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National Planning Framework 3 - National Developments Proposal Form	
Proposer	The Scottish Campaign for National Parks and The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland
Contact details	John Mayhew Project Manager Scottish National Parks Strategy Project 0131 225 7012 scnp-aprs@btconnect.com
Date	December 2012
Title of development	National Parks Designations
Elements to be covered by national development status	The designation under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 of at least seven additional National Parks, including at least one coastal and marine National Park.
Fit with criteria and statement of more than regional importance (guide - 500 words)	<p>Scotland's landscapes rank amongst the best in the world, including wild mountains, pristine rivers and lochs, ancient forests, stunning coastline and islands, all rich in wildlife and history. However, the National Parks (Scotland) Act was only passed in 2000 and only two National Parks have been designated so far: Loch Lomond and the Trossachs in 2002 and Cairngorms in 2003. SCNP and APRS consider Scotland has further areas of outstanding importance for landscape and recreation worthy of National Park designation.</p> <p>'National Park' is the leading internationally-recognised designation for places of the highest national importance for natural or cultural heritage, including landscape, wildlife and recreation. Although the term 'national park' has various meanings in different countries, it is recognised worldwide as the highest accolade which can be given to a place within its national context. There are over 3,500 National Parks worldwide, including such well-known places as Jotunheimen in Norway, Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and the Galapagos in Ecuador. Many National Parks are truly wild areas; some, as in Scotland, are wholly or partly lived-in, working landscapes. Scots-born naturalist, explorer and writer John Muir is known as the 'Father of National Parks', having inspired the creation of the world's first National Parks in 19th-century USA.</p> <p>National Parks bring many environmental, social and economic benefits. They provide a clear focus on a particular place, mechanisms to stimulate and co-ordinate positive action towards its conservation management and additional resources to reflect its importance to the nation. National Parks benefit from an agreed plan designed to safeguard the area's special qualities for future generations whilst managing competing pressures such as tourism, transport, energy, agriculture, forestry and fishing in a positive integrated way. Governments provide additional national funding to help people living or working in or around National Parks, encouraging jobs which support and look after these special places and their ways of life. National Parks often bring more visitors to</p>

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	<p>remote areas, benefit tourism, farming and fishing interests and generate new commercial and marketing opportunities.</p> <p>Expert reports in 1947, 1974 and 1990 recommended at least four or five National Parks in Scotland. Extensive research and debate in 2005-2007 established a clear case for one or more Coastal and Marine National Parks.</p> <p>The proposal will make a significant contribution to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills development, reducing unemployment and job creation – through direct employment by the National Park Authority and the ‘multiplier effect’ of sourcing goods and services from local businesses • Strengthening Scotland’s links with the rest of the world – through increasing average spend per visitor, lengthening the visitor season, increasing tourism employment and sustaining small-scale tourism businesses • Improving our green infrastructure networks – through investing in priority landscape and biodiversity projects, including linking habitats with conservation corridors • Adapting to or mitigating the effects of climate change – by demonstrating the implementation of the sustainable Land Use Strategy • Improving the quality of the built or natural environment – through projects in the National Park Plan agreed by all agencies and public bodies <p>National Parks are by definition of national importance; they are designated by the Scottish Parliament and funded by the Scottish Government.</p>
<p>Location (description, map reference, or map)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Nevis/Glen Coe/Black Mount • The Cheviots (extension of Northumberland National Park) • Coastal and Marine National Park – centred on Mull and stretching from the Small Isles to Colonsay • Galloway • Glen Affric • Harris • Wester Ross
<p>Public Engagement to date (guide - 100 words)</p>	<p>There is substantial national public support for National Parks in general, and some local support for designating further National Parks. SCNP and APRS have contacted local people from several of the candidate areas, including Glen Coe, the Cheviots, Galloway and Harris. Scottish Natural Heritage carried out extensive public engagement regarding Coastal and Marine National Parks during 2005-2007. The clearest evidence of public support comes from Harris, where a referendum of all local residents held in 2009 demonstrated that a clear majority in favour of seeking National Park status.</p>
<p>Environmental Study / Assessment available? (yes / no)</p>	<p>No</p>

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<i>If yes, what significant effects were identified</i>	
Delivery timescale	2014 – 2020
Development lifespan	Permanent
Consents required	Designation Orders under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, requiring approval by the Scottish Parliament.
Visual representation of the development available? <i>If yes, please list and state if provided.</i>	Yes – a map of the approximate locations of the seven proposed National Parks is available on request.