

GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2022

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional

Network: North Pennines UNESCO
Global Geopark, United Kingdom,
European Geoparks Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last
revalidation:** 2003 / 2022



Photo caption: Festival of Nature at Talkin Tarn, June 2022.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark staffs: 54 staff including 2 geoscientists

Number of visitors: Visitor Centre numbers for 2022 – 41000

Number of Geopark events: Approx. 75 ticketed events organised by management body.

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes: 32

Number of Geopark press release: 21

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2022

- Peatland restoration work continues to be very strong, with new sites, projects, staff and collaborations.
- Increased work within the organisation on diversity, inclusion and equity including around neurodiversity, LGBTQ+, race, disability and other identities.
- Lots of volunteer activities including tree planting, meadow restoration, surveying, working groups, community consultation and using a new volunteer communications tool.
- Administering a government grant scheme of around £1 million in 2022 to farmers and land managers in the Geopark to support nature recovery and connecting people with nature.

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- 2 staff attended and contributed to the EGN meeting in the Netherlands in April and meeting and conference in Italy in September. 2 staff attended the UK committee annual meeting, including meeting with and supporting aspiring UK Geoparks.
- The Director is an active member of the EGN AC, and vice-chair of the UK committee for UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- The Director undertook 3 evaluation and revalidation missions.

Management and Financial Status

- Core budget from national and local government around £430,000.
- External project funding used in 2022 was around £4 million.

Geoconservation

- New interpretation on several key sites.
- Consolidation and access work on various sites and routes including archaeological sites and popular geotrail routes.
- Development of a new project celebrating and conserving mining heritage, entitled Land of Lead and Silver.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Continuing engagement with visitor businesses, with an annual tourism forum, tourism working group and connecting with local visitor networks.
- Events included a successful 6th annual North Pennines Stargazing Festival in October 2022.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- A wide range of schools activities including arts projects, learning and volunteer tasks for nature conservation and to support wellbeing. Moving towards longer programmes and building relationships rather than one-offs.
- Programme to increase awareness of peatlands and their importance, reaching over 200 students.

Strategic partnership

- The Geopark management body is made up of a partnership of local authorities, agencies, NGOs and community representatives.
- Other partnerships include project partners such as a National Park Authority, water and utility companies, Rivers Trusts and Wildlife Trusts and various community groups.
- The organization engages with the Europarc and Eurosites networks, EU projects and other initiatives such as the Great North Bog through its peatland restoration work.

Promotional activities

- The North Pennines Annual Forum was held online this year, promoting the work of the Geopark team, and was attended by around 100 people.
- Staff contributed to a range of conferences, seminars and training events in 2022 at local, regional and national level.

4. CONTACTS

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