



# Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 69

### PART II

#### NATURE CONSERVATION, COUNTRYSIDE AND NATIONAL PARKS

##### *National Parks*

#### **42 Notification of agricultural operations on moor and heath in National Parks.**

- (1) The Ministers may, if satisfied that it is expedient to do so, by order apply subsection (2) to any land which is comprised in a National Park and which appears to them to consist of or include moor or heath.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), no person shall—
  - (a) by ploughing or otherwise convert into agricultural land any land to which this subsection applies and which is moor or heath which has not been agricultural land at any time within the preceding 20 years; or
  - (b) carry out on any such land any other agricultural operation or any forestry operation which (in either case) appears to the Ministers to be likely to affect its character or appearance and is specified in the order applying this subsection to that land.
- (3) Subsection (2) shall not apply in relation to any operation carried out, or caused or permitted to be carried out, by the owner or occupier of the land if—
  - (a) one of them has, after the coming into force of the order, given the [<sup>F1</sup>local planning authority] written notice of a proposal to carry out the operation, specifying its nature and the land on which it is proposed to carry it out; and
  - (b) one of the conditions specified in subsection (4) is satisfied.
- (4) The said conditions are—
  - (a) that the [<sup>F1</sup>local planning authority] have given their consent to the carrying out of the operation;
  - (b) where that authority have neither given nor refused their consent, that three months have expired from the giving of the notice; and

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*Status: Point in time view as at 06/03/1991. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Section 42 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

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- (c) where that authority have refused their consent, that twelve months have expired from the giving of the notice.
- (5) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (2) shall be liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine.
- (6) Where the [<sup>F1</sup>local planning authority] are given notice under this section in respect of any land, the authority shall forthwith send copies of the notice to the Ministers, the Nature Conservancy Council and the Countryside Commission.
- (7) In considering for the purposes of this section whether land has been agricultural land within the preceding 20 years, no account shall be taken of any conversion of the land into agricultural land which was unlawful under the provisions of this section or section 14 of the 1968 Act.
- (8) An order under this section shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (9) The said section 14 (which is superseded by this section) shall cease to have effect; but this section shall have effect as if any order under that section in force immediately before the coming into force of this section had been made under this section.

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**Textual Amendments**

**F1** Words substituted by [Local Government Act 1985 \(c. 51, SIF 81:1\)](#), ss. 1, 2, 7, [Sch. 3 para. 7\(4\)](#)

**Status:**

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