

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN THE NATIONAL PARKS OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES

1. Parties

This Joint Statement is a declaration of intent made on behalf of Cadw (Historic Environment Service for the Welsh Assembly Government), the Countryside Council for Wales, English Heritage, Historic Scotland, the National Park Authorities*, Natural England, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, and Scottish Natural Heritage. Each of these organisations has some statutory responsibility for, or interests in, the historic environment in National Parks.

* Every reference here to National Parks implicitly includes The Broads.

2. Purpose of this Joint Statement

This Joint Statement is the expression of the intention of the signatories to further the sustainable management, public understanding, access to, and enjoyment of the cultural heritage of National Parks, by all appropriate means.

The delivery of the statement will achieve measurable benefits for the historic environment and forward the purposes of the signatories.

3. Preamble

The historic environment has been defined as the physical evidence that we see, understand and feel for past human activity. It is the cultural product of human interaction with nature and the evidence of all past human activity. It includes sites, monuments, landscapes, buildings and settlements as well as our appreciation and perception of them.

The co-operative work set out here is needed across the National Parks, not only in relation to statutory designations and non-statutory designations, but with regard to the whole of the cultural heritage.

Through liaison and co-ordinated programmes of work, the signatories will seek to achieve continuous improvement in the conservation and interpretation of the historic environment in National Parks. It is an explicit intention that the implementation of the measures set out in this Joint Statement will further the securing of appropriate resources, and their allocation. Periodic meetings will be held at a national level to discuss co-operative programmes and policy issues of common interest, and officers will also meet regularly to monitor progress in the measures outlined below.

4. The Agencies will:

subject to their particular statutory roles and responsibilities,

- i. assist the National Park Authorities in developing objectives, strategies and policies for the historic environment;
- ii. support National Park Authorities in the preparation of their bids for resources to pursue initiatives relevant to the historic environment;
- iii. endeavour, as statutory consultees for relevant National Park plans, to ensure alignment between the interests of each National Park Authority;
- iv. seek to ensure that all activities to which they are party take full account of the range of National Park and historic environment interests, and provide for appropriate liaison with voluntary bodies;

- v. develop and disseminate good practice in relation to the sustainable management of the historic environment;
- vi. promote historic environment elements in education, access and interpretation programmes in National Parks;
- vii. encourage staff to broaden their experience of the wider aspects of National Park planning and management, especially the historic environment interests and recreational purposes of National Parks. Actively consider the secondment of staff between heritage agencies and the National Park Authorities in the furtherance of joint interests.

5. National Park Authorities will:

- i. ensure access to expertise in the understanding and management of the historic environment;
- ii. maintain and enhance current levels of provision of this expertise;
- iii. ensure that any resources and procedures used to benefit the historic environment comply fully with appropriate professional standards;
- iv. ensure the role of these members of staff or the equivalent resources will include the enhancement of public understanding of the historic environment of the National Park, the furtherance of the sustainable management of the historic environment, and participation in appropriate interdisciplinary teams;
- v. aim to produce a regular review or summary of relevant work undertaken in each Park on the state of the historic environment in each National Park, as a contribution to the measurement of the extent to which the objectives of the National Park Authority are being achieved.

6. The Agencies and National Park Authorities will:

- i. collaborate in research to further understanding, access and enjoyment of the historic environment;
- ii. develop and maintain accessible data relating to the historic environment;
- iii. explore ways to enhance the capacity of the National Park Authorities to secure better understanding, conservation, management and interpretation of the historic environment;
- iv. arrange for officers to meet periodically to discuss and to monitor the development and implementation of cooperative programmes;
- v. collaborate in the development and testing of schemes which further the sustainable management of the historic environment.

7. Application

This Statement applies to all National Parks in England, Scotland and Wales and has effect from the date below. The Statement does not affect the statutory duties of the respective organisations and its implementation depends on resources being available. The Statement will be reviewed five years after it comes into effect.

23 September 2009

 Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	 Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	 Northumberland National Park Authority	 Northumberland National Park Authority	 English Heritage	 English Heritage
 Broads Authority	 Broads Authority	 North York Moors National Park Authority	 North York Moors National Park Authority	 Historic Scotland	 Historic Scotland
 Cairngorms National Park Authority	 Cairngorms National Park Authority	 Peak District National Park Authority	 Peak District National Park Authority	 Natural England	 Natural England
 Dartmoor National Park Authority	 Dartmoor National Park Authority	 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland	 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
 Exmoor National Park Authority	 Exmoor National Park Authority	 Snowdonia National Park Authority	 Snowdonia National Park Authority	 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales	 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
 Lake District National Park Authority	 Lake District National Park Authority	 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority	 Scottish Natural Heritage	 Scottish Natural Heritage
 Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority	 Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority	 Cadw	 Cadw		
 New Forest National Park Authority	 New Forest National Park Authority	 Countryside Council for Wales	 Countryside Council for Wales		