



FOR A HAPPIER,
HEALTHIER SCOTLAND

Consultation Response

New National Parks - Appraisal Framework

3/8/23

If you have any questions about this response, please contact our policy team:
policy@pathsforall.org.uk

Who We Are

Paths for All is Scotland's walking charity. Established in 1996, we work in partnership with 30 national organisations with a shared vision of a healthier, happier, greener Scotland, where everyone can be active every day. Walking is the easiest and most accessible way to be active, and our work to change the way people move, travel, and enjoy life in Scotland is focused on the following three themes:

- Walking is for everyone.
- Walking is for everywhere.
- Walking is for every day.

Our [strategy](#) sets out our vision for tackling physical inactivity, poor mental health, increased health and transport inequalities and the climate emergency.

Our Response

Criterion 1 - Outstanding national importance

1 Do you agree that 'outstanding national importance' should be a criterion for assessing nominations for new National Parks?

Agree

This is in keeping with the requirements of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.

2 Do you agree with the components of criterion 1 (outstanding national importance)?

Question 2 - Component 1:

Agree

Question 2 - Component 2:

Agree

Criterion 2 - Size, character and coherence

3 Do you agree that 'size, character and coherence' should be a criterion for assessing nominations for new National Parks

Agree

4 Do you agree with the components of criterion 2 (size, character and coherence)?

Question 4 - Component 1:

Agree

Question 4 - Component 2:

Agree

Criterion 3 - Meeting the special needs of the area

5 Do you agree that 'meeting the special needs of the area' should be a criterion for assessing nominations for new National Parks?

Agree

We are particularly interested in:

How National Park designation could help to promote the understanding and enjoyment of the area by Scotland's people.

How the National Park designation could support the well-being of local communities. This could be broadened to include communities of interest – not necessarily local. Mental and physical health - enhanced by enjoying outdoor recreation - is a key aspect of this.

How National Park designation could support the sustainable use of the area's natural resources and how it would make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Creating good path infrastructure throughout the new park is a key part to public enjoyment etc. Criteria 4 Components 2, 3, 4 are also relevant to Paths for All. A new national park could help behaviour change towards sustainable and active travel.

6 Do you agree with the components of criterion 3 (meeting the special needs of the area)?

Question 6 - Component 1:

Agree

Question 6 - Component 2:

Agree

Question 6 - Component 3:

Agree

Question 6 - Component 4:

Agree

Question 6 - Component 5:

Agree

Criterion 4 - Visitor management and experience

7 Do you agree that 'visitor management and experience' should be a criterion for assessing nominations for new National Parks?

Agree

Important aspects would be:

Promoting recreational access and creating good path infrastructure throughout the new park - this is a key part of public enjoyment.

Promotion and enhancement of active and sustainable transport.

Promotion and enhancement of active travel routes to and within the park. The extent to which this is practical might be a consideration in designation.

Support for management through, e.g., sufficiently funded ranger services.

8 Do you agree with the components of criterion 4 (visitor management and experience)?

Question 8 - Component 1:

Agree

Question 8 - Component 2:

Agree

Question 8 - Component 3:

Agree

Question 8 - Component 4:

Agree

Component 3 - "How could National Park designation support current and potential future transport infrastructure in and around the proposed area?" - active and sustainable transport should be included here.

We consider that promoting access to nature for Scotland's people is particularly important.

Criterion 5 – Added value

9 Do you agree that 'added value' should be a criterion for assessing nominations for new National Parks?

Agree

10 Do you agree with the components of criterion 5 (added value)?

Question 10 - Component 1:

Don't know

Question 10 - Component 2:

Don't know

Criterion 6 - Local support

11 Do you agree that 'local support' should be a criterion for assessing nominations for new National Parks?

Agree

This should also include communities of interest - which may not all be within the park boundary but have a relevant and valuable contribution to make.

12 Do you agree with the components of criterion 6 (local support)?

Question 12 - Component 1:

Agree

Question 12 - Component 2:

Agree

This should also include communities of interest.

Criterion 7 - Strategic contribution

13 Do you agree that 'strategic contribution' should be a criterion for assessing nominations for new National Parks?

Agree

14 Do you agree with the components of criterion 7 (strategic contribution)?

Question 14 - Component 1:

Agree

Question 14 - Component 2:

Agree

Question 14 - Component 3:

Don't know

Question 14 - Component 4:

Agree

Question 14 - Component 5:

Agree



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Paths For All

Kintail House, Forthside Way Stirling FK8 1QZ

T 01786 641851

E info@pathsforall.org.uk

pathsforall.org.uk

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Registered Office: Kintail House, Forthside Way, Stirling, FK8 1QZ