

# VIEWPOINT

**THE FUTURE OF LANDSCAPES**  
The need for new legislation to deliver  
for people, nature and climate

**FROM AONB TO NATIONAL PARK**  
First new National Park for Wales  
in 65 years

**KINDER TRESPASS**  
Ninety years since the mass trespass  
in the Peak District

**NEW PERSPECTIVES**  
Schoolchildren tell us why  
National Parks matter to them



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

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## Welcome

Everyday I'm thankful for the campaigners who came before, my grandparent's generation, whose actions gave us the National Park legacy we cherish. As I look for dippers and wagtails on the streams of the South Downs National Park with my children this Spring, I think about the legacy we will be leaving them.

Being a child of the Anthropocene myself, I'm so aware of the havoc that the nature and climate crises are wreaking on our National Parks, and know that our campaign is more important than ever.

I asked my son Joe and his class what future they want for National Parks. Joe (aged 6), being a great fan of Paddington, was quite keen on spectacled bears and marmalade sandwiches, and while that is a rewilding step too far - we do need wilder National Parks and places for picnics that we can all access.

I am heartened by the simplicity of the beautiful future envisaged by his class: more animals, more birds, more trees, more places to play, to watch nature, to walk with your family. It's a future we can achieve, with the right changes, starting with new powers for National Parks.

As our policy expert Ruth Bradshaw explains, the Government has finally set out proposals for National Parks in England. These do reflect some of our hard work so far, but it's so important that the actions and new laws proposed actually come to pass.

There are things missing from the response, including more investment in ensuring equality of access. In this edition of Viewpoint, we explore the legacy of our Mosaic initiative and hear from one of our National Parks: New Perspectives bursary holder and our first young ambassador.

In my first six months at the helm of our campaign, I have been inspired by the people who are part of our movement. Many have contributed to this issue, and we hope you enjoy their perspectives on the future of National Parks. I look forward to hearing yours. You can get in touch by emailing [Chief.Executive@cnp.org.uk](mailto:Chief.Executive@cnp.org.uk)

**Dr Rose O'Neill**

Chief Executive, Campaign for National Parks



Rose O'Neill and her sons

# NEWS

## NATIONAL PARKS: NEW PERSPECTIVES – WINNERS REVEALED

We're pleased to be able to reveal the first 10 winners of the first National Parks: New Perspectives bursary scheme – giving young storytellers funding and mentoring, via project partner Ocean City Media, to share their stories from National Parks in England and Wales.

We want to thank you for your generosity in making this possible - £2,500 of donations unlocked £5,000 of funding via the Big Give, which was then matched by an individual donor to give us enough to award 10 x £1,000 bursaries.

Campaign for National Parks' Campaigns and Communications Manager Laura Williams said: "We were blown away by the range and quality of the applications for our first ever National Parks: New Perspectives bursary scheme and we're ready and willing to learn from these brilliant young storytellers and are very exciting to see the outcome of their projects later this year. From videos to photo essays and written pieces to audio, we hope that lots of people will appreciate and connect with these stories."



We want to thank you for your generosity in making this possible - £2,500 of donations unlocked £5,000 of funding via the Big Give, which was then matched by an individual donor to give us enough to award 10 x £1,000 bursaries. The winners are:

- **Emily Abdeni-Holman**, from Cambridgeshire, exploring experiences of migrant and refugee communities in Northumberland National Park and Peak District National Park
- **Erika Cann**, from Devon, helping people access Dartmoor National Park by public transport
- **Charlotte Ditchburn**, from Cumbria, delving into accessibility in Lake District National Park
- **Timothy Gallagher**, from Manchester, looking at the importance of peatland in Peak District National Park
- **Ruth Garrett**, from Yorkshire, focusing on sustainable farming practices in Yorkshire Dales National Park
- **David Hill**, from Bristol, delving into how the River Conwy helps shape the landscape of Snowdonia National Park and how different people use it
- **Tony Karoly**, from South Wales, exploring mental health and identity in Brecon Beacons National Park
- **Kwesia** (a.k.a. City Girl In Nature), from London, documenting Black and Minority Ethnic young people from our inner-city areas' experiences in South Downs National Park
- **Saira Niazi**, from London, uncovering human stories in South Downs National Park
- **Amira Patel**, from Cumbria, taking her Wanderlust Women initiative on tour from the Lake District to North York Moors, Brecon Beacons and Exmoor National Parks



Laura Williams' son at Troopers Hill, Bristol

## NATURE FOR EVERYONE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

We've joined forces with 60 nature, health, planning and equality organisations to demand 'a legal right to nature' in upcoming Levelling Up legislation.

The Nature for Everyone campaign, led by Wildlife & Countryside Link, wants to see a new legal duty in Levelling Up legislation for developers and public bodies to provide equal access to nature-rich spaces in new and existing communities. Backed up with resources for Local Authorities from the Levelling Up fund, this could transform our parks, woods and watersides, making a huge difference for our people, public places and public health.

Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neill said: "Our mission at Campaign for National Parks is to inspire everyone to look after and enjoy National Parks. We think, to do this, everyone must have access to nature on their doorstep, as well as the amazing, full technicolour awe and wonder available in a National Park. Often, it's the small scale local experiences that leads people onto the bigger National Park exploration."

**Find out more and sign the petition today at: [wcl.org.uk/nature-for-everyone](https://wcl.org.uk/nature-for-everyone)**

## 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR TWO MORE NATIONAL PARKS

Following on from last year's 70th anniversary celebrations for Peak District, Lake District, Snowdonia and Dartmoor National Parks, it's now the turn of Pembrokeshire Coast - which turned 70 at the end of February - and North York Moors National Park which celebrates its big 7-0 on 28th November.

A spokesperson for Pembrokeshire Coast National Park said: "As we look towards the future, we hope that the Pembrokeshire coastline, along with its wildlife-rich offshore islands, the Preseli Hills and the upper reaches of the Milford Haven Waterway, will continue to be a place of sanctuary and inspiration for many more years to come."

## GREEN SPACE DARK SKIES PROJECT LAUNCHES

The search is on for 20,000 people to take part in an ambitious Green Space Dark Skies initiative in National Parks across the UK.

Over the course of six months, thousands of people will become Lumenators, carrying special lights designed by Siemens at up to 20 different secret outdoor locations. There, they will create art which will be documented on film and with a series of stunning photographs.

Inspired by the 90th anniversary of the Kinder Scout Trespass (read more about that on pages 17-19). The first event, run in partnership with National Parks UK, takes place in Peak District National Park on 23 April - coinciding with International Dark Skies Week (22-30 April); the final event will take place in Snowdonia National Park in September 2022.

**Find out more at:**  
[greenspacedarkskies.uk](https://www.greenspacedarkskies.uk)

# NEWS

## PEATLAND POLICY STATEMENT CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION

Much greater priority should be given to the restoration and rewetting of peatlands of all types in National Parks, with the aim of bringing all this peatland into good condition or restoration management by 2030 at the latest - that's the key message of our new peatland policy statement. This includes a stronger commitment to protecting existing areas of intact functioning peatland, protecting already damaged areas from further degradation.

In order to achieve this, we want to see an end to peatland burning as a land management technique in National Parks, a ban on peat use in horticulture and a ban on disposable BBQs in order to protect and restore these vital habitats.

Peatlands - which include blanket bogs, raised bogs and fens - make up about 15% of land in National Parks in England and slightly less in Wales. They have a crucial role to play in boosting biodiversity, removing carbon from the atmosphere and helping with alleviating flood risk; but up to 80 per cent of the UK's peatlands are not in a good state due to a range of factors - from fires to overgrazing and vehicle use.

Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neill said: "The climate emergency should be at the forefront of decision making - embedded into legislation. National Parks as home to important habitats such as peatland have a key role to play but are being held back by ineffective legislation. There are clear steps the Government could take to ensure peatland is in a good condition and able to play its role in meeting net zero targets, which we've outlined in our peatlands policy statement"

**Read the full statement on our website:**  
[cnp.org.uk](https://www.cnp.org.uk)

## PROTECTING NATIONAL PARKS

We've been working with local campaigners to stop car parks and road development harming National Parks and their settings.

We're pleased that Lake District National Park Authority refused permission for a permanent car park near a popular visitor spot close to Cat Bells, following a successful campaign by Friends of the Lake District, Campaign for National Parks and others. We warned that it would do nothing to discourage car use, and would set a dangerous precedent.

Meanwhile, on the south coast, a campaign to stop the Arundel Bypass hit a milestone with the final round of consultation now closed. Despite the climate and nature emergency, National Highways is continuing to pursue plans for major roadbuilding right on the edge of the South Downs National Park. Their preferred option for the A27 Arundel

Bypass will have a devastating effect on water meadows and woodlands just outside the National Park and will lead to increased noise and pollution within the National Park.

Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neill said: "It's astounding that the Government, with net zero targets and work underway to address the nature and climate emergency, would proceed with plans for a hugely damaging road on the edge of a National Park. The climate crisis has to be at the heart of decision-making across all Government departments, not just Defra. We need new legislation to embed these protections in law."

## PLASTIC TREE GUARD CAMPAIGN

Working with 11 National Park Societies, we're campaigning to rid National Parks of single-use plastic tree guards. Friends of the Dales is spearheading the campaign, working closely with Friends of the South Downs and others to effect change.

The campaign coincides with a Defra call for evidence over problematic single-use plastics - which the National Parks campaigners have responded to, highlighting the ongoing issue of plastic tree guards.

"We want to see a complete end to the use of single-use plastics in the supply of tree guards (much of which will inevitably become highly polluting micro-plastics)," says the joint response, "as well as the introduction of more effective controls and auditing in order to require a greater focus on recovering old tree guards and preventing further pollution."

Campaign for National Parks Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw said: "Our National Parks and the Climate Emergency report released last year explored how National Parks were

adapting to, and mitigating climate change. There are huge efforts underway to do both and it's clear that tree planting has a role to play in this, but the benefits - carbon capture, habitat creation etc. - are undermined when each sapling is surrounded by a new, single-use plastic tree guard."



Friends of the Dales clear tree guards in Yorkshire

## NEW NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND REPORT

As the Government considers the future of National Parks, National Parks England has published a report showcasing some of the pioneering and innovative projects within the National Parks. It follows on from Campaign for National Parks' National Parks and the Climate Emergency report, which highlighted some of the work underway to tackle and mitigate against climate change - and flagged what more is needed.

From peatland restoration to connecting young people with nature and hedgerow restoration to awareness campaigns, National Park Authorities are working hard to deliver on limited resources as this NPE report attests to.

Andrew McCloy, Chair of National Parks England, wrote in a guest blog: "So much of what we do supporting nature, combating climate change and working to develop sustainable land management practices goes largely under the radar. We don't shout loudly enough about all

the good work we do."

Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neil added: "This story book shows just how National Parks can deliver more for nature and climate and make a real difference to people's lives.

The challenge now is how to scale it up, which is why we need Government to urgently bring forward its proposed new legislation to bring powers for National Parks into 21st century."

**Read the full blog at [cnp.org.uk/blog](https://cnp.org.uk/blog)**

## WELSH SECOND HOMES CONSULTATION

Working with the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes, we have submitted a response to the Welsh Government's consultation on planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets.

We broadly support the proposals to tackle the issue but we have significant concerns about the ability of local planning authorities to be able to implement this change effectively without additional resources.

We would also like to see the introduction of a compulsory licensing scheme for holiday homes. It is currently very difficult to gather accurate information because the holiday home market is unregulated.

**John Harold, Director of Snowdonia Society, penned a blog for us on this topic, which you can read on our website: [cnp.org.uk/blog](https://cnp.org.uk/blog)**

## CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS TEAM GROWS

We're delighted to welcome two new trustees to the Board - Kate Ashbrook, who many of you will know already, and Sue Beaumont. It follows the departure of Nick Holliday and Anna Bedford, who has recently joined our staff team as Programmes Manager. Janette Ward, Chair of Executive of Campaign for National Parks, said:

"Sue brings a wealth of experience and - as a trustee with Snowdonia Society - brings a welcome Welsh National Park perspective to the board, while Kate is a long-time friend and supporter of Campaign for National Parks, a tenacious campaigner and vocal advocate of outdoor spaces and access. Kate has previously been a trustee and we're really pleased to be able to welcome her back."

In the coming months, we're also welcoming two further new members of staff to increase our campaigning capacity.

# The Landscapes Review and the future of National Parks

This is a critical time for National Parks as the Westminster Government considers the future of protected landscapes in England following the long-awaited response to the Landscapes Review. Campaign for National Parks' Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw explains...

After more than two years of waiting, the Westminster Government's response to the 2019 Glover Landscapes Review was finally published in January 2022. The Review proposed a wide range of changes for Protected Landscapes (National Parks and AONBs) in England and the response now sets out which of these the Government intends to take forward.

Over the last couple of months, we've been developing a detailed response to the consultation which was published alongside the Government's response. There's much that we welcome, particularly the increased emphasis on improving nature's recovery and supporting health and well-being but there are also some worrying omissions from the package put forward by Julian Glover, notably with regard to funding commitments.

Here, we summarise the key points from our response, the full version of which is available to read on our website.

## URGENT NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Government's response includes support for some significant changes, such as stronger duties on other public bodies, which we called for in our submission to the review, but legislation will need to be passed before these changes can be implemented. That's why we're calling for the inclusion of a Bill in the next Queen's Speech (expected to take place in May) which includes, among other things:

- Amendments to the purposes of both National Parks and AONBs to give greater priority to nature recovery, climate action, equality and improved health and well-being alongside an appropriately updated version of the Sandford Principle to ensure conservation is prioritised over recreation where there is a conflict between the two
- Stronger duties on other public bodies to ensure they do more to help deliver these purposes.
- New requirements relating to the development and delivery of Management Plans.

- Giving National Park Authorities greater influence over transport planning in their area.
- A ban on all peat burning in protected landscapes.
- A ban on motorised vehicles on 'green lanes'.
- New measures to help control second homes and holiday lets.
- Making it quicker and easier to establish new protected landscapes.

These measures could either be introduced through a specific Protected Landscapes Bill or they could be included as part of other relevant legislation such as the Levelling Up Bill. The key thing is that they are introduced without any further delay.





Cattle on Exmoor National Park by Shaun Davey

## DELIVERING FOR NATURE AND CLIMATE

We're really pleased to see a strong emphasis on nature recovery and climate action but this needs to be backed up with appropriate targets, funding and action across all relevant policy areas. The Government also needs to set out clear expectations for Protected Landscape Management Plans which should set out costed actions for delivering nature and climate action, and other changes needed to deliver the purposes such as improved landscape character. In future, these Plans should be delivering more and better protected sites and nature reserves, more peatland restoration, natural regeneration, nature-friendly farming and rewilding. In short, the emphasis should be on providing lots more options for delivering nature recovery and nature-based climate solutions.

A big part of this has to be about the type of farming and land management that takes place. The new Environmental

Land Management scheme (part of post-Brexit agricultural policy) must be designed in a way which takes account of the particular circumstances of Protected Landscapes. There should be a strong emphasis on the importance of less intensive forms of agriculture and land management which support nature recovery, conserve and enhance the landscape and improve public access.

## DELIVERING FOR PEOPLE

While the Government's response includes a chapter which focuses on people, there's too much emphasis here on tackling the inappropriate behaviour of a small minority of visitors. The proposals to penalise visitors send out completely the wrong message and we're really disappointed that the Government has missed an important opportunity to do more to support positive access management and visitor engagement. There's no reference at all to some of the key Glover proposals aimed at increasing opportunities for

people from all parts of society to visit and we're calling on the Government to address this omission. In particular, we want to see investment in new long-term engagement programmes similar to the Campaign for National Parks' Mosaic project (read more about that on pages 14-16). There also needs to be much better support for public transport to ensure more people can visit with less impact.

## DELIVERING MORE EFFECTIVE DECISIONS

If Protected Landscapes are to deliver more effectively in future, then there also need to be changes to the way in which they are governed to ensure that those making decisions about these areas are both more focused on delivering the statutory purposes and more representative of the population. We're pleased to see the Government is proposing a series of measures to improve the performance of Board members, but we also want to see further changes aimed at increasing the proportion of Board



Flooding in Lake District National Park by Jon Roberts

members appointed on the basis of their expertise. This should include both an increase in the proportion of national members and the introduction of merit-based criteria for local authority appointments.

## DELIVERING THE NECESSARY FUNDING

The Government's ambition and vision for Protected Landscapes is not backed up by any commitment to additional funding for National Park Authorities to ensure they can deliver the new duties and requirements placed on them. Glover proposed a new funding mechanism for Protected Landscapes which included a commitment to consistent multi-year funding, but the Government's response focuses almost entirely on Glover's suggestions for bringing in private sector funding.

*We are deeply concerned about this privatisation by stealth. The focus on maximising the commercial value of our Protected Landscapes is inconsistent with delivering the statutory purposes and will need to be carefully regulated, to avoid significant damage.*

Importantly, it could also lead to key areas of activity being severely under-funded. While there are developing markets for projects which deliver carbon storage and other ecosystem services, such as peatland restoration, other crucial activities, such as routine footpath maintenance are unlikely to be attractive to the public sector.

There is an urgent need for increased public funding for all Protected Landscapes to make up the shortfall in funding in recent years. National Park Authorities now typically receive around 24% less government funding in cash terms than they did in 2010. This equates to a reduction of over 40% in real terms, allowing for inflation. The current expectation (at the time of writing in March 2022) is that NPAs will receive a flat cash settlement for next financial year which effectively means further cuts. This is unacceptable. These are national assets which deliver significant benefits for the nation in terms of carbon storage, improved water quality, health and well-being and more so there is overwhelming justification for providing them with good levels of public support.

## DELIVERING THE NEXT STEPS

It's great to finally see some progress towards implementation but there's a long

## NEXT STEPS

**We need urgent action to protect and improve National Parks, ensuring they're delivering more for people, nature and climate. We need to see new legislation to embed this into law.**

We're calling on the Government to:

1. Update National Park laws to prioritise nature, climate and equality
2. Set clear targets for nature recovery in National Parks
3. Support all farmers in National Parks to deliver more for nature and access
4. Establish a national programme to enhance access and diversity
5. Invest in these critical public assets for the health of society and nature

way to go yet. Many of the most important changes will require legislative and we still don't know when that will be introduced.

*What we do know is that we need to act quickly given the nature, climate and public health challenges we currently face. With the right tools, resources and responsibilities in place our Protected Landscapes could be doing so much more to help address these challenges.*

We've submitted our response to Government now (you can read this on our website) and we will continue to push for the legislation needed to implement these changes as well as increased public investment in our Protected Landscapes. In the coming months, we'll be campaigning to help secure these changes and there'll be lots of opportunities for our Friends and supporters to get involved – including by donating to the Big Green Give this month and sharing your story (see pages 26-27 for details).

**Please follow us on social media and sign-up for our e-news to make sure you're the first to know about what we're planning.**

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





# NATURAL PARKS

Our friends at RSPB have just released a brilliant ‘Natural Parks?’ report which explores the value people place in nature and wildlife in National Parks and why more is needed to protect this.



New research, drawing on a survey of 1,750 adults across England, has revealed that restoring nature was people’s number one priority for England’s National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

More than two thirds of respondents chose increasing wildlife as their top priority for National Parks and AONBs, far more than other objectives. Among people who live inside National Parks and AONBs it was the top priority for three quarters of them.

Two thirds of people thought that wildlife should be faring better inside National Parks and AONBs than it is outside them and most were concerned to find that this wasn’t the case.

Campaign for National Parks’ 2018 Raising the Bar report highlighted the unfavourable condition of nature in our National Parks. The 2021 National Parks and the Climate Emergency report celebrated nature recovery work underway, but recognised that much more is needed. And the recent

peatlands statement – like the RSPB’s position – calls for much stronger action to protect peatlands, including a ban on peatland burning as a land management technique.

This latest RSPB research shows that eight out of 10 people were supportive of doing things to achieve this that would change the way these landscapes look such as nature friendly farming practices that would restore wildflower meadows, reduce the number of grazing animals and increasing the number of broadleaf trees. Only 7% of people questioned did not want land management that is harming nature in National Parks and AONBs to change.

Alice Hardiman, Head of Policy at RSPB England said “The polling shows the huge public demand for restoring nature in England’s National Parks and AONBs. This is what people from across England want these landscapes to prioritise above all else. The people who live inside these places want this even more.

**Read the full report at: [rspb.org.uk](https://rspb.org.uk)**

## FOR PEOPLE, NATURE AND CLIMATE

**David Hampson, Policy Officer for RSPB, reflects on the report and calls on the Government to do more to protect and restore nature in National Parks.**

“England’s National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) are some of the nation’s most celebrated landscapes. From rugged uplands, to amethyst heathlands, to reed covered fens – these protected landscapes are vital for nature and people.

“These special places have lost much of their wildlife since they were first created. Wildlife has been pushed to their fringes or lost altogether, often despite the best efforts of the bodies responsible for these landscapes. Important plants and animals remain but what we have now is a pale shadow of the teeming wildlife previous generations would have enjoyed. These famous landscapes have lost much of their natural diversity, colour and sound.

“If wildlife in these areas is to be brought back from the brink, the way they look and are managed has to change. This does not mean putting wildlife ahead of people. This approach will deliver for both. Many farmers are already showing that nature-friendly techniques are not only good for the environment but make good business sense.”

“The people have spoken, now the government must listen and urgently bring forward bold reforms to meet the demand for protected landscapes to be alive with nature.”

**Read the full blog at [cnp.org.uk/blog](https://cnp.org.uk/blog)**



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site by Denbighshire County Council

# New National Park for Wales

A new National Park could bring benefits for people, nature and climate in Wales, but some locals are concerned about potential negative impacts. Welsh journalist Liz Shankland finds out more.

In the midst of the pandemic, when so many people were re-discovering the importance of the great outdoors to their wellbeing, the news that Wales was to get a new National Park could not have come at a better time.

Last April, Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford revealed proposals to elevate the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to National Park status. Outlining Labour's new manifesto, he pledged that, if Labour was returned to power in the May 2022 election, the AONB would become the nation's fourth National Park – the first designation since 1957.

The AONB in north-east Wales may be

relatively small in terms of previous National Parks - covering just 389 square kilometres (approximately 150 square miles) - but it features some of Wales's most breath-taking landscapes and historic landmarks. Covering land in the counties of Denbighshire, Flintshire, and Wrexham, it stretches from the coastal slopes of Prestatyn in the north to the Berwyn Mountains in the south, and includes a World Heritage Site which features the imposing Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Senedd member for Clwyd South Ken Skates - one of those who battled for the area to be given AONB status more than a decade ago - was delighted.

*"There is a lot of excitement about the Welsh Government's plans to create a new National Park right here in Clwyd South... As well as celebrating our area's unique natural beauty, National Park status will further boost tourism - an industry so vital to Clwyd South - and support the green economy."*

If the Welsh Government delivers on its pledge, there will be celebration amongst campaigners who have been lobbying for more than a decade for designation. Such a move would bring more funding and greater protection, in terms of nature conservation and safeguarding the landscape from unwanted development. Supporters believe more tourists would boost the local economy.

### **WHY IS NATIONAL PARK STATUS SO IMPORTANT?**

Although a key purpose of an AONB is to conserve and enhance natural beauty - just like a National Park - National Parks have additional responsibilities; they must promote understanding and enjoyment of the area's special qualities, including cultural heritage, and provide opportunities for public recreation.

Control of development and protection of the landscape is a major area where the two differ. Planning policy and control of development are determined by a National Park Authority, whereas in an AONB, planning matters are usually managed by local authority-led partnerships.

The new National Park would be the fourth in Wales - joining Snowdonia, the Pembrokeshire Coast, and the Brecon Beacons. It would be the first such designation since the Brecon Beacons National Park was established in 1957.

However, not everyone welcomes the proposals with open arms. Some of those living and working in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley are upset that there was no prior consultation with communities before the Welsh Government announcement.

The area is already an extremely popular destination for holidaymakers and saw visitor numbers soar during the pandemic. Traffic congestion has been a particular problem at many of the "honeypot" attractions and there are fears that upgrading its status will attract even more visitors, at a time when the road infrastructure cannot cope. Beauty spots like Moel Famau - the highest point on the Clwydian Range - frequently become gridlocked, due to narrow roads and lack of parking.

Julie Masters, chair of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Tourism Group, said there were mixed feelings about the proposals. "One of our USPs here is 'Come to the north-east - it's nice and quiet here'. Visitors can still get that feeling of holidaying in a rural idyll, and we don't want to lose that," she explained.

"We love welcoming visitors, but we are almost crumbling under the burgeoning numbers. We don't have the infrastructure or the resources we need at the moment. Maybe, if we have National Park status, we will also have the resources for additional people coming here, but we don't know yet."

### **MORE CONSULTATION NEEDED**

Mrs Masters also chairs the Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley. She said their own surveys revealed many local people were still unaware of the National Park plans, even a year on from the announcement. "The last survey showed that a third of people didn't know it was happening," she said. "People are not being given any information about what is going to happen, or when. Proper consultation is essential."





Clwydian Range and Dee Valley by Denbighshire County Council

Denbighshire County Councillor Huw Williams is unhappy with the way the plans were unveiled. "There has been absolutely no consultation with the people who will be affected," said Mr Williams, who farms in Ruthin. "This is a place of work, where people make their living and raise their families, and we want to keep it that way. Mark Isherwood, Conservative member of the Senedd representing North Wales, raised the question of lack of consultation with the Minister for Climate Change, Julie James. She told him future consultation exercises were planned to "make sure that we have as wide an engagement as possible with all of the people who live, work, play in the area."

Ms James added: "National Park status should not be to the detriment of local people. There are a number of steps we are already taking across Wales to mitigate the issues you raise, and full consultations will be part of those as the process unfolds."

Speaking in response to the Minister's statement, Mr Isherwood said:

*"To most of the public, the sound of a new National Park sounds lovely; we all love having the opportunity to go out for a walk, breathe in the fresh air, and see the wildlife. But you have to consider the impact on people who already live and work there. A lack of consultation means that people become justifiably suspicious and concerned about what might happen."*

Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neill said: "We welcome the proposals to create a new National Park in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley. When we met with Julie James earlier this year, we offered our support to work closely with Welsh Government, and advised on ensuring public voices were heard in the process. We proposed creation of an advisory panel, comprising of experts and citizens, to ensure that the designation is enriched by the knowledge, experience

## NATIONAL PARKS IN WALES - FACT FILE

- There are three National Parks in Wales - Snowdonia (established 1951), Pembrokeshire Coast (1952), and Brecon Beacons (1957).
- The largest is Snowdonia (2131 sq km/823 sq miles), followed by Brecon Beacons (1344 sq km/519 sq miles) and Pembrokeshire Coast (629 sq km/243 sq miles).
- In 1965 an unsuccessful bid for National Park status was made for the Cambrian Mountains (1209 sq km/467 sq miles).



Snowdonia, Declan Nips

and aspirations to ensure that the new Park becomes an exemplar for environment, climate and engagement."

John Roberts, Secretary of Friends of Clwydian Range and Dee Valley added: "Clearly, this is not something that's going to happen overnight and there will be a complex statutory process of negotiation and consultation to be undertaken before designation can be achieved.

*"One thing is certain, National Park status would dramatically increase the profile of the area. It's a designation that resonates with the public in a way the title AONB never has. It will bring tangible benefits to the way in which the precious landscape is managed."*

**(Read John's opinion piece for us on page 24).**

**What do you think about the plans for a new National Park in the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley? We'd love to hear from you. Please drop us a line at [info@cnp.org.uk](mailto:info@cnp.org.uk)**

# National Parks for all – the Mosaic legacy

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Over a decade since the launch of Campaign for National Parks' Mosaic initiative, we've still got some way to go to ensure National Parks are accessible for everyone. Our Campaigns and Communications Manager Laura Williams speaks to some of those from the pioneering initiative.



Walking in Yorkshire Dales © Mosaic Outdoors group

There were a few key things missing from the long-awaited Government response to the Landscapes Review (read more on pages 6-9), including enough emphasis on diversity and inclusion. Our Mosaic initiative was hailed as a great example of delivering on this by Julian Glover who authored the Review, but there is no commitment from the Government to support initiatives.

Originally launched by Campaign for National Parks in 2009, the Mosaic project was designed to encourage people who are new to National Parks to get to know and enjoy them. It was based on a successful community champion scheme and opened the doors to National Parks for thousands of people who may otherwise not have experienced them. Not only that, but it created for many a long-lasting relationship with National Parks - with many alumni working or volunteering with National Park Authorities and other National Park organisations to this day.

## YOUNG CHAMPIONS

Clare Dyson worked as a project officer for Mosaic in the Lake District National Park from 2012 - 2015. Working with Mosaic Youth Champions from disadvantaged areas in Cumbria, she helped young people to get out into their local National Park and take their peers with them. She had counterparts in Yorkshire Dales, New Forest, Northumberland and Exmoor National Parks.

"I can honestly say it was one of the best jobs I have ever had," says Clare.

*"Not only did we have an exceptional team, we also had the flexibility and freedom to design the work we did around the needs and desires of the people we worked with. It was very much led by the young people themselves and we were there to facilitate that."*

"I learnt a lot over the three years I worked on the project - how young people around the Lake District viewed the National Park as well as what appeals to them. Many of the young people I spoke with seemed to think that the



Clare Dyson

Lakes is full of 'posh, grey, nerdy people' and felt unwelcome. I like to think we were able to have a positive impact on their perceptions and show them how to have a great time in the place. When you go into the Lakes now you can see how much the outdoors has opened up to a wider audience, which is really positive.

"I am still in touch with a few of the champions and they occasionally pop up on Facebook. It's so good to see what they are up to. One of them has just become an area ranger for the Lake District National Park Authority, which is brilliant. I could never have predicted that when I first met him in Whitehaven some 8 years ago! Another lad completed a degree in forestry at the University of Cumbria and now works for an outdoor company. All maintain a connection with, and love of, the outdoors."

Clare added: "I've worked on quite a few short-term projects in my career and Mosaic Youth really stands out to me as one which I wish had continued. Young people and their engagement in and understanding of National Parks is fundamental to their future. We protect what we love and it's important that people of all ages and from all backgrounds are involved in National Parks."

## INCLUSIVITY IN THE OUTDOORS

As well as inspiring young people, the project also worked with older people from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. Since the original Mosaic

project ended, people like Mohammed Dhalech in Yorkshire Dales National Park and beyond and Yvonne Witter in the Peak District National Park have carried on the good work on the ground; and we've continued to celebrate diversity in National Parks - most recently with the launch of our National Parks: New Perspectives scheme (read more about that on page 3) - and lobby for changes including new legislation, to enshrine equality in National Parks.

Mohammed, who worked on the Mosaic project a decade ago continues to fly the flag as Chair of Mosaic Outdoors, a role he combines with his work as Equality, Diversity and inclusion Manager with Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service. He believes that Campaign for National Parks has an important role to play as a role



Mohammed Dhalech

model for the sector working in partnership with community-based organisations like Mosaic Outdoors to platform diverse voices and help address the challenges of organisational culture, representation and racism (read more about this in Mohammed's column on page 22). We agree, and will continue to pursue this as part of our ongoing work.

*"We are looking not for projects... but for systemic change in the sector - to become more inclusive. We are not looking for superficial change but a long-term change, we want more than just diversity washing. This is not about social media commitments but the work for systemic and sustainable change. Mosaic has a history and examples of work to build on. We are independent, and community-led. We have an in-depth understanding of the sector and the issues."*

"National Park Authorities have the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. They need to make Race Equality core business and not see it as a short-term project. This work needs leadership, commitment and resources and have clear KPIs which are measurable for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Mohammed said: "We all need to work collaboratively and in partnership to make the sector more inclusive. Over the pandemic, we've seen more communities and groups are accessing and enjoying the outdoors, this is great, and these groups are on a journey to engagement and connectedness to the landscapes and nature. Let us hope this continues and communities return to the National Parks, but National Park Authorities need to do a lot more to sustain that engagement. The community voices need to be in the boardrooms and be valued and recognised.

*"Without leadership and investment, we will be in the same place in years to come. For National Parks and the sector, this is a journey and like any journey it will not be smooth one, but with the leadership we will reach our destination."*

## YOUNG CHAMPION

**Adam Phillips was the first Mosaic Youth Champion in the Lake District National Park and, after going to university and spending time working in the private sector - now finds himself back where it all began working as an Area Ranger for Lake District National Park Authority.**

"I was volunteering with the conservation volunteers when Clare recruited me as the first Mosaic Youth Champion for Lake District National Park," says the now 29-year-old, "It was brilliant. I can't thank Clare and Campaign for National Parks enough. My parents split up when I was 9 and I moved from Milton Keynes to Cumbria with my mum, I dropped out of sixth form and didn't have much in terms of grades. The Job Centre said go get a job in a warehouse or Greggs or something, but I didn't want that.

"I never really had a lot of money or many opportunities but I quickly learnt that if you put enough hours into something you can make it your job, so I started volunteering in the National Park. Volunteers come from a place of passion and it just so happened mine was for National Parks and nature.

Then when I was 17 or 18, I got involved with Mosaic. Mosaic was great: for my career, personal development, making friends - it woke me up to all of that stuff from an early age. Opportunities like this don't come around often.

"I had loads of adventures! I recruited other champions across the Lake District to start with but went on to explore the five other National Parks involved. We did residential and conferences in the Yorkshire Dales and Exmoor, I did a Coast-to-Coast ride with young champions from Northumberland National Park and walked the South Downs Way. I presented a report on how all National Parks need young volunteers - not just volunteers at retirement age - and met lots of Chief Executives, including one from Yosemite National Park.

*"I'm really happy to be back at the National Park, I'm learning a lot and giving back what I've learnt. If we don't protect this amazing places, we will lose them."*



Adam in Lake District National Park





Kinder Mass Trespass group shot, © Working Class Movement Library

# BREAKING GROUND: WHY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE HEADING TO THE HILLS

Ninety years since the Kinder Scout mass trespass, a new generation of walkers are reclaiming their right to roam. New Perspectives runner-up Sally Robinson finds out more

On 24 April 1932, a group of 400 men and women, led by Benny Rothman, walked across the moorland of the Peak District, which was then the exclusive property of wealthy gamekeepers, in an act of defiance. On approaching the rocky plateau of Kinder Scout, they were confronted by gamekeepers, and scuffles ensued.

*"We ramblers, after a hard week's work, in smoky towns and cities, go out rambling for relaxation and fresh air. And we find the finest rambling country is closed to us."*

Those words, spoken 90 years ago by a young campaigner named Benny Rothman, marked a defining moment in the history of the countryside.

Rothman had grown up in inner city Manchester, the son of Romanian Jewish parents. He was an avid cyclist and hiker – records from the Working Class Movement Library show he even spent his 16th birthday climbing alone up Snowdon – and as Lancashire secretary of the British Workers Sports Federation, he regularly organised trips to the Peak District.

He was one of six protesters jailed for their actions, but the strict sentences handed out only furthered the trespassers' cause – fuelling an outpouring of public support.

## PAVING THE WAY FOR NATIONAL PARKS

The effects were far-reaching, paving the way for the right to roam movement, the creation of the first National Park in 1951, and, after decades of lobbying by campaigners, the freedom to roam over open country, written into law in 2000. It was described by former deputy leader of the Labour Party, Lord Roy Hattersley, as "the most successful direct action in British history."

Ninety years on, and the simple act of walking for pleasure is far from out of fashion.

Today, young people's walking groups are reporting a surge in interest. Instagram is awash with images of rugged mountain footpaths and sweeping views; the hashtag #hiking has 70 million posts.

But there is more to the trend than social kudos. Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, walking took on new significance.



Young people enjoy Peak District National Park by Lindley Educational Trust

## AN ESCAPE FROM THE CITY

The Manchester and District (MAD) Walkers, a young persons' group that is part of the Ramblers, has seen a recent influx of members. Oliver Cosgrove-Fearn, the Chair, explains: "Walking was one of the very few things that most people could do during the lockdowns.

I think a lot of people of all ages enjoyed walking, sometimes for the first time, and then, as restrictions eased, wanted to find a way of socialising in groups whilst also exploring areas other than their immediate localities."

That idea of social connection is something 19-year old Alishba can relate to.

*"When you're walking and talking," she says "you do get rid of all these emotions that you're bottling up or carrying with you. It feels very therapeutic."*

She grew up in inner city Manchester and discovered the countryside at 13 when a teacher introduced her to the Lindley Educational Trust, an outdoor learning charity based in the Peak District National Park, where she is now a youth worker.

She has since gone on to become Head Girl at her school, complete a Winter

Mountaineering Skills week in the Cairngorms and secure a placement with the Martin Moran Foundation, among a host of other impressive feats. But without Lindley, she says, "I wouldn't have explored this area; I wouldn't have known about it."

## BARRIERS TO ACCESS

Despite growing interest, financial, personal and cultural barriers mean the countryside is still off-limits to many young people.

A report by Natural England into the country's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 2019 found that 18% of children living in the most deprived areas never visit the natural environment at all, and as few as 6-7% of children go on school trips to the countryside.

The cost of transport and kit are often prohibitive. "There's always a financial barrier", explains Alishba, who is from a family of six. Having new gear provided by a sponsor made a considerable difference: "It gave us a motive", she says. "Before, we were a bit funny about going into the outdoors in our own clothes; what if people look at us and are like, 'they're not even in the right gear, what are they doing here?'"

Lack of knowledge and not having anyone to go with can also stop young people taking to the trails. The MAD Walkers offer a 'buddy system' for those trying out the activity for the first time; "we know it can be a bit daunting", says Cosgrove-Fearn.

Cultural differences too can be a factor. Alishba comes from a South Asian background and believes awareness among parents is key. At Lindley, she runs family residential trips to give parents an insight into the outdoors. "If they don't know about it, they're not going to see it as anything worth doing."

Statistics show that just 1% of visitors to National Parks are from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds. The barriers are complicated, but research has found that feeling excluded and fear of discrimination play a part.

## NATIONAL PARKS FOR ALL

There are signs of new shoots. Groups such as Wanderlust Women (see page 3), Black Girls Hike, Muslim Hikers and the Ashton Hiking Group, a spin-off of Lindley's youth project, are seeking to readdress the balance and are growing in popularity. And campaigners are striving



Alishba on the Isle of Skye by Ryan Lomas

to push the issue of unequal access up the agenda. But the UK has a long way to go before its open spaces are truly open to all.

For Alishba, her sights are set high. Up next is her Climbing Wall Instructor badge and possibly a Mountain Leader qualification. So, what does walking mean to her? "It's one of the best forms to express yourself and to be yourself as well."

It is a sentiment that would ring true with those who forged a path into the countryside 90 years ago - and all those who continue to do so today.

## KINDER'S LEGACY

**Campaign for National Parks' Trustee Kate Ashbrook, also a trustee for Ramblers, reflects on the anniversary of the Kinder trespass and where we find ourselves today...**

Although the rambling movement did not back the Kinder trespass in 1932, it has come to recognise this as an important step in the long and continuing campaign for access to open country. The 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act offered only limited access in the form of agreements or orders to be negotiated by local authorities. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 gave us a right to walk on registered common land and on officially-mapped mountain, moor, heath, and down: this made a big difference in the Yorkshire Dales National Park but little difference on the South Downs, as the mapping was unsatisfactory.

Consequently, the Glover Review urged government to look seriously at whether the levels of open access in protected landscapes were adequate. The Westminster Government's response is a cop out, it proposes nothing new.

Instead, Government is undermining access. The sinister Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill is set to extend trespass as a criminal offence, penalising travelling communities, and catching innocent wild campers in its net. It cracks down on our rights of peaceful protest—such as the Kinder trespass. It is likely to foster a new mood of hostility in the countryside,

emboldening landowners to keep us out.

Where next then for access? At the very least the Westminster and Welsh Governments should seize the opportunities offered by the new agricultural-funding regimes to pay for more and better access. We could test this first in our National Parks, where the authorities are well tuned to public access—although of course they will need more resources for this and a boost to the excellent ranger services.

The ninetieth anniversary of the Kinder Trespass is the moment to galvanise public support for greater access, to build a movement, and to campaign for our freedoms.



## NEW LEGISLATION NEEDED TO ENSURE NATIONAL PARKS FOR ALL

The Kinder trespass was one of the events that led to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which was hailed as a 'People's Charter for the Open Air'. Today, it's more important than ever that Government in England and Wales rekindle this spirit, setting out a new

'People's Charter' to transform National Parks in the national interest for health, equality, climate and nature. This is why we are campaigning for new legislation and public investment in new long-term programmes to increase access, tackle inequality and enhance diversity, building on experiences like Mosaic to widen participation and ensure this agenda is prioritised in policies and institutions.

**Will you join us in our mission? By supporting us via The Big Give from 22-29 April 2022, you will enable us to do more to achieve this goal (see pages 26-27 for details).**



# NATIONAL PARKS: NEW PERSPECTIVES

As the Government considers the future of National Parks, we asked children aged 6 and 7 from Wicor Primary School between the South Downs and New Forest National Parks what's important to them...

Erin

National Parks are important because they protect animals. In National Parks we see sheep, lakes, walk my dog, horses, buses, green grass, we play, sing to our friends.

Lauren

1-3-22

National Parks are so important for you. In National Parks you can see horses, dogs, and birds. National Parks are where you can picnic, sing, climb, and have a picnic with your family.

Sabi

National Parks are beautiful. There are many animals in danger but the people make a nice place for the animals to live in. I would like to see more wildlife and not animals. You will see horses, pussins, and sheep. You will also see hills, grasslands, mountains, and lakes. My favourite thing is to have a camp.

Wendy

## NATIONAL PARKS!

National parks are so great and I think you can see ponies, birds and places so busy. My favourite thing to do is to have a picnic with my family. And I would like to see more horses!!

Alana



National parks are beautiful and good for the natural world. National parks have things in a horse, birds, sheep and my favourite thing is to do in a National park is to swim.

AUSTIN



National Parks have horses, birds and sheep. National Park has waterfalls, National Park look as if you are in a forest. I like to walk in National Park. I can swim in National Park. I would like more pigs.

Alicia

National Parks



National Parks are important and you can see horses, sheep and birds and animals. They are perfect and they are safe and they have a thing to animals. You can walk, cycle, swim, watch birds.



National Parks are very important because if you cut a tree you are destroying animals. In National Parks you can see ponies, kangaroos and swans.

My favourite thing is fishing.

Mia



National Parks are so important for animals. They have been cut and don't have a home. It is important for nature. In National Parks you can see trees, sheep, birds, horses and sheep. In National Parks you can do long walks with family and I would like more animals and nature to be in National Parks!

"The children absolutely loved learning about National Parks and really understood the important role they play." - Miss Harvey, Class 2H Wicor Primary School, Hampshire. Drawings and text by Sebi, Mia, Alana, Berry, Austin, Alicia, Olivia, Evelyn and Joe.

# POINTS OF VIEW



By Mohammed Dhalech, Chair of Mosaic Outdoors

## BELONGING AND LANDSCAPES – RACIAL EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVITY

When I began my outdoors journey back in the 80's working for the Youth Service in Gloucestershire, I noticed the limited engagement from Ethnic Minority communities, either as users or working in the sector. This was when I started talking about underrepresentation and this was followed in 2000 by the rural white paper and the then Countryside Agencies Diversity Review published in 2005.

The work on inclusivity in the outdoors has been on the agenda since the 80's, a number of us e.g. Judy Ling Wong (Black Environment Network) have been active in this field. More recently in an article by travel writer Faraz Shibli, where he argues the need to widen the outdoors to ethnic minorities and other underrepresented groups and a need to rethink the right to roam, particularly important this year with the 90th anniversary of the mass trespass on Kinder Scout.

In 2019 DEFRA published the Landscapes Review by Julian Glover, which highlights;

“Many communities in modern Britain feel that these landscapes hold no relevance for them. The countryside is seen by both black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and white people as very much a ‘white’ environment. If that is true today, then the divide is only going to widen as society changes. Our countryside will end up being irrelevant to the country that actually exists.”

### THREE CHALLENGES:

**Organisational culture:** The sector needs to address its internal culture, and organisations need to start the journey to inclusivity, from governance and senior leadership through to volunteers.

Inclusivity should be a core business activity, not a short-term time-limited initiative based on short-term funding. Glover points out the reluctance by landscape bodies to talk about diversity: “And we have found interest, rather than a burning desire to change, when we have discussed diversity...This is unsurprising; as we set out later, the lack of diversity among those governing the bodies looking after our national landscapes is extremely narrow. They are almost all white, almost all male and many are retired. It is not surprising their priorities can seem alien to many.”

**Representation:** Many organisations in the sector look at representation only from the user/visitor perspective, “access” in its narrowest definition and place very little emphasis on inclusivity. This needs to change to represent the wider sector and organisations within governance and leadership. Communities need to see themselves represented at all levels within the sector, again as Glover highlights in the Landscape's Review: “National Park Authorities ... shockingly, they have only 0.9% representation of black, Asian and minority ethnic members.” From my own research, which I carried out in March 2021, I noticed that there is a very similar picture of underrepresentation in the national outdoor and environmental not-for-profit sector.

**Racism:** Individuals and organisations all have a responsibility to tackle racism in the sector and to call it out and act proactively to address it. Many over the years have not been proactive and have stayed silent, which does not help to address the challenges we have in the sector.

Unless we address these three significant challenges, we will not move forward. To advance this work we all need to collaborate and work in partnership - based on equal partnership between communities and groups, recently Mosaic Outdoors and partners delivered a series of webinars on Inclusivity in the OUTdoors in 2021 (read more about the Mosaic legacy on pages 16-17).

Race Equality in the Outdoors is to facilitate inclusion for all communities so that they can enjoy the outdoors safely

and have a voice and be heard and be partners in the change process. Many organisations talk about underrepresentation, let's look at this differently, communities are underserved by organisations.

This work is important to change the sector, so that it is inclusive to all communities and that communities can connect with the landscapes peacefully and without experiencing racism. The sector needs to demonstrate leadership and commitment to inclusivity and work on this as part of its core business and not just “Diversity Washing” initiatives, which unfortunately the case.

There has been enough research, it is now time for real and demonstrable action and change. Ethnic minority communities need to be around those tables where decisions are made and where our contributions and lived experiences are respected and valued. The journey needs to start now (should have started many years ago) - and with commitment and resources from the leaders that this work needs.

*My vision for the future is that the sector is at the forefront of inclusivity. The pandemic has provided an opportunity to reset the way we think and do things. Let us take this opportunity and make a difference for the future generations and the landscapes, which belong to us all and start this journey of change.*





Sir Gary Streeter  
MP (Chair of the  
All Party  
Parliamentary  
Group for National  
Parks)

## THE LANDSCAPES REVIEW RESPONSE – THE TIME IS NOW

It is remarkable to think it took a global pandemic for people's interest in nature and the great outdoors to significantly increase. According to Natural England, between April 2020 and March 2021, 40% of adults completing their People and Nature survey agreed that since the pandemic started, 'Nature/wildlife is more important than ever to my wellbeing'.

Our National Parks have often been described as the lungs of the country. And never more so than when we flocked to visit them when our immediate world shrunk and severe limits were put on how far we could travel under Covid-19 restrictions. Living on the edge of Dartmoor National Park had never seemed more fortuitous for me and my family.

The publication of the Landscapes Review could not have come at a better time. Setting out new ambitions for the ongoing role of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in enhancing wellbeing and driving nature recovery as the public's engagement with and enjoyment of these valuable green spaces has grown seems like perfect timing.

But we need to make the right decisions from this moment on. Although I do not want to see any national imposition on local decision-making as Glover suggested, I do think National Park Authorities would benefit from a broader base to their governance including more experts in landscape recovery and biodiversity. It is interesting that recent surveys suggest that even within National Parks wildlife needs a boost to help reverse its well-mapped decline. Perhaps we need to recognise that the threat of development on National Parks

in 1949 has been well defended against. The new threat is habitat and wildlife decline and we need to find new ways to tackle this.

The current National Parks consultation and review combined with the new Environment Act and the introduction of Environmental and Land Management Schemes affords us that opportunity.

The ambition for National Parks to be leaders in nature recovery chimes well with their post-war creation to promote physical and spiritual refreshment as the country recovered from the horrors of the Second World War. The proposals in the Landscape Review would enable us to do something equally significant.



Terry Marsden  
(Chair of the  
Alliance for Welsh  
Designated  
Landscapes,  
writing here in a  
personal capacity)

## TIME FOR NEW DESIGNATIONS AND REVISED PURPOSES FOR LANDSCAPES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

In Wales, two potential new designations merit particular attention. The Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB is currently proposed by Welsh Government for National Park status, and is under independent review by Natural Resources Wales. In addition, the Cambrian Mountains is a very longstanding proposal for similar designation with considerable stakeholder support. This remains unfinished business from the last century, when the Cambrian Mountains National Park (Designation) Order remained unconfirmed.

The Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes is very supportive of strengthening the designated status of these two areas. The Alliance brings together the societies for the national

parks and AONBs in Wales, and collaborates closely with Campaign for National Parks.

At the same time, the Westminster government is consulting on its proposals following the Glover review, proposing revisions to the purposes for National Parks and AONBs. These are not unlike the proposals that were made under the Marsden review in 2015, and it now suggests that in both England and Wales a careful and serious discussion needs to be enacted which leads to modifications in purposes along the lines of both the Glover and Marsden reports. Let us take these two developments in turn.

Progressing both potential designations in Wales is necessary given the need to protect unique and highly valued landscapes and to conserve and renew their bio-diversity and cultural heritage. This comes at a time when there are now a multitude of combined threats to these landscapes: pending changes in land use, climate change, infrastructure developments, and urbanisation. In addition, COVID has demonstrated the enhanced value of these landscapes both for human wellbeing, health and renewal. As a result these landscapes need improved institutional and coordinating capacity in developing more effective and legally-binding management and strategic plans for their areas. This is something that existing designated landscapes are progressing.

In addition, there is a real danger that 'landscape' conservation and protection, as an active and dynamic process, becomes sidelined. This could arise as general planning policies and changes in farming and forestry policies attempt to manage the twin challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and growing urban demand for 'environmental goods and services'. Under current post-Brexit proposals, for instance, landscape protection and conservation tends to engender less policy support compared to land use and climate change concerns.

That is also why, at the same time, the revision of designated landscape purposes is now long overdue. After the

# POINTS OF VIEW

Marsden review (2015) the Welsh Government decided not to touch the existing purposes, either by aligning them more closely between NPAs and AONBs, or in revising and extending the legal duties to include health and economic wellbeing, as well as retaining and refreshing the first ('Sandford') duty to protect, conserve and where necessary renew their landscapes. This now needs to be urgently re-assessed in the light of developments and pressures since 2015; and in the context of consistent messages coming from Glover and now DEFRA on proposals.

Such proposals for review of purposes and of new designations more specifically may cause discomfort and unease for some who wish to protect the status quo, or who are concerned that such moves could 'open the flood gates' for more amenity, access, or indeed unnecessary forms of development. In Wales we have the Well-Being and Future Generations Act, into which such changes should be marshalled, assessed and deliberated. Also we should 'get on' with these processes in a careful, consultative, but expeditious manner setting realistic time lines for the revisions to purposes and the establishment of the new designations. Otherwise, the landscapes we so much treasure could be lost literally under 'our feet'; and the very public status of a landscape perspective diluted.

**Thank you to all our contributors, including Helen for the translation. The views are those of contributors and not necessarily of Campaign for National Parks. 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!**



By John Roberts  
(Secretary of the Friends of Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, writing here in a personal capacity)

## A NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR NORTH-EAST WALES

Hopefully, it's not longer if but when! What was once just a distant dream for those of us who love and value the wonderful landscape of the Clwydian Range and the Dee Valley, not to mention the special countryside in between, now find it's become official Welsh Government policy. First put forward in the ruling party's Senedd election manifesto, the mandate provided by the nation in May 2021 has given the proposal the green light, but we are still eagerly awaiting further details. The plan's been warmly welcomed by AONB Officer Howard Sutcliffe and his team who see it as a recognition of all the hard work they've put in to make the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley such a successful operation.

Clearly, this is not something that's going to happen overnight and there will be a complex statutory process of negotiation

and consultation to be undertaken before designation can be achieved. One early consideration will be exactly what area the new National Park should include. Initial indications are that the current AONB will form the basis of the new designation, but it would be small by national park standards and there are other adjacent landscapes of major significance which will surely merit consideration for inclusion.

These should include a much greater area of the northern Berwyn, a haven of peace and tranquillity (Moel Fferna and its surrounds are already part of the AONB) and perhaps Hiraethog; The Ceiriog Valley, so nearly included in the AONB as part of the Dee Valley extension, also merits a relook.

One thing is certain, national park status would dramatically increase the profile of the area. It's a designation that resonates with the public in a way the title AONB never has. It will bring tangible benefits to the way in which the precious landscape is managed. National Parks are resourced at a considerably higher level than AONB's and this will make a very significant difference, particularly at a time when visitor numbers to key sites in both the Clwydian Range and the Dee Valley are at record levels.

The current AONB team do a marvellous job on limited resources compared to their national park colleagues. With the



Clwydian Range and Dee Valley by John Roberts



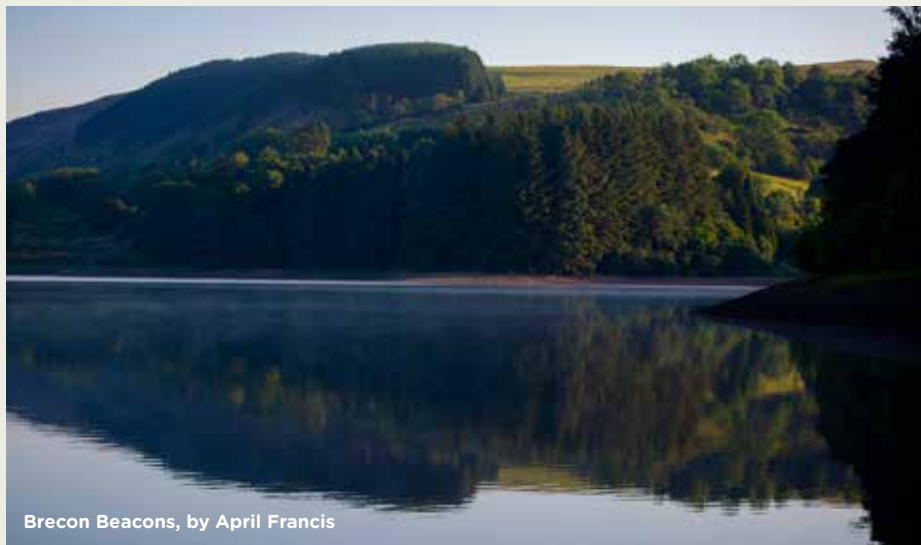
growing expectation to deliver on challenging targets in terms of biodiversity and sustainability against the background of accelerating climate change, the additional funding would be a real game changer. Of course, there would be added pressures on the landscape which would go hand in hand with this raised profile, but the much greater human and financial resources available would ensure that these could be more effectively met.

There will also be a huge boost to the sustainability of communities within the designated area and for tourism related businesses operating within it. North Wales already has an enviable reputation as a destination of choice but the north-east is relatively less well known to those from further afield. The proposal will encourage an already strong business community and create more local job opportunities. Land management, farming and forestry can also benefit. Let's hope the expected detail emerges sooner rather than later, now that the way forward has been so clearly waymarked.

Interesting times ahead for the gentler face of north Wales – we'll be keeping a close eye on developments!

## PARC CENEDLAETHOL AR GYFER GOGLEDD-DDWYRAIN CYMRU?

Gobeithio, nid yw bellach yn os ond pryd! Yr hyn a fu unwaith yn freuddwyd bell i'r rhai ohonom sy'n caru ac yn gwerthfawrogi tirwedd hyfryd Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy, heb sôn am y cefn gwlad arbennig rhyngddynt, bellach yn gweld ei fod wedi dod yn bolisi swyddogol gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Wedi'i roi gerbron gyntaf ym Maniffesto Etholiad y Senedd y blaid sy'n rheoli, mae'r mandad a ddarparwyd gan y genedl ym mis Mai 2021 wedi rhoi'r golau gwyrdd i'r cynnig, ond rydym yn dal i aros yn eiddgar am ragor o fanylion. Mae'r cynllun wedi cael croeso cynnes gan Swyddog AHNE Howard Sutcliffe a'i



Brecon Beacons, by April Francis

dîm sy'n ei weld fel cydnabyddiaeth o'r holl waith caled y maent wedi'i wneud i greu trefniant llwyddiannus ar gyfer Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy.

Yn amlwg, nid yw hyn yn rhywbeth sy'n mynd i ddigwydd dros nos a bydd proses statudol gymhleth o negodi ac ymgynghori i'w chynnal cyn y gellir cyflawni ydynodiad. Un ystyriaeth gynnar fydd yn union pa ardal y dylai'r Parc Cenedlaethol newydd ei chynnwys. Mae'r arwyddion cychwynnol yn dangos y bydd yr AHNE presennol yn sail i'r dynodiad newydd, ond byddai'n fach yn ôl safonau'r parciau cenedlaethol ac mae tirweddau cyfagos eraill o bwys mawr a fydd yn sicr o haeddu ystyriaeth i'w cynnwys. Dylai'r rhain gynnwys ardal lawer ehangach o ogledd y Berwyn, hafan o heddwch a llonyddwch (mae Moel Fferna a'r cyffiniau eisoes yn rhan o'r AHNE) ac efallai Hiraethog; Mae Dyffryn Ceiriog, sydd bron wedi'i gynnwys yn yr AHNE fel rhan o estyniad Dyffryn Dyfrdwy, hefyd yn haeddu cael ei ystyried.

Mae un peth yn sicr, byddai statws parc cenedlaethol yn codi proffil yr ardal yn aruthrol. Mae'n ddynodiad sy'n taro gyda'r cyhoedd mewn ffordd nad yw'r teitl AHNE erioed wedi cyrraedd. Bydd yn dod â buddion i'r ffordd y caiff y dirwedd werthfawr yma ei rheoli. Mae gan Barciau Cenedlaethol adnoddau ar lefel sydd yn fwy sylweddol nag AHNE a bydd hyn yn gwneud gwahaniaeth, yn enwedig ar adeg pan fo nifer yr

ymwelwyr â safleoedd allweddol ym Mryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy wedi cyrraedd y lefelau uchaf erioed.

Mae tîm presennol yr AHNE yn gwneud gwaith gwych ar adnoddau cyfyngedig o gymharu â'u cydweithwyr yn y parciau cenedlaethol. Gyda'r disgwyliad cynyddol i gyflawni targedau heriol o ran bioamrywiaeth a chynaliadwyedd yn erbyn cefndir o gyflymu newid yn yr hinsawdd, byddai'r cyllid ychwanegol yn newid mawr. Wrth gwrs, byddai pwysau ychwanegol ar y dirwedd a fyddai'n mynd law yn llaw â'r proffil uwch hwn, ond byddai'r adnoddau dynol ac ariannol llawer mwy sydd ar gael yn sicrhau y gellid cwrdd â'r rhain yn fwy effeithiol.

Bydd hwb enfawr hefyd i gynaliadwyedd cymunedau o fewn yr ardal ddynodedig ac i fusnesau sy'n ymwneud â thwristiaeth sy'n gweithredu oddi mewn iddi. Mae gan Ogledd Cymru eisoes enw rhagorol fel cyrchfan o ddewis ond mae'r gogledd-ddwyrain yn gymharol llai adnabyddus i'r rhai o ymhellach i ffwrdd. Bydd y cynnig yn annog cymuned fusnes sydd eisoes yn gryf ac yn creu mwy o gyfleoedd gwaith lleol. Gall rheoli tir, ffermio a choedwigaeth elwa hefyd. Gobeithio y daw'r manylion disgwyliedig i'r amlwg yn gynt yn hytrach nag yn hwyrach, nawr bod y ffordd ymlaen wedi'i chyfeirio mor glir.

Amseroedd difyr o'n blaenau ar gyfer wyneb tyner gogledd Cymru – byddwn yn cadw llygad barcud ar ddatblygiadau!



# Save our National Parks:

Our National Parks have been there for us at our time of need, now we must stand up for them. Join our campaign to make these landscapes wilder, climate resilient and welcoming to everyone. Share your story to help inspire the Government to give National Parks the protection and investment they need.

As a small, independent charity, we rely on your support to champion National Parks and help ensure they're delivering more for people, nature and climate. **By donating to Campaign for National Parks from 22 - 29 April 2022 via The Big Give, your gift will be match-funded at no extra cost to you - meaning your donation is worth twice as much to us.**

Your generous donations to our first Big Give campaign last year allowed us to launch the National Parks: New Perspectives scheme, supporting 10 young storytellers to share their stories from National Parks across England and Wales. This year, we've doubled the target and will be using the funds to further amplify diverse voices, inspire others and lobby Government to do more for protected landscapes.

Find out more at: [bit.ly/CNPBGG](https://bit.ly/CNPBGG)

## Jessica Davison, our first young ambassador, shares her story...

For as long as I can remember I've appreciated being out in nature. My local National Park is Northumberland National Park. It is beautiful, enchanting and the least frequented National Park in the UK. The tranquillity I feel in the Cheviot Hills is incomparable. It is a place where I feel most alive and where I'm able to disconnect from reality.

I find that these protected landscapes allow you to gain perspective. Each National Park I have visited has its own individual character, all being as enticing as each other, however I will always favour venturing to my local one as it's my favourite (but I'm biased).

Our National Parks are for everyone and always should be. Improvement to public transport routes, connecting our urban areas to our National Parks, is integral to allowing everybody to enjoy them. There should also be increased emphasis put upon encouraging everyone to enjoy National Parks regardless of their background. Their benefits to our wellbeing should be inclusive, and experienced by all.

We need to work together to ensure our National Parks are cared for and are even more protected. They should be at the epicentre of tackling the climate crisis. They are an asset to our communities; providing escapism and inspiration. They are an ecosystem on which we depend.



Young Ambassador Jessica Davison in Northumberland National Park



# Share your story

## Laura Williams, our Campaign and Communications Manager, shares her story...

Growing up on the Dorset coast, I was spoilt by stunning beaches, the rugged cliffs and rolling hills of the Purbecks. That pull of the ocean remains strong and, as I come up to almost 15 years living in Bristol, I am trying to find a way back. Just up the road from Dorset was the New Forest - which was yet to become a National Park when I was exploring it in the 1990s. I've spent many a day exploring the forest since.

I remember my first visit to a National Park was during a family holiday to Minehead. We ventured into Exmoor, it was like another world. Rolling hills and deep valleys, with winding rivers and big rock formations. Perfect for a kid with a big imagination. Growing up in a single parent family with limited funds, I was lucky enough to get up to the Lake District a couple of times too - the perfect blend of nature and culture with that compelling connection between landscape and literature. Becoming one of the first girls in Dorset allowed into the Scouts solidified my love of adventure, climbing trees, caving and orienteering.

When I secured a place at the University of York, I joined Outdoor Soc and started exploring North York Moors National Park too. It was a landscape unlike any I'd ever experienced before, huge and stark in places with a deep sense of history surrounding you. I went on to enjoy many summer weekends in the Brecon Beacons and got to explore Dartmoor a bit while working for the National Trust.

National Parks have been a significant part of my journey over the years and for the past couple, since joining Campaign for National Parks, a much bigger part. My love and respect for them has grown and I'm truly blessed to be part of this team leading a movement of people to protect and improve National Parks.



## ONE DONATION, TWICE THE IMPACT

Please donate to our spring appeal via The Big Give website between 22 and 29 April if you can, where they'll match your donation. It means that a donation of £10 is worth £20 to us - there's never been a better time, or way, to donate. If you're on social media, please join us as we share people's stories about what National Parks mean to them - we invite you to share yours too. Together, we can push for the changes needed to ensure National Parks deliver more for people, nature and climate. Thank you.



# 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.



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