

Opportunities for learning outside the classroom

Reaching Out seeks to open up the Yorkshire Dales National Park for all users and groups, from every background.

Curriculum themes

KS1

Locality studies
In Living Memory

KS2

Locality studies. Rivers
Habitat studies
Local history. Romans.
Britain since the 1930s

KS3

Limestone landscapes
Local history

GCSE, 16+, F&HE

Management issues
Leisure and tourism
Habitat studies

The National Park for learning

“Every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development whatever their age, ability or circumstances.”

The Authority strongly supports the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto, find more at

www.education.gov.uk/publications

The National Park presents a unique blend of distinctive semi-natural habitats and human features, set against a back drop of outstanding scenic beauty which presents huge opportunities for learning outside the classroom. The National Park differs from those in other countries, it holds no truly wild places: more than 99% of the land is privately owned and most has been farmed for centuries. Management of the area for the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities, while promoting opportunities for their understanding and enjoyment are the primary purposes of the National Park Authority. Promoting sustainability of the National Park is a prime concern and promoting responsible behaviour among users is a high priority.

A special place

People visit the National Park because it is a special place. Its scenic beauty and peacefulness provide inspiration and regeneration for countless people, yet the greatest weakness of the area is this strong appeal. Pressure from more and more users is growing and many group leaders are weighing the benefits of visits against the environmental costs. More than anything, appreciating the fragility and safe guarding the special nature of the area need strong focus in every activity.

Make the National Park your natural choice for learning outside the classroom, for all study levels and subject areas.





Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Curriculum opportunities

Many National Park areas make good **locality studies** which can include specific issues and cross-curricular themes.

The limestone scenery in the south is some of the UK's finest, with many classic **landforms** and the effects of major fault lines. The impacts of a series of glaciations are highly visible.

The Dales has many **fluvial features**, from fast flowing streams to meandering rivers, even upland moorland. Issues include river bank erosion and moorland gripping.

Dales **biodiversity** includes special habitats like hay meadows, limestone pavement and grassland, heather moorland and woodland, which host many distinctive species.

The **history** of the area is in every view and the Dales is rich in traditional music and folk tales. Hawes is home to the Dales Countryside Museum.

The Dales is a **farming** landscape, from the high grouse moors to the dale bottom meadows. Intensification and diversification and conservation schemes are prime subjects. Some farms open by arrangement for tours or special studies.

Striking examples of the impacts of the **tourism** industry can be seen in many places. Erosion issues on public rights of way and settlement pressures are popular studies.

Planning has potential for contentious issues, rarely more than in a national park, some sites are excellent case studies.

Studies of **quarrying** are popular and contacts for individual quarries can be supplied. Some quarries arrange group visits.

The upland area and its vast public rights of way network are ideal for **outdoor and adventure activities** like camping, climbing, caving, cycling, walking, orienteering, expeditions.

Groups can be involved in **conservation projects** from tree planting to path maintenance. There are lots of opportunities for **Duke of Edinburgh's Award** expedition and service work and with **John Muir Award** exploring and conservator projects.

Growing Schools seeks to reconnect rural and urban young people with the environment through high quality, first-hand outdoor learning experiences in places such as school grounds, farms and National Parks. Find out more at www.education.gov.uk/publications

National Parks work well for **Education for Sustainable Development** and the National Curriculum theme 'how people can improve or damage and may seek to manage environments sustainably.'

A visit to a National Park can enhance **Citizenship/PSHE** studies and enrich personal development themes such as health and well-being.



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

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