



# Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

## 2006 CHAPTER 16

### PART 1

#### NATURAL ENGLAND AND THE COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

#### CHAPTER 1

#### NATURAL ENGLAND

#### *Constitution and general purpose*

### 1 Constitution

- (1) There is to be a body known as Natural England.
- (2) Natural England is to have the functions conferred on it by or under this Act or any other enactment.
- (3) Except where otherwise expressly provided, Natural England's functions are exercisable in relation to England<sup>[F1]</sup> (including, where the context requires, the territorial sea adjacent to England) ] only.

<sup>[F2]</sup>(3A) An order or Order in Council made—

- (a) under section 158(3) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 for the purposes of determining which waters are treated as being adjacent to Wales, or
- (b) under section 126(2) of the Scotland Act 1998 for the purposes of determining which waters are treated as being adjacent to Scotland,

applies for the purposes of this section as it applies for the purposes of the Act under which it is made.]

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Cross Heading: Constitution and general purpose. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (4) English Nature and the Countryside Agency are dissolved and their functions are (subject to the provisions of this Act) transferred to Natural England.
- (5) Schedule 1 contains provisions about the constitution of Natural England and related matters.

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** Words in s. 1(3) inserted (12.1.2010) by [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 \(c. 23\)](#), **ss. 311(2)**, 324(3); [S.I. 2009/3345](#), **art. 2**, **Sch. para. 25**
- F2** [S. 1\(3A\)](#) inserted (12.1.2010) by [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 \(c. 23\)](#), **ss. 311(3)**, 324(3); [S.I. 2009/3345](#), **art. 2**, **Sch. para. 25**

#### **Commencement Information**

- I1** [S. 1\(1\)\(2\)\(3\)\(5\)](#) in force at 2.5.2006 by [S.I. 2006/1176](#), **art. 4**
- I2** [S. 1\(4\)](#) in force at 1.10.2006 by [S.I. 2006/2541](#), **art. 2** (with [Sch.](#))

## **2 General purpose**

- (1) Natural England's general purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.
- (2) Natural England's general purpose includes—
- (a) promoting nature conservation and protecting biodiversity,
  - (b) conserving and enhancing the landscape,
  - (c) securing the provision and improvement of facilities for the study, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment,
  - (d) promoting access to the countryside and open spaces and encouraging open-air recreation, and
  - (e) contributing in other ways to social and economic well-being through management of the natural environment.
- (3) The purpose in subsection (2)(e) may, in particular, be carried out by working with local communities.

#### **Commencement Information**

- I3** [S. 2](#) in force at 2.5.2006 by [S.I. 2006/1176](#), **art. 4**

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Cross Heading: Constitution and general purpose.