

The History of Pendarren House



Pendarren House was built by its first owner John Andrew Doyle in 1876. He was a wealthy man whose father had been the editor of the Morning Chronicle, a newspaper, which was a rival to the Times. Doyle was keen on many country pursuits, hunting, shooting and fishing, all of which he could do from Pendarren House.

The house was very grand with large rooms for entertaining. You can still see the marvellous marble fireplaces and huge gilt mirrors in the main house. The end of the house where the showers are now located used to be the servants quarters. The Greig Annexe used to be the stable block. The lower floor housed the horses in stalls which you can still see in the Activity Kit Store, whilst the upper floor was used to store feed and hay. Doyle employed groomsmen and gardeners, as well as maids and cooks and a butler.

In 1905 the house was taken over by Colonel Rees a Mining Engineer from Aberdare. He maintained the house in much the same way as Doyle although he didn't have quite as many servants. However, one of his servants an under gardener called Wilf Whiting would eventually become the next owner of Pendarren.

Wilf Whiting started his working life as an under gardener at Pendarren but soon started up in business on his own. He was successful and owned several businesses including a haulage company and a lemonade factory. He bought Pendarren House in 1950 and lived in it until 1962 when he sold it to a partnership who turned it into a Country House Hotel and Country Club!

The Country Club was successful for a few years but business fell away and by 1970 the property was once more up for sale. Haringey Council was on the look out for a suitable place to start an Outdoor Education Centre. Eric Brown and John Powell from the Education Department came to visit, recommended the purchase and in 1971 Pendarren House Outdoor Education Centre came into existence. Since then tens of thousands of children from Haringey have enjoyed the *Pendarren Experience*.

Britain's National Parks

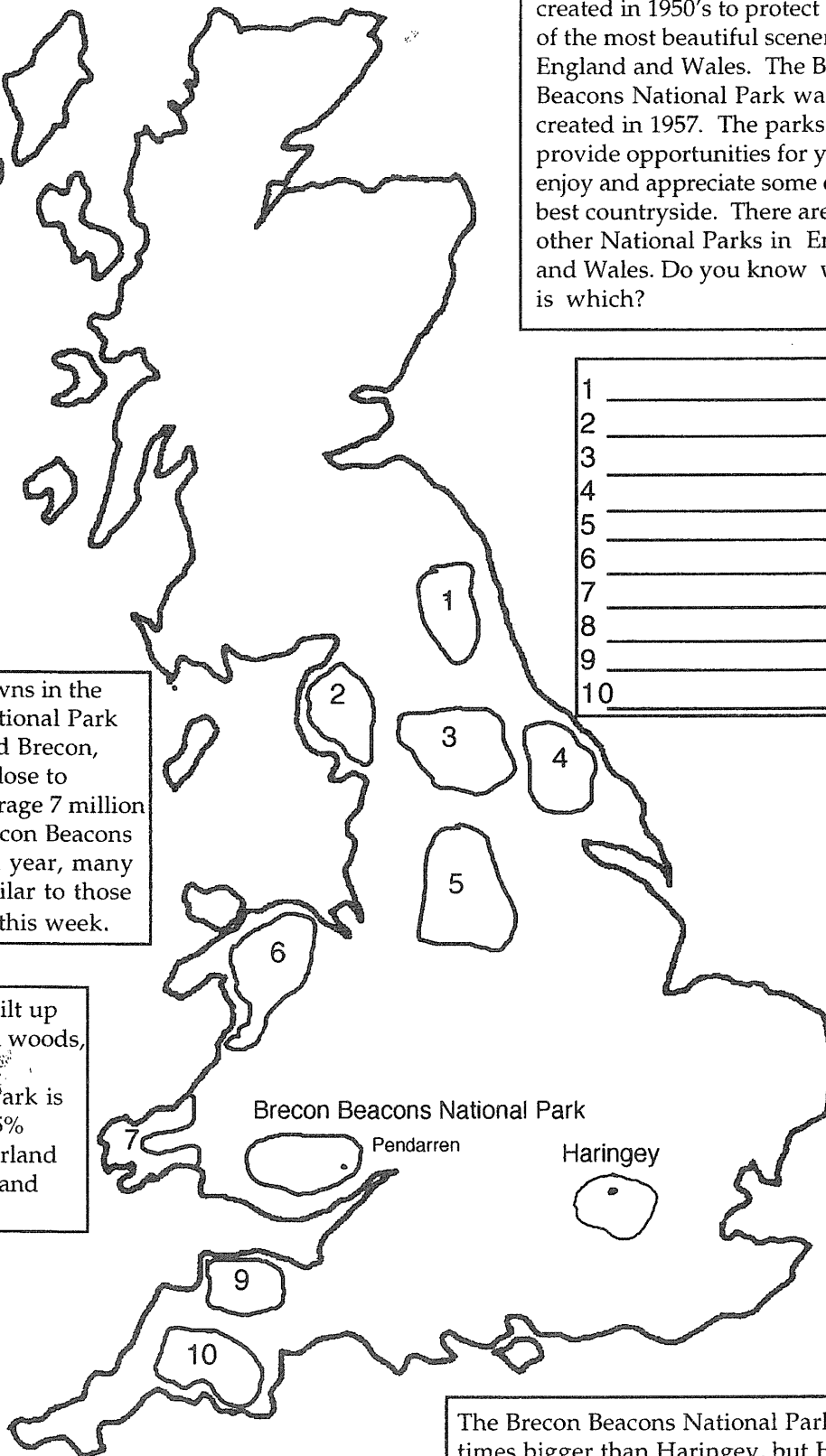
The National Parks were created in 1950's to protect some of the most beautiful scenery in England and Wales. The Brecon Beacons National Park was created in 1957. The parks provide opportunities for you to enjoy and appreciate some of our best countryside. There are nine other National Parks in England and Wales. Do you know which is which?



Two of the main towns in the Brecon Beacons National Park are Crickhowell and Brecon, both of which are close to Pendarren. On average 7 million people visit the Brecon Beacons National Park each year, many to do activities similar to those that you are doing this week.

Haringey is 99% built up and 1% is parks and woods, whereas the Brecon Beacons National Park is 1% built up land, 45% farmland, 42% moorland and 12% woodland and forests.

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Brecon Beacons National Park

Pendarren

Haringey

The Brecon Beacons National Park is 45 times bigger than Haringey, but Haringey has 7 times more people in it. This means that on a piece of land the size of 5 football pitches you would find 305 people in Haringey but only 1 person in the National Park. Have you noticed how peaceful and quiet it is at Pendarren?

Let's compare		
	Brecon Beacons	Haringey
Area (km ²)	1344	30
Population	32,000	230,000