

# VIEWPOINT

## NATIONAL MARINE PARKS

We're setting sail on an  
exciting new project

NATIONAL PARK  
PROTECTOR AWARDS  
Plus celebrating 75  
years of National Parks

YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
IN ACTION  
Defending National  
Parks in law



CAMPAIGN for  
NATIONAL PARKS

YMGYRCH y  
PARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL



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Cover photo of our Future Leader  
Course in Dartmoor in October 2024

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# DIARY OF OUR CEO

As this issue of Viewpoint goes to print, I will be in the Lakes and then the Dales. In the Lake District, I'll join the Centre for National Parks and Protected Areas at the University of Cumbria at an event bringing together farmers, communities and ecologists to explore the pathways needed to enable the uplands to deliver nature and climate goals and support rural communities. In the Yorkshire Dales, we'll be joining Friends of the Dales to host 20 young leaders to collaborate and develop the leadership skills needed to ensure National Parks are protected and enhanced for future generations (more on page 22).

These exciting plans highlight the breadth of our work at Campaign for National Parks, building a diverse and powerful movement to secure nature-rich National Parks for everyone.

Thanks to your support, we remain completely independent and able to be the voice of the Parks and hold government to account. Over the coming year, our team will focus on three big

priority areas for impact. First, in the context of Westminster government's "build, build, build" growth agenda, we will defend National Parks and ensure that there is no regression on planning protections and that all public bodies seek to further Park purposes as they are now mandated to do (more on pages 10-11). Second, we will publish new evidence and recommendations to shape the National Park Authorities of the future to inform policy being developed in Westminster and in Welsh Government, working with young campaigners to ensure future generations have a seat at the table. Thirdly, we will continue the campaign for the new National Park in Wales (more on pages 18-19), as Natural Resources Wales makes its decision on the designation later in 2025, and work with partners across the UK to explore the case for National Parks and the sea (more on pages 6-9).

Looking ahead, there's a lot to play for. Together, we can make sure the voice of National Parks — and the people who love them and the thousands of species we share them with — is heard loud and clear in the corridors of power.



Image: Dr Rose O'Neill and the future leaders in Dartmoor



# NEWS



Dr Geeta Ludhra



Isaac Turner

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW TRUSTEES!

We're delighted to welcome Dr Geeta Ludhra and Isaac Turner to our Board of Trustees as well as Letitia Cookson who was previously an apprentice Trustee. Isaac and Geeta joined us earlier this year and we look forward to working towards nature-rich National Parks for all together.

On her appointment, Geeta says "I was attracted to being a Trustee with Campaign for National Parks as I welcomed the social justice and activism spirit to drive change."

Isaac says, "This is my first trustee role, and I am privileged to be joining the other members of the Board in supporting the next chapter of Campaign for National Parks' work – a critical one for our nature and communities."

We also want to thank Janette Ward who has stood down after 9 years of being an integral part of our Board.

## 2024: 75 YEARS OF NATIONAL PARKS

In 2024 we welcomed new laws and legislation, connected young people with National Parks, brought the challenges National Parks face to a national audience and came together to protest and to celebrate 75 years of National Parks. Here are Campaign for National Parks' top 5 moments from 2024:

1. Government in England announcement to introduce new legislation which will update the key objectives for National Parks and National Landscapes and reform the Boards which govern English National Park Authorities.
2. Our flagship Health Check Report set out the first assessment of and recommendations for nature recovery in National Parks in England and Wales. Not only did the report provide robust data on the state of our Parks but also outlined recommendations which we are actively campaigning for.
3. We kick started the next two-year phase of our New Perspectives project including our inaugural Future Leaders Course in Dartmoor.
4. We supported the progress for the designation of a new National Park in north east Wales, the first National Park in Wales since 1957. More information on pages 18-19.
5. Defending and upholding the strongest protections for National Parks by calling on the Westminster government to ensure public bodies comply with the law. More information on pages 10-11.

## REIMAGINING NATIONAL PARKS AT COUNCIL

In 1936, we began as a 'Council' of organisations who came together with a shared National Parks mission. This Council is still going strong and in January, we met to explore the theme of 'Reimagining National Parks'. Campaigner and author Guy Shrubsole spoke of the potential for wilder National Parks and highlighted that "in Britain, National Parks, despite their name, are not actually owned by the nation." We also shared our bold new social justice vision, and broadcaster and anthropologist Mary-Ann Ochota spoke on renewing the social contract, emphasising that to achieve social justice "engaging with young people is really important." You can find out more about our social justice work on our website at [cnp.org.uk/equity-diversity-and-inclusion](https://cnp.org.uk/equity-diversity-and-inclusion)



Left to right: Andrew McCloy (Chair of Trustees), Mary-Ann Ochota, Dr Rose O'Neill (CEO), Guy Shrubsole at our Council meeting



Future Leaders Course participants in Dartmoor



# The Future is **NATIONAL MARINE PARKS**

As we embark on our exciting new  
project, National Marine Parks Lead  
Ffion Mitchell-Langford charts our course



Our National Parks are central to the history of our nation. Showcasing and celebrating our most precious and diverse landscapes on land, they form much of our green-space identity and are behind millions of our memories held in nature. But there's a huge, gaping puzzle piece missing from our National Park jigsaw.

### *Over 70% of our planet's surface is covered by ocean.*

The UK boasts a dynamic and stunning coastline of over 30,000km, much of which is already included within 8 of our National Parks, one of which (Pembrokeshire Coast) was designated solely for its coastline, but right now none of our National Parks include the ocean. Campaign for National Parks are setting out to bring justice to our 'missing blue' and lead the way on campaigning for National Parks that cover land, coast and sea.

We are becoming increasingly aware of what our marine space has to offer in terms of ecological, recreational, economic, cultural, spiritual and medical benefits. The UK boasts an awe-inspiring diverse coastline, bursting at the seams with sandy and shingle beaches, rugged cliffs, sand dunes, saltmarshes, seagrass meadows, rocky

reefs, and more. It's no surprise that many people look to the sea as a source of inspiration or as a refuge for healing, with spending time at the sea well-known for boosting levels of happiness and creativity, and improving our health and well-being.

Many – but not all – of these precious blue spaces already fall within a variety of marine protected area (MPA) designations, a collection of laws and policies designed to safeguard our valued species and habitats. However, with the challenges of managing, monitoring, experiencing and accessing our existing and often overlapping MPA network, we are left with seascapes around the UK that are difficult to understand, connect with, and ultimately, protect and restore. The state of nature within our marine environment continues to decline, whilst rates of deprivation amongst coastal communities deepen and marine activity goes largely unregulated or poorly managed. Evidently, we need to be trying something new.

### **THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OF NATIONAL MARINE PARKS**

The definition of a National Marine Park is an "expansive seascape of national importance, where the priority is to promote public awareness and understanding of coastal and marine

heritage and seascape recovery; enable recreational enjoyment; and realise environmental and socio-economic benefits for coastal communities." There is a growing understanding across the environmental community in the UK that in order to address our nature and climate crises, and to be in with a chance of meeting the UK's 2030 conservation targets, we need to be operating at a scale large enough to make a substantial and impactful difference, in a way that is joined up and equitable. In addition to improving management, protection and restoration efforts, we need to simultaneously scale up our investment in nurturing the UK population's relationship with the ocean through, for instance, boosting ocean literacy and marine citizenship. After all, we will only ever care about the things, people and spaces that we have a relationship with. We need to offer that chance of connection.

The aim of a National Marine Park is to connect people with the sea. Like our existing National Park network on land, the purpose of National Marine Parks is to enhance wildlife, conserve cultural heritage and promote public understanding, access and enjoyment. What's special and distinct about the National Marine Parks model is the set of principles that underpins it and the spectrum of possibility that it captures.

## **NATIONAL MARINE PARKS HAVE A SET OF CORE GUIDING PRINCIPLES;**

- 1. SUSTAINABILITY** - Balance the three pillars of sustainability (social, environmental and economic).
- 2. CONNECTIVITY** - Seek synergies and connections between the sea and coastal communities through 'umbrella' status which connects protected sites, the wider marine environment, the land and sea.
- 3. FUNDABILITY** - Seek sustainable funding models.
- 4. LIFELONG LEARNING** - Provide opportunities for increasing understanding, appreciation and enjoyment.
- 5. EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY** - Seek to involve all interests through diverse and inclusive participatory approaches.




These core guiding principles provide a golden thread of commonality that allows all National Marine Parks in the UK to be connected within one network, offering unity and cohesion, irrespective of the type of National Marine Park pursued. The National Marine Park spectrum covers all possible types of National Marine Park, which vary to reflect the nuance of place-based needs, values and priorities of society and nature. They range from voluntary community-led self-declarations as a means of re-branding existing MPA designations, to legislated National Parks comprised of land, coast and sea, with other possibilities continuing to emerge as our collective thinking develops.

### WHAT IS CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARK'S ROLE?

With the support of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, we are leading a project focussed on growing political support and public appetite for National Marine Parks, as well as developing our collective understanding in the UK of what benefits and opportunities National Marine Parks can afford nature and coastal communities.

In the past the sea excluded from our National Park story. The future, however, is National Marine Parks.

 **Image: Kayakers on the Irish Sea by Selena**

Join the National Marine Park movement by scanning the QR code or visiting [cnp.org.uk/about/our-work/national-marine-parks/](https://cnp.org.uk/about/our-work/national-marine-parks/)



“  
***National Marine Parks are an ever-growing beast, which if done right, will see no blue place nor people left behind.***



## Parciau morol cenedlaethol yw'r dyfodol

Mae ein Parciau Cenedlaethol yn ganolog i hanes ein cenedl. Gan arddangos a dathlu ein tirweddau mwyaf gwerthfawr ac amrywiol ar y tir, maent yn ffurfio llawer o'n hunaniaeth mannau gwyrdd ac maent y tu ôl i filiynau o'n hatgofion ym myd natur. Ond mae darn pos anferthol ar goll o jig-so ein Parc Cenedlaethol.

Mae dros 70% o arwyneb ein planed wedi'i orchuddio gan gefnfor. Yma yn y DU, rydym yn gasgliad o ynysoedd – wedi'u hamgylchynu'n llawn gan ddŵr. Mae gan y DU arfordir deinamig a syfrdanol o dros 30,000km, y mae llawer ohono eisoes wedi'i gynnwys yn



ein Parciau Cenedlaethol, ond hyd yma, nid yw'r un o'n Parciau Cenedlaethol yn cynnwys y cefnfor. Mae'r Ymgyrch dros Barciau Cenedlaethol yn mynd ati i ddod â chyfiawnder i'n 'glas coll' ac arwain y ffordd ar ymgyrchu dros Barciau Cenedlaethol sy'n cynnwys tir, arfordir a môr.

Rydym yn dod yn fwyfwy ymwybodol o'r hyn sydd gan ein gofod morol i'w gynnig o ran manteision ecolegol, hamdden, economaidd, diwylliannol, ysbrydol a meddygol. Mae gan y DU arfordir amrywiol syfrdanol, sy'n llawn dop o draethau tywodlyd a graean bras, clogwyni garw, twyni tywod, morfeydd heli, dolydd morwellt, riffiau creigiog, a mwy. Nid yw'n syndod bod llawer o bobl yn edrych i'r môr fel ffynhonnell ysbrydoliaeth neu fel lloches i iachâd, gyda threulio amser ar y môr yn adnabyddus am hybu lefelau hapusrwydd a chreadigrwydd, a gwella ein hiechyd a'n lles.

Mae llawer – ond nid pob un – o'r mannau glas gwerthfawr hyn eisoes yn dod o fewn amrywiaeth o ddynodiadau ardaloedd morol gwarchodedig (MPA), casgliad o gyfreithiau a pholisïau sydd wedi'u cynllunio i ddiogelu ein rhywogaethau a'n cynefinoedd gwerthfawr. Fodd bynnag, gyda'r heriau o reoli, monitro, profi a chael mynediad at ein rhwydwaith MPA presennol sy'n aml yn gorgyffwrdd, rydym yn cael ein gadael gyda morluniau o amgylch y DU sy'n anodd eu deall, cysylltu â nhw, ac yn y pen draw, eu diogelu a'u hadfer. Mae cyflwr natur yn ein hamgylchedd morol yn parhau i ddirywio, tra bod cyfraddau amddifadedd ymhlith cymunedau arfordirol yn dyfnhau a gweithgarwch morol yn mynd heb ei reoleiddio neu ei reoli'n wael i raddau helaeth. Yn amlwg, mae angen inni roi cynnig ar rywbeth newydd.

## CYFLE UNIGRYW PARCIAU MOROL CENEDLAETHOL

Daeth gwaith a arweiniwyd yn flaenorol gan y Blue Marine Foundation â llw o randdeiliaid ynghyd o bob rhan o'r DU, i gyd-ddylunio'r diffiniad o Barc Morol Cenedlaethol i fod yn "forlun eang o bwysigrwydd cenedlaethol, a'r

flaenoriaeth yw hybu ymwybyddiaeth a dealltwriaeth y cyhoedd o dreftadaeth arfordirol a morol ac adfer morlun; galluogi mwynhad hamdden; agwireddu buddion amgylcheddol ac economaidd-gymdeithasol i gymunedau arfordirol." Diffiniad hollgynhwysol, sy'n crynhoi natur gyfannol gweledigaeth y Parc Morol Cenedlaethol wrth gyflawni ar gyfer pob agwedd ar gymdeithas a'n hamgylchedd morol. Mae dealltwriaeth gynyddol ar draws y gymuned amgylcheddol yn y DU, er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'n hargyfyngau natur a hinsawdd, ac er mwyn bod â siawns o gyrraedd targedau cadwraeth y DU ar gyfer 2030, mae angen inni fod yn gweithredu ar raddfa ddigon mawr i wneud gwahaniaeth sylweddol ac effeithiol, mewn ffordd gydgyssylltiedig a theg. Yn ogystal â gwella ymdrechion rheoli, amddiffyn ac adfer, mae angen i ni ar yr un pryd gynyddu ein buddsoddiad i feithrin perthynas poblogaeth y DU â'r cefnfor trwy, er enghraifft, hybu llythrennedd cefnforol a dinasyddiaeth forol. Wedi'r cyfan, dim ond y pethau, y bobl a'r gofodau y mae gennym berthynas â nhw y byddwn ni byth yn poeni amdanynt. Mae angen inni gynnig y cyfle hwnnw o gysylltiad.

Nod Parc Morol Cenedlaethol yw cysylltu pobl â'r môr. Fel ein rhwydwaith Parciau Cenedlaethol presennol ar dir, pwrpas Parciau Morol Cenedlaethol yw gwella bywyd gwyllt, gwarchod treftadaeth ddiwylliannol a hyrwyddo dealltwriaeth, mynediad a mwynhad y cyhoedd. Yr hyn sy'n arbennig ac yn wahanol am fodel y Parciau Morol Cenedlaethol yw'r set o egwyddorion sy'n sail iddo a'r sbectrwm o bosibiliadau y mae'n eu cynnwys.

Mae gan Barciau Morol Cenedlaethol set o egwyddorion arweiniol craidd;

1. Cynladwyedd - Cydbwyso tri philer cynladwyedd (cymdeithasol, amgylcheddol ac economaidd).

2. Cysylltedd - Ceisio synergeddau a chysylltiadau rhwng y môr a chymunedau arfordirol trwy statws 'ymbarél' sy'n cysylltu safleoedd gwarchodedig, yr amgylchedd morol ehangach, y tir a'r môr.

3. Cyllidadwyedd - Chwilio am fodelau ariannu cynaliadwy.

4. Dysgu gydol oes - Darparu cyfleoedd ar gyfer cynyddu dealltwriaeth, gwerthfawrogiad a mwynhad.

5. Tegwch a chynwysoldeb - Ceisio cynnwys pob buddiant trwy ddulliau cyfranogol amrywiol a chynhwysol.

Mae'r egwyddorion arweiniol craidd hyn yn darparu llinyn euraidd o gyffredinedd sy'n caniatáu i holl Barciau Morol Cenedlaethol y DU gael eu cysylltu o fewn un rhwydwaith, gan gynnig undod a chydlyniant, ni waeth pa fath o Barc Morol Cenedlaethol a ddefnyddir. Mae sbectrwm y Parc Morol Cenedlaethol yn cwmpasu pob math posibl o Barciau Morol Cenedlaethol, sy'n amrywio i adlewyrchu naws anghenion, gwerthoedd a blaenoriaethau sy'n seiliedig ar leoedd cymdeithas a natur. Maent yn amrywio o hunan-ddatganiadau gwirfoddol a arweinir gan y gymuned fel ffordd o ail-frandio dynodiadau MPA presennol, i Barciau Cenedlaethol deddfwriaethol sy'n cynnwys tir, arfordir a môr, gyda phosibiliadau eraill yn parhau i ddod i'r amlwg wrth i'n meddwl cyfunol ddatblygu. Mae Parciau Morol Cenedlaethol yn fwystfil sy'n tyfu'n barhaus, ac os caiff ei wneud yn iawn, ni fydd yn gweld unrhyw le glas na phobl yn cael eu gadael ar ôl.

## BETH YW RÔL YR YMGYRCH DROS BARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL?

Rydym yn falch o fod yn arwain taith ein Parc Morol Cenedlaethol yn y DU. Gyda chefnogaeth Sefydliad Esmée Fairbairn, rydym yn canolbwyntio ar gefnogaeth wleidyddol gynyddol ac archwaeth y cyhoedd i Barciau Morol Cenedlaethol, yn ogystal â datblygu ein cyd-ddealltwriaeth yn y DU o ba fuddion a chyfleoedd y gall Parciau Morol Cenedlaethol eu fforddio i natur a chymunedau arfordirol.

Mae ein gorffennol wedi gweld y môr yn cael ei eithrio o stori ein Parc Cenedlaethol. Y dyfodol, fodd bynnag, yw Parciau Morol Cenedlaethol.





# Defending National Parks in Law

## Policy and Research Manager Ruth Bradshaw breaks down our recent vital victory for Protected Landscapes and how this case is only the beginning...

In late 2023, we celebrated when, after decades of campaigning, we finally managed to secure a change to legislation which means, that in England, there is now a much stronger requirement on public bodies to ensure their decisions are helping to deliver National Park purposes. This groundbreaking duty should have a huge impact on everything from water companies spending plans to the way Forestry England manages the National Park land it owns.

As 2024 progressed it became increasingly apparent that many of the organisations who should be implementing this new duty were simply choosing to disregard it and carrying on with business as usual. When it became clear that the only way to secure effective implementation would be through the courts, we decided we needed to take legal action ourselves.

Last autumn, we were granted permission to intervene in Dedham Vale Society's challenge of the Secretary of State's failure to apply the strengthened duty when allowing a significant car park extension at Manningtree Station. This was a big step for a small charity and the first time in over two decades that we've taken legal action.

We chose this particular case as the first major test of the new legislation in the courts, so the judge's decision on it would have significant implications for the future for all our National Parks and

National Landscapes. We also knew we had a very strong case.

Such was the strength of our evidence that the case didn't even make it to a court. Just weeks beforehand, the Secretary of State admitted that she had made "an error in law" by failing to apply the duty. This was a crucial win for us and for all National Parks and National Landscapes as it sends a really clear message to other Government Ministers and the many other organisations that should be applying this duty – including National Highways, Planning Inspectorate, Forestry England and local authorities – that they will not get away with ignoring this important new law.

***“This was an important test case and a significant victory but it's certainly not the end of the story when it comes to the need for legal action.”***

The Secretary of State's admission demonstrates just how seriously public bodies should be taking their responsibilities towards Protected Landscapes. Judge's decisions are particularly important as they form part of the case law which courts have to follow when assessing how particular aspects of the law should be applied in future. In other words, having a judge's ruling would set an even stronger legal

precedent on the interpretation of this new requirement, and what needs to be done to demonstrate compliance.

We're aware of a number of other cases where the failure of public bodies to comply with this new duty are already being challenged through the courts. For example, New Forest National Park Authority is awaiting the outcome of a judicial review of a Planning Inspector's decision and CPRE Kent has applied to challenge the Housing Minister's decision to grant planning permission for a major new housing development in the High Weald National Landscape. We will be continuing to keep a close eye on these and other relevant cases as we are very aware that there may well be a need for us to take further legal action in the coming months in order to secure that vital legal precedent. The duty only applies to England, and we will be working in the Senedd over the coming year to advocate for a stronger approach in Wales.

We would prefer not to have to resort to legal challenges. It would be much better if Government Ministers, and other decision-makers, complied with the new law in the first place. We would prefer not to have to resort to legal challenges. But, as the success of the Dedham Vale case shows, using the law can be very effective. And if that's what it takes to ensure this new duty has the intended impact, then we won't hesitate to take the fight for our National Parks to the courts again.



## A YEAR OF LEGAL ACTION

Thanks to support from members like you we were able to intervene and secure victory for Protected Landscapes. But as more examples come to light of the law being ignored, we may need to take further legal action in the future. Legal battles are costly and require a lot of resources which is why we're asking our supporters to donate to our legal fighting fund to help us continue our work.

You can donate by scanning the **QR code** or by visiting **[cnp.org.uk/legal-fighting-fund](https://cnp.org.uk/legal-fighting-fund)**



Image: Aysgarth Falls in  
the Yorkshire Dales by  
Stephen Tomlinson



# National Parks: SAVE BRITISH WILDLIFE

Green  
Match  
Fund

BigGive

As one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, the UK's unique fauna is in decline. National Parks are currently among the last refuges for many species on the brink of being lost from the UK. That's why we're fighting for wilder National Parks for all and seizing the opportunity National Marine Parks present to ensure species on land and sea can recover and spread more widely.

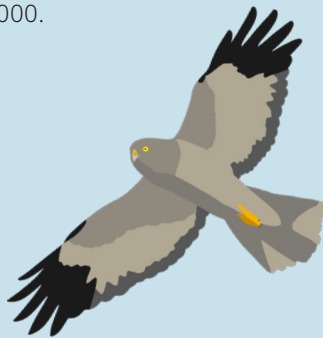


## CUCKOO

With their distinctive call, cuckoos are summer visitors known for being brood parasites. Nationally cuckoo numbers have declined by 65% since the 1980s but they have been recorded in all 13 National Parks in England and Wales since 2000.

## HEN HARRIER

This beautiful bird of prey is the most intensely persecuted and one of the rarest birds of prey in the UK with just 545 breeding pairs (2016 data), but they have also been recorded in all 13 National Parks.

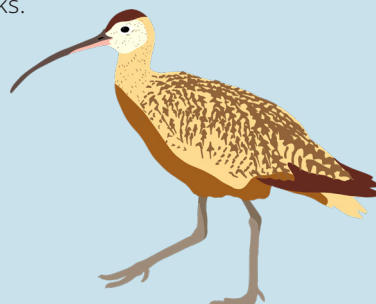


## CURLEW

This distinctive wading bird is a master of habitats, seeking estuaries in winter and summer in the uplands. Curlews have seen a 48% fall in numbers across the UK from 1995–2015 but are recorded in all 13 National Parks.

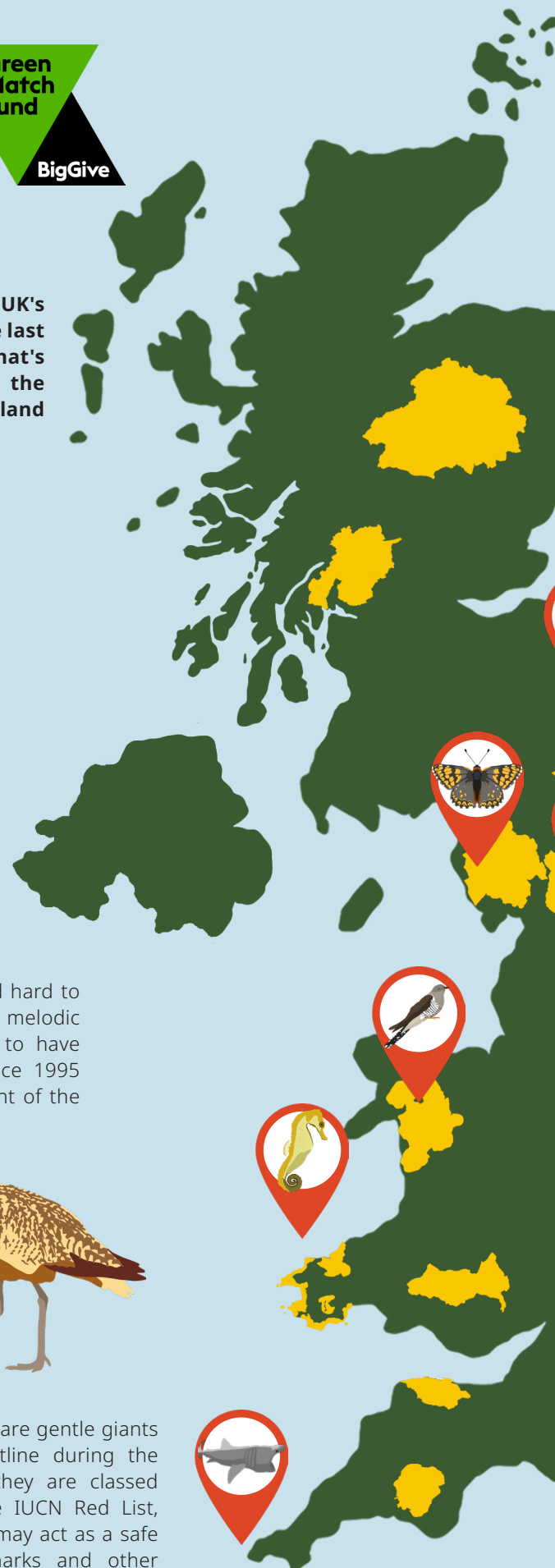
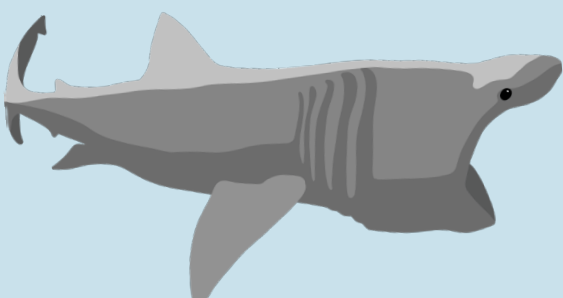
## NIGHTINGALE

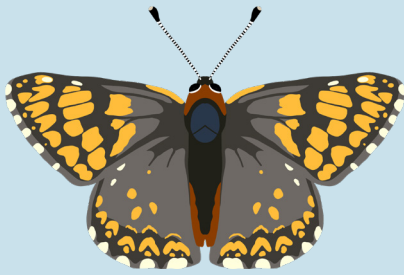
Nightingales are secretive and hard to spot but you can't miss their melodic song. Numbers are thought to have declined by at least 50% since 1995 but they are still found in eight of the National Parks.



## BASKING SHARK

These seasonal visitors are gentle giants which grace our coastline during the summer months. As they are classed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, National Marine Parks may act as a safe haven for basking sharks and other seasonal visitors.





### DUKE OF BURGUNDY

This butterfly takes to the wing in spring and can be found on chalk and limestone grasslands. Their numbers declined by 35% between 1979 and 2021 but they are present in four of the Parks.

### SHORT-SNOURED SEAHORSE

One of our two native seahorse species, short-snouted seahorses are closely associated with seagrass meadows which is an incredible habitat with the power to capture carbon at a rate 35 times faster than tropical rainforests. National Marine Parks have the potential to protect and restore the short-snouted seahorse's home as a benefit to nature and lock away carbon to help address climate change.



### RED SQUIRREL

Native to the UK, red squirrels are in direct competition with the more successful invasive grey squirrels. Now endangered, their numbers have declined by 37% between 1993 and 2016, but there are good numbers in the Lake District, Northumberland and the Yorkshire Dales.



## Double your donation for one week only

We've launching our Save British Wildlife appeal to push for wilder spaces where species like these can recover, thrive, and spread. Every donation makes a difference and for one week in April, it can go twice as far. If you donate through the **Big Give Green Match Fund between midday Tuesday 22 - Tuesday 29 April 2025** your donation will be doubled at no extra cost to you!

You can donate online by scanning the **QR code** or head to the Big Give website at **bit.ly/save-british-wildlife**. You can also donate by filling out the tear-off slip with the accompanying letter and post it using the prepaid return envelope.



### BEAVER

A 'keystone species' whose activities shape the local environment; beavers now have the opportunity to be reintroduced into National Parks after Defra announced in March that it will allow wild beaver releases in England - following on from success in Scotland.



### NATIVE OYSTER

This incredible species can improve water quality, reduce nitrogen levels and act as a nursery for juvenile fish. Sadly, according to the Native Oyster Network, populations have declined by 95% in the UK since the mid-19th century. National Marine Parks could assist in raising the profile of this often-overlooked species, promoting the value of re-establishing native oyster reefs, which would have huge environmental and economic benefits.





# NATIONAL PARK PROTECTOR AWARDS 2024

In a year of celebrations we capped off 2024 in the House of Lords, v and looking back at 75 years of National Parks

2024 National Park Protector Awards  
sponsored by Ramble Worldwide Outdoor Trust



COUNTRY LIVING





# And the winners are...

## MARSH NATIONAL PARK NATURE AWARD

Sponsored by Marsh Charitable Trust  
and presented by Baroness Sue Hayman

Tim Yetman and John Bennett



### KINGSDALE HEAD FARM Yorkshire Dales National Park

Catherine Bryan and Tim Yetman are working to bring a greater diversity of life back into the landscape, as well as restoring the precious peatland, enabling it to hold more water and store more carbon.

On his win, Tim Yetman said *"I feel very privileged to have been selected, I'm quite surprised! It's a passion project to make this for nature, for people and it's a fantastic honour to have the award."*

### 2024'S MARSH NATIONAL PARK NATURE AWARD RUNNERS UP ARE:

#### Hadrian's Wall: Recovering Nature, Northumberland National Park

This is a landscape-scale nature recovery project led by the National Park Authority covering a complex matrix of landowners along Hadrian's Wall, centred around the Roman Wall Loughs at Greenlee.

#### Wild Haweswater, Lake District National Park

This is RSPB's innovative rewilding project within a National Park that has been working hard to not only halt but reverse biodiversity loss in our National Parks.



Guests outside the Houses of  
Parliament by Dawn Brown



# NEW PERSPECTIVES AWARD

Sponsored by Natural England and  
presented by Tony Juniper

## GIRLS DO DARTMOOR, KATS KOSTER-SHADBOLT Dartmoor National Park

This is a programme run by Kats on behalf of the National Park Authority and Dartmoor Preservation Association for young women creating safe and open spaces for teen girls to experience the wild beauty of Dartmoor.

On winning Kats said *"I'm still a little bit in shock but I'm really excited. I'm just so excited that we've been able to share this programme with people and hopefully inspire others to take up those opportunities as well and to connect with those young ladies and get them out"*

### 2024'S NEW PERSPECTIVES AWARD RUNNERS UP ARE:

#### Quantock & Exmoor Ltd, Exmoor National Park

Quantock and Exmoor Ltd provide a pathway for people from diverse backgrounds to gain meaningful employment and experience working to protect our National Parks.

#### eBony Hikers CIC, Peak District National Park

eBony Hikers CIC provide inspiration, encouragement and support for people with Black ancestry of all ages in the UK, who are interested in exploring the outdoors through walking and hiking.

Girls Do Dartmoor  
was also the winner  
of the People's Choice  
public vote, thank you  
to everyone who voted

Images: (Top) Left to right, Tom Usher, Kats Koster-Shadbolt, Michael Duxbury, De







s Koster-Shadbolt, Helen Bruce, Girls Do Dartmoor participants  
ep Shah, Helen Bourne, Tessa Holmes, Dr Geeta Ludhra



# YOUNG CHANGEMAKER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sponsored by Sawday's and Canopy & Stars and presented by Dr Geeta Ludhra

## PENPONT PROJECT YOUTH LEADERSHIP GROUP

### Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

This group of young people have worked with Action for Conservation and brought together farmers, landowners and others to re-vision the future of 500 acres of Welsh upland and river valley.

Deep Shah who accepted the prize said *"It's been great just as an evaluation of how far we've come, sometimes it's good to take a step back and see what you've achieved and see everyone you've met and the friends you've made along the way, so it's really really great. It's a full circle moment for us and we're honoured to receive it."*

## 2024'S YOUNG CHANGEMAKER OF THE YEAR AWARD RUNNERS UP ARE:

### Tidy Climbers, Lake District National Park

Led by Hannah Mitchell, Tidy Climbers aims to inspire behavioural change in the climbing community, encouraging individuals to incorporate a litter pick into their climbing day. Hannah is mostly based in the Lake District.

### William Lock, Exmoor Young Voices, Exmoor National Park

This network of young locals from across Exmoor, founded by William Lock, present the needs and contributions of young people to sustaining a healthy, accessible and balanced National Park.



# Crunch time for the first 'made in Wales' National Park

## Policy and Projects Officer Gareth Ludkin examines the state of play of the National Park proposal in Wales

Wind the clock forward 12 months and with a glass half full and a fair wind behind us, I can sit here today quite easily imagining the spring shoots of what could become known as the Glyndwr National Park in North East Wales; the first new National Park in Wales for over 67 years.

But of course, optimism and hope alone won't deliver this exciting new National Park, and as we know from previous experience, new designations don't come about easily, or without opposition. Robin Crane's excellent book *The Fight for the South Downs* provides a sobering account of the many and varied obstacles that had to be overcome to secure the latest UK National Park in 2010 following a protracted 10-year designation process and a campaign many decades older.

In Wales, the Welsh Government's commitment to establish a new National Park by 2026 is already up against a stiff timeline. With an impending 2026 Senedd Election in which Reform UK are touted to make dramatic gains through a new proportional representation system and an increase in the number of Senedd seats that could tip the balance of power, hopes of a new National Park may be curtailed.

Unfortunately, the process has got off to a rocky start with doubt cast over the Candidate Area by some local councillors, Members of the Senedd and community groups who have questioned the timing and the amount of funding necessary, as well

as the fundamental need for a new National Park. Powys County Council have so far voted against the National Park proposals, whilst Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire County Councils have raised concerns but reserved final judgement until more information can be provided by Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales.

In the media, debate has often centred around broad misunderstandings of the way in which National Parks operate and the perceived impact that they have on things like house prices, litter or planning permissions. Our *Value of a New National Park in Wales* report released during the autumn consultation period attempted to take the heat out of debate by filling in some of the gaps in understanding with research, evidence and statistics.

We must guard against attempts to sow mistrust and doubt by keeping the focus on the real and tangible changes that National Parks have brought to peoples' lives. Positive case studies and personal experiences carry immense power. Whether that's rural businesses, local heritage, or nature recovery successes, as we move toward a critical second round of consultation this autumn, we must redouble our efforts to highlight the benefits that designation can bring to people, nature and climate.

At a time when people were asking, 'Why do we need a new National Park?' 'Who pays for it?' 'How does it operate?' and 'How will it affect my business?', the first round of public consultation

sidestepped the fundamental questions many wanted answers to, instead presenting a technical assessment of the Candidate Area which precluded many from feeling able to have an opinion. The consultation report has recognised a low response rate from young people and the reach and accessibility of the consultation is a real concern this autumn. Only 52% of consultation respondents are currently in favour of the Candidate Area put forward, whilst 42% remain against and it's clear that support has flatlined since the first round of public engagement in the autumn of 2023.

Conversations at the farm gate, on the school run and in the coffee shops will be all important over the next 12 months if hearts and minds are to be won over. With a new and inspiring name hopefully able to bring colour and identity to the proposal, plus hopefully some answers to the fundamental questions rightly posed around funding, planning and management options, this new National Park still has hope of success. Though as political sands begin to shift, the urgency to win approval is very real.

So, working with local support networks, it's our job at Campaign for National Parks to keep advocating for a bold and transformative National Park inside and outside the Senedd, fighting through the noise to encourage positive voices to express their support for protecting this most special corner of Wales laced with legend, history and beauty.

## Amser Gwasgfa ar gyfer y Cynnig Parc Cenedlaethol Newydd

Chwythwch y cloc ymlaen 12 mis a gyda gwydr hanner llawn a gwynt gweddol y tu ôl i ni, gallaf eistedd yma heddiw yn eithaf hawdd yn dychmygu egin y gwanwyn o'r hyn a allai gael ei adnabod fel Parc Cenedlaethol Glyndwr yng Ngogledd Ddwyrain Cymru; y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd cyntaf yng Nghymru ers dros 67 mlynedd.

Ond wrth gwrs, ni fydd optimistiaeth a gobaith yn unig yn cyflawni'r Parc Cenedlaethol newydd cyffrous hwn, ac fel y gwyddom o brofiad blaenorol, nid yw dynodiadau newydd yn digwydd yn hawdd a heb wrthwynebiad. Mae llyfr rhagorol Robin Crane, *The Fight for the South Downs*, yn rhoi hanes sboreiddiol o'r rhwystrau niferus ac amrywiol y bu'n rhaid eu goresgyn i sicrhau Parc Cenedlaethol olaf y DU yn 2010 yn dilyn proses ddynodi hirfaith o 10 mlynedd ac ymgyrch ddegawdau'n hŷn.

Yng Nghymru, mae ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i sefydlu Parc Cenedlaethol newydd erbyn 2026 eisoes yn groes i amserlen galed a ras aruthrol ar gyfer Etholiad y Senedd yn 2026 lle mae Diwygio'r DU yn cael eu tywys i wneud enillion dramatig drwy system gynrychiolaeth gyfrannol newydd a chynnydd yn nifer y seddi Senedd a allai fod yn hwb i'r cydbwysedd pŵer, ac yn y broses, gwtogi ar obeithion Parc Cenedlaethol newydd.

Mae'r broses wedi cael dechrau creigiog ac mae rhai cynghorwyr lleol, Aelodau Seneddol a grwpiau cymunedol wedi amau'r Ardal Ymgeisiol sydd wedi cwestiynu'r amseriad, faint o arian sydd ei angen, neu'r angen sylfaenol am Barc Cenedlaethol newydd. Hyd yn hyn

mae Cyngor Sir Powys wedi pleidleisio yn erbyn cynigion y Parc Cenedlaethol, tra bod Cyngor Sir Ddinbych, Wrecsam a Sir y Fflint wedi codi pryderon ond wedi cadw dyfarniad terfynol hyd nes y gall Llywodraeth Cymru a Chyfoeth Naturiol Cymru ddarparu rhagor o wybodaeth.

Yn y cyfryngau, mae'r ddadl yn aml wedi canolbwyntio ar gamddealltwriaeth eang o'r ffordd y mae Parciau Cenedlaethol yn gweithredu a'r effaith ganfyddedig y maent yn ei chael ar bethau fel prisiau tai, sbwriel neu ganiatâd cynllunio. Ceisiodd ein hadroddiad Gwerth Parc Cenedlaethol Newydd yng Nghymru a ryddhawyd yn ystod cyfnod ymgyngori'r hydref dynnu'r gwres allan o'r ddadl drwy lenwi rhai o'r bylchau mewn dealltwriaeth ag ymchwil, tystiolaeth ac ystadegau.

Yng Nghymru mae'n rhaid i ni ochel rhag ymdrechion i hau drwgdybiaeth ac amheuaeth drwy gadw'r ffocws ar y newidiadau gwirioneddol a diriaethol y mae Parciau Cenedlaethol wedi'u cyflwyno i fywydau pobl. Mae gan astudiaethau achos cadarnhaol a phrofiadau personol bŵer aruthrol. Boed hynny'n fusnesau gwledig, treftadaeth leol, neu lwyddiannau adfer byd natur, wrth inni symud tuag at ail rownd dyngedfennol o ymgyngori'r hydref hwn, rhaid inni ailddyblu ein hymdrechion i dynnu sylw at y manteision y gall dynodi eu rhoi i bobl, natur a hinsawdd.

Ar adeg pan fo pobl yn gofyn, 'pam mae angen Parc Cenedlaethol newydd arnom?' 'pwys sy'n talu amdano?' 'sut mae'n gweithredu?' a 'sut y bydd yn effeithio ar fy musnes?', roedd rownd gyntaf yr ymgyngoriad cyhoeddus yn

camu i'r ochr y cwestiynau sylfaenol yr oedd llawer am gael atebion iddynt, gan gyflwyno asesiad technegol o'r maes ymgeisiol yn lle hynny a oedd yn atal llawer rhag teimlo eu bod yn gallu cael barn. Mae adroddiad yr ymgyngoriad wedi cydnabod cyfradd ymateb isel gan bobl ifanc ac mae cyrhaeddiad a hygyrchedd yr ymgyngoriad yn bryder gwirioneddol yr hydref hwn. Dim ond 52% sydd o blaid yr Ardal Ymgeisiol a gynigir ar hyn o bryd, tra bod 42% yn parhau yn erbyn ac mae'n amlwg bod y gefnogaeth wedi gwastatáu ers y rownd gyntaf o ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd yn hydref 2023.

Bydd sgysiau wrth giât y fferm, ar y daith i'r ysgol ac yn y siop goffi yn holl bwysig dros y 12 mis nesaf os am ennill calonnau a meddyliau. Gydag enw newydd ac ysbrydoledig a fydd, gobeithio, yn gallu dod â lliw a hunaniaeth i'r cynnig, yn ogystal â rhai atebion, gobeithio, i'r cwestiynau sylfaenol a ofynnwyd yn gywir ynghylch opsiynau ariannu, cynllunio a rheoli, mae gan y Parc Cenedlaethol newydd hwn obaith o lwyddiant o hyd, ond wrth i draethau gwleidyddol ddechrau symud mae'r brys i ennill cymeradwyaeth yn real iawn.

Felly, gan weithio gyda rhwydweithiau cymorth lleol, ein gwaith ni yn ymgyrch y Parciau Cenedlaethol yw parhau i eiriol dros Barc Cenedlaethol beiddgar a thrawsnewidiol y tu mewn a'r tu allan i'r Senedd, gan frwydro drwy'r sŵn i annog lleisiau cadarnhaol i fynegi eu cefnogaeth i ddiogelu'r gornel fwyaf arbennig hon o Gymru sy'n llawn chwedl, hanes a harddwch.



# The Thoughtful Balance of Tourism in National Parks

**Sawday's and Canopy and Star's Sustainability & Impact Manager, Tessa Holmes, examines the challenges and benefits of tourism, and provides top tips on how we can all visit National Parks sustainably**



As the days grow longer, many of us are planning our holidays for the year ahead. With around 81% of Brits considering a staycation, National Parks are among the top travel destinations in England and Wales welcoming 90 million visitors annually. Their picturesque landscapes, rich heritage, and wealth of outdoor activities make them an ideal getaway for everyone, but what impact does this level of tourism have?

## THE CHALLENGES OF HIGH TOURISM IN NATIONAL PARKS

Certain areas within our National Parks bear the strain of high visitor numbers, from the crowded shores of Windermere to the peaks of Eryri. Over-tourism can put immense pressure on infrastructure, leading to road congestion, overcrowded car parks, eroded footpaths, and degraded beauty spots.

Additionally, the rise in holiday homes reduces housing availability for local communities, driving up prices and making it harder for residents to remain in these areas. The issue of accessibility also arises—if prices continue to soar, National Parks risk becoming exclusive rather than inclusive spaces.

On a global scale, mass tourism has altered the character of iconic destinations. In places like Venice and Barcelona, an overwhelming influx of visitors has led to growing anti-tourism sentiment among residents. A recent report by Friends of the Lake District, *Who Pays for the Lake District?* shows how the problems are increasing here too,

highlighting the challenges faced by the Park due to high tourism numbers.

## THE BENEFITS OF TOURISM

However, when managed well, tourism is a vital resource for rural economies. Tourism provides jobs for local people, in particular young people. Tourism employees over 15,000 people in the Lake District each year and the presence of tourism allows local services such as shops and pubs to be viable and able to remain open year-round.

## FINDING THE BALANCE: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

So how do we strike the balance here? Continuing to support a thriving and essential industry, whilst protecting communities, culture and the environment? The problems are nuanced and there's not one simple answer. Achieving sustainable tourism requires collaboration between local authorities, tourism businesses, destination management organisations (DMOs), social media influencers, and travellers themselves.

As travel companies, we have a responsibility to support and incentivise responsible tourism. At Sawday's and Canopy & Stars, we have developed specific overtourism policies and capped the number of places we represent in areas facing the greatest pressure. You can learn more about this in our latest Impact Report.



## HOW YOU CAN BE A BETTER VISITOR

Want to make a positive impact when visiting National Parks? Here are some key tips:

### 1. Take Public Transport

Cars create major problems in National Parks, particularly in summer when rural roads become gridlocked and car parks overflow. Many Parks are accessible by train, for example you could take a direct train from London to the New Forest and hire bikes from the station. The Lake District has an ever-improving bus service (take advantage of the £3 bus fare) and have a multi-transport trip on trains, buses and even boats.

### 2. Stay Longer & Choose Sustainable Accommodation

Day-trippers often make up the bulk of visitors, putting strain on resources without contributing much to the local economy. In Dartmoor, only 32% of visitors stayed overnight in 2023. Staying longer not only reduces travel emissions but also supports local businesses and fosters a deeper connection with the landscape. Choose accommodation that prioritises sustainability and supports the local community.

### 3. Visit in the Off-Season

Instead of heading to the hills in peak summer, consider traveling in spring, autumn, or winter. You'll enjoy quieter trails, easier parking, and a cosy spot by the fire in a local pub, while also helping sustain local services year-round.

### 4. Explore Lesser-Known Areas

Whatever you do, do not try and climb Snowdon on a Saturday (busiest day of the week) in August (busiest month of the year) via The Llanberis Path (busiest route up to the summit) or you may be stuck in 45-minute queues to reach the top. Instead, seek out quieter routes or explore alternative peaks. Locals can offer great recommendations and always remember to follow outdoor ethics: close gates, stick to paths, and leave no trace.

### 5. Shop Local and Support Community Initiatives

Skip the supermarket chains and buy from local shops, markets, and farm stalls to help small businesses thrive. Look out for local charity and volunteer days, get involved and donate to essential local charities like the RNLI in Pembrokeshire National Park.

### 6. Consider Glamping Instead of Holiday Homes

The rise in second homes is pricing out local residents. In Elterwater, Lake District, 79% of residential properties are holiday homes. Camping and glamping provide a great alternative, allowing visitors to enjoy nature while reducing the demand on permanent housing.

By making mindful travel choices, we can all help protect and sustain our National Parks for future generations. Whether you're planning a weekend retreat or an extended stay, being a responsible visitor ensures that these treasured landscapes remain accessible and thriving for all.

## PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL PARKS IN PARTNERSHIP

In 2023 we were delighted to partner with Sawday's, Canopy & Stars and Paws & Stay. During our partnership they aim to raise £50,000 to protect our National Parks, as well as getting involved in volunteering projects, providing summit venues and funding bursaries for young people to share their stories so they can have a say in the future of our landscapes.

Sawday's is a family of three brands who are leaders in ethical, responsible, and regenerative travel. They promote small-scale, independent places to stay, encouraging a healthier relationship between tourism, communities, and the environment. Search online for Sawday's, Canopy & Stars or Paws & Stay to find your next National Park adventure.

Images by Canopy & Stars



# Too Good To Be True

## Linn Wiberg charts her journey to becoming a Campaign for National Parks Ambassador

Too good to be true.

This was my first thought when I saw the advertisement for the residential retreat hosted by Campaign for National Parks in Dartmoor. The unique opportunity to be immersed in storytelling, inclusive leadership, influential campaigning and

radical thinking was something I really wanted to be a part of. When I got accepted, I was thrilled.

The residential was an opportunity to meet other young people who shared my passion and wanted to take on leadership roles to protect the environment. Being a part of this was empowering. The whole experience showcased what could be achieved by fostering an inclusive approach to campaigning in the most beautiful setting of Dartmoor. All of it made possible by Campaign for National Parks.

At the end of the weekend, I knew I wanted to remain active within

Campaign for National Parks. What better way to do this than to become an ambassador? I seized the opportunity to follow the journey of an organisation raising awareness of the barriers to accessing National Parks and actively working to minimize these.

What do I hope to achieve with Campaign for National Parks? I want to learn from people who I know are putting in an effort to raise underrepresented voices within areas that bring people closer to nature. I want to learn from future leaders that I find admirable. And finally, I want to use this knowledge to further the path to teaching everyone about the green spaces they have every right to enjoy.

Image: Linn on Bellever Tor in Dartmoor

### FUTURE LEADERS COURSE

As part of our larger New Perspectives project we are offering Future Leaders Courses over the next year with the aim of inspiring the next generation of National Park change-makers. Learn more about the project at [cnp.org.uk/new-perspectives](https://cnp.org.uk/new-perspectives)

# NEW PERSPECTIVES



# MEMBERSHIP EXCLUSIVES

## NATIONAL PARKS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

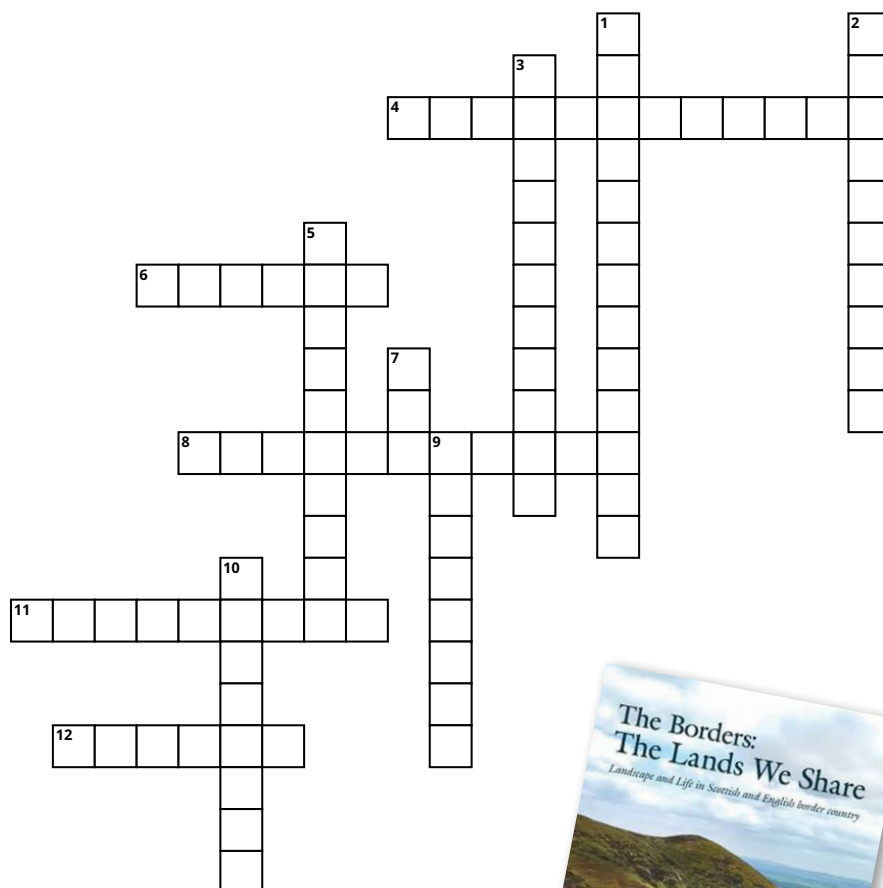
### Across

- [4]** Roman defensive fortification (12)  
**[6]** National Park with the highest sea cliffs on the British mainland (6)  
**[8]** Site of mass trespass (11)  
**[11]** National Park created by William the Conqueror to hunt (9)  
**[12]** Formed by the flooding of peat workings (6)

### Down

- [1]** Children's author inspired by the Lake District (13)  
**[2]** Harry and Hermione camp at the top of this large limestone formation in the Yorkshire Dales (10)  
**[3]** Independent kingdom in South Wales in the Early Middle Ages (Welsh) (11)  
**[5]** Youngest National Park in the UK (10)  
**[7]** Large, free-standing rock outcrop (3)  
**[9]** United Kingdom's smallest city by population (8)  
**[10]** Welsh National Park peak with own railway (Welsh) (8)

Solution on page 24



## The Borders: The Lands We Share, by Andrew Bibby

Review by Nick Hall

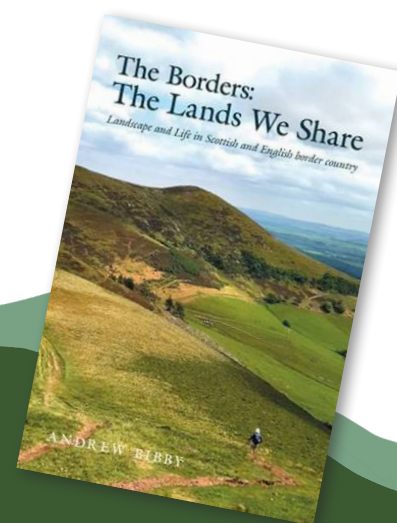
*The Borders: The Lands We Share* by Andrew Bibby is an engaging and colourful exploration of the complex region straddling the border between Scotland and England. Covering his two hundred mile walk from Edinburgh to the River Swale over thirteen days, Bibby blends personal reflection, history, politics and geography to capture the unique character and culture of the area.

While *The Borders* tells a step-by-step journey, it also meditates on a wide range of timely issues facing the modern countryside, from access rights and community ownership to land reform, and greenwashing. Bibby's writing is rich and evocative, painting a vivid picture of these landscapes with their Roman forts, Walter Scott writings and painful legacy of witchcraft.

Closest to the book's heart lies a powerful call to action to tackle the growing threats of biodiversity loss and climate change, which the author witnesses all around him. Walking through Northumberland National Park, Bibby is struck by the huge potential that protected landscapes offer in meeting these challenges, but recognises, quite correctly, that large-scale reforms are needed to ensure National Parks become nature-rich landscapes accessible to all.

Bibby's perspective is thoughtful and deeply informed, making this a compelling read for anyone curious to discover more about these often overlooked but fascinating borderlands.

Available now from Gritstone Publishing and all good bookshops.



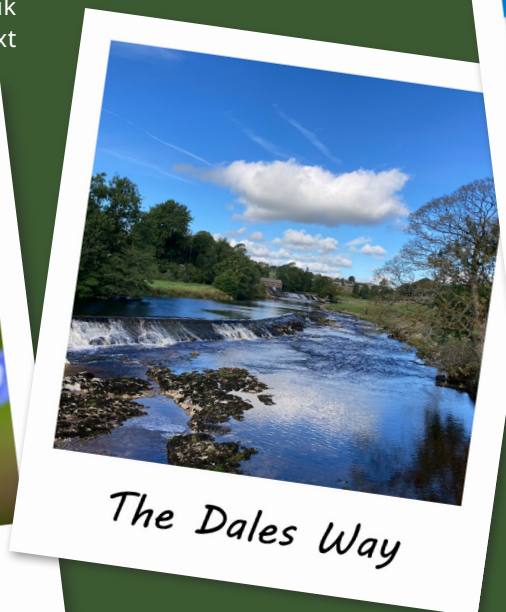


## Get Your National Park Photos in the Next Edition of Viewpoint

Send your photos to [info@cnp.org.uk](mailto:info@cnp.org.uk) and we might feature them in the next issue of Viewpoint.



Wood  
Forget-Me-Not



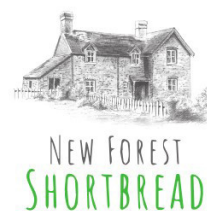
The Dales Way



Pen Y Fan

## EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS FROM OUR PARTNERS

As a member you have access to exclusive discount codes from our partners. Head to the Friends' Hub at [cnp.org.uk/friends-discounts](http://cnp.org.uk/friends-discounts) to get your discount codes, password is **CNPFriends2025**.



### CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION

- [1] Beatrix Potter
- [2] Malham Cove
- [3] Brycheiniog
- [4] Hadrian's Wall
- [5] South Downs
- [6] Exmoor

- [7] Tor
- [8] Kinder Scout
- [9] St Davids
- [10] Yr Wyddfa
- [11] New Forest
- [12] Broad

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK?

We want you to enjoy reading *Viewpoint* as much as we enjoy creating it. Let us know what you enjoy and what you'd like to see more of by emailing our Senior Communications Officer Harriet Gardiner, at [harrietg@cnp.org.uk](mailto:harrietg@cnp.org.uk).