

**PLANNING, LAND USE
DESIGNATIONS AND NATIONAL
PARKS**

Lecture Outline

- What is a protected area/national park?
- Historical emergence of national parks
- Challenges for Northern Ireland
- Arguments for and against NP designation
- Outlook and Final thoughts

What is a protected area?

IUCN define a protected area as:

“a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (IUCN, 2008, p8)

Table 1
Protected Area Categories (IUCN–The World Conservation Union, 1994)

Category	Name	Definition
I a	Strict nature reserve	Managed mainly for science
I b	Wilderness area	Managed mainly for wilderness protection
II	National park	Managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
III	Natural monument	Managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
IV	Habitat/species management area	Managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
V	Protected landscape/seascape	Managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
VI	Managed resource protected area	Managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

Stockdale and
Barker, 2009

What are national parks?

- Several definitions of national park
- Goldsmith (1993) summary of the IUCN national park definition):

“ecosystems not materially altered by human activity, of great beauty and of great scientific interest, where human exploitation and occupation are removed and visitors only allowed to enter under very controlled conditions”
(Goldsmith, 1993, p210).
- National Parks are firstly *‘designed to conserve special places’* and secondly *‘this conservation is for the benefit of the nation as a whole’* (Bishop, 1998, p24).

National Park = preserve parks for the nation

- 1872 Yellowstone NP (first in the world)
- 1932 Killarney NP (first in Rep of Ireland)
- 1951 Peak District NP (first in UK)
- NI = no NP (yet discussed since 1947; most recently re: Mournes)
- Different models of NP have evolved

“this evolutionary process means that there is no single model of national park” - Frost and Hall (2009: 11)

“I think the last thing we need is to become very materialistic or precious about preserving the national park concept you have to go with the model that works; forcing existing models is not conducive” - Kathleen Rettie (a national park expert)

The early pioneers

Upsurge in American romanticism



Massive expansion of private property



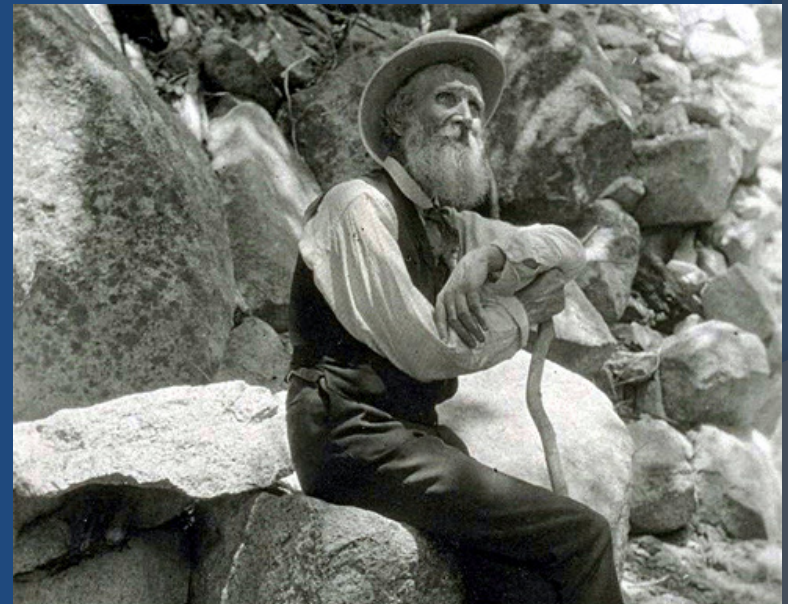
Desire to preserve “parks” for the “nation”



Yosemite valley – the first protected area 1864



Yellowstone – the first national park 1872



John Muir – ‘father of our national parks’

Wilderness model

- IUCN Category ii
- Public ownership
- Uninhabited
- Pristine wilderness

European model

- Predominantly IUCN category ii
- Mixture of public and private ownership
- Mixture of inhabited and uninhabited landscapes
- Landscapes shaped by humans

D'Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park, Italy

Eng. and Welsh national parks today

- *1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act*
 - pivotal Act
 - conservation since pursued through planning and statutory designations
- The 1949 Act '*marked the real beginning of landscape conservation in Britain as part of accepted planning policy*' (Buchanan, 1982 p267).
- Sandford principle



English and Welsh model

- IUCN category V landscapes
- Predominantly privately owned landscapes
- Predominantly inhabited landscapes
- Landscapes shaped by human activity

Yorkshire dales National Park, England

National parks in Scotland

- National park designation recommended in 1947 (Sir Douglas Ramsey)
- Long delay in designating (1947)
- Two key influences:
 - sustainable development agenda
 - Scottish devolution
- National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000; 4 aims of designation:
 1. To conserve and enhance natural and cultural heritage
 2. To promote sustainable use of natural resources
 3. To promote understanding and enjoyment
 4. To promote **sustainable social and economic development**

Scottish model



- IUCN Category V landscape/seascape designation
- Inhabited landscapes with some wild spaces
- Additional management objective*

Cairngorms National Park, Scotland

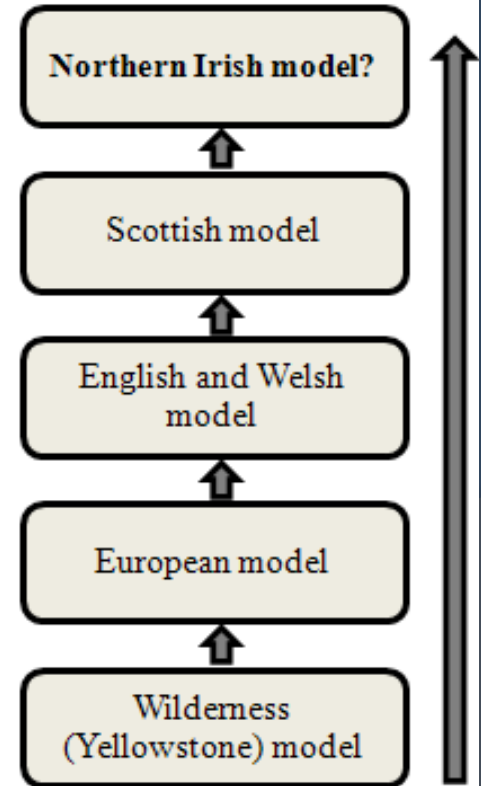
Evolving National Parks

Traditionally strict preservation/keep people out
Preservation 'in spite' of people
(USA)

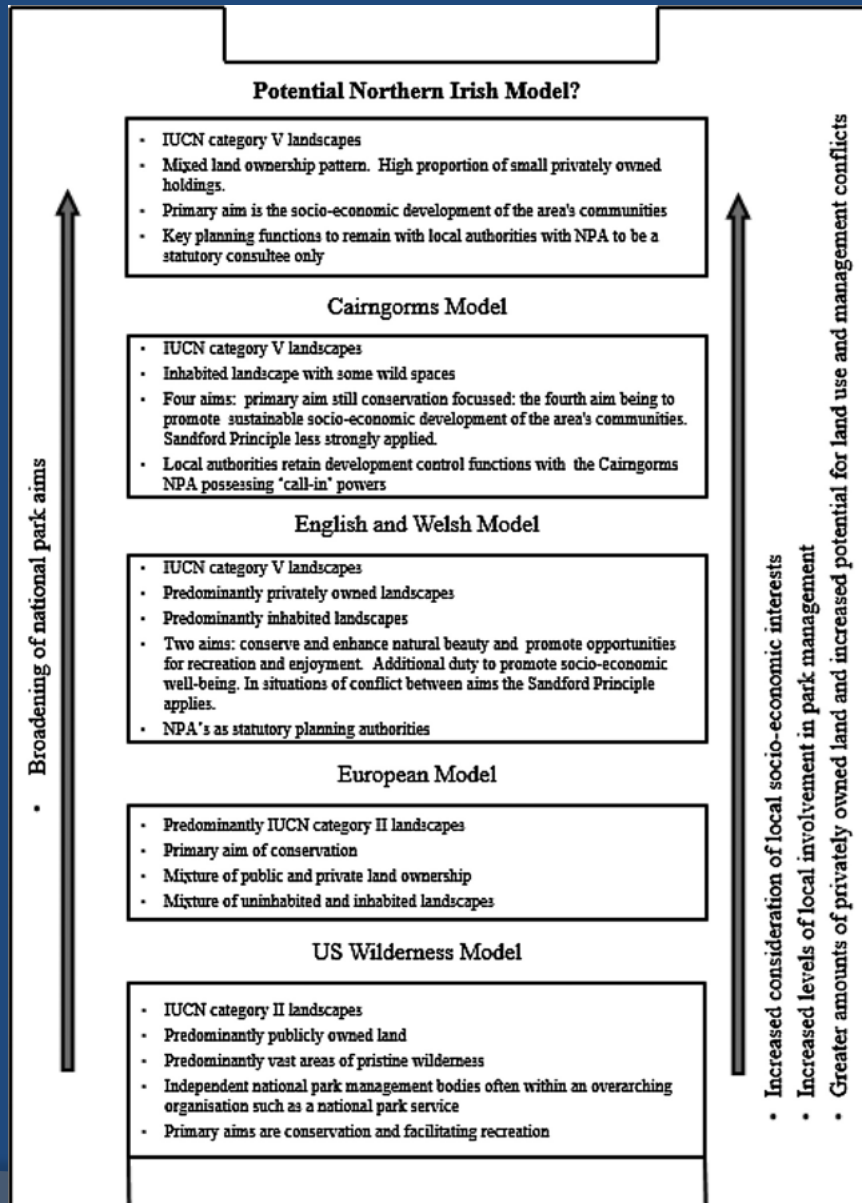
Consideration of social and economic interests
Conservation still overriding priority
(Europe)

Explicitly sustainable development model
(Scotland)

Figure 2: A ladder of national park models



Evolving National Park models



Bell & Stockdale (2015) Evolving national park models: The emergence of an economic imperative and its effects on the contested nature of the 'national' park concept in Northern Ireland. *Land Use Policy* 49: 213-226.

National parks: commodification or protection?

- National parks – major economic generators through tourism
- National Park label – *‘loving our parks to death’* (Hamin, 2002, p350)
- Commodifying nature (Cloke, 1993; Zimmerer, 2000; Healy, 2009; Woods, 2011)
- ‘Resource paradox’ (Plog, 1974; Williams, 2009; Woods, 2011)

Conservation v the Economy



Lake District turns down the world's second longest zipline

National Park 'oldies' accused of ignoring youth as plan for 60mph slides at Honister fails to win support

Cliffhanger end to battle of Lake District zip-wire



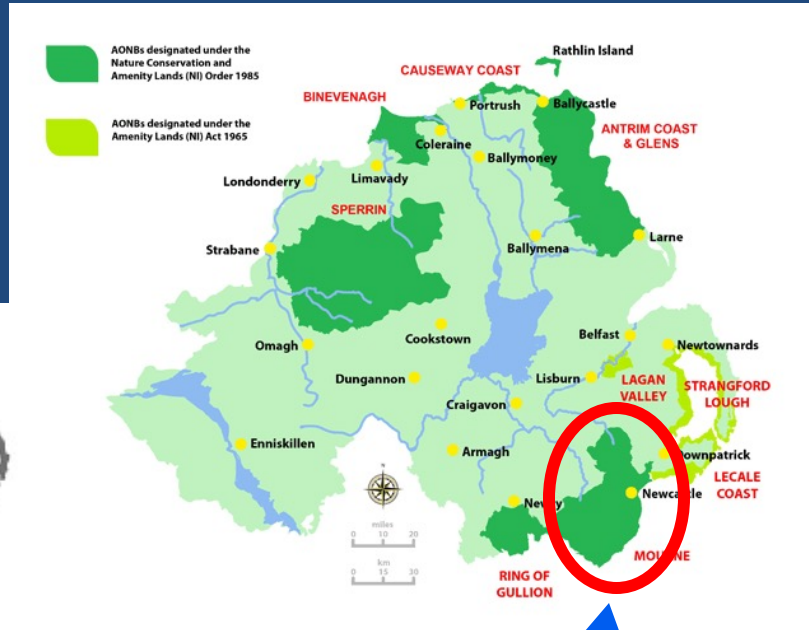
Loch Lomond goldmine approval sparks fears for national park

Park authority gives go-ahead to Britain's only commercial goldmine despite opposition from environmental groups

Go-ahead for £200m gold mine in Loch Lomond park

Loch Lomond national park approves Cononish gold mine

Current designations in the UK and Ireland



Mourne AONB

National Parks for Northern Ireland – a Contested History



- Enabling Legislation - Amenity Lands Act (1965)
- Amenity Lands Order (1985) – Amendment (1989)
- Powers to designate but no mechanism for park management

- Ulster Countryside Report (Planning Advisory Board, 1947)

“greeted with almost total silence by the government of the day”

Arguments for NP

- ⦿ Enhance protection of the environment
- ⦿ Economic opportunities through tourism (National Park brand)
- ⦿ Visitor spend and employment
- ⦿ Attract funding to the area
- ⦿ Farm diversification opportunities
- ⦿ Better arrangements for managing visitor pressures
- ⦿ Prevent speculative development

Arguments Against NP

- ⦿ Inflate house prices and more second homes
- ⦿ Overcrowding/congestion
- ⦿ Additional planning restrictions
- ⦿ Increased bureaucracy and influence of an unelected quango
- ⦿ Disruption to traditional industries, such as farming

A new National Park for Galloway

The Potential Socio-economic Impacts of a New National Park For Galloway



REPORT 05/SEPTEMBER 2019

A paper analysing the socio-economic benefits that a National Park could bring to Galloway.

Author: Graham C. Barrow BA(Hons) MSc MPhil for the Scottish Campaign for National Parks (SCNP) and the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS).



Opponents launch campaign against new national park



GETTY IMAGES

Galloway has been selected as the preferred site for a new national park

5 August 2024

Opponents to the creation of Scotland's third national park in Galloway have launched a campaign against the plan.

Final Thoughts

- The globally evolving national park concept
- Peculiarities around land tenure and public access
- Local v national
- Environmental v Economic
- Insiders v Outsiders
- Challenge of mediating between competing interests
- Climate and biodiversity crisis

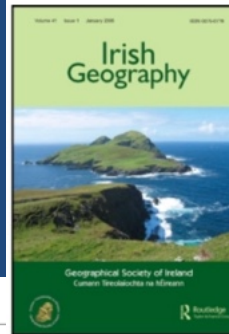
Further Reading

Land Use Policy 49 (2015) 213–226

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Land Use Policy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/landusepol



Irish Geography

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title-content=t791546828>

Towards a multi-purpose model for the proposed Mourne National Park

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Evolving national park models: The emergence of an economic imperative and its effect on the contested nature of the 'national' park concept in Northern Ireland

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Original Article

Examining participatory governance in a devolving UK: Insights from national parks policy development in Northern Ireland

Jonathan PW Bell and Aileen Stockdale
Queen's University Belfast, UK

Government and Policy

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