

**NEW**

ISSUE 79 | AUTUMN/WINTER 2021

# VIEWPOINT

**FOR NATURE, PEOPLE AND CLIMATE**  
Nature recovery in National Parks

**DOCUMENTING CLIMATE CHANGE**  
Winners of our photography competition revealed

**NATIONAL PARKS: NEW PERSPECTIVES**  
Supporting the next generation of National Park communicators

**NPS CONFERENCE 2021**  
Postcards from North York Moors National Park

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**Design:** [theniceworkstudio.co.uk](http://theniceworkstudio.co.uk)

**Print & distribution:** Ruddocks

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## STAY IN TOUCH

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## Welcome

Welcome to your autumn/winter edition of Viewpoint. As this year turns to a close it's a time to take stock, of what we have achieved in this year of global challenges and what is to come. This issue explores the nature and climate crises and what this means for our National Parks. Enjoying National Parks, as places to get away and connect with nature, is a key part of their appeal and a key reason they were created 70 years ago. But since then, nature has not been adequately protected, as Campaign for National Parks Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw explains on pages 8-11. But, as shown in our photography competition on pages 14-17, there is reason to hope as well as lament with a huge amount of action to restore nature and tackle climate change. From initiatives across the Parks (as seen on pages 12-13), to new national schemes to finance nature recovery and a new government target to halt biodiversity decline (see pages 4-7). This is all thanks to people power - public concern about the environment is at a 30 year high, linked no doubt to the fact that visitors to the outdoors and National Parks is also at its highest. Your continued support to campaign for change is vital to scale up this work and we want to thank you for making all our work at Campaign for National Parks possible. I asked friends from across the Parks what their vision for the future is at the National Park Societies conference last month (see pages 21-23) and was inspired by their response: wild, tranquil and open landscapes, revived peatlands and treescapes buzzing with wildlife, less intensive, less traffic, preserving what makes National Parks so special. Next year, with new policies for landscapes in England and Wales, it's a chance to make that future a reality and to hear new perspectives (see pages 18-19) on what we need from our National Parks, and what we can do to protect them. We can't do this without you and urge you to support our Christmas Appeal in whatever way you can - from donating to sharing it with your friends and family. Thank you!

**Dr Rose O’Neill**

**Chief Executive, Campaign for National Parks**





# NEWS



## CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS WELCOMES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As you may have seen on page 2, the new Chief Executive of Campaign for National Parks is Dr Rose O'Neill. She took over from Interim Chief Executive Anita Konrad last month (Oct 2021). Rose brings expertise in policy, advocacy, and campaigning from a career across the third and public sectors. Immediately prior to joining Campaign for National Parks, Rose, who has a PhD in environmental science, led social and behavioural science at Natural England, to understand what drives and supports people to act for and connect with nature, and to understand inequalities to ensure that natural spaces are inclusive and accessible to all. Rose, who lives close to the South Downs National Park with her young family, said:

*"It is my real privilege and joy to be appointed Chief Executive of such a prestigious organisation.*

*Campaign for National Parks, and our role as the independent voice for National Parks in England and Wales, could not be more important right now. I look forward to working with the whole community of stakeholders involved in the future of our National Parks, to deliver more for nature, for climate, for communities and for everybody."*

Read more from Rose on page 24.

## GLOVER REVIEW TWO YEARS ON

September saw the two-year anniversary of the publication of Julian Glover's Landscapes Review with no signs of a full Government response. The independent review, more commonly known as the Glover Review, looked at the future of protected landscapes in England and included 27 recommendations going forward.

Campaign for National Parks contributed to the Review, welcomed its ambition and supported many of Glover's recommendations, including:

- New powers and duties to enable National Parks to prioritise the nature and climate crises
- A new approach to enable everyone, no matter their background, to access the nation's National Parks, including more sustainable ways of accessing national landscapes
- A new financial model - more money, more secure, more enterprising

Campaign for National Parks, together with its partners, has repeatedly called for action at this critical time for landscapes but the Government has yet to respond in any meaningful way.

"It's been two years since the publication of the Review, but the Review itself was over a year in the making," says Campaign for National Parks Chair Janette Ward...

*"We submitted our response way back in 2018 - which seems like a lifetime ago now. In that time, we have seen the impact of inaction. Our existing National Parks are doing what they can under the circumstances, but implementing the Glover proposals would make a big difference, helping enable protected landscapes to play a leading role in the green recovery."*

Campaign for National Parks calls on the Government to urgently set out ambitious plans for National Parks and wider landscapes. This is critical to meet Government targets on climate and biodiversity loss, and to ensure people can access the health and wellbeing benefits of these special places as the nation recovers from the pandemic.



Wilmington Hill in South Downs National Park by Guy Edwardes

## CLIMATE CHANGE FOCUS OF NATIONAL PARKS ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Campaign for National Parks Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw presented the 'National Parks and the Climate Emergency' report to the cross-party parliamentary meeting on National Parks in September to help raise awareness among parliamentarians.

Ruth gave a brief overview of the report, which was released earlier this summer, focusing on some of the key recommendations, including the need for consistent multi-year funding; to put more emphasis on climate change in statutory purposes; and to strengthen National Park management plans.

Chaired by Sir Gary Streeter MP, with National Parks England as the Secretariat, the APPG brings together MPs and Lords, civil servants and other stakeholders to identify the issues impacting National Parks. Other speakers included Richard Leafe, Chief Executive of Lake District National Park Authority.

Sion McGeever, Deputy Director, Access, Landscapes, Peatlands and Soil at Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said: "Really great to hear Ruth Bradshaw from CNP...and other Landscape colleagues at the APPG for National Parks making the case for the role of peatlands to tackle climate change. Great work but so much more to do."

## CHANGES AFOOT AT FRIENDS OF THE DALES

It's been a time to say goodbye to several long-standing trustees at the Friends of the Dales retiring after the maximum tenure of six years: Mike Stephenson MBE, Mark Corner, Dr Malcolm Petyt, Anthony Bradley, Nancy Stedman and Tony Smith. New Trustees inaugurated at the recent AGM are Scarlett Armstrong, Kevin Armstrong and Ian McPherson. It comes as Friends of the Dales celebrated its 40th birthday with a guided walk in Grassington by founding member and Vice President, Colin Speakman. Colin, a noted author, countryside campaigner and creator of the Dales Way, established the Yorkshire Dales Society (now known as Friends of the Dales) in 1981 as a conservation lobbying group to help ensure the National Park committee delivered on its promises.

# NEWS



Snowdonia National Park Authority celebrates 70th anniversary

## 70 YEARS OF SNOWDONIA AND DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARKS

Following on from the 70th anniversary celebrations of the first two National Parks in England (Peak District and Lake District National Parks), it was the turn of the first Welsh National Park and the first National Park in the south of England last month.

### SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK

Snowdonia National Park / Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri - the first Welsh National Park - marked its 70th anniversary on 18 October with a programme of exciting events. From art exhibitions and the planting of 5,000 native trees across the Park to an online image archive and special podcasts, Snowdonia National Park Authority didn't let the pandemic get in the way of the anniversary celebrations.

Staff, volunteers, members and partners completed a special journey across the Park to mark the occasion too, on foot, on wheels and through water - finishing in Aberdyfi.

Wyn Ellis Jones, Chairman of the Snowdonia National Park Authority, said: "This year's celebration comes at a significant time in our history, as we emerge from one of the most challenging periods since our designation - for both the communities and us as an Authority."

### DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Designated on 30 October 1951, Dartmoor National Park is the largest and highest upland in southern Britain. It is internationally important for its Bronze Age archaeology, blanket bogs, upland heaths and oak woods, and of national importance for its valley mires, Rhôs pasture and grass moor. It is home to a variety of wildlife and habitats, some of which are so rare they can only be found on Dartmoor.

The Authority is celebrating the 70th with a special Time for Nature challenge to get people outside with family friendly activities across its three National Park Visitor Centres between now and March 2022.

The Princetown Visitor Centre is also hosting a free exhibition which will run til Feb 2022. The exhibition focuses on Dartmoor as a place to live, work, visit, alongside its nature and natural beauty. People are invited to pledge a commitment, something - big or small - which celebrates it or contributes towards caring for the National Park.



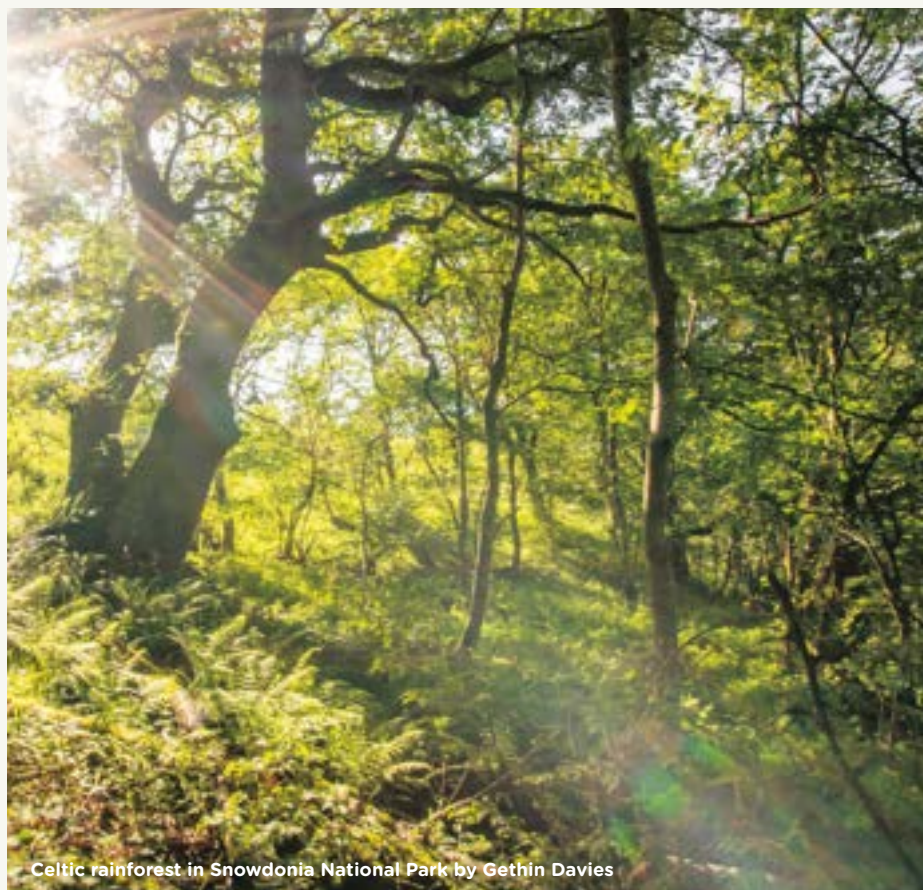
## NATIONAL PARKS PLEDGE TO BE NET ZERO BY 2045

UK's National Parks released a joint statement of their collective commitment to tackle the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis during Net Zero with Nature week last month.

The statement commits them to leading collaborative efforts to pilot new technologies and strategies to reduce carbon emissions and increase carbon sequestration through land management and nature restoration, and to achieve net-zero as places (including tourism) by 2045. It highlighted the importance of nature-based solutions at scale to fight climate change and the biodiversity crisis; to achieve this the National Parks are collaborating with partners Palladium, a global impact company, to leverage private finance into nature restoration through a new facility called Revere.

The announcement came just ahead of the release of the Westminster Government's Net Zero strategy setting out policies and proposals for decarbonising all areas of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. It also preceded the release of the Welsh Government's Net Zero Wales strategy. Responding to the strategy, the Climate Change Committee said "a credible strategy, led by Defra, and integrated with the challenges for how we use our land and our soil". This must include National Parks. "The Westminster Government must provide the right supporting framework to allow National Park Authorities to take effective climate action," said our Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw, "Including ensuring that policy decisions in relevant areas such as transport and planning are consistent with a move towards net zero."

Read more at [cnp.org.uk/news](https://cnp.org.uk/news)



Celtic rainforest in Snowdonia National Park by Gethin Davies

## SNOWDONIA SOCIETY MAKE A DIFFERENCE WEEKEND SUCCESS

September saw partner organisations, sponsors, volunteers and staff at Snowdonia Society get together in person after a challenging 18 months for the fourth Make a Difference Weekend.

Together they undertook a variety of nature and landscape restoration activities over the two days, and succeeded to:

- Clear invasive conifer saplings from 16 hectares of precious peatland habitat.
  - Clear 17m<sup>2</sup> of gorse scrub to expose a prehistoric hut settlement in the Carneddau mountain range.
  - Recycle dozens of discarded plastic bottles, glass, cans and paper cups from Snowdon's Watkin path.
  - Collect buckets of rowan, hawthorn and hazelnut seeds for future tree planting projects.
  - Remove 35m of fencing and dozens of plastic tree tubes from a native woodland site.
  - Remove 15kg of hard-to-reach litter by canoe from the shores of Llyn Padarn.
  - Clear half an acre of scrub to provide open sand habitat for dune specialist invertebrates.
  - Maintain 13km of footpaths on National Trust land.
- Plans are already in place for next year's event. The Snowdonia Society welcomes those from far and wide to take part to **help protect the National Park.**

## NEW LANDSCAPES PARTNERSHIP IN WALES

A new Partnership of the designated landscapes in Wales is working together to address key shared challenges, including action on the climate change and nature emergencies. The Partnership – Tirweddau Cymru Landscape Wales – includes the three National Parks, Snowdonia, Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast, and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in Wales. It hosted a launch event last month which Campaign for National Parks attended. We look forward to working with the partnership to continue to champion National Parks in Wales.

## PEMBROKESHIRE FORCE FOR NATURE GRANTS

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust is funding community-based environmental work as part of its Force for Nature mini grant scheme. The scheme was launched earlier this year to support local projects that either support biodiversity, deliver on conservation or climate change, or provide education on any of the above with mini grants of up to £500. Among the recipients were Amroth Community Council which will use the money to increase biodiversity and support pollinators in the area, by developing a community wildflower meadow; and Ysgol Maenclochog – awarded a grant to adapt areas around the school grounds and a public sports facility to attract and sustain wildlife and encourage mental well-being through better connections with nature.

## WORKING WITH OTHERS TO EFFECT CHANGE

As a small independent charity, Campaign for National Parks regularly works with others to campaign for changes which will benefit National Parks.

Campaign for National Parks joined Ramblers and others in pushing the Government to improve access to nature as part of forthcoming legislation changes. The joint letter to the Prime Minister read: “The Environment Bill doesn’t compel government to improve access to nature - but it could. The new farm payment scheme shows no sign of rewarding farmers for improving access on their land - but it could. Proposed changes to the planning system don’t prioritise access to nature - but they could.”

A joint letter with the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), and others also demanded greater action on planning for climate change in planning policy. It read: “It is crucial that the national planning guidance resource is urgently updated to reflect the implications of the climate crisis.”

Campaign for National Parks also worked with Wildlife and Countryside Link on the 30x30 report and, as you’ll see on page 24, worked with them and other organisations to secure a vital amendment to the Environment Bill this year.

# NEWS



Catbells in Lake District National Park by Ian Brown

## NEW LAKE DISTRICT CAR PARK COULD SET DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Plans for a new car park near the popular Catbells were recommended for approval by Lake District National Park Authority, despite strong opposition. Campaign for National Park has joined Friends of the Lake District and others to oppose plans to create an extra 150-space car park at Ullock Moss near Derwentwater. It was due for decision on 3 November but was postponed for a site visit. At the time of going to print, a final decision was yet to be made.

Ruth Bradshaw, Policy and Research Manager for Campaign for National Parks, said: “Campaign for National Parks remains strongly opposed to plans for a new car park in open countryside in an already very popular area. Allowing a new car park here will facilitate yet more car use and will do nothing to encourage more sustainable travel. It is in direct conflict with the National Park Authority’s ambitions to

reduce car use to help meet its net zero target. It also sets a dangerous precedent for other similar developments both elsewhere in the Lake District and in other National Parks. Given the urgency of the nature and climate emergencies, it is even more essential than ever that National Park Authority members consider the longer-term impacts of the decisions they make.”

Lorayne Wall, Planning Officer, Friends of the Lake District said:

*“Allowing a new car park in this location threatens to set back plans for sustainable travel and a low-carbon Lake District before they even get started. We are simply asking that the Park adheres to its own plans and policies and implements them.”*



## NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR WALES: NEXT STEPS

Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford announced a new National Park in Wales in Clwydian Range and Dee Valley firstly as part of the Welsh Labour Manifesto, then once again, when elected in May.

The topic has since come up during several Senedd debates, with Minister for Climate Change Julie James MS confirming last month: "We are committed to creating a new national park for Wales covering the breathtaking Clwydian range and Dee valley. Work is under way with Natural Resources Wales to develop a comprehensive designation programme that will include all the necessary assessment, engagement and consultation." When asked by Mark Isherwood MS to take into account the

opinions from local farmers and residents, the Minister replied: "We think we've found a way to do it making sure that we have all the right engagement and consultation. We need to take into account all the views of local people, and in the end we may not do it, if that's what the consultation says. But we very much hope to be able to make the case for the National Park and the protections that it offers."

Campaign for National Parks welcomes new National Parks as part of an improved network of designated landscapes across Wales and England to support a healthy and inclusive society. New designations must be accompanied by appropriate new funding to enable all National Parks to fully achieve their purposes. We are calling for new legislation to strengthen protections for both existing and new National Parks, in order to ensure that they are able to deliver for people, nature and climate.



Brecon Beacons in Wales by April Francis

## SURVEY REVEALS CHILDREN'S CONNECTION WITH NATURE

More than eight in ten children and young people agreed that being in nature made them very happy, according to the latest Government survey. Those spending time outside at least once a week were more likely to report 'very high' levels of happiness, as were those who reported 'high' connection to nature. Children and young people from lower income households were less likely to agree that they 'feel part of nature' and more likely to say they did not spend more time outside due to other people making them feel uncomfortable there. The Children's People and Nature Survey is designed to understand how children and young people aged 8-15 are engaging with the natural environment in England during the school holidays.

Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neill said: "We know that time spent in nature - especially in our National Parks - has a key role to play in health and wellbeing, especially when it comes to children. Surveys such as this help confirm that, but they also confirm the inequality of access - and we must address that."

## SOUTH DOWNS YOUTH ACTION FUND

Thirteen grants have been awarded to a diverse range of youth organisations as part of South Down National Park's new Youth Action Fund. The young people will be taking part in activities leading to positive social and environmental action in some beautiful locations in the National Park. Beneficiaries include young people with learning disabilities, with complex needs including ADHD, Autism, ODD and those with mental health challenges; young archaeologists and farmers; and young refugees and asylum seekers. Amanda Elmes, who leads learning, outreach and volunteering in the National Park, said: "Many of the young people involved in these projects may not have been to a National Park before or got to enjoy its beauty, wildlife and heritage. So we're excited to be able to award these grants and hope they will provide some really inspiring experiences for young people. Young people are the future custodians of this precious landscape and that's why these kind of initiatives are so worthwhile."



Heathland Sand Lizard, South Downs National Park

# Nature recovery in National Parks

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The opportunity to see rare wildlife and spend time in nature has always been one of the things that attracts so many people to visit our National Parks; but the habitats and species in National Parks are increasingly under threat. Campaign for National Parks' Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw explores what is being done to help nature recover...

The latest *State of Nature* report (2019) highlighted the continued loss of the UK's biodiversity - over 40% of species have declined in number since 1970, and 15% are under threat from extinction. Many factors have contributed to this decline but the biggest single impact in the UK in recent decades is changing agricultural management.

The UK's National Parks are living, working landscapes and most of the land is privately owned and used for farming, the majority of which is livestock based. So, the way land is managed and the type of farming practiced has a big impact on the condition of nature in National Parks.

A significant proportion of the National Parks have some form of additional protection for nature. For example, 56% of the New Forest is designated of international value for nature conservation and Snowdonia contains 107 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), covering a nearly a third of the Park. However, even these places are not always managing to buck the national trend of wildlife decline.

In 2018, we became so concerned about the poor condition of nature in our National Parks that we published



Peatland Sphagnum Moss



a major report on the topic. In *Raising the Bar: improving nature in our National Parks* we called on National Park Authorities (NPAs) to show a much greater level of ambition and leadership in order to achieve improvements.

### **NATURE AND CLIMATE CRISES**

Globally, one of the biggest threats to wildlife is climate change. It's now widely recognised that the nature and climate crises are linked and must be tackled together. National Parks, as areas designated for their wildlife, have a leading role to play in both nature recovery and climate recovery. Our *National Parks and the Climate Emergency* report published earlier this year highlighted the potential to deliver nature-based solutions in areas such as flood prevention and carbon storage. It recognised that there is a lot of work already happening in these areas and that with additional powers, responsibilities and resources, National Parks could be doing so much more to help tackle the nature and climate emergencies.

Nature recovery projects underway range from work to secure the

long-term future of the Celtic rainforests of Snowdonia (pictured on the cover) and restore large areas of peatland in Dartmoor to support for community wildflower meadows in Pembrokeshire and innovative new low-carbon approaches to farming in The Broads (see pages 12 - 13).

### **PRIORITISING NATURE**

In Wales, much of this activity results from the Nature Recovery Action Plans which are being developed for each of the National Parks. These have been developed by Local Nature Partnerships and set out the priorities and actions for delivering the objectives in the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales. They also help contribute to goals and duties set out in recent legislation such as the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) and the Environment (Wales) Act (2016).

The English NPAs have published a series of Delivery Plans which set out new joint ambitions. These commit them to becoming leaders in tackling the climate emergency and undertaking a range of actions to support nature recovery including increasing tree cover and restoring

peatlands, grasslands, heathlands and other habitats with the principle of "right habitat, right place, right reason". That last part is really important.

While politicians focus on tree-planting, with an occasional reference to peat, a wide range of other habitats, such as hedgerows and species-rich grasslands, also offer significant benefits for both biodiversity and climate, as well as making important contributions to the landscape character of the National Parks.

### **POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**

There will soon be new legislation intended to support nature's recovery in England. The Environment Bill currently in parliament requires the UK Government to set a legally binding target to halt nature's decline, something which we and many others campaigned for (see article on page 23). The Bill also includes requirements for Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs). This is a new system of spatial strategies intended to plan, map, and drive action on nature's recovery in every part of the country. To be effective, the LNRSs will need to be developed and implemented in partnership with



Lake District National Park by Rod Hutchinson

farmers and other landowners so there are significant opportunities to build on the approach that NPAs already use for developing their Management Plans.

It makes most sense to use strengthened Management Plans as the basis for LNRSs for National Parks, but this will only be possible if NPAs are given lead responsibility for the LNRS for their area, something the legislation allows for but does not require. We've called for this to happen as part of our response to a recent consultation on the guidance for LNRSs. We have also been using

this, and other opportunities, to call for other changes which would help support nature recovery in National Parks, including updating the statutory purposes, introducing requirements on other bodies to contribute to Management Plans and amending the current weak duty 'to have regard' to National Park purposes to a much stronger duty 'to further' the purposes.

### **30X30**

Many of these same changes are also backed by other charities supporting Wildlife and Countryside Link's calls to

ensure the Government's commitment to protecting 30% of the UK's land for nature by 2030 is delivered effectively. The Government claims only an additional 4% of land in England needs to be protected in order to deliver '30x30' but the 26% they are claiming is already protected includes all National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, even though much of the land in these areas doesn't have specific protection for nature. Implementing the changes we're calling for would help ensure that, in future, a far greater proportion of the National Parks are in a position to contribute to the '30x30' target for nature recovery.

A wide range of other measures are also essential if we are to maximise the opportunities for nature and climate recovery in National Parks; payments for farmers and land managers must incentivise practices which deliver benefits for nature and climate; national policy decisions in areas such as planning and transport must provide the right support for effective local action; and NPAs must prioritise tackling the climate and nature emergencies in their local planning decisions.



Force for Nature Grants





# NATURE RECOVERY INITIATIVES IN NATIONAL PARKS

We asked National Park Authorities and National Park Societies to share some of their recent nature-recovery stories to show the range and extent of work underway – from habitat restoration to engaging people with the issue, there's plenty going on...

## PEMBROKESHIRE COAST

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is stepping up efforts to save the marsh fritillary butterfly, which was once widespread in Wales but is now close to extinction in Pembrokeshire. A new landscape-scale strategy involving surveys and habitat restoration aims to improve the fortunes of the rare species, which relies on networks of flower-rich marshy grasslands across the landscape. Much of this habitat, which is home to the favourite food of its larva – the devil's bit scabious (*succisa pratensis*), has been lost due to drainage, inappropriate tree planting and the neglect of traditional management of grasslands through light grazing with heavy animals such as cattle.

## PEAK DISTRICT

Moors for the Future Partnership teamed up with Buxton-based theatre company Babbling Vagabonds to produce a free play that teaches young people to care for Peak District peatlands. *Bogtastic* introduced children to the importance of moorlands, as a home for plants and animals, as a store of carbon in the fight against climate change, and as a natural solution to wildfires and flooding. The partnership is also engaging everyone with the importance of peatlands with The Moor Mapping Project, an online map of all of upland restoration carried out in the Peak District National Park since 2003. It shows a patchwork of interventions, from the use of mini-dams to restore hydrology (rewet) areas of blanket peat, to seed spreading and planting sphagnum and dwarf shrubs. The aim of these actions is to improve the condition of damaged peatlands for a suite of reasons, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving habitat and biodiversity, and improving water quality and regulation.

## DARTMOOR

Dartmoor National Park Authority is moving forward with some key projects – from peatland restoration to natural flooding management – thanks to some recent funding boosts. South West Peatland Partnership will restore a further 2,634 hectares of damaged peatland over the next four years – including areas in Dartmoor National Park – saving a total of 652,625 tonnes of CO2 equivalent. The Dartmoor Headwaters project has secured funding until 2027 to continue its natural flood defence work around five river catchment areas upstream of communities which have flooded. Measures include natural barriers made from wood, stone, willow, wool and fallen timber; they are less intrusive and bring added benefits such as enhanced biodiversity, increased carbon storage and improved water quality.

## EXMOOR

Exmoor National Park Authority is creating a new tree nursery – based on the Dartmoor Moor Trees model – as part of ongoing work to create resilient native woodlands that help prevent flooding and soil erosion and enhance water quality and biodiversity. The nursery will be an important source of high-quality saplings, derived from seeds gathered locally with the help of communities and volunteers and will include species such as wych elm, aspen and black poplar, which can be harder to source from commercial nurseries. Plans are afoot to plant a further twelve thousand trees in Exmoor National Park too.

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

SNOWDONIA

PEMBROKESHIRE COAST

ST DAVIDS

EXMOOR

DARTMOOR

PLYMOUTH





## NORTH YORK MOORS

North York Moors National Park Authority has secured £100,000 of funding for a new nature recovery project in the Esk Valley. The project will develop catchment-scale river restoration, which will be funded through the monetisation of carbon, biodiversity and water management. The National Park will work with the Esk Valley Farmers Group and pilot an approach that includes planting new woodlands and establishing riverside meadows, which will help the land store or slow water to reduce the risk of flooding and create favourable conditions for threatened local species including salmon, sea trout and the fresh water pearl mussel. It will be used as a blueprint for catchment-scale nature restoration applicable across all National Parks.

## THE BROADS

A pioneering wet farming approach is underway to produce low-carbon crops in the Broads. A variety of low-carbon crops – reed, typha ‘reedmace’ and reed canary grass – have been planted at Horsey in Norfolk to demonstrate how farming systems could provide greater benefits for the public, such as soaking up floodwater. They hope to develop a commercial reedbed for thatching and canary grass can be used as a cattle feed or for energy. The Broads is a last remnant of a vast wetland; modern drainage for agricultural fields produces CO2 emissions from the soil. As we shift towards a low-carbon economy, farmers are looking for new ways to manage soils and water, diversify their incomes, save CO2 and, in the Broads, adapt their methods to higher water levels.. Overall, storing water in the floodplain makes the Broads more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

## SOUTH DOWNS

South Downs National Park Authority has launched a #ReNature campaign to raise £100m over the next 10 years to create an 13,000 hectares of new wildlife-rich habitat. The South Downs currently has 25 percent of the land managed for nature, such as nature reserves, woods, heaths, ponds and flower-rich road verges but wants to increase that to 33 percent – going beyond current targets of 30x30. And it wants to ensure that the remaining 67 percent is nature-friendly by 2030. South Downs ecologist Andrew Lee said: “Nature recovery in the South Downs National Park is not one big ‘rewilding’ project – it will be achieved through lots of different projects, both large and small, that together will create nature recovery. It will include everything from hedgerow restoration, to planting thousands of trees, to the restoration of individual village ponds, to planting new wildflower corridors.”



# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2021

DOCUMENTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN NATIONAL PARKS

Stark images of extreme weather, wildlife in decline and pollution were accompanied by images of hope and nature recovery in the Campaign for National Parks Photography Competition 2021.

Following the release of the National Parks and the Climate Emergency report in June, this year's competition focused on documenting climate change in National Parks, attracting entries from National Parks across England and Wales, showing both the impact of climate change and the work underway to address this.

## OVERALL WINNER SHAUN DAVEY

Exmoor-based photographer **Shaun Davey** won over the judges with his stunning image of sunset on Porlock Marsh in **Exmoor National Park** to be crowned the overall winner.

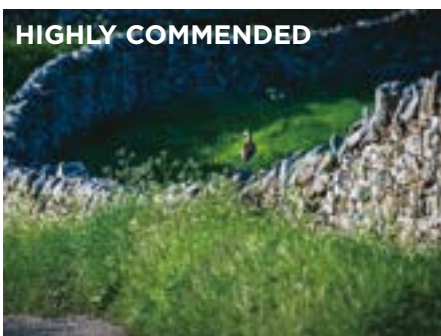
"Porlock Marsh is a salt marsh on the Exmoor coast," said Shaun. "The marsh is only 25 years old; it was previously agricultural land. It was formed when Exmoor National Park Authority and the National Trust took the controversial decision to 'let nature take its course' when the shingle ridge protecting the area from the sea was breached in a storm in 1996.

*"The marsh is now a haven for wildlife and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and an outstanding location for photographers,*

*walkers and birdwatchers. The image shows a sunset across the flooded marsh at high tide - the breach is clearly visible beyond the more distant tree."*

The judging panel, made up of Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neill, *Digital Photographer Magazine* Editor Lauren Scott, *National Geographic Traveler* Picture Editor Olly Puglisi and National Parks photographer and previous winner Kieran Metcalfe, were unanimous in their decision. They praised both the technical brilliance of winner Shaun Davey's photo - composition and lighting - and the powerful story it was sharing, one which perfectly illustrates the role that nature recovery has to play in the climate crisis.





**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

**Deborah Clarke**, with her photo of a curlew in the foothills of Penhill, West Witton, **Yorkshire Dales National Park**, was highly commended. She said: “The very vulnerable red-listed curlew thankfully seems to be doing fairly well in the foothills of Penhill, West Witton. There are sustainable levels of agriculture and livestock and this enables the curlew to flourish, alongside the lapwing which also prosper in this area.”



**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

Also highly commended was **Jon Roberts** photo of flooding in Derwentwater in **Lake District National Park**. Flooding is just one type of extreme weather experienced in Lake District National Park linked to climate change. Jon, who submitted an image of a flooded path, said: “My photo was taken March 2016; fields and footpaths around were inundated with flood water, turning hilltops into islands. Floods like this used to be exceptional, but are increasingly commonplace.”

## **A CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

*“National Parks are critical to tackling the climate emergency. These photos illustrate what’s at stake if we don’t act, as well as giving hope in using nature as part of the solution.”*

*This is why Campaign for National Parks is calling on the Government to amend legislation to ensure National Parks have the powers and resources to play this critical role.”*

**Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O’Neill**

**For the full shortlist and stories behind the images, and to read Q&As with all the winners, please visit our website: [www.cnp.org.uk/photography-competition](http://www.cnp.org.uk/photography-competition)**

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE: BEST PHONE PHOTO

SIMON WALKDEN

A public vote returned Peak District photographer **Simon Walkden** as the winner of the People's Choice Phone Photo category with his image of Hope Valley in **Peak District National Park**, Hope Cement Works visible in the distance; it emits more than 1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year. In the past 20 years the British cement industry has reduced carbon emissions by more than 25% and has pledged to continue to take steps to help the UK to achieve its carbon reduction targets.

Weather extremes, the kind we're likely to see more of due to climate change, featured heavily among the submissions and the following two photos were voted as runners-up in the Best Phone Photo category.



**Tony Watson's** picture of water shortages at Haweswater in **Lake District National Park**, was shared on Twitter with a powerful call to action. Falling lake levels in summer can lead to poorer water quality as pollutants become more concentrated; and erosion caused by heavy rain can lead to siltation.



Submitted via Instagram, **Cara Organ's** photo of unusually heavy snow at Carlton Bank in the Cleveland Hills in **North York Moors National Park** also received hundreds of votes. Cara said: "This winter was ridiculously snowy, while summers get hotter - extremes of weather are becoming more common."







## YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

FLETCHER FOOT, 14

The **Young Photographer of the Year** award went to **Fletcher Foot**, aged 14, for his image of a stonechat on dried gorse at Eyeworth Pond, near Fritham, in **New Forest National Park**.

Fletcher said: "Stonechat breeding numbers are down in the New Forest, one of the impacts of climate change. You can see the dried gorse which it is perched on - a further impact of climate change. Hotter temperatures are affecting the number and range of species and it alters their seasonal activity. It is only going to get worse if we don't act straight away."



**Brecon Beacons National Park**, by **Eliza Read** 'The Impact of Man' draws the eye to the pine forest planted by man within the natural landscape of the Brecon Beacons. Uniform blocks and rows of trees are in stark contrast to the rugged, natural terrain.



**Brecon Beacons National Park**, by **April Francis** 'Beacon's Dying Distinction' shows yellowing grass due to the increase in humidity this year, showing how damaging climate change can be to nature and innocent wildlife living amongst it.



# National Parks: New Perspectives

Campaign for National Parks has partnered with *Ocean City Media* to launch a new bursary scheme to support 10 young storytellers with £1,000 funding, training and mentoring to share their stories of National Parks

*National Parks: New Perspectives* is a new bursary scheme which will help nurture the next generation of National Park communicators.

10 x £1,000 bursaries are up for grabs, along with training and mentoring thanks to Ocean City Media – a new South West-based agency set up by former BBC journalists. The scheme launched on 1 October with five bursaries available thanks to money raised via the Big Give's Green Match Fund (with match funding from the *John Spedan Lewis Foundation*) earlier this year. CNP was able to double the number of bursaries on offer thanks to a generous donation from a longtime supporter.

## **PEOPLE, NATURE, CLIMATE**

In keeping with Campaign for National Parks' climate change focus this year (the release of *National Parks and the Climate Emergency* report and the *Documenting climate change in National Parks* photography competition – see pages 14-17), the theme is People, Climate and Nature. The stories must be fact-based and cover at least one National Park in England or Wales.

"From film-making and long-form journalism to audio interviews and infographics, the *National Parks: New Perspectives* scheme is about enabling people to delve into issues affecting National Parks." said CNP

Campaigns and Communications Manager Laura Williams. "We understand the importance and power of reporting stories from National Parks to inspire people to love and care for these protected landscapes.

*"From previous projects we've run and our ongoing engagement with diverse communities, we also know the importance of making space for – and amplifying – voices of younger people and under-represented groups, offering paid opportunities to develop their storytelling skills."*



Ocean City Media's Managing Director Sam Smith said: "Ocean City Media is delighted to partner with Campaign for National Parks to support this bursary scheme. Stories told by authentic and diverse voices have a unique power and it's a real privilege to help nurture the next generation of National Park communicators."

### ALL THANKS TO YOU

Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neill explained why and how we were able to expand the scheme: "Almost 50 people signed up to our pre-application workshop and we had a lot of interest in this scheme from the off, so we wanted to give as many people as possible the chance to benefit from this unique opportunity and uncover a wealth of stories. That's why we were delighted to be able to double the size of the scheme thanks to a generous donation from an individual donor.

*"Thank you also to everyone who donated to the Big Give earlier this year. As a small independent charity, we rely on support from individuals to enable us to campaign to protect and improve National Parks and are eternally grateful to all of our Friends and donors."*

The scheme closed for entries on 15 November 2021 and application sifting has begun, with successful applicants to be informed next month, with all stories submitted by June 2022. Watch this space!



## NEW PERSPECTIVE UNVEILED IN CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS ANIMATION

*Ahead of seeing the 10 stories from the National Parks: New Perspectives bursary holders, we worked with a 30-year-old storyteller from Bristol to explore a new perspective of National Parks – in paper animation form.*

Sophie Marsh, 30, is a longtime lover of National Parks and created a stunning short animation for us which explores the different ways in which people enjoy National Parks. It covers many Parks in England and Wales and hobbies such as wildlife watching, cycling and climbing to family picnics and influencers taking selfies for social media. The message is clear: 'National Parks for all' and it draws on the changes we've seen in National Parks this year.

Sophie said: "I love National Parks because they're beautiful, I love the coast especially. I like Exmoor a lot, because you've got the Valley of the Rocks and a goat – really wanted to include a goat, but did a castle instead. I like making paper animals, so I was trying to squeeze as many of those in as I could. If I had more time there would've been lots more birds.

"It would be nice if this animation could bring more people who wouldn't necessarily think about National Parks as a destination to realise that maybe it would be great to visit. So people from cities or people who've never visited a National Park before think 'ooh that looks nice or fun or pretty' etc. If more people learn about National Parks, hopefully they'll be more protected and we'll see more of them, and more people enjoying and caring for them."

Music was created especially for the animation by another 30-year-old Sophie – Manchester-based Sophie Galpin. It also features our brand-new map of the UK's National Parks, designed by Tom Woolley. You can see the animation on [cnp.org.uk](http://cnp.org.uk) and YouTube channel (search 'Campaign for National Parks').



Sophie Marsh





# National Park Societies Conference 2021

This year's National Park Societies conference was hosted by the North York Moors Association and took place 12-14 October at the Cober Hill hotel just north of Scarborough on the edge of North York Moors National Park.

After a pandemic-induced fallow year, members of National Park Societies across England and Wales headed to North York Moors National Park for the annual National Parks Societies conference. Delegates from all National Park Societies attended, along with representatives from other relevant bodies including RSPB and the Camping and Caravanning Club. Most National Parks have a Society, Association or Friends group which works independently, and in collaboration with Campaign for National Parks, to protect and champion their National Park.

*“Our relationship with National Park Societies is vital, it’s about us using the local, on the ground knowledge that Societies all have*

*and taking that to Government.”*  
**Campaign for National Parks  
 Chief Executive Rose O’Neill**

## SHARED CHALLENGES

On day one of the conference, Campaign for National Parks hosted a meeting of National Park Society Chairs and CEOs, in which a range of issues were discussed, from trustee and membership recruitment and retention, including how to attract more diverse trustees and members; to how to engage people with the importance of climate change in National Parks.

Society representatives reported similar concerns across National Parks around issues such as litter and discussed the potential solution - a mix of education

and enforcement - to help change behaviours, alongside all the litter picking undertaken by National Park Societies week-in, week-out.

“Climate breakdown has to be at the forefront of everything we do,” said Bruce McLeod, Chair of Friends of the Dales, as he welcomed the *National Parks and the Climate Emergency* report which was presented to the conference by its author, Campaign for National Parks Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw. Bruce told the meeting that he had used the report to successfully push for a greater focus on climate change on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority website and encouraged others to do the same in their National Park.



## EXPERT SPEAKERS

North York Moors Association lined up a series of guest speakers from the National Park Society, Authority and other local initiatives covering a broad mix of topics from sustainable tourism and farming to climate change.

“We’re living through a period of huge change,” said North York Moors Association trustee Colin Speakman, as he introduced the speakers on day two. “This is a watershed moment. We have three major challenges: Covid, Brexit and the Climate Emergency. If we’re going to survive, it ain’t gonna come from above, it’s gotta come from below.”

*“National Parks have never needed us more Campaign for National Parks is the organisation we look to champion the family of National Park Societies. We need to build that new movement. We can’t just wait for Glover. We need to say what we want for the future of protected landscapes.”*

**Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society**

Tom Hind, CEO of the North York Moors National Park Authority, spoke about the impact of the pandemic. He said: “People flocked to outdoor areas last year during Covid and that wasn’t without its problems, but it’s brought new audiences to National Parks and it’s also helped people to recover. We need to build on that.”

Tom’s predecessor now environmental policy campaigner Andy Wilson gave an impassioned speech about how to protect and improve National Parks. He listed significant changes which he felt were needed to help National Parks move forward. This included forcing land owners to restore land in the same way the National Park Authority can when it comes to buildings; and having the power to ban or increase rates on second homes.

Debbie Trebilco, former North Yorkshire Rural Commissioner and Trustee of the North York Moors National Park Trust, talked about a missing generation of people in North York Moors and the fall-out from that, as well as the need for more action



on climate change and importance of working with local landowners and farmers. She said: “There are huge opportunities for farmers: wildlife tourism, wellness and health tourism. I’m looking forward to a doctor who prescribes time in #NationalParks ‘go up to North York Moors, Exmoor, Dartmoor or Yorkshire Dales, go up and breathe.”

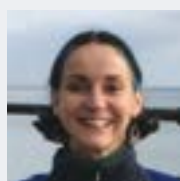
Susan Briggs from North York Moors Tourism Network followed to highlight some of the work they had been doing

## WE ASKED THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR VISION FOR NATIONAL PARKS OVER THE NEXT 70 YEARS, HERE ARE WHAT SOME OF THE DELEGATES HAD TO SAY...



Julian Pitt, Chair of Snowdonia Society / Cymdeithas Eryri

National Park Authorities have the resources and support to allow them to actually implement, in full, the management plans we already have. National Parks will feel more tranquil thanks to the closure of busy roads to through traffic, except for key purposes. Farming will be much less intensive as we recognise traditional farming methods that shaped the original character of the Park. We won’t see the majority of visitors congregating at honeypot sites, but will instead see people exploring and enjoying the vast expanses of the Park that are free from large crowds.



Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer, Friends of the Dales

There are many more natural wild places in the landscape, burgeoning with native flora and fauna: peatlands are flourishing and there’s much more native tree cover (with no plastic tree guards). Eco transport hubs have replaced car parks, enabling e-car charging and a robust timetable of e-buses offering economical access to National Parks from urban areas. New builds are carbon zero and it’s the new normal to shop local for seasonal produce. Rural areas have become home to a wide demographic which has established thriving creative, cultural and wildlife visitor economies.



Emma Amies, Policy Officer, Friends of the South Downs

Over the next 70 years, I’d like to see our National Parks welcoming people who have never had the pleasure of visiting them – doctors to prescribe a week in the hills and a pair of walking boots. I’d like to see more open access and less fences – a future where more people recognise the beauty of our National Parks. I’d like them to be seen as exemplars in climate change issues – the landscape kept wild and open. I’d like to see overnight visits to the countryside included in the national curriculum, kids reading maps, enjoying the hills and being away from technology.

with local businesses to help balance visitor needs with those of residents and business owners. She referenced a survey from 2016 that showed that only 1 in 5 visitors to North York Moors said they visited \*because\* it was a National Park. The same question asked in 2021 revealed 1 in 2 visitors came because it's a National Park.

Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary of the Open Spaces Society and longtime supporter of CNP, recalled the time - 50 years ago - she first fell for Dartmoor National Park and looked at the challenges facing the Parks at this critical time, ending with a rousing call to action: "We need to change our world. I believe we've got the vision, now let's have the action."

### AUDIENCE Q&AS

There was a change to ask the panelists questions, with Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neill asking how for their vision for National Parks for the next 70 years. She said: "The challenges we face today are so different to the ones we faced in 1949, I'm interested in looking ahead to the next 70 years about what #NationalParks will look like."

Look out for videos from Kate Ashbrook and Andy Wilson on Campaign for National Parks' social media channels, and you can see what some of the delegates had to say on the previous page.

The Friends of the Lake District team asked how we enthuse younger people about National Parks. "We need to find a few Greta Thunbergs in the National Park arena," said Kate, "It's about finding those individual champions to speak up for National Parks, in the same way CNP's Mosaic initiative did."

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has...that small group is sitting in this room,"*  
**North York Moors Association President Ian Carstairs speaking at the conference.**

### YORKSHIRE FIELD TRIPS

The final day of the conference saw delegates split into three groups for three field trips: Yorkshire's Heritage Coast (Robin Hood's Bay and Ravenscar); Management and Change in Moorland and Villages (Appleton-le-Moors and Spaunton Moor) and From Heavy Industry to the Visitor Economy (Grosmont and the North York Moors Railway). All four members of CNP's staff team were in attendance, along with Chair Janette Ward and Trustee Ian Rowat, with at least one representative on each trip (see CNP's Partnerships and

Engagement Officer's diary of her trip below.

NYMA Secretary and conference organiser Janet Cochrane said: "NYMA was especially proud to host this conference as the pandemic eases and life returns to normal. What a success! Over 60 delegates and speakers came along to the conference - an excellent turn-out considering there's still Covid uncertainty."

Next year's NPS Conference is being hosted by Snowdonia Society, details to follow in the Spring/Summer 2022 edition of Viewpoint.



Grosmont Moorlander Steam Engine

### A FIELD TRIP TO GROSOMONT

By **Katja Pesari, Campaign for National Parks Partnerships & Engagement Officer**

Now home to the popular North York Moors Railway running heritage steam and diesel trains between Pickering and Whitby, Grosmont's history as a village is grounded in ironstone mining. Local historian Tamsyn Naylor showed us the earliest buildings in the village dating back to the 1830s, the tunnel for the first horse-drawn railway, stone bridges, and the workers' cottages which, when new, housed 87 people in a space now housing just two families. The Grosmont ironworks operated from 1865 - 1895 and Tamsyn helped us see how fascinatingly quickly the nature takes over. The site is now a

North York Moors National Park car park with mature trees, a commemorative scale model and just a few piles of rock and tiles left to remind us of three tall chimneys and huge furnaces. We saw beautiful steam locomotives and railway carriages whistling past, and the NYMR lineside officer Kerry Fieldhouse told us about conservation on the 18 miles of linesides along the railway, with pollinator corridors being planted by the railway volunteers. Finally, Tamsyn showed us a glimpse of her day job: she is one of the few people left in the world who can use Victorian-era machinery to make axle box oiler pads for steam locomotives! A fascinating glimpse to the industrial past of a picturesque North York Moors village.



# POINTS OF VIEW

New Forest by Fletcher Foot



Rose O'Neill, Chief Executive of Campaign for National Parks

## NOW, MORE THAN EVER, THE NATION NEEDS ITS NATIONAL PARKS

It's one of my favourite times of year, when the autumn light showcases National Parks at their best. During a recent walk in the New Forest, I thought about my new job at the helm of Campaign for National Parks. It's a privilege that does not sit lightly - this being an absolutely critical time for National Parks and landscapes. But it's exciting, because there's a clear role for Campaign for National Parks, which fought so hard at those other critical times, to galvanise once more. As I write this, I'm half expecting the Westminster Government to be setting out its plans for landscapes any day now, its response to the Glover Review being over two years in the making and it being the focus of a lot of activity during my time at Natural England. We urgently need momentum. We need Ministers to be ambitious and visionary, we need a plan for radical action underpinned by laws and long-term resources to scale up the pockets of good practice. I was heartened by the findings and the responses to the Campaign for National Parks recent *National Parks and the Climate Emergency* report: across the landscape community there's widespread agreement of the scale of change needed, and there's great

examples of how we might do it. Together, we know what to do, we urgently want to do it, but we need both the Welsh and Westminster Governments to provide the powers and policies to enable it. Now, more than ever, the nation needs its National Parks. They have been a solace, an escape, a dream that stayed in our minds in the darkest days of the pandemic when we couldn't visit. Over the last year, our National Parks have welcomed more people than ever, and have played a crucial part in the health and well-being of millions, including thousands of first-time visitors - young and old, Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and White. National Parks can appeal to everyone; they should be for everyone.

Campaign for National Parks is campaigning to protect and improve National Parks, and I look forward to working with Governments and authorities in England and in Wales, and with National Park Societies, Friends, and supporters to make it happen.



Chris Quevatre, Lead film maker at Ocean City Media

## NATIONAL PARKS - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

National Parks haven't always been a big part of my life. I grew up in Guernsey - one of the tiny Channel Islands off the French coast. Whether we were on the beach, walking the cliff paths, or playing on the

commons, the outdoors was a huge part of my childhood. But being an island just a few miles long, we never got the amazing sense of scale that a National Park can give you. You can't stand at the top of a mountain, or in the middle of a moor, and feel that incredible sense of perspective that comes with being part of something bigger. I was nearly 18 when I went to the Lake District for the first time. I'd never seen so far and so wide without being sat in an airplane before. I'd never walked so far, gotten quite so sunburnt and been so drenched by the rain all in the same day before. I'd never felt so remote and been quite so lost before. I loved it.

In the years since, I've been to most of the UK's National Parks, and still find new experiences, new terrains, and new ways to misread a map. I love the camaraderie you experience with strangers at the top of a mountain in Wales when you can't see more than a few feet in front of you, as well as the feeling of freedom when you don't see any other walkers for days at a time.

Everyone has their own history with nature, and their own stories of how they discovered incredible National Parks. That's just one of the reasons Ocean City Media is so proud to be working with Campaign for National Parks and supporting the *National Parks New Perspectives* bursary scheme, amplifying young and under-represented voices. Real, human stories are the best way to give a platform to the diverse users of National Parks, and to highlight the major issues such as climate change facing this generation. National Parks have something for everyone - you just have to go out and find it.

# POINTS OF VIEW



Richard Benwell,  
CEO of Wildlife  
and Countryside  
Link

## STATE OF NATURE CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

It's very hard to see an amendment that the Government does not approve of to survive the full passage of a bill. That's why it's much better if you can win the case for change without relying on a division - on enough 'aye' votes from MPs or Lords. Thanks to Campaign for National Parks members signing a 200,000 strong petition, and the combined support of dozens of environmental charities and their members, that's exactly what happened with a critical change in the Environment Bill: the Government agreed to include a legally-binding *State of Nature* target in the Environment Bill to halt the decline in the abundance of wildlife in England by 2030. This is an amazing amendment and a huge achievement for environmental campaigners. The last State of Nature Report found that 41% of species are in long-term decline and 15% are at risk of extinction in the UK. Now, unless the decline in wildlife populations has stopped by the end of the decade, we will be able to take legal action to force the Government to act. That means that unless it wants to end up in court, the Government will have to begin the urgent actions and investments nature needs now to start to stabilise our natural environment. We are thinking of this as a "net zero for nature" and we need to make sure that the Government is held to account for its delivery. It is a brilliant achievement and, at Wildlife and Countryside Link, we would like to thank CNP and everyone who supported the campaign. To make the State of Nature target really effective, we need to ensure that it's part of a strong Environment Act with weaknesses ironed out. The House of Lords was willing to step up to the task. Many Lords from across the political spectrum, including Baroness Jones, spoke passionately about National Parks, have proposed and won amendments that are vital for the laws to be effective. Your support has been absolutely essential in securing one of the most important legal

changes for nature for many years: the State of Nature target will be a guiding star of environmental improvement for a decade. Thank you so much.



Steve Drinkwater,  
Chair of Friends of  
Pembrokeshire  
Coast National Park

## WE CANNOT FAIL THE PLANET

A recent Future Risks survey by AXA revealed that climate change is now the topic that people are most worried about - 59% of respondents - even beating pandemics and infectious diseases (57%). This will not come as a surprise to avid readers of Viewpoint but it is mildly encouraging that it now appears that there is a higher level of concern across the wider population. Alongside climate change adaptation - making necessary changes to accommodate the effects of changes that are already happening - like increased flooding and hurricanes - sits climate change mitigation, opportunities and processes where we can make a difference and reduce the scale of adverse consequences of ongoing climate change. climate change adaptation and mitigation will change our landscapes, challenge us, and demand action from us all. Nature recovery is also very important (as so many species have already been lost or are under threat) - this can be facilitated by means of initiatives such as re-establishing wildflower-rich hay meadows and re-connecting wildlife habitats by putting back wildlife "corridors" that allow wildlife to migrate as climate change impacts. These are areas where volunteers can make a big difference - working alongside Rangers and conservation charities such as the Wildlife Trusts. As well as acting where we can, we can also influence. We need to ensure that general concern continues to grow and politicians act. We need to understand the changes we face and choices to be made. The little we can do as individuals is not enough. We should not be daunted - we must seize the initiative and both take and demand action. We cannot fail the planet. Our futures depend on swift and bold actions, now.



Tom Chadwick,  
Chair, North  
Yorkshire Moors  
Association

## EXPLORING 'THE FUTURE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARKS'

We are very fortunate in having Dr Janet Cochrane as North York Moors Association's Executive Secretary, and drawing on her previous experience of organising conferences, she expertly organised this year's National Park Societies' conference. It was at the one-day conference organised by Campaign for National Parks at the Southwark Cathedral Conference Centre in November 2019 that we announced our intention to host the 2020 conference. In the light of the *Landscapes Review*, it was given the title "2020 Vision for National Landscapes". At that point no-one could have imagined the massive disruptive impact of the pandemic. It became clear by April 2020 as Covid-19 restrictions became necessary that we would have to defer the conference. The months that followed seemed unreal and difficult to assimilate, especially the isolation which for many characterised that time. Meetings held using video links, especially for the uninitiated, added to the sense of the unreal. They highlighted the importance of face-to-face meetings which have an almost tangible friendliness and warmth that cannot be achieved through images on a screen. Since then, a semblance of post-Covid normality has returned - and the 2021 NPS conference is part of that. The revised title for our conference - "The Future Role of National Parks" - reflects its theme, which explores some of the issues which National Parks will face in the coming years, including tourism, estate management, energy conservation, climate change mitigation and other challenges and opportunities for our protected landscapes. A huge thank you to everyone who came along, we had a brilliant three days in North York Moors National Park and it was wonderful to see everyone face-to-face.





Sarah Fowler,  
Chief Executive of  
the Peak District  
National Park  
Authority and  
Nature Recovery  
Lead CEO for  
National Parks  
England

## PARTNERING FOR NATURE RECOVERY

The worrying decline in nature has deeply troubled those of us with a passion for wildlife, and the National Parks are, alas, not immune to the effects of this. The *Landscapes Review* set out the important role National Parks can, and should, play in assessing and responding to the challenges presented by nature decline. I am proud of our history, with over 70 years leading and convening locally with partners across the broad spectrum of stakeholders, protecting our landscapes and finding nature-based solutions to the challenges that arise. Our nationwide collaborations, with partners such as AONBs, farmers, landowners, and communities, are an integral part of our nature recovery strategy. We are constantly looking for ways to find sustainable solutions to the biodiversity and climate emergency challenge. Our new financing scheme *Revere: Investing in Natural Capital*, is an innovative UK-wide initiative, aiming to create a sustainable funding model for restoring National Park nature. I am particularly proud of our collaborative projects, such as the South Downs ReNature campaign and the newly-formed Great North Bog consortium - examples of how we work in partnership to assess and recover these special areas where rare plants, invertebrates and reptiles can thrive. It is these examples and many more that demonstrate how National Parks are at the heart of the nation's Nature Recovery Network. Our Delivery Plan for Wildlife in National Parks shows that National Parks are already leading the way in partnership, and with proper investment and bespoke policy, are primed to protect our landscapes even more for future generations.



Naomi Conway,  
Development  
Director, National  
Parks Partnership

## PLACING NATIONAL PARKS AT THE HEART OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

The UK's National Parks are 15 diverse landscapes covering 10% of Great Britain's landmass. This makes them uniquely placed to test scalable solutions to fighting climate change and improving biodiversity. Restoring degraded peatland and expanding species-rich grasslands, woodlands and wetlands in the National Parks will reduce CO2 emissions, mitigate flood risks, enhance biodiversity and help rural economies. But, according to the latest report from the Green Finance Institute, the

finance gap to secure such nature-related outcomes in the UK is estimated to be in the region of £56 billion over the next 10 years. That's why, in partnership with Palladium, a global impact firm, we have launched Revere, a first of its kind nature restoration facility, which aims to catalyse at least £240 million of private finance for nature restoration in UK National Parks. Revere will restore a variety of landscapes and stimulate local economies through green jobs in the UK. It's an incredibly exciting collaboration - by pairing the ecological and environmental expertise of National Parks and the finance acumen of Palladium, Revere takes us one step closer to finding a solution to one of our biggest environmental challenges; namely, creating a sustainable and equitable model for the restoration of nature in the UK. We can't do this alone - we are working with landowners and land managers, governments, companies and investors. Each of these has a crucial role to play in helping us reach our targets. Find out more at [revere.eco](https://revere.eco)



The Desert - Eym Moor Peak Distric National Park by Roy Pollard

# POINTS OF VIEW



James Marsden,  
Member, Brecon  
Beacons National  
Park Authority

## THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

Special places demand special management. Yet upland National Parks have suffered high external costs from historic area-based and livestock headage subsidies, driving land use change and management intensity to detriment of farm profitability and nature. Successive agri-environment schemes have not redressed the balance. Now it's time to match rhetoric with urgent action at pace and scale through special schemes designed to tackle climate and nature emergencies, and the river water quality crisis. Future

Beacons, the consultation draft Brecon Beacons management plan, proposes ways to address issues seen in other National Parks, where designation has not prevented stark indicators of environmental degradation:

- 48% of greenhouse gas emissions are from land use (methane and nitrous oxide), and CO2 sequestration by land has declined since 2009;
- 35% of SSSIs are in unfavourable condition, and only 10% under appropriate management;
- 56% of Special Areas of Conservation are in unfavourable condition;
- 50% (3 of 6) of designated waterbodies are in 'good status', with 67% of the Wye and 88% of the Usk failing to meet phosphate targets; and
- Farmland birds have declined by 20-30%, and 8 red listed birds by >50% since 1994.

National Parks can be exemplars of sustainable land management for public benefit, but it's not happening. What more can we do?

There's a strong case for nature-based solutions at scale appropriate to locality, where well-targeted payments for public goods and ecosystem services can deliver carbon sequestration, nature recovery, cleaner air and water, flood risk mitigation, increased enjoyment, physical and mental wellbeing (enriching experience by restoring what's missing from nature-depleted landscapes), alongside regenerative farming, and greener local economies.

Post-Brexit reforms provide opportunities to give National Parks bespoke delivery tools with a better balance of incentive and regulation, using convening power to achieve their purposes and duty. Let's make it so!

## MAE'R AMSER I WEITHREDU NAWR

James Marsden, Aelod, Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog

Mae lleoedd arbennig yn gofyn am reolaeth arbennig. Er hynny, mae'r Parciau Cenedlaethol a leolwyd yn yr ucheldiroedd wedi dioddef costau amgylcheddol uchel yn sgil y cymorthdaliadau a seiliwyd ar arwynebedd neu niferoedd da byw. Mae hynny wedi arwain at newid mewn defnydd tir ac wedi ysgogi "rheolaeth ddwys" er anfantais i broffidioldeb a natur y ffermydd. Nid yw'r naill gynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol ar ôl y llall wedi llwyddo i wneud iawn am yr anghydbwysedd hwn.

Erbyn hyn, mae'n bryd inni weithredu ar ein rhethreg a gwneud hynny ar frys ac ar raddfa briodol trwy gynlluniau a luniwyd yn arbennig i fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng hinsawdd a natur, yn ogystal â'r argyfwng yn ansawdd dŵr ein hafonydd.

Mae Bannau'r Dyfodol, sef y cynllun ymgynghorol drafft ynghylch rheoli Bannau Brycheiniog, yn cynnig ffyrdd o fynd i'r afael â phroblemau a welir mewn Parciau Cenedlaethol eraill, lle nad yw eu

dynodiad wedi atal diraddiad amlwg i'w hamgylcheddau. Dyma rai o'r dangosyddion:

- mae 48% o allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwyr yn dod o ddefnydd tir (methan ac ocsid nitraid), ac mae gallu'r tir i ddal a storio CO2 wedi dirywio oddi ar 2009;
- mae 35% o safleoedd SoDdGA mewn cyflwr anffafriol, a dim ond 10% ohonynt sydd o dan reolaeth briodol;
- mae 56% o'r Ardaloedd Cadwraeth Arbennig mewn cyflwr anffafriol;
- mae 50% (3 o 6) o ardaloedd dyfrol dynodedig yn meddu ar "statws da", gyda 67% o Afon Gwy ac 88% o Afon Wysg yn methu cyrraedd targedau ffosffad; ac
- mae nifer yr adar ar diroedd fferm wedi gostwng 20-30%, ac mae 8 aderyn ar y rhestr goch wedi gostwng mwy na 50% oddi ar 1994.

Gall Parciau Cenedlaethol fod yn enghreifftiau o sefydliadau sy'n rheoli tir yn gynaliadwy er budd y cyhoedd, ond nid yw hynny'n digwydd. Beth arall allwn ni ei wneud?

Mae yna ddadl gref dros gyflwyno atebion a seiliwyd ar natur ac ar raddfa sy'n briodol i ardaloedd neilltuol. Mae modd targedu taliadau ar gyfer nwyddau cyhoeddus a

gwasanaethau sy'n ymwneud â'r ecosystem, fel y gellir dal a storio carbon, adfer natur, darparu aer a dŵr glanach, lliniaru risg llifogydd, cynyddu mwynhad a lles corfforol a meddyliol (gan gyfoethogi profiadau trwy adfer yr hyn a gollwyd o dirweddau lle mae natur ar drai), ochr yn ochr â ffermio adfywiol a chynnal economïau lleol gwyrddach.

Mae'r diwygiadau a ddaeth yn sgil Brexit yn rhoi cyfleoedd i Barciau Cenedlaethol wella'r cydbwysedd rhwng eu dulliau cymell a rheoleiddio, gan ddefnyddio'u gallu i ddod â gwahanol asiantaethau ynghyd i gyflawni'u dibenion a'u dyletswyddau. Awn amdani!

**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!**





## CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2021

# Together, for National Parks, for the future

Snow in North York Moors National Park by Cara Organ

**As we approach the end of another challenging year, we find ourselves in a much stronger position thanks to your ongoing support. It remains a critical time for National Parks and we will continue campaigning to protect and improve these vital landscapes.**

COP26 came at the end of a year where we witnessed first-hand the impact of the climate emergency in our National Parks, with extreme weather, erosion and species decline. Climate change has dominated our work – from the release of our *National Parks and the Climate Emergency* report to our photo competition and new bursary scheme.

While the pandemic still impacts our day-to-day lives, it is somewhat shadowed by the climate crisis. There is still so much to be done to ensure our National Parks are better protected and able to fully support People, Nature and Climate.

We want to thank you so much for your ongoing support over this last year - this has enabled us, as a small charity, to continue having a big impact.

Please consider making a special gift this festive season, by donating to our Christmas appeal. Together, we can inspire everyone to enjoy and project the National Parks in England and in Wales.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Our small but dedicated team has been working hard to ensure climate change in National Parks has the visibility it needs:

- Parliamentarians, National Parks Authorities, Government officials and others have reflected on our *National Parks and the Climate Emergency* report and the role of National Parks in delivering Net Zero.
- Our photography competition documented climate change in National Parks - both the impact of it, and the work underway to address it. It was picked up by local, regional and national press and prompted some important conversations online with a wider audience.
- We launched the *National Parks: New Perspectives* bursary scheme themed around People, Nature and Climate that will support early-career communicators with financial grants and media industry mentoring to tell new stories, amplifying diverse and different perspectives.

### FUTURE

We couldn't have done this without your ongoing support, which is critical to enable us to continue our vital campaigning work to protect and enhance the 13 National Parks in England and Wales:

*"The coming year will no doubt be critical to securing real change with the Government in England planning new legislation and plans for a new National Park planned in Wales,"* says Campaign for National Parks new Chief Executive Rose O'Neill. *"Together, we will be working to hold Governments to their commitments, to ensure National Parks have the powers, resources and management needed so that these beautiful and inspirational places are enjoyed and valued by all."*



### WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

To donate to our Christmas Appeal, please complete the form on the cover letter and return it with your chosen donation amount using the pre-paid envelope. Alternatively, donate online via our website: [www.cnp.org.uk/donate](http://www.cnp.org.uk/donate) If you're on social media, please look out for our 'All I want for Christmas' campaign in December. Another big thank you for your ongoing support from Team CNP.



# TOGETHER, WE ARE PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL PARKS FOR THE FUTURE

National Parks have shaped all our lives and created so many wonderful memories. By including Campaign for National Parks in your long-term plans, you can continue to help protect the awesome wonder of England and Wales' National Parks for generations to come.

## A LASTING LEGACY

We are incredibly grateful to our Friends and supporters, many of whom are planning to leave a gift in their will. In doing so, they are helping those memories live on by continuing to protect the places that really matter to them. Without gifts left in wills, our work simply wouldn't be possible. Legacies fund over a third of everything we do for National Parks. That's one in every three of every fight we take on to defend National Parks from new developments and a third of all our research and policy work to improve national protections.

## FIND OUT MORE...

If you would like to know more or receive our free gifts in wills advice pack, please contact us at [info@cnp.org.uk](mailto:info@cnp.org.uk) or write to us at: Campaign for National Parks, 7-14 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4YR.

If you've already remembered Campaign for National Parks in your will or are thinking about doing so, we'd also love to hear from you so we can show our thanks and appreciation.

Thank you.