

Planning for Scotland in 2050
National Planning Framework 4



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

National Developments – Response Form

Please use the table below to let us know about projects you think may be suitable for national development status. You can also tell us your views on the existing national developments in National Planning Framework 3, referencing their name and number, and providing reasons as to why they should maintain their status. Please use a separate table for each project or development. **Please fill in a [Respondent Information Form](#) and return it with this form to scotplan@gov.scot.**

Name of proposed national development	South West Scotland Coast Path
Brief description of proposed national development	To establish a continuous 500km coast path from the England/ Scotland border to Cairnryan. It will create a new world-class outdoor and environmental tourism offer by investing in the natural capital and green infrastructure of Dumfries and Galloway and promote collaboration between cross border local authorities and strategic partners.
Location of proposed national development (information in a GIS format is welcome if available)	Connecting the Cumbrian section of the England Coast Path continuing along the Dumfries and Galloway coastline to Ayrshire. See attached plans.
What part or parts of the development requires planning permission or other consent?	Landowner negotiations for the identified gaps in the route and creation of new core path designations and statutory approvals.
When would the development be complete or operational?	2030 subject to resources and funding
Is the development already formally recognised – for example identified in a development plan, has planning permission, in receipt of funding etc.	Recognised within the Core path plan and the D&G LDP. The first phase was recognised in the NPF3, and is now under construction.

Contribution of proposed national development to the national development criteria (maximum 500 words):

South West Scotland Coast Path - a new long-distance route along the Dumfries and Galloway coastline, delivering key green infrastructure in the region.

1. Background

1.1. Development of a coastal route along the North Solway has been mooted for the past decade. Dumfries and Galloway was identified as one of the most outstanding sections, in every sense, during the discussions about the feasibility of establishing a mainland continuous route from Gretna to Berwick. It is the missing link between existing coastal routes in Cumbria and Ayrshire, and with promotion, offers visitors the opportunity to experience the regions spectacular coastline, whilst simultaneously generating economic, health and environmental benefits to communities. A feasibility study 'Towards a North Solway Coastal Way' (2012) identified the potential of a coast path and a phased approach to delivery (see attached maps for details of the route).

2. Principles of the development

2.1. Tourism is a key economic sector in the south of Scotland, which has national growth potential. Dumfries and Galloway has a spectacular coastline, which includes three National Scenic Areas and a Biosphere. Visit Scotland identified that walking to explore the natural, cultural and historic environment as the number one activity for tourists in D&G.

2.2. The development of a coast path will:

- Develop the role of people and place within a high-quality environment based economy benefitting the communities and businesses' along the coast; Gretna Annan, Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Gatehouse of Fleet, Wigtown, Isle of Whithorn, Port William, Sandhead, Drumore, Portpatrick, Kirkcolm and Stranraer.
- Build on identified existing green infrastructure utilising the core path network
- Contribute to national outcomes i.e. children and young people, economy, communities, health, culture and environment.

3. Delivery

3.1. The delivery of the Core Paths Plan provided D&G Council an opportunity to undertake limited improvements on 200km of core path along the coast. Limited investment over the last 5 years has made some sections of the coast path route accessible.

3.2. A funding package of £1.2million for phase 1 is now secured to deliver the 120km Rhins of Galloway peninsula section, complimenting the regeneration of Stranraer waterfront and the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership project will be investing £80k improving the coast path at Kirkcudbright.

3.3. Further investment is required to complete the remaining sections, upgrade and fill in the gaps and negotiations with landowners to fully realise the economic benefits of connecting communities along the Dumfries and Galloway Coast and encourage visitors to stay longer and discover the scenic Solway coastline.

4. Cost – It is estimated that to undertake infrastructure improvements and for promotional and marketing on the coast path a minimum investment of £4 million is required.

Keep In Touch

For more information and other resources



<http://www.transformingplanning.scot>



<https://blogs.gov.scot/planning-architecture/>



[@ScotGovPlanning](https://twitter.com/ScotGovPlanning)



scotplan@gov.scot