

Workshop 3

UNESCO designations – *add-ons, or alternatives or just another approach to protected landscapes?*

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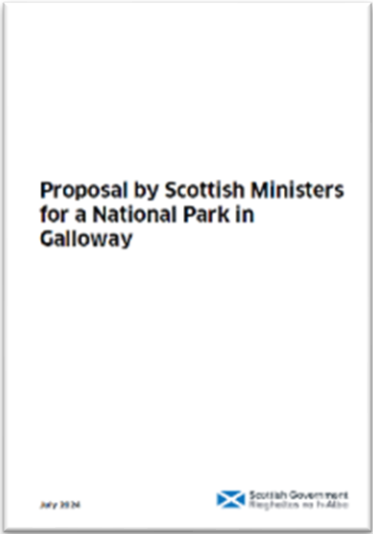
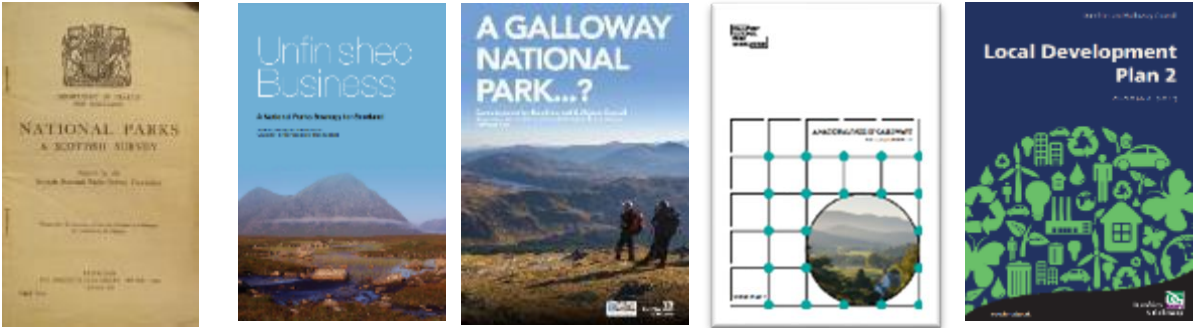
Plan for workshop

- Ice breaker
- From Biosphere to National Park?
- Group work
- Add-ons or alternatives to protected landscapes?
- Group work
- Final thoughts



Development of the proposal for a Galloway National Park

Past discussion 1940-2010s

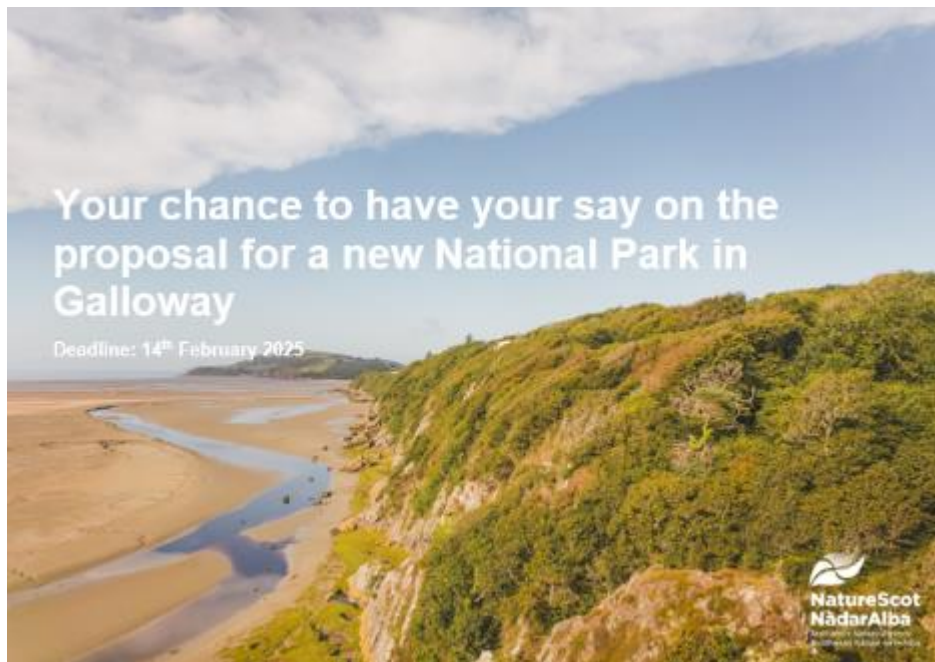


Key stages and timelines 2022-2026



	Milestone	Timescales
Non-statutory	1) Public Consultation on the Future of National Parks in Scotland	May to June 2022
	2) Development of NatureScot’s Advice on the approach and selection of National Parks (including public consultation)	May 2022 to January 2023
	3) SG development of the selection process and legislative changes required (including public consultation)	February 2023 to September 2023
	4) Nominations prepared and submitted by local groups with support from SG.	October 2023 to February 2024
	5) SG evaluation of the five nominations and preparation of statutory proposal for selected area(s)	Spring 2024
statutory	1) Publication of statutory proposal and appointment of reporter	Ministerial announcement 22 July
	2) Reporter Investigation (including public consultation on proposals for new National Park(s) and advice to Minister)	July 2024 to spring 2025
	3) Designation Order process (including public consultation on a draft order, and parliamentary scrutiny and approval or rejection)	From spring 2025 to March 26 – but only if Ministers decide to proceed with designation following consideration of NatureScot’s advice
	4) Designation and establishment of Scotland’s third National Park	

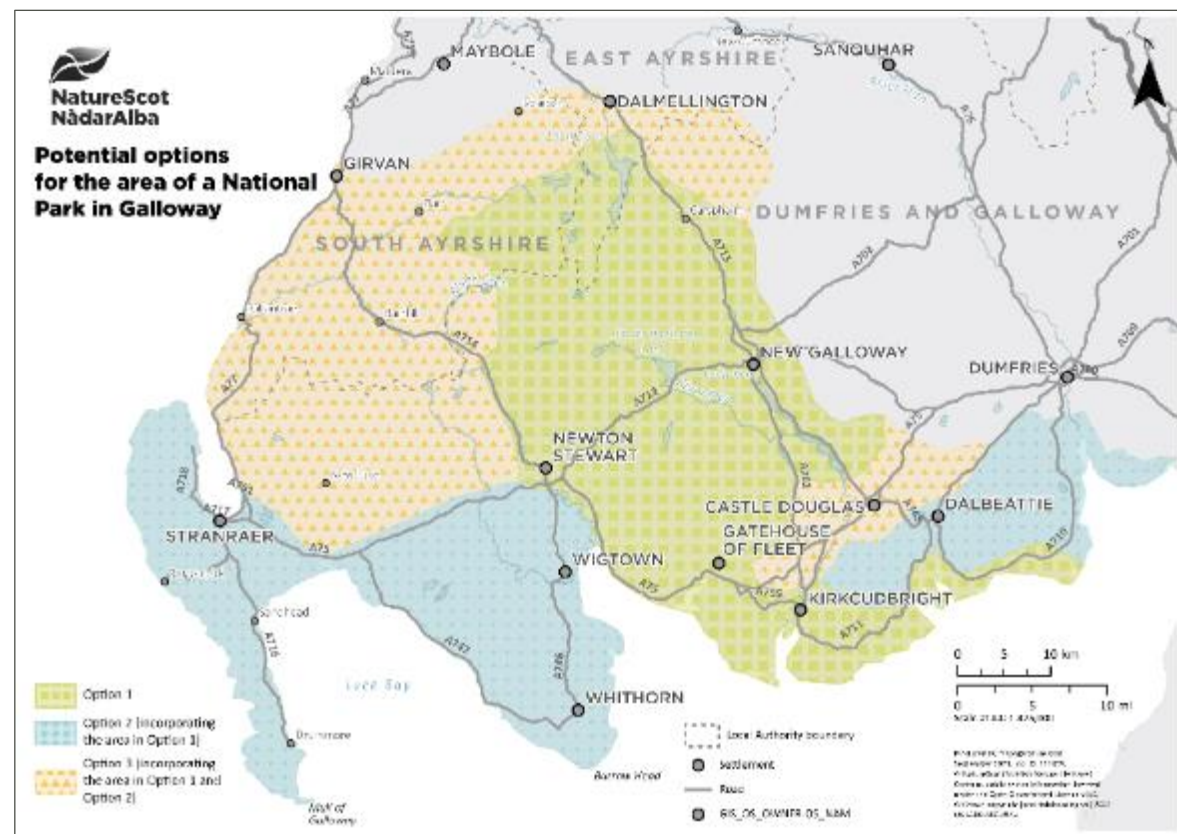




The consultation seeks views on several aspects of the potential Park, including the degree of support for, or opposition to, the proposal **and alternatives to it.**



Count me in!
www.gallowaynationalpark.org





GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE

- Established in 2012
- Run by a charitable organisation
- Circa 10 staff, budget of circa £250k (from 2019)
- Covers 9,800 km² of southwest Scotland's land and sea
- Core, buffer and transition areas





Key areas of work

- **People** - biosphere communities and supporters
- **Nature** – Species and Habitats framework; Natural heritage management plan
- **Learning for Sustainability** – tools and resources for schools; carbon literacy and biosphere guide training
- **Enterprise** – supporters and certification mark
- **Partnerships** – 18 formal partners involved in 3 landscape scale projects – Coalfields, Glenkens and Sustainable Food
- **International** – networks, visits, research and innovation



Similarities and Differences between a BR and a NP?

Biosphere Reserve

- International
- Non-statutory
- Short-term funding
- Regional policy footprint
- Bottom-up (and top down)?
- Enabling role (no powers and function)
- Charity
- Weaker brand?

National Park

- National and international
- Statutory
- Longer-term funding
- National policy footprint
- Top down (and bottom-up)?
- Enabling and regulatory powers and functions
- Visitor management
- Public body
- Stronger brand?

Group session 1

- Strengths and weakness of a NP?
- Strengths and weaknesses of a BR?
- Report back on
 - three of each
 - and the best solution for Galloway?





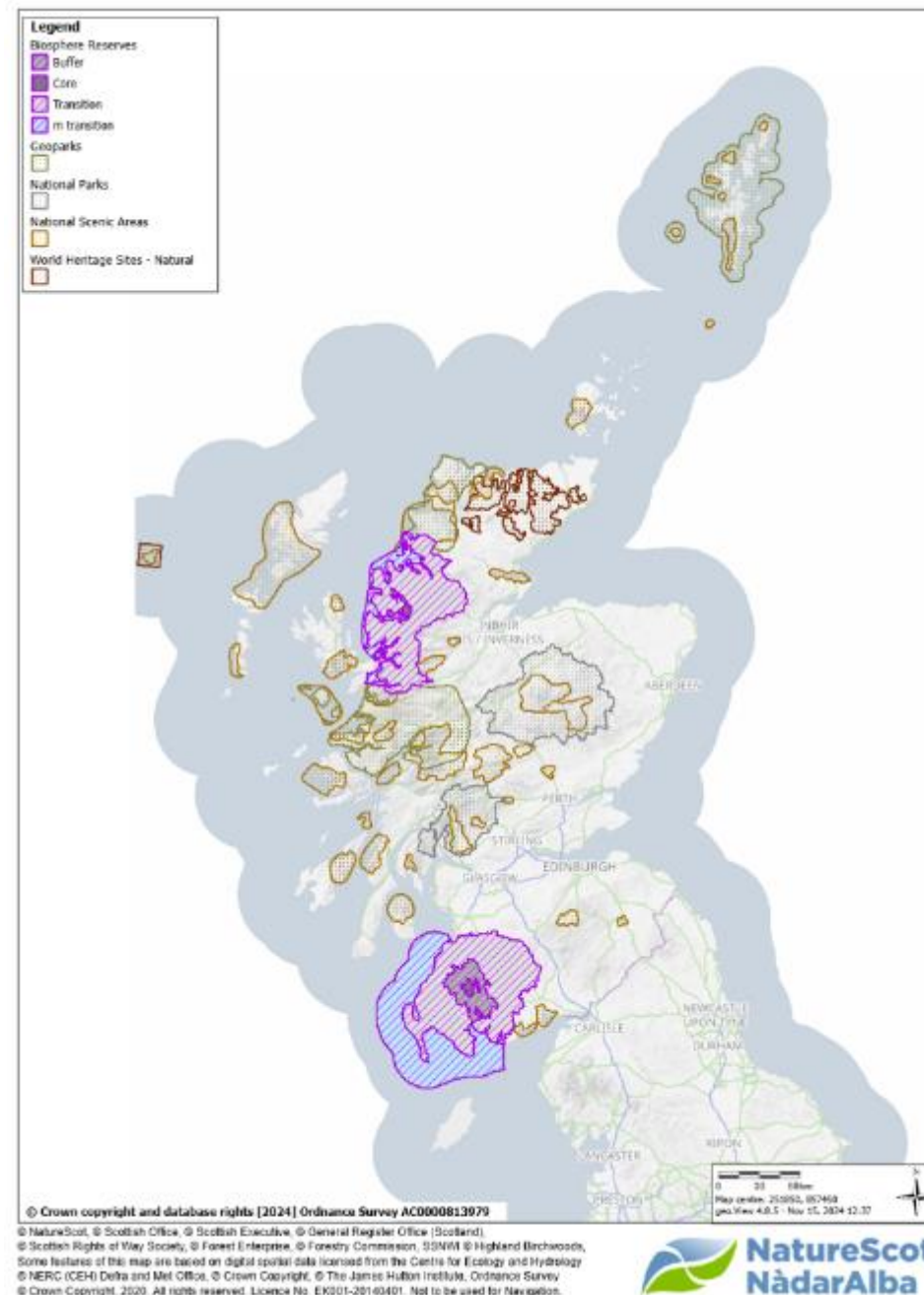
Protected landscapes and UNESCO designations in Scotland

40 National Scenic Areas
2 National Parks
3 Geoparks
2 Biosphere Reserves
2 World Heritage Sites

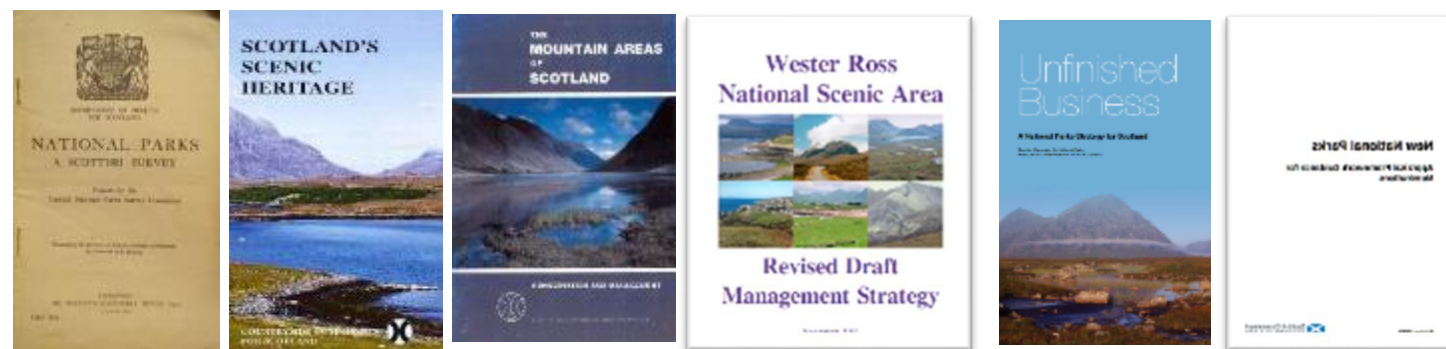
plus

1 (virtual) trail!

UNESCO designations, National Parks and National Scenic Areas in Scotland







- Established in 2016
- Run by a charitable organisation – circa 3 staff
- Covers 5,200 km² of northwest Scotland
- Core, buffer and transition areas
- Key areas of focus of strategic plan 2018-23
 - ✓ Community engagement
 - ✓ Sustainable development
 - ✓ Conservation;
 - ✓ Knowledge sharing



Flow Country WHS

- Designated in July 2024
- Peatland Partnership/Flows Country Partnership long standing dating from 2006
- WHS requirements
 - Formal management plan required
 - International obligation to both protect the OUV from negative impacts of development (wind farms); to restore the area (deforestation; peatland restoration) and facilitate and enhance its appreciation.
 - Explicit recognition in national policy
- Innovative private finance model being developed (also requires long term security of investment!)
- A landscape scale designation or a protected landscape?



Experience in the room from rUK and Europe?

England and Wales

- Lake District (NP and WHS)
- The Slate Landscape of NW Wales (NP and WHS)
- Frontiers of the Roman Empire (NP and WHS)
- Fforest Fawr (NP and Geopark)
- Others? E.g.

Europe

- France – NP and BRs are both zoned allowing for better fit (integrated?)
- Germany – BRs part of the national suite of protected areas (aligned?)
- Others?

Group session 2

- What can learn from these designations?
- Does our national policy or approach need to change to reflect these designations?
- How do protected landscapes and UNESCO designations best fit together?
- Is the growth of UNESCO designations good or bad for the UK's protected landscapes?

