

## Parking in and National and Country Parks

### Annex C – National Park areas

There are 15 [National Parks](#)

Name	Area (sq. km)	Population	Visitors (m) per annum
The Brecon Beacons	1344	32,000	4.15
The Broads (designated as one)	303	6271	8.00
Cairngorms	4,528	17,000	1.50
Dartmoor	953	34,000	2.40
Exmoor	694	10,600	1.40
Lake District	2362	41,000	16.40
Loch Lomond & the Trossachs	1865	15,600	4.00
The New Forest	570	34,922	Unknown
Northumberland	1048	2,200	1.50
North York Moors	1434	23,380	7.00
Peak District	1437	37,905	8.75
Pembrokeshire Coast	621	22,800	4.20
Snowdonia	2176	25,482	4.27
South Downs	1624	120,000	unknown
Yorkshire Dales	2179	23,637,	9.50
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>23,138</b>	<b>423,160</b>	<b>73.07</b>

### What is a National Park?

In the UK there are 15 members in the national park family, which are protected areas because of their beautiful countryside, wildlife and cultural heritage. People live and work in the national parks and the farms, villages and towns are protected along with the landscape and wildlife. National parks welcome visitors and provide opportunities for everyone to experience, enjoy and learn about their special qualities.

Farmers are an important group of landowners and agriculture is one of the main land uses in National Parks.

### Who owns the national parks land?

A large amount of land within the national parks is owned by private landowners. Farmers and organisations like the National Trust are some of the landowners, along with the thousands of people who live in the villages and towns. National park authorities sometimes own bits of land, but they work with all landowners in all national parks to protect the landscape.

### Who looks after National Parks?

National Parks are large areas of land, including towns and villages, which means that lots of people and organisations help to look after them.

Meet the people in the parks to see how local communities and farmers help care for the landscape and wildlife.

This page explains how national park authorities are made of members, staff and volunteers, and how they work with other organisations to help look after National Parks.

### **National Park Authorities**

Each National Park is looked after by an organisation called a national park authority, which includes members, staff and volunteers.

### **Members**

National park authorities have between 10 and 30 members and one chairman (called a Convenor in Scotland) who represents them. The members take advice from staff and make decisions about what the national park authority should do. Members do not work for the national park authority full time, and do not get paid.

Most of the members come from local and parish councils within the National Park. Some members are appointed by government because they have specialist knowledge and experience in areas like the environment or rural communities. Members normally live in or very close to the National Park so they are local people.

### Other organisations

There are lots of organisations that work to protect natural and cultural heritage and many of them own land within National Parks. The National Trust and the Forestry Commission own large areas of moorlands and woodlands. Other organisations like the RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts, the Woodland Trust, English Heritage and Historic Scotland own nature reserves and historic sites within National Parks.

National park authorities work with these and many other organisations to look after the landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage within National Parks.

### **Special Qualities**

### **Area Covered**

Land area covered by National Parks:

England: 10 National Parks cover 9.3% of the land area

Wales: 3 National Parks cover 19.9% of the land area

Scotland: 2 National Parks cover 7.2% of the land area