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.

In recent years dedicated National Park staff, working in strong partnerships with other bodies and local communities, have secured millions of pounds worth of external funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and charitable trusts. This funding supports vital work to conserve and enhance our historic environment, whilst providing educational, health and recreational opportunities and helping local economies to thrive and grow.

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, work in or visit National Parks today and in the future.
Special landscapes shaped by people

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

The UK’s National Parks contain some of the earliest and most extensive evidence of human influence in terms of climate and by chance, from some part of a leaf or bone of the prehistoric age to some parts of the finest Bronze Age landscapes in Western Europe. The UK’s National Parks also protect some of the best-preserved Roman military structures, castles and hunting forests of natural monuments, beautiful 19th-century designed landscapes and historic parks and gardens, some of which still exist today. However, National Parks protect a rich and diverse nature sector, which, with buildings, farmsteads and villages constructed from local materials such as stone, oak, flint and thatch that create a unique sense of place and identity. These precious remnants form the story of England, Scotland and Wales and add to the national parks in achieving their investment and function.

Fifteen percent of all designated heritage assets in England lie within National Parks. This, however, represents only a fraction of the total resource as further discoveries are constantly being made. The natural environment provides a framework of development, delivering culture, experience and opportunity for families and generations for ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Lakeland & the Borders

Murkfield, Sudan, and landscapes. The Rawstones, for example, gives meaning to the mountains, wildlife forms, rivers and settlements. Carlisle is, for example, one of the finest Bronze Age landscapes in Western Europe.

Cairngorms

Mining deep seated cultures of landscape and stone give meaning to the mountains, wildlife forms, rivers and settlements. Carlisle is one of England’s most tranquil and picturesque towns. The distinctive identity and unique heritage of the land and its people have been shaped by centuries of conflict and innovation.

Lake District

The spectacular cultural landscape inscribed as World Heritage Site has spectacular views and offers walking, rock climbing, reindeer trekking and various activities such as skiing, field sports and traditional water sports. The area has been designated as a World Heritage Site since 2004.

Snowdonia

From World Heritage Site to a rich industrial and mining history of the “Snowdonia House”. Snowdonia’s historic environment makes it truly distinctive part of the United Kingdom.

Peak District

The UK’s first National Park, containing limestone and gritstone landscapes reflected in the industrial heritage of the Peak District and the Peak Forest. The area is famous for its beauty, historic sites, ancient stone circles, historic buildings and traditional reservoirs.

Yorkshire Dales

Specialist sites formed by geology and heritage. The area is famous for its beauty, historic sites, ancient stone circles, historic buildings and traditional reservoirs.

Biddulph Grange

Established as a private Norman hunting forest in a long and rugged landscape. The area is known for its beauty, historic sites, ancient stone circles, historic buildings and traditional reservoirs.