



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS  
HERITAGE TRUST

21 December 2006

23/12/06

**Nikki Milne**  
**Scottish Executive Environment**  
**& Rural Affairs Department**  
**Marine Management Division**  
**GH93**  
**Victoria Quay**  
**Edinburgh**  
**EH6 6QQ**

Dear Nikki

**Re: Scotland's first coastal and marine National Park consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal for a first Scottish coastal and Marine National Park.

Chapter 1

National Park designation would:

- Bring economic benefit (additional opportunities for the tourism and leisure industries). There would also be additional economic opportunities created within environmental management. These all present sustainable long-term employment opportunities but are dependent on management of the resource.
- Tourism and leisure development can help to support service provision in remote rural areas.
- Effective management will safeguard landscape quality and biodiversity.
- Collectively all the above will contribute to an improvement in quality of life and an enhanced sense of place for the people who live there.
- Additionally a coastal and marine designation presents a unique opportunity to pursue truly integrated coastal zone management.

Chapter 2

Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust agree that Argyll Islands and Coast should be considered as a front runner. Alternatively the Trust would also support the case for a designation within the Firth of Clyde both of which have a natural affinity with the Causeway Coast & Glens area. There are obvious opportunities for closer co-operation between the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB, the Causeway Coast AONB and one or other of these areas. There is even the possibility of this concept being extended to include a Northern Irish dimension or parts of Inishowen in North Donegal. This could create a truly international asset. It could also unlock significant funding opportunities from two local assemblies and the Irish Government.

**Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust**

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Whilst Argyll Islands and Coast/Firth of Clyde are of most interest to the Trust all the other areas proposed have merit and hopefully the Executive will consider further designations in due course.

Chapter 3

Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust would suggest the National Park Authority acts as planner, enabler, manager and regulator. It is considered essential that the new park has both statutory power and adequate resources to do the job.

Whilst supporting the principles outlined for governance the Board should be fit for purpose and try to reflect the unique issues facing the coastal and marine environment. Securing local ownership will be critical.

Finally Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust welcomes this positive initiative from the Scottish Executive which would provide a model for other areas to follow and encouragement for a parallel initiative within Northern Ireland to establish a Mourne National Park and hopefully a second National Park within the Causeway Coast & Glens incorporating the marine area.

Yours sincerely



**Peter Harper**  
**TRUST DIRECTOR**  
**Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust**