



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nature and People Team – Inclusive Access in the Natural Environment

We are the Nature and People team at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). We are seeking your insight to inform our work on supporting inclusive access to protected landscapes, in response to the Landscapes (Glover) Review.

The Landscapes Review¹ (also known as the ‘Glover Review’ as it was led by Julian Glover) was an independent review of protected landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or AONBs) as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan. It was published in September 2019 and welcomed in the Conservative party manifesto. The Review proposed 27 headline recommendations aimed at making these landscapes greener, happier, healthier and open to all. You can read more about the review’s findings [here](#).

Our team is working with the National Parks and AONBs on the recommendations from Chapter 2 of the review. These recommendations highlight the need to ensure that everyone can enjoy these landscapes, no matter their background or where they live, and the importance of connecting deprived and under-served populations with nature. Enjoyment of the outdoors and engagement with the natural environment brings health and wellbeing benefits that should be accessible to all, but many people face physical and social barriers – or other challenges to enjoying them. As well as highlighting the need for better physical infrastructure, information and signage to support disabled access, for example, the review reported that many communities in modern Britain feel that these landscapes hold no relevance for them. The statistics show certain groups feel especially disconnected. Most visits are made by the same (better off, less diverse) people repeatedly, and those who miss out are the older, the young – especially adolescents – and those from lower socio-economic groups and black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme, beginning in April 2021, will support farmers and other land managers in National Parks and AONBs to deliver environmental outcomes, prepare farmers for the Environmental Land Management scheme and support delivery of the Glover Review.

We would like your help to better understand how we can support farmers and land managers in protected landscapes to encourage more people to access and enjoy our National Parks and AONBs. If you’d like to share your thoughts with us, please complete the questions below and return to us at the email addresses below by February 22nd. Not all questions will be relevant to all organisations, however any information provided will be appreciated and potentially useful. We hope that this will be the beginning of ongoing consultation with the community of stakeholders who support engagement with the environment. Following the submission of this brief survey, we invite you to join a virtual workshop with us on the afternoon of Wednesday March 10th to discuss the responses in more detail, with follow up conversations if required. We will send further details of the workshop out closer to the time.

With thanks from Helen Ward, Kay Lewis-Jones and Michelle Luscombe

Kay.Lewis-Jones@defra.gov.uk and Michelle.Luscombe@defra.gov.uk

Name of Organisation	John Muir Trust	
Contact(s)	Graham Watson	
Brief description of your organisation and its work	<p>Please provide us with a brief description to help us better understand your work. For instance, who do you usually work with/ represent?</p> <p>Is supporting inclusive access – that being using the landscape as a setting or backdrop to an activity - already part of your work and, in which case, which groups does your work engage with or target?</p> <p>What scale do you work at (or roughly how many people do you engage with)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The John Muir Trust is a conservation charity dedicated to the experience, protection and repair of wild places. We work to defend wild land, enhance habitats and encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with wild places. We work to advocate wild land in policy, with land managers and with the general public. <p>Our engagement initiative, the John Muir Award, encourages people to connect with, enjoy, and care for wild places. It is an environmental award scheme for people of all backgrounds – groups, families, individuals. It is non-competitive, inclusive and accessible. Around 40,000 people/year get involved, mainly being young people of school age. Around 25% are people with some kind of social disadvantage. We work with a network of providers who deliver activities for these people.</p>	
Do you belong to any professional or informal networks? If so, please provide details	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>	<p>We are keen to get a better sense of the “landscape” and with which networks we could be engaging. It would also be useful to understand the role networks and partnerships play in helping you to deliver your work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. We are a member of Wildlife and Countryside Link.
Does your organisation have experience of delivering/facilitating engagement with or access to the natural environment in National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty?	Yes	<p>If yes, please provide details of the engagement and the NP or AONB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. We have funded partnerships to deliver the John Muir Award with the Lake District, Cairngorm and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Parks. <p>A number of other National Parks, notably South Downs, New Forest, Peak District, North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales, as well as a number of AONBs make use of the John Muir Award but lack of funding prevents this developing further.</p> <p>Please see our short film The John Muir Award in our National Parks and our 2019 National Parks UK report.</p> <p>Case studies of the John Muir Award in National Parks and AONBs:</p>

	No	<p>Shropshire Hills AONB (Common Land)</p> <p>Lake District here (Upland Commons) and here (#BrilliantResidentials campaign).</p> <p>Our John Muir Award Resource Guides – National Parks and AONBs.</p> <p>If not, please provide details of where you do work and/or reasons or barriers that have stopped you from working in NPs or AONBs, if relevant.</p>
Does your organisation have experience of delivering / facilitating engagement with or access to the natural environment on farms or other privately managed land?	Yes	<p>If yes, please provide details of the engagement</p> <p>4. A number of John Muir Award Providers visit farms with their participants. For example Outward Bound Ullswater Centre and Derwent Hill Outdoor Education Centre both visit farms who have educational visits as part of their Stewardship schemes.</p> <p>Similar activity takes place on privately managed land with some land managers forming partnerships to deliver the John Muir Award in their own right. For example the Lowther Estate have partnered with the Ernest Cook Trust to deliver the John Muir Award for disadvantaged young people at Lowther Castle (6 min film).</p>
	No	<p>If not, please provide details of any reasons or barriers that have stopped you from working with farms or on privately managed land, if relevant.</p>
Does your organisation have experience of delivering/ facilitating engagement with or access to the natural environment on other publicly accessible land or routes in the countryside?	Yes	<p>If yes, please provide details of the engagement</p> <p>5. The John Muir Award is delivered by organisations in a huge range of settings: urban school grounds and parks, allotments, as well as woodlands, moors, mountains, beaches, rivers and lakes.</p>
	No	<p>If not, please provide details of any reasons or barriers that you have faced.</p>
Has your organisation designed any of its programmes to help support more inclusive access, in particular to the natural environment	Yes	<p>If yes, what has your organisation done and what have you found to be most effective?</p> <p>6. Use of the John Muir Award in an inclusion context is described in our short publications Inclusion, Wild Places and the John Muir Award; Youth Work, Nature and the John Muir Award and Five Ways to Wellbeing.</p>
	No	

(although experience in other areas also welcome)?		
What elements of the above work that your organisation does would you be most keen to expand or see other organisations try?		7. The John Muir Award is a proven framework for engaging a diverse range of people in the outdoors. We would be keen to expand funded partnerships with organisations to expand this work.
Do you think National Parks and Areas of Natural Beauty could do more to support inclusive access to the natural environment? If so, please give details.		8. Yes. Investment in initiatives and frameworks such as the John Muir Award would develop the ability of existing providers such as schools, community organisations and outdoor centres, to use the Award to encourage their participants to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places in National Parks and AONBs. In addition they could facilitate opportunities for such groups to take part in volunteering.
What role do you think farmers and landowners have to play in supporting more inclusive access to the natural environment?		9. The John Muir Award's flexibility lends itself to activity within Tier 1, 2 or 3 funding of the Environmental Land Management Scheme. Incorporating an outdoor learning programme using a framework such as the John Muir Award in the three Tiers would create more opportunities for individuals to understand the link between farming and nature in protected landscapes; have the potential to widen participation in nature conservation activities in protected landscapes and, at Tier 1, it could extend the 'Educational Visits to farms scheme' which at present doesn't make any demands on what engagement takes place other than getting paid for a school visit.
What role do you think government departments like Defra have in supporting more inclusive access to the natural environment?		10.

<p>Do you have any evidence or case studies on “what works” in inclusive access that you would like to share with us?</p>	<p>We are interested in better understanding best practice and appreciate that sometimes excellent work on the ground hasn't found its way into “evidence”, so please feel free to share any useful formal evidence or reviews that you know of and/or examples from your own experience and work.</p> <p>11. Please see case studies and publications in Answers 3 and 6 above.</p>
<p>Would you or someone from your organisation like to attend the workshop on March 10th to discuss inclusive access with us and other respondents?</p>	<p>If yes, please provide contact details for your proposed attendee.</p> <p>12. Graham Watson, John Muir Award Manager Cumbria. Graham.watson@johnmuirtrust.org</p> <p>If no one from your organisation is able to make the workshop, but you would like to have a follow up conversation with us with regards to this work, please let us know and we will endeavour to arrange this.</p>

ⁱ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/833726/landscapes-review-final-report.pdf