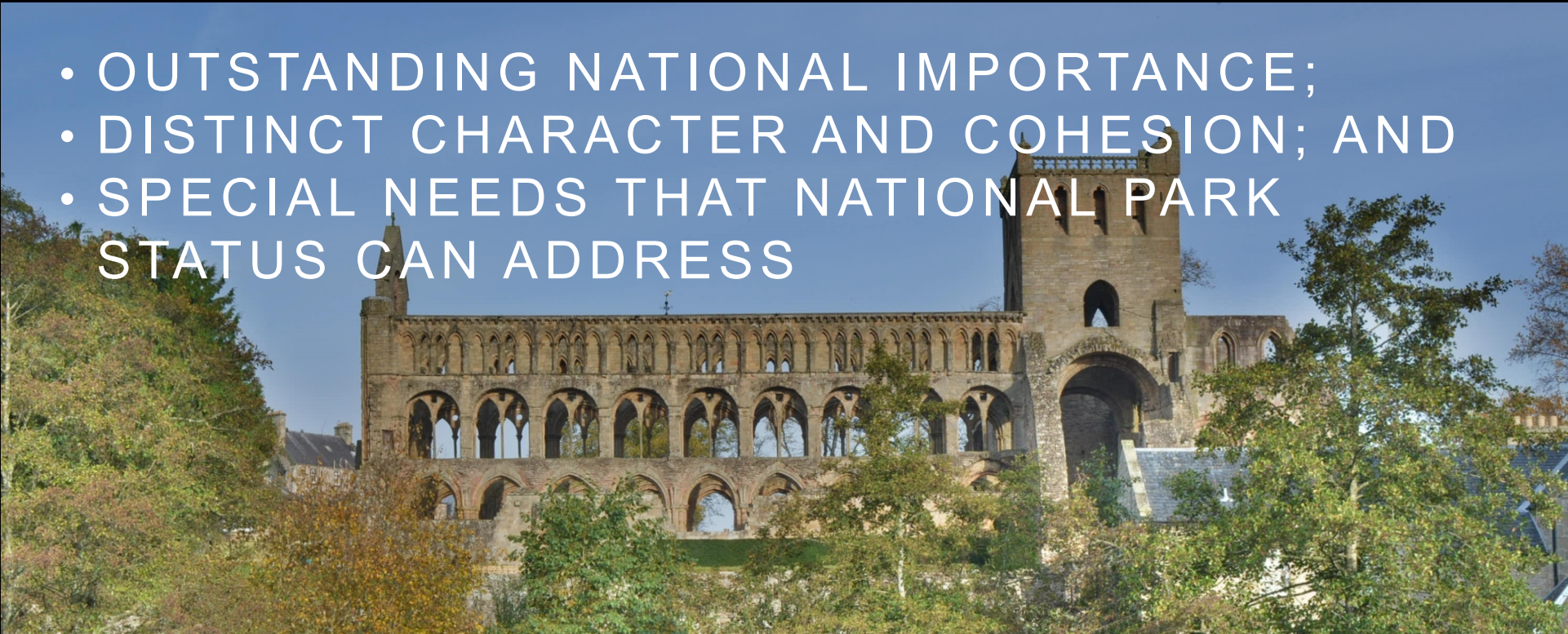


INDEPENDENT FEASIBILITY STUDY

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2017

THE PROPOSED AREA MEETS THE THREE
CONDITIONS FOR NATIONAL PARK STATUS
REQUIRED BY SCOTTISH LEGISLATION:

- OUTSTANDING NATIONAL IMPORTANCE;
- DISTINCT CHARACTER AND COHESION; AND
- SPECIAL NEEDS THAT NATIONAL PARK STATUS CAN ADDRESS



FEASIBILITY STUDY (CONTINUED)

DESIGNATION WOULD STRENGTHEN
THE ECONOMY WITHIN THE SCOTTISH
BORDERS NATIONAL PARK AND OF THE
WIDER AREA SURROUNDING IT,
ENCOURAGING TOURISM AND
ATTRACTING OTHER BUSINESSES TO
THE REGION

THERE IS ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT
FROM LOCAL PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES
AND BUSINESSES

CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS
IN THE SOUTHERN BORDERS ARE NOT
ENCOURAGING

NATIONAL PARKS ARE PROVEN
CONTRIBUTORS TO SUSTAINABLE

FEASIBILITY STUDY (CONTINUED)

A SCOTTISH BORDERS NATIONAL
PARK NEED NOT BE COSTLY, AND
WOULD SOON YIELD A SUBSTANTIAL
RETURN ON INVESTMENT

THE NATIONAL PARK BRAND
PROVIDES A VEHICLE FOR NEW AND
CREATIVE BUSINESSES, SERVICES
AND SOLUTIONS TO BORDERS-WIDE
CHALLENGES

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

A large, multi-arched stone viaduct spans a wide river. The landscape is covered in snow, and the sky is a clear, bright blue. The viaduct is constructed from reddish-brown stone blocks. The river flows from the bottom right towards the center of the frame. The arches of the viaduct create a series of rectangular frames through which the snowy landscape and distant hills are visible. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

- building bridges with
- Scottish Borders Council
- key stakeholders
- Scottish Government and Parliament

SBC SUPPORT?

- All councillors kept up to date
- Support from most local councillors
- dialogue with leading elected members and senior officials
- Main Issues Report - September 2018, questions:
 - Do you support the designation of a National Park within the Scottish Borders?
 - If so, which general area do you think a National Park should cover?



MAIN ISSUES REPORT RESPONSES

- OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR A SCOTTISH BORDERS NATIONAL PARK (103 EXPRESSED A VIEW, 81, IE 79% IN FAVOUR)
- REASONS GIVEN COVERED ALL OF THE STATUTORY AIMS OF, AND CRITERIA FOR, NATIONAL PARKS IN SCOTLAND
- ALL MAIN CONCERNS OF OBJECTORS CAN BE ADDRESSED BY PROPOSALS PREVIOUSLY MADE PUBLIC BY THE CAMPAIGN
- MAJORITY WHO ANSWERED SECOND QUESTION FAVOURED AN AREA BASED ON ROXBURGHSHIRE, WITH POSSIBLE EXTENSIONS

“Excellent idea and one that should be wholeheartedly supported by all Borders based businesses” **Nick Bannerman, Johnstons of Elgin Global Sales Director & MD in Hawick**

“I really believe that a National Park in the Scottish Borders would provide some much-needed impetus for all sorts of businesses, existing and new” **Tony Hackney, Ch Exec, BSW Timber, largest UK combined timber & forestry company, with HQ in Earlston**

“...the best way forward to encourage the protection of our unique wild places while having a real platform to promote the history and heritage of the Scottish Borderland” **Bob Lawson, Curator of Ferniehurst Castle**

“This is the only game in town”
Alan Bailey, MD, Award Winning Ruberslaw Wild Woods Camping

“Believe in the Borders”
Malcolm R Dickson, Campaign Member

A black and white photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a grassy field with a stone ruin, possibly a wall or a small building, partially collapsed. The middle ground shows rolling hills with some trees and a fence line. The background features more hills under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
ARRANGEMENT WITH GREENS “AT
LEAST ONE NEW NATIONAL PARK BY
END OF THIS PARLIAMENT (2023)”

SBC AGREED IN SEPT 2019 THAT IT
WOULD FORMALLY CONSIDER NP
PROPOSAL

SET UP AN OFFICERS WORKING
GROUP IN LATE 2021

LIKELY TO FORMERLY COMMIT ONE
WAY OR THE OTHER IN NEXT FEW
MONTHS



PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT

- June, 2022 - Holyrood debated the need for more NPs in Scotland.
- Two days before, our Campaign contacted every constituency MSP covering some part of the Borders and every List MSP for South Scotland, providing a briefing.
- Within days of the debate 10 MSPs, from all parties and without prompting, declared support for both the Scottish Borders proposal and the Galloway proposal.



- There are two active campaigns in Scotland: **Scottish Borders and Galloway**
 - Only our Campaign has commissioned a Feasibility Study which backs the proposal
 - However, the Councils of Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire have already given political support whereas SBC has not.
- There is a precedent in the Borders for SBC giving political support to a Campaign which has not yet been subject to a Feasibility Study (Campaign for Borders Rail) let alone a Scottish Government assessment.
- The Campaign Team believes that now is the time for that political support to be offered because otherwise it might seem to some, however erroneously, that the Scottish Borders proposal is less strong, less developed and has less momentum than the Galloway Campaign.