



COUNTRYFILE MAGAZINE AWARDS 2011

the winners

We launched the *Countryfile Magazine* Awards back in April as a way to celebrate the British countryside and say thank you to the many, often unsung, people and organisations who work so hard to make it accessible, keep it beautiful and conserve its heritage and wildlife.

In each of 10 categories, we asked *Countryfile Magazine* friends and experts to draw up a shortlist of candidates. Then it was up to you, the readers, to vote for your favourites from that shortlist. I'm delighted to say that your response was fantastic – and the *Countryfile Magazine* team want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to vote via post, email or through the website.

All the votes have been counted and we can now publicly announce the winners for the inaugural 2011 *Countryfile Magazine* Awards...





Britain's finest nature reserve

Slimbridge WWT

BBC Natural History Unit radio presenter Brett Westwood created a shortlist of 10 nature reserves around the UK. You voted the WWT's Slimbridge Reserve the winner. Editor Fergus Collins escaped from the offices to give the award in person to Slimbridge General Manager Veronica Chrisp and WWT Chief Executive Martin Spray.

2nd place – Lundy Island, National Trust, Devon
3rd place – Minsmere RSPB, Suffolk

"This is an amazing accolade and one of which we are extremely proud. So much work goes on year-round and behind the scenes to provide this magical space.

Veronica Chrisp, General Manager, Slimbridge

Country writer of the year

Candida Lycett Green *Unwrecked England*

Britain's best country writer was chosen by you from a shortlist of top reviews in *Countryfile Magazine* in 2010. Candida Lycett Green is self-proclaimed "champion of England". Her book *Unwrecked England*, features 100 places of abiding beauty and charm.

2nd place – Richard Mabey – *Weeds*

3rd place – Francis Pryor – *The Making of the British Landscape*

"I think that people like Unwrecked England because it suggests that wonderful places exist right under our noses. The media tells us that we have to go to abroad to find perfect pastoral beauty. Well we don't."

Candida Lycett Green



Favourite outdoor brand

Páramo

With such a wide range of outdoor brands on the market, it must have been as hard for you to vote as it was for us to shortlist this category. In the end our kit reviewers decided to pit popular high street brands alongside some award-winning (but often pricier) specialists. The results showed that when it came to outdoor kit, you opted for endurance over thrift.

2nd place – Regatta

3rd place – Berghaus

"Páramo is delighted to be voted favourite outdoor brand by Countryfile Magazine readers – a huge accolade from the magazine's discerning country-minded devotees. We admire Countryfile Magazine's broad take on everything rural from walking to farming, wildlife to wild swimming, embracing conservation and protection, both dear to Páramo's heart."

Catherine Whitehead,
Páramo

