

# Landscape – Man, Nature & Defra

Hugh Llewelyn

Team Leader, Landscape Conservation, Defra



# National Parks & Historic Landscapes

- National Parks Designated because of natural beauty and recreational opportunities
- National Parks *are* historic landscapes
- National Parks are also multi-functional landscapes
- NPAs integrate nature & heritage with their communities' social & economic needs



## Helmsdale, North York Moors National Park

# DEFRA NPA GRANT

- Defra sponsor NPAs - £47m in grant 2009-10
- But that isn't NPAs' only money
- Agri-environment grants have greater “on the ground” impact

# Environmental Stewardship

- Historic environment key objective of Environmental Stewardship
- ES has over-arching theme of mitigation and adaptation of climate change
- Entry Level Stewardship - 35,000 farmers
- Higher Level Stewardship – 3,000 farmers



Yearnor Wood,  
Exmoor National Park



# Lake District National Park

# National Parks and Agri-environment schemes

- NPAs play important role in promoting and delivering agri-environment schemes
- 1076 ES agreements cover over 21,000 hectares in National Parks
- Without ES funding many farm buildings in National Parks would be derelict



Yorkshire Dales National Park.

# Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

- Quarrying shaped some of our Parks
- But legacy of old workings and new workings large scale
- ALSF set up 2002 to help
- English Heritage distributes historic environment stream on behalf of Defra



Christ Church, King Sterndale,  
Peak District National Park

# English Heritage Funding Agreement

- DCMS leads on historic environment - but Defra works closely with them and English Heritage
- Heritage Funding Agreement (with CLG) sets out EH's contribution to objectives of all 3 departments.
- EH supports the historic environment components of the Rural Development Programme for England

# English Heritage's Landscape Legacy: National Parks and the Environment

- Recognises Landscapes in National Parks are cultural constructs – mainly by farmers
- The Parks' cultural heritage gives sense of place and attracts investment and tourism
- Gayle Mill, Yorkshire Dales – listed building and a SAM, now training centre for woodworking
- Magpie Lead Mine, Peak District – now wildlife habitat



Gayle Mill, Yorkshire Dales National  
Park



Magpie Mine, Peak District  
National Park

# Government's Vision statement on the Historic Environment for England

- Defra contributed to statement
- Sees historic environment as integral part of environmental, cultural, social & economic policy making process
- Aims for places of highest quality that are also sustainable e.g. National Parks

# New National Park Circular

- Defra has announced today that it will be launching a consultation on a new NP Circular.
- It will include a new section on heritage landscape
- The Circular will encourage NPAs to be ambitious in their objectives for heritage



Castle Rigg – Lake District  
National Park



## “The Ten Commandments”, Dartmoor National Park



## Tarr Steps, Exmoor National Park

# European Landscape Convention

- UK government signed and ratified ELC in 2006, came into effect in UK 2007
- First international treaty to cover all landscape
- Aim is to promote landscape protection, management & planning
- Covers natural, rural, urban & peri-urban areas; includes land, inland water and marine areas
- And landscape that is outstanding, everyday and degraded

# ELC LANDSCAPE DEFINITION

- “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”
- This suits both National Parks and historic landscape

# Implementation of ELC in England

- Defra with Natural England and English Heritage produced “Implementation Framework”
- NE, EH and national Forest Company produced Action Plans.
- Now for others such as NPAs to produce Action Plans.

# Natural Beauty

- One of the designation criteria for NPs is “natural beauty” – an inappropriate concept for UK
- All of our landscape is really cultural and historic
- Environment Act 1995 & Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 expanded what could be regarded as “natural beauty”.



# Peak District National Park



Flatford Mill, Dedham Vale AONB



# Buckler's Hard, New Forest National Park

# New Forest NP and South Downs NP Designations

- “Meyrick” judgement resulted in clauses in NERC Act to ensure that “cultural/historic landscape” can be in a NP
- This part cause of Inspector changing his mind to recommend inclusion of Western Weald in proposed South Downs NP



South Downs – Scarp Ridge

# Challenges Ahead

- Climate change, changing farming practices, development, renewable energy etc.
- How do we maintain historic character and values of NPs?
- It is for all of us to come together and answer that.



## The Norfolk & Suffolk Broads



Grade II listed Martello Tower,  
Suffolk Coast & heaths AONB



Backdale Quarry, Peak District  
National Park



Live Firing Lookout, Okehampton  
Camp, Dartmoor National Park



“Aidenfield” (aka Goatland)  
North York Moors National Park



“Beatrice Potter’s House” (or not),  
Lake District National Park



Wind turbines – future icons of the landscape?

# The End