



MEDIA RELEASE

GALLOWAY NATIONAL PARK WOULD BOOST JOBS AND PROTECT LANDSCAPE

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Two Scottish charities have released a new research report that clearly demonstrates that a Galloway National Park would boost the economy of a fragile and peripheral community, currently suffering from limited and seasonal employment, as well as protecting the landscape.

Using evidence from the worldwide network of National Parks, the new report, [*The Potential Socio-economic Impacts of a New National Park for Galloway*](#), argues convincingly that designating a National Park would boost the number of UK and international visitors to Galloway and generate much needed additional jobs and income in one of the more remote and fragile parts of rural Scotland.

John Mayhew, Director of The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS), said: "Remote communities across the world benefit greatly from the year-round visitor spending which National Parks bring. This could also apply to Galloway, whilst also looking after the precious landscapes that visitors come to see".

John Thomson, Chairman of the Scottish Campaign for National Parks (SCNP), said: "Our new report provides compelling evidence on how the creation of a National Park would help to strengthen and diversify Galloway's rural economy in a sustainable way. It would both attract more visitors and encourage mobile businesses to move to the area. Quite simply, it would put Galloway on the map".

The new report concludes that:

- Galloway has poor economic prospects, an ageing population, declining employment in agriculture and forestry and dwindling public sector jobs
- It has a low public profile in Scotland and beyond, despite its natural and cultural attractions; a National Park would attract significant publicity and raise its profile
- A Galloway National Park would stimulate the local economy, bringing 250,000–500,000 new visitors, spending an additional £30–£60 million per annum and helping to support or create 700–1400 jobs
- It would attract other small businesses to the area, including lifestyle businesses with people working from home
- Its impact would be felt across the whole of Dumfries and Galloway and the southern parts of Ayrshire, including gateway communities near its boundary
- The National Park Authority would directly provide a significant number of jobs (probably 40 – 80) in a less developed part of the region, bringing economic and social benefits
- Farmers and landowners would benefit, as being in a National Park would increase their likelihood of receiving agriculture/conservation grants if the UK leaves the EU; increased visitor numbers would support farms with accommodation or campsites, and the National Park brand would help to market local produce

The community engagement exercise carried out by the Galloway National Park Association (GNPA) in 2017-18 demonstrated widespread local support for a Galloway National Park. Dumfries and Galloway Council, South Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Council all support a National Park. The Scottish Conservatives, Scottish Greens, Scottish Labour and Scottish Liberal Democrats all support the designation of more National Parks. On 31 October 2019 the Scottish Parliament voted unanimously that new national parks should be designated.

This new report follows on from [*Galloway National Park – It's Our Time*](#), published by the GNPA earlier this year, which called on the Scottish Government to commission a comprehensive feasibility study into a Galloway National Park.

At present there are only two National Parks in Scotland: the Cairngorms National Park and the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. Scotland remains near the bottom of the world league in terms of its number of National Parks, despite travel writers regularly praising Scotland's world-class natural and cultural heritage.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. For more information please contact John Mayhew on 07787 195690, 0131 225 7012 or scnp.aprs@gmail.com
2. The new report, *The Potential Socio-economic Impacts of a New National Park for Galloway*, by Graham Barrow, can be read [here](#).
3. APRS promotes the care of **all** of Scotland's rural landscapes. APRS is a registered Scottish charity, No SC016139. www.aprs.scot
4. SCNP promotes the protection, enhancement and enjoyment of National Parks, potential National Parks and other nationally outstanding areas worthy of special protection. SCNP is a registered Scottish charity, No SC031008. www.scnp.org.uk
5. GNPA campaigns for a National Park in Galloway. GNPA is a registered Scottish charity, No SC047398. www.gallowaynationalpark.org