

UK National Parks joint research concepts 2015-16 (*in order of priority*)

Broad theme	Research topic	National Parks interested in this theme
Health and Wellbeing	Definitive research linking psychological or physical well-being to access to National Park landscapes/ outdoor activities/ volunteering etc?	BreconBeaconsNPA DartmoorNPA ExmoorNPA LakeDistrictNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA NorthYorkMoorsNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA YorkshireDalesNPA
Health and Wellbeing	How National Park's outdoor recreation opportunities contribute to improving health and well-being (residents and visitors) and local/national economy.	BreconBeaconsNPA DartmoorNPA ExmoorNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA

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Health and Wellbeing	Health and wellbeing value to the nation of National Parks.	BreconBeaconsNPA DartmoorNPA ExmoorNPA LakeDistrictNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA PeakDistrictNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Young People	What younger people expect from National Parks.	LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA YorkshireDalesNPA
Visitors and non-visitors	Agree a process for the collection of more accurate visitor numbers – a piece of work that combines both the best of the STEAM model and Natural England's MENE (Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment) visits to the countryside data so that we (as a National Park family) can come up with more meaningful number of recreational visitor days to each National Park.	BreconBeaconsNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA YorkshireDalesNPA

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Climate	Carbon storage and sequestration – projects involving the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Evaluate the current and potential carbon storage and sequestration potential in the UK National Park network 2) Create methodology for estimating carbon storage 3) Create methodology for calculating impacts of activities (negative and positive) on carbon storage 	BreconBeaconsNPA CairngormsNPA DartmoorNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Visitors and non-visitors	Investigate reasons people do not visit National Parks.	BreconBeaconsNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA PeakDistrictNPA
Tranquility	Long term collaboration so we have commitment to a long time-series to monitor change relating to tranquility/dark skies, and research around it which identifies threats and therefore starts to influence policy both within and outside the NPs from a more evidence based foundation.	NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA NorthYorkMoorsNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA

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Visitors and non-visitors	Agree a process for the consistent long term monitoring of visitors. In particular the opportunity to build upon the MENE approach with better coverage and ability to disaggregate for NPs. The opportunity here is not just around policy shaping, including social inclusion and second purpose, but also the marketing and promotion targeting.	LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Economy (and society)	A study of the wider socio-economic impacts resulting from affordable housing schemes in remote villages.	BreconBeaconsNPA Exmoor NPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NorthYorkMoorsNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Purpose of National Parks	Future proofing National Parks and working out what will make them relevant to modern Britain over the next 20 years – also consider how best to reach out to people (particularly young people) to help them gain an understanding and appreciation of the importance of National Parks.	BreconBeaconsNPA Dartmoor NPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA YorkshireDalesNPA
Economy (and society)	A study of the longer term economic benefits of hosting large scale sporting activities within National Parks.	DartmoorNPA Exmoor NPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA

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Income Generation	<p>Economic value of National Park brand identity – range of potential projects, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Emphasising the threat to National Park’s added value from under-investment in maintaining special qualities – will people be less likely to come here and spend if they view it as less well-conserved, less-accessible? 2) Research into ‘willingness to pay’ – project to include research into models currently used and relevance to National Parks 3) Economic value of NP network to the tourism economy/wider economy 4) Economic benefits from ecosystem services. 	<p>BreconBeaconsNPA CairngormsNPA DartmoorNPA LakeDistrictNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA NorthYorkMoorsNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA YorkshireDalesNPA</p>
Planning	<p>Offsetting the impacts of urban growth – pretty soon most housing developments will be expected to be zero carbon, part of which involves ‘allowable solutions’ to offset emissions where on site mitigation isn’t possible – huge potential for National Parks to tap into this by obtaining payments from developers for peat restoration/woodland planting. Same applies to ‘biodiversity offsetting’, as well as flood mitigation (where we’re ideally placed to assist, being at the top of the catchment) – the overall principle is the same i.e. urban local authorities increasing their capacity to release land for development by promoting off-site mitigation measures in National Parks.</p>	<p>Dartmoor NPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA YorkshireDalesNPA</p>

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Purpose of National Parks	What do people think that National Parks do or are for? What level of awareness of National Parks is there in the general population? What would interest or engage people?	LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NorthYorkMoorsNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Recreation	Outdoor recreation activities' impacts on conservation and conservation impacts on outdoor recreational opportunities in UK National Parks.	BreconBeaconsNPA Dartmoor NPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA
Visitors and non-visitors	Impact assessment of litter on National Parks – for example the impact on wildlife, public health, enjoyment, provision of services to meet needs (e.g. toilets, hand washing facilities, bins etc) and planning. Particular focus on 'honey pot' sites.	LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA

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Economy (and society)	Levels of second home ownership and the impact on communities and local services – robust methodology needed to ensure can apply across different National Parks.	BreconBeaconsNPA DartmoorNPA Exmoor NPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NorthYorkMoorsNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Landscape	Landscape / nature quality and its relationship with outdoor activity, levels of enjoyment, spiritual and health benefits - e.g. how sensitive is the latter to changes in the former?	BreconBeaconsNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Landscape	Scope for changes to land use at the landscape scale to deliver flood risk management benefits.	LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA

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Recreation	<p>Extent of impacts on wildlife (especially ground nesting birds) in different types of habitat of recreation activities.</p> <p><i>Initial audit of existing data and evidence with follow up research. Possibly also consider impacts of agriculture.</i></p>	<p>BreconBeaconsNPA Dartmoor NPA NewForestNPA NorthYorkMoorsNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA</p>
Visitors and non-visitors	A study into occupancy levels of tourist accommodation, market trends and recommendations for future types of tourist accommodation.	<p>LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA</p>
Volunteers	Retirement ages are now increasing, what might this do to our 'traditional' volunteer, how could we sensibly cope with lots of the public sector all potentially chasing the same volunteers? Also consider cross cutting themes such as budget cuts, social inclusion, government changes to benefits system etc.	<p>NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA NorthYorkMoorsNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SouthDownsNPA</p>
Ecosystems Services	Sharing good practice on ecosystems accounting, mapping and assessments.	<p>BreconBeaconsNPA NewForestNPA PeakDistrictNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA</p>

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Landscape	A study of peoples' perception of the National Park landscape (in terms of visual and experiential qualities).	BreconBeaconsNPA DartmoorNPA Exmoor NPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Purpose of National Parks	Value of National Park network in engaging people with nature/outdoor learning.	BreconBeaconsNPA CairngormsNPA Dartmoor NPA NationalParksEngland PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Income Generation	How National Parks can work in different ways, including how they are funded, recognising the need to be more self-sufficient. This should include our next steps to progress Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). <i>Also look at better partnerships, applying for LA commissioning, activities and events, secondments from other organisations etc.</i>	BreconBeaconsNPA LakeDistrictNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland PembrokeshireCoastNPA SouthDownsNPA

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Landscape	<p>Landscape change: a number of National Parks monitor this, but it would be great if this was done consistently and knowledge shared.</p> <p><i>Will help National Parks better understand key pressures/changes, and inform policy and management approaches. Particular interest in development on the fringes (outside) National Parks, and a better understanding of impacts and the concept of landscape setting.</i></p>	<p>BreconBeaconsNPA DartmoorNPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SouthDownsNPA</p>
Purpose of National Parks	<p>Value of National Park network contribution to biodiversity targets/natural capital balance sheet.</p> <p><i>(Interest in exploring the value/role of the wider (European) network of National Parks.)</i></p>	<p>BreconBeaconsNPA CairngormsNPA Dartmoor NPA NationalParksEngland SouthDownsNPA</p>
Recreation	<p>Assessment of the value (in the economic and broader sense) of recreation in National Parks.</p>	<p>Dartmoor NPA LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA</p>
Economy (and society)	<p>A study of the contribution that home based working has to the wider National Park economy and opportunities for strengthening the home based working economy.</p>	<p>DartmoorNPA Exmoor NPA NewForestNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA</p>

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Economy (and society)	Socio-economic impacts of Superfast Broadband on National Park communities. A before and after study following the roll-out of BB across communities.	BreconBeaconsNPA Exmoor NPA NationalParksEngland NorthYorkMoorsNPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Landscape	Landscape quality and its value in terms of the tourist economy e.g. how sensitive is the latter to changes in the former?	LochLomond&TrossachsNPA NationalParksEngland PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA
Public Rights of Way	Public Rights of Way – potential projects include: 1) Cost effective rights of way/access improvements– what are the issues that cause most concern for users – e.g. surfaces, stiles, latches, path location? How can we best use limited resources to target improvements in the most useful way? 2) Flood resistant surface improvements on public rights of way. How to create an erosion resistant path surface for popular routes that is visually sympathetic, sustainable, cost effective and flood resistant.	BreconBeaconsNPA Exmoor NPA PembrokeshireCoastNPA SnowdoniaNPA SouthDownsNPA