

The Ring of Gullion Landscape Conservation Action Plan



Newry and Mourne District Council

2/28/2014

Contents

The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Board is grateful financial support for this scheme.



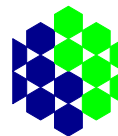
Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership



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Executive summary

The Landscape

Slieve Gullion and its mystical ring dyke formed over 60 million years ago with the opening of the North Atlantic Ocean! In more recent times the landscape has been shaped by the action of glaciers, leaving behind the stunning scenery you see today. Every nook and cranny has been exploited by wildlife over the millennia; Red Deer, Red Squirrels, Red Grouse, Irish Damsel fly and Irish Hare have all made their home among the peat, wood and wetlands. The Ring of Gullion has been inhabited by people for up to 12,000 years and those who lived here have left their mark on the landscape; whether it be Neolithic tombs, Iron Age fortifications, Christian monasteries, 16th and 17th century castles and much more. The Ring of Gullion is bursting at the seams with myths, legends and folklore – it truly is a remarkable landscape.

The Partnership

The partners cover a wide spectrum of expertise from geology, built heritage, biodiversity, tourism, agriculture, forestry, and recreation, to everything that makes up a community: its storytelling, music, dance and history. The lead partner, Newry and Mourne District Council, has made the Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) a top priority and has committed substantial funding and resources to its delivery, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency has also committed substantial funding, and all other partners have pledged their support for the LPS and have showed that it is a priority within their organisation.

The Scheme

Through extensive consultation, an agreed set of themes for this Landscape Partnership have emerged. Principle among them are the conservation of built, natural and cultural heritage in the Ring of Gullion and increasing access and understanding of the areas important heritage.

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The scheme will help to conserve some of the most threatened habitats in Northern Ireland, such as the heather moorlands, the woodlands, and the wildflower meadows as well as the threatened species such as the red squirrel, the barn owl and many more. It will conserve age-old townland traditions that are being consigned to history; spark an interest in those involved to continue the work through local community engagement; and encourage participation in the area's culture through festivals, storytelling and oral history projects. Schools will be able to learn about the landscape and its heritage, and access that heritage through new trails and the restoration of old ones. The bank of skills learned along the way by all those involved will ensure that this project leaves a long-lasting legacy.

The Legacy

During the 'troubles' South Armagh was heavily militarised and even now sixteen years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement the Ring of Gullion is an area currently internationally known only for its militarisation.

The Landscape Partnership Scheme through the Heritage Lottery Fund has the potential of creating a new legacy of cooperative regeneration building on a shared heritage for a sustainable future. The Landscape Partnership Scheme will be seen as a flagship of the Peace Process.

Economic Development

It is important to offer a positive impact economically, socially and environmentally. Thus the delivery of the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme will bring with it immediate, short-term, medium-term and long-term economic development potential. It will immediately bring cash into the local economy through recruitment, overheads, and professional fees and crucially it will create four new jobs.

In the short term the scheme will bring further cash to the local economy, the scheme will deliver outcomes for the conservation of the areas natural and built heritage, substantially increase access to the countryside resulting in greater visitor

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numbers, and health benefits for those who live and work in the scheme area. High quality training will be implemented in order to support local groups and societies.

In the medium to long term (4 years +) the scheme will deliver a positive economic impact by creating the circumstances whereby local communities can create and improve on livelihoods by using the outcomes of the four programmes. Greater access and understanding of the area, highly trained individuals, and greater sense of pride will all help to bring about economic regeneration of the Landscape Partnership Areas by supporting the social and economic wellbeing of its communities.

The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership is an ambitious project with enthusiastic and qualified partners in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Introduction

This Landscape Partnership Scheme has gathered high quality information about the Ring of Gullion. Planning was based on a thorough understanding of the condition and significance of the landscape. The needs and values of the people connected to the Ring of Gullion were identified and the priority issues have shaped the aims and objectives of the scheme to establish projects that will make a real difference to conserving the distinctiveness of the area.

Plan author

The Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) has been written by Darren Rice, Development Officer for the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme. Darren has over 10 years experience in working in the environmental sector. Darren has been implementing the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Action Plan since 2011 and is responsible for delivering an integrated range of landscape and heritage projects. Before working in the Ring of Gullion, he worked in a number of roles in the Mourne AONB for the Mourne Heritage Trust. Darren has an MSc in Environmental Practice: Biodiversity Conservation.

The development stage and the production of the LCAP has been overseen by the Ring of Gullion Partnership Board, the members of which have dedicated time and advice to the development of the scheme. Organisations represented at Partnership meetings were:

Lead Partner

Newry and Mourne District Council

NI Statutory Authorities

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)

Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB)

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Geological Survey of Northern Ireland

Landowners

Forest Service NI (DARD)

Community and Voluntary Sector

Gap o' the North Hillwalking Club

Camlough Heritage Society

Mullaghbane Community Association

Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre

Enspire

Sticky Fingers Arts

Friends of Derrymore Woods

Ring of Gullion and Cooley Red Squirrel Group

Clanrye Group

The following papers – attached in the appendices – have been compiled for this plan and have assisted in its development:

- Assessing the Opportunities for Tourism and Outdoor Recreation in Ring of Gullion Forest Parks (Newry and Mourne District Council)
- Slieve Gullion Footpath: Phase Two Drawings (Nicholas O'Dwyer, Consulting Engineers)
- Slieve Gullion Sensory Trail: A Scoping Study (Groundwork, Northern Ireland)
- Chambre House, Condition Report (Alastair Coey Architects Ltd)
- Ring of Gullion Archaeological Aerial Survey (Irish Archaeological Research)

The Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016 has been an invaluable resource in the development of this document.

Participation and consultation

As illustrated above a wide range of organisations and individuals have participated in and been consulted about the development of the LCAP. In addition, further key officers, individuals and community and special interest groups have been consulted to understand their priorities for the heritage of the LPS area – their involvement has been pivotal to shaping this document.

Introduction

Consultation working groups were set up and these proved influential for both the generation of ideas and for the development of the detail of the various projects outlined in Sections 4 and 5 of this document. Many of the projects have a strong focus on community participation, learning, training and skills development. The first phase of development began in June 2013 with themed open consultations:

- Mullaghbane – Music and Heritage
- Forkill – Story and Place
- Jonesborough – From Here to There
- Camlough and Bessbrook – Industrial Heritage

The Bessbrook and Camlough community consultation focused on the area's rich industrial heritage. There were a number of people in attendance who worked in the old mills, trams, and Newry Canal. This picture is from Bessbrook Mills, 1960s.



As well as organising specific workshops for the communities of the Ring of Gullion, the LPS Manager also attended various festivals and events across the LPS area throughout the development phase to network with the local people and understand the needs and opportunities. The following events were attended by the LPS Manager, with leaflet and survey distributions carried out:

Introduction

- Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Celebrations
- Ring of Gullion Get Outdoors Weekend
- Big Biodiversity Family Fun Day
- And a number of events run by the Ring of Gullion AONB



Buzzard Bushcraft showed participants what to eat to survive in the wild during the Get Outdoors Weekend. Here the guide is showing Yarrow.

Outcomes of the consultations are included at relevant points throughout the document. Further detail is attached in the appendices.

The Ring of Gullion Partnership Board met collectively on 3rd May, 5th August, and 4th November 2013 and on 13th January 2014 and formally launched the LPS on 17th May 2014 – press clippings are attached in the appendices.

The Partnership Board advised on research and consultation processes and – informed by this and their own expertise – scrutinised and refined project ideas to agree the proposed programme of actions. The group also agreed the project boundary and identified possible match funding sources.

Introduction

The Partnership Agreement is signed by the following partners:

Lead Partner

Newry and Mourne District Council

NI Statutory Authorities

Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB)

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Landowners

Forest Service NI (DARD)

Community and Voluntary Sector

Gap o' the North Hillwalking Club

Camlough Heritage Society

Mullaghbane Community Association

Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre

Sticky Fingers Arts

Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Group

Clanrye Group

Landscape Conservation Action Plan – Scheme Overview

Understanding the Ring of Gullion

The Ring of Gullion is a unique area in that it offers a rich tapestry of natural, built and cultural heritage interwoven to this very significant landscape. The LP area includes Slieve Gullion in the centre of a ring of volcanic hills covered with open moorland on hilltops, pasture on the lower land, and gorse hedgerows and stone walls borders on the upper slopes. 'Ladder farms' form distinctive patterns on some hill slopes. There are extensive hillside coniferous plantations. The Ring of Gullion is a remote,



enclosed landscape with a distinctive sense of place and a rich association with myths and legends.

Significance of the Ring of Gullion

The Ring of Gullion is a remarkable area with a fascinating history. The distinctive landscape owes much to long, complex and turbulent geological activity and it is one of only a few small areas in Ireland to have so clearly retained its local identity.

For over 6,000 years, people have been shaping the Ring of Gullion: its historic monuments dating from Neolithic times, the legacy of the Plantation of Ulster, the farming landscape, the biodiversity and everything in between. The people of the Ring of Gullion have a rich tradition of music, song, poetry and legend that is intertwined with its landscape; the area has been known as Ceantar na nAmhrán (the District of Songs) and Ceantar na bhFill (the District of Poets). Today, festivals, storytelling, drama festivals, ceilidhs and dances all give expression to the area's heritage.

Distinctive landscapes, such as the Ring of Gullion, are often the product of a distinctive cultural heritage, and an intermingling of the people, their ways of life and the countryside, throughout history. The people of the Ring of Gullion, in their virtually enclosed frontier position, share cultural traditions closely identified with their home territory. Such is the natural complexity of the area that local areas within the Ring - Mullaghbane, Forkill, Jonesborough and Killeen - have their own particular characteristics of trade, tradition, folklore, poetry and language.

Farming and commerce have shaped the landscape, leaving an overlay of ancient field boundary patterns, parklands, market towns and villages, and a dense network of roads and lanes. Industrial development has led to the creation of man-made features, such as the Newry Canal, the railways, and the enlargement of Camlough Lake, to power the mills of Bessbrook and to supply the canal.

The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme area contains a diverse collection of nationally and internationally protected sites and monuments. . . . The Ring of Gullion really is a remarkable area with a fascinating history.

“To raise awareness and encourage a focus on the landscape - the beauty and distinctiveness of its natural features and cultural heritage, the opportunities to derive benefit from this landscape and its capacity to accommodate change. The Ring of Gullion landscape will be improved, restored and more fully appreciated through positive landscape management. To achieve our vision management will work with and commit to engage with our statutory, farming, community, commercial, recreational and environmental partners who live and work in and around the Ring of Gullion.”

Risks and opportunities for the Ring of Gullion

Few people are aware of how important, unique and distinctive the landscape and the heritage of the Ring of Gullion truly are, nor do they realise the potential risks, and more importantly the great opportunities, associated with it.

Today, threats to this landscape include pressures on wildlife, farming and traditional countryside skills; pressures on the landscape from recreation and illegal recreational activity; and pressures on all flora and fauna resulting from environmental crimes.

The Landscape Partnership Scheme is an important tool whereby these risks can be minimised and managed through sustainable development and through which other existing opportunities explored.

Aims & Objectives of the Scheme

The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme will deliver its aims and objectives guided by its overall vision:

Sustainability of the Scheme

The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme aims to deliver high quality and sustainable projects. It recognizes that four years of Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) financial support is the starting block for an ongoing process of growth and development which will result in a sustainable legacy for our landscape and its people.

The Partnership has sought to address the question of sustainability of the projects by working closely with partner organisations, community groups, landowners and recreational users to deliver work on the ground for which there is a demand. The support and ongoing existence of the Ring of Gullion AONB management team will also be essential to the long-term sustainability of the projects. All funding opportunities will be explored to integrate LP staff into the AONB management team, to continue and build upon projects, and to realize recommendations from those projects after the LPS ends.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Scheme

There will be an ongoing framework for the monitoring and evaluation of the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme. Annual monitoring will be conducted by project staff and volunteers using the milestones associated with the timetabled work; the aim being to ensure that the project delivers its agreed programme within the required timescale.

With the information gathered and monitored during the life of the projects and at the end of the implementation stage, the Ring of Gullion LPS will report and evaluate the Project Outcomes. This will be an analysis of the difference the projects have made to the heritage landscape, its people and to the Partnership.

Gaps and Limitations

The amount of heritage in the Ring of Gullion is awe-inspiring, it would be impossible and impracticable to meet all the needs and address all the issues facing the Ring of Gullion's landscape through this one avenue.

Introduction

The significant amount of consultation carried out during the development stage has allowed us to identify and to focus the LCAP on the key needs of the landscape and its heritage as well as on the values of local communities which can be best addressed through a Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The Partnership recognises that there are gaps in our understanding of the Ring of Gullion's landscape and its communities, however, the LPS is key in allowing us to increase our understanding of the different values people place on heritage and allow us to build upon this project in future programmes.



At the community consultation in Jonesborough, opposite, themed 'From Here to There', Banjo Bannon gave an exciting presentation on his expedition to Mount Everest and how he started rock climbing in Slieve Gullion





Consultations included working with groups planting wildflowers and trees; training events on how to build owl nest boxes and bird, moth and butterfly identification; wildlife, geology and archaeology walks.

Section 1 – Understanding the Ring of Gullion

Introduction

The first section of this plan describes the landscape character of the LP area and the heritage that contributes to the distinctiveness of the landscape. The section will outline the project boundary and why it was chosen, the towns and villages and their significance, the landscape, the area's heritage and key management information.

The Project Boundary

The original Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme area followed the boundary of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: however, during development phase consultations with local stakeholders and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the area was slightly extended to include the villages of Camlough, Bessbrook and Dorsey.



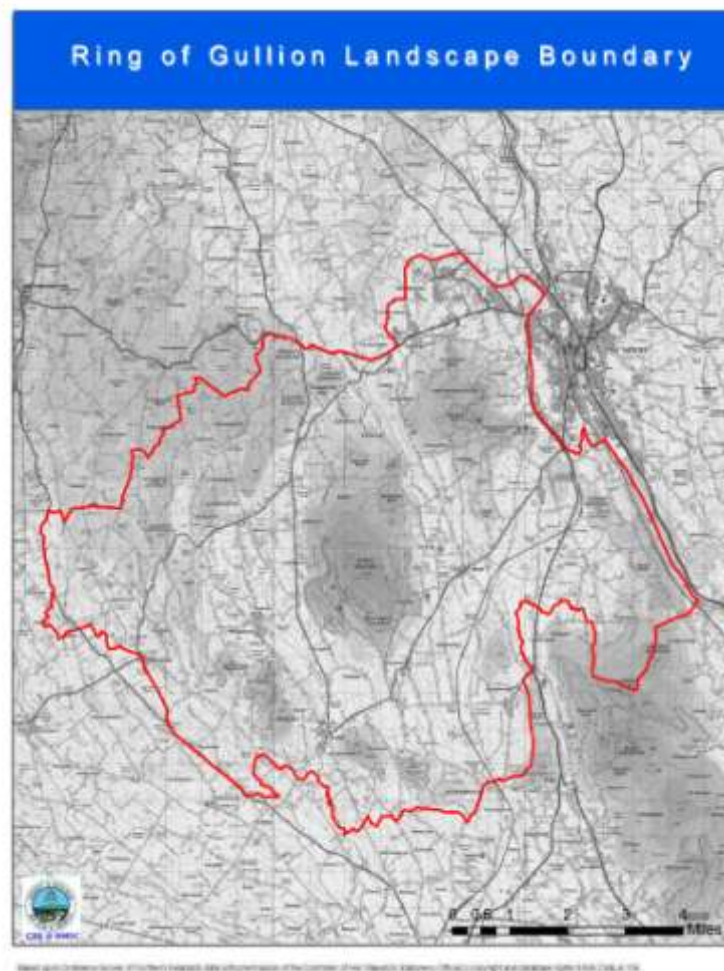
Students from the Ring of Gullion Traditional Arts Partnership play music in a stone circle at Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre in Mullaghbane.

These changes were made in recognition of the fact that Camlough, Bessbrook and Dorsey are key villages in the area which have played a significant role in shaping the Ring of Gullion, its history and the landscape. Na Doirse, or 'the Gateways', has been a boundary for millennia. Consultations revealed a desire for these areas to be included within the boundary and not simply associated with it. The revision also recognised that the boundary expansion brought with it opportunities for high-impact projects that further the aims and objectives of the project significantly.

Section 1 – Understanding the Ring of Gullion

Camlough and Bessbrook act as the main gateways into the Ring of Gullion area and contain many important heritage features.

The final Landscape Partnership Scheme area is set out in the following map.



Towns and Villages

The Landscape Partnership Scheme will focus primarily on the towns and villages outlined below, some of which (indicated by an asterisk) are outside the LP boundary but relate closely to the Ring of Gullion's unique landscape and heritage.

Bessbrook - is named after Elizabeth or 'Bess' Nicholson, wife of Joseph Nicholson, whose family ran a linen business in the district from 1806 until 1845. The 'brook' is a stream which runs through the outskirts of the village.

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Bessbrook was founded by John Grubb Richardson in 1845 as a 'model village', with spacious streets and squares surrounding a large linen mill owned by the Quaker Richardson family. As a social experiment, it is similar to the model of the better-known Bournville company town founded by the Cadbury family near Birmingham, England; however, it predates that development by more than 30 years.

At one time, Bessbrook linen was among the finest in the world, and the linen mill provided most of the employment in the village and surrounding areas. Tenement houses were constructed for the mill workers, many of which were of such good quality that they are still inhabited today. Each house also had an allotment garden for growing vegetables, and the area of the village where they were situated is still known as 'The Gardens'.

Bessbrook is also home to the Derrymore Estate a National Trust property with a thatched house built in the late 1700s by Isaac Corry. Corry was the local Member of Parliament for Newry for 30 years; he was also Chancellor of the Exchequer for the old Irish Parliament in Dublin. The house is set in over 100 acres of park and woodland. This was laid out by John Sutherland, who was a follower of the renowned landscape architect, Capability Brown.



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It's widely believed that the drawing room of Derrymore House (pictured above) is where the draft terms of the Act of Union were drawn up in 1800. It's now known as the Treaty Room.

Camlough - is famous for its links with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). The village hosts two Gaelic football clubs: St Patrick's Carrickcruppen GFC, founded in 1944, and Shane O'Neill's GAC, founded in 1888.

Camlough Lake was first impounded as a reservoir following severe water shortages in Newry during 1866 and 1867. This required the agreement of the mill owners in Bessbrook for whom the outlet provided a source of water power; however, this was easy to secure as the quantity of water required for domestic use was not significant. Furthermore, it was envisaged that the reservoir would increase the capacity of the lake. The Camlough Waterworks Trustees were responsible for carrying out certain construction and maintenance work at Camlough Lake and for the daily supply of 625,000 gallons of water to the town of Newry and 3,500,000 gallons to the mills on the Camlough River (Sundays excepted).

Camlough Lake is an important venue for water sports and outdoor recreation.



There is an annual triathlon and Water Festival at Camlough Lake.

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Creggan* – The O'Neills came to this area in the 15th century. When they arrived in 1447 the first thing they did was to establish a burial place for their dead.

They took over the church in Creggan and from it built their vault, which they used for the next two centuries. During the 1820s, however, the local minister, Reverend Atkinson, had the entrance to the vault sealed up and in the years to follow it became covered over and eventually lost. In the 1970s, a group of local volunteers undertook a major clean-up of the graveyard. During this, a large stone was dislodged by a tractor wheel running over it, leaving a large gaping hole in the ground.

They discovered that there was a cavity beneath them with about 70 skulls inside; that's how the O'Neill vault was re-discovered. Today, a stone stands beside the tomb bearing the inscription "1480 O'Neill 1820".

On the way down into the vault, another stone has a hand inscribed on it. The hand is the symbol of the O'Neills: the red hand of Ulster.

Among the many notable names on headstones at Creggan graveyard is that of the poet Art McCooey. McCooey was known to spend the night sleeping in the O'Neill vault after a few drinks. It was on such a night that he had a dream in the vault which, the story goes, led to him writing the famous poem *Urchill an Chreagáin*, often referred to as the National Anthem of South Ulster. It is said that in his dream he was approached by a fairy maiden who asked him to go away with her to a far-off land.

*'One pledge I shall ask you only,
one promise, O Queen divine!
And then I will follow faithful -
still follow each step of thine,
Should I die in some far-off
country, in our wanderings east
and west, In the fragrant clay of
Creggan let my weary heart
have rest.'*

From '*Urchill an Chreagáin*', Art
McCooey (1715-1773)

Creggan graveyard is a truly ecumenical place, where members of both Catholic and

Section 1 – Understanding the Ring of Gullion

Protestant denominations still bury their dead in its fragrant clay. It contains the remains of poets; scribes; clergymen; raparees; militia; magistrates; revolutionaries; landlords and tenants; labourers; housekeepers; wives and husbands; and beggars and bankers.

Dorsey – is a small village and townland. Na Doirse, ‘the Gateways’, is an extensive earthwork which runs through the South Armagh area. The Dorsey Ramparts are said to have been a fortified frontier post to the ancient kingdom whose capital was Emain Macha (Navan Fort), thus controlling an important historic route into South Armagh. It was built at a time when the power of the Ulster kingdom may have been at its strongest, around 100BC. Some time later, Ulster was threatened from the south and it is speculated that Dorsey may have been incorporated into a more extensive defensive system known in Monaghan and further west as ‘The Black Pig’s Dyke’. These earthworks not only reveal a society with the capacity to recruit and organise a huge labour force, but also they imply one whose leaders were marking out and preparing to administer and defend their dominion.

Dorsey is one of the few monuments in the North which have been confirmed as Iron Age in date. It consists of a group of linear earthworks with a perimeter of 4 km, enclosing an area of 300 acres (1.2 km²).

A tall standing stone in a nearby field is probably a marker for travellers. To this day, it is still whitewashed each spring to make it more prominent in the landscape.

‘Three things one should do every year – listen to a storyteller at a fireside, give a hand in a corn harvest field and climb an Irish mountain’

Michael J. Murphy (1913-1996)

Dromintee - from the Irish Droim an Tí, meaning "ridge of the house", is a small village and townland. The writer and folklorist Michael J. Murphy was from Dromintee. He contributed a huge amount to the BBC and RTÉ coverage of folklore and country life. He also published several books about Irish life, folklore and sayings, such as ‘At Slieve Gullion’s Foot’.

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Forkill - is both a post town and a parish which is nestled among the unique outlines of the hills of the Ring of Gullion.

In 1760, Richard Jackson got a patent to hold a fair; at that time if you held a patent for a fair, the authorities were obliged to build approach roads. Thus, from this patent, the village of Forkill grew.

Jackson built a church in the village in 1767. The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of 1837 tell us it measured 70 feet by 22 feet, with an average attendance on Sunday of 70. The Memoirs tell us that he also built the schoolhouse and that 'by his will, there is an annual sum of 350 pounds allotted to the support of schools on his estate'.



The Welcome Inn in Forkill, above, has Music sessions every Tuesday Night.

Jackson had been landlord of the Forkill Estate until his death in 1787. His will was so complicated that it took an Act of Parliament in 1789 to decide how it might best be carried out. Today, the Jackson Trust still meets four times every year, to administer the money from his estate.

Jackson lived in Forkill Lodge and both Richard Jackson and his wife, Nicola Anne, are buried in Forkill.

Forkill is not without its tradition of literature and still has regular music and storytelling events. Peadar O'Doimnin is, to date, Forkill's most famous son, as one of the most celebrated of the Ulster poets of the 18th century.

It is said that the poet was buried 'at the

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north-east wall of Urney Graveyard in the County Louth... in the grave with his mother'. It was Peadar Ó Doirnin who, together with Séamas Mór McMurphy, organised a rally on top of Slieve Gullion in 1744 to support 'The King over the Water'... Bonnie Prince Charlie. Séamas Mór McMurphy managed to return safely from the Battle of Culloden; however, he was hanged shortly afterwards in Armagh in 1750.

Glassdrumman* - The conquest of the Fews by a branch of the O'Neills of Tyrone dated from the mid-15th century. Hugh O'Neill, son of Owen, moved south and conquered the territory, thus establishing a new line of the family, henceforth known as O'Neills of the Fews.

The new chieftains soon became aware of their vulnerability on the edge of the Pale and they began to cooperate with successive viceroys against their Tyrone kinsmen. This policy seemed to be paying off, for Turlough McHenry was knighted in 1604. He was granted ownership of over 9,000 acres by James I. Tradition has it that he built the imposing castle at Glassdrumman on a rock overlooking the lake. Nothing remains of the castle today but the lake is abundant with wildlife. The popular Poets Trails walk journeys past the lake.

Jonesborough - Roth Jones was the landlord of the area in the early part of the 18th century and founded this village in 1706. The village was previously known as Four Mile House. Moyry Castle and Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone are easily accessed from the village.

Moyry Castle (pictured below), a 17th century campaign fort, overlooks the Moyry Pass, the valley known as the 'Gap of the North'. It has always been the main north-south direct route in eastern Ireland. In the days of the Fianna legends, the men of Ulster sallied forth through this valley to harass the tribes of Leinster.

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The castle was built to secure this pass by Lord Mountjoy: Queen Elizabeth's most effective and ruthless general, who was sent to Ulster to crush the power of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone. In May and October 1600, Mountjoy's armies advanced north into the pass through bogs, streams and dense woods. On both occasions they returned via Carlingford, the lesser of two evils.

In June 1601, they advanced north again, heading for the River Blackwater and Tyrone. This time Mountjoy cleared the Moyry Pass by cutting the woods and built this fort on the rock to secure the pass. The castle was reputedly finished 'within the month' and immediately garrisoned under the command of Captain Anthony Smith.

Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone (pictured) marks the site of an early cemetery located on one of Ireland's five great roads: the Slighe Mídhlaíochra. This road ran from near Drogheda in County Louth through the Moyry Pass into west Down and perhaps as far



as Dunseverick in north Antrim. Standing more than two metres high, it is believed to be the earliest historically dated inscribed stone in Ireland. A long inscription on the

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south-east face, between two large crosses, records the dedication of the place by Ternoc, son of Ceran Bic ('the little'), under the patronage of Peter the Apostle. Ternoc's death is recorded in the annals at 714 or 716; the pillar can therefore be dated to about AD 700.

Lislea - is a small village and townland near Slieve Gullion. The village boasts a buoyant rural community which is steeped in tradition and cultural lore from the earliest times; a fact still clearly evident today in the many and varied activities being promoted in the area. The Drama Festival, founded by Eugene Hannaway, has been held every year since 1981 in the Lislea Community Centre. Also, every two years, the three-week-long Townland Concerts are hosted on a rotating basis around the different townlands in and around Lislea.

Meigh - began as a cluster of buildings around the crossroads formed by Drumintee Road, Newry Road, Chapel Road and Railway Road. Meigh is the gateway for Slieve Gullion Forest Park. It also is home to Teac Mallon Creative Arts Centre and Bell's Castle.

Slieve Gullion Forest Park comprises a courtyard with a large walled garden, adventure play park and forest trails. A forest drive winds for eight miles through the park. The peak of the trail, at 575 m, contains megalithic cairns and a lake, with views across the Ring of Gullion, Mourne Mountains and Cooley Mountains.

Teac Mallon Creative Arts Centre relives and recaptures the historic lore of this part of South Armagh, hosting music gigs, storytelling sessions and weekly concerts.

Bell's Castle, built in the 19th century from stones taken from the Clonlum Court Tomb, is in a picturesque setting surrounded by both arable land and mountain terrain. It was recently purchased by a private developer who is keen to restore it and provide access to the grounds.

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Mullaghbane - is a small community situated in a valley surrounded by the hills of the Ring of Gullion. The village is the home to the Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre where you can learn more about the local cultures and traditions. Mullaghbane is a great place to stop off if visiting Ballykeel Dolmen. Mullaghbane has a strong community group with links to all aspects of heritage.

Mullaghbane village grew up around a church and a pub in the townland of Shanroe. The pub received its licence in 1554 and is the oldest licensed premises in Ireland. Today, the seventeenth direct generation is still in it now and regular traditional Irish music sessions are still played.

Mullaghbane features in a well-known local folk song, called 'The Boys of Mullaghbane', which has to do with a local landlord, Squire Jackson, and the agrarian controversies of the 1790s. At that time, Mullaghbane village was part of the Forkill Estate, owned by Richard Jackson.

Silverbridge – is a small village on the western boundary of the Ring of Gullion, the gateway from the west. The folk story of why it's called Silverbridge has to do with the imprisoning in Dublin castle of O'Neill and O'Donnell. The pair escaped and while they were heading back to Glasdrummond they met an old man at the crossing of a river and gave him some money. Some of this money fell into the river and the area thus became known as Silverbridge.

The Slí Mhór, the road from Tara to Armagh, passed through here over the ford. This was the road that Brian Boru travelled in 1014 on his way to the Battle of Clontarf, where he was killed; it was the road followed by Hugh O'Neill after his surrender at Mellifont in 1603; and it

*Squire Jackson was unequalled
For honour or for reason,
He never turned a traitor
Or betrayed the rights of man,
But now we are endangered
By a vile deceiving stranger,
Who has ordered deportation
For the Boys of Mullaghbane.
The Boys of Mullaghbane,
unkown*

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was the route taken by King James on his way to do battle at the River Boyne in 1690.

The Landscape Character

The classification of a Landscape Character Area (LCA), in the Landscape Character Assessment of Northern Ireland by the Department of the Environment, is a result of the subdivision of the countryside according to local patterns of geology, landform, land use, and cultural and ecological features. It recognises the importance of sustaining local identity and highlights those characteristics and features which should be celebrated as part of Northern Ireland's natural and cultural heritage.

The key characteristics of the Ring of Gullion Landscape Character Area are;

- A ring of volcanic hills with a knobbly, uneven skyline and many rocky outcrops.
- Slieve Gullion's central volcanic plug which forms a distinctive landmark within the enclosed, broad circular basin.
- Open moorland on hilltops with pasture on the lower land, bordered by gorse hedgerows and derelict stone walls on the upper slopes. 'Ladder farms' form distinctive patterns on some hill slopes.
- Extensive hillside coniferous forestry plantations.
- A remote, enclosed landscape with a distinctive sense of place and rich association with myths and legends.
- Radio masts and hilltop towers on skylines, scattered development on lower slopes with many abandoned farmsteads and barns.



The Ring of Gullion Landscape

Situated along the southern border of Northern Ireland, the Ring of Gullion is a distinctive circle of hills around the striking landmark of Slieve Gullion. Formed as a volcanic plug, the 'Ring' is underlain by a dome of intrusive igneous rocks. The volcanic hills create a knobbly, uneven skyline with many rocky outcrops. Between the steep hills are river valleys and extensive areas of bog. Camlough Lake is a linear lough within a valley to the north of Slieve Gullion. The vegetation is predominantly upland grass, heather and moorland on the hilltops, with pasture on the lower land, bordered by stone walls and gorse hedgerows. Field boundaries form striking patterns on some hillsides, particularly in areas where there are long 'ladder farms'. Commercial forestry plantations occur in large blocks on the hillsides.

In the southern part of the area, these plantations extend across the summits and diminish the apparent scale of the landform. The lower slopes are dotted with a mix of small stone holdings and modern pebbledash bungalows. The majority of the new development is sited in an ad-hoc fashion, often at a distance from the roads. Forkill and Meigh are two of the main settlements within the area. The whole area has an

enclosed, isolated character, with derelict stone walls on the upper slopes and abandoned stone farmsteads and barns on the lower slopes. It has long been an important 'gateway' landscape at the border between the Republic and Northern Ireland. The area is extremely rich in archaeological and historical features, including a variety of cairns, castles and cashels.

Landscape Condition and Sensitivity to Change

The Ring of Gullion has a special visual character resulting from its unique physical structure and the way in which the land has been farmed and settled through thousands of years of occupation. Ridge-tops, skylines and the higher open hill slopes are the most sensitive components of the landscape due to their prominence, but all development is highly visible in the long views into the central basin from the roads which cross the distinctive enclosing uplands. The whole area is extremely sensitive to change. The condition of some lower slopes has been degraded by extensive piecemeal development, for example near Meigh. Walls are often in poor condition and some pastures have been infested by scrub and rushes. The positioning of masts/towers on hilltops has eroded their wild, open character. Although all military towers have been removed, rubble, razor wire, disused equipment and memories remain.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Forestry fits relatively well with the landform, and existing plantations could be used as models for the development of new forests. There are opportunities to create well-integrated forests as existing plantations are progressively felled and replanted. Irregular edges, the inclusion of deciduous species and some areas of open space would be of benefit.
- Restoration of stone walls would improve the landscape quality and visual structure of upland slopes and would help to avoid the loss of these important landscape features.
- The management of loughs, streams and wetlands through the monitoring of water quality, careful grazing management, natural regeneration and the

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planting of riverside and lough-side trees and shrubs would increase their scenic, ecological and recreational value.

Principles for Accommodating New Development

- The uplands are very scenic and wild, any overdevelopment would not be characteristic.
- The restoration of traditional dwellings should be encouraged.
- Development on ridges would be highly visible but the landform may accommodate some small-scale development within low undulating areas.
- The proliferation of scattered piecemeal development throughout the inner basin of the Ring is already threatening the special scenic qualities of this distinctive landscape; further ad hoc development should be discouraged and the use of building materials carefully controlled.

Ring of Gullion Geodiversity Profile

The use of a cultural overlay in defining Landscape Character Areas means that they frequently subdivide natural physiographic units. It is common therefore for significant geomorphological features to run across more than one LCA. It is also possible in turn, to group physiographic units into a smaller number of natural regions. These regions invariably reflect underlying geological, topographic and, often, visual continuities between their component physiographic units, and have generally formed the basis for defining landscape areas such as AONBs. It is essential therefore, that in considering the 'geodiversity' of an individual LCA, regard should be given to adjacent LCAs and to the larger regions within which they sit. In the original Land Utilisation Survey of Northern Ireland, Symons (1962) identified twelve such natural regions.

The Ring of Gullion LCA lies within the region described as the Igneous Massifs of Down and Armagh. This region consists of two igneous complexes that rise above the broken foothills of a largely Silurian basement and are separated by the fault-guided and glacially modified inlet of Carlingford Lough. To the north-east are the

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rounded, Tertiary granite domes of the Mourne Mountains, whilst to the south-west are the mixed Caledonian and Tertiary igneous intrusions that comprise the ring dyke complex surrounding the central mass of Slieve Gullion. Separating the two are the drumlin covered Newry lowlands and the fault-guided Newry River.

The landscape of the Ring of Gullion shows a remarkable coincidence with, and control by, the underlying geology and is a truly 'geological landscape'. As such, it is an internationally recognised example of a ring dyke complex. The underlying country rock is the Caledonian Newry Granodiorite, into which have been intruded a series of Tertiary igneous rocks to form a ring complex approximately 10 km across. Subsidence of the central block produced alternating beds of



Layered igneous intrusion of Slieve Gullion with part of the ring dyke in the distance

granophyre and dolerite that now form the steep slopes of Slieve Gullion. The central mountain is surrounded in turn by a poorly drained lowland underlain by the Newry Granodiorite. Beyond this, the intrusive rocks, mainly granophyres and felsites, form a ring of rugged hills. Gaps in the ring are invariably associated with faults that offset the hills, for example at Camlough. To the south-east of Slieve Gullion is a 'tail' of glacial deposits laid down in the wake of the complex and in response to regional ice flow from the north at the end of the Midlandian. The scenic value and landscape quality of the area has been recognised by its designation as an AONB.

Pre-Quaternary (Solid) Geology

The stratigraphy of this area is made up of the mapped formations in the table, the youngest of which usually overlie the oldest.

Tertiary - various intrusives (Slieve Gullion Complex) and Lower Basalt Formation, between 50 to 60 million years old

Late Caledonian – (Newry Complex), about 400 million years old

Lower Palaeozoic - Gala Sandstone and Hawick Group, between 400 to 450 million years old

The area is centred on Slieve Gullion, the LCA boundary roughly follows the Newry Granodiorite - Lower Palaeozoic country rock contact (exposed in Camlough Quarry). This is an exceptional area in terms of geology.

The area of Slieve Gullion is dominated by an 11 km diameter ring complex or series of arcuate fissures along which various intrusions have occurred. The ring complex is of Tertiary age and is centred on the southwestern end of the Caledonian Newry Granodiorite. Thus, part of the complexity of the geology is the fact that young (Tertiary) volcanic and subterranean intrusives occur in the same place as older Caledonian (probably Devonian) rocks.

Key sites include the porphyritic granophyre with its Newry xenoliths, exposed at Crooked Road. A dolerite plug cuts the Newry Granodiorite and is itself cut by granitic veins (Mullaghbane South).

The main ring dyke of porphyritic granophyre occurs along the inner arc of these northwestern breccias, extending intermittently on around the ring. Exposures include Crooked Road, Mullaghbane North and Mullaghbane Central. Porphyritic felsites with vent agglomerate are seen at Glendesha.

At Cloghinny, evidence of magma mixing can be observed. The Slieve Gullion Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), as a whole, covers the Tertiary igneous features at Slieve Gullion itself, Sarah Daly's Bridge and Forest Quarry.

Interpretation

The Tertiary central complex of Slieve Gullion is emplaced within an almost detached lobe of the older Caledonian 'Newry' Granodiorite at its south-west end. Little remains of the basaltic shield volcano which once covered the site; however, in the volcanic hearth now exposed by erosion, one can see evidence for subsidence of the volcanic pile along a ring fault some 20 km in diameter. This probably resulted in a summit caldera, though movement on the ring fault probably resulted from resurgence as well as subsidence. Movement of an acid magma up the south-west quadrant of the ring fault accompanied by explosive degassing produced spectacular vents filled with fragments of country rock. These vent agglomerates can be traced from Mullaghbane Mountain round to Slievebolea; in places they are composed almost entirely of Newry Granodiorite or Lower Palaeozoic greywackes, elsewhere they carry large slumped masses and smaller fragments of lava. The acid magma congealed in the ring fracture and in the vents as Porphyritic Felsite (flow structures within the rock) indicate a steep outward dip to the ring dyke, the outer felsite; however, the vent intrusions emplaced within the bounding ring fault are irregular in outcrop and apparently sheet-like with a dip of flow bands to the south-west. Confocal banding in the rock points to feeding channels within the ring dyke. In places the Porphyritic Felsite contains broken phenocrysts and shows eutaxitic flow banding; some disruptive vesiculation of the rising magma may have produced ash flow material now welded and compacted to a tuffsite. A slightly later Porphyritic Granophyre ring dyke occupies the ring fault in the remaining quadrants. It may be a multiple intrusion with a xenolithic core to the north-west near Lislea.

Quaternary (Drift) Geology

Northern Ireland has experienced repeated glaciations during the Pleistocene period that produced vast amounts of debris to form the glacial deposits that today cover over 90% of the landscape. Their present morphology was shaped principally during the last glacial cycle (the Midlandian), with subsequent modifications throughout the post-glacial Holocene period. The Late Midlandian, the last main phases of ice sheet flow, occurred between 23 and 13 ka BP from dispersion centres in the Lough Neagh Basin, the Omagh Basin and Lower Lough Erne/Donag. The

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clearest imprint of these ice flows are ice-flow-transverse Rogen moraines and flow parallel drumlin swarms which developed across thick covers of till, mostly below 150 m OD during a period referred to as the Drumlin Readvance. At the very end of the Midlandian, Scottish ice moved southwards and overrode parts of the north coast. Evidence for deglaciation of the landscape is found in features formed between the glacial maximum to the onset of the present warm stage from 17 and 13 ka BP - a period of gradual climatic improvement. Most commonly, these are of glaciofluvial and glaciolacustrine origin and include eskers, outwash mounds and spreads, proglacial lacustrine deposits, kame terraces, kettle holes and meltwater channels (McCarron et al. 2002). During the Holocene, marine, fluvial, aeolian and mass movement processes, combined with human activities and climate and sea level fluctuations, have modified the appearance of the landscape. The landforms and associated deposits derived from all of these processes are essentially fossil. Once damaged or destroyed they cannot be replaced since the processes or process combinations that created them no longer exist. They therefore represent a finite scientific and economic resource and are a notable determinant of landscape character.

The drift geology map for this LCA confirms the strong control exerted by the underlying geology on the landscape. This is revealed as a series of concentric, drift free ridges running around the central core of Slieve Gullion. Lowland areas within the ring are covered by Late Midlandian till, which flowed southeastwards across the region from a centre in the Lough Neagh Basin. It is unclear, however, whether any of this till was derived from locally centred ice masses towards the end of the Midlandian. In terms of its Quaternary history, this area is relatively unexplored, especially in comparison with the nearby Mourne Massif, and it would benefit from targeted research into its glacial and post-glacial history. The drift map does, however, highlight numerous local pockets of alluvium within the ring complex, indicative of the broken terrain and intricate drainage pattern of the area.

Ring of Gullion Biodiversity Profile

The key characteristics of biodiversity in the Ring of Gullion Landscape Character Area are:

- woodlands account for approximately 6% of the land cover, but the majority is in state forests that are predominantly coniferous;
- improved pasture dominates the LCA but there are important sites of dry- and wet- species rich grasslands;
- broadleaved woodlands are in estates and in small patches on hillsides and cut-over bogs;
- no intact lowland or blanket peat remains, it has all been cut-over, but there are still some important fen sites;
- the upper slopes of Slieve Gullion have one of the most extensive areas of upland heath, a rare habitat in Northern Ireland.

Woodlands

Woodlands account for approximately 6% of the land cover of the LCA; the majority of this is in three state forests that are predominantly coniferous. In all three - Camlough, Fathom and Slieve Gullion - Sitka spruce, Lodgepole pine and Japanese larch are the most common species, but all have some areas of broadleaves. Outside of the state forests, coniferous trees occur in small patches: some are recent but many have their origins in 19th century landscaping, particularly the circular planting of predominantly Scots pine and larch on artificial mounds and knolls.

Apart from on the upper slopes of Slieve Gullion, broadleaved semi-natural woodland is scattered throughout the LCA. However, almost all the sites are small and are either wet woodland or patches on rocky hillsides or stream-sides. Wet woodlands are found predominantly in broad valley floors on cut-over bogs and are associated with fen communities. Willow is dominant, sometimes forming almost pure stands, but otherwise mixed with alder and, on drier peat remnants, birch. Examples include valley floors at Longfield, Drumintee and Aghadavoyle. The latter is extensive (6 ha) birch and willow woodland, but because of the range of water

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levels and soil moisture there are several other species present, including oak, ash, rowan and Scots pine. Hillside and stream-side semi-natural woodlands are dominated by hazel. On the hillsides, these woodland patches are associated with hawthorn and blackthorn scrub, and in addition to hazel may have a range of other species present. Ash, sycamore and rowan are common, but willow are also found on pockets of wetter soils. More extensive hillside woodland occurs on the northern slopes of Ballymacdermot Mountain; this is developing from scrub and is dominated by rowan along with scattered ash and sycamore trees.

Red squirrels make their home among the woodlands in the Ring of Gullion. They are under threat from fragmented habitat, disease, predation, and competition.



Wet woodlands are best managed by allowing succession to take place, but there is a need for fencing in some locations - to prevent too much trampling - and a general need to eliminate dumping. Hillside woodlands would also benefit from fencing so that grazing and trampling can be limited to that which would allow the regeneration of trees and the development of ground flora.

Most of the areas of mature, tall, broadleaf woodland have a planted history, either in demesnes or from countryside landscaping. Hawthorn Hill Forest Nature Reserve conserves part of one of these estates. Beech is the most frequent species throughout, but there are also stands of oak and of mixed broadleaves and conifers, including sycamore, Scots pine and larch, and in the upper part pure stands of old Norway spruce. Ground flora also changes with height: from grass and rush at lower

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altitude to heather and bilberry heath in the higher areas. Killeavy Castle, also on the eastern slopes of Slieve Gullion, adjoins Hawthorn Hill where similar species are dominant. There are plantations of oak and beech, but the extensive parkland (lowland woodland pastures and parkland) has a wide range of species that also include ash, sycamore, lime, Wych elm and horse chestnut, as well as larch, Norway spruce, Scots pine, Douglas fir and Sitka spruce. There are several other parklands in the LCA, often with similar or greater species diversity, but characteristically they are often only remnants of their former extent and/or have been neglected: many plantations within them are grazed, trees are post-mature and there is little regeneration of canopy species.

Outside of the parks, landscaping is evident in small plantations of oak and beech, as found near to the old corn mill at Forkill and the flax mill at Silverbridge, or on mounds and knolls as at Carrickastrickan and Tullydonnell.



A group of cross-border volunteers clear a stand of an invasive species: rhododendron.

Management of parks and other areas of tall broadleaf woodland could include control of grazing, removal of invasive species that are changing the species balance (e.g. sycamore), planting of saplings of canopy species, and removal of rhododendron and laurel so that the understorey and ground flora can develop. Veteran and fallen trees should be left to encourage biodiversity of flora and fauna.

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Dumping, including of cars and machinery, needs to be discouraged. Some areas may be long-established woodland and require research.

Issue: coniferous woodland of low biodiversity value dominates the LCA, however, there are broadleaved areas, including the NI Priority Habitats Wet Woodland and Lowland Woodland Pasture and Parkland.

Actions:

- enhance the biodiversity value of broadleaved woodlands (particularly of bryophytes, ferns, fungi and fauna) by discouraging felling; preventing loss; and retaining fallen and veteran trees;
- encourage control of grazing in broadleaved woodlands to foster herb layer and regeneration and, if necessary, encourage replanting of canopy species;
- further study of the history and ecology of broadleaved woodlands within the LCA, particularly ancient and long-established woodlands, as a key to future management;
- encourage planting of broadleaved woodlands through appropriate grant schemes, rather than the conifer plantations and shelterbelts that are of poor biodiversity and landscape value; ensure that hazel scrub is not cleared;
- ensure conservation of wet woodlands by allowing succession to take place and installing fencing to prevent trampling; ensure that they are not lost through drainage, reclamation, landfill or dumping/tipping.

Grassland and Arable

Grassland accounts for nearly 75% of the land cover of the LCA; of this almost three-quarters is improved pasture. Although there is variation in intensity of management, improved pastures generally tend to have low biodiversity, as does arable land. Land classed as arable, which includes grass re-seeding, is very limited in the LCA and occurs as scattered fields in the broad flat-floored valleys.

Although most of the improved pastures have high levels of management, there are pasture fields in this LCA where traditional management is still practised. These less-

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managed and traditionally managed grasslands (lowland meadows) are rare in Northern Ireland, especially in the east. On sloping fields where soil drainage is good, species-rich dry grassland has developed. Examples exist at Carrickastickan ASSI, where the two fields are managed for hay and are dominated by the grasses crested dog's-tail, red fescue, common bent and sweet vernal-grass. They have herbs typical of traditionally managed grasslands on slightly base-rich soil conditions.

As traditionally managed grasslands, they provide valuable feeding and roosting sites for a range of animals, including birds and invertebrates. A variety of butterflies have been recorded in the area, including meadow brown and common blue. Similar species-rich dry grasslands of some extent are also found at the north-west foot of Slieve Gullion in Levallymore. Species-rich wet grasslands and fen meadows are also found scattered through the lower parts of the LCA where they merge with fen and reed communities.

Rough grasslands are found throughout the LCA and occur broadly in two situations: either on rocky outcrops or in damp, lower areas. Rough grasslands associated with rocky outcrops are found throughout the LCA, but occur extensively in the north-west and consist of grass intermixed with patches of heather, bracken or gorse and pockets of bog (pictured above). Rough grasslands in



damp, lower land, can often occur alongside abundant rushes can merge with fens, and/or can represent the reversion of previously drained land.

Issue: improved pastures and very limited arable land of low biodiversity value, however, there are examples of traditionally managed NI Priority Habitat Lowland Meadows at Carrickastickan ASSI.

Actions:

- maintain and improve field boundaries, especially hedgerows where they occur, through adoption of correct cutting cycles; lay and replant hedges, where necessary; leave saplings uncut to develop into hedgerow trees; avoid spraying with fertilisers, slurry, and herbicides; provide wildlife strips and conservation headlands around fields; and limit field amalgamation;
- encourage (through participation in the ESA Scheme) adoption/continuance of less intensive management of pastures and lowland meadows to allow reversion to/continuance of a more species-rich grassland and protect unsown areas of grassland including dry, calcareous grassland;
- maintain and enhance damp grassland by restricting, where possible, field or arterial drainage; limit grazing on rough grasslands;
- leave stubble over winter, rather than autumn ploughing, to increase food resources for farmland birds; spring-sown cereals are beneficial to farmland birds.

Heaths and Bogs

There are no significant areas of intact lowland bog remaining in the LCA: all have been cut-over in the past. Some have subsequently been reclaimed into grassland whereas others have developed into diverse sites with fen, carr woodland, and remnant patches of bog.

As with lowland bogs, there are no intact blanket bogs remaining. Only the summit of Slieve Gullion would have qualified as blanket peat, but this shows evidence of having been cut-over and is now part of the larger area of upland heath which occupies most of the un-forested upper surface of the mountain.

The upland heathland on Slieve Gullion is one of the largest expanses of this rare habitat type in Northern Ireland. It is dominated by heather and, where there is no intervening forestry, there is a transition downslope to lowland heaths, acid grasslands and fens. There is evidence of overgrazing in recent times, particularly on

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those lands that were not in the ESA scheme; as a result, there has been an increase in sheep's fescue grass, a decline in deer sedge, and a higher frequency of bare ground.



Hares tail cotton grass, native to bogs and other acidic wetlands

Issue: remnant patches of bog may be in a transitional state to fen and carr woodland and can continue to provide valuable habitats for birds and invertebrates

Actions:

- previously cut-over sites should be considered as possible Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance;
- maintain the integrity of remnant bogs by, for example, preventing infilling, fly-tipping, fires, new drainage and mechanised peat cutting;
- consider the removal of individual colonising trees and the phasing out peat cutting, particularly in any areas of recent mechanised cutting;
- prevent new forest planting on remaining blanket and lowland bog.

Issue: this LCA contains one of Northern Ireland's most extensive areas of rare NI Priority Habitat Upland Heathland

Actions:

- promote membership of the ESA or other environmental schemes through consultation with farmers;
- limit grazing on existing heathland around Slieve Gullion, to encourage development of heathland and of heather of different ages, and to encourage the development of species, such as deer sedge;
- discourage pasture reclamation around heathland margins;

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- discourage new forestry plantations.

Wetlands and Lakes

Many of the fens in the LCA have developed in former cut-over lowland bogs so that there is diversity and complexity of habitats at individual sites. A community of bottle sedge, white sedge and common sedge often form the main part of the fen. This may be accompanied by small patches of bog with, depending on wetness, heather, cotton sedge, bog asphodel and sundews. Yet, other parts can be species-poor wet grassland, dominated by soft rush or under-developing wet woodland of willow. Cashel Loughs ASSI is an example: the wetlands include a range of communities from the open waters of the three loughs to adjoining fen, cut-over bog, wet heath and rush pasture. The site contains a number of vascular plants with a restricted distribution in the British Isles, including marsh St. John's-wort, western gorse and a number of notable mosses. The diversity of wetland habitats typically supports a rich invertebrate community, including many species of water beetle, spiders and ground beetle. These fens and the associated wet grasslands also provide habitats for birds, including waders.

Fens are widespread in Armagh and Down and, together with those in the west of Northern Ireland, form a large proportion of the UK total. It is therefore important to retain them. However, they are under threat in this LCA and measures are required to prevent change and loss. Several farmers have recently cut drains around their field edges as part of pasture improvements, affecting species composition and diversity of communities; other areas are unfenced and their edges are heavily poached by grazing animals; and there has also been in-fill, particularly of those fens and cut-over bogs near to the Dublin road in the east and Camlough in the north.

Camlough Lake (pictured) and Cashel Lough Lower are classed as mesotrophic lakes: characterised by having a middle level of nutrients, between nutrient poor (oligotrophic) and nutrient rich (eutrophic). Mesotrophic lakes potentially have the highest macrophyte diversity of any lake type. Furthermore, relative to other lake types, they contain a higher proportion of nationally scarce and rare aquatic plants.

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This is an increasingly rare type of lake in Northern Ireland because the nutrient status of many lakes is being increased through the input of water from agricultural land that has traces of fertilizers and slurry. The occurrence of such lakes in the LCA is important to the biodiversity of the LCA and Northern Ireland; it is therefore essential that nutrient enrichment from agricultural and other sources is prevented. Cashel Upper Lough and the unnamed lough close by are examples of lakes, often in the uplands, that have very low plant nutrient concentrations and very high macrophyte aquatic diversity; it is important that these too are protected against nutrient enrichment.

Similarly, water quality in rivers and streams must be maintained or improved and pollution incidents avoided if the biodiversity of the waters, and of the lakes into which they flow, is to be retained or enhanced. Care must be



exercised in the application of fertilizers, slurry, pesticides and herbicides and in the avoidance of leakage of silage effluent into streams. It is also important that the increase in rural housing, with associated septic tanks, and of small towns and villages should be considered in relation to water quality. The Forkill River has river water-crowfoot.

Issue: this LCA contains examples of the NI Priority Habitats Fens and Mesotrophic Lakes, which require protection.

Actions:

- prevent further loss of fen through drainage, reclamation and land-fill; prevent dumping and fly-tipping and encourage removal of rubbish; divert the inflow of nutrient rich water from agricultural land into fens;

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- protect the water quality of fens, mesotrophic lakes and rivers through nutrient management and by reducing suspended sediments; prevent the release of particles released through peat cutting or forestry operations; install sediment traps at large extraction sites;
- promote and encourage existing good farming practices so that water is not polluted by releases from silage effluent, herbicides, pesticides, fertilisers or sheep dip;
- monitor rivers and streams in relation to peat cutting (sediment load and deposition), clear nursery and spawning beds are important for salmon; in relation to the expansion of rural/urban housing and associated septic tanks/sewage treatment plants; and recognise that monitoring of forestry and other operations upstream may be important.

The Heritage of the Ring of Gullion

The History of the Landscape

People have lived in Ireland for about 9,000 years and there is ample evidence to suggest that the Ring of Gullion was inhabited from the Neolithic Era (5,000 BCE – 2,000 BCE). There is, however, intangible evidence pointing to the fact that the area was inhabited for a much longer period. It was at about 12,000 years ago that inhabitation was possible on the island, as before the Mesolithic period much of it was covered in thick ice sheets.

About 6,000 years ago, Neolithic settlers arrived in Ireland and brought with them tools, pottery and a more settled way of life, which made agriculture possible. The enduring legacy of these settlers in the Ring of Gullion is their burial monuments, the megalithic tombs. It is at these sites that pottery and other finds have been made – flint, jewellery and even bears' teeth! Most of these finds are now housed in the Ulster Museum in Belfast.

Knowledge of metalworking reached Ireland and the Ring of Gullion around 2,000 BCE, bringing an end to the Neolithic Era and ringing in the Bronze Age (2,000 BCE

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- 500 BCE). Not much evidence is still visible from this period apart from standing stones and habitation sites in the Ring of Gullion.

The next progression is into the Iron Age (500 BCE - 500 CE); this period is commonly identified with a movement of Celtic peoples from central Europe into Ireland. This era is often associated with Fionn Mac Chumail and Cú Chulainn. It is also known for its hill forts, and in this area Dorsey: a massive linear earthwork that controlled a major route into Ulster.

Following on from the Iron Age, with little cultural interruption, is the early Christian period (500 CE - 1,200 CE). There is a wealth of monuments dating from this era, including raths, cashels, souterrains, crannogs and ecclesiastical sites.

The Middle Ages saw the coming of the Anglo-Normans and sparked major upheavals and changes in Ireland. Soon after the initial invasion, prominent Norman lords built impressive stone castles that required huge resources. They served as centres of power and control, and Roche Castle is one such example near the Ring of Gullion. In Armagh, there are few surviving remains of towers, and only documentary references to the tower house that once stood at Glassdrumman.

By 1500, much of Ireland was back in the hands of Gaelic rulers. There were also vast territories under the control of Anglo-Norman families. However, their allegiance to the Crown had diminished: many spoke Irish, wore Irish clothes and hairstyles, and married into Gaelic families. The area under the control of the Crown had shrunk to an area around Dublin, known as 'The Pale' of which the Ring of Gullion was beyond, just.

The Plantation in the 1600s, saw the English trying to assert control over the northern counties of Ireland; as they moved through South Armagh they built highly defensive castles, such as Moyry Castle. In the aftermath of the Battle of Kinsale in 1601 many Gaelic rulers went into exile – 'The Flight of the Earls'. Without its

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aristocracy, Gaelic society collapsed. Ulster became less Gaelic and Catholic and more British and Protestant.

Oliver Cromwell, with his new model army, brutally suppressed an uprising in 1641, confiscating huge tracts of land and giving them to his loyal supporters. There was a sign of hope when the Catholic King James II came to the throne in 1685; however, when William of Orange made a claim for the English throne, Ireland, with the exception of Ulster, backed James. The two kings contested the throne in Ireland. James' army marched through the Ring of Gullion on its way to the battle of the Boyne. Ultimately William emerged victorious and the dominant position of the new protestant English was now secure; the Catholic Irish, whether of Gaelic or Old English origin, were left politically helpless.

Throughout the 18th century, the linen industry became Ireland's most important manufacturing industry, particularly in Ulster where it led to the industrialisation of the eastern half of the province. Mills were built, and towns developed around the mills. As the century progressed, canals were built and Ulster was on the verge of an industrial revolution.

From the 1750s onwards, Ireland showed signs of stability and economic recovery. However, turbulent times were ahead. Ireland lost its parliament following the 1798 rebellion. Mass emigration followed the close of the Napoleonic Wars. Then, in the mid-1840s, the Great Famine or the Great Hunger, as it is more commonly referred to today, struck and Ireland's population plummeted from an estimated nine million to six million in the space of five years. The Ring of Gullion was no exception to this loss and many tragic stories from that time are still recounted. The struggle against landlordism and for Home Rule dominated the remainder of the 19th century.

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Ultimately, the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed in 1921 following the turmoil of the Easter Rising of 1916, and the execution of its leaders; the fallout from World War I; and the bitter Anglo-Irish War. This saw the partition of Ireland into a twenty-six county Free State and a six county Home Rule area, which included Armagh. The newly formed border was a political, economical and military barrier between North and South. From the inception of Northern Ireland, it has been unstable and subjected to periods of violence. British troops were deployed in the 1920s, '30s, '50s and following major unrest in the '60s. As the situation became increasingly confrontational and militarised, Direct Rule was established in 1972. The 'Troubles' caused huge problems for the whole border region.

The landlords of South Armagh seem to have done very little to alleviate the terrible plight of their tenants...Rev. Daniel Gunn Brown, Presbyterian minister in Newtownhamilton, described the landlords of South Armagh as 'exterminators'.

A Famine Link, The 'Hannah', South Armagh to Ontario by Kevin Murphy and Una Walsh

In the Ring of Gullion, 18 military watchtowers were erected at strategic positions along the hilltops. They monitored movements along the border areas, and were remote and inaccessible. Where once Norman and Gaelic stone castles stood, modern watchtowers were now supplied with equipment and soldiers by helicopter. All the towers were finally removed in 2007, and the once high-security sites have been returned to Greenfield status.

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Example of military towers that watched over South Armagh pictured above

The signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement came in 1985, and the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 brought further stability. These days cross-border violence has been replaced with cross-border cooperation, and the once highly militarised border cannot now easily be identified when travelling through the region.

Management Information

Key national, regional or local strategies and policies which relate to the Ring of Gullion are:

- Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas: Protected Landscapes/Seascapes
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Invasive Species Ireland Initiative (joint NI and ROI project)
- East Border Region: Regional Biodiversity Framework
- EC Habitats Directive

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- Shared Horizons: Statement of Policy on Protected Landscapes in Northern Ireland 2003
- Environment and Heritage Service: Natural Heritage Strategic Plan 2003
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Rural Strategy 2007-2013
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Rural Development Programme 2007-2013
- Northern Ireland Tourist Board's (NITB) Tourism Development Scheme 2011-2013
- Newry and Mourne Economic Development Strategy 2009-2013
- Newry and Mourne Tourism Strategy 2009-2013
- NI Landscape Character Assessment 2000
- NI Regional Development Strategy: Shaping Our Future
- Planning Policy Statements: Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015
- Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy
- Newry and Mourne Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ring of Gullion Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ring of Gullion AONB Management Plan 2011-2016
- Ring of Gullion and Cooley Red Squirrel Management Action Plan
- Issues identified through the NI Inter-Departmental Working Group on Wildfire
- Issues identified through the Mourne Cooley Gullion Geotourism Project
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Public Service Agreement 5
- Sports Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019
- East Border Region Tourism Development Plan
- NI Outdoor Events Guidelines 2010
- Economic Appraisal: Slieve Gullion Pathway, Enhancement, and Improvement Project 2012
- ROSA: Footpath Condition Survey 1999
- ROSA: Slieve Gullion Footpath Restoration Project Assessment and Implementation 2005
- Camlough Lake Masterplan

Section 2 – Statement of Significance

Introduction

This section describes what is important about the range of heritage in the Ring of Gullion LPS area, why it is important and to whom it is important. The scheme area contains a wealth of nationally and internationally protected sites and monuments that are considered important to different people in different ways. This section will give a greater understanding of the overall significance of our heritage assets and other elements that are regarded as being of particular value.

“The geological heritage of the Ring of Gullion is known to geologists the world over and it is the foundation of the high scenic value of the area. But when you then add that to the area's myths, legends and folklore and its rich biodiversity, you really begin to understand what a special place the Ring of Gullion really is.”

Professor Patrick McKeever, Secretary, UNESCO International Geoscience Programme

The Ring of Gullion is defined topographically by the hills and outer slopes of the ring dyke, which are separated from the rolling drumlin landscape by the valleys of the Cully Water and the Ummercam Rivers. In the north-west, the ring dyke runs through the higher ground of ‘The Fews’ where it is identified by sharp rocky hills with distinctive heath vegetation. The boundary drops down to cross the Newry Canal and joins the Newry River, which forms the boundary as far south as the border at Fathom.

The Ring of Gullion is a remarkable area with a fascinating history. Its distinctive landscape owes much to long, complex and turbulent geological activity. The most important landforms are the volcanic ring dyke, with Slieve Gullion at its centre. These features are the remnants of the heart of a volcano that formed some 60

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million years ago, features that were later remoulded by glacial activity and weather to form the landscape we know today.

People have lived in the Ring of Gullion for over 6,000 years. The area is rich in historic monuments dating from Neolithic times to the Plantation of Ulster. Many of the sites have been well studied and their significance understood. Others, such as the Dorsey earthworks, thought to be both a gateway and a defensive boundary to Ulster, may still have secrets to reveal. The area has been important for communication and travel throughout the ages. Today, the area is traversed by both the modern and recently-upgraded A1 motorway and the Slige Midluachra, the ancient road from Drogheda to Dunseverick.

Farming and commerce have also shaped the landscape, leaving an overlay of ancient field boundary patterns, parklands, market towns and villages, and a dense network of roads and lanes. Industrial development has led to the creation of man-made features, such as the Newry Canal, the railways, and the enlargement of Camlough Lake, to power the mills of Bessbrook and to supply the canal.

Natural Heritage

The Ring of Gullion AONB has a rich biodiversity associated with a range of habitats, plants and animals. The most diverse habitats are: the heath of Slieve Gullion and the ring dyke hills; the residual areas of bogland at lower elevation; the rivers that flow through the area; the lakes associated with glacial scouring; the deciduous woodland and scrub; the coniferous plantations; and the farmed landscape of small fields and species-rich hedge banks.

Today, the area has a rich flora and fauna with many nationally and internationally important habitats and species. Acknowledging the importance of the biodiversity within these habitats to nature conservation, the area has been recognised as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and seven areas within the LP area have been declared as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).

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The upland heaths of Slieve Gullion and the ring dyke hills – although vulnerable to scrub encroachment, wildfires and erosion - are of particular significance, as are Camlough Lake, the Cashel Loughs, and the intertidal mud of the upper reaches of Carlingford Lough. Much of the biodiversity of the AONB lies in its farmland with its patchwork of hedgerows, walls and pockets of woodland.



Six hundred and twelve hectares of Slieve Gullion have also been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EC Habitats Directive, as this is one of the largest expanses of European dry heath in Northern Ireland. Cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) (pictured) is found there, a plant which is scarce

elsewhere.

The (Draft) Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 recognises 50 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) in the Ring of Gullion area. These include the summits of some of the hills of the ring dyke, pockets of wetland and fen, and traditionally farmed grassland areas.

Slieve Gullion is the centrepiece of a truly unique landscape. The mountain has an exceptionally rich heritage and, being an isolated peak at an altitude of 573 metres, offers commanding views over a wide area.

This document has taken a few habitats and sites of importance and expanded on them below:

1. Woodland

Within the Ring of Gullion, trees and small woods are significant landscape features and valuable wildlife habitats. In the farmed countryside, small groups of trees in

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shelter belts or hedges provide beneficial shelter for stock and help to screen farm buildings. On the steep slopes of valleys and hillsides, small semi-natural woodlands of hazel and ash with sycamore, oak, rowan and willow are notable features. Willow, birch and alder scrub are typical of cutover peatland in the valley bottoms.

The most mature woods are those which have been planted in old estates; notably, Killeavy Castle, Hawthorn Hill and Forkill. Other ancient woodland sites include Aughanduff, Carrive Grove and parts of the lands of Slieve Gullion Forest, Killeavy Castle and Fathom Forest. The Woodland Trust's 'Ancient Woodland Inventory' records the Forest Service's 1403 hectares of land in the area, of which some 920 hectares are planted with a mixture of conifers and broadleaved trees.



John Speed's map of Ulster from 'The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine', which was first published 1611/12, shows the Ring of Gullion as mostly wooded.

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Forestry is a major land use, covering about 6% of the area with a mix of coniferous species; mainly, Sitka spruce, Lodgepole pine, Japanese larch and Scots pine. The variety of species planted in irregular blocks with areas of unplanted hillside and pre-existing broad-leaved trees combine, in many cases, to produce attractive landscape features and pleasant areas for forest recreation.

However, not all of the land owned by the Forest Service is woodland. The Forest Service manages its unplanted areas for nature conservation with Forest Nature Reserves on Camlough Mountain and at Hawthorn Hill. The Forest Service works to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard and replants at least 5% of felled areas with mixed species broadleaved trees and leaves 10-20% open space to promote biodiversity; new or replanted forests under this Standard comprise more than 75% of one species.

2. Bogland

Only small fragments remain of the once extensive lowland bogs of the Ring of Gullion. These bogs were formed on water-logged sites where bog moss accumulated, building up to form thick peat deposits. The bogs, so essential to rural life in the past, have been much disturbed by centuries of turf cutting, drainage and reclamation. Those that survive contain mixtures of bog mosses with drier banks of heather and bilberry, often being colonized by willow or birch scrub. Some areas of abandoned cutover bog contain deep pools. The small fragments of remaining bog are valuable wildlife habitats, the conservation of which is clearly dependent on continuing environmentally sensitive farm practices.

3. Heathland

The craggy hills of the Ring of Gullion, with thin acidic soils overlying granitic rocks, have an extensive cover of heathland making up over 12% of the area. The purples of heather (pictured), yellows of dwarf gorse, and oranges of bracken in the autumn, create rich mosaics of colours which contrast markedly with the many greens which are the dominant hues of agricultural fields and hedges. The heaths themselves are very variable. Slieve Gullion is by far the largest area of heather moorland in

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Northern Ireland, and consists of a fairly pure stand of ling, with scattered bilberry. Other areas around the lower hills of the ring dyke, as at Mullaghbane Mountain, Ummeracam and Ballard, have a much greater diversity of habitats and plants. Drier heaths are characterised by ling heather and western gorse. Cross-leaved heath is more typical of wetter areas, forming wet heath communities with deer grass, bog asphodel and cotton grass.



4. Camlough Lake

'*Cam Lough*' from the Irish meaning 'Crooked Lake'. While this meaning is at odds with its present appearance, the lake's shape was much less regular in the past before its level was raised by the embankment built in the late 19th century. Along the banks, marsh and scrub provide cover and nesting sites for many birds, including mute swan, great crested grebe, moorhen, heron and warblers. The largest lough in the area, it is probably the best example of a glacial 'ribbon' lake in Northern Ireland, and supports a good coarse fishery.

5. Cashel Loughs - Upper and Lower

These two loughs are important habitats for wildlife. The Upper Lough is an attractive upland type lake with clear unpolluted water containing water plants such as common reed, water horsetail and white water lily. The Lower Lough is surrounded by an extensive fringe of reed swamp and scrub woodland with alder and willow.

In each case, these sites represent the best of the habitats in the area and are very significant for Northern Ireland. Each ASSI site contains considerable biodiversity, but this is also true of many other areas in the Ring of Gullion that have not been designated.

Archaeological and Built Heritage

The Ring of Gullion encompasses twelve State Care Monuments including Moyry Castle, Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone and the North and South Cairns on Slieve Gullion. State Care Monuments are owned or held in care by the Department of the Environment.

There are also twenty-eight scheduled monuments in the Ring of Gullion. Scheduling is carried out to protect a representative sample of historic monuments in Northern Ireland for heritage, scientific and research purposes; it ensures legal protection for the monument but does not imply there is public access to it. Scheduled sites include the Newry Ship Canal, the Calliagh Berra's Stone at Tullynavall and parts of the Dane's Cast linear earthwork. Seventy further monuments have been recorded in the Ring of Gullion area but are not scheduled for protection.

The Ring of Gullion also contains a proposed Area of Significant Archaeological Interest covering the Dorsey Earthworks and surrounding lands, as a feature of wider importance to the whole of Northern Ireland. The Dorsey forms a large enclosure or



double set of earthworks thought to be part of Ulster's defences in the Iron Age and possibly controlling access along an important route to Navan Fort near Armagh. 'Dorsey' is derived from the Gaelic, Na Doirse, which means 'the Gateways'.

The area contains the remains of twenty or so large stone tombs. Many of them such as Ballymacdermot are situated in prominent positions with magnificent views over the surrounding countryside. The King's Ring at Clontygora, and the

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Ballymacdermot Court Tomb are two of the best examples of court tombs in Northern Ireland. The monument at Ballykeel (pictured) is also an outstanding example of a portal tomb and the South Cairn on the summit of Slieve Gullion has the distinction of being the highest surviving passage tomb in Ireland or Britain. Excavations at several of these burial monuments have uncovered stone tools, pottery and human remains.

Further details are given below about some of the better-known sites in the LP area:

The Dorsey

Dating from the Iron Age period, the Dorsey 'enclosure' is located on the western edge of the Ring of Gullion. The Dorsey, two roughly parallel massive earth bank and ditch ramparts stretch for over a mile astride an old routeway to Eamhain Macha (Navan Fort) near Armagh - the ancient capital of Ulster. Recent evidence dates part of the monument to around 100 BCE, contemporary with a major phase of activity at Navan and lending support to the tradition that the Dorsey was once the 'gateway' to Ulster.

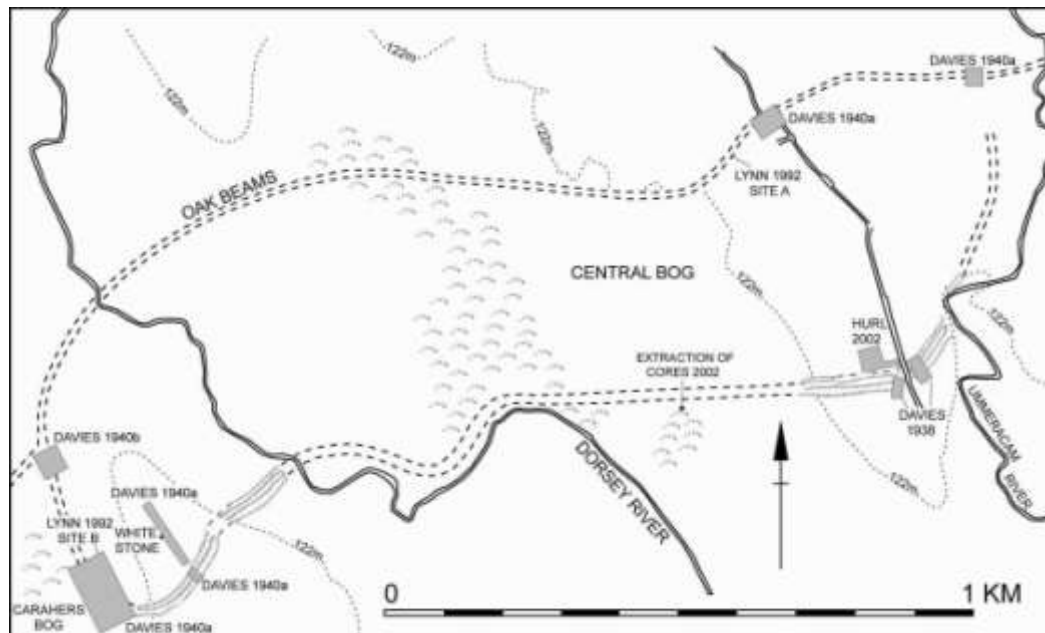


Figure 1: Plan of the Dorsey showing locations of excavations on the monument.

Figure showing Dorsey excavations, August 2002, Queens University Belfast for NIEA

Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone

A long Irish inscription on the Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone records the dedication of the place by Ternoc, son of Ceran Bec under the patronage of Peter the Apostle. As Ternoc's death is recorded in the annals of 714 or 716, the stone can reasonably be dated to around 700 CE, making it the earliest dated cross-carved stone in Ireland. It marks the site of an early Christian cemetery and a church was probably located close by.

Killeavy Churches (Cill Shléibhe – ‘Mountain Church’)

Killeavy is the site of one of Ireland's most important early convents, founded by St Moninne (otherwise known as St Blinne or St Darerca) in the 5th century. Although plundered by the Vikings in 923, monastic life continued and the site was occupied by Augustinian nuns until 1542. The large tree-lined graveyard is still in use.



Moyry Castle

In 1600, Lord Mountjoy secured the Moyry Pass or Gap of the North for the Crown. The next year he built Moyry Castle on a natural rocky hillock overlooking the pass.

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The castle, now in ruins, is a three storey tower with rounded corners and gun loops. The railway line to Dublin, opened in 1852, follows the ancient route through the Gap of the North and passes close to the castle ruins.

Geological Significance

The Ring of Gullion is the most spectacular example of a ring dyke intrusion in Ireland or Britain. The rocks of the area are complex and have featured in international geological debate over the past 60 years or so. The site has attracted geologists from all over the world and has featured in a number of theories that have been put forward to explain the unusual rock relationships. Some of these theories have now become an accepted part of geological science.

The oldest rocks in the area formed in an ancient ocean more than 400 million years ago during the Silurian period. Masses of molten granitic rock or magma, were later intruded into these rocks, which underlie Newry city and much of the Slieve Gullion area. These granites are some 390 million years old and date from a major period of mountain formation in Ireland.

In the Tertiary period, commencing some 65 million years ago, the area once again became the centre of volcanic activity. The sequence of events is complex but probably began with the development of a very large volcano of which little now remains. Volcanoes also erupted in the south of the area and the remains of volcanic necks can be found in the hills around Forkill. Along the contact zone between the Silurian rocks and the Newry granite, a roughly circular fracture developed into which was intruded a series of acidic lavas. These cooled to form very hard granophyre and felsite rocks; these two 'rink dykes' stretch some 11 km in diameter and include the formations of Crosslieve Hill, Mullaghbane Mountain, Slievenacappel Hill, Anglesey Mountain, Flagstaff Hill, Sugarloaf Hill and Sturgan Mountain.

Slieve Gullion itself is more recent than the ring dykes and is made up of layers of granitic and basaltic rocks. There have been some debate as to their origins. One suggestion is that a huge explosive eruption of the volcano created a vast crater, or

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caldera, into which lavas were extruded in layers. There is evidence of many highly unusual features developed by the interaction of basic and acidic magmas.

In more recent times the landscape has been shaped by the action of glaciers during successive Ice Ages. Glaciers exploited existing weaknesses in the rocks (faults and softer rocks) to erode deep valleys through the Ring of Gullion. The upstanding hills were glacially scoured leaving craggy outcrops (roches moutonnees), boulder strewn slopes and rocky ridges and hollows. The valley bottoms were in-filled with glacial deposits forming rounded drumlins, streamlined by the flowing ice. The 'tail' of Slieve Gullion, which itself forms the 'crag', is seen at Dromintee, and is a ridge of boulder clay deposited in the wake of Slieve Gullion as it was overrun by ice moving from the north. The Cashel Loughs lie in ice-scoured basins, and the deep valley of Carlingford Lough is thought to have been formed by the ice. The ice finally retreated some 12,000 years ago.

Historical Significance

The earliest reference to Ulster comes from the mythical tale, the 'Táin Bó Cuailgne', or the 'Cattle Raid of Cooley'. The tale provides an account of the province. At about the time the tale describes, the Dorsey was being built in the LP area. At this time it



The 'Táin Bó Cuailgne' survives in three manuscripts: the Book of the Dun Cow, 11th/12th-century; the Book of Leinster (opposite), 12th century; and the Yellow Book of Lecan, 14th century.

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is said Ulster was at its strongest, and defended by Iron Age warriors and fortifications.

*Whoever comes to your door
you must feed him and care for
him with no questions asked.*

Brehon Law

With the Iron Age came the influence of the Celts, who brought with them a whole new world of culture, art, metallurgy, building practice and warfare. The influence from the small bands of Celts that landed in Ireland far outweighed their numbers.

In Iron Age Ireland, there was a complex system of laws: the Brehon Laws. They were passed on orally from generation to generation and only written down in the 7th century. The law recognised divorce, equal rights for male and female and also showed a concern for the environment, and kindness to strangers.

Families lived in hillforts, many of which can still be seen today, where they enjoyed storytelling, poetry and music and played early forms of hurling and chess.

By 400 CE, Ireland was a land of warrior farmers who worshipped Celtic gods. Life consisted of tending to farms, raiding neighbouring farms, stealing cattle, storytelling, singing and all that goes with it. However, with the conversion of the emperor of Rome to Christianity in 312 CE, change was on the horizon. In 431 CE Pope Celestine I sent Bishop Palladius to visit the small Christian community in Ireland. The following year a man, by the name of Patrick, arrived in Ireland; his mission was to convert the whole island to Christianity.

'For many centuries Ulster has certainly been an area of northern or northeastern Ireland, and it has been the dwelling place of a distinct community of one kind or another, but the variations in the accepted frontiers of that area have been enormous'

Hugh Sherman, Ulster (1949)

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With Christianity came monasteries. These were surrounded by a circular boundary wall which acted as a frontier between the holy world within and the secular world outside. Within the walls of these monasteries, monks wrote down, and so preserved, the oral tales of Celtic Ireland, including the ‘Táin Bó Cuailgne’.

Life outside the monasteries carried on as it had in the Iron Age. People continued to live on self-sufficient rural farmsteads – ringforts and crannóga.

Following the collapse of the Roman Empire, and hence the ‘civilised’ Christian world, Irish monks left for Europe as missionaries to convert pagan peoples to Christianity. They founded many important monasteries on the continent.

From the end of 8th century, Irish monasteries came under savage attack from Scandinavian invaders - the Vikings. The Vikings initially arrived as hit-and-run raiders, plundering the monasteries of their wealth. However, in the following centuries, they settled in Ireland and founded a number of towns. Over time, they became Christians and made allies and enemies of local Irish chieftains. The Viking Age in Ireland effectively came to an end in the battle of Clontarf in 1014 CE.

The arrival of the Anglo-Normans saw the establishment of towns, roads, and markets. However, through a series of events the Anglo-Normans lost control of the areas they once held sway. Eventually, they adopted Irish customs and ‘became more Irish than the Irish themselves’.

By 1500, much of Ireland was back in the hands of Gaelic rulers. There were also vast territories under control of the Anglo-Norman families. However, their allegiance to the Crown had diminished: many spoke Irish, wore Irish clothes and hairstyles and married into Gaelic families. As a result of this the area under control of the Crown had shrunk to the area known as ‘the Pale’, an enclave surrounding Dublin which stretched right up to the boundary of the LP area.

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As we saw in Section 1, the Plantation in the 1600s, saw the fortification, militarisation and the change of Ulster from Catholic Gaelic to British Protestant. Ulster, being protestant, backed William of Orange in 1685, the rest of Ireland backed the Catholic King James

After the battle of the Boyne in 1690 - and James' defeat - the Irish Catholics were left politically helpless

The 1700s saw the industrialisation of Ireland with the linen industry dominant and from about the 1750s onwards the whole island showed signs of stability until the rebellion of 1798 when Ireland lost its parliament and mass emigration followed the close of the Napoleonic Wars. The mass starvation in the 1840s devastated Ireland's population with an estimated 3 million lost in the space of five years, and the Ring of Gullion was no exception to this loss.

The struggle for home rule dominated the remainder of the 19th century.

The thatched Derrymore House, in the care of the National Trust, is believed to have been where the Act of Union was drafted in 1800. The house was built by Isaac Corry, who represented Newry in the Irish House of Commons for 30 years from 1776.

The partition of Ireland came in 1921 after the Easter Rising, World War 1 and the Anglo-Irish War. The Ring of Gullion found itself on the border of the twenty-six county Free State and the six county Home Rule area. The Ring of Gullion was once again a frontier post, a gateway between the two regions. Northern Ireland has been unstable and subjected to periods of violence since the creation of the border and British troops were deployed as the situation became increasingly confrontational and militarised, Direct Rule was established in 1972. The 'Troubles' caused huge problems for the whole border region.

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The ring dyke was shut off, and protected by eighteen military watchtowers to monitor the situation in South Armagh. As you read in Section 1: “Where once Norman and Gaelic stone castles stood, modern watchtowers were now supplied with equipment and soldiers by helicopter.” Towers were removed in 2007 and access was once again possible to the rolling hillside of South Armagh. It’s hoped, by the local community, that the ring dyke will be easily accessible by all, and will never be closed off again.

Industrial Heritage

Newry Canal is the oldest summit level canal in Ireland or Britain, it connects Portadown to Newry and then carries on to the mouth of Carlingford Lough. It was built in 1734, took eight years to complete, and is 18 miles long with 15 locks.



Newry Canal was still in use up until the late 1930s

The canal is a major feature on the eastern edge of the Ring of Gullion. It has been a very important navigation route into Newry port and the canal network within Ulster. It also has an attractive woodland fringe and supports a good coarse fishery. It was built to exploit the coal in Tyrone; however, it was most useful in the linen industry and stimulated the domestic market, it also greatly facilitated imports and exports.

Nestling close to Camlough Mountain, just beyond the northern edge of the Ring of Gullion, are the mill villages of Camlough and Bessbrook, which in former times provided employment to people all over the Ring of Gullion. Linen working has been

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known in Bessbrook since 1752. Today, the village is probably best known for its ‘model village’, built from 1845 onwards by John Richardson, a Quaker, to provide housing, and educational and social facilities for their workforce in the spinning mills.

Industrial development led to the creation of man-made features such as the Newry Canal, the railways, and the enlargement of Camlough Lake, to power the mills of Bessbrook and to supply the canal.

Twentieth Century Military Significance

During the ‘troubles’ the two Irelands were never so aggressively fortified, to the cost of local people on either side. The British Army took over the South Armagh hilltops in the mid-eighties and at the height of the British military presence there were eighteen watchtowers in South Armagh. This formed an open prison for the people beneath them, and cut off access to most of the ring dyke hills. It wasn’t until 2007 that the final five towers were removed and local people were once again able to walk up these 65 million year old mountains, which are steeped in history and covered in archaeology.

Cultural and Human Heritage

A sense of place is still very important to the people of the Ring of Gullion, and this is evident in the area’s townland names which are still in use today. They continue to bear testament to the Ring of Gullion’s cultural landscape, its heroes and heroines and the families who tended the land. There are over 61,000 townlands in Ireland, covering the whole island. The townland system is of Gaelic origin, pre-dating the Norman invasion in the 12th century, and most have names of Irish Gaelic origin. However, some townland names and boundaries come from Norman manors, or plantation divisions.

The people of the Ring of Gullion and the whole south of County Armagh have a rich tradition of music, song, poetry and legend. This was celebrated in former names for the area, still used in the 18th century – Ceantar na nAmhrán (the District of Songs) and Ceantar na bhFill (the District of Poets).

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The Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre in Mullaghbane provides a focal point for cultural activity in the Ring of Gullion, offering accommodation, a conference centre and cultural events. The centre also forms part of the South Armagh Genealogy Project (SAGP) and the Cuimhneamh Oral History Project. Lislea, a small settlement to the north-west of Slieve Gullion, provides an important and long established annual drama festival which draws players from all over the country to perform traditional plays in the Old Schoolhouse Theatre.

The area was the last Gaeltacht in Northern Ireland. In the 2001 Census, 9% to 17% of people are recorded as being able to speak, read, write and understand Irish. Today, festivals, storytelling, publications, townland drama festivals, ceilidhs and dances all give expression to this heritage. The Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre in Mullaghbane was established to help collect, present, perform and give access to this rich cultural life and provide a venue for study and enjoyment. Other initiatives, such as the Poet's Trail, and the assertion of the Urney Graveyard Path as a public right of way, give physical access to sites associated with the poets and, through interpretative panels and guidebooks, introduce visitors to the rich cultural tapestry of the area.

Farming is an important activity in the Ring of Gullion with an estimated 550 farms in the area, with small farms predominating. The best soils in the area are those of the glacial deposits which run in rounded ridges through the lowlands between Slieve Gullion and its ring dyke of hills. In these areas, farmland is divided into strips of rectangular fields, each strip originally worked as one farm. In the past many farms would have grown some crops of oats and potatoes but now grassland and cattle dominate. Half of all farm businesses are classified as mainly beef cattle but sheep have increasingly become important. The grassland has seen many years of intensive use and very few fields retain a natural diversity of plants; though some wet flushed fields on the lower slopes of the mountains support species-rich grassland with marsh and butterfly orchids. Current agricultural policy emphasises the need to achieve a balance between the promotion of a successful agri-food industry and the

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conservation and enhancement of the countryside. The remarkable countryside of the Ring of Gullion area was designated the Slieve Gullion Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) in June 1994, and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. ESA designation is a voluntary scheme which provides financial encouragement for farmers to adopt farming practices which maintain and enhance the landscape, wildlife and heritage of their land holding. In December 2007, just over half of these farms participated in the ESA scheme.

The ESA scheme is the main mechanism used to encourage farmers and landowners to farm in more environmentally friendly ways. In return, scheme participants receive an annual payment from DARD. Uptake of the schemes across Northern Ireland has been very successful. Over 13,000 farmers and landowners participate, with about 40% of farmland managed under the schemes.

Farming in Northern Ireland is changing, and the Ring of Gullion area is no exception. There has been a 2% annual decline in the number of farming businesses in Northern Ireland over the past 5 years, and both the number of part-time and full-time farmers and agricultural workers is declining. According to local farming organisations there are now fewer full-time farmers in the Ring of Gullion. A comparison with figures published at the time of designation of the AONB (in 1991) shows that there has been a reduction in sheep numbers and an increase in cattle in the area. A monitoring study of habitats and species in the Slieve Gullion ESA (comparing 1994 and 2004) showed that heathland sites under ESA agreement had reduced in plant diversity, with some being encroached by dwarf scrub. Reductions in some species of beetles were also recorded. The reasons for this may be reduced upland grazing levels as economic circumstances and farming practices change. This concern has been addressed through the new Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme with participants required to actively control scrub and prevent encroachment by better grazing management.

In 2008, many farmers and landowners in the Ring of Gullion AONB applied for a new agri-environment scheme, the Northern Ireland Countryside Management

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Scheme (NICMS). Applications were encouraged through local publicity and a well-attended visit to an ESA scheme farm near Forkill. Furthermore, the Organic Farming Scheme re-opened for applications in the autumn of 2008. Overall, by 2013, DARD aimed to increase participation in all its agri-environment schemes to 18,000, with about 50% of all farmland management under scheme agreements. Since January 2005, all farmers who receive the Single Farm Payment have also been required to protect the environment in their activities. This cross-compliance requirement involves statutory management requirements to protect wild birds, flora, fauna and groundwater and take 'good agricultural and environmental condition measures' to keep field boundaries, habitats, and archaeological sites in good condition and to maintain appropriate grazing levels.

A separate study of land cover within ESAs (comparing 1995 and 2005) showed that in the Slieve Gullion ESA there was a significant loss of grassland to building development and an increase in associated amenity grassland/gardens. The study also identified that broadleaved woodland cover had increased in all ESA areas in Northern Ireland, except for the Ring of Gullion. In terms of hedgerow and field boundary losses, there has been no significant recorded loss within ESAs compared to a 4% loss found in the general countryside during the Northern Ireland Countryside Survey in 2000. This finding is surprising given the apparent evidence of hedge removals in the area (undertaken to meet sight line requirements for access to new dwellings).

People and places

Distinctive landscapes, such as the Ring of Gullion, are often the product of a distinctive cultural heritage, and an intermingling of the people, their ways of life and the countryside, throughout history. The people of the Ring of Gullion, in their virtually enclosed frontier position, share cultural traditions closely identified with their home territory. Such is the natural complexity of the area that local areas within the Ring - Mullaghbane, Forkill, Jonesborough and Killeen - have their own particular characteristics of trade, tradition, folklore, poetry and language. Much can be

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attributed to the past difficulties in communication between townland communities often separated by mountain, bog or stream.

The independent community spirit, most clearly identified with the ceilidh (Irish folk music, singing, folk dancing and storytelling), helped the people through difficult times by sharing labour, pooling resources and providing entertainment. From late medieval times, and probably earlier, the whole of South Armagh was a notable centre of Irish poetry, and Creggan churchyard is famous as the burial place of poets. Although the use of English was increasing by the 18th century, the area was still known as Ceantar na nAmhrán (the District of Songs) and also as Ceantar na bhFill (the District of Poets). Today, there is a marked revival of interest in the Irish language, folk singing and storytelling.

Legends

The Ring of Gullion has rich associations with Irish legends and myths. In the Táin Bó Cuailgne (the Cattle raid of Cooley), Cuchulainn is reputed to have defended Ulster, single-handedly, against the hordes of Queen Maeve of Connacht - a battle traditionally associated with the Gap of the North. In another tale, Fionn Mac



A depiction of Fionn Mac Chumail and the Cailleach Beara on Slieve Gullion – watch out or your hair will turn white!

Cumhaill was bewitched by Miluchra at Calliagh Berra's Lough on the summit of Slieve Gullion. To this day, the superstition survives that if you bathe in the lough your hair will turn white.

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The mystic quality of Slieve Gullion has been recognised from the earliest times, as can be seen from the cairns on the summit and its association with Irish mythology. In modern times, Standish O’Grady, the Cork-born historian and essayist who has been called ‘the father of the Irish revival’, called Slieve Gullion the ‘Mountain of Mystery’ in an essay which he wrote about the mountain. Eoin MacNeill said that South Armagh was the most historic region in Ireland, and Art Mac Bionaid, the poet and Gaelic scribe from Ballykeel, Mullaghbane, said that you could ‘kick any stone and history leaps out at you’. Maud Gonne McBride, who was one of the first people

‘Kick any stone and history leaps out at you.’

Art Mac Bionaid, 1793-1879

to encourage the young writer Michael J Murphy, wrote and said that the (Slieve Gullion) mountain ‘sang’ to her and she could ‘write down the air’. W.B. Yeats, George Moore, George William (A.E.) Russell and

Arthur Griffith, amongst others, made pilgrimages to the mountain. Even the Duke of Connaught, the third son of Queen Victoria, climbed the mountain ‘from the Dromintee side’.

Importance to Local Communities

The Ring of Gullion is one of only a few small areas in Ireland to have so clearly retained its local identity. People have lived in the area for over 6,000 years and have expressed their feelings about the landscape through the ages in local literature, poetry, music, folk history and art. This thriving cultural heritage has survived to the present day. The shared traditions of the people, in their virtually enclosed landscape with its historic frontier, has forged a unique culture which is warm, friendly and welcoming.

Section 2 has described specific aspects of significant heritage in the LP area, but it is worth relaying some of the findings from the consultation work carried out as part of the development phase. Please see the appendices for full reports of the Ring of Gullion Visitor Participation Survey Report (October 2013) and the LPS Development Stage Community Consultation.

**The Key findings from the Ring of Gullion Visitor Participation Survey Report,
October 2013**

Respondent profile

- Of the 307 visitors interviewed, 43% were male and 57% were female.
- Compared to the general population visitors were more likely to be male, aged 26 to 55 and of the ABC1 socio-economic group.
- Over half (54%) reside in Northern Ireland. Of these:
 - 32% were from Armagh;
 - 29% were from Down; and
 - 25% were from Antrim.
- The remaining respondents reside elsewhere in Northern Ireland.
- A further 30% came from the Republic of Ireland. Of these:
 - 35 % were from South Louth;
 - 25% were from Dublin; and
 - 11% were from Meath.
- 16% of visitors came from outside the island of Ireland.
- Almost half (48%) were from elsewhere in UK.

Reason and nature of visit

- 39% indicated that their main reason for visiting the Ring of Gullion was to use the playground. Other commonly cited reasons for visiting the area included:
 - To go walking (34%);
 - To attend an event or festival (24%).
- 60% of visitors stated that it was their first time visiting the area.
- Of the 124 respondents who have been before, almost one quarter (23%) said they visit the area more frequently than once every six months.
- 28% indicated they were staying one or more nights away from home while visiting Ring of Gullion. Of these:
 - 57% were staying with friends or family;
 - 24% were staying in a hotel or bed and breakfast (i.e. serviced accommodation);

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- 9% at a caravan/camping site; and
- 9% in self catering or other accommodation.
- Visitor parties ranged in size from one person to more than 10 people. Half of respondents indicated that they were travelling in a group of between three to five people.
- 58% of respondents anticipated spending between £1 and £20 during the course of their visit while 8% estimated spending over £60. The average spend per person was £25.53.

The breakdown of spending shows that the highest level of spend was on transport and travel, with an estimated average spend per person of £10.30.

Service provision and facilities

Survey findings reveal that visitors are mainly positive about the facilities in the Ring of Gullion area. The majority expressed satisfaction with the:

- Cleanliness of the site (95%);
- Car parking (88%); and
- Toilet facilities (76%).

Over three quarters (77%) indicated that they were very or quite satisfied with the availability of pubs/cafes/restaurants/coffee shops in the area. A further 76% expressed satisfaction with the quality of such establishments.

Around half of visitors reported that they were satisfied with the walking routes/footpaths (56%) and playground (50%).

Aspects deemed to be less satisfactory included signage to the Ring of Gullion area and information boards at locations.

Information and resources

The main method by which visitors had heard about the Ring of Gullion area was through family and friends (74%). A much smaller proportion (16%) said they heard about the area on the internet/Ring of Gullion website.

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The majority of those who have accessed the Ring of Gullion website indicated that they were quite or very satisfied with the site (80%).

However, no visitors to the website have downloaded the audio tours.

Over three fifths (61%) of visitors expressed a desire for more information. Of these:

- 49% requested information via the newspaper;
- 42% through the radio/TV;
- 23% through promotional leaflets/materials; and
- 22% at Visitor Information Centres.

Looking ahead

Respondents were highly positive about their future intentions to return to the Ring of Gullion area, with 93% indicating that they will return. A further 97% stated that they would recommend the Ring of Gullion to family/friends.

When asked which factors would encourage them to return to the area, two fifths stated that they were satisfied with the Ring of Gullion, and thus require no further incentive to encourage them to return or stay longer.

Over one quarter (26%) said the provision of more festivals/events would encourage them to stay longer.

The Key findings from the LPS Development Stage Community Consultation

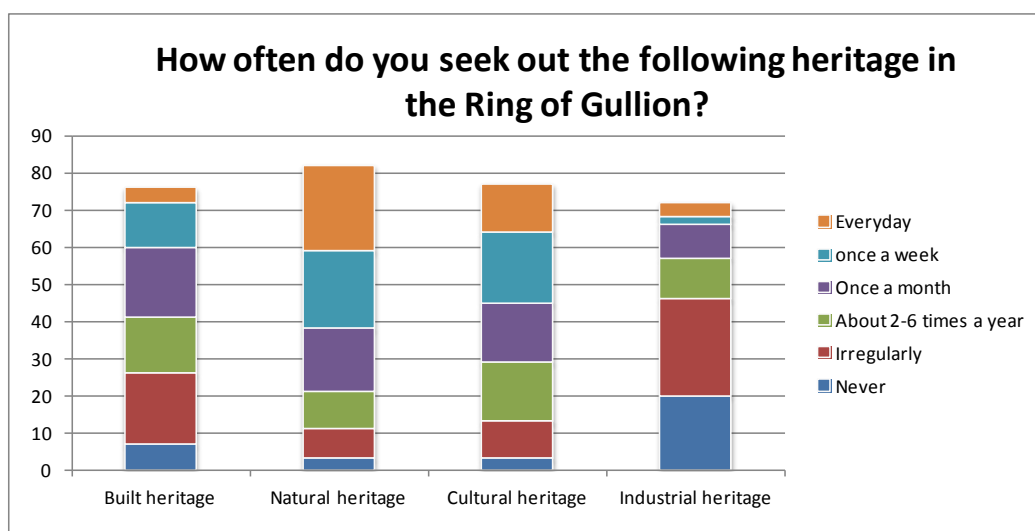
Significant consultation was carried out; events were advertised in the three local papers, Slieve Gullion Courtyard, Slieve Gullion and Newry Visitor Information Centres, and on Five FM – examples of the posters and press coverage along with summaries of the meetings are attached in the appendices. To compliment this publicity, invitations were issued via email distribution lists held by the Ring of Gullion AONB office and the LPS partners.

In addition, an online survey was carried out to reach a wider audience, as well as targeted consultation to groups who were not adequately represented in the public

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consultations. As results were being collated and used to shape the LPS, workshops were held to present project proposals to local communities. Attendees were able to participate in a range of activities that could be run as part of the delivery phase. They were encouraged to provide opinions on individual projects and on the scheme in general.

Heritage



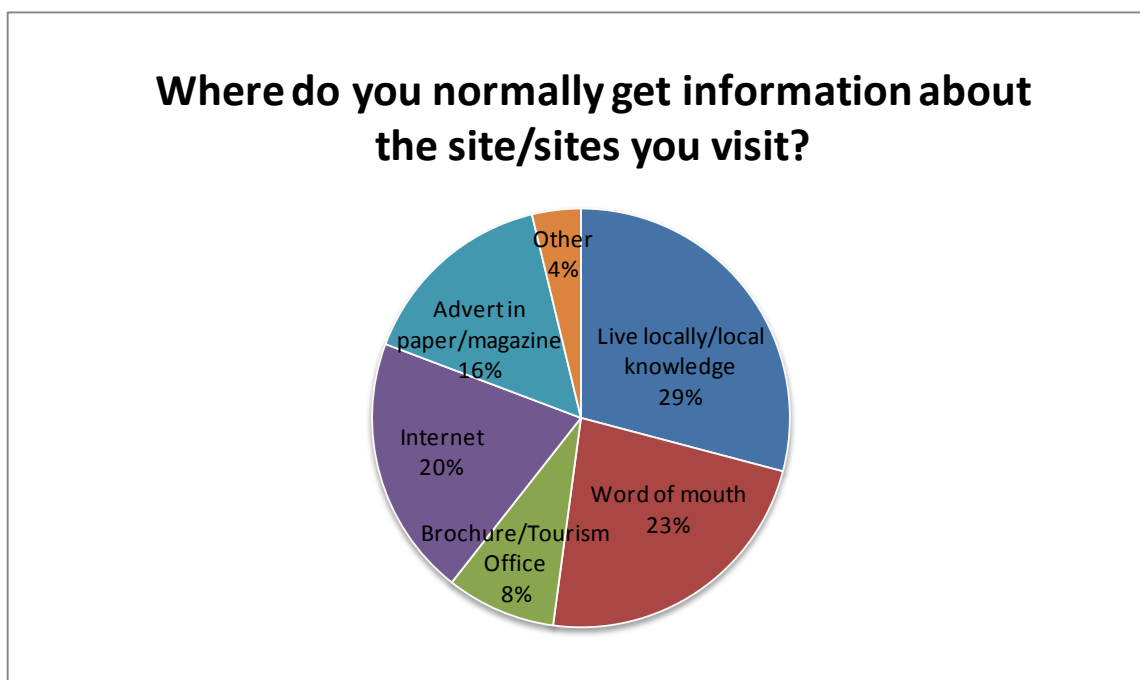
Participation

A lack of quality walking trails (49%) followed by lack of signage (48%) were the two biggest barriers to participation.



Information sources

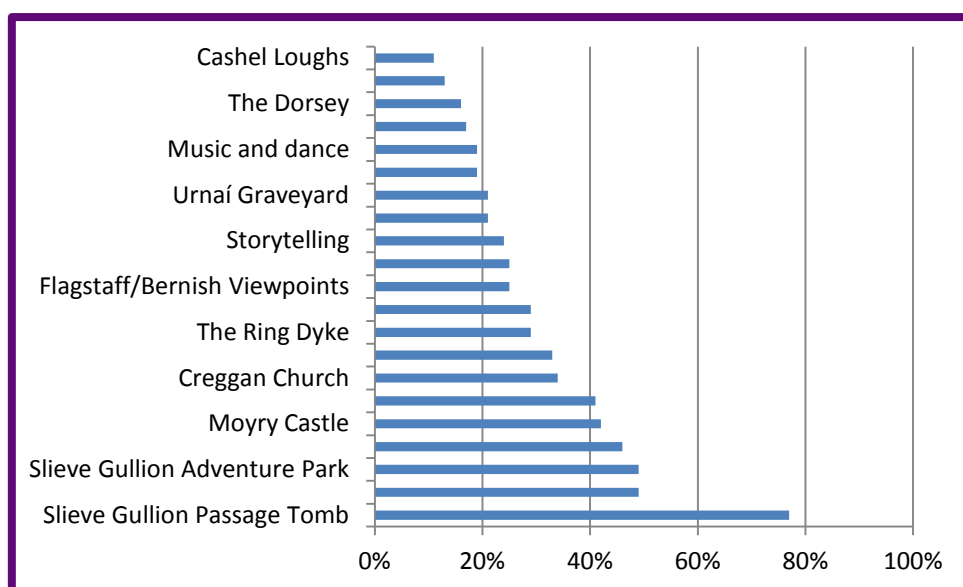
People were asked where they normally get the information on the area's heritage in order to gain an understanding on where the efforts should be concentrated in the future. The internet is the biggest source of controlled information. A website has been considered in Programme E.



It's important to note from the LPS Development Stage Community Consultation respondents that 96% had participated in local heritage events; however, 94% perceived there was a barrier to seeking out local heritage or participating in local heritage events.

The most thought of sites of heritage are shown below. However, there were lots more sites of heritage listed at the consultations, see appendices.

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The main reason respondents took part in recreational activities in the LP area were walking followed by photography, driving, walking the dog and cycling. People found out about the heritage of the area by: Live locally/local knowledge, 71%; Word of mouth, 56%; and Internet, 49%.

Below are some of the comments people made during the consultations:

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"Open communication with local farmers is imperative before any action of any working group is taken."

"I am involved with Bessbrook Heritage Group, but I think it would be nice if there was more communication and cooperation between small groups like ourselves, from all around South Armagh."

"The mountain of Slieve Gullion has, I believe, special importance within the area."

"Use of ancient and natural landscape to promote our cultural heritage - would ensure that next generation would protect and preserve our natural and built environment."

"This is a beautiful area – it would be great to see walking routes developed"

Schools could become involved as any information would be of an educational nature covering history, geography, geology, anthropology, politics, culture as well as other aspects. The elderly/retirees would benefit by more participation and could provide invaluable experience."

"The mythology and pre and more recent history could be developed further with in-situ talks on life during those times. This should encourage the imagination of the young as well as satiate the desires of adults for an entire and thorough picture of the area in the past."

"The achievement to date at Ring of Gullion has really changed the perception of the whole area and highlighted the potential for the future of its community."

"I would like to see participation of young people built in to the planning phases of projects."

Section 3 – Risks and Opportunities

Introduction

Slieve Gullion and its ring dyke are clearly recognisable, rising out of the flat lowlands around the centrepiece. Around 2 million cars drive through the AONB along the A1 each year and newly erected AONB signs on the motorway welcome people to the AONB. Yet very few people realise how important this landscape is or are aware of the potential risks and great opportunities associated with it. The previous sections have outlined the different types of heritage found within the LPS area and the significance of this area. However, threats to this landscape include pressures on wildlife, farming and traditional countryside skills; pressures on the landscape from recreation and illegal recreational activity; and pressures on all flora and fauna resulting from environmental crimes.

There are many risks and threats to the heritage in this area. This section will identify these risks and threats and highlight opportunities to address them. The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership is an important tool whereby these risks can be minimised and managed through sustainable development.

This section also considers some of the risks to the delivery of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Urban proximity and development

Risks: The Ring of Gullion sits between two cities, Newry and Dundalk, along the main corridor between Belfast and Dublin. The A1 and the main North-South railway line cut through the AONB. There are over 3 million people living along the Dublin-Belfast corridor within one hours travelling distance to the Ring of Gullion.

As people settle in the two nearby expanding cities and along the growing commuter belt there is increased pressure for housing developments to encroach further into the AONB.

Opportunities: The delivery of a Landscape Partnership Scheme will help to mitigate some of the pressures and impacts of development. Raising awareness of local heritage at all levels will encourage responses to planning applications, resulting in more appropriate plans being passed.

This project will work with partners and local planning authorities to ensure landscape and heritage protection is paramount, thus conserving and enhancing it through development.

To ensure conservation of the landscape is a priority, the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership will aim to have an input into local strategies and management plans, such as the Camlough and Bessbrook Heritage Societies and the Slieve Gullion Buildings Preservation Trust.

The AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016 recognises the need for a rural design guide. The Landscape Partnership will promote AONB design guides as good practice, even in areas outside the AONB.

Projects: 2.6, 2.8

Crime and anti-social behaviour

Risks: Crime and anti-social behaviour pose a serious threat to local heritage assets. Graffiti, illegal dumping (pictured), fuel waste dumping and the illegal use of off-road vehicles cause damage to the aesthetics of the entire landscape and its heritage. Aggravation of both livestock



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and recreational users by uncontrolled dogs, make management and partnership between different user groups more difficult.

Criminal and anti-social behaviour can be a deterrent for people accessing the landscape and its heritage. The threat, perceived or real, of anti-social behaviour and crime was cited in the community consultation as a reason for people not accessing the countryside. The risk of damage to newly installed structures in certain areas of the Ring of Gullion is also a key risk to the delivery of the LPS.

Opportunities: There is an opportunity to work in partnership with local authorities, farmers, landowners, businesses and heritage conservation organisations in a cooperative approach to address the issues of crime and anti-social behaviour in the countryside. Participation in NIEA's Environmental Crime Initiative, to implement measures to prevent, reduce and tackle heritage-related crime, will help to reduce the effects of crime and antisocial behaviour. Working with schools will increase the role of local landscape heritage in learning programmes and provide new ways for people to interpret and engage with it. As a result, children and their families will learn to value the landscape they live in.

Projects: 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.4, 2.5, 4.5

Wildlife

Risks: The rich diversity of wildlife in the Ring of Gullion faces many threats. These include, fires destroying habitats; sites lacking management resources; poor quality development; loss and fragmentation of habitat; increased illegal hunting; new and spreading invasive species; and loss of active agriculture and land abandonment.



Opportunities: The LPS can encourage its partners and the local community to respond to planning applications and support the farming community. There is an opportunity to tackle invasive species, set up tree and wildflower nurseries, establish a sustainable volunteer group, and educate people about the importance of biodiversity and the risks of setting fires in the hills. These steps may go some way in helping to protect and enhance the wildlife currently found in the Ring of Gullion.

Projects: 1.1, 3.1, 3.4, 4.1

Pressures on farming and loss of traditional farming skills

Risks: Agriculture is a surprisingly insignificant industry in the LPS area, accounting for fewer than 7% of employees in each ward. Furthermore, fewer than 7% of all farmers in the LPS area wards farm full-time, and the figures fall to under 3% for the Forkill and Fathom wards. This is of crucial significance to the future of the area given the importance of the role of farmers in managing the landscape and in underpinning rural life. It is worth noting that 83% of farms in the Newry and Mourne District fall within Less Favoured Areas and 36% are categorised as Severely Disadvantaged Areas.

In particular, a lack of incentive to maintain existing hedges or plant new hedges has resulted in a landscape with gaps in hedgerows or no hedges at all. Increasingly, barbed wire fencing is used instead to make farmland stock-proof.

Some areas are no longer actively farmed which has resulted in land being encroached upon by scrub, a lack of grazing has also resulted in grassland becoming rank, creating potential fire hazards.

It is important to note that farmers in receipt of area based payments such as Single Farm Payment and Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowance requires them to maintain all their land in 'Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition'. Part of this requires them to retain field boundaries such as hedges. They must also participate in an approved training programme that includes Cross-Compliance and Field

Section 3 – Risks and Opportunities

Boundary Management. Other workshops available include dry stone walling and hedge restoration. The training is delivered by DARD's College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

A new agri-environment scheme is being developed. It is aimed to launch it as early as possible in the new RDP period (2014-2020).

Opportunities: There may be an opportunity to work with farmers to encourage improvements for both biodiversity and landscape that could be carried out on their land. Opportunities will also arise to provide employment for those practicing traditional skills and training for local people to learn traditional heritage skills. There is also an opportunity for people to showcase these skills at events or exhibitions. Farmers in the RoG AONB encouraged to participate in DARD training.

Projects: 4.2, 4.6

Recreational pressure

Risks: Although growing numbers of visitors are being attracted to the Ring of Gullion, the area is still an under-used resource, with many people who live in the AONB having never been to any of the public sites. The threat associated with increasing numbers is that high levels of use will cause erosion of paths (pictured below), disturb wildlife and damage sites of built heritage or archaeological importance. Within the Ring of Gullion, the vast majority of public access is on a de facto basis for locals only as there are relatively few public rights of way and permissive path agreements. This makes ensuring that recreation is not a burden on landowners particularly important. Public recreation in the area causes sensitive habitats and vegetation to be trampled on and can result in erosion. Litter, disturbance of wildlife, and the increased risk of wildfires are also issues of concern.



Consultations with local residents and recreational users have highlighted that present visitor facilities, car park provision and signage are inadequate. Access by means of public transport to the Ring of Gullion is poor with the Slieve Gullion Rambler operating only in July and August and reaching only some key walking destinations, villages and townlands.

There has been a recent increase in the number of mass participation events occurring in the Ring of Gullion. These offer large numbers of people access and opportunities to enjoy the AONB. However, if they are not carefully planned and managed, these large-scale events can damage fragile ecosystems.

In promoting the heritage and the access to sites throughout the scheme area, there is a risk that there will be an increased impact on these sites caused by greater visitor numbers.

Opportunities: The LPS will positively manage public access to ensure that the integrity of sites is not compromised; to provide signed or guided routes to minimise

Section 3 – Risks and Opportunities

the impact of visitors on sites; to promote responsible use of sites and raise awareness of the impact people have on heritage as visitors; and to use key visitor attractions such as Slieve Gullion and Hawthorn Hill to promote the responsible use of sites and their heritage. It is essential that adequate paths and infrastructure are put in place to cope with the increasing visitor numbers and to ensure that vulnerable sites are protected. Providing sustainable paths around the Ring of Gullion will spread the anticipated increased number of visitors over a wider landscape area. This will have the added benefit of more people enjoying the heritage, the landscape, and in particular the areas as yet unrecognised as valuable to the majority of visitors.

Projects: 1.3, 2.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 4.4

Illegal recreational activity

Risks: The increased use of off-road vehicles is a cause of concern for locals and land managers in the area. They are dangerous, noisy, and can prevent access to - and the quiet enjoyment of - the landscape. Off-road vehicles are highly damaging to sensitive wildlife and fragile upland heath habitats. They pose only a small problem at present, however, as popularity in the area increases they could become a major risk, as they have in the neighbouring areas of Mourne and Cooley.

Opportunities: The Landscape Partnership Scheme will enable more staff to be employed who can liaise with the local community, police and landowners: building up relationships and hopefully encouraging the PSNI to take action on sites where illegal activity occurs. New hedgerows can be planted and habitats restored and maintained to dissuade illegal recreational activity.

Projects: 1.1, 2.8

Lack of knowledge and understanding

Risks: The Ring of Gullion is rich in heritage; abundant with sites of industrial, built, natural, and cultural importance. However, a lack of interpretation and access to sites prevents this heritage being interpreted and enjoyed. In the absence of

Section 3 – Risks and Opportunities

effective, high-quality site interpretation and access (virtual and physical), many visitors to the area will leave without a real sense of how remarkable the Ring of Gullion is.

Young people do not often learn about their local heritage at school, and learning about it is more likely to take place away from the area as a field trip than by taking a walk around the Ring of Gullion. This could send out a negative message about the relative value of their heritage.

There is a rich cultural heritage in South Armagh but it tends to be known and shared among the older people. There are no opportunities for people to showcase this culture in the area and young people are losing interest. The Traditional Arts Partnership are doing valiant work on encouraging young people to take up music and dance.

Opportunities: The LPS will raise awareness of the importance of the area's heritage and work with schools to increase the role of local landscape heritage in their curriculum.

The LPS will provide new ways to interpret the landscape heritage and engage people with it through events, publications, website material, press releases, new trails and visitor information. An opportunity exists to reach a wide range of people and educate them about the various aspects of heritage, wildlife, geology and access in the Ring of Gullion.

Projects: 2.2, 2.3, 2.7, 4.3

Climate change

Risks: Climate change is the greatest challenge facing the world today (DEFRA, 2007). Many habitats in the Ring of Gullion are on the edge of their natural range, this means that they are vulnerable to any changes in the climate. For instance, droughts during the summer could negatively impact on wet grassland, blanket bogs,

Section 3 – Risks and Opportunities

and the range of species that are found only in this environment. Fires in dried grassland would further compound these problems, destroying the homes of ground nesting birds, among other issues. Non-native invasive species could potentially flourish in these altered climate conditions and out-compete native species.

Climate change may also have an impact on the many built or man-made features in the heritage landscape. Wetter winters have the potential to cause higher levels of path erosion, while hotter summers may result in an increase in wildfires, damaging the beauty of sites and resulting in a reduced number of people visiting the area for recreational purposes.

Opportunities: The LPS will help to improve the quality of habitats and increase habitat connectivity across the scheme area; for example, increasing the amount of tree cover and hedgerows. The LPS will raise awareness amongst local communities of the potential threats that climate change poses to the local heritage and landscapes. The LPS will engage land managers and businesses to ensure they take a vigorous approach to limiting carbon and greenhouse gases; for example, by composting rather than burning cleared scrub.

Projects: 1.1, 2.8

Audience barriers

Risks: Public consultation carried out as part of the development phase showed a variety of barriers that prevent people from accessing local heritage. The surveys showed that the main barrier to people accessing heritage was a lack of quality walking trails and a lack of signage. People also felt that a lack of access, a lack of on-site and off-site information, and a lack of time, were barriers that prevented them from taking part in recreational activities. Furthermore, a number of people cited a lack of facilities for disabled people as a significant barrier.

Other key barriers included too many dogs and too much dog litter; concerns about safety; no camping sites; and not enough organised events.

Opportunities: Improve access to popular sites and create new walking trails that provide information about the area's heritage. Provide directions to sites and information on the facilities available there. Promote routes from local centres. Provide information that is accessible to target groups using the heritage and improve disabled access.

Projects: 1.3, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.2

National/international economic downturn

Risks: As seen in the 2007 banking failures, global financial crises have far-reaching implications. Budgets are squeezed and non-essential services are severely cut back. Core funding from the NIEA and Newry and Mourne District Council for the AONB Management Plan could be further reduced if the global economy retracts.

Opportunities: Raise awareness of the special importance of the area and establish groups that can survive on small budgets such as, for example, the Ring of Gullion and Cooley Red Squirrel Group, and The Gap o the North Walking Club who intertwine history and recreation on their weekly walks. Establish an effective volunteer team that can carry on work without large budgets.

Projects: 1.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.8, 4.5

A forgotten heritage and the loss of traditional skills

Risks: Through the ages, the area has been important for communications and travel: the AONB is traversed by both the Slige Midluachra, the ancient road from Drogheda to Dunseverick, and the modern and recently upgraded A1 motorway.

Farming and commerce have also shaped the landscape with their footprint of ancient field boundary patterns, parklands, market towns and villages, and a dense network of roads and lanes. Industrial development has led to the creation of man-made features, such as the Newry Canal in the east of the AONB, the railways, and

Section 3 – Risks and Opportunities

the enlargement of Camlough Lake, to power the mills of Bessbrook and to supply the canal.

All these industries either have disappeared or are in decline. O'Hares mill, the last working mill in South Armagh, closed in 1956 and the last working ship left Victoria Lock in 1974.

The concern for the loss of cultural identity was considerable among those who attended our public workshops as part of the development stage consultations. This concern particularly related to the loss of storytelling, language, music, dance and crafts, such as woodworking and metalworking.

Skills and traditions felt to be in decline included:

- Dry stone walling – of different types of walls and using the different types of stone (granite and greywacke)
- Traditional construction skills - thatching, whitewashing and masonry skills
- Storytelling – passing on the folklore and mythology of the different areas around the mountains
- Songs and music – very few people now know more than one or two songs of the area
- Metalworking and woodworking – very few people have the skills to produce products
- Hedgelaying – very few new hedges are planted as landowners prefer fences.

Opportunities: Provide training courses for people to learn traditional skills. Establish annual events that showcase the skills coming out of the Ring of Gullion. Develop strong links with schools and special interest groups and educate them on the bank of skills available in the area. Secure a future for craft makers in the area by providing a long-term solution whereby they can access high footfall from visitors.

Projects: 1.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6

LPS implementation and sustainability

Risks Associated with Project Planning

The implementation of any project work could inadvertently result in risks to heritage features. For example, uncovering old lime kilns and restoring them, making them both visible and accessible, may result in the lime kiln becoming a target of antisocial behaviour.

Monitoring

An important aspect of project implementation is the monitoring of success and failure. Monitoring programmes must be included in project planning and implementation.

Project Sustainability

This is a fundamental aspect of programme and project design. Failure to plan long-term viability into the partnership's work will result in wasted effort and lost opportunities for long-term heritage conservation and promotion.

Land Ownership

Land in the Ring of Gullion is owned by a number of landowners with varying interests in the landscape. Failure to engage with them and agree to shared objectives will result in future tensions; planned projects may not be as deliverable as first envisaged. Access agreements ultimately hinge on the cooperation of landowners to allow the general public across their land.

Partnership

The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership has long established relationships with representatives from the farmers, community groups, commercial users, environmental bodies, statutory groups and recreational users involved in the area. Members from these groups have been selected to form a Board to oversee the Landscape Partnership Scheme, with the addition of new representatives with heritage backgrounds. Support from this Board is important for the success of this project.

Opportunity: The Heritage Lottery funded Landscape Partnership Scheme provides an exciting opportunity for a wide range of projects to be carried out in the Ring of Gullion, and for additional money to be drawn down from other sources.

Consultations

Our consultations and engagement events brought forward a number of ideas from participants, on opportunities for the area and on the means to address certain needs. Feedback from discussions and written questionnaires is detailed in the appendices to this LCAP. These findings were added to the issues identified from our research, as outlined and presented to the Ring of Gullion Partnership Board at the meetings listed in the introduction to this LCAP. Ideas were tested against the aims and objectives of the project and against practical considerations, and were then refined to form the programme of actions set out in Section 4.

Conclusions from risks and opportunities

Section 3 identified the main threats facing the heritage of this important landscape and the opportunities to conserve it. The partnership recognizes that no single organization can deal with the range of issues and threats that have been identified. The need for a strong partnership approach is clear; with this will come coherent planning, management, resources, a collective will and a shared vision. The Ring of Gullion Partnership Board will strive to ensure that this happens.

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

Introduction

The previous sections have provided a narrative of the Ring of Gullion Landscape Area, describing the heritage and its importance, while assessing the risks and threats that face both the landscape and heritage that give this area its unique character. This section lays down the vision for the Ring of Gullion LPS and outlines its aims and objectives to achieve the vision. It goes on to provide a summary of the four delivery programmes and shows how they complement the scheme's themes, creating a clear impression of how the Partnership will conserve and increase understanding about the area's landscape and heritage.

Vision

Our vision is one to raise awareness and encourage a focus on the landscape - the beauty and distinctiveness of its natural features and cultural heritage, the opportunities to derive benefit from this landscape and its capacity to accommodate change. The Ring of Gullion landscape will be improved, restored and more fully appreciated through positive landscape management. To achieve our vision, management will work with and commit to engage with our statutory, farming, community, commercial, recreational and environmental partners who live and work in and around the Ring of Gullion.

Aims and Objectives

The vision is the overall aim for the LPS; within it, four strategic aims have been identified by the Partnership:

- A. Conserve, enhance and restore the natural and built heritage that gives the Ring of Gullion LPS area its unique sense of place;
- B. Increase community participation in local heritage to make its conservation more sustainable, including developing new audiences and involving hard-to-reach groups;

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

- C. Increase understanding about the importance of the landscape heritage and the role it plays in people's lives to make its conservation more viable;
- D. Increase the skills and knowledge of local communities and partners to help them to conserve and promote the landscape heritage and to provide a legacy to the scheme.

These have been agreed in order for the LPS to achieve the following:

1. Protect the cultural, natural and built landscape of the Ring of Gullion by addressing threats and opportunities.
2. Raise awareness and encourage local community involvement in the Ring of Gullion's historic, cultural and environmental features, including showcasing the area's pool of talents, e.g. music, dance, storytelling and local handicrafts.
3. Create more opportunities for physical, intellectual and sensory access to the Ring of Gullion, its recreation potential, its local culture and its internationally important biodiversity and geology as well as to provide opportunities for expression of the appreciation of the landscape through creative arts.
4. Ensure that high-quality and up-to-date training and skills required to address the above are available locally; leave a legacy of knowledge, skills and inspiration to continue this enhancement; and increase volunteer opportunities, involvement and achievement.
5. Research, preserve and celebrate the unique industrial and cultural heritage and folklore of the Ring of Gullion.
6. Enhance contact and communication to build effective working relationships between landowners, land managers and farmers.
7. Contribute to the achievement of the tourism brand strategy for Northern Ireland.

The Ring of Gullion LPS has the following objectives to achieve its aims:

- A. Undertake practical conservation work to conserve, enhance and restore the key features of the natural and built heritage.

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

- B. Work in partnership with landowners, managers, farmers and local communities to promote and facilitate sustainable management of the landscape heritage.
- C. Provide opportunities for communities to care and make decisions about their local heritage and take action and ownership to conserve and promote it.
- D. Promote and encourage both physical and intellectual access, being as inclusive as possible, through the removal of barriers to access which prevent or discourage people from becoming actively engaged.
- E. Raise awareness about the importance of the LPS landscape heritage, the threats it faces, and the steps we can take to protect it.
- F. Promote the natural and built heritage of the scheme area as an educational resource.
- G. Explore new ways to positively engage with hard-to-reach groups, particularly young people and those from deprived communities, to increase their involvement and strengthen their understanding of the value of the landscape.
- H. Provide opportunities for people to develop their knowledge and skills: increasing sustainability and providing a legacy for the scheme's work.
- I. Undertake, support and promote activities that help to mitigate, or adapt to, the impacts of climate change.
- J. Create and strengthen partnerships which increase capacity to deliver the LPS objectives and make its work more sustainable.

Themes for Implementation

In order to successfully develop and implement projects within the Ring of Gullion LPS, a number of themes have been identified. These themes have been developed as a result of the community consultation workshops, of the feedback from the LPS Steering Committee and of the individual meetings with key stakeholders throughout the development phase. Through these themes, the LP staff can ensure that the Vision, Strategic Aims and Objectives are successfully achieved. Each theme contains a number of projects, with each project being named and given a code and

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

number. These project names and codes refer to the project timetable and budget set out in Section 5. The themes are:

1. Encouraging healthy landscapes
2. Trails with tales
3. Signing the landscape
4. Making recreation sustainable
5. The story, the landscape
6. Participating in the landscape.

Encouraging healthy landscapes

Projects within this theme have the following aims:

- Conserve the biodiversity in the Ring of Gullion landscape area through surveying, education and raising awareness in the community and beyond regarding good environmental practice. The project also aims to increase the amount of biodiversity by restoring habitats and removing the threat of non-native invasive species.
- Reduce the occurrence and size of uncontrolled wildfires by raising awareness in order to prevent wildfires and encourage informed controlled burning and by providing detailed information to NIFRS to control wildfires.
- Conserve biodiversity, red squirrels and their habitat in the Ring of Gullion landscape area through surveying, education, and raising awareness in the community and beyond.
- Provide participants with the skills necessary to identify, record and report the species found within the Ring of Gullion as well as the skills required to encourage biodiversity to thrive.
- Restore and conserve one of the country's most important sites of built heritage. The tomb will be re-profiled to its original shape, graffiti will be removed, the chamber restored and a path will be put in place to prevent further damage.

Encouraging healthy landscapes projects under Programme A	
1.1	Habitat protection, restoration and creation
1.4	Restore Slieve Gullion Cairn
Encouraging healthy habitats projects under Programme C	
3.2	Red Squirrel safari
Encouraging healthy habitats projects under Programme D	
4.2	Natural history and traditional countryside skills training

Trails with tales

Projects within this theme have the following aims:

- Establish a trail and provide high-quality interpretation on the rich industrial heritage of the Newry Canal in order to improve the visitor experience in the area and to better inform locals of their history. A recent Navy sculpture in Newry City along the canal proved very popular with the people of the area.
- Establish a network of trails and provide high-quality interpretation on the rich landscape heritage of the Ring of Gullion in order to improve the visitor experience in the area and to better inform locals of their history.
- Establish a sensory trail on Slieve Gullion in order to provide for a wider range of groups and individuals, see appendices for ‘Slieve Gullion Forest Park Sensory Trail’.
- Create more transport means within the LP area in order to allow more user groups to experience Camlough Lake from the water. This project will also allow more users to use the Camlough Lake Heritage Trails.

Trails with tales projects under Programme A	
1.3	Newry Canal Heritage Interpretation
Trails with tales projects under Programme C	
3.3	Camlough and Bessbrook Heritage Trails
3.6	Slieve Gullion Forest Park Sensory Trails

Signing the landscape

Projects within this theme have the following aims:

- Sign important sites of heritage in the Ring of Gullion including Camlough Quarry and the Dorsey Embankment. The area has been a borderland or 'gateway', reflected in the townland's name in Irish, '*Na Doirse*'.
- Raise awareness of the townlands in South Armagh, their history, their meaning and why they are important. The project aims to regain the oral tradition around the local townlands that has been lost in many communities.
- Create welcome focal points at the two busiest entrance points into the Ring of Gullion: Camlough and Forkill.

Signing the landscape projects under Programme A	
1.5	Dorsey Embankment interpretation
1.2	Know your place townlands project
Signing the landscape projects under Programme B	
2.8	Signage and interpretation
Signing the landscape projects under Programme C	
3.5	Enhance Camlough and Forkill roundabouts

Participating in the landscape

Gullion outreach, volunteering and youth rangers

A programme of volunteer activities will be carried out throughout the course of the LPS, coordinated by a Volunteer Officer.

LP staff will deliver an identified programme of outreach and volunteer engagement activities in the Ring of Gullion LP area in order to maximise local and visitor involvement in the scheme and to improve the appreciation and understanding of the special landscape features of the area.

LP staff will develop a detailed knowledge of natural, built and cultural heritage attributes of the area in order to promote the special features of the area; develop

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

and coordinate the delivery of the volunteer programme for the area, including the development of a volunteer policy, resource packs and skills and training workshops; develop, within identified themes, outreach activities and approaches in order to deliver the awareness raising aspects of the Landscape Partnership Scheme; engage with the communities and other groups in order to identify interest in heritage issues and focus activity accordingly; arrange and oversee the Landscape Partnership Scheme events and workshops and attend other events, fairs, conferences etc. in order to provide information on the Landscape Partnership Scheme and/or special qualities of the area.

Volunteers feel a great deal of pride and ownership of the work that they have carried out. People reclaim the area as their own, acting as the eyes and ears protecting the LP area and making it better for everyone to enjoy.

Volunteer wardens will assist the Ring of Gullion AONB management team and various site managers well beyond the life of the LPS. The work of the volunteers will have a wide impact as tasks will vary from restoring built heritage sites to mapping wildfires to cleaning invasive species or carrying out archaeological surveys. It is aimed that no matter what the interest there will be an opportunity available to get involved.

To significantly reduce the amount of litter in the Ring of Gullion by establishing effective clean-up teams in the area and raising awareness of how the community can report litter and litterers to their local authority.

Youth rangers will be trained in aspects of protected landscape management, basic first aid and navigation skills. 10 youth rangers will be recruited each summer for a 4-week programme resulting in 40 youth rangers trained in countryside management.

Traditional Building Skills training

There are a number of traditional building skills that can be taught at Hawthorn House, see survey attached.

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

The aims of this project are to equip the community with the skills to identify and investigate sites of built heritage and to restore and create sites of natural heritage. The forum will allow more people to get involved in a wider range of activities.

Participating in the landscape projects under Programme A	
1.5	Built heritage survey
Participating in the landscape projects under Programme B	
2.6	Establish a community and heritage group networking forum
Participating in the landscape projects under Programme D	
4.4	Volunteering and youth rangers programme
4.7	Traditional building skills training

The story, the landscape

Projects within this theme have the following aims:

- Enhance local festivals and events through the introduction of new elements that enhance knowledge and appreciation of the area's heritage. Also, raise awareness of the area's heritage and historical events through participation in local events and festivals.
- Enable teachers teaching in the schools in the LP area to exploit the landscape to its full potential. Schoolchildren will have a greater understanding of the place where they live and children will grow up with this knowledge and pass it on to their children.
- Enable the young musicians to visit other music groups in Ireland in order to:
 1. develop their repertoire of tunes from different areas;
 2. be exposed to a variety of musical styles so as to enhance the development of their own musical style;
 3. meet and forge relationships with other young musicians;
 4. experience and foster respect for music from the other traditions and cultures of Northern Ireland as well as from other countries;
 5. equip them with the skills and personal capabilities to deal with the challenges of living in an increasingly diverse and complex society.

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

- Involve the younger generation in the oral tradition, provide an audio-visual archive of the LPS project and upload promotional videos online.
- Inspire a sense of place and belonging to the people who live in the LP area. Educational resources will be provided that can be shared around the groups of South Armagh to enable a greater understanding of local history and where they came from resulting in a greater sense of belonging to the whole community.
- Regain the oral tradition around the local history that has been lost in many communities.
- Increase the participation of the local communities from South Armagh in local history.
- Raise awareness of the area's rich heritage and provide an opportunity for new businesses to emerge. The project can also act as a training tool for new tour guides.

The story, the landscape projects under Programme B	
2.1	Cultural heritage festival and historical revival
2.2	Oral history and storytelling
2.3	Schools heritage guidebook
2.4	Showcase Gullion's heritage
2.5	Museum exhibitions
2.7	Provide workspace and a commercial outlet for local craft artists
The story, the landscape projects under Programme D	
4.3	Schools heritage training
4.6	Historical coach tours

Making recreation sustainable

Projects within this theme have the following aims:

- Mitigate erosion of Slieve Gullion SAC/ASSI caused by recreational use, raise awareness of sustainable repair techniques and profile best practice landscape management.

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

- Reconnect local people to their distinctive landscape heritage and share the story with visitors to the area by creating a walk around the entire Ring of Gullion ring dyke, installing interpreting at ten points of interest, providing a walking guide for the trail and an Activity Map for the whole LP area.
- Create a pool of people able to lead groups of walkers around the LP area and increase the knowledge base for current and future tour guides, accommodation providers and tour operators in order for these groups to be able to promote the LP area to its full potential.
- Meet NITB tourism requirements

Making recreation sustainable projects under Programme C	
3.4	Slieve Gullion summit to lake restoration
3.1	Ring dyke trail
Making recreation sustainable projects under Programme D	
4.1	Community walking leader and heritage ambassador training

Connections – project, themes and programmes working together

The following table shows the connections between the HLF programmes and the themes identified during the development stage. All of the themes extend across more than one programme and each programme extends beyond one theme. This interdependence and connectivity ensures that each project is maximised and that the scheme is greater than the sum of its parts. Interdependence is further specified in relation to each project in the Section 5 project sheets.

The individual projects are primarily identified for budgeting and management purposes and do feature some overlap. For example, the identified projects with ‘1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation’ in the title represent an integrated programme rather than stand-alone projects and the achievement of the aims of one depends on the others. Thus, some of the benefit accruing from this project under Programme A will be of benefit to other programmes.

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

Theme	HLF LPS Programmes			
	Programme 1: Conservation of built and natural heritage	Programme 2: Community participation	Programme 3: Access and learning	Programme 4: Heritage skills and training
Encouraging healthy landscapes	1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation 1.2 Protect Slieve Gullion Cairn		3.1 Wildlife safari	4.1 Natural history and traditional countryside skills training
Trails with tales	1.3 Newry Canal project		3.2 Camlough and Bessbrook Heritage Trails 3.3 Slieve Gullion Sensory Trails	
Signing the landscape	1.4 Know your townlands	2.1 Signage and interpretation		
Making recreation sustainable			3.4 Slieve Gullion summit to North Cairn trail 3.5 Ring dyke trail	4.2 Community walking leader and heritage ambassador training
The story, the landscape		2.2 Cultural heritage festival and historical revival 2.3 Oral history and storytelling 2.4 Schools heritage guidebook 2.5 Showcase Gullion's heritage		4.3 Schools heritage training 4.4 Historical coach tours

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

Participating in the landscape		2.6 Provide workspace and commercial outlet for local craft artists	
		2.7 Museum exhibition	
	1.5 Built heritage surveys	2.8 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum	4.5 Volunteering and youth rangers programme
			4.6 Traditional building skills training

Management

Avoiding heritage conflicts and accommodating flexibility

The Partnership can be confident in achieving the aims laid out in this section. During the development stage all those stakeholders necessary to ensure that plans are appropriate, realistic and deliverable were consulted. As mentioned above, the partners include experts from their fields and where any gaps in knowledge were identified external consultants were consulted, including Geological Survey Northern Ireland, National Trust, Friends of Derrymore Woods, Slieve Gullion Buildings Preservation Trust, Sticky Fingers Arts, Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland, DOE Planning, DRD Roads, Newry & Mourne Museum, Mourne Cooley Gullion Geotourism Project, Sport NI and a host of local people with a wealth of local knowledge.

We have also involved relevant experts from trail designers to conservation architects, see appendices. Cultural heritage aspects have drawn on the considerable expertise of local enthusiasts. The Ring of Gullion Partnership Board will continue to grow this complementary network of working groups to bring this wider expertise together, the membership of which will be flexible to draw in additional people as the need and opportunities arise. The groups are set out overleaf.

Branding

A brand logo has been developed for the Mourne Mountains and Ring of Gullion tourism destination, see below.



Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

The Partnership has agreed that it is appropriate to develop a look and feel for the Ring of Gullion LPS that is in keeping with this extensively researched and professionally developed concept. An early stage of the implementation process will be to consider and agree with HLF how the destination branding as well as other connected and well-established branding can be adapted to the Ring of Gullion LPS and complement the necessary HLF publicity and branding requirements. Our current working proposal is to apply the logo above and type set and colour alongside ‘Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership’, below. This will create cohesion with other brands but also differentiate this scheme from the Ring of Gullion AONB while still retaining the necessary links.



Timing

The full proposed timetable is set out in the following table.

Section 4 – Aims and Objectives

 Blue indicates project implementation  Green indicates project research and preparation	Year 1 2014/2015				Year 2 - 2015/2016				Year 3 - 2016/2017				Year 4 - 2017/2018			
	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Jun-Aug
Project Programme descriptions code	14	15	15	15	15	16	16	16	16	17	17	17	17	18	18	18
Programme 1: Conservation of built and natural heritage																
1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation																
1.2 Protect Slieve Gullion Cairn																
1.3 Newry Canal project																
1.4 Know your townlands																
1.5 Built heritage surveys																
Programme 2: Community participation																
2.1 Signage and Interpretation																
2.2 Cultural heritage festivals and historical revival																
2.3 Oral history and storytelling																
2.4 Schools heritage guidebook																
2.5 Showcase Gullion's heritage																
2.6 Provide workspace and outlet for local crafts artists																
2.7 Museum exhibitions																
2.8 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum																
Programme 3: Access and learning																
3.1 Wildlife safari																
3.2 Camlough and Bessbrook heritage trails																
3.3 Slieve Gullion sensory trails																
3.4 Slieve Gullion summit to lake trail restoration																
3.5 Ring dyke trail																
Programme 4: Heritage skills and training																
4.1 Natural history and traditional countryside skills training																
4.2 Community walking leader and heritage ambassador training																
4.3 Schools heritage training																
4.4 Historical coach tours																
4.5 Volunteering and youth rangers programme																
4.6 Traditional building skills training																
Programme 5: Management																
5.2 Recruitment																
5.8 Audit - evaluation and monitoring																

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

Project Delivery Plans

In this section project management sheets for each project identified in the previous Section 4 have been set out. The structure of each project plan is as follows:

Project	Key Stakeholders / Consultees
Theme	Risk Appraisal
Budget	Implementation Programme
Location	Finance Plan
Plan Description	Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input
Aims & Objectives	Delivery Roles and Responsibilities
Detailed Proposals and Specification	Maintenance and Management
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Implications
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria	Sustainability / Exit Strategy
Outcomes	Recommendations for further work
Integration with other measures	

These are designed as working documents. Collectively they will form the day-to-day Ring of Gullion 'manual' and main project management tool. Progress will be reported and monitored against the project sheets. They will be reviewed and revised as necessary on a quarterly basis throughout the programme.

Changes since Stage 1 application

Before each of the projects is set out, changes since the Stage 1 application have been highlighted. The proposed programmes of projects have remained similar to the original Stage 1 proposal; however, themes have carried through

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

into other programmes and projects have been split to give more clarity. In some cases, projects have been redefined and/or merged together to offer a more enhanced scheme. All of the elements have been incorporated, albeit in some cases with names changed. The table below highlights how projects have been defined from Stage 1. The development stage has allowed for Stage 1 projects to be enhanced, more successfully outlined and positioned in order to develop a strong set of projects for the lifetime of the LPS and to leave a lasting legacy.


Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

Stage 1 projects (Proposed)	Stage 2 projects (Actual)	Stage 1 projects (Proposed)	Stage 2 projects (Actual)	Stage 1 projects (Proposed)	Stage 2 projects (Actual)	Stage 1 projects (Proposed)	Stage 2 projects (Actual)
Programme A		Programme B		Programme C		Programme D	
S1A. Fens scrub clearance S1A. Invasive species clearance	1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation	S1A. Camlough Quarry restoration and interpretation S1A. Dorsey embankment survey and interpretation	2.1 Signage and Interpretation		3.1 Wildlife safari	S1D. Increased Awareness locally of biodiversity S1D. Local biodiversity training workshops	4.1 Natural history and traditional countryside skills training
S1A. Slieve Gullion Cairn restoration	1.2 Protect Slieve Gullion Cairn	S1B. Historical re-enactment	2.2 Cultural heritage festivals and historical revival		3.2 Camlough and Bessbrook heritage trails	S1D. Mountain Leader Training Award S1D. Local historical/heritage guides S1D. Local fauna, wildlife, geology interpretation guides	4.2 Community walking leader and heritage ambassador training
	1.3 Newry Canal project	S1B. Story Telling S1B. Theatre groups	2.3 Oral history and storytelling		3.3 Slieve Gullion sensory trails		4.3 Schools heritage training
	1.4 Know your townlands	S1B. Schools heritage programme	2.4 Schools heritage guidebook	S1A. Slieve Gullion footpath repair	3.4 Slieve Gullion summit to lake trail restoration		4.4 Historical coach tours
S1A. Camlough Quarry restoration and interpretation	1.5 Built heritage surveys		2.5 Showcase Gullion's heritage	S1C. Ring Dyke Waymarked Way markers and guide	3.5 Ring dyke trail		4.5 Volunteering and Youth rangers programme

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

S1A. Dorsey embankment survey and interpretation							
			2.6 Provide workspace and outlet for local artists	<p>S1C. Interactive mapping with historical sites</p> <p>S1C. Research and development of a visual/display both physical ,in terms of large pictorial-time line displays and audio/visual based display of the history of Ring of Gullion from per-historic forward</p>	This is included in Programme E	S1D. Traditional Building restoration and countryside skills training project	4.6 Traditional building skills training
			2.7 Museum exhibitions				
		S1B. Community cultural heritage training and audit project	2.8 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum				

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

Project	1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation
Theme	Encouraging healthy landscapes
Budget	£63,000
Location	<p>Habitat protection, restoration and creation will take place at a number of sites throughout the Ring of Gullion Landscape Area. There will also be a tree and wildflower nursery established on Hawthorn Hill, Slieve Gullion.</p>  <p>The map shows the location of the Hawthorn Hill Tree and Wildflower Nursery. A red boundary outlines the nursery area, which is situated on a hill. A blue 'X' marks a specific point within the nursery. The map includes a scale bar from 0 to 120 meters and a north arrow. The text 'Hawthorn Hill Tree and Wildflower Nursery' is written in a blue box at the top of the map. The word 'NAHAIA' is visible on the left side of the map.</p>
Plan Description	<p>The Ring of Gullion has a number of woodlands, dry heaths, fens, meadows, lakes and associated wetland habitats within the landscape area, some of which are designated as ASSIs; namely Slieve Gullion, Carrickastickan, Camlough Lake and Cashel Lough.</p>

Little is known or understood about the importance of these habitats for both biodiversity and for the ecosystem services they provide.

This project will recruit specialists in surveying techniques who will train others and carry out habitat and species surveys of the main habitats within the Ring of Gullion landscape area. This will build capacity of surveying in the local community and thus leave a legacy of trained individuals to monitor sites after the LPS ends.

The information from the annual surveys can be used to advise on appropriate management for Encouraging healthy landscapes and species, and help to eliminate the drivers of biodiversity decline. Media reports will also be produced from the surveys to generate increasing participation in the scheme.

Educational resources, brochures and posters for the general public, visitors and schools will be produced to encourage people to exploit the resources on their doorstep, and encourage the community to take ownership of the outstanding biodiversity in the landscape area. Key habitats will be selected for site interpretation improvements in order to provide outdoor spaces in which to learn about the biodiversity present in the Ring of Gullion.

There are a number of endangered or protected species in the Ring of Gullion that rely on healthy natural habitats.

	<p>Northern Ireland ranks as one of the least wooded regions in Europe. The country has a mere 6.4% woodland cover, compared to the European average of 44%. Furthermore, most of this cover is coniferous, meaning that our native, broadleaved woodland occupies only 1.2 % of the Northern Ireland landscape.</p> <p>This project will increase the native tree cover and the abundance of wildflowers in the landscape area by establishing a tree and wildflower nursery at Slieve Gullion. Training in seed collection, processing, cultivation and planting out will go hand in hand with the establishment of the nursery. This will provide a knowledge base in order to help increase the tree cover in the landscape area. The tree nursery will be run jointly with Landscape Partnership, Geotourism, Ring of Gullion AONB volunteers, Newry and Mourne District Council Biodiversity staff and the Clanrye Group trainees. This will help to attract groups and individuals, creating a long-lasting legacy beyond the LPS.</p> <p>This project will actively try to conserve many protected and endangered species and habitats from further decline.</p> <p>As well as increasing native species this project will train an invasive species control volunteer team to work on their eradication. Invasive species are cited as one of the biggest threats to biodiversity.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>This project aims to conserve the biodiversity in the Ring of Gullion landscape area through surveying, education and raising awareness in the community and beyond regarding</p>

	<p>good environmental practice. The project also aims to increase the amount of biodiversity by restoring habitats and removing the threat of non-native invasive species.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing a training programme for habitat surveying and mapping through the conservation volunteers and supported by the statutory organisations represented on the Ring of Gullion Partnership board 2. Producing a suite of educational material on the important biodiversity in the Ring of Gullion 3. Interpreting the main sites of biodiversity 4. Establishing a tree and wildflower nursery at Slieve Gullion 5. Establishing habitat and species specific groups in order to facilitate building and erecting homes for wildlife in the landscape area. 6. Reducing the occurrence and threat of invasive species in the area by their mapping and removal.
<p>Detailed Proposals and Specification</p>	<p>The project will recruit volunteers and trainees from the LPS, AONB, and Geo volunteer groups (see project 4.6 for detailed proposals and specifications). There will be a number of training workshops on habitat and species surveying and monitoring (see project 4.1 for detailed proposals and specifications).</p> <p>Using these trained volunteers a ‘task specific’ volunteer group will be established in order to survey and map specific blocks of habitats and specific species in the landscape area. A habitat and species map will be produced in order to facilitate better management and create a long-lasting monitoring programme.</p> <p>There is a contingency of £3,000 in order for the project to</p>

	<p>procure a consultant to survey and map areas in the event of a shortfall of trained volunteers.</p> <p>A set of brochures and posters will be commissioned for distribution to the general public, schools, special interest groups, and for events held by the LPS.</p> <p>As part of this project, the most important habitats in the Ring of Gullion will be selected and a suitable site will be chosen for interpretation. These sites will be used in the brochures and posters and will be promoted as outdoor educational sites.</p> <p>A native tree and wildflower nursery will be established on Hawthorn Hill. Volunteers will provide the seed collection and processing and trainees from the Clanrye Group will grow the seeds into saplings and plug plants for distribution.</p> <p>Specialist groups will be established in order to promote the species or habitat based on the same model as the Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Group. This project will target barn owls, bats, wildflowers, hedgerows, and invasive species. The groups will be fluid and populated by volunteers and special interest groups and staff. For example, Ulster Wildlife runs events to build and erect barn owl boxes and teach how to survey and monitor them.</p> <p>From mapping habitats there will be a clear indication of where the problem of non-native species lies. This project will run programmes to remove the most problematic</p>
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Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	invasive species.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers	Media			
	Schools - students and their families	General public			
	Community groups	Natural historians			
	People who live, work and visit the area	Unemployed			
	Landowners/farmers	Youth groups			
	Conservation groups	Business in the community groups			
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Volunteers recruited and trained	At least 2 volunteers trained	At least 2 volunteers trained		
	Key habitats mapped	Habitats surveyed	Habitats surveyed	Habitats surveyed	Habitats surveyed
	Key species recorded	Calls for volunteers to record.	Calls for volunteers to record.	Calls for volunteers to record.	Calls for volunteers to record.
	Educational resources		Brochures and posters designed, printed and distributed	Interpretation panels erected	
	Establish native tree and wildflower nursery	Tree nursery established and 1000 seeds collected and sown	Wildflower nursery established. 1000 tree seeds collected and sown	1000 tree seeds collected and sown	1000 tree seeds collected and sown, and 900 trees planted out
	Hold a number of biodiversity events	5	5	5	5
Outcomes	A comprehensive habitats and species map of targeted areas in the Ring of Gullion area.				
	A set of brochures and posters to enable the project to disseminate biodiversity information to the public. A series of outdoor education hotspots established.				
	A native tree and wildflower nursery set up with 900 trees planted out per annum from year four. Trees and wildflowers used to connect and expand fragmented habitats.				

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	A reduction in the amount of invasive species and a programme of habitat and species restoration established.
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects:</p> <p>2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum</p> <p>2.8 Signage and interpretation</p> <p>3.2 Red squirrel safari</p> <p>4.2 Natural history and traditional countryside skills training</p> <p>4.3 Schools heritage training</p> <p>4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme</p> <p>4.5 Youth Rangers programme</p> <p>Integrates locally and nationally with:</p> <p>The Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016</p> <p>Newry and Mourne Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>NI Biodiversity Action Plan, Habitat and Species Action Plans</p> <p>Action For Biodiversity Project</p> <p>Invasive Ireland Initiative (NI and ROI project)</p> <p>NIEA Corporate Plan</p> <p>Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p>East Border Region; Regional Biodiversity Framework</p> <p>DARD Rural Development Programme 2014-2020</p>
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	Ring of Gullion AONB project, Newry and Mourne District Council, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Northern Ireland Forest Service, National Trust, Ulster Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation, RSPB, Northern Ireland Bat Group, Field Studies Council, National Trust, Centre for Environmental Data and Recording, Plantlife, Private

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	Landowners, Youth Rangers, Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Group				
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low attendance for habitat and species surveying training 2. High mortality of tree and wildflowers 3. Increase instead of decrease of invasive species. <p>These risks will be mitigated against by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Varied publicity campaign for habitat and species monitoring 2. Collecting more seeds than are needed to ensure our targets are met 3. Using the educational resources to inform the public about dangers of invasive species. 				
Implementation Programme		Target			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Onsite training commenced	•	•		
	Surveying commenced	•	•		
	Species records submitted	•	•	•	•
	Educational resources designed printed and distributed		•		
	Interpretation panels erected			•	
	Tree and wildflower nursery established and one year of seeds collected and sown. Seeds collected annually.	•	•	•	•
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail		Total	
	Habitat and species mapping	Training costs, GIS costs		£6,500	
	Educational resources and panels	Brochures and posters		£20,000	
	Tree nursery and Wildflower nursery	Nurseries established		£15,000	
	Biodiversity events	Materials for events		£18,500	
	Contingency	Habitat mapping		£3,000	
		TOTAL		£63,000	

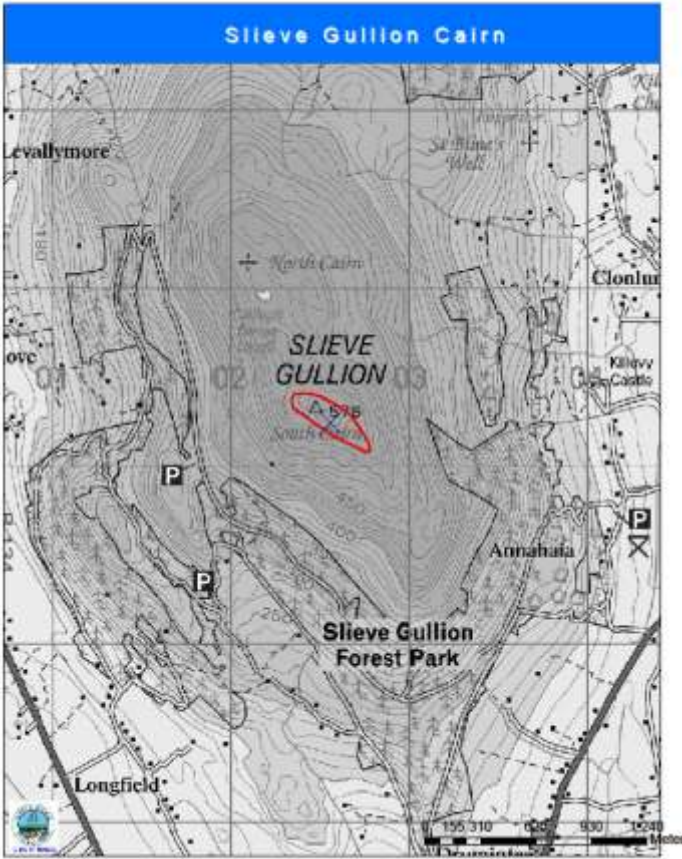
Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	TARGETS				
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Habitat and species mapping	£2,000	£2,000	£2,500	
	Educational resources and panels		£8,000	£12,000	
	Tree nursery and Wildflower nursery	£7,500	£3,750	£1,875	£1,875
	Biodiversity events	£4,625	£4,625	£4,625	£4,625
	Contingency		£1,500	£1,500	
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	<p>NMDC Biodiversity Officer, Ring of Gullion AONB Officer and NMDC Parks department to hold workshops and contribute to the establishment of the nurseries.</p> <p>Clanrye Group trainees will care for trees and flowers in the nursery.</p> <p>Geotourism and AONB Volunteers will collect seeds and plant out on site. Woodland trust tree packs to be used at the beginning of the scheme.</p>				
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	<p>RGLP staff will manage the project.</p> <p>RGLP Volunteer Officer is responsible for delivering the project outcomes.</p> <p>The Clanrye Group is responsible for caring for the trees and wildflowers in the nursery.</p>				
Maintenance and Management Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This project or elements of this project will take place on Forest Service NI managed land subject to a licence agreement between Newry and Mourne District Council and Forest Service NI, as per a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between NMDC and Forest Service in 2012. The MoU has a section clearly defining the responsibilities of each partner. 2. Promotion of this project will be the sole responsibility of Newry and Mourne District Council (or another organisation under direction from NMDC, subject to approval from Forest Service NI). 3. Management of the project sites under licence agreement from Forest Service NI will be according to agreed management structures defined in licence 				

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	<p>agreements.</p> <p>4. The AONB team will manage the nurseries, volunteers and sites beyond the scheme.</p>
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	<p>The habitat and species map will be made available for use by other projects when the LPS ends. There will be a pool of trained volunteers to carry out updates.</p> <p>Educational resources can be reprinted; any stock can be distributed by the AONB project or NMDC Biodiversity Officer. Interpretation Panels can be included in the AONB panel maintenance programme.</p> <p>The tree and wildflower nursery will have stock to plant out, the Ring of Gullion Volunteer group will provide seeds each year and community events will be run in order to plant them out.</p>
Recommendations for further work	<p>A volunteer project integrated into the AONB Management Action Plan 2017-2022, managed and directed by a full time volunteer coordination team.</p>

Project	1.4 Restore Slieve Gullion Cairn
Theme	Encouraging healthy landscapes
Budget	£ 6,295
Location	South Cairn on Slieve Gullion's summit

	
Plan Description	<p>At the summit of Slieve Gullion lies the Neolithic South Cairn Passage Grave. The tomb is associated with many stories, myths and legends from the LP area. It can be entered from just below the summit and is the highest surviving passage grave in Ireland. In 1961, a team of archaeologists explored the site and set up a 30-person camp 600 feet (180 m) below the summit. The passage grave cairn is 30 m wide and 5 m high. The chamber inside is 3.6 m wide, with a corbelled roof up to 4.3 m from the ground. It contained three large blocks of stone seemingly used as basins. Some bits of worked flint and a barbed-end arrowhead were also found, "the meager remnants that survived the centuries of tomb raiding". The entrance is aligned with the setting sun</p>

	<p>on the winter solstice. Radiocarbon dating suggests it was built c.3500-2900 BCE.</p> <p>The cairn was also disturbed by American soldiers training there during World War II.</p> <p>Damage to the cairn continues with large numbers of people climbing onto the tomb causing stones to roll off. There is more malicious damage to the chamber too, graffiti covers many of the stones inside.</p> <p>This project aims to carry out the recommendations set out in the consultation document, (please see appendices for full document); remove all boulders from the passage entrance, remove graffiti from the chamber, restore some of the stones in the chamber, provide annual monitoring and end of scheme survey.</p> <p>In order to prevent further damage after the completion of the work, the project aims to provide a series of educational material and raise awareness of the special significance of the tomb.</p> <p>This project will make a positive contribution to Gullion's Gullion's distinct character and to people's understanding of the rich history and heritage of the area. Preservation of important Neolithic heritage sites in the area remains a key focus for local communities.</p> <p>A maintenance team will be established to restore the</p>
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	passage entrance and the tomb each year before the winter solstice.	
Aims & Objectives	<p>This project aims to restore aspects and conserve one of the country's most important built heritage sites. The tombs passage will be re-profiled to its original shape, graffiti will be removed, the chamber restored in line with the recommendations from the survey document.</p> <p>The project will deliver on the aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearing the entrance passage to its original depth 2. Removing the graffiti from the stones in the chamber 3. Establishing a maintenance team to monitor the tomb once a year before the winter solstice 4. Provide a report on the feasibility of repairing the roof, including cost estimates. 	
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>The project will use detailed drawings and take advice from NIEA about the exact re-profiling of the passage for the tomb. Once the drawings are agreed and stones marked on the site, the LPS will recruit a contractor and volunteers to re-profile the passage.</p> <p>Together with NIEA, the LPS will procure a specialist to remove all graffiti from the tomb chamber.</p> <p>In year four a consultant will provide a detailed report of the condition of the tomb chamber. In particular, the report will identify defects in the fabric and provide budget costs for future repairs. An objective of the report is to provide a full measured survey of the tomb in order to monitor the site's condition.</p>	
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	<p>People who live, work and visit the area</p> <p>Local tourists</p>	<p>Historical groups</p> <p>Geologists</p> <p>Archaeologists</p>

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	International tourists Conservation groups Media		Youth groups Business in the community groups		
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Target			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Clear passage entrance	Passage entrance restored to original depth	Chamber restored to original depth		
	Remove graffiti	All graffiti removed from inside chamber			
	Maintain	Fallen stones replaced and any new graffiti removed	Fallen stones replaced and any new graffiti removed	Fallen stones replaced and any new graffiti removed	Fallen stones replaced and any new graffiti removed
	Provide report on the future of the tomb and cost estimates				Archaeological report provided for future works and cost estimates
Outcomes	Ireland’s highest surviving passage tomb restored to prevent further damage. A report will be published in order to provide a sound basis for the future of the tomb, including cost estimates for its full restoration.				
Integration with other measures	Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects: 1.5 Built heritage surveys 2.3 Schools heritage guidebook 2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum 3.10 Slieve Gullion summit to lake restoration 4.3 Schools heritage training 4.5 Youth rangers programme 4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme Integrates locally and nationally with; NIEA Corporate Plan Ring of Gullion Visitor Participation Survey 2013				

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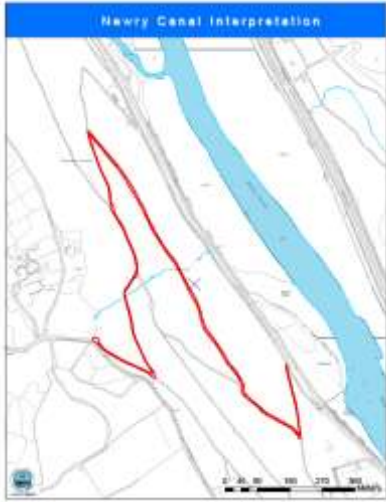

Key Stakeholders / Consultees	Ring of Gullion AONB, Newry and Mourne District Council, NIEA, NI Forest Service, Specific Interest Groups, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Ulster Archaeological Society, Local Communities				
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Weather delays2. Unforeseen site management issues <p>These risks will be mitigated against by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Establishing a detailed site action plan that will accommodate risk assessment and mitigation methods.				
Implementation Programme		Target			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Clear passage entrance	•	•		
	Remove graffiti	•			
	Maintain	•	•	•	•
	Provide report on the future of the tomb and cost estimates				•
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail		Total	
	Clear passage entrance	Labour		£2,800	
	Remove graffiti	Labour		£1,500	
	Maintain	Volunteer		Voluntary	
	Provide report on the future of the tomb and cost estimates	Consultant report		£1,995	
		TOTAL		£6,295	
		TARGETS			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Clear passage entrance		£2,800		
	Remove graffiti	£1,500			
	Provide report on the future of the tomb and cost estimates				£1,995
Donations in Kind and Volunteer	<p>NIEA to provide support for restoring passage and chamber.</p> <p>NIEA will also provide support on the report for future works.</p>				

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Input	Volunteers will maintain the tomb after restoration.
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LP staff to manage the project. NIEA staff to oversee the project and lead on graffiti removal. LPS team to monitor the condition of the tomb annually.
Maintenance and Management Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This project or elements of this project will take place on Forest Service NI managed land subject to a licence agreement between Newry and Mourne District Council and Forest Service NI, as per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between NMDC and Forest Service in 2012. The MoU has a section clearly defining the responsibilities of each partner. 2. Promotion of this project will be the sole responsibility of Newry and Mourne District Council (or another organisation under direction from NMDC, subject to approval from Forest Service NI). 3. Management of the project sites under licence agreement from Forest Service NI will be according to agreed management structures defined in licence agreements. 4. This is a State Care Monument, consent from the DOE would be required for any and all works within the SC area, in advance.
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	The established volunteer team will repair any fallen stones and remove graffiti each year before the solstice.
Recommendations for further work	Fully repair the roof of the cairn.

Project	1.3 Newry Canal project, 3.3 Camlough and Bessbrook heritage trails
Theme	Trails with tales
Budget	£ 97,750
Location	The Newry Canal heritage trail will run from Victoria Lock to the Flagstaff.

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	<p>Camlough heritage trail will start and end with a 2 km trail in Camlough village.</p> <p>The Camlough River trail will start in Camlough village and run into Bessbrook village.</p> <p>The Camlough Lake heritage trail will run around the Camlough Lake.</p> <div data-bbox="527 533 911 1031">  </div> <div data-bbox="959 533 1344 1031">  </div>
<p>Plan Description</p>	<p>Victoria Lock is an important piece of built heritage for the area. Many people from Fathom worked with the industries associated with the canal. The amenity site is underused and infrastructure needs to be upgraded in order to allow access for users. This project will install white on brown signs on the Omeath road. A new trail will be established from Victoria Lock up through the forest to the Flagstaff viewpoint. This is an old historical trail called the Lock Keepers Pad. The Flagstaff has also been associated with the canal; physically connecting them together with new interpretation will enhance the site and increase usage.</p> <p>This project will make a positive contribution to Gullion's distinct character, Newry Canal, and people's understanding</p>

	<p>of the rich history and heritage of the area. The project will result in a new access route for locals and tourists; two new brown on white signs on either side of the lock, directing road users to the site; and two new interpretation panels, one at Victoria Lock and one at the Flagstaff, detailing the history of the people from the area who worked on the canal. Way markers will be installed along the route and a booklet with a map will accompany the new route.</p> <p>A new interpretative walking trail established along the Bessbrook/Camlough river.</p> <p>This project will result in a new trail along the river, increasing awareness of the local heritage. Communities will be physically connected with a recreational corridor, which will help to bring down mental divides and concepts of areas being accessible to only one section of the community. The public walk along the river from Camlough to Bessbrook will have pieces of art installed. Art projects will be designed with a community artist and artwork will reflect the heritage of the area.</p> <p>A trail on the lake. This project will result in a trail along the edge of Camlough Lake, allowing people to be able to see the area in a new, different and exciting way. Interpretation panels detailing the heritage of the area will be erected along the edge of the lake, and will be accessible from the water. An accompanying guide will also be produced.</p> <p>Existing route upgraded to allow self-guided tours in the</p>
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	<p>village of Camlough</p> <p>People will be able to access heritage sites that they could not previously access. Historical Societies will work together to interpret their shared past. A number of new interpretation panels will be installed along with brown on white finger post signs and an accompanying brochure</p> <p>In order to open up Camlough Lake to a more varied user group, it is planned to offer boats for the public to hire out on guided or self-guided tours. This project will accompany the Camlough Lake Heritage Trail.</p> <p>NMDC will manage the bookings for the boats for both the public and the guides. All guides will be listed on the Ring of Gullion website, and must provide proof of insurance in order to use the facility.</p>
<p>Aims & Objectives</p>	<p>This project aims to establish a network of trails to interpret the rich landscape heritage of the Ring of Gullion and to provide high quality interpretation on trails; improving the visitor experience in the area and better informing locals of their history.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to create more transport means within the LP area and to allow more user groups to experience Camlough Lake from the water. This project will also allow more users to use the Camlough Lake Heritage Trails.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating a path from Newry Canal's Victoria Lock to the

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	<p>Flagstaff and erecting interpretation on the canal detailing its importance to the area at both sites. The project also aims to erected road signage to the site and produce a brochure for the trail</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Creating a path along the river from Camlough to Bessbrook. Artwork along the trail will interpret the shared industrial heritage of the two villages on both sides of the political divide 3. Erecting interpretation along the Camlough village trail along with a self-guided brochure 4. Providing a brochure to take the user along the edges of Camlough Lake by boat. Each stop on the boat trail will interpret the rich landscape heritage of the area 5. Acquiring boats for a group of ten people, a mix of single and double sit-on-top kayaks and all associated safety equipment 6. Providing a safe and secure location to store the boats 7. Providing an efficient easy to use booking system.
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>The project staff will obtain the permissions from all the landowners to provide trails along the routes. Permission will be obtained from the relevant authorities to erect any signage and interpretation.</p> <p>Interpretation panels and signage will be procured by a designer and a contractor will then mark each trail with waymarkers and install the interpretation panels.</p> <p>A designer will produce a brochure for each of the trails and these will be available for download on www.ringofgullion.org with hard copies stocked in the Visitor Information Centres and Points.</p> <p>LP staff will acquire boats and safety equipment by competitive quotes. A safe store and management agreement will be signed with the users and guides.</p> <p>The booking system will be run by NMDC tourism staff.</p>

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Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers		Media		
	Schools - students and their families		Recreation groups		
	Community groups		Historical groups		
	People who live, work and visit the area		General public		
	Local tourists		People from the hospitality sector		
	International tourists		Geologists		
	Landowners/farmers		Archaeologists		
	Conservation groups		Natural historians		
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Target			
		Year 1 Sep 2014- 15	Year 2 Sep 2015- 16	Year 3 Sep 2016 -17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Output/Measure				
	Permission for access and signage	Permission from landowners and relevant authorities for all trails			
	Trail interpretation	Interpretation panels printed and installed on all trails			
	Printed brochure	Brochures designed, printed and uploaded on website, for all trails			
	Artwork for river trail	Artist procured and works with community to create art.			
	Boat and safety equipment	Acquire boats and safety equipment			
Outcomes	Increased awareness of the area's industrial heritage and its significance in relation to the supply of goods to the rest of the world.				
	Increased understanding of the industrial heritage of the site.				
	Improved access to important sites of industrial heritage				

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	<p>More informed local people</p> <p>Improved opportunities to learn about the heritage of the area</p> <p>An opportunity to build upon good cross-community relations</p> <p>A wider audience being able to use Camlough Lake for recreation. A greater knowledge of the heritage of the lake.</p>
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects:</p> <p>2.2 Oral history and storytelling</p> <p>2.3 Schools heritage and guidebook</p> <p>2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum</p> <p>2.8 Signage and interpretation</p> <p>3.1 Ring dyke trail</p> <p>4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme</p> <p>Integrates locally and nationally with:</p> <p>DETI, Delivery Agreement</p> <p>DETI, Public Service Agreement 5</p> <p>Newry and Mourne Tourism Strategy and Review</p> <p>Mourne Cooley Gullion Geotourism Destination Project</p> <p>NITB Mourne Signature Project</p> <p>The overall Tourism Development Plan fits strategically, and complements the National Tourism priorities of Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland.</p> <p>EBR Tourism Development Plan</p> <p>NITB – A Draft Tourism Strategy for NI to 2020</p> <p>Ring of Gullion Visitor Participation Survey 2013</p>
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	<p>Private Landowners, Bessbrook Heritage Society, Camlough Heritage Society, Newry Maritime Association, GAA clubs, NMDC, NI Forest Service, ORNI, Camlough Lake Management Group, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Local</p>

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	Communities																																							
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <p>1. Failure to secure private land</p> <p>These risks will be mitigated against by:</p> <p>1. Extensive and informed consultation with landowners</p> <p>2. Other trail options away from the preferred route</p>																																							
Implementation Programme		Target																																						
		Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18																																			
	Task/Milestone																																							
	Permission for access and signage	•																																						
	Trail interpretation	•																																						
	Printed brochure	•																																						
	Artwork for river trail	•																																						
	Equipment acquired	•																																						
	Storage secured	•																																						
Finance Plan	<table><tr><td>Item</td><td>Detail</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>Artwork</td><td>Artist's fees, venue hire, material costs, art work and installation</td><td>£50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Signage</td><td>Design, print and installation</td><td>£16,500</td></tr><tr><td>Brochures</td><td>Design and print</td><td>£2,800</td></tr><tr><td>Capital costs</td><td>Path upgrades</td><td>£21,700</td></tr><tr><td>Equipment</td><td>Kayaks, buoyancy aids, ropes</td><td>£4,750</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>TOTAL</td><td>£97,750</td></tr></table>					Item	Detail	Total	Artwork	Artist's fees, venue hire, material costs, art work and installation	£50,000	Signage	Design, print and installation	£16,500	Brochures	Design and print	£2,800	Capital costs	Path upgrades	£21,700	Equipment	Kayaks, buoyancy aids, ropes	£4,750		TOTAL	£97,750														
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	Equipment	Kayaks, buoyancy aids, ropes	£4,750																																					
		TOTAL	£97,750																																					
	<table><tr><td></td><td colspan="4">TARGETS</td></tr><tr><td>Output/Measure</td><td>Year 1 Sep 2014-15</td><td>Year 2 Sep 2015-16</td><td>Year 3 Sep 2016-17</td><td>Year 4 Sep 2017-18</td></tr><tr><td>Artwork</td><td>£50,000</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Signage</td><td>£16,500</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Brochures</td><td>£2,800</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Capitol costs</td><td>£21,700</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Equipment</td><td>£4,750</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>						TARGETS				Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18	Artwork	£50,000				Signage	£16,500				Brochures	£2,800				Capitol costs	£21,700				Equipment	£4,750			
		TARGETS																																						
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	Brochures	£2,800																																						
	Capitol costs	£21,700																																						
Equipment	£4,750																																							
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	All text will be provided by Bessbrook and Camlough Heritage Societies and Newry Maritime Association.																																							
Delivery Roles and	LP staff to manage project.																																							
	Arts Council NI will provide management guidance on artwork.																																							

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

Responsibilities	
Maintenance and Management Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This project or elements of this project will take place on Forest Service NI managed land subject to a licence agreement between Newry and Mourne District Council and Forest Service NI, as per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between NMDC and Forest Service in 2012. The MoU has a section clearly defining the responsibilities of each partner. 2. Promotion of this project will be the sole responsibility of Newry and Mourne District Council (or another organisation under direction from NMDC, subject to approval from Forest Service NI). 3. Management of the project sites under licence agreement from Forest Service NI will be according to agreed management structures defined in licence agreements.
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	AONB core funding and staff will monitor and maintain paths and panels together with NMDC Tourism Department.
Recommendations for further work	Implement the Camlough Lake Master Plan and provide a state of the art recreation centre on the banks of the lake.

Project	1.2 Know your place townlands project
Theme	Signing the landscape
Budget	£46,000
Location	Slieve Gullion DEA, at the intersection of roads and townlands.
Plan Description	The townland is a unique feature of the Irish landscape and is one of the most ancient divisions in the country, a division that has a shared history: both the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Orange Order proudly display their townland on their emblems.

	<p>Townlands predate the Norman invasion of the 12th century and the source of many of our placenames lies in our Gaelic past. There are over 60,000 townlands in Ireland, grouped together to form parishes.</p> <p>Townlands inspire a sense of place and belonging to the people that live in them, but they are in danger of being lost and forgotten. This project aims to erect townland boundary stones around all the townlands in South Armagh; produce a townlands brochure involving community stories, townland names, and the story behind their names; and produce an educational resource that can be shared around the groups of South Armagh. The outcome will be a greater understanding of local names and where they came from.</p> <p>This project will lead to increased pride in the landscape and its history. Interpretation of the townland names will create a greater sense of them belonging to the whole community. There will be approximately 450 stones erected along townland boundaries in South Armagh. A comprehensive online archive of stories focused on the townlands in South Armagh and the stories from local communities will be produced to accompany the stones.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>The project aims to raise awareness about the townlands in South Armagh, their history, their meaning and why they are important. The project aims to regain the oral tradition around the local townlands that has been lost in many communities.</p> <p>This project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marking each townland with boundary markers on roads

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	<p>that intersect them</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Producing a townland brochure with the townlands mapped and their names explained 3. Providing an online space for the stories of the townlands to be documented 4. Providing an educational resource for use in the local community and in schools. 	
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>LP staff will coordinate the gathering of stories around the townlands in years one and two and publish online. Community groups, sporting clubs and other groups will facilitate the recruitment of storytellers.</p> <p>In year two, LP staff will work with schools, parents and community groups to design and produce an educational resource that can be shared among the community and lent out to groups working on townlands. The LP staff will use the educational resource at events during the lifetime of the scheme.</p> <p>In year two, a townland brochure will be designed and produced for distribution. The content of the brochure will be decided by people involved in the project in year one and two, with a strong emphasis of involving children.</p> <p>In year two and three, the location and planning permission for townland boundary markers will be sought. In year four, boundary markers will be produced and a two person team will install them according to best practice.</p>	
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	<p>Schools - teachers</p> <p>Schools - students and their families</p> <p>Community groups</p>	<p>Historical groups</p> <p>People tracing family roots</p> <p>Cuimhneamh living</p>

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	People who live, work and visit the area Local tourists	history project General public Geologists Archaeologists			
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Target			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Townland stories recorded and published online	At least 5 stories published	At least 5 stories published	At least 5 stories published	At least 5 stories published
	Education		An educational tool designed and produced	Tool to be used with at least 1 event	Tool to be used with at least 1 event
	Brochure	Information gathered	Brochure designed and printed		
	Townland boundary markers		Locations confirmed	Planning permission confirmed	Stones erected
Outcomes	A raised awareness of the importance of townlands, and a greater sense of belonging and place. A new set of skills for all the people involved. A space for people to tell their stories and for people to learn about them; rejuvenating the oral tradition around townlands.				
Integration with other measures	Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects: 2.2 Oral history and storytelling 2.8 Signage and interpretation 2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum 4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme.				
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	ULTACH, NI Place-Names, DRD Roads Service NI, NMDC, LP area’s Community and Sporting Groups, DOE Planning Service, LP area Heritage Societies				
Risk Appraisal	Potential risk is; 1. Little or no engagement from the community.				

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	This risk will be mitigated against by; 1. Good processes and active community group leaders.																													
Implementation Programme		Target																												
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18																									
	Stories gathered and published online	•	•	•	•																									
	Educational resource produced		•																											
	Educational resource used at events			•	•																									
	Information for brochure gathered	•																												
	Brochure produced and distributed		•																											
	Locations for markers plotted on GIS		•																											
	Planning permission confirmed			•																										
	Markers produced and erected				•																									
Finance Plan	<table><tr><td>Item</td><td>Detail</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>Online space</td><td>A section of www.ringofgullion.org designed to host the townlands stories</td><td>This will be detailed in overheads</td></tr><tr><td>Educational resource</td><td>Resource designed and produced</td><td>£2,000</td></tr><tr><td>Brochure</td><td>Brochure designed and produced</td><td>£4,000</td></tr><tr><td>Boundary markers</td><td>Marker stones bought, engraved, delivered and erected</td><td>£40,000</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>TOTAL</td><td>£46,000</td></tr></table>					Item	Detail	Total	Online space	A section of www.ringofgullion.org designed to host the townlands stories	This will be detailed in overheads	Educational resource	Resource designed and produced	£2,000	Brochure	Brochure designed and produced	£4,000	Boundary markers	Marker stones bought, engraved, delivered and erected	£40,000		TOTAL	£46,000							
	Item	Detail	Total																											
	Online space	A section of www.ringofgullion.org designed to host the townlands stories	This will be detailed in overheads																											
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		TARGETS																												
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18																									
Educational resource		£2,000																												
Brochure		£4,000																												
Boundary markers			£13,000	£27,000																										
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	Community groups' direction on location of boundary markers and correct townland names, and support to encourage people to tell their story. Match funding to come from community based fund raising.																													
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LP staff to manage project. Community groups to take lead in marking the location of the boundary stones.																													
Maintenance and	The townland markers on the busy roads may need																													

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

Management Implications	repainted during the ten year maintenance phase.
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	During the ten-year maintenance, a survey of the stones will be conducted and some may need re-painted. Collect and record more stories for the website.
Recommendations for further work	Provide each school with a learning resource. Interactive map hosted on www.ringofgullion.org .

Projects	1.5 Built heritage survey, 2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum
Theme	Participating in the landscape
Budget	£ 46,000
Location	Throughout the Ring of Gullion LP area.
Plan Description	<p>The built heritage surveys element of this project will involve workshops on how to carry out remote sensing, field walking surveys, identify features in the landscape, aerial drones, and how to use video equipment to interpret the landscape and compare these with ground level sightings. These surveys will allow community groups to carry out investigations on existing monuments, or ones that have been newly identified. In year two of the project, geophysics mapping of potential dig site will be carried out, and at the end of year three, a community site investigation can begin.</p> <p>Establishing a community and heritage group networking forum will allow more people to get involved over a wider range of events and activities. It will also allow the community to tailor the events and activities to their community's individual needs. A network of interested</p>

	<p>individuals and groups set up and run through the LPS for the first four years will have a continued legacy after the project, and be a lynch pin in the community sector for continued work for the landscape.</p> <p>Communities gain an understanding about heritage projects, planning processes etc. and feel confident to make responses and generate new ideas. They also can tap into other people's knowledge and skill sets. It is hoped that this will lead to more locals asking advice from the forum, generating new ideas to be discussed at the forum meetings, and creating a more cohesive community. A heritage forum will meet on a regular basis to discuss all aspects of heritage in the area. This will be especially useful near the end of the scheme and as a legacy to continue the work from the LPS.</p> <p>Through workshops, networking and the forum, village projects can be identified and implemented. Built heritage projects can take place and be an incentive for those living in the villages to get more involved in other parts of the Ring of Gullion LP area.</p> <p>It will be necessary to liaise with NIEA, as searching for archaeological objects or anything of archaeological interest by excavating in or under any land requires an excavation licence.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>The aims of this project are to equip the community with the skills necessary to identify and investigate built heritage sites through a number of workshops. The project aims to</p>

	<p>use the workshops to identify sites of interest for potential digs. All the information gathered during the workshops can be used by NIEA Built Heritage. Material from workshops and digs will then be used to create a museum loan box.</p> <p>The networking forum will allow more people to get involved in a wider range of activities in the whole scheme. The forum will be a place for others to share their experiences, results and to inspire others.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing desk-based community training workshops for built heritage surveying 2. Providing field workshops to the community in order to survey the landscape 3. Identify and investigate at least one site of archaeological importance 4. Provide scientifically useful information to NIEA Built Heritage 5. Establish a forum for everyone to get together and express their ideas and formulate plans.
<p>Detailed Proposals and Specification</p>	<p>LP staff will enlist specialist consultants to deliver workshops on built heritage surveying techniques and train communities on how to use equipment and analyse the results. There will be one workshop held in each of the four years; some workshops may be over two or three days. All images and findings will be passed onto NIEA Built Heritage and uploaded to the scheme's website.</p> <p>Once workshops have been held and a site investigated, specialist consultants will survey any site dig with the community, under licence from NIEA Built Heritage. Scheme</p>

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	staff and workshop facilitators will liaise closely with NIEA staff in order to correctly catalogue any artefacts found. Any artefacts found will be used in the loan box service: 2.5 Museum exhibitions.				
	A forum will be established and initially meet twice a year. LP staff will chair the first meeting. The forum will be a place for interested parties to get together and express their ideas and formulate plans for future projects. The forum will be a place for others to share their experiences, results and to inspire others.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers Community groups Landowners/farmers Conservation groups Recreation groups Historical groups			Cuimhneamh living history project Geologists Archaeologists Natural historians	
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Target			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Workshops	At least 10 people attend one workshop	At least 10 people attend one workshop	At least 10 people attend one workshop	At least 10 people attend one workshop
	Forum	Forum established and at least two meetings in year one	At least one meeting held	At least one meeting held	At least one meeting held
	Sites indentified		At least one potential dig site identified	At least one potential dig site identified	
	Site excavations				Community archaeological dig held
Outcomes	The outcomes for this project will be the creation of a team of trained individuals and groups with the skills needed to analyse the landscape and to survey the ground for built				

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	<p>heritage. Participants will also know how to report any potential sites as a result of the workshops. There will be a number of professionally surveyed sites.</p> <p>A community forum will be instrumental to continue, after the LPS, identifying projects, funding and providing a space for the exchange of ideas.</p> <p>The dig will provide artefacts for the museum loan box and carry the work into the schools and other community groups.</p> <p>This will all result in a greater sense of pride in the area's rich heritage, and increased knowledge.</p>
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects:</p> <p>1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation</p> <p>4.2 Natural history and traditional countryside skills training</p> <p>4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme.</p> <p>Integrates locally and nationally with:</p> <p>Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016</p> <p>Newry & Mourne District Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Action For Biodiversity Project</p> <p>NIEA Habitat and Species Action Plans</p> <p>Invasive Ireland Initiative (NI and ROI project)</p> <p>East Border Region; Regional Biodiversity Framework</p> <p>NIEA Built Heritage Guidance and Advice.</p>
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	<p>NIEA, NI Forest Service , Private Landowners, Local Gardening Groups , Specific interest groups, Conservation groups, Youth Rangers, Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Group, Ulster Archaeological Society, Local Communities, Primary</p>

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	School Children , Secondary School Children, Slieve Gullion Buildings Preservation Trust																								
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Not enough people get involved2. Low interest in workshop topics3. No artefacts recovered. <p>These risks will be mitigated against by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Active engagement of the Community Outreach Officer, who will liaise with local groups2. Museum boxes can be created using images, videos, and literature.																								
Implementation Programme		Targets																							
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18																				
	Workshops	•	•	•	•																				
	Forum	•	•	•	•																				
	Sites indentified	•	•	•																					
	Site excavations				•																				
Finance Plan	<table><tr><th>Item</th><th>Detail</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Workshops and site excavations</td><td>Consultant</td><td>£44,125</td></tr><tr><td>Forum</td><td>Venue hire and guest speakers</td><td>£1,875</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>TOTAL</td><td>£46,000</td></tr></table>					Item	Detail	Total	Workshops and site excavations	Consultant	£44,125	Forum	Venue hire and guest speakers	£1,875		TOTAL	£46,000								
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		TARGETS																							
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18																				
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	Forum	£ 468.75	£ 468.75	£ 468.75	£ 468.75																				
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	NMDC – Geotourism, NIEA – Built Heritage, Queens University Belfast may provide assistance.																								
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LP staff will coordinate the workshops and excavations. LP staff will coordinate the forum meetings, chairs will decide on agendas, guest speakers, etc.																								

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Maintenance and Management Implications	NMDC Museum staff will manage the loan boxes, and AONB core staff will manage the scheme's website after the programme ends. AONB core staff will also coordinate the forum meetings.
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	Loan boxes will be available indefinitely as will all information provided on the website. The forum will continue to seek out other heritage projects.
Recommendations for further work	Potential to expand the project to other digs sites, increasing the amount of participants taking part. An archaeology schools programme could maximise the use of the schools heritage book and training.

Project	2.1 Signage and interpretation	
Theme	Signing the landscape	
Budget	£ 25,000	
Location	<p>Sites around the Ring of Gullion LP area including Camlough and Forkill gateways, Dorsey Embankment and Annaghmare Court Tomb.</p> <div data-bbox="496 1243 1351 1780" data-label="Image"> </div>	
Plan Description	This project will enhance the recreation experience around the	

	<p>Ring of Gullion by improving access, providing visitor information and improving signage. This project will raise awareness of these sites, which are very important because of their history, geology and biodiversity. The signage at the sites and trails are of cultural significance, e.g. a raised rampart dated to 140 BC or earlier. This Dorsey may have been "a fortified frontier post...of the Kingdom whose capital was Emain Macha", blocking an important historic route or pass into southern Armagh, and built at a time when Ulaidh's power was the strongest.</p> <p>This project will make a positive contribution to Gullion's distinct character and to people's understanding of the rich history and heritage of the area. This project aims to preserve important Neolithic heritage sites in the area, erect interpretation at the sites, and increase access for visitors to go along the Dorsey Ramparts and other important sites in the LP area, such as Camlough Quarry. Various forms of signage will be produced, such as an OS map, innovative site interpretation, finger posts, and site panels. Information, images and videos will also be provided online.</p> <p>The Egyptian Arch is the gateway to the Ring of Gullion and both Camlough and Bessbrook are important villages to showcase the LP area and give people a sense of ownership when they enter their 'home'. Lights will be used to light the arch and suitable welcome signs or artwork will be placed at the arch. Forkill is also an important gateway into the Ring of Gullion and the main route to Slieve Gullion Forest Park, this project will recognise its importance with appropriate signage.</p>
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	<p>There are forests roads through Slieve Gullion and Camlough mountain and these will be used and marketed as cycle trails. A recommended cycle trail on roads will also be published online, resulting in more people cycling safely in the Ring of Gullion.</p> <p>Camlough Quarry shows the geology and geomorphology of the LP area and how the landscape was shaped and the Dorsey site shows how that landscape has shaped the cultural history of the LP area for more than 2000 years; particularly in respect of the border.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>This project aims to create welcome focal points at the two busiest entrance points into the Ring of Gullion; improve directional signage around the Ring of Gullion; and install signage at two important heritage sites: the Dorsey Embankment and Camlough Quarry.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Putting in place gateway signage at Camlough and Forkill roundabouts 2. Identify which routes in the Ring of Gullion need improved directional signage in partnership with local groups (NI Tourist Board, Cycle NI and the DRD Roads Service), and install this signage 3. Clear the Dorsey Embankment site of vegetation and install signage 4. Install interpretation for Camlough Quarry 5. Provide information on the website.
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>LP staff will work with local communities in Camlough, Bessbrook and Coloughue in order to complete designs for gateways. Permission will be sought from the relevant authorities on the placement of the signage and all designs</p>

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	will comply with all planning guidance. A contractor will install these signs.				
	LP staff together with NITB will identify which routes need improved directional signage, and Cycle NI will be consulted on as how to improve signage for the established cycle routes in the area. Once locations have been agreed upon, signage will be installed.				
	Volunteers will clear vegetation along the Dorsey Embankment, and interpretation will be installed.				
	In partnership with the LPS, Mourne Cooley Gullion Geotourism will provide interpretation at the site, in line with their project plan to improve access and parking at Camlough Quarry.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers Schools - students and their families Community groups People who live, work and visit the area Local tourists International tourists Landowners/farmers			Media Recreation groups Historical groups General public People from the hospitality sector Geologists Archaeologists Natural historians	
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
			Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15			Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Gateway signage	Designed	Installed		
	Directional signage	Cycle route	Signage		

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		signage locations mapped. Sites located and mapped for signage	e installed		
	Dorsey Embankment	Site vegetation cleared and signage installed			
	Camlough Quarry	Site improvements and signage installed			
	Website	Information updated on www.ringofgullion.org			
Outcomes	<p>An enhanced experience of appreciating the landscape and how geology has influenced the recent history of the landscape.</p> <p>Feeling safer, more people will use the cycle routes which will offer more information to appreciate the various features.</p> <p>More people will stop off at a more varied range of places, not just Slieve Gullion Courtyard.</p> <p>Increased integration of the many different sites of the LP area, improved access and better interpretation.</p> <p>Increased learning opportunities, especially for young people, and enhanced knowledge of the local area/wildlife/natural environment, etc.</p>				
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects:</p> <p>1.2 know your townlands project</p> <p>1.5 Built heritage surveys</p> <p>2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum</p> <p>4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme.</p> <p>Integrates locally and nationally with;</p> <p>Ring of Gullion Visitor Participation Survey 2013</p> <p>Newry and Mourne Tourism Strategy and Review.</p>				
Key	NITB, NMDC, NIEA, AONB, Private Landowners, Local				

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Stakeholders / Consultees	Communities				
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <p>1. Failure to secure private land.</p> <p>These risks will be mitigated against by:</p> <p>1. Extensive and informed consultation with landowners</p> <p>2. Identifying other locations away from the preferred ones.</p>				
Implementation Programme		Target			
				Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16		
	Gateway signage designed	•			
	Cycle route signage locations mapped	•			
	Sites located and mapped for signage				
	Gateway, cycle and directional signage installed		•		
	Dorsey Embankment site cleared of vegetation	•			
	Dorsey Embankment signage erected	•			
	Camlough Quarry site improvements	•			
	Camlough Quarry signage erected	•			
	Information updated on www.ringofgullion.org	•	•		
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail		Total	
	Gateway signage	Design, manufacture and installation of signage for both of the main entrances to the Ring of Gullion: Camlough and Forkill		£17,000	
	Signage	Signage locations mapped, and sign design and manufacture for heritage sites and cycle routes		£6,800	
	Capital works	Sign installation for sites and cycle route		£1,200	
		TOTAL		£25,000	
		TARGETS			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Gateway signage	£2,000	£15,000		
	Directional signage	£4,400			
	Dorsey Embankment	£1,800			

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	Camlough Quarry	£1,800			
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	Community groups in Camlough, Bessbrook and Fathom and surrounding areas to prepare ideas and work with designers. Volunteers to clear vegetation from the Dorsey Embankment.				
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	The LPS Project Officers will be responsible for contracting facilitators, and for publicising and planning the workshops. LP staff will be responsible for contracting any consultants or contractors.				
Maintenance and Management Implications	The project is a time bound contract based on detailed specifications. Post contract the sites will be sustained by the AONB project.				
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	NA				
Recommendations for further work	Commission a report for the entire region to facilitate the placement of high quality signage.				

Projects	2.1 Cultural heritage festival and historical revival 2.2 Oral history and storytelling
Theme	The story, the landscape
Budget	£60,150
Location	The festival steering committee will decide where to hold the summer festival. The winter festival, due to its connection with the passage tomb on the summit of Slieve Gullion will be held at Slieve Gullion courtyard.
Plan Description	There are a number of existing community-based festivals across the Ring of Gullion LP area and these are linked to a variety of themes. A number of these festivals are still

relatively small yet they offer great potential for expansion in line with the themes identified for the Ring of Gullion LP. Such events provide opportunities for people to learn about their heritage in a fun and participatory manner. As well as engaging with local communities, the events themselves can attract visitors and this contributes to the overall regeneration/economic development of the area.

This project will bring these events together as a summer festival of events throughout the LP area, and enhance local events/festivals through the introduction of new elements that will raise awareness of the themes identified in the Ring of Gullion LCAP. There is also interest in the small Winter Festival linked to Slieve Gullion Cairn, which this project will also enhance. This project will market all events together.

The festival will provide a place for local crafts people, musicians, drama groups, storytellers and other local traditional skills to be showcased.

Each year, an event will be run in conjunction with an ancient event or historical re-enactment. Local schools and community groups will be involved in setting up and running the event. This will create a greater interest and result in a greater knowledge of traditional local events, myths, legends and the events that surround them. A committee will be set up to decide on the event and what will take place. The committee will be a lasting legacy from the project.

	<p>An important element of the festivals will be to record the talents on show. Working with the established group Cuimhneamh (an organisation with the aims of raising awareness of the life and work of Michael J. Murphy - writer; broadcaster; folklorist; and chronicler of the lives of ordinary communities in the Slieve Gullion, Rathlin and Tyrone areas. The project will involve younger generations in telling the folklore of the LP area in digital audio-visual media.</p> <p>The project will record the stories of people working at our events, and during the festival. These recordings will be made available online and can be used as promotional material for future events. Heritage sites and artefacts are often inaccessible to the general public. This project plans to make an audio-visual archive of various sites and stories available online, enabling people to appreciate a little of the area's rich heritage.</p> <p>People able to access heritage sites that they could not previously access, providing them with a new virtual experience of local heritage, adding to their sense of value of the area, and the need to protect it for future generations. Improved access to heritage sites, installed interpretation at heritage sites, and artefacts associated with the area available online.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>This project aims to enhance local festivals/events through the introduction of new elements that enhances knowledge/appreciation of the heritage of the area. It also aims to raise awareness of the heritage and historical events of the area through participation in local events/festivals. The project aims to involve the younger</p>

	<p>generation in the oral tradition and provide an audio/visual archive of the LPS project and promotional videos online.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a winter and summer festival, commencing in year Promote the festivals 2. Produce an annual evaluation report on the festivals 3. Establish a steering group to oversee the project 4. Re-enacting a historical event at one festival each year 5. Recording all the stories of the festivals and other events 6. Providing a medium for the younger generation to tell their story in audio/visual media 7. Providing an online space for material to be held and updated.
<p>Detailed Proposals and Specification</p>	<p>Cultural heritage festival - The project will work with local events organisers and promoters to plan for the summer festival in year two of the project. All events will be marketed together culminating in a four day heritage festival in the summer. There will be a three day festival marking the winter solstice at Slieve Gullion from year one of the project.</p> <p>Historical revival – There will be an event at the summer festivals to bring back old events that have been lost to time. A different one will be chosen each year.</p> <p>Oral history and storytelling – Volunteers will record the events at the festivals and these will be made into short media clips for promotion of the festivals and promotion of the heritage in the Ring of Gullion. An audio/visual project will be created by a group from the younger generation. This will be facilitated by a digital media consultant.</p>

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	Audio visual archive – A space will be provided on the website to tell the stories of the area. Stories will be transcribed and text can be made available. This can be updated after the LPS programme.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers Schools - students and their families Community groups People who live, work and visit the area Local tourists International tourists			Media Recreation groups Historical groups People tracing family roots Local musicians General public People from the hospitality sector	
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Summer festival		One summer festival with 400 people attending	One summer festival with 600 people attending	One summer festival with 800 people attending
	Winter festival	One winter festival with 100 people attending	One winter festival with 150 people attending	One winter festival with 200 people attending	One winter festival with 200 people attending
	Historical revival		One Historical revival carried out, recorded and video uploaded	One Historical revival carried out, recorded and video uploaded	One Historical revival carried out, recorded and video uploaded
	Oral history and storytelling	At least one heritage story recorded at each event and uploaded	At least five heritage stories recorded at both festivals and uploaded	At least five heritage stories recorded at both festivals and uploaded	At least one heritage stories recorded at both festivals and uploaded
	Oral history and storytelling		Younger generation to create audio-visual stories based on folklore of the area		
	Audio-visual	A space designed	Content	Content	Content

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	archive	and populated on www.ringofgullion.org	uploaded	uploaded	uploaded
Outcomes	Greater awareness of local traditions and stories connected to the area. Increase of people researching their connections to the area. Recording of local oral history so stories are not lost over time Involvement of local history groups Website information produced on oral history				
Integration with other measures	Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects: 2.5 Museum exhibitions 2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum 2.7 Provide workspace and outlet for local artists 4.1 Community walking leader and heritage ambassador training 4.6 Historical coach tours.				
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	Cuimhneamh Oral History Group, Local Community Groups, NMDC, NITB.				
Risk Appraisal	Potential risks are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bad weather for winter solstice festival 2. Little or no interest in festivals These risks will be mitigated against by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By providing events at the courtyard during winter solstice 2. Carrying out intensive publicity 				
Implementation Programme		Targets			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	All events participating in summer and winter festivals signed up	•			
	Promotional material designed, printed and distributed	•	•	•	•
	Winter festival organised and booking form active	•	•	•	•

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	Summer festival organised and booking form active		•	•	•
	Historical revival event		•	•	•
	Oral history of local heritage	•	•	•	•
	Storytelling		•		
	Archive online	•	•	•	•
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail	Total		
	Promotional materials	Brochure and newspaper advert	£6,550		
	Festivals	Venue, promoters, set up	£45,500		
	Historical revivals	Organisers	£1,050		
	Oral history	Production	£800		
	Storytelling	Consultant and production	£3,250		
	Online archive	Website engineer	This will be covered by overall website improvements		
		TOTAL	£60,150		
		TARGETS			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Promotional materials	£1,638	£1,637	£1,638	£1,637
Festivals	£4,500	£11,000	£14,750	£14,750	
Historical revivals	£262	£263	£262	£263	
Oral history	£200	£200	£200	£200	
Storytelling		£3,250			
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	NMDC events officers, community groups, and local artists.				
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LP staff to coordinate the festivals and storytelling workshops.				
Maintenance and Management Implications	Money generated from the events and festivals can be used to fund further festivals. A working group can manage the strategy for the festivals and NMDC and AONB staff can aid in the festival organisation and funding bids. Cuimhneamh oral history group can use the facilities set up on LPS project to upload any further stories and oral history				

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Sustainability / Exit Strategy	Set up events committee to run and organise the festival after the LPS.
Recommendations for further work	Partner with international festivals, to gain access to increased funding and greater audiences.

Projects	2.3 School heritage guidebook, 4.3 Schools heritage training
Theme	The story, the landscape
Budget	£5,750
Location	All primary schools in the Ring of Gullion LP area.
Plan Description	<p>The Ring of Gullion is rich in heritage, indeed it is said that you could kick any stone and you would reveal a piece of history. Many of the heritage sites (natural, built, and cultural) can be used to educate young people from the area. These landscape heritage sites can link to the national curriculum. The barrier to using these sites is correct information regarding the sites. This project aims to produce a guide book for primary school teachers to enable them to use the Ring of Gullion's heritage to deliver the curriculum more effectively.</p> <p>This project will print a number of copies of a schools guide to local heritage, for use by teachers, and will distribute them to all schools. Around this there will be a teachers training programme, alerting them to the potential of school visits, staff talks, web-based resources, and site visits overseen by the Outreach Officer. School visits and site visits will produce more web-based material, videos and podcasts.</p>

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	<p>This project will result in a greater awareness of local heritage and history connected to the area and an increase of people researching their connections to the area through their children.</p> <p>School children and in turn their families educated regarding the importance of the hills. It is hoped that in turn this will result in a reduction in antisocial behaviour and an increase in interest in the landscape and its heritage.</p>	
Aims & Objectives	<p>The aim of this project is to enable teachers in the schools in the LP area to exploit the landscape to its full potential. School children will have a greater understanding of the place where they live and children will grow up with this knowledge and pass it on to their children.</p> <p>This project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Producing a schools heritage guide 2. Providing training to teachers on how to use the LP area's heritage. 	
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>LP staff will work with statutory organisations, local community groups, private landowners and schools, to identify the most appropriate sites to teach the primary curriculum. A copywriter/designer will be procured through competitive tender and managed by LP staff.</p> <p>Once the book is printed, teacher training will be delivered.</p>	
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	<p>Schools - teachers</p> <p>Schools - students and their families</p> <p>Local tourists</p>	<p>Historical groups</p> <p>Geologists</p> <p>Archaeologists</p> <p>Natural historians</p>

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	Landowners/farmers		Youth groups		
	Media				
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Schools heritage book	Research and write information for book Work with schools in order to provide the right type of information	Design and print book		
	Training		Offer training to schools		
Outcomes	<p>A comprehensive guide on how to use the heritage and landscape of the Ring of Gullion to deliver elements of the national curriculum.</p> <p>A greater sense of knowledge and pride for the area from the teachers and young people in the area's schools.</p>				
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects:</p> <p>2.5 Museum exhibitions.</p> <p>Integrates with primary education syllabus</p>				
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	Schools, Community group, Historical groups, Cuimhneamh living history project, Geotourism project, Natural historians, NMDC Biodiversity Officer				
Risk Appraisal	NA				
Implementation Programme		Targets			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Schools heritage book	•	•		
	Training		•		
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail		Total	
	Schools heritage book	Research, copyrighting, design and print		£5,250	
	Training	Venue hire, catering and instructor		£500	
		TOTAL		£5,750	

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	TARGETS				
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Schools heritage book	£1,250	£4,000		
	Training		£500		
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	Staff from Newry and Mourne council, teachers from the local schools				
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LP staff will coordinate the research, design and print of the book and will organise the teacher training				
Maintenance and Management Implications	NA				
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	Book will be available online				
Recommendations for further work	Additional books linked to the curriculum in order to maximise the use of the Ring of Gullion landscape.				

Project	2.4 Showcase Gullion's heritage
Theme	The story, the landscape
Budget	£ 7,800
Location	Various locations.
Plan Description	The Traditional Arts Partnership was formed in March 2012. The partnership promotes Irish music, song, dance and the Irish Language in the South Armagh area. The Traditional Arts Partnership runs weekly music classes which are held in Mullaghbane. Classes are available in button accordion, fiddle, tin whistle, flute, concertina, bodhrán, banjo, mandolin and singing in Irish and English. There are also grúpagrúpa cheoil classes for under 8s, under 12s, under 15s and under 18s.

The Traditional Arts Partnership holds monthly family sessions in Mullaghbane Hall and the young musicians regularly play at a wide range of community events during the year.

The young musicians also represent the Ring of Gullion Comhaltas at fleadhanna.

The Traditional Arts Partnership is very supportive of and encourages young musicians to take part in Cross Community events. Many of the pupils took part in The Titanic drums event last year in The Waterfront Hall and have performed at the opening ceremony of the World Police & Fire Games.

The group now has approximately 120 young people attending classes. Their grúpa cheoils have won awards at Newry Feis and the Armagh Fleadh, and recently represented the county at the Ulster Fleadh in Dromore.

The Traditional Arts Partnership are very keen to set up links with other Comhaltas groups and music groups from different traditions and are looking to organise exchange weekends for the 12-18 year olds who attend classes. These exchanges will give the young people a chance to meet other young musicians from different parts of the country and world, and also offer the opportunity to learn tunes from different areas. It will also showcase the rich cultural tradition of South Armagh.

	<p>One of their tutors has previously taken groups of musicians from Newcastle Comhaltas in County Down to Belgium, America and different parts of Ireland, and has a wide experience of organising and coordinating these exchange trips.</p> <p>The Traditional Arts Partnership has great parental support and has organised bag-packs, jumble and cake sales and sponsored events throughout the year.</p> <p>The exchange visits and work throughout the year will prepare young people to perform at a world class event and build on the work they have done at the World Police and Fire games and at the Waterfront. This will also give the newer members a chance to perform to larger crowds.</p> <p>Showcasing the talent from the Traditional Arts Partnership will encourage people to visit the area. Videos and promotional material used in performances or exchanges will be available or shown at performances.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>This project aims to enable young musicians to visit other music groups in Ireland in order to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop their repertoire of tunes from different areas 2. Be exposed to a variety of musical styles so as to enhance the development of their own musical style 3. Meet and forge relationships with other young musicians 4. Experience and foster respect for music from the other traditions and cultures of Northern Ireland as well as other cultures from different countries 5. Equip them with the skills and personal capabilities to deal with the challenges of living in an increasingly diverse and

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	<p>complex society.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Developing an exchange programme with other music groups2. Performing at an event once a year.
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>The Traditional Arts Partnership will continue to hold monthly family sessions in Mullaghbane Hall and the young musicians regularly play at a wide range of community events during the year, with the aim of having an exchange visit.</p> <p>The Traditional Arts Partnership will set up links with other Comhaltas groups and music groups from different traditions and are looking to organise exchange weekends for the 12-18 year olds who attend classes. These exchanges will give the young people a chance to meet other young musicians from different parts of the country and world, and also offer the opportunity to learn tunes from different areas. It will also showcase the rich cultural tradition of South Armagh.</p> <p>The exchange visits and work throughout the year will prepare the young people to perform at a world class event and build on the work they have done at the World Police and Fire games and at the Waterfront. This will also give the newer members a chance to perform to larger crowds.</p> <p>Showcasing the talent from the Traditional Arts Partnership will encourage people to visit the area. Videos and promotional material used in performances or exchanges</p>

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	<p>will be available or shown at performances.</p> <p>Tutors from the Traditional Arts Partnership will work with LP staff to secure large venue events during the LPS.</p>				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	<p>Schools - teachers</p> <p>Schools - students and their families</p> <p>Community groups</p> <p>People who live, work and visit the area</p> <p>Local tourists</p> <p>International tourists</p>	<p>Media</p> <p>Cuimhneamh living history project</p> <p>Local musicians</p> <p>General public</p> <p>People from the hospitality sector</p>			
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Exchange visits	Five young people and tutor on an exchange visit	Five young people and tutor on an exchange visit	Five young people and tutor on an exchange visit	Five young people and tutor on an exchange visit
	Performance	TAP perform at one high profile event	TAP perform at one high profile event	TAP perform at one high profile event	TAP perform at one high profile event
Outcomes	<p>The outcomes for this project will be a greater opportunity for the young people from the LPS area to show the skills they have learned by joining the partnership. Exchanges will give the young people a chance to meet other young musicians from different parts of the country and world and also to learn tunes from different areas. It will also showcase the rich cultural tradition of South Armagh.</p> <p>Large events will showcase the talents of the young people from the area to large audiences. This will also boost the confidence of the young people.</p> <p>Together these projects will raise awareness of the</p>				

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	Traditional Arts Partnership, Ring of Gullion music, dance and poetry and will give a greater sense of pride to those who live and work in the area.																								
Integration with other measures	Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects: 2.1 Cultural heritage festival and historical revival 2.2 Oral history and storytelling.																								
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Newry and Mourne District Council.																								
Risk Appraisal	NA																								
Implementation Programme		Targets																							
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18																				
	Exchange visits	•	•	•	•																				
	Performance	•	•	•	•																				
Finance Plan	<table><tr><td>Item</td><td colspan="2">Detail</td><td colspan="2">Total</td></tr><tr><td>Exchange visits</td><td colspan="2">Travel, accommodation and subsistence cost</td><td colspan="2">£6,000</td></tr><tr><td>Performance</td><td colspan="2">Travel, accommodation and subsistence cost</td><td colspan="2">£1,800</td></tr><tr><td></td><td colspan="2">TOTAL</td><td colspan="2">£7,800</td></tr></table>					Item	Detail		Total		Exchange visits	Travel, accommodation and subsistence cost		£6,000		Performance	Travel, accommodation and subsistence cost		£1,800			TOTAL		£7,800	
	Item	Detail		Total																					
	Exchange visits	Travel, accommodation and subsistence cost		£6,000																					
	Performance	Travel, accommodation and subsistence cost		£1,800																					
		TOTAL		£7,800																					
	<table><tr><td></td><td colspan="4">TARGETS</td></tr><tr><td>Output/Measure</td><td>Year 1 Sep 2014-15</td><td>Year 2 Sep 2015-16</td><td>Year 3 Sep 2016-17</td><td>Year 4 Sep 2017-18</td></tr><tr><td>Exchange visits</td><td>£1,500</td><td>£1,500</td><td>£1,500</td><td>£1,500</td></tr><tr><td>Performance</td><td>£450</td><td>£450</td><td>£450</td><td>£450</td></tr></table>						TARGETS				Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18	Exchange visits	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	Performance	£450	£450	£450	£450
		TARGETS																							
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18																				
	Exchange visits	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500																				
	Performance	£450	£450	£450	£450																				
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	Tutors from the Traditional Arts Partnership.																								
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	Traditional Arts Partnership tutors will organise all exchanges and events. LP staff will secure performances at major events and help to publicise events.																								
Maintenance and Management	NA																								

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Implications	
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	Traditional Arts Partnership tutors will continue to seek funding to organise exchanges and events.
Recommendations for further work	Continue the exchange visits, and include exchanges where other groups can visit the Ring of Gullion.

Project	2.7 Museum exhibitions
Theme	The story, the landscape
Budget	£ 1,000
Location	Events in venues throughout the Ring of Gullion LP area. Museum exhibition in Newry and Mourne Museum. Travelling exhibition and loan box in Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre and local schools and community groups.
Plan Description	<p>NMDC are running a series of Decade of Centenary related exhibitions over the course of the LPS programme: January 2014 until December 2018. The period focuses on 1914-1918 and will have exhibitions on the First World War, politics, transport, landlords, maritime history, etc. The exhibitions will include diverse aspects of life in that period, including the roles of women in history, partition and its effect on Newry and Mourne, and local politics and politicians, including Frank Aiken and Eamon Donnelly.</p> <p>Newry and Mourne Museum is one of the most visited local authority Museums in Northern Ireland however artefacts from South Armagh are fewer than those from the city of Newry and the rest of Newry and Mourne DC.</p> <p>This project aims to partner with the Museum staff in order</p>

	<p>to increase the participation of people from the Ring of Gullion LP area. The project aims to do this by promoting future exhibitions at events and using them as talking points. Following events, material from the Museum will be made into an extended travelling exhibition to go to the local community.</p> <p>A loan box will also be made up during the lifetime of the LPS and managed by Newry Museum at the end of the scheme.</p> <p>This project also aims to integrate Newry and Mourne Museum's website into www.ringofgullion.org</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>This project aims to inspire a sense of place and belonging to the people that live in the LP area and provide an educational resource that can be shared around the groups of South Armagh. The outcome will be a greater understanding of local history and of where people came from, resulting in a greater sense of people belonging to the whole community.</p> <p>The project aims to regain the oral tradition around the local history that has been lost in many communities.</p> <p>The project aims to increase the participation of the local communities from South Armagh in local history.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing a platform for Museum staff to reach a greater audience through the LPS events; encouraging donations of material from this area to the Collection, to be displayed in the proposed exhibitions; and providing exhibition space in the local community, such as schools and, community halls 2. Creating a loan box of artefacts from South Armagh

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	3. Integrating the Museum website into www.ringofgullion.org .				
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>The LPS will provide two platforms per year in order for Museum staff to encourage people from the LP area to lend artefacts, tell their story, and share their history. These events will be linked with the planned exhibitions.</p> <p>Museum curators will create at least one panel per exhibition that can be given to LPS when the exhibition has ended. These panels will be hosted in a different community venue each year and LP staff will use them as a talking point for events.</p> <p>During the lifetime of the LPS, LP staff will acquire material relating to South Armagh to host in a loan box. The loan box will be managed by Newry and Mourne Museum.</p> <p>The Ring of Gullion website will provide information on the Museum's website.</p>				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers Schools - students and their families People who live, work and visit the area Local tourists		International tourists Media Historical groups General public Archaeologists		
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Promoting future exhibition	Design and print pop-up stand and provide platform in at least two LPS events	Provide platform in at least two LPS events	Provide platform in at least two LPS events	Provide platform in at least two LPS events
	Travelling exhibition	Host exhibition at one community venue and encourage schools to use exhibition	Host exhibition at one community venue and encourage schools to use exhibition	Host exhibition at one community venue and encourage schools to use exhibition	Host exhibition at one community venue and encourage schools to use exhibition

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	Loan box	Acquire artefacts	Acquire artefacts	Acquire artefacts	Provide loan box service. Museum to manage
	Website	Provide information to access Museum website			
Outcomes	<p>Museum will have an increased database of people to call upon in future to redress the gap in the Museum's collection of materials relating to LPS area.</p> <p>A community more engaged with their local history and an increased sense of place and belonging.</p> <p>A tool that communities and schools can use in order to regain the oral tradition and talk about their local history</p>				
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects:</p> <p>1.3 Newry Canal project</p> <p>1.5 Built heritage surveys</p> <p>2.2 Oral history and storytelling</p> <p>2.3 Schools heritage guidebook</p> <p>2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum</p> <p>3.3 Camlough and Bessbrook heritage trails</p> <p>4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme.</p>				
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	Newry and Mourne Museum, Ring of Gullion AONB, Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre, Bessbrook Heritage Society, Local Schools, and Community Groups.				
Risk Appraisal	NA				
Implementation Programme		Targets			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Promoting future exhibition	•	•	•	•
	Travelling exhibition	•	•	•	•
	Loan box	•	•	•	•
	Website	•			

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Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail			Total
	Promoting future exhibition	Pop-up stand and promotion. Venue hire will be covered by other events			£250
	Travelling exhibition	Printing, exhibition			£500
	Loan box	Materials for loan box and protection			£250
	Website	Website integration with Museum			This will be covered in another budget
		TOTAL			£1,000

Project	3.1 Wildlife safari
Theme	Encouraging healthy landscapes

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Budget	£ 15,000
Location	<p>A 1.5 km route of forest tracks on Slieve Gullion's eastern slopes</p> 
Plan Description	<p>Slieve Gullion has some of the rarest flora and fauna in Ireland living on its slopes. The red squirrel and the pine marten are two of the most threatened mammals in the UK and Ireland. Populations have fluctuated since the establishment of woodland in Ireland at the end of the last Ice Age. The Ring of Gullion is one of the last strongholds for red squirrels and pine martens in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>This project proposes to install a wildlife safari trail along a</p>

	<p>section of forest road on Slieve Gullion. The trail will include one trailhead, six biodiversity interpretation panels, three hides and feeding stations, along with all necessary hygiene equipment, and an accompanying brochure. Trail cameras and infrared cameras will be used for monitoring and for educational visits. The project plans to upgrade parts of a path and assert it as a Public Right of Way.</p> <p>This asset will help educate the general public, special interest groups, schools, colleges and aspiring wildlife groups about the area's habitats. The safari will also encourage visitors to protect wildlife and this will have a long lasting legacy.</p> <p>This project aims to monitor red squirrel populations, which will allow for targeted conservation; promote the Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Group and Action Plan; raise awareness of red squirrel conservation in the UK and Ireland; and allow groups to work together in conservation.</p> <p>The project will also maximise the potential of the Slieve Gullion park during term time and school hours when there is a lower flow of visitors.</p> <p>This project will be marketed through the AONB and LPS projects throughout the region.</p> <p>Local communities will have the opportunity to be engaged with biodiversity conservation and in new recreational activities, helping to improve their mental and physical</p>
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	health.
Aims & Objectives	<p>This projects aims to conserve biodiversity and their habitat in the Ring of Gullion landscape area through surveying, education, and raising awareness in the community and beyond.</p> <p>This project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating a wildlife trail by installing a trailhead, six biodiversity interpretation panels, and three hides and feeding stations, along with all necessary hygiene equipment 2. There will be an accompanying nature detective trail brochure 3. Trail cameras will be installed on the feeders to monitor the condition of the wildlife and the presence/absence of grey squirrels. These can be used for field education 4. An infrared camera will be used for monitoring the presence/absence of squirrels in forest blocks and thus better inform NI Forest Service before harvesting. The cameras can also be used for field education.
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>A designer will be appointed to design and provide copy for a trailhead, six biodiversity interpretation panels, and the brochure.</p> <p>The Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Group Members will monitor the bird and squirrel feeders and cameras on a weekly basis.</p> <p>The Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Group Members will survey forest blocks that are ready to be harvested for signs of squirrel activity and report back to the NI Forest Service and the NI Red Squirrel Forum.</p> <p>The safari will be used as part of LPS and AONB events</p>

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	and promoted on their website and social media sites.				
	A sustainable path will be constructed using best practice.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers Schools - students and their families Community groups People who live, work and visit the area Local tourists International tourists			Conservation groups Media Recreation groups General public People from the hospitality sector Natural historians Youth groups	
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Safari	Designer appointed. Trailhead and panels erected			
	Brochure designed and printed	Designer appointed. Brochure designed and printed			
	Feeders and cameras erected	Locations chosen for feeders and cameras and erected			
	Events held and trail promoted	At least one event held	At least one event held	At least one event held	At least one event held
	Path construction	Degraded sections repaired			
Outcomes	Widespread knowledge of the importance of the area's biodiversity. A comprehensive monitoring and surveying programme established for Slieve Gullion red squirrels. Increased pride in the biodiversity found in the Ring of Gullion and an increased desire to conserve and respect it. An asset for aspiring wildlife groups to learn from.				
Integration with other measures	Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects: 1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation				

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	<p>2.3 Schools heritage guidebook</p> <p>2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum</p> <p>2.8 Signage and interpretation</p> <p>4.2 Natural history and traditional countryside skills training</p> <p>4.3 Schools heritage training</p> <p>4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme</p> <p>Integrates locally and nationally with:</p> <p>Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016</p> <p>Newry & Mourne District Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Action For Biodiversity Project</p> <p>NIEA Habitat and Species Action Plans</p> <p>Ring of Gullion Visitor Participation Survey 2013</p> <p>East Border Region; Regional Biodiversity Framework</p> <p>DARD Rural development Programme 2014-2020</p>	
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	<p>Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Group, Ring of Gullion AONB, Newry and Mourne District Council, NIEA, NI Forest Service, NI Red Squirrel Forum, Private Landowners</p>	
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of key wildlife from Slieve Gullion 2. Trees being harvested or an outbreak of P. ramorum on larch trees. <p>These risks will be mitigated against by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carefully monitoring the red squirrel population and implementing the Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Management Action Plan 2. Working closely with NI Forest Service and the NI Red Squirrel Forum to identify woodland blocks not to harvest 3. Identify a second route not effected by harvests or P. ramorum. 	
Implementation		Targets

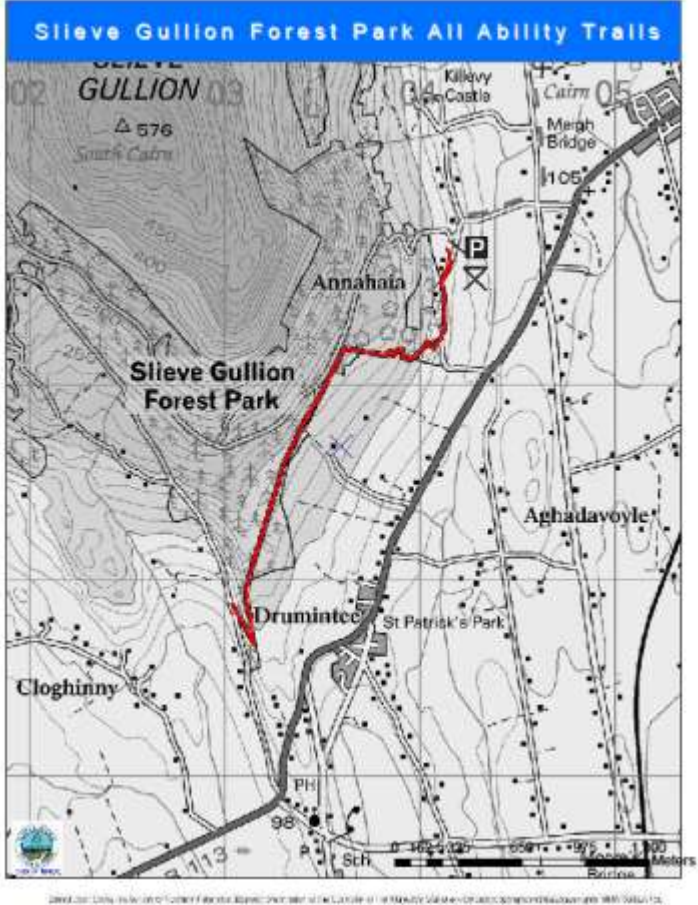
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Programme	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Trailhead and panels erected	•			
	Brochure printed	•			
	Cameras and feeders installed	•			
	Event held	•	•	•	•
	Path constructed	•			
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail			Total
	Trailhead and panels installed	Design, copy, images, production, and installation			£6,000
	Brochure printed	Design, copy, images, production			£2,500
	Cameras and feeders installed	Materials acquired			£3,000
	Event	Events held			£500
	Path constructed				£3,000
		TOTAL			£15,000
		TARGETS			
		Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Output/Measure				
	Trailhead and panels installed	£6,000			
	Brochure printed	£2,500			
	Cameras and feeders installed	£3,000			
	Event	£125	£125	£125	£125
	Path construction	£3,000			
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	Images provided by Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel group.				
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	Events organised and run by Ring of Gullion AONB and NMDC Biodiversity Officer. RGLP staff will manage the project.				
Maintenance and Management Implications	1. This project or elements of this project will take place on Forest Service NI managed land subject to a licence agreement between Newry and Mourne District Council and Forest Service NI, as per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between NMDC and Forest Service in 2012. The MoU has a section clearly defining the responsibilities of each partner. 2. Promotion of this project will be the sole responsibility of				

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	<p>Newry and Mourne District Council (or another organisation under direction from NMDC, subject to approval from Forest Service NI).</p> <p>3. Management of the project sites under licence agreement from Forest Service NI will be according to agreed management structures defined in licence agreements.</p> <p>4. LP staff will be responsible for managing the project until scheme completion.</p> <p>5. The AONB team will manage the project sites beyond the scheme.</p>
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	<p>The Ring of Gullion AONB Officer and the NMDC Biodiversity Officer will run annual events on the trail and NMDC will continue to promote the trail.</p> <p>The Ring of Gullion Red Squirrel Group will continue to monitor the cameras and survey forest blocks.</p>
Recommendations for further work	<p>Recruit more volunteers into the Red Squirrel Group and erect more monitoring stations. More research on the role of pine martens in the survival of the red squirrel could prove beneficial. Train more grey squirrel dispatchers; the survival of the red squirrel depends on the eradication of the grey.</p>

Project	3.3 Slieve Gullion sensory trails
Theme	Trails with tales
Budget	£12,900
Location	Slieve Gullion Forest Roads

	
<p>Plan Description</p>	<p>This project would create a wider variety of trails and paths in the Slieve Gullion Forest Park. The range of walks would ensure that everyone could choose a route according to their particular needs and interests. Where appropriate, way marking and interpretation panels would be installed to ensure the routes are clearly navigable and therefore become familiar to people.</p> <p>Visitor surveys show that there is demand for an improved network of routes over a variety of terrain to meet the needs of the full range of users.</p>

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	This project aims to make some of the trails on Slieve Gullion accessible for less-abled people, enabling them to explore and experience the landscape first hand. People with limited mobility will have the opportunity to undertake longer walks on Slieve Gullion.				
Aims & Objectives	<p>This project aims to provide a network of trails on Slieve Gullion for people with limited mobility and sensory disabilities.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Establishing a trailhead at Slieve Gullion Adventure Park2. Way marking a network of trails3. Providing interpretation along the trail in a number of different ways for people with sensory disabilities4. Providing a brochure in line with the trails purpose.				
Detailed Proposals and Specification	Way markers and interpretation will be installed along the trails and brochures will be available online and in hard copies. This project will implement the recommendations set out in the scoping study, see appendices for full document.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Community groups People who live, work and visit the area Local tourists International tourists Recreation groups		General public People from the hospitality sector Geologists Archaeologists Natural historians		
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Identify trails	Work with NI Forest Service and Outdoor Recreation NI to select a network of trails suitable for Access for All			
	Trailhead				Trailhead

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					designed and installed to mark all trails on Slieve Gullion
	Way markers		Way markers installed along network of trails		
	Interpretation		Interpretation report written and recommendations made	Report implemented on trails	
	Brochure			Brochure designed, printed and distributed	
Outcomes	<p>A network of trails accessible for people with disabilities on Slieve Gullion.</p> <p>Increased awareness and understanding of the area's heritage.</p> <p>Improved access to important heritage sites.</p> <p>Improved opportunities to learn about the heritage of the area.</p>				
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects:</p> <p>2.8 Signage and interpretation</p> <p>3.2 Red squirrel safari</p> <p>4.2 Community walking leader and heritage ambassador training</p> <p>Integrates locally and nationally with:</p> <p>DETI Delivery Agreement</p> <p>DETI Public Service Agreement 5</p> <p>Newry and Mourne Tourism Strategy and Review</p> <p>Mourne Cooley Gullion Geotourism Project</p> <p>NITB Mourne Signature Project</p> <p>The overall Tourism Development Plan fits strategically, and complements the National Tourism priorities of Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland.</p>				


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	EBR Tourism Development Plan NITB – A Draft Tourism Strategy for NI to 2020 Sports Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport & Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019 Ring of Gullion Visitor Participation Survey 2013				
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	Outdoor Recreation NI, NI Forest Service, Clanrye Group, Slieve Gullion Management Group, AONB, NMDC, Ring of Gullion RSG, DCAL, Disability Sports NI				
Risk Appraisal	Potential risks are: 1. Failure to secure agreement to use forest roads 2. NMDC not willing to sign licence agreements These risks will be mitigated against by; 1. Preparing a Ring of Gullion Recreation and Development Strategy				
Implementation Programme		Targets			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Identify trails	•			
	Trailhead				•
	Way markers		•		
	Interpretation		•	•	
	Brochure			•	
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail			Total
	Trailhead	Design and install a trailhead at Slieve Gullion Adventure Park			£1,900
	Way markers	Install 40 1m colour and shape coded way marker posts			£1,400
	Interpretation	Install interpretation along trail			£8,200
	Brochure	Design and print brochure			£1,200
		TOTAL			£12,900
		TARGETS			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Trailhead				£1,900
	Way markers		£1,400		
	Interpretation		£700	£7,500	
Brochure			£1,200		
Donations in Kind	Outdoor Recreation NI and Disability Sports NI consultancy				

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and Volunteer Input	on all-ability trails
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LP staff to implement recommendations from scoping study
Maintenance and Management Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ring of Gullion AONB will be responsible for upkeep of interpretation and waymarkers. NMDC will hold any licence agreements from NI Forest Service. 2. This project or elements of this project will take place on Forest Service NI managed land subject to a licence agreement between Newry and Mourne District Council and Forest Service NI, as per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between NMDC and Forest Service in 2012. The MoU has a section clearly defining the responsibilities of each partner. 3. Promotion of this project will be the sole responsibility of Newry and Mourne District Council (or another organisation under direction from NMDC, subject to approval from Forest Service NI). 4. Management of the project sites under licence agreement from Forest Service NI will be according to agreed management structures defined in licence agreements.
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	AONB Officer and NMDC Tourism to maintain path and panels. NMDC will renew the operating licence after it ends.
Recommendations for further work	Open up more paths and increase access through the woods.

Project	3.4 Slieve Gullion summit to North Cairn
Theme	Making recreation sustainable
Budget	£123,420
Location	Between Slieve Gullion's South and North Cairn

	
<p>Plan Description</p>	<p>In a report in 2005 called “Footpath Condition Survey”, a survey was carried out on 4.79 km of path, most of which had been formally surveyed before in 1999. The survey classified the paths into five categories of condition and erosion risk.</p> <p>Overall the survey found the paths to be in a worse condition to that photographed in 1999. There was significant deterioration in the condition of the main ascent to the summit and this section was given the highest risk classification of priority 1. As a result funding was secured in 2010 to carry out the necessary remedial work on phase one.</p> <p>The next section, from the summit to the North Cairn and the descent to the main road was classed in the survey as showing</p>

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	<p>advanced stages of erosion and was therefore classified as priority 2.</p> <p>The aim is to deliver on the recommendations of these reports and provide a sustainable trail, made from local materials, from the summit along the mountain to the lake and North Cairn.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>Mitigate erosion of Slieve Gullion SAC/ASSI caused by recreational use, and raise awareness of sustainable repair techniques to profile best practice landscape management.</p> <p>This project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repairing the degraded paths by using sustainable path techniques to accommodate the existing high level of use and to provide for predicted increase in use. This will allow restoration of the damaged habitat and will prevent future damage. 2. Profiling sustainable erosion control techniques through the website/press/training volunteers/engagement with user groups, etc.
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>The proposals will reduce impact on the heathland, which has European and National environmental protection, and is an important carbon sequestration site and habitat for protected flora and fauna. Dialogue with landowners and the wider community will be facilitated through profiling of the project and related issues.</p> <p>Overall, sustainable path repair techniques will be employed to establish a durable route that will reduce the impact of users and sustain future predicted increased use.</p> <p>As detailed in the attached initial drawings, the techniques will include:</p> <p>Careful assessments of the use of the sites in question and the ground conditions, as well as defining a sustainable line through</p>

	<p>the eroded corridor.</p> <p>Landscaping will direct users along the desired path and create a natural feel to the trail. It will control water flow and immediately restore parts of the eroded landscape, as well as block off unwanted routes, thereby enabling the habitat to recover.</p> <p>Establishing a sustainable trail that follows natural contours (benching), with the use of aggregate paths where possible, will allow water to sheet off and avoid gullying.</p> <p>The path material is to be sourced from the site or from sources that supply similar material.</p> <p>Preferred use of locally sourced sheep wool, where possible, to act as a membrane over the wet peat on top of which the aggregate path can be constructed.</p> <p>The use of helicopters for lifting equipment and materials is efficient and prevents damage to the landscape by avoiding unnecessary transport.</p> <p>The maximum track size on any mechanical tools will be 1m, minimising the impact on surrounding vegetation.</p> <p>Slieve Gullion is an iconic trail and is one of the most busy tourist/recreation hotpots in the AONB. The trail impacts on the features of the site and the heath landscapes, which are particularly susceptible to recreational impact.</p> <p>The designated heathland and associated flora and fauna are highly susceptible to damage. As such, the works will define</p>
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	<p>sustainable routes through the site to provide direct access to the main sites.</p> <p>The sites will be maintained by a volunteer path team and AONB staff.</p> <p>Training will be carried out with volunteers on the principles behind the project. This will be replicated at other sites where resources allow further repair and protection of the designated landscape.</p>				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers Schools - students and their families Community groups People who live, work and visit the area Local tourists International tourists Landowners/farmers Conservation groups			Media Recreation groups Historical groups General public People from the hospitality sector Geologists Archaeologists Natural historians	
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Path construction	1km of path			
	Profiling sustainable erosion control techniques	Through the website/press/training volunteers/engagement with user groups, etc.	Through the website/press/training volunteers/engagement with user groups, etc.	Through the website/press/training volunteers/engagement with user groups, etc.	Through the website/press/training volunteers/engagement with user groups, etc.
	Improved perception of sustainable landscape management	Through the website/press/training volunteers/engagement	Through the website/press/training volunteers/engagement	Through the website/press/training volunteers/engagement	Through the website/press/training volunteers/engagement

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		ement with user groups etc.	ement with user groups, etc.	ement with user groups, etc.	ement with user groups, etc.
Outcomes	Erosion mitigation by carrying out path repair at Slieve Gullion; improved understanding by key stakeholders, beneficiaries and consultees about sustainable erosion control and techniques; and improved perception of sustainable landscape management.				
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects:</p> <p>1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation</p> <p>1.4 Restore Slieve Gullion Cairn</p> <p>1.5 Built heritage surveys</p> <p>4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme</p> <p>Integrates locally and nationally with:</p> <p>Economic Appraisal - Slieve Gullion Pathways, Enhancement and Improvement Project 2012</p> <p>ROSA Footpath Condition Survey 1999</p> <p>ROSA Slieve Gullion Footpath Restoration Project Assessment and Implementation 2005</p> <p>Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016</p> <p>NI Outdoor Events Guidelines 2010</p> <p>East Border Region; Regional Biodiversity Framework</p>				
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	NIEA, NI Forest Service, NMDC, Mountaineering Ireland, Conservation Groups, Walking and Hill Running Clubs, Local Communities				
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weather delay 2. Unidentified site geological issues 3. Failure to appoint suitable main contractors 4. Erosion damage caused by works 5. Failure to ensure appropriate long-term maintenance 				

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	These risks will be mitigated against by; 1. Careful project planning, drawing on the AONB's direct recent experience of erosion control at similar sites. This includes liaison with NIEA, NIFS and all other interested parties to ensure all possible issues are addressed.				
Implementation on Programme		Targets			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Path construction	•			
	Profiling sustainable erosion control techniques	•	•	•	•
	Improved perception of sustainable landscape management	•	•	•	•
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail		Total	
	Capital costs	Landscaping and path repair, including all labour, equipment and materials		£102,000	
	Revenue costs	Consultancy, statutory fees, lease agreements etc.		£10,200	
	Contingency			£11,220	
		TOTAL		£123,420	
		TARGETS			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Path construction	£123,420			
Profiling sustainable erosion control techniques	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Improved perception of sustainable landscape management	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	Volunteer path team for maintenance.				
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LPS and AONB staff and volunteers.				
Maintenance and	1. AONB will ensure that the repaired sites are monitored and maintained through a combination of AONB core staff and trained path team volunteers.				

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Management Implications	<p>2. This project or elements of this project will take place on Forest Service NI managed land subject to a licence agreement between Newry and Mourne District Council and Forest Service NI, as per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between NMDC and Forest Service in 2012. The MoU has a section clearly defining the responsibilities of each partner.</p> <p>3. Promotion of this project will be the sole responsibility of Newry and Mourne District Council (or another organisation under direction from NMDC. subject to approval from Forest Service NI).</p> <p>4. Management of the project sites under licence agreement from Forest Service NI will be according to agreed management structures defined in licence agreements.</p>
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	<p>The project is a time bound repair contract based on detailed specifications. Post contract the sites will be sustained as outlined above and through engagement with the key stakeholders, beneficiaries and consultees listed above.</p> <p>This will take cognisance of a parallel project that aims to establish a strategic review to further develop a sustainable trail network in the Ring of Gullion, in order to prevent erosion and withstand predicted increased use.</p>
Recommendations for further work	<p>This project will contribute to the development of best practice erosion control principles for NI via a wider strategic network of NIEA, CAAN, Sport NI, consultants, main contractors, and other interested parties from the above key stakeholders, beneficiaries and consultees.</p> <p>Complete all paths on Slieve Gullion.</p>

Project	3.5 Ring dyke trail
Theme	Making recreation sustainable
Budget	£ 51,500

Location	Ring of Gullion Ring Dyke
Plan Description	<p>During the ‘troubles’ the two Irelands were never so aggressively fortified, to the cost of local people on either side. The British Army took over the South Armagh hilltops in the mid-eighties and at the height of the British military presence there were 18 watchtowers in South Armagh. This formed an open prison for the people beneath them, and cut off access to most of the ring dyke hills. It wasn’t until 2006 that the final five towers were removed and local people were able to walk up these 65 million year old mountains, which are steeped in history and covered in archaeology.</p> <p>This project would create a wider variety of trails and paths in the Ring of Gullion. Where appropriate, way marking and interpretation panels would be put in place to ensure the routes are clearly navigable and can become familiar to people.</p> <p>The area is steeped in history – from Neolithic to early Christian heritage. There are many stories to be told about the ring dyke. The ring dyke is also a very important natural heritage site and so it’s very important that the area is conserved in an appropriate manner. The development of formalised routes will encourage people to use them, as opposed to wandering aimlessly through sensitive habitats.</p> <p>The AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016 identified the need for the ring dyke to be developed as a key trail in the LP area. Visitor surveys show that there is demand for an improved network of routes over a variety of terrain to</p>

	<p>meet the needs of the full range of users.</p> <p>This project will deliver a quality 60 km long walk. The project will provide an information pack for each landowner (approx 350), 10 points of interest with panels, six footbridges, 55 stiles, 41 metal finger signs, 78 way marker posts and discs, a Way Mark Way Guide and an updated Ring of Gullion Activity Map.</p> <p>Communities will have a greater physical connection to their landscape by reopening access over hills that have been closed for many years.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>This project aims to reconnect local people to their distinctive landscape heritage and share their story with visitors to the area. This will be achieved by creating a walk around the entire Ring of Gullion ring dyke, installing interpretation at ten points of interest, providing a walking guide for the trail, and an Activity Map for the whole LP area.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing access to all the peaks of the ring dyke mountains 2. Providing path infrastructure of stiles, fences and way markers 3. Providing an opportunity for individuals and groups to enjoy guided and self-guided walks on the theme of landscapes heritage 4. Exhibiting information, which informs people of the importance of the heritage of the Ring of Gullion 5. Providing a detailed guide for self guided walks 6. Providing an up-to-date 1:25000 scale map of the LP area.

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Detailed Proposals and Specification	LP staff together with Gap o the North Walking Club will identify landowners along the preferred route. LPS together with NMDC will seek permission from all landowners for access to the peaks of all the mountains of the ring dyke. The route covers 90 km, of which over 90% is off-road. The project aims to meet the standard set by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland, to enable the trail to be awarded Quality Long Distance Trail.				
	Once all agreements are in place, a team will install all the countryside furniture including the interpretation panels. A Waymarked Way Guide will be produced and ORNI will assess the quality of the path.				
	Once all the projects of the LPS have been completed a Ring of Gullion Activity Map will be printed.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers Schools - students and their families Community groups People who live, work and visit the area Local tourists International tourists Landowners/farmers Conservation groups			Media Recreation groups Historical groups General public People from the hospitality sector Geologists Archaeologists Natural historians	
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Seek permission from landowners to allow trail to cross their land	At least 20 km of trail agreed and agreements	At least 20 km of trail agreed and agreements	At least 20 km of trail agreed and agreements	

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		signed by landowners	signed by landowners	signed by landowners	
	Install countryside furniture	Install countryside furniture on land where agreements have been signed	Install countryside furniture on land where agreements have been signed	Install countryside furniture on land where agreements have been signed	Install countryside furniture on land where agreements have been signed
	Waymarked Way Guide				In partnership with ORNI produce Ring Dyke Way Guide
	Activity map				Produce and print Ring of Gullion Activity Map
	Online promotion		Update all sites with new walking trails as agreements are signed	Update all sites with new walking trails as agreements are signed	Update all sites with new walking trails as agreements are signed
Outcomes	<p>People will become aware of the particular landscape character of the Ring of Gullion. This will foster a greater appreciation of the area leading to a desire to protect this environment and others like it.</p> <p>Managed access to this area will help negate against any existing habitat destruction, as people will be better guided over the land and future erosion or habitat destruction will be minimised.</p> <p>Reopening of a closed landscape for the people who live in its shadows.</p>				
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects;</p> <p>1.3 Newry Canal project</p> <p>2.8 Signage and interpretation</p> <p>3.9 Interactive map of Gullion</p> <p>4.2 Community walking leaders and heritage ambassador training</p> <p>4.5 Youth rangers programme</p> <p>4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme.</p>				

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	<p>Integrates locally and nationally with:</p> <p>NI Outdoor Events Guidelines 2010</p> <p>Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016</p> <p>DETI Delivery Agreement</p> <p>DETI Public Service Agreement 5</p> <p>Newry and Mourne Tourism Strategy and Review</p> <p>Mourne Cooley Gullion Geotourism Project</p> <p>NITB Mourne Signature Project</p> <p>The overall Tourism Development Plan fits strategically and complements the National Tourism priorities of Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland.</p> <p>EBR Tourism Development Plan</p> <p>NITB – A Draft Tourism Strategy for NI to 2020.</p>				
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	<p>Private landowners, NI Forest Service, Outdoor Recreation NI, Gap o the North Walking Club, DARD, NIAPA, UFU, Local Farming Groups, Mountaineering Ireland, Louth County Council, Walking and Hill Running Clubs, Local Communities, NITB.</p>				
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Failure to secure private land agreements. <p>These risks will be mitigated against by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Extensive and informed consultation with landowners 3. Other options away from the preferred route. 				
Implementation Programme		Targets			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Seek permission from landowners to allow trail to cross their land	•	•	•	•
	Install countryside furniture	•	•	•	•
	Way marked way guide				•

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	Activity map				•																																																								
	Online promotion		•	•	•																																																								
Finance Plan	<table><tr><td>Item</td><td>Detail</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>Landowner packs</td><td>350 landowner packs</td><td>£1,750</td></tr><tr><td>Countryside furniture</td><td>10 panels, six footbridges, 55 stiles, 41 metal finger signs, 78 waymarker posts and discs</td><td>£20,500</td></tr><tr><td>Way marked way guide</td><td>Way Mark Way Guide</td><td>£3,000</td></tr><tr><td>Activity map</td><td>Ring of Gullion Activity Map</td><td>£4,500</td></tr><tr><td>Capital costs</td><td>Labour and installation material</td><td>£21,750</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>TOTAL</td><td>£51,000</td></tr></table> <table><tr><td></td><td colspan="4">TARGETS</td></tr><tr><td>Output/Measure</td><td>Year 1 Sep 2014-15</td><td>Year 2 Sep 2015-16</td><td>Year 3 Sep 2016-17</td><td>Year 4 Sep 2017-18</td></tr><tr><td>Landowner packs</td><td>£875</td><td>£875</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Countryside furniture</td><td>£5,125</td><td>£5,125</td><td>£5,125</td><td>£5,125</td></tr><tr><td>Way marked way guide</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>£3,000</td></tr><tr><td>Activity map</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>£4,500</td></tr><tr><td>Capital costs</td><td>£5,437</td><td>£5,438</td><td>£5,437</td><td>£5,438</td></tr></table>					Item	Detail	Total	Landowner packs	350 landowner packs	£1,750	Countryside furniture	10 panels, six footbridges, 55 stiles, 41 metal finger signs, 78 waymarker posts and discs	£20,500	Way marked way guide	Way Mark Way Guide	£3,000	Activity map	Ring of Gullion Activity Map	£4,500	Capital costs	Labour and installation material	£21,750		TOTAL	£51,000		TARGETS				Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18	Landowner packs	£875	£875			Countryside furniture	£5,125	£5,125	£5,125	£5,125	Way marked way guide				£3,000	Activity map				£4,500	Capital costs	£5,437	£5,438	£5,437	£5,438
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Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	Gap o the North Walking Club to help identify landowners. Newry and Mourne District Council will draw up landowner agreements. ORNI will advise on best practice of Quality Long Walks. ORNI will provide an annual volunteer survey. NITB will promote the Ring Dyke trail together with other complementary products in the LPS area.																																																												
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LP staff to manage project.																																																												
Maintenance and Management Implications	1. This project or elements of this project will take place on Forest Service NI managed land subject to a licence agreement between Newry and Mourne District Council and Forest Service NI, as per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between NMDC and Forest Service in 2012. The MoU has a section clearly defining the responsibilities of each partner. 2. Promotion of this project will be the sole responsibility of Newry and Mourne District Council (or another																																																												

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	<p>organisation under direction from NMDC, subject to approval from Forest Service NI),</p> <p>3. Management of the project sites under licence agreement from Forest Service NI will be according to agreed management structures defined in licence agreements.</p> <p>4. Securing landowner agreements can be the most challenging phase of trail development and adequate planning will be put in place.</p> <p>5. There will be a long-term management plan based on appropriate studies put in place; an LPS management team for the duration of the scheme; and AONB staff after LPS completion.</p> <p>6. AONB will ensure that the repaired sites are monitored and maintained through a combination of AONB core staff and trained path team volunteers. ORNI will ensure there is an annual survey submitted to AONB staff.</p>
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	<p>Volunteer teams to maintain path vegetation, ORNI volunteers to submit an annual survey. The AONB trail management team will coordinate vegetation clearance and respond to the ORNI survey through volunteering events and professional trails managers.</p>
Recommendations for further work	<p>Provide a trailhead at Camlough Lake.</p> <p>Provide further interpretation along the route, 42 sites have been identified for suitable interpretation.</p>

Project	4.1 Natural history and traditional countryside skills training
Theme	Encouraging healthy landscapes

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Budget	£ 12,000
Location	The training workshops will take place in locations throughout the RGLP area. The theoretical element may take place indoors and the practical element may be carried out with little or no transport requirements.
Plan Description	<p>The RGLP area provides the perfect outdoor classroom. Unfortunately, training courses in natural and built heritage are few and far between, with funding being sporadic and very short-term.</p> <p>There is a severe shortage of biodiversity recorders in the Ring of Gullion. It is hoped that this series of training workshops will provide participants with the skills and motivation to become more involved in recording the natural history that surrounds them.</p> <p>The Natural History training course will allow participants to attend a wide variety of training workshops covering everything from the geology of the uplands to liverworts and bats, as well as everything in between. Each workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in practical identification skills. They will also be encouraged to join The Ring of Gullion Volunteers, to continue organising and participating in group field trips. Participants will be encouraged to take part in survey work and report findings back to the relevant body.</p> <p>Traditional countryside skills and the natural history knowledge that goes with it, is in decline. Running parallel with the natural history training, this project will provide a</p>

	series of workshops which will offer local people to the Ring of Gullion the opportunity to learn traditional countryside skills; vital tools for the restoration and sustainability of our natural heritage.
Aims & Objectives	<p>It aims to provide participants with the skills necessary to identify, record and report the species found within the Ring of Gullion, as well as the skills required to encourage biodiversity to thrive by employing traditional countryside skills.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hosting a series of workshops which provide participants the basic identification skills needed to determine species or class 2. Encouraging participants to form part of a Natural Heritage field studies group 3. Providing information on where to report findings and address queries 4. Providing reference guides and recommended reading lists 5. Creating a network of attending participants, so they may continue to be involved in natural heritage events.
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>Publicity in local newspapers and on all the biodiversity network sites and training sites. Five one-day workshops per year, over three years, with approximately fifteen attendees at each.</p> <p>Workshops will be delivered by local experts, when available. Failing that the workshop will be provided by a provider in the ROI or in the UK.</p> <p>Participants will be provided with a reference guide of the most common species they are likely to find.</p> <p>Workshops will be charged at £20 per adult and £5 for children or unwaged.</p>

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Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools – teachers Schools - students and their families Community group People who live, work and visit the area		Landowners/farmers Conservation groups Media Recreation groups General public Natural historians		
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Workshops	5 workshops held	5 workshops held	5 workshops held	5 workshops held
Outcomes	An increased interest in the biodiversity of the Ring of Gullion, and Northern Ireland in general. Local people interested in ecology and the natural environment, encouraging a sense of pride and custodianship. Greater respect for our wildlife Interest in the area’s ecosystems and associated wildlife. People demonstrating a desire to report wildlife sightings.				
Integration with other measures	Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects: 1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation 2.6 Establish a community and heritage group networking forum 3.2 Wildlife safari 4.4 Volunteering and youth rangers programme Integrates locally and nationally with: The Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016 Newry and Mourne Local Biodiversity Action Plan NI Biodiversity Action Plan, NIEA Habitat and Species Action Plans				

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	Action For Biodiversity Project Invasive Ireland Initiative (NI and ROI project) NIEA Corporate Plan Issues identified through the NI Interdepartmental Working Group on wildfire East Border Region; Regional Biodiversity Framework DARD Rural Development Programme 2014-2020				
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	Ring of Gullion AONB project, Newry and Mourne District Council, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Northern Ireland Forest Service, National Trust, Ulster Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation, RSPB, Northern Ireland Bat Group, Field Studies Council				
Risk Appraisal	Potential risks are; <div>1. Low attendance at workshops</div> These risks will be mitigated by; <div>2. Publicity for both workshops and volunteer recruitment</div>				
Implementation Programme		Targets			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Publicity	•	•	•	•
	Workshops held	•	•	•	•
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail			Total
	Workshops held	Facilitator costs, venue hire, refreshments and materials			£12,000
		TOTAL			£12,000
		TARGETS			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Workshops held	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	NMDC Biodiversity officer and AONB core staff will assist in training workshops.				

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Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	RGLP staff will manage the project. Ring of Gullion AONB will deliver the wildfire project. RGLP staff will manage the volunteer teams.
Maintenance and Management Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This project or elements of this project will take place on Forest Service NI managed land subject to a licence agreement between Newry and Mourne District Council and Forest Service NI, as per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between NMDC and Forest Service in 2012. The MoU has a section clearly defining the responsibilities of each partner. 2. Promotion of this project will be the sole responsibility of Newry and Mourne District Council (or another organisation under direction from NMDC, subject to approval from Forest Service NI). 3. Management of the project sites under licence agreement from Forest Service NI will be according to agreed management structures defined in licence agreements.
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	AONB staff will manage volunteer teams when the LPS ends.
Recommendations for further work	Continued training events on each of the topics which proved to be of most interest to the groups.

Project	4.2 Community walking leader and heritage ambassador training
Theme	Making recreation sustainable
Budget	£ 15,800
Location	Training venues throughout the Ring of Gullion LP area
Plan Description	This project aims to hold a series of courses teaching people about how to walk safely in the hills, including what gear to wear and bring, etc. A number of participants will be trained to lead groups of walkers in the hills. This will

	<p>encourage people to get walking in the LP area. The training will enable trainees to deliver a successful walk programme.</p> <p>Walking In Your Community provides:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductory Community Walk Leader training 2. Insurance 3. Further training, including first aid and further navigation 4. Online forum & networking events. <p>Ring of Gullion Ambassador training will involve holding a number of training courses, including geology, natural heritage, culture, history, etc., to provide all the tools needed to become an ambassador for the Ring of Gullion. These workshops will be aimed at current tour providers, aspiring tour providers, and people in the tourism sector in the LP area. The Ring of Gullion Visitor Participation Survey has identified a need for people in the tourism sector to become Ring of Gullion Ambassadors.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>The aim of this project is to create a pool of people able to lead groups of walkers around the LP area. It also aims to increase the knowledge base for current and future tour guides, accommodation providers and tour operators in order for these groups to be able to promote the LP area to its full potential.</p> <p>This project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hosting Walking in your Community Training 2. Hosting training for Heritage Ambassadors.
Detailed Proposals and	<p>Outdoor recreation in partnership with the LPS will deliver the Walking in your Community Training. Consultants to</p>

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Specification	deliver the Ambassador training will be procured by competitive tender and the supplier will be managed by LP staff.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers Community groups People who live, work and visit the area Landowners/farmers Conservation groups Media Recreation groups	Historical groups General public People from the hospitality sector Geologists Archaeologists Natural historians Unemployed			
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Walking in Your Community training	12-15 people trained	12-15 people trained	12-15 people trained	12-15 people trained
	Ambassador training	20-25 people trained	20-25 people trained	20-25 people trained	20-25 people trained
Outcomes	A knowledgeable pool of people able to lead groups of walkers around the LP area. An increased knowledge for current and future tour guides, accommodation providers and tour operators. This will result in a better tourist experience and tour providers better able to exploit the landscape to its fullest potential in an environmentally sensitive manner.				
Integration with other measures	Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects; 1.3 Newry Canal project 2.1 Cultural heritage festivals 3.1 Ring dyke trail 3.2 Red squirrel safari 3.3 Camlough and Bessbrook heritage trails 3.6 Slieve Gullion forest park all-ability trails.				
Key Stakeholders	Outdoor Recreation NI, Recreation Groups in the LP area,				

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/ Consultees	Tour Guides in the LP area.				
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Not enough people get involved2. Low numbers of people participating3. Low interest in workshop topics. <p>These risks will be mitigated against by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Active engagement of the Community Outreach Officer, who will liaise with local groups2. Extensive publicity of the event, using a variety of media formats and interactive communications3. Hosting workshops in the more popular topics first and thus generating an organic interest in all heritage.				
Implementation Programme		Targets			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Walking in Your Community training	•	•	•	•
	Ambassador training	•	•	•	•
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail			Total
	Walking in Your Community leader training	Train 12-15 people in each of the four years – ORNI to provide training and insurance for successful trainees			£2,400
	Heritage ambassador training	Train 20-25 people in each of the four years			£13,400
		TOTAL			£15,800
	TARGETS				
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Walking in Your Community leader training	£600	£600	£600	£600
	Heritage ambassador training	£3,350	£3,350	£3,350	£3,350
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland to provide discounted rates.				
Delivery Roles and	Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland will provide community walking leader training. LP staff will coordinate ambassador				

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Responsibilities	training.
Maintenance and Management Implications	NA
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	A register of trained individuals will be updated annually. Guides will be able to take advantage of a 'Guides' page on the LPS website.
Recommendations for further work	Continue further training for guides in all aspects of the landscape. Provide Mountain Leader training in the Ring of Gullion.

Project	4.4 Historical coach tours
Theme	The story, the landscape
Budget	£7,640
Location	Start at Newry Museum and follow the Ring of Gullion historical coach tour route.
Plan Description	<p>A coach tour will be run each weekend in July and August. Tourists will be charged £6 per person with lunch provided. LPS will cover any shortfall in income to the coach provider and guide.</p> <p>One historical coach tour run each weekend in July and August. The legacy will be that the coach provider and guide will run the tours as a profitable business, new guides from the project can provide services if there is any increase in demand.</p>
Aims & Objectives	The aim of this project is to raise the awareness of the area's rich heritage and provide an opportunity for a new business to emerge. The project can also act as a training tool for new tour guides.

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	This project will deliver on these aims by: <div>1. Providing a fully guided coach tour on eight days each year during the lifetime of the LPS</div> <div>2. Providing each passenger with a brochure</div> <div>3. Training one new tour guide per year to guide coaches.</div>				
Detailed Proposals and Specification	Eight historical coach tours to run each June and July of the four years of the LPS. Each person will be charged £6 and this project assumes at least a 25% uptake. The LPS will fund any shortfall. It is hoped that this will stimulate private sector interest in running coach tours when the LPS ends. A brochure will be produced to accompany the tour.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Community groups People who live, work and visit the area Local tourists International tourists Recreation groups		Historical groups People tracing family roots General public People from the hospitality sector		
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Coach tours	Hold eight tours per year	Hold eight tours per year	Hold eight tours per year	Hold eight tours per year
	Brochure	Design and print brochure			
	Training	Train at least one new tour guide per year	Train at least one new tour guide per year	Train at least one new tour guide per year	Train at least one new tour guide per year
Outcomes	The outcomes of this project are that there will be a raised awareness of the area's rich heritage and an opportunity for a new business to emerge. The project will also trained 4 new tour guides for historical coach tours in the Ring of Gullion.				
Integration with other measures	Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP projects: 1.2 Know your townlands project				

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	2.1 Cultural heritage festival and historical revival				
	Integrates locally and nationally with: Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy NMDC Tourism Strategy.				
Key Stakeholders / Consultees	Community Groups, NMDC Museum, Southern Regional College (SRC)				
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No uptake for coach tours2. No uptake for training3. No response from the private sector after scheme completion. <p>These risks will be mitigated by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Publicising the events2. Liaising with SRC3. Ensuring LPS coach tours are a success and secure continued support for advertising after the scheme ends.				
Implementation Programme		Targets			
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Coach tours	•	•	•	•
	Brochure	•			
	Training	•	•		•
Finance Plan					
	Item	Detail		Total	
	Coach tours	Coach hire, guide hire		£5,730	
	Brochure	Design and print		£1,910	
	Training	This will be part of other tourism courses, a chance for trainees to get work experience		No cost to the scheme	
		TOTAL		£7,640	
	TARGETS				
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Coach tours	£1,432.5	£1,432.5	£1,432.5	£1,432.5
	Brochure	£1,910			
	Donations in Kind and Volunteer	Training from experienced coach tour guide.			

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Input	
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LP staff will coordinate the project and will be responsible for all advertising and ticketing.
Maintenance and Management Implications	Ring of Gullion core staff will provide advice, coordination, monitoring and practical help after the scheme ends.
Sustainability / Exit Strategy	At the end of the scheme a private tour operator will continue the tours with NMDC tourism staff assisting with advertising and ticket sales.
Recommendations for further work	Train guides for other tours of the Ring of Gullion.

Projects	4.5 Volunteering and Youth rangers programme, 4.6 Traditional Building skills training
Theme	Participating in the landscape
Budget	£ 67,000
Location	Throughout the Ring of Gullion Landscape Area.
Plan Description	<p>Gullion outreach and Volunteering</p> <p>A programme of volunteer activities will be carried out throughout the course of the LPS, coordinated by a Volunteer Officer. Volunteers feel a great deal of pride and ownership of the work that they have carried out. People reclaim the area as their own, acting as the eyes and ears protecting the LP area and making it better for everyone to enjoy.</p> <p>Volunteer wardens will assist the Ring of Gullion AONB management and various site managers well beyond the life</p>

	<p>of LPS. The work of the volunteers will have a wide impact as tasks will vary from restoring built heritage sites, to mapping wildfires, to cleaning invasive species or carrying out archaeological surveys. It is aimed that no matter what the interest, there will be an opportunity available to get involved.</p> <p>The LPS outreach officer will deliver an identified programme of outreach and volunteer engagement activities in the Ring of Gullion LP area. This will maximise local and visitor involvement in the scheme and improve the appreciation and understanding of the special landscape features of the area</p> <p>These posts will develop a detailed knowledge of the natural, built and cultural heritage attributes of the area and promote its special features; develop and coordinate the delivery of the volunteer programme for the area, including the development of a volunteer policy, skills and training workshops, and resource packs; develop, within identified themes, outreach activities and approaches to deliver the awareness raising aspects of the Landscape Partnership Scheme; engage with communities and other groups in order to identify interest in heritage issues and focus activity accordingly; arrange and oversee the Landscape Partnership Scheme events and workshops and attend other events, fairs, conferences, etc., to provide information on the Landscape Partnership Scheme and/or special qualities of the area.</p>
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There will be three volunteering programmes running alongside the natural heritage projects and these are:

Keep Gullion Clean

Living amongst litter greatly reduces people's quality of life and negatively impacts on everyone's health and well-being, particularly in areas with high levels of social deprivation. Increasing levels of litter also causes a decreased use of public spaces by residents. The "broken window" theory points to the idea that well maintained urban environments may stop further vandalism and the escalation of more serious crime.

Tourism and recreation is playing an increasingly important role in Northern Ireland's economy and high growth targets have been set. This project aims to have tourists and visitors leave South Armagh and Northern Ireland with a good impression, not a memory of dirty roads and litter left in the beauty spots they visited. The aim is for tourists and visitors to return and tell others to come as well.

Wildfire awareness and prevention

There has been a recent spate of fires on the mountains throughout the Ring of Gullion Landscape Area, indicating better management is required.

A survey will be undertaken to establish which areas are most likely to pose a threat. A survey will also detail how these potential fires will be controlled; for example access routes and natural fire breaks.

A programme of education will be developed and make audiences aware of the negative impact of wildfires. From this an educational programme for pupils will be established with the final output, a DVD, aimed at educating young people about the dangers of wildfires. This video will be uploaded online.

Staff members will develop strong links with local schools, community groups, landowners and NI Fire and Rescue Service.

A Wildfire Watch team will be established to monitor the area at the height of the 'at most risk' season, which is usually around April-June.

This will lead to a greater understanding of the affect of wildfires on heathland habitats, property, and the dangers of deliberately causing wildfires without informing NI Fire and Rescue Service.

Traditional Building skills

There are a number of Traditional Building skills that can be taught on Hawthorn House, this project will implement recommendations from the survey, please see appendices for full document.

Youth rangers

The youth rangers programme will mirror the volunteering and outreach programmes but will be tailored for under 18s.

	<p>Rangers will be trained in aspects of protected landscape management, basic first aid and navigation skills. There will be 10 youth rangers recruited each summer for a 4 week programme, resulting in 40 youth rangers trained in countryside management by the end of the scheme.</p>
Aims & Objectives	<p>The aims of this project are:</p> <p>To significantly reduce the amount of litter in the Ring of Gullion by establishing effective clean up teams in the area, and raising awareness of how the community can report litter and litterers to their local authority.</p> <p>To reduce the occurrence and size of uncontrolled wildfires through awareness raising, in order to prevent wildfires; encouraging informed controlled burning; and providing detailed information to NIFRS, to control wildfires.</p> <p>To build capacity in the local population to carry out conservation work.</p> <p>To inspire and build capacity in the area's young people to manage protected areas.</p> <p>To restore a section of wall at Slieve Gullion courtyard with traditional skills.</p> <p>The project will deliver on these aims by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing a volunteer workforce and a programme of events 2. Training community groups to enable them to organise and lead volunteer teams 3. Providing insurance, risk assessments and PPE for four community groups for the course of the LPS and over the ten-year maintenance period. 4. Organising community clean ups to tie in with national litter days, e.g. The Big Spring Clean 5. Delivering an identified programme of outreach and volunteer engagement activities in the Ring of Gullion LP 6. Establishing an annual youth rangers programme

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Providing skills training in traditional building skills at Slieve Gullion Courtyard8. Surveying landscape likely to pose a threat of wildfire and map access routes and natural fire breaks.9. Establishing a Wildfire Watch Team to operate during the driest months of the year.10. Producing a video to raise awareness of the dangers of wildfires.
Detailed Proposals and Specification	<p>A volunteer workforce will be built up from existing volunteers and continued networks by LPS and AONB staff. A programme of events will be circulated, each event will be based on the needs of the LPS and other projects involved in this project.</p> <p>The scheme will deliver an identified programme of outreach and volunteer engagement activities in the Ring of Gullion LP. The project will run at least 10 volunteering days per month with at least 10 volunteers resulting in 1200 days per annum.</p> <p>Volunteers will be given the opportunity to learn many new skills in heritage conservation, including traditional building skills at Hawthorn house. The communities will benefit in many ways, including enhanced litter patrols. One litter training workshop will be delivered in each of the four years of the programme. The participants will be given training on leading a group of volunteers, managing risk safely, how to write risk assessments, and the correct use of personal protective equipment. This will expand on the work already being done by NMDC.</p>

	<p>This event will serve to train both in house staff and community volunteers; however, as new volunteers join the project the training will be facilitated by the ROGLP Outreach and Engagement Officer and the ROGLP Volunteer Coordinator.</p> <p>A wildfire survey will be developed using the knowledge and expertise of consultants.</p> <p>The LPS Volunteer Coordinator will run training for volunteers on how to carry out the wildfire survey. An annual report will be completed and submitted to the NIEA Wildfire Forum members.</p> <p>A site survey route will be established for the Wildfire Watch Team to patrol during the height of the 'at most risk' fire season, and training will be given on what to do in the event of a wildfire.</p> <p>A collaborative video will be produced from the local secondary schools and Southern Regional College Students. The final video will be used to educate and will be hosted on the LPS website.</p> <p>The project will establish an annual youth rangers programme, this will mirror the work of the volunteers but will be tailored for under 18s. In addition to the conservation skills, first aid and navigation training will be given as part of the programme.</p> <p>Insurance will be provided for the community groups</p>
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	through the LPS.				
Beneficiaries / Key audiences	Schools - teachers		Recreation groups		
	Schools - students and their families		General public		
	Community groups		Natural historians		
	People who live, work and visit the area		Unemployed		
	Conservation groups		Youth groups		
	Media		Business in the community groups		
Monitoring & Evaluation Criteria		Targets			
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Volunteering, outreach and training	Run at least 10 volunteering days per month	Run at least 10 volunteering days per month	Run at least 10 volunteering days per month	Run at least 10 volunteering days per month
	National events organised for the community	Big Spring Clean and at least one other event	Big Spring Clean and at least one other event	Big Spring Clean and at least one other event	Big Spring Clean and at least one other event
	Publicity	Events advertised on Five FM, websites, social media and articles submitted to local press.	Events advertised on Five FM, websites, social media and articles submitted to local press.	Events advertised on Five FM, websites, social media and articles submitted to local press.	Events advertised on Five FM, websites, social media and articles submitted to local press.
	Youth rangers programme	Recruit and train at least 10 youth rangers	Recruit and train at least 10 youth rangers	Recruit and train at least 10 youth rangers	Recruit and train at least 10 youth rangers
	Traditional building skills	Run a training event with at least eight trainees	Run a training event with at least eight trainees	Run a training event with at least eight trainees	Run a training event with at least eight trainees
	Wildfire Survey developed	Consultant appointed and survey developed			
	Wildfire Volunteer team established and training hosted	First training hosted with at least 2 volunteers	Survey carried out	Survey carried out	Survey carried out
	Wildfire Watch team and patrol route established	Wildfire team set up and trained with at least 5 volunteers	Wildfire team patrol route	Wildfire team patrol route	Wildfire team patrol route
	Schools chosen to produce video and produced		Video produced and promoted		

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

Outcomes	<p>Volunteers involved in delivering many practical elements of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.</p> <p>Volunteers successfully integrated with partners' volunteering programmes.</p> <p>Trained and motivated groups of individuals who warden the area to protect against wildfires spreading out of control.</p> <p>Litter managed at a community level and a report of how much and what types of litter collected and mapped together with NMDC litter teams.</p> <p>A section of wall rebuilt with traditional building skills.</p>
Integration with other measures	<p>Integrates with other Ring of Gullion LCAP Projects:</p> <p>1.1 Habitat protection, restoration and creation</p> <p>1.4 Restore Slieve Gullion Cairn</p> <p>4.2 Natural history and traditional countryside skills training.</p> <p>Integrates locally and national with:</p> <p>The Ring of Gullion AONB Management Action Plan 2011-2016</p> <p>Newry and Mourne Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>NI Biodiversity Action Plan, NIEA Habitat and Species Action Plans</p> <p>Action For Biodiversity Project</p> <p>Invasive Ireland Initiative (NI and ROI project)</p> <p>NIEA Corporate Plan</p> <p>Issues identified through the NI Interdepartmental Working Group on wildfire</p> <p>East Border Region; Regional Biodiversity Framework</p> <p>DARD Rural Development Programme 2014-2020</p> <p>Newry and Mourne Litter Strategy.</p>
Key Stakeholders	Ring of Gullion AONB project, Newry and Mourne District

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

/ Consultees	Council, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Northern Ireland Forest Service, National Trust, Ulster Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation, RSPB, Northern Ireland Bat Group, Field Studies Council			
Risk Appraisal	<p>Potential risks are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not enough people get involved. 2. Low interest in event topics <p>These risks will be mitigated against by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active engagement of the Community Outreach Officer, who will liaise with local groups 2. Start with the most exciting and interesting volunteering activities to build up a bank of volunteers. 			
Implementation Programme		Targets		
	Task/Milestone	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17
	Youth rangers programme	•	•	•
	Traditional building skills	•	•	•
	Wildfire Survey developed	•		
	Wildfire Volunteer team established and training hosted	•	•	•
	Wildfire Watch team and patrol route established	•	•	•
	Schools chosen to produce video, and video produced		•	
	Volunteering, outreach and training	•	•	•
	National events organised for the community	•	•	•
	Publicity	•	•	•
Finance Plan				
	Item	Detail	Total	
	Volunteering	Volunteering and outreach events, youth ranger programme including all equipment to carry out the tasks	£36,000	
	Wildfire programme	Training, ranger group set up and video/promotional material	£4,500	
	Traditional building skills	Trainers and materials	£26,500	

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	Total		£67,000		
	TARGETS				
	Output/Measure	Year 1 Sep 2014-15	Year 2 Sep 2015-16	Year 3 Sep 2016-17	Year 4 Sep 2017-18
	Volunteering	£9,000	£9,000	£9,000	£9,000
	Wildfire programme	£2,000	£2,500		
	Traditional building skills		£7,500	£9,500	£9,500
Donations in Kind and Volunteer Input	<p>Mourne Heritage Trust to give advice and detail on wildfire survey techniques</p> <p>NIFRS to help with training guidance for wildfire watch volunteers</p> <p>NMDC Biodiversity Officer, Ring of Gullion AONB Officer and NMDC Parks department to hold workshops. Clanrye Group trainees will assist with traditional building skills.</p> <p>Geotourism and AONB Volunteers will work on volunteering events.</p>				
Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	LP staff will coordinate the running of the projects				
Maintenance and Management Implications	<p>1. This project or elements of this project will take place on Forest Service NI managed land subject to a licence agreement between Newry and Mourne District Council and Forest Service NI, as per a Memorandum of Understanding signed between NMDC and Forest Service in 2012. The MoU has a section clearly defining the responsibilities of each partner.</p> <p>2. Promotion of this project will be the sole responsibility of Newry and Mourne District Council (or another organisation under direction from NMDC, subject to approval from Forest Service NI).</p> <p>3. Management of the project sites under licence agreement from Forest Service NI will be according to agreed management structures defined in licence agreements.</p>				

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

Sustainability / Exit Strategy	Ring of Gullion AONB staff will ensure a programme of events into the future and will liaise with the NIWRF and wildfire team. Volunteers will be trained to lead teams.
Recommendations for further work	A full fire risk survey carried out in the Ring of Gullion to best inform management how to prevent uncontrolled wildfires. A fully funded volunteer programme implemented in the Ring of Gullion AONB.

Summary of Programme A costs

Programme A: Conservation of built and natural heritage			
Cost heading	Description	Proposed total (£)	Actual Total (£)
Delivering outcomes to the built and natural heritage	Projects 1.1 – 1.5	305,000	161,420
In Kind	See project sheets for contribution	23,000	23,000
Volunteer time	See project sheets for volunteer time	10,500	10,500
Increased 10 year maintenance budget		3,000	10,000
Total costs		£341,500	£204,920

Summary of Programme B costs

Programme B: Community Participation			
Cost heading	Description	Proposed total (£)	Actual Total (£)
Delivering the outcomes for Community Participation	Projects 2.1 – 2.8	105,000	104,075
In Kind	See project sheets for contribution	9,500	9,500
Volunteer time	See project sheets for volunteer time	10,000	10,000

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

Increased 10 year maintenance budget		5,000	10,000
Total costs		£129,500	£133,575

Summary of Programme C costs

Programme 3: Access and learning			
Cost heading	Description	Proposed total (£)	Actual Total (£)
Delivering the outcomes for Access and Learning	Projects 3.1 – 3.5	115,000	288,570
In Kind	See project sheets for contribution	12,500	12,500
Volunteer time	See project sheets for volunteer time		10,500
Increased 10 year maintenance budget		2,000	10,000
Total costs		£129,500	£321,570

Summary of Programme D costs

Programme 4: Heritage skills and training			
Cost heading	Description	Proposed total (£)	Actual Total (£)
Delivering the outcomes for Heritage skills and training	Projects 4.1 – 4.5	175,000	102,940
In Kind	See project sheets for contribution	8,000	8,000
Volunteer time	See project sheets for volunteer time	3,000	3,000
Increased 10 year maintenance budget			10,000
Total costs		£186,000	£123,940

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

Programme E costs

The scheme will employ a full time Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager, a full time Landscape Projects Officer, a full time Outreach and Volunteer Officer and a part time Administration and Finance Officer. See Appendix C for a full copy of the job descriptions of each of the positions. Newry and Mourne DC HR department will carry out the recruitment process as per NMDC policy. Overheads will cover the running costs of the scheme and the scheme staff will be located in the newly refurbished Crossmaglen Community Centre.

The evaluation and monitoring costs will contribute to the strategic direction of the scheme and will be essential in ensuring that effective exit strategies and recommendations are in place for the continuation of the ethos of the scheme.

Programme E – Overheads, Scheme Staff and Running Costs			
Cost heading	Description	Proposed total (£)	Actual Total (£)
Salary and wages	Manager, Projects Officer, Volunteer and Outreach Officer and Finance and admin Officer – Salary plus 27%	370,000	460,000
Recruitment	Advertising	0	5,000
Overheads	Rents/rates, electricity, telephones, mobiles, broadband, insurance	70,000	24,000
Office/equipment	Stationary, mobiles and other supplies	0	9,500
Travel and subsistence	Travel and subsistence	0	16,400
Staff training	Staff training	0	2,000
Consultancy and professional	Scoping studies and workshop facilitation, website	20,000	65,340

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

	design and maintenance		
Audit - evaluation and monitoring	Annual monitoring and reporting, mid-term and post project evaluation	25,000	7,380
In-kind contributions		38,000	38,000
Volunteer time		10,500	10,500
TOTAL		£533,500	£638,120

Summary of Stage 2 delivery costs for the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme

LPS programme	Proposed total	Actual Cost	Total
Programme A	341,500	204,920	
Programme B	129,500	133,575	
Programme C	129,500	321,570	
Programme D	186,000	123,940	
Programme E	533,500	638,120	
Total	1,320,000	1,422,125	
HLF Grant	£980,000 (74%)	£980,000 (69%)	

Stage 2 delivery income

As lead partner, Newry and Mourne District Council have been offered an HLF grant of £980,000 for the Ring of Gullion LPS. The match funding required, both via in kind and cash contribution, to secure the Stage 2 implementation phase, is £402,125 over four years, with £144,125 for year one.

The LPS, through NMDC, has secured funding from the NIEA Natural Heritage Grant Programme for the duration of the LPS to implement the LPS LCAP. See Appendix C for a copy of the Letter of Offer.

The LPS has secured funding from its lead partner Newry and Mourne DC, for Year 1 projects in the LPS. The Council is contributing £19,500 in year one with

Section 5 - Scheme Projects and Costs

and a commitment to give the LPS high priority for years 2, 3 and 4. With these contributions, The Ring of Gullion LPS is in a position to begin implementation, as match funding for core and projects has been confirmed for year one. See appendices for a copy of the four Council's confirmation of funding.

Section 6 - Sustainability

Introduction

This section provides details on the sustainability of projects within the delivery programmes, how the Partnership will be enhanced and able to continue its work, the exit strategy for the scheme and the staff structure of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

It is important that the benefits of a scheme can be sustained in the longer term to protect the investments already made. It is important that this LPS prepares the foundations upon which the local community can build. This LPS will create a sustainable legacy for a landscape and its people by building capacity and infrastructure.

Maintaining benefits and key activities

The legacy of skills (natural and built heritage conservation, surveying, practical heritage skills, etc) within the local community as a result of the LPS will ensure local involvement. The volunteers' involvement in delivering and maintaining the scheme through a variety of projects is a key element in securing the long-term sustainability of the scheme. The Heritage Networking Forum is a key project for engaging the local community in decision making about their heritage and will have a lasting legacy.

This scheme provides a strong element for encouraging, organising, training and enthusing volunteers, and for strengthening the network of community and voluntary organisations. This will ensure there is a strong contribution during the four-year scheme and long after it ends.

The Ring of Gullion AONB receives core funding from the existing partners, which is likely to remain relatively stable. The Ring of Gullion will also have a

greater public profile and have a greater track record in programme implementation. Therefore, there are opportunities that might develop over the scheme towards an evolving exit strategy.

Key sustainability and exit strategy outcomes have been outlined in each of the pro formas. Together with regular monitoring and review, aims and objectives will be met and the handover of projects to the relevant team at the end of the four years will be more effective.

Completed projects

A number of projects will be complete before the end of the LPS period. Despite these projects being finished, they will be carried into the wider work of the AONB. Furthermore, with the Ring of Gullion AONB receiving funding for protected area management, it may be possible to repeat projects within the region in future years or enhance such projects to offer a further dimension. Recommendations for further work have been detailed in Section 5.

The support and ongoing existence of the AONB management team will also be essential to the long-term sustainability of the projects. During the duration of the scheme, we will look for funding opportunities to enable us to retain key officers who will be integrated into the existing Ring of Gullion AONB team.

, , As the Lead Partner, Newry and Mourne District Council will be accountable for managing the 10-year maintenance and monitoring period following the end of the four-year implementation phase. This responsibility will largely include working with the AONB manager to ensure the projects are sustained; the budgets for these projects have been included in our project costs. The access improvements will fall under the remit of the Newry and Mourne District Council PROW Officer, the AONB Officer and Outdoor Recreation NI. The AONB team will be responsible for monitoring and maintenance. This will ensure that the access routes are open and accessible. The AONB team will undertake

responsibility for the monitoring and maintenance of other projects funded by the scheme, unless detailed otherwise in Section 5. However, the Ring of Gullion Partnership Board realise that the HLF funding is a springboard to more funding; other projects will continue on the legacy of the Landscape Partnership Scheme resulting in ongoing growth and development which will result in a sustainable legacy for our landscape and its people.

Learning from the scheme

The Ring of Gullion LPS activity, together with the evaluations outlined in Section 7, will deliver significant learning about heritage conservation activity as well as the actual heritage itself. The scheme will deliver a wide range of publications available on the Ring of Gullion Website and through the council's Visitor Information Centres (VICs), which will continue to distribute appropriate literature and learning to visitors. Throughout the project, VICs and other council staff will be involved in awareness sessions in order for them to fully facilitate learning from the LPS.

All monitoring and evaluation records will be available online, allowing public access to accurate records. Regular monitoring, updating and evaluation of the scheme will allow its partners to develop their capacity for working in the Ring of Gullion.

The scheme will set out to promote public services in various ways. There will be publications and exhibitions, radio adverts and interviews, press releases and social media campaigns as well as a regularly updated website.

The scheme's projects will be recorded and monitored in a number of different ways depending on the needs of the audiences and the outcomes. Recording will include photographic, audio-visual and documentary evidence of outputs and activities. All this material will be particularly important to sustain the outputs of

our projects and use what has been learned to improve practice. Video and stills will be used to generate interest for events, and publicise the scheme. All material will be available on www.ringofgullion.org.

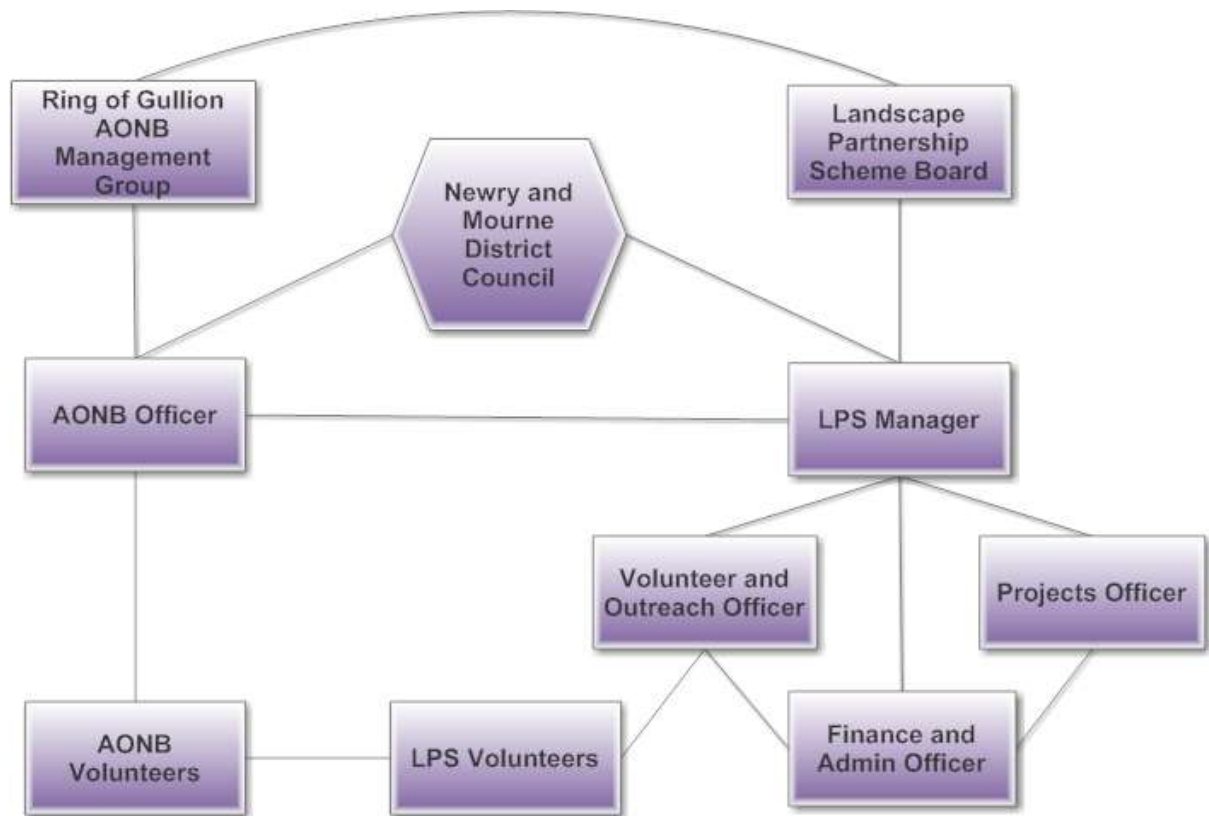
A management and maintenance budget will be set aside for future use as and when necessary. The scheme will begin implementing this budget from Year 5, beginning in 2018 and lasting over a 10-year period. This sustainable approach will ensure the continuation of the scheme after the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Changes within the organisation

With the creation of the Ring of Gullion LPS and with new staff members a new managerial structure will be in place. The new management structure will operate in close partnership with the AONB management team and will adhere to the aims and objectives set out in Section 4.

New management structure and new posts

The following diagram demonstrates the new management structure. As you will see from the structure, there is a strong link between the Ring of Gullion LPS team, the AONB team, both boards and Newry and Mourne District Council.



The LPS Board will meet three times a year in order to monitor, direct and when appropriate facilitate the delivery of the Ring of Gullion LCAP. Professionals and expert advisors from relevant organisations, landowners and community representatives will be consulted from time to time when needed in the interests of the LP.

Organisations from the LP Board will form fluid working groups when required in order to direct and steer the development of individual programmes. They will reflect the nature of the projects and be competent for the delivery of different projects. The LPS manager will facilitate effective communication between LP staff, working groups, funders and the Board.

Three and a half posts will be employed over the four-year period of the scheme. In order to efficiently and adequately sustain the running of the scheme it is essential that the following employment positions are implemented:

- Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager - will oversee the implementation and management of the Ring of Gullion LPS. The Landscape Partnership Projects Officer, the Volunteer and Outreach Officer and the Finance and Administration Officer will work under the day-to-day line management and direction of the LPS Manager.
- Landscape Partnership Projects Officer - will be responsible for successfully carrying out the Ring of Gullion's Landscape Partnership's practical projects and for liaising on practical and funding issues with relevant staff in partner organisations. This post will also engage with key stakeholders and landowners in order to identify and implement planned measures and agree project solutions.
- Outreach and Volunteer Officer - will lead in the successful delivery of outreach and volunteer engagement activities in the Ring of Gullion LPS in order to maximise involvement in the scheme and to improve the appreciation and understanding of the special landscape features of the area.
- Administration & Finance Officer - will assist in the development and delivery of the Ring of Gullion LPS providing administrative support to the LPS Manager, Landscape Projects Officer, Volunteer and Outreach Officer, LPS Steering Group, LPS Sub-Committees and Partners. This post will also have responsibility for day-to-day clerical and financial management.

These job positions will help contribute to economic benefits as the scheme allows for new job opportunities. In keeping with the aims and objectives, high-

quality training will be implemented in order to support local groups and societies. Please see the appendices for a full list of the job descriptions.

Partnership Structure sustainability

It's important that strong partnerships are established during the LPS to ensure a long lasting legacy. The partners have a real stake in the Ring of Gullion and are committed to delivering the LCAP as well as being involved in other projects in the Ring of Gullion. Some partners are involved with the AONB Board, others the Slieve Gullion Management Group and others form fluid working groups when opportunities arise. There is regular engagement between all the partners and the local community. The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership facilitates increased collaboration and provides opportunities for groups and individuals to come together and work on projects.

Partners have agreed in making the Ring of Gullion a high priority and in delivering the LCAP. Partners will work within the Partnership Agreement. Please see the appendices for a copy of the Partnership Agreement.

Section 7 - Evaluation and Monitoring

Introduction

The following section provides a framework on how the Ring of Gullion LPS will measure and evaluate the success of the scheme. Monitoring will be conducted by project staff using the milestones associated with each project, identified in Section 5. Monitoring will involve quantitative information, such as budgets, deadlines and targets met, and will also consider qualitative information, such as if the project is running smoothly and if people involved are satisfied. Correct monitoring will ensure more accurate project evaluation and will also give a basis to make decisions on how the project should go forward and on what changes should be made along the way if something isn't going well.

Monitoring progress

The main purpose of monitoring the projects of the Ring of Gullion LPS is:

1. To ensure accountability and value for money – Demonstrating to partners and funders that money is being spent correctly in order to deliver agreed outputs. The projects will need to be monitored regularly to collect this information.
2. To check the project's progress against the original plans - Monitoring the scheme on a monthly, quarterly and yearly basis to check whether the scheme is still on course to achieve agreed goals will prevent the scheme staff losing sight of the overall aims and objectives. It will also help keep an eye on whether timescales and budgets are being kept to.
3. To learn from our experiences - Proper monitoring and evaluation of projects will enable staff to see what has and what hasn't worked well. This information can be used to improve future projects or funding applications.

Section 7 - Evaluation and Monitoring

4. To motivate staff and volunteers - Showing volunteers and staff real, concrete evidence of the impact their hard work has had will make them feel confident. It can also encourage them to continue working with the scheme and its partners, or to take on new sustainability projects.

Monitoring outputs

In the guidance document 'Evaluating Your HLF Project' advice on monitoring and reporting is clearly made. The Partnership intends to adopt this guidance. However, the qualitative side is important too. Are the expectations of the people involved in your project being met? What would they like to see done better? The project partners, staff and volunteers will collect, analyse and report on the following to ensure effective monitoring. These will be outlined to each of the working groups and to the Ring of Gullion Partnership Board:

1. The Ring of Gullion LCAP and the yearly updates, taking timetables, budgets and milestones as the main reference points
2. HLF progress reports
3. Papers and minutes of meetings
4. Diaries, timesheets and volunteering recording
5. Financial data, showing cash flow and budgets
6. Procurement records, showing all transactions and invoices
7. Staff records, demonstrating on-going management and appraisal of all staff posts
8. Newsletters and press cuttings
9. A copy of products of interpretation and other awareness-raising materials
10. A photographic record of 'before', 'during' and 'after' project work and a collection of any video material produced.

The following table illustrates the type of activities and outputs that will be monitored during the scheme. These will also be qualitatively monitored during the LPS lifetime.

Section 7 - Evaluation and Monitoring

Conserve and restore	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Number of natural heritage sites protected, restored or created- Number of built heritage sites protected or restored- Number of sites surveyed
Community participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Number of cultural events hosted- Number of multimedia content archived- Number of schools participating in the LPS- Number of museum events- Number of networking forums held- Footfall in artists' workshop, and online shop- Number of sites interpreted and signed
Access and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kilometres of new access routes created or restored- Number of trails with enhanced interpretation
Heritage skills and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Number of people trained- Number of volunteer days/hours- Number of participants on built heritage training

Evaluating success and sharing results

With the information gathered and monitored during the life of the projects and at the end of the implementation stage, the Ring of Gullion LPS will be in a position to report and evaluate the Project Outcomes, which have been identified per project in Section 5. This will be an analysis of the difference the projects have made to the heritage landscape, its people and to the Partnership.

Section 7 - Evaluation and Monitoring

At the end of the project the following two feedback components will be supplied to the HLF and our partners:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation Pro-Forma Report (or Summative Evaluation)
 - quantitative and qualitative, comparing aspirations first laid out in our application. A final 10% of our grant will be retained by HLF until this has been sent.
2. Evaluation Questionnaire - this will be sent by HLF within one year of the completion of our project. Information given will include the number of activities undertaken, the number of visitors we have received (when appropriate), and the amount of training or volunteer involvement.

To ensure that the successes, failures and lessons learnt are shared with other organisations and the public, a completion report will be produced that will be made publicly available. Partnership staff will offer support and advice to similar organisations as required. The evaluation report and other information will be available on the Ring of Gullion LPS and partners' websites.

Section 8 - Adoption and Review

The Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) was adopted by the Ring of Gullion Partnership Board at its final board meeting prior to submission to the HLF. Please refer to the appendices for a copy of the Partnership Board minutes held on 10th January 2014. The LCAP will be reviewed annually by the Partnership Board, the board will also continue to have an input in its implementation.

The Scheme Manager and the Partnership Board will be responsible for making sure the document is implemented effectively. They will ensure that the delivery phase is implemented as prescribed in the LCAP and that local authorities, statutory bodies and other organisations use the LCAP when making their decisions and plans for the future. Furthermore, the Landscape Partnership will work with local communities so that they use the document when making decisions about heritage.

Copies of the LCAP will be held by all partner organisations.

The LCAP will also be uploaded onto the new Ring of Gullion website and the Lead Partner's website. This will be made available for download as the Partnership has always adopted an open approach to availability.

Acknowledgements

The Ring of Gullion Landscape Conservation Action Plan is a product of contributions from many individuals and organisations, thanks to them all. The Ring of Gullion Partnership Board provided advice and support throughout the process and special thanks must go to all members for their help and guidance. Special thanks must also go to the photographers who contributed images to this document.

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- The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund;
- The Northern Ireland Environment Agency: an Agency within the Department of the Environment;
- Newry and Mourne District Council;
- European Union: European Regional Development Fund Investing in your future through the Ireland/Northern Ireland Interreg IVA Programme managed for the SEUPB by the East Border Region Interreg IIIA Partnership.