

# Annan Initiative

Ms Nikki Milne  
Marine Biodiversity Policy & Sustainable Management Branch  
Area GH93  
Victoria Quay  
EH6 6QQ

12 January 2007

Dear Ms Milne,

## **SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR A COASTAL AND MARINE NATIONAL PARK**

### **ANNAN INITIATIVE COMMENT**

**REASONS WHY THE SOLWAY REGION, INCLUDING LOCH RYAN, SHOULD  
BECOME SCOTLAND'S FIRST DESIGNATED COASTAL AND MARINE NATIONAL  
PARK**

- 1. PRESERVATION / PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF IMPORTANT  
MARINE AND WILDLIFE HABITAT.**
- 2. ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO REGION THROUGH TOURISM EMBRACING:**

**SCENERY  
GARDENS  
COASTAL WALKS  
HISTORY  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
FISHING  
WATER SPORTS  
BIRD WATCHING (SUMMER AND WINTER)  
CASTLES  
CULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE  
FESTIVALS**

3. BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDING LOCAL PRODUCTS, ACCOMMODATION, CRAFTS, FOOD ITEMS LINKED TO REGION.

4. LARGE CATCHMENT AREA - PEOPLE FROM CENTRAL BELT OF SCOTLAND, IRELAND, NORTHERN ENGLAND, WITH A GOOD TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE.

We in Annan have developed a very active walking group, the exploits of which can be viewed on [www.annan.org.uk](http://www.annan.org.uk), with a membership of over 100 who enjoy the Solway coast and have developed new access, interpretation and paths. This has attracted visiting walkers to the area and boosted the local economy. We believe the natural and undeveloped coastline is a huge asset for our area and an underutilised attraction for the tourist industry but we are convinced that any exploitation should be controlled through the safeguards offered by a National Park

Yours sincerely

Alan Thomson

Alan Thomson  
Annan Initiative  
Hayknowes  
Annan  
DG12 5QZ  
[alan@dgaa.net](mailto:alan@dgaa.net)