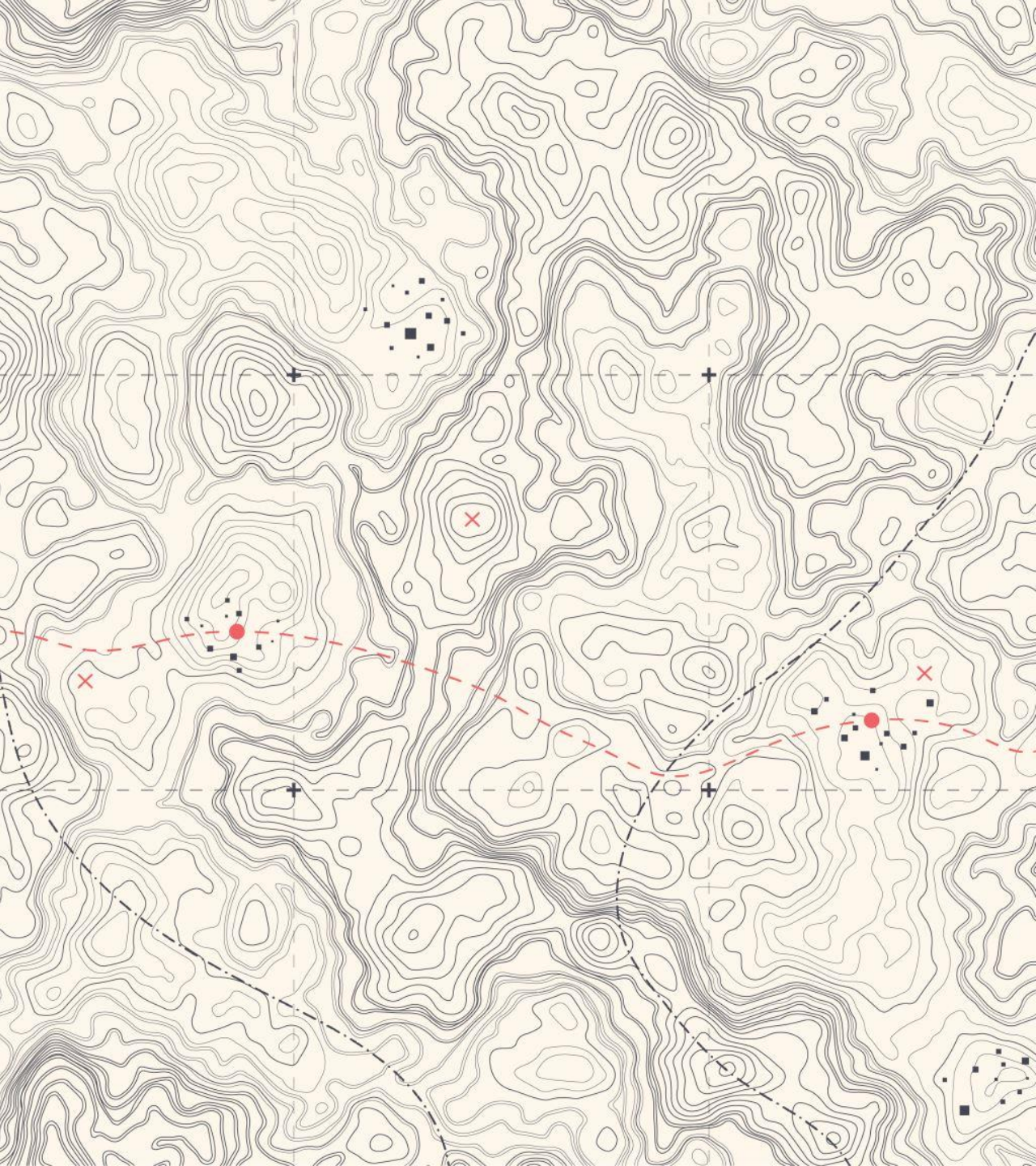


National Parks Strategic past and future?



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David



Lecture Outline

- Definition
- National Parks
- The UK Experience
- Pressures
- Protection
- New National Parks

Icebreaker



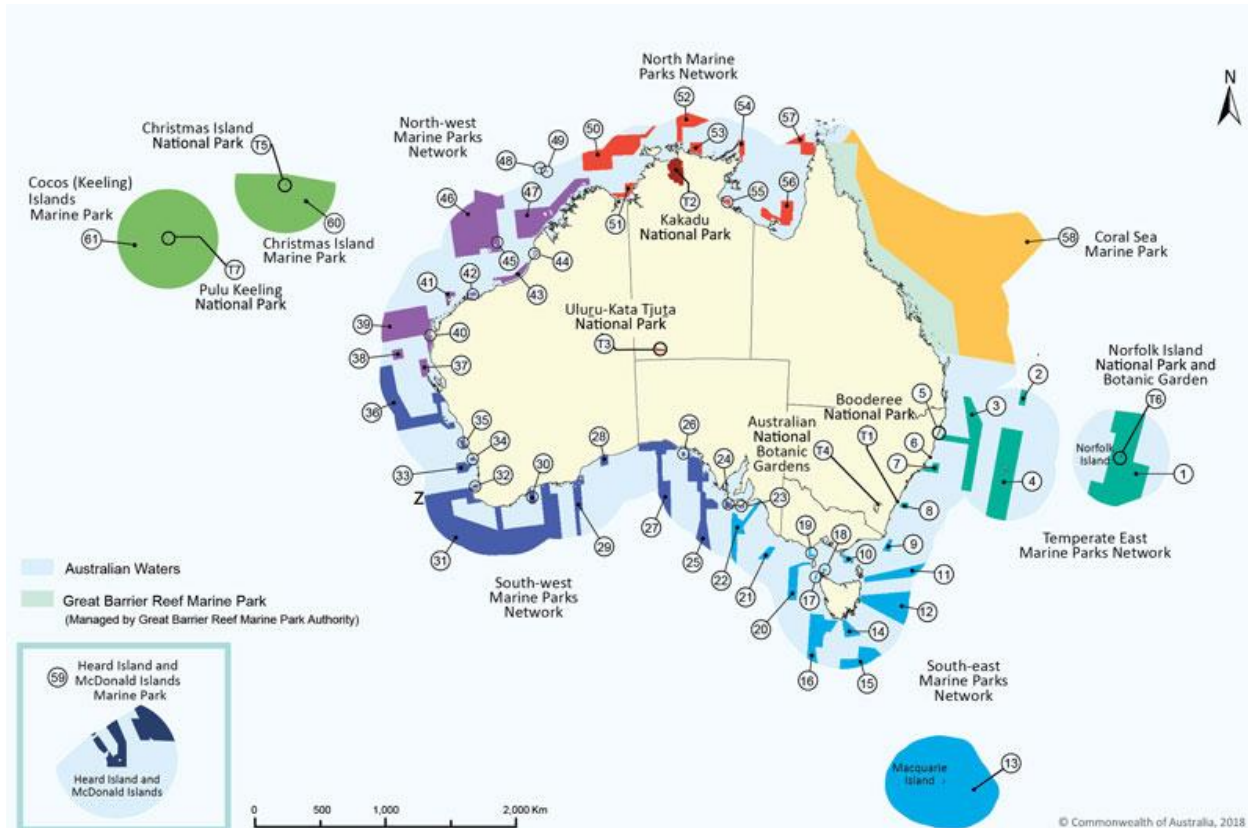
- Have you visited a National Park?
- What was your experience?





National park: an area set aside by a national government for the preservation of the natural environment. A National Park may be set aside for purposes of public recreation and enjoyment or because of its historical or scientific interest (Britannica, 2020: 345)

Definition



- Landscapes and their accompanying plants and animals in a national park are kept in their natural state.
- National parks in the United States and Canada tend to focus on the protection of both land and wildlife
- United Kingdom focus is traditionally land
- Africa primarily exist to conserve animals. Other countries have large national parks, e.g. Brazil, Japan, India, and Australia.

Background

Origin

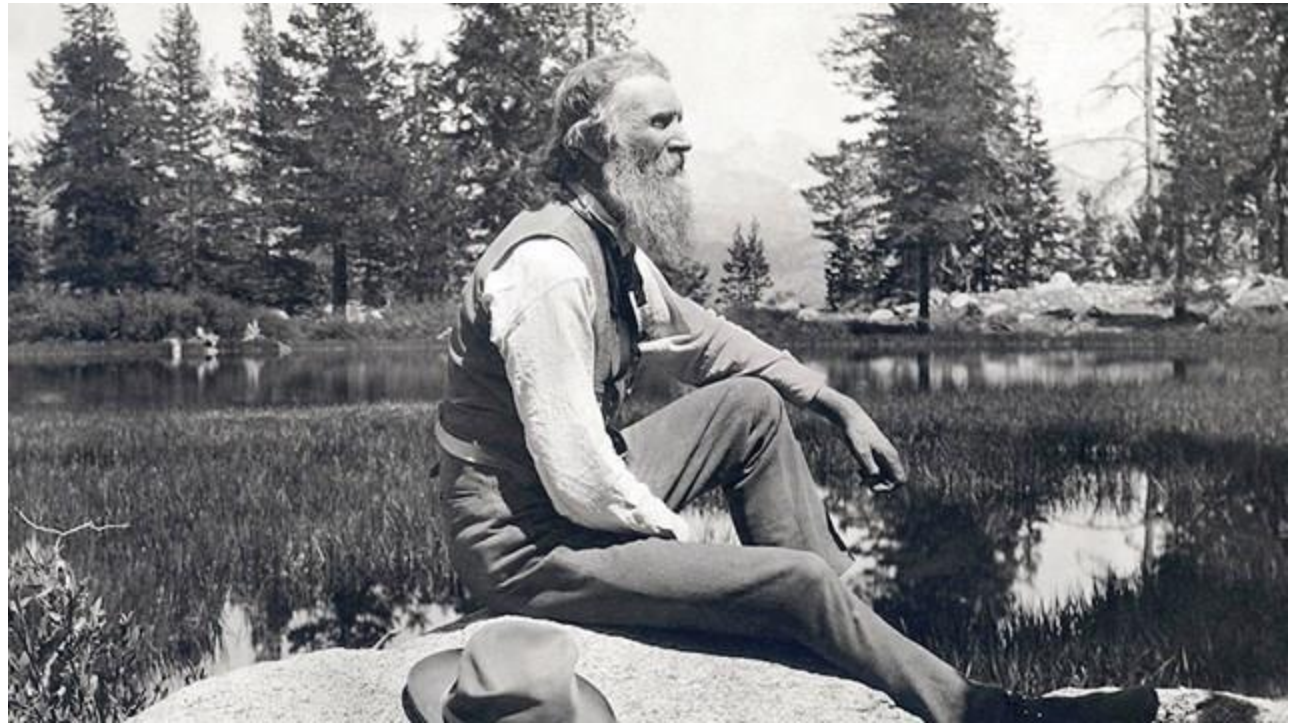
- United States in 1870 and that the World's first such park was Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, created through legislation signed Ulysses S. Grant in 1872.
- However, some naturalists and others have argued that Bogd Khan Mountain National Park in Mongolia, which may date from as early as 1778.



John Muir

"Why should man value himself as more than a small part of the one great unit of creation?"

John Muir asked. His remarkable vision – that all creation is one community made up of equal companions – still inspires people to love nature and to work to save wildlands and wildlife. Muir is often called the father of national parks and forest reservations, forerunners of national forests. Muir urged people to experience wild nature so they would be inspired to defend it and save it.



[Places - John Muir National Historic Site \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/jmuir/)

Maps of National Parks

[The 30 Best National Parks in the World \(outsideonline.com\)](https://www.outsideonline.com/entertainment/30-best-national-parks-in-the-world/)



LIST OF NATIONAL PARKS

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| ALASKA | COLORADO | MONTANA | UTAH |
| ☐ 1. DENALI | ☐ 22. BLACK CANYON | ☐ 37. GLACIER | ☐ 50. ARCHES |
| ☐ 2. GATES OF THE ARCTIC | ☐ 23. OF THE GUNNISON | ☐ 38. NEVADA | ☐ 51. BRYCE CANYON |
| ☐ 3. GLACIER BAY | ☐ 24. GREAT SAND DUNES | ☐ 39. GREAT BASIN | ☐ 52. CANYONLANDS |
| ☐ 4. KATMAI | ☐ 25. MESA VERDE | ☐ 40. NEW MEXICO | ☐ 53. CAPITOL REEF |
| ☐ 5. KENAI FJORDS | ☐ 26. ROCKY MOUNTAIN | ☐ 41. CARLSBAD CAVERNS | ☐ 54. ZION |
| ☐ 6. KOBUK VALLEY | FLORIDA | ☐ 42. WHITE SANDS | VIRGINIA |
| ☐ 7. LAKE CLARK | ☐ 27. BISCAYNE | ☐ 43. NORTH DAKOTA | ☐ 55. SHENANDOAH |
| ☐ 8. WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS | ☐ 28. EVERGLADES | ☐ 44. THEODORE ROOSEVELT | WASHINGTON |
| ARIZONA | ☐ 29. DRY TORTUGAS | ☐ 45. OHIO | ☐ 56. MOUNT RAINIER |
| ☐ 9. GRAND CANYON | HAWAII | ☐ 46. CUYAHOGA VALLEY | ☐ 57. NORTH CASCADES |
| ☐ 10. PETRIFIED FOREST | ☐ 30. HAWAII VOLCANOES | ☐ 47. OREGON | ☐ 58. OLYMPIC |
| ☐ 11. SAGUARO | INDIANA | ☐ 48. CRATER LAKE | WEST VIRGINIA |
| ARKANSAS | ☐ 31. INDIANA DUNES | ☐ 49. NORTH CAROLINA | ☐ 59. NEW RIVER GORGE |
| ☐ 12. HOT SPRINGS | KENTUCKY | ☐ 50. CONGAREE | WYOMING |
| CALIFORNIA | ☐ 32. MAMMOTH CAVE | ☐ 51. SOUTH DAKOTA | ☐ 60. GRAND TETON |
| ☐ 13. CHANNEL ISLANDS | MAINE | ☐ 52. BADLANDS | ☐ 61. YELLOWSTONE |
| ☐ 14. DEATH VALLEY | ☐ 33. ACADIA | ☐ 53. WIND CAVE | AMERICAN SAMOA |
| ☐ 15. JOSHUA TREE | MICHIGAN | ☐ 54. TENNESSEE | ☐ 62. AMERICAN SAMOA |
| ☐ 16. KINGS CANYON | ☐ 34. ISLE ROYALE | ☐ 55. GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS | US VIRGIN ISLANDS |
| ☐ 17. LASSEN VOLCANIC | MINNESOTA | ☐ 56. TEXAS | ☐ 63. VIRGIN ISLANDS |
| ☐ 18. PINNACLES | ☐ 35. VOYAGEURS | ☐ 57. BIG BEND | |
| ☐ 19. REDWOOD | MISSOURI | ☐ 58. GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS | |
| ☐ 20. SEQUOIA | ☐ 36. GATEWAY ARCH | | |
| ☐ 21. YOSEMITE | | | |



National Parks in the UK



The UK Experience

- Act of Parliament 1949
- *“areas of great natural beauty giving opportunity for open air recreation, established so that natural beauty can be preserved and enhanced, and so that the enjoyment of the scenery by the public can be promoted.”*

[History of our National Park: Peak District National Park](#)

Status

- **10%** of the land area of England and Wales
- Welsh National Parks covering **20%** of the land area
- 2 in Scotland
- Important recreational resource attracting **approximately 100 million visitors a year (2017)**.
- Nation's heritage, available to everyone to enjoy and safeguarded for future generations.

[Where are England's 10 national parks? - BBC News](#)





Go **confidently**
in the **direction** of your **dreams**!
Live the life you've **imagined**.

- Henry David Thoreau

History

- Diachrony: To understand the present you must understand the past
- Transcendentalists
 - Influenced by romanticism
 - Henry David Thoreau was a major advocate



History

- In the **early 19th century** the romantic poets such as Byron, Coleridge and Wordsworth wrote about the inspirational beauty of the "untamed" countryside. Until then relatively wild, remote areas had been seen as uncivilised and dangerous. Wordsworth famously claimed the Lake District (1835) as

"a sort of national property, in which every man has a right and an interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy".

Inter-war

- Campaigns from leisure organisations: Ramblers Association, YHA, Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE), Council for the Preservation of Rural Wales (CPRW). NB Access was the big issue)
- In 1929 the Government launched an inquiry into the creation of National Parks and in 1931 recommended a 'NP Authority.
- No official response so public discontent grew esp. In the urban areas around the Peak District. (1932 'Mass trespass' took place on Kinder Scout and 5 were arrested)
- In 1935 the Standing Committee for National Parks (SCNP) is formed. NP became a part of the Labour party's post-war reconstruction.



Post-war ideology



- In 1945 a White Paper on National Parks is published by John Dower. Sir Norman Birkett published a pamphlet "National Parks and the Countryside". In it he wrote:
- ***"After the experiences of the past 6 years, it is altogether praiseworthy that there should be a great stirring in men's minds, a vast quickening of man's social conscience. And even if it were thought that this is put too high, it is at least inevitable that after so much suffering so nobly borne it should be felt that some compensation might be found for so large a calamity, that something nobler should emerge for those who had endured so much, that there should be in the somewhat wistful phrase - a better world."*** Compare to 2021 Pandemic?

Post-war ideology

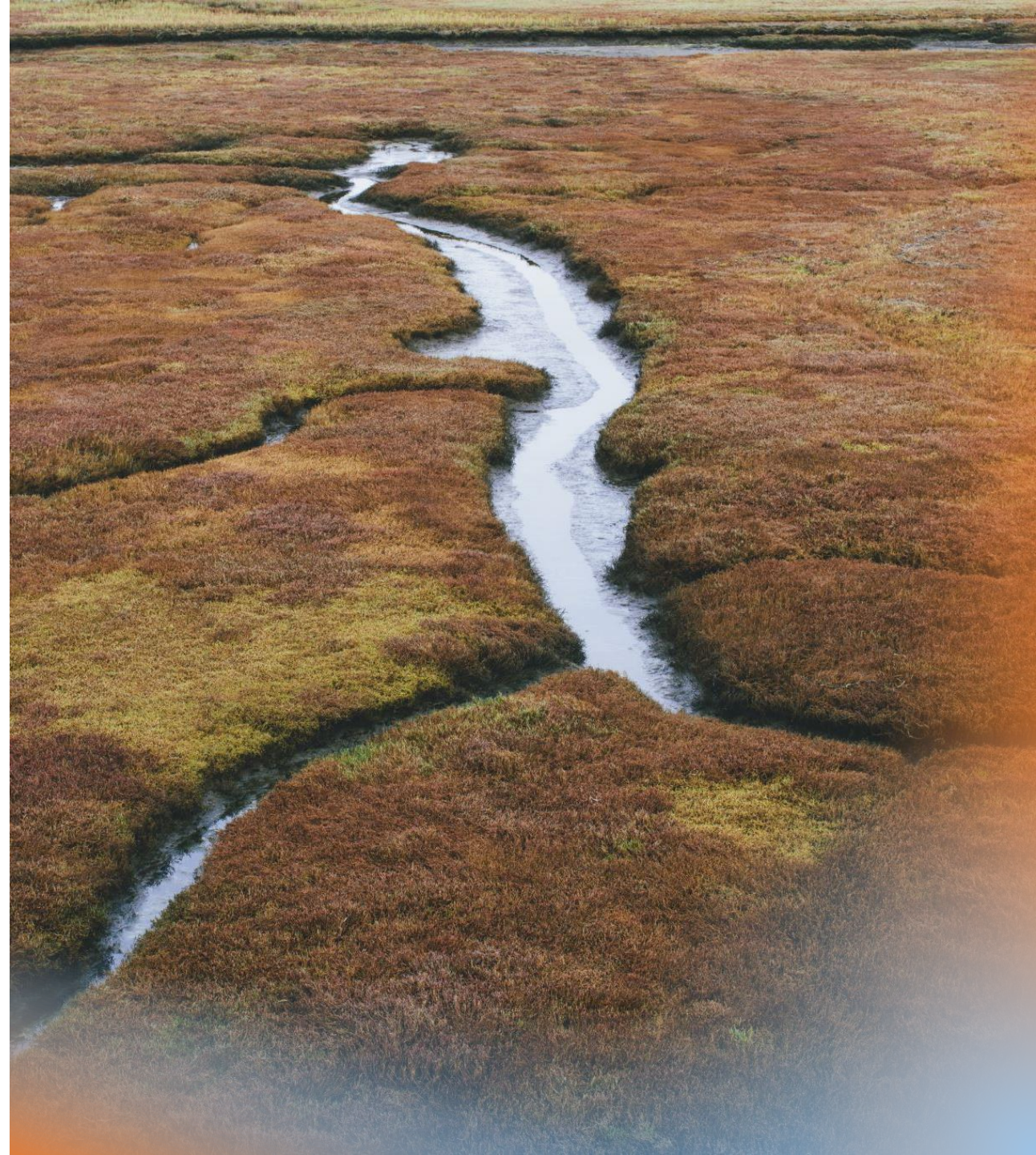
As secretary of the Standing Committee on National Parks which had been formed in 1936, town planner and National Parks campaigner John Dower was asked to report on how the National Park ideal might work for us.

- Arthur Hobhouse publishes a report in 1947 listing 12 sites to be considered for National Park status. Ramblers Association arranged mass meetings in cities
- In 1949 the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act passed.



The 'Cold War'

- In 1977 the Standing Committee on National Parks became the Council for National Parks (CNP). It continued to give the voluntary sector a voice on National Park issues and to campaign for the protection and enhancement of the Parks, acting as watchdog, attending inquiries, co-ordinating other interest groups, promoting awareness and lobbying Government.



The 'Cold War'

- **Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine** (leader of the first successful Mount Everest expedition, 1953) was appointed as the first President of CNP and the public membership scheme "**Friends of National Parks**" was launched to harness public support for the National Parks. Lord Hunt is quoted as saying:

"History has shown us that nothing worth persevering for is gained without vision, struggle, determination and courage. The National Parks are well worth fighting for."





The Fundamentals

- *“All areas are protected, but some are more protected than others” (Holdgate, 2003:3, paraphrasing George Orwell)*
- *In groups of 2.*
 - *What does NP mean for strategic conservation?*
 - *Redefine NP in your ‘ideal’ view.*
- Diverse & spectacular scenery (Generally upland)
- Predominantly private ownership (81% farmers)
- Public access encouraged but restricted
- Indigenous pop: Primary/Tertiary

**Campaign for
National Parks**
Keeping beautiful places safe

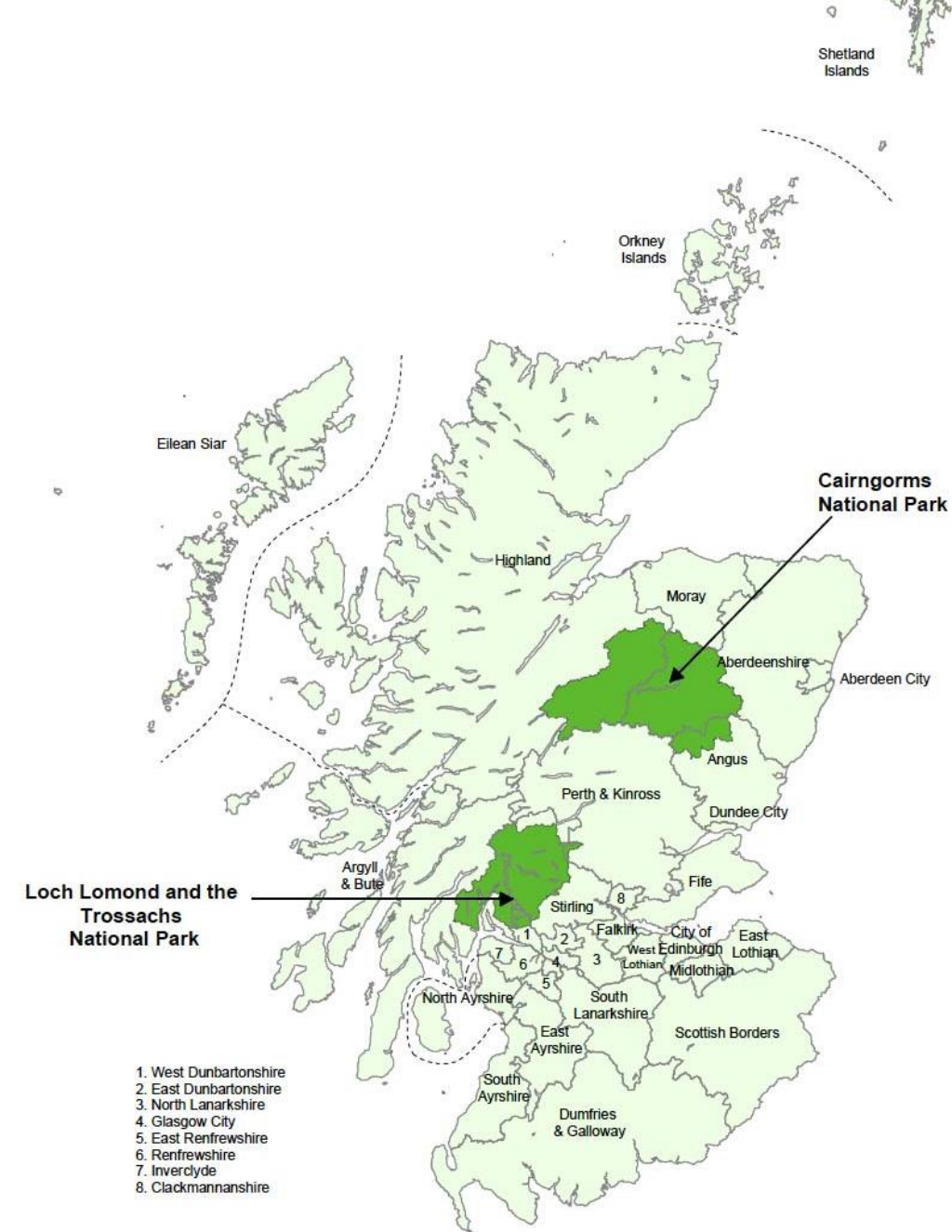
[Find National Parks |](http://FindNationalParks.org.uk)
[Threats to National](http://ThreatsToNationalParks.org.uk)
[Parks \(cnp.org.uk\)](http://Parks.org.uk)

NATIONAL PARKS
Britain's breathing spaces



Scotland National Parks

- Scotland two National Parks,
 - Loch Lomond and the Trossachs 2002
 - Cairngorms 2003 (extended 2010).)





-
- Caroline Quinton [6 mins](#)
 - How have they changed?
 - What issues still exist?

Overview of 70 years



Environment Act 1995

- All NP independent and work within Local govt
- NPA create Byelaws
- Sandford Principle

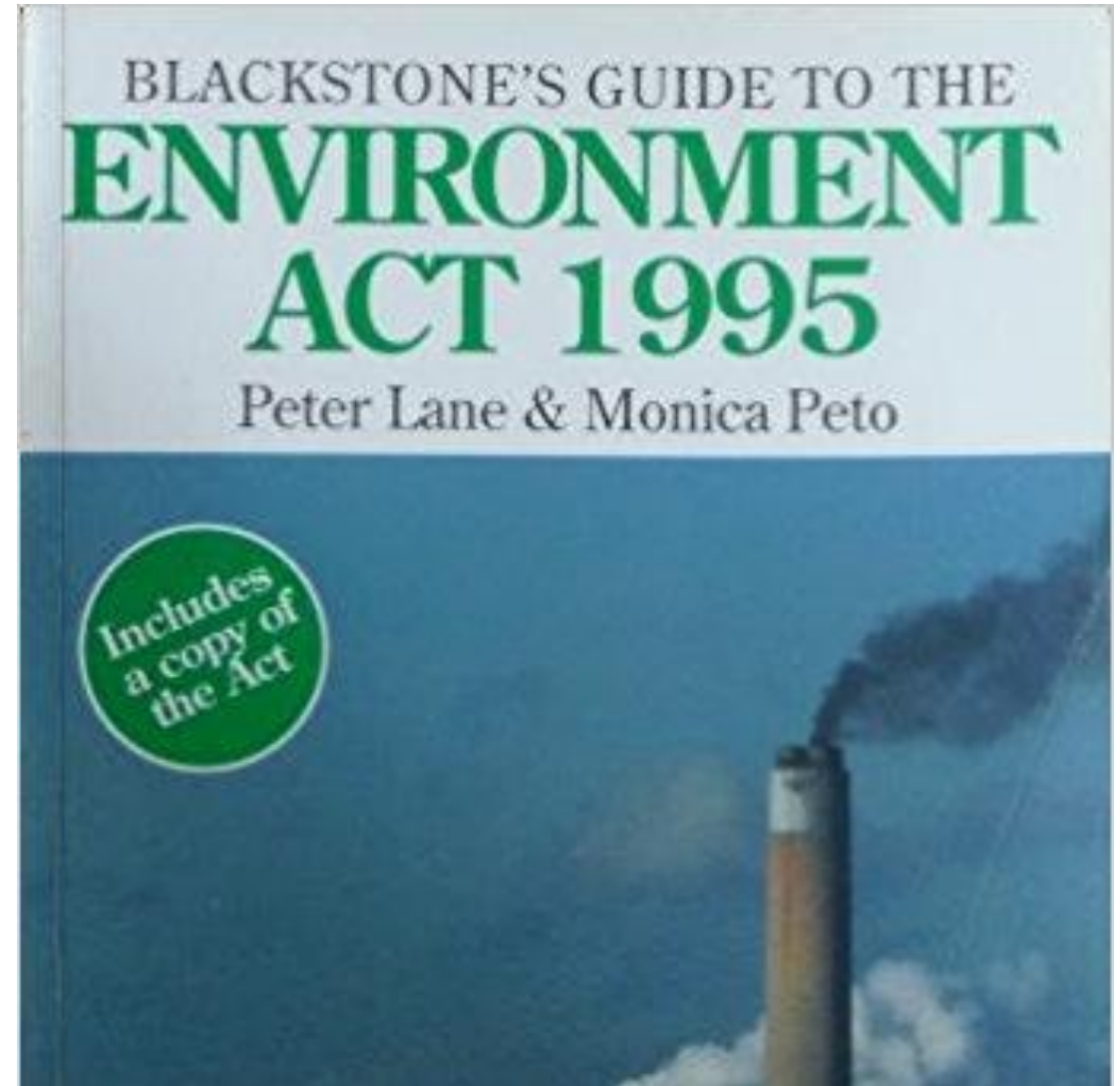
The Environment Act 1995 Act also gave legal effect to the 'Sandford Principle' that, where there was a conflict between the two purposes, then the first (conservation) should prevail over the second (enjoyment). This principle does not apply to the Broads, which has three purposes set out in the Broads Act 1988.

Llewelyn, H. Countryside Recreation Volume 10 Number 3/4 Autumn/Winter 2002

- **What did this mean for strategic environmental policies?**

1995 Act

- National Parks have two purposes which were updated in the 1995 Environment Act:
- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and to
- promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks
- What are your thoughts?



Statutory bodies



- The Government Department responsible for National Parks in England is the DEFRA
- Natural England is the statutory body in England that is working
 - To conserve and enhance the countryside to promote social equity and economic opportunity for the people who live there to help everyone, wherever they live, to enjoy this national asset
- NRW is the Welsh Assembly's statutory adviser on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters.

Pressures on National Parks



The Modern Challenges

- National Parks are also places where we can find answers to some of the challenges of modern life: problems such as traffic congestion (COVID), agricultural malaise and the rapid consumption of natural resources.
- The Government wants National Parks to be models for sustainable development, a role which they are very well placed to deliver.
- The complexity of managing the Parks is as challenging as ever and the stakes are even higher now than when the Parks were first designated. (National Parks for All, 1999 & 2015). Pandemic?





Countryside and wildlife organisations

- The Council for National Parks (CNP) works with many partner organisations which have an interest in National Parks. CNP has over 40 members these include the National Trust, the Ramblers' Association, RSPB etc.
- CNP is a member of [Wildlife and Countryside Link](#) which is the liaison body for voluntary sector organisations concerned with the conservation and protection of wildlife and countryside. It is a coalition of 54 organisations with over 8 million supporters in the UK. WCL members also own, manage or lease more than 3,500 sites (about 430,000 ha) in the UK of which over 1,650 are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (2020).

Access

[Large parts of national parks in England and Wales off limits, data shows | Access to green space | The Guardian](#)

[National Parks - latest news, breaking stories and comment - The Independent](#)



New National Park for Wales

[Plans for new national park status
spark concerns Clwydian Range and
Dee Valley area 'can't cope' | UK
News | Sky News](#)



A wide-angle landscape photograph of a Scottish highland area. In the foreground, a lush green hillside slopes down towards a valley. The middle ground shows a series of rolling hills and a small, calm lake nestled between two peaks. The background features more distant, hazy mountains under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and captures the natural beauty of the Scottish countryside.

Scotland

[Plans for Scotland's third national park - with communities urged to register their interest | UK News | Sky News](#)

An aerial photograph of a deep, winding canyon. The canyon floor is filled with a dense, vibrant green forest, likely a riparian zone. The surrounding slopes are steep and covered in sparse, dry vegetation, appearing in shades of tan, grey, and brown. The canyon walls show signs of erosion and geological layering. The overall scene conveys a sense of a protected, natural landscape.

National Park Protection

National Parks are for everyone

We want everyone to benefit from and to be able to access National Parks

Access

[Campaign for National
Parks | Keeping Beautiful
Places Safe \(cnp.org.uk\)](https://www.cnp.org.uk)

Countryside and wildlife organisations cont'd

- The [Limestone Pavement Action Group](#) is a group of organisations who work together to protect limestone pavements in the UK.
- The [Save Longstone Edge Campaign](#) is a campaign to stop a proposed major new quarry at Longstone Edge, Derbyshire.
- The [Open Spaces Society](#) exists to protect common land and public rights of way.



National Parks, Traditional Owners and Indigenous Rights

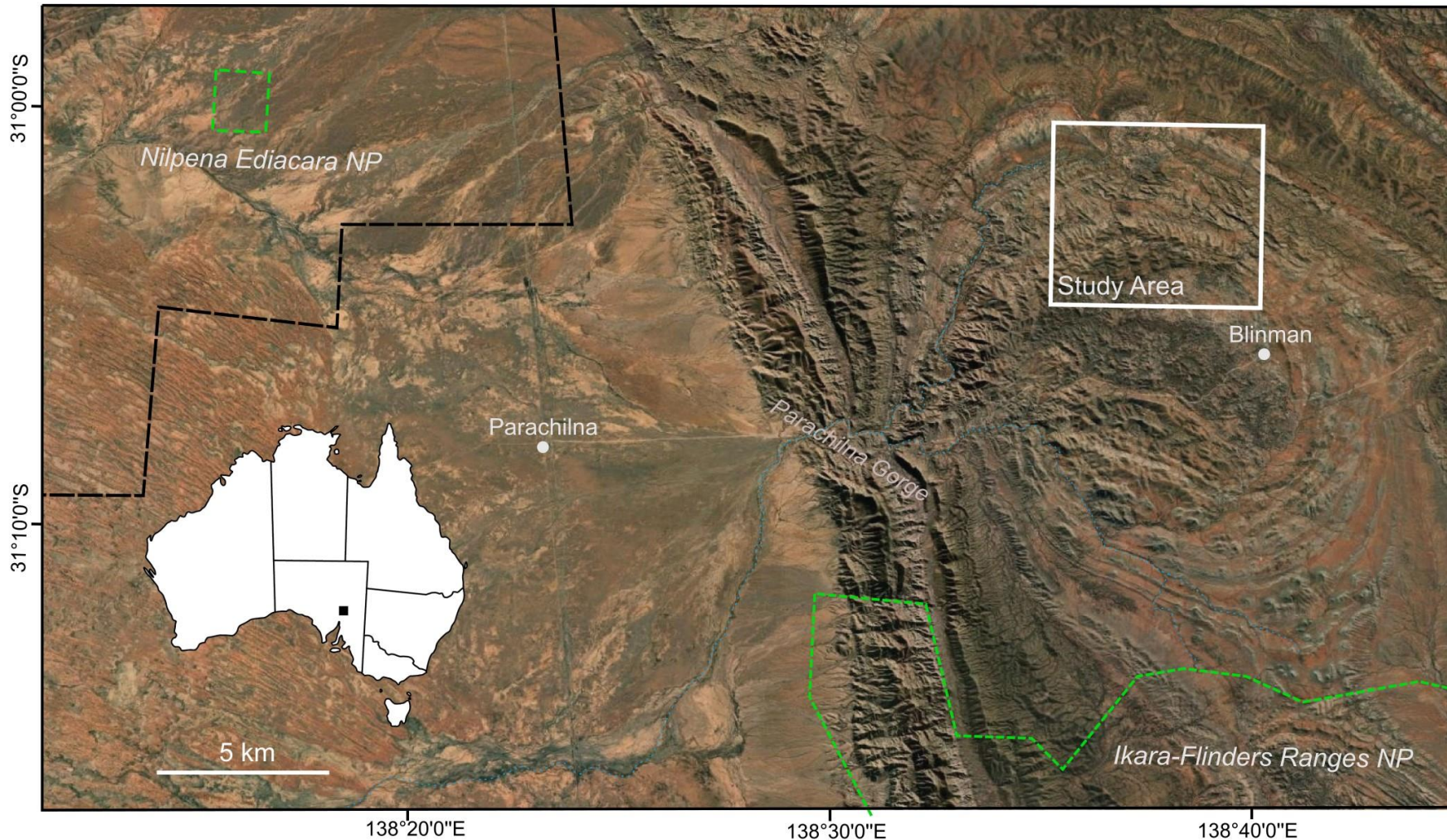
- Uluru climbing ban: Tourists scale sacred rock for final time - BBC News



National Parks, Traditional Owners and Indigenous Rights

- [The Usual Story of the National Park Service Is Incomplete | Time](#)
- [Indigenous Homelands in Yellowstone National Park | Open Case Studies \(ubc.ca\)](#)

Ikara-Flinders Ranges NP



[The World's Newest National Park Protects 550-Million-Year-Old Fossils | Smart News | Smithsonian Magazine](#)

[Connections on Country: Working together to understand and protect Adnyamathanha rock art in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges \(unimelb.edu.au\)](#)

Ikara-Flinders Ranges NP

- [World Heritage for the Flinders Ranges - YouTube](#)



A person wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a jacket is seen from behind, pointing their right hand towards a layered rock wall. The rock wall has various shades of brown, tan, and grey, with some green grass growing in the crevices. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Indigenous led research in NP

- [Connections on Country: Working together to understand and protect Adnyamathanha rock art in the Ikara-Flinders Ranges \(unimelb.edu.au\)](#)

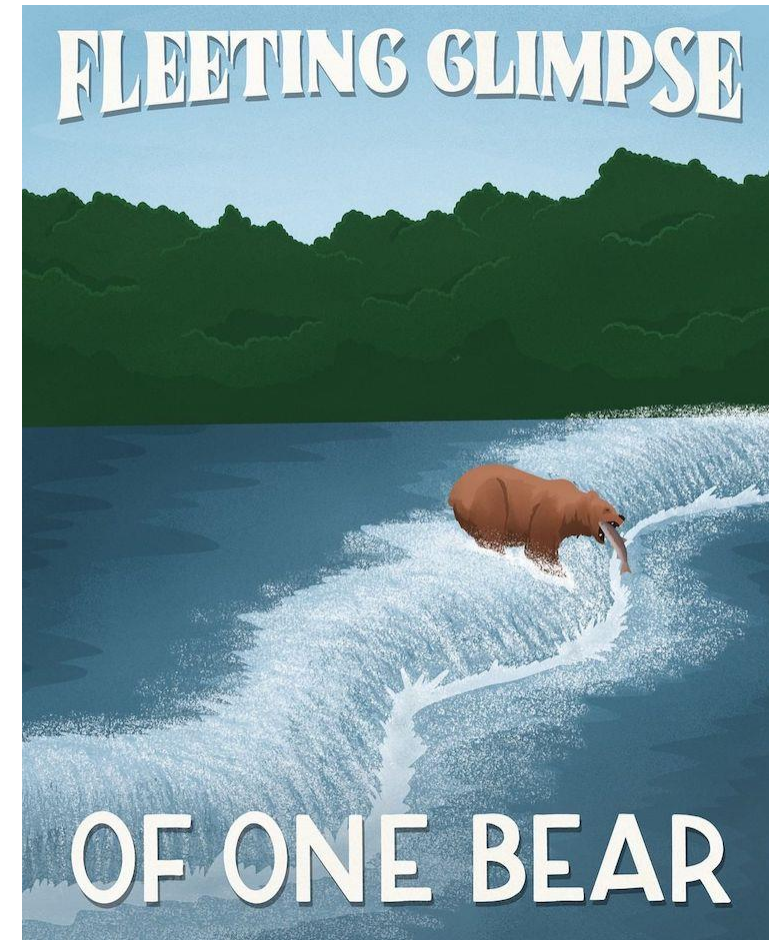
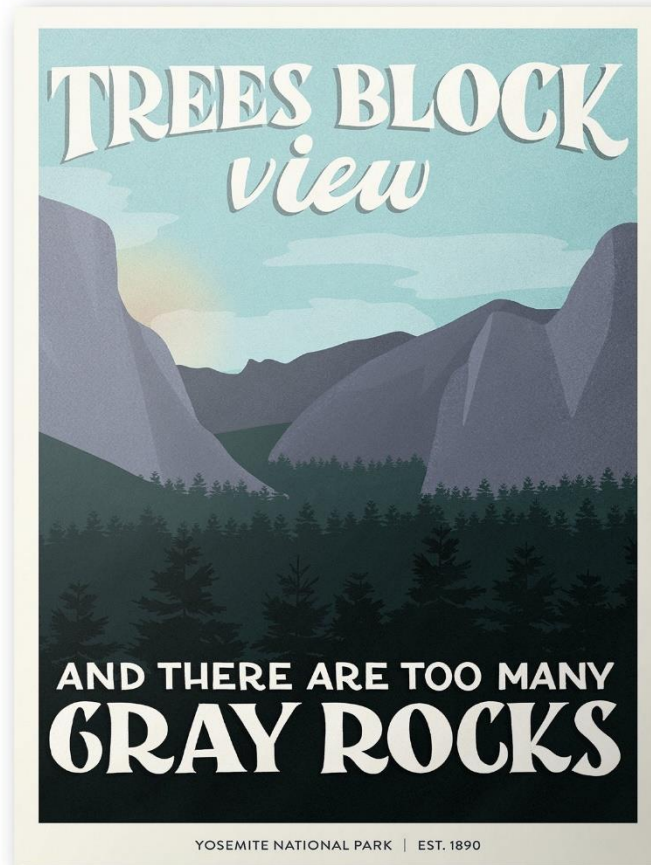
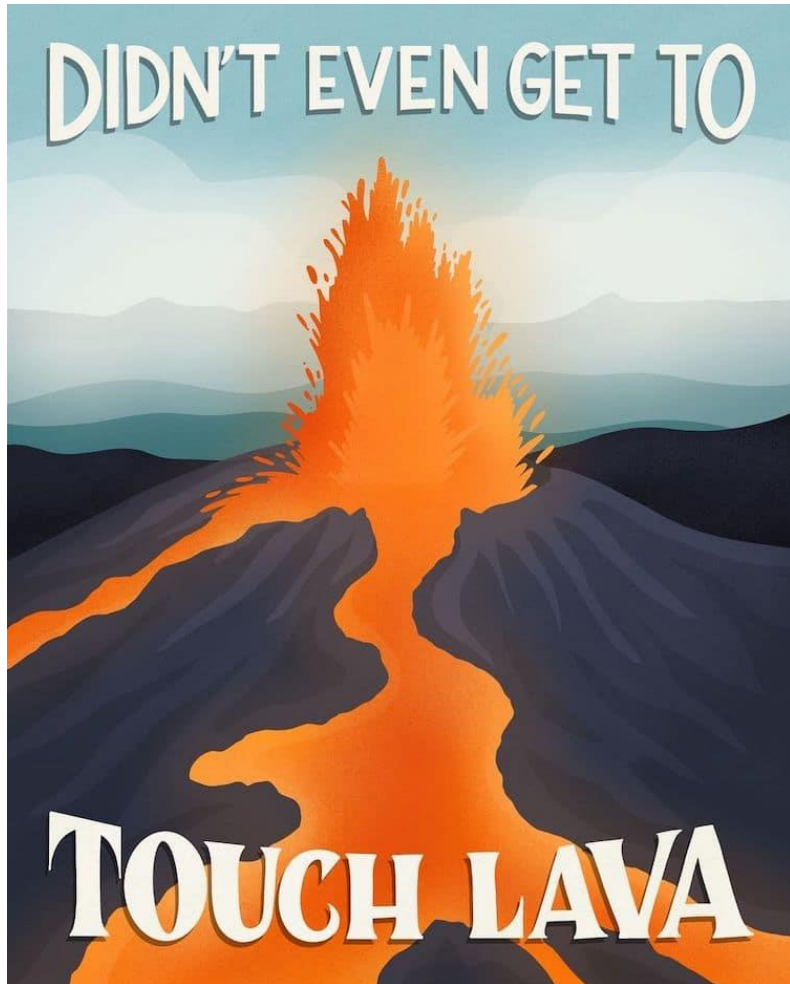


Reinstating Traditional Owners

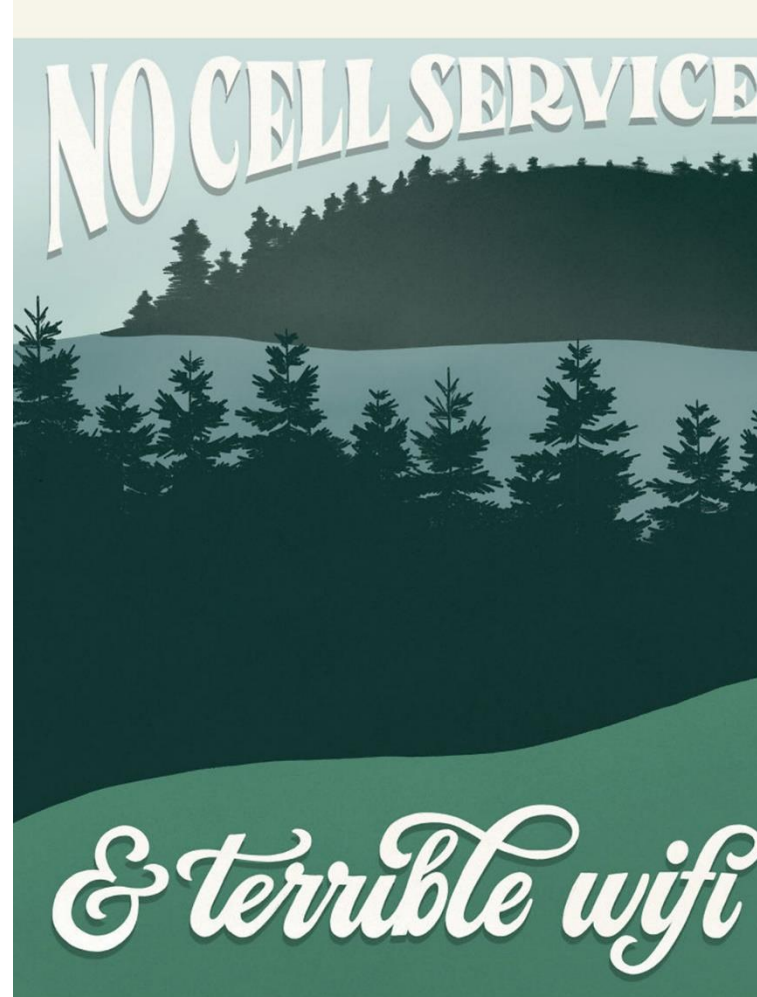
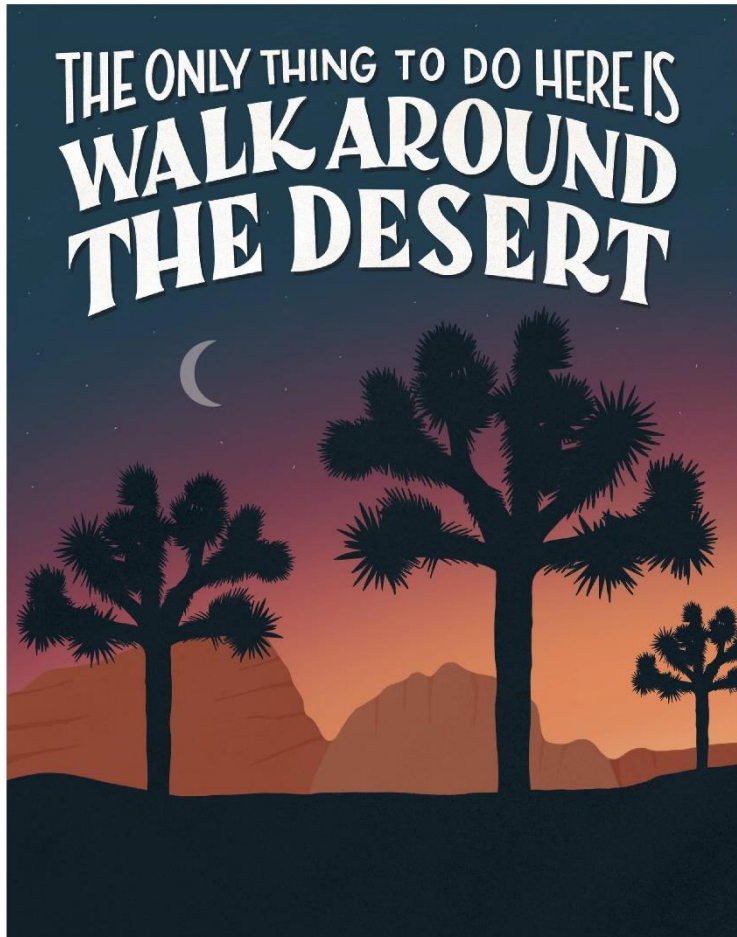
Kakadu National Park handed back to
Aboriginal traditional owners in
historic ceremony - ABC News

Australia hands control of its newest national parks to
Indigenous peoples ([nationalgeographic.com](https://www.nationalgeographic.com))

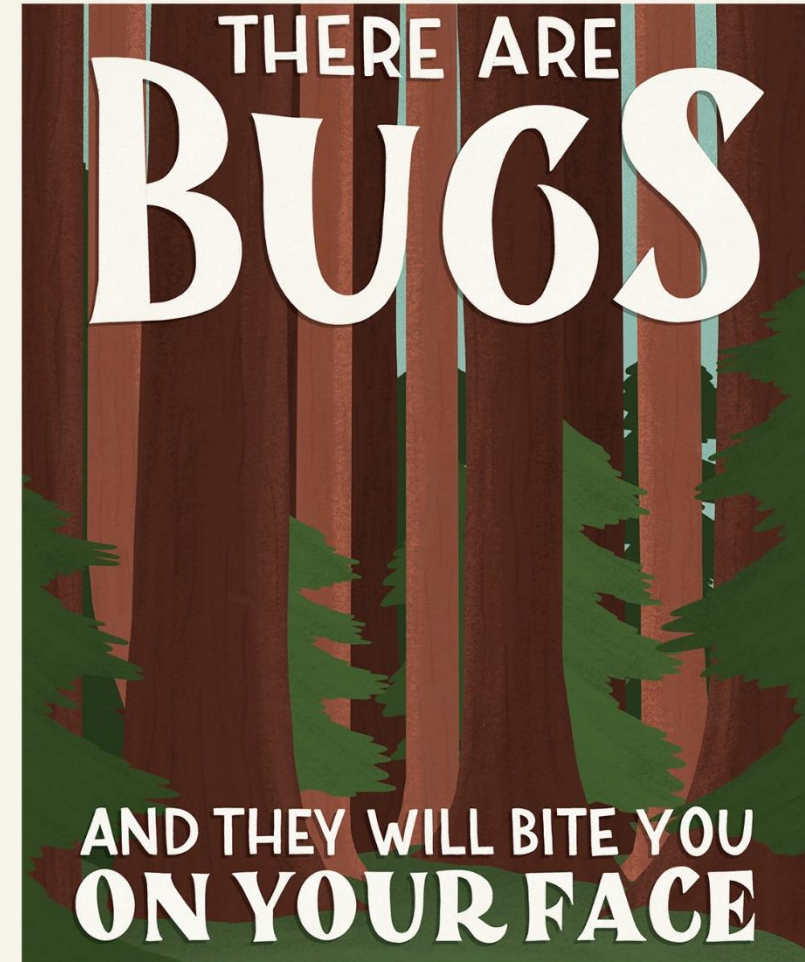
Sub-par Parks



Sub-par Parks



ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK | EST. 1940



SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK | EST. 1890

An aerial photograph of a winding river, likely the Colorado River, flowing through a vast, rugged landscape of layered, colorful mountains. The mountains exhibit a variety of hues including orange, red, yellow, and blue, suggesting different geological formations and mineral compositions. The river is a light blue color, contrasting with the warm tones of the surrounding terrain. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and geological complexity.

National Parks Activity

- Select a National Park from: Australia, Africa, India, USA, South America, Europe. Make a small Poster to include the following:
 - What is its origin?
 - What is its focus?
 - What is its strategic plan for the future? (40 mins)



Conclusion

- National Parks are '*many things to many people*'
- Working and living museums
- Conflict is inherent
- Preservation, Conservation, Access
- Future

Next Week....

Green Economy
Conference





National Parks Additional Materials

[Conference debate 2015 80 mins](#)

[Idealizing Inhabited Wilderness: A Revision to the History of Indigenous Peoples and National Parks \(wiley.com\)](#)

Peak District: conflict and strategic resolution

- [Conflict Peak District: What should be the strategic response](#)
- NP are vital to the governance of the environment
- National Parks are the custodians of environmental conservation?
- Do you agree?
- Who are National Parks for? Ecology, locals, tourists. Note the different views and arguments.



Does size matter?

- September 2020 Boris Proposed a 30% increase in the land area protected.
- Boris
- Read and discuss



Review 2020

- Various achievements 2020: [Recent from CNP](#)
- Julien Glover review [Conference to discuss 2019](#)
- Read through the review and assess the extent to which it addresses the needs of modern NP





Green Recovery via NP 2021

- Recover with nature
 - Innovation engines for a green recovery
 - Need fundamental change in our economic vision/model
 - Recover with nature
- Examples proposed
 - Choose a project and give an overview
 - <https://www.nationalparks.uk/green-recovery/>

2016 started a new round of change

Britain's Breathing Spaces (NPA, 2009)

- We were campaigning to stop the cuts to National Park Authority funding throughout 2015. So we are absolutely delighted that in the spending review in November the Chancellor protected over £350 million of funding for English National Parks, AONBs and public forests.
- *Each student reads and considers 1/2 points from the plan*
- *Discuss the 8 point plan and how it informed NP policy.*
- *What does it mean for conservation, people and governance?*

