, nature reserves of persons, vehicles, boats and animals;
 - (b) may prohibit or restrict the killing, taking, molesting or disturbance of living creatures of any description in a nature reserve, the taking, destruction or disturbance of eggs of any such creature, the taking of, or interference with, vegetation of any description in a nature reserve, or the doing of anything therein which will interfere with the soil or damage any object in the reserve;
 - (c) may prohibit or restrict the shooting of birds or of birds of any description within such area surrounding or adjoining a nature reserve (whether the area be of land or of sea) as appears to [^{F2}the appropriate conservation body] requisite for the protection of the reserve;
 - (d) may contain provisions prohibiting the depositing of rubbish and the leaving of litter in a nature reserve;

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, Section 20. (See end of Document for details)

- (e) may prohibit or restrict, or provide for prohibiting or restricting, the lighting of fires in a nature reserve, or the doing of anything likely to cause a fire in a nature reserve;
- (f) may provide for the issue, on such terms and subject to such conditions as may be specified in the byelaws, of permits authorising entry into a nature reserve or the doing of anything therein which would otherwise be unlawful, whether under the byelaws or otherwise;
- (g) may be made so as to relate either to the whole or to any part of the reserve or, in the case of byelaws made under paragraph (c) of this subsection, of any such surrounding or adjoining area as is mentioned in that paragraph, and may make different provisions for different parts thereof:

Provided that byelaws under this section shall not interfere with the exercise by any person of a right vested in him as owner, lessee or occupier of land in a nature reserve, or in the case of such land in Scotland as limited owner thereof, or with the exercise of any public right of way or of any functions of statutory [^{F3}undertakers, of a river board or other drainage authority][^{F3}undertakers, or an internal drainage board] or a district board for a fishery district within the meaning of the ^{M1}Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act 1862, or of the Commissioners appointed under the ^{M2}Tweed Fisheries Act 1857. [^{F4}or with the running of a telecommunications code system or the exercise of any right conferred by or in accordance with the telecommunications code on the operator of any such system.]

- (3) Where the exercise of any right vested in a person, whether by reason of his being entitled to any interest in land or by virtue of a licence or agreement, is prevented or hindered by the coming into operation of byelaws under this section, he shall be entitled to receive from [^{F5}the appropriate conservation body] compensation in respect thereof.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 20(1) substituted (1.10.2006) by [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#) (c. 16), s. 107, [Sch. 11 para. 15\(d\)](#); S.I. 2006/2541, art. 2 (with Sch.)
- F2** Words in s. 20(2)(c) substituted (1.10.2006) by [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#) (c. 16), s. 107, [Sch. 11 para. 15\(d\)](#); S.I. 2006/2541, art. 2 (with Sch.)
- F3** Words from “undertakers” to “board” substituted (E.W.) for words from “undertakers” to “drainage authority” by [Water Act 1989](#), (c. 15, SIF 130), ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), Sch. 25 para. 13(1), Sch. 26 paras. 3(1)(2), 17, 40(4), 57(6), 58
- F4** Words inserted by [Telecommunications Act 1984](#) (c. 12, SIF 96), [Sch. 4 para. 28\(1\)](#)
- F5** Words in s. 20(3) substituted (1.10.2006) by [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#) (c. 16), s. 107, [Sch. 11 para. 15\(d\)](#); S.I. 2006/2541, art. 2 (with Sch.)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 20 amended by [British Telecommunications Act 1981](#) (c. 38, SIF 96), s. 1(2), [Sch. 3 para. 10\(2\)\(a\)\(6\)](#), s. 20(2)(3) extended by [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#) (c. 69, SIF 4:5), [s. 35\(4\)](#)
- C2** S. 20(2)(3) applied (30.1.2001) by [1981 c. 69, s. 28R\(2\)](#) (as substituted (30.1.2001) by [2000 c. 37, ss. 75\(1\), 103\(2\)](#), [Sch. 9 para. 1](#))

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1862 c. 97.(52:2)
- M2** 1857 c. cxlviii.(52:2)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, Section 20.