



Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Position Statement

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (GSAB) was awarded UNESCO Biosphere status in July 2012 after a seven year period of review and public consultation. It is looking forward to renewing this arrangement in 2022 with plans for expansion of the area included in the designation.

The Galloway National Park Association (GNPA) is supportive of the GSAB designation and the work it carries out and is pleased that it has secured significant additional resource for the period 2021 to 2026 to expand the reach of this.

From its initial discussion paper, GNPA recognised the benefits of Biosphere status which recognises the outstanding natural and cultural interests of the region and highlights it as a model for sustainable development, and as a test site for development and conservation approaches, where communities collaborate to live better with their environment.

The complementary nature of the work of National Parks and Biospheres is reinforced by the very fact that all 3 Biospheres in mainland England and Wales overlap with National Parks.

The National Park's statutory duties of conservation, recreation, sustainable use of resources and the needs of local communities, along with its associated powers and funding complement the Biosphere which is well placed to connect local communities with their environment without the constraints of a statutory framework.

Together they make a compelling offer which is attractive to local, national and international audiences.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Kelly".

Dame Barbara Kelly President.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rob Lucas".

Rob Lucas Chair.