



News Release



LANDSCAPE CHARITIES WELCOME COMMITMENT TO NEW NATIONAL PARKS

For immediate release 20 August 2021

The two charities which led the 11-year-long campaign for more National Parks today welcomed the commitment to “designate at least one new National Park” in the Scottish Government/Scottish Green Party [Draft Shared Policy Programme](#) published this afternoon.

The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS) and the Scottish Campaign for National Parks (SCNP) have called for more National Parks in Scotland since 2010, and published their overall case in their landmark report [Unfinished Business](#) in 2013.

Scotland’s National Parks lead the way in tackling the climate emergency and nature crisis, promoting mental and physical health and well-being, boosting rural employment and celebrating our world-class landscapes.

Two lively local community-based National Park campaigns have grown up over the last five years:

- The [Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park](#) has published a comprehensive professionally researched and written [feasibility study](#).
- The [Galloway National Park Association](#) has carried out extensive local consultation demonstrating widespread public support, and has submitted a [detailed report](#) to the Scottish Government requesting it to carry out a full official feasibility study.

APRS Director John Mayhew said:

“Today marks a great step forward for Scotland’s countryside I’d like to thank everyone who helped us win this campaign, particularly Ramblers Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland, the Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park and the Galloway National Park Association. We were delighted to see today’s commitment to designate at least one new National Park, and we encourage all involved in ratifying this decision to do so with enthusiasm.”

SCNP Chairman John Thomson said:

“National Parks have built up substantial expertise in encouraging healthy outdoor recreation and sustainable economic and social development. They are therefore ideally placed to lead the recovery of rural Scotland following the coronavirus epidemic, including by encouraging domestic tourism. The new National Parks promised today will provide exactly the type of stimulus needed to lead fragile rural areas out of the recent crisis and towards future prosperity.”

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. ‘National Park’ is the leading internationally-recognised designation for places of the highest national importance for natural or cultural heritage – including landscape, wildlife, recreation, historic environment and cultural traditions. There are over 3,500 National Parks in the world, including for example 29 in Norway and 14 in New Zealand.
2. Some are truly wild places; many, including in Scotland, are working landscapes, where some of their special qualities derive from the ways in which land managers have cared for the landscape over the centuries.
3. The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 allows great flexibility in National Park Authority functions and powers, which can be tailored to local circumstances. The Act requires Scottish National Parks to pursue the sustainable economic and social development of local communities alongside conservation and recreation.
4. For further information please contact Project Manager John Mayhew on scnp.aprs@gmail.com or 07787 195690
5. 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
6. APRS promotes the care of all of Scotland’s rural landscapes. APRS is a registered Scottish charity, No SC016139. www.aprs.scot