

**STUDY VISIT TO THE
NATIONAL PARKS
SNOWDONIA, WALES
AND
CAIRNGORMS, SCOTLAND
BY: MOURNE FARMERS**

Monday 18 October 2004 - Friday 22 October 2004

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Sincere thanks also to the staff and management of Snowdonia National Park, Wales and Cairngorms National Park, Scotland. Their kind hospitality and help in organising the programme was invaluable.

Summary

Sixteen members of the farming community from the Mourne and Slieve Croob area visited two National Parks in the United Kingdom, Snowdonia National Park in North Wales, which has been a national park for over 50 years, and Cairngorms National Park, Scotland, which is the United Kingdom's most recent national park. The trip was arranged by Mourne Heritage Trust. Financial support was given by Natural Resource and Rural Tourism Initiative (NRRTI), as part of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

Presentations, discussions and site visits were arranged in both parks; subjects included farm conservation and recreation, farming and farming diversification, farm buildings, common land issues, bird conservation and a visit to a dairy and beef farm. There was also a short presentation by the local farmers of Snowdonia where the Mourne Farmers were given the opportunity to ask questions to the panel.

On return the farmers held three information meetings at three different venues to inform the local community of their findings and discuss the implications of a National Park in Mourne.

This report is an account of the study visit by the farmers who attended and has been published with the assistance of the Mourne Heritage Trust.

2.0 Introduction and Background

On the 18 October 2004 to 22 October 2004, the Mourne Heritage Trust, funded by NRRTI, advertised in the local press a Study Visit to both Snowdonia National Park (Wales) and Cairngorms National Park (Scotland). It was an excellent opportunity for farmers of Mourne to investigate two National Parks (one of which has just received designation) and give Mourne Farmers a chance to observe the effect that this has had on the local landowners.

The number of places on the study visit were limited to 20. There were 16 farmers from the area who attended, together with the Chief Executive of Mourne Heritage Trust, Mr. Tony Gates.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

Study Visit Aims

- To look at how National Parks Work in two other countries.
- To look at how agriculture integrates within one of the oldest National Parks in UK (Snowdonia, Wales)
- To learn from the experiences of one of the most recent National Parks to be designed in the UK, the process involved and how farmers can become involved in the process.
- To help inform the farming community in Mourne so that farming interests are fully considered in the National Park debate in Mourne.

Study Visit Objectives

- To engage farmers from a wide geographical spread, full and part time farming and a range of farming practices.
- To host 3 post study visit information dissemination work shops for farmers in the Mourne Area.
- To present the findings to the National Park Working Party.
- To produce a study visit report as an informational tool to feed into National Park debate in Mourne.

4.0 Schedule and Itinerary

The Group departed on Monday 18th October 2004 for 5 days. Three days and two nights were spent in Snowdonia National Park and two days and two nights were spent in the Cairngorms National Park.

4.1 Itinerary, Snowdonia National Park

DAY 1 MONDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2004

05.45	Depart for Belfast International Airport
08.20	Flight departs for Manchester Airport
09.15	Arrive Manchester Airport Coach transfer to Snowdonia National Park
12.30 - 13.00	LUNCH
13.00	Cobden's Hotel, Capel Curig Presentations by: Emyr Williams, Snowdonia National Park Authority Introduction to Snowdonia National Park and agriculture within the National Park
15.00 – 17.00	Farm walk at Llyndy Isaf Farm in Gwynant, Host – Ken Owen Subjects farm conservation and recreation
17.00 – 17.30	Travel to Plas Tan Y Bwlch Check in accommodation
18.30	Joined by a panel of local NPA and farming representatives. Short presentation by local farmers (Chance to ask questions to panel)
19.30	EVENING MEAL

DAY 2 TUESDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2004

08.00	Breakfast
09.0	Depart Plas Tan Y Bwlch
10.0	
09.20	Visit to Small Holding – (Gilar Wen Farm) in Harlech. Host: Dylan Williams Farm walk and discussion
10.00	Visit to Hill Farm (Merthyr Farm) - Host Caerwyn Roberts Farmer and Chair of Snowdonia National Park Authority
12.15	Lunch in local Village (Llanbedr)
13.45	Visit to Sylfaen Farm in Abermaw. Host – Robert Evans – subjects farming and farm diversification, farm buildings.

- 16.00 Visit to Nant Y Nodyn farm in Dinas Mawddwy. Host – Ewlyn Jones, Farm Conservation
- 17.45 Return to Plas Tan Y Bwlch
- 18.30 – 19.30 Evening Meal
- 19.30 – 22.00 Report back and discussion

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2004 (SNOWDONIA/CAIRNGORMS)

- 08.30 Breakfast
- 08.45 Depart for Migneint – Brief look at Common Land Issues – (David Roberts & Rhys Owen) SNPA
- 09.40 Blaen Eidda Isaf farm in Ysbyty Ifan (National Trust Tennant)
- 10.30 Hafodfy Gwyn town in Pentrefoelas (farm on a private estate) Subject: Bird Conservation
- 11.00 Depart for Manchester Airport
- 12.30 – 13.30 LUNCH (Stop En-route to Airport)
- 15.35 Flight to Aberdeen
- 15.36
- 14.00 Arrival in Aberdeen and transfer to Nethybridge Hotel, Grantown
- 19.00 After dinner, talk from Murray Ferguson on the consultation process at the start of the Cairngorms National Park.

DAY 4 THURSDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2004

- 9.00 Visit to William Hamilton's dairy & beef farm, just outside Grantown. William was part of a group of farmers that went to France to visit a National Park and came back more enthusiastic about the idea than before.
- 12.00 – 14.00 Visit to Marina and Roy Dennis's croft at Nethybridge where they are very involved in environmental schemes and have a holiday house business. Roy has been involved in a scheme to send eagles to Ireland.
- 19.00 Question and answer session in Grantown Town House with Siobhan McDonald to talk about what the Park Authority and doing to assist agriculture within the Park.
- 19.30 Dinner with Siobhan McDonald and Fiona Newcome, who are farming representatives of the Open Division on Farming and National Parks.

DAY 5 FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER 2004

- 09.00 Arrival at 10.30 am at House of Bruar for tea, scones and shopping.
- 11.30 Depart House of Bruar
- 14.00 Arrive at the Famous Grouse Experience at Crieff, which is a whiskey tour.
- 14.00 Depart Crieff for Edinburgh Airport
- 15.00 Check in Edinburgh Airport for flight at 16.40

5.0 Report on the Study Visit

Day 1 – 18 October 2004

**Talk by Emyr Williams - Snowdonia National Park Authority (NPA)
 - Farm Liaison Officer**

(Background to the National Park set out at Appendix 1)

Designated as a National Park 50 years ago but has only been an authority in its own right since 1996. The Authority has 180 staff with budget of approximately £8.5m and brings in £2m to £3m per year in grants & charges.

Statutory duties of Snowdonia NPA are to:

- Conserve & enhance natural beauty, wildlife & cultural heritage
- Promote understanding and enjoyment of the area
- Foster economic and social well-being without significant expenditure

20 million visitors to NP each year, 60% of these only go 200 yards from their car. NP mission statement pledges to “improve viability of farms without detriment to environmental status”. With CAP reform and the accompanying cross-compliance, that is where all policy is aimed and farming has to follow. However, the park views recreation as the cornerstone of economic survival of the park.

Park Authority is responsible for planning, transport policies and development.

Park is 80% agriculture, 1000 / 1200 farms (was 1600 20 years ago)
Average farm is 350 acres, 425 ewes, 20 suckler cows, LFA and almost all SDA.

Some points Emyr made about why the NP works well in Snowdonia:

SNPA are organized differently from other NPA's e.g. Lake District because it has a paid post, person with an agricultural background dealing with the farmers needs. DEFRA doesn't do everything whereas in Lake District it is just DEFRA. “It doesn't work if the officers are environmentalists or scientists, they have to be from an agriculture background or it just won't work” Emyr Williams SNPA

Conflict was inbuilt between farmers and the National Park Authority until 1987 when the Authority started positive grants to farmers to do buildings etc the SNPA way - management agreements.

If national schemes fund a project then that is the farmers' first option. SNPA will not get involved (avoiding double funding) unless there is a conflict of interest.

E.g. there was a conflict of interest when DEFRA provided a drain and reseed grant. The farmers objected and were paid approx £20K each by the SNPA by way of compensation for not partaking in the scheme.

But since 1988 have used 'top-ups' to top up existing 60% grants to 80%

Access: written in as part of management agreements and also written into new tenancies taken and tenancies being bought out by the farmer. (Soil, air and water agreements also written in) Planning: planning staff discuss the farmers' needs and come to a suitable compromise.

Management of common land: You have to get graziers to agree, and spend the management grant responsibly. Some conflict between habitat (e.g. heather) and species management (e.g. Chough need a short sward). Managed in individual pastures so they are doing 5 to 6 pastures at a time. CAP reform has speeded this up.

The NPA set up advisory panels for awarding Euro funded grants (farmers unions, National Trust etc). Grants scoring matrix devised to help in decisions. Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) applies - all unimproved land is open to public access. This access is linked to hill payments.

Some schemes the NPA has introduced:

Bat protection schemes in disused gold mines

3 National Parks marketing welsh mountain lamb together

Q. Do sand and construction materials come from the area?

A. Slate from within the park but not concrete. Timber for fencing is local, most of the grant spend is on labour.

Q. New sandpits & quarries?

A. On farm for farm use is allowed, but not commercial. Easy to get consent for small scale quarrying. Large hole in the middle of the Park is a slate quarry. Easy to get permission for specialist local materials e.g roofing slate.

18/10/04 Farm Visit

Farmer Ken Owens

Farm Llyndy Isaf Farm in Gwynant

Subject Conservation and recreation (Emyr Williams)

Emyr Williams (SNPA) gave information about the farm, (approx 850 acres), and answered questions from the group

Problem with control of rhododendron, habitats lost to invasive species. They had tried both burning and spraying from a helicopter, were now basically giving up and the area with rhododendron was being taken off the farmers IACS. Interestingly another extremely steep, rocky, scrub covered cliff face was considered grazeable for IACS purposes. If there were cattle on the hills there would be less bracken and less rhododendron. No cryptosporidium problem because of water treatment plant. NPA were trying to encourage the heather without destocking completely. If they take sheep off completely they would lose the heft and the tradition, so they decided to take a longer-term view - sheep off completely for 3 winter months and heather came back within 10 years. They allowed 1.5 livestock units (LU) on moorland and 3.7LU on acid grassland. *"SNPA take socio-economic overview rather than pure scientific and it has worked"* Emyr Williams. If farmers defy the 3 month ban, their payment is stopped. Payments go to farmer to offset extra winter keep costs. Overgrazing has caused landslips on areas of thin north-facing soil. Don't have funding for every farm; farmer is encouraged to move onto the national scheme after a time when he is set up. Farmer will get more money in conservation funding than he would otherwise have got from his livestock. The NPA like low-input systems which encourage more habitat diversity.

Discussion about insurance on the farm and public access – the study group thought it was different from the situation in Northern Ireland.

Some slurry and silage effluent problems because of the lake on the farm. Farmer went back from round bales onto hay system at the request of the NPA. Was allowed to buy hay in to feed in the tied-in barns but not allowed to introduce Italian ryegrass seeds onto the hay meadows.

Group then talked to Mr Owens, seemed very sure that being in NP was to his advantage. He saw no problem with visitors or public liability insurance (about £500 per year), *"you have to have it anyway"*. He stated that everything was grand, no problems, but warned that if we were going in to a National Park *"get somebody who has been born and bred on the farm and knows the issues"* Ken Owens.

Monday evening - panel of SNPA executives and farming representatives

A video recording of this panel discussion is available from members of the study group or the Mourne Heritage Trust.

19/10/04	Farmer	Dylan Williams
	Farm	Gilar Wen Farm in Harlech
	Subject	Farm discussion

Young farmer with 40 acres and a semi-detached hay shed rented off the council. Started about 2 years, has 25 friesian bullocks and some sheep. Very interested in talking about his business and his plans for the future. Optimistic. Improving fencing etc through grant aid. Any problems with the NPA? Feels that NPA too rigid with their rules and don't have enough agri experience to use common sense and say "yes" one person can do that but someone else can't because of different circumstances - have to stick to the hard line. Individual and then group discussion at this farm with Hugh Owen of Morfa Farm in Harlech. Owns 350 ha hill farm with woodland, lake and church on the farm. Strongly disagrees with being in a NP and made the following comments:

The public think they can do what they like, camp, walk all over your land, its nothing but hassle. Once they see the NP sign they think it belongs to the government, "our play area, we can park and camp where we like, the farmers don't own it"- not enough information is provided to visitors.

Very upset about the implications for him of recent government introduction of Crow Act. (Right of free access for the public over privately owned land, applies to Wales and England, not just National Park). Has been to 3 appeals over the Crow Act. Took 3 months each.

The NPA didn't help with the appeals, said they were not involved, the appeals went nowhere. Appeal was heard by appeal inspectors from Norfolk, "they had a bad attitude, knew nothing about Wales and didn't understand". Hugh Owen

Said that SNPA does not encourage work. Young people can not do anything different. Planning for any kind of work scheme goes nowhere. Too many restrictions on planning for houses e.g. can't sell to an outsider - only local occupancy. Quarries, sand or gravel pits - no chance for any of these things. The locals think its very difficult. There is no work here, we have got no work. Schools, post offices and banks have been closed. Having a National Park hasn't helped to retain young people. Extra cost of travel out of the area and shipping everything in and out. The Park is not self sufficient, everything has to be brought in. Three engineering firms which had been here were refused planning permission, could not expand and left the area. Average house price has doubled to £100K in the past 2 years but you cant sell sites. Says he is selling his farm, quitting because he has had enough hassle but says that the farm is devalued because of the right to roam "who would want it?"

His land is "friddoeth", (classified for DEFRA purposes as a grass moor) hill farm with stone ditches and natural woodland. Went into first stock reduction scheme (Tir Cymen) 10 years ago and got the payment for reducing stock "but it was the biggest mistake I ever made" because cut down for scheme and has now lost more than he gained in reduced decoupled payment. Got paid for not ploughing and cutting back stock, got grant to tidy and build stone walls. Sees this now as a terrible mistake, the land has deteriorated from good land "its rough grazing now, but it wasn't before". "Ancient field" previously hay field but can't be ploughed in.

Q. What if he defied the law and ploughed the field?

A. Would be up in court with the Environment Agency

SNPA: we are not policemen and would not report him if he ploughed the field

A Member of the group felt it was very hard to believe that officials would not report him as that would be their job.

Other problems:

Allowed people going to Church at end of 'no-through road' to park on his grazing land. This was a favour to local people, did not want to stop locals on Sundays or if there was a wedding or funeral. But now Ordnance Survey has designated his grazing land as a public car park and tourists come and park on it all the time and walk up through the woodland. Because it is on the map he now has to appeal to Ordnance Survey. He has to pay and bear costs for the appeal. A second appeal would cost a minimum of £10K in Crown Court.

20/10/04 **Farmer** **Caerwyn Roberts**
 Farm **Merthyr Farm**
 Subject **Farmer and Chairman of Snowdonia NPA**

Caerwyn is a farmer, Community (parish) Councillor since 1979, member of NPA since 1987 and County Councillor since 1999. Owns 350 acres, carrying 32 pedigree Welsh Black cattle and 700 sheep. Suckler herd, sells off bullocks to finishers. Stated that his farm carries a lot of stock because his father pioneered re-seeding in the area, but now he is not allowed to re-seed. Opened his farm to school groups 30 years ago, this has progressed to other groups requiring on-farm learning facilities. He got grant aid for shower/toilet facilities for tourists and has a summer licence for 10 touring caravans and tents on the farm.

Said people attracted to the area because of the beaches, estuaries and National Park. There are hydro-electric schemes in the area. There was a nuclear power station which is now gone with a loss of 600 jobs. 40 Welsh-speaking families moved to Kent when it closed, a big loss to the Welsh-speaking community. Good retirement area but at expense of local youth (leave to go to college, run up debts and then can't get starter home). Lost an abattoir
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in the area to bankruptcy a few months ago. Still have a long way to go to use NP to market local produce. Europarc in Austria have farmers marketing co-operatives but internal competition has prevented this here.

- Q. **Is it not a failure on behalf of the NP that after 50 years in business they are only now thinking of helping the farmers to market their produce?**
- A. They did try to form co-ops for marketing but farmers wouldn't pay the £100 to join as members. It's frustrating not to have the power of a co-op when dealing with the big supermarkets. Used to have 2 local abattoirs, now both lost in last 6-10 years. Abattoirs closed because of European directives. Yes, it is a failure but it has only become apparent in the last few years and needs to be addressed now. It's very important to be a part of the family of National Parks.

Q. Do you find visitor management a problem?

A. Not here, but in some parts it is. There are 4 million visitors a year on some of the footpaths in Snowdonia so there is bound to be erosion, but National Trust, National Park Authority and EU money used in partnership to overcome problems.

Q. People are promoting the beauty of the area, but would it not be better to leave it alone and maintain the beauty and wildlife instead of getting millions of extra people in to wreck it?

A. We were forced to close the National Park 2 years ago because of foot and mouth and the villages were just ghost towns. We were in dire trouble because we rely on tourists. Money opportunities for farm families are holiday accommodation, camping, selling tea and scones and letting of cottages for self-catering.

A major concern for environmentalists was overgrazing of sheep on the hills, now with single farm payment 2005 the concern for NPA could be under grazing. In 1976 Spanish Government said 'no cattle on the hills - no benefit' by 1996 said 'big mistake, want cattle back on the hills', at least they admitted they had got the balance wrong. Concern is that with under-grazing, scrub could take over and then with the public having access there is a real risk of fire and whole habitats destroyed. Advice comes from Countryside Council for Wales through the Welsh National Assembly. There is also an experimental farm at Aberystwyth and the Farming Futures Group which is 15 farmers from Wales who meet twice yearly to think of policies for the future.

20/10/04	Farmer	Wyn Hughes
	Farm	Penantigi Isaf Farm
	Subject	Organic farm and mineral water bottling plant

1200-acre steep hill organic farm carries 30 suckler cows and 1000 ewes. Is in both of the Tir schemes. Cut down on sheep production for the organic scheme. Diversified 15 years ago into selling mineral water which provides 2 full time jobs in the summer on the farm. Uses the flow of water to generate electricity for the house. Said 'some good aspects of the National Park, some negative', e.g. the NPA turned down planning applications for 4 mobile phone companies to put masts on his hill so he lost the income and was unhappy about this.

He got a grant to convert hay barns and calf pens into water bottling plant. Selling into North Wales and some local shops. Is not allowed to use the Snowdonia National Park name or logo on labels because of copyright but can use the name Snowdonia in the small writing at the back of the bottle. Each farm in the area is allowed one static caravan for holidaymakers. Converted an old barn into a flat for his son who works full time in the water plant. If his son wanted replacement planning permission for the old farmhouse it would be definitely no, would have to be within the village boundary and travel to the farm to work.

The Water Bottle plant in Snowdonia, a family run organic farm three miles north of the village of Dinas Mawddwy in Snowdonia.

- Q. If you weren't in a National Park, could you have done all this without them?**
A. Not sure. Linked in to funding because of the Tir grants schemes and got good help at the beginning of the business. Probably would still have been here farming though. The scheme monies are re-invested, they are not a profit on your farm and the place is tidier but its not extra income.

20/10/04 Farmer Elwyn Jones
Farm Nant Y Nodyn Farm in Dinas Mawddwy
Subject Farm conservation

670 acre hill farm carrying 850 sheep. Annual rainfall 95 - 100 inches. Has done a lot of conservation work, spends winter fencing, hedging and ditching to claim grants, about 13K per year. Gets 50% of his income from tourism. Has 3 holiday cottages on the farm which are let for about 35 weeks in the year plus 3 or 4 short seasonal breaks.

- Q. Any difficulties with tourists?**
A. No, walkers are usually no trouble, not lighting fires or causing trouble
- Q. Any other problems, changes you would like to see?**
A. SNPA are too stringent with the letter of the law 'these are our rules' no give and take. Was refused permission to cut down a fairly brittle sycamore tree which overshadowed one of his holiday cottages "because it is a local landmark".
- Q. Very remote area, how close and what are local amenities?**
A. Church and shop in local village. Nearest hospital 35 miles away. No doctor in village, have to go 10 miles. School is 8 miles away.

Q. Will single farm payment change your system?

A. Will keep less sheep, would want bigger sheep for heavier lamb.

Emyr Williams comment on this farmer "had conflict at the beginning over changes, but SNPA have worked with him to overcome them." Felt that problems were more easily handled to everyone's satisfaction because two thirds of NPA are local members the other one third are government nominated but have to be living in or near the park.

**21/10/04 Discussion: Davydd Roberts, Ecologist in charge, SNPA
Farm Common land /National Trust at Ysbyty Ifan**

About 60 tenants 100ha each grazing pasture on mountain land. Common land managed by the National Trust and with management agreements with the SNPA. Grouse moors but no organised shoots. Snowed in regularly, high pastures, ornithological interest. Problem with state of the heather 'horrendous' burn in 2003. Whole area designated 20-30 years ago, 20,000 ha blanket bog, protected because of grouse, harriers, curlews, heather and cotton grass.

Problems with overgrazing of sheep, heather gone, acid grassland, increased water run-off and flooding. Farmers frustrated, restrictions but no compensation, so now in EU scheme, £1.5million for conservation offering compensation of £4500 to £5000 per farmer to reduce sheep to 200 on 100ha for summer months. Also money for capital works, fencing renewed (each 100 ha pasture is fenced off and accessed by a track)

Ecologists consulted RSPB for guidance and are filling baled heather into drained areas to wet-up the land which farmers had drained after the war. This is to create bird habitats for hen harriers, grouse and golden plover.

Q. This place has been a NP for 50 years. Why is this being done now? Why do these things need drastic action now?

A. No management of mountain until ASSI, previously left up to the farmers, caused problems.

Q. Are the farmers being blamed for the problems? They were encouraged by EU grants to overstock on sheep.

A. No blame, that's the way it was. But it is important now to address the situation with proper management.

Q. Wouldn't it benefit the environment to have mixed grazing, cattle along with the sheep?

A. Yes. That would be okay, but the problem is that cattle are dearer than sheep. It's difficult to persuade people to put out valuable animals worth £500 to £1000 which might fall into a hole and be lost. Its basically for economic reasons.

**21/10/04 Farmer Hywel Williams
Farm Hafodfy Gwyn in Pentrefoelas**

Tenant farmer on private estate (Willis Estate). 200 acres of land plus 3 separate sheep hefts on mountain, 300 ewes. Willis Estate pays for upkeep of house and farm buildings. Landlord generally good to tenants, 15% reduction in rent during foot & mouth, National Trust tenants got no reduction.

This farmer has a deep personal interest in bird species and conservation, works closely with NPA and says that he benefits a lot. Was in Tir Gofal scheme for 3 years, had some

problems because he could see that the Tir Gofal requirement for a longer grazing sward was not right for the lapwings. He got specialist advice from RSPB via the NPA to over-rule the standard Tir Gofal rules but still get paid through the scheme.

Schemes pay £18 sq/m for repair of stone walls, £3.50 metre hedge laying and £2.50 metre for planting. There is £1 million allocated annually for walling and hedging, farmers are restricted to a max of £3k per year. This is extra money only in the National Park. Said that his son couldn't make a living off the farm so works mainly as a contractor building stone walls for other farms in the area.

Wales - other information / opinions

Mark Brennan reported his discussion with a person who sits on the planning policy board for SNPA who said that the policy is deliberately not to allow planning permission for local people. Said that if they allow people to build in the country it is a greater cost to provide buses to schools and other facilities, doctors etc. So it is easier and cheaper to make them live outside the park area and not have to provide facilities within the NP. Tourists are different because they pay their own way.

20/10/04 Evening Meeting, Nethy Bridge Hotel, Cairngorms NP, Scotland

1. Murray Ferguson - visitor recreation and visitor services officer from Scottish Natural Heritage. 2. Siobhan Mac Donald - farming representative for CNP Subject : Consultation process before park was agreed

Proper consultation began 1997, series of debates and legislation passed. SNH asked to do

consultations, went to 26 community groups, big effort in to hearing views of farmers and landowners. 3 years from start of consultation until legislation came through and then another 3 years to set it all up and work everything out. Special area for wildlife and nature. Large area one third the size of NI, with long history of competing demands - tourism / wildlife / forestry - no long term plan and 4 authorities competing or only interested in their part of the area.

Four aims of Scottish National Park

1. Conservation
2. Sustainability of resources
3. Enjoyment and access
4. Sustainable communities

Q. Was farming opinion broadly for or against the NP?

A. Most, including farmers were broadly for the park. Some people believed it was inevitable because Government Ministers had already stated their intention. People mainly against it were the landowners rather than farmers (large tenanted estates), the tenant farmers thought it may be a better way to get more EU subsidy. Budget of 4.5 million.

Q. What was the problem of the owners rather than the farmers?

A. Conservative, difficult to change, landowners preferred the Cairngorms partnership which was its previous status.

Q. So the farmers thought they would get a better deal?

A. Yes, broadly, they did have concerns and were more resigned to the inevitable rather than optimistic.

Q. What way was the Park Authority board made up?

A. 25 altogether. 5 directly elected by postal vote. 10 nominated by local authorities. Remaining 10 appointed by Edinburgh Government Ministers. Of these, 21 live in the park or a few miles outside the boundary.

Q. Any feedback about the make-up of the board?

A. Some environmental bodies and recreation management bodies not happy with their representation and some others think its too local instead of national.

Q. How many people had to get a slice of the cake?

A. 18,000. Budget 5m plus all other public monies - hundreds of millions of pounds.

Q. Did people get a guarantee of funds?

A. Yes. Political commitments were made that it would be adequately resourced.

Q. Was it best to call it a National Park?

A. No real debate about that, a non-issue.

Q. In Wales farmers told us that it was a problem because people thought they could park anywhere and go anywhere, as if the place was owned by the nation

A. The law was changed recently, people will have a right to go almost anywhere as long as they behave responsibly (Scotland has no trespass law)

Q. Did people want the area (NP) bigger?

A. Yes, big problem, farmers specially petitioned to the Scottish Parliament to get in the Park.

Q. If the majority had voted against, would it have been imposed anyway?

A. It would have been a political decision

21/10/04 Nethybridge Hotel, Alison Mc Knight - Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) representative who led France NP visits

Farmer-led organisation. Looked into what this proposal might mean for the area. Proposed area is 90% rough grazing and 1% arable. Landscape sculpted by agriculture, wouldn't look right without livestock. Farmers worried that it would be restrictive "paint barns green and don't allow any development," - needed information

Scottish farmers held meetings and consultations and prepared a document with 14 key requirements.

1. To provide improved incentives for traditional farming methods and environmental practices.
2. To ensure improved education for local inhabitants and tourists on the role of farming and the environment.
3. To take a role in encouraging and supporting young farmers to boost the future in farming.
4. To initiate a special marketing programme for local produce.
5. To promote sustainable rural development, as well as nature conservation and recreation within a Park.
6. To encourage the renovation of traditional buildings for farm use and for tourism.
7. To encourage the dispersal of tourism on to farms rather than just to 'honey-pot' centres.
8. To promise a 10-year re-assessment of the Park, and opt-out arrangement as a safe guard against major, unforeseen problems.
9. The provision of adequate ring-fenced funding prior to Park designation.
10. The park boundary should mirror at least that of the Cairngorm Partnership boundary and should not be restricted by budget.
11. A need for elected local representatives within the Park Board.
12. A Culture of encouragement and incentives rather than restriction and regulation should be central to Park policy.
13. The recognition that farming has long been the sculpture and keeper of the environment.
14. Finally the farmers wish to be actively involved in the formulation of the proposed National Park.

Alison thought these requirements were taken quite seriously by the Scottish Executive.

Q. How many of the 14 recommendations carried through?

A. Can't say. An outcome not known until Park Plan is written. Have taken on board farmers' views.

Q. What would have happened if farmers had not got involved in the process?

A. Government promises of rigorous consultation, that it wouldn't be like English national parks, that it would be right for local area. But if farmers hadn't been specifically consulted it would have just been local community groups. Farmers focusing and making a recommendation was good, it certainly didn't do any harm.

Q. How has the area been designated a NP without the Park Plan being written?

A. That is a big problem. There is pressure on the Park Authority staff to deliver all these hopes and dreams. People said "how can we say if we want a park if we don't know what it will deliver" But it is a process built on consultation, which is good, although at the moment it's all up in the air, it's not written in stone.

Q. That's like selling cattle and finding out the price next year. They got farmers to do their report but the authority didn't write theirs. It's like they were just appeasing the farmers and running the thing through.

Comment: In Scotland the farmers are tenants, and there is a lot of enthusiasm in our area for young people interested in farming. Its one of the last areas where people are still keen and one of our fears is that if protection for the way of life isn't built in, young people will be put off.

A. "Mourne is a distinctive landscape of which 60% is intensively farmed. "Have to maintain farming as an integral part of the area because that is what shaped the area"- Tony Gates

Q. The difference is we own the land - there are no tenant farmers in the area

A. That makes your voice stronger

Q. Did tourism voices over-ride others in the decision? Was it seen as a playground for the rich and famous?

A. Farmers were potentially the most affected, so they should have been given more time and space.

Q. Farmers made 14 recommendations were they listened to or not?

A. Only know some of the answers. 10-year opt-out is definitely NO. Ring fence budget before designation is YES, but did not say how much it will be each year. A useful process would be to revisit this now to see how people feel and send a letter to the Secretary of State to give more leverage to the recommendations. The general view of most farmers and crofters is hopeful. They probably felt that the proposal was a foregone conclusion, the Park Plan is not written yet but the draft plan is already out.

Q. Did the farmers accept the draft plan? Did they get a chance to reject it?

A. That is a valuable lesson we have learned. Farmers probably accepted it with the attitude "we tried, they didn't listen". Some things didn't change but, for example, the boundary was changed at the farmers' request.

Q. That sounds like it was imposed, regardless of the consultation.

Comment: No negatives. We WILL be recognized before there is any such thing as designation

A. The act and plan were quite woolly, no set plans, just general, for example no restrictions on farm buildings but don't know specific help farmers will get.

Q. Regarding your consultation with young people, now house prices have doubled because of planning restrictions, how will they stay in the area? Did they think of this? They seem to have been ripped off.

A. The Authority is doing something about this. House prices are generally increasing anyway. The authority has now included planning for some units of affordable housing and a certain amount must be sold to locals.

**21/10/04 Farmer William Hamilton
Farm near Grantown in Cairngorms NP
Part of group involved in initial consultation & France NP visits**

Dairy and beef farmer, 75 Ayrshire cows & 100 galloway/shorthorn cows. Runs farm as 2 separate businesses to get Suckler Cow Premium. Tenanted farm since his Grandfather took on tenancy in 1934. Farm Quality Assured, grows barley for feed, relatively self-sufficient. Planning to reduce stock and encourage wildlife for grant schemes, some schemes in place, riverbank scheme, corridors for birds, some rough grazing.

Q. In Wales, farmers encouraged into 10 year schemes, thought it was great getting the payment, but at the end of 10 years found that field was unploughable, and the money was spent and the land could not be re-stocked. Do you foresee a problem?

- A. Dairy farm has to have quality forage if it is going to work. We get £6K per year via ESA for pockets of conservation but wouldn't put hill into the scheme. Would not be allowed to lime and fertilize the herb-rich re-seeded hill, so could not graze the 100 cows. ESA benefit would not compensate for loss of grazing.
- Q. You were talking about more active lobbying needed at this stage, do you feel cheated / disgruntled?**
- A. Yes, going on a year now since PA set up but we see no change to ourselves. On the France trip we saw that the National Park supported farmers back on to the land, while in the Regional Park the farmers didn't know the park existed. I feel we are becoming more of a regional park than a national park.
- Q. Are there more and more regulations?**
- A. (From advisor) Yes. Push for this to be changed. We are trying to join the 25 different schemes in to one or 2 schemes to make less rules, some of which contradict each other and possibly the proposed Park Plans objectives.
- Q. Does the Park Authority have the power or over-rule the other agri organisations?**
- A. Once the Park Plan is written, all the other government bodies have to comply with the Park Plan. Even Scottish National Heritage (EHS here) has to change if it is against the interests of the Park Plan.
- Q. So there needs to be input for farmers at the Park Plan writing stage, not just the initial consultation stage?**
- A. (Farmer) There was good input into the Cairngorms partnership (equivalent to Mourne Heritage Trust) when deciding if we were going into a National Park, but once the legislation was through and the Park Authority was set up we have only had input in to one meeting. There are no clear lines of communication. If we want to make a point we have to try to individually lobby members of the National Park Authority and hope that the information gets through.
- A. (from advisor) We are planning to set up an advisory forum which will include members from NFU, SNH, Farmers Working Action Group and SEPA (water authority). But there is nothing just for farmers, which is a problem. We are not sure how to get farmers to participate. We appreciate farmers taking the initiative and setting up independent groups.
- A. (farmer) The problem is it's the same farmers in NFU and FWAG, why set up another group? Limited budget. , e.g. in the NFU they won't help us to lobby for something because most of their membership is not in the NP, working against other existing interests and our voice gets lost.
- Q. Are all of your 14 recommendations at the consultation stage getting lost in civil-servant-created quagmires? Politicians and pressure groups are set up and paid to lobby. Farmers are there to farm, they don't have the time or money to lobby. They make a decent point and expect it to be considered without having to repeat it time and again.**

A. We did have to do a bit of lobbying e.g. Tenant Farmers Action Group. We have to try to identify pro-farmer people on the Authority board to see if we can get amendments put in. Bore our own costs, dinners, trips to Edinburgh, massive amount of time. But we got a lot of concessions eg. Passing on of Tenancies. It seemed seamless at consultation stage but now we have to go through it all again, the same questions, very frustrating.

Q. Is it just setting up / teething problems?

A. There are no channels for our views, only expensive lobbying.

Q. What percentage are farmers Vs hoteliers etc?

A. 8% of population of park are farmers. They are proportionally well-represented on the Authority board

Q. Does this create a problem for other groups?

A. Not so far. Farmers have to be seen to balance their interests with others. It's a fine line to draw. But there is not enough money; they can't tell us what we will be getting. The farmers need a person with a dedicated job to lobby in Europe on their behalf. The farmers can't organise that, the government need to kick-start that.

Q. Were farmers here, as tenants, resigned to inevitability of having a NP?

A. The farmers here have not got a great deal. We went in too early without getting a proper deal struck. We don't get the proper respect for our views. When I am in a meeting lobbying for farmers rights I say that I'm a landscape architect so that I will be listened to. The work I do changes the shape of the landscape from year to year,

which is what tourists come to see. Surely the farmers in the area should be allocated sufficient money to stay in the area and re-invest in their business and make a living and feed their children?

Q. Large tracts of French farming area were depopulated, were the farmers the original inhabitants or others attracted in by large financial incentives? e.g English ?

A. Don't know. The problem here is Estates stripping the resources, selling off the big estate house to people who come up from London twice a year; people left working then couldn't live on the land. 270 farmers and diminishing. Culture and heritage is being lost. We saw the National Park as a way of trying to retain the population of young people in farming but this is now becoming a retirement area and house and land prices have gone up.

**21/10/04 Farmer Marina and Roy Dennis
Farm Croft at Nethybridge
Environmental schemes and holiday house business**

Croft is 35 acres plus 1,000 acre share of common land. Crofters, protected by 1886 Crofters Act, which gives legal rights to fair rent, total security of tenure, payments for improvements and right to pass land on to a blood relative. Has a right to buy her farm for set price of 15 times the annual rent but terms are so good she does not plan to do this.

Marina was deeply involved in the whole consultation part of the exercise. Generally concerned that all the work done during the consultation is being lost in the slowness of the set up phase. Said that the Cairngorms partnership was a very good forum, which responded to consultations. Advised Mourne farmers to form ourselves into a recognized group which deals with the National Park Authority.

Told us about the time, effort and energy the farmers had put in to responding to the consultation and about the detailed response they had written. Disappointed that this did not seem to have been used. Hopeful that maybe something would be taken from it in the future but felt that their time had been wasted because now the Park Authority are starting to consult people again and everything is up for grabs again.

Has a holiday cottage business, but has had problems with planning. Says that the planners didn't know how to deal with her request for permission for another holiday home because other people were saying, "why should she get planning permission to extend her holiday business when young local people can't get land to build on". Said that objectors couldn't understand this was part of the plan for farmers to develop and diversify.

Offered the group documentary information about the consultation process which could still be followed up.

**21/10/04 Farmer Campbell Sliman
Farm farm at Laggan**

Grandfather started farm in 1929, originally 10,000 acres, now increased to 20,000 acres. No arable land, 12,000 ewes and 70 suckler cows. Had to reduce sheep off high pastures 7 years ago, increased cattle, then 2 years ago asked to put sheep and cattle back to keep tick down to help grouse moors.

Seemed fairly neutral. Still waiting to see what National Park will do for farmers. Planning to continue as before.

Q. Any problems?

A. Scottish National Heritage has historically put people off the land (big estates) and that is criminal. That was my chief fear. Waiting to see what happens, have thankfully got a farmer friendly manager and 8 of the 25 members have farming connections. One good thing about the National Park Board when it was formed was that most of the members were from inside the area with inside interests.

Q. Anything positive happened?

A. Rabbit Eradication scheme (best management tool), Upland Grain scheme (to help birds) and Waste Disposal scheme.

Q. We were told that farmers, including yourself, on the edge of the proposed park lobbied to get included, why was that?

A. We were told that even if we were just outside the park we would be subject to the same planning guidelines, so we thought 'if we are going to have the restrictions we might as well have the money', but, in the event this turned out to be wrong, and we have now found out that it would have had no connection.

Q. Do you think this was just an astute move on the part of the pro-park lobby? Leave you out and threaten you with planning regulations and then its good publicity, a group of farmers who were dying to get in?

A. No, others still want to get in even though this is now known

21/10/04 Evening discussion Nethybridge Hotel with Siobhan McDonald
Subject: How NPA assists with agriculture in the park

Main ways to assist the farmers:

Whole farm plans - idea is that someone goes on to your farm and look at what is best for your farm business plus tourism plus conservation.

When single farm payments come in we will set up land management contracts - negotiate these with SEERAD (environmental) and have a contract, which they approve

Also hoping to set up co-ops for marketing local produce. Direct marketing to the visitors and have a national park logo which people can use, "eat the view".

Educational strand - meeting with farmers, finding out what they already produce and what they would like to do. Things might have changed somewhat because of the single farm payment and its necessary to have up-to-date information to secure funding.

Q. Why waste time? You did a detailed consultation with the farmers, why would you need to do a further consultation? The farmers are disillusioned.

A. We need to ensure that SNH and SEERAD will pay for it

Q. People shouldn't have to be persuaded now at this stage to pay.

A. That's something you can negotiate.

Comment: 3 years ago no one would have known what was coming. The NPA can't be blamed for not knowing. CAP reform has come in and we are in a better position. You are being unfair to criticize.

Comment: If the public comes to play in our area they have to be prepared to pay. The budget should have been in place. That was a vital mistake.

How can you persuade Joe Public he should pay when he already pays tax?

The government knows from experience of the Cairngorms and other national parks that they need money. The money has to be there because the park won't work without it, so it should be allocated and in place from the beginning.

It would be good to go to Loch Lomond and Trossachs because they had a much longer lead-in and addressed some of these issues.

Q. Who writes the report / policy recommendations for the park plan?

A. People like me - farm policy advisor - it's about a 2 year process. The park plan is not set in stone and can be revised in five years time.

Q. Any people on the advisory board who are not farmer friendly?

A. Can't say, but when the board discusses something they have to come to a consensus or nothing will happen. Have to make sure everybody is happy because otherwise it would be difficult to make it work.

Q. You said the money is not in place yet, but have the restrictions been put in place already? Are there any other restrictions on farmers besides the planning restrictions?

A. Planning restrictions are in, but also money has been sourced for affordable housing project. Otherwise there are no extra farming restrictions except for the ones you have anyway from ASSI etc. The only one I can think of is restriction on farm-workers dwellings which can be sold only to a farm-worker. We don't want to make further restrictions on farmers because we want the park to continue looking the way it is. We will encourage young farmers and try to reverse the dying agriculture industry. But if you were in the Yorkshire Dales you would be hand-building your shed with stone, so they are all different.

Q. We see your point, but we fear restrictions because our area is very intensively farmed, and as we have seen in Wales, people coming out of the city with a degree in environmental studies, who are making these plans, are also making land management mistakes.

A. For example in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones there are big restrictions about when /how much slurry and requiring proper effluent tanks. Trying to get capital grants to improve things. Maybe its time to be in a National Park, look ahead and get paid for the restrictions, look for positive things to compensate for regulations which are coming anyway.

6.0 Conclusion

The Mourne Farmers' returned from their trip with an abundance of information regarding the process to set up a National Park and a wide range of views of a National Park. This information was relayed to locals of the Mourne area at three separate meetings held by the farmers. These meetings were advertised in the local press and posters were also displayed in some amenity sites in the Mourne area. The Mourne Farmers hosted the meetings and addressed the concerns of locals regarding a National Park in Mourne.

There is a substantial difference in the situation between Mourne Farmers and either of these other groups. In Mourne, smaller area, much smaller farms, many more farming families, farms are owned and farmed by the owner, no large estate tenant farmers as in Scotland. National Park imposed 50 years ago in Wales – farmers in Scotland are tenants – both the parties did not have power in the decision making process.

Farmers of the Mourne area bought their farms 100 years ago and have passed them down through the generations, farming and managing their own farms and sharing common rights on the adjacent mountains and shore.

Farmers generally recognise that there is a need to conserve the environment and may, as individuals, wish to participate in various environmental enhancement schemes which are available in the future through DARD, EHS, etc. and by specific designations e.g. through ASSI. However the farmers of Mourne believe that it is their fundamental right as owners to have management control of their own property and to participate in schemes to grant access to tourists as a matter of individual choice, but not imposed as the 'Law'

In conclusion the farmers of Mourne, as indicated at the meetings, are against the current proposal for a National Park as it stands. The farmers of Mourne based on the information provided to them do not want their area designated as a National Park along the lines of Snowdonia and Cairngorms.

We believe that this proposal as it stands will fundamentally alter for all time the relationship between the present landowners and their land and property.

Comment on Information for farmers.

We feel there is an urgent need for more information and consultation. The farmers study group invites the relevant policy makers to meet with Mourne farmers and give definitive answers to their legitimate concerns.

APPENDICIES,

Appendix 1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ERYRI (SNOWDONIA) NATIONAL PARK, NORTH WALES

1.1 Introduction & Structure of the National Park

- 1.1.1 Eryri or the Snowdonia National Park was designated a National park in 1951, the third National Park to be created in England and Wales under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the countryside Act. It is the second largest National park in England and Wales, Eryri or the Snowdonia is one of the eleven National Parks of England and Wales, covering some 2,171 square kilometres (823 square miles) of north west Wales, and including the Carneddau, and Glyderau mountain ranges as well as the Highest mountain in England and Wales (1085m/3560ft)- Yr Wyddfa (the Tomb in welsh), or Snowdon from which the Park takes its (English) name. The welsh name Eryri means 'place of the eagles'. The Snowdonia National Park Authority celebrated 50 years as a protected landscape in 2001.
- 1.1.2 Snowdonia is home to just over 26,000 people, who live and work in its towns and villages, and on its hill farms. An estimated 6-10 million visitor days are spent every year enjoying a wide range of leisure activities in Snowdonia.
- 1.1.3 Eryri contains not only some of the most beautiful scenery in Britain but also contains a variety of landscapes, and habitats for animals, birds and plants; from 23 miles (37km) of coastline with sand dunes, estuaries; to glacial valleys, the remnants of broad -leaved woodlands of oak, ash, rowan and hazel that once covered the mountain slopes, lakes, streams and open mountains. There are more National Nature reserves in Eryri than any other National Park in Britain and it is home to many nationally and internationally rare species.
- 1.1.4 Snowdonia is also an area steeped in history and Legend and was the natural fortress for the Princes of Gwynedd and for Llywelyn, the last true Prince of Wales.
- 1.1.5 Snowdonia is classic ground for the study of geology; the setting in the 19th century for the first scientific investigations of some of the world's oldest rocks. Building on those early studies, geologists have been able to piece together a very full description of its creation over the course of hundreds of millions of years of submersion, lifting and erosion. Snowdonia's geology consists of four different types of rocks - the Pre-Cambrian, the Cambrian, the Ordovician and the Silurian - even the youngest of which, the Silurian, is over 400 million years old. A 4 year project Gogledd Eryri encouraging farmers to restore landscape features such as stone walls and traditional buildings, and protecting and enhancing specific wildlife habitats, such as moorland and native woodland. This £1.2 million project combined resources from the Authority, the National Trust and the Countryside Council for Wales, with

- match funding from Europe. The Section also works with the Ecology and Forestry Sections on the National Park's Biodiversity Plan. This scheme has been designed to help Wales' agricultural communities. The National Park's Agriculture Section staff are facilitators for the scheme in Northern Snowdonia. Farming Connect's Local Facilitators can advise on grants, business management, information technology, training and diversification.
- 1.1.6 Snowdonia National Park has a wealth of archaeological remains showing how people have inhabited the area over the last 6,000 years. One of the primary functions of the Archaeology Section is to keep and maintain a record of the historical sites in the National Park, which provides essential information when monitoring developments in management and conservation in the area.
- 1.1.7 The Forestry Section helps to conserve, enhance and expand native broad-leaved woodlands and their biodiversity by providing advice, grant aid and assistance. It also liaises with the Forestry Commission and the forest industry on felling and restocking programmes, and enhancing forest landscapes. The National Park Authority owns a number of woodlands, which are managed to the highest environmental standards, providing a resource for public enjoyment and education.
- 1.1.8 The Snowdonia National Park Authority has 18 members, 9 Local Councillors appointed by Gwynedd Council, 3 Local Councillors appointed by Conwy County Borough Council, and 6 members appointed by the Welsh Assembly Government. The Authority meets five times a year at Plas Tan y Bwlch. The meetings are held in Welsh with simultaneous translation. Members also serve on various committees, panels and working groups. Some authority meetings are open to the public.
- 1.1.9 Most of the land in the Snowdonia National Park is privately owned and farmed. By showing respect and consideration for the countryside and wildlife, and for the people who live and work in Snowdonia, you can help to make sure that the National Park will be here for future generations to enjoy.

Appendix 2 CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK, SCOTLAND

2.1 Introduction and Structure to the Park

- 2.1.1 The Cairngorms was made a National Park in September 2003 because it is a unique and special place that needs to be cared for - both for the wildlife and countryside it contains and for the people that live in it, manage it and visit it. It is Britain's largest national Park. The Cairngorms National Park has the largest area of arctic mountain landscape in the UK at its heart, with diverse communities around it. It is home to 17,000 people and 25% of Britain's threatened birds, animals, and plants. It includes moorlands, forests, rivers, lochs and glens. Landscapes
- 2.1.2 The Park is 1,467 sq miles in area, 40% larger than the Lake District and twice the size of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. The Cairngorms is a mountainous area, 4 of Scotland's 5 highest mountains are within the Park, there are 52 summit over 900 metres. 10% of the land area is over 800 metres and 68% is over 400 metres above sea level.
- 2.1.3 The Cairngorms contains the finest collection of different landforms outside arctic Canada - from granite tors to heavings and leavings from Ice Age glaciers. The Spey, Dee and Don valleys are major features of the lower ground.
- 2.1.4 39% of the park area is designated as important for nature heritage; 25% is of European importance. The central mountain area provides a harsh habitat for a unique assemblage of vegetation, insects and animals. The forests contain remnants of the original Caledonian pine forest, and include a rare kind of pinewood found only in Scotland and Norway. Heather moorland covers much of the national park. The rivers, loch and marshes are among the cleanest in Scotland.
- 2.1.5 Tourism-related businesses account for about 80% of the economy, including activities such as ski-ing, walking, fishing, shooting and stalking. It is thought that at least 500,000 people visited the Cairngorms in 2001 - 350,000 to Badenoch and Strathspey alone.
- 2.1.6 Agriculture is an important land use in the Cairngorms. In addition to producing high quality beef and lamb, the way that farmers manage the land forms the detail of the landscape; provides habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna; and provides employment for those living in rural areas. Most of the farms in the Cairngorms National Park are livestock farms. Farming is about to undergo great changes, with farmers and crofters supported in providing the economic, social and environmental benefits needed by their area. The Park Authority are working on ways to make sure that agriculture, recreation and the environment can be managed together for mutual benefit. To read the Park Authority's submission to the Scottish Executive consultation on Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
- 2.1.7 The Cairngorms National Park Authority's board comprises 25 members. The Scottish Executive appoints 10 members, another 10 are appointed to the Board by the four councils in the Park area. Highland, Aberdeenshire, Moray and Angus Councils and five are elected locally. The members will serve between 18 months and four years.

2.1.8 The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 sets out four key aims for the park. These are

- To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area.
- To promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area.
- To promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public.
- To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

The legislation also states that the aims of the Park should be achieved in a collective and co-ordinated manner. Scottish National Parks differs from many other national parks around the world in that it has a social and economic development aim alongside the aims of conservation, understanding and enjoyment of the countryside.

Appendix 3

Study Trip Costs and Breakdown

Source of Funding	
Farmers Contribution	£1200.00
NRRTI Funding (Peace II)	£11085.00
Total Income	£12285.00

Expenditure	
Flights (inc.Tax) Belfast to Manchester @ £47.49 per person inc. £4 fee	£ 807.33
Flights (inc. Tax) Manchester to Aberdeen @ 89.40 per person inc. £4 fee	£1,519.80
Edinburgh to Belfast @ 58.99 per person	£1,002.83
Insurance 1 Stop Travel Insurance	£ 79.00
Coach Travel - Newcastle to Belfast International Airport	£ 120.00
- Manchester to Snowdonia to Manchester	£ 795.00
- Aberdeen to Cairngorms to Edinburgh	£ 795.00
- Belfast International Airport to Newcastle	£ 120.00
Accommodation – Snowdonia twin bedrooms x 9	£1,577.48
- Cairngorms twin bedrooms x 9	£1,260.00
Food Allowance	£1,353.09
Advertising	£ 755.20
Room Hire	£ 250.00
Postage, Photocopying	£ 100.28
Study Visit Report: Production, Printing and Administration Costs	£1,900.00
Total Expenditure	£12435.01

Appendix 4

Members who attended the Study Visit

Tony Gates

Tony has been Chief Executive of the Mourne Heritage Trust; management body for the Mourne AONB, since 1997. He is a chartered town planner with over 15 years experience in regeneration, tourism and environmental management. Tony is currently the Chair of Europarc Atlantic Isles network and is a member of the Northern Ireland Protected Areas Network and a Director of Banbridge Local Strategy Partnership. Tony is an observer on the Mourne National Park Working Party.

Newell Bingham

Newell lives in Ballymartin and farms livestock full time. He and his wife run a Bed and Breakfast in Ballykeel, near Annalong. He is a member of the Greenmount Agricultural College Association, Mourne Heritage Trust Farmers' Liaison Group, Harbour Adams Community College Association, Western Wildlife Trust, and Butterfly Conservation Group N.I. Newell is a member of the RSPB and a keen ornithologist.

Mark Brennan

Mark lives and farms in Killowen. He farms livestock on a part time basis. Mark is a member of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association and is chairman of Kilfeaghan Tenants Association and a member of the Mourne Heritage Trust Farmers' Liaison Group. Mark is a member of the Mourne National Park Working Party.

John Devlin

John lives and farms livestock part time in Kilcoo. He is a member of Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association, Mourne Heritage Trust Farmers' Liaison Group, Kilcoo/Tullymore Regeneration Group and Hilltown & District Historical Society.

John Fisher

John lives in Ballymartin and farms in Ballymartin and Aughnahoorey. He has a mixed farm; along with farming John is a farm contractor in the Mourne area. He has been a long life member of the Ulster Farmers' Union and is chairman of the Ballymartin Community Development Association.

Sean Fitzpatrick

Sean lives and farms livestock full time in Moyadd, Kilkeel. He is chairman of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association in Co. Down. Sean is a member of the Mourne National Park Working Party.

Annett Gordon

Annett lives and farms livestock full time in Annalong. He is a member of the Mourne Heritage Trust Farmers' Liaison Group and the Ulster Farmers' Union.

James Haughian

James lives and farms in Longstone, Annalong. He farms livestock part time and is a member of the Ulster Farmers' Union.

Noel Houston

Noel lives in Kilkeel and runs the family farm in Leitrim, Kilkeel. He farms both crop and livestock full time. Noel is a member of the Ulster Farmers' Union.

Josephine Kearney

Josephine lives in Cabra and along with her husband Josephine farms livestock full time.

Elizabeth McCready

Elizabeth lives in Ballyward. Along with her husband they farm livestock full time. They farm in Ballyward, Ballyrone, Ballylough and Ballynahinch. Elizabeth is a member of the Presbyterian Woman's Association.

Martin Moore

Martin lives and farms in Dromara. He farms livestock full time. Martin has been a member of the Ulster Farmers' Union for the last 20 years.

Anne-Marie Murnion

Anne-Marie lives in Kilkeel and runs a farm in Murlough, Newcastle. She is a member of the Galloway Cattle Society and the National Trust.

Oisin Murnion

Oisin lives in Kilkeel, he runs a farm in Kilkeel and the Gibb Island. He is a member of the Galloway Cattle Society and Northern Ireland National Beef Association.

Melvyn Shields

Melvyn lives and farms a mixed farm full time in Cargineagh, Kilkeel. He supplies the farming community with meal for livestock and cut hay for small farmers.

Edward Stevenson

Edward lives in Annalong and farms in Aughnaohorey, Kilkeel. He farms livestock full time. Edward is a member of the Donard group of the Ulster Farmers' Union.

Bertie White

Bertie lives in Ballymartin. He farms in Ballymartin, Ballyveabeg, and Moneydarragh. Bertie is a member of the Donard group of the Ulster Farmers' Union.

Appendix 5

Participants - Wales

Day 1 and 2

Contact	Address	Telephone/Email Address
David Archer & Emyr Williams	Snowdonia National Park Offices Penrhyndeudraeth Gwynedd, LL48 6LF	0128 6677407 parc@snowdonia-a.gov.uk
Ken Owen	Llyndy Isaf Farm, Nantgwynant, Gwynedd	
Dylan Williams	Gilar Wen Farm, Harlech	
E. Caerwyn Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Offices Penrhyndeudraeth Gwynedd, LL48 6LF	01766 780344
Robert Evans	White Peak BrewFlora Dene, Lakeside, Bakewell Derbyshire, DE45 1GN	01629 813465
Evelyn Jones	Drws-y-Coed, Nantlle, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 6BT	01286 881256
Davydd Roberts	Snowdonia National Park Offices Penrhyndeudraeth Gwynedd, LL48 6LF	01766 770274 / parc@snowdonia-a.gov.uk
Rhys Owens	Snowdonia National Park Offices Penrhyndeudraeth Gwynedd, LL48 6LF	01766 770274 / parc@snowdonia-a.gov.uk

Day 3

Participants in Cairngorms Scotland

Contact	Address	Telephone/Email Address
Murray Ferguson	Cairngorms National Park Authority, 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire, PH26 3HG	01479 873535 / enquires@cairngorms.co.uk
William Hamilton	Cairngorms National Park Authority, 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire, PH26 3HG	01479 873535 /
Peter Cosgrove	Cairngorms Biodiversity Officer, The Cairngorms Partnership, 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire, PH26 3HG	01479 873535 / petercosgrove@cairngorms.co.uk
Marina Dennis	Self Catering Cottage Accommodation North-east Of Inchdryne, Tulloch, Nethy Bridge	01479 831384 www.inchdryne.co.uk
Siobhan McDonald	Cairngorms National Park Authority, 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire, PH26 3HG	01479 873535 / enquires@cairngorms.co.uk
Fiona Newcombe	Cairngorms National Park Authority, 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire, PH26 3HG	01479 873535 / enquires@cairngorms.co.uk
Campbell Simons	Cairngorms National Park Authority, 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire, PH26 3HG	01479 873535 / enquires@cairngorms.co.uk
Alison McKnight	Cairngorms FWAG, Morlich House, 17 The Square, Grantown on Sprey, PH26 3HG	01479 873942 alison.mcknight@fwag.org.uk

Appendix 6 Press Notice

Farmers' information meetings on national parks

The Mourne and Slieve Croob area is Northern Ireland's first candidate National Park. The Minister of the Environment has recently announced the establishment of a Working Party led by an independent chair, to advise on the public support for a National Park and other key aspects of the potential designation.

Farmers are key stakeholders in the Mourne area and their active involvement is essential to the National Park debate. Following a Study Visit by local farmers in October 2004 to Snowdonia and Cairngorms National Parks, the farmers that went on the visit are holding three information meetings to discuss the implications of National Parks.

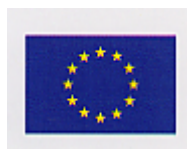
The meetings will be held in the following venues:

Slieve Croob Inn, Seeconnell on Thursday 11 November 2004 at 7.00 pm
Kilmorey Arms Hotel, Kilkeel on Wednesday 17 November 2004 at 7.00 pm
Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle on Tuesday 23 November 2004 at 8.00 pm

For more information and contact details of those farmers who attended the study visit mentioned above, please contact::

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Tel: 028 437 24059
Fax : 028 437 26493
Email : mht@mourne.co.uk
www.mournelive.com

This project is funded by the Mourne Natural Resource Rural Tourism Initiative. (NRRTI)



Appendix 7

List of Resource Materials held by Mourne Heritage Trust

Name	Author	Type
Rhaglen Tir Eryri	Snowdonia National Park and the Countryside Council for Wales	Leaflet
Plas Tan y Bwlch	Snowdonia National Park Authority	Booklet
Rhaglen Tir Eryri	Snowdonia National Park Authority and the Countryside Council for Wales	Folder, includes Projected Expenditure and Funding,
Study Tour to the Parks of the Massif Central : Implications & Opportunities for Farming	Strathspey NFUS Farmers' Study Group in association with Cairngorms FWAG	Report
Cairngorms National Park Official Opening	Cairngorms National Park Authority	Newsletter January 2004
Helping Farmers to Balance Nature with Productivity	Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group Scotland	Booklet Issue 1 2004
Welcome Cairngorms National Park	Cairngorms National Park Authority	Leaflet
Discover Balnaboth Moor	Cairngorms National Park Authority	Leaflet
Snowdonia Panel Discussion	Study Group	Video
A Cairngorms National Park: The Farmers' Perception	Alison J Wright, Cairngorms Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group Grantown-on-Spey	Power Point Presentation

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Farmers Study Visit to Snowdonia and Cairngorms National Parks October 2004