

## Appendix 2 - Accredited Country Park Criteria

Natural England offer accreditations for Country Parks. This is an option the Council will be pursuing.

A site must have all of the essential criteria and at least 10 of the desirable criteria to get accreditation

<b>Essential criteria (must have all the below)</b>	<b>Desirable criteria (must meet 10 of the below)</b>
<p>A Country Park must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at least 10 hectares in size</li> <li>• defined by a clear boundary – marked on a map, whether it’s open or fenced in</li> <li>• accessible – less than 10 miles from a residential area</li> <li>• free to enter</li> <li>• inclusive and accessible – show how you’ve met equality and disability needs and provided for varied groups</li> <li>• predominantly natural or semi-natural landscape, eg woodland, grassland, wetland, heathland or parkland, with no more than 5% of the area built upon (excluding car parks)</li> <li>• signposted and easy to navigate – visitors should be shown where they can go and what they can do and directed along footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes</li> <li>• visibly staffed, eg litter collection and maintenance</li> <li>• available for public or educational events</li> <li>• near public toilets – either on-site or a 2 minute walk away</li> <li>• informed by the local community – the public should have some influence over the management and development of your site</li> </ul>	<p>A Country Park should ideally have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a visitor centre</li> <li>• play facilities</li> <li>• catering</li> <li>• bike and horse trails</li> <li>• art and sculpture</li> <li>• permanent staff presence during the day</li> <li>• detailed information available to visitors eg leaflets</li> <li>• brown and white tourist directional signs and shown on an OS map</li> <li>• activities outside eg water sports and adventure sports</li> <li>• achieved, or is working towards, <u>Green Flag Award (GFA)</u> status</li> <li>• a green transport policy, eg buses and cycle routes to your site</li> <li>• facilities for less able visitors eg easy trails, seats and information available in accessible formats</li> <li>• planned for the management of biodiversity, geodiversity and preservation of historical environment</li> <li>• opportunities for practical community involvement, eg volunteering</li> <li>• promoted the health benefits of walking</li> <li>• an outreach programme promoting your site to less represented sectors of the community</li> <li>• a programme of events and guided walks, promoting healthy living and environmental awareness</li> </ul>