

Talk 071119

**Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup> - ' Looking after our Special Landscapes and Seascapes' -  
Edward Holdaway**

Edward has been actively involved in protecting our countryside having worked for the Countryside Commission. He has been involved in the creation of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. He focussed on National Parks in his talk and noted that we have just passed the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parliamentary legislation for founding and managing of National Parks.

National Parks (NPs) are not equally spread across the UK. As a percentage the land areas of the three mainland countries, England has 9%, Scotland 3% and Wales 19% of land designated as NPs. The key factors considered for the founding of a NP are the importance of beauty, the protection of our native flora and fauna, and the opportunities for outdoor recreation they provide. Unlike the USA and some European Countries, the NPs are not State owned. The land ownership can be with estates, farmers, local authorities, utilities, tourism and, as in Pembrokeshire, the military.

A NP Authority has a management committee with 2/3 of its members appointed by the Local Authority and 1/3 by the Government. It has to prepare a management plan and a land use plan. The plans define the people numbers and skills for its operation. Like other Government bodies the NPs do not receive the money they need to fully implement their plans. In the future they will additionally face the challenge of cutting carbon emissions, not just in their current activities but also potential wind farms and water driven energy sources.

There will have to be compromises but the NP Authorities must continue to protect the key factors of their Parks and minimise the effect of any significant changes.