

# NATIONAL MARINE PARKS

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THEIR SEASCAPE  
TO SHARE IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## OUR ASKS

We are asking all political parties to commit to the vision for National Marine Parks where they could fulfil a role in re-connecting people with the sea and deliver more coherent conservation to benefit nature and coastal communities.

- 1. Pursue the vision for National Marine Parks around Britain**  
Further explore the option for National Marine Parks (NMPs) and different routes to achieve them.
- 2. Support communities to acquire voluntary NMP status**  
Continue to widen, deepen and extend NMP status through voluntary declaration as demonstrated by Plymouth Sound NMP, Sussex Bay and other locations which offer community-led models.
- 3. Support the concept of National Parks in the sea**  
Develop the option of creating new marine or extending existing National Parks into the sea. This is currently being explored through the Scottish Government's consultation for new National Parks.

PLEASE MAKE A COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL MARINE PARKS  
PART OF YOUR GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTO.

Reports  
available online



BLUE MARINE  
FOUNDATION

CAMPAIGN for  
NATIONAL PARKS



## THE OPPORTUNITY

The NGOs *People's Plan for Nature* called for 'National Parks for the sea'<sup>1</sup>

The ten National Parks in England attract 90 million visitors each year spending £4 billion, with 22,500 businesses employing 140,000 people<sup>2</sup>.

Over 80% of people across England, Scotland and Wales believe it is crucial to protect our ocean<sup>3</sup>.

The value of blue health has been demonstrated<sup>4</sup> but over 50% of people perceive the health of the marine environment as poor<sup>5</sup>.

Defra's Landscape Review by Julian Glover recommended strengthening National Parks and AONBs towards National Landscapes and praised the impressive work to create a marine park in Plymouth.<sup>6</sup>

## THE JOURNEY SO FAR

**Blue Marine Foundation and 12 partners are launching a National Framework and Guidance to support the evolution of NMPs. They have evidenced the potential for the vision to evolve across Britain. Insights are now available in a series of reports.**

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### **National Marine Parks Vision (2021)**

Released in 2021, the vision for NMPs showcased the opportunity, promoted the model of Plymouth Sound NMP and scoped ten potential locations.

### **A National Framework (2023)**

Endorsed by a national strategic working group of members interested in the countryside, communities, heritage and the marine environment this year<sup>7</sup> – the national framework and guiding principles offer a common purpose, objectives and principles for National Marine Parks to evolve in Britain.

### **Guidance for National Marine Park Evolution (2023)**

Ten steps are proposed to help deliver the vision towards National Marine Parks.

### **Legal Review (2023)**

The foundations for extending existing, or creating new National Parks to include the sea exists through the spirit and letter of the law.

### **Location Scoping (2021-2023)**

Appetite to explore the NMP vision has been revealed across Britain in Dorset, Severn, Sussex Bay, Pembrokeshire, Isles of Scilly, NE England, The Wash and North Norfolk Coast, and Scotland's Argyll Coast and Islands. The Scottish Government has committed to designating at least one more National Park in Scotland by 2026 and NatureScot has suggested that at least one should have a coastal/marine component.

## OUR MANIFESTO ASK: EXPLORE ROUTES TO REALISE NATIONAL MARINE PARKS

## THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...

To get in touch with your thoughts on the vision for National Marine Parks in Britain, please contact: [marineparks@bluemarinefoundation.com](mailto:marineparks@bluemarinefoundation.com)

**References:** <sup>1</sup>People's Plan for Nature (2023) by WWF, RSPB and National Trust. <sup>2</sup>National Parks England (2013) Valuing England's National Parks. <sup>3</sup>Ocean Conservation Trust (2022) Ocean Literacy Survey results. <sup>4</sup>White, M. (2017) Outdoor blue spaces, human health and well-being: A systematic review of quantitative studies. Also see: <https://bluehealth2020.eu>. <sup>5</sup>Defra (2022) Ocean Literacy Headline Report. <sup>6</sup>Defra (2019) Landscapes Review Final Report. <sup>7</sup>NMP Strategic Working Group Members: Adur and Worthing Council, Blue Marine Foundation, Campaign for National Parks, Historic England, Isles of Scilly Partnership, Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group, Luke Pollard MP, Natural England, National Association of AONBs, Plymouth University, Plymouth National Marine Park, Scottish Campaign for National Parks, Wales Coasts and Seas Partnership, Wildlife and Countryside Link