Guidelines for entrances to Sweden’s national parks
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White Arkitekter

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Orders
Order tel.: +46 8-505 933 40
Order fax: +46 8-505 933 99
E-mail: natur@cm.se
Postal address: CM Gruppen AB, Box 110, 161 11 Bromma
Internet: www.naturvardsverket.se/bokhandeln

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Tel: 08-698 10 00, fax: 08-20 29 25
E-mail: natur@naturvardsverket.se
Postal address: Naturvårdsverket, SE-106 48 Stockholm
Internet: www.naturvardsverket.se

ISSN: 0282-7298
© Naturvårdsverket 2007

Production
Photographs: Bilderberg – Ina Agency, 1tl. Luc Pages, 1r, 15, 18, 23°.
Lars Wallsten, 1bl, 22, 23b 27b, 29. Tor Lundberg/N, 6.
Klas Rune/N, 8, 25t. Per-Olov Eriksson/N, 11.

Digital publication
Layout: IdéoLuck AB (#070616)
Foreword

The national parks are an important part of Swedish nature conservation. They represent the types of landscape most deserving of protection in the country. It is important to make clear the role of the national parks as flagships for all nature protection. Outdoor leisure is a key aspect of the purpose of the national parks, which are intended to offer opportunities for recreation and experiences.

It is crucially important for outdoor leisure that there are functional entrances to the national parks, that are easy to find and that form the starting point for a visit. The experience of an area is greatly affected by the first impression gained on arrival. A well designed entrance manages to convey positive expectations and increases what benefit people obtain from a visit.

The Swedish Government’s communication on nature conservation “A Cohesive Nature Conservation Policy” (2001/02:173) emphasises the importance of areas for outdoor leisure having good reception points. The national parks obviously have to receive visitors in the best way possible. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has emphasised the importance of creating good entrances to the national parks in its Värna - Vård - Visa (Protect - Preserve – Present) programme. The guidelines are a first step in this effort. The entrances will be improved gradually on the basis of the guidelines and will be completed by 2015.

The guidelines indicate principles for the way in which entrances to national parks should be designed and function and how an inventory and analysis can be made of existing entrances.

The guidelines are primarily intended for those who will be taking part in the planning and management of entrances to Sweden’s national parks. These may be either civil servants or consultants. It is hoped that they also will be of interest to anyone who uses our national parks.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency hopes that the guidelines will inspire and create a commitment to making good entrances and that this will lead to positive experiences for visitors to our national parks.

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, April 2007.

Björn Risinger
Director, Natural Resources Department
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Summary

Guidelines for entrances to Sweden’s National Parks indicate how to design them for optimal functionality. An entrance that functions well has great significance for visitors’ experience of a park, including its level of attractiveness.

The national parks’ common identity
One reason for designing the entrances to all of Sweden’s national parks in accordance with a common set of guidelines is to ensure a high-quality experience from the very start of a visit. Another reason is to strengthen the profile of the national parks: From the appearance of any entrance, it should be clear to visitors that they have come to a national park.

The character of the individual national park
Every national park is unique. It is important for entrances to convey the special character of each national park. It is especially important that the characteristic natural features have an impact on the experience at the point of entry.

Landscape setting
The placement of the entrance within the landscape influences the sort of experience that visitors have when approaching and arriving at the entrance. Location is also decisive for the extent to which the entrance encroaches on the area of the national park.
Organisation of the point of entry
The entrance is where visitors have their first experience of the national park’s nature, but it also serves a number of other functions. There are parking facilities, information displays, potential building sites, etc. The manner in which all such components are arranged influences the movements of visitors, and thus their experience of the entrance and the park.

Architecture and design
The design of the buildings and other facilities at the entrance strongly influences visitors’ experience of the entrance and the national park. This involves not only buildings, but also any facilities and equipment located at or near fences, railings, benches, etc. Good architecture at existing points of entry may involve removing or replacing structures.

Information
Information requirements at national park entrances include materials that guide visitors to and within the area, as well as more detailed information on the cultural heritage and natural assets of the park. The purpose of such information is to increase visitors’ understanding of the park environment and its assets.

Additional functions
The entrance to a national park is the obvious place to offer various types of service to visitors. The level of service must be adapted to the numbers and types of visitors, and may involve such matters as parking, toilet facilities, assembly points, etc.

Implementation and management
In a park management plan, a new entrance is treated as a supplementary item. The guidelines do not provide any specific, detailed solutions for the design of a national park entrance. Devising such solutions is part of the normal planning and construction process, with the guidelines providing a general framework. Among the components of the entire process are: an inventory and analysis of existing conditions; a general plan and a specific proposal for the new entrance; construction; and management. It is important to consider the management stage throughout the entire process in order to enable suitable management and maintenance of the finished entrance.

Such a project can be organized in a variety of ways. The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the relevant county administrative board should jointly devise an organisational structure that is suitable for each project.

Among the parties involved in such a project in varying degree are the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the relevant county administrative board, consultants, municipalities, other public authorities, and the local business community. The Environmental Protection Agency has overall responsibility for planning and co-ordination, but some or all aspects of the project may be delegated to the park manager.
Guidelines for entrances to Sweden’s national parks

Introduction
It is crucial to outdoor leisure in national parks that there are functional entrances, in other words places that are easy to find and use as a starting point for a visit. The experience of the national park is greatly influenced by the initial impression at the first point of contact. A well designed point of entry manages to convey positive expectations and improve the benefit that people obtain from a visit. A well designed point of entry manages to “inspire, instruct and inform” visitors to the national park. If we are to raise quality for visits to the national parks, measures to improve the entrances are perhaps what are most effective and essential. Points of entry that work well can also be a very important factor in the development of tourism and for local and regional enterprise.

The national parks are an important aspect of Swedish nature conservation. They represent the types of landscape most deserving of protection in the country. It is important to make clear the role of the national parks as flagships for all nature protection. There is reason to emphasise the status and high symbolic value of the national parks when facilities are planned in and alongside the national parks. The national park as a concept and identity should be strength-

1 Thorbjörn Andersson, SWECO FFNS Arkitekter AB, at seminar on national park entrances on 14.09.05
ened. The physical design of the national park entrances is an important element in building the common identity of Swedish national parks.

Every national park is unique. The landscape and characteristic features of the national park must be at the heart of everything that is built and constructed in and alongside the national park. The national park entrances should be designed so that the unique character of the landscape is respected and made clear to all visitors. The task of government is to both protect and manage nature in national parks and show it to the visitors. For many visitors the visit to a national park is restricted to the point of entry and the area around it. It is therefore important to be able to show the characteristic features of the national park in the area.

The conditions in which points of entry are designed vary from one national park to another. Landscape features vary, but the “infrastructure” at the park also differs (see pages 18 and 20). In most of the 28 parks public roads lead to one or more existing points of entry at or close to the boundary of the national park. In other parks a public road into the park leads to one or more points of entry. In the case of some national parks there is no road at all to the park boundary. In these cases points of entry may need to be constructed next to a public road, even if the national park is some way away. Islands are a fourth type with special circumstances where the question of a point of entry on the mainland may need to be investigated.

The location of the point of entry in relation to existing or new public transport provision is of great significance. This should be elucidated at the analysis stage.
The design of national park entrances comprises both the location of the entrance at a suitable point in the landscape and the arrangement of functions and spaces at the point of entry as well as the design of buildings and other structures.

The management of national park entrances has a great bearing on how they are perceived by visitors. A comprehensive view over time is important so that the qualities created in new construction/reconstruction are retained and developed during later stages. The guidelines therefore also include a section on implementation and management.

Purpose
These guidelines are intended to create points of entry that are attractive to different categories of visitors by stating principles for the design and function of entrances to national parks as well as for inventory and analysis.

Target group
The guidelines are primarily intended for those who will be taking part in the planning and management of entrances to Sweden’s national parks. These may be either civil servants or consultants. It is hoped that they will also be of interest to anyone who uses our national parks.
The conditions in which points of entry are designed vary from one national park to another. In most of the 28 parks public roads lead to one or more existing points of entry at or close to the boundary of the national park.

In other parks a public road into the park leads to one or more points of entry.

In the case of some national parks there is no road at all to the park boundary. In these cases points of entry may need to be constructed next to a public road, even if the national park is some way away.

Islands are a fourth type with special conditions where the question of a point of entry on the mainland may need to be investigated.
Instructions for reading

The guidelines consist of a main text which constitutes the actual guideline and commentary text with clarification, advice and instructions etc. To create a clear structure in the guidelines, they have been arranged under seven items, each of which illustrates an aspect of the design of the point of entry. 1. The common identity of the national parks 2. The character of the individual national park 3. The landscape setting. 4. Organisation of point of entry. 5. Architecture and design. 6. Information. 7. Additional functions.

The first two are of a superior nature and concern the relationship between a common identity for the Swedish national parks and the unique character of each park.

Items 3-5 relate to questions that are relevant in every physical planning situation. Where is the point of entry to be located? How is to the point of entry to be organised? How are visitors to move on their way from their car into nature? What experiences is the point of entry to convey? How are buildings and structures to be designed, that is to say what principles apply regarding the architectural design of the point of entry?

Information for visitors has been considered to be such an important aspect that it is dealt with under a separate item (item 6).

Other important functions that the point of entry is to fulfil are stated under item 7.

The guidelines also include a checklist that provides the framework for the analysis and the programme that is to be established ahead of each entrance project. The checklist contains the main text from each guideline. There is then space to write an analytical text in the specific project that describes the existing state of affairs at the site regarding the specific guideline. An equivalent programme text can then be formulated on the basis of the analysis that can provide the basis for the continued project. The checklist turns the guidelines
into a tool that does not just facilitate the work on the individual national park entrance: it also facilitates the gathering of experience and transfer of knowledge between different entrance projects.

**Terminology**

*National park entrance* comprises all facilities that make up the physical visitor entrance to a national park.

*Point of entry* is the individual physical site.

*Main entrance* relates to the most important point of entry in or alongside a national park. All the requirements stated below have to be fulfilled here.

*Secondary national park entrance* relates to other points of entry in or alongside a national park. Relevant requirements relating to communication, service and information have to be fulfilled here.

*Viewing point / information point / starting point for hiking trail.* Smaller facilities for visitor reception, often next to the road towards/into the national park.
Map of part of the Fulufjället National Park. The national park entrance is made up of four points of entry inside and outside the national park boundary: the viewing point along the road (1), the national park boundary (2), the main point of entry with a 'naturum' visitor centre (3) and the secondary national park entrance at Gördalen (4).
1. The common identity of the national parks

One of the aims in having common guidelines for the points of entry to all Swedish national parks is to ensure that a high-quality experience is already enjoyed at the entrance and to strengthen the identity of the national park. In other words it should already be clear to visitors at the point of entry that they have entered a national park.

1.1 All component parts of the national park entrance should be designed at the highest quality. This also includes all constructed/built components of the point of entry being notable for high architectural quality. Special attention is also paid to technical facilities such as roads, road signs, power lines, pylons etc.  

1.2 The national park entrance should feature a long-term sustainable solution. This applies to design as well as materials and execution. 

1.3 The national park entrance should be designed in such a way that the identity of the national park becomes clear to all visitors.

The identity common to the national parks is made up of:
- A common symbol, unique to Swedish national parks. The symbol should be used on information displays in the entrance area.
- A common graphic profile that is used within the national parks.
- A common standard for the design of boards and signboards.
- Common marking where the visitor crosses the national park boundary and a special national park marker that links external entrance components to the national park. These are provided with the national park symbol.

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2 Other technical facilities such as roads, road signs, power lines, pylons etc. are planned in consultation with the authorities concerned.
3 All solutions must comply with the national environmental policy on the management of protected areas (work on this policy is in progress).
4 The symbol should be designed through a design competition by invitation. A design competition with a jury is a commonly used method to ensure high quality. Coordination should take place with the design of the graphic profile. The symbols should be used on printed information material and on the national park’s website. At the time of the competition the Agency also decides whether the new symbol is to wholly or partially replace existing symbols for individual national parks.
5 The graphic profile which should be designed through a design competition by invitation should also be applied to printed information material and on the national parks’ websites.
6 A programme indicating standards for signs and signboards is being drawn up. Important questions to be addressed are the size, height, background colour and font of displays and principles for their location.
7 The national park marker is a freestanding constructed symbol (pillar, hewn stone block, steel disc) that bears the national park symbol. A common national park standard for the national park marker and boundary marking for important entry roads are designed through a design competition by invitation.
The national park entrance should be designed so that the national park identity is made clear to all visitors. A new graphic profile with a symbol for Sweden’s national parks will be devised. Boards and signboards should be given a uniform design. In addition, a type of freestanding marker announcing the national park will be designed. The pictures above do not show the devised standard but are examples from Fulufjället, where a programme for components of this type was drawn up.
2. The character of the individual national park

For many visitors to the national parks the point of entry and the road leading to it are the only experience they will have of the national park. For others the point of entry is the place where they receive an initial presentation of the national park. It is therefore important that the point of entry should succeed in conveying experiences of what is unique in the character of the national park. There is no contradiction in fulfilling what is stated under 1.3 about the common identity of the national parts, the established form and at the same time letting the landscape determine the character of the point of entry. This may apply to what is built and what does not form part of the common national park identity, but in particular nature itself should have a bearing on the visitor’s experience at the point of entry.

2.1 It should be possible for visitors to gain a clear idea of the purpose of the national park at the point of entry. The aim of each individual national park should be emphasised at the stage of analysis as a starting point for continued work on programmes and proposals for measures. The programme should additionally state categories of visitors/target groups at the specific national park and what experiences the point of entry is to convey.

2.2 The special features and character of the individual national park should characterise on the design of the point of entry. The special character of the national park is noted in analytical and programme work carried out according to an annex before proposals for action are drawn up. The specific measures must be adapted to local circumstances. This may entail giving visitors a sense of the principal character of the landscape and nature through direct contact or viewing points. It may also entail the design of the point of entry contributing towards saying something about the cultural and natural history of the national park and visitors coming into contact with the geology, flora and fauna in the national park.
3. Landscape setting

The setting of the point of entry, its location in the landscape, determines the experience visitors may get of the national park on the road to and at the entrance to the park. At the same time, the setting determines the degree to which the site of entry encroaches on the national park.

3.1 For each national park there should be a clear and readily accessible main point of entry in the park or along the road into the park. One of several principles underpinning the location of the point of entry should be measured and assessed visitor flows. There are already established points of entry in many national parks. It is necessary to decide whether they are to be preserved, developed or replaced. This should be done on the basis of an analysis of the point of entry and a programme for what it is intended to convey.

3.2 The setting of the national park entrance should be selected so that visitors can experience something of the distinctive character of the national park at the site or on the way there. The setting of the main point of entry should be primarily chosen so that it can offer visitors nature experiences that are characteristic of the national work in the local area, through easily accessible trails and/or through visual contact. Aim for a setting that says something about the nature of the national park.

The road leading to the national park entrance should be the focus of attention to offer visitors experiences of the national park. On the way into the Fulufjället national park with the Fulufjället viewing point in the foreground: the visitor already sees the characteristic flat top of the Fulufjället mountain here, outside the national park boundary.
The possibility of viewing points and stops at points of particular interest and strategic importance should be exploited.

The national park entrance may be made up of several physically separate points (viewing point, national park boundary, main point of entry and secondary points of entry). The differing conditions in the national parks with regard to landscape and existing infrastructure in the form of roads etc. result in different entrance solutions in different national parks.

3.3 The road leading to the national park entrance should be the focus of attention to offer visitors experiences of the national park. The main roads leading visitors towards, and where appropriate through, the national park require special attention. Conditions vary between different national parks (see also item 1. The common identity of the national parks). Attention should be paid to how the landscape is perceived as well as how the road is perceived from the surrounding countryside. The possibility of viewing points and stops at points of particular interest and strategic importance should be exploited. This may apply to viewing points and places suitable as a starting point for walks.

Where important entry roads pass the boundary of the national mark, this should be marked according to the standard for the common national park identity.  

3.4 Public transport provision may influence the location of a point of entry. Existing public transport provision should be documented at the analysis stage, and the need for any new public transport should be described and communicated to the authority concerned at the programme stage.

* Coordination must take place with the National Road Administration and affected landowners with regard to the locating of displays and other facilities along public roads.
4. Organisation of the point of entry

At the chosen point of entry visitors may come into contact with the nature of the national park, but various functions also have to be fulfilled here: parking facilities, sites for information displays, sites for any buildings that are required etc. The way in which this is designed has an impact on how visitors move around at the site and consequently on their experience of the point of entry and the national park.

4.1 The point of entry should convey a positive first impression of the national park.

4.2 The point of entry should be designed so that visitors with differing expectations and prior knowledge are inspired and take a positive personal experience away with them from their visit to the national park.

4.3 The point of entry should meet the functional requirements visitors have in conjunction with their visit to the national park. This should be done without the facilities dominating the impression given by the point of entry.

4.4 The point of entry should be characterised by clarity and ease of orientation. Creating a clear centre at the point of entry may be one way of making orientation at the site easier. Clearly designed boundaries between structures/buildings and nature may also assist in clarifying the point of entry and strengthening the experience of nature.

4.5 Any visitor centre ('naturum') provided should be integrated in a suitable manner at the entrance; this is normally done next to the main point of entry.9 Attention should be paid to the role of 'naturum' visitor centres as a reception point for visitors. The manning of 'naturum' visitor centres is particularly important in this respect.

4.6 The point of entry should be arranged so that the route followed by visitors into nature is directed in a well thought-out way. Particular attention should be given visual impressions and acoustic experiences. The movement of visitors from the time of arrival should be described in the analysis and programme activity. The design can then be based on how visitors move between different parts of the entrance area, for example from a car park, along footpaths to a nearby area alongside an information point/buildings etc. The boundaries between the different sub-areas should be studied in particular in the design work. The design of structural elements should be adapted to the surroundings in which they are used.

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4.7 Accessibility for everyone should be ensured at the main entrance and the area around it. Good accessibility is a democratic issue. The national park entrance should be designed so that it is accessible for the whole population. This may mean separate solutions to make it easier for disabled visitors and having essential information in simple Swedish and other languages. Where possible, there should be provision for disabled visitors also to come into contact with the nature characteristic of the site, for example wheelchair-accessible paths and experiences of sound, touch and smell.

The point of entry should be arranged so that the route followed by visitors into nature is directed in a well thought-out way. At the main point of entry in the Fulufjället national park visitors leave their car (1), cross the bridge over the stream which marks a clear boundary with more pristine nature (2), see the clear information board at the assembly point (3) and are directed by the paving towards the visitor centre (4) on to the footpath towards the Njupeskärsmälet falls (5). (See overview pictures on p. 22-23).

Accessibility is emphasised by the Swedish Government in the “design for all” concept, Government Bill 1999/2000:79, Government Communication 2002/03:25. The Planning and Building Act lays down requirements for the disabled in conversion and new construction, as well as to eliminate “easily remedied obstacles”. It is important to make it possible for visitors already to obtain information about which parts are suitable for the disabled before the visit.
Car parking should be located and organised so that the visual impact is mitigated. The size of car parks should be dimensioned with differing seasonal requirements in mind. (See 7.2).

The point of entry is arranged so that the route followed by visitors into nature is directed in a well thought-out way. (See 4.6).

All information at the point of entry should be accessible and suited to the needs of different groups of visitors. (See 6.1).
The ‘naturum’ visitor centre is integrated with the entrance and serves as a reception point for visitors. (See 4.5).

Attention should be paid to roads, paths and trails as destinations. (See 6.4).
5. Architecture and design

The design of structures and buildings at the point of entry pays a major role in the experience of the national park entrance and therefore of the national park. This does not apply just to buildings but also to landscaping and all equipment installed at the site: fences, railings, benches etc. The question of good architecture at existing points of entry may also be concerned with reducing, removing or replacing built elements.

5.1 The national park entrances should feature high-class architectural design. Like other public facilities, the national park entrance should be very ambitious regarding quality of architecture and design. Architects and landscape architects with relevant skills and experience should be employed in the design of all important buildings and sites in the national park. Design should take account of the future care and maintenance of the entrances.

5.2 Design should follow the standard for what is common to all national park entrances. Boards and signboards should be designed according to the standard for national parks (see also item 1. Common identity of national parks).

5.3 Other facilities and buildings should be adapted to the specific situation of the individual national park. The character of nature is clarified by differentiating the design of built structures from the surrounding nature. Boundaries between structures and buildings and pristine nature within the points of entry can be made clear by the materials chosen and by detailed design (see also item 2. The character of the individual national park).

All structures and buildings within the boundaries of national parks (including landscaping and outside equipment in the form of displays, furniture etc.) should be designed in accordance with these guidelines.

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11 Government Bill 1997/98, Government Communication 2002/03:129. A design competition with an authorised jury is a commonly used method to ensure high architectural quality. Such competitions are arranged with the assistance of the Swedish Association of Architects.
Homborgsjön ‘naturum’ (visitor centre), White Arkitekter.

Store Mosse ‘naturum’ (visitor centre). White Arkitekter.
6. Information

The need for information at national park entrances consists firstly of preliminary information to guide visitors to and within the areas (the need of visitors to find their way into and in the area) and secondly more detailed information about the actual national park and its natural assets and cultural heritage, i.e. what comes within the concept of nature guidance (information intended to increase visitors’ understanding of an environment and its assets).

Guidance information is provided using permanent signage. This includes road signs to the national park entrance, marking of the national park boundary and signs to various facilities in the national park entrance area (car parking, toilets, nature trails etc.).

6.1 All information (both for pointing the way and for nature guidance) at national park boundaries should be made readily accessible for everyone and adapted to the needs of different groups of visitors.

Permanent signage should be located in a well thought-out way so that the information is linked naturally to the movement of visitors at the point of entry and to the surrounding nature.

6.2 Space should be planned in the entrance area for manned nature guidance (e.g. space for giving information to groups outdoors).

6.3 Other nature guidance in the entrance area should be provided using permanent signage and by making space available for information brochures. Other modern technology for nature guidance can also be used. Information must be kept as brief as possible. Visitors should have the perception that they find out what they want to know and not everything that the supplier of information wants to tell them.

6.4 Sites and paths should be named. Attention should be paid to roads, paths and trails as destinations with their own identity.12

6.5 Coordination should take place with the local tourist industry regarding other information about service and other points of interest in the local area.

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12 Giving a path/trail a name endows it with intrinsic value which can make it a destination for a visit in its own right.
Permanent signage should be located in a well thought-out way so that the information is linked naturally to the movement of visitors at the point of entry and to the surrounding nature. Sites and paths should be named. Attention should be paid to roads, paths and trails as destinations with their own identity.

Information must be made accessible to all and suited to the needs of different groups of visitors, both at the points of entry and at information points for the national park. Particular attention should be paid to the main routes leading towards the national park.
7. Additional functions

The national park entrance is the natural site at which to offer visitors service of various kinds. The level of service needs to be adapted to visitor numbers, target groups and so on.

7.1 Programmes for the functions of the individual point of entry should be established using a checklist (see Annex 1).

7.2 Car parking should be located and organised so that the visual impact is mitigated. The size of car parks should be dimensioned with differing seasonal requirements in mind. Attention should be given to the impact of an unused car park in the low season. A car park should be clearly distinguished from the surroundings with material and design appropriate to the site. Account should also be taken of safety aspects. There should be an information board at a car park to give visitors information on how to orientate in the area. There should be specially marked parking areas for disabled visitors.

7.3 There should be outdoor seating next to the entrance area. The possibility of providing seating protected from the rain within the entrance area should always be investigated.

7.4 Devices for refuse management should as far as possible be based on separation of waste. Solutions should be adapted to local regulations applicable at the site. Arrangements for refuse management, including wastepaper baskets, must be coordinated with the general design of the site.

7.5 There should be high-quality public toilets at the main point of entry. Toilets should be accessible regardless of opening times at a visitor centre (‘naturum’), if applicable, or at cafés. The type of toilet facilities provided should be adapted to local conditions, and have a design that is coordinated with other facilities at the site. Water-flush toilets should be used if possible.

7.6 The guidelines should apply in the same way for cafés and other services operated under contract in the entrance area as for the other parts of the entrance area.

7.7 Coordination with others.
The question of the needs of others should be investigated at the analysis stage. This may apply for example to the need for assembly areas for large groups, starting points for guided tours etc. It also includes coordination with the needs of others to provide information, see 6.5.
There should be high-quality public toilets at the main point of entry. The type of toilet facilities provided should be adapted to local conditions, and have a design that is coordinated with other facilities at the site. Example from Fulufjället.

Car parking should be located and organised so that the visual impact is mitigated. A car park should be clearly distinguished from the surroundings with material and design appropriate to the site. Example from Fulufjället.
Implementation and management

A new entrance should be treated as an addition to the management plan. The Swedish EPA establishes and decides on changes to management plans for national parks. The county administrative board is the park manager and is responsible for the administration of national parks in the county concerned, with some exceptions (see the National Parks Regulation (1987:938), paragraph 3). The national park is administered on the basis of what is stated in the management plan.

Project implementation

The guidelines do not provide any specific solution for the detailed design of the individual national park entrance. This must take place in a normal design and construction process where the guidelines provide a basis for the design of the point of entry.

A project normally follows a chronological sequence of work which can be described in six stages: inventory/analysis, programme, proposal document, project planning, construction and management.

A programme for the specific national park entrance should be formulated on the initiation of each project. The programme should describe what is to be done and where (but not how). The programme is based on an analysis of the site and its needs. This in turn necessitates an inventory having been made of existing conditions on site, using maps, other documents etc.

To facilitate work on analysis and programme, an aid has been devised in the form of a checklist (see Annex 1).

The checklist contains the main text from each guideline and there is space to write an analysis text that describes the existing conditions at the site for the specific guideline. An equivalent programme text can then be formulated on the basis of the analysis that can provide the basis for the continued project. It is necessary to pay attention in the programme to the consequences of the administration the project will lead to.

In the proposal document stage architect/landscape architect drawings are prepared that show how the programme can be implemented. The arrangement of the various points of entry should be indicated with different areas, and an account should be given of the appearance of built elements. This is normally presented on plan drawings at 1:400 – 1:200 scale and detailed drawings at 1:50 – 1:20 scale. Supplementary illustrations that present the proposal may also accompany the proposal document. The proposal document should be amenable to calculation, that is to say it should be possible to produce a sustainable calculation of cost on the basis of the document. The proposal document should also be suitable for use as a basis for decisions on execution.

Tendering documentation is prepared at the project planning stage for the procurement of a building and construction contractor and building document for execution of the contract.

It is essential to continuously reconcile planned measures with the guidelines during the planning and construction process. This should take place in the programme, proposal and building document stages.
Similarly it is essential to evaluate the guidelines after each project so that newly acquired experiences can influence the guidelines with future projects in mind. Experience of the entrance projects should be passed on to the Swedish EPA.

A schedule for implementation and management is described below. A more detailed description of the implementation process can be found in Annex 2.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Inventory</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Proposal document</th>
<th>Project planning</th>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Make inventory of existing conditions at site, checklist of guidelines as basis.</td>
<td>Analysis of how it looks on site, discussion with parties concerned, checklist of guidelines as basis.</td>
<td>Programme that describes what is to be done, based on analysis. Amendment of management plan</td>
<td>Drawings that show proposals for measures. Maps, calculated costs. Decision on measures. Application for building permit from municipality, road authority etc.</td>
<td>Preparation of building documents.</td>
<td>Follow-up of the project. Maintenance of entrances.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Distribution of roles in implementation**

A project can be organised in various ways. The Swedish EPA and the county administrative board should jointly come up with an appropriate organisation for the project concerned. The basic principle of a project is, however, as described below:

The entrance project involves the Swedish EPA, the county administrative board and various consultants. The Swedish EPA plans and coordinates the entrance project with respect to analysis and programme writing and draws up proposals for the design of national park entrances in consultation with the managing authority concerned. All or parts of this work can be assigned to the park manager.

Other parties should also be involved in the process (municipality, other authorities, the National Road Administration, tourist industry, landowners etc.).

When the programme has been endorsed and established, the Swedish EPA decides on an addition to the maintenance plan based on the programme that has been drawn up.

When the maintenance plan has been supplemented and a proposal document has been drawn up, the project becomes a natural part of continued management. The management authority is responsible for the planning and implementation of the entrance equipment in consultation with the Swedish EPA.

The project organisation is put together with broad expertise (e.g. architect, landscape architect, information officer, biologist, administrator). The Swedish EPA and the management authority concerned form part of the project organisation. Consultants and others outside the authorities concerned can be involved in various parts of the entrance project.¹ This usually applies to landscape architects and architects during the analysis, programme and proposal document stages. During the project planning stage it may also apply to various technical consultants (for example electrical, water supply and sewerage and building designer).

¹ In the programme stage of the project focus groups can be engaged, for example, to make sure that the project creates what the target group/visitor considers to be important.
ANNEX 1: Checklist for inventory, analysis and programme

Guidelines for entrances to national parks also include this checklist for analysis and programme which should be drawn up in each entrance project. The checklist contains the main text from each guideline and there is space to write an analysis text in the specific project that describes the existing conditions at the site for the specific guideline.

An equivalent programme text can then be formulated on the basis of the analysis that can provide the basis for the continued project. The checklist turns

<table>
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<tr>
<th>3. Landscape setting</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guideline</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 For each national park there should be at least one clear and readily accessible main point of entry in the park or along the road into the park.</td>
<td>There is no main point of entry.</td>
<td>Point of entry xx is developed into main point of entry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 The setting of the national park entrance should be selected so that visitors can experience something of the distinctive character of the national park at the site or on the way there. The setting of the main point of entry should be primarily chosen so that it can offer visitors nature experiences that are characteristic of the national work in the local area, through easily accessible trails and/or through visual contact.</td>
<td>The national park entrance consists of four smaller points of entry. They are all along public roads and are all within 1 km of the national mark boundary. At two of the points of entry (xx) the visitor has good contact with typical bog landscape. At the other two (xx) there is no such contact.</td>
<td>Three of the four existing points of entry are developed. In addition a viewing point is created at xx. The point of entry at xx is moved to a new location. Two alternative sites are investigated more closely in accordance with guidelines. At xx particular use is made of the views towards xx. The bogland at xx must not be affected by the facility, but the possibility of visitors going to the edge of the bog should be utilised.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The national park entrance may be made up of several physically separate points (viewing point, national park boundary, main point of entry and secondary points of entry). The differing circumstances of the national parks with regard to landscape and existing infrastructure in the form of roads etc. result in different entrance solutions in different national parks.</td>
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</table>
the guidelines into a tool that facilitates the work on the individual national park entrance. It facilitates the gathering of experience and transfer of knowledge between different entrance projects.

An example is presented here of a page from an imaginary project with analysis and programme text filled in on the document. The idea is to attach the checklist to the guidelines as a digital document in which the guideline text is filled in and where it is possible to add analysis and programme text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checklist continued</th>
<th>Guideline</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Programme</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.3</strong> The road leading to the national park entrance should be the focus of attention to offer visitors experiences of the national park.</td>
<td>The road into the national park is road no. xx. The road offers good views towards the national park at several places. At three places the road is routed in such a way that it greatly impairs the landscape. The trail to x-falls starts from a small car park at xx. A small gravel road leads through the southern part of the park to Saami settlement xx. The national park boundary is marked with small wooden signs along road no. xx. Otherwise there are no markings at the points of entry.</td>
<td>The good setting of the road for views towards the park should be exploited. Some clearing should take place at xx. Additional slope planting to conceal the causeway at xx towards xx should be attempted. New routing of the road from the north would reduce the volume of traffic through xx and could also replace the gravel road through the park in a new less sensitive setting. Alternative routes according to Annex 2 are worked on. Marking of the national park boundary at xx, xx, xx and xx must be carried out according to standard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.4 Public transport may influence the location of a point of entry. Existing public transport provision should be documented at the analysis stage, and the need for any new public transport should be described and communicated to the authority concerned at the programme stage.</td>
<td>Bus no. x from x-town passes the national park at x. There is no other public transport close to the park.</td>
<td>Re-routing of the bus and a new bus stop location at xx should be investigated to improve the prospects of reaching the national park by public transport. Contact should be made with xx-transport company and xx municipality.</td>
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## ANNEX 2: Project implementation

### Inventory - analysis

**WHAT?**
- Review of documentation
- Purpose
- Management plan
- Map material
- Aerial photographs etc.
- Discussion with park manager and local authorities.
- Inventory and analysis at site on basis of the “checklist for analysis and programme” in the guidelines. Analysis documented in writing in “checklist for analysis and programme” and endorsed by the project group.

### Programme

**WHAT?**
- Programme writing according to Checklist for analysis and programme. Programme based on documented analysis.
- Programme documented in writing in “checklist for analysis and programme” and endorsed by the project group.
- Documentation, supplementary inclusion and weighing-up of existing conditions at sites to be dealt with according to programme.
- Work on revising maintenance plan can start when programme work is completed.

### Proposal document

**WHAT?**
- Drawings that explain proposals for measures.
- Overview that shows location of points of entry and roads to points of entry.
- Plan drawings of the various sites to be dealt with at 1:400/1:200 scale.
- Typical details at suitable scale.
- Description.
- Reconciliation of proposals with guidelines and programme drawn up.
- Costing.
- Application for building permit and any dispensations required from municipality, National Road Authority etc.

### WHO?

**Swedish EPA coordinates**
- Park manager, Consultants (landscape architect, architect)
- Where appropriate municipality, National Heritage Board, National Road Administration etc.
- Swedish EPA’s responsibility can be assigned to park manager.

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**Swedish EPA coordinates**
- Park manager, Consultants (landscape architect, architect)
- Municipality, other authorities
- Swedish EPA’s responsibility can be assigned to park manager.
Different ways of implementing a project: procurement and competition.

In planning a project there is a need to decide which different stages need to be implemented and how they should be implemented. Three different proposals are shown below for how a project can be implemented by appointing consultants for the different stages. The efforts of the consultants can be organised in different ways depending on the way in which they are selected.

1. The whole process from inventory to project planning is commissioned from a single consultant. Inventory, analysis and programme can be commissioned at a fixed price if the extent of the task can be specified. A proposal document on open account in relation to a budget may be appropriate as it is difficult to make bids at a fixed price on work that has not been defined at the time when bids are submitted. Project planning can be commissioned at a fixed price or budget price. Site supervisors and building and construction contractors are then appointed to the extent required.
2. **Stage-by-stage procurement.** Analysis and programme work are commissioned in the first stage. Proposal and project planning work is then commissioned on the basis of the programme in a separate procedure for each or as one assignment. Remuneration is stated under item 1 but project planning can be commissioned at a fixed price if it takes place after the proposal document has been completed.

3. **Architect/design competition.** Inventory, analysis and programme are commissioned separately in return for a variable or fixed fee. A prepared programme provides the basis for competition on a proposal document. The winner of the competition gains the project planning assignment relating to the preparation of tender documentation and a building document. The competition is held in accordance with Swedish Association of Architects guidelines. The competition can held as a public competition, competition by invitation or parallel assignment. The Swedish Association of Architects provides assistance in holding the competition.
ANNEX 3:
Decision on guidelines for entrances to Sweden’s national parks
Literature


"Fulufjällets nationalpark” Swedish Environmental Protection Agency 2002. ISBN 91-620-1227-4


American literature on the subjects of visitors, architecture and planning:

"Communicating the National Park Service Mission”, National Park Service USA, 2001. Instructions to all employees of the National Park Service, United States, on how to build and safeguard the common national park identity.

"Serving the Visitor 2004, A Report on Visitors to the National Park System”, National park Service, Visitor Services Project, 2005


"Renewing Zion", Kim Sorvig, article on Zion in "Landscape Architecture" 2/2002

"Quiet in the Canyon", Diane T Liggett, article on Zion in "Sustainability News", fall/winter 2002
Guidelines for entrances to Sweden’s national parks

In this report the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency presents guidelines for entrances to Sweden’s national parks. The guidelines are intended among other things to create points of entry that are appealing to visitors of different categories by stating principles on how entrances to national parks should be designed and function. They are also intended to reinforce national park identity.

The guidelines are primarily aimed at those who will be taking part in the planning and management of entrances to Sweden’s national parks. These may be either civil servants or consultants. It is hoped that they will also be of interest to anyone who uses our national parks.

The national parks are an important part of Swedish nature conservation. Outdoor leisure is a key aspect of the purpose of the national parks, which are intended to offer opportunities for recreation and experiences.

Entrances that work well are of great significance to the way in which national parks are experienced and how appealing they are to visitors. A well designed entrance manages to convey positive expectations and increase the benefit people obtain from a visit.