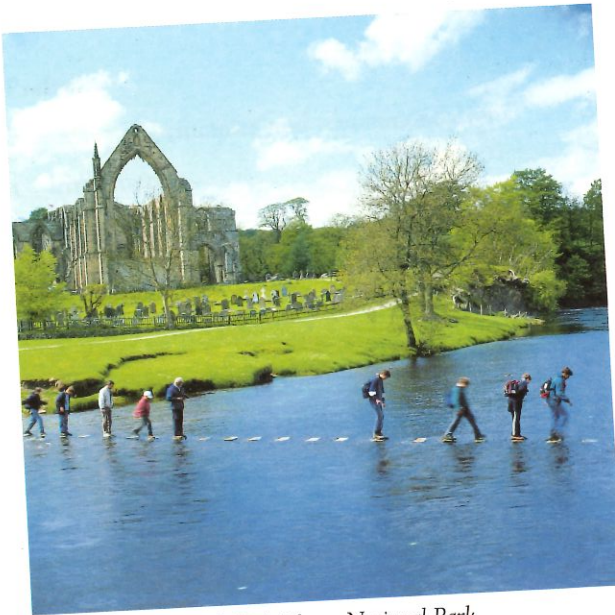


**PROTECTING OUR
FINEST COUNTRYSIDE:
ADVICE TO
GOVERNMENT**

**COUNTRYSIDE
COMMISSION**

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



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This report concerns the protection of England's finest countryside - that designated as National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). It is under pressure as never before. It requires better protection, largely through management of the landscape, guided by special purpose authorities.

The principles underpinning the Commission's advice and proposals are:

- appropriate and effective management and funding arrangements are essential if protected countryside is to be secured for future generations;
- each area of protected countryside should have the management and funding arrangements appropriate to the varied needs of its locality;
- it should be recognised that the carrying out of statutory functions requires secure long-term support from public funds;
- the authorities responsible for protected countryside, in collaboration with each other, should continue to give high priority to securing funding from non-government sources. But non-government funds should be seen as supplementary to public funds and not as a substitute for them; and
- the policies and activities of all departments of central and local government should reinforce the statutory purposes of protected countryside.