

## Commons Training for land managers

Kate Ashbrook and John Day



### Background

The training day is designed to help land managers and others with an interest in commons to understand their rights and responsibilities and how to go about preparing for, and taking forward, management planning and works on common land.

Both Kate and John have recently been instrumental in revising 'A Common Purpose', written guidance on public consultation on management of commons. The Open Spaces Society was, in addition, commissioned by Natural England to produce *Finding Common Ground* (2010) which sets out how to take account of the public interest in determining management solutions for commons. Natural England has also published a series of fact sheets commissioned from Footprint Ecology on all aspects of managing commons for the use of local communities and groups.

**Kate Ashbrook** has an encyclopedic knowledge of commons and countryside access based on her work as General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society for 28 years. She is a past member of the former Countryside Agency Board and is now president of the Ramblers, a trustee of the Campaign for National Parks and the Dartmoor Preservation Association, and a member of the Institute of Public Rights of Way and Access Management.  
[www.oss.org.uk](http://www.oss.org.uk)

**Dr John Day** worked full time for the RSPB for over 35 years in a number of roles including as a land manager, ecologist and land agent (he still advises RSPB and acts for them as an expert witness), before setting up a consultancy, Footprint Ecology with Dr Liley in 2005. He has undertaken work on over two dozen commons including public consultations, writing management plans and the submission of applications for fencing and other works and giving evidence at commons inquiries. He is a chartered biologist, a retired fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a member of IEEM  
[www.footprint-ecology.co.uk](http://www.footprint-ecology.co.uk)

## Programme:

10.00	Introductions The history and origins of commons, and the principal legislation affecting them Rights and responsibilities of owners, commoners, visitors
11.00	Coffee (included)
11.15	Aspects of legislation, in particular the Commons Act 2006
11.45	Common land consents
12.00	<i>A Common Purpose</i> and consulting on management of commons
1.00	Lunch (bring your own sandwiches etc.)
2.00	Making an application to the Planning Inspectorate for works on a common. Explain practical exercise
2.30	Break into groups for practical exercise
3.15	Tea (included)
3.25	Feedback from practical exercise
3.45	Q&A session and open forum
4.15	Finish

The training day will be held in the National Trust offices on Witley Common in Surrey on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012 at a cost to each participant (payable in advance) of £100+VAT.

To book a place, please contact Neil Gartshore at Footprint Ecology. His phone number is 01929 552444, or e-mail to [neil.gartshore@footprint-ecology.co.uk](mailto:neil.gartshore@footprint-ecology.co.uk) or write to Neil at Footprint Ecology, Forest Office, Cold Harbour, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 7PA

