

The Strategy for England's National Nature Reserves

This Strategy sets out the future direction for England's National Nature Reserves (NNRs).

NNRs are the best natural heritage sites in England. NNR declaration recognises the very highest quality sites for biodiversity and geodiversity, an accolade for owners and managers alike. The Strategy brings together the bodies that manage NNRs who will collaborate to increase the benefits of NNRs for 21st century conservation, environmental research and people.

The Vision

England's National Nature Reserves are the most special places for nature and we manage them in an exemplary way. They inspire people, promote learning and encourage actions in the wider landscape.

Working in Partnership

England's NNRs are managed by Natural England and a range of other organisations. Natural England is the statutory lead, declares new NNRs, and approves other bodies to manage NNRs.

For the first time this strategy brings together Natural England and all NNR managers working in partnership to develop the NNR network with joint goals and actions. Our collective expertise in conservation, science and people engagement will bring about a step change in the contribution of NNRs to nature conservation in England.

Strategic Priorities for England's National Nature Reserves

- NNRs will be at the core of healthy resilient landscapes and their abundant wildlife will brim over to enrich the surrounding areas. They will demonstrate to all what high quality environmental outcomes look and feel like.
- NNRs will offer opportunities for research and monitoring across the network, contributing to the full range of land-based environmental science. They will demonstrate best practice management and natural capital concepts.
- NNRs will provide places for people through access, interpretation and direct participation, with our partnership work increasing the range and the variety of engagement opportunities.
- The NNR network will be reviewed and gaps filled by extended and new NNRs to galvanise landscape-scale conservation in line with Lawton principles and enable delivery of NNR science and engagement programmes.
- NNR owners and managers will develop place-based partnerships with local interests including public bodies, private individuals and organisations, NGOs and charitable interests. NNR managers will increasingly collaborate to secure funding and to use resources efficiently across NNRs.

Resourcing

All NNR managing bodies invest in their reserves and will continue to do so. In time, they will be underpinned by a sustainable resource base comprising a mix of state, charitable and private funding. Whilst the public sector must maintain a strong stake in securing funding of our natural heritage, we will work together to find additional sources of funding that broaden the funding base and improve its resilience.