

*These notes refer to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act  
2000 (c.37) which received Royal Assent on 30 November 2000*

# **COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000**

---

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Part IV: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

##### **Summary**

251. Part IV of the Act introduces provisions to allow the better management and protection of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). It provides for the creation of conservation boards for individual AONBs by means of an establishment order made by the Secretary of State in England, or by the National Assembly in Wales. It requires the preparation and publication of a management plan for every AONB by the appropriate local authorities, or by an AONB conservation board where one is established. It places a duty on 'relevant authorities' when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB, to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB. It also consolidates the provisions on AONBs previously contained in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 ("the 1949 Act").