

National Park Authorities also have a strong record of providing high-quality training and delivering apprenticeships, and have been involved in the design and development of several Trailblazer Apprenticeships, from historic environment investigation to traditional countryside management.

National Parks are incredibly special places. Their heritage is a national asset recognised the world over. Understanding, conserving and communicating the stories of these cultural landscapes is integral to protecting them, allowing us to realise their potential and, by so doing, enriching the lives of all of those who live in, work in or visit National Parks today and in the future.



PARK IMAGES

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Photography

Complete remains of a Medieval
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Special landscapes shaped by people



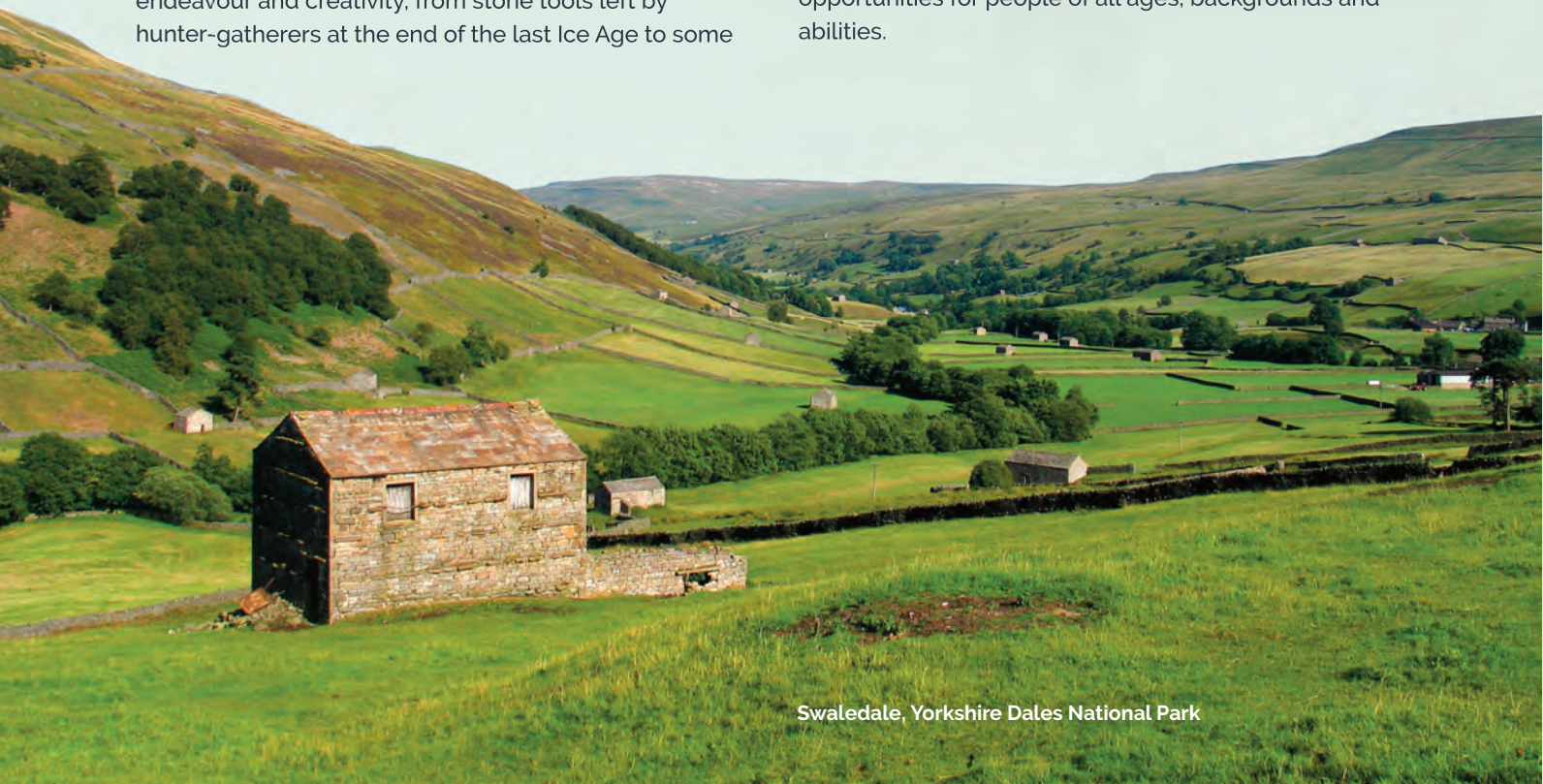
Carew Castle, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

The United Kingdom's National Parks are amongst its finest and most treasured landscapes, rightly recognised for their tranquillity, special wildlife and unique habitats. They are also cultural landscapes, shaped by human activity over thousands of years. These living, working landscapes have, in turn, influenced local and national identity, inspiring writers, poets and artists and contributing significantly to the nation's rich cultural legacy.

The UK's National Parks contain some of the earliest and most extensive evidence of human ingenuity, endeavour and creativity, from stone tools left by hunter-gatherers at the end of the last Ice Age to some

of the finest Bronze Age landscapes in Western Europe. National Parks also protect some of the best-preserved Roman military structures, castles and hunting forests of medieval monarchs, beautiful 18th century designed landscapes, and historic mines and quarries, some of which are still in use today. Moreover, National Parks protect a rich and distinctive vernacular architecture, with buildings, farmsteads and villages constructed from local materials such as stone, slate, pantile and thatch that create a unique sense of place and identity. These physical remains form the story of England, Scotland and Wales and are all key factors in attracting inward investment and tourism.

Fifteen percent of all designated heritage assets lie within National Parks. This, however, represents only a fraction of the total resource as new discoveries are constantly being made. The historic environment provides the excitement of discovery whilst delivering cultural experiences and significant volunteering opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.



Swaledale, Yorkshire Dales National Park



LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS

Stunning lochs and landscapes inspired many, with the romantic literature of Sir Walter Scott encouraging Victorian tourism which left a legacy of incredible engineering structures, passenger steamers and fine buildings.



CAIRNGORMS

Strong deep rooted cultural heritage where Gaelic place names give meaning to the mountains, woodlands, lochs, rivers and settlements: Corgarrff, for example, derived from Coire a'Gharaidh, meaning corrie of the animal's den.



LAKE DISTRICT

The spectacular cultural landscape, inscribed as a World Heritage Site has stimulated poets and artists including Wordsworth, Ruskin and Beatrix Potter for centuries and continues to inspire the millions who visit it each year.



SNOWDONIA

From World Heritage Site to a rich industrial past and home of the "Snowdonia House", Snowdonia's historic environment makes it a truly distinctive part of the United Kingdom.



NORTHUMBERLAND

From the Cheviot Hills to Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland National Park has a rich historic environment in one of England's most tranquil places. The distinctive identity and vibrant heritage of the land and its people have been shaped by centuries of conflict and innovation.



NORTH YORK MOORS

Prehistoric archaeology, magnificent abbey ruins, dramatic landscapes shaped by iron and alum production, railways and coastal villages clinging to the cliffs, all interspersed with remote farmsteads and scattered moorland villages.



PEAK DISTRICT

The UK's first National Park; contrasting limestone and gritstone landscapes reflected in distinctive building and settlement forms. A wealth of heritage assets: stone circles, barrows, field systems, lead mines, quarries, mills and country houses.



YORKSHIRE DALES

Specialised upland farming regimes both created the distinctive barns and walls landscape of today and helped to preserve the physical evidence of earlier, often radically different landscapes.



PEMBROKESHIRE COAST

A spectacular coastal landscape, humans have shaped the character of this place for thousands of years, from the prehistoric tomb of Pentre Ifan, to the lime industry of the Cleddau estuary.



BRECON BEACONS

Large expanses of upland commons divided by fertile river valleys define a stunning archaeological landscape including well preserved prehistoric sites, fine Medieval buildings and the Blaenavon Industrial World Heritage Site.



EXMOOR

The Royal Forest of Exmoor dates back to Saxon times, from Porlock to Bray and Martinhoe to Dulverton. Astonishingly well preserved medieval villages and Victorian industrial engineering are among the rich historic environment waiting to be explored.



DARTMOOR

Prehistoric hunter-gatherers and farmers, medieval miners, and soldiers have all left their mark on Dartmoor. The result is a cultural landscape containing a wealth of evidence from ancient standing stones to the medieval farmsteads of the more recent past.



NEW FOREST

Established as a royal Norman hunting forest in 1079 and largely an uncultivated landscape, thousands of archaeological sites have been mapped since 2006, ranging from pre-history through to the Second World War.



SOUTH DOWNS

The landscape has inspired creativity to celebrate and record it in many ways, from JMW Turner, Jane Austen, Rudyard Kipling and Mervyn Peake, poet Edward Thomas and composers from Edward Elgar to Dobrinka Tabakova.



BROADS

These inland waterways were formed by centuries of peat digging, which later flooded. A haven for wildlife and for recreation, the area retains the greatest concentration of historic mills in the UK.