

NEW

ISSUE 78 | SPRING/SUMMER 2021

# VIEWPOINT

**OUR NEW REPORT**  
National Parks and the Climate Emergency

**PARK PROTECTOR AWARDS**  
Innovation in the face of a global pandemic

**NEW NATIONAL PARKS**  
From the city to the sea, latest proposals explored

**SUMMER STAYCATIONS**  
Post-lockdown surge in National Park holidays



# CONTENTS

- 3-5 News

---

- 6-12 National Parks and the climate emergency, our new report explores the challenges and solutions

---

- 13-15 New National Parks, exploring proposals to expand the National Parks family

---

- 16-17 Planning reform and National Parks, a chance to implement Glover recommendations

---

- 18 Campaign for National Parks Summer Appeal

---

- 19-21 Summer of Staycation – National Parks welcome back holidaymakers

---

- 22-23 Park Protector Awards 2021 - winners and runners-up revealed

---

- 24-27 Points of View: Featuring opinion pieces from Friends of the Dales, New Forest National Park Authority and more

Editor: Laura Williams  
 Design: [theniceworkstudio.co.uk](http://theniceworkstudio.co.uk)  
 Print & distribution: Ruddocks  
 Campaign for National Parks  
 7 - 14 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4YR  
 Charity reg: 295336  
 Company no. 02045556  
 Contact: [info@cnp.org.uk](mailto:info@cnp.org.uk)

The views are those of contributors and not necessarily of Campaign for National Parks.

## STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up to our e-newsletter: [cnp.org.uk](http://cnp.org.uk)

[@campaign4parks](https://twitter.com/campaign4parks) [@campaign4parks](https://www.instagram.com/campaign4parks)

[facebook.com/campaignfornationalparks](https://www.facebook.com/campaignfornationalparks)

## Welcome

The National Parks are (still) open for business. As the country slowly emerges from the most recent lockdown, many of us have started to venture beyond our doorsteps and may have even been able to re-connect with one of our favourite National Parks.

The pandemic has had a deep, often devastating impact on many lives and there has been much talk of a 'green recovery'. But we have yet to define what that means - a return to the way things were "before"? A "new normal"? What we do know is that re-building our lives after the pandemic must also include tackling the climate and nature emergencies. Even though our National Parks enjoy the highest level of protection, we need to ensure that they have the right resources, skills and support to face and meet these challenges.

Meanwhile, the government has published its proposals for major changes to the planning system in England. There is a concern that these appear disconnected from its environmental ambitions and make hardly any reference to National Parks and other protected landscapes. We are (at the time of writing) still awaiting the government's response to Glover's Landscapes Review. In its absence, we have seen much debate over potential structural changes to the National Park Authorities over the past few months.

We believe that the complex challenges we face need systemic change and will not be resolved by simply focusing on structures and management models, even though we know that these are important. It is people - their vision, commitment, knowledge and breadth of experience who bring new solutions to life.

It is time to rekindle the vision of the pioneers of the National Parks movement. They considered beautiful landscapes as essential for a civilised, more equitable society. The more diverse voices we can invite to this conversation, the richer the results will be for all of us. National Parks hold quite a few of the answers to this already - they are not nature reserves but living landscapes, which can and should be showcases for demonstrating how the highest levels of nature protection can be combined with offering the most sustainable infrastructures and services that meet the everyday needs of all their resident communities and visitors without leaving anyone behind.

All of these topics and lots more are covered in this revamped and expanded issue of Viewpoint, which I hope you'll find an enjoyable and thought-provoking read. As ever, we very much welcome your feedback.

**Anita Konrad**  
 Chief Executive  
 Campaign for National Parks



## NEWS



### FIRST NATIONAL PARKS CELEBRATE 70TH ANNIVERSARIES

Peak District National Park, the first National Park designated in England, celebrated its 70th anniversary in April with a number of campaigns, including #70Years70People where they shared stories about 70 people who have helped shape Peak District National Park. The Peak District National Park Foundation also launched a #70kfor70 fundraising campaign to raise £70,000 for projects in the Peak District in 2021 and has already reached and surpassed its target - raising almost £130,000 to date.

To coincide with the milestone Campaign for National Parks hosted blogs on the website from Dr Andy Tickle from CPRE Peak District & South Yorkshire and from Andrew McCloy, Chair of Peak District National Park Authority. Both articles looked back over the past 70 years, highlighting the challenges and

the achievements, and both looked to the future - asking what next? With some interesting suggestions around boundary changes and steps the government could take to support existing National Parks to realise their full potential.

In May, it was the turn of Lake District National Park, which asked people to share their Lake District memories and also looked back on one of its busiest years.

*"National Parks were created to protect iconic landscapes and to ensure they're accessible to everyone - something that's hugely relevant 70 years on"*  
 Chief Executive of Lake District National Park Richard Leafe

Friends of the Lake District, formed in 1934 to campaign for the creation of Lake District National Park, said: "Today we remain a true friend of the Lake District - happy to share all the good times, to offer all the support we can in times of need, but also to be honest enough to point out and resist anything we believe threatens the true purposes of National Parks.

"Happy Birthday Lake District National Park. You were one of Government's gifts to the Nation, rewarding the population after the dark and terrible years of World War Two. Will our emerging from Covid-19 renew our appreciation?"

You can read more from Friends of the Lake District (and the Peak District) at [cnp.org.uk](http://cnp.org.uk)

October will see celebrations in Snowdonia National Park - the first Welsh National Park - and Dartmoor National Park, which is launching a 'Time for Nature' challenge to encourage people to get outdoors; get closer to wildlife and be inspired by its special qualities to do something new, different and conserve it for the future.

"The challenge goes right to the heart of what National Parks were set up to do," said a spokesperson for Dartmoor National Park Authority, "conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage, and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of National Parks."

### TRIBUTES TO LORD JUDD - FRIEND AND ALLY OF NATIONAL PARKS

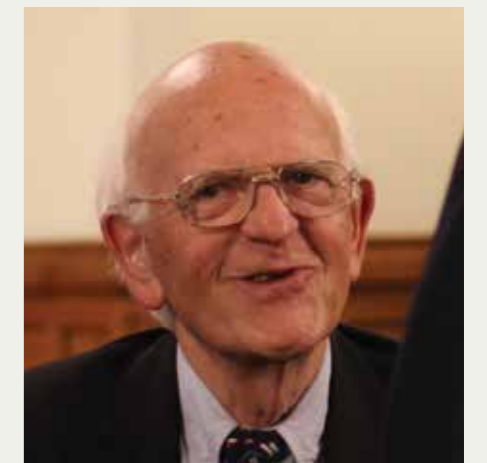
We were very saddened to hear of the death of our former Vice-President Lord Judd. Lord Judd, who lived in Lake District National Park, passed away on 17 April 2021 aged 86. A lifelong campaigner for access to National Parks and the wider countryside and committed public servant, Lord Judd left a lasting impression on those who had the privilege of knowing him and his passing is a great loss to us all.

Lord Judd (pictured here at our parliamentary reception in 2016) was a self-described ally of Campaign for National Parks and spoke passionately at our last Council meeting conducted online in November, saying:

"The role of National Parks in lifting spirits and keeping people positive is unlimited. We have got to fight very hard indeed to make it clear that National Parks have a vital role to play in recovery, spiritually and physically."

Chief Executive of Campaign for National Parks Anita Konrad said he was one of the best champions we could have wished for, adding: 'He was always immensely generous in sharing his political insights and lending his support to giving National Parks a voice with Government. Our thoughts are with his wife Chris.'

You can read our full tribute at [cnp.org.uk](http://cnp.org.uk)



## SENEDD ELECTION RESULT

The Senedd election in Wales in May returned Welsh Labour as the biggest party, although with no overall majority. Welsh Labour's manifesto pledges include designating a new National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, as well as commitments to re-establish a targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along the coastline. It also included a number of wider environmental policies, which would impact National Parks in Wales - including a ban on some single use plastics. Campaign for National Parks will work to give Welsh National Parks a bigger voice in the Senedd.

Read more about the plans for Clwydian Range and Dee Valley on pages 13-15.

## STATE OF NATURE PETITION SUCCESS

Nature, wildlife and our National Parks go hand in hand and, as such, it is one of our key areas of focus. We have joined more than 50 other environmental organisations to call for legally-binding targets to halt and begin to reverse the decline in the state of nature in England by 2030 and regulations for how the target will be met. We asked supporters to sign a petition pushing for this which, led to the government announcing it would indeed amend the Environment Bill to require an additional legally binding target for species abundance for 2030, aiming to halt the decline of nature.

## COUNTRYSIDE CODE UPDATED

Following a short consultation in 2020, Natural England re-launched the Countryside Code this Spring to help encourage people to enjoy the countryside, including National Parks, responsibly and respectfully. The code now includes specific updates about staying on marked paths even if muddy, not feeding livestock and taking dog poo home if no bins are available.

Read more about the Countryside Code update at [cnp.org.uk](http://cnp.org.uk)

# NEWS



Pylons in Peak District National Park © PDNPA

## PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK ONE STEP CLOSER TO PYLON REMOVAL

Ofgem has approved £43m funding for the Peak East VIP project to remove pylons and overhead powerlines in Peak District National Park, replacing them with underground cables.

Campaign for National Parks worked closely with CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire and other NGOs over a number of years to help inform these plans to reduce the visual impact of existing overhead National Grid infrastructure.

It is the first project of its type in a National Park to secure both planning permission and funding approval and paves the way for similar projects in other National Parks.

Chief Executive of Campaign for National Parks Anita Konrad said: "National Parks are our finest landscapes with the highest level of protection and, as champions of National Parks in England and Wales - including Peak District National Park, we are keen to see that every opportunity is taken to conserve and enhance their wildlife, cultural heritage and natural beauty for future generations to enjoy. That is why we welcome this news and look forward to seeing this project delivered."

## WELSH NATIONAL PARKS WELCOME INCREASED FUNDING FROM GOVERNMENT

Welsh National Parks have all received a 10% uplift in their budgets, meanwhile across the border in England budgets remained static - contributing to another year of real-term cuts.

The increase in Wales has been welcomed by all three National Parks - Snowdonia, Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast - which have all seen rises in visitor numbers when government restrictions to stop the spread of Covid-19 were lifted.

For Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, the increase amounts to almost £400,000. The closure of visitor centres cost the authority around £250,000 in lost revenue, so this is a welcome addition to the Park's budget to help balance the books.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Chief Finance Officer Richard Griffiths called it a "most welcome increase in our fortunes".

The picture is somewhat different in England, where static budgets are forcing some National Park Authorities to rely on their reserves. Yorkshire Dales Authority's chair of the finance and resources committee Neil Swain told members: "In order to maintain a steady ship for 12 months, we've effectively allocated the whole of the general reserve to maintaining services in the next 12 months. Members must be really very clear that this is a budget that cannot be repeated. Unless we receive some significant increase in funding in the next 12 months, members are going to have to make some major decisions on which elements of our programmes we are going to have to think about cutting back on."

Campaign for National Parks welcomed the uplift from the Welsh government; and continues to press the Westminster government for sustainable multi-year funding settlements for National Park Authorities in England.

## NATIONAL PARKS: NEW PERSPECTIVES GREEN MATCH FUND SUCCESS

Campaign for National Parks was chosen as one of the environmental charities for The Big Give's #GreenMatchFund in April.

Donations made during the campaign week were fund-matched by the John Spedan Lewis Foundation. The appeal raised £5,000 over 7 days - £2,500 in donations and £2,500 in match-funding. It will fund the launch of at least three 'National Parks: New Perspectives' bursaries for early career communicators from under-represented groups to share their stories of, and visions for, National Parks.

Chief Executive of Campaign for National Parks Anita Konrad said: "A big thank you to everyone who donated via the Big Give, we were blown away by the response. As a small charity, we rely on donations like this to have a big impact."

"Accessibility is one of Campaign for National Parks' focuses and is about more than physical access, but about helping those less familiar with National Parks to get to know them and feel empowered to visit and enjoy them. Our bursaries will enable people from under-represented groups in National Parks to communicate in ways they relate to and find creative ways to make National Parks feel more welcoming to everyone."

Find out more about the bursaries plan at [cnp.org.uk](http://cnp.org.uk)



## NATIONAL PARKS APPG RELAUNCHES

Earlier this year, the National Parks All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) was relaunched under a new Chair, Gary Streeter MP. The first meeting saw parliamentarians from different political parties gather online to hear more about some of the issues facing National Parks. "We look forward to engaging more MPs and Lords with National Parks through the APPG and ongoing conversations," said Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Anita Konrad, "We'll continue working to give National Parks the voice in Parliament they need and deserve."

## GENERATION GREEN PROJECT LAUNCHES

England's 10 National Parks are part of a huge Generation Green project to connect more than 100,000 people to nature through jobs, training and volunteering opportunities. The YHA-led project received £2.5m of funding from the government's Green Recovery Fund and will work in partnership with National Parks to build diversity and capacity in the sector. Lorna Fisher, Generation Green Project Manager in Peak District National Park, said: "I am looking forward to helping young people discover the National Park and all it offers to their personal and professional development, particularly through volunteering and educational activities. It's very much about inspiring the next generation and introducing young people to potentially life-changing opportunities in the countryside."

## MT. SNOWDON VS. YR WYDDFA

Snowdonia National Park Authority has been urged to adopt the original Welsh name of Yr Wyddfa for the mountain that is currently more widely known as Snowdon in Wales. A motion brought by the Gwynedd county councillor John Pughe Roberts to use the Welsh names for the Park and the UK's second highest peak rather than the English names was not successful but the National Park Authority has agreed to set up a working group to consider the use of Welsh names.

See what Snowdonia Society has to say about the proposals on page 26.

## OUR NEW REPORT

# National Parks and the Climate Emergency

As well as having to adapt to climate change, our National Parks may hold the key to tackling it. The latest Campaign for National Parks report looks at what National Park Authorities are currently doing and explores what more could be done.

Climate change has been in the spotlight in recent years with climate emergencies declared locally and nationally, Youth Climate Strikes taking place and campaigners mobilising to push for greater commitments to tackling the biggest issue of our generation. This month (June) sees the G7 Summit in Cornwall, with a focus on building back greener; with COP26 due to take place in Glasgow in November where world leaders will gather to, hopefully, agree further action on climate change.

**The changing climate is already having a significant impact on our National Parks.**

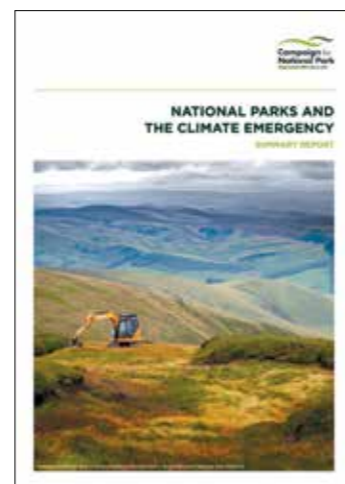
Wildfires, flooding and droughts are increasing. As extreme weather events become even more frequent,

there is likely to be a progressively more noticeable effect on the landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage in National Parks and the communities that live in them.

Policies to tackle climate change need to incorporate measures to reduce carbon emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as flood alleviation. Both these types of measures have significant implications for National Parks. National Park Authorities (NPAs) are undertaking detailed studies to better understand the impacts on their Park and are developing and implementing Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies. But are they doing enough?

A new report from Campaign for

National Parks (CNP) delves into this topic and comes up with a number of recommendations for National Park Authorities and both the Westminster and Welsh Governments to enable National Parks to play a leading role in combating climate breakdown.



## CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

The idea that NPAs should be leading the way in adapting to, and mitigating, climate change is not new. It was included as a priority in 2010 policy guidance for the English National Parks but has had little mention since from the Westminster Government. In contrast, the Welsh Government emphasises this role in its current priorities for designated landscapes. The Welsh Government also set a target for a net zero public sector by 2030, which all the Welsh NPAs will need to comply with for their own operations.

The English NPAs have published their own commitments on tackling the climate emergency in the form of a joint delivery plan for Climate Leadership with National Parks England. These include working collectively, and with constituent authorities, towards becoming net zero by 2040 and leading by

example, through achieving net zero NPAs by 2030 wherever practicable.

NPAs only own a small proportion of the land within the Parks and must therefore work with landowners and other key stakeholders to secure changes. One of the key mechanisms for doing this is through the five-year National Park Management Plans that NPAs produce and implement in partnership with stakeholders.

**Climate change is not currently included in the statutory National Park purposes, meaning that it may not always be given as much priority as it could when agreeing Management Plans.**

This should be addressed by amending these purposes, strengthening Management Plans and introducing stronger statutory requirements on other bodies to further the National Park purposes. These are all measures that were proposed in the 2019 Glover Landscapes Review and which have

not yet been implemented – despite CNP's repeated calls for this.

Messages and financial support coming from central government have had a significant impact on NPA activity on climate change and the level of priority it is given. The increased profile for the climate emergency since 2019, particularly the setting of the UK Government's target of net zero by 2050 has prompted many NPAs to place a greater focus on this area of work again.

However, there are still mixed messages from central governments in terms of the priority given to climate change in policy decisions, such as support for road-building and airport expansions and a lack of clarity on the extent to which tackling the climate emergency should be a priority for National Parks. It is clear that if effective action is to be achieved at the local level there needs to be a much stronger steer nationally, backed up by financial support.



Moors for the Future Partnership



Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

## PEMBROKESHIRE COAST'S 'CHANGING COASTS' PROJECT

Changing Coasts is a crowdsourcing project on the Pembrokeshire Coast aimed at capturing changes to our coastline and highlighting the issue of climate change. It was launched at the beginning of 2016, following a series of particularly ferocious winter storms that battered many of Pembrokeshire's beaches.

There are now 16 fixed photography points around the Pembrokeshire Coast, each carefully chosen to help record different kinds of changes, such as dune erosion, cliff erosion, changing vegetation, changing sand levels, changes to pebble banks, changes to the course of streams and flooding.

The aim was to ask the general public to capture these changes and, in doing so, raise awareness of the issue of climate change and help inform the Authority's future work.

A series of timelapse videos covering specific locations has been created from the photos that have been sent in.

**For more information see: [www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/changing-coasts](http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/changing-coasts).**

## HOW NPAS CAN TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

One way that NPAs can seek to influence climate action in their areas is through their role as local planning authorities, by ensuring that climate change is considered in planning decisions and introducing policies aimed at specific types of development. However, the impact NPAs could have is limited by both national priorities and the need to accommodate the views of a broad range of stakeholders, not all of whom are necessarily fully supportive of the measures needed to achieve net zero.

The NPAs are already involved in delivering a range of land management projects which provide both climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits, such as peatland restoration and tree-planting. Securing funding for this work is a major challenge, particularly in terms of the preparatory work needed for major land management projects which involve getting agreement from a wide range of landowners and other stakeholders.

**Tourism and recreation make a significant contribution to the economy of the National Parks. However, most visitors to National Parks travel by car and more needs to be done to address this issue, particularly as surface transport remains the largest-emitting sector in the UK.**



North York Moors National Park Authority

All of the NPAs are taking some action to try and reduce emissions associated with visitor travel, such as increasing the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging points. However, only Snowdonia NPA has proposed radical measures to significantly reduce car use.

### Engaging with visitors and local communities

The vast majority of NPA climate-related activity falls under the first 'conservation' purpose i.e. it primarily relates to conserving and enhancing landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage. There are also significant opportunities for the NPAs to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change through their second purpose responsibilities to promote enjoyment of the Parks (see example from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park).

As well as being places that attract millions of visitors, thousands of people live and/or work in National Parks. It is essential to ensure that the needs of local communities, businesses, visitors and other stakeholders are considered, when helping people to understand the impacts of climate change and in planning how to address them.

### Net Zero National Parks

All NPAs have now identified ways of reducing the carbon emissions of their own activities through initiatives such as replacing pool cars with EVs and making buildings more energy

efficient. Many have already taken action in these areas often with significant success. In some cases, this has included a more comprehensive assessment of the impacts of their activities such as considering the emissions associated with the supply chain: food and cleaning materials.

**Reducing emissions across the whole of a National Park area is far more challenging than reducing the emissions for a single organisation.**

NPAs have some difficult choices to make as to how best to achieve net zero. Relying too much on offsets could be counter-productive if the potential carbon savings are used as a justification for not reducing emissions from other activities. There are also significant levels of uncertainty about exactly how much carbon different types of habitats store and for how long.

As part of its Climate Action Plan, Dartmoor NPA has adopted an energy hierarchy which is aimed at ensuring the NPA does not simply offset its impacts and allow emissions to remain unchanged. Under their hierarchy the first priority for action is reducing demand, the next increasing energy efficiency and the third sourcing energy from low-carbon and renewable sources, and offsetting should only be used for emissions that are unavoidable after all these actions have been taken.

## NEXT STEPS

Significant changes are needed at both national and local level if National Parks are to take a leading role in tackling the climate emergency. The scale of change required will have far-reaching implications and if it is to be delivered effectively, it is important that there is an opportunity for all those affected to agree the best course of action collectively.

**Read a summary and full version of the report at: [www.cnp.org.uk/ClimateReport2021](http://www.cnp.org.uk/ClimateReport2021)**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**We are recommending that Nature, People & Climate Commissions are established in order to bring together representatives from all those with an interest in National Parks - landowners, residents, visitors, non-visitors and experts - to consider the changes needed and how best to achieve them. We would like to see this piloted in at least two of the National Parks as soon as possible with a view to rolling it out to all of them. As the National Parks vary enormously in size and characteristics, it is likely that the specific measures identified through these commissions will vary significantly.**



### The Welsh and Westminster Governments should:

- Provide consistent multi-year funding to NPAs. While Welsh National Parks received a 10% uplift in 2021/22, English National Parks received the same core grant as in 2020/21 - amounting to another real-term cut in their budgets.
- Strengthen National Park Management Plans; amend the statutory purposes to place a much stronger emphasis on tackling climate change; and introduce stronger duties on other bodies to support the delivery of the Management Plans.
- Provide the right supporting framework to allow NPAs to take effective climate action including ensuring that policy decisions in relevant areas such as transport and planning are consistent with a move towards net zero.
- Review and potentially remove permitted development rights in designated landscapes in order to ensure that the use of such rights does not undermine NPA climate action.
- Implement a pilot to test the use of additional powers and resources on transport by NPAs in at least two National Parks to assess the impacts in areas with differing levels of public transport, visitor numbers, etc.
- Ensure that the need to increase the number of NPA members with climate expertise is taken into account when recruiting new members.
- Ensure that all relevant government departments make data available in a

format which allows for consistent reporting of progress towards climate change targets in National Parks.

### NPAs should:

- Establish and publish clear targets for emissions reductions for both the authority itself and the National Park as a whole. To support this and ensure they really are making progress towards net zero, they should also establish and publish clear baselines and set out specific targets for carbon reduction in different sectors including agriculture and land management, transport, housing etc.
- Account for carbon emissions separately from carbon sequestration (storage and capture) and adopt a hierarchy approach to avoid over-reliance on carbon offsets and ensure that offsetting is only being used as a last resort for their own emissions. This should be accompanied by clear standards to ensure that any offsets are high quality and long-lasting and genuinely delivering new carbon stores. There is also a need for research to provide a better understanding of the carbon reduction potential of nature-based solutions.
- Introduce measures which increase the capacity of members and other local stakeholders to make effective decisions on climate-related activity, such as the delivery of appropriate training and the inclusion of climate implications in committee reports.

## NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY FUNDS COMMUNITY CARBON REDUCTION SCHEMES

Four community projects that aim to reduce carbon emissions and respond to the climate emergency are to receive support totalling more than £39,000 from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). At its November meeting, the Authority's SDF Committee agreed to support applications by Theatr Gwaun to reduce energy consumption; Marloes and St Brides Village Hall for a new photovoltaic (PV) battery system; Pembrokeshire Mencap Ltd to take more energy efficiency measures including solar panels and rain collection; and The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales to upgrade systems on the islands of Skomer and Skokholm.

Lisa Morgan, Head of Islands and Marine for the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales, said: "This grant will enable us to bring the essentials of everyday life to both Skomer and Skokholm, updating existing solar systems to approve efficiency and installing UV filters to make the island's spring water safe to drink."

## PLASTIC-FREE WOODLANDS CAMPAIGN GATHERS PACE

Friends of the Dales has been supporting the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) with their Plastic Free Woodlands Project. The aim of the project, funded by the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA), is to address the issue of plastic tree guards through the removal of redundant tree guards for recycling or energy recovery and the trialling and development of sustainable alternatives. The Friends led a successful 'tree guard clear up' event last year (2020), with more planned. A similar campaign is now underway in South Downs National Park.

Read more on page 24-25 with an article from Friends of the Dales Chair Bruce McLeod.

# CLIMATE ACTION IN NATIONAL PARKS

Most of the research for the National Parks and the Climate Emergency report took place in 2020, but we know that work is ongoing. Below are details of some of the latest efforts to tackle climate change in our National Parks...

## WELSH NATIONAL PARKS MARK WALES CLIMATE WEEK

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority marked Wales Climate Week in November by sharing a series of digital resources for educators on the themes of Understanding Climate Change, Adaptation and taking Climate Action.

Organised by the Welsh Government, Wales Climate Week explored how individuals and organisations can help fight against the climate change emergency and meet the target for public sector bodies in Wales to be carbon neutral by 2030 and contribute to wider carbon emission reduction targets. In response to this, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority published a report detailing ongoing and imminent action, as well as possible areas for further progress.

Chief Executive of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Tegryn Jones said:

"So far, work within the Authority to meet this target has been taking place in a wide range of areas, from planning policy and transport to recycling and procurement. This includes moving towards a low-emission fleet of cars and vans, including the use of electric vehicles; further greening of Authority-owned buildings and the installation of electric vehicle points at Authority-run sites."

Other ongoing projects designed to improve carbon storage throughout the Park include the Make More Meadows campaign, the Traditional Boundaries scheme and the Paths, Plants and Pollinators project. The newly-formed National Park Youth Committee is also taking part in UNICEF's OutRight 2020 campaign, which focuses on the impact of climate change on children's rights.

To read the Authority's action plan, see: [www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Responding-to-Climate-Change-Emergency-Action-Plan.pdf](http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Responding-to-Climate-Change-Emergency-Action-Plan.pdf).



Skomer Aerials © Lucy Griffiths

## FARMERS PLAY THEIR PART IN NATURE RECOVERY

Farmers have helped to produce a new interactive map showing the location of important habitats in the Yorkshire Dales National Park – and are encouraging fellow land managers to use it to spot opportunities for new income streams and conservation work.

The mapping tool – named 'Re:Cover' – is designed to help people looking to protect, expand and connect habitats such as flower-rich hay meadows, wildlife-rich wetlands and ancient woodlands.

Craven sheep and cattle farmer Anthony Bradley has been testing the app as it's been developed, planting hedges as part of a Countryside Stewardship agreement.

He said: "We've managed to put in 1300 metres of hedge already. I saw a dragonfly here last summer. I haven't seen a dragonfly on this beck since I don't know when. There's an old hedge that we've connected to and, well, there was an enormous flock of long tailed tits in there. Farmers want to farm. But we get that we have to do this other stuff, too. There are many win-wins to

be had and this map is good at giving you little pointers and clues. It's quite interesting, for a farmer."

For more info, see: [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/recover-habitat-network-map/](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/recover-habitat-network-map/)



Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

## GREENER BOATING ON THE BROADS

As part of its commitment to tackling climate change, The Broads Authority's own work programme and transport aims to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Over the last two years, the Authority has purchased more efficient, cleaner replacement and electric engines in a number of patrol launches and team vehicles. Various plant machinery and vessels now run on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel, a certified direct diesel replacement, which can be mixed in the same tank and gives a 90% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. This could potentially plug the gap until low-carbon propulsion options (such as hydrogen fuel cells) are affordable for older boats and available for heavy-plant engines.

There are twenty 24-hour mooring sites with electric charging points and the Authority wants to expand this network, alongside fitting electric power in some ranger launches. An 'Electrifying the Broads' partnership group is looking at how the transition to more efficient fuels and propulsion in the Broads could take place.



The Broads National Park Authority

## ROAD VERGE CAMPAIGN: CUT LESS, CUT LATER

Friends of the Dales has added its voice and weight to Plantlife, the UK wild plant conservation charity's, national Road Verge Campaign. "Plantlife recognised back in 2013 that the UK's grass verges offer incredible potential as nature reserves," explains Friends of the Dales' own botany enthusiast, Dr Anne Readshaw. In addition to ongoing talks with North Yorkshire County Council regarding the identification of key verges to 'cut less, cut later', the Friends have also reached out to Yorkshire Dales parish councils and parish meetings to share the benefits of leaving verges and greens uncut until September. Dr Readshaw added: "The response to date has been most encouraging with several councils either promoting and adopting the message or tabling it for further discussion."

## PEATLAND RESTORATION PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

An huge peatland restoration effort is taking place at the most damaged blanket bog peatland in Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Thousands of tonnes of coir, brash and stone were taken by helicopter to Fleet Moss, Oughtershaw and Bleaberry – an area of moorland covering 166 hectares, which has suffered badly from erosion – with channels four metres deep appearing in places. The work, which is being carried out by Yorkshire Peat Partnership under the management of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) has now been paused for the ground nesting bird season but it will begin again next month (July), before the three-year project comes to an end in December.

Member Champion for the Natural Environment at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Ian McPherson, said: "The National Park Authority has declared a climate emergency and the evidence shows that peatland restoration is the most cost-effective action we can take to tackle the emergency. Getting this bog back into good condition will lead to huge amounts of carbon dioxide being pulled from the atmosphere and stored in the peat."



## MEET OLIVIA MCGREGOR: NEW FOREST'S NET ZERO PROGRAMME MANAGER

### Tell us about your role...

My job title is Net Zero with Nature Programme Manager for the New Forest National Park Authority. It's a new position created to take forward the Authority's work on Net Zero, in essence carve out and lead its response to climate change. Nature is our biggest ally in the fight against climate change but it is also at risk from its effects and so this role is about mitigating those effects as far as possible in the National Park and championing the natural solutions the National Park landscapes offer.

### What does Net Zero mean for the New Forest?

Net zero Green House Gas (GHG) emissions are achieved when the amount of GHGs emitted by human activities are equal to that being absorbed by the natural environment. In the New Forest, Net Zero means working with the communities that live, work and visit to reduce emissions as far as possible whilst maximising the opportunities the National Park's natural environment offers to absorb emissions.

### What are the biggest challenges?

Climate change is the greatest long-term challenge for the National Park. The impact of climate change

on the New Forest is likely to be wide reaching, with warmer, wetter winters, hotter, drier summers, rising sea levels and an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, the effects of which are already being seen. This will have significant detrimental effects for our wildlife, local livelihoods and human health.

### What progress has the New Forest made so far?

Together with the family of UK National Parks, we have created the large scale Net Zero with Nature Programme and announced a partnership with global impact firm Palladium to help secure almost £240 million for vital nature restoration to tackle climate change. Our work on Net Zero with Nature was borne out of our climate and nature emergency declaration in 2020 and has encompassed a wide range of initiatives. These include reducing our emissions from day to day operations, promoting sustainable land management, raising awareness of renewable technologies and supporting community groups and businesses to make changes.

### Tell us about your future plans when it comes to tackling climate change...

It's early days yet having only been in post for a few weeks but ambition is high. First and foremost, nature-based solutions offer the opportunity to both mitigate climate change and increase the Park's resilience by helping it adapt to climate change. We want to protect and restore our peat soils within the Park given the remarkable

ability of peat to sequester carbon dioxide. We will be looking at opportunities to expand woodland cover too and foster natural woodland regeneration to ensure biological and genetic diversity which is key for long term climate resilience. We have made a commitment alongside local partners to make the New Forest National Park net zero by 2050 and we will be working with them to promote sustainable travel, low carbon buildings and low carbon living.

### Are the local community and visitors to the Park supportive of this work?

Yes, very much so. A survey we conducted also showed overwhelming support (90%) for environmental improvements, brought about through lockdown, sustained in the longer term. We also convene the Green Halo Partnership which has brought together local organisations to focus on valuing nature and ensure it flourishes as an integral part of how we live and work in the region.

### What would make your job easier?

Unfortunately, resources for National Parks are very constrained so having access to more funding would really accelerate our ability to deliver. It could be poured into further research for example which is needed to understand the carbon sequestration benefits of different habitat types.

### Read more in New Forest National Park Authority CEO Alison Barnes' article for us on pages 24-25



Gale Pettifer, Friends of the New Forest



Ethel Haythornthwaite in Peak District National Park © CPRE Peak District & South Yorkshire

# New National Parks

It's been over a decade since the last National Park designation, South Downs National Park in 2010, but with the government recently revealing it planned to add to the National Park family we look at the main contenders and delve into some of the campaigns for new National Parks...

This year marks the 70th anniversary since the creation of the first National Parks in England and Wales (see pages 4-5). Their designation followed a powerful campaign, which saw the creation of the Standing Committee on National Parks (which is where Campaign for National Parks has its roots).

A report was produced by the then Secretary of the Committee, John Dower, which led to a further report in 1947 by Sir Arthur Hobhouse which outlined 12 potential National Parks. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 paved the way for the designations which began in

1951 with Peak District National Park, Lake District National Park, Snowdonia National Park and Dartmoor National Park. The next 60 years saw the designation of a further 12 National Parks – 7 more in England, 2 more in Wales and 2 in Scotland.

### NEW NATIONAL PARK CONTENDERS

In 2019, the Glover Landscapes Review outlined some recommendations for designated landscapes, including suggestions for three new National Parks in England: The Chilterns, The Cotswolds and Dorset, all currently Areas of Natural Beauty (AONBs).



Proposed Peak District National Park boundary map © CPRE Peak District & South Yorkshire

Campaign for National Parks (CNP) supports many of the recommendations from the Glover Review and has been pushing to see some of these implemented. Late last year (2020), the government announced that it planned to create more National Parks and AONBs in order to help meet its commitment to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030. As we went to press, we were still awaiting further detail of this.

"Much has changed since the first National Parks were created in England and Wales in the aftermath of World War II," said CNP's Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw, "The current national crisis has demonstrated how important and invaluable these landscapes continue to be. We believe that there is now a need for an improved network of designated landscapes, including new National Parks to support a healthy and inclusive society.

"In terms of identifying a wider network of designations, particular attention should be given to restoring landscapes which could lead to the creation of future National Parks in areas where there are significant gaps in the existing network of designated landscapes in terms of both public accessibility and ecological connectivity, and where there are particularly rare or threatened habitats."



Richard Brown from the campaign for Dorset National Park, said: "In his 1945 report, John Dower recommended the establishment of National Parks in England and Wales; a Dorset National Park was on that original list. John Dower set out a vision in 1945. Today his son, Michael Dower is a Patron of the proposed Dorset & East Devon National Park which can fulfil that earlier vision and benefit the environment, economy and communities of this very special area."

*"A Dorset National Park would embrace the spectacular UNESCO World Heritage Jurassic Coast – the only World Heritage Site in the UK designated for its natural environment. It would double the extent of currently under-represented coastline in English National Parks."*

Sandra Brown, Dorset National Park team

There's also an ongoing question of funding, with the Westminster government failing to invest in existing National Parks but providing no uplift in their core grant (see pages 4-5). "Any, and all new designations must be accompanied by appropriate new funding," said Anita Konrad, Chief Executive of Campaign for National Parks, "and a commitment to funding in future years at a level which will enable National Parks to fully achieve their purposes and to ensure that there are no detrimental impacts on the existing National Parks."

### AN UNEVEN SPREAD

Not every part of the UK benefits from an even slate of National Parks. There are currently no National Parks in Northern Ireland, although there have been proposals to create a National Park in the Mourne Mountains. Despite its size, Scotland has just two National Parks – both created this side of the millennium. As it stands, Wales has three National Parks but has seen several campaigns for more in recent years.

### NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR WALES

The Cambrian Mountains in Wales was one of the areas deemed suitable for designated landscape status in the Dower and Hobhouse reports but has never been formally designated and there is an ongoing campaign to secure National Park status for it. However, it wasn't The Cambrian Mountains which Welsh Labour committed to designating a National Park in its 2021 manifesto, but the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.

Darren Millar, MS/AS Clwyd West, first called for the Clwydian Range to be given National Park status in 2010 as it celebrated 25 years as an AONB. He said: "The anniversary prompted me to reflect on the fact that National Park designations attract so many more visitors and international interest than AONBs and can be actively promoted in a way that AONBs aren't. Communities and businesses associated with the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley would benefit significantly if it were to be designated as a National Park, especially in terms of opportunities to promote what it has to offer to locals and visitors."

*"With its exceptional beauty, historic sites and landscapes, and wonderful biodiversity, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley is every bit as special as other places that enjoy National Park status. It deserves greater recognition and promotion."*

Darren Millar, MS/AS Clwyd West

### FUTURE NATIONAL PARKS

Alongside proposals to turn existing AONBs into National Parks, we've seen some more radical proposals for different types of designation – from marine National Parks to National Park cities. These would not follow the existing model to the T – they would not have planning powers or even the same statutory purposes, but would benefit from the status of being seen as National Parks.

The Blue Marine Foundation produced a comprehensive report which explored the creation of 10 marine National Parks in the UK. The report's author Natasha Bradshaw said: "Over 70 years ago, an important step was taken to look after our special places on land. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) created the opportunity for the most appreciated landscapes in England and Wales to be recognised as National Parks, but designation stopped at the coast, with just one Coastal National Park in Pembrokeshire. National Parks are important to 90% of people in the UK but, despite being an island nation with an extraordinary 30,000 kilometres of coastline, we have no National Parks in the sea.

*"A National Marine Park is a status for a larger multi-use space that*

*draws together pre-existing, valuable designations such as Marine Protected Areas and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, alongside carefully managed commercial and recreational uses."*

Natasha Bradshaw, Blue Marine Foundation

### FROM THE SEA TO THE CITY

National Park City Foundation charity was created to help make London the world's first National Park City – a catalyst for connecting people with nature, creating more green spaces and linking people to an international family of National Parks. And it's not just London; last year (2020), The West Midlands Combined Authority formally adopted the West Midlands National Park project as a key

component of a post-Covid green economic recovery.

*"The West Midlands National Park is a fresh way to look at our landscape, its history, culture and potential. A proposal for a 21st Century National Park rather than a traditional National Park, it has a very different and unique approach."*

Professor Kathryn Moore, West Midlands National Park Lab

**Read more from Natasha Bradshaw from The Blue Marine Foundation, Dan Raven-Ellison from London National Park City campaign and Professor Kathryn Moore, from West Midlands National Park Lab on our opinion pages - 24-27.**

Campaign for National Parks covers England and Wales, Scotland is covered by Scottish Campaign for National Parks; they have been campaigning to add the family of two National Parks in Scotland. Here, project manager John Mayhew explains...

### How did Scotland's two National Parks come about?

The Scotland Act 1998 led to the establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. One of its earliest pieces of legislation was the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, which in turn led to the establishment of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park in 2002 and the Cairngorms National Park in 2003.

### Why do you think Scotland needs more National Parks?

As an accolade for our world-class scenery, to provide better

management and protection for significant landscapes and habitats and to celebrate and promote our national and local identity.

### What are the main contenders for new National Parks in Scotland and why?

The Scottish Borders and Galloway – because those are the two places where there are well-supported local community-based campaigns for new National Parks: the Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park and the Galloway National Park Association.

### What benefits would new National Parks bring?

Support for sustainable rural tourism industries, including accommodation providers, hospitality businesses and outdoor recreation operators; support for sustainable rural development including farm diversification, fisheries and forestry; greater resources and

expertise going into heritage conservation and visitor management.

### What is the biggest obstacle?

The obstacles are entirely political – although the Scottish Conservatives, Scottish Greens, Scottish Labour and Scottish Liberal Democrats all support more National Parks, the SNP doesn't, yet it continues to form the Scottish Government following this year's Scottish parliamentary elections.

### What are the next steps?

Work with the four opposition parties to persuade the Scottish Government to designate more National Parks, while continuing to support the two local campaigns with political, policy and technical advice.

Find out more at [www.scnp.org.uk](http://www.scnp.org.uk)





Yorkshire Dales National Park

# Focus on Planning

Planning has huge implications for National Parks – influencing everything from transport and housing to tackling climate change and it's a big part of Campaign for National Parks' work. CNP's Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw explains...

## WHY IS PLANNING SO IMPORTANT FOR NATIONAL PARKS?

Planning powers are one of the main ways that National Park Authorities can influence what happens in their area. They help them deliver their priorities on everything from tackling the climate emergency, improving landscape quality and supporting nature's recovery to delivering more affordable housing.

While there are opportunities for improvement, the current planning system generally works well. Having a separate authority ensures a consistent approach across the National Park area regardless of local authority boundaries and makes it easier to introduce policies to protect and enhance their special qualities and support local communities.

Policies are used both to address locally-specific issues such as the conversion of field barns in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and issues which are of particular significance for all National Parks. Issue such as requiring measures to reduce light pollution from new development in order to protect dark skies, or including conditions on new housing to give priority to local people who might otherwise be priced out of areas where there is a high demand for second homes.

*Without strong planning policies in areas such as these, we risk losing many of the benefits which National Parks provide, including tourism, improved health and well-being and rural economic growth.*

## PLANNING CHANGES AHEAD

While the planning systems in England and Wales have been slowly diverging for some time, until recently the national context which shaped local National Park policies was broadly similar. Now that's changing.

In February, the Welsh Government published Future Wales, a national spatial plan which sets out their strategic priorities for development and includes a number of policies of particular importance to National Parks. For example, it states clearly that applications for large-scale renewable energy infrastructure will not be permitted in these areas.

Meanwhile, there's still lots of uncertainty about the proposals for major changes to the planning system in England. The Planning Bill

announced in the Queen's Speech follows a White Paper last autumn which made almost no reference to National Parks. Nor is there any reference to landscape character, natural beauty or cultural heritage, all of which are important considerations when making planning decisions which affect National Parks. There is also insufficient recognition in the White Paper proposals of planning's role in helping to address the climate and ecological emergencies.

## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

What we do know is that the intention is to divide the whole of England into zones designated for either growth, protection or renewal. Designated landscapes (National Parks and AONBs) will almost certainly be included in the protected category but we still have lots of concerns which we highlighted in our response to the White Paper.

How will National Parks be protected from the impacts of development in surrounding areas if these are designated for renewal or even growth where planning permission will be automatically granted?

What will happen to the additional protections which currently apply in designated landscapes, such as a presumption against major

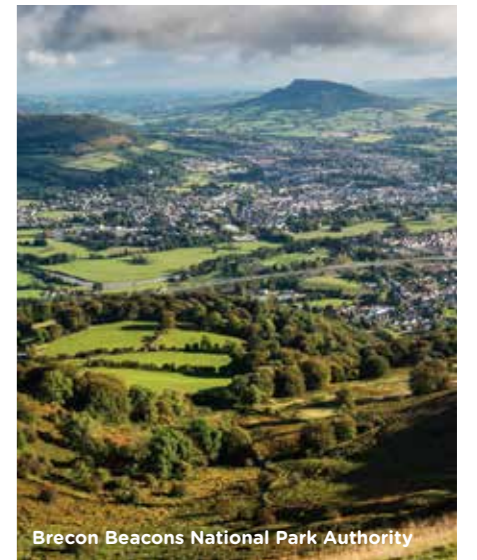
development, if there is nothing to distinguish them from other protected areas?

Alongside proposals for a completely new planning system, the Westminster Government continues to make changes to the existing system and we have responded to a number of related consultations in recent months (see our website for details). Proposals to introduce or extend permitted development rights which allow for changes to buildings and infrastructure without the need for planning permission are of particular concern and we have objected to many of these.

## BETTER-PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

However, we have also been able to welcome some positive changes to national planning policy, including the addition of new wording which increases the protection for the setting of designated landscapes. Of course, we will still need to ensure that this and the other additional protections which apply in these areas are incorporated into the new system.

The Planning Bill is not expected until the autumn and there is currently insufficient detail available to judge some of the proposed changes.



Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

*It is clear is that the Westminster Government are missing an opportunity to address weaknesses in the current planning system which mean that National Parks are not always delivering as much for nature, climate and people as they could be.*

They should be using this legislation to implement key proposals from the Glover Landscapes Review which would help increase the existing protections for designated landscapes such as amended National Park purposes and a stronger duty on other public bodies to further the purposes. We have been, and will continue, pushing for this.

Such changes would also ensure National Parks make a significant contribution to the post-Covid economic recovery, given the importance of the environment to the economic success of these areas. We are already working with other NGOs to ensure the necessary measures are incorporated into the Planning Bill.



CPRE Peak District &amp; South Yorkshire

**There may well be future opportunities for our supporters to help us achieve this, so please make sure you've signed up for our e-news to be kept up to date on developments: [cnp.org.uk](http://cnp.org.uk)**

## OUR SUMMER APPEAL 2021

# A critical time for National Parks

**2020 was an unprecedented year for our National Parks with most reporting huge increases in first-time visitors between lockdowns. Our Park Protector Awards (see page 22) recognised and rewarded some of the incredible work taking place to care for our National Parks, but more resource is needed.**

As we go to press, we're awaiting a government announcement around the Glover Review and proposals for new National Parks (see page 13) – which was mentioned by the Prime Minister in a speech just before Christmas. There are further opportunities in 2021 to protect designated landscapes via the Environment Bill and planning reforms and discussion around G7 and COP26.

As the late Lord Judd (read our tribute on page 3) said at our AGM in November, this is a critical time for National Parks – which are not only well-placed to tackle climate change, but also to help offer health and wellbeing benefits for the nation at its time of need. But they must be supported to do so.

Campaign for National Parks is the only national charity dedicated to campaigning to protect and improve National Parks in England and Wales. As a small but effective charity, we rely on membership fees and donations to carry out our work – so **THANK YOU** for your ongoing support.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

We've already achieved so much since you last received your copy of Viewpoint at the end of 2020:

- Delivered our **Park Protector Awards 2021** – with applications from 12 out of 13 National Parks in England and Wales and record levels of public engagement
- Continued to give National Parks a **bigger voice with government**: responding to a wave of consultations from transport to planning; speaking at the APPG for the Environment about nature in National Parks alongside Chair of Natural England; contributing an article about the key role National Parks should play in a Green Recovery to *The House* magazine for MPs and policy-makers
- **Re-launched Viewpoint magazine**, growing it from 12 pages to 28 pages with 10x as much content, bigger distribution and an online version to give supporters a paper-free option (if you'd like to go paper-free, please email [katja@cnp.org.uk](mailto:katja@cnp.org.uk))

### FUTURE

We have big plans for 2021/22, including:

- **Launching our National Parks: New Perspectives bursaries** to empower the next generation of National Park communicators to share their stories of, and visions for, National Parks (see page 5)
- **Launching a new Campaign for National Parks podcast** to dig deeper into, and engage more people with, the issues impacting our National Parks
- **Launching a new series of OS app-based walks** which start and end at public transport hubs in National Parks
- **Launching the National Parks Photography Competition 2021**

  
**Campaign for National Parks**  
 Keeping beautiful places safe



### WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

Help us safeguard the future of National Parks by making a donation today at [www.cnp.org.uk/donate](http://www.cnp.org.uk/donate), or, if you prefer to send a cheque, please use the form attached to the cover letter of this magazine. Thank you so much for your ongoing support – together we can ensure National Parks are well-protected.

**Janette Ward**  
 Chair - Campaign for National Parks



The Caravan Club's Buxton Club site in Peak District National Park

# Summer Staycations

With local lockdown restrictions easing but travel abroad still limited, National Parks are preparing for a busy summer with holidaymakers. We spoke to some of our Council members and corporate supporters to find out more...

It's been a very temperamental year for everyone, with our National Parks experiencing some of their busiest times between lockdowns while seeing a complete drop in tourism as the nation stayed local to restrict the spread of Covid-19.

The government's long-anticipated road map to recovery saw people allowed to travel for recreation again last month (May) and there are plans to remove some of the final restrictions in the next month or so. Holiday accommodations have re-opened and are, predictably, getting booked up fast.

Like many businesses forced to shut their doors at the height of the pandemic, it has hit the tourism industry hard – with plummeting

revenues and some difficult decisions to make; but as the economy gets moving again there is some hope.

What's more, with a slow start for international flights, extra pandemic-related admin and costs to holiday abroad and a nervousness among many families, domestic holidays are set for a real boom this summer. What better way to fill the void of holidays to Mediterranean beaches, Alpine mountain ranges or remote tropical islands that by visiting some of our very own National Parks?

### A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Original Cottages is one of CNP's corporate supporters and has over 500 properties in or near all of the National Parks in England and Wales and are working to add even more cottages into the mix.

Original Cottages Marketing Director Sonia Holman said: "Like many businesses, we have been closed to guests for many months over the past year or so, but, on the flip side, demand for UK holiday accommodation has never been stronger, and so in the months when we have been open, our properties have been fuller than ever. We've even seen an extension of the season – Summer occupancy levels lasted through to early October in 2020. We've also noticed a change in

customer demographics with a higher proportion of under 35s booking with us.

*"National Parks enable guests to explore the natural beauty of England and Wales, and take a break from the fast pace of modern life."*

Sonia Holman, Marketing Director, Original Cottages

### FROM COTTAGES TO CARAVANS

The Caravan and Motorhome Club and The Camping and Caravanning Club are both CNP Council members. They've reported a significant increase in bookings between lockdowns and have both seen more young families using their sites in National Parks.

They've adapted to the pandemic by introducing contactless stays, have introduced strict capacities on communal facilities to support social distancing with a requirement to wear a mask (except to those exempt) and undertake enhanced cleaning procedures.

The Caravan and Motorhome Club has almost 40 campsites in or near National Parks – three of which offer glamping accommodation. The only Parks they do not reach are Northumberland and Dartmoor National Parks.

Nikki Nichol, The Caravan and



The Broads National Parks

Motorhome Club's External Communications & Sponsorship Manager said: "The Lake District is by far the most popular National Park for our guests, with 70,000 nights already booked from June to October this year. Next we have the New Forest with over 46,000 and the Peak District with almost 45,000. The majority of our campsites located within the National Parks are very busy and popular. However we are fortunate to have more than one campsite in most of the Parks, which means that there tends to be some availability. Our campsites located within the Brecon Beacons and South Downs are wonderfully located for exploring the beautiful surroundings and tend to be less busy than other campsites."

Despite the national lockdowns closing their campsites, The Club saw an increase of 14% in membership during 2020 and in 2021 have already experienced record-breaking months for new member joins. They've also seen a notable increase in young families using their sites. "Many people are enjoying staycations and the Club is well placed to provide excellent locations, advice and inspiration for tourers and tenters," said Nikki.

### TOP TIP

*"Do your research ahead of time. Every one of our campsites has hundreds of guest reviews on our website offering a wealth of useful tips and information about what to do and where to go when visiting the area. When you are at the campsite, speak to other fellow guests and of course the campsite staff, who live at site and will be able to provide lots of useful local knowledge."*

Nikki Nichol  
Caravan and Motorhome Club

The Camping and Caravanning Club has 10 key sites in National Parks in England and Wales: six in Lake District National Park, two in South Downs National Park, one in Exmoor National Park and one in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. They also have 10 Camping in the Forest campsites in the New Forest, a partnership between The Camping and Caravanning Club and Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland, and Natural Resources Wales, plus a further 100 certified privately-owned campsites for members in National Parks.

### A TESTING TIME

"As with other businesses and organisations that have had to close for periods of time, it's been a very testing period," said Simon McGrath, Head of Communications and External Relations at The Camping and Caravanning Club. "However, the focus on affordable holidays here in the UK has meant camping, caravanning and motorhoming has been in the spotlight more than ever before."

Again, Lake District National Park is the most popular with the top four searched for campsites all located there and South Downs National Park home to the quieter sites.

Simon said: "Our Club Sites in the South Downs National Park, Graffham and Slindon, still have good availability for the summer but we would not call them less popular – they are lovely locations but perhaps lesser-known. Our advice for this year is to avoid traditional tourist honey pot locations – why not discover a hidden gem much closer to home?"

He added "We believe the staycation has an important role to play in the recovery of the economy – both nationally and at a local level. And spending time in the countryside on holiday will also play a really important role in people's recovery too."



YHA's hostel in Burley in New Forest National Park

### YHA'S FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The Youth Hostel Association (YHA) is even older than Campaign for National Parks, founded 90 years ago – it now has accommodations in all National Parks in England and Wales except The Broads, with Lake District and Peak District National Parks home to the most popular hostels. It's been a challenging time for the charity, but things are starting to pick up now...

Riding high at the beginning of 2020, having had one of the most successful years ever with income topping £55 million, a new 10-year strategy on the brink of being launched and a year of 90th anniversary celebrations planned, YHA's plans came to an abrupt halt when the pandemic hit.

Lockdown forced the closure of the entire network, numbering 153 youth hostels in England and Wales. It was the first complete closure in YHA's 90-year history and resulted in the immediate furloughing of more than 90 per cent of YHA's 1086-strong workforce.

The closure of the network saw hostels helping the local communities in which they were based, donating thousands of pounds of food to community groups and food banks. YHA's surplus signature green bed linen was also donated to address

the national shortage of PPE and turned into scrubs, face masks and wash bags.

As well as devastating YHA's communities, beneficiaries, supporters and people, the closure of the youth hostel network also deeply affected the charity's ability to generate income and deliver impact.

Arguably at a time when the population needed it the most, with one in eight British households living through lockdowns without a garden, 200,000 young people missed out on a residential with YHA between March and July 2020 alone.

With 90 per cent of the charity's income coming from hostel stays, 2020 became a fight for survival for YHA.

Pausing capital investment, making cost savings where it could, applying for all available funding and grants, and broadening its income streams enabled YHA to save £28million. Despite cost-cutting, grants and fundraising efforts, YHA unfortunately had to make nearly 400 redundancies.

In April, YHA's network began to re-open, supported by a £478,000 grant from the second round of the government's Culture Recovery Fund. The grant will cover essential costs, such as staff training and the essential cleaning of hostels which have not been used for 12 months, as YHA reopens the network.



The Caravan Club's Comston Park Club Site in Lake District National Park



© David Jenner Photography

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: ROD GENTRY

For the first time, the Park Protector Awards included a Volunteer of the Year public vote, which saw around 2,000 people vote, returning Rod Gentry as the overall winner for his work in South Downs National Park.

In nominating Rod, Community Ranger for Forestry England in South Downs National Park Jadie Baker said: "Over the last year, Rod has been instrumental in helping to balance the needs of the visitors and the needs of the forest. In managing the Friends of Friston Forest Facebook page, Rod has fostered a sense of community among its diverse user groups. The horse riders, the dog walkers, the runners, the cyclists all find a place they can be visible and have a voice, and through Rod carefully mediating the chat to keep it local and relevant, people find a common ground – a shared respect for the forest and the wider National Park and a desire to look after it."

Rod, winner of a 3-night walking holiday in Lake District National Park courtesy of Ramblers Worldwide Holidays, said: "I volunteer because I enjoy it but it's really nice to have this recognition; and the Lake District's always been on my bucket list but I've not been, so I'm looking forward to that very much."

Rod was chosen by the public from a shortlist of five volunteers, which included David Bird from Snowdonia National Park, Jess Davison from Northumberland National Park, Vicky Pearson from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and David Bream from North York Moors National Park. We'll be sharing their stories in our monthly newsletter in the coming months.

# PARK PROTECTOR AWARDS 2021:

## RECOGNISING AND REWARDING INNOVATION AND AGILITY IN THE FACE OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC



Coniston in Lake District © Harry Johnson

Lake District National Park's 'Safer Lakes' response to the challenges of the global pandemic saw it crowned overall winner of the Park Protector Award 2021 – securing the main £1,000 prize.

Volunteer Rod Gentry won the People's Choice Volunteer of the Year vote for his work in South Downs National Park.

This year's awards attracted nominations from 12 out of 13 National Parks in England and Wales with a range of work represented – from ensuring local people had access to food and medicine, to health and wellbeing initiatives, nature conservation and visitor engagement, much of which moved online.

Anita Konrad, Chief Executive of Campaign for National Parks, said: "We were absolutely blown away by the quality of nominations this year. We knew when we launched the awards that staff and volunteers in our National Parks had gone above and beyond this past year not only to protect, but to share our National Parks with everyone at their time of need. Reading through all of the applications, it really hit home just how amazing – and successful – these efforts have been, and in many cases continue to be. A big thank you to everyone who made a nomination or voted and to all those staff and volunteers who continue to protect our National Parks."

## OVERALL WINNER: SAFER LAKES, LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

Through a huge partnership working effort with local emergency services, landowners, conservation charities and a growing army of volunteers, the new Safer Lakes approach meant that Lake District National Park was better able to deal with issues which overwhelmed other beauty spots – from littering and wild camping to irresponsible car parking and fires.

A new WhatsApp group received up to 1,000 messages a day and enabled the relevant teams to respond to problems quickly and efficiently in what the Safer Lakes leads have called a 'neighbourhood watch scheme' for the National Park. As well as introducing new means for improved partnership working, Lake District National Park Authority sped-up efforts to introduce an electric vehicle fleet and installed

solar-panelled cameras into car parks to provide live updates of how busy the car parks were via a new website, something that was adopted elsewhere in the UK.

*"Far from being a standard crisis management response, Safer Lakes is a transformational way of working, which puts the National Park in a much stronger position for the future,"*  
Anita Konrad (CNP)

CNP Chief Executive Anita, who was joined on the judging panel by BBC Countryfile Magazine Editor Fergus Collins, RSPB Cymru Director Katie-Jo Luxton and Stephen Ross from Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust (RHCT), which sponsored the awards, added: "The Safer Lakes' legacy will outlive the pandemic, with new ways of

working established, new volunteers engaged and new innovative technology solutions adopted. It's something other National Parks can and will learn from with its impact extending far beyond the Lakes."

Director of Communications and Resources at Lake District National Park Kerry Powell, who nominated Safer Lakes, said: "The scale of the multi-agency working is unprecedented for a rural landscape."

*"Together we are stronger and our landscape is Safer – and that's what Safer Lakes is all about. What started as a community response, will become a permanent way of working for the future."*  
Kerry Powell, Director of Communications and Resources, LDNPA

## RUNNER-UP:

### MOORS FOR THE FUTURE PARTNERSHIP, PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

2020 was also a year that threatened to disrupt important conservation work, but runner-up Moors for the Future Partnership in Peak District National Park managed to adapt and innovate to continue with their efforts restoring 6.74 km<sup>2</sup> of peatland which boosts biodiversity, benefitting local wildlife, as well as directly impacting local water quality, reducing flood and fire risk and improving carbon capture to tackle

climate change. It is these incredible efforts which saw them secure one of the two £500 Park Protector Awards runner-up prizes.

Chair of Moors for the Future Partnership David Chapman said: "I am very proud of the way that the Partnership has not just kept the wheels on, but has continued to keep things going at some pace. Moors for the Future Partnership has successfully carried out over £5 million of restoration

works on the Peak District and South Pennine moorlands despite a snowy carpet blanketing the moors more often than not, and coordinating this programme of works from their kitchen tables."

He added: "The Park Protector Awards 2021 is a well-deserved recognition for their innovation and agility in successfully keeping the show on the road in the face of a global pandemic."

## RUNNER-UP:

### BE WILD BUCKFASTLEIGH, DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

The Park Protector Awards awarded a second runner-up prize of £500 for Be Wild Buckfastleigh – a grass-roots project which connects families and older people to nature and wildlife in Dartmoor National Park.

Hundreds of children's activity packs were distributed via foodbanks and other avenues, there were bird-box making workshops for older people and free socially distanced and self-guided wildlife walks. Local families were engaged with nature and wildlife, and the health and wellbeing benefits of this, through online activity including an active Facebook group and vibrant YouTube channel (with DVD copies being made for

families who weren't online).

One of the Be Wild Buckfastleigh volunteers Jo Swift said: "Our situation within Dartmoor National Park is key to the town's identity and we understand the importance of connecting people to the place they live, even more so during the past year of lockdowns and the impact of the pandemic. We are seen as an inclusive and ambitious community project with a strong and developing relationship with Dartmoor National Park Authority and a model that can be replicated in other National Park communities."



Be Wild Buckfastleigh

# POINTS OF VIEW



Skokholm Lighthouse © L Wilberforce



Natasha Bradshaw,  
National Marine  
Parks Research  
Advisor at Blue  
Marine Foundation

## NATIONAL PARKS - WHY STOP AT THE COAST?

Seventy years ago when National Parks were visualised, John Dower proposed landscapes which deserved national status and protection, but proposals stopped at the coast. We now know much more about our seas than we did then. Eight of Britain's National Parks have some coastline but none include the sea.

Over the past few decades, marine conservationists have worked hard to identify and protect important areas of the sea. Much has been achieved for coastal and marine conservation, but the designation landscape has become complicated and focused on our knowledge of habitats and species in specific sites. People's appreciation of the sea has been left behind and maritime cultural heritage needs

stronger recognition. Our access to and appreciation of seascape requires similar national recognition as afforded to our protected landscapes.

Blue Marine Foundation 'BLUE' is proposing a bottom-up community-led process of identifying National Marine Parks to achieve similar objectives to National Parks. They would encourage the creation of access and awareness opportunities for British people visiting the seaside, together with joined-up management and stewardship of our coast and seas. BLUE's vision is based on the experience of Plymouth National Marine Park which was self-declared by 70 stakeholders in 2019. They can see the opportunities it will bring to the people of Plymouth and the marine habitats in Plymouth Sound. National Marine Parks have the potential to take us a new distance towards engaging people with the seascape, in a similar way that landscapes are enjoyed and protected for the benefit of people through National Parks.

It is time for maritime Britain to celebrate and connect our natural and cultural heritage in the sea with the National Parks movement on land.

[Read our feature on National Park proposals on pages 13-15.](#)



Ruth Bradshaw,  
Policy & Research  
Manager,  
Campaign for  
National Parks

## NATIONAL PARKS HOLD THE KEY TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

It sometimes seems that there's a new report about how best to tackle the climate emergency practically every day at the moment. That's not surprising given that there are international discussions taking place in 2021 which will be critical for agreeing the decisive action needed in the next few years. The UK as host of both the G7 Summit in June and the UN Climate Change (COP26) talks in November has a particularly important role to play.

Climate change is a complex topic and this is a rapidly changing policy area so we're certainly not claiming to have all the answers. But we wanted to make our own contribution as we believe it's essential that National Parks are at the forefront of combating climate breakdown. Our report looks at what's already happening and sets out what needs to change to ensure that National Parks take a leading role in tackling this crucial issue.

Our research included conversations with members and officers from all the NPAs in England and Wales which has given us a good understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the Parks. At the time we were carrying out our interviews in 2020, Covid-19 and the associated lockdowns and economic downturn were having a significant impact on NPA activity but it was striking just how much determination there was to ensure that longer term plans were not completely derailed by the need to deal with the current public health crisis. The people we spoke to were keen to stress that the climate emergency remained a high priority.

We learnt that there is a huge amount of activity already underway but with additional powers and resources NPAs could be doing a lot more. Our report

provides further details on what's currently preventing further action and we hope NPAs, the Welsh and Westminster Government and others will learn from this and take the actions needed to address these issues.

[Read more about our report and climate action in National Parks on pages 4-12.](#)



Alison Barnes,  
CEO of New  
Forest National  
Park Authority

## NATIONAL PARKS - AN ENGINE ROOM FOR A GREENER FUTURE

The New Forest National Park is an engine room for a greener future focused on recovery of climate, nature and people; a node for a network of connected landscapes that could run as green veins across cities and countryside alike. We are, after all, a place that has been shaped by an ancient, intimate relationship between people and the land and that resonates with millions as the demand for contact with nature through the pandemic has shown us. Since designation in 2005, New Forest National Park Authority has recognised that the climate and nature crises are significant threats to this extraordinary area. Our approach is to support land managers to improve habitats, making them better-connected and more resilient to climate change.

Since 2016 we have convened the Green Halo Partnership drawn from across sectors and communities to share a vision for our area to be 'a global exemplar of precious landscapes working in harmony with a thriving economy and community'.

Our job is to enable collaboration and this 'Team New Forest' of partners makes the best use of our collective resources and provides a voice to champion green recovery in the National Park and beyond.

We work regularly with almost 100 partners, actively involving communities and our 35,000 residents; with thousands of school

children each year, and our growing team of many hundreds of volunteers. We're harnessing people's skills and passion for the New Forest National Park.

We have helped to deliver some ambitious projects, including large-scale habitat restoration through; the Our Past, Our Future, landscape partnership scheme; the Verderers of the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship scheme; co-hosting the New Forest Catchment Partnership with the Freshwater Habitats Trust; supporting the RSPB and its purchase of Franchises Lodge nature reserve turning a huge area into a special place for wildlife.

Change happens idea by idea, relationship by relationship, experience by experience, project by project. It's about transforming understanding about the way people work together and affect change. This involves inspiring each other as well as wiring the system, putting human motivation and traditions alongside understanding of what is needed for natural and organisational systems to function effectively.

The direction we take for National Parks is as much about attending to the human networks as the physical networks of the diverse and beautiful places we are privileged to work within. We want to create a thriving landscape with our communities both within and beyond our borders, one inspired by our past and capable of offering solutions to the biggest challenges of our time.

[Find out more about National Parks and climate change on pages 8-12.](#)



Bruce McLeod,  
Chair of Friends  
of the Dales

## PLASTIC TREE GUARDS - PART OF THE PROBLEM, NOT THE SOLUTION

A campaign against plastic tree guards is an uphill battle. Still, at the Battle of Hastings the Normans prevailed (and the descendants of their nobility still own much

of England!). After 18 months of campaigning, Friends of the Dales has learned some valuable lessons not least of which is that planting with plastic is big business and it's hard-wired into current woodland creation. That is why we must be more radical and create enough momentum - a culture shift - that government supports and funds compostable guards. This would truly fulfil the tenet: public money for public goods. We must also demand that the whole story be told. We need more woodland and the fastest way towards this goal is to plant millions of saplings. But at what price? Vast quantities of polypropylene as well as herbicide are used to encourage these saplings. No-one planting trees likes to use plastic but few are publicly taking a stand or telling the whole story: an abysmally low percentage of redundant guards are collected and recycled. We can plant 250,000 trees with 250,000 plastic tubes, as has just happened near me, and call it "re-wilding." But that "pitch" begs an awful lot of questions.

Now, I'm aware that plastic tree guards are not the no. 1 enemy of the people and environment. When it comes to plastic pollution we should acknowledge that close to 50% of plastic in the oceans is from the fishing industry. However, the tube is a marker, memo and product of the fossil fuel industry and a system that creates unimaginable amounts of toxic waste and climate chaos.

One of the reasons we began our campaign was to "ask" whether the carbon emissions produced by the extraction of natural gas in order to make plastic was in conflict with National Parks' goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions. To declare a climate emergency while continuing to litter the countryside with plastic guards would appear to be contradictory.

Friends of the South Downs have just initiated their own campaign and it is our hope that other National Park Societies will join a nation-wide campaign. If we act urgently and in collaboration perhaps we'll pen in a happy ending to this hitherto sorry story.

[Find out more about National Parks and climate change on pages 8-12.](#)

# POINTS OF VIEW



Dan Raven-Ellison,  
London National  
Park City

## NATIONAL PARK CITIES: GREENER, HEALTHIER, WILDER

National Parks are special landscapes where we should have a better relationship with nature and people can enjoy themselves.

While our NHS is critical illness infrastructure, we should be seeing our National Parks as critical wellness infrastructure - and not just wellness of individuals and communities, but of the UK and the planet itself. They are not just desirable - they are critical. We need more, larger and better connected National Parks with radically more funding, so that they can innovate, restore nature and be enjoyed by more people.

From deserts to glaciers and moors, around the world there are National Parks that represent every kind of major habitat and landscape. All but one - urban areas. Urban landscapes are distinctively different to deserts or moorlands, but they can be just as enjoyable to explore and just as rich with wildlife. London is home to 9 million trees and 15,000 species of wildlife - making it one of the most species rich regions of the UK.

In starting the campaign that led to London becoming the world's first National Park City, I took inspiration from the aims and values of rural National Parks. The London National Park City is working with Londoners to make the city greener, healthier and wilder. From Adelaide and Glasgow, Galway to Berlin, Cardiff and Sacramento, I'm now supporting people in a range of cities around the world who are working to make their cities National Park Cities.

The London National Park City inspires and supports people to share knowledge, ideas, skills, wisdom, experiences and resources to make the city greener, healthier and wilder.

Inspired by National Parks, it brings people together under a common vision for the city. It takes a landscape approach which means that everyone in the city can contribute to that vision - may it be by going for a walk, making a pond or growing food. There are now 100 volunteer National Park City Rangers who are helping to good practices to spread more quickly and equitably across the city. The aim is for there to be 2,000 National Park City Rangers in London. Every rural National Park should be twinned with a National Park City.

This vision is 100% possible and bringing National Parks closer to people will be key to making it happen. This not only means people coming to National Parks, but National Parks coming to people. Some proper government and philanthropic investment would help too.



Professor Kathryn  
Moore, Director  
West Midlands  
National Park Lab

## BRINGING THE VALUE OF NATIONAL PARKS TO URBAN COMMUNITIES

The West Midlands National Park Lab is based on the idea of landscape as the relationship communities have with their territory, understanding how profoundly this shapes our values and identity. It aims to rekindle the connection between the people and the land in a way not seen for decades and make evident the capacity of the land to address global challenges, bring nature to urban populations, create a new identity, sense of confidence and greater optimism within the region.

The WMNP, applauded in the UK by the Government's Glover Review of Landscapes (2019) and formally adopted by the West Midlands Combined Authority in 2020 is aligned with the need to drive green

innovation across the region via this holistic strategic spatial vision.

It is an ambitious long-term programme to improve the identity, resilience and status of the West Midlands, bringing the values of the National Parks to urban communities. It is also an economic proposal. Setting a new cultural agenda for the role of landscape as a strategic mechanism for sustainable city region transformation, our ambition is to vastly improve the quality of life, quality of environment, and opportunities for future generations, giving the West Midlands a competitive edge that quite literally comes with its territory.

The WMNP supports a number of economic and environmental commitments, including WM2041, the West Midlands Climate Change and Zero-Carbon strategy, which is a cornerstone of the region's post-Covid green economic recovery, and the WMCA Design Charter. It supports the climate change work of the other regional local authorities e.g. Birmingham City Council's Route to Zero, in addition to the DEFRA 25-year plan and international commitments such as the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

With our partners and through the landscape led visioning approach and radical mapping developed by the WMNP Lab, we are helping to drive, connect and extend other spatial strategies in the region. The WMNP is about creating something greater than the sum of its parts, building greater interest and impact and encouraging collaborative working across boundaries and sectoral interests.

**We're always looking for thought-provoking articles for both these Points of View pages of our bi-annual magazine and the blog section of our website. If you'd like to contribute a piece please email: [laura@cnp.org.uk](mailto:laura@cnp.org.uk) - thank you!**



John Harold,  
Director of  
Cymdeithas Eryri  
Snowdonia  
Society

## YR WYDDFA - WHAT'S IN A NAME?

What's in a name? Yr Wyddfa. Perhaps you don't yet know how to say it. But you know which mountain I'm talking about. Yr Wyddfa - the highest mountain in Wales.

Yr Wyddfa - the busiest mountain in the British Isles and one of the busiest in the world; almost three quarters of a million people ascend on foot or by train each year.



## YR WYDDFA - BETH SYDD MEWN ENW?

Beth sydd mewn enw? Yr Wyddfa. Efallai nad ydych chi eto'n gallu ei ynganu. Ond mi fyddwch yn gwybod am ba fynydd rydw i'n sôn. Yr Wyddfa - mynydd uchaf Cymru. Yr Wyddfa - mynydd prysuraf gwledydd Prydain ac un o'r prysuraf yn y byd: mae bron i dri chwarter miliwn o bobl yn ei ddringo bob blwyddyn ar droed neu ar y trê. Mae tynged enw - enw lle, gwrthrych, neu unigolyn - yn nwylo'r sawl sy'n ei ddefnyddio. Mae enwau'n newid dros gyfnod o amser. Ond os byddwn yn diweddu gyda phob enw lle'n cael ei newid i Saesneg 'haws ei ynganu', byddwn wedi colli llawer o

The fate of a name - of a place, thing, or person - is in the hands of those who use it. Names change over time. But if we end up with every place name rendered into 'easier to pronounce' English we will have lost so much of the diversity and wonder of our world.

So much of the bastardisation of our place names comes from a lack of knowledge and lack of confidence in pronouncing words whose spelling appears unfamiliar. But anyone struggling with Yr Wyddfa would do well to consider that Welsh is a logical language, being almost entirely phonetic. English on the other hand is charmingly but infuriatingly idiosyncratic, as evidenced by the example of re-spelling the word 'fish' as 'ghoti': gh as in enough, o as in women, and ti as in nation!

Recently an authority member asked our National Park Authority to use only the name Yr Wyddfa, ceasing official use of the English name. The NPA replied saying that they were already looking at how place names, with all their meaning and cultural significance, could be better safeguarded. The amount of media coverage generated by this simple exchange was astonishing.

Yr Wyddfa means, roughly, 'the burial place' but it is very much a living name, used and respected. I hope the recent interest in the beautiful name of a special place raises awareness of the need to respect, protect and above all use the names that are found wherever there remains a distinctive culture, language or landscape. Such names are part of our collective, shared but wonderfully diverse identity.

amrywiaeth a rhyfeddod ein byd. Daw llawer o'r llygru ar ein enwau lleoedd o ganlyniad i ddiffyg gwybodaeth a diffyg hyder wrth ynganu geiriau y mae eu sillafiad yn ymddangos yn ddiethr. Ond byddai'n dda i unrhyw un sy'n ei chael yn anodd ynganu Yr Wyddfa ystyried bod y Gymraeg yn iaith resymegol, gan ei bod bron yn hollol ffonetig. Ar y llaw arall, mae'r Saesneg yn hynod fympwyol, fel y gwelir yn yr enghraifft o ail-sillafu'r gair 'fish' fel 'ghoti': gh fel yn y gair enough, o fel yn women, a ti fel yn nation!

Yn ddiweddar gofynnodd aelod o'r awdurdod i'n Hawdurdod y Parc Cenedlaethol ddefnyddio'r enw Yr Wyddfa yn unig, a rhoi'r gorau i'r defnydd swyddogol o'r enw Saesneg. Atebodd APC gan ddweud

eu bod eisoes yn edrych ar sut y gellir gwarchod enwau lleoedd, gyda'u holl ystyron a'u harwyddocâd diwylliannol, yn well. Roedd hyd a lled y sylw a gafodd y cyfathrebu syml hwn yn y wasg yn rhyfeddol.

Yn fras, ystyr Yr Wyddfa yw 'man claddu', ond mae o'n enw byw sy'n cael ei ddefnyddio'n helaeth a'i barchu.

Gobeithiaf y bydd y diddordeb diweddar yn enw hardd lle arbennig yn codi ymwybyddiaeth am yr angen i barchu, gwarchod ac, yn fwy na dim, defnyddio'r holl enwau sydd yn bodoli lle bynnag y mae diwylliant, iaith a thirlun neilltuol yn parhau. Mae enwau fel hyn yn rhan o'n hunaniaeth amrywiol trawiadol a chasgliadol a rennir.

# BRITAIN'S LEADING INDEPENDENT CEMENT SUPPLIER

- UK's biggest and best cement plant at Hope, Derbyshire
- Contribution to education and the environment in the Hope Valley with year-round initiatives
- Around 70% of output transported by rail to the South East, Midlands and North of England
- Responsible operator for 92 years: 70 years in the Peak District National Park
- A pioneer in the replacement of fossil fuels with more sustainable alternatives



For more information

**0845 5201 888**

[www.breedongroup.com/careers](http://www.breedongroup.com/careers)

[www.hopacementworks.co.uk](http://www.hopacementworks.co.uk)

One of Campaign for National Parks' corporate sponsors,  
see: [cnp.org.uk/our-corporate-network](http://cnp.org.uk/our-corporate-network)