

**National Parks legislation in the
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**

amending the National Parks legislation in the National Parks and Access to the
Countryside Act 1949

PART 5 NATIONAL PARKS AND THE BROADS

Section 59 Criteria for designating National Parks

(1) In section 5 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (c. 97) (criteria for designating National Parks), after subsection (2) insert-

"(2A) Natural England may-

(a) when applying subsection (2)(a) in relation to an area, take into account its wildlife and cultural heritage, and

(b) when applying subsection (2)(b) in relation to that area, take into account the extent to which it is possible to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities by the public."

(2) The amendment made by subsection (1) applies for the purposes of the confirmation or variation on or after the day on which this section comes into force of orders made before that day as it applies for the purposes of the confirmation or variation of orders made on or after that day.

PART 9 MISCELLANEOUS

Section 99 Natural beauty in the countryside

The fact that an area in England or Wales consists of or includes-

(a) land used for agriculture or woodlands,

(b) land used as a park, or

(c) any other area whose flora, fauna or physiographical features are partly the product of human intervention in the landscape,

does not prevent it from being treated, for the purposes of any enactment (whenever passed), as being an area of natural beauty (or of outstanding natural beauty).