



National Parks: England's Wildlife Wonders




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NPA/Shawn Hackett;
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NPA/Michael Turner;
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Natural England/Peter
Wakely; Nigel Stone;
Eivind Kvamm-
Lichtenfeld;
Martin Cathrae



National Parks England,
5th Floor,
Local Government House,
Smith Square,
London SW1P 3HZ
Tel: 020 7072 7421

www.nationalparksengland.org.uk

 @natparksengland

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SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY



PINE MARTEN



SAND LIZARD



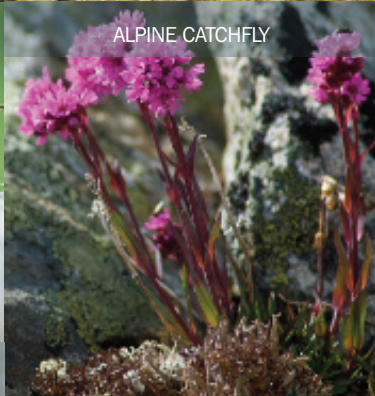
FEN RAFT SPIDER



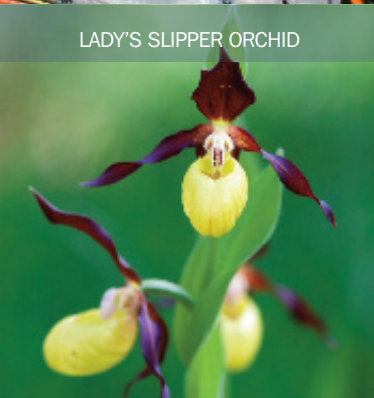
ALPINE CATCHFLY



BLUE GROUND BEETLE



LADY'S SLIPPER ORCHID



FRESHWATER PEARL MUSSEL



ARCTIC CHARR



PARROT WAXCAP



RED SQUIRREL



HONEY BUZZARD



Where protection is stronger...

National Parks contain over a quarter of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in England, by area. Yet over 70% of agriculturally poor land and 80% of woodland in National Parks is not designated as SSSI. This means it relies on National Park status, and the work of the National Park Authorities and their partners, to maintain and protect its value. National Parks therefore provide valuable space for nature on a large scale, allowing species to spread and move through the wider landscape and adapt to pressures such as climate change.

National Park designation brings with it special protection for wildlife. For instance, the National Planning Policy Framework says that “great weight” should be attached to conservation of wildlife across the whole of our National Parks. The National Parks Circular expects National Park Management Plans to “maintain, restore or add to networks of natural habitats”. The National Parks’ own planning policies provide strong protection for wildlife and support developments that enhance the natural environment. All National Parks employ highly trained experts to inform planning decisions, as well as co-ordinating a wide range of projects with partners and communities.

National Parks also provide the setting for millions of individual interactions between people and nature every year. They are places where people of all ages can explore beautiful habitats and discover the wonderful creatures that make a home in them, capturing hearts and inspiring imaginations. The National Parks are powerful assets for education and access to nature, providing life-changing experiences and opportunities to get involved in conservation.

National Parks are some of the biggest and best places that we have for wildlife in England. To secure this value for the future, continued protection is needed across the whole of the National Parks. National Park Authorities work with agriculture, commercial forestry, shooting, housing and industrial development interests to ensure continued room is made for the special wildlife that flourishes there. The National Parks need resources to expand and join up habitats, providing even more places where nature can thrive. We must make the most of these brilliant assets, fulfilling their potential to educate and inspire current and future generations.

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Where the special is typical...

The **Lake District** is the English stronghold for montane heath wildlife.

The Arctic Alpine project, jointly led by the National Park Authority, studies and protects this special habitat.

The **Yorkshire Dales** has the country's most extensive range of limestone specialist species.

The National Park Authority's ambitious native woodland programme has already seen over 700 ha planted.

Over 16 million people live within 40 miles of the **Peak District**.

650 ha of clough woodland has been created through projects supported by the National Park Authority over the last 3 years.

Exmoor supports 16 of the 17 species of British bat.

The National Park Authority is part of the Exmoor Knotweed Control Project, safeguarding habitats including rivers and meadows by treating invasive knotweeds on over 1,000 sites.

Dartmoor has the southernmost blanket bogs in Europe.

Thanks to recent blanket bog restoration works co-ordinated by the National Park Authority, breeding dunlin have increased by 37%.

The two cleanest rivers in England are sourced in **Northumberland**.

A survey organised by the National Park Authority found the most important site in England for rare grassland waxcap fungi.

The **North York Moors** has the largest uninterrupted area of heather moorland in England.

The National Park Authority's Farm Scheme spent £7 million over 25 years on funding farmers to carry out conservation work.

The **Broads** supports 11,000 species of which over 1,500 are priorities for conservation.

The Broads Authority has special lightweight vehicles to manage wetland areas on a large scale for species such as the swallowtail butterfly.

There are over 850 Local Wildlife Sites in the **South Downs**.

The Nature Improvement Area led by the National Park Authority has restored nearly 1,000ha of chalk grassland since 2012.

The **New Forest** has the most extensive area of lowland heath remaining in Europe.

The National Park Authority has surveyed over 20,000ha of habitat for heathland birds and breeding waders.

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Where 10% holds so much more...

England's National Parks cover almost one tenth of England and are the remotest and wildest places of their type still remaining. They contain over half of England's most challenging farmland, where traditional practices mean that wildlife has flourished.

One third of England's **Public Forest Estate** is within the National Parks, and almost **30% of land in England** recognised as being of international importance for wildlife is in National Parks.

The National Parks are **havens for native plants and animals**, harbouring



All 14 of our **reptile and amphibian species** and



90% of resident **dragonfly species**.



100% of England's **resident bat species** are found in National Parks,



as are **80%** of **priority orchid species**.



Of our **priority butterfly species**, **87%** can be found in National Parks;



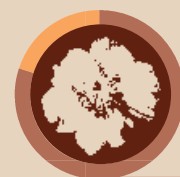
and they provide a summer or winter home for **86%** of England's **threatened bird species**.



Packed into almost **10% of England** are a wide variety of habitats from **27%** of England's **lowland fens**



to **41%** of our **upland hay meadows**.



National Parks hold **80%** of the **upland chalk grassland**



and **over 1/3** of the **lowland heathland**.



They contain **60%** of the country's **upland heath**,



and **15%** of our **magical and irreplaceable ancient woodland**.

