



**NatureScot**  
**NàdarAlba**

Scotland's Nature Agency  
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

Accompanying reports

**An overview report  
on the four drop-in  
surgeries**

Report number 3(c)

May 2025

A report on the proposal for a national park in southwest Scotland

## Report on drop-in surgeries

This is one of 21 reports that accompany NatureScot’s Reporter advice on the Scottish Government’s proposal for a new National Park in southwest Scotland. The advice was submitted on 5 May 2025. This report outlines the drop-in surgeries and feedback from them.

NatureScot staff ran four drop-in surgeries in January in Glentroof, Moniaive, Glencaple and Barrhill.

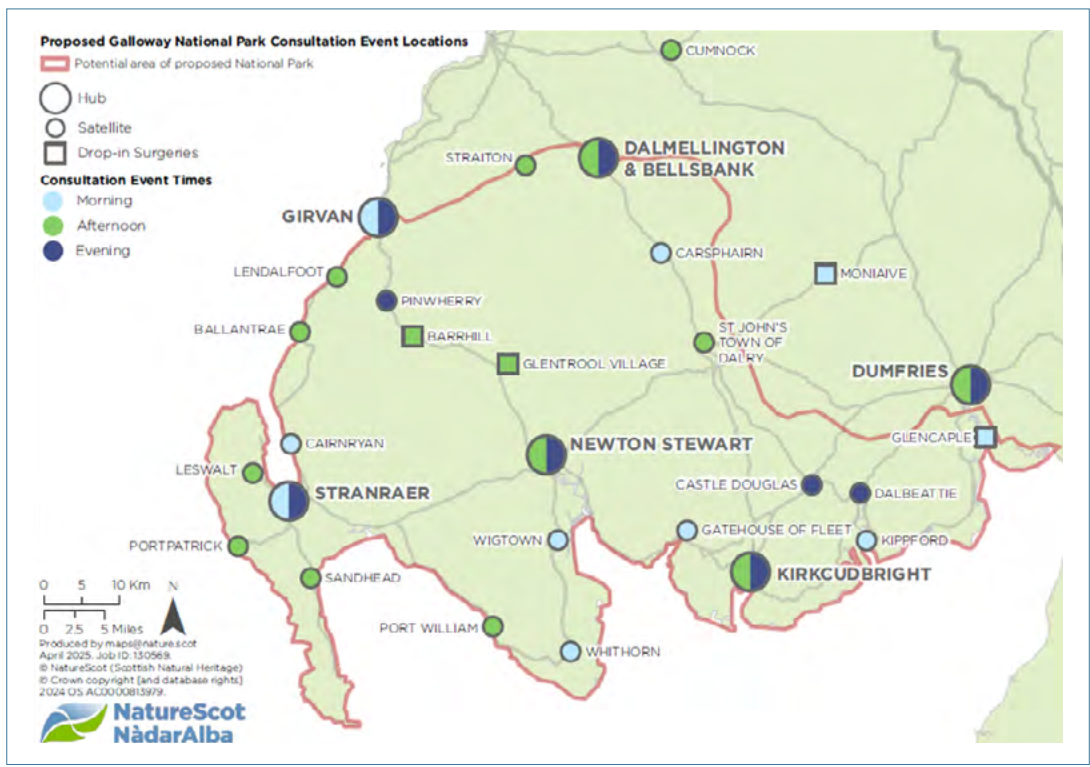
These complemented the consultation events provided by facilitation consultants. The drop-in surgery locations were chosen to ensure more complete geographical coverage. All the venues were accessible. The map below shows the coverage of both formats of event.

The drop-in surgeries were low-key, with just maps on display and some other information available e.g. on hand-outs that were extracts from the consultation paper. This was in contrast to the consultation events which offered various activities.

Those attending the drop-in surgeries could ask questions of the NatureScot staff. They could also leave written comments.

The following pages provide details of the numbers attending each drop-in surgery. They also present, anonymously, the comments made by attendees.

Figure 1 Proposed Galloway National Park Consultation Event Locations - Map



## Individual drop-in surgery information and comments

**TABLE 1 GLENTROOL DROP-IN SURGERY FIGURES**

Location	Date	Attendance	Postcode	Attended Consultation Event?	Submitted a Survey response?
Glentrool	08/01/2025	17	All DG8	9	11

Comments Submitted at Glentrool:

1. Yes to the park but needs to address increase in tourism. The Galloway Hills are currently full of camper vans, off road bikes during the summer - anti - social behaviour to be controlled
2. Strongly in favour of this to - protect our biodiversity - create jobs - combat climate change
3. I vote for Area 3 the largest one
4. Area Zone 2+ it is important to protect the upper reaches of the Cree and the Bladnoch
5. Get it passed and in place quickly
6. Yes to the National Park! Galloway needs the change, and it would be wonderful for the area
7. Please include the seas and coastline in the planning authority PROTECT OUR SEAS
8. We have waited 7 decades for this – Make it happen now
9. Dumfries should be included – get it passed
10. Yes assuming there is the infrastructure to cope with visitors and their vehicles
11. Good Idea – Infrastructure (A75) needs improving. Regeneration needed. Would it stop windfarms (hopefully)
12. I am strongly in favour of a new National Park in Dumfries and Galloway. It will bring jobs and funding that is desperately needed as soon as possible
13. Biodiversity needs to be addressed we are losing so many varieties of plants and minibeasts due to land management A National Park would address this.
14. Concerned about the devastation the forestry industry leaves in our area. Hopefully a National Park will address this and make them more accountable for ‘making good’
15. National Park Authority need to curtail the excesses and bad practices of Forest and Land and the landowners – No to monoculture, no to 1 species grassland for livestock No to barbed wire fences in place of proper hedging and woodland
16. It could bring extra jobs, which are much needed in our area. Improve public transport within the area to enable locals and visitors to discover and explore the National Park without their own transport
17. Yes Please to National Park. Glentrool should be within it because we are the only village in the Dark Sky Park and at the heart of the Galloway Forest

18. The National Park is needed to force through National and Regional re-wilding policies large scale
19. A National Park in Dumfries and Galloway would be extremely beneficial. It would enable improved conservation efforts, increase job opportunities for young people increasing funding for local businesses and public transport. For these reason I am strongly in favour of a National Park.
20. Land Management needs to be addressed – farmers forestry locally do not necessarily look after our environment. A National Park could address this
21. Yes to Park. The area deserves to be accessible to people the Park will bring jobs and funding to make access available.

**TABLE 2 MONIAIVE DROP-IN SURGERY FIGURES**

Location	Date	Attendance	Postcode	Attended Consultation Event?	Submitted a Survey response?
Moniaive	09/01/2025	15	DG2 and DG3	None	5

Comments submitted at Moniaive:

1. I am opposed to the creation of a National Park in Galloway. I do not want taxpayers money spent on paying for more Bureaucrats and regulation
2. In D&G district has brilliant walks and can still have a wilderness experience I will hate to lose that by too much foot fall and the roads are in an embarrassing state
3. In principle I'm very supportive. It is still at early stages Good luck!
4. Maintain Sustainable economic and cultural rural communities!  
Engagement, education, services, environment = ensure communities are treated as part of the benefits from any NP
5. I think Galloway is completely unsuitable to be a National Park as its an important food producing area. Also it is a complete waste of taxpayers money.
6. Very interesting I would hope that the NPO would not impose too many restrictions, but it would certainly open up numerous opportunities for natural/economic development
7. Concerns: a 'National Park label' could increase tourism beyond the capacity of the region - damage to fragile habitats / Landscape, alter culture / communication (e.g. friendliness and access to resources Re Icelanders experience)
8. I think this is an exciting opportunity for the region for the creation of jobs and protecting the environment
9. Good Luck - may the outcome be kind
10. A new National Park could help safeguard better future for:
  - a. Local young people and families
  - b. Our local environment - built and natural
  - c. Wildlife and flora

11. Please invest in improved environment
  - a. Watershed management to reduce flooding Biodiversity and abundance – natural solution not engineering
  - b. Long term funding for environmental projects
  - c. A method via the Biosphere also attractive

**TABLE 3 GLENCAPLE DROP-IN SURGERY FIGURES**

Location	Date	Attendance	Postcode	Attended Consultation Event?	Submitted a Survey response?
Glencaple	16/1/2025	23	DG1 and DG12	5	6

Comments submitted at Glencaple:

4. There will be increased pressure on the infrastructure. The roads will be busier more campervans. There will be increased pressure on housing & although more ‘affordable housing’ can be planned for there could be more Air BNBs and rentals
5. The restrictions on planning for dairy farmers with them having to seek extra permission for dairy sheds increases bureaucracy. More littering, irresponsible visitor & dogs damaging livestock
6. Increased visitors will put more pressure on wildlife. The NC 500 is not a National Park its publicity has increased numbers hugely. There are dirty campers, people parking in passing places slow traffic. The locals have suffered as they bring all their food in and don’t spend money locally
7. Name – proposal extends beyond Galloway (we’re in Dumfries)
8. I want to express my opposition to the Park – it is not necessary it is an imposition. D&G infrastructure needs investing in first
9. I doubt that a National Park will give benefit to inhabitants of Galloway. If it is to go ahead the road infrastructure should be improved first. Any benefits would be affected by the problems of increased traffic and inconsiderate parking. (see Lake District)
10. There is not the infrastructure in the area, and we don’t want it to end up like the Lake District, No houses for the local young due to holiday lets everywhere
11. The whole of D&G needs significant improvement. Having lived in and out of the Cairngorms the issue about extra rubbish is not an issue here. As a young person living here I’m struggling to find nature related work. I’m one of the youngest people in my village. I keep hearing the words ‘extra bureaucracy’ but no one will tell me what this will be. A National Park won’t solve all the issues here, but we need to do something Conserving Nature is a priority (A96 handles it why not A75)
12. Worried about increase in rental and Air BnB. Already Glencaple has various ‘ghost’ properties. Consider hotel tax. Concerns about increase in wild camping / rental impact. Roads are narrow. Can’t take on too many extra motorhomes – infrastructure is too constrained. NC 500 (not a National Park) demonstrates when a successful model is detrimental to

the local community. How can we avoid their mistakes? Housing prices & effect on local community? Effect on local NHS Already overstretched. Concerns over Farms having increased restrictions. This is already a perilous vocation and added red tape will add to their burden

13. More pressure on already poor infrastructure. Learn from Cumbria - no adequate car parking etc permission refused for more.
14. Having lived in the Cairngorms National Park it has had a massive influence on the person I am. It is the reason I am studying forestry and want to work helping in some way to fix Nature related problems. I'm now very passionate about it and hope that once the NP in D&G goes ahead the I can get a job working in it.

**TABLE 4 BARRHILL DROP-IN SURGERY FIGURES**

Location	Date	Attendance	Postcode	Attended Consultation Event?	Submitted a Survey response?
Barrhill	21/1/2025	7	All KA26	1	2

Comments Submitted at Barrhill:

1. The Infrastructure (Roads, Water, Sewage) in the Barrhill area are not fit for purpose at the moment let alone when extra vehicles will arrive

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