



Our year in The National Parks of England and Wales

Impact Report 2018/2019



Campaign for
National Parks
Keeping beautiful places safe



Clockwise from top left: © New Forest National Park Authority, © Richard Reed, © Northumberland National Park Authority, © Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to our impact report for 2018/19. Our vision is that the National Parks in England and Wales are beautiful and inspirational places that are enjoyed by everyone.

Campaign for National Parks is the only national charity dedicated to protecting, enhancing and promoting these unique and special parts of the countryside that offer beauty, tranquillity and open space to over 100 million visitors a year and are home to many rural communities.

In 2019 we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which led to the creation of the National Parks. Yet despite this historic achievement there is still much more to be done. The original creators of the National Parks could never have envisaged the pressures they now face from inappropriate development, intensive farming, increasing traffic and climate change.

Campaign for National Parks is dedicated to addressing these challenges. We believe that the Parks still have a vital role to play and that they have the potential to be, and must be, at the forefront of conservation and a source of health, wellbeing and enjoyment for the whole nation. We work with National Park Societies and other organisations to conduct research, contribute to public policy, oppose damaging developments and stimulate debate about the future of these unique landscapes.

We hope this report will give you a taste of the many different things we have worked on over the last year. We also hope it will inspire you to join our movement. Let's work together to ensure these remarkable landscapes are rich in nature and offer beauty, tranquillity and open spaces to future generations.



Janette Ward
Chair



Corinne Pluchino
Chief Executive

The National Parks are living, working landscapes, visited by more than 100 million people every year.

They provide an essential home for wildlife, they are part of our cultural heritage and they are places where we can enjoy beauty, tranquillity and open spaces to enhance our health and wellbeing.



National Park



Influencing local plans



Development successfully stopped



Ongoing campaign against development

Our year at a glance



7

submissions to
National Park
local plans



14

submissions to
national
policy

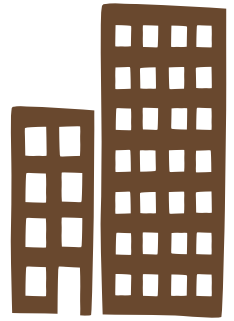


12

charities
worked
with us on
our Glover
Review
response

3

defeated
planning
applications



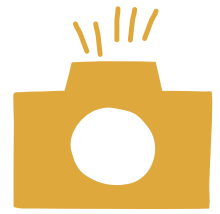
106

appearances
in the media



1,500

entries to
our photo
competition





© Ramblers Association

Celebrating a special anniversary

This year we have been celebrating the 70th anniversary of the *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949* which led to the creation of the National Parks. The first area to be designated was the Peak District in 1951. There are now 13 National Parks in England and Wales.

The 1949 Act was a visionary piece of legislation that was an important, but often forgotten part, of the wider social change that took place after the Second World War. It was the culmination of many years of campaigning by a dedicated group of individuals and organisations, who believed passionately that beautiful landscapes should be both protected and accessible for everyone to enjoy. Campaign for National Parks was established in 1936 as part of this movement and remains committed to the vision of its founders.

To mark the anniversary, we interviewed and recorded the memories of six individuals directly involved in campaigning for and managing the first National Parks. We also joined with other organisations involved in the original campaign as well as many new groups that wanted to mark this occasion. Together we led a celebratory walk in the Peak District, and renewed our pledge to protect the National Parks.

We will continue to campaign for our National Parks to be protected, improved, and accessible so that everyone can enjoy their beauty and tranquillity.



1

Improving nature and landscapes

Our ambition is that National Parks are rich in natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and support thriving rural communities.

- Our landmark report *Raising the Bar: Improving nature in our National Parks* highlighted the extent to which wildlife and natural habitats have declined in what should be protected places.
- We made the case for nature to be given higher priority in government policy, and for targets to be put in place to measure the success of these policies.
- We successfully campaigned with other organisations to introduce a new payments system to reward more sustainable farming and encourage conservation measures in England and Wales.
- We highlighted the fragile state of nature in our submission to the review of national landscapes commissioned by the Government in England. The final review, by Julian Glover, recommended that nature is given much greater protection in the future.
- We continued our work with electricity companies to identify where unsightly pylons and overhead lines could be removed.



© Campaign for National Parks

“ I love visiting my National Park because I am able to connect with nature and explore places that help me to relax, reflect and revive in a magnificent haven. ”

Yvonne Witter

“ Getting out into the countryside is a genuine source of clarity and refreshment, physically and mentally, whether it's just me and my camera, or all of us as a family. ”

Kieran Metcalfe



© Kieran Metcalfe

“ The National Parks for me personally are an historic and invaluable source of peace, tranquillity and freedom and an escape from busy everyday life. ”

Debbie North



© Debbie North

2

Protecting beautiful places

Our ambition is that the National Parks are protected from significant threats that diminish their beauty, wildlife and tranquillity.

In England we:

- Successfully fought government proposals that would have reduced the measures in place to protect National Parks from damaging development.
- We successfully campaigned with the local Park Society against a large holiday village on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, and worked with local organisations to object to proposals for the A27 Arundel bypass which threaten ancient woodland and other important natural habitats in the South Downs.

In Wales we:

- Worked in partnership with other organisations to ensure that conservation continues to take precedence over leisure activities in situations where they come into conflict in the National Parks.
- We campaigned successfully against inappropriate developments including a luge scheme for winter sports in the Brecon Beacons and a major hydropower scheme in Snowdonia.

3

Promoting access for everyone

Our ambition is that everyone should be able to access the National Parks, so they can enjoy beautiful and open spaces and improve their health and wellbeing.

- Public transport services have declined significantly in rural areas for many reasons such as cuts in local authority budgets. Over nine in ten visits to National Parks are currently made by car, but around 25% of households nationally do not own a car. So many of those who might benefit most from the health and well-being opportunities offered by the National Parks are currently excluded from them.
- Our research report, *National Parks for all: making car-free travel easier*, published in 2018, highlighted the need to improve the public transport available within and to the National Parks to ensure that they are truly accessible to everyone.
- Drawing on our research, we continued to campaign for more frequent and flexible services, and to promote local initiatives designed to improve services for people living in and visiting the Parks. Julian Glover's landscapes review quoted our report and argued for new services, both to reduce congestion and polluting emissions and encourage sustainable access for all.

Financial review 2018/19

Total income

£277,000

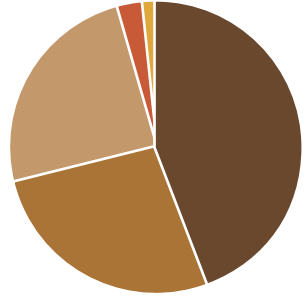
Donations £123,000

Grants £74,000

Legacies £68,000

Other £8,000

Investments £4,000



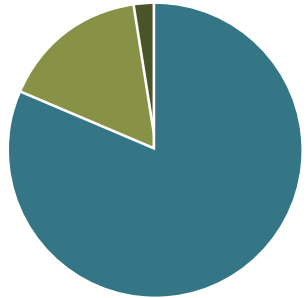
Total expenditure

£264,000

Campaigning,
communications
and other charitable
activities £215,000

Raising funds £43,000

Governance £6,000



81p

in every £1
is spent on
charitable
activities

Thank you

We would like to thank all the individuals and organisations who have contributed to our work over the last year, whether as volunteers, advisers or donors. Without their generosity our work would not be possible.

Campaign for National Parks is the only independent national charity dedicated to protecting, enhancing and promoting the National Parks of England and Wales. We conduct research, contribute to policy making and campaign for action. We bring together a coalition of all the Park Societies in England and Wales plus many other organisations that have direct experience of living in, working in and protecting the National Parks. Together our member bodies represent over 5 million people.

Join us to help ensure the National Parks remain beautiful, awe-inspiring places that are rich in wildlife and are enjoyed by everyone.

For more information visit www.cnp.org.uk

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