





keen for more. After lunch they went mountain biking, and over the weekend, further activities included caving, kayaking and sailing. All of these activities introduced the group to the range of opportunities available within the National Parks. The boys were in high spirits throughout the weekend and seemed to enjoy playing practical jokes on one another.

The group had never visited a National Park before and was fascinated by the scenery and the surroundings. They had never stayed in a youth hostel either, so were unfamiliar with the rules. They did not realise that they needed to clean up after themselves, although they learnt very quickly!



## The Future

The initial visit sparked so much interest amongst the group that Ardic decided to identify some way in which the boys could mark their appreciation and enjoyment. Therefore Ardic in conjunction with the park staff arranged for the group to undertake a series of return visits to work with the park staff on conservation projects in the Peak District. This included scrub clearance and woodland management with, after one visit, the group bringing back surplus saplings to plant in their own gardens.

Feedback from all the groups involved in the Mosaic Project, including Ardic, is included in a useful booklet 'Visits to National Parks: a guide for ethnic communities'.

## FACTFILE

- **Funders:**

Heritage Lottery Fund; Council for National Parks; Black Environment Network.

- **Partners:**

Ardic; Peak District National Park.

- **Target:**

Muslim boys (Refugees and asylum seekers) from Birmingham.

- **Numbers:**

6 boys and 2 youth leaders.

- **Resources:**

- 'Visit to National Parks: A guide for ethnic communities' can be viewed and downloaded from [www.ben-network.org.uk](http://www.ben-network.org.uk) or [www.cnp.org.uk](http://www.cnp.org.uk) Hard copies by request.
- BEN can provide training for organisations wishing to work with ethnic groups effectively.
- BEN can provide training for ethnic groups to enable them to run safe trips to the countryside.

- **Key points:**

- National Parks offer a range of activities to suit the needs of various groups, depending on age, and according to the available budget.



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