



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 only.
- (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.

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.