

Management in national parks and nature conservation

Report of study visits in the British National Parks



Andrzej Ginalski, MSc
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University
Institute of Earth Sciences
Al. Kraśnicka 2 CD
20-718 Lublin
Poland
e-mail: aginal [at] tlen.pl

Natural Heritage Scholarship
funded by the Alfred Toepfer Foundation F.V.S.
awarded by the Europarc Federation
in 2007

Introduction

The author of the report is preparing a PhD dissertation on “Assessment of the effectiveness of national nature conservation systems and the implementation process of the Natura 2000 network in Poland, the Czech Republic and Great Britain” at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland.



Characteristic flat top of Corn Du, one of the highest peaks in Brecon Beacons NP

The research’s objective is to define precisely how nature conservation systems in these three countries have started, evolved and what they look like nowadays as well as to examine how the European Ecological Network

Natura 2000 has been introduced and influenced environmentally precious sites. The final aim of the paper is to compare how protected areas in the three countries (in a form of SWOT analysis) function and find solutions to various challenges, with a view to making nature conservation in Poland more efficient. The list of people who might benefit from the conclusions includes: protected areas’ authorities, scientists, ecological NGOs and central and local authorities - to mention just the most important.

Ben Lomond as seen from Loch Lomond

The need to conduct international comparative research in the field of nature conservation has been stressed repeatedly by many people who deal with this issue - scientists, state administration, protected areas’ authorities and NGOs. Poland and the



Czech Republic may turn to their advantage the fact that they are less developed

than Western Europe. Their environment has not been as severely damaged and polluted and they still have a chance to avoid mistakes that, unfortunately, have been made in other countries (like, for example, building dense road networks which isolate the habitats and make animal migration extremely difficult). Since 2004 the two countries have been obliged to implement new tools, which result



Unexpected find on Dart moor

from joining the European Union – the European Ecological Network Natura 2000 and some particular elements of the Common Agriculture Policy. Multilateral exchange of experience in this field should greatly contribute to more responsible human activity, town and country planning and, thus, to higher protection of natural values and better conditions of life.

The Questionnaire

The core of the author's thesis is a special questionnaire prepared for National Park Authorities (NPAs). It consists of 20 questions regarding:

- management plans,
- education of park authority staff,
- financial resources,
- relationship between nationally protected areas and Natura 2000 sites,
- present and potential threats to the parks' natural values,
- cooperation with different target groups,
- voluntary help in parks.

A pony in The New Forest NP

The answers have already been collected in the Czech Republic during a study visit at Charles University in Prague from November 2006 till March 2007 (a scholarship granted by the Višegrad Fund) and subsequently in Poland (October-December 2007). It



turned out to be possible to obtain answers from 3 out of the 4 Czech national parks and 18 out of the 23 Polish national parks.

Familiarisation with the British conservation system took place in two stages. From January till April 2008, the author carried out a more "theoretical" study visit at Bournemouth University's School of Conservation Sciences, under the supervision of Prof. Adrian Newton (a scholarship granted by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, administrated by the British Council). The next stage involved travelling all around Great Britain and visiting nine national parks (a scholarship granted by Alfred Toepfer Foundation, administrated by the Europarc Federation).

The visits in national parks

Currently, there are 14 national parks in the UK:

national park	area in ha	year of establishing
1. Broads	30 300	1989
2. Dartmoor	95 400	1951
3. Exmoor	69 280	1954
4. Lake District	229 200	1951
5. New Forest	56 651	2005
6. Northumberland	104 949	1956
7. North York Moors	143 600	1952
8. Peak District	143 800	1951
9. Yorkshire Dales	176 198	1954
total area in England:	1 049 378	
area coverage in England: 8,1%		
10. Brecon Beacons	134 952	1957
11. Pembrokeshire Coast	62 900	1952
12. Snowdonia	213 200	1951
total in Wales:	411 052	
area coverage in Wales: 19,8%		
13. Cairngorms	380 000	2003
14. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs	186 500	2002
total in Scotland:	566 500	
area coverage in Scotland: 7,3%		
total area in Great Britain:	2 026 930	
area coverage in Great Britain: 8,9%		
average area:	144 781	

Source: National Parks' website data



A view over Loch Lomond

The following **British national parks** were visited in 2008:

1. New Forest National Park, 23-25 April
2. Dartmoor National Park, 27-29 April
3. Exmoor National Park, 1-4 May
4. Brecon Beacons National Park, 7-9 May
5. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, 11-13 May
6. Snowdonia National Park, 15-17 May
7. Peak District National Park, 19-21 May

8. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, 23-27 May

9. Cairngorms National Park, 29-31 May



National Park Authorities' buildings: Dartmoor NPA in Bovey Tracey (left) and Pembrokeshire Coast NPA in Pembroke Dock (right)

Collecting the answers usually required talking to a few people within a National Park Authority, as the questions deal with such different matters as finances, nature conservation and cooperation with target groups. Some issues were discussed more widely, which enabled the author to obtain a deeper understanding of everyday work within the British national parks.

The following **Visitor Centres** were also visited:

- The New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst,
- High Moorland Visitor Centre (Dartmoor NP),
- Exmoor National Park Centre in Dulverton,
- Tenby National Park Centre (Pembrokeshire Coast NP),
- Snowdonia National Park Information Centre in Betws-y-Coed and Plas Tan y Bwlch – the Snowdonia NP Environmental Studies Centre,
- Visitor Centres in Bakewell and Castleton and the Moorland Centre in Edale (Peak District NP),
- The Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Gateway Centre in Balloch and the National Park Centre in Luss.



The New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst (left) and Snowdonia NP Centre in Betws-y-Coed (right)



High Moorland Visitor Centre in the Peak District NP (left) and a display in The Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Gateway Centre in Balloch (right)

The author also had the opportunity to meet representatives of **the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds** (RSPB) in Poole and Blaenau Ffestiniog, where information stalls were located. The RSPB is the biggest conservation organisation in Europe, with over one million members (more than any political party in the UK), and thus gives voice to strong societal support for conservation issues. It also owns and/or manages over 170 nature reserves. The motto of the RSPB is "For birds, for people, for ever". Involvement of ecological non-governmental organisations is one of the pillars of the British conservation system.



Questionnaire results

Answers from nine parks were collected. While it proved impossible to obtain answers from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the North York Moors National Park Authority answered the questionnaire by email, even though the author did not visit it. This means that the results come from five English, two Welsh and two Scottish national parks. The results are presented for each of the questionnaire's 20 questions (see Annex for questionnaire).

1. Seven NPs have a valid complete Management Plan, two (New Forest and Snowdonia) are in the process of preparing one. All NP Authorities (as well as any other bodies) are bound to have regard to the plan's provisions.



GIS tools were helpful in preparing some plans; however, digital maps do not form an integral part of such plans, as opposed to the Czech or Polish protection plans.

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs Park Plan 2007-2012 cover

2. NP Authorities are two-tiered. They consist of management boards, which set long-term policy and make the most important decisions (NP Authority members), and staff, who make day-to-day decisions.

NP Authority management boards have between 18 to 30 members composed of local authority representatives and Secretary of State appointees. In Scotland, they may be appointed by Scottish Ministers and also directly elected by local voters. The composition of each board is precisely defined in the relevant act. The members work by taking part in committees that deal with certain issues like planning, recreation and leisure, rural businesses, finance, etc. The committees have regular meetings according to their needs.

Staff are the people participating in the everyday work of a national park. They are divided into different departments, depending on the park's structure (e.g. communication, research, information management, nature conservation, tourism, human resources, etc.). The parks questioned had from 60 (Dartmoor, New Forest) to 243 (Peak District) full-time posts (or equivalents), with 124 on average.



Dramatic coastline in Exmoor (left) and Pembokeshire Coast (right) NPs

3. The data on NPA staff's fields of education was only available for four parks: Dartmoor, Exmoor, New Forest and Snowdonia. Altogether, they employed 149 people with a bachelor's degree, or higher, in the following fields:

- a) biology: 15
- b) geography, geology: 24
- c) tourism: 2
- d) forestry: 5
- e) agriculture: 3
- f) landscape planning and protection: 4
- g) archaeology, history: 12
- h) architecture, cultural heritage conservation: 8
- i) economics, management: 11
- j) law: 6
- k) town and country planning: 45
- l) IT, Geographic Information Systems: 12
- m) environmental protection: 2.

This data is not very precise, for example, in the case of people having a BSc degree in geography or MSc degree in town and country planning. Additionally, parks may cooperate with external staff, such as biologists from other public bodies.

Significant is the high share of staff with a less strictly environmental field of education, i.e. in town and country planning.

4. If the NPAs had the possibility to create additional posts to improve their activities, they would establish:

5 posts for town and country planning (including a minerals planner), 3 for architecture/cultural heritage conservation and 1 for each of the following activities: biology, tourism, archaeology/history, economics/management, IT/Geographic Information Systems, environmental protection. Furthermore, 2 posts were sought in: practical nature conservation, land management, communication, 1 post in: information and data management, youth/ethnic group engagement, climate change, landscape architecture.



Working for nature often means working with people – specialists giving farmers advice on land management within the Peak District NP at a farmers market in Bakewell

5. The total amount of funding the NPAs had at their disposition in the last financial year ranged from £ 4 373 481 (Dartmoor) to £ 14 343 000 (Peak District), with the average being £ 7 099 204.

6. Getting precise answers for the questions regarding the income and expenditure structure turned out to be rather troublesome – the British NPs keep

the books in a different way than the Polish or Czech ones. Nevertheless, the following data was obtained:

- a) income from central (London) and/or regional (Cardiff, Edinburgh) government accounts for 50 % to 94% of NP budgets, the average being 72%;
- b) income from local authority budgets - only three NPs received such income and it constituted on average 13,7% of their income;
- a) park's own income (planning application fees, sales at Information Centres, car parking, etc.) ranged from 1 % to 43,4% of NP budgets, the average being 15,6%;
- c) special funds/trusts - 9% on average in NPs that receive income from such sources like EU Funds (e.g. LIFE+), the Heritage Lottery Fund or the Sustainable Development Fund;
- d) other sources - 8% on average, e.g. bank interests, earmarked/general reserves, landfill tax trust.

7. The parks' expenditure structure in the last financial year was as follows:

- a) administration (salaries and other personnel costs): 49,2%
- b) maintenance of infrastructure (buildings, vehicles, equipment, etc): 14,4%
- c) purchase of land from private owners: no land was purchased in any NP
- d) direct nature conservation activities (renaturalization of certain sites, species protection programmes, etc.): 13,5%
- e) other: 30,4%.



Maintenance of infrastructure accounts for a significant portion of parks' budgets

8. Two NPs have no Special Protection Areas within their boundaries as a part of the Natura 2000 network. There are between 1 and 14 (Cairngorms NP) SPAs in other parks and they cover, on average, 21,8% of the NP's area.

The number of Special Areas of Conservation ranges from 2 to 21 (Cairngorms NP) and they cover, on average, 25,4% of the NP's area.

The relatively low share of Natura 2000 sites within the British NPs differentiates them from their continental equivalents. They are vast areas, embracing places of various natural value, sometimes just harmonious countryside landscapes.



The Cairngorms NP has the biggest number of Natura 2000 sites

9. The bodies responsible for safeguarding the favourable status of Natura 2000 habitats and/or species within the national parks' boundaries are either statutory conservatory agencies – Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage – or the agencies together with NP Authorities.

10. None of the NP Authorities is responsible for safeguarding the favourable status of Natura 2000 habitats and/or species outside the national parks' boundaries.

11. Responsibility for the protection of Natura 2000 sites increased (or will in the near future) the NPAs' amount of work, compared to their past efforts towards NP upkeep (on a scale of 1-5, 1 – not at all, 5 – seriously): in two NPs significantly (4), in two slightly (2) and in one not at all (1).

12. In connection with safeguarding favourable status of Natura 2000 habitats and/or species within the national parks' boundaries, four NPAs received the following state support: two received additional funds, one received a post (funded together with a conservation agency) and one was given additional funds, posts and equipment.



Appropriate explanation is a key factor in mitigating tourist pressure on precious sites – information on bird nesting time in the Peak District NP (left) and on upland erosion repairs in Brecon Beacons (right)

13. The above-mentioned (previous question) support was assessed by the NPAs as (on a scale of 1-5, 1 – not useful, 5 – high usefulness): significant usefulness (4) by two NPAs and high usefulness (5) by two NPAs.

14. The NPAs assessed the general level of knowledge about the functioning of the following forms of protection among NP inhabitants (on a scale 1-5, 1 – lack of knowledge, 5 – very good knowledge) as follows:

- a) national parks: 3,5
- b) Natura 2000 sites: 1,8 (three NPAs gave a 1, no NP gave a 4 or 5)
- c) other protected sites and objects (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves, etc): 2,4.

The domination of traditionally established protected areas (with NP distinction) over Natura 2000 sites in the minds of local citizens is clearly visible. All the Natura 2000 sites are at the same time protected as SSSIs and it is rather the latter form that is known to the British.

15. The following table presents the assessment of the present level of threat to the NPs' natural values posed by certain phenomena (on a scale 1-5, 1 – no threat, 5 – serious threat):

National Park	a	b	c	d	e	f
1. Cairngorms	2	1	3	2	2	2
2. Dartmoor	1	1	1	4	2	3
3. Exmoor	2	2	1	4	2	2
4. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs	1	1	2	4	3	2
5. New Forest	5	3	5	4	3	3
6. North York Moors	2	1	1	4	3	4
7. Peak District	2	4	4	4	3	5
8. Pembrokeshire Coast	2	2	2	5	2	3
9. Snowdonia	2	2	3,5	4	4	4
mean value :	2,1	1,9	2,5	3,9	2,7	3,1

Source: questionnaire research

- a) uncontrolled, chaotic development of building grounds
- b) other dangerous ventures, e.g. factories, industry, etc.
- c) existing or planned (in the next few years) transport routes (roads, motorways, train tracks) crossing the NP or situated in its vicinity
- d) changing land use (intensifying agriculture, neglecting some areas, under-grazing etc.)
- e) overly intensive tourism and related pressure to invest in tourist infrastructure in the NP and its vicinity
- f) air, water and soil pollution.



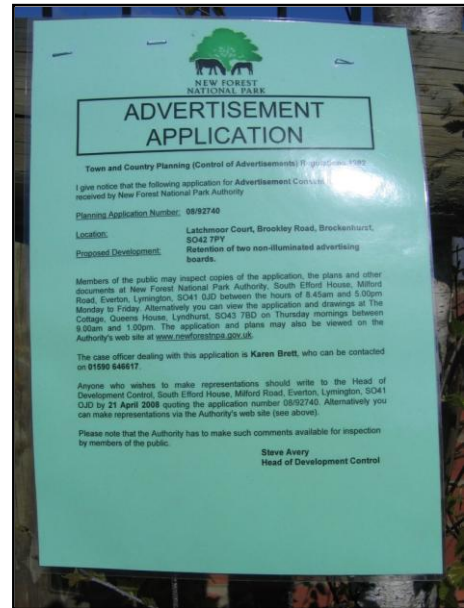
was the third biggest threat.

Grazing has shaped British habitats for centuries

Current tendencies in land management were seen as the biggest threat – by which the NPAs meant mainly under- or over-grazing as well as some negative impact of the EU Common Agriculture Policy. Pollution of the environment was assessed as second and overly intensive tourism

Advertisement application in the New Forest NP

It is important to emphasize the fact that uncontrolled, chaotic development of building grounds was seen as a low threat. The NPA staff usually admitted that being a body responsible for town and country planning within their boundaries enabled “curbing” spreading development. The NPs can also influence the design of new buildings so they are suitable to the local traditions. If there is any threat, it rather comes from the bigger, serious investors



who are powerful enough to lobby and legally obtain planning permission. Furthermore, the NPs listed some additional threats:

- a project to place electricity pylons (Beaulieu-Denny) through the Cairngorms NP,
- introduced species (Dartmoor NP),
- climate change and a lack of adequate adaptation measures, especially with regard to land management (Dartmoor, New Forest, North York Moors, Snowdonia NPs),
- existence and development of airports in the vicinity of the New Forest NP,
- quarrying (Peak District NP),
- grouse moor management issues (Peak District NP),
- uncontrolled fires (Peak District NP),
- overfishing (Pembrokeshire Coast NP).

16. Predicted phenomena mentioned in the previous question that will pose the biggest threats to the NPs' natural values within the next five years were estimated as follows (NPAs could vote for up to 3 issues):

- changing land use – 7 votes,
- air, water and soil pollution – 3 votes,
- overly intensive tourism and related pressure – 2 votes.

Repairing an eroded footpath in the Brecon Beacons NP

Additionally, the NPAs indicated threats like:

- climate change – 7 votes,
- development within the NP boundaries (in spite of having control over town and country planning) as well as beyond parks – 3 votes,
- effects of the EU Common Agriculture Policy – 2 votes,
- habitat degradation, introduced species, small-scale landscape change, land management issues, fires, quarrying – 1 vote each.



Ski infrastructure in the Cairngorms NP

It is clear that apart from agricultural issues, the phenomenon of climate change and problems with adapting land management to new circumstances is the one the British NPAs fear the most in near future.

17. The current impact of the following obstacles on the effective functioning of National Parks as bodies for safeguarding areas of exceptional natural values was estimated (on a scale 1-5, 1 – no negative impact, 5 – serious impact) as follows:

- a) badly formulated legal acts: 2,9 on average, with a wide range of estimates – from 1 to 5; one NPA said the acts themselves were good but there were significant problems with implementing them
- b) insufficient funding for NPs: 3,7 (estimates range from 3 to 5)
- c) insufficient number of NP employees: 3,2 (estimates range from 2 to 4)
- d) overly large share of privately-owned land within NPs: 2,4 (including three estimates 1)

- e) misconceptions within society about the purpose of NPs, and related expectations, which are contradictory to the need for nature conservation: 2,8 (estimates range from 2 to 4).

The Valley of Rocks in Exmoor NP

NPAs generally concur that low funds and insufficient numbers of staff are serious obstacles to management of the NPs. Interesting is the fact that estimates range widely with regard to badly formulated legal acts. The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.)



Regulations 1994 that were supposed to transpose the EU Birds and Habitats Directives into the British legal systems were given as an example of an act that is inflexible in changing circumstances.

The aspect of land ownership is also worth emphasizing. Public ownership often makes it easy to manage the land in accordance with nature conservation interests. On the other hand, British land use established many centuries ago transformed the grounds so much that today appropriate farmers' management is used to secure its natural values in many cases. That is probably the reason why the ownership issue was assessed as posing the least obstacle of all the issues listed.



Access to land within British national parks is not always possible

Another problem is the fact that it is not always possible to reach agreement in a conflict situation in a case of a proposed investment within a protected area. The British nature conservation system is to a significant extent based on reaching consensus rather than compulsion. Facing a determined enterprise, it is often nature conservation that loses.

The last obstacle mentioned were inadequate incentives designated for land managers who take up environmentally friendly activities.



The well-known Tryfan ridge and Cantilever Rock in Snowdonia NP

18. The NP Authorities assessed cooperation with the following groups (on a scale 1-5, 1 – no cooperation, 5 – very good cooperation) as follows:

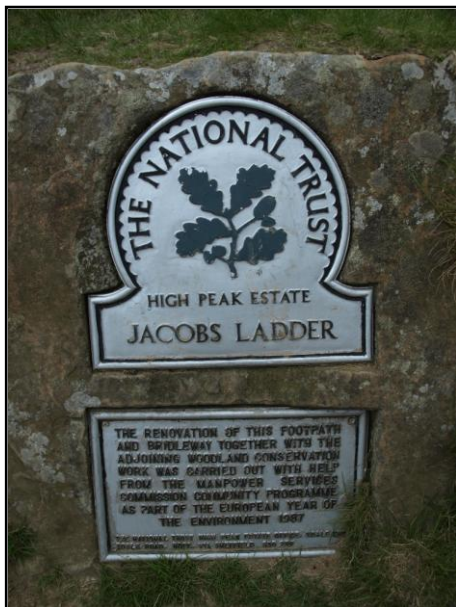
- a) park inhabitants: 3,7
- b) central government's environmental protection unit: 3,6
- c) local authorities: 3,6
- d) ecological NGOs: 4,0
- e) scientists: 3,2
- f) media: 3,2.

Cooperation is best with ecological non-governmental organisations, in many cases (see question 20) they manage sites of high natural values. The weakest contacts are with scientists and the media.

19. In all NPs questioned there are volunteers engaged in protection of the parks' values. Examples of this engagement were listed as follows: low-key involvement of schools and volunteers in a variety of projects, help with practical conservation

tasks, survey work, volunteer ranger/warden service (including youth rangers), education services, individual site management, participation in the production of management plan, help in interpretation, litter picking, short work-experience placements, an environmental award scheme focused on wild places – John Muir Award (Cairngorms NP), landscape enhancement within Vision Project (Peak District NP), professional campaign for understanding and protection of NPs (Snowdonia Society).

20. Within all NPs, there are grounds purchased for protection and/or managed by ecological NGOs and state units. Both types of bodies own/manage sites within 7 NPs, while in one park only NGOs and in one only state units perform some conservation tasks.



The National Trust property in the Peak District NP

On average, ecological NGOs own/manage over 6,6% of the NPs' area (12,6% as a maximum share). They are: the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the National Trust, the National Trust for Scotland, local Wildlife Trusts, the Woodland Trust and other smaller organisations.

Forestry Commission declaration in the New Forest NP

On average, state units own/manage over 20,3 % of the NP's area (49% as a maximum share). They are conservation agencies: Natural England, the Countryside Council for Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage that own many National Nature Reserves as well as the Forestry Commission. Some units, whose main purpose is



not nature conservation, can be included here, as sometimes they perform activities contributing to the protection of natural values.

These include: county councils, the Highlands and Islands Enterprise – economic development agency working for a sustainable growth across Scotland, the Ministry of Defence or water agencies.

Ministry of Defence owns significant patches of land within British national parks. Pembrokeshire Coast NP ground pictured



Conclusions

The fact that the same survey was conducted in different countries allows some conclusions to be drawn with regard to the way the national parks are managed in the UK.

Traditional countryside building in Exmoor NP



In comparison to the Polish and Czech NPs, the British national parks are quite different units. They are much bigger parcels of land, comprising both very valuable (from the environmental point of view) grounds and ones of lower quality. This results from the fact that long established land management has not left too much place for real wildlife in the UK. The British NPs are also pretty densely populated places (again, compared to their continental equivalents).

Another distinguishing mark is the importance of respecting private property in the country where modern capitalism was born. Due to this fact, the whole nature conservation system is based rather on reaching agreements with land owners and investors than the “do and don’t” policy that is still strong in Central



Sandy beach with dunes in Pembrokeshire Coast NP

Europe. On one hand, this enables the inhabitants to feel responsible for the quality of their surroundings; on the other hand, the incentives for land managers or funds necessary for buying off some rights (e.g. to peat digging in precious areas) are very high and there are serious doubts whether relatively poor Central European countries could afford such a policy.

Plenty of the British NP Authorities' work is not really work with the land but with people – it is mirrored in the field of education of their staff. Whereas practically all the conservation work within Polish or Czech NPs is being done by their Authorities, in the UK a significant part of it has been delegated to the state conservation agencies or voluntary ecological organisations.



Very different, yet equally fascinating – mountains in Snowdonia (left) and The Loch Lomond and The Trossachs (right) NPs

Being responsible for town and country planning within their boundaries, the British NPs can more easily control the development processes and prevent dangerous investments. That is one of the biggest problems in Central Europe, where local authorities often express interests that are in total contradiction with the need to protect nature and landscape.

In spite of quite significant differences, the national parks in all three countries remain areas of the highest value, deserving the best possible protection.



Southern and northernmost British NPs: Dartmoor (left) and the Cairngorms (right)

Literature:

Adams W. 1996 *Future nature – a vision for conservation*, Earthscan, London, 228 pp.

Bell S., McGillivray D. 2006 *Environmental law*, Oxford University Press, Oxford & New York, lxxviii + 910 pp.

Blunden J., Curry N. 1990 *A people's charter? Forty years of the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act 1949*, HMSO, London, 300 pp.

Cairngorms National Park Authority 2007 *Cairngorms National Park Plan 2007*, Cairngorms NPA, Grantown-on-Spey, 140 pp.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (c. 37)

Environment Act 1995 (c. 25)

Exmoor National Park Authority 2007 *Exmoor National Park Management Plan 2007-2012*, Exmoor NPA, Dulverton, 114 pp.

Ginalski A. 2008 *Czech national parks – their functioning and nature conservation* [in:] *Prace Geograficzne*, Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków (to be published)

Ginalski A. 2008 *Current problems in the management of Polish national parks* [in:] *Dokumentacja Geograficzna*, Instytut Geografii i PZ PAN, Warszawa (to be published)

Joint Nature Conservation Committee 2008 *UK Biodiversity Action Plan* [online:] <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>

Marren P. 2002 *Nature conservation – a review of the conservation of wildlife in Britain 1950-2001*, HarperCollins, London, 344 pp.

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (c. 97)

National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (2000 asp 10)

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority 2003 *National Park Management Plan 2003-2007*, Pembrokeshire Coast NPA, Haverfordwest, 46 + 46 pp.

Sheail J. 1998 *Nature Conservation in Britain – The Formative Years*, The Stationery Office, London, 282 pp.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank:

- Alfred Toepfer Foundation F.V.S. for funding my scholarship
- Europarc Federation for awarding me the Natural Heritage Scholarship and invitation to the Europarc Conference in Český Krumlov in September 2007
- All the staff from the National Park Authorities I had a pleasure to meet and talk to during my travels.



Author in the oldest British national park – the Peak District

Appendix – Questionnaire

1. Has a complete National Park Management Plan been prepared?: Yes / No (mark an appropriate answer, please)

If so:

- has the Management Plan been officially approved and is the NP Authority bound to execute its resolutions?: Yes / No
- has the Management Plan been prepared using GIS software?: Yes / No

2. Please indicate the number of full-time posts (or equivalents) in your NP Authority:

- a) Authority members: ...
- b) staff members: ...

3. How many employees within the NP Authority (both Authority members and staff) have a bachelor's degree, or higher, in the field of:

- a) biology: ...
- b) geography, geology: ...
- c) tourism: ...
- d) forestry: ...
- e) agriculture: ...
- f) landscape planning and protection: ...
- g) archaeology, history: ...
- h) architecture, cultural heritage conservation: ...
- i) economics, management: ...
- j) law: ...
- k) town and country planning: ...
- l) IT, Geographic Information Systems: ...
- m) environmental protection: ...

4. If your NP Authority had the possibility to create three additional posts to improve its activities, what would they be in terms of educational background sought? (please start with the most desired educational profile - from the above list /or other):

- a)
- b)
- c)

5. What was the total amount of funding (budgetary contributions, levies from local authorities, park income, donations, etc.) the NP Authority had at its disposition in year 2006/2007: £

6. What was the structure of your Park's income in year 2006/2007 (approximate full percentages, please):

- a) central (London) and/or regional (Cardiff, Edinburgh) government budget(s): %
- b) local authority budget(s): %
- c) park's own income (planning application fees, sales at Information Centres, car parking, etc.): %

d) special funds/trusts: %
please list what funds/trusts:

e) other sources: %
please list:

7. What was the structure of your Park's expenditure in year 2006/2007 (approximate full percentages, please):

- a) administration (salaries and other personnel costs): %
- b) maintenance of infrastructure (buildings, vehicles, equipment, etc): %
- c) purchase of land from private owners: %
- d) direct nature conservation activities (renaturalization of certain sites, species protection programmes, etc.): %
- e) other: %
please list:

8. What part of your Park's area has been included in the Natura 2000 network and within how many Natura 2000 sites (both candidate and adopted sites – state on 31 December 2006):

- a) Special Protection Areas – number: ..., covering a total area within the National Park's boundaries: ha
- b) Special Areas of Conservation – number: ..., covering a total area within the National Park's boundaries: ha

9. Did the appropriate government authority entrust the National Park Authority with safeguarding favourable status of Natura 2000 habitats and/or species within the National Park's boundaries (i.e. is the NP Authority responsible for the protection of Natura 2000 sites within the NP area?): Yes / No

10. Is the NP Authority also responsible for the protection of any Natura 2000 sites outside the NP area?: Yes / No

If the answers to questions 9 and 10 are "No", please go to question 14.

If the answer to question 10 is "Yes", what is the number and area of Natura 2000 sites outside your Park for which the NP Authority is responsible (both candidate and adopted sites on 31 December 2006):

- a) Special Protection Areas – number: ..., covering a total area outside the National Park's boundaries: ha
- b) Special Areas of Conservation – number: ..., covering a total area outside the National Park's boundaries: ha

11. How (on a scale of 1-5) has the responsibility for the protection of Natura 2000 sites increased (or will in the near future) the NP Authority's amount of work, compared to its past efforts towards the National Park's upkeep? (1 – not at all, 2 – slightly, 3 – moderately, 4 – significantly, 5 – seriously): ...

12. Has the NP Authority received any state support for the protection of habitats/species within Natura 2000 sites in the form of:

- a) additional funds: Yes / No
- b) additional posts: Yes / No
- c) additional equipment (e.g. computers): Yes / No

13. If the NP Authority received such support, how do you assess its usefulness? (1 – not useful, 2 – slight, 3 – moderate, 4 – significant, 5 – high): ...

14. How would you assess the general level of knowledge about the functioning of the following forms of protection among NP inhabitants (1 – lack of knowledge, 2 – poor, 3 – moderate, 4 – good, 5 – very good):

- a) national parks: ...
- b) Natura 2000 sites: ...
- c) other protected sites and objects (SSSIs, NNRs etc.): ...

15. Please assess the present level of threat to the NP's natural values posed by the following phenomena (1 – no threat, 2 – slight, 3 – moderate, 4 – significant, 5 – serious):

- a) uncontrolled, chaotic development of building grounds: ...
- b) other dangerous ventures, e.g. factories, industry, etc.: ...
- c) existing or planned (in the next few years) transport routes (roads, motorways, train tracks) crossing the NP or situated in its vicinity: ...
- d) changing land use (intensifying agriculture, neglecting some areas, under-grazing etc.): ...
- e) overly intensive tourism and related pressure to invest in tourist infrastructure in the NP and its vicinity: ...
- f) air, water and soil pollution: ...
- g) other? please define and assess their impact:

16. In your opinion, what phenomena will pose the biggest threats to the NP's natural values within the next five years? Select three (either listed above or other) starting with the most serious one:

- a)
- b)
- c)

17. Please assess the current impact of the following obstacles on the effective functioning of National Parks as bodies for safeguarding areas of exceptional natural values (1 – no negative impact, 2 – slight negative impact, 3 – moderate, 4 – significant, 5 – serious):

- a) badly formulated legal acts: ...
- b) insufficient funding for National Parks: ...
- c) insufficient number of NP employees: ...
- d) overly large share of privately-owned land within National Parks: ...

- e) misconceptions within society about the purpose of National Parks, and related expectations, which are contradictory to the need for nature conservation: ...
 - f) other? please define and assess their impact:
-

18. How do you assess the cooperation of the NP Authority with the following groups (1 – no cooperation, 2 – poor , 3 – moderate, 4 – good, 5 – very good):

- a) park inhabitants: ...
- b) DEFRA’s environmental protection unit: ...
- c) local authorities: ...
- d) ecological NGOs: ...
- e) scientists: ...
- f) media: ...

19. In many countries, volunteer groups such as pupils, students, members of NGOs, or inhabitants engage in activities within protected areas. Is this the case for your National Park?: Yes / No

If so, what form does this involvement take?:

.....

If not, do you think such involvement could strengthen the protection of your park’s values (tick an appropriate answer):

- a) definitely so
- b) possibly so
- c) possibly not
- d) definitely not

20. Are there any lands within your Park (indicate their total area within the brackets), which have been purchased for protection and/or management by:

- a) ecological NGOs: Yes (..... ha, please list them:) / No
- b) state conservation bodies other than the NP Authority, e.g. state agencies: Yes (..... ha, please, list them:) / No