



Council for National Parks

(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ending 31 March 2008

Registered Charity number 295336

Company number 2045556

Contents

Pages 3 - 5	Details of the Charity, its Trustees, Officers and Advisers
Pages 6 - 18	Trustees' Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)
Pages 19 - 20	Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of the Council for National Parks
Page 21	Statement of Financial Activities
Page 22	Balance Sheet
Pages 23 – 29	Notes to the Financial Statements

Details of the Charity, its Trustees, Officers and Advisers

Registered Charity number 295336

Company number 2045556, registered in England and Wales at 6-7 Barnard Mews, London SW11 1QU

VAT registration number 629 5590 06

(post-year note: the Council for National Parks changed its name to Campaign for National Parks by special resolution in April 2008. Certificate of Incorporation on Change of Name given at Companies House dated 15 April 2008).

Our Mission

The Council for National Parks (CNP) campaigns to protect and promote National Parks for the benefit and quiet enjoyment of all.

Our Charitable Objectives

- To promote the protection, conservation and enhancement of National Parks for public benefit
- To promote the quiet enjoyment of National Parks and the appreciation of their natural beauty by the public in an informed and understanding manner
- To advance public education in and understanding of National Parks, through the provision of educational material and by other means
- To promote and undertake research into issues affecting the conservation and enjoyment of National Parks and to make public the useful results of any such research

Our Aims

The following strategic aims for the period 2003 to 2008 guided our work during the year (taken from the Strategic Plan, as revised in 2005/06):

- A. To protect and enhance National Parks and to promote sustainability within the National Parks that is compatible with their purposes
- B. To secure a new National Park for the South Downs and extensions to existing National Park areas where they meet the criteria for designation
- C. To build support for National Parks among new audiences, especially communities in urban areas
- D. To strengthen the capacity of the National Parks movement as a whole

The Trustees undertook a strategic review of the organisation in 2006/07. A new Strategic Plan was drawn up in 2007/08, to cover the period from 2008 to 2013.

Our Vision

The Council for National Parks' vision of National Parks in 2040 is of beautiful landscapes where:

- Water, soil and air are pure
- Natural landforms are preserved
- Wildlife flourishes
- A range of distinctive cultures is expressed in the built heritage and the everyday lives of Parks residents
- Livelihoods derive from activities that the environment can sustain
- Erosion of the special qualities would not be contemplated unless society could find no other possible solution
- Everyone can find a source of spiritual renewal and opportunities for quiet enjoyment
- We can all gain a greater understanding of the whole environment and of National Park values

Head Office and Registered Office

Council for National Parks
6-7 Barnard Mews
London
SW11 1QU

Telephone 020 7924 4077
Fax 020 7924 5761
Website www.cnp.org.uk

President

Ben Fogle (from 18/7/07)
Brian Blessed (until 18/7/07)

Trustees

Kate Ashbrook (Chairman)
Richard Carling (Honorary Treasurer)
Dot McGahan (Vice Chairman England, resigned 18/7/07)
Mary Taylor (Vice Chairman Wales)
Arabella Amory
John Anfield
David Firth
Jane Heard (appointed 18/7/07, resigned 17/12/07)
Iwan Huws (resigned 18/7/07)
Emily Oliver
Fabienne Poulet
Anne Robinson (appointed 18/7/07)
Elizabeth Wild (Vice Chairman England from 18/7/07)

Company Secretary

Jim Bull

Chief Executive

Kathy Moore

Deputy Chief Executive (Acting Chief Executive until 8/7/07)

Ruth Chambers

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc 7 St John's Hill London SW11 1TR	Lloyds TSB plc 22 Southampton Street London WC2E 7JB	CCLA Investment Management Ltd 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ
---	---	---

Auditors

Michael Harwood & Co
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Greville House, 10 Jury Street
Warwick
CV34 4EW

Honorary Solicitor

William Frankel OBE
Penningtons
Abacus House, 33 Gutter Lane
London
EC2V 8AR

Standing Counsel

David Wolfe
Matrix
Grays Inn Road
London
WC1R 5LN

Trustees' Report (incorporating the Directors' Report)

The Trustees present their Report and Financial Statements for the Council for National Parks, for the year ending 31 March 2008. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2005, the Companies Acts 1985 and 1989, and all other applicable accounting and reporting standards.

The Council for National Parks is a Registered Charity (registered on 5 October 1986) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (incorporated on 11 August 1986). The members of the Charity are:

- Constituent Organisation members (local and national environmental and recreational organisations)
- Co-opted members (including representatives from the National Park Authorities, and individuals with particular skills and experience of National Park issues)
- Honorary members (the President and Vice Presidents)
- Observers

The members of the Charity pay an annual subscription based on their class of membership and size of organisation. This entitles them to receive meeting papers and other communications (including advice on National Park issues), attend meetings, vote (unless they are non-voting members), and, at the Annual General Meeting, to receive the annual accounts, receive the Trustees' report, accept the retirement of Trustees and elect new Trustees, appoint the auditors and appoint the President and Vice Presidents.

The Council for National Parks has no share capital and the liability of its members is limited to £1. The governing document is the New Memorandum and Articles of Association, adopted by Resolution passed on 29 September 1999.

The Trustees of the Charity are the Directors of the Company. The Trustees have no interest in the Company's deficit or assets and receive no remuneration.

Structure, Governance and Management

There are between seven and eleven Trustees.

At the Annual General Meeting each year, one third (or the number nearest one third) of the Trustees retire, those longest in office retiring first and the choice between any of equal service being made by drawing lots. Retiring Trustees are eligible for re-election. Election of the Trustees is at the Annual General Meeting, when each member of the Charity has one vote (except for Honorary members). There are sixty two voting members. Voting is usually by postal ballot. All the Trustees must be members of the Charity. The Trustees may choose to co-opt individuals during the year to serve as additional Trustees; such co-opted Trustees must stand down at the next AGM but are eligible to stand for re-election. The Trustees elect the four Honorary Officers from among their number following the AGM each year.

The Trustees carry out regular reviews of their skills base to ensure a good balance of skills and experience. Any gaps identified are addressed by inviting other members of the Charity to stand for election, or by co-option. Trustees also receive formal or informal training as required.

The Trustees meet at least three times a year, and have additional meetings as required, either face to face or by electronic means. At least one meeting each year concentrates on strategic planning. A mid-term review of the five-year Strategic Plan was carried out in 2005/06, informing a full strategic review of the organisation in 2006/07, leading to the formulation of a new Strategic Plan for the period 2008 to 2013.

The Trustees have created one sub-committee comprising the four Honorary Officers to consider all matters relating to the employment of staff, including remuneration, Terms and Conditions of Employment, Health and Safety and similar issues. This sub-committee meets annually and makes recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

The policy direction of the Charity is determined by the Trustees. Members of the Charity meet three times a year to discuss and make recommendations on policy; the Trustees are guided by these discussions in their determinations, although the Trustees also make policy decisions at their own meetings.

On election, new Trustees receive an induction which involves written and oral explanations of their role as Trustees. All Trustees receive updates on legislation affecting charities and companies as appropriate.

The Chairman of the Trustees is in regular and frequent contact with the members of staff, and all Trustees receive weekly updates on staff activities. Trustees are encouraged to pair up with members of staff on issues such as equal opportunities or specific areas of policy.

The Charity also has two advisory groups which are not standing committees, but which meet as necessary to provide information and guidance to staff and Trustees in their work; these are the Welsh Advisory Committee and the Fundraising Think Tank. Each group typically meets two or three times a year.

Monthly management accounts are produced by the staff and circulated to all the Trustees. A budget for the organisation is set annually before the start of the next financial year and reviewed half way through the year. The Trustees carry out annual reviews of their policies on investments and levels of reserves held.

CNP has a membership scheme for the public, the Friends of National Parks. CNP also acts as the secretariat for the Corporate Forum for National Parks, a group of companies that recognise the unique value of National Parks for conservation, recreation and sustainable development, and that agree to uphold these values in the development and application of their policies. The Corporate Forum for National Parks has no role in the governance of CNP; the Friends of National Parks have a co-opted representative on the Council.

Public benefit

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission for England and Wales' guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake. The Trustees consider that the Charity's objectives, the activities taken to meet those objectives, and the ongoing strategy set for the Charity, fully comply with the public benefit guidance set out by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Risk management

The Trustees have considered the risks to which the Charity is exposed, and have established systems for mitigating those risks. External risks have been minimised by the adoption of a five-year Strategic Plan, reviewed every year, which includes a strategy for securing funds from a wide range of sources. Internal risks are minimised by implementing procedures for authorising transactions, projects etc., and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. The Trustees review these procedures annually, and take any action needed in the light of the review. A written record is kept of the review and actions taken.

The Trustees have established the following policy in relation to risk management:

1. A risk register will be maintained which summarises the key risks facing the Charity, the controls in place to mitigate those risks and an assessment of whether the risk is acceptable or not.
2. If a net risk is deemed to be unacceptable, an action plan will be enforced to mitigate the risk to an acceptable level. This could involve the introduction of a new policy, enforcement of an existing policy or new action to be taken. It might involve action by staff, the Trustees, members of the Charity or other persons connected to the organisation.
3. It is the delegated responsibility of the Chief Executive to ensure that the risk register is maintained and up to date.
4. The Trustees will review the register annually and consider whether:
 - a) the actions recommended at the previous review have been implemented appropriately;
 - b) the assessment of existing risks is still correct;
 - c) there are any new risks that need to be added, or old risks that can be removed from the list;
 - d) any other alterations need to be made to the register; and
 - e) what action plans need to be implemented in the current year to address unacceptable risks.

The risk register is reviewed annually in March.

Equal Opportunities and other policies

As responsible employers, the Trustees have approved a number of policies relating to equal opportunities, health and safety, and other matters affecting staff. All the policies are reviewed at least annually.

Management and staffing

The day-to-day operational running of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive Kathy Moore, who reports regularly to the Chairman and the other Trustees. The Chief Executive and all other staff members work within the policies set out by the Trustees in their annual work plan, which is part of the five year Strategic Plan.

The Chief Executive has delegated responsibility for personnel issues, finance matters, developing the strategic direction of the organisation, and implementing all decisions taken by the Trustees. She directly line manages four members of staff. For the first three months of the financial year the Chief Executive was on maternity leave.

The Deputy Chief Executive (Acting Chief Executive until July 2007) Ruth Chambers is the head of policy for the organisation, and has line management responsibility for the policy staff: at the year end, Amy Peters (Policy Researcher) and Lisa Smyth (Advocacy Officer).

The Head of Fundraising Liz Wall (since January 2008) has responsibility for developing a fundraising strategy and leads on fundraising with charitable trusts, companies, other environmental organisations, the public, etc., with particular emphasis on developing the Friends of National Parks membership scheme. She leads in sourcing non statutory funding for Mosaic and offers a supporting role where necessary for any statutory funding for Mosaic and CNP.

The Mosaic Partnership project was managed by Nina Arwitz from April 2007.

The Mosaic Partnership staff members during the year were Junie Joseph (Project Officer, Community Champions), Shirley Allen-Jackson (Senior Project Officer, Organisational Development) and Zahid Hamid (Senior Project Officer, Organisational Development).

Jim Bull is Finance and Office Manager, and Company Secretary.

Jane Harris (Head of Fundraising) left in August 2007, David Murray (Policy Officer) left in January 2008, and Oriel Price (Wales Policy Officer) left in December 2007.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Main objectives for the year

Aim A: To protect and enhance National Parks and to promote sustainability within the National Parks that is compatible with their purposes

Aim B: To secure a new National Park for the South Downs and extensions to existing National Park areas where they meet the criteria for designation

Aim C: To build support for National Parks among new audiences, especially communities in urban areas

Aim D: To strengthen the capacity of the National Parks movement as a whole

Aim A: To protect and enhance National Parks and to promote sustainability within the National Parks that is compatible with their purposes

Westminster / Whitehall / National Assembly for Wales

We aimed to maintain good links with key government departments, particularly the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). We were keen to strengthen links with officials from and members of the Welsh Assembly.

National Park Authorities, Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA) and the English (ENPAA) and Welsh (WANPA) Associations

We planned to build relationships with new and existing staff at ANPA, WANPA and ENPAA, input to new members induction course(s) and attend key meetings and events.

Corporate Forum for National Parks

Our main objective was to develop a new Corporate Forum business plan, hold bilateral meetings with members and find a new Chairman for the Forum.

Planning and other policy work

We planned to monitor and respond to key national, regional and local policy consultations and planning applications which meet CNP's criteria for involvement, with a focus on regional planning in England.

On minerals, we planned to participate in the UK National Minerals Forum and build links with the new officials at the Department for Communities and Local Government. On energy, we planned to monitor and respond to applications. On transport, our main

casework was expected to be on a new bypass on the A628 in the Peak District, and a watching brief would be maintained on the proposed widening of the A47 in the Broads. We expected to continue our campaign for increased funding for sustainable transport projects in National Parks. On military activity, we planned to influence the process for deciding whether military training on Dartmoor should be granted a new licence.

Aim B: To secure a new National Park for the South Downs and extensions to existing National Park areas where they meet the criteria for designation

We planned to work through the South Downs Campaign to submit evidence to the re-opened public inquiry and to maintain pressure on the government for a timely and positive designation decision.

Aim C: To build support for National Parks among new audiences, especially communities in urban areas

The Mosaic Partnership entered its final phase in the financial year 2007/2008. Despite this, the project should continue to deliver a full range of training and development events for the volunteer Community Champions. The project staff team should be working with all the project stakeholder groups to develop an exit strategy based around four key elements:

- Consolidating the Community Champions' Personal Development Plans
- Active dissemination of the project's lessons
- Facilitating a direct dialogue between the NPAs and Community Champions
- Developing a mechanism for recruiting Community Champions beyond the life of the project

CNP also planned to consider how future work on diversity within the National Park network could be taken forward.

Aim D: To strengthen the capacity of the National Parks movement as a whole

Three editions of Viewpoint, the magazine for Friends of National Parks were planned, along with the Annual Review.

CNP has a small network of volunteer Speakers who give illustrated talks on National Parks to groups such as Women's Institutes, usually receiving a small donation which is passed on to CNP. We aimed to maintain the current level of Speakers' talks, to run one training day and focus on increasing Black and Minority Ethnic Speakers by linking with the Mosaic Partnership.

We aimed to contribute to the design and delivery of the National Park Societies' seminar hosted by the Snowdonia Society in autumn 2007.

Principal achievements for the year

Overview of policy and key relationships

The public inquiry into the South Downs designation order re-opened in February. The South Downs Campaign (of which CNP is a member) submitted a large amount of evidence on the need to include areas such as the Western Weald, Lewes and Ditchling. CNP maintained pressure on the government for a timely decision, through parliamentary questions and letters to Ministers.

Good links were developed with the new Defra Minister responsible for National Parks (Jonathan Shaw MP), and we also met the Secretary of State at Defra for the first time.

Relationships in Wales improved and meetings were held with the Assembly Government Minister for Sustainability (Jane Davidson AM). An event was held at the Senedd which attracted a number of Assembly Members and helped to raise the profile of CNP and the Mosaic Partnership.

Much time was spent developing relationships with Natural England at all levels of the organisation.

National Park Authorities, Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA) and the English (ENPAA) and Welsh (WANPA) Associations

Regular contact was maintained with staff and members of ANPA, ENPAA and WANPA.

Planning

We monitored and responded to key national, regional and local policy consultations and responded to planning applications which met CNP's criteria for involvement. Casework was focused at Glyndebourne in the South Downs, where CNP objected to a planning application for a large wind turbine and successfully pressed for it to be called in. We gave evidence at the public inquiry as part of the South Downs Environmental Protection Consortium.

CNP attended an exploratory meeting called by the Inspector into the soundness of the Dartmoor National Park Core Strategy. Our input helped to persuade the Inspector to proceed with the examination – the strategy was subsequently found to be sound.

Specific policy work

Minerals

CNP continued to ensure that National Park considerations were at the heart of discussions at the UK National Minerals Forum and on various projects looking at the future of the managed aggregate supply system.

Hanson, a member of the Corporate Forum for National Parks, decided to give up its dormant planning permission for Old Ingleton Quarry, which was one of the sites identified for relinquishment in CNP's 2004 report on Old Mineral Permissions.

We maintained a regular dialogue with industry representatives from trade associations (the Quarry Products Association and the British Aggregates Association) as well as from individual companies with a significant interest in National Parks (Tarmac, Hanson, WBB Minerals).

Energy

We continued to work closely with the Friends of the Lake District to secure ongoing funding for undergrounding projects in National Parks, both for electricity distribution lines and the BT network. This included meetings with Ofgem, Ofcom, electricity companies and protected landscape organisations.

Transport

We met and briefed the new Transport Minister, Rosie Winterton MP, to highlight the policy recommendations from our *Tackling Traffic* report, including the need for a Sustainable Transport Fund for National Parks.

In conjunction with the Department for Transport and Natural England, CNP organised a seminar on the DfT's main appraisal tool which is being 'refreshed'. We stressed the importance of giving landscape considerations more weight.

We objected to the proposals to expand airspace over the New Forest National Park and achieved good local radio and press coverage on this.

We worked closely with the Friends of the Peak District in respect of the Mottram-Tintwistle public inquiry and submitted a proof of evidence on the non-compliance with the major development test. The inquiry has been delayed until Autumn 2008 due to modelling errors by the Highways Agency.

Military

We objected to the proposed 2 year temporary permission for military training at Brynich in the Brecon Beacons – the application was subsequently withdrawn.

We responded to the environmental appraisal of continued military training on Dartmoor and maintained regular liaison with the Dartmoor National Park Authority, the Dartmoor Preservation Association and Natural England on the need for an independent review

We submitted evidence to the Defence Select Committee's inquiry into the rationalisation of Defence Estates. The committee recommended that the government should set out how it intended to address CNP's concern that the rationalisation of the Defence Estate might lead to intensification in National Parks.

Communications

CNP communicated well with its statutory and voluntary sector partners. Twenty two press releases were issued on a variety of topics, and attracted good coverage nationally (including on Radio 4 and The Independent), regionally (e.g. Meridian and BBC South) and locally. Specialist (e.g. Planning Magazine) and partner publications (e.g. Ramblers' Association's Walk magazine) were also successfully targeted. Three editions of Viewpoint were published and widely disseminated.

The website was kept up to date and the National Park issues section expanded. It was also used to promote National Parks week and Sustrans' "Change your world" campaign.

We launched new President Ben Fogle who, along with former President Brian Blessed, generated good media coverage for CNP and the South Downs Campaign.

197 Speakers' talks were given, generating just over £5,600.

Projects

The Mosaic Partnership continued into its third year. An exit strategy was developed and its implementation began. This included consolidation of Community Champions and updates of all their Personal Development Plans, active dissemination of the "Mosaic Model" to National Parks and other relevant organisations interested in engaging with ethnic minorities, and organisational development of the partners to ensure their readiness to take over activity at the end of the project through Partner Action Plans. A full schedule of training and development was held during 2007/2008. This included four group leader visits; seven training events; four urban events; one annual event; three Young Champions visits; and continued organisational development of partners through meetings; regional feedback fora; equality standards training; two applications from Champions to become members of a National Park Authority; and cultural events in the Parks. In addition, ongoing support was provided for Champions and Partners throughout the year.

The Mosaic Partnership secured the following media coverage in the 2007/2008 financial year: Yorkshire & Humber Regional Open Forum Newsletter (July 2007). Society Guardian (August 2007), BBC Radio Cleveland (August 2007), Radio 4 Today Programme (September 2007), Welsh Country Magazine (November 2007), Sheffield Live Radio (November 2007 and March 2008), BB Radio Sheffield (March 2008).

Consultation was also held with key stakeholders on the future of Mosaic after it ends in September 2008. This consultation showed a strong demand from current champions and partners for a new project to build on the foundations laid to date, as well as high demand from other National Park Authorities for a roll out of the Mosaic Model. Ideas for a new Mosaic project were therefore developed, together with a funding strategy.

Corporate Forum for National Parks

2007/08 was a busy year for the Corporate Forum, with a regular programme of bilateral meetings with member companies and productive Forum meetings held in Snowdonia and London. We were disappointed to lose United Utilities, Nationwide and the Outdoor Group as members, each for very different reasons. We have recruited additional voluntary help from within CNP to recruit new members to the Forum.

The new chairman Sir Charles Nicholson challenged Forum members to consider the purpose of membership, resulting in greater clarity and a renewed format for meetings. Following this he decided to step down as chair and the Forum decided to appoint one of its members as chair on a rolling annual basis.

CNP's development

We developed a project to build a membership scheme, which started in January 2008. Extensive consultation took place as part of the process of developing a new five year strategic plan; this was approved by the Trustees in March 2008 and signals a change in emphasis in our work with a greater emphasis on raising awareness and building understanding of National Parks. Over the period of the plan, we will do more to promote National Parks to the public and to encourage the widest support for National Parks, while also aiming to consolidate key parts of our network. The Trustees also decided to invest in more general communications expertise over the next three years to support the increased work involved in raising awareness of National Parks.

Summary of Funding Sources

CNP is fortunate to receive funding and support from a wide range of organisations and individuals. During 2007/08 we received support from:

Trusts and Foundations

Madeline Mabey Charitable Trust, Marsh Christian Trust, The Ardwick Trust, Oakdale Trust, Dennis Curry Charitable Trust, John Ellerman Foundation, Carpenters Company Charitable Trust, Charlotte Bonham Carter Charitable Trust.

The Heritage Lottery Fund continued its support of the Mosaic Partnership, together with match funding from Natural England, the Countryside Council for Wales, the YHA, the four partner National Park Authorities (Peak District, Brecon Beacons, North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales), Nationwide Building Society and the Lloyds TSB Foundation.

Constituent Organisations

Friends of the Lake District, Friends of the Peak District, Ramblers' Association.

CNP also received subscription income from its constituent organisations.

Friends of National Parks

The individual Friends of National Parks contributed £92,634. This figure includes subscriptions, donations, legacies and Gift Aid tax claims. Our volunteer Speaker Service raised £5,616.

Statutory Organisations

Natural England provided a grant for various policy and raising awareness work, and the Countryside Council for Wales helped support CNP's work in Wales.

Corporate Forum for National Parks members:

For most of the year, members were: Burlington Slate, CE Electric UK, Hanson plc, National Grid, Nationwide Building Society, Openreach, Outdoor Group, RWE npower, Tarmac, United Utilities.

Valuing Volunteers

CNP is fortunate to receive support from volunteers in many capacities, and although the exact time given to the organisation is hard to measure, our estimate for 2007/08 would include as a minimum:

Council members (largely for meetings):	160 days
Trustees	80 days
Speakers	140 days
Other Volunteers	15 days
Mosaic Partnership volunteers	250 days

In line with SORP 2005, the contribution of volunteers has not been included in the Statement of Financial Activities, as the value of their contribution to the organisation cannot reasonably be quantified in financial terms.

Plans for 2008/09 and beyond

Our work plans for the year are based on our amended strategic aims, as listed on page 3.

Aim A: To protect and enhance National Parks and to promote sustainability within the National Parks that is compatible with their purposes

Work to further this strategic aim includes meetings with Ministers and officials, ongoing lobbying and briefing with several government departments, monitoring parliamentary debates, and briefing Peers, MPs and Members of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Relationships with National Park Authorities and ANPA remain of crucial importance and these will be maintained and enhanced through meetings, general contact and information sharing.

The Corporate Forum for National Parks is a key focus for our work with businesses and the main activities for the year will be two full meetings of the Forum, bilateral meetings with all members and recruiting new members.

Engagement in the planning system, both on planning policy and development control, will remain an important way of delivering strategic aim A, and the main activities are expected to be: responding to the Planning Bill and associated consultations on National Policy Statements, Review of National Planning Policy and Sub National Review; monitoring and responding to key national, regional and local policy consultations, with a focus on Local Development Frameworks/Plans; and monitoring and responding to planning applications which meet CNP's criteria for involvement.

In addition, specific policy work will be taken forward on the following areas: minerals, energy, transport and military training, with activity expected to focus on the public inquiry into proposals for a new bypass on the A628 in the Peak District (expected to recommence in autumn 2008), work on the conflicts between military training and National Park purposes on Dartmoor and a project on renewable energy.

Aim B: To secure a new National Park for the South Downs and extensions to existing National Park areas where they meet the criteria for designation

The decision on whether the designation of the South Downs National Park will be confirmed is expected in 2009. Following this, CNP will work with its key partners (the South Downs Campaign and South Downs Society) on the setting up of a National Park Authority and the development of its early policy framework. It is also expected that the consultation process on the Designation Orders for extension of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks will recommence in 2009.

Aim C: To build support for National Parks among new audiences, especially communities in urban areas

The Mosaic Partnership will come to an end in September 2008. Regular training and development activity will continue into the summer, including group leader visits, young Champions events and training sessions. Meetings will be held with all partners to ensure they are prepared to take on activity at the end of the project, together with a last push for communications development of the partners. A final event for Community Champions will be held in Whitby in May 2008, celebrating the achievements of the project. Other activities to mark the end of the project will include an external final evaluation, as well as

a possible" toolkit", and a parliamentary reception in the autumn. Final reporting for all funding will be completed at the end of the project.

CNP will take forward its new strategy for individual membership retention and recruitment.

Ben Fogle was appointed as President at the AGM in July 2007, taking over from Brian Blessed, and it is planned to use him to build CNP's profile with key audiences.

CNP's volunteer Speaker Service intends to maintain the current level of talks and to focus on increasing Black and Minority Ethnic speakers by linking with the Mosaic Partnership project and any successor project.

Aim D: To strengthen the capacity of the National Parks movement as a whole

CNP plans to contribute to the design and delivery of the National Park Societies' seminar in the New Forest and to the planning of the 2009 conference in the Lake District. We will convene two meetings of Society chairs and CEOs and run one workshop attached to a meeting of CNP members. Regular meetings will be held with individual CNP members.

Review of the Financial Position

2007/08 proved to be another good year for CNP financially, with an overall surplus of £75k.

We generated income of £522k which was slightly less than last year's £571k due to lower receipts for the Mosaic Partnership project. We were fortunate to receive £52k through legacies during the year, which was gratefully received, and helped to off-set reductions in our income from Trusts and the Corporate Forum.

Expenditure for the year was £447k, lower than last year's £538k due to a reduction in project activity – the expenditure in 2006-07 included spending on Prosperity & Protection, Tackling Traffic and the 2006 Conference, none of which were taking place during 2007-08.

Costs of generating voluntary income were equivalent to just 10% of the voluntary income raised, which is an extremely good ratio. There was a change to our fundraising staff during the year, with a gap for some time which resulted in savings. Now that we have a permanent replacement the level of costs in this area is expected to increase again in future years.

Reserves Policy

CNP's reserves policy is that unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets should be maintained at a level equivalent to between 6 and 9 months' expenditure (excluding restricted funds). This would enable the Charity to continue its activities during a period of reduced income due to changes in fundraising success or other factors.

At the end of March 2008, CNP's available reserves were £300k. Unrestricted funds stood at £284k. Expenditure on core activities is budgeted to be £322k for 2008-09, so the reserve level represents 88% of annual expenditure, equivalent to just over 10 months' costs. Our reserves are therefore currently in excess of our target which gives us an opportunity to invest them in appropriate areas of work.

The Trustees have taken the decision to invest some of the reserves in an increased level of communications work which is included in the new strategy (see Aim C on pages 16 and 17 of this report). The intention is to spend in targeted areas on communications, including recruiting new Friends, which should then generate an increase in income in future years to fund a growing programme of work. The initial investment should reduce reserves to be within the target levels within 2 years.

Investment policy

CNP's investment policy is that between 1 and 2 months' expenditure should be held in directly accessible cash. Money owned above this amount should be invested in low risk instruments in order to maximise our income. We operated within this policy throughout the year, with reserves invested in a fixed interest unit trust.

Tangible Fixed Assets

The movements in CNP's fixed assets are set out in the notes to the Financial Statements.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

So far as the Trustees (Directors) are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 234ZA of the Companies Act 1985) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each Trustee (Director) has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee (Director) in order to make himself or herself self aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

Appointment of Auditors

Michael Harwood & Co. have expressed their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution to re-appoint them will be submitted at the next Annual General Meeting in accordance with Section 384 of the Companies Act 1985.

Approved and signed by the Trustees on 17 June 2008

Kate Ashbrook
Chairman

Richard Carling
Honorary Treasurer

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of the Council for National Parks

We have audited the financial statements of the Council for National Parks for the year ended 31 March 2008 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the Charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditors

The Trustees' (who are also the directors of the Council for National Parks for the purposes of company law) responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Trustees' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the Charity has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding Trustees' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read the Trustees' Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement,

whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 March 2008 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985, and
- the information given in the Trustees' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

**Michael Harwood & Co
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Greville House
10 Jury Street
Warwick
CV34 4EW**

17 June 2008

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2008
(Incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 31/03/08 £	Restricted funds 31/3/08 £	Total funds 31/3/08 £	Prior year Total Funds 31/3/07 £
Incoming Resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	1c				
<u>Voluntary income</u>					
Charitable Trusts		12,002	-	12,002	42,134
Legacies and donations		59,747	-	59,747	18,289
Corporate Forum		45,900	6,036	51,936	63,430
Constituent organisations		59,612	-	59,612	57,819
Friends of National Parks		34,828	-	34,828	34,306
Natural England grants		25,000	13,945	38,945	43,692
Countryside Council for Wales grants		32,000	2,941	34,941	34,460
<u>Investment income</u>		10,896	-	10,896	9,296
		279,985	22,922	302,907	303,426
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Performance related grants		-	213,496	213,496	248,018
Sales and speakers service		5,923	-	5,923	19,726
		5,923	213,496	219,419	267,744
Total incoming resources		285,908	236,418	522,326	571,170
Resources Expended					
Costs of generating funds	1d, 2				
Costs of generating voluntary income		29,745	-	29,745	26,223
Charitable activities					
National Park Protection		129,974	15,512	145,486	203,605
Raising Awareness		88,099	170,017	258,116	295,855
Governance costs	4	13,962	-	13,962	12,601
Total resources expended		261,780	185,529	447,309	538,284
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	5	24,128	50,899	75,017	32,886
Transfers		-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		24,128	50,889	75,017	32,886
Other recognised gains/(losses)					
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		674		674	(8,056)
Net movement in funds		24,802	50,889	75,691	24,830
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward 1 April 2007		259,615	(34,752)	224,863	200,033
Total funds carried forward 31 March 2008		284,417	16,137	300,554	224,863

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2008

	Notes	Total Funds 31/03/2008		Prior year Funds 31/03/2007	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1e				
Tangible assets	7		-		-
Investments			244,941		189,268
			<u>244,941</u>		<u>189,268</u>
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	8	2,591		47,912	
Cash at bank and in hand			<u>62,720</u>		<u>33,230</u>
			65,311		81,142
Liabilities					
Creditors	9				
Amounts falling due within one year		9,698		45,547	
Net current assets or liabilities			55,613		35,595
Total assets less current liabilities			300,554		224,863
The funds of the Charity					
Restricted funds			16,137		(34,752)
General funds			284,417		259,615
Total Charity funds	11		300,554		224,863

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2008 were approved by the Trustees on 17 June 2008.

Kate Ashbrook
Chairman

Richard Carling
Honorary
Treasurer

The notes on the following pages form part of these Financial Statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2008

1 Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been used consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Financial Statements.

(a) Basis of preparation of accounts

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and comply with the Companies Act 1985. The Financial Statements have also been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2005, and all other applicable accounting standards.

(b) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for the use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charitable objectives of CNP.

Restricted funds are funds subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors. The purpose and use of the restricted funds is set out in note 17 to the Financial Statements.

(c) Incoming Resources

Income from all sources is accounted for as soon as it has been received.

Income received during one financial year which relates to activities to be carried out in the following financial year is treated as a debtor.

Gifts in kind represent services or goods provided free of charge and are included in income at an estimated cost where appropriate.

(d) Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been listed under headings that aggregate all the costs directly attributable to that activity. Where costs (including overheads) cannot be directly attributed they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources and the time spent on those activities.

Direct costs, including directly attributable salaries, are allocated on an actual basis to the areas of activity.

Governance costs are those incurred with the governance arrangements of the Charity which relate to the general running of the Charity as opposed to those costs associated with generating funds or charitable activities. In the case of the Council for National Parks, governance costs are the costs of the audit of the Financial Statements, the costs of meetings of the Trustees, the costs of preparation of the statutory Financial Statements and any costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are included at cost. Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Computer equipment	50% on cost (from 1 April 2002, new equipment is not capitalised).
Furniture and equipment	25% on cost.

(f) Pension costs

The Charity has no occupational pension scheme, but makes monthly contributions of 5% of gross salary to the pension schemes of those employees who make at least 2.5% of gross salary contributions to their schemes. The Charity has selected a Stakeholder pension scheme for those employees who wish to take advantage of it. Pension costs are charged to the income and expenditure account as they become due.

(g) Operating leases

Operating lease rentals are charged to the income and expenditure account as they become due.

(h) Expenditure categories

Expenditure is allocated to one of three functional categories:

- (i) Costs of generating funds
Costs of generating voluntary income (fundraising, administration of the Friends of National Parks, production of newsletters for the Friends of National Parks, production of the Annual Review, costs of acting as the secretariat for the Corporate Forum for National Parks)
- (ii) Charitable activities
 - National Park Protection
 - Policy, research and campaigning
 - Raising Awareness
 - Information service, media work, the Mosaic Partnership
- (iii) Governance costs
Costs of running the Charity in line with constitutional and statutory requirements

2 Resources Expended

	Staff costs	Support costs	Other direct costs	2008 Total	2007 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
National Park Protection	100,500	30,609	14,377	145,486	203,605
Raising Awareness	144,817	19,436	93,863	258,116	295,855
Costs of generating voluntary income	15,911	5,528	8,306	29,745	26,223
Governance	7,464	2,619	3,879	13,962	12,601
	268,692	58,192	120,425	447,309	538,284

3 Analysis of support costs

Support costs	National Park Protection	Raising Awareness	Costs of generating voluntary income	Governance	Total 2008	Total 2007
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Office costs	17,070	10,839	3,083	1,460	32,452	35,584
Travel and subsistence	211	134	38	18	401	751
Printing and photography	636	404	115	54	1,209	1,909
Computer costs	1,321	839	239	113	2,512	9,393
Strategic review	-	-	-	-	-	3,599
Miscellaneous	4,611	2,928	832	396	8,767	4,303
Irrecoverable VAT	6,760	4,292	1,221	578	12,851	17,531
	30,609	19,436	5,528	2,619	58,192	73,070

4 Analysis of governance costs

Governance costs	2007-08	2006-07
	£	£
Audit fee	2,000	1,960
Trustees expenses	1,657	1,951
Staff time for meetings	7,464	3,701
Registration fees	15	15
Apportionment of support costs	2,619	4,928
Other	207	46
	13,962	12,601

5 Net incoming (outgoing) resources

These are stated after charging:

	2008	2007
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	2,000	1,960
Depreciation	-	1,393
Operating leases	8,848	8,714
	<u>10,848</u>	<u>12,067</u>

6 Trustee and employee information

(a) Trustee information

No Trustees received any remuneration (none in 2007/08).

During the year, six Trustees received reimbursement of travelling expenses (four in 2006/07). The total of these reimbursements was £1,657 (£1,444 in 2006/07).

(b) Employee information

Employee costs during the year (excluding training and recruitment) were:

	2008	2007
	£	£
Salaries	240,498	232,930
Social security costs	24,097	25,120
Pension costs	4,097	4,150
	<u>268,692</u>	<u>262,200</u>

No employees received emoluments above £50,000 (none in 2006/07)

	2008	2007
Average number of staff during the year (full time equivalent)	9	9

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Furniture & equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2007	11,420	11,671	23,091
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2008	11,420	11,671	23,091
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2007	11,420	11,671	23,091
Charge for period	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2008	11,420	11,671	23,091
Net book values			
At 31 March 2008	-	-	-
At 31 March 2007	-	-	-

All assets are used in direct furtherance of the Charity's objectives.

8 Debtors and prepayments

	2008 £	2007 £
Grants receivable	-	41,904
Other debtors and prepayments	2,591	6,008
	2,591	47,912

9 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year.

	2008 £	2007 £
Accruals	3,425	5,935
Other creditors	6,273	39,612
	9,698	45,547

10 Operating lease commitments

	2008 £	2007 £
Annual commitments under operating leases expiring:		
Within one year	1,200	1,550
In the second to fifth years	7,648	7,164
After five years	-	-

11 Total funds

	Opening balance	Net incoming resources	Charitable expenditure	Gains on Investment Assets	Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	259,615	285,908	(261,780)	674	-	284,417
Restricted funds	(34,752)	236,418	(185,529)	-	-	16,137
	244,863	522,326	(447,309)	674	-	300,544

12 Analysis of movements between funds

(a) Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2007	Income in period	Expenditure in period	Net surplus / (deficit)	Unrealised gains / (losses) on investments	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2008
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Mosaic Partnership	(34,752)	192,989	(170,017)	22,972	-	-	(11,780)
John Ellerman Foundation Fund	-	12,500	(12,500)	-	-	-	-
Website phase II	-	15,050	(265)	14,785	-	-	14,785
Parliamentary reception 2008	-	595	(1,916)	(1,321)	-	-	(1,321)
Membership development	-	15,284	(831)	14,453	-	-	14,453
	(34,752)	236,418	(185,529)	50,889	-	-	16,137

(b) Unrestricted funds

General fund	259,615	285,908	(261,780)	24,128	674	-	284,417
Totals	224,863	522,326	(447,309)	75,017	674	-	300,554

13 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	244,941	-	244,941
Debtors	2,591	-	2,591
Deposits and cash at bank	46,583	16,137	62,720
Creditors	(9,698)	-	(9,698)
	284,417	16,137	300,554

14 Capital commitments

At 31 March 2008 there were no capital commitments (none in 2006/07).

15 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (none in 2006/07).

16 Taxation

No corporation tax has been allowed for in these Financial Statements because income of the Company, a registered Charity, is within the exemptions granted by Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. The Charity has borne tax on its expenditure where appropriate.

17 Restricted funds

Restricted funds have conditions imposed on them by the donors.

The Mosaic Partnership

To promote participation by ethnic minorities in National Parks.

John Ellerman Foundation Fund

To support the planning work of the Charity.

Website phase II

To continue to develop the Charity's website

Parliamentary reception 2008

To host a reception in the Westminster Parliament to highlight the issue of climate change and to mark to 15th anniversary of the Corporate Forum for National Parks.

Membership development

To develop the Friends of National Parks scheme, including the production of a new membership leaflet.