

ISSUE 82 | SPRING/SUMMER 2023

# VIEWPOINT

**MAKING NATIONAL  
PARKS WILDER**  
Discovering nature  
recovery projects

**ROOTS AND WORDS**  
The power of connecting  
with nature

**DARK SKIES SHINE BRIGHT**  
Revel in a whole host of  
captivating dark-sky events

  
**Ymgyrch y Parciau  
Cenedlaethol**

  
**Campaign for  
National Parks**

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Cover Image by Claire Sheppard, see more of her images from the New Forest at [brambleandbeach.co.uk](http://brambleandbeach.co.uk)

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## STAY IN TOUCH

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# WELCOME

In what has been a whirlwind start to the year I'm excited to take a breath and reflect on my short time here at Campaign for National Parks. During my afternoon strolls in the South Downs where I'm lucky enough to live, Spring is finally in full swing and there's change in the air. A change that can also be felt among everyone here at Campaign for National Parks.

I've joined at an exciting time at the organisation, with new faces and bolder plans to demand action for National Parks; it's hard not to feel inspired. I feel like the daffodils and crocus, bursting open with ideas and ready to put down my own roots at Campaign for National Parks.

It's already been such a joy to hear from people who care so passionately about their local National Parks. Jeni Bell captures so wonderfully how powerful her connection to the New Forest is in her writing (pages 4-7), and our own Gareth Ludkin (pages 8-9) makes me want to dash across the border and yell 'Cymru am byth' at the top of my lungs! Nature recovery projects in the Lake District and North York Moors are a beacon of hope for our wildlife in Ruth Bradshaw's article (pages 14-17).

Being involved in launching the work of some of our New Perspectives bursary winners has been an eye-opening experience. I often take for granted how easily I can get out into nature, when there are barriers for so many. Seeing Erika's walking booklet (pages 10-11) and learning about 'Miles without Stiles' in the Lake District from Charlotte (pages 20-21) gives me hope that changes are happening, and a resolve to keep campaigning for equal access for all.

**Harriet Gardiner, Senior Communications Officer,  
Campaign for National Parks**



Harriet Gardiner in Eryri (Snowdonia)

# NEWS



Dr Rose O'Neill with New Perspectives bursary winners Ruth Garrett and Charlotte Ditchburn

## NEW PERSPECTIVES TO PARLIAMENT

Earlier in the year we headed to Westminster with some of our New Perspectives bursary winners to speak to Parliamentarians and the Minister for Protected Landscapes Trudy Harrison to urgently lay out why National Parks need new powers and funding. We and an alliance of other concerned groups called on the Minister to equip National Parks with the new powers and resources these places urgently need.

National Parks produce the air we breathe, a home for our most cherished species, a window to our cultural heritage and are invaluable to our health and well-being.

*With National Parks at the heart of everything we do, our mission is clear. We're here to unite, inspire and empower everyone to take action and enjoy wilder National Parks.*

## WINTER APPEAL SUCCESS

Thank you to all of our Friends and supporters who showed their support for National Parks last winter by donating over £10,000 to the Love Our National Parks appeal. As the independent voice for National Parks we can only continue our campaign thanks to donations, memberships and gifts in wills. This spring, we've launched the National Parks are for everyone appeal, find out more on pages 18 - 19 or visit [bit.ly/biggivegreen](https://bit.ly/biggivegreen) to double your donation, only between 20-27 April 2023.

## DAMAGING ROAD-BUILDING DELAYED

After hard campaigning, together with local activists and a legal challenge by the South Downs National Park, we're pleased that plans for the Arundel Bypass have been delayed to 2025 citing 'environmental considerations'. Hopefully, by 2025, the Westminster

Government will follow Wales' lead to only consider new roads that reduce carbon emissions and support a shift to public transport. Until then, we are working on changing National Parks law which will make it impossible for such a damaging road scheme to ever be taken forward. This is vital given that Government is still pressing ahead with road schemes that will damage the Peak District and the Lake District.

## £4.4M BAILOUT FOR NATIONAL PARKS IN ENGLAND

After vigorous efforts from Campaign for National Parks and others in highlighting the scale of the crisis caused by successive cuts, the Westminster Government issues a 10% uplift to the National Park budget last month.

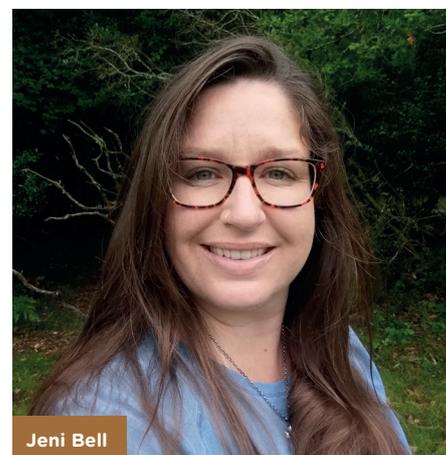
The additional funding from Defra will see each of the ten National Park Authorities in England receive £440,000 by the end of this financial year.



# Roots and Words

Winner of the Nature Writing Prize for Working Class Writers Jeni Bell explores the power of connecting with nature in the New Forest, her roots as a working-class writer and the importance of accessing protected landscapes.

Main image: New Forest pony by Claire Sheppard



Jeni Bell

Whilst relatively new in its status as a National Park, the New Forest is ancient in its standings. There are trees within its enclosures with deep-reaching roots that have measured the passage of time by kings and queens, rebellions, wars, and the passing of laws. Spread across Hampshire, Dorset, and Wiltshire, what was once William the Conqueror's hunting ground has transformed into a destination for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

For me, it is the place in which I cut my wild teeth. Where, out amongst the hardy New Forest ponies, I first properly experienced freedom wandering across its heathlands, or along woodland paths in search of the deer that dwell there. And, like so many other artists, painters, and photographers, it has inspired me to connect to my own creativity. It is probably one of the reasons I first put pen to paper as a non-fiction writer, and although I don't live as close now, I still seem to channel it every time I write.

I didn't grow up in the New Forest itself, but on the other side of the cattle grid in a small council estate a short drive away. Although, if I looked out of my bedroom window, beyond tiled roofs and past pylons, I could make out the trees lining its edges. They were one of the first things that

sparked my love of nature, summoning me to explore them both in person and on the page.

Nature writing has always been something I've surrounded myself with; it mirrors my interest in the outdoors, and those rich descriptions and details offer endless chances to travel beyond my bedroom (and myself!). Whether it's a novel, a case-study on a particular species, or a memoir woven through with wild writing; I am never far from a well-thumbed nature-filled book. So, between those trees beckoning me from the horizon and the words of others, it was inevitable I would pick up a pen myself. And, probably even more inevitable, that my focus would fall heavily on the natural world.

Initially, I wrote for myself but soon my nature journals and diaries transformed into a blog. This spurred me on to write magazine and online articles, and today I tend to find myself exploring my own personal landscape in longer pieces of prose. In 2022, I entered the Nature Writing Prize for Working Class Writers, and although my winning piece 'Prayer to Sea' was set far from the New Forest, its heathlands, ancient woodlands, and Solent shores, were what ignited my initial creative spark.

This competition, founded by working-class writer Natasha Carthew, aims to help give a voice to those writers who face boundaries due to their socio-economic status. It offers an opportunity to connect with a world that can often feel out of reach for many. As someone who often couldn't afford the entry fees of other competitions, or who has to fit her writing practice around work whilst negotiating the creeping feeling of guilt for not being more productive, Carthew's prize was an outstretched hand. To me it felt like a reassuring voice that said: "You can do this. This is as much yours as anybody else's." It also helps to make the natural world feel more accessible; demonstrating that nature writing doesn't have to solely be the domain of those travelling to far-flung destinations. It can just as easily be whatever you find on your doorstep, whatever speaks to you, whatever allows you to create a connection with your own life.

*I was lucky that the New Forest National Park lay just beyond my doorstep. And as someone who identifies as a working-class writer, it feels fitting that National Parks have played a huge role in our working-class history.*

Like Carthew's prize, National Parks were formed with accessibility in mind. Their past is steeped in protest, with people fighting for the rights to access the landscape and countryside; arguing its benefits should be open to all, not just landowners.

When the UK became increasingly industrialised, with towns and cities beginning to develop and spread, and more and more land subject to privatisation, people quickly recognised the need for green space. William Wordsworth claimed that the Lake District was 'A sort of national property. In which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy' - a sentiment shared by those who appreciated not just the Lakes, but other wild treasures throughout the UK. Time spent in these places gave those living and working amongst industry a welcome breath of fresh air, as well as a break from the pressures of work and industry. As more people began to witness such benefits, the more important it became to voice the peoples' need for access, and to protect these green areas against loss.

The first 'freedom to roam' bill was introduced by James Bryce MP in 1884 and despite its rejection, it lodged the idea of nature as a human right in the public psyche. With conflicts between landowners and the public steadily growing more violent, with the 1932 Kinder Scout Trespass being a pivotal point of change in the fight for the rights of access, the Government was under enormous public pressure to address the issue. And the pressure from the people didn't subside. In 1936 The Standing Committee on National Parks, today known as the Campaign for National Parks, was formed to help fight for the cause. Through development of legislation, persistent lobbying, and post-war reconstruction, an Act of Parliament was passed in the 1950s to establish National Parks. Their purpose: to conserve, protect, and enhance an area's beauty, heritage, and wildlife; whilst helping people to enjoy and understand their special, unique qualities.

The people's voice had won, and over the course of the 50s the first National Parks were created. Today there are 15

across the UK. Even though the New Forest wasn't awarded National Park status until 2005, it still stands as part of a people's movement that fought for a bigger cause and still benefits so many people today.

Whenever I head out along the heathland for inspiration I am passed by walkers, cyclists, and families heading out, picnic in hand. I often stop to ask birdwatchers with binoculars draped around their neck, if they've 'seen anything good?'. Amongst the butter-coloured flowers of gorse and beneath the singing woodlarks people are being inspired; they are seeking their own wildness away from built-up areas and the pressures of day-to-day life.

On their website, Campaign for National Parks explains that National Parks were created to 'bring long-term protection to areas of beautiful countryside that were highly valued for physical and spiritual refreshment.' Like a dip in cleansing spring waters, the New Forest has provided me over the years with plenty of refreshing experiences; ones that I'm able to draw on time and time again. And it's this lasting refreshment that sparks my creativity. When I'm stuck at my desk, bogged down in the murkiness of daily worries and the words won't come, I can recall the way it feels to lean into the pollarded limbs of a beech tree, the bright green moss wrapping around it sharp in my mind's eye. Or I think on that one morning when the proud form of a fallow buck materialised from a soft morning mist. And that's just me in the New Forest; others will draw on their own encounters from the Peak District, or Dartmoor, or the Yorkshire Dales.

*These places stay with us long after we have left them. That we can draw on them when we have a bad day, or feel down, or just need to be whisked away to somewhere a bit wilder.*

That is undeniable access. It is essential. And fought hard for by those who believed, intensely, that everyone deserves to have these encounters.

For me these moments help conjure

the wild words I'm searching for. It's for that reason, alongside many others, that I will forever be grateful for the access and understanding the National Park on my doorstep has granted. But it is more than that: my gratitude extends to those that fought, and are still fighting today, to keep these spaces free and open for all to enjoy.

It feels fitting that my words have come full circle. A working-class writer, entering a working-class competition, writing a piece for something that has strong roots in a working-class movement. Like those ancient oaks, my roots, and words, lie deep in the New Forest. I know that wherever I go or whatever I write, they will always reach down and out through my pen and onto the page. I hope that through my words I can help raise awareness of these natural gems, perhaps even encouraging others to head out and seek their beauty for themselves. It's a small offering, my wild-wrapped words, but they are filled with deep thanks for these wild places and all that fight for them.

### **We're proud to sponsor the Nature Writing Prize for Working Class Writers**

**This literary prize that was set up in 2020 to help break down barriers to nature writing and what is perceived as a nature writer.**

**The prize, which is free to enter, encourages self-identifying working-class writers from all over the UK to dig deep into the world of nature writing, whether they live in the country, in National Parks or in towns and cities. Founder of the prize, writer Natasha Carthew said:**

*"It's important to me that this prize is accessible to everyone, an award which provides a platform to celebrate the diversity that exists in nature writing."*

**Natasha Carthew's new Memoir; 'Undercurrent: A Cornish Memoir of Poverty, Nature and Resilience' publishes with Coronet/Hodder.**



New Forest grazing, Claire Sheppard



Swimming in Eryri (Snowdonia), Lauren Simmonds

# Cymru am byth: Defining Welsh national pride through National Parks

Campaign for National Parks' Policy and Projects Officer Gareth Ludkin explores how National Parks can help galvanise our sense of national pride.

## How do you go about capturing a sense of national pride?

The idea of defining national pride is riddled with clichés and identity politics, but it has also been something I have reflected upon as we develop our campaigns in Wales, work with the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes and push for the proposed new National Park in North-East Wales.

Whether through politics, language or hiking through the hills of Wales, I have

seen how a confident sense of Welsh national pride has carefully bubbled away in recent years, forging a much stronger sense of self post-devolution.

In recent years, the Welsh language has helped knit together a sense of national pride more broadly. We have seen language used as an assertive rubber stamp of Welsh identity; from the National Assembly for Wales renaming itself Senedd Cymru, to Snowdonia and Snowdon proudly committing to the use of Eryri and Yr Wyddfa over the

predominant English monikers.

Similarly, an emboldened 'made in Wales' approach to legislation – as coined by Lesley Griffiths MS – has been evident in a whole host of environmental decisions in recent years, from the plastic bag levy to the fracking moratorium, the ban on future fossil fuel extraction and welcome commitments to exploring new legislation for Wales' National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in response to our campaigns.

The recent landmark Roads Review, which was hailed as ‘world leading’, demonstrated a positive intent, putting climate and nature front and centre of all future road-building. The first Agriculture Bill to be designed in Wales similarly hopes to strike a progressive tone, and we continue to challenge this and the forthcoming Sustainable Farming Scheme to deliver much more for nature in National Parks.

All of this is of course underpinned by the Well-being of Future Generations Act, which is attempting to shift the dial toward a well-being economy and sees other Governments looking on with envy, but of course, that’s not to say that everything is all fine and rosy here in Wales.

The River Wye, which flows through a National Park and an AONB, is dying under the weight of agricultural pollution and mass poultry farming; grouse-moor burning is still operational, and National Parks are still failing to deliver a net gain for nature recovery.

The commitment to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030 is an ambitious target, but with National Parks already covering 20% of the land surface of Wales, and AONBs a further 5%, these designated landscapes across Wales are fundamental to delivering this target.

Through partnership working and a desire from Campaign for National Parks and others to keep campaigning hard for the resources and powers needed to deliver at pace, hopefully we can start turning this ship around.

*Against the wind and the storms, ‘ry’n ni yma o hyd’ (‘we’re still here’) soars the lyrics of Dafydd Iwan’s spiritual ‘Yma o Hyd’ folk song which brought national pride into full voice at the 2022 FIFA World Cup.*

It could also be the voice of the environmental movement here in Wales, as we take pride in our national assets and seek to improve and protect them... ymlaen, Cymru!

### **Sut ydych chi’n mynd ati i ddal ymdeimlad o falchder cenedlaethol?**

Mae’r syniad o ddiffinio balchder cenedlaethol yn frith o ystrydebau a gwleidyddiaeth hunaniaeth, ond yn fy misoedd cyntaf yn yr Ymgyrch dros Barciau Cenedlaethol, mae hefyd wedi bod yn rhywbeth rwyf wedi myfyrio arno wrth i ni gynyddu ein capasiti yng Nghymru a gwthio am y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd arfaethedig yng Ngogledd-ddwyrain Cymru.

Boed drwy wleidyddiaeth, iaith neu heicio drwy fryniau Cymru, rwyf wedi gweld sut mae ymdeimlad hyderus o falchder cenedlaethol Cymreig wedi parhau i fyrlymu yn ofalus yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, gan greu ymdeimlad llawer cryfach o hunan i Gymru ar ôl datganoli.

Yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae’r Gymraeg wedi helpu i wau ymdeimlad o falchder cenedlaethol at ei gilydd yn ehangach. Rydym wedi gweld iaith yn cael ei defnyddio fel stamp pendant o hunaniaeth Gymreig; o Senedd Cymru yn ailenwi ei hun, i Eryri a’r Wyddfa yn ymrwymo’n falch i ddefnyddio’r enwau hynny dros y prif rai Saesneg.

Yn yr un modd, mae ymagwedd “a wnaed yng Nghymru” wedi’i hatgyfnerthu at ddeddfwriaeth — fel y’i bathwyd gan Lesley Griffiths AS — wedi bod yn amlwg mewn llw o benderfyniadau amgylcheddol yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf. O’r ardoll bagiau plastig i’r moratoriwm ffracio, y gwaharddiad ar echdynnu tanwydd ffosil yn y dyfodol a dargyfeirio pensiwn y cyngor lleol.

Dangosodd yr adolygiad pwysig diweddar o ffyrdd a gafodd ei alw’n “arwain y byd” fwriad cadarnhaol, gan roi hinsawdd a natur o flaen a chanol holl waith adeiladu ffyrdd yn y dyfodol. Mae’r bil amaeth cyntaf i gael ei ddylunio yng Nghymru yn yr un modd yn gobeithio taro naws flaengar ac rydym yn parhau i herio hwn a’r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy sydd ar y gweill i gyflawni dros natur.

Mae hyn i gyd wrth gwrs yn cael ei ategu gan Ddeddf Llesiant

Cenedlaethau’r Dyfodol sy’n ceisio symud tuag at economi llesiant ac yn gweld llywodraethau eraill yn edrych ymlaen yn eiddigeddus, ond wrth gwrs, nid yw hynny’n golygu bod popeth yn iawn ac yn fêl i gyd yma yng Nghymru.

Mae Afon Gwy yn marw o dan bwysau llygredd amaethyddol a ffermio dofednod yn fasnachol; mae cloddio glo brig yn dal i fod yn weithredol yng Nghymru ac mae’r Parciau Cenedlaethol yn dal i fethu â sicrhau enillion net ar gyfer adfer natur.

Mae’r ymrwymiad i ddiogelu 30% o’r tir a’r môr erbyn 2030 yn darged uchelgeisiol, ond gan fod Parciau Cenedlaethol eisoes yn gorchuddio 20% o arwyneb tir Cymru, mae tirweddau dynodedig ledled Cymru yn hanfodol i gyflawni’r targed hwn.

Trwy weithio mewn partneriaeth ac awydd gan yr Ymgyrch dros Barciau Cenedlaethol ac eraill i barhau i ymgyrchu’n galed am yr adnoddau a’r pwerau sydd eu hangen i gyflawni ar gyflymder, gobeithio y gallwn ddechrau troi’r sefyllfa hon ar ei phen.

Yn wyneb y gwynt a’r stormydd, mae “ry’n ni yma o hyd” yn codi i’r entychion, geiriau cân werin ysbrydol ‘Yma o Hyd’ Dafydd Iwan a roddodd lais i falchder cenedlaethol yng Nghwpan y Byd FIFA 2022.

Gallai hefyd fod yn llais i’r mudiad amgylcheddol yma yng Nghymru wrth i ni ymfalchio yn ein hasedau cenedlaethol a cheisio eu gwella a’u diogelu... ymlaen, Cymru!



Pembrokeshire Coast by Will Davies

# New perspectives from Dartmoor

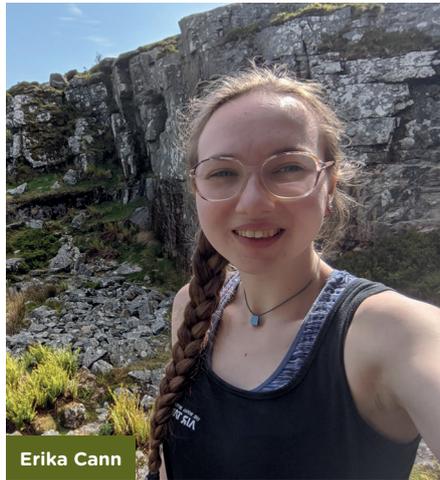
Our latest New Perspectives bursary winner Erika Cann explores Dartmoor by public transport.

In 2021, we teamed up with Ocean City Media to support young storytellers to share their stories about people, climate and nature in National Parks in England and Wales, as part of our *National Parks: New Perspectives bursary scheme*, which was crowdfunded by our generous supporters.

The latest in our series comes from Erika Cann, who has created a booklet of walks exploring the special landscape of Dartmoor National Park, accessible by public transport. Of her project, Erika explains “I love getting out onto the moors, but I don’t drive, which in the past has been a major barrier for getting outdoors. Over the past few years, a new bus route has opened, and the historic train line to Okehampton has reopened, which has provided significantly more varied and more frequent options to access Dartmoor, and I wanted to encourage others to make use of the new public transport to Dartmoor ... to give people the confidence to explore the moors if they haven’t done so before.”

We’re delighted to share Erika’s walking booklet - now available locally from train and bus stations around Dartmoor National Park. Of her publication, Erika says:

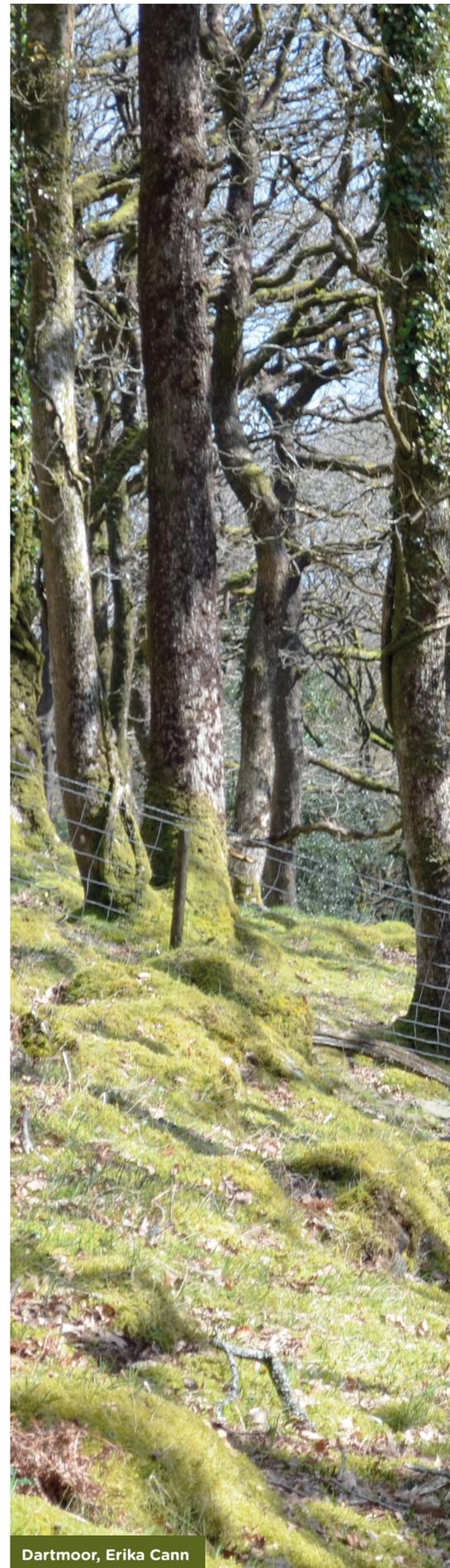
*“I noticed that there weren’t any walks easily found online that incorporated the bus/train routes into the map so I wanted to discover and share some walks that would be suitable for a range*



Erika Cann

*of people, whether they wanted a longer hike, or a family friendly route. I also wanted to prove that you could see so many varied parts of Dartmoor from walking from public transport stops; from wooded riverside walks, to the old viaduct and railway path, to moorland, stone circles, and waterfalls - there’s something for everyone. I decided to make a publication sharing some photos and the routes I had explored, showing what’s possible, and to hopefully encourage others to try the walks themselves.”*

So if you’re planning a visit around Dartmoor National Park and considering how to get around, we hope you’ll pick up or download a copy (see QR code) of Erika’s wonderful walking routes and enjoy the superb sights of Dartmoor!



Dartmoor, Erika Cann







Sandsend Aurora, February 2022 by Steve Bell

# Dark skies shine bright in National Parks

Through dark winter evenings and into the emerging spring, National Parks across England and Wales have been revelling in a whole host of captivating dark-sky events and experiences. Gareth Ludkin shares some tips and how you can get involved.

Our National Parks contain one fifth of the world's dark-sky reserves. From Exmoor to the North York Moors, photographers, amateur astronomers and curious stargazers have gathered in designated dark-sky areas to enjoy the sights of constellations, galaxies and even the Northern Lights.

This spring also saw the island of Ynys Enlli being given a special status and awarded the International Dark Sanctuary certification, making Wales the first country in Europe to receive this status.

Although spectacular sights to see, the dark-sky experience is becoming rarer as industrialisation and light pollution

from urban areas continue to increase, disrupting wildlife, impacting the climate and wasting energy.

In order to help reduce light pollution in your area, you could consider taking any of the below steps in your community:

- Assess the outdoor lighting you have near your home. Is it necessary? Is the light source shielded in any way?
- Does the light serve a clear and necessary purpose? Use dark sky friendly lighting where it does.
- Ask your local representatives what is being done locally to limit light pollution in your area.
- Visit at designated dark sky area and support organisations seeking to protect them.

The UK Dark Skies Partnership has also produced guidance in the last few years to help speed up the pace of change needed across our planning system, signposting what still needs to be done by local and national leaders.

If you missed any dark-sky events this winter and spring, there are still a whole host of new events to take part in from September through to March 2024. We want to celebrate dark skies and do everything we can to help protect them in our National Parks.

Find event listing and more at: [darkskiesnationalparks.org.uk](https://darkskiesnationalparks.org.uk) [discoveryinthedark.wales](https://discoveryinthedark.wales)

Main image: Yorkshire Dales - Vibrant Milkyway over Norber Ridge by Matt Gibson

# Making National Parks wilder

Big or small, nature recovery projects can have an incredible impact on wild spaces and the species that call them home. Our Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw explains...

As we campaign for nature to be given far more priority in our National Parks, it's great to see so many large-scale nature recovery projects happening, and a growing number of new projects join initiatives like Wild Ennerdale.

We can only carry on our campaigns thanks to our generous supporters and Friends of National Parks.

The Wild Ennerdale Partnership was set up in 2002 and includes all the main landowners - National Trust, Forestry England and United Utilities. This remote valley in the Lake District covers an area of 4711 hectares (11,640 acres), and work here over the last two decades has resulted in the creation of 25 hectares of new heathland, restoration of 6 hectares of bog and the planting of over 35,000 native broadleaves and 5,000 juniper trees.

More recent initiatives include a couple of ambitious landscape-scale nature restoration projects in the Yorkshire Dales. Wild Ingleborough covers around 1,200 hectares of land owned by Natural England and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in an area around Ingleborough - the flat-topped mountain that will be well-known to anyone familiar with the Dales. This project was launched in 2021 with plans to re-establish the natural treeline on the mountain, restore the surrounding peatlands and connect existing nature reserves in the area. Thousands of trees are being planted, tumbledown drystone walls are being repaired and drains are being blocked to allow the blanket bog to rewet and the moss to grow again.

All this will provide much needed support for some of the UK's fastest declining bird species such as curlews and black grouse, and will also ensure a healthier future for lots of other species, including cuckoos which are still widespread locally, but much less common nationally. While the scheme will include some carefully managed and low-density grazing by cattle, grazing levels have been significantly reduced and allowing the return of plants. This includes orchids and the Yorkshire sandwort, that is endemic to Ingleborough, and demonstrating just what an impact decades of intensive agriculture have had on this landscape.

Elsewhere in the Dales, the Woodland Trust has purchased nearly 600 hectares of former farmland in Snaizholme, in order to create one of the largest new native woodlands in England. In what's currently a treeless landscape, this will be created alongside a diverse mix of other habitats including riverside pasture, peat bogs and limestone pavement. They'll be maintaining the dry-stone walls that criss-cross the valley here too, not only because they are an important part of the landscape character of this area, but also because they are a valuable habitat for small mammals and common lizards.

All these exciting projects are transforming the areas they cover, and the coming years should hopefully see the creation of many other similar initiatives across the National Parks. In



Cattle in the Snow, Bellfields by Liz Coates

Wales, a new charity, Tir Natur, has been set up to purchase land for large-scale nature recovery projects, and a similar charity, Heal Rewilding, has recently purchased their first site in England.

Change in this scale can inevitably be controversial, and the organisations behind all these initiatives place a strong emphasis on working with local people to give them an opportunity to shape what is planned and ensure their concerns are addressed. For example, at Wild Ingleborough, community consultation identified a lot of anxiety that encouraging wildlife tourism would lead to even more people arriving by car in an area that already suffers from high levels of visitor traffic. To address this there is a strong emphasis on ensuring that the current volunteer opportunities are accessible by public transport, and in the longer term there are plans to work with local accommodation providers to support people to visit without a car.

By attracting new visitors to an area, particularly during quieter times of the year, nature recovery projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits to the rural economy as well as for climate and nature. There are multiple reasons to support nature recovery projects, and we are going need to many more of them if both people and wildlife are to thrive in our National Parks in the future.

**Main image: Southerscales in Wild Ingleborough by Tim Chapman**







Barn owl by Richard Hadfield

# Small is beautiful

Friends of National Parks Peter and Jenny Wood have transformed a corner of the North York Moors for nature.

While it's exciting to hear about initiatives like Wild Ennerdale (see pages 14 - 15), projects on this scale are still rare in England and Wales. They are often only possible where the land is owned by public sector bodies or organisations like the National Trust. But much of the land in our National Parks is privately owned, so it is always particularly heartening to hear of private landowners who have been working to restore nature on their land, particularly when that work began decades ago.

One such example is Rosedale Intake, which at around 6 hectares is a fraction of the size of projects like Wild Ennerdale. Rosedale Intake lies above Danby village in the North York Moors and is named after land taken in from the moor. Peter and Jenny Woods purchased a small house and field here in the early 1970s and then spent the next 50 years on various environmental improvements as well as expanding the house and land. The area now includes woodland and pasture and has a natural watercourse, Ewe Crag Beck, running through part of it.

The Woods planted trees, both native species such as oak, ash, Scots pine and holly, and introduced species such as Douglas fir and walnut. Some of the woodland they have created on steep land near the moor edge extends the natural woodland helping provide an important corridor for wildlife. They have also planted around a dozen rare juniper trees as part of a project that Peter helped set up to plant and protect junipers around the National Park. Juniper is one of the few types of conifer native to the UK and was once common in the uplands, but at the start of the project in 2004, numbers had fallen to around 100 in the North York Moors area. Now, there are more than 1,000 and more are being planted all the time, but sadly, it seems there is little in the way of natural regeneration in the North York Moors, possibly as a result of climate change, as juniper prefers moist, cooler habitats to the drier, warmer conditions that are becoming more common.

Elsewhere on the site, there has been natural regeneration of alder and birch, with a few sycamore and crab apple. Peter and Jenny's care to protect

nesting facilities for birds such as barn owls, tawny owls and swallows has been amply rewarded - one year the barn owls nesting in the boxes in their barn produced five chicks. The creation of a couple of ponds in naturally boggy areas creates yet another type of habitat, adding dragonflies, damselflies and toads to the list of species that can be found on this small site. There is also a rich variety of flora including wild angelica and yellow pimpernel in the woodland, lesser stitchwort and yellow archangel near the ponds and greater birds-foot trefoil and herb robert in a wildflower-rich pasture. And, of course, there are lots of butterflies too.

The Woods' years of hard work and careful management here have certainly paid off in terms of the rewards for wildlife and those that love it. It's a beacon of what's possible for nature recovery across the North York Moors.

*Information based on Rosedale Intake article written by Nicola Chalton, first published in Esk Valley News Quarterly (Autumn 2022, 'Working Lives')*

Main image: North York Moors by munro1



National Park Protector Award Winners AKA in the Peak District by Jessie Leong

# National Parks are for everyone

We all should be able to enjoy the huge health and well-being benefits our beautiful National Parks provide. But there are many barriers to accessing these spaces. This needs to change. Together, we can fight to make sure these awesome spaces are for everyone.

The first of the 13 National Parks in England and Wales were designated for the nation over 70 years ago. But statistics now show that visitors are not representative of the nation, with fewer young, disabled and low-income people and those from ethnic minority backgrounds benefiting from these beautiful landscapes. Did you know that just 6% of visitors to National Parks are aged 16-24?

Our accessibility to these spaces is also under threat; the recent decision to effectively ban wild camping in Dartmoor without landowner permission is a major step backwards and undermines long-established recreation rights, which could set dangerous precedents for other types of access.

## HOW ARE WE TACKLING THE PROBLEM?

At Campaign for National Parks we fight for legislation, policy and plans that would deliver nature-rich and inclusive National Parks.

Our Mosaic project was ground-breaking, showing how community champions could enable access, facilitating thousands of first-time visits to National Parks.

Our New Perspectives project brings together young people with decision-makers and amplifies and champions diverse voices. In the midst of the crisis our generation faces in nature, climate, social inequality and health, we need our National Parks more than ever.



South Downs fingerpost, Rose O'Neill

*“Access to National Parks needs to be fair for all. It’s important that everyone, regardless of background, can access the experiences our wonderful National Parks offer.”*

**Charlotte, our New Perspectives bursary holder**



Adhurst, South Downs National Park by Dawn Brown

### DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

**This spring, you have the chance to double your donation, at no extra cost to you as part of the online Green Match Fund. For just one week, 20-27 April 2023, one donation can have twice the impact.**

If you would like to support National Parks this year, this is a great opportunity to make your donation go even further and make even more of a difference. Your donation will help even more people fall in love with National Parks, whatever their background, and support work to ensure that the needs of nature as well as people are met.

#### Would you like a reminder?

If you'd like a reminder when the match funder starts on email or WhatsApp please email [info@cnp.org.uk](mailto:info@cnp.org.uk) or message 07729 082 222.

#### How can I donate?

To donate please find The Big Give Green Match Fund webpage by using the address: [bit.ly/biggivegreen](https://bit.ly/biggivegreen) or scan this QR code on your smartphone or tablet. You can then donate easily and securely through The Big Give using a payment card. Remember, donations can only be doubled if they are made between Thursday 20 April and Thursday 27 April until midday.



# POINTS OF VIEW



Charlotte Ditchburn

## MILES WITHOUT STILES IN THE LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK: ACCESSIBILITY AND OPENING UP NATIONAL PARKS FOR PEOPLE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

New Perspectives  
bursary winner Charlotte  
Ditchburn

Not everyone has fair shared access to the outdoors. In England and Wales, we have access to less than 4% of the rivers and the right to roam across a mere 8% of the land. However, National Parks are home to 50% of the country's open access land, making these critical spaces for everyone to be able to connect with nature for our mental and physical wellbeing.

In addition, over 20% of England's population cannot currently use public rights of way due to mobility issues, according to Natural England. These mobility issues can be a barrier to accessing the countryside as they prevent people being able to use stiles or kissing gates.



Buttermere, Harry Johnson



Orrest track, courtesy of Lake District National Park Authority

## WHY ARE THERE SO MANY MANMADE BARRIERS IN THE OUTDOORS?

On public rights of way, any structures must be authorised by the Highways Authority. A gate, stile or other barrier can only be erected on a public right of way if either:

1. The Definitive Map and Statement has recorded the presence of a structure on the public right of way, or the structure has been authorised by the County Council using the powers of the Highways Act 1980 section 147.
2. The provisions of section 147 include if it can be justified that the land crossed by the public footpath or bridleway is being used for agriculture, and that in order for this agriculture to be carried out efficiently, a structure is needed to control the ingress and egress of animals.

For example, land used to graze sheep or commercial forestry plantations needing to keep deer and rabbits out would both meet the provisions of this section. If the land stops being used for agriculture and there is no longer any need to control livestock, then the structure should be removed. If a land manager erects a structure without permission, then they are committing an offence and the County Council will take action to remove it.

There are national accessibility standards that organisations should abide by to ensure they are not discriminating against anyone in line with the Equality Act 2010, but in most cases the minimum is done to meet these standards rather than exceeding them.

In the Lake District National Park, the Authority has created 50 routes across

the National Park suitable for people with limited mobility, including wheelchair users, families with pushchairs, and the visually impaired. These routes are called 'Miles without Stiles'. They also provide useful information about using public transport that is accessible for all and details of places to hire all-terrain mobility scooters. This work is having welcome results, but, as I show in my film, much greater action is needed to scale up such approaches across National Parks in England and Wales. That's why I am supporting the Campaign for National Parks to urge the Government to ensure our National Parks are truly accessible to all.

You can watch Charlotte's short documentary at <https://bit.ly/3x7Z15s>

# POINTS OF VIEW

## NATIONAL PARKS ARE IN MY BLOOD

Professor Chris Baines, English naturalist and one of the UK's leading independent environmentalists

I come from a long line of Sheffield ramblers - in both meanings of the word, some might say! As a schoolboy my dad and his pal would head for the Yorkshire Dales, to wild-camp in the comfort of hay-meadow barns. In the heady days just before the war, the Friday-night train along the Hope Valley into the heart of the Peak District forged friendships for my parents that lasted the rest of their lives. Most of my own childhood holiday memories are of riding rain-soaked through Snowdonia on the pillion of the family motorbike and sidecar. National Parks are in my blood.

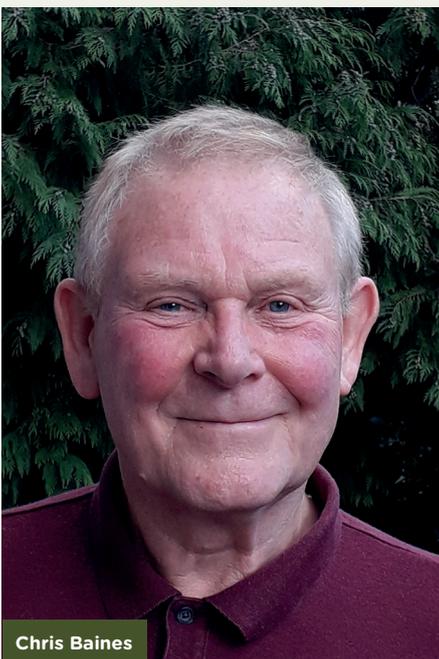
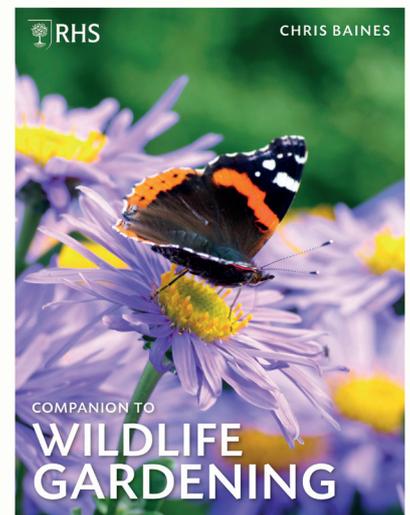
I grew up sharing my parent's gratitude for the working-class heroes of the 1932 Mass Trespass. Their "civil unrest" formed the foundation of Britain's National Parks movement and the long-awaited 'right to roam'. Benny Rothman was the young

firebrand who led the trespass, and 60 years later I had the thrill of flying the aged Benny back to the top of Kinder Scout, to interview him for BBC Countryfile. Those pioneers had a passion for claiming back their 'land fit for heroes' and now I am lucky enough to be helping to add another chapter.

In 2014 I was asked to chair an independent stakeholder advisory group for the National Grid. The regulator Ofgem had been persuaded by Campaign for National Parks, CPRE and others to sanction the removal of overhead pylons and power lines from some of the most picturesque corners of our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Creative collaboration between the Grid's engineers and leaders in the fields of countryside access and landscape conservation has been a voyage of discovery for all concerned. Managing massive short-term disturbance for long-term landscape restoration has placed huge demands on the professionals involved, but already the pylons have disappeared in landscapes as contrasting as the Dorset Downs and the Dark Peak, with more to follow. I like to think that Benny Rothman and my mum and dad would be suitably chuffed.

### Win a copy of *Companion to Wildlife Gardening*

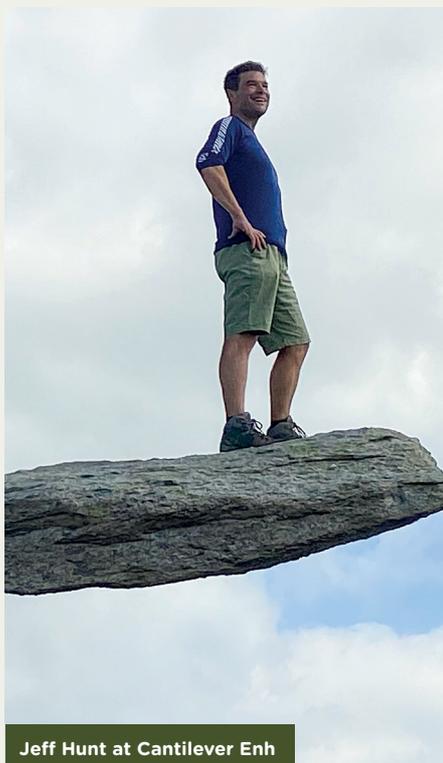
As an exclusive offer to our Friends, we are giving away a copy of Chris Baines's fantastic book *Companion to Wildlife Gardening*. Please email [info@cnp.org.uk](mailto:info@cnp.org.uk) with subject 'Book draw' and your full name and email address to let us know if you would like to enter the prize draw. Draw closes on 12 May 2023.



Chris Baines



Chris's Mum and Dad (top centre) with friends in the Peak District, 1938



Jeff Hunt at Cantilever Enh



Eryri Cwmlidwal by Rose O'Neill

## NATIONAL PARKS AS A SAVIOUR

### Jeff Hunt, one of the founders of Every Run Counts

Eryri - Snowdonia - is a wild and untamed landscape that can take your breath away. For me, it was the place that would rebalance my well-being and signify the start of another amazing journey - to launch a unique motivational platform for runners and walkers.

On one particular day, there was a thick sea fog that meant visibility was restricted. And yet the summit forecast for the Carneddau was for bright sunshine, but it was difficult to visualise. Something that resonated with me based on my recent situation.

I had suffered a nervous breakdown while working in the corporate world. At the time I didn't realise but I had lost my way from my childhood scouting experiences where I had nurtured a love of the outdoors,

putting myself against the elements and learning how to survive.

So, determined to find this better weather, I set off. Trudging through the boggy ground in an ever-thickening dense fog, reliant once again on my map-reading skills for directions. Even as I reached 2,500 feet altitude, visibility was poor.

It was at this point I finally started to emerge from the thick clouds, slowly starting to lighten up with the bright sunshine peeking through. At this moment I felt uplifted and revitalised, once more at one with the great outdoors. Much like my journey up the mountain, the fog had cleared to reveal the bright spots, a metaphor synonymous with my pathway to recovery.

The simple pleasure of being outside, particularly in the National Parks, made a huge difference to my mental well-being. In many ways, this led to the launch of Every Run Counts, a platform built because running and walking changes lives. That's why we're proud to partner with Campaign for National Parks.

#### Every Run Counts

A platform with motivational tools and rewards for doing activities and interactive games with a community of like-minded individuals providing support, the focus is on keeping you moving and doing it in such a way that it keeps you happy. You can even donate the rewards gained through your activity to Campaign for National Parks, at no cost to yourself!

Sign up for free at:  
[www.everyruncounts.co.uk](http://www.everyruncounts.co.uk)



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

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

### LEGACIES FUND A THIRD OF OUR WORK

We are incredibly grateful to our Friends and supporters, many of whom are planning to leave a gift in their will. Without gifts left in wills, our work simply wouldn't be possible.

Did you know, legacies fund over a third of everything we do for National Parks? That's one in every three fights we take on to defend National Parks from new developments, and a third of all our research and policy work to improve vital national protections.

Since 1936, before National Parks were even a reality, we've been fighting for the future of these protected landscapes. Now we've got even bigger plans for more and better National Parks for everyone. After your family and friends are cared for,

could you consider leaving just 1% in your will for National Parks?

To include a gift in your will you only need our charity name, address and registered charity number which is: Campaign for National Parks, 7-14 Great Dover Street, London SE1 4YR, Registered Charity Number 295336.

To help us plan for the future, please let us know if you've already remembered Campaign for National Parks in your will or are thinking about doing so. To let us know or arrange a confidential conversation please email [info@cnp.org.uk](mailto:info@cnp.org.uk) or telephone 020 3096 7714 where you can leave a message with your details.

We couldn't be there for National Parks without you. Thank you.

Image: Bluebells in Spring, Eryri  
by Lauren Simmonds