



The National Parks of England and Wales

Over 1000 National Parks exist worldwide.

Europe alone has over 100.

The purpose of National Parks is to conserve and enhance beautiful areas of our countryside and to give everybody the opportunity to experience and enjoy these special landscapes both now and in the future.

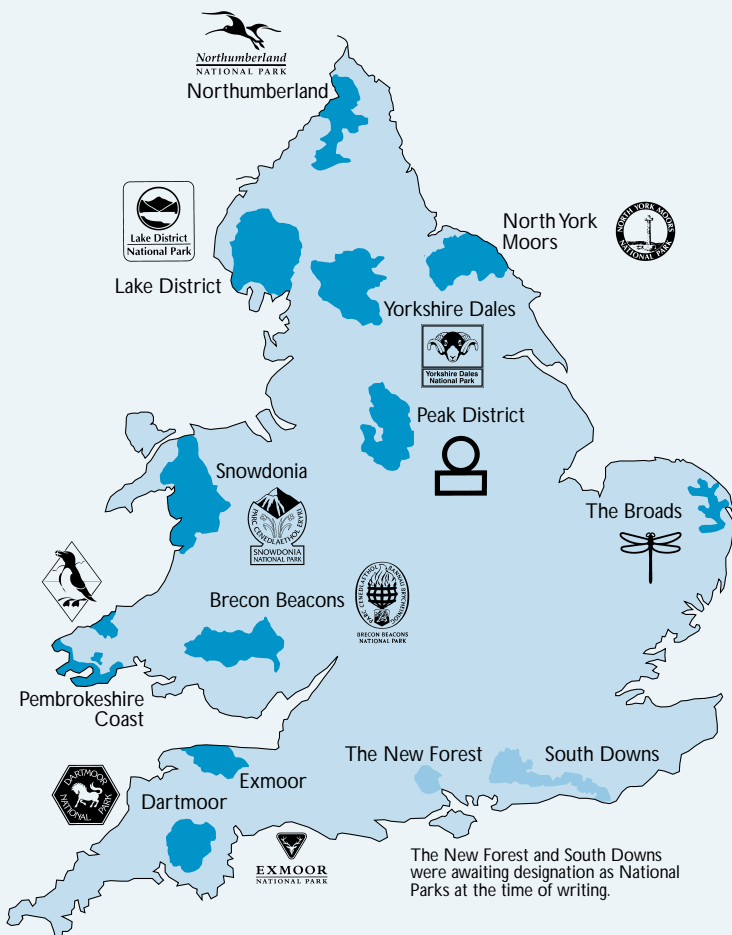
In England and Wales there are 11 National Parks.

Together they cover 13,877 square kilometres (5360 square miles) - nearly 10% of England and Wales. They include our finest landscapes.

In our National Parks you could find moorland, mountains, lakes, woodland, farmland, coastline, scenic villages and much more.

Our National Parks are working landscapes where people live and where most of the land is privately owned, for example by estate owners and farmers. In some countries, National Parks are uninhabited, wilderness areas under state control.

WHERE ARE OUR NATIONAL PARKS?



HOW DID NATIONAL PARKS DEVELOP?

There is a long history of recreational use of the countryside. In the North York Moors the Royal Hunting Forest of Pickering was established in 1106 by King Henry I, but areas such as this were exclusively for use by their owners - the aristocracy, and also served to provide food.

The concept of access to the countryside for all took a long time to become firmly established. The reality took even longer.

SOME KEY POINTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS

- 1864** Yosemite Valley (USA) set aside by Abraham Lincoln as a protected area 'inalienable for all time'
- 1872** YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK (USA) established - the first National Park
- 1920-35** Growth of pressure groups concerned with recreation, access and landscape protection. eg Ramblers Association, YHA
- 1931** ADDISON COMMITTEE REPORT on feasibility of National Parks in England and Wales
- 1932** KINDERSCOUT MASS TRESPASS (Peak District)
- 1945** DOWER REPORT - National Parks should be 'extensive tracts of beautiful and wild countryside which would provide scope for open air recreation'
- 1946** HOBHOUSE COMMITTEE - recommends that National Parks are not all designated at once
- 1949** NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT - provides for 10 National Parks in England and Wales
- 1951-7** Designation of 10 National Parks beginning with the Peak District
- 1989** The Broads gain equivalent National Park status under the Norfolk & Suffolk Broads Act (1988)
- 1990** EDWARDS REPORT on future of National Parks recommends establishment of independent authorities
- 1995** ENVIRONMENT BILL
Creates new free standing National Park Authorities from 1997 and amends Statutory Duties
- 1999** Plans for two new National Parks were announced at the Labour Party Conference - the New Forest and the South Downs



NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES

The statutory purposes of National Parks in England and Wales are:

To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Parks.

i.e. CONSERVATION



To promote opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks by the public.

i.e. RECREATION

There is also a duty to...

seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

Conflict can arise between the Parks' purposes. In such situations the Sandford Committee (1974) recommended that: "where irreconcilable conflicts exist between conservation and public enjoyment, then conservation interests should take priority".

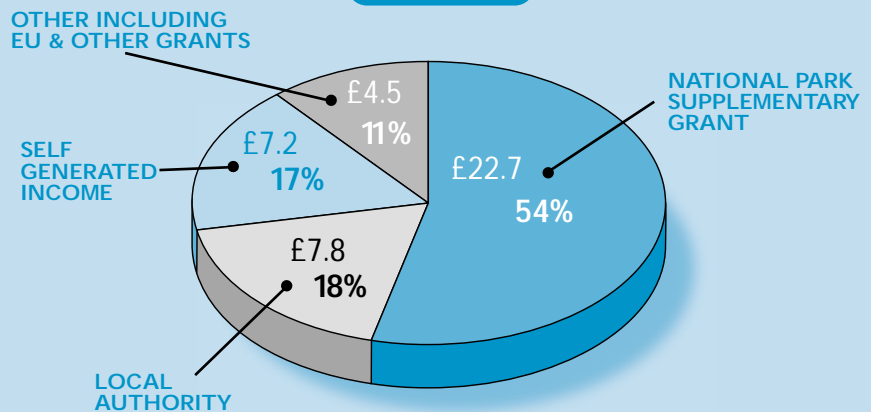
NATIONAL PARK FUNDING

Every year the National Park Authorities in England and Wales each submit their plans for expenditure to the Government. The Secretary of State for the Environment approves a grant for each National Park; 75% of this is provided by the Government (a National Park Supplementary Grant) and 25% is provided by the relevant Local Authorities. National Parks are, therefore, funded by taxpayers. In 1998/99 the North York Moors National Park Authority received almost £3 million in this way. The work of the National Park Authority is limited by funding and therefore each National Park raises additional income through, for example, fees for planning applications, sale of publications and car park charges. They also apply for grants for special projects from other bodies such as the European Union. In 1998/99 the North York Moors National Park Authority raised around £2 million in this way. Examples of projects initiated by European funding include:

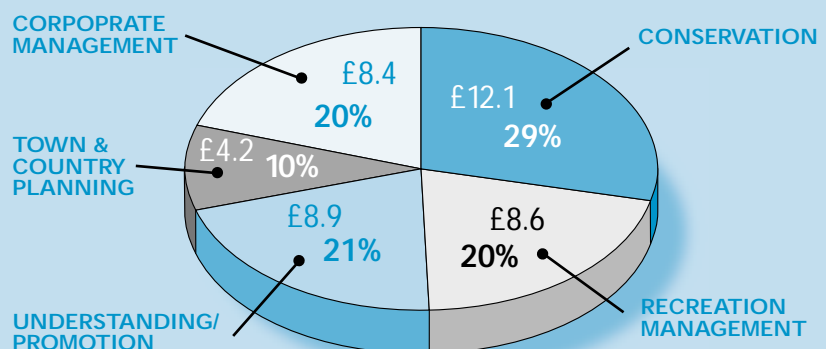
- Moorland Regeneration Programme
- Heritage Coast Project
- River Esk Regeneration Programme
- Brigantia, an association supporting local art and craft producers
- Countryside Events and Activities Programme

PIE CHARTS TO SHOW CORPORATE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES 1996/97 (£ MILLIONS)

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



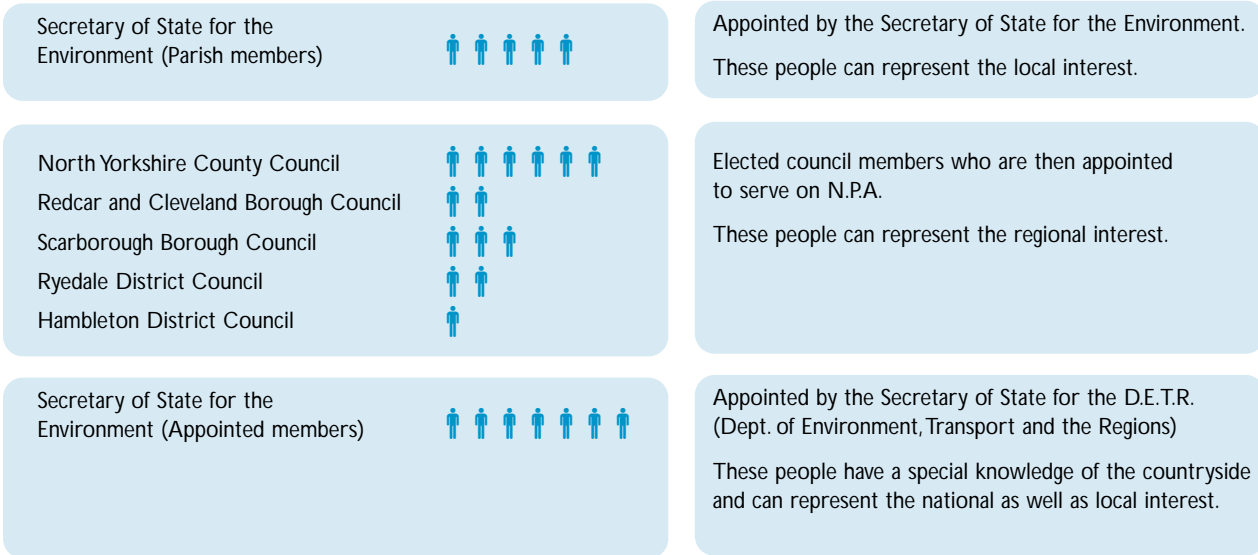


STRUCTURE & FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES

In 1997 all the National Parks in England and Wales became Independent Authorities. Previously they were under the administrative control of the County Council having the largest area in the Park. (The Peak District & Lake District were Independent Authorities from their designation.)

Each National Park is run by an Authority. The North York Moors National Park Authority consists of a committee of 26 members who meet regularly to make key decisions about planning applications, how the Park is managed and future policies. The Authority is assisted in its work by a National Park Officer and around 75 full time staff.

NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY STRUCTURE (26 MEMBERS)



The work and staff of the North York Moors National Park Authority are divided into 5 sections.

STAFF STRUCTURE AND SECTIONS

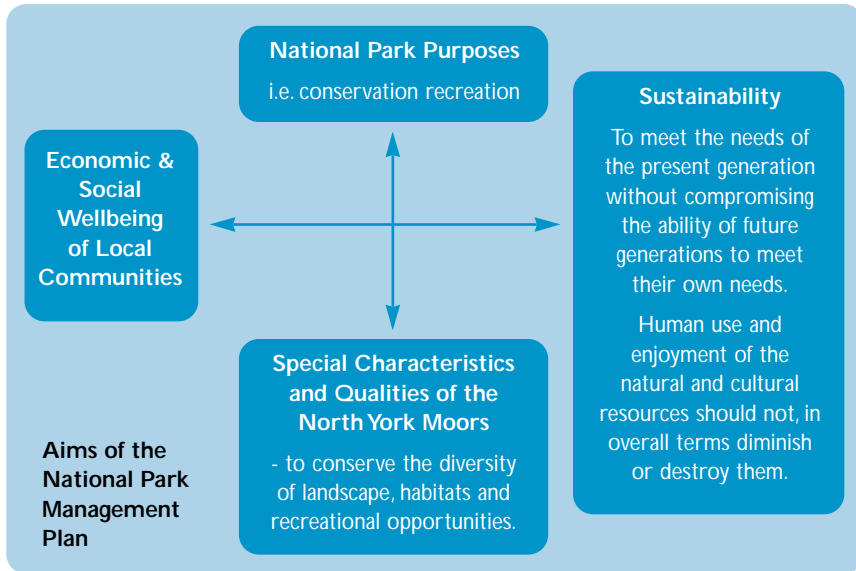


NATIONAL PARK POLICIES

The North York Moors National Park has a Management Plan which is updated every five years.

A Local Plan is also produced which sets out planning policies for guiding development.

The role of the National Park Authority is to support, and work in partnership with other organisations and the local community to manage the area.



NATIONAL PARK STATISTICS

GENERAL INFORMATION

	Brecon Beacons	The Broads	Dartmoor	Exmoor	Lake District	Northumberland	North York Moors	Peak District	Pembrokeshire Coast	Snowdonia	Yorkshire Dales
Date (order) of Designation	1957 (10)	1989 (11)	1951 (4)	1954 (8)	1951 (2)	1956 (9)	1952 (6)	1951 (1)	1952 (5)	1951 (3)	1954 (7)
Population	32,200	5,500	29,100	10,000	40,000	2,200	25,500	37,400	23,000	23,800	18,600
Visitor Days 1994 (Millions) Estimate	3.6	5.3 (over estimate)	3.8	1.4	13.9 (under estimate)	1.4	7.8	12.4 (under estimate)	4.6 (over estimate)	6.6 (under estimate)	8.3
Features & Activities	Mountains, Waterfalls, Archaeological Remains, Walking, Pony Trekking	Wetlands & Waterways Boating & Touring	Moorland Plateau, Granite Tors, Wild Ponies Walking, Touring, Pony Trekking	Grassy Upland 48km Heritage Coast, Wild Ponies, Walking, Pony Trekking, Touring	Lakes, Mountains, Forests, Walking Climbing, Boating, Touring	Moors, Hills, Hadrians Wall Walking, Touring	Moorland, 42km Heritage Coast, Walking Touring, Seaside	Hills Moors, Limestone Scenery Touring, Walking, Caving	370km Coast, Cliffs, Sandy Bays Touring, Walking, Seaside	Mountains 37km Coast, Walking, Touring Climbing	Hills, Caves, Limestone Scenery, Walking Touring, Caving
Problems/Issues	Afforestation Quarrying	Bank Erosion (3m in 10 years)	Industrial Waste (Clay Works), Military Firing Ranges (14% of area)	Enclosure of Open Spaces for Agricultural Purposes	Visitor Pressure, Speedboating	Military Firing Ranges (23% of area)	Loss of Heather to Agricultural Land/Forestry Visitor Pressure	Visitor Pressure, Limestone Quarries	Pollution from Petro-Chemical Works	Loss of Traditional Farming, lack of affordable housing for locals	Limestoene Quarries

LAND USE (HECTARES)

Open Country	58,451	209	44,831	18,988	103,254	58,452	49,062	50,929	8,606	96,284	92,498
Agricultural Land	53,651	20,996	36,549	39,371	76,805	22,654	60,969	77,520	38,836	66,577	71,807
Coniferous Woodland	9,051	80	3,432	2,906	10,814	16,490	18,966	4,021	1,441	21,609	3,300
Broadleaved/ Mixed Woodland	5,917	3,355	7,720	4,931	14,260	1,199	8,886	5,666	2,519	9,494	2,739
Cliff & Foreshore	0	1,177	0	534	2,420	0	131	0	3,839	2,671	0
Inland Water	799	962	209	164	6,317	144	109	1,206	106	2,591	347
Urban Area	1,078	698	1,472	606	1,817	116	1,068	1,497	1,291	1,661	727
Other (eg Derelict /a Transport Route)	6,197	2,689	1,105	1,137	13,511	5,892	4,412	2,994	1,793	13,272	5,451
TOTAL	135,144	30,292	95,338	68,637	229,198	104,947	143,603	143,833	58,431	214,159	176,86

LAND OWNERSHIP/MANAGEMENT (%)

Private	69.6	90.8	57.3	79.1	58.9	56.4	79.9	72.3	85.7	69.9	96.2
Forestry Commission	8.0	0.2	1.8	1.8	5.9	18.9	16.6	0.5	1.3	15.8	0
Ministry of Defence	0.1	0	14.0	0	0.2	22.6	0.5	0.3	4.6	0	0.3
Water Companies	4.0	1.5	3.8	0.6	6.9	1.2	0.1	13.0	0	0.9	0.3
National Trust	3.5	3.0	3.7	10.1	24.2	0.7	1.2	9.6	4.2	8.9	2.5
National Park Auth.	13.0	0.5	1.4	4.4	3.9	0.2	0.6	4.2	2.3	1.2	0.1
Other	1.8	4.0	0.3	4.0	0	0	1.1	0.1	1.9	3.3	0.6

(Source: The National Park Authority, Countryside Commission 1993)

NATIONAL PARKS EXPENDITURE 1996/7 (£000s GROSS OF INCOME)

Conservation	442.4	625.3	801.6	766.4	1,379	692	1,472.5	1,964.1	843.8	1,005	670.4
Town & Forward Planning	444.3	155.7	277.3	237	842	100	331.2	477.7	378.5	531	353.6
Information/ Interpretation Visitor Services	773.8	286.2	520.7	490	1,878.3	419	328.3	1,066.6	551	1,328	1,014.9
Recreation	555.7	272.1	432.3	406		254	811.8	1,307.1	960.9	1,083	989
Support to Local Community	154.8	*	112	117	*	*	132.8	102.7	21.2	*	57.9
Management/ Administration	584.5	513.4	813.9	398	1,283.2	360	583.8	1,118.5	1,130.6	383	798.6
Other	28.6	17	-	-	70.6	12	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,984	1,869.7	2,957.8	2,414.4	5,453.1	1,837	3,660.4	6,036.7	3,886.1	4,330	3,884.4

(*Figure includes land use expenditure) *Support to local community included in other items