

## **ECONAT Peer Exchanges 2010: *Recreational activity and Natura 2000 Sites***

**Dates:** 16 – 18 March 2010, starting morning of the 16, finishing at lunch on 18th. The booking deadline is 12 February. After this date please contact the organiser to check if places are available and accommodation options.

**Location:** Exeter, England. Exeter has good rail links to London and an airport with flights to Paris and Schipol (FlyBe).

**Accommodation:** The Rougemont Thistle Hotel, Exeter. 12 rooms have been reserved at £70 per person per night including breakfast. The meetings will be held at a separate venue.  
[http://www.thistle.com/hotels/united\\_kingdom/exeter/the\\_rougemont\\_hotel/index.html](http://www.thistle.com/hotels/united_kingdom/exeter/the_rougemont_hotel/index.html)

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**Format:** Desk based workshops and discussions, with a site visit to the Exe Estuary.

**Scope:** This exchange will consider various types of recreational activity which affect Natura 2000 sites. Assessment and management approaches designed to ensure compatibility with the duties of the Habitats Directive will be compared through the presentation and discussion of case studies. The agenda will be partly determined by the specialist interest of participants.

Types of recreation to be considered include:

- 1) Recreation causing **disturbance** of Natura 2000 interest features, with a focus on public access to protected sites.
  - Activities causing disturbance e.g. walking, jet skiing, recreational aircraft, dog walking etc.
- 2) Recreation causing **direct impacts** to Natura 2000 interest features, with a focus on hunting / shooting / fishing.
  - Hunting / shooting / fishing activities e.g. wildfowling, fishing or fish stocking.

The exchange will:

- i. Compare accessibility and levels of protection afforded to Natura 2000 sites in different member states. Which recreation activities need permission and which don't?
- ii. Consider case studies of recreational activities affecting Natura 2000 sites;
- iii. Compare assessment processes for applying the Habitats Directive to recreational activities;
- iv. Examine best practice management approaches (mitigation / compensation) for recreation in Natura 2000 sites;
- v. Consider positive aspects of recreation in Natura 2000 sites.

**Audience:** The exchange welcomes specialist participants with a close involvement in managing recreation activity in Natura 2000 sites. This can include environmental regulatory bodies, policy makers, consultants, or from recreation interest groups. Please be clear about your interests in your application as this will help to determine the final agenda

**Numbers:** Maximum of 12 participants

**Result:** All participants should be prepared to present a case study and engage in specialist discussions. There will also be a requirement to contribute to the production of a written briefing on the findings of the exchange, and volunteers will be needed to present the findings at the ECONAT annual seminar in Germany, September 2010.