

Frequently Asked Questions



Farming at Cessford Castle © Frank Wielbo

These FAQs have been prepared to help people understand key points about the Scottish Borders National Park proposal. If you have further questions, please contact the Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park: <http://www.borders-national-park.scot/comments.htm> or on Facebook: scotbordersNP.

Q1: Our rights will be affected and there will be more red tape/bureaucracy.

A: All the existing legislation will remain and existing rights will not be extinguished. National Park status can bring greater clarity and structure and a more integrated approach from all the different responsible agencies and their interests.

Q2: Designation would lead to curbs on agriculture, hunting, muir burn, shooting, greater than in non-designated areas.

A: Park powers need not extend to imposing further controls beyond those in existing legislation. Parks may have powers to establish bye laws for example – but these will be subject to wide consultation and need Ministerial approval.

Q3: There will be more people on my land, disturbing livestock, having accidents, litigating against me for compensation and creating litter.

A: Access legislation already permits responsible access to most land in Scotland and liability issues for land managers are well defined. National Park status can bring dedicated resources – investment in path networks for people to use and information and an Access Forum to solve access issues.

Q4: Local control will be lost or diminished.

A: NPA Boards generally have at least 60% of locally elected members and most of the 40% of members appointed by elected Scottish Ministers are likely to live in or close to the park.

FAQ

Q5: National Park designation will stop wind farm development.

A: Designation is not designed as a tool to stop development. Every application is considered on its merits and some developments will have a pre-existing planning history. That said, NPF3 says Scottish Ministers do not support large scale wind farms in National Parks and NSAs and changes in public subsidies for wind farms have made bringing new developments to market more difficult.

Q6: What costs would be borne by SBC?

A: There may be some costs associated with planning but they should be recouped by fees and developer contributions. Increased costs in schooling and health care could come through population growth. The NPA would generate grant-in-aid, jobs and attract new funding income to the area because of status.

Q7: What costs would be borne by the taxpayer?

A: The tax payer contributes to the area through agricultural support mechanisms, the national forest estate and income support. Park status brings additional income and wealth from individuals, visitors and businesses increasing tax receipts for the Scottish Government (which now gets income tax and half of VAT returns). The benefit of parks extend well beyond those which are economically quantifiable. In judging what a park might offer the Borders it is important to adopt a holistic view of their total benefit, including health, well-being and image, to the community and the nation.



Disused Heatherhope Reservoir © Andrew Curtis



The Turnbull sculpture, Heritage Hub, Hawick
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