



Activity Three

Activity Name	3. Conserving history in a National Park
Learning Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understand that an industrial landscape can be part of a National Park. ○ Think the heritage of their area is worth conserving. ○ Explore the role of a National Park Authority.
Links to National Curriculum	<p>History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local history study <p>Geographical and enquiry skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Knowledge and understanding of places ● Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development <p>Citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparing to play an active role as citizens
Activities	<p>1. Debate the importance of conserving the WSMR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct a vote in class for those in favour of, and those against conserving the WSMR. b. Split the class into two groups. Group A is arguing in favour of conserving the WSMR, whilst Group B is arguing against conserving the WSMR. c. Ask each group to consider the opinions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Local residents ● Tourists ● Historians ● Students ● Exmoor National Park Authority staff ● Landowners d. Each group comes up with a list of reasons to support their argument. Take it in turns to debate the issues. e. Now vote for those in favour, and those against conserving the WSMR. Have the numbers for and against changed, who has changed their opinion and why? <p>2. Create a campaign for a favourite site</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If your school is in or near a National Park, ask pupils to select a particular monument or site which they enjoy visiting. If the school is not near a National Park or outdoor space ask them to select somewhere they enjoy spending time. b. Tell pupils their site is at risk of being neglected, damaged, or destroyed. c. Weigh up the pros and cons of conserving the site, using the themes and perspectives raised by the debate. d. Either create a campaign poster for the site or write a letter to your local MP to raise awareness of the site's importance.



Teacher information

Conservation of the West Somerset Mineral Railway

- Along the West Somerset Mineral Railway line is a Ventilation Flue (chimney). This Flue is the only one of its kind in the whole of the south west. It was used to ventilate the underground workings of the mines, and was very important for the miners. Prior to conservation this was placed on the Scheduled Monuments at Risk Register (see below).
- The Incline is a spectacular feat of Victorian engineering. Of the dozen or so surviving railway inclines in the United Kingdom, it is one of the longest, steepest (1:4) and best preserved standard gauge inclines. Inclines have been built since the mid eighteenth century, and the WSMR Incline can claim to represent the highlight of incline construction. It was also scheduled by English Heritage as an Ancient Monument.
- By conserving key industrial archaeological sites along the Mineral Line local people are able to explore the cultural heritage of their area and be inspired to find out more about their family history.



Scheduled Monuments

English Heritage is the main national body which identifies archaeological sites, develops policies to protect them and promotes the importance of archaeology. 'Scheduling' is how nationally important sites and monuments are given legal protection by being placed on a list, or 'schedule'.

The schedule now has about 18,300 entries (about 31,400 sites). There are approximately 1 million archaeological sites currently recorded in England.

Monuments are listed by English Heritage based on things such as:

- Extent of survival
- Current condition
- Rarity
- Representivity
- Importance of the period to which the monument dates
- Fragility
- Connection to other monuments, or group value
- Potential to contribute to our information, understanding and appreciation
- Extent of documentation enhancing the monument's significance

If monuments are in danger English Heritage can list them as Monuments at Risk.

For more information visit
www.english-heritage.org.uk



The Heritage Lottery Fund



LOTTERY FUNDED

The conservation of historic sites and monuments costs money, and often requires help from organizations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is the UK's leading funder of heritage.

Heritage includes many different things from the past that we value and want to pass on to future generations, including:

- people's memories and experiences
- histories of people, communities, places and events
- cultural traditions
- historic buildings and townscapes
- archaeological sites
- collections of items, archives or other materials
- natural and designed landscapes
- habitats and species
- sites and collections links to our industrial, maritime and transport history

The National Lottery raises money for a range of good causes that benefit communities across the United Kingdom.

From every pound spent on lottery tickets, 28p goes directly to good causes split between the following categories:

- Arts
- Charities
- Health, education and the environment
- Heritage
- Sports

Without the Heritage Lottery Fund the remains of the West Somerset Mineral Railway would not have been conserved for the nation.

For more information visit www.hlf.org.uk.

What is a National Park?

National Parks make up 9% of the land mass of England, 20% of Wales' and 7% of Scotland's. They are areas of land which remain relatively wild, open and unspoilt, and offer opportunities for recreation. Each National Park has special qualities, and differs from theme parks or country parks, because ordinary people live and work in them.

How are National Parks managed?

National Parks are managed by a National Park Authority, which aims to balance the needs of residents of the park with visitors, and the landscape itself. The National Park is protected because of its natural beauty and



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recreational value. The National Park Authority exists

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the park.
- to promote opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities.

and

- to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities.

National Park staff work to achieve these aims in a variety of departments including planning, conservation and land management, access and information and sustainability.

The National Park Authority is run by a committee of members, overseeing the work of the Authority from an external perspective. Some members are appointed by the Secretary of State for the environment to give a national perspective. This is because the National Park was created for national benefit, and is funded by the government.

Facts about Exmoor National Park



- Exmoor National Park covers 693km² (267miles²) of countryside
- 71% of the Park is in Somerset, and 29% is in Devon
- The name "Exmoor" comes from the

River Exe

- Exmoor has the highest cliffs in England
- It is home to Exmoor ponies
- Its highest point is Dunkery Beacon, which stands at 519 metres (1,704 ft)



Conservation within Exmoor National Park

Exmoor has been shaped by human activity over the last 8,000 years. Evidence of people living on the moor and exploiting its natural resources can be found across the countryside. This evidence takes the form of archaeological sites and monuments, historic buildings, field patterns, artefacts, sources, traditions and oral history. These pieces of evidence tell the story of Exmoor, and make up what is known as the historic environment.

The National Park Authority provides advice and guidance about how to care for and conserve the historic environment, and looks after a diverse range of sites.

The majority of the West Somerset Mineral Railway lies within the boundaries of Exmoor National Park, and the Incline itself is owned by Exmoor National Park Authority.