



# National Nature Reserves

At the heart of conservation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

A Strategy for England's National Nature Reserves in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: for conservation, environmental research and people



# National Nature Reserves

## At the heart of 21<sup>st</sup> century conservation

England's National Nature Reserves are the crown jewels of England's natural heritage. We manage them in the best way possible.

From Lindisfarne in Northumberland to The Lizard in Cornwall, these rare and precious sites secure our country's wonderful wildlife and rich geology for us all.

We want to inspire people, promote learning, and encourage involvement in the wider landscape.



Caethillian Cove, The Lizard NNR



© Natural England/Martin Drevett

## Conservation

National Nature Reserves are our finest sites for wildlife and geology. Placed at the heart of healthy and strong landscapes, we can make sure their abundant wildlife brings over to enrich surrounding areas.

We will invite more landowners to join the National Nature Reserve network, helping to reflect the diversity, range and richness of our natural heritage. With more sites joining the National Nature Reserve network, we will make more space for nature.



© Natural England/Paul Gendell

## Environmental research

National Nature Reserves are our natural laboratories. They will be widely used for experimentation and long term monitoring to increase our understanding of our natural environment. They will demonstrate the very best conservation practice and inspire environmental scientists, young and old alike.



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## People

National Nature Reserves' high quality and accessible habitats offer many ways to enjoy and engage with our natural heritage. Whether improving our wellbeing, taking part in citizen science opportunities or volunteering, we will help more people get actively involved in their local site.



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## Partnerships

We will build on existing local partnerships to create stronger links between National Nature Reserves and their surrounding landscapes and communities. We will collaborate on environmental research and together offer more opportunities for people to enjoy their local sites.



© National Trust / Paul Harris

Sandscale Hawes NNR

## Support England's National Nature Reserves

England's National Nature Reserves embody our natural diversity: our multi-layered geology, ferny woodlands, ancient grasslands and heaths, glimmering wetlands, and wild coasts and moorlands. Here nature comes first, protecting wildlife and inspiring individuals.

The National Nature Reserve Strategy has been created by a partnership of public bodies, wildlife charities and other representatives. We developed a shared vision and a common purpose to take forward the founding purposes of NNRs – conservation, environmental research and places for people – putting them at the heart of 21st century conservation.

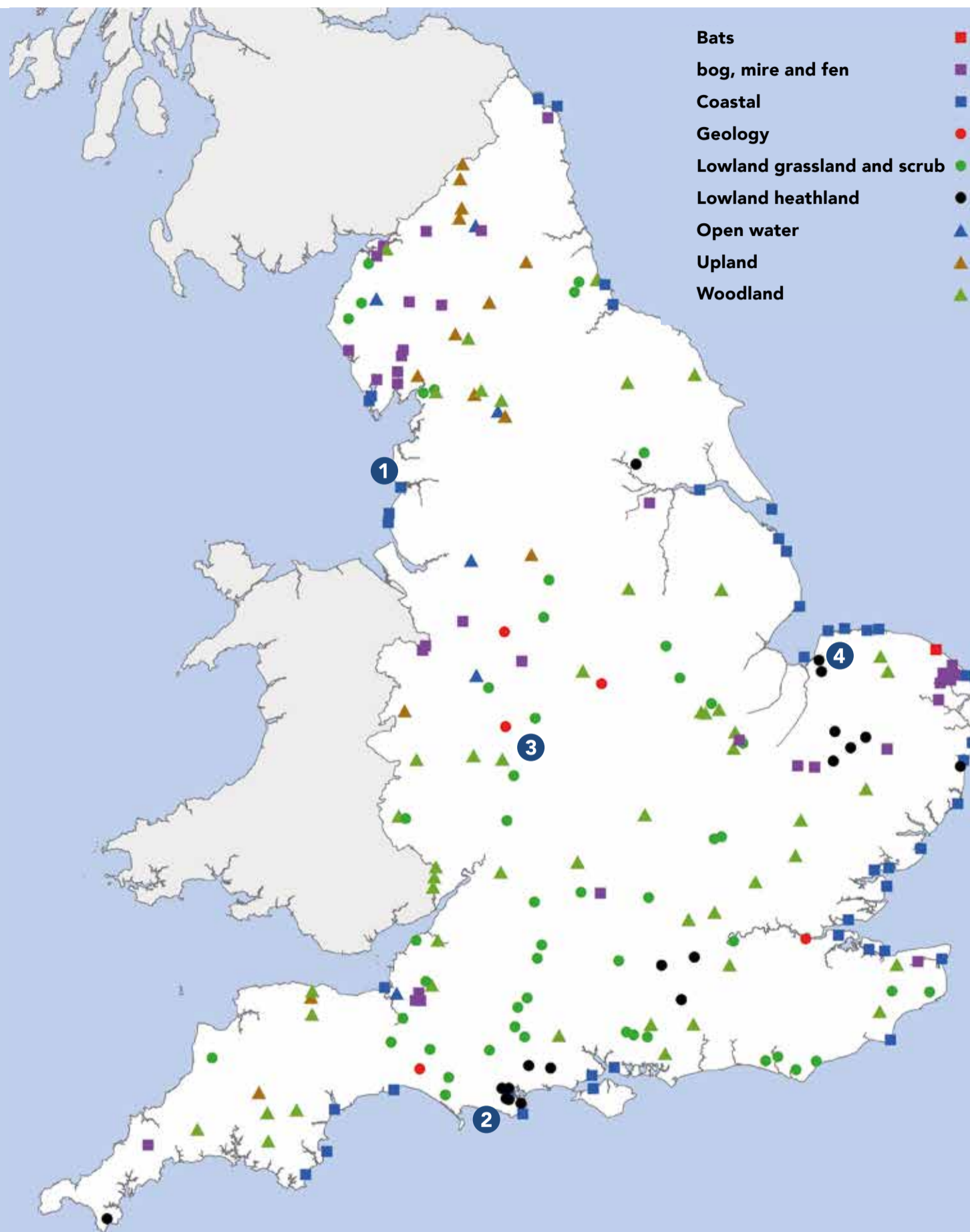
**Interested? Go and explore, get involved in your local sites and enjoy your natural heritage.**

**The NNR Partnership comprises**  
Butterfly Conservation, Escrick Estate, the Forestry Commission, the National Trust, Natural England, Plantlife, RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts and the Woodland Trust.

**Front cover images clockwise from top left:**  
Below Sheepscombe Common © Natural England/Peter Wakely; Lindisfarne © Natural England/John Dunn; Walkers on Shapwick Heath © Natural England/Paul Glendell; Crinoid fossils © Natural England/Peter Wakely; Waxcap © Natural England/Julian Dowse; Pond dipping, Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe Dunes © Natural England.

# England's National Nature Reserves

The map shows the location and types of NNRs in England. The examples illustrate how current initiatives will help achieve the aims of the Strategy on a larger scale across the country.



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## 1 Partnership

The **Ribble Estuary National Nature Reserve** is a shining example of partnership working, bringing together RSPB, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Flood defence improvements have been combined with habitat creation, to deliver much needed local climate change adaptation and provide invaluable new wildlife sites close to Britain's most important estuary for birds. On completion, the expanded NNR will be the largest of its kind in northern England.

## 2 Conservation

The renowned wildlife of the **Purbeck Heaths** is already represented in three well established National Nature Reserves. Now Natural England, RSPB, the National Trust and other land managers are working together to harmonise management across the wider area of the Purbeck heathlands.

## 3 People

**Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve** is one of the most notable geological locations in the British Isles, famous for its large numbers of beautifully preserved Silurian limestone fossils. Located in an urban setting, the site's wardens and volunteers excel at providing activities and information for audiences ranging from local visitors to geologists around the world.

## 4 Environmental Research

**Dersingham Bog National Nature Reserve** has long been used for a wide range of research both by Natural England and by the wider scientific communities. Subjects include heathland restoration and management, geomorphological studies and species dynamics. In one example, studies of nightjar feeding flights showed how these mysterious birds are using a string of National Nature Reserves across Norfolk as their flyways.