Good Evening

• Geographer, Town and Country Planner
• National Trust for Scotland 1984 – 2007
• APRS 2008 –
• Cyclist, hillwalker and skier
Scottish Campaign for National Parks
SCNP promotes the protection, enhancement and enjoyment of National Parks, potential National Parks and other nationally important outstanding areas worthy of special protection. Equivalent of CNP.

The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland
APRS promotes the care of all of Scotland’s rural landscapes. Equivalent of CPRE and CPRW.
Summary

- Scotland has many world-class landscapes – including the Borders
- But it only has two National Parks
- National Parks bring significant benefits
- Strong case for more National Parks in Scotland
- The Borders should be one of them
Summary

• What is a National Park?
• National Parks in Scotland
• Designation process
• Benefits of National Parks
• Why the Borders?
• Planning
• Boundaries
What is a National Park?

• Leading international designation
• National importance
• Natural or cultural heritage
• Landscape, wildlife, recreation
• Highest accolade
• Wild land or working landscapes
• Jotunheimen, Kilimanjaro, Galapagos
• Cradle Mountain, Karakoram, Yosemite
Park System Report 1974
Mountain Areas Report 1990
Mountain Areas Report 1990
National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000

The Bill for this Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed by the Parliament on 5th July 2000 and received Royal Assent on 9th August 2000

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision for National Parks.

1 The National Park aims
In this Act, references to the National Park aims are to the following aims in relation to an area—
(a) to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area,
(b) to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area,
(c) to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and
(d) to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area’s communities.

2 National Park proposals
(1) The Scottish Ministers may, if it appears to them that the conditions in subsection (2) are or may be satisfied in relation to an area, propose—
(a) the designation of the area as a National Park, and
(b) the establishment of an authority (to be known as a “National Park authority”) to exercise, in relation to that Park, the functions conferred on the authority by virtue of this Act.

(2) Those conditions are—
(a) that the area is of outstanding national importance because of its natural heritage or the combination of its natural and cultural heritage.
(b) that the area has a distinctive character and a coherent identity, and
National Park Aims

- Conserve and enhance natural/cultural heritage
- Promote sustainable use of natural resources
- Promote understanding and enjoyment of special qualities of the area
- Promote sustainable economic and social development
- If conflict, give greater weight to conservation
Designation Process

- Scottish Ministers – National Park Proposal
- Scottish Natural Heritage – Report on Proposal
- Public Consultation
- Scottish Ministers – Statement to Parliament
- (Public Inquiry)
- Scottish Ministers – Draft Designation Order
- Public Consultation
- Scottish Parliament – Designation Order
Benefits of National Parks

Environmental

- Air, water, food, wildlife, flood management, carbon storage
- Tackling difficult issues
- Ranger services
- Landscape and biodiversity projects
- Test beds for new thinking
Benefits of National Parks

Social
• Health and well-being
• Recreation, refreshment, enrichment
• Advice and training
• Affordable housing
• Education and interpretation
Benefits of National Parks

**Economic**
- Tourism
- Support for traditional land uses
- Accolade/marketing advantage
- Direct employment and investment
- Spin-off effects
- Voluntary donations schemes
SCNP/APRS
Proposed National Parks 2013
The Borders
Why the Borders?

• Northumberland NP immediately adjacent
• Superb landscape – mountains, woodlands, farmland, rivers, designed landscapes
• Natural beauty and human achievement
• Impressive range of wildlife and habitats
• Built heritage – Roman remains, abbeys, castles, country houses, villages, bridges
• Cultural heritage – Reivers, clan history, wool trade, Scott, Ridings
• Great recreation opportunities – walking, cycling, camping, canoeing, riding, wildlife watching
Governance

- National Park Authority
- 40% Councillors
- 40% appointed by Scottish Ministers
- 20% directly-elected local people
- National importance, local decision-making
- CNPA $7+7+5 = 19$
- LLTNPA $6+6+5 = 17$
- Could be $4+4+3 = 11$
Planning

- National Park Plan
- Development Planning – forward planning
- Development Management – deciding planning applications
- Most effective if NP Authority has both
- NP Authority itself or delegated to local Council
- Most effective if managed by NP Authority itself
- Planning Committee or full NPA
Boundaries
Topic Reports

• Socio-Economic Benefits
• Governance Models
• Tourism Benefits
• Volunteering Opportunities
Public Support

• John Muir Trust
• Mountaineering Scotland
• National Trust for Scotland
• RSPB Scotland
• Scottish Wild Land Group
• Scottish Wildlife Trust
• Woodland Trust Scotland
Political and Media Support

- 2016 Party Manifestos – four out of five
- Herald editorial
- Landward
- Scots Magazine
NATIONAL PARKS

The Conservation Case

We’re campaigning for more National Parks in Scotland – and we want your opinion...

We’re highlighting the case for more National Parks in Scotland. In coming issues we’ll look at potential conservation, social and economic benefits parks bring. This month John Thomson, secretary of the Scottish Campaign for National Parks, outlines the environmental argument.

The legislation under which Scottish National Parks operate states clearly that their overriding purpose is “to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage”. Those hostile to the creation of new ones – usually on economic grounds – often say Scotland already has plenty of protective designations. How could you possibly justify more? Even some conservationists ask what extra environmental benefits more National Parks could bring.

We believe there are powerful arguments for regarding National Parks as a valuable complement to existing environmental safeguards.

As a concept, National Parks have the great advantage of viewing and valuing the country’s heritage in the round. The human imprint on the countryside is for them as important a concern as its wildlife. The assets that they’re dedicated to looking after include the built as well as the natural, the aesthetic alongside the biological, the artistic alongside the geological. They can also, in principle, encompass sea as well as land – a huge strength in a country where so much of the interest arises from the intimate intermingling of the two.

National Parks thus correspond well to the reality of a long-settled country like Scotland, with a fascinating and colourful history as well as bounteous natural attractions. Scottish National Parks also enjoy the benefits of scale. Though any new ones are unlikely to be as large as the existing Cairngorns National Park, they would still be extensive enough to sustain the kind of landscape-scale environmental initiatives that are essential to effective conservation.

Practically, National Park designation brings with it the long-term commitment and resources vital to tackling the lengthy timescales and complex challenges involved when the future of our landscape is at stake.

The ambitions unleashed find expression in a park plan, designed to crystallise and promote a vision for the area’s future. It represents a shared agenda for all the bodies and individuals whose actions will determine its fate. Delivering such a vision is, of course, not easy. But National Parks can provide exactly the leadership, coordination and support needed to turn aspiration into reality, whether by helping land managers gain access to funding or by galvanising and mobilising volunteer effort. Above all, they can play a crucial role in reconciling the interests of local communities with the environmental needs and goals of wider society.

Never has such a reconciliation been more pressingly required. In our ever more crowded world we have to work out how to look after the amazing natural resources on which we depend in so many different ways – from life support to spiritual uplift. At their best, National Parks show how people and nature can live in harmony. They can provide both laboratories to explore the challenges and trade-offs involved, and examples of what can be achieved given sufficient effort and imagination. Environmentally there can be no higher cause.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you agree with John? Do you think Scotland needs more National Parks?

Contact us mail@scotsmagazine.com

THE SCOTS MAGAZINE
Unfinished Business

A National Parks Strategy for Scotland

Scottish Campaign for National Parks
Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland

John Mayhew
Scottish National Parks Strategy Project