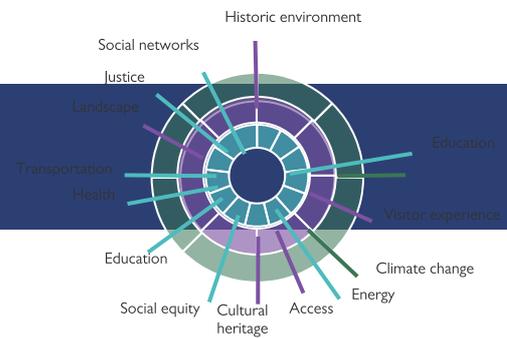
A photograph of two volunteers working in a garden. In the foreground, a man wearing a light green polo shirt, dark trousers, a wide-brimmed hat, and yellow gloves is using a shovel to work the soil in a raised garden bed. In the background, a woman in a blue t-shirt and light-colored pants is also working in the garden. The garden bed is filled with dark soil and several small green plants. The background shows a stone wall and lush green trees.

We will expand opportunities for volunteers to work with the Authority and partner organisations for mutual benefit.

The National Park Authority has a long and fruitful history of working with volunteers. Volunteers are individuals who willingly give their services without pay to help the National Park Authority deliver on a range of projects and services. In this transaction the volunteer gains experiences and skills supported by a network of like minded people, whilst the Authority gains valuable assistance to deliver on its objectives.

VOLUNTEERING



Why this is important

The contribution of volunteers supports our strategic aims and complements the role of paid staff. Involving volunteers means we can achieve more with the limited resources available and can undertake tasks and projects that would not otherwise be done.

Volunteers are ambassadors for the Authority. Volunteers are a public facing presence, giving us greater reach into local communities, and widening the understanding of the National Park. Volunteering is a way of engaging communities and cultivating a sense of belonging.

Volunteer involvement can inform decision-making by drawing on a diverse range of experience. Volunteers bring additional skills and new perspectives to the organisation.

Volunteering benefits people's health and wellbeing through the opportunity to work in protected landscapes, and the feeling of purpose and of 'giving something back'.

Volunteering is a way of discovering the National Park and can help develop knowledge, confidence, and skills. Volunteering can provide valuable work experience and be a pathway into a career in conservation and supports employability more generally.

How the policy will be implemented

We will develop an integrated programme of volunteer opportunities to support the delivery of Future Beacons with the long term objective to operate this across a range of partner organisations.

What success looks like

A safe, high-quality and well-resourced volunteer programme that makes a significant contribution to the conservation and enhancement of the National Park, and people's enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities.

A flexible range of volunteering opportunities that are inclusive and accessible; People from a diverse range of backgrounds, with a variety of needs and abilities are welcomed and enabled to volunteer.

Volunteering with BBNPA is enjoyable, meaningful, and provides health, wellbeing, and community benefits.

Volunteering is actively championed by our Chief Executive and Members.

Volunteering is an everyday component of all our work at all levels of the authority

Volunteers are valued and recognised for their contribution.

BBNPA staff feel supported and confident in working with volunteers.

How we will measure progress

We will recognise progress as an increase in number of active volunteer hours employed within the Authority.

We will recognise progress as an improvement in the satisfaction levels reported by volunteers

We will recognise progress in the development and implementation of an integrated volunteer strategy that spans partner organisations.