



Image credit: Campaign for National Parks

Sustainable Stories Workshop Summary

About:

This document outlines a summary of the [Sustainable stories workshop](#), delivered on Friday 22nd August as part of the New Perspectives Storytelling programme by [Campaign for National Parks](#), funded by [The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) and supported by [Ocean City Media](#). It gives an overview of what was delivered, how it went and the final outputs.

Workshop Summary:

The Sustainable Stories Workshop was designed to inspire curiosity about nature and climate action through creative writing. Delivered as part of the New Perspectives project by Campaign for National Parks, the session combined expert talks with hands-on creative writing activities for children and families. Participants began with an introduction to National Parks and the purpose of the workshop, before hearing from guest speakers and exploring facts and ideas together through discussion.



Image credit: Chloe Nunn

With guided prompts, they then developed their own creative responses - brainstorming words, thinking of characters, and making stories, poems, or pictures that imagined the future of our National Parks. The workshop closed with group sharing and reflection, encouraging participants to share their stories with the room and celebrate what they had created. For each story shared, key themes were

highlighted - such as facts about Dartmoor, wider issues like climate change, or reflections on the future of our National Parks (for example, the need for hope or how animals might need to adapt to new environments).



Image credit: Chloe Nunn

Evaluation & Reflections:

The workshop was well attended, with an estimated 14 adults and 24 children participating. Overall, engagement was strong throughout the session, and participants gave positive feedback on the experience. The two invited speakers complemented each other well: Andy from Dartmoor National Park brought props and delivered a highly interactive talk, while Becky, an author and illustrator, shared visually inspiring slides, animal facts, and personal reflections. Together, their different approaches and topics balanced science, history, and storytelling in a way that resonated with the group.



Image credit: Chloe Nunn

There were some areas for improvement. The room itself posed challenges - it was both warm and noisy, which at times made it difficult to hold the group's attention.

While prompts were shown on screen and the facilitators circulated to support participants, additional visual aids at tables (such as images, props, and question prompts) would have further supported both adults and children in shaping their stories. Similarly, while the speakers' contributions were well received, shortening each talk to around five minutes would likely maintain focus and leave more time for the activities. Practical resources such as animal cut out colouring sheets and crayons were useful, especially for younger children, having more available to match the size of the group would have been beneficial.

Interestingly, many of the children's stories featured familiar Dartmoor animals such as sheep, cows, and ponies. This was noted by speakers as a natural reflection of Becky's references and also of participants' own everyday encounters on the moor.

Participant Feedback (Adults)

Adult participants rated the workshop very positively, with the majority describing it as excellent and one as good. The aspects most enjoyed were the interactive talks (especially Andy's props and wildlife stories), the creative storytelling activities, and the opportunity to engage in fun, family-based learning together.



Image credit: Chloe Nunn

Almost all respondents felt the workshop successfully achieved its goal of inspiring curiosity about nature and climate action through storytelling. Feedback highlighted that the session was fun, educational, and inclusive for different ages. Most adults also expressed interest in attending future workshops of this kind.

Suggestions for improvement largely related to the environment and resources. Several participants noted that the space was loud or had poor acoustics, making it difficult at times to hear. Others suggested including more ideas, visual prompts, or

images on screen to support storytelling. One participant also mentioned that the session could have been slightly longer, though others felt the timing was just right.

Overall, adults strongly valued the balance of expert talks and creative activities, and praised the workshop for covering local environmental issues in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

Outputs:

From this workshop, and accompanying this summary document I have also created:

- Sustainable Stories, inspired by Dartmoor National Parks - a collection of stories written by participants of the workshop.
- Sustainable Stories, inspired by our National Parks Workshop Guide - a guide with tips on organising a sustainable stories workshop.