

VIEWPOINT

CAMPAIGN WIN
New nature law for National Parks

**NATIONAL PARK
PROTECTOR AWARDS 2023**
Championing protectors at our
biggest ceremony yet

NEW DAWN FOR WILD CAMPING
What the win for Dartmoor could
mean for the future of wild camping

NEW PERSPECTIVES
Community in Pembrokeshire
Coast National Park

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Cover image of Peak District by Kieran Metcalfe; discover more of his work at kieranmetcalfephotography.co.uk

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WELCOME

It's been quite a summer here at Campaign for National Parks. **We recently celebrated a huge campaigning win** which saw Government introduce an important amendment: the biggest step forward in laws protecting National Parks in almost 30 years (read more on page 3). A personal highlight for me were my first **National Park Protector Awards** (see pages 8-13). A huge effort from the whole team paid off in what was our biggest and best event in Parliament yet. I have also been fortunate enough to visit many of our National Parks over the last few months. Seeing these spaces firsthand and different projects in action has been a joy and reminder of how precious these landscapes are and why our work is so important.

Coming towards the end of my first year at Campaign for National Parks has made me reflect on the huge variety of work we've undertaken and supported. It was a privilege to be part of the recent win for nature (pages 3-5) and now looking towards the future after the **wild camping appeal win in Dartmoor** (pages 14-15). We've also launched the last projects from the first round of our **New Perspectives bursary scheme**. These young people have blown me away with their creativity and produced work that has allowed us to gain insight into experiences and points of view that are so valuable and worth shouting about, from Liz's article on sustainable communities in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (pages 16-19), to Saira's portrait of the South Downs National Park (page 20).

It's full steam ahead to 2024 when we'll be celebrating the **75th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949** – one of the first milestones in the history of our organisation. There will be lots of ways to celebrate and get involved, so keep your eyes peeled on your emails and our social media. Until then I hope you enjoy this issue of *Viewpoint*.

Harriet Gardiner
Senior Communications Officer



Harriet (2nd from left) with the team in front of the Houses of Parliament this July

NEWS



Harvest mice, Harriet Gardiner

MAJOR WIN FOR NATURE AND COMMUNITIES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN ENGLAND

In September Government finally responded to our long-running campaign for new laws to ensure that National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) can deliver more for nature. As a direct result of our campaign, Government tabled a law in Parliament to introduce an important amendment to the Levelling Up Bill which will require public bodies such as water companies, Forestry England, Transport Authorities and local government to deliver for National Parks.

This is incredibly welcome news, which comes after months of delays and U-turns which have been chipping away at the protections for these precious areas. *You can read more about our efforts in the House of Lords and why they're so important on pages 6–7.*

We've been delighted with the support shown from all political parties in raising the plight of nature in National Parks, forcing the Government to take this issue seriously. We're determined to keep up the momentum ahead of the election next year to secure everything National Parks need to combat the nature and climate emergencies. You can add your voice online at cnp.org.uk/national-parks-for-nature

WHY IS THIS WIN SO IMPORTANT FOR NATURE?

This change in law means that public bodies such as water companies, Forestry England, Transport Authorities and local government are required to consider how every decision they take will further the conservation and enhancement of wildlife, natural beauty, cultural heritage and public enjoyment. It also means that they must contribute towards delivering key Government objectives including the commitment to protect 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030.

While this is a massive step forward, we need action from everyone to ensure the new laws are enforced and to help us continue to call for the wider legislative reform that is needed for nature in our Protected Landscapes. **You can help us save National Parks for nature by supporting our appeal on pages 26–27.**



Heather in Chapel Common, South Downs

NEWS

NEW TO NATURE

In July, Lily Whitmarsh joined us as our new Campaigns Assistant. She will be supporting our work across communications, campaigns and policy, fundraising, and youth projects.

Reflecting on her experience in the role so far, Lily said: "I'm thrilled to join the Campaign for National Parks team and to have this opportunity through New to Nature. As someone without a background in the nature sector, I've really been thrown in at the deep end attending an event in Westminster on my second day and contributing to every aspect of our work. I've thoroughly enjoyed the placement so far and I'm looking forward to what's coming up next year."

The New to Nature traineeship scheme led by Groundwork UK provides young people from diverse backgrounds with 12-month paid placements in the environmental sector.



Lily in the Lake District

PEAK DISTRICT RESERVOIR PLANS THWARTED

We celebrated with Friends of the Peak District (CPRE-PDSY) and others in July, when Severn Trent Water were forced to quit their plans to construct a major new reservoir in the Upper Derwent Valley in the heart of the Peak District.

This is a great campaign success safeguarding one of the last wildernesses in the Peak District.

However, the threat hasn't completely gone away, as the water company has not ruled out proposing more major infrastructure in the decades ahead. It's clear that concreting over the river valley to create a new reservoir would be disastrous for nature and lead to years of noise, traffic and closure of public access in what is currently a remote and peaceful location. We'll be continuing to keep an eye on the water company's plans so we can ensure this never happens.

NEXT STEPS TOWARDS FOURTH NATIONAL PARK IN WALES

People are encouraged to mark their calendars as Natural Resources Wales announces the dates of a series of online and in-person engagement events where they can have their say on an initial Area of Search map for a proposed new National Park in North East Wales. An initial Area of Search includes the Dee Valley, the Clwydian Range and the Berwyn Mountains.

These are exciting next steps towards a new National Park based on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); more information on the events can be found on the Natural Resources Wales website.

Main image: Barn in the Yorkshire Dales



PREVENTING A PLANNING FREE-FOR-ALL IN ENGLAND

The Government has recently consulted on proposals to remove the need for planning permission when converting barns and other rural buildings in National Parks. If they go ahead,

Government's disastrous planning free-for-all would blight our National Parks and do nothing to deliver much needed affordable housing.

We secured an exemption for National Parks when similar proposals were first suggested in 2014 and have objected strongly to these latest changes. These proposals will completely undermine the Government's aim that Protected Landscapes should play an important role in recovering nature and contributing towards meeting the international commitment to protect 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030 (the 30x30 target).

We have written to the Secretary of State on this and have recently had a letter published in the *Telegraph* sharing our deep concerns.

NATIONAL MARINE PARKS

We have been working with Blue Marine Foundation to produce guidance on creating National Marine Parks. We think there's huge potential to extend designations to the marine environment in existing Parks (like Pembrokeshire or New Forest) and to create new ones, in places like Dorset, to maximise wildlife and natural beauty protections on land, coast and sea. We were delighted to launch the guidance with Parliamentarians and talk to politicians from England, Wales and Scotland about how they could back National Marine Parks at the next election.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE GENERAL ELECTION AND A UK NEW GOVERNMENT IN 2024

With the next Westminster election approaching, this summer in Parliament we launched our top-line manifesto asks, entitled *Wildier National Parks for All*. We're demanding that the political parties commit to an ambitious programme at the next election to transform our National Parks for the benefit of nature, climate and people.

We're calling for rapid nature recovery of National Parks, including new legislation and a pay rise to promote nature-friendly farming. We also want to see a new deal for National Parks with more investment, green job opportunities, and an expansion of the National Park networks, including the creation of the first National Marine Park. National Parks belong to the nation, so we're calling for every young person to spend a night under the stars, trials for more backpack camping, and new powers to ensure everyone can access these amazing places. You can read more about our election asks and how you can get involved at cnp.org.uk/our-manifesto

OVER £13,000 RAISED FOR EQUAL NATIONAL PARKS

Thank you to our Friends and supporters who donated generously to The Big Give Green Match Fund appeal this spring. Over £13,300 was raised to go towards our work to ensure that National Parks are for everyone. Because of you, we can continue to break down barriers for inclusive National Parks.

This winter there will be another chance to double your donation at no extra cost, this time for nature in National Parks. Visit pages 26–27 to find out more.

Where is the voice for nature in Protected Landscapes?

Professor Baroness Kathy Willis CBE on what drives her to fight for nature in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Professor Baroness Kathy Willis CBE

Two years ago, I applied to join the House of Lords for one of the original Tony Blair's 'People's Peer' positions. And last July I was elected after a long and detailed selection process. I did so because from a personal scientific perspective and as Professor of Biodiversity in the University of Oxford, I had an increasing sense of frustration that, despite often clear scientific evidence showing alarming declines in important habitats, species, populations and communities, at stages of legislation nature seems to lose its voice. This is not to say that there aren't many excellent Peers and MPs fighting for nature – but when new housing, road building, forestry plantations and resource extraction are all clamouring to be seen as special and exceptional cases for land-use change, and with strong lobbying forces behind them, voices for nature are simply being drowned out. This is certainly the case for nature in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). I therefore decided to add my voice from a scientific perspective to this debate. And it has certainly been a busy year – not least with amendments going through in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill to update the statutory purposes and powers of National Parks in England.

These iconic landscapes carry a special place in most people's hearts. You only have to mention the Lake District, the Peak District, or the Chilterns AONB – all places I have visited this summer

– and people wax lyrical about them. I do too. But, and this is a large but, what most people don't appreciate is these apparent green and pleasant landscapes are rapidly becoming the equivalent to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. They are spaces becoming devoid of songbirds, bees, and butterflies, while rivers are drying up from over-extraction of the water and becoming so polluted with nitrates and phosphates that nothing can survive in them. The data on this is clear. For example, in National Parks only 26% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest are in a favourable condition compared to 33% nationally. Similarly, many of the rivers in National Parks are falling well below any acceptable standards. For example, in the Peak District, the River Dove, one of the most scenic rivers in the area, recently has just 6% of its surface waters classified as meeting good ecological status. And in the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons), 27 sections of the River Wye missed pollution targets last year as a result of agricultural runoff and sewage into the rivers.

Unlike in Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, this damage is not occurring as a result of over-use of chemicals (DDT in this case) but rather by weak planning legislation within National Parks. Currently, all public bodies and organisations providing public services, such as National Highways, local authorities and water and forestry companies, have a duty to 'have regard'

to National Park purposes via Section 62 of the 1995 Environment Act. This 'have regard' is the weakest form of duty that can be imposed, as it requires only that there must be some consideration of the statutory purposes, not that any weight needs to be given to those purposes. In practice, it most often means 'have regard and then move on'.

So, what does this mean on the ground? This means we are seeing planning permission given for roads, stone quarrying, forestry plantations, housebuilding and potash mines within National Parks and AONBs, because the environmental impact is thought to be small compared to the economic or other social gains. I would go as far as to say there are examples of this sort of land-use change and degradation of the natural environment for other purposes occurring in every single National Park and AONB in the country at present.


Let me give just a couple of examples. In the past few years, we have seen permissions for building major new roads bordering on the edge of National Parks or even through the middle of AONBs, including the A27 bypass on the boundary of the South Downs, the A47 link road just outside the Peak District and the A66 Northern-Trans Pennine, which runs through the middle of the North Pennines AONB. Also, of the 17% of land in National Parks that is forested, a third is monodominant plantations. Within Northumberland

National Park, for example, conifer plantations and shelter belts cover approximately 19,800 hectares; many of these being managed by the Government's own Forestry England. Why are monodominant plantations a problem? Because they are really bad for biodiversity. For example, a recent scientific analysis of 338 plantations sites across Europe, and their impact on plants, animals and micro-organisms, found that species richness and abundance was significantly lower, and they stored significantly less organic carbon in the soils.

So, what can we do about this? This is where changes in legislation can and do make a difference. And it is why Lord John Randall and others, including myself, have been pushing for an amendment in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill to provide nature with a stronger voice at the table when decisions are being made. After months of campaigning the Government finally agreed to put forward their own proposals in response to the amendment, delivering more effective National Park Management Plans for nature recovery and placing stronger duties on public bodies, like water companies, to contribute to the delivery of these Plans.

This is fantastic news, but there is still much work to be done. If we have any hope of achieving the targets for nature set out in the Environment Act 2021 and the commitment to reverse the dreadful declines we are currently seeing in nature in the UK (remember we are now at the bottom of the leaderboard in terms of declines), then it is essential that we secure new powers for nature recovery, including a clear strategic purpose for National Parks to protect and enhance nature. We must all be shouting louder about why nature is important not just as a beautiful thing to look at, but also because of all the critical ecosystem services it provides, from pollination to soil erosion protection, clean water, fresh air and important landscapes for mental and physical well-being. Never more so than in our National Parks and AONBs.

Main image: Mam Tor Ridge in the Peak District, Lauren Simmonds



"We must all be shouting louder about why nature is important not just as a beautiful thing to look at, but also because of all the critical ecosystem services it provides"



National Park Protector Award nominees in front of the Houses of Parliament

National Park Protector Awards 2023

This summer we returned to the Houses of Parliament once again to celebrate individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond in our Parks and to show Government why National Parks are vital to people and nature in the UK. Senior Communications Officer Harriet Gardiner explains...





As guests wind their way through the maze of Parliament and fill the room with excited voices, you can tell that every single person is here because they care passionately about Protected Landscapes. From volunteers collecting mountains of litter in Eryri to an initiative to welcome refugees to enjoy the New Forest, the scale and variety of nominees has been phenomenal, and each and every one deserves to be celebrated.

The annual National Park Protector Awards are an opportunity to recognise the incredible efforts of National Parks champions in England and Wales and has been held by Campaign for National Parks since 2011. The 2023 ceremony was opened by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch, followed by our Ambassadors Saima Bibi and Ruth Garrett, who both delivered passionate speeches about the importance

of National Parks for the younger generation and their hopes for the future.

The awards were then presented by Landscapes Minister Trudy Harrison, Natural England Director Caroline Cotterell and Labour's Defra Shadow Minister Alex Sobel. The proceedings were closed by Campaign for National Parks Chief Executive Rose O'Neill, who urged the Government to support and invest in Protected Landscapes at this critical time for nature.

"Days like this give me huge hope for the future, because change is people-powered."

"People with new ideas and deep expertise, people who love these places,

people who stand together and work together. All the award nominees show that the change we need is possible," said Rose.

"The awards are an opportunity for celebration, but let's be clear – the state of the nature, the climate, the pollution of waterways, the inequalities in access and the vulnerabilities of communities all suggest that at this time this movement for National Parks is more important than ever. We hope that all parties in all parts of the country are inspired by what they have seen and heard during the ceremony and commit to an ambitious programme for wilder National Parks for everyone. That's something we can all get behind."

A huge thank you to our nominees, sponsors, judges and everyone who voted in this year's National Park Protector Awards.

NATIONAL PARK NATURE AWARD

Sponsored by WWF-UK



Main image: South West Peatland Partnership in Dartmoor

WINNER: SOUTH WEST PEATLAND PARTNERSHIP, FOR LANDSCAPE-SCALE NATURE RECOVERY

The South West Peatland Partnership is a collaboration between the Protected Landscapes, Natural England, South West Water and charities, landowners, commoners and farmers working to restore over 2,500 hectares of degraded peatland across West Penwith, Bodmin Moor, Dartmoor and Exmoor by 2025.

On winning, Morag Angus from the South West Peatland Partnership said:

“It’s really nice to get that recognition on behalf of the whole partnership and everyone who’s been working hours and hours for years and years behind the scenes, to get this award and get the recognition for peatlands in National Parks.”

WINNER: NICK SANDERSON, FOR COMMUNITY NATURE RECOVERY

Just beyond the sailing boats and canoes at Barton Turf Adventure Centre in The Broads National Park, a muddy path leads visitors to a hidden nature reserve. Nick Sanderson saw the potential for the wonderful site and began an ongoing partnership with Centre Manager Di Smith, The Broads Authority and many other stakeholders. The aim was to provide low-cost outdoor experiences and make a real difference for nature.

On his win, Nick Sanderson said:

“It’s really about the team, about the volunteers, the staff and the young people who’ve been involved, who are really making a difference to nature conservation and hopefully been inspired by it as well.”



Nick Sanderson in the Broads

RUNNER UP: OUR FOOD 1200 / EIN BWYD 1200

Our Food 1200 is working to secure 1,200 acres of land across the Monmouthshire and Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) region for modern regenerative horticulture, creating a network of small-scale commercial farms serving local communities in Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

This scale of change will be transformative, building the foundation for a vibrant low-carbon local food economy that reconnects people with the landscape and helps tackle the growing issue of food security.



Our Food 1200 / Ein Bwyd 1200

NEW PERSPECTIVES AWARD

Sponsored by Natural England



Sameed Asghar

WINNER: SAMEED ASGHAR

Sameed is the founder of Summit Special Adventures, a group known as the BAME mountain leaders. He is one of the first UK-qualified mountain leaders who works full time introducing not just BAME groups but also those with several barriers to accessing the outdoors. Since 2005, he has volunteered for various charities and mosques trying to promote and organise their challenge events. Consequently, he has encouraged people to fundraise for good causes and has also introduced thousands of people from BAME backgrounds to the great outdoors. This has also led to a recent rise in affinity groups of people from these groups.

Every weekend for the past year, Sameed has led diverse groups in the outdoors with approximately 30–50 participants on each trek.

On his work, Sameed Asghar said:

“I’d like to increase the work I’m doing to get more people who are unable to afford getting outdoors, women, low-income households, people facing barriers, BAME communities, just pushing more people to access the outdoors, both for physical and mental health, as it’s probably the best thing for you - so I just want to make sure we have equal access.”

RUNNERS UP: ECHOES WITHIN THE EARTH

Echoes Within the Earth is an inspiring initiative that has brought to life our connection with nature through the evocative power of dance.

Choreographed by the talented Chris Pavia, who became the first choreographer with Down’s Syndrome to make a dance piece for national touring, the work is inspired by Chris’ childhood experiences of woodland in the South Downs.

ROOTS TO RECOVERY

Roots to Recovery is a people-led mental health project about the restorative powers of Pembrokeshire’s amazing outdoors and especially its National Park.

Their activities are designed to be accessible, fun and sometimes relaxing, with the opportunity to learn new skills and meet new friends. A typical programme might include walks, arts and crafts, volunteering and more.

CHANGEMAKER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Sponsored by Cotswold Outdoor and voted for in part by the public

WINNER: MATT STANIEK / SAVE WINDERMERE

Matt has been working tirelessly for two years to highlight the issue of water company pollution in Windermere in Lake District National Park and its impact on the water and wildlife in the lake.

Matt has built from nothing a movement that has steadily put a local issue onto the national stage. Around that he has expanded his campaign team, and on limited funds is furthering his reach by engaging with local communities and community events.

On winning, Matt Staniek said:

“Fundamentally we need change on the ground, and that’s what this campaign is trying to do. By winning today it gives me the opportunity to then extend that message to a wider audience, and today it was talking directly to ministers who can actually make a difference.”

Matt Staniek



RUNNERS UP: THE STARS ARE FOR EVERYONE

The Stars Are for Everyone is an incredible grassroots campaign to protect the right to wild camp responsibly in the outdoors in Dartmoor National Park and to extend that right to other National Parks in England and Wales. The campaign has grown out of the decision of a wealthy landowner to seek a legal ban to stop people camping responsibly after decades of precedent and many more years of accepted access.

VIRTUAL WALKS VOLUNTEERS

The Virtual Walks programme is a fantastic initiative to enable everyone to access the North York Moors National Park. Four volunteers (Jim, Davy, David and Alison) record and prepare walks to present to groups who work with vulnerable adults who are either no longer able to get out or may not have the confidence to.

New dawn for wild camping in National Parks

Campaign for National Parks' Policy and Projects Officer Gareth Ludkin puts forward the case for expanding the right to wild camp in National Parks following the successful return of wild camping on Dartmoor.

The spirit of Old Crockern rose once again over Dartmoor this July, as campaigners celebrated the successful High Court appeal defending the right to wild camp on the commons of Dartmoor National Park.

After months of campaigning and tireless fundraising led by the Dartmoor Preservation Association to cover legal fees, the moors and tors of Dartmoor will once again play host to adventurous souls hunkering down under canvas.

January's ruling on the case *Darwall v Dartmoor National Park Authority* challenged the established status quo, determining that the right to wild camp cannot be considered permitted 'open-air recreation' under the Dartmoor Commons Act 1985.

However, in July, the appeal led by the National Park Authority and the Open Spaces Society overturned that decision. The ruling confirmed that "the public shall have a right of access to the commons on foot and on horseback for the purpose of open-air recreation", and crucially that 'open-air recreation' does in fact include wild camping.

It raises the question, why isn't wild camping lawful in other National Parks?

Perhaps this is due to a long-established tradition of wild camping in the mountains in so many National Parks, going largely unnoticed or

landowners turning a blind eye? Perhaps it's due to perceptions of leave-no-trace wild camping blurring with experiences of fly-camping issues or the irresponsible behaviour of a few making for challenging conversations?

Whilst it may be true that the desire to expand wild camping doesn't feature as the top priority for many working to protect our National Parks, this latest legal wrangling does at least demonstrate how precarious our right to access nature is, and how a long-assumed right can easily be taken away without the certainty of robust legislation or the determination of those willing to fight for those rights.

And now, with this legal precedent set, there is a case to make, not only for celebrating the reinstatement of wild camping in Dartmoor, but to expand the practice further; whether that be through changes to existing legislation or the extension of open access and right to roam.

Wild camping is tonic for many people's mental health and an important part of experiencing the remotest parts of our National Parks which should be thriving with nature and wildlife. An expanded right to wild camp responsibly in more National Parks is part of Campaign for National Parks' ambition for wilder National Parks for all; inspiring future generations to fully immerse themselves in nature and make the most of outdoor recreation as a tool for well-being.

Although Labour have made promises to introduce a right to roam law if elected at the next General Election, a 12-month trial in selected National Parks could further understand the case for a rights-based approach to wild camping in suitable National Parks.

The evidence base could help inform decision-making on how to manage wild camping, illustrating clearly the impact on biodiversity and the environment, and defining what a responsible access code of conduct might look like with clearly outlined wild camping principles and exclusion zones to protect the most sensitive areas. As it's also clear that there are areas (like the New Forest) where the licensed campsites are already damaging nature sites and should be 'no-go' areas for expanding wild camping rights.

At Campaign for National Parks, we want to see National Parks given back to the nation, with every child having a night under the stars as part of the national curriculum. We want to see an expansion of the freedom to roam and believe that it is possible to strike a reasonable balance between the purposes of National Parks, the Sandford Principle, and the expansion of responsible open access rights. This is now an opportune time to trial further rights-based wild camping in more National Parks across England and Wales to understand the case for expansion and turn the energy of campaigners into a bold vision for the future.

**Main Image: Camping on Dartmoor,
Matt Gibson**

A RIGHT TO ROAM?

Examples of law enshrining the right to wild camp as part of a broader freedom to roam exist across Europe. For example, Sweden's *allemannsrätten* ("everyman's right") promotes the right of everyone to enjoy nature. North of the border, Scotland's Land Reform Act (Scotland) 2003/2016 shows how the right to responsibly access land and inland water for recreation purposes can be enshrined in law. The accompanying Scottish Outdoor Access Code clearly defines responsible access and explicitly includes the right to wild camp.

WHAT IS WILD CAMPING?

Wild camping – or 'backpack camping' as it is sometimes referred to – relates to the practice of residing in a tent for no more than one night in open country which is often remote and inaccessible by vehicle. Often defined by camping equipment which can only be carried upon one's person, the practice has a long tradition, practised for many generations in our National Parks and long-distance trails.

It is important to make a clear distinction between wild camping and fly-camping, which is highly problematic and involves campers often staying for longer periods or leaving behind rubbish or camping equipment. Wild camping also excludes the use of campervans or vans to reside in an area.





Pembrokeshire Coast, chalmerscreative

New Perspectives from Pembrokeshire Coast

Our New Perspectives bursary winner Liz Lee Reynolds explores how community creates sustainability on the Pembrokeshire Coast



Liz Lee Reynolds

While the National Park in Pembrokeshire is most famous for its impressive coastline, it is also a varied landscape which encompasses a number of different features, from stunning beaches and cliff faces to rugged hills and estuary marshes, creating a network of important yet vulnerable environments.

The human populations in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park also face their own threats. Communities hold themselves together through the

unpredictable whims of an economy which relies significantly on tourism and sees

some areas increasingly deserted in the winter months, as they are bought up for holiday lets and second homes, accounting for over 60% of homes in some places.

Sometimes the troubles of people and planet can seem at odds, particularly in a region which has strong fishing and farming communities, but within the boundaries of the National Park many community projects are beginning to come together to improve sustainability and tackle growing environmental issues.

COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES

On an early December evening as I arrive at the Sea Trust Wales Ocean

Lab, the sun is just beginning to set, dappling pink waves onto the waters surrounding the Goodwick Sea Wall. In the summer the building would be bustling with visitors to the aquarium, which specialises in local sea life, but in the winter lull it is quiet. I chat to Lloyd Nelmes, the Marine Project Officer, about the work they do here to protect marine environments.

As well as a range of education and outreach activities, much of Sea Trust's work is concerned with supporting local communities to improve environmental practices, in particular tackling plastic waste. "Community creates sustainability," says Lloyd, "because it creates a small, closed loop and a circular economy."

Sea Trust helps to close this loop through projects such as the highly successful Recycle Môr, which aims to reduce the amount of highly damaging ghost fishing gear waste, which is sometimes dumped off boats. In larger harbours this is already collected and recycled, but in the smaller harbours

which dot much of the coastline of Britain there is a gap in this service.

The project was launched in October 2021 and places bins specifically for fishing waste across the county, although there are ambitions for this to expand even further. "Our aim is to have a bin in every small-scale harbour, first in Pembrokeshire and then even the whole of the UK," says Lloyd. "We can then create a model which can be copied by councils and organisations elsewhere to collect waste and hopefully make enough money to sustain the – surprisingly expensive – collections".

In its first year, the project saw five tonnes of end-of-life fishing waste recycled, working with companies such as Waterhaul to turn the recovered plastic into products like sunglasses. Following these successes, the project has expanded into more harbours in the region, collecting a wider variety of waste and producing a larger range of recycled products.

Part of the success of the project came from listening to the needs of the local fishing community, building on previously established connections, and making sure any developments would benefit them as much as possible; in particular the accessibility of the bins. "We want them as easy for the fishermen to use as possible, and visible, because a lot of what we

do relies on public engagement, but most of all prioritising the fishermen," explains Lloyd.

LOCAL FISHERS VS. FACTORY TRAWLERS

"It's local people fishing in their local area. If they muck it up, they don't have a business, they don't have a future – whereas a massive trawling factory ship that's in the UK one day and in France the next day and Spain the other take what they can to make the most money on right now, because they have no interest in what's there in the future," explains Lloyd.

"There are so many advantages sustainability-wise to small locally based fishing compared to massive factory ships."

Despite the pressures of the increasingly international and competitive fishing industry, there continues to be a strong local fishing community in Pembrokeshire, many of whom are driven by a love for the job and a love for the sea they work on.

This passion is reflected in another project in the area which supports the

local industry. Câr-y-Môr (translating to 'For the Love of the Sea') is a community-owned regenerative seaweed and shellfish farm. With joint aims of helping the local environment and supporting local communities, they are making impressive developments in the sustainable use and farming of seaweed, as well as creating strong and productive relationships with other members of the local fishing community.

STEPS TO SEED SOVEREIGNTY

These kinds of community-led approaches are not just seen in coastal areas of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park; many in-land projects and groups have taken a similar approach and seen similar successes. One such example is found in Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture, a farm near St David's, which runs as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) scheme.

CSA farms are found across the country and work as a mutually beneficial partnership between the local community and the farmer. Generally, members of the public will pay a monthly or annual amount and receive a regular supply of fresh, seasonal vegetables directly from the farm. The farmer benefits from a stable source of income and a fairer price by selling straight to the public.

Community members will also often be invited to join volunteer days where they can get involved with some of the growing and harvesting on the farm and reconnect with the land. As this approach to food production continues to grow, research is showing its significant benefits, from economic and social to health and environmental.

But beyond this, Caerhys Farm is also involved in an exciting project to revive heritage crops within Wales. The Llafur Ni Network was partly instigated by Gerald Miles from Caerhys Farm in his search for the Cerich Du (black oats) that his grandfather used to grow on the farm, but which seemed to have since disappeared. Since then, a network across Wales has worked to grow a range of oats which had long only been stored in seed banks and,



Recycle Môr recycling box, Pembrokeshire Coast

in the process, re-learning how best to cultivate them in the landscape and improve food sovereignty across Wales.

FUNDING COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY

The strength of community-led sustainability projects is seen in Pembrokeshire and far more widely beyond the county. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has also recognised this and facilitated supporting these kinds of projects through the Sustainable Development Fund, which has supported community-led projects since 2020. This includes multiple projects throughout the county which focus on carbon reduction, a move towards sustainable energy, or wider community outreach.

It is these kinds of approaches which involve communities early in the process of decision-making and action, which will see the most success in ensuring a critically needed sustainable future for our valuable landscapes.

CYMUNED YN CREU CYNALIADWYEDD AR ARFORDIR SIR BENFRO

Er bod y Parc Cenedlaethol yn Sir Benfro yn fwyaf enwog am ei arfordir trawiadol, mae hefyd yn dirwedd amrywiol sy'n cwmpasu nifer o nodweddion gwahanol, o draethau hardd a chlogwyni serth i fryniau garw a chorsydd moryd, gan greu rhwydwaith o amgylcheddau pwysig ond agored i niwed.

Mae'r poblogaethau dynol ym Mharc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro hefyd yn wynebu eu bygythiadau eu hunain. Mae cymunedau'n dal eu hunain gyda'i gilydd trwy gydol mympwyon anrhagweladwy economi, sy'n dibynnu'n sylweddol ar dwristiaeth ac yn achosi bod rhai ardaloedd yn cael eu gadael yn wag yn ystod misoedd y gaeaf, wrth i dai gael eu prynu ar gyfer llety gwyliau ac ail gartrefi, sy'n fwy na 60% o'r cartrefi mewn rhai manau.

Weithiau gall trafferthion pobl a'r blaned ymddangos yn groes i'w gilydd, yn enwedig mewn rhanbarth sydd â chymunedau pysgota a ffermio cryf, ond o fewn ffiniau'r Parc Cenedlaethol mae llawer o brosiectau cymunedol yn dechrau dod at ei gilydd i wella cynaliadwyedd a mynd i'r afael â materion amgylcheddol cynyddol.

CYFATHREBU Â CHYMUNEDAUW

Un noson ar ddechrau mis Rhagfyr, wrth i mi gyrraedd Labordy Cefnfor Sea Trust (Ymddiriedolaeth y Môr) Cymru, mae'r haul yn dechrau machlud, gan liwio'r tonnau'n binc yn y dyfroedd o amgylch Wal Fôr Wdig. Yn yr haf byddai'r adeilad yn fwrllwm o ymwelwyr i'r acwariwm, sy'n arbenigo mewn bywyd môr lleol, ond yn y gaeaf mae'n dawel. Rwy'n gwyllo'r haul yn araf suddo ar y gorwel drwy ffenestri gwyrdd enfawr yr adeilad, wrth i mi sgwrsio â Lloyd Nelves, Swyddog Prosiect Morol, am y gwaith maen nhw'n ei wneud yma i amddiffyn amgylcheddau morol.

Yn ogystal ag amrywiaeth o weithgareddau addysg ac allgymorth, mae llawer o waith Sea Trust yn ymwneud â chefnogi cymunedau lleol i wella arferion amgylcheddol, yn enwedig mynd i'r afael â gwastraff plastig. "Mae cymuned yn creu cynaliadwyedd," meddai Lloyd, "oherwydd ei fod yn creu dolen fach, gaeedig ac economi gylchol."

Mae Sea Trust yn helpu i gau'r ddolen hon trwy brosiectau fel Ailgylchu Môr sy'n hynod lwyddiannus, sy'n ceisio lleihau swm gwastraff niweidiol iawn yr hen offer pysgota, sydd weithiau'n cael ei daflu oddi ar gychod. Mewn porthladdoedd mwy mae hyn eisoes yn cael ei gasglu a'i ailgylchu, ond yn y porthladdoedd llai sydd i'w gweld ar hyd llawer o arfordir Prydain mae bwlch yn y gwasanaeth hwn.

Lansiwyd y prosiect ym mis Hydref 2021 ac mae'n gosod biniau yn benodol ar gyfer gwastraff pysgota ar draws y sir, er bod uchelgais i hyn ehangu hyd yn oed ymhellach. "Ein nod yw cael



Puffin, Harriet Gardiner

bin ym mhob porthladd bach, yn Sir Benfro i ddechrau ac yna hyd yn oed ar draws y DU gyfan,” meddai Lloyd. “Yna gallwn greu model y gall cynghorau a sefydliadau ei efelychu mewn mannau eraill i gasglu gwastraff a gobeithio gwneud digon o arian i gynnal y casgliadau sy’n syndod o ddrud”.

Yn ei flwyddyn gyntaf, cafodd pum tunnell fetrig o wastraff pysgota diwedd oes ei ailgylchu, gan weithio gyda chwmnïau fel Waterhaul i droi’r plastig a adferwyd yn gynhyrchion fel sbectol haul. Yn dilyn y llwyddiannau hyn, mae’r prosiect wedi ehangu i fwy o borthladdoedd yn y rhanbarth, gan gasglu amrywiaeth ehangach o wastraff a chynhyrchu ystod fwy o gynhyrchion wedi’u hailgylchu.

Daeth rhan o lwyddiant y prosiect o wrando ar anghenion y gymuned bysgota leol, gan adeiladu ar gysylltiadau a sefydlwyd yn flaenorol, a sicrhau y byddai unrhyw ddatblygiadau o fudd iddyn nhw gymaint â phosibl, yn enwedig hygyrchedd y biniau. “Rydyn ni am iddyn nhw fod mor hawdd i’r pysgotwyr eu defnyddio â phosib ac yn weladwy, oherwydd mae llawer o’r hyn rydyn ni’n ei wneud yn dibynnu ar ymgysylltu â’r cyhoedd, ond yn bennaf oll yn rhoi blaenoriaeth i’r pysgotwyr,” esboniodd Lloyd.

PYSGOTWYR LLEOL YN ERBYN TREILLONGAU FFATRI

Yn dilyn y math hwn o ymgysylltiad cadarnhaol â’r gymuned, mae Sea Trust wedi gweld defnydd mawr ar y prosiect, er mai dim ond gyda’r cychod lleol llai yn bennaf. “Pobl leol yn pysgota yn eu hardal leol yw’r rhain. Os ydyn nhw’n gwneud llanast o’r peth, does ganddyn nhw ddim busnes, does ganddyn nhw ddim dyfodol. Ond gyda’r treillongau enfawr, maen nhw yn y DU un diwrnod ac yn Ffrainc y nesaf ac yn Sbaen y diwrnod wedi hynny; maen nhw’n cymryd beth gallan nhw wneud fwyaf o arian arno ar y pryd, oherwydd does ganddyn nhw ddim diddordeb yn yr hyn fydd yno yn y dyfodol,” eglura Lloyd. “Mae cymaint o fanteision o ran cynaliadwyedd i bysgota lleol ar raddfa

fach o’i gymharu â llongau ffatri enfawr.”

Er gwaethaf pwysau’r diwydiant pysgota sy’n gynyddol ryngwladol a chystadleuol, mae cymuned bysgota leol gref yn parhau yn Sir Benfro, gyda llawer ohonyn nhw’n cael eu gyrru gan gariad at y swydd a chariad at y môr y maen nhw’n gweithio arno.

Adlewyrchir yr angerdd hwn mewn prosiect arall yn yr ardal sy’n cefnogi’r diwydiant lleol. Mae Câr-y-Môr yn fferm wymon a physgod cregyn atgynhyrchiol sy’n eiddo i’r gymuned. Gyda’r ddau nod o helpu’r amgylchedd lleol a chefnogi cymunedau lleol, maen nhw’n gwneud datblygiadau nodedig mewn ffermio gwymon a’r defnydd cynaliadwy ohono, yn ogystal â chreu perthnasoedd cryf a chynhyrchiol gydag aelodau eraill o’r gymuned bysgota leol.

CAMAU I SOFRANIAETH HADAU

Nid dim ond yn ardaloedd arfordirol Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro y mae’r mathau hyn o ddulliau sy’n cael eu harwain gan y gymuned i’w gweld; mae llawer o brosiectau a grwpiau mewndirol wedi cymryd camau tebyg ac wedi gweld llwyddiannau tebyg. Ceir un enghraifft o’r fath yn Amaethyddiaeth Gymunedol Organig Caerhys, fferm ger Tyddewi, sy’n rhedeg fel cynllun Amaethyddiaeth Gymunedol a Gefnogir gan y Gymuned (CSA).

Mae ffermydd CSA i’w cael ledled y wlad ac maen nhw’n gweithio fel partneriaeth rhwng y gymuned leol a’r ffermwr, partneriaeth sydd o fudd i’r ddwy ochr. Yn gyffredinol, bydd aelodau’r cyhoedd yn talu swm misol neu flynyddol ac yn derbyn cyflenwad rheolaidd o lysiau tymhorol ffres yn uniongyrchol o’r fferm. Mae’r ffermwr yn elwa o ffynhonnell incwm sefydlog a phris tecach drwy werthu’n syth i’r cyhoedd.

Bydd aelodau’r gymuned hefyd yn aml yn cael eu gwahodd i ymuno â dyddiau gwirfoddoli lle gallan nhw gymryd ym mheth o’r gwaith tyfu a chynaeafu ar y fferm ac ailgysylltu â’r tir. Wrth i’r

dull hwn o gynhyrchu bwyd barhau i dyfu, mae ymchwil yn dangos ei fanteision sylweddol, o rai economaidd a chymdeithasol i fanteision iechyd ac amgylcheddol.

Ond ar ben hyn, mae Fferm Caerhys hefyd yn rhan o brosiect cyffrous i adfywio cnydau treftadaeth yng Nghymru. Cafodd Rhwydwaith Llafur Ni ei ysgogi’n rhannol gan Gerald Miles o Fferm Caerhys wrth iddo chwilio am y Ceirch Du yr arferai ei dad-cu eu tyfu ar y fferm ond oedd i’w gweld wedi diflannu. Ers hynny, mae rhwydwaith ledled Cymru wedi gweithio i dyfu amrywiaeth o geirch oedd ond wedi cael eu storio mewn banciau hadau am amser maith ac yn y broses, ail-ddysgu sut orau i’w meithrin yn y dirwedd a gwella sofraniaeth bwyd ledled Cymru.

ARIANNU CYMUNED I GEFNOGI CYNALIADWYEDD

Gwelir cryfder prosiectau cynaliadwyedd a arweinir gan y gymuned yn Sir Benfro ac yn llawer ehangach y tu hwnt i’r sir. Mae Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro hefyd wedi cydnabod hyn ac wedi hwylyso cefnogi’r mathau hyn o brosiectau drwy’r Gronfa Datblygu Cynaliadwy, sydd wedi cefnogi prosiectau a arweinir gan y gymuned ers 2020. Mae hyn yn cynnwys sawl prosiect ledled y sir sy’n canolbwyntio ar leihau carbon, symud tuag at ynni cynaliadwy, neu allgymorth cymunedol ehangach.

Y mathau hyn o ddulliau sy’n cynnwys cymunedau yn gynnar yn y broses o wneud penderfyniadau a gweithredu, fydd yn gweld y llwyddiant mwyaf wrth sicrhau dyfodol cynaliadwy sydd ei angen yn fawr ar ein tirweddau gwerthfawr. Y mentrau mwyaf llwyddiannus ar gyfer ein hamgylcheddau gwledig a morol fydd y rhai sy’n gwrandao ac yn cynnwys y bobl sy’n gweithio’r tir a’r moroedd eisoes, a bydd rhai ohonynt wedi gwneud hynny ers cenedlaethau. Yn fwyaf aml dyma’r bobl sy’n poeni’n ddwfn am y lleoedd hyn ac yn eu hadnabod orau.

New Perspectives: Portrait of the South Downs

Saira Niazi's shares her vision of the South Downs National Park



Saira Niazi

Saira Niazi explores hidden gems and shares stories from the South Downs in her New Perspectives bursary project – Portrait of the South Downs National Park.

Whilst working on our New Perspectives project, Saira was granted funding from the South Downs National Park to lead on a separate project that sought to engage people from urban areas by opening the South Downs to them through a series of *Community Wanderings* projects. As part of the project, Saira designed and delivered four wandering tours in different parts of South Downs. The tours aimed to give people who hadn't visited the National Park a chance to explore its hidden

gems, to form their own connection to the landscape and to create new friendships.

The combined projects culminated in a series of portraits and a short film featuring artist Pearl Bates and made by film-maker Luke Baker; all can be viewed on Saira's website Portrait of the South Downs National Park.

THE POWER OF CONNECTING WITH PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

Saira's project beautifully highlights the unique human connection to nature. Everyone has a story to tell, and taking time to listen and share can be so valuable and enriching.

Saira says: "Much of my work centres around connecting people and places through story. I felt the New Perspectives bursary would enable me to do this in the context of a landscape I enjoy and feel strongly about."

National Parks can do amazing things for people's health and well-being. Millions of people visit these wonderful places every year to fulfil their need for solace, rejuvenation, and connection with nature.

You can view Saira's project by scanning the QR code.





"I've always loved exploring hidden gems and unearthing the stories that surround them. My creative practice combines photography and writing - I felt 'Portrait of the South Downs' would be an ideal project to allow me to do the things I most enjoy: explore hidden gems, connect with others and tell stories."

- Saira Niazi

TEN PROJECTS, ONE BIG YEAR!

Over the last year, we've been releasing the New Perspectives bursary projects and have been blown away by the creativity and passion for National Parks from our bursary winners. From films and photographs to printed-media articles and booklets, there is power in sharing different stories from young voices and under-represented groups. Head to cnp.org.uk/national-parks-new-perspectives to view all the projects.

We are now looking at financing the next round of New Perspectives bursaries to give voice to more under-represented groups in National Parks. Watch this space!

Main image: Artist, illustrator and writer Pearl Bates drawing in the South Downs



POINTS OF VIEW



Kieran Metcalfe

GIVING BACK TO NATIONAL PARKS

Campaign for National Parks Ambassador, photographer Kieran Metcalfe

I grew up in South Manchester with the hills of the Peak District visible on the horizon. I remember family walks up Mam Tor, scout troop hikes and even sledging trips in the 'proper' winters we used to get back then.

After university, I got married and started work, and even living in the same local area those distant hills were largely out of sight and out of mind. When I did see them, I had no idea which was which.

But over the past 10 years that has changed. Working freelance from the spare room at home, I needed something to get me out of the house, and I fell into landscape photography, with the Peak District becoming my main stomping ground. I now know that the main looming hill I can see is the Kinder Plateau. Shining Tor lies off to the right, and behind them both are the Hope Valley and Derbyshire Dales – all places I love to visit.

Main image: Pack Horse Bridge in the Peak District, Kieran Metcalfe

Throughout the year there's always something to shoot – crisp mornings on rocky edges, carpets of bluebells, blooming heather, rich autumn colours.

Even if the images don't work out, it's always refreshing to just be out in nature absorbing the peace and beauty of the landscape.

But for a long time, that was all I did. Photography for its own sake meant I was little more than a consumer of the landscape, not really thinking about how I could 'give back'.

That's why I'm now excited to be a Campaign for National Parks Ambassador. I may not be directly involved in restoring the peat, campaigning against new reservoirs or monitoring scientifically important species, but if my images can help tell a story, raise awareness or just catch someone's attention, that will all help.

I've also learnt about the challenges facing our Parks and the vital work Campaign for National Parks does in Parliament and in public. This feeds into my photographic practice as I look to produce images which more clearly show something of the issues which need addressing, as well as the natural beauty I have previously taken for granted.



Lose Hill in the Fog, Peak District



WIN A 2024 WALL CALENDAR

As an exclusive offer to our Friends, we're giving away one of Kieran's beautiful A4-size 2024 wall calendars, featuring 12 images from the Peak District National Park, including our stunning cover photo.

To enter the prize draw, please email info@cnp.org.uk with the subject line 'Calendar draw' and include your full name and address. Alternatively, you can phone and leave a voicemail message to 020 3096 7714 with your name, membership number (see the letter enclosed in this mailing) and telephone number, and mention that you wish to take part in the calendar draw. Draw closes on 24 November 2023.

The calendars are also available to purchase from Kieran's website kieranmetcalfephotography.co.uk/calendar, just in time for the festive season!

POINTS OF VIEW

WILDSAPES AND LIVING LANDSCAPES

Campaign for National Parks' Chair Janette Ward shares her reflections as she stands down after 6 years at the helm of the charity

National Parks have been important in my life from childhood, so being part of Campaign for National Parks as a Trustee has been enormously fulfilling and inspiring. I joined the Board nearly eight years ago, have served as Chair for the past six years and, come November, I shall be passing on the Chair baton. While it has been a bit of a rollercoaster with moments of concern and hiatus (including Covid), being Chair has continuously been immensely rewarding, and our unique charity is now growing and stronger than ever.

No organisation can hope to succeed without a plan, a strategy. One of the highlights of my tenure is Campaign for National Parks' *Strategy to 2028: Better, Equal, More* – and underpinning this is our determination, shared by our Board and team, for Campaign for National Parks to be Bold and Brave in its campaigning. It is time to be urgent in demanding that those well recognised actions are now applied to enhance, restore, enlarge, and expand the nations' National Parks. Campaigning always comes with risks, but in the scheme of things these are nothing in the face of the climate emergency, the loss of nature and the threats to society's well-being. Everyone talks about being better joined up, about taking a 'landscape approach' – 'bigger, better, more' – and I believe this is exactly what National Parks are designed to be at the pinnacle of achieving.

It's not complicated, it is what we need for our future that must drive our actions and choices, at scale and with speed - this is what 21st century National Parks will look like and provide, and this is our 21st century map of National

Parks. They are both wildscapes and living landscapes, as well as places for adventure, escape, enjoyment, comfort, healing, inspiration, and reflection. Our movement is built on radical roots of fighting for a better future, and with our committed and talented team, our Trustees, our Council, our members, partners, and supporters, I believe we can achieve this.

Immediately ahead is a general election coming in the same year as the 75th anniversary of National Parks. It's a critical moment for our campaigning, and Campaign for National Parks will be working hard to secure political commitments and investment for the actions that are needed to make these wonderful places even better.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me during my time as Chair

and to all of our Friends and supporters. Thanks to you, we can ensure our charity, first founded in 1936, continues to vigorously campaign to secure National Parks for the future.



BETTER, EQUAL, MORE

Our strategy has three main goals for National Parks:

BETTER for nature and climate recovery

EQUAL access and participation

MORE National Parks and an expanded movement

You can read our strategy here: cnp.org.uk/sector/about-us

Image: Campaign for National Parks Chair Janette Ward with our former President Caroline Quentin

NATIONAL PARKS YOUTH VOICE: OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND NATIONAL PARKS

Campaign for National Parks' Youth Advisor Freya Sareen

Since April 2023, I've had the chance to participate as a Youth Advisor for Campaign for National Parks. Through regular meetings, we identify key issues facing young individuals, and acquire crucial skills such as communication and campaigning. As a group, we've developed a vision that pinpoints areas for improvement to enhance youth engagement with National Parks.

We've found that the barriers preventing young people from accessing National Parks are primarily related to physical limitations, such as inadequate public transport, time constraints due to educational demands, and a lack of motivation to visit. Once we identified these obstacles, we categorised them into three key focus areas. Our first focus area, entitled *Changing Perceptions and Communications*, centres around raising awareness about National Parks through social media campaigns and educational initiatives in schools and universities. Secondly, we focused on *Enhancing Accessibility and Transportation* which involves ideas to make public transportation more affordable for students and establish regular transportation routes from major cities to National Parks. The final focus revolves around school groups and education. Our vision is to utilise schools as a gateway for young people to access National Parks through educational visits that make the Parks more reachable and, therefore,



A much younger Freya, now 18, enjoying the Lake District

encourage young people to visit again with their friends and family.

WHY I CHOSE TO BE A NATIONAL PARKS YOUTH ADVISOR

For me, I've always enjoyed National Parks and the outdoors in a variety of ways, from visiting the ponies in the New Forest National Park to learning about how National Parks are involved with literature on my A-level English trip to the South Downs. I have many fond memories of family holidays in National Parks, and these experiences inspired me to join the Youth Advisor group.

Yet, socioeconomic barriers increasingly prevent young people from enjoying these spaces. Historically, the older generation has been more associated with National Parks; however, this does not mean young people don't want to enjoy National Parks - rather they cannot do so. As a Youth Advisor, my motivation arises from the desire to ensure equal access to National Parks. Our campaign ideas will hopefully provide cheaper options for travel, making the Parks more affordable for young people which in turn boosts youth engagement. Similarly, our campaign surrounding awareness using social media will hopefully inspire young people to visit National Parks.



Red squirrel, Deborah Clarke

Can you help us save National Parks for nature?

With nature struggling in our Protected Landscapes, we need to come together to fight for stronger protections now more than ever. You can also help by doubling your donations this Christmas.

National Parks are some of our most wonderful spaces for nature. From snow-capped mountains and winding rivers to windswept tors and dazzling forests, each offers a unique home to our most cherished plants and animals.

THE SITUATION

From the Peak District, Exmoor and South Downs in England to the Pembrokeshire Coast and Eryri in Wales, our 13 National Parks were created to give a safe haven for nature. But there is evidence proving that both animals and plants are struggling in our Protected Landscapes. Habitat destruction, pollution and intensive land management are making their homes smaller and smaller.

“We need landscapes that are alive with people and wildlife, buzzing with invertebrates and busy with bird life. Across the countryside we are facing a dire ecological decline; as special Protected Landscapes, National Parks must set an example and lead the way forward.”

- Iolo Williams, television presenter, naturalist and vice-president of Campaign for National Parks

This is because the laws and policies that are supposed to keep National Parks safe are not fully fit for purpose – there is no commitment to make the Parks wilder.

THE SOLUTION

We’re working hard to secure the future of National Parks in England and Wales right now. Last month, we secured a vital change in the law which will require public bodies and water companies to act. But there is still much more to do.

We’re currently fighting for stronger protections for nature to be etched into law and we know we can succeed with your support. There needs to be stronger actions for nature across National Parks in England and Wales.



Iolo Williams

Will you support us by donating to Save Nature in National Parks?

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION AT NO EXTRA COST

Campaign for National Parks has been chosen to take part once again in a very special initiative which enables our supporters like you to make a donation which is then doubled at no extra cost. Run by The Big Give, their Christmas Challenge 2023 is held for just one week from Tuesday 28 November at 12 noon to Tuesday 5 December at 12 noon.

Every £10 you donate is worth £20, and every £50 you donate is worth £100 until our match-funding pot runs out.

If you want help secure nature a safe home in National Parks, this is the perfect time to make your donation go even further.

GET READY TO MAKE YOUR DONATION

Donations can only be doubled if they are made through The Big Give webpage using the address: <https://bit.ly/wilder4nature> or scan the QR code below on your smartphone or tablet. You will then be able to donate quickly and securely using your credit or debit card. Remember, donations have to be made between Tuesday 28 November and Tuesday 5 December only, or until the match-funding pot runs dry.

Scan with your smartphone or tablet



DONATE BY POST

If you'd rather not wait until Christmas you can donate today by cheque by using the tear-off slip on the enclosed letter and make it payable to 'Campaign for National Parks' and post it to us at 7-14 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4YR.

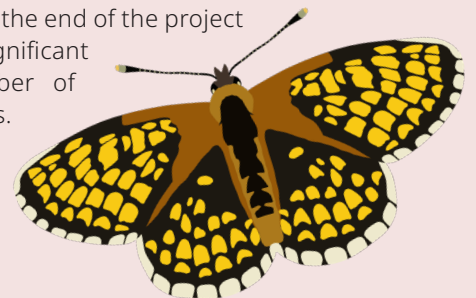


Creating a better home for...

Discover how habitats have been improved for rare species in National Parks:

BUTTERFLIES

Habitat conditions were improved on Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks for six of the most threatened butterfly and moth species, including the heath and marsh fritillaries, over three years led by *All the Moor Butterflies* project. Surveys at the end of the project showed a significant rise in the number of threatened species.



BEAVERS

Following successful reintroductions in Scotland, over the past few years beavers have been successfully reintroduced into Exmoor and South Downs National Parks by the National Trust, after an approx. 400-year absence in these landscapes.



PINE MARTENS

Once one of the landscape's most common carnivores, reintroduction of the elusive pine marten could also help red squirrel population numbers increase. In reforested areas, pine martens are starting to make a comeback with sightings in the North York Moors and Northumberland National Parks as well as across sites in Wales.



I'M A NATIONAL PARK PROTECTOR BECAUSE...

This summer we asked you, our Friends, why you care so deeply about National Parks. Thank you to everyone who wrote back; we've thoroughly enjoyed reading your responses and wanted to share some of our favourites with you.

"I want future generations to be able to enjoy all those wild, precious places that I have loved during my own life."

"In my youth, I enjoyed some wonderful holidays in the Lake District and Snowdonia. I would hope that future generations could experience the joys of climbing mountains and fell walking."

"National Parks are crucial to people's wellbeing and a joy to have. It would be a crime to lose them."

"Because our National Parks are such special places in every way and which you can remember their paths, flowers and just havens of joy and peace. Treasured memories."

"We need beautiful places for people to live in, work in and enjoy themselves in. Contributes towards good mental health."

"Because I want our Parks to be wilder!"



Image: Ceibwr Bay in Pembrokeshire Coast, Zoe Turner


CAMPAIGN for
NATIONAL PARKS