

The Right to Roam

The long-awaited right to roam has come a big step closer with the publication of the first maps showing the proposed “open countryside” where ramblers and walkers will have a legal right of access. Draft maps for two regions of England, the South-east and the North-west, have just been published by the Countryside Agency, detailing the areas of mountain, moor, down, heath and registered common land that will be opened up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act. Cultivated land, such as crops and pasture, is not affected. The maps show 13 per cent of the North-west and a mere 3 per cent of the South-east as being covered by the new provisions.

In the North-west, the “open countryside” designation will be given to large chunks of the Peak District and the Pennines. Ramblers will be delighted that it covers Kinder Scout, the Derbyshire moorland that was the scene of violent clashes between gamekeepers and ramblers in the 1930s and has become a symbol of the right-to-roam movement. It also covers the Forest of Bowland in north Lancashire, where the Duke of Westminster owns large estates from which ramblers have in the past been excluded. In the South-east, a much smaller area is proposed—mainly the chalk grassland of the South Downs and the Surrey Hills and heaths west of Guildford—as most of the countryside is lowlying or cultivated and does not fit the Act’s criteria.

Richard Wakeford, the Countryside Agency’s chief executive, says: “It has struck me how little understanding there is about what the Act means. There’s a lot of people who think they’re going to be able to walk in every farm field as a result of this legislation, and there’s a lot of farmers who fear that people will be able to walk in every field. That is not the case.”

The release of the maps marks the first time that the farmers and landowners who have opposed the right to roam, and the ramblers who have fought for it for decades, should know exactly what is allowed in two regions of England. Six more regions will follow. The maps will be the subject of a massive three-month consultation exercise, involving half a million leaflets and 29 roadshows.

Alun Michael, the Rural Affairs minister, appeals for understanding from both sides of the debate. “There will be those who want greater access than is provided for, and some who object to access and don’t want people on their land at all,” he says. “I hope those who manage land and those who want access will approach this with goodwill, because with a bit of goodwill it will be possible to increase the sense that people are welcome in the countryside.”

“There are some farmers who are obstructive. There are some farmers who simply don’t want anyone on their land and that’s the beginning and the end of it. But that’s a medieval approach to access. Most farmers have an increasing understanding, just as most walkers do, about their responsibilities.”

The Country Land & Business Association has warned that the new law should not “simply become one that provides rights for users and responsibilities for land managers”. Sir Edward Greenwell, its president, says: “We are concerned about the necessary infrastructure and management of access to this land. Agriculture has largely created this precious national asset, but farmers and land managers must not be burdened with the additional cost of providing access to this new open land; nor must the new access hinder other activities on the land.”

Michael McCarthy, The Independent

1 What can be concluded from the opening paragraph?

- A A new law provides almost unlimited access to the countryside for ordinary people
- B Many areas in England will remain closed to the general public
- C New regional maps have been produced by walkers' pressure groups
- D The government is unlikely to change its traditional views on public access to land

2 How can the Countryside and Rights of Way Act best be characterized?

- A As a complete victory for environmentally concerned activists
- B As a rough outline for developing environment-friendly tourism
- C As a preliminary solution more favourable to farmers than to walkers
- D As a compromise between landowners and right-to-roamers

3 How have people reacted to the new regulations, according to the text?

- A The majority of people do not seem to care very much about them
- B The new Act has been accepted by only a small minority of farmers
- C There is a lot of uncertainty about what is allowed and what is not
- D Most ramblers feel that the new Act need not be taken seriously

4 What is said about the new maps?

- A Their publication signals a new approach to an old problem
- B They should have been less restrictive in their regional coverage
- C Their existence is unlikely to become known to non-specialists
- D They are not specific enough to be of any real use to walkers

5 What is implied about the new law?

- A The costs of increased access ought to be borne by landowners alone
- B Its success depends on a change of attitude among many farmers and countryside visitors
- C There are definite signs that it will never work as intended
- D Right-to-roamers are about to gain access to farmland currently excluded on the new maps

Please turn over

Colonial Kidnap

A review of *The Fox Boy* by Peter Walker

The title suggests one of those books about a feral child abandoned by its parents and raised by surprisingly tender beasts: a fairytale mix of the salacious and anthropological that strikes a chord as far back as Remulus and Romus. Peter Walker's book tells a different version of this story: not of abandonment but of abduction, not of survival despite the forces of wilderness but survival despite the forces of "civilisation". His story is that of the child taken as hostage of war, as trophy and potential slave—with the British-empire spin of improving it through exposure to an allegedly superior culture.

In 1869, in the Taranaki forest of New Zealand, a five-year-old Maori boy is captured after a battle. Torn from his family, dressed in mini-English-gentleman clobber, he is whisked off to the city where New Zealand's sometime premier, William Fox, renames him. Ngataua Omahuru is no more; surrounded entirely by whites, William Fox has taken his place. At that time nobody seriously questioned the assumption that one way of life was superior to another. The boy was considered, if anything, to be a late and lucky changeling.

Also, there was a mutual history of kidnapping between Maori and British dating back to the 1760s. Sometimes children were returned; sometimes they were discovered decades later, their mother tongue now strange to them; and sometimes they were thrown into slavery or killed. There was miscegenation in New Zealand to an extent unknown in Australia or Canada. Europeans "took the blanket", adopting a Maori way of life; there was a fair amount of intermarriage; and by the late 19th century it was no more than a mild curiosity to see a postcard of William Fox, photographed in the early days of his abduction. It was this image that inspired Walker to find out, as he puts it, "what happened to you".

Along the way he unveils much interesting information about the culture of the times and about his own experience. The book is, as publishers like to say, "part detective story", and Walker has gone to great

lengths to track primary sources—letters, diaries, unpublished memoirs—to piece together his narrative. Documented New Zealand history is short and full of holes—fires blazed through wooden colonial buildings with regularity.

New Zealand historians have tended to focus on either biography or battles, possibly because players from the past include remarkable chiefs and statesmen, and the wars were intense, brutal and well documented. Walker easily demonstrates how history is rewritten even as it occurs, quoting newspaper reports and official letters intended to blur the worst of the British atrocities and make the most of the Maori ones. New Zealanders tend to sit smugly on their history, pointing outwards to the bloody and tragic stories of empire elsewhere. It is true that the occasional abducted child is small fry compared with the scale of forced assimilation in other countries: Canada removed native children into residential school systems, which were often abusive; Australia's stolen generation is possibly the most painful and important issue facing that nation today.

In this densely packed, vivid and moving book, Walker's doggedness, intelligence and humour shed light on some of the still-unanswered questions of the colonial legacy. Who were these self-aggrandising British men and women who cared so much to appear philanthropic and dignified, yet who perpetrated savage and lawless acts? What so excited and bemused them about Maori spirituality? Why did they pursue the Maori to the most rugged corners of the country in order to steal their land? The "days of paternalism and disrespect", as Canada's Indian affairs minister recently described them, may be over, but their effects are only just beginning to be examined. To this *The Fox Boy* makes a valuable contribution. It is a nice touch that the final word in the Maori-English glossary with which the book ends is *whenua*: land.

Emily Perkins, The Guardian Weekly

- 6 What are we told about Peter Walker's book in the opening paragraph?**
- A Its content is a bit unexpected in relation to its title
 - B It is intended to be read more as a fable than as a true story
 - C Its focus is on a child's ability to adjust to primitive conditions
 - D It is an artificial variation on a traditional theme
- 7 What is implied about the kidnapping of Ngataua Omahuru?**
- A It led to a welcome change of identity for the Maori boy
 - B Most British people in New Zealand found it unacceptable
 - C It was the result of widespread racial and cultural prejudice
 - D The Maori were shocked by this show of British heartlessness
- 8 What is said about relations between Maori and British New Zealanders?**
- A They lived in strictly segregated worlds at the personal level
 - B Some British people opposed the treatment of the Maori
 - C Close personal ties were encouraged by the British authorities
 - D Many British people were fascinated by Maori culture
- 9 What are we told about Peter Walker's book and his work on it?**
- A It could have made better use of certain official documents
 - B His research on it was actively supported by modern Maori scholars
 - C It is partly based on examination of previously unknown material
 - D His efforts in writing it are impressive but of little interest to most readers
- 10 What is implied in relation to the history of New Zealand?**
- A It shows no similarities to the way native people were treated in Australia or Canada
 - B A more objective account of New Zealand's colonial past remains to be written
 - C The early descriptions of war crimes are now considered more reliable than before
 - D Many New Zealanders are now ashamed of their country's oppression of the Maori
- 11 What is said about Peter Walker's book in the closing paragraph?**
- A It provides good reading but few insights into colonialist mentality
 - B It a unique attempt to question the motives of New Zealand's colonizers
 - C It is too narrowly focused to be convincing as an account of colonial brutality
 - D It helps to illuminate the impact of colonialization in New Zealand

And here are some shorter texts:

Ginseng

Used for centuries to fight off ills from fatigue to infirmity, the fleshy roots of the ginseng plant may have a role in treating diabetes. A preliminary study suggests diabetics who take a 3-g capsule of American ginseng—the only kind tested—before eating may be able to curtail the tendency of blood-sugar levels to soar after a meal. But before you stock up, better wait for more definitive studies.

12 What are we told here about ginseng?

- A It has been proved effective against different kinds of diabetes
- B It may have risky side-effects on diabetics' blood-sugar production
- C It has been shown to hold out some promise for diabetics
- D It is hardly the first time it has been tested on diabetes symptoms

Internet Twins

A High Court judge in London has ordered that twin babies offered for adoption over the Internet be returned to the US, where the nine-month-old girls will be placed in foster care pending legal rulings in Missouri on their future. The Welsh couple who outbid a California pair for the babies say they will not appeal the court decision in their battle for custody.

13 What does this news item imply?

- A Internet adoptions are illegal in most Western countries
- B The legal aspects of the adoption case at hand remain to be settled
- C American laws are not in favour of international adoptions
- D The British couple refuse to accept US adoption laws

Martin Luther King

It is a testament to the greatness of Martin Luther King that nearly every major U.S. city has a street or school named after him. It is a measure of how sorely his achievements have been misunderstood that most of them are located in black neighborhoods.

14 What is suggested here about King?

- A He was also very important to white people
- B His importance to both blacks and whites has been exaggerated
- C He is no longer regarded as primarily a black leader
- D His influence on white people is now generally recognized

Nudity in the 19th Century

During the Victorian period, the nude came to represent the highest and lowest in British society. At its best, the nude was a symbol of classical civilization – and imperial superiority. At its worst, images of the body were seen to be vulgar and depraved, capable of corrupting the young, who made up the new audiences for Victorian popular culture. According to the period’s greatest art critic, John Ruskin, the issue was clear: ‘any form of passionate excess ... has terrible effects on body and soul, in nations and in men.’

15 What is implied about nudity in Victorian art?

- A The Victorians refused to regard it as anything but immoral
- B It was seen as perfectly acceptable by young people in general
- C Judgments of nudity were closely related to moral issues
- D Most art critics defended nudity against public opinion

Diets

Modern diets are based on just a few domesticated plants which in general have been bred not for their biochemical variety but for yield and succulence. Biochemically speaking, modern crops tend to be far blander than their wild counterparts. In general, modern agricultural human beings may be regarded as “pharmacologically impoverished”, i.e. deprived of that host of quasi-vitamins that our physiology has evolved to make use of.

16 Which of the following ideas is most in keeping with the text?

- A Human diets have hardly changed since the emergence of agriculture
- B There should be more to human food than physiological considerations
- C Human beings should return to the more varied food of a less civilized age
- D Today’s human beings are less healthy than their primitive ancestors

Please turn

In the following text there are gaps which indicate that something has been left out. Study the four alternatives that correspond to each gap and decide which one best fits the gap. Then mark your choice on your answer sheet.

A Celebrity Scientist

Susan Greenfield, a neuroscientist, holds the chair in Synaptic Pharmacology at Oxford University and is the first woman director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, a premier research center. She has published more than 150 academic papers and been awarded 18 honorary degrees.

Yet Greenfield, 51, is the very antithesis of a fusty**17**..... . She writes popular-science books, presents TV series like last year's *Brain Story* on the BBC and delivers public lectures. Last week she chaired a conference on music and the mind, which yielded intriguing insights into the way melodic patterns may be linked to the configuration of neuron networks in the brain. Her telegenic looks, designer clothes, accessibility and enthusiasm for her subject—the mind and how it works—have led the media to dub her Britain's only celebrity scientist. She doesn't**18**..... the tag: it gives her a platform to speak out on issues about which she feels strongly, like the British government's announcement that marijuana will be downgraded to a low-risk drug whose use or possession is not an arrestable offense.

Greenfield thinks that moves to decriminalize the drug are based on “the greatest myth of all”—the belief that cannabis is essentially harmless. Despite her unhappiness with the government's actions, she finds the response from schoolchildren and young offenders, to whom she has taken her antidrug message, “hugely exhilarating. A ‘Just Say No’ approach would never work. But they are surprisingly**19**..... hard facts.”

Greenfield's aim of “meshing science with society” has something of the zeal of the convert. “I'd like to see people attending scientific**20**..... the way they would go to a concert or the cinema,” she says. If anyone can persuade the public to devote their Saturday nights to science, Susan Greenfield will.

Christine Whitehouse, Time

- 17** A feminist
B physician
C careerist
D professor

- 18** A approve of
B mind
C respond to
D match

- 19** A tolerant of
B involved in
C receptive to
D honest about

- 20** A discussions
B controversies
C appointments
D complexities

That is the end of the English test. If you have time left, go back and check your answers.