

# National Parks and National Park Cities

Carolyn Roberts

Professor of  
Environment

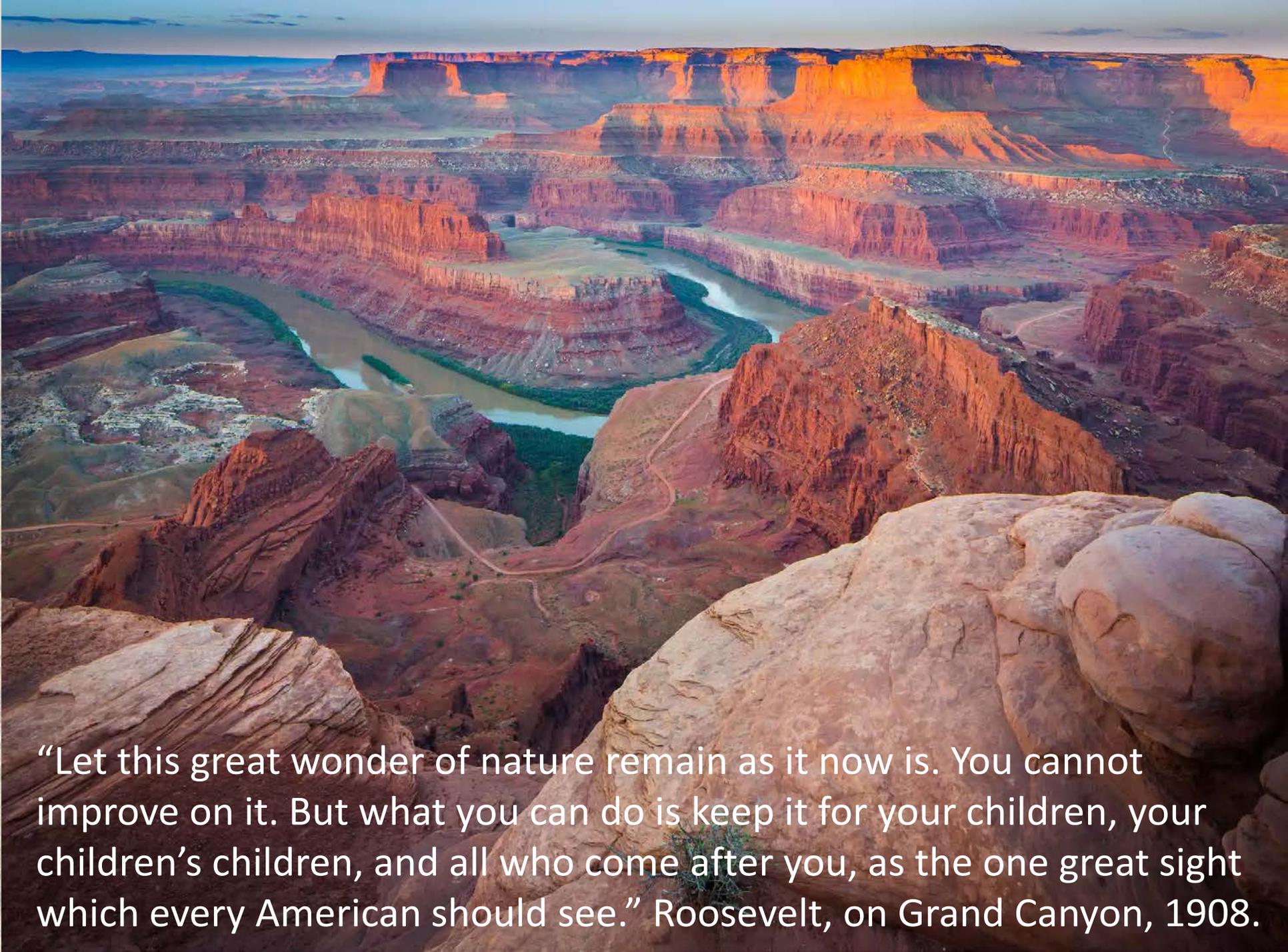
Gresham College  
London

# Housesteads Roman Fort, Northumberland National Park



# Stanage Edge, Peak District National Park





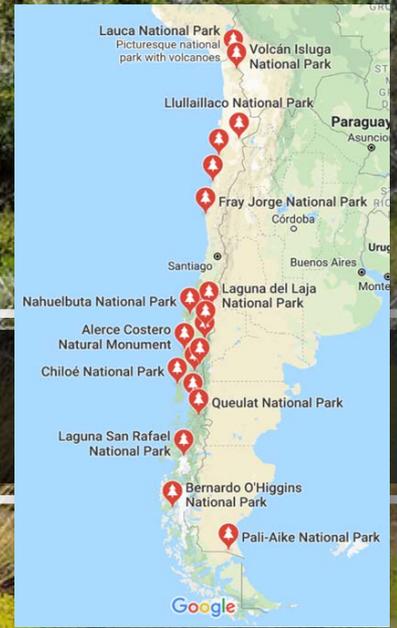
“Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is. You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is keep it for your children, your children’s children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see.” Roosevelt, on Grand Canyon, 1908.

Criteria for the selection of US National Parks include natural beauty, unique geological features, unusual ecosystems, and recreational opportunities. Restricted access to this public land, for example by permit lotteries, is being considered in parts of Utah. Parts of the protected areas may also be sold off for mineral exploitation, following intervention by President Trump in December 2017.





# New Patagonian National Parks, Chile



# Ideas of protection in the UK

- National Park Authorities **work with landowners, communities, charities and agencies** to implement conservation measures and projects. The Authorities' expertise helps to **protect wildlife**, and supports developments that **enhance the natural environment**.
- National Parks can help **expand and join up wildlife-rich habitats, providing even more places where nature can thrive and people can come to enjoy it**. They are home to **our native plants and spectacular wildlife**, from the stunning orchids in the South Downs to the ospreys that return each year to breed in the Lake District.
- England's National Parks are **free and open to all**, with 90 million visitors every year enjoying the opportunity to get closer to nature

# Characteristics of National Parks in the UK, typified by Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park



Cuckmere Haven, South Downs National Park, designated 2011 and UK's newest Park. The Park and immediately surrounding area includes downland, water meadows, ancient bluebell woodland and bat-rich habitats



# Arundel's £260m bypass options, to relieve congestion and pollution. Do big roads anyway solve traffic problems?



**Key**

- South Downs National Park
- Ancient Woodland
- Woodland

## UK National Parks are important for native plants and animals

87% of conservation priority butterfly species and 80% of priority orchid species are present in England's National Parks. Dedicated management and reintroduction projects are attempting to ensure that species such as the fen raft spider, the freshwater pearl mussel and the barn owl thrive and increase their range.

Principal threats to the spider in the UK are identified as water abstraction, inappropriate ditch management, deterioration in water quality and the loss of suitable wetland.



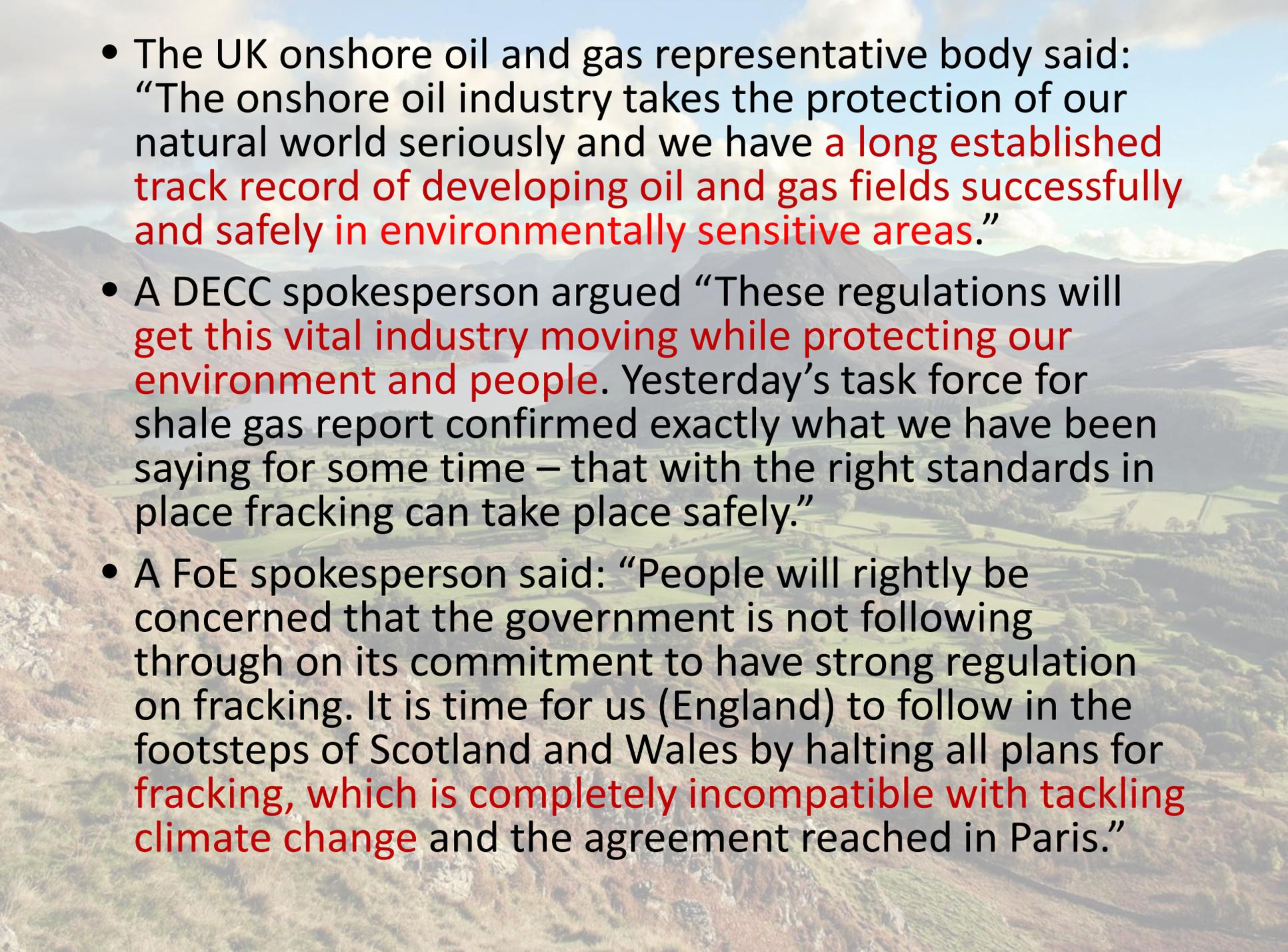


‘Wet Deserts’ in the Lakes, George Monbiot

# National Park status does not protect against indirect fracking...

- In January 2015, Amber Rudd, the then Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Climate Change, pledged “We have agreed **an outright ban on fracking in National Parks** [and] Sites of Special Scientific Interest.”
- In November 2015 the Department of Energy and Climate Change clarified that surface drilling would not be allowed in protected areas including SSSIs, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty but in secondary legislation, companies are **allowed to drill down for shale gas on the edge of National Parks and then to drill horizontally** below 1,200 metres.



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- The UK onshore oil and gas representative body said: “The onshore oil industry takes the protection of our natural world seriously and we have **a long established track record of developing oil and gas fields successfully and safely in environmentally sensitive areas.**”
  - A DECC spokesperson argued “These regulations will **get this vital industry moving while protecting our environment and people.** Yesterday’s task force for shale gas report confirmed exactly what we have been saying for some time – that with the right standards in place fracking can take place safely.”
  - A FoE spokesperson said: “People will rightly be concerned that the government is not following through on its commitment to have strong regulation on fracking. It is time for us (England) to follow in the footsteps of Scotland and Wales by halting all plans for **fracking, which is completely incompatible with tackling climate change** and the agreement reached in Paris.”



The New Forest Tour, New Forest National Park



The gold mine entrance  
is just out of the picture,  
behind the spur

View up River Cononish to Ben Lui, Loch Lomond National Park. The slopes above the farm are smooth, but restoration proposals include building an artificial 'glacial moraine' feature from mine tailings.

Honister Pass, Black Star,  
Lake District National  
Park, recently also  
designated a World  
Heritage Site.  
Controversy stalled the  
proposed installation of  
a zip line for adventure  
tourism in 2012.

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Zip wires in North Wales. Miniscule environmental impact on a wilderness area?



Adventure tourism in Derbyshire has attracted less controversy  
- zip wires, treetop trails, potholing and associated visitors  
have been widely accepted

# Off-road rage about 'green lanes' in the Peak District is expressed forcefully...

## [Whatbettywore](#)

off roads and motorbike are a pain when your walking down a country lane, I cant blame the villager's

## [Lowrangers2012](#)

I wonder if you realise that its about 3% of all of the available lanes that vehicles can drive on? Don't you think it's reasonable to allow vehicles to use a small percentage of them?

## [Dwainpipe21](#)

Children, horses, and dogs off leads are a pain when your riding down a country lane (in this case a byway which is legally a road!), I can't blame the motorcyclists! o wait they are not getting upset about it because they are willing to give and take and aren't bigoted like you.

# Off-road rage about 'green lanes' in Derbyshire expressed forcefully...

- [Aadrianlee](#)

I'm for every one using in the own way they as individuals see fit for them selves. Grumpy old GIT's want every thing there way well it's belongs to every one 😎👍

- [Aadrianlee](#)

We'll said I'm a bike and I will use it regardless it belongs to all. I think horses are far more dangerous than some one on a motor bike. Old grumpy git's want every thing there way but unfortunately for them other people have way of injoyment to. From Kingsley Staffordshire 😎👍

[apr07](#)



The uk is full of people, usually elderly **trying to customize the country to their taste**. As they are senior in age, they believe everyone should respect their wishes... The lanes they are trying to close are roads. Not footpaths. It works fine that people can walk their dogs, go for walks, ride their mountain bikes, horses, motorbikes and 4x4's if all have RESPECT for eachother. As an off road biker, I RESPECT all of the above groups of people. Do they respect me? **Why do I earn less respect just because Im on a bike?** They dont know me, or people like me. Im an Army veteran, I served in the Irish Guards. ...Surely one who has dedicated a part of his life in protecting this country should be aloud to use roads legally wherever they may be.



You are here: [Home](#) / [Campaigns](#) / [Take back the tracks](#)

## Take back the tracks

### Motorised vehicles permanently banned on four green lanes!

Since 2014 the Peak District National Park Authority has issued no less than four permanent Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) in order to 'conserve nature and the quiet enjoyment of the wild landscape'. The bans are on Long Causeway, The Roych, Chapelgate and Leys Lane and all exclude trail-bikes, quad-bikes and 4x4s but not wheelchairs or electric disability scooters and trampers.

The decisions all follow public consultations in which the Authority received thousands of responses, the majority supporting a vehicle ban in each case.

With four iconic routes protected from damaging and conflicting use by recreational motor vehicles we are now seeking to ensure that other threatened lanes are also managed in the same way. These include Jacob's Ladder in Stoney Middleton where villagers feel unable to use their local lane, Swan and Limer Rakes Hollinsclough, Washgate near Hollinsclough and School Lane in Great Hucklow where measures to ensure the safety of school children are urgently required.

Join our campaign to continue to protect Peak District green lanes from off-roading damage!

We expect the off-roaders to protest against the project because the fight is not yet over. To continue

#### Join us!

Become a friend today and start protecting the Peak District

[read more](#) >



#### The Haythornthwaite Appeal

Continue our founders' legacy for the future

[read more](#) >



facebook



Sign up for our brilliant **free eNewsletter** now!

- [Amber Nectar](#)

ban walkers on the green lanes they get in the way of the bikers they shout throw stuff and endanger the riders lives its a byway for all traffic (traffic) including bikes these people have nothing better to do fk them these kinds of things encourage illegal nuisance bikers taring up fields ther retarded fuckers

- [tofuball](#)

SOME RIGHT PILLOKS RUINING PEOPLES FUN

- [Lowrangers2012](#)

They don't seem to get the hypocrisy. I love it when they make reference to the Kinder march. So they the poor minority who fought against rich land owners for the right to roam have now decided that a sub section of there own group shouldn't have the right to roam!

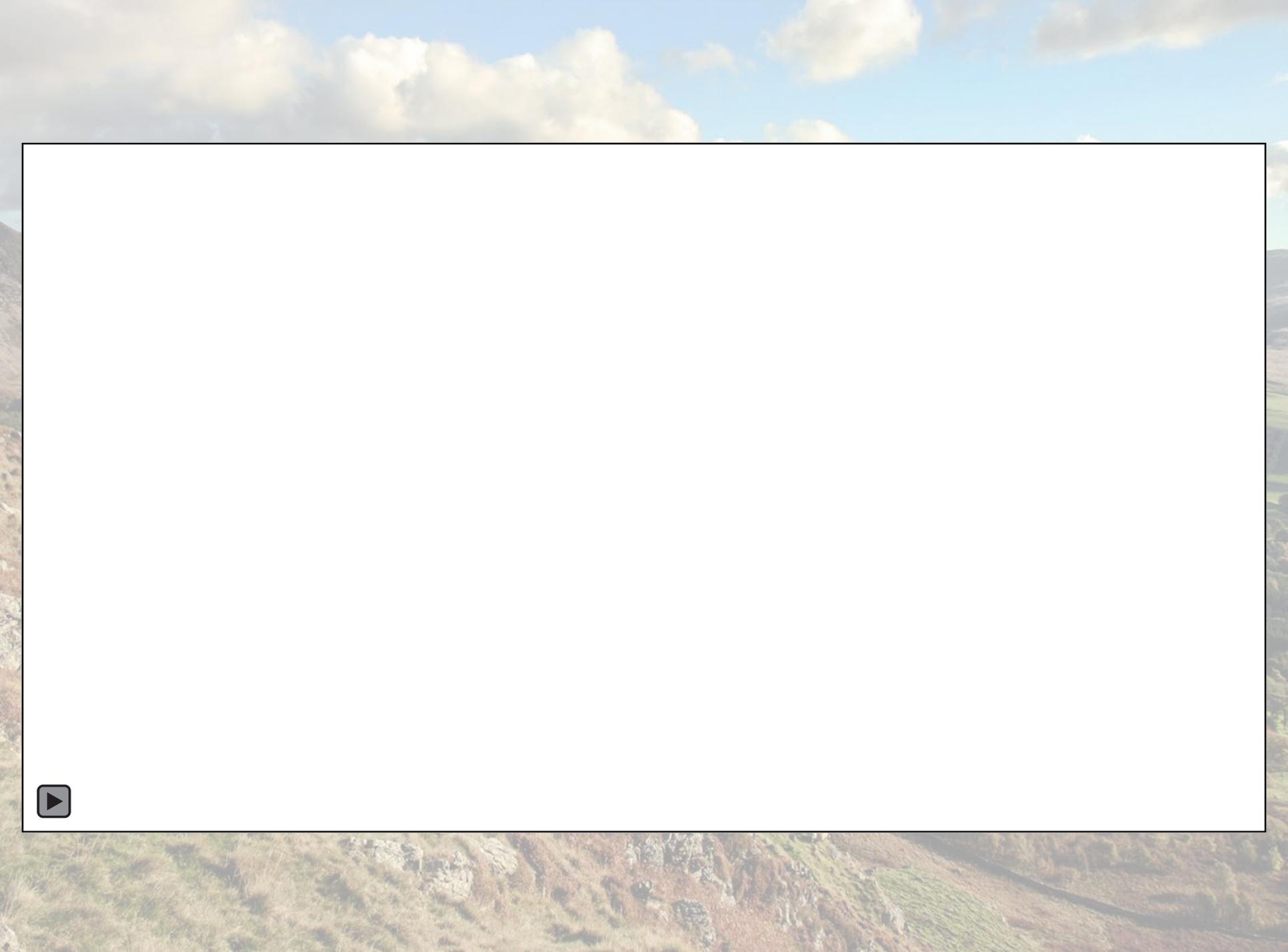
# Mass trespass on Kinder Scout, April 1932

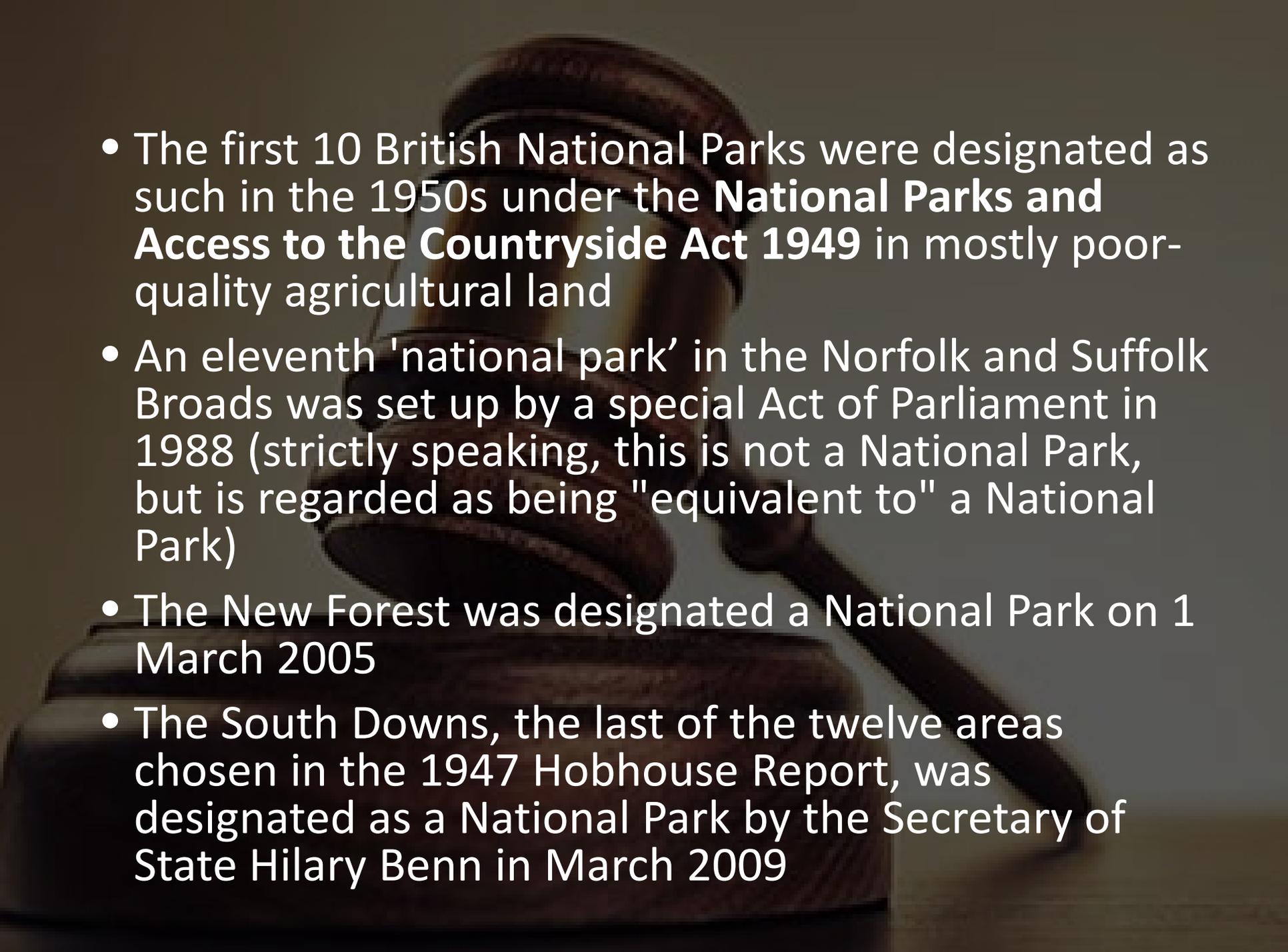


“The most successful direct action in British history” Lord Roy Hattersley, 2007

# Brief history of UK National Parks

- 1865 Commons Preservation Society founded
- 1895 National Trust founded
- 1931 Parliament asks for a National Parks Authority
- 1932 Mass trespass by 400+ Manchester branch of the British Workers' Sports Federation on Kinder Scout, Derbyshire, results in fighting with the Duke of Devonshire's gamekeepers. Six men arrested, five jailed
- 1949 National Parks legislation passed
- 1950 Peak District designated as the first UK National Park
- 1955 Green Belt legislation
- Right to roam?



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- The first 10 British National Parks were designated as such in the 1950s under the **National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949** in mostly poor-quality agricultural land
  - An eleventh 'national park' in the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads was set up by a special Act of Parliament in 1988 (strictly speaking, this is not a National Park, but is regarded as being "equivalent to" a National Park)
  - The New Forest was designated a National Park on 1 March 2005
  - The South Downs, the last of the twelve areas chosen in the 1947 Hobhouse Report, was designated as a National Park by the Secretary of State Hilary Benn in March 2009



Herringfleet Mill, Norfolk Broads National Park

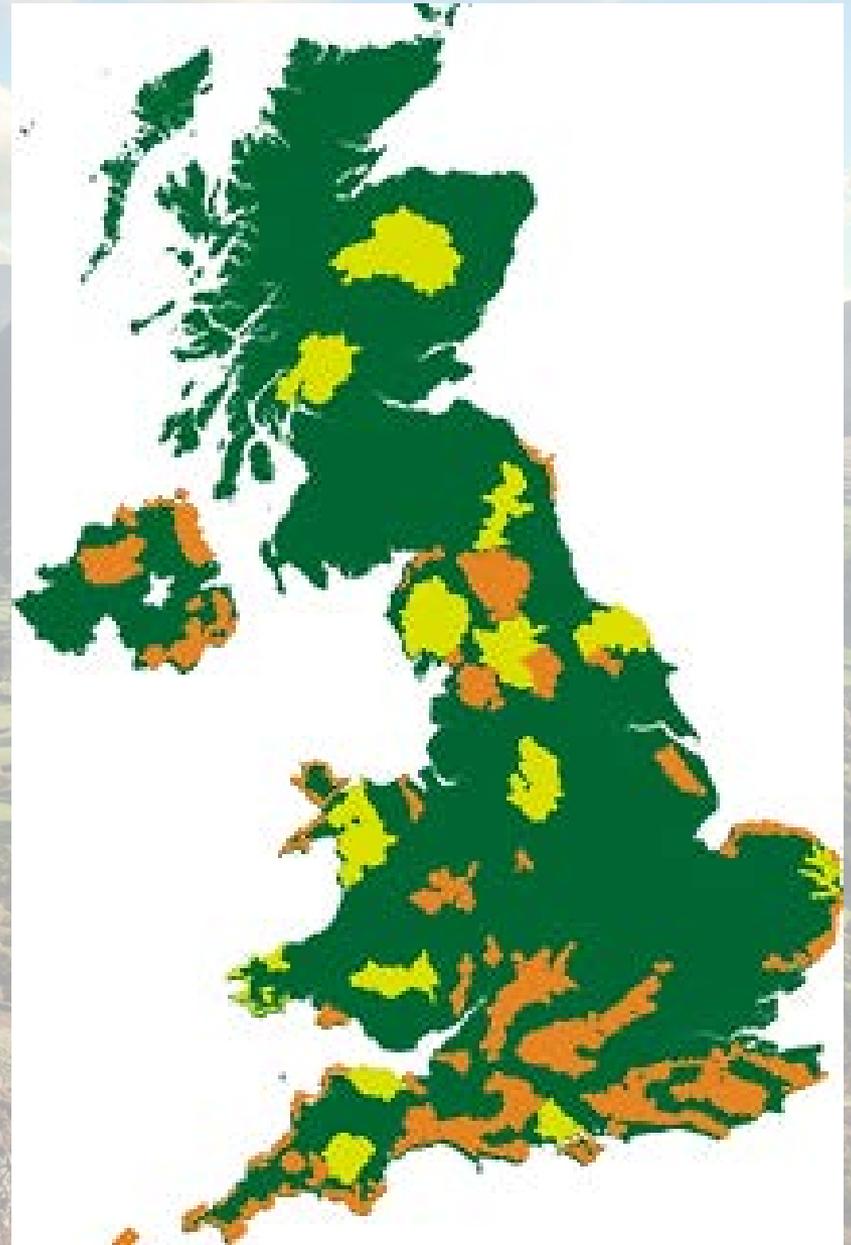
- Map of protected areas in the UK showing **National Parks in yellow** and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in orange

10% of England

20% of Wales

7% of Scotland

- 23% of National Park area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest
- National Parks cost £1 per person, per year to run
- 50% population of E&W live within an hour's drive



# Mission of National Parks

The Environment Act 1995 revised the original legislation and set out **two statutory purposes** for national parks in England and Wales:

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks by the public

When national parks carry out these purposes they also have the **duty** to:

- Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the national parks

# National Parks' Mission

Conserve and  
enhance the  
natural beauty,  
wildlife and cultural  
heritage

Promote  
opportunities  
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and enjoyment  
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Foster the  
economic and  
social well-  
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national parks

# Closing of green lanes to bikers

Conserve and  
enhance the natural  
beauty, wildlife and  
cultural heritage

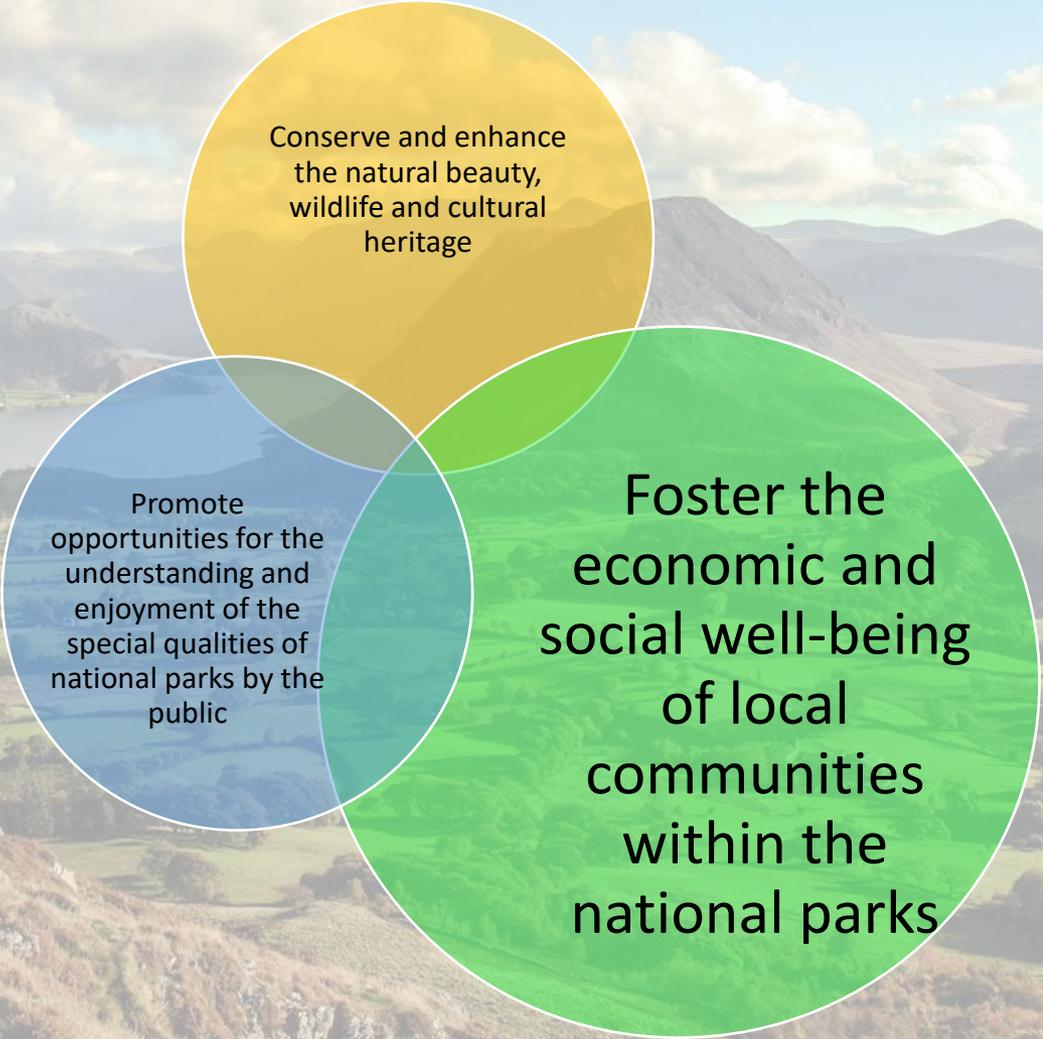
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# The Sandford Principle

- Most of the time it is possible to achieve both the original two purposes by good management. Occasionally a situation arises where access for the public is in direct conflict with conservation. Following the ethos of the Sandford principle, the Environment Act 1995 sets down how a priority may be established between conservation and recreational use.
- The Sandford Principle is summarised as, *"where those two purposes cannot be reconciled by skilful management, conservation should come first"*.

# Opening a gold mine

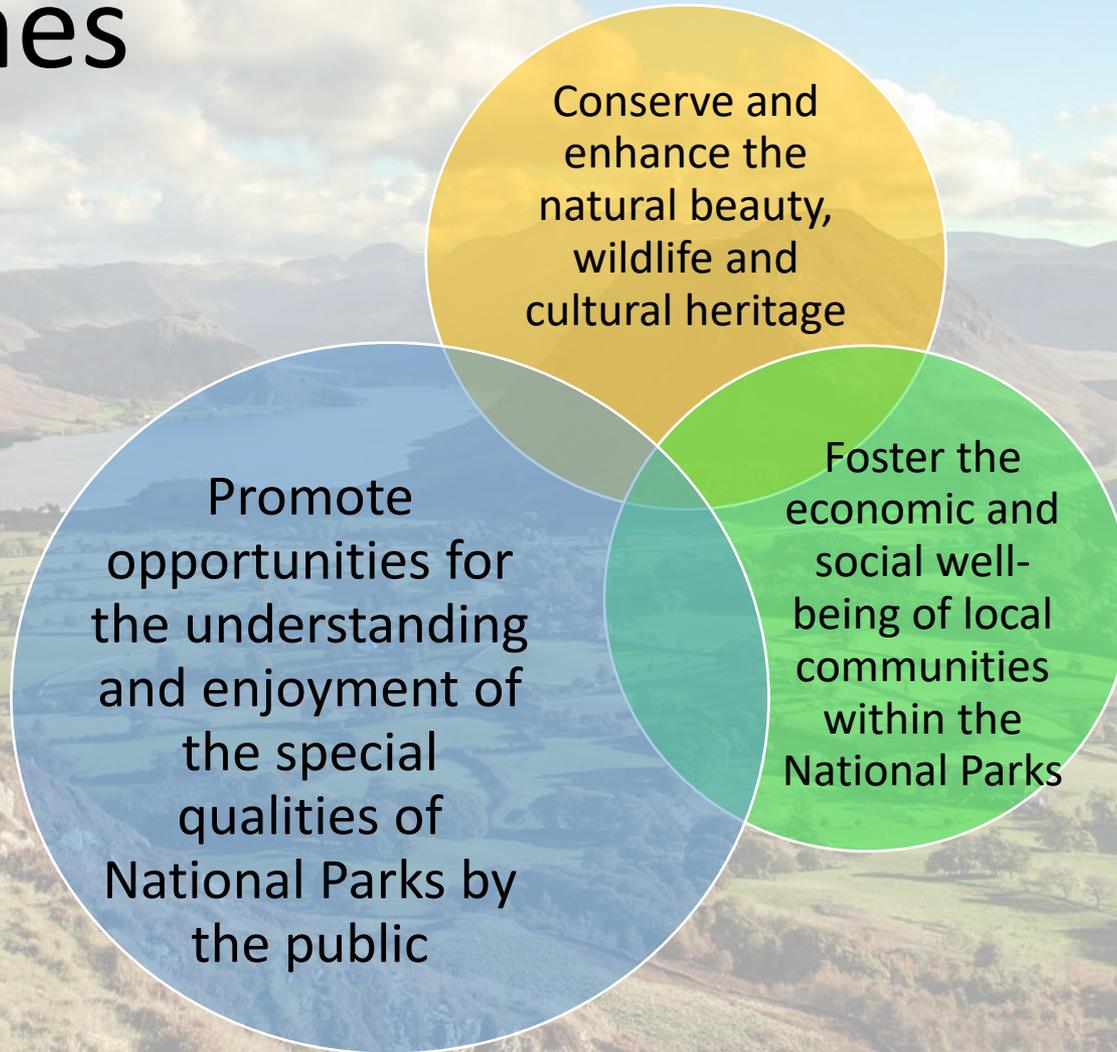


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# Zip lines



A scenic landscape featuring a valley with a lake, surrounded by mountains and rolling hills. The foreground shows a steep, rocky slope with sparse vegetation. A large, semi-transparent yellow circle is centered over the image, containing the text "Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage".

Conserve and  
enhance the natural  
beauty, wildlife and  
cultural heritage



Beech and Oak Woodland in lowlands



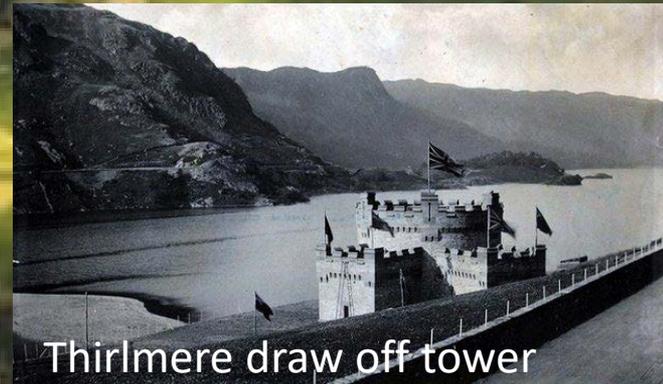
Atlantic Hazelwood in Scottish Uplands





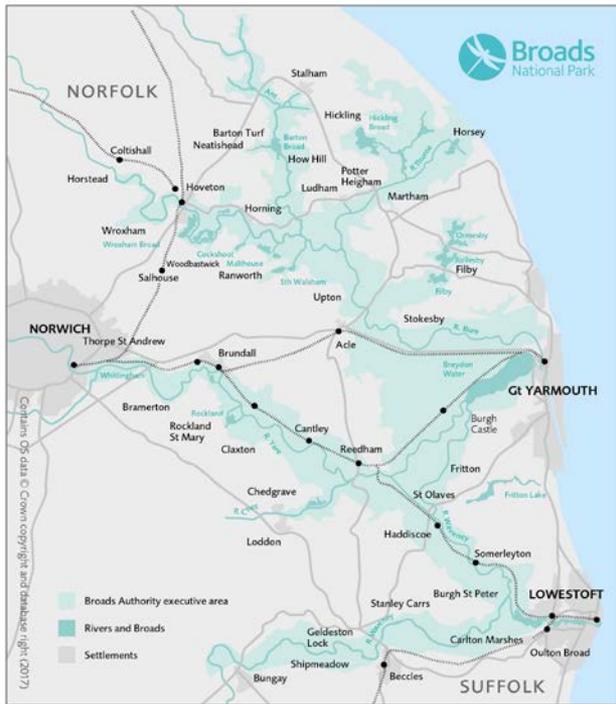
Dentdale at sunset, Yorkshire |  
Dales National Park |

Lake  
Buttermere,  
Lake District  
National  
Park





Broads National Park: “Discover dramatic landscapes, raw natural beauty and a rare quality of light. Where big, bright skies meet endless horizons and dreamlike landscapes”



[www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk](http://www.VisitTheBroads.co.uk) | [www.broads-authority.gov.uk](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk)



Broads National Park, and associated fens  
with shrinking soils



Llangors Lake, Brecon Beacons National Park



Milford and Hurst Point Lighthouse, New Forest National Park

Water and  
wildlife?

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# Wildlife and biodiversity

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Footpath erosion in the Brecon Beacons



Lake Windermere from  
Loughrigg Fell in the  
Lake District, where a  
wooden stile allows  
walkers and hikers to  
traverse the dry stone  
wall boundary

Picture credit James  
Ennis/Moment RF





Lake District footpath erosion



# Moorland restoration works being carried out in partnership between Moors for the Future and Natural England





‘Seek to foster  
the economic  
and social well-  
being of local  
communities..’

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# National Park City – a first for London?



# Protecting the London Environment

- Ideas about protecting the London open spaces emerged in 1860s when protection was given to Hampstead Heath, Wimbledon Common and Epping Forest
- 1878 Corporation of London acquired legal powers to bring areas into its ownership for the benefit of Londoners
- 1947 Town and Country Planning Act
- 1966 Colne Valley Regional Park
- 2002 Biodiversity Strategy for London published by GLA
- 2013 London National Park City campaign starts
- 2017 Mayoral support

# Our core aims are to:

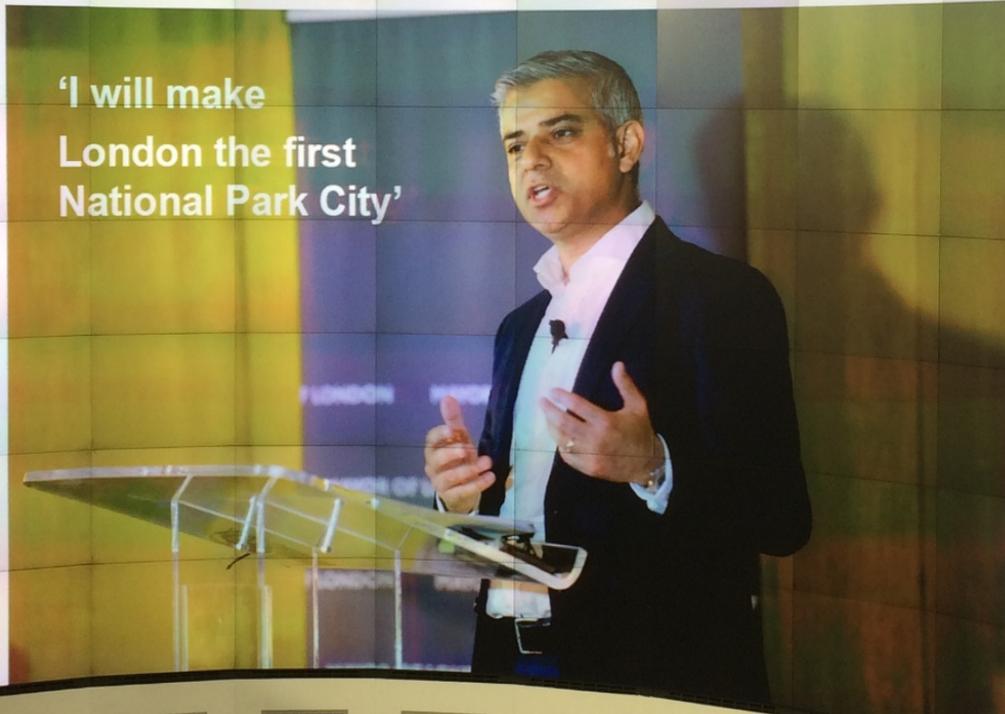
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- **Connect more people to nature and the outdoors, improving their health, wellbeing and social cohesion**
- **Create more high quality green and blue space in London, delivering improvements for wildlife, people's enjoyment and an attractive and sustainable environment for living and working in**
- **Promote the identity of London as the world's first National Park City, helping residents and visitors to appreciate the potential for a rich cultural life anchored in its outdoor heritage**
- **Link people to the national and international family of national parks and other protected areas**

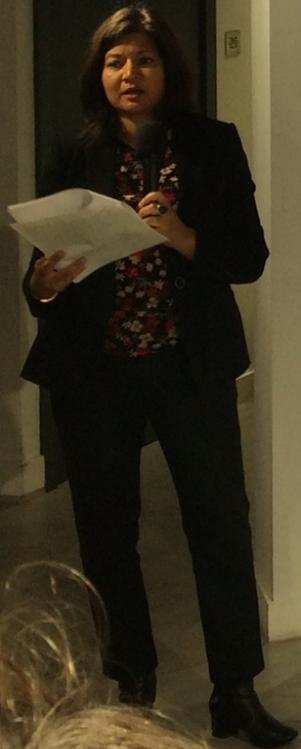


MAYOR OF LONDON

'I will make  
London the first  
National Park City'



"EXPERIMENTATION IS CENTRAL TO INNOVATION. THE ONLY WAY TO UNDERSTAND THE POSSIBLE FUTURE OF PLANNING IS TO TRY NEW WAYS OF PLANNING. TO TEMPORARILY FORGET HOW THINGS ARE DONE TODAY AND DESIGN, PROTOTYPE AND VALIDATE EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES."

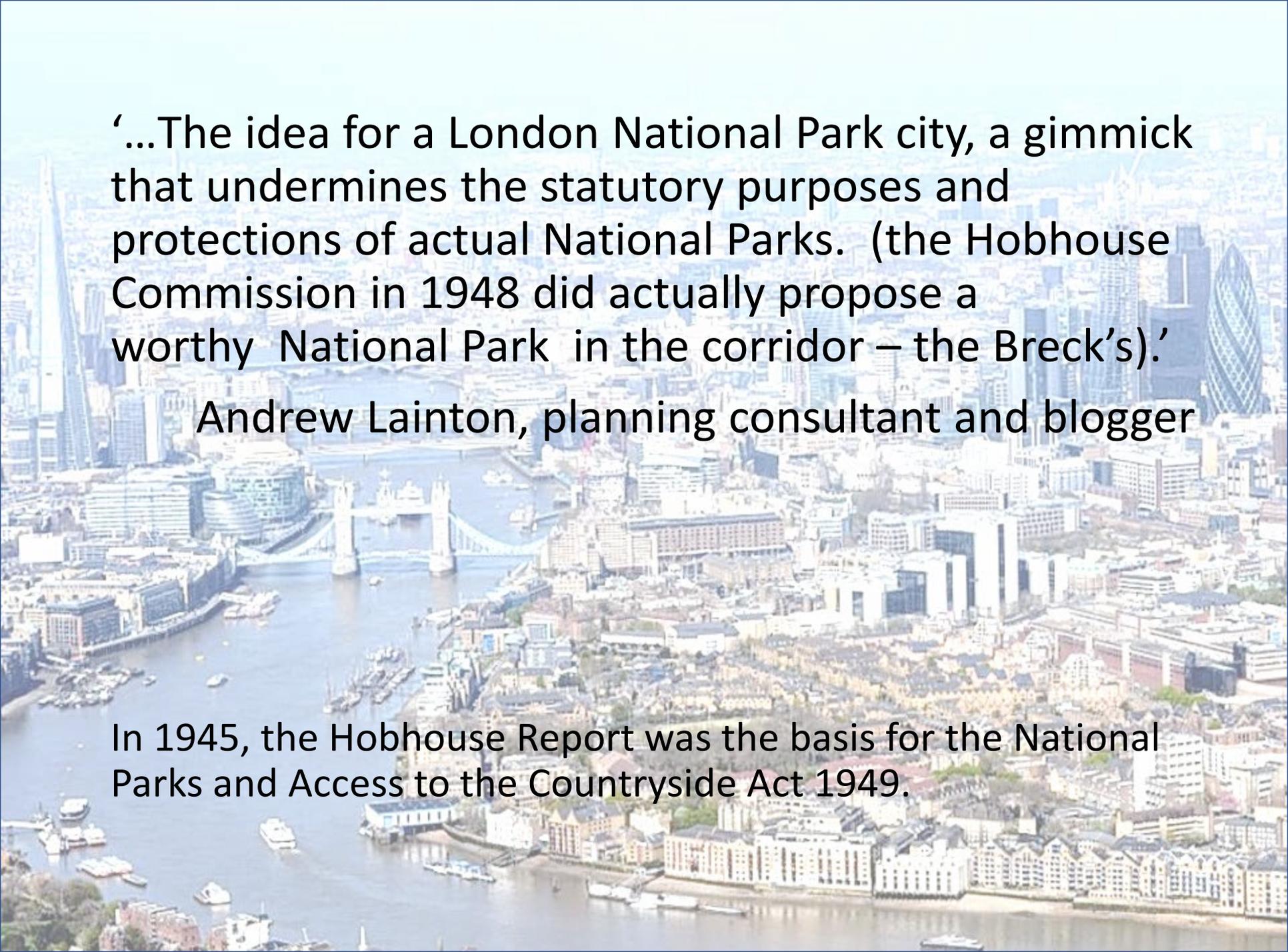




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AND DESIGN, PROTOTYPE AND VALIDATE EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES.



SEKFORDE ST  
Auditorium  
Break-out space  
Toilets

An aerial photograph of London, United Kingdom, showing the River Thames flowing through the city. The Tower Bridge is prominent in the center, and the city skyline is visible in the background, including the Gherkin building. The text is overlaid on the image.

‘...The idea for a London National Park city, a gimmick that undermines the statutory purposes and protections of actual National Parks. (the Hobhouse Commission in 1948 did actually propose a worthy National Park in the corridor – the Breck’s).’

Andrew Lainton, planning consultant and blogger

In 1945, the Hobhouse Report was the basis for the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

# UK National Parks' Mission

Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage

Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks by the public

Foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the national parks

# London National Park City Mission

Create more high quality green and blue space in London, delivering improvements for wildlife, people's enjoyment and an attractive and sustainable environment for living and working in

Link people to the national and international family of national parks and other protected areas

Promote the identity of London as the world's first NPC, helping residents and visitors to appreciate the potential for a rich cultural life anchored in its outdoor heritage

Connect more people to nature and the outdoors, improving their health, wellbeing and social cohesion

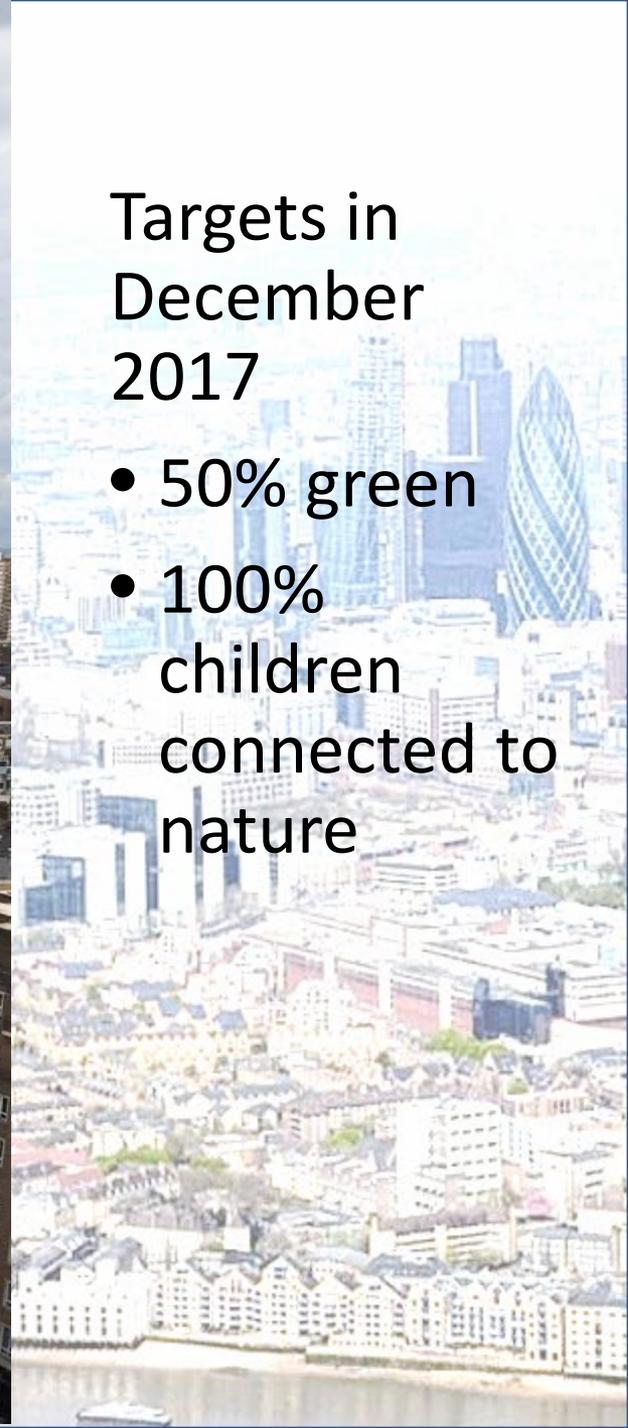






## Targets in December 2017

- 50% green
- 100% children connected to nature

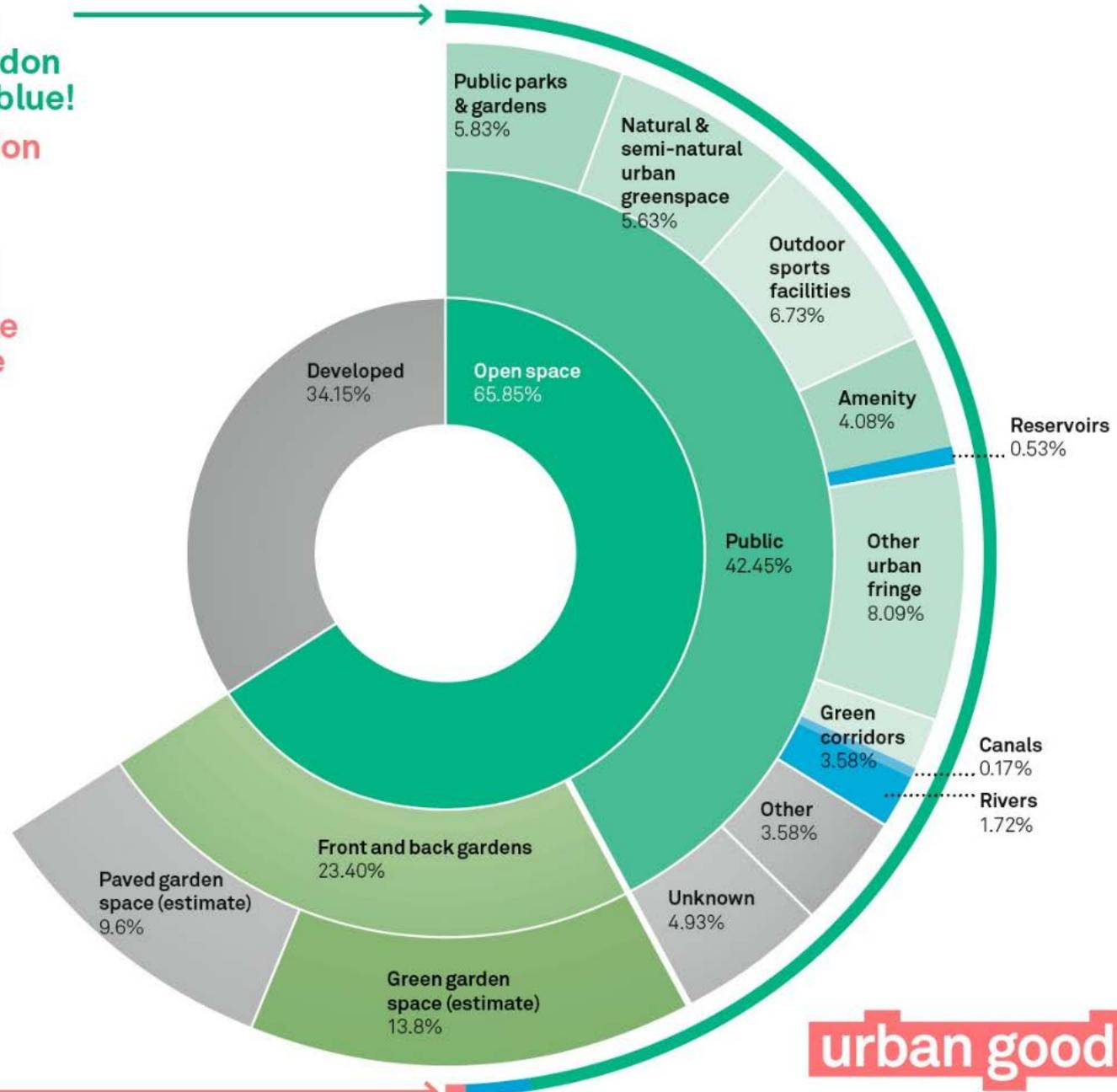


# Greater London by land use

Based on data provided by GiGL, here is the breakdown of different green and blue spaces within the GLA boundary.

We estimate  
**49.5% of London  
is green and blue!**

**Making London  
greener  
will boost  
biodiversity,  
reduce flood  
risk and make  
the city more  
beautiful.**





Gunnersbury Park

Royal Botanic Gardens

RICHMOND WETLAND CENTRE

BEWSEY BRIDGE WALK

# World Parks Statement of Benefits

“Parks, open space and green infrastructure provide significant roles in creating great cities.

The National Park City will benefit

- Children
- Aged communities
- Health
- Wealth
- Recreation
- Environment
- Nature”



# LOCAL

## STAKEHOLDERS

LOCAL RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, LOCAL BUSINESSES, FARMERS

## SCALE

SMALL SCALE AND PRIVATE SPACES: PRIVATE GARDENS, BALCONIES, ROOFTOPS, ALLOTMENTS, COMMUNITY GARDENING, FARMS, SCHOOLS, PLANT POTS!



The Living Network, creating a rich variety of different green spaces including private gardens, parks, waterways and the entire green belt

# PUBLIC

## STAKEHOLDERS

GLA, TFL, BOROUGH COUNCILS, NATIONAL TRUST,  
THAMES WATER, CROWN ESTATE, ROYAL PARKS  
LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST, MAYOR OF LONDON ENVIRONMENT

## SCALE

PUBLIC SPACES, PARKS, WATERWAYS, GREENWAYS,  
CYCLEWAYS, ECOWAYS, SKYWAYS, UNDERWAYS, WOODLAND



The Living Network, creating a rich variety of different green spaces including private gardens, parks, waterways and the entire green belt



The Trail, creating an uninterrupted garden path of peaceful green spaces, winding through inner London's iconic neighbourhoods and linking its parks into a single continuous woven landscape

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Images credit: Chris Rossetto and Emma Lubbers

# The Trail

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Images credit: Chris Rossetto and Emma Lubbers



**REWILD MY  
STREET W1**

**NATIONAL PARK CITY**

# Wicked problems ..... Based on Horst Rittel and Melvin Webber, 1973

- Poorly formulated and complex problems
- With interconnected physical/scientific and human/sociological dimensions...
- Where what happens in one place and time affects what happens somewhere else, at a different time
- Involving many different stakeholders...
- Who don't agree about what is important...
- and who use ambiguous terminology in different ways...
- and who cannot agree if the problem has been solved

# Questions to be answered for London National Park City

- Are the priorities appropriate?
- Do they conflict?
- Is the initiative grounded in research?
- What type of green space?
- What type of wildlife?
- What does 'access' mean? The right to roam?
- Are local people asked for their views?
- Are there boundary issues? What is displaced, and to where?



What would a mass trespass in London look like?