

# Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for South Armagh June 2017

Prepared by Outdoor Recreation NI  
on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District  
Council and Ring of Gullion Partnership



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## FOREWORD

Please note that this report is not an exhaustive list of all current outdoor recreation within the South Armagh area. The results recorded are based on the information received through consultation with various organisations and local groups. Although every endeavour has been taken to ensure accuracy in mapping, some trails, sites, public land and activities may appear under-represented due to a lack of feedback or limited response.

This report and Action Plan however does provide a comprehensive picture of the status of current outdoor recreation and opportunities for future development which are incorporated into the final Action Plan.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was commissioned by Newry Mourne and Down District Council (hereafter known as 'the Council') through the Ring of Gullion Partnership (ROGP) to develop an Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for South Armagh.

## 2. BACKGROUND

As stated in the project specification, the Ring of Gullion and the South Armagh area is lacking in recreation and access-related strategies compared to other parts of the Council area. Over the last few years a small community of outdoor recreation providers have developed and there is also a lot of potential for the development of new activities.

This study has been commissioned to:

- ensure that the area can maximise on the Council's plans to become the Outdoor Recreation Capital of Ireland
- spearhead action in the area to fit in with wider strategies
- recommend where notable investment in activity products should take place which would also be marketable for tourism
- assist the Council to deliver actions within the 'Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland – Our Great Outdoors' (2014) i.e.
  - Action 2C 'Ensure that full account is taken of outdoor recreation in any Management Plan for each AONB' – in this case the Ring of Gullion AONB Action Plan 2017 -2020
  - Action 3A 'Audit current hubs for outdoor recreation and identify geographical gaps and mechanisms to develop access and opportunities'

## 3. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this Plan is:

'To prepare a framework for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities within the Ring of Gullion AONB and South Armagh region, accommodating both the needs of the local community and those visiting the area'.

In order to achieve the aim, ORNI was required to creatively engage with the outdoor recreation community to:

- Detail and GIS map the nature and extent of current outdoor recreation provision in the Ring of Gullion and South Armagh
- Identify the future opportunities for outdoor recreation in the Ring of Gullion and South Armagh
- Produce a 10-year Action Plan outlining delivery partners.

## 4. SCOPE

### 4.1 Study boundary

The study is defined as the Slieve Gullion DEA and the Ward of Fathom (See Figure 1). The area measures approximately 39,691 hectares and located within the jurisdiction of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.



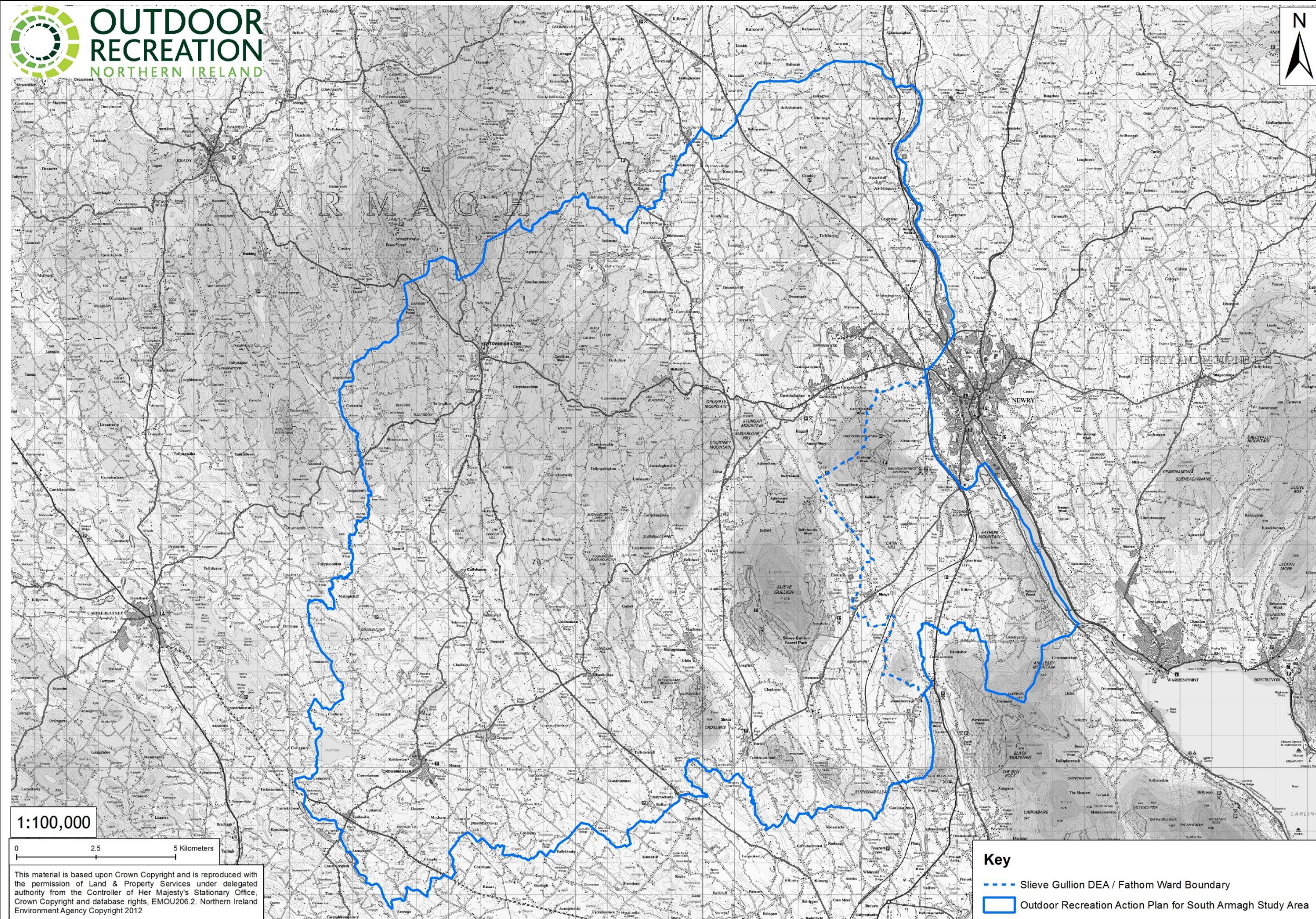


Figure 1: Study Area Boundary



## 4.2 Outdoor recreation activities

The following activities are covered within the scope of the study<sup>1</sup>. These activities are all dependent on sustainable access to the natural environment. In order to remain consistent with other outdoor recreation action plans developed within Northern Ireland, golf and hunting are not included.

Activities Covered		
Land	Water	Air
Adventure Racing	Angling	Aero-modelling
Archery	Boat charter & cruising	Gliding
Blokarting	Boat Trips	Hang Gliding/Paragliding
Bush Craft	Canoeing (including Kayaking and Slalom)	Micro-light Flying
Caving	Coasteering	Sky Diving / Parachuting
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Diving	
Climbing	Hovercrafting	
Cycling (On- and Off-Road)	Kite Surfing	
Fell Running	Jet – Skiing	
High Ropes/Ziplines	Rowing	
Horse riding	Sailing	
Kite Buggy	Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP)	
Mountain biking	Surfing	
Orienteering	Waterskiing/Wakeboarding	
Paintball & Combat	Windsurfing	
Rally & Off Road 4x4 Driving Schools		
Segway		
Walking		
Zorbing		

Table 1: Activities covered under the scope of the study

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<sup>1</sup> These activities were chosen as they are listed on OutdoorNI.com – the definitive guide to outdoor activities in Northern Ireland. This scope of activities has been utilised in the development of Outdoor Recreation Action Plans in other areas of Northern Ireland. It is recognised the ongoing development of outdoor recreation means this list is constantly evolving, therefore the study will reflect additional relevant activities as required.

The audit took into consideration both formal and information activities, the definition of which can be seen in Table 2.

	<b>Formal</b>	<b>Informal</b>
<b>Walking</b>	Route signage in place and /or Interpretation panels present and / or Land manager encourage this activity	No route signage in place and /or No interpretation panels present and /or Land manager does not encourage this activity
<b>Cycling</b>	Route signage in place and /or Interpretation panels present and /or Land manager encourages this activity	No route signage in place and /or No interpretation panels present and /or Land manager does not encourage this activity
<b>Canoeing</b>	Part of a canoe trail and / or Formal access and egress and / or Land manager encourages this activity	Not part of a canoe trail and / or No formal access and egress and / or Land manager does not encourage this activity
<b>All other land based activities</b>	Formal facilities in place and / or Land manager encourages this activity	No formal facilities in place and / or Land manager does not encourage this activity
<b>All other water based activities</b>	Formal facilities in place and / or Land manager encourages this activity	No formal facilities in place and / or Land manager does not encourage this activity
<b>All other air based activities</b>	Formal facilities in place and / or Land manager encourages this activity	No formal facilities in place and / or Land manager does not encourage this activity

Table 2: Definition of formal and informal recreation

## 5. METHODOLOGY

This study was completed using the methodology outlined below:

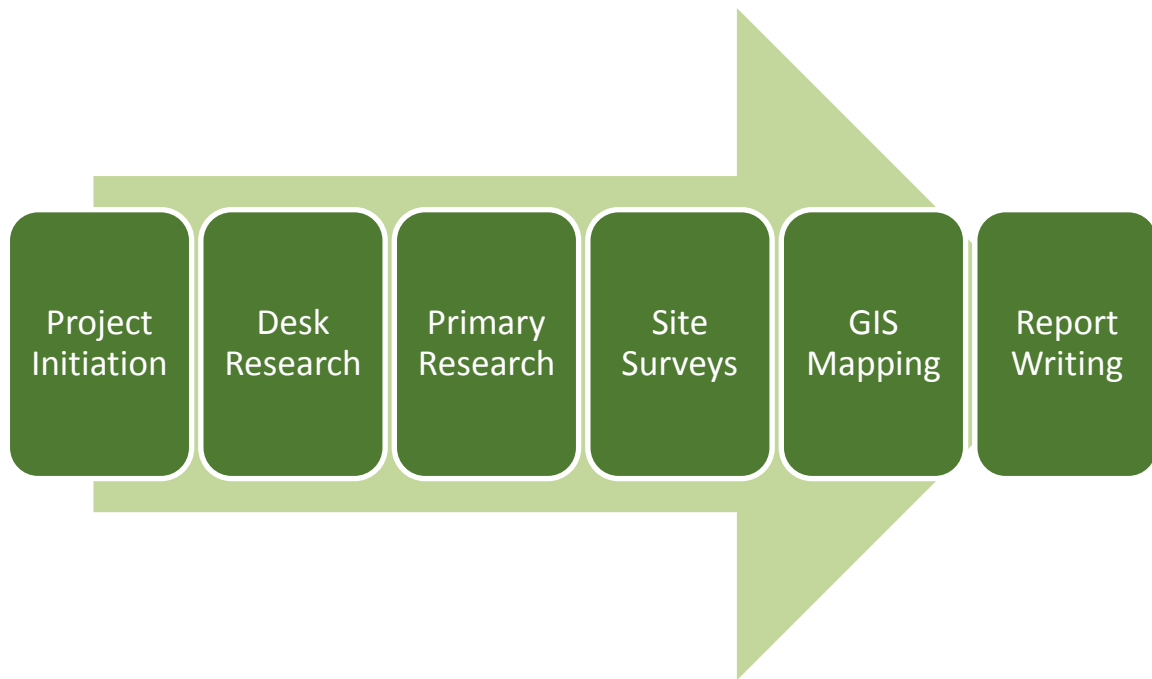


Figure 2: Methodology Overview

A further detailed breakdown of the methodology is available in Appendix 1 – Methodology

## 6. CONTEXT

This section outlines the context of the audit and how it fits with other relevant plans and strategies written at a strategic, regional and local level.

### 6.1 Strategic Context

#### **Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021**

The Draft Programme for Government (PfG) 2016 – 2021 concluded its public consultation on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016. It is noted that at the time of writing the Northern Ireland Assembly has not formed an Executive following a General Election on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, therefore the outcome of this Draft Programme for Government is uncertain.

In due course, the Programme for Government Framework will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and an Anti-Poverty/Social Strategy. The Programme will also inform the development of the Executive's budget over the course of this mandate and provide a mechanism for ensuring limited funds are best directed to where they can contribute most.

The Draft Framework contains 14 strategic outcomes which, taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing. They touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and building confident and peaceful communities. In addition to merely fulfilling statutory obligations, the new Executive hopes to be able to target those things that make real improvements to the quality of life for the citizen.

An Outdoor Recreation Action Plan will aid in the delivery of the following outcomes:

- Outcome 3: We have a more equal society
- Outcome 4: We enjoy long, healthy, active lives
- Outcome 11: We have high quality public services
- Outcome 12: We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest
- Outcome 13: We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure
- Outcome 14: We give our children and young people the best start in life

The strategic outcomes are supported by 48 indicators, which are clear statements for change. The following indicators are of relevance to the proposed Outdoor Recreation Action Plan:

- Indicator 2. Reduce health inequality
- Indicator 3. Increase healthy life expectancy
- Indicator 6. Improve mental health
- Indicator 30. Improve our attractiveness as a destination
- Indicator 42. Increase quality of life for people with disabilities

Key to the success of the new PfG is the ability of Departments to work collaboratively with not only themselves but also with other public bodies, the voluntary and private sector.



## **Regional Development Strategy for N. Ireland 2035 (Department of Regional Development, 2010)**

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) for Northern Ireland to 2035, published in 2010 by the Department of Regional Development, is the spatial strategy for the Northern Ireland Executive and takes account of key driving forces such as population growth, the increasing number of households, transportation needs, economic changes and the spatial implications of a divided society. It seeks to inform and guide the whole community in the drive to create a dynamic, prosperous and progressive Northern Ireland in the third millennium.

Several key aims of the RDS are applicable to this Action Plan.

One of the aims of the RDS is to 'Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential', rural areas including towns and villages have a key role in supporting economic growth. They offer opportunities in terms of their potential for growth in new sectors, the provision of rural recreation and tourism, their attractiveness as places to invest, live and work, and their role as a reservoir of natural resources and highly valued landscapes.

Additionally, another aim is to 'Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities.' A healthy community is better able to take advantage of the economic, social and environmental opportunities which are open to it. Improved health and well-being is derived not only from easy access to appropriate services and facilities, although this is important, but also from the creation of a strong economy set within a safe and attractive environment. The provision of more social and affordable housing also helps to build strong balanced communities.

The Spatial Framework identified within the RDS for Northern Ireland identifies the Ring of Gullion as a Strategic Natural Resource.

The development of recreation activities and access opportunities within the study area responds to the Spatial Development strategies within the RDS on the following:

RG4: Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of tourism infrastructure

- Improve facilities for tourists in support of the Tourist Signature Destinations.

RG7: Support urban and rural renaissance through:

- Developing innovative ways to bring forward under-utilised land and buildings
- Promote regeneration in areas of social need

RG11: Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment

- Maintain the integrity of built heritage assets, including historic landscapes
- Protect and manage important geological and geomorphological features
- Recognise and promote the conservation of local identity and distinctive landscape character

SFG13: Sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside

- Revitalise small towns and villages
- Facilitate the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in appropriate locations
- Encourage sustainable and sensitive development

### **Health and Wellbeing 2026 Delivering Together (Department of Health, 2016)**

The Strategy envisages a future in which; people are supported to keep well in the first place with the information, education and support to make informed choices and take control of their own health and wellbeing. Aligned with the aspirations the Executive set out in the draft Programme for Government, the overarching ambition is for every one of us to lead long, healthy and active lives.

It is well known that partaking in outdoor recreation is a key conduit to good health and by providing opportunities for recreation this Action Plan will ensure the study area is part of the newly envisaged future for health and wellbeing.

### **A Fitter Future for All - Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland (Department of Health, 2012-2022)**

This Framework aims to 'empower the population of Northern Ireland to make healthy choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet'.

It identifies that prevention is taken forward through action to address two main areas – improving diet and nutrition, and increasing participation in physical activity. Acknowledging this, two overarching objectives for the Framework have been set: to increase the percentage of people eating a healthy, nutritionally balanced diet; and to increase the percentage of the population meeting the CMO guidelines on physical activity.

Greater access to public and privately owned land and more people having access to local facilities and opportunities for organised and nonorganized physical activity are articulated as two of the outcomes to achieve this.

### **Our Great Outdoors – The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland (Sport NI, Tourism NI and DCAL Inland Waterways, 2013)**

This Action Plan was commissioned by Sport NI and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) with support from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) Inland Waterways Branch. Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was also involved throughout the process.

The vision for the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan is: 'a culture of dynamic, sustainable outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland'

To achieve this vision the aim is for Northern Ireland to be a place where:

- There are increasing opportunities and improved access and infrastructure for sustained and increased participation for everyone in a broad range of outdoor recreation activities
- People enjoy the outdoors and show a high degree of responsibility for themselves, towards others and towards the environment they are using, and play their part in maintaining, supporting and enhancing our environment and heritage.

### **Exercise, Explore, Enjoy – A Strategic Plan for Greenways (Department for Infrastructure, 2016)**

This Strategic Plan fulfils a commitment in the Bicycle Strategy<sup>2</sup> to explore the potential for the development of greenways. It sets out a high-level plan for the region to enable people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel. The Minister's vision is: A region where people have ready access to a safe traffic free environment for health, active travel and leisure. The aim of this Strategic Plan is to encourage a substantial increase in the number of people walking and cycling as a regular part of everyday life through the building of a connected and accessible regional Greenway Network which significantly increases the length of traffic free routes.

Realising the Minister's vision will create a region where active lifestyles and active travel can become part of everyday life for everyone – improving health and well - being, economic activity, social interaction and providing a resource for recreation and leisure. Key to this will be to develop a Greenway Network that helps connect centres of population with places of interest, green spaces, workplaces, shops, schools and residential areas.

The Strategy makes specific reference to the following routes within the study area; A Greenway from Craigavon to Newry which is identified as part of the proposed Primary Network and the development of a route from Armagh to Newry via Markethill as part of the proposed Secondary Network. Whilst prominence has been given to these routes within the strategy, it is worth noting the Council is progressing with the Carlingford Lough Greenway and feasibility studies for three other greenways outside of the study area.

### **Sports Matters: Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 -2019 (Sport NI)**

Whilst Northern Ireland's environment provides conditions of international quality for a range of activities, Sport Matters recognises that not everyone will wish to achieve in performance sport and the Strategy encourages the development and use of open spaces for a variety of informal recreational and outdoor pursuits. Being out in the fresh air enjoying the scenery, whilst taking exercise, is recognised as an important element of Sport Matters.

The Strategy acknowledges that the natural environment provides many opportunities for a range of sporting and physical recreation activities but that access issues exist. In aspiring to the target that "By 2019 Northern Ireland will have developed a range of new, improved and shared sports facilities to a standard comparable with other similar regions of the UK" the Strategy indicates that this will require:

- Public access to and sustainable use of, publicly-owned lands across Northern Ireland for sport, physical recreation and activity tourism
- A planning system which facilitates and protects the provision of spaces for sport and physical recreation by following Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Sport Northern Ireland has recently approved a position statement about access to the natural environment in support of targets set out in "Sport Matters". The objective is to communicate Sport Northern Ireland's position on the importance it attaches to outdoor recreation through:

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<sup>2</sup> A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland, Department for Infrastructure, August 2015

- Promoting the best possible access to the natural environment for sport and physical recreation within the confines of existing legislation and organisation of the land ownership prevalent in Northern Ireland.
- Encouraging and supporting full access for responsible and sustainable recreation on public land through the development of policy frameworks by other public bodies – especially those that are custodians of public land.

### **Assessment of the Existing and Potential Tourism Development Opportunities Available from Northern Ireland Forests (Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Forest Service NI, 2012)**

This study was tasked with gathering and analysing tourism information and providing evidence based proposals for tourism development in Northern Ireland's forests. The study is set in the context of DETI's Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland which creates a visitor inspired vision to developing a new Northern Ireland visitor experience and Forest Service policy to realise further opportunities for the recreational and social use of forests, in partnership with local authorities and other recreation providers.

The Vision for Northern Ireland forests as a whole is 'To use the forest estate to deliver an exceptional visitor and short break experience for all which will increase the economic impact of forest related tourism in Northern Ireland.' Slieve Gullion Forest Park is included within The Mourne cluster (one of three cluster areas prioritised by Forest Service and NITB). The Forest Park is outlined as an area of importance with the interpretation of the wealth of natural and cultural heritage features mentioned as a key priority. Its importance as a key component of the Ring of Gullion Way, exceptionally rich in geology, archaeology, wildlife, history and folklore is also recognised. Any future recommended outdoor recreation development should therefore take into account these attributes unique to the Forest Park.

In progressing the vision and objectives seven development principles will underpin all activity that will be implemented. The following has relevance to the development of forests for recreational purposes within the Study Area:

- Forest-related tourism will need to be developed and marketed as an integral and key component of a wider geographical tourism product.
- Development opportunities progressed in relation to forest related tourism will reflect environmental considerations. Sustainable forest management plans will be developed taking consideration of tourism opportunities
- Development will recognise the benefits that will accrue to local rural communities as well as potential revenue growth on a regional scale
- Effective partnerships will be put in place including partnership agreements with public and private sector organisations

### **Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 -2024 (Prepared by Outdoor Recreation NI, 2014)**

The vision of this Strategy is to make Northern Ireland a world class mountain bike destination. By delivering this vision, a wide range of significant economic and social benefits will be achieved, such as greater economic prosperity, sustained employment in the trail construction sector through the building and maintenance of trails, increased employment in the visitor services sector. Social benefits include: increased

health and wellbeing of the population as participation levels rise and more people take up mountain biking, improved social inclusion as the trails attract a wide demographic population base, improved community cohesion, local enthusiasm harnessed and channelled into trail development, trail management and trail maintenance, physical connection of communities to trails and greater sporting success by local mountain bikers in all mountain biking disciplines as a consequence of improved formal trail facilities.

The Strategy notes that there is continual pressure to develop mountain biking throughout Northern Ireland, however, development must be targeted at sites which have the capacity to deliver a sustainable, quality and viable mountain bike product spread throughout Northern Ireland.

### **Planning Policy Statements**

#### *PPS8 Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Policy (2004)*

PPS 8 sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthy lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity.

Open Space is defined in PPS8, Open Space, Sport and outdoor Recreation as, 'all open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canal, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity'.

Of particular relevance to the study area are:

- Policy OS 3 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside
- Policy OS 6 Development of Facilities ancillary to Water Sports

Open space, sport and outdoor recreation are important components of life providing many health, cultural, social, economic and environmental benefits. Open space can enhance the character of residential areas, civic buildings, conservation areas and archaeological sites. It can also help to attract business and tourism and thereby contribute to the process of urban regeneration. The use being made of the countryside for a range of sporting and outdoor recreational activities, particularly where these are associated with farm diversification, can contribute to the process of rural regeneration and help promote natural resource tourism.

Consequently, retaining open space, creating new open space and promoting more opportunities to participate in outdoor recreation in the future is of significant importance.

#### *Planning Policy Statement 16 (PPS16) Tourism (2013)*

PPS 16 sets out the 'the Department's planning policy for tourism development and also for the safeguarding of tourism assets. It seeks to facilitate economic growth and social well-being through tourism in ways which are sustainable and compatible with environmental welfare and the conservation of important environmental assets.

It recognises the important contribution of tourism to the NI economy in terms of the revenues it generates, the employment opportunities it provides and the potential it creates for economic growth. It also recognises the importance of 'sustainable tourism development', that is, tourism that meets the needs of present tourist and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunity for the future. Sustainable

tourism development is brought about by balancing the needs of tourists and the tourism industry with those of the destination.

PPS16 provides a framework for identifying appropriate sustainable development opportunities and safeguarding tourism assets which are acknowledged public value, such as the natural environment from harmful development and on which tourism itself may depend.

Any recommended future outdoor recreation development should take into account and adhere to the above policies.

### **Draft Tourism Strategy to 2020 (DETI, 2012)**

As indicated in the draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020, while much has been achieved there is still much to do to create a successful, high quality and competitive destination for tourists.

The development of an exceptional visitor experience in relation to forest related tourism has a key role to play in this content. Partnership working is required at strategic and operational levels and needs to involve a variety of public, private and community sector partnerships. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development providing support and facilitating others in the provision of recreational activities was highlighted as a key area in the report. In the Action Plan, a priority of introducing high quality recreation products within forest was proposed.

The Draft Tourism Strategy was made public in 2012, although never officially launched it is the most up to date and appropriate strategy to refer to regarding an overall Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland. It is noted that the Department for the Economy is currently finalising a Tourism Strategy to 2025.

The Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Strategy 2017-2021 referenced in the Regional Context section below provides more detailed information relevant to tourism plans for the region.

### **Valuing Nature - A consultation on a Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 (DOE)**

This Strategy stresses the importance of engaging people, especially young people, with the natural environment so they feel a strong sense of ownership. The strategy highlights that it is essential for people to be provided with opportunities to experience nature and to develop a love of the natural environment which might then be harnessed to help the work to halt biodiversity loss.

### **A Strategy to improve the lives of people with disabilities 2012 – 2015 (OFMDFM)**

The strategy informs us that disabled people explicitly stated that there is a need for more places in the community where they can participate in the social and cultural life of the community. Whilst this strategy expired in 2015, further indication of commitment to those with a disability has been made by the NI Executive within the Draft PfG 2016 – 2021 i.e. Indicator 42 'Average life satisfaction score of people with disabilities' will indicate the successful delivery of Outcome 8 & 9.

Outcome 8 – We care for others and we help those in need

Outcome 9 – We are a shared society that respects diversity

## 6.2 Regional Context

### **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019**

The Council's mission is to 'lead and serve a District that is prosperous, healthy and sustainable'. To achieve this they will focus on eight core areas, the first five of which align with the development of outdoor recreation in the study area.

1. Become one of the premier tourism destinations on the island of Ireland
  - Ensuring a cultural and tourism infrastructure that will attract and serve the expectations of a growing number of local and international visitors.
2. Attracted investment and supported the creation of new jobs.
  - Facilitating business investment and job creation as well as a skilled workforce to support new industries.
3. Supported improved health and well-being outcomes.
  - Improving quality of life and reducing health inequalities, primarily through programmes, services and access to open spaces.
4. Protected our natural and built environment.
  - Developing clean and attractive places with increase in biodiversity and renewable energy sources and lower energy costs
5. Led the regeneration of our urban and rural areas.
  - Ensuring that our city, towns, villages and surrounding rural areas are great places for people to live, work, and visit.

The following actions are outlined as key ways of delivering on the aforementioned objectives:

- Key Action of Objective 1: Explore the potential for Geotourism along the east coast/border areas.
- Key Action of Objective 2: Secure the District's position as a 'cross border' gateway for Dublin, Belfast and beyond and successfully deliver Small Business Start and Growth Programmes, locally based.
- Key Action of Objective 3: Promote increased physical activity levels.
- Key Action of Objective 4: Protect the District's rich natural and built heritage.
- Key Action of Objective 5: Establish a new Community Planning Partnership as a means to engage and involve statutory partners as well as communities in developing the District.

At conclusion of the four year period they expect to see the following tangible outcome, all of which can help to be achieved through development of Outdoor Recreation in the study area:

- An increase in the number of visitors to the District with a corresponding increase in visitor spend
- Support for local business to create new employment opportunities
- Investment in facilities and programmes to encourage healthier lifestyles
- The regeneration of our towns and villages including investment in rural development
- Local communities that are energised, empowered as well as actively engaged around the issues that are important to them

### **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy, 2015 – 2020**

The Strategy outlines the council's mission to be recognised as "a vibrant, dynamic and connected region of enterprise and economic growth; a place of sustainable natural beauty and a premier tourist destination, encompassing excellence in culture and arts and enabling and creating opportunities for all".

Key messages highlighted in the Strategy which the development of outdoor recreation in the study will address include:

- The requirement for investment in key infrastructure projects around networks (roads, public transport, gateways, telecoms and energy), skills (schools, further and higher education, youth services, libraries), health (primary care, public safety and technology, hospitals modernisation), social (regeneration, social housing, culture, arts, sports and inland waterways), productive (enterprise and innovation, tourism, rural development and primary industries, public sector reform)
- The need to maximise the opportunities for the provision of specialised services within different urban centres and the importance of not competing but rather promoting collaboration and complementarity between the main city, the towns, villages and rural areas
- The need to tackle the areas of highest deprivation ensuring that these areas do not slip back into new cycles of deprivation and poverty
- The development of a new Rural Development Programme to empower rural communities to help themselves; improve the competitiveness of the rural business; improve the natural environment and develop and improve rural areas including the tourism opportunities via a bottom up approach engaging business, community and the public sector.

Five strategic themes have been identified within the strategy. Theme 2, Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events, encompasses the following specific strategic priorities for the Council Area which the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for South Armagh will support:

1. To become the destination of choice in NI
2. To become Ireland's premier outdoor/adventure destination
3. To become a destination recognised as an events stage

### **Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Strategy 2017-2021**

This five-year Strategy sets out the strategic direction for the tourism industry within the District of Newry, Mourne and Down. The document outlines the current situation, the strategy framework, and a series of recommendations that are designed to achieve the vision and goals, and to ensure that industry is in the business of delivering EPIC moments (Experiential, Personalised, Iconic and immersive, Creative).

The vision for 2021 Newry, Mourne & Down is a 'premier, year-round mountain and maritime destination in Ireland recognised for its EPIC experiences in outdoor adventure, its rich tapestry of cultural heritage, myths and unique stories, and its authentic local life.'

The goal of the destination is to work collaboratively toward assisting Northern Ireland achieve its targeted growth rate of 6% per annum in overnight expenditure by:

1. Focusing on developing visitor destination experiences that will deliver 'EPIC moments'.
2. Building a unified and entrepreneurial industry that is customer-focused.
3. Ensuring that the development of tourism is undertaken sustainably and contributes to the enhancement of social, cultural and environmental values.

Three underlying themes are identified:

1. Outdoor adventures to challenge and refresh the body, spirit and mind
2. Unique cultural heritage in inspirational settings



### 3. The storybook of Ireland

#### *Destination Experience -Mourne-Gullion Experience*

The Mourne Gullion Experience is highlighted as a key Destination Experience. The mountains and their unique integration of myths, legends, contemporary culture and inspirational settings with outdoor adventure is identified as the distinguishing factor for the Mourne Mountains and the Ring of Gullion as a destination from other comparable upland destinations.

Within this, Outdoor Adventure is highlighted as key contributing factor with 'UNESCO Global Geopark designation', the 'Newry Canal 'Blueway' opportunity' and 'Connecting with the Great Eastern Greenway' mentioned as specific catalyst projects.

While commitment and progress on catalyst projects and critical infrastructure are key to increasing the competitiveness of NMD, it is recognised that the market appeal and the strength of the visitor experience will also be dependent on the implementation of strategies and actions that further 'animate' the destination and bring it to life. Several focus points are highlighted which align with the development of outdoor recreation in South Armagh.

- *Developing more effective gateway and hub communities;* Crossmaglen is identified as having the potential to increase its profile through strengthening its role as a hub for the two primary destination experiences; 'Mournes and Ring of Gullion' and the 'Mourne Coast.'
- *Expanding the emphasis on festivals and events;* In particular, the role of festivals that are likely to have a wider regional appeal within the Ring of Gullion area will raise its profile and assist in offsetting the limited domestic market awareness of the area – an issue arising from the era of 'The Troubles' and a long period where tourism did not play a part in the local economy.
- *Developing the role of supporting businesses;* is a critical success factor in bringing a destination to life. Businesses need to understand the needs of the visitor and have the capacity to respond effectively.
- *Enhancing accessibility;* improving connectivity between trail networks, ensuring that signage and wayfinding markers are in place, enhancing the resilience of path networks, and maintaining adequate public transportation services are important elements in delivering a satisfactory visitor experience.
- *Experience Development Plan;* further planning and development of visitor experiences are required if the Mournes and Ring of Gullion are going to attract international markets and generate longer stays.

#### *Developing Gateway and Hub Communities*

Crossmaglen is mentioned as holding a strategic gateway location into NMD and the Ring of Gullion area from South Armagh, with easy access from the M1/A1 Dublin to Belfast arterial route. It is recognised the area has striking geological, landscape and archaeological heritage, and has having a stronger association with the 'story of Ireland' and its myths and legends than many other established destinations within NMD or indeed Ireland. One issue identified include that The South Armagh area is less developed than other gateway areas from the perspective of road network, signage, mobile coverage, and availability of accommodation and camping facilities. Several priorities are highlighted including raising the profile of South Armagh in the domestic market through innovative short activity breaks. It is noted the area will

likely benefit from the planned 4-star hotel and wellness centre at Killeavy Castle – a project that will raise market awareness of South Armagh and create a stronger association with health and wellness.

One area of outdoor recreation highlighted as requiring focus was the overall cycling experience of the area. Given the growth of downhill mountain biking within the area and the general surge of interest in both leisure and competitive cycling within NMD, this sector has been singled out for specific action. The strategy recommends a review of the cycling and biking opportunities and the development of actions to ensure strategic growth of cycling and biking as a tourism sector.

### **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Draft Community Plan 2016**

It is the aim of the Community Planning Partnership that this Strategic Plan becomes the overarching plan for integrated planning and delivery of services for the area of Newry, Mourne and Down.

The vision is for Newry, Mourne and Down to be a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people's needs.

One main aim of the Community Plan is to 'Improve the wellbeing of people in Newry, Mourne and Down' something which the development of outdoor recreation in the South Armagh area can help to achieve.

This engagement process has led to the development and confirmation of the following five key priority areas, described as outcomes, on which the Council will focus the delivery of services over the life of the Plan to 2030. The outcomes are that all people in Newry, Mourne and Down:

- get a good start in life and fulfil their lifelong potential
- enjoy good health and wellbeing
- benefit from prosperous communities
- benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment
- live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities

### **Newry, Mourne and Down Draft Play Strategy 2017 – 2022 (2016)**

The purpose of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Play Strategy is to establish an effective strategic framework for decision making as it relates to the development, maintenance and roll-out of play opportunities (both fixed and non-fixed) across the district. Underpinning the strategy is a recognition that play can and does take place at any time and in any location; from a designated fixed play area to an open green space within a housing estate; and from fields, woods and natural locations to the streets in our villages, towns and cities.

Whilst the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan will not include Play it is recognised that the establishment and improvement of play venues could provide opportunities for further outdoor recreation. Further, the strategy notes that at present the majority of fixed play sites across the district cater for children aged 0 up to 12/14 years with a lack of dedicated provision for older children and teenagers (e.g. youth shelters, congregation areas etc.). A need which the provision of Outdoor Recreation opportunities in the area could possibly satisfy.

### **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Facility Strategy (2017)**

The Council's Sports Facility Strategy provides a framework for the future prioritisation, development and provision of sports facilities at local level, to meet identified community need. Watersports, walking and cycling needs are identified within the strategy.

Under the Watersports Facilities section, Camlough Lake, Kiltybane Lake, Cashel Loughs and Lough Ross are all noted as potential venues for further development of watersports facilities. Other potential facilities mentioned include The Newry Canal providing a water sports centre, canoeing etc. as well as better use of disused quarries for diving and water sports and the potential to develop a number of lakes in the area for angling.

Walking and National Cycling Strategy Specific opportunities identified include the development of a national network of Riverside Paths (based on a partnership between ORNI, Department for Communities, Inland Waterways, Waterways Ireland, Loughs Agency, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Sport NI); following the implementation of the EU Protection of Water Framework Directive, there is a significant opportunity to create riverside and woodland trails alongside existing rivers. A tree belt has to be planted 10m from the riverside, which could create such family friendly routes for both cycling and walking. The Ring of Gullion Ring Dyke Way is identified as a possible future walking facility with the Greenway from Newry to Carlingford also noted and Camlough Forest identified as an underdeveloped area with walking and cycling opportunities. Additionally, there is a need to review and further develop the National Cycle Network including maximising the potential of current greenways, developing new linear greenways and developing greenway links to communities.

It is noted that orienteering could take place in the forests and villages in the council area.

In addition to the above opportunities being recognised, the strategy makes the recommendations that the Council works with external partners to develop outdoor provision comprising walking and cycling routes/trails linking sports facilities and transport.

### **Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Census 2011**

The Census collects information every 10 years about the characteristics of people and households in Northern Ireland. It is used by central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to plan and provide future services for us all. The 2011 Census took place on 27 March 2011.

Census statistics reveal that there are 29,390 usual residents within the study area (Slieve Gullion DEA and Ward of Fathom).

### **The Northern Ireland Multi Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) Report (NISRA, 2010)**

The NIMDM Report is the official measure of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland.

In terms of the Multiple Deprivation Measure Score, the following Super Output Areas (SOA) within the study area are ranked as follows.

- Crossmaglen is the second most deprived Rural SOA behind Castlederg in 2010, and is ranked 112<sup>th</sup> in Northern Ireland.
- Dorsey and Mullaghbane are located within the Silverbridge 1 SOA which is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> most deprived rural area

- Cullyhanna, located within Creggan SOA ranked 13th most deprived rural area in Northern Ireland
- Bessbrook SOA is ranked as the 118<sup>th</sup>, Camlough SOA 321st and Newtownhamilton 293<sup>rd</sup> in the ranking for overall most deprived in Northern Ireland
- Tullyhappy SOA encompasses Whitecross and is ranked as the 476th overall most deprived in Northern Ireland

## 6.3 Local Context

### **Camlough Lake Masterplan (2011)**

The Masterplan provides a framework for the future management and development of Camlough Lake and its surroundings. The Plan recognises whilst there are many different perspectives there are also broad areas of agreement not least, for many, a strong attachment and deep affinity with the Lake. The Plan recognises the importance of finding an agreed way forward and highlights the responsibility on all those involved to reach consensus and take forward recommendations for the shared management of the Lake.

The majority of the recommendations within the report relate directly to outdoor recreation. One main recommendation of the plan applicable to all interested activity users of the lake included developing a new multi-use facility for activity users (water ski, canoeing, angling, swimming, triathlon, rowing, other) to include toilets, changing rooms, storage and rest room with basic self-service catering whilst incorporating provision for people with disabilities. See Appendix 3 for a comprehensive breakdown of recommendations made within the plan.

### **Slieve Gullion Forest Park Economic Appraisal / Feasibility Study (June 2017)**

The Council has commissioned Deloitte and Aecom to deliver an economic appraisal and feasibility study for Slieve Gullion Forest Park with the aim of presenting the best options for developing Slieve Gullion Forest Park into Northern Ireland's newest 'Five Star' heritage visitor attraction.

The Masterplan highlights the preferred option to be addressing the access, signage and basic visitor needs as well as incorporating a new interactive visitor experience and accommodation facilities. More specifically the preferred option calls for improved vehicle access to the site, improved car parking facilities and improved signage including signage to and throughout the park, gateway signage and welcome signs along the entrance drive. Repair of damaged trails and features and the development of an amenity building including toilet facilities and a shower block as well as basic visitor facilities including somewhere to buy a memento and bins throughout the park. New paths to create circular walking routes and incorporate running trails. A highly interactive, augmented reality experience and visitor interpretation centre based within Chambre House and augmented reality incorporated within existing trails. The provision of private sector operated Glamping and Outdoor Theatre / Cinema space and family outdoor activities, for example woodland walks, treasure hunt, mountain hikes, low rope tree course, low grade off road bike trails (relatively hill free, good surfaces and wide enough for "two abreast" etc.)

The implementation of the findings will be subject to funding. It is understood the council plan to use the study to seek funding from the Rural Tourism Scheme of the Rural Development Programme and other funding streams.

### **Shared Waters – Shared Landscapes Project (Centre for Freshwater and Environmental Studies, Dundalk Institute of Technology, 2017)**

The objective of the Shared Waters – Shared Landscape project was to re-engage the local community of Forkhill, Mullaghbane and Cullyhanna with their water resources by creating a community-led vision for their local waters. As a result of the project, an overarching vision for the local waters was developed by the communities, "We want our waters to be clean and full of life, with access agreed by all parties, to enable learning and safe play, and which are the pride of the region." The overarching vision is

underpinned by four supporting visions, two of which are particularly relevant for this plan: 'We want better access along our rivers and lakes'; and 'We want to increase tourism to our lakes and rivers'. Developing outdoor recreation in the area will provide a step towards implementing these and indeed the overarching vision. The other two supporting visions, 'We want cleaner rivers and lakes' and 'We want to educate the children about our rivers and water safety' have potential to be by-products of the development of outdoor recreation as recreation on or near the river and lakes will be cause for ensuring they are clean and of an acceptable standard whilst opening access in the form of recreation will provide a practical way of educating children and encouraging enjoyment of the waterways.

### 6.3.1 Village Renewal and Development Plans

In 2012, Newry and Mourne District Council developed a series of Village Renewal and Development Plans. Whilst the plans show a clear desire for recreation development in the area, a lack of updated progress reports on village plans makes it unclear as to progress of outcomes. **It should be noted that new Village Plans are currently undergoing public consultation.** Table 3 provides an overview of each of the village plans in relation to the future opportunities for outdoor recreation development:

There is a general consensus within all village plans that there is a lack of provision for the youth and teenage section of the community.

Village Plan	Future Potential
<p>Crossmaglen Cluster – Crossmaglen, Creggan &amp; Culloville (2012)</p>	<p>Projects and Initiatives to benefit South Armagh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lough Ross Redevelopment.</i> It is recommended that a Tourism, Leisure and Recreation Strategy should be produced. This would identify the feasibility of developing provision of recreational facilities for land and water based activities. Potential walking routes are highlighted as; Circular walking routes around the lough with footbridges over the Fane and Clarebane Rivers, a link from Lough Ross to the Monaghan Way to provide a long distance community greenway (Monaghan Way) and a walking trail north along the Clarebane River linking to Lough Muckno. It is recognised there is an existing car park and toilet facility located off Loughross Road which provides the ideal focal point to build upon the services and facilities. It is recognised a Recreational Centre would encourage and build upon water-based recreation such as canoeing, sailing and fishing. It is suggested fishing stands should also be provided at specified sites around the lough. The site could also provide an area for camping and touring caravans.</li> <li>• Promote and encourage the tourism potential of Slieve Gullion, while ensuring the natural and built heritage of the area is well protected. More specifically, assess the current infrastructure to support activity based tourism such as walking and cycling.</li> </ul> <p>Crossmaglen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWOT analysis of the village highlights Lack of youth facilities (18-25 years old) and lack of alternative sporting facilities other than football as weaknesses.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 'highway to health' walking track could potentially be provided around the playing fields linking Culloville Rd and Lismore Park.</li> </ul> <p>Creggan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance and enhancement of Poets Glen. A Swot analysis of the village notes the Poets Glen walk as a strength of the area however a weakness is that due to ownership issues (owned by Creggan Parish Church therefore cannot be maintained by the council) it is poorly maintained. As a result an opportunity is recognised to create a programme to maintain the Poets Glen and walkways by the community with funding assistance from the Council.</li> <li>• Exploit the location beside the river and proximity to Poets Glen/Graveyard – river walkways/viewing platform</li> </ul> <p>Culloville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism potential identified for Lough Ross, Lough Muckno</li> <li>• It is noted provision of changing facilities at the GAA Training Ground would also benefit users of the highway to health walking track which is well used by the community.</li> <li>• Redevelopment of Lough Ross – see above</li> </ul>
Bessbrook & Camlough Cluster (2012)	<p>Bessbrook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWOT analysis recognises the potential for Pond to be used for activities e.g. sailing &amp; green energy as well as a river walk from Bessbrook to Camlough &amp; Bessbrook to Newry as opportunities.</li> <li>• Bessbrook Park with its pond and large area of green open space is noted as representing a valuable natural asset to the village. A Feasibility study for the Regeneration of Park / Pond for recreational use including design works, statutory approvals and improvement works recommended.</li> <li>• River walks between Bessbrook – Camlough and Bessbrook – Newry. It is recommended a feasibility study is undertaken for these proposed routes.</li> </ul>



	<p>Camlough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWOT analysis identifies Camlough Lake as a major asset with Tourism / Recreational potential – walk cycle ways / services, changing building to accommodate watersports / triathlon all recognised as very popular ideas. A River walk from Camlough to Bessbrook and improved tourism/ recreation use within Derrymore House &amp; Gardens are both highlighted as opportunities.</li> <li>• Regeneration of Camlough Lough: Provision of Amenities - Feasibility study, design works, statutory approvals, improvement works recommended. NB a Masterplan was completed in 2011 (see above).</li> <li>• Promotion of River Walk between Camlough – Bessbrook. Introduce signage along the walking route and through CCA and NMDC set in place activities and events which include the river walk.</li> </ul>
Cullyhanna – Dorsey (2012)	<p>Cullyhanna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted during the public consultation that there is a lack of publicly available leisure and recreational facilities.</li> </ul> <p>Dorsey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was identified during the community consultation that the provision of leisure and recreational facilities is the number one priority for the Village.</li> <li>• Upgrades to Rory Mc Gee Park – Dorsey Emmets GAA: Provision of a walking track around the GAA pitch– Health Initiative</li> </ul>
Mullaghbane (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWOT analysis recognises Ring of Gullion and Poets’ Trail as well as the River walk as strengths of the village however it is also noted that the River Walk poses a potential threat due to its slippery nature. Better signage on the Poets Trail is noted as a short-term priority with the Improvement of the river walk (Council ownership) a medium to long term priority.</li> <li>• Potential to promote this as the hub of tourism activity, being the base for guided walks to encourage enjoyment of the built and natural heritage in the area.</li> </ul>
Newtownhamilton (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWOT analysis identifies the ‘Walk for Autism’ Community Event as bringing people together.</li> </ul>

<p>Ballymoyer &amp; Whitecross Cluster (2012)</p>	<p>Ballymoyer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWOT analysis recognises the adjacent natural resource of Ballymoyer Forest as a strength, with a lack of signage to Forest identified as a weakness.</li> </ul> <p>Whitecross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWOT analysis recognises the adjacent natural resource of Ballymoyer Forest as a strength, with a lack of signage to Forest identified as a weakness.</li> </ul>
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Table 3: Village Plan Overview

## 6.4 Strategic Context Summary

It is ORNI's opinion that the proposed Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for South Armagh has the potential to:

### **Executive and Departments**

- Assist the NI Executive to deliver improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing
- Support the Department of Regional Development to maximise the potential of towns, villages and rural communities in South Armagh whilst improving the health and wellbeing of its communities
- Help create an environment that supports a physically active lifestyle
- Support Sport NI to encourage the development and use of open spaces for a variety of informal recreational and outdoor pursuits

### **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the Local Community**

- Contribute to the creation of a prosperous, healthy and sustainable district by improving the quality of life of residents, protecting the natural and built heritage and regenerating rural areas
- Empower rural communities to help themselves through collaboration and tourism opportunities, complementing rather than competing with other towns, villages and rural areas
- Improve the wellbeing of the people in Newry, Mourne and Down and in turn improve levels of deprivation in line with the Community Plan
- Assist in developing gateway and hub communities for the 'Mournes and Ring of Gullion' destination experiences where accessibility to outdoor experiences and the rich cultural heritage of the area is enhanced
- Lead to the creation of sports facilities and trails to meet community needs

## 7. BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Due to the lack of research available on the benefits of outdoor recreation specific to Northern Ireland and therefore specifically to the study area, this section of the report also draws on relevant research from throughout the United Kingdom.

### Health and Well Being

Northern Ireland's Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) recommended level of physical activity is minimum of 75 minutes vigorous aerobic activity (e.g. running, playing competitive sport) or a minimum of 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity (e.g. walking, cycling, swimming) per week. Results from the most recent health survey showed that only 53% of Northern Ireland's population currently meet the CMO's guidelines, with 28% of the population being completely inactive.<sup>3</sup>

It is widely recognised that regular exercise offers important health and wellbeing benefits. Regular physical activity can prevent dementia, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, heart disease and other common serious conditions – reducing the risk of each by at least 30%<sup>4</sup> and proving more effective than many prescribed drugs.

Physical activity is also known to enhance wellbeing with a 20–30% lower risk of depression and dementia in adults participating in daily physical activity<sup>5</sup>.

Inactivity not only has consequences for personal health, but also places a substantial cost on the nation's health services. The estimated direct cost of physical inactivity to the NHS across the UK is £1.06 billion<sup>6</sup>. It is estimated in the UK that by 2050, 60% of males and 50% of females could be obese, adding £5.5 billion to the annual total cost of the NHS by 2050, with wider costs to society and business estimated at £49.9 billion<sup>7</sup>.

Focusing specifically on walking provision, research from Scotland demonstrates that for every £1 invested on health walks, £8 of benefits are generated for society<sup>8</sup>.

Walking is perhaps the most accessible form of outdoor recreation for several reasons:

- It is free
- It is already the most popular physical activity for residents in Northern Ireland
- It requires no special training or equipment
- Almost everyone can do it, anywhere and at any time

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<sup>3</sup> DHSS&PS (2015), Health Survey Northern Ireland: First Results 2013/14,

<sup>4</sup> Academy of Royal Medical Colleges (2015) Exercise: The miracle cure and the role of the doctor in promoting it

<sup>5</sup> Mental Health Foundation (2013) Let's Get Physical, the impact of physical activity on wellbeing,

<sup>6</sup> Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health (2007), The burden of physical activity-related ill health in the UK.

<sup>7</sup> UK Government's Foresight Programme (2007), Tackling Obesities,

<sup>8</sup> Paths for All (2013), Making an impact, Glasgow Health Walks Social Return on Investment Analysis,

- Walking is accessible to people from targeted groups (identified by Sport NI) who require increased quality opportunities to develop and sustain participation in sport and outdoor recreation across key life-course transitions (for example children moving from primary school to post-primary, young people leaving education, having a family, or retiring from work). including:
  - Women and girls (specifically aged 14-25)
  - People with a disability; and
  - Those living in areas of greatest social need (specifically people living within the top 25% of wards designated by NI Multiple Deprivation Measure Index 2010)

Provision of outdoor recreation services and infrastructure can therefore be viewed as a key method of addressing the increasing levels of inactivity and obesity.

### **Learning and Education**

A significant amount of current and recommended outdoor recreation provision in the study area is within forests which are recognised as a potential educational resource. According to a report for the National Foundation for Education Research<sup>9</sup>, learning outdoors can have a range of positive cognitive, affective, interpersonal/social and physical/behavioural impacts. Research in Scotland found that the single most important factor influencing use of woodland by adults was whether they had visited woodlands when they were young<sup>10</sup>.

"When playing outdoors children are also more likely to meet other children and improve social skills, an opportunity which doesn't arise at home. Being outside in nature puts children in touch with their senses and has a restorative effect, also helping them to cope with stress."

This statement was made by Liz O'Brien, Deputy Head of Social and Economic Research Group at the Forestry Commission on the launch of Outdoor Play Week 2010 a partnership between the Forestry Commission and Play England to highlight the health benefits of outdoor play and that children today are playing outside far less than ever before.

As such, outdoor recreation provision / development within the study area provides important opportunities for children and young people to derive benefits from experiencing the natural environment.

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<sup>9</sup> Dillon, J., Morris, M., O'Donnell, L., Reid, A., Rickinson, M., and Scott, W. (2005). 'Engaging and Learning with the Outdoors: The Final Report of the Outdoor Classroom in a Rural Context Action Research Project. National Foundation for Education Research.

<sup>10</sup> Ward Thompson, C., Aspinall, P., Bell, S., Findlay, C., Wherrett, J. and Travlou, P. (2004). 'Open Space and Social Inclusion: Local Woodland Use in Central Scotland'. OPENspace Research Centre, Report for Forestry Commission, Edinburgh.

## **Social Capital and Community Cohesion**

Development of forests can offer opportunities for increased community capacity to achieve shared goals, through increased 'bonding' social capital (i.e. within communities) and 'bridging' social capital (i.e. between members of communities and external partners)<sup>11</sup>.

In particular, the provision of volunteering programmes, events and participation in sports and physical recreation can offer opportunities for people to get involved in their community, meet new people, improve their well-being and improve their skills. Social return of investment research shows that £1 invested in environmental volunteering can lead to a return of up to £4.<sup>12</sup>

People who live close to Parks and have a variety of green space options close to their homes tend to participate more in physical activity<sup>13</sup>. Residents of highly walkable neighbourhoods are more active and have slightly lower body weights than their counterparts in less walkable neighbourhoods, as do those living in areas with high land-use mix.

Mixed land use, public spaces, residential density and interesting places to go increases social connectivity such as knowing and trusting others/neighbours<sup>14</sup>.

## **Biodiversity and Environment**

Well planned and sensitive investments in the countryside can help to improve and protect habitats, thereby encouraging and maintaining biodiversity.

Recent research from Wales<sup>15</sup>, demonstrates that regular visitors to the countryside (21+ visits in the last 4 weeks) were more likely than the average to participate in several activities to protect the environment. Such activities include:

- recycling (96%)
- reducing their energy use at home (94%)
- buying local food (89%)

## **Growing the Economy**

In 2013, SportNI, NIEA and Tourism NI published a report on the economic contribution of outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland which found that outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland generated £102 million gross added value and that the sector employs more than 3,537 Full Time Equivalent<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Forestry Commission Scotland (2009) 'A Valuation of the Economic and Social Contribution of Forestry for People in Scotland', Forestry Commission, Edinburgh.

<sup>12</sup> BTCV 'Inspiring People, Improving Places - The positive impact and behavioural change achieved through environmental volunteering with BTCV'

<sup>13</sup> Obesity Rev (2011) Greenspace and obesity: A systematic review of the evidence.

<sup>14</sup> Environ Int. (2011) Improving health through policies that promote active travel: A review of evidence to support integrated health impact assessment.

<sup>15</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2015) Wales Outdoor Recreation Survey 2014: Final Report

<sup>16</sup> Assessing the Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation in NI (SportNI, NEA, NUIB, 2013)

In addition, the importance of outdoor recreation development on the local economy through tourism is significant. The outdoor adventure tourism sector was estimated by Mintel to be worth €128m in Northern Ireland in 2013, increasing to €146m<sup>17</sup> by 2018, whilst in Wales, outdoor activity tourism contributes £481 million per annum to the economy<sup>18</sup>, in the Republic of Ireland overseas visitors engaging in activity tourism are worth €1.2 billion per annum<sup>19</sup> and in England 42.4 million adults visiting the natural environment generate a total visitor spend of £21 billion per annum<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> Information from Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BTS, 2016)

<sup>18</sup> The Economic Impact of Outdoor Activity Tourism in Wales (Visit Wales, 2014)

<sup>19</sup> Survey of Overseas Travellers (Failte Ireland, 2011)

<sup>20</sup> MENE Survey 2012-2013. (Natural England, 2014)

## 8. PUBLIC CONSULTATION FINDINGS

A public consultation meeting was held in the Mullaghbane Community Centre on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The meeting was attended by 39 members of the local community and provided the opportunity to gain more information on the:

- Current outdoor recreation activity happening in the area
- Any issues and barriers currently preventing outdoor recreation in the area
- What members of the local community would like to see developed in the future in terms of outdoor recreation activity and facilities

Attendees were divided into groups and asked to discuss the above topics before reporting back to the room.

From discussion at the public consultation it was clear that an abundance of both formal and informal outdoor recreation takes place within the study area, primarily driven by the local community. The key issues and barriers highlighted were access, both in terms of access to land for outdoor recreation and access to facilities to improve the outdoor recreation experience, as well as a lack of strategic development. The latter resulting in missed opportunities and in some cases the development of user conflict. A need to strategically plan and work together to develop outdoor recreation spaces for a variety of users was highlighted as a key element in progressing outdoor activity in the area. In general, there was an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm from consultees towards using and promoting the area for outdoor recreation and a feeling that the area was underutilising its potential. There was an undeniable appetite to develop key sites for a range of outdoor activities with priority sites identified as Camlough Lake, Camlough Mountain and Lough Ross. There was also a clear sense that any future development of outdoor recreation should both consider and utilise the area's strength as an AONB and its unique geological and historical importance.

See Appendix 4 - Public meetings for a detailed synopsis of discussion and feedback from the public consultation.



## 9. LANDOWNERSHIP

The majority of land in the study area is owned and managed by private landowners. Consultation with the ROGP has identified that approximately 75% of non-public land within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is not registered with the Land Registry of Land and Property Services.

There are 2 privately owned estates, both listed on the Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesne Register which demonstrate potential for outdoor recreation provision. Drumbanagher Estate extends 650 acres and currently offers commercial pheasant and duck shoots. Killeavy Castle Estate is currently undergoing restoration to become a boutique hotel and spa. It is understood that the former walled garden on the Estate will also be restored and contain a café. Nature walks will also be developed to align with the attractions of the adjacent Slieve Gullion Forest Park.

There are 4 public landowners<sup>21</sup> who own / manage land that facilitates outdoor recreation, the largest of which is Forest Service NI (FSNI).

There is also a significant amount of land classified as 'common land', that is, land owned by more than one person. See Table 4 for the breakdown of site numbers and percentage landownership.

Figure 3 and Figure 4 show the extent and distribution of publicly owned / managed land and common land within the study area. A full list of publicly owned and managed sites within the study area can be found in Appendix 5 – Publicly Owned / Managed Land Within The Study Area

Landowner	Area (ha)	No. of sites	% of total area
Common Land	412.43	13	1.04
NMDDC (owned / managed)	240.27	73	0.61
Forest Service NI	1946.13	31	4.90
National Trust <sup>22</sup>	65.67	2	0.17
Woodland Trust	8.6	1	0.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>2673.10</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>6.64</b>

Table 4: Public and common land ownership site numbers and percentage ownership

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<sup>21</sup> Both the National Trust and the Woodland Trust are registered charities, however as their lands are accessible by the public they are classified as public within this report

<sup>22</sup> Ballymoyer Forest is on land owned by the National Trust. Forest Service NI has a management role for the forest. It is understood that the management on the forest is in the process of being transferred to the Woodland Trust.



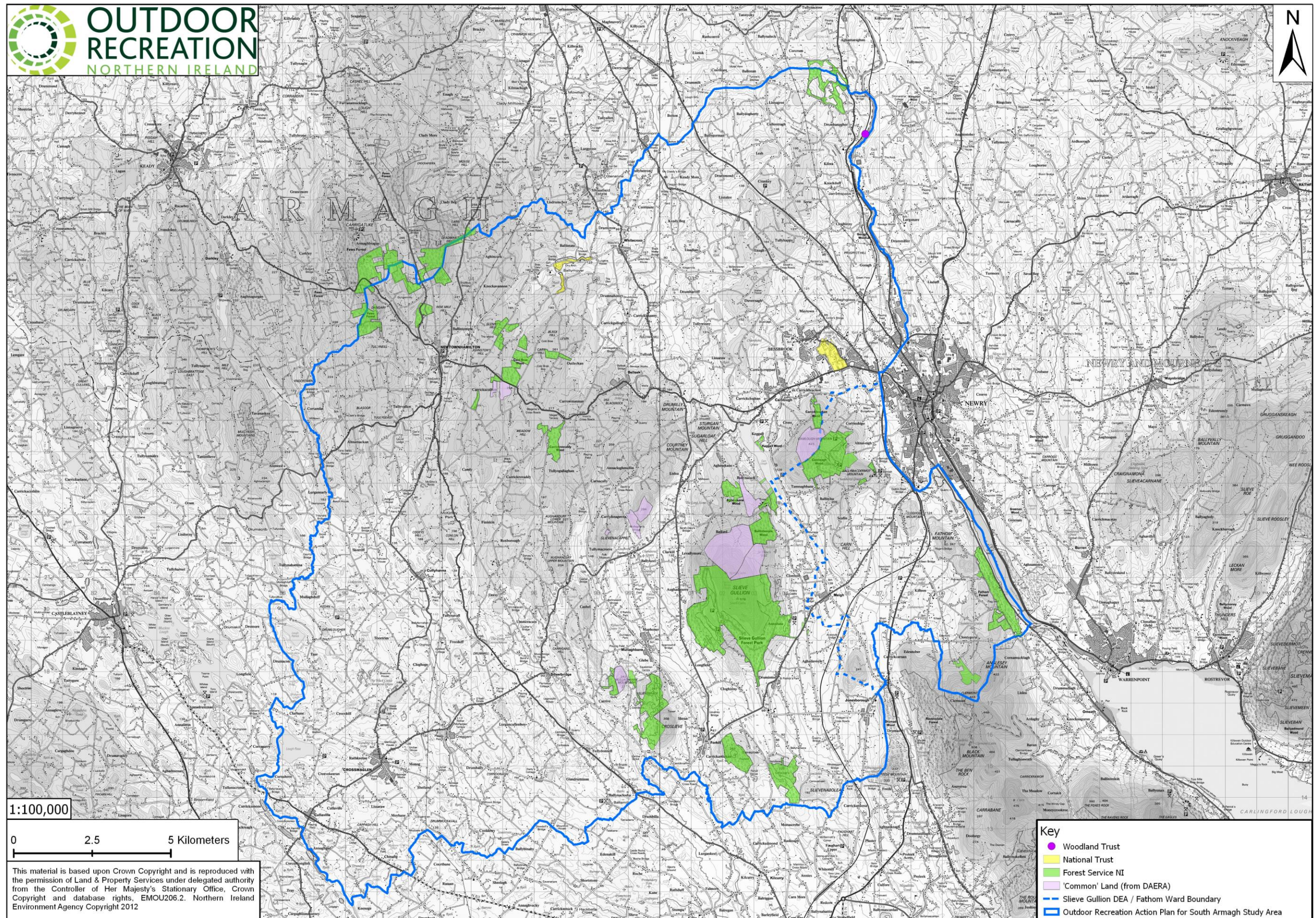


Figure 3: Publicly owned land within the study area – excluding Council



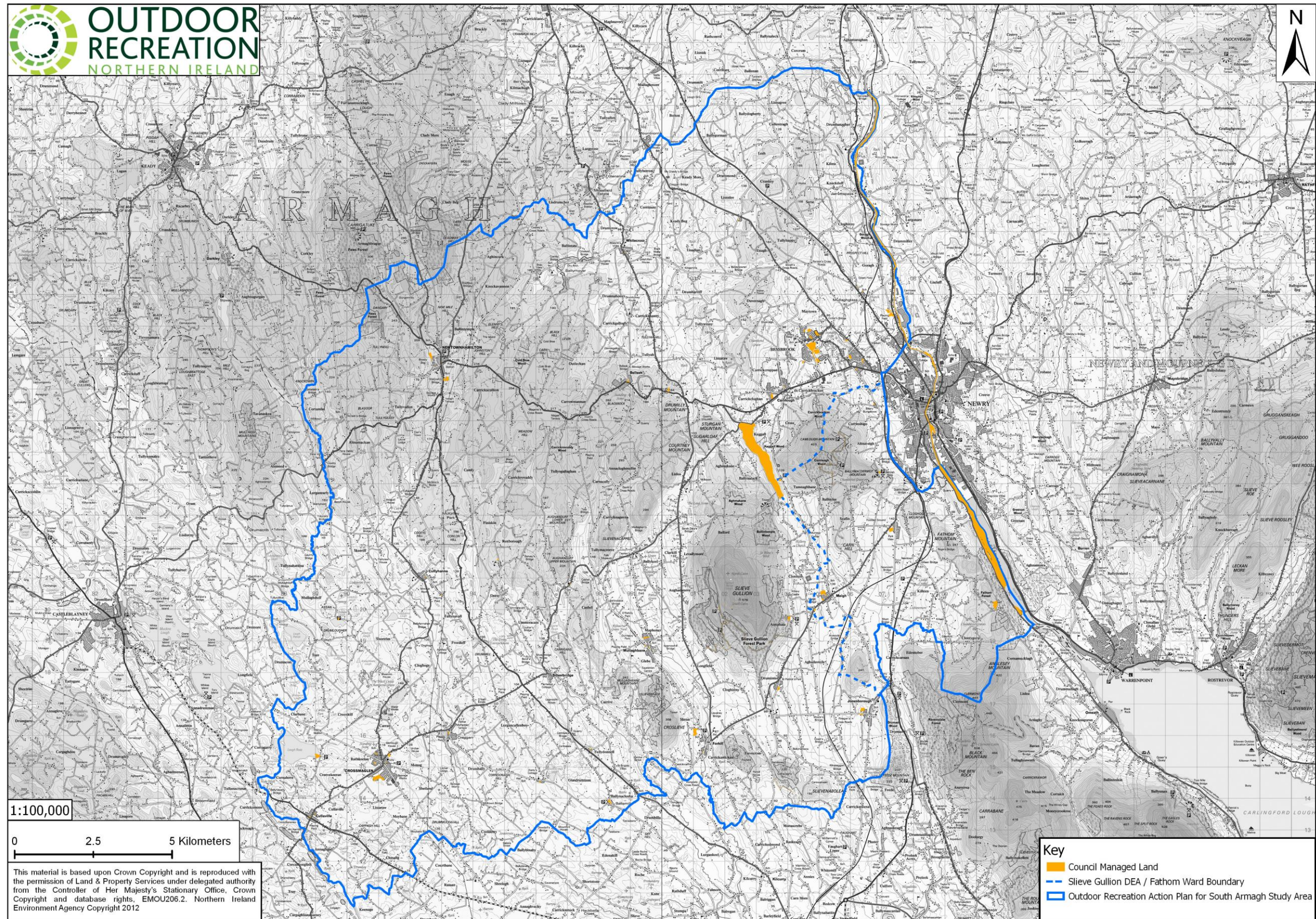


Figure 4: Publicly owned land within the study area – Council Only



## 10. ACCESS

Access in the study area comprises a combination of formal and informal access.

### **Formal access**

Formal access occurs with the consent of the landowner. This is access via established provision or prescribed routes such as Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Permissive Path Agreements. Records show 14 PRoWs totalling 21,859 metres and 1 Permissive Path Agreement totalling 895 metres across the study area. See Figure 5 for the distribution of PRoWs and Appendix 6 - Public Rights of Way for a detailed list.

All the Quality Walks<sup>23</sup> promoted on WalkNI.com have formal access arrangements in place and are actively managed and maintained for public access. Within the study area, WalkNI promote 3 short distance (0-5 miles) routes, 1 medium distance (5-20 miles) route and 2 long distance (20+ miles) routes. For further information see Section 12.1.12.

The Ring of Gullion Way is an example of a long-distance walking route where formal access has been granted by all landowners along its length, whether that be Council, Forest Service NI, National Trust or private owners.

### **Informal access**

This is access where there is no formal arrangement in place. Informal access, where it is tolerated by the landowner, is known as 'de facto' access and often occurs because there is a history of use. Informal access without the knowledge or consent of the landowner is considered in legal terms as trespass, but some landowners are more tolerant of this than others and may turn a 'blind eye' to isolated occurrences. Some landowners permit one off events e.g. a route as part of a walking festival or by special request of a walking club, that otherwise would not be permitted.

Formal and informal access can occur on both public and private land.

### **Summary**

The limited formal access outlined above is currently a restricting factor for participation in outdoor recreation. Consultation has also identified a frustration regarding the lack of formal access.

As indicated in Section 9, the c.3034 hectares of public land do provide a solid foundation for outdoor recreation development, however, a concerted focus in obtaining access across private land will be required to ensure appropriate outdoor recreation development across the study area. This would also benefit access to a number of important built heritage sites (see Section 11.2) which are currently within private land. It is understood that the Council is currently preparing a policy and process to ensure a consistent approach to negotiating access agreements across private land.

It should also be noted a review of outdoor recreation legislation is currently being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The overall outcome will be 'by 2018 to have reviewed existing and initiated the development and consolidation of appropriate outdoor

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<sup>23</sup> A Quality Walk is a route that has been assessed and accredited as such under a scheme developed by Outdoor Recreation NI and supported by NIEA and Tourism NI. See Appendix 11 - Quality Walk Criteria.

recreation legislation...'<sup>24</sup> The purpose of the initial exercise is to develop a scoping document to present to the relevant Minister towards the end of 2017.

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<sup>24</sup> Our Great Outdoors, The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland (March, 2014)



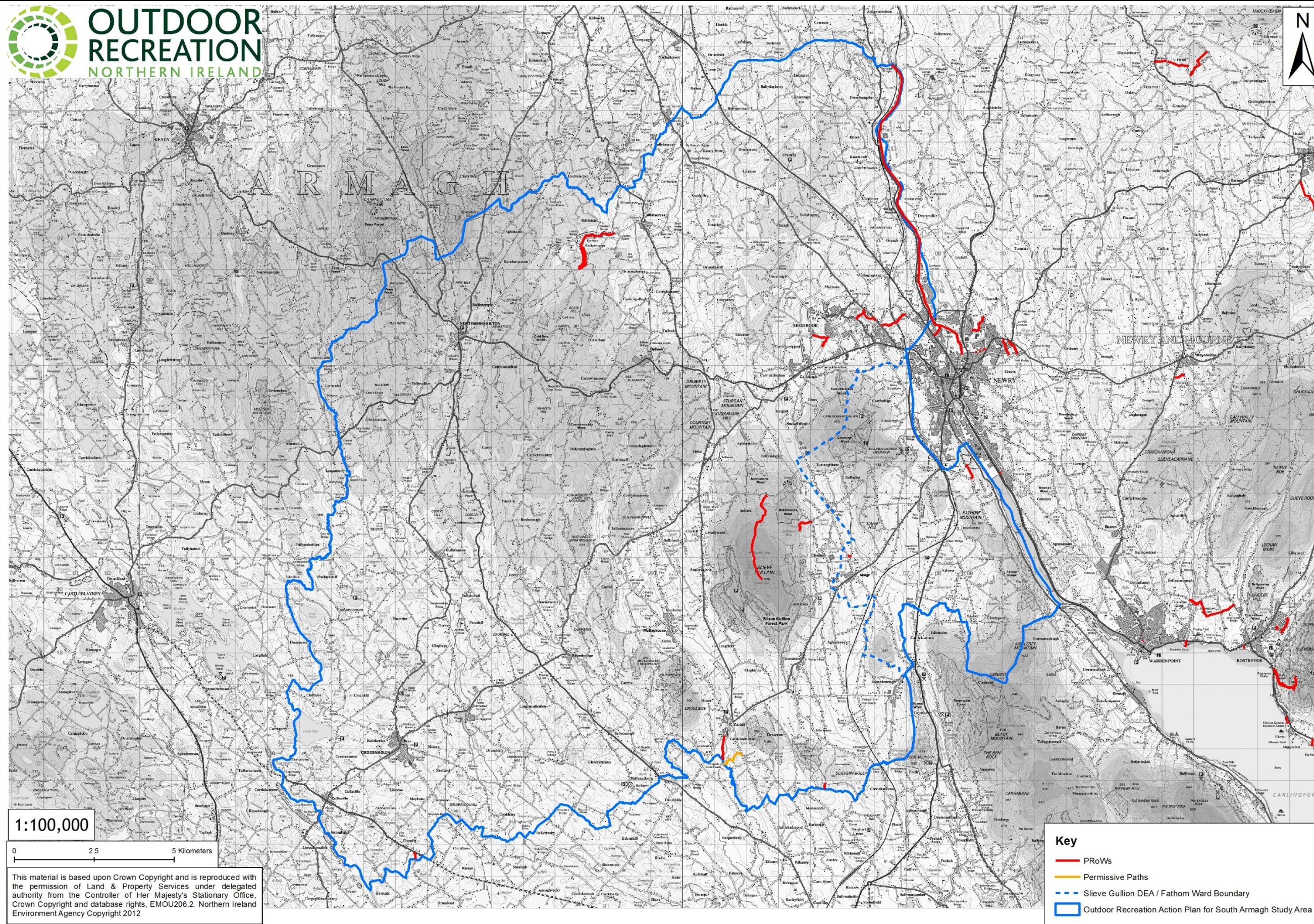


Figure 5: Public Rights of Way within the study area



## 11. NATURAL AND BUILT HERITAGE

The study area, which is protected under a number of statutory designations, is rich in both natural and built heritage. These designations, in turn, govern the management and development of this area to ensure the natural landscape and built features remain protected.

### 11.1 Natural Heritage

Within the study area there are 21 sites protected under four different types of statutory designations (see Figure 6 or Appendix 9 - Natural heritage designations within the study area for full details). This incorporates:

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) x1
  - The Ring of Gullion AONB comprises 15,328.56 Ha approximately 39% of the study area
- Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) x 19
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC) x 1

The above sites either fall entirely or in part within the study area.

### 11.2 Built Heritage

Noted not only for the beauty and diversity of its natural landscape, the study area is rich in built heritage and archaeological features (see

Figure 7).

Within the study area there are:

- Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes x 6
- Sites and Monuments Record x 293 of which:
  - 'scheduled' protection status x 55
  - 'state care' protection status x 13
- Scheduled Zones x 71

A full list of built heritage designations can be found in Appendix 10 - Built heritage designations within the study area



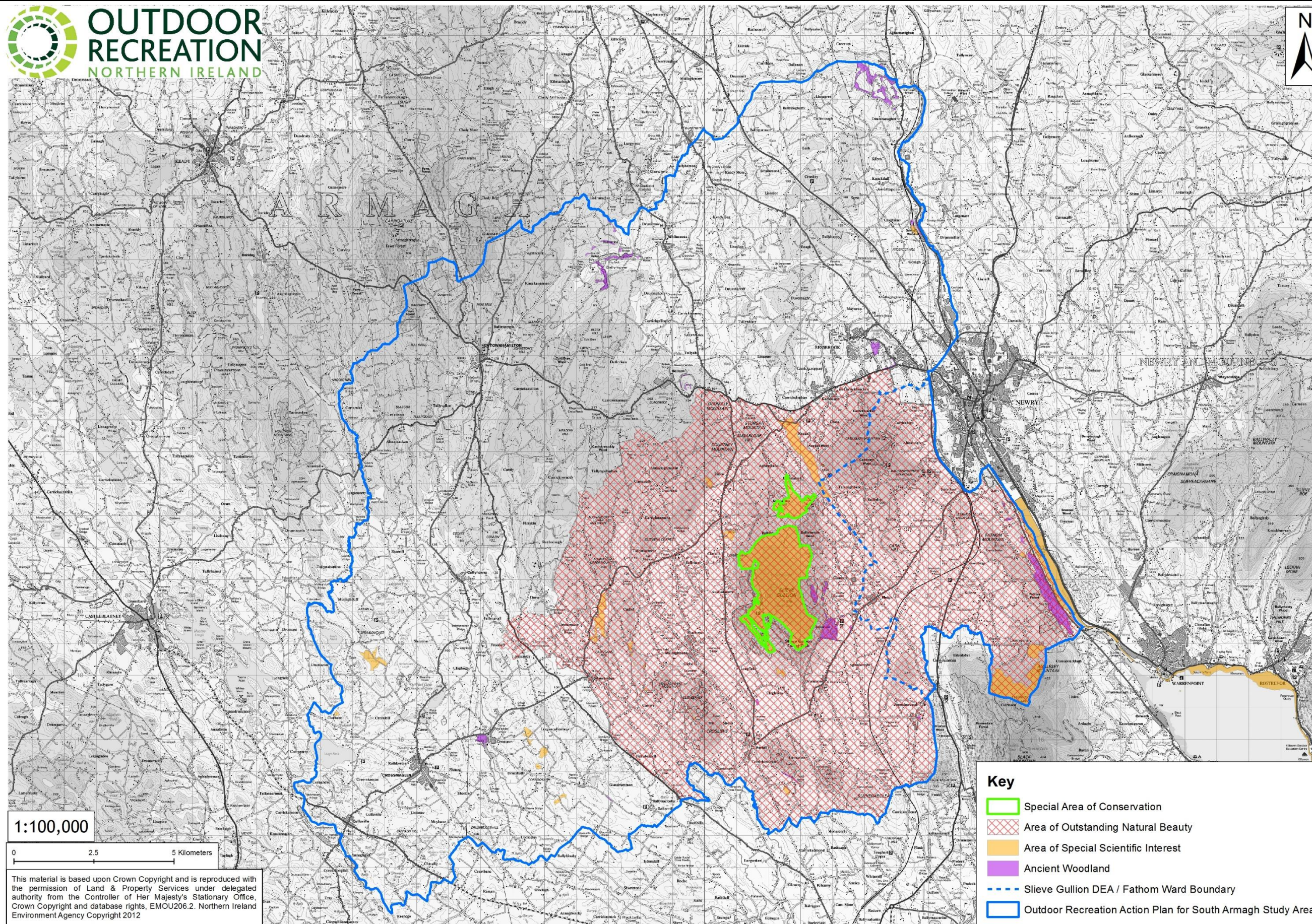
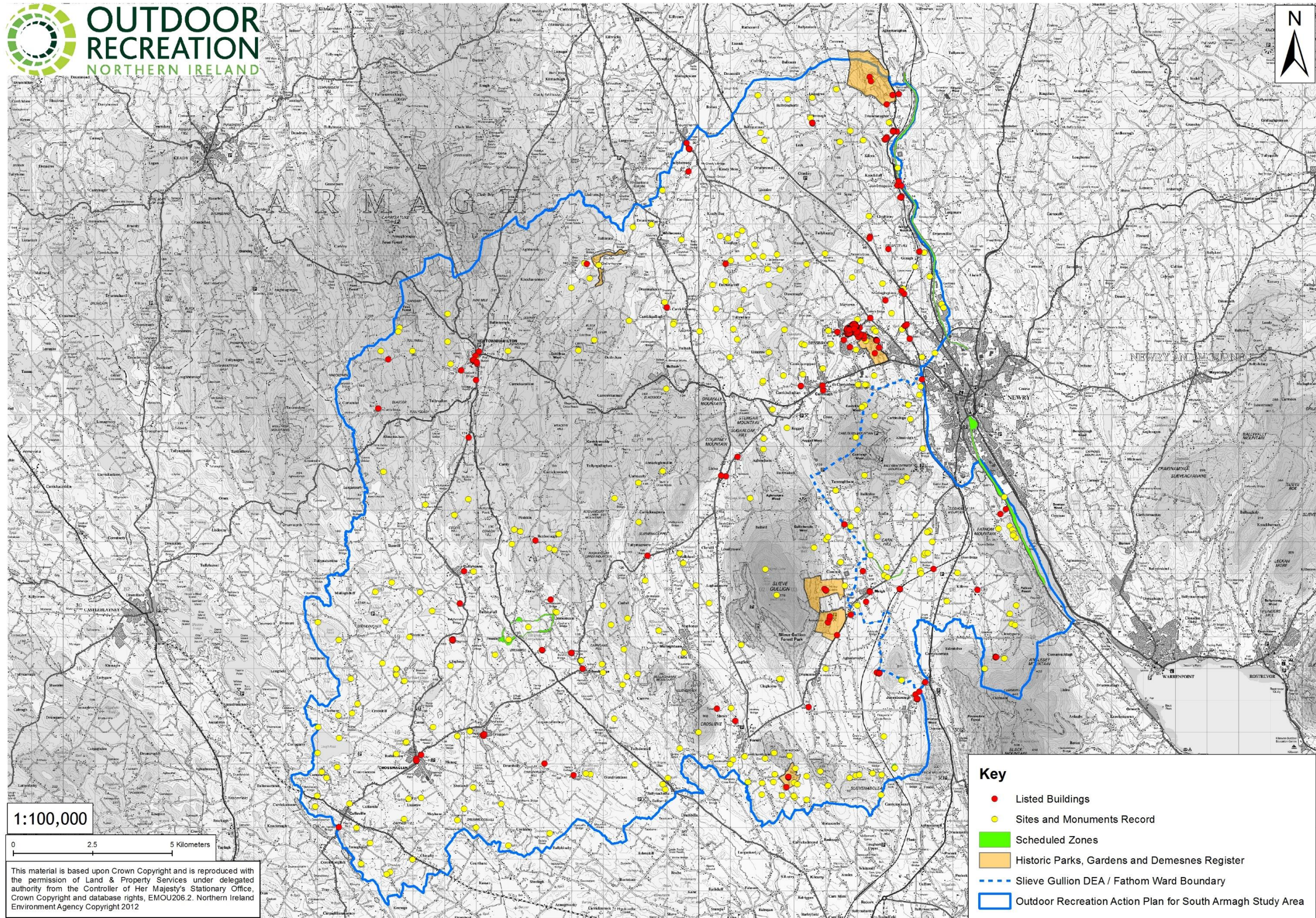


Figure 6: Natural heritage designations within the study area





OUTDOOR  
RECREATION  
NORTHERN IRELAND



1:100,000

0 2.5 5 Kilometers

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Key

- Listed Buildings
- Sites and Monuments Record
- Scheduled Zones
- Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes Register
- - - Slieve Gullion DEA / Fathom Ward Boundary
- Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for South Armagh Study Area

Figure 7: Built heritage designations within the study area



## 12. CURRENT PROVISION

The following chapter summarises the current provision of all activities which take place in the study area. A brief outline of the current provision is detailed for each.

Desk and primary research did not identify current provision for the following activities previously listed within Section 4.2

Activities without current provision		
Land	Water	Air
Adventure Racing	Boat charter & cruising	Aero-modelling
Blokarting	Boat Trips	Gliding
Caving	Coasteering	Micro-light Flying
High Ropes/Ziplines	Diving	Sky Diving / Parachuting
Kite Buggy	Hovercrafting	
Segway	Jet – Skiing	
Zorbing	Kite Surfing	
	Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP)	
	Surfing	
	Windsurfing	

Table 5: Activities within the study without current provision

Both Triathlon and Open Water Swimming (including ICE Swimming) have been added to the original list as outlined within Section 4.2.

## 12.1 Land Activities

### 12.1.1 Archery

Archery is primarily delivered by private activity providers, both site-based and mobile.

The following activity provider currently offers archery within the study area:

- Gullion Adventures (mobile operator using Ti Chulain Centre & Slieve Gullion Forest Park)

### 12.1.2 Bush Craft

Bush craft is a relatively new, inexpensive outdoor recreation activity growing in prominence across Northern Ireland especially amongst activity providers working with youth organisations. It involves the application of skills such as lighting fire by friction, eating wild food, making a water tight shelter from natural materials, which enable you to live in the wild for extended periods of time. Consultation found that although there are many remote areas which lend themselves perfectly to this type of activity much of the land is owned by Forest Service Northern Ireland in which bush craft activity is not permitted. Current Bushcraft activity within the study area was identified as:

- Red Branch Bushcraft (Forkhill)
- Forest School NI (operates with local primary schools in Jonesborough, Forkhill and Glasdrummond)
- Buzzard Bushcraft (volunteer group who normally run one event a year in the area)

NB: Gullion Adventures provide Bush Craft as an activity however utilises land outside of the study area for this due to the lack of appropriate sites currently available in the area.

### 12.1.3 Clay Pigeon Shooting

Clay pigeon shooting is a form of target shooting whereby participants use either a shotgun or air rifle to shoot a moving clay target known as 'clay pigeons' which mimic real birds. It is offered by one activity provider - Watch Tower Adventures

No clubs affiliated to the National Governing Body have been identified as using sites within the study area however it should be noted that there may be small recreational clay pigeon clubs throughout Northern Ireland who do not affiliate with the Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association. The Mullaghbane Gun Club host a clay pigeon tournament every year outside of Forkhill on private land which they have negotiated access to. Consultation revealed barriers to be finding appropriate locations away from populated areas due to noise and large enough to allow for the fall out area for shot (around 365 metres), as well as the cost of equipment.

### 12.1.4 Climbing

Camlough Quarry is located on the eastern side of Camlough Lake, approximately 2.5km south of Camlough. The disused quarry is in private ownership. Consultation has identified that groups have used the quarry for climbing and abseiling with permission granted by the landowner.

It is noted that the quarry is designated as an ASSI because of its geology. The ASSI citation document<sup>25</sup> highlights '...recreational activity undertaken in a manner likely to damage the interest of the area' as an activity or operation which could damage the site.

### 12.1.5 Cycling

For the purposes of this study 'cycling' is split into three categories, road cycling, off-road cycling and mountain biking.

#### **Road Cycling**

The study area currently encompasses one National Cycling Network Route with further cycle routes on quiet country roads also having been established. See Figure 10.

The following National Cycling Network Routes traverse the study area:

- NCN Route 9: Belfast to Slieve Gullion (The route will eventually connect Belfast and Dublin)

Other promoted on-road routes include:

- Newry to Slieve Gullion Courtyard
- Poets Trail: Ballykeel Loop
- Poets Trail: O'Neill Loop
- Crossmaglen
- The Giro d'Italia Route: Keady to Forkhill

Consultation revealed the main proactive cycling clubs in the area to be:

- BCC Camlough – have Thursday & Sunday club runs and host 2 sportives each year one in March (Spring 60) and one in August (Hog Run)
- Armagh Down Cycling Club- have regular club runs and organise the annual 'The Gullion Tour'
- Slieve Gullion Wheelers – organise the annual 'Tour of South Armagh' taking in the villages of Whitecross, Keady, Newtownhamilton, Silverbridge, Forkhill and Meigh.

Other cycling events identified in the study area include:

- Irelands Coast 2 Coast Sportive organised by 26 Extreme. The 2 day event starts in Enniscrone, Sligo and ends in Newcastle Co Down, with a small section of the route (A20 form Markethill to Newry) utilising roads within the study area.

Cycle Hire is currently offered by one provider in the area:

- JMC Cycles (operate under the brand Ring of Gullion Cycle Hire)

#### **Off Road Cycling**

There is currently only formal off-road cycling at two locations:

- Newry Canal Towpath (Newry to Portadown)
- Slieve Gullion Forest Park<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Declaration of Area of Special Scientific Interest at Camlough Quarry, County Armagh, Department of the Environment (January 2009)

<sup>26</sup> Off road cycling is permitted on the forest roads only

## **Mountain Biking**

Informal mountain biking (i.e. unpermitted) takes place within Slieve Gullion Forest Park and Slieve Gullion using both the forest drive, forest trails and informal trails.

### *12.1.6 Fell Running / Running*

Fell running, also known as mountain running, is governed by the Northern Ireland Mountain Runners' Association (NIMRA). It is typically a competitive sport but also a popular leisure activity. The following fell running events take place annually within the study area:

- Slieve Gullion (NIMRA)
- Flagstaff to Carlingford (NIMRA)
- King of Gullion 10k (Southern Area Hospice)
- Twin Peaks Mountain Challenge (Camlough Community Association)

3 waymarked running trails have been developed within Slieve Gullion Forest Park ranging from 3-8 miles

It is also worth noting that consultation revealed a strong involvement with road running in the area. The main running clubs identified were:

- Mullaghbawn Road Runners
- Slieve Gullion Runners
- Crossmaglen Area Running Group

The following running events take place annually within the study area:

- Bessbrook 10K (Feb)
- DUNE Cross Border Half Marathon (Feb)
- Dromintee Rocky Road 10k (March)
- Cullyhanna 5K Colour Run (July)
- Killeavy Classic 10K + 5K (October)
- Race Around the Lake Camlough (December)

It was recognised through analysis of Strava Labs Global Heat Map<sup>27</sup> (See Figure 8) that running is popular in the following areas:

- Slieve Gullion Forest Park
- Camlough Lake
- Forkhill
- Mullaghbawn
- Ballymoyer Rd
- Cullyhanna

Whilst running is popular in the area consultation revealed that during the winter months it is not feasible due to the challenges and associated dangers of running at night.

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<sup>27</sup> <http://labs.strava.com/heatmap/> - a collation of logged GPS runs

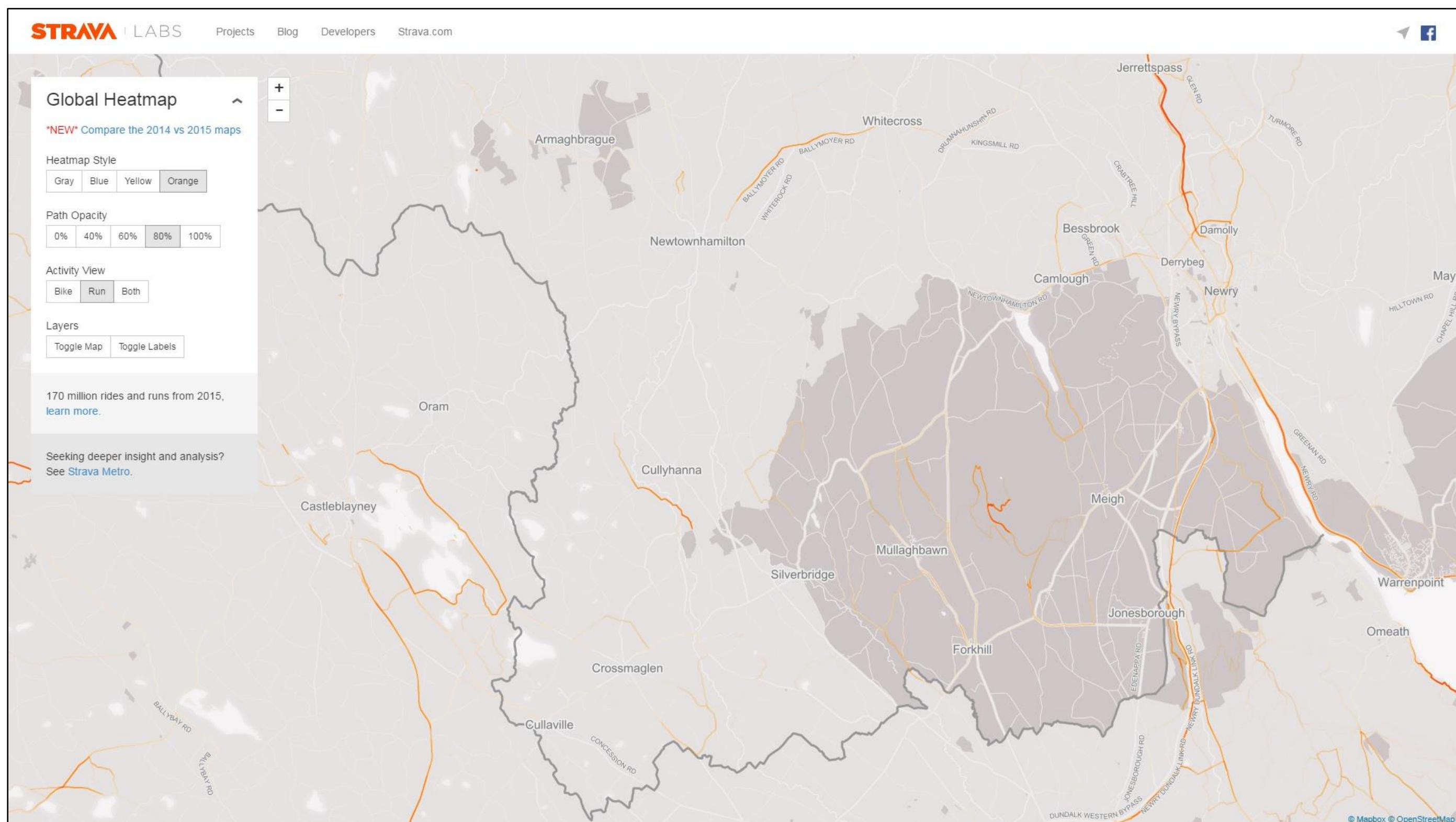


Figure 8: Strava Labs Global Heat Map

### *12.1.7 Horse riding*

Horse riding currently takes place at the following equestrian centres:

- Millbrook Equestrian Centre (Bessbrook)
- Bennetts Equestrian (Mullaghbawn)
- Greenvale Equestrian Centre (Forkhill)

Off road horse riding provision is very limited in the area, a frustration which was highlighted during consultation. Camlough Mountain was mentioned as a potential off road horse riding site. A site visit revealed it was currently being used by riders, however, there is no official access with barriers currently preventing access and no suitable parking areas available for horseboxes. Other areas mentioned in consultation which may have potential for horse riding but where access is currently restricted included Slieve Gullion, Ballymoyer Forest and Drumbanagher Forest.

### *12.1.8 Orienteering*

Orienteering is currently offered by the following activity provider:

- Gullion Adventures (this usually takes place on private land with the course being set up by the activity provider)

There are currently no permanent orienteering courses within the study area or up to date maps, an important prerequisite for the activity. Public consultation revealed a frustration with the lack of mapping in the area with a number of locations identified as having potential for future orienteering activity.

Whilst Slieve Gullion Forest Park had been mapped in 1997/98 and was used for the Irish Orienteering Championships in 1998, the map is now out of date and has not been used in over a decade. It was noted that to be usable the area would need fully remapped to account for the change in topography and technology.

Camlough Mountain and Derrymore House were also mentioned as potential locations suitable for orienteering. Other smaller areas (subject to access permission) e.g. close to Forkhill were highlighted as potential locations for Active Club Hubs in the area. Active Clubs is an initiative to get communities involved with orienteering utilising smaller courses with the aim of progressing. The potential for cross-border maps particularly in the Flagstaff – Ravensdale area was also noted.

### *12.1.9 Paintballing / Combat Games*

Paintballing and Combat games such as laser tag or airsoft are typically site-based and provided via a private activity provider. The following providers offer paintballing within their premises:

- Watch Tower Adventures
- NorthEast Adventures



#### *12.1.10 Rally & Off Road 4 x 4 Driving Schools*

Rally and Off Road 4 x 4 Driving is typically site-based on purpose built courses with an array of man-made and natural challenging obstacles such as rivers, bogs, steep inclines and sharp turns. There is one activity provider in the area who provides both Off Road 4x4 Driving and Rallying:

- NorthEast Adventures

#### *12.1.11 Triathlon*

Camlough Lake is the key location for triathlon within the study area. The lake is used for the open water swimming element with the local rural roads utilised for the running and cycling elements.

The Newry Triathlon Club which has approximately 150 members utilises the Lake for regular training sessions and several club events including a three race Aquathlon series and Tri a Tri (beginner triathlon).

Established in 2002 the Crooked Lake Triathlon takes place annually on Camlough Lake as part of Feile Camlocha Festival and now attracts between 500 - 600 competitors. The credentials of the venue were further recognised in 2014 when the Crooked Lake Triathlon was the venue for the Irish Sprint Distance National Championships.

Organised by Newry Triathlon Club, the South Armagh Warrior (SAW) Triathlon which includes a 5km off road mountain run is also scheduled to take place in September 2017.

Consultation has identified significant frustration regarding the lack of progress in developing facilities for triathlon training and events in Camlough i.e. toilets, showers, changing facilities and meeting room.

#### *12.1.12 Walking*

Walking is often a conduit to other activities such as sightseeing, bird watching, photography etc. It is enjoyed by a diverse range of participants from those taking short strolls with the family to avid hill walkers.

#### **Quality Walks**

All Quality Walks have been accredited by Outdoor Recreation NI in partnership with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Tourism NI (See Appendix 11 - Quality Walk Criteria)

As Table 6 indicates there is not a large provision of Quality walks in the area.

Quality Walk	Length (km)	Route type
Ballymoyer Woodland	3.21	Short Walks (up to 5 miles)
The Giant's Lair Slieve Gullion	1.60	Short Walks (up to 5 miles)
Glassdrummond Wood	1.60	Short Walks (up to 5 miles)
Slieve Gullion Circular Walk	15.29	Medium Walks (5 to 20 miles)
Ring of Gullion Way (Part of the Ulster Way) <sup>28</sup>	57.94	Long Walks (over 20 miles)
Newry Canal Way	32.2	Long Walks (over 20 miles)
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.84</b>	

Table 6: Quality Walks within South Armagh

### Formal Trails

In addition to Quality Walks there are various other sites/ routes where formal walking trails have been developed:

Name	Landowner / Land Manager
Poets Trail: Ballykeel Loop	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Poets Trail: O'Neill Loop	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Poets Trail: The Creggan Loop	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Poets Trail: Urney Loop	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Canal Wood	The Woodland Trust
Slieve Gullion Red Squirrel Safari	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Derrymore House	National Trust
St Patricks GFC Cullyhanna	
Culloville Blues Gaelic Athletic Club	
Bessbrook Heritage Trail	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Camlough Heritage Trail	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Bessbrook and Newry Tramway Trail	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Mullaghbane River Walk	
Camlough Mountain Walk	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Table 7: Formal Walking Trails

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<sup>28</sup> The Ring of Gullion Way is a long distance waymarked way therefore only part of the route is encompassed within the study area

### **Informal Trails and Sites**

Informal walking also occurs on many public land sites where there is not necessarily a designated trail but the public have a right to access. For example, The Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 states '... the public shall have right of access on foot to all forestry land for the purposes of recreation.' See Appendix 8 – Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 and The Forestry Land Byelaws (Northern Ireland) 2013 for further details.

Informal walking takes place in the following places:

- Fathom Forest
- Slievebrack Forest
- Camlough Mountain
- Cashel Lough
- Camlough Lake

### **Public Rights of Way**

Records show 14 PRoWs totalling 22,255 metres and 1 Permissive Path Agreements totalling 895 metres across the study area. See Figure 5 for the distribution of PRoWs and Appendix 6 - Public Rights of Way for a detailed list.

### **Walking Summary**

Consultation revealed a frustration with access, infrastructure (stiles etc), car parking and signage for walkers. Whilst it was noted that signage is needed, it was recognised that it should be appropriate and sensitive to the landscape.

There is an abundance of heritage sites within the area, although formal access is limited. Consultation revealed that those with formal access are in some instances not well maintained and there is a lack of interpretation / signage available for visitors and walkers.

The importance of capturing the interface between landscape, history and heritage came to the fore during consultation with a general consensus that this would enhance and add value to the walking routes as well as the destination as a whole. Not only this, but it is also of great importance to the local community who take pride in their heritage and landscape and want to ensure it is sustained for future generations. A number of sites were noted of being of historical importance e.g. Famine walls within Slieve Gullion that are not recognised or signed. Biodiversity was also mentioned as something which would greatly compliment the walking product in the area through improved interpretation of the rich flora and fauna with many nationally and internationally important habitats and species.

There is currently a lack of doorstep walking opportunities and safe places to walk within the towns/villages. With the development of a number of walks around existing Gaelic football pitches championed by local community groups it is clear the importance of walking for health and mindfulness is important to the local community and something which they benefit from.

There is a lack of 'all ability' trails in the area. These trails are defined as those that can be accessed by any user including those with limited mobility.<sup>29</sup> The key attributes of a Category 1 Multi-use 'All Ability' Trail are as follows:

Attribute	Specification
Trail Width	Minimum 2.5 wide
Trail Gradient	Maximum Average Gradients not more than 3% Maximum Absolute Gradients not more than 5% for not more than 30m in length
Trail Surface	Sealed surfaces only, must be even and consistent throughout and can include asphalt and compacted gravel ensuring that users of limited mobility can use the trail
Line of Sight	Minimum of 40m
Trail Features	Flat or level trails with no trail features Any bridges should not be less than 2m wide with handrails throughout

Table 8: Key Attributes of a Category 1 'All Ability' Multi-Use Trail

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<sup>29</sup> Principles and Standards for Trail Development in Northern Ireland, Outdoor Recreation NI

## 12.2 Water based activities

### 12.2.1 Angling

The study area has several formal and informal locations for angling:

#### Formal Access

Name	Nearest Town	Type	Access	Permit Required
Bessbrook	Bessbrook	Roach, Perch	Council managed site Car parking	Rod licence
Camlough Lake	Camlough	Pike, Bream, Roach, Perch	Council managed site Limited car parking Fishing stands	Rod licence
Carrigans Lake	Silverbridge	Trout (stocked)	Angling club Car parking	Rod licence Day Permit
Cashel (Upper & Lower)	Silverbridge	Trout (stocked)	Silverbridge Anglers Car parking	Rod licence Day permit
Cedar Valley Trout Fishery	Mullaghbane	Trout (stocked)	Private Trout Fishery	Private Fishery
Glassdrummond Lake	Creggan	Trout (stocked)	Angling Club Car parking	Rod licence Day permit
Kiltybane Lake	Cullyhanna	Trout (stocked)	Angling Club Car parking	Rod licence Day Permit
Lough Ross	Crossmaglen	Pike, Perch, Eel	Council managed Site Formal car parking and toilet facilities (often closed)	Rod licence
Mullaghbane Lake	Mullaghbane	Trout (stocked)	Angling Club	Rod licence Day permit
Newry Ship Canal	Newry	Perch, Roach, Beam & Pike	Council managed site 20 stands located adjacent to Omeath Road Limited Car Parking	Rod licence

Table 9: Formal Angling Locations

## Informal Access

Name	Nearest Town	Type	Notes
Camlough Lake	Camlough	Pike, Bream, Roach, Perch	Formal access is available at the 'Wall end' near Camlough  Anglers utilise a Council managed car park on the east side of the Lake to gain informal access through private land
Cornahove Lake	Cullaville	Roach, Rudd, Perch	Informal access via informal road side parking  'The lake is easy to access and requires little to enhance it as a fishery. It would be perfect for development with a focus on lesser abled anglers.' <sup>30*</sup>
Creggan River	Creggan	Brown Trout	Informal access via private land
Cullyhanna Lough	Cullyhanna	Rudd, Pike, Perch	Informal access via private land  Formerly used as a trout fishery. Parking facilities and fishing areas in place.  'Conditions would provide great potential as a mixed fishery, ideally carp and tench'*
Drumuckavall Lake	Crossmaglen	Trout	Informal access via private land
Drumvee Lough	Cullaville	Roach, Perch, Pike	Informal access via private land
Forkhill River	Forkhill / Mullaghbane	Salmon	Informal access via private land
Lislitreim	Crossmaglen / Cullyhanna	Roach, Perch, Pike	Informal access via private land  'The lake could be developed as a general coarse fishery with the possibility of becoming a designated carp and tench fishery'*
Lough Alina	Cullyhanna	Roach, Bream, Pike	Informal access via private land

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<sup>30\*</sup> Angling potential of selected lakes in South Armagh area, Oriel Angling for South Armagh Tourism Initiative (October 2006)

Lough Patrick	Cullyhanna	Roach, Perch, Bream, Pike	Informal access via private land  'The actual angling potential of Lough Patrick is immense, a fishery of this size and with such rich numbers of fish present is a plus factor, the lake is accessible and permission was granted by the landowner who expressed a desire to open the water to the general public.'*
Lough Peter	Cullyhanna	Roach, Perch, Pike, Eels	Informal access via private land  'The lake would make an ideal venue to promote pike angling from a boat'*
Lough Sheettrim	Cullyhanna	Perch, Roach, Pike, Rudd	Informal access via private land

Table 10: Informal Angling Locations

This study has identified an unrecognised potential for angling in the study area. There is a fragmented approach to angling i.e. the key stakeholders are often working in isolation to each other. This is best demonstrated through the wide range of licences and permits required to partake in angling across different locations, although this issue is not unique to South Armagh. There is also a lack of consistent and accurate information on current formal angling opportunities available to the public. This creates a barrier of participation to those without detailed knowledge of the activity / area.

Whilst the range of formal angling locations provide high stock levels of fish, the facilities such as car parking and fishing pegs are not of the required standard. For example, Newry Ship Canal has a reputation as one the best coarse fishing locations in Ireland, however it is severely restricted by lack of parking and lack of safe access from the current car park to the current fishing pegs.

This is further demonstrated by a local operator who delivers an introduction to angling programme with St Joesph's High School Crossmaglen and its eight feeder primary schools. Despite a strong potential for angling in the area, the operator is required to bring groups outside the study area to find safe, accessible locations with adequate stock levels.

The 'Angling potential of selected lakes in the South Armagh area' was conducted in 2006 by Oriel Angling on behalf of South Armagh Tourism Initiative. Whilst the report is nearly 11 years old, consultation with the author has indicated the findings would largely remain unchanged. The majority of informal angling locations referenced in Table 10, were identified by this report. The report identifies the potential provided by the high volume of fish stocks but also recognises the challenge of access across private land and concerns regarding clandestine netting of fish in high volumes.

### 12.2.2 Canoeing

Camlough Lake is used for formal canoeing by Camlough Canoe Club, Newry and Mourne Sea Kayak Club and individuals. The flat water provides an excellent location for both open boating (Canadian Canoes) and kayaking. The lack of basic facilities such as toilets, showers, changing rooms and canoe storage was highlighted during consultation as a key barrier to increased participation in canoeing at Camlough Lake.

The Newry Ship Canal / Newry River forms part of the South East Coast Canoe Trail which spans more than 50 miles from the Albert Basin in Newry to Portaferry on Strangford Lough. Within the study area, there is an access point on the Omeath Road (GR J097 230) and an egress point at Victoria Lock Gates.

Consultation has identified that canoeists currently have difficulty portaging<sup>31</sup> Victoria Locks. This could be remedied by the development of a floating pontoon on the canal side of Victoria Lock. This would aid both access, egress and portage and therefore ease the parking issue at the slip way on the Omeath Road. In addition, this could benefit yachts awaiting exit through the Lock Gates. The development could also add further value to the visitor experience on the Carlingford Lough Greenway, improved water access would provide the opportunity to develop 'pedal out paddle home' experiences which combine cycling and canoeing.

Informal white water kayaking takes place along a c.3.5km section of the Forkhill River between Forkhill and Kilcurry. The activity is classed as informal as there is no formal access across the land to either the access and egress points. The Irish White Water Guide website <sup>32</sup> identifies fallen trees, barbed wire and low bridges as obstacles. There is no evidence of regular use.

Gullion Adventures offers canoeing to pre-organised groups on both Camlough Lake and Newry Ship Canal.

### 12.2.3 Rowing

Newry Rowing Club has between 25-30 members operating from modest facilities in the Albert Basin (outside the study area) which they use to access the Newry Ship Canal. The canal provides a long sheltered stretch of water which is ideal for rowing. Whilst the narrow nature of the canal only provides the opportunity for two boats racing side by side it does provide an excellent venue for time trials in which boats set off one after another. The development of the Carlingford Greenway will also provide an excellent opportunity for shore side coaching by bicycle.

Camlough Lake has been used in the past as a training venue, however this ceased following an incident of vandalism to equipment in 2013. The Rowing Ireland Ulster Branch Executive feel the venue could provide the opportunity to host six lane racing over a two kilometre course which is currently not available in Northern Ireland. The size of the Lake coupled with its strategic location between Belfast and Newry means it could potentially host both regional and national events attracting 450-500 competitors. The Ulster Branch Executive does recognise that any development of rowing would

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<sup>31</sup> Portage or portaging is the practice of carrying water craft or cargo over land, either around an obstacle in a river, or between two bodies of water.

<sup>32</sup> The Irish White Water Guide website is an unofficial guide to white water kayaking sites in Ireland <http://iww.ie>



need to be developed in close consultation with those local clubs already partaking in outdoor recreation on the Lake.

#### *12.2.4 Open Water Swimming (including Ice Swimming)*

Camlough Lake is a key venue for open water swimming in Ireland. The lake has hosted the annual Lord and Lady of the Lake over a 2700 metre course since 2001.

Long distance open water swimming came to prominence in 2009 when the lake was used as the venue to set a new Guinness World Record for Long Distance Relay Swimming. The participants (largely from the local community) swam a total of 684.750 kilometres (426.5 miles) over 232 hours 52 minutes and 30 seconds.

The lake is regularly used as a training venue but also hosts a significant volume of events, most which fall under the umbrella of the Camlough Lake Water Festival (CWLF) which runs over a weekend in mid-August. The CWLF also run a series of open water swimming and water polo events between May – September annually, this includes prestigious events such as the ISA Ireland 1k National Championships.

Camlough Lake is also used for “ICE Swim” or “ICE Swimming” which involves swimming in temperatures of sub 5 degrees Celsius. Local swimmers have competed in several international events and have currently submitted a bid for the ICE Swimming European Championships in 2019. This would require a 25m x 5 lane pool to be constructed within the lake.

Similar to other activities on Camlough Lake, open water swimming has thrived despite a lack of basic facilities.

#### *12.2.5 Sailing*

There is no sailing activity currently taking place within the study area. However, sailing craft under engine power do enter the Newry Ship Canal at Victoria Locks to access berthing facilities within the Albert Basin (outside the study area).

#### *12.2.6 Waterskiing / Wakeboarding*

Waterskiing takes place on Camlough Lake within an area designated by the bye-laws which also stipulate that a maximum of 4 boats with an engine power exceeding 15 horsepower are permitted at one time.

### **12.3 Air Activities**

#### *12.3.1 Hang Gliding/Paragliding*

Slieve Gullion is used as a venue for paragliding. The site is popular as the forest drive provides easy access to the summit, reducing the need to carry heavy equipment and also for the thermal airstreams generated in the correct weather conditions.



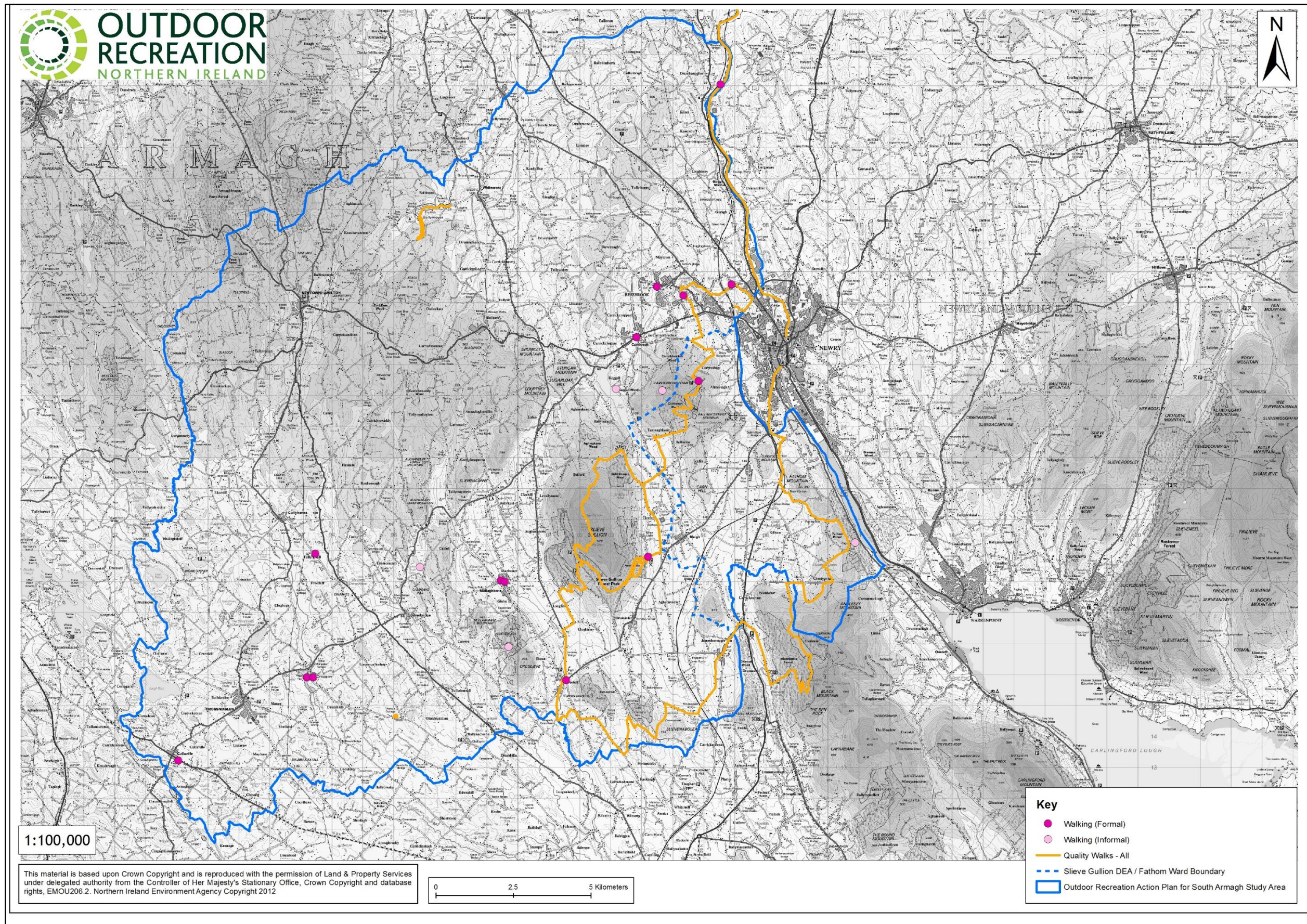
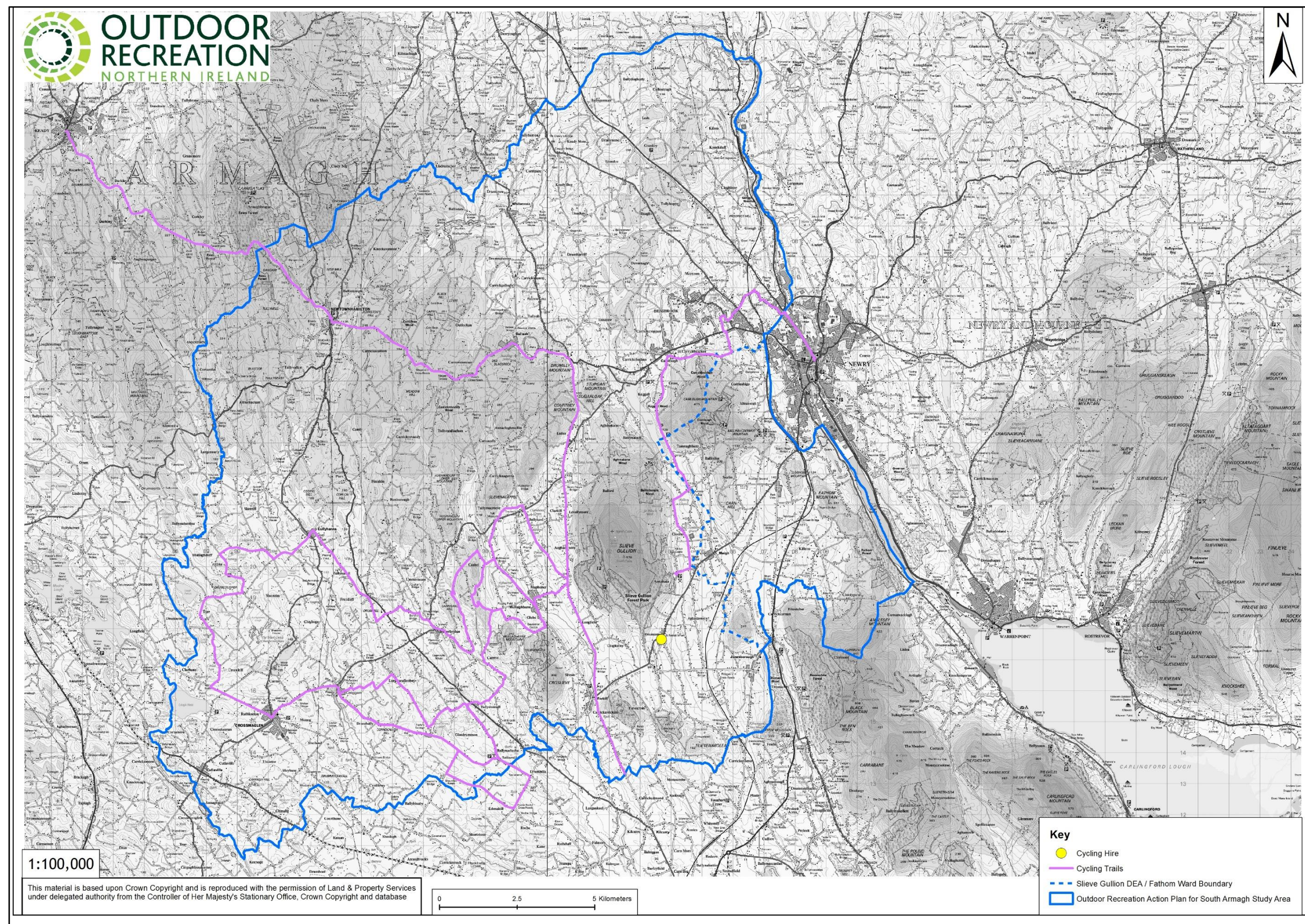


Figure 9: Current Provision Walking







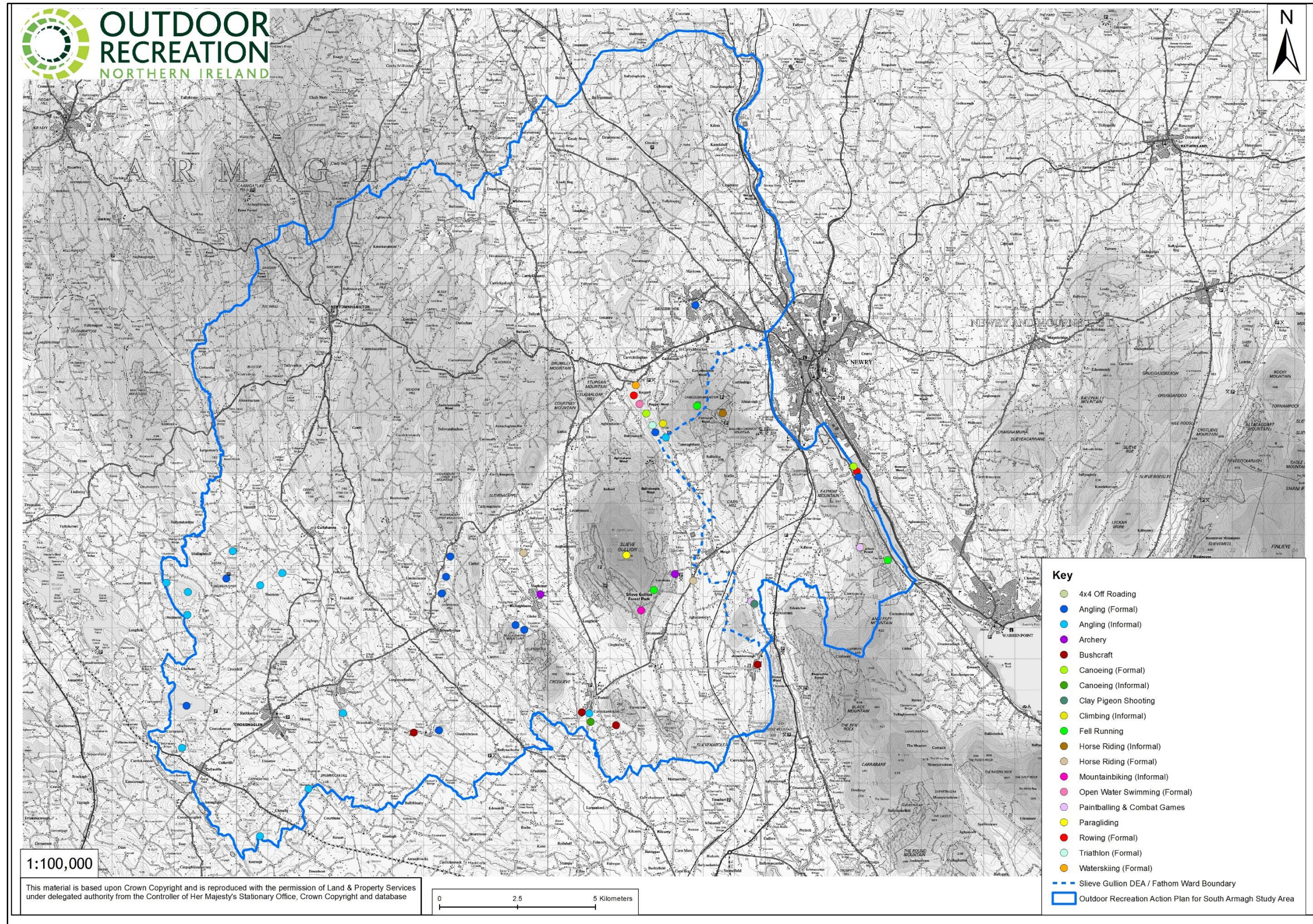


Figure 11: Current Provision Other Activities



## 13. KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

This section includes a general synopsis of some of the key findings followed by a SWOT analysis (Section 14) which details the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the current provision and future development of outdoor recreation in the study area. Recommendations are made where relevant and these are collated in the Action Plan (Section 15).

The key findings / recommendations are divided into four sections:

**Management / Structure:** refers to both the resources and structures that are required to ensure a high quality and consistent experience for all outdoor recreation users to the area.

**Development:** refers to both the outdoor recreation infrastructure required to do an activity e.g. trails, and the supporting visitor services and facilities which enhance the outdoor recreation offering.

**Promotion:** refers to the wide range of media required to heighten the awareness of the local population and visitors to the area of the opportunities that exist for taking part in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.

**Issues & Barriers:** current issues and potential barriers that may affect future recreation development in the study area.

### 13.1 Management / Structure

There are several key organisations involved in the management, development and promotion of outdoor recreation within the study area.

**ROGP** has seven staff who are employed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. An AONB Officer (part funded by NIEA) is responsible for the management of the AONB which makes up c.38% of the study area. AONB management aims to enhance the built, cultural and natural heritage of the area and increase the opportunities for public enjoyment of the AONB.<sup>33</sup>

Four staff manage the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership 2014 - 2018, the boundary of which extends slightly beyond the AONB boundary to also include the villages of Camlough, Bessbrook and Dorsey which were identified as key villages which have played a significant role in shaping the Ring of Gullion.<sup>34</sup> The Heritage Lottery funded project has a c.£1.4 million budget encompassing 24 projects, which aims to engage people with the Ring of Gullion AONB and surrounding landscape. Actions range from trail construction to storytelling and from interpreting the history of Newry Canal to enhancing the area's rich biodiversity.

A further staff member works as project officer for the ASCENT project (funded by the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014 – 2020) and also is the Project Officer for the Bessbrook Model Village Project.

Despite these two distinct geographical remits it is evident that ROGP AONB staff have to a degree also engaged in projects / initiatives out with the area. For example, Crossmaglen (in which their office is

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<sup>33</sup> The Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Action Plan 2011-2016, Northern Ireland Environment Agency

<sup>34</sup> Ring of Gullion Landscape Conservation Action Plan, Newry and Mourne District Council (2014)

based), Cullyhanna and Cullaville. The Gullion's Green Woodlands and Hedgerows Scheme which aims to increase woodland cover throughout south Armagh also extends outside the AONB boundary.

### **Newry Mourne and Down District Council**

Outdoor recreation falls under two key departments within Council i.e. Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism and Active and Healthy Communities. Both departments have a remit across the wider Council area. Whilst there are some examples of proactive partnerships between the two departments and the ROGP, there is room for improvement in terms of joint working and communication. It is anticipated this Plan will help bring such cohesion.

### **Public Organisations**

As highlighted in Section 9 , excluding private landowners and the Council, there are an additional 3 key landowners/ land managers involved in the provision of outdoor recreation within the study area namely FSNI, National Trust, and the Woodland Trust. In addition, there are several key organisations involved in the funding and delivery of outdoor recreation in the area namely Loughs Agency, Heritage Lottery Fund, Sport NI and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

This has resulted in:

- Confusion with regards to the geographic remit of the ROGP
- A lack of engagement with some communities outside the AONB e.g. Newtownhamilton, Whitecross
- Fragmented approach to outdoor recreation within Council meaning key issues are often not addressed
- Lack of clarity for outdoor recreation providers e.g. clubs, private businesses and community groups as to the most appropriate method or person for initial contact and liaison
- There is no champion or structure to unlock the untapped potential of angling

#### *13.1.1 Management / Structure Recommendations*

##### **13.1.1.1 Recommendation 1: Ring of Gullion Partnership**

ROGP's geographical remit should be extended to incorporate the entire study area i.e. Slieve Gullion DEA and Ward of Fathom. An increase in staff resource to include a dedicated Outdoor Recreation Officer would provide the necessary focus to oversee the management and delivery of this Plan, co-ordinate the proposed Strategic Outdoor Recreation Group (see 13.1.1.2 ) and the proposed Outdoor Recreation (see 13.1.1.3), Angling (see 13.1.1.4 ) and Forums, secure funding for development projects and be responsible for the Pilot Landowner Engagement Programme (see 13.4.2.1).

##### **13.1.1.2 Recommendation 2: Broaden current AONB Management Group / LPS Board**

ROGP has one board who operate as both the AONB Management Group and Landscape Partnership Scheme Board. It is recommended the scope of this board is broadened to incorporate major landowners / land manager and promoters of outdoor recreation.

This group would provide a medium for a strategic and joint up approach to the delivery of the actions with this Plan. Engagement with the South Armagh Outdoor Recreation Forum will be key as discussed further below.

#### **13.1.1.3 Recommendation 3: South Armagh Outdoor Recreation Forum**

This Forum should be led by ROGP to identify local issues, potential solutions and actions. The involvement of the Strategic Outdoor Recreation Group is important alongside activity providers, education staff, outdoor sports clubs and outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

It is envisaged that a large element of the Forum will be comprised of local clubs / associations and community groups, therefore it is important there is a close relationship with the South Armagh, Newry and Down Sports Association (SANDSA) to avail of support, funding and training opportunities.

However, consultation has also identified a growing cohort of entrepreneurial embryonic small businesses offering outdoor recreation related opportunities. The majority of these businesses have a limited background in outdoor recreation and tourism, therefore requiring further mentoring. Signposting to the initiatives of the Council's Tourism department is therefore important.

It is recognised that this Forum is currently in its infancy. It is anticipated that this plan will create a clear agenda for this group to focus on.

#### **13.1.1.4 Recommendation 4: South Armagh Angling Forum**

Given the possibility of significant untapped potential of angling in the area it is recommended a South Armagh Angling Forum is established to address the current fragmented approach and provide an agreed vision, mission and objectives for the development of angling. This could potentially be a sub group of the aforementioned South Armagh Outdoor Recreation Forum. It is suggested the Angling Forum should comprise of the following parties:

- ROGP (Lead)
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Loughs Agency
- Sport NI
- Local Angling Clubs
- Relevant National Governing Bodies e.g. Angling NI, Ulster Angling Federation, National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland

It is suggested that key actions would include:

- Collaborating Angling Product i.e. locations and events which are 'market ready' - compile into appropriate website
- Delivering a targeted marketing programme to angling enthusiasts in NI & ROI
- Delivering an awareness programme to local business and communities
- Agreeing priority sites for further development
- Identifying funding sources for development and promotion
- Establishing the South Armagh Fishing Festival

## 13.2 Development

From the consultation process it is evident that:

### 13.2.1 Weaknesses

- In overall terms, there is a lack of formal outdoor recreation opportunities
- There is a disparity in current or planned outdoor recreation development inside and out with the AONB.
- There is evidence of a lack of strategic planning in outdoor recreation site development. For example, the installation of a play park in Slieve Gullion Forest Park has presented a significant parking issue and displaced outdoor recreation visitors with other interests.
- Little to no adequate provision to allow those with a disability access to the outdoors. Key concerns are the lack of all ability trails for walking. Outdoor recreation provides the opportunity for those with a disability to participate in 'non mainstream' activities, however both infrastructure and tailored equipment provision is limited within the study area. See Appendix 7 –Disability Sport Northern Ireland – guidance for overcoming Barriers to Outdoor Recreation For People With Disabilities for guidance from Disability Sport NI on overcoming barriers to outdoor recreation for people with disabilities.
- Activity Specific weaknesses include:
  - Limited off road / family cycling opportunities
  - Lack of doorstep walking / cycling opportunities via community trails
  - Lack of 'All Ability' trails for walking and cycling
  - Lack of innovative natural adventure play
  - Orienteering: out of date maps
  - Lack of Quality Walks, PRowS and permissive paths
  - Lack of horse riding trails and bridleways
  - Lack of 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map for the area<sup>35</sup>
  - Underutilisation of resources such as Lough Ross and Camlough Mountain / Forest
- Visitor Services and Facilities weaknesses include:
  - Lack of visitor services e.g. toilets, parking, changing facilities, equipment hire, etc
  - Several public facilities closed e.g. Camlough Mountain Forest Drive, Ballintemple Viewpoint
  - Poor public transport and lack of rambler services

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<sup>35</sup> There is currently a high-quality water resistant 1:25,000 Ring of Gullion Activity Map. However, this only covers the boundary of the AONB rather than the entire study area. As stocks of the 1:25,000 deplete a revised map encompassing south Armagh should be considered. 1:50,000 may be a more appropriate scale given the increased study area.



- Lack of high quality, consistent and informative visitor information e.g. walking trailhead information panels

### *13.2.2 Opportunities*

- Several initiatives currently being developed have the potential to create 'stand out' recreation products namely; Slieve Gullion Forest Park and the Newry to Carlingford Greenway including connection to Newry Canal Towpath
- Whilst the area already has a number of informal walking trails around villages and along river corridors, there is an overwhelming demand for a formal network of Community Trails to be developed across the area.
- There is a reasonable volume of public sites in particular forests which provide potential opportunities for development. The existence of a Memorandum of Understanding between Council and FSNi provides a mechanism for such development.

### *13.2.3 Development Recommendations*

#### **13.2.3.1 Recommendation 5: Community Trail Plan**

Developing a Community Trail network across the area featured significantly throughout the consultation exercise as well as being highlighted in many of the Council's Village Plans. Community Trails, either link communities to surrounding green space via a safe off-road route, or one community to another, for example, along a river corridor. These trails which provide 'doorstep' safe off-road walking/cycling trails at community level will require significant investment particularly in terms of staff time to negotiate access. This correlates with the wider Northern Ireland picture. As a first step a Community Trail Plan should be prepared to allow for any future network to be developed in a more strategic way. The Council has previously commissioned Community Trail Plans for both the Mourne and Slieve Croob DEAs.

The list in Table 11 and featured in Figure 13 has been identified through consultation, each of these would require further feasibility assessment. This is by no means exhaustive and could provide the catalyst for other opportunities to arise.

Further information on community trails is available in Appendix 13 – Community Trails – Frequently asked Questions

Community Trail	Potential Development
Bessbrook Pond	Walking trail to circumnavigate the pond
Camlough Lake	Walking trail to circumnavigate the lake
Lough Ross	Walking trail to circumnavigate the lake. Boardwalk currently along one section, this could be extended.
Camlough / Bessbrook / Newry	A river walk from Bessbrook to Camlough & Bessbrook to Newry
Cashel Loughs	Walking trail to circumnavigate lakes
Crossmaglen	Possible walking link from Crossmaglen to Lough Ross. Also potential for Crossmaglen to Culloville along the Fane River and Crossmaglen to Creggan.
Forkhill River	Reinstate previous walking trail along the river
Meigh Village to Slieve Gullion	Walking link connecting the village to Slieve Gullion Forest Park
Newry Greenway to Meigh Village	Walking link connecting the newly developed greenway to Meigh Village
Newtownhamilton	Improve path around GAA pitch
Mullaghbane to Slievebrack Forest	Possible walking link between the forest and village
Dorsey	Rory Mc Gee Park / Dorsey Emmets GAA: Provision of a walking track around the GAA pitch
Mullaghbane	The current River Walk poses a potential threat due to its slippery nature therefore improvement works are needed to make it a viable community trail. Also possibility to extend it.
Dromintee	Link from Dromintee to Slieve Gullion
Glassdrummond School	Link from St Brigid's PS to the Glassdrummond Quality Walk
Jonesborough	Link from Jonesborough Wood to Ravensdale Forest. Link from Jonesborough to Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone and Moyry Castle.
Glendesha Woods	Potential to incorporate Glendesha Woods to Ballykeel Poets Trail
Kiltybane	Possibility to extend current boardwalk to create circular walk around the lake

Table 11: Potential Community Trails

### **13.2.3.2      *Recommendation 6: Activity Hub Master planning***

For the purposes of this report the term 'Activity Hub' refers to the clustering of activities and supporting visitor services within a confined area providing the local/visitor ample opportunities to spend a single or multi-day trip. 'Activity hubs' will typically have a multitude of outdoor recreation activities with good connectivity between all resources, e.g. a path may be multi use or canoe steps may also provide access for anglers. These sites should have appropriately developed visitor facilities e.g. toilets and catering. It is recognised that where possible it is sustainable to focus investment and development on activities and visitor services occurring within 'activity hubs'.

Consultation identified a number of sites where there is a demand from a wide range of outdoor recreation stakeholders for current participation and further development. Given the scale of these sites, there will also be a tourism focus to their development.

In order to maximise the outdoor recreation / tourism potential of these sites it is important master planning is undertaken to:

- Engage relevant stakeholders
- Ensure environmental aspects are considered
- Identify connection to wider project such as Blueways, Greenway, Cycling Trails, Long Distance Walking Trails
- Identify appropriateness of specific activities for the hub
- Improve visitor flow and reduce potential for visitor conflict
- Reduce a siloed approach to development
- Identify ongoing management / maintenance responsibilities
- Consider disability access

See Appendix 12 – Benchmarking Case Study 1 Dalby Forest Park for a best practice example of a site which has taken a strategic approach to masterplanning.

The following hubs were identified (See Table 12 & Figure 12)

Site	Landowner / Manager	Potential
Camlough Lake <sup>36</sup>	Council / Private Landowner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Camlough Lake Masterplan was developed on behalf of Council in 2011. Consultation with key stakeholders has identified that the majority of the recommendations are still valid and therefore there is a significant frustration regarding the lack of delivery. Key obstacles include the repair work to the dam (which at the time of writing is nearing completion) and uncertainty regarding land ownership.</li> <li>• Despite the lack of development there remains to be a significant growth in participation with open water swimming including ICE Swimming, triathlon and canoeing.</li> <li>• The Council and Camlough Lake Management Committee should create a prioritised action plan with SMART objectives and actions to re-invigorate the development of the site. Consideration should be given to the potential for the incorporation of rowing which is not included within the original recommendations.</li> </ul>
Camlough Mountain	Forest Service NI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This extensive forest and open mountain is currently only used for informal recreation.</li> <li>• A forest drive (closed since the 1980s) provides a high-quality road conduit through the site.</li> <li>• There is significant potential to offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a network of walking trails of varying lengths including all ability trails</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<sup>36</sup> At the time of writing Council has issued an Invitation to Tender for Camlough Lake – Recreational Event Hub. The specification is split into two phases. Phase 1 includes an initial feasibility study and economical appraisal to agree the preferred option to provide a recreational event hub. Phase 2 is to develop the scheme to detailed design stage and obtain relevant statutory approvals to completion of RIBA Stage 3.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o iconic viewpoints of the Ring of Gullion and towards Carlingford Lough</li> <li>o incorporate horse riding trails</li> <li>o visitor hub – car parking, toilets and opportunity for a mobile catering franchise</li> <li>o orienteering</li> </ul>
Lough Ross	Council / Private Landowner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently a Council owned car park, toilet block (closed) and jetty.</li> <li>• Consultation has identified considerable potential for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Development of disabled friendly fishing pegs</li> <li>o Walking trail around the lough with footbridges over the Fane and Clarebane Rivers and potential to link to the Monaghan Way.</li> <li>o A walking trail north along the Clarebane River linking to Lough Muckno</li> <li>o Incorporation of natural adventure play</li> <li>o Flat water canoeing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Slieve Gullion Forest Park	Forest Service NI / Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Slieve Gullion Forest Park Economic Appraisal / Feasibility Study recommends the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improved vehicle access to the site</li> <li>o Improved car parking facilities</li> <li>o Improved directional signage to and throughout the park</li> <li>o Improved gateway signage and welcome signs along the entrance drive</li> <li>o Repair of trails and features that have been damaged</li> <li>o An amenity building to include toilet facilities and a shower block</li> <li>o Somewhere to buy a memento</li> <li>o A new path from Slieve Gullion North Cairn to the West to create a new circular walking route</li> <li>o Running trails</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A highly interactive, augmented reality experience and visitor interpretation centre based within Chambre House.</li> <li>○ The provision of private sector operated Glamping and Outdoor Theatre / Cinema Space</li> <li>○ Family Outdoor Activities e.g. off road bike trails, low rope tree course licensed to a private sector operator</li> <li>• Consultation as part of this process also identified the following which should be taken into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Orienteering mapping</li> <li>○ Horse riding provision</li> <li>○ Family cycling provision</li> <li>○ A network of waymarked walking trails including an All ability trail</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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Table 12: Potential Activity Hubs

### 13.2.3.3 Recommendation 7: Community Hub Development

The weakness of the aforementioned Activity Hubs is that any visit still requires a considerable car journey for many South Armagh residents. A lack of regular public transport in the study area compounds this issue. It is therefore important that outdoor recreation opportunities are provided within rural communities to allow them to connect to local high quality green space. The primary focus for these hubs will be community walking, cycling or multi-use trails, natural adventure play or other innovative opportunities such as wildflower planting. The community hubs may connect with community trails discussed in Section 13.2.3.1.

A strong example of a Community Hub within the Council area is Bunkers Hill in Castlewellan see Appendix 12 – Benchmarking Case Study 2.

The list in Table 13 and featured in Figure 12 has been identified through consultation, each of these would require further feasibility assessment. This is by no means exhaustive and could provide the catalyst for other opportunities to arise.

Community Hub	Potential Development
Forkhill	<p>The Council has recently completed the development of an 800 metre pathway together with a number of environmental features and complementary street furniture which follows the perimeter of the former military base site. The pathway has been designed in such a way that it does not compromise any future development on the site and protects several mature trees.</p> <p>The site has further potential for enhancement through incorporation of natural adventure play, wildflower planting and biodiversity education opportunities etc.</p>
Kiltybane Lough	<p>The Lough is in private ownership and is managed as a stocked trout fishing lake, and a Pike angling lake by the Fane Angling Club, but is also open to the public fishing on day licenses. The Council lease lands for a small car park, slipway and jetty. Numerous fishing stands are accessed along a grass surfaced trail.</p> <p>The site has further potential to develop a formal multi-use trail around the lake, providing access to an increased number of fishing stands / pegs.</p> <p>Adjacent to the car park there is scope for natural adventure play facilities and potentially a pump track to compliment the cycling element of the multi-use trail around the lake.</p> <p>A recent Biodiversity Management Plan<sup>37</sup> further recommends the development of pond dipping and bird feeding facilities and a flowery lawn in the picnic area.</p>

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<sup>37</sup> Biodiversity Management Plan: Kiltybane Lough, Co.Armagh, WM Associates for Newry, Mounre and Down District Council (March 2017)

Derrymore House	<p>Derrymore is a 45 hectare site with 10 buildings including a centrepiece thatched cottage (Derrymore House) and walled garden. The site is currently free and open to the public.</p> <p>A feasibility study conducted in 2014 identifies plans to further develop the site to make it more accessible to the public and increase its relevance and attractiveness to visitors.</p> <p>A 5 phase approach has been suggested with phase one including improvements to car park provision, a looped walking and family cycling trail around the perimeter of the site, upgrades to existing paths including the provision of natural play equipment, interpretation and seating as well as a playpark.</p> <p>It is understood that council are currently seeking funding for this project. The Council are the lead on the project in conjunction with The National Trust and 'Friends of Derrymore Wood'.</p>
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Table 13: Potential Community Hubs

#### 13.2.3.4 **Recommendation 8: Visitor Signage Guidelines**

The 'Audit and recommendations for improvement of Tourism Signage in South Armagh'<sup>38</sup> identified key findings and recommendations which primarily focused on the improvement of directional signage to tourists sites and scheduled monuments. ORNI concurs with the findings of this report in relation to white-on-brown directional tourist signs.

Further emphasis is also required within outdoor recreation sites such as parks or forests, where it is essential to erect visitor information signage and where appropriate, trail waymarking. This is very important from a marketing perspective and of critical importance in terms of visitor enjoyment and risk management.

Visitor information signage will include welcome signage, information and interpretation, visitor safety, visitor orientation etc. Trail waymarking refers to signage relating to or located directly on trails and it includes trailhead signage, waymarker posts and disks, interpretation panels and safety signage.

As previously identified, there is a significant weakness in the provision and quality of onsite visitor information and signage in the study area. It is therefore recommended that 'Visitor Information and Signage Guidelines' are developed. These would take into account the significant differences in type and size of the outdoor recreation sites which range from local to regional multi-activity sites as well as the customer journey. Following the development of the guidelines, it is recommended that a review of the current portfolio of outdoor recreation sites is undertaken and the visitor information and signage rolled out as appropriate.

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<sup>38</sup> Audit and recommendations for improvement of Tourism Signage in South Armagh, McCadam Consulting Services Ltd on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (2016)



### **13.2.3.5 Recommendation 9: Specific Product Development Walking**

As outlined in Section 12.1.12 there is a lack of formal walking opportunities in the study area.

As outlined in Recommendation 5 i.e. Community Trail Plan, there is significant scope to improve doorstep walking opportunities in the area. Recommendation 5 i.e. Activity Hub Master planning will provide further walking opportunities for both the local community and visitors. For example, consultation with a local walking club has identified that with minimal waymarking (something appropriate to the area) 2-3 alternative walking routes could be developed within Slieve Gullion providing an additional 4 hours walking.

Whilst it is recognised in consultation that the Ring of Gullion AONB landscape is indeed spectacular it was noted that it could and should not compete with the nearby mountain ranges of the Cooleys and Mourne but complement them instead. For example, by utilising cross border promotion Slieve Gullion could be promoted to the already large number of walkers enjoying the Cooleys as an addition to their itinerary. The area should also carry out the following walking specific actions to benefit from its unique selling points:

**Develop the Ring Dyke Way:** This is a project within the ROG Landscape Partnership to create a new 60km route, taking in the hills that were once dominated by military towers and providing access to all the peaks of the Ring Dyke mountains after which the area is named. It is understood progress on this project has been slow due to access issues.

**Enhance the Ring of Gullion Way:** The Ring of Gullion Way is a 60km route which forms part of the Ulster Way starting in Newry and finishing at Newry Train Station (north of Newry). Discussions with ROGP indicate their aspiration to deliver a 2-3 day high quality walking experience along the route.

Whilst the current route passes through a unique and attractive landscape the weaknesses include:

- A significant portion of the route (70%) is on road albeit utilising quieter rural roads
- Between departure from and return to Newry, the route only passes through the villages of Jonesborough, Forkhill and the outskirts Bessbrook. This reduces the opportunities for the visitor to:
  - spend on accommodation, food, drink and other services
  - experience local arts, culture and heritage – for example through traditional music, poetry and storytelling within local pubs

The fundamental action is to increase the off-road length and incorporate further villages such as Mullaghbane, Meigh, Bessbrook. Whilst a further in-depth technical feasibility study would be required, the following opportunities have been identified as key opportunities:

- Combine the opportunities provided by the Newry Carlingford Greenway and the ROG Landscape Partnership's – Newry Canal Project to develop a walking trail from Victoria Lock through Fathom Forest to the Flagstaff viewpoint.
- Formalise (potentially via a permissive path agreement) the current walking route which utilises farm lanes through private land which links Slieve Gullion Forest Park to the Killeavy Church
- Further investigate the potential of connecting between the Newry Canal Towpath (Blueway), Ring of Gullion Way and Newry to Carlingford Greenway. Any future development of The Albert Basin

(outside the study area for this project) should provide the opportunity to provide an iconic trail head providing a connection between the three trails

- It is also recognised that the Ring Dyke Way may provide opportunities for route alterations

As the delivery of route improvements enhance the experience, further training for local communities and businesses would be required to improve the 'walker – friendly' offering. This can be delivered through best practice workshops and potentially learning journeys to best practice such as the West Highland Way.

### **Prioritise heritage sites and theme trails:**

As outlined in Section 11, there is an abundance of built heritage sites within the study area. However, formal access is limited and those with formal access are in some instances not well maintained. There is also a lack of interpretation / signage available for visitors and walkers.

The importance of capturing the interface between landscape, history and heritage came to the fore during consultation with a consensus that this would enhance and add value to the walking routes as well as the destination. Not only this, but it is also of great importance to the local community who take pride in their heritage and landscape and want to ensure it is sustained for future generations. The development of Community Trail Plans may assist with improving access to heritage sites.

The Council's Tourism Strategy highlights 'The area has striking geological, landscape and archaeological heritage, and has a stronger association with the 'story of Ireland' and its myths and legends than many other destinations within Newry, Mourne and Down...' The development of themed heritage trails would provide an excellent way of capitalising on such a unique selling point. Heritage trails can be driving trails with short walking trails providing access to and experiences at key heritage sites.<sup>39</sup>

It is recommended that a process of prioritisation takes place which cross references heritage significance with access potential to focus future resources.

### **Ensure Infrastructure matches trail development:**

As walking product is developed, it is essential that adequate trail head infrastructure is developed in tandem incorporating both off-road car parking and signage. The costs for such development will vary with each project. An overview of costs is provided within Appendix 14 – Trail Head Infrastructure Costs

### **Support existing walking trail initiatives:**

Although it is understood that the following walking trail projects are at an advanced stage of planning it is important for consistency that they are included within this action plan. See Figure 13.

Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Walking Trail Projects (not previously mentioned in above)

- Wildlife Safari– a short walking trail in Glassdrummond Wood focusing on areas of endemic biodiversity

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<sup>39</sup> This would provide the potential to enhance or add to the current driving audio guides developed by ROGP.

- Slieve Gullion Sensory Trails – established on forest roads utilising trailhead interpretation and waymarking
- Slieve Gullion summit to lake trail restoration – repair of degraded paths to accommodate a continue increase in use

#### **13.2.3.6      *Recommendation 10: Specific Product Development Angling***

As highlighted in Section 13.1.1.4, a South Armagh Angling Forum should be established to address the current fragmented approach. This Forum will help refine the development objectives moving forward.

Lough Muckno in nearby Castleblaney Co. Monaghan provides an excellent example of the benefits of a joined up approach to the development of angling facilities. See Appendix 12 Case Study 5.

#### **13.2.3.7      *Recommendation 11: Specific Product Development Orienteering***

Recent developments by the NI Orienteering Active Clubs Officer has shown the ability of orienteering as a powerful tool for community cohesion and social inclusion and therefore this work should be supported moving forward. Consultation has identified the following sites require mapping. See below and Figure 14:

- Slieve Gullion Forest Park (within Activity Hub Planning)
- Camlough Mountain (within Activity Hub Planning)
- Derrymore House

It is also acknowledged that Glassdrummond and Jonesborough Woods could work favourably as potential sites to develop orienteering in the area at a community and/or school level. This has worked particularly well within Gortin Forest Park (near Omagh, Co Tyrone), where there is now a popular and engaged community orienteering group. See Appendix 12 – Benchmarking Case Study 3.

#### **13.2.3.8      *Recommendation 12: Specific Product Development Horse riding***

Consultation with horse riders has identified both Camlough Mountain and Slieve Gullion Forest Park as potential off road horse riding sites. It is recommended that careful consideration is given to the development of horse riding trails with the master planning of these sites. It is important to consider car parking requirements, trail surface and potential for visitor conflict. It is not recommended to develop bespoke horse riding trails as previous projects developed by ORNI have demonstrated usage at a level below which would justify further investment. See Figure 14.

#### **13.2.3.9      *Recommendation 13: Specific Product Development Climbing***

There are limited opportunities for climbing in the area due to both access and environmental constraints. However, the numerous community and sporting centres in the area could potentially provide the opportunity to incorporate artificial climbing walls. Such climbing walls can be retro-fitted to present buildings or incorporated within new builds, positioned either on internal or external walls.

A good example of this is Guildford Community Centre (Co.Down) which has installed an 110m2 Indoor Climbing Wall incorporating 8 climbing lines and a 30m2 Bouldering Area.

Artificial climbing walls provide an excellent introduction to the sport in a controlled and easily accessed environment. The scope of many current funding programmes require a multi-activity focus; climbing walls provide an ideal opportunity.

### **13.2.3.10      *Recommendation 14: Enhance Key Tourism Strategy Initiatives***

The Council's Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2021 identifies a number of catalyst projects and critical projects relevant to outdoor recreation in the study. This plan should therefore support and enhance these initiatives namely:

#### **UNESCO Global Geopark**

A revised application for UNESCO Global Geopark status should be submitted to the UK National Commission for UNESCO and establish a new management structure to allow fully coordinated and cohesive management.

#### **The Newry Canal Blueway opportunity**

Develop a memorandum of understanding between Council and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to move forward with the restoration of the Newry Ship Canal as a Blueway navigable by canoes and small boats and support the local IWAI chapter in undertaking the project.

#### **Connecting with the Great Eastern Greenway**

Continue to work on developing the concept of the Great Eastern Greenway through building connectivity between the Newry Canal Towpath and Newry to Carlingford Greenway.



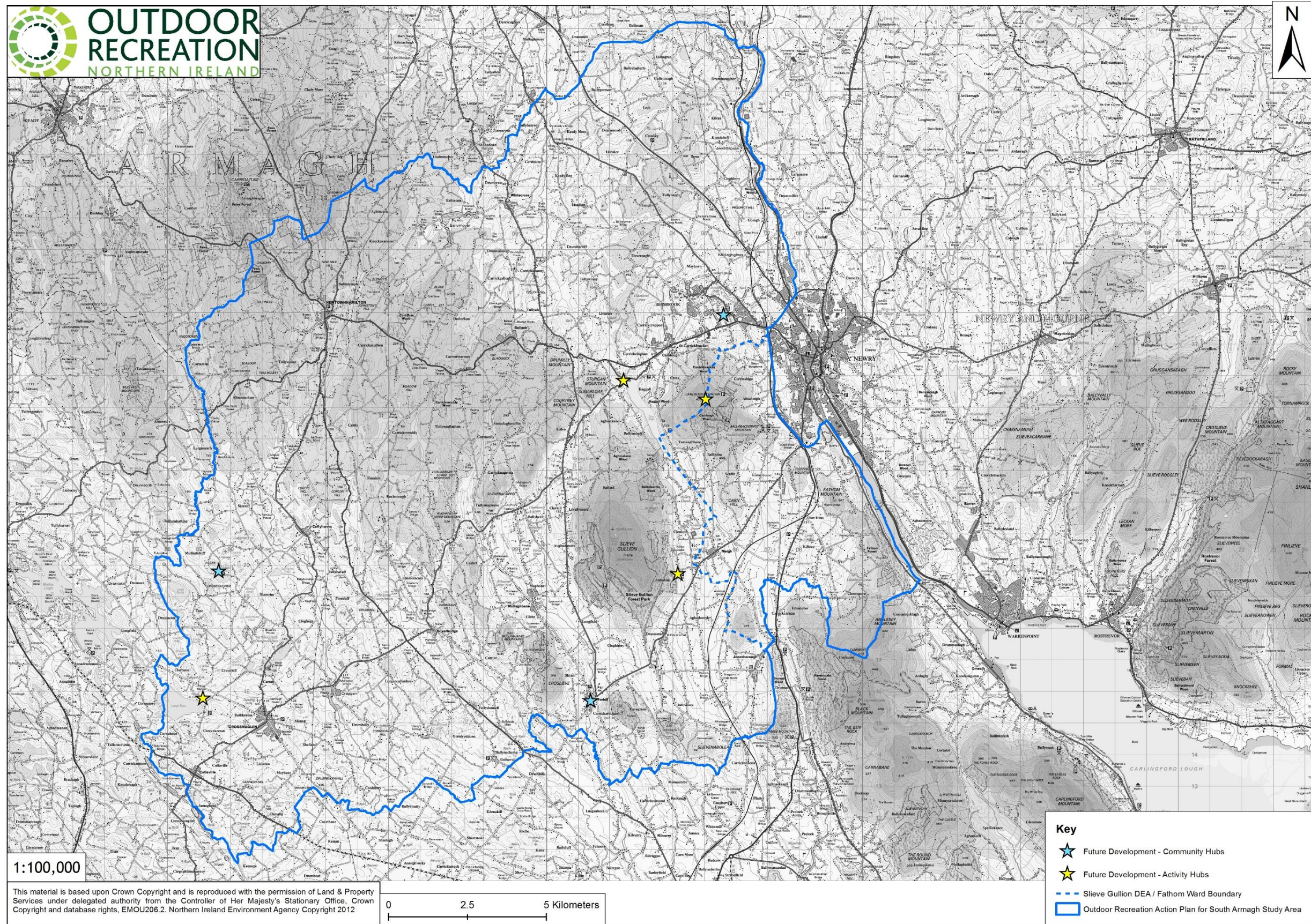


Figure 12: Future Development: Activity Hubs and Community Hubs



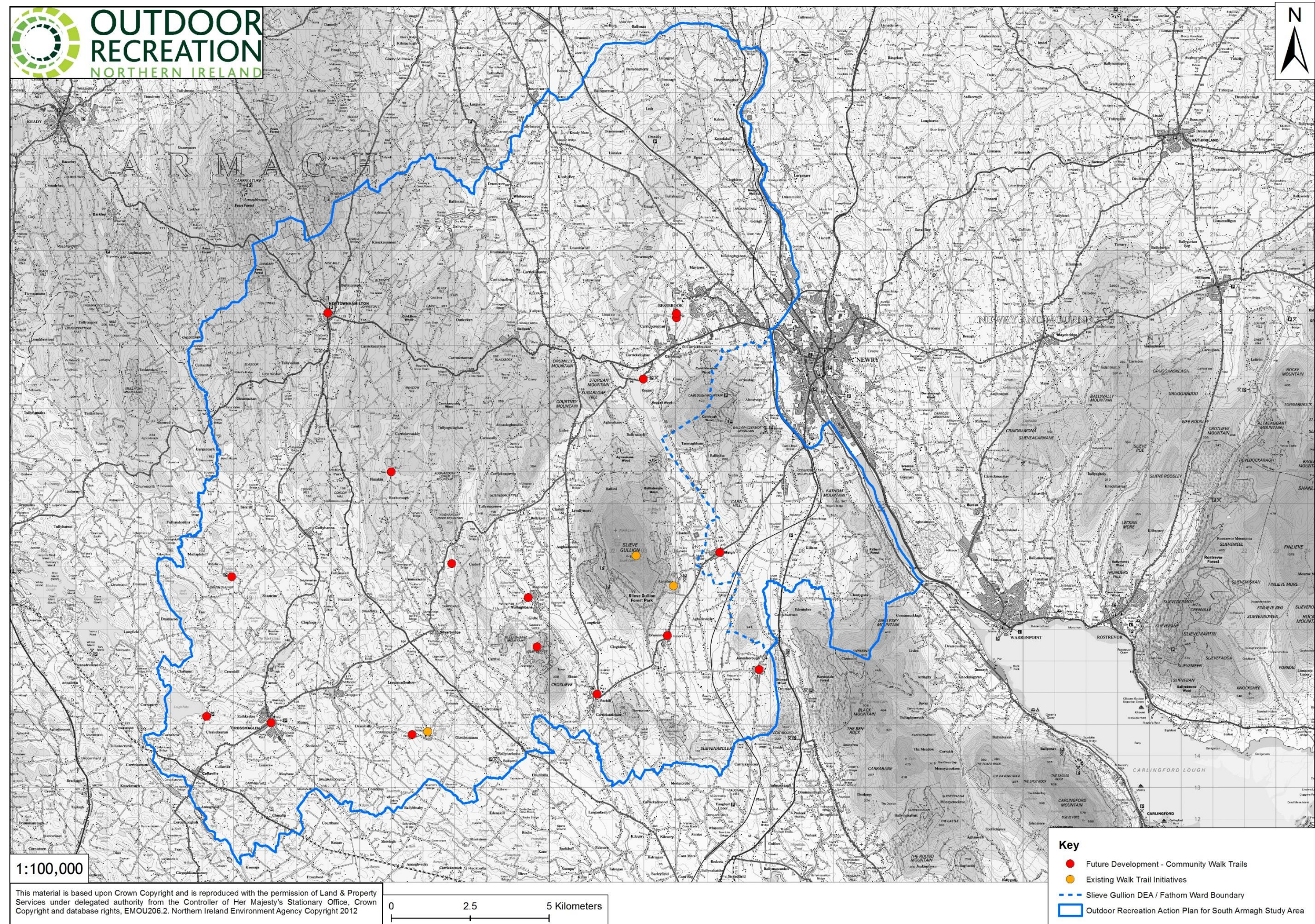


Figure 13: Future Development – Community Trails and Existing Walking Trail Projects



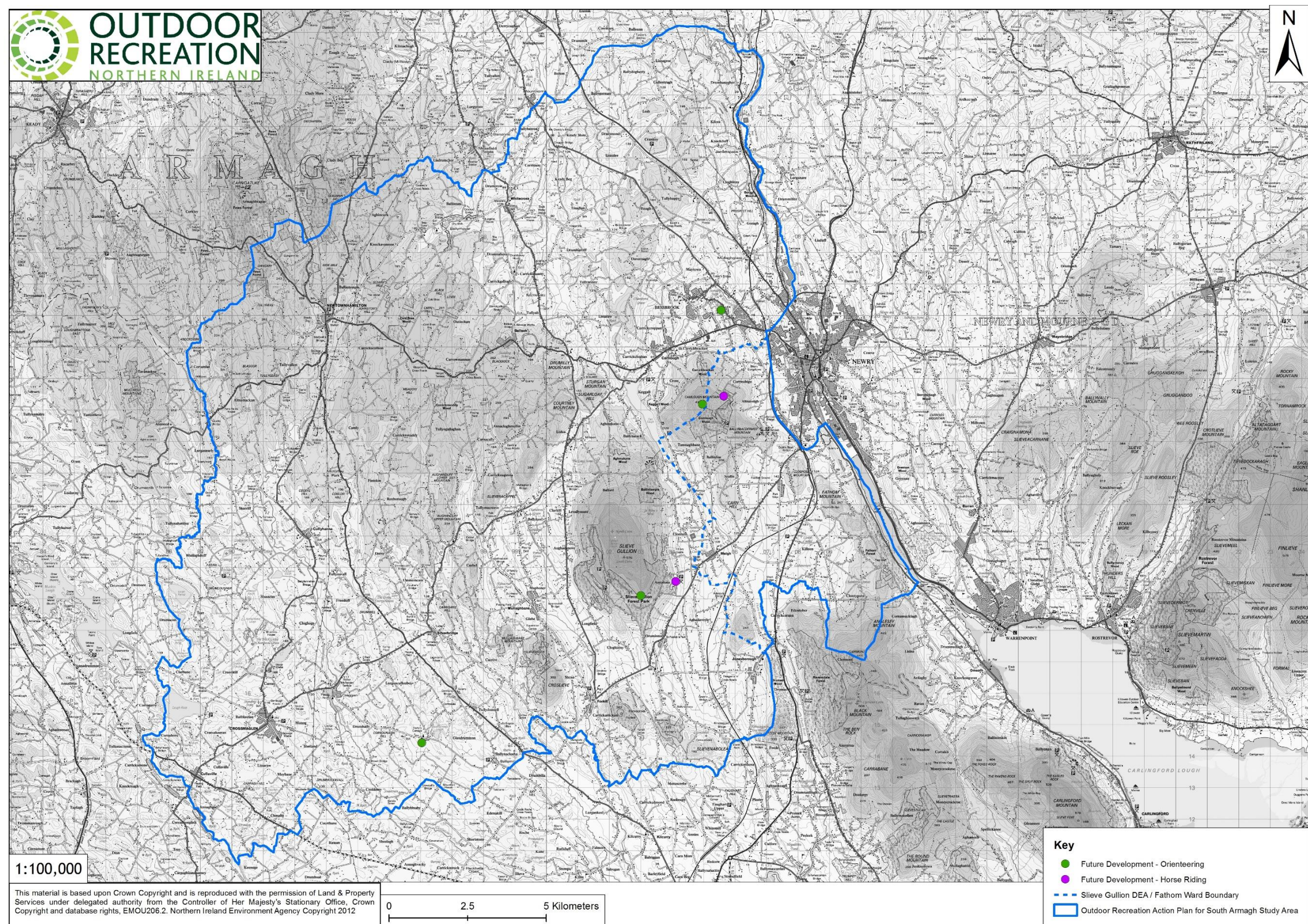


Figure 14: Future Development - Other Activities



### 13.3 Promotion

From the consultation process on the current and future promotion of outdoor recreation in the study area several key findings were identified:

- there is a lack of strategic approach to the communication and marketing of information on outdoor recreation
- there is currently a lack of high quality information available on the opportunities for outdoor recreation in the study area
- the integration between key areas of the Council, including Leisure and Tourism and ROGP to collate, disseminate and promote information on outdoor recreation in a meaningful way to local people and visitors is lacking
- there is no central record of key outdoor recreation related events
- there is a significant discrepancy between the sites of outdoor recreation in the area in the provision and quality of onsite visitor information and signage
- there is an expressed desire by the local people in the study area to have better access to high quality information on the outdoor recreation opportunities available
- key events and experiences (where relevant) have not recognised their potential to provide further bed nights

The issues above are not unique to the study area but rather the entire Council area and therefore many of the solutions should also be Council wide.

#### **13.3.1.1 Recommendation 15: Enhance Events and Experiences**

The Council's Tourism Strategy identifies building '...experiences that highlight local arts, culture and heritage and identifying ways of raising the profile of South Armagh in the domestic market through innovative short breaks.'

As highlighted in Section 13.1.1, South Armagh has a growing cohort of entrepreneurial embryonic small businesses offering outdoor recreation related opportunities. The majority of these businesses have a limited background in outdoor recreation and tourism, therefore require further mentoring. Signposting to the initiatives of the Council's Tourism department is important, however given that South Armagh is perhaps the least experienced and developed area in terms of tourism a specific workshop and follow up mentoring scheme should be established for the area.

An experience workshop would provide examples of best practice but also fundamentally increase awareness of potential partners for experience development. Key accommodation providers from Newry should also be invited as they will initially provide the key accommodation stock for the area. A follow up mentoring programme for businesses (selected following an application process) would provide the further catalyst required for experience development and business growth.

The area hosts several outdoor recreation orientated events which attract significant participant numbers e.g. Crooked Lake Triathlon, CLWW etc. However, anecdotal evidence would suggest that the bed nights generated (both from domestic and out of state visitors) are limited. Further experiential development such as combined entry accommodation packages, complementary events / activities to

attract non participant family or group members. It is recognised that many events within the study area do not wish to have a tourism focus, however, for those that do further mentoring is required.

#### **13.3.1.2      *Recommendation 16: Websites***

The development of a revised website / web page can often provide an excellent catalyst to collate key information, therefore the following actions are recommended

##### **VisitMourneMountains.com**

It is recommended that this remains the key information hub for tourists visiting the Council area including South Armagh. However, the website is currently not fit for purpose as it is:

- lacking key information – particularly on South Armagh
- difficult to navigate
- out dated against current mobile technology requirements

It is anticipated a revision of the website will be required to not only address these practical issues but also to deliver on the objectives within the Councils' Tourism Strategy. ROGP should therefore be central to the revised websites brief to ensure South Armagh is adequately and accurately portrayed.

##### **NewryMourneandDown.org**

This website currently focuses on the operations and governance of the Council with any detail regarding outdoor recreation (within leisure and tourism sections) hosted on legacy council websites.

It is recommended that in order to provide outdoor recreation information for the citizens of the Council area a 'Things to do' section is created within the main Council website. It is recognised that some information will co-exist on both tourism and Council websites however this can be designed that only one update of content is required to feed both websites.

In terms of website content, Outdoor Recreation NI already has a significant proportion of the Council area's key outdoor recreation information hosted on its web platforms. There is potential to feed through the content from ORNI's platforms to the Council's websites. This would ease the burden on Council staff to create and maintain high quality and up to date content on the website.

In addition, ORNI will be launching in April 2017, an online mapping facility called OutmoreNI which will help local people find out what outdoor recreation opportunities are available on their doorstep and in their local area. There is potential that this technology could be hosted for the MUDC area within the MUDC website and would directly support the development of the proposed Community Trail Network.

##### **RingofGullion.org**

ROGP's website combines both corporate information about the organisation but also consumer focused content on Things to do, events and other key USPs of the area. This website should be retained and consideration should be given to the potential of creating a feed of the relevant consumer-focused information to the two aforementioned websites.

## 13.4 Issues & Barriers

### 13.4.1 Access Legislation

'Undoubtedly the greatest barrier to delivering meaningful improvement in opportunities for people to engage in outdoor recreation is the current access situation' (Mountaineering Ireland, 2014). Northern Ireland does not have a 'right to roam' policy like Scotland; rather it is governed by the 'Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983'. For many this legislation is confusing and unclear, making it a discouraging process to create and assert access. It was also noted that there is a lack of clarity in this legislation surrounding private landowner liability which is one of several disincentives for private landowners to develop public access on their land.

#### 13.4.1.1 **Recommendation 17: Lobby for Access Legislation Change**

Access legislation is a critical issue; it affects the nature of how access and recreation is developed. However, lobbying for a review of/change in this legislation falls under the remit of the new National Outdoor Recreation Forum. ROGP should support NOF by acting as champion for access legislation change by collating views of key stakeholders within the study area.

### 13.4.2 Access over Private Land

Increasingly, private landowners (although favourable to the idea of farm diversification through recreation) are seeking economic incentives for developing public access for recreation over private land. It is not common practice for landowners to be paid financially for creating access to their land. The fear of litigation is another common disincentive cited by private landowners for refusing public access.

#### 13.4.2.1 **Recommendation 18: Pilot Private Landowner Engagement Programme**

A concerted effort is required to raise awareness and inform private landowners of the potential access arrangements that can be entered into when creating public access (e.g. permissive path agreements) and the perception of liability versus the reality that no successful liability cases have been brought in Northern Ireland in the last 20 years<sup>40</sup>.

The ROGP with the assistance of the Council's Rights of Way Officers should establish a private landowner engagement programme. This pilot would be the first of its type in Northern Ireland and would require the following actions which would include:

- Establishing a Council position paper on Access to the Countryside – it is understood this is currently ongoing. The paper will focus on Public Rights of Way and Permissive Path Agreements.
- Organising a workshop to:
  - Debunk the myth of liability
  - Outline the current options for access agreements on private land
  - Showcase best practice from elsewhere
  - Listen to and address landowner concerns

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<sup>40</sup> From the study, 'The Impact of Current Occupiers' Liability Legislation, 2011'

- Identify pilot projects to deliver – perhaps via community trail plan process
- Incorporate woodland regeneration opportunities

#### *13.4.3 Over-development / Visitor Pressure*

Concern was expressed by some consultees that ‘development’ could lead to the creation of public access to every site and that less-visited sites would become overdeveloped. The Plan does not advocate complete pedestrianisation of the countryside but aims to improve opportunities for people to participate in sustainable outdoor recreation activities. Ultimately, any development should not be at the cost of the natural environment and therefore any project should consider its impact on the surrounding landscape.

#### *13.4.4 Monitoring and maintenance provision*

It is recognised that the current outdoor recreation infrastructure in the study area is maintained to a high standard. However, should the additional outdoor recreation product be developed or additional sites be added to the Council / ROGPs remit then careful consideration should be given of the additional revenue costs e.g. staff, maintenance.

#### *13.4.5 Fly tipping*

Both site visits and consultation has revealed significant issues with fly tipping. In some circumstances this has caused recreation sites such as Ballintemple Viewpoint to be closed to the public.

##### **13.4.5.1 Recommendation 19: Innovative Anti-Flying Campaign**

Further development of recreation and therefore increased regular footfall has the potential to reduce such anti-social behaviour. However, a concerted innovative cross border campaign would also assist in alleviating the issue. Inspiration should be taken from Hubbub UK’s recent ‘Love your Forest’ campaign See Appendix 12 – Benchmarking Case Study 2.

#### *13.4.6 Youth Engagement*

Consultation has identified a lack of outdoor recreation opportunities for teenagers in the area for three key reasons i.e. lack of:

- infrastructure to support the activities
- focus towards this age group for clubs and organisations
- knowledge of what opportunities are currently available

It is envisaged the issue regarding infrastructure will be addressed by many of the aforementioned recommendations.

##### **13.4.6.1 Recommendation 20: Youth Engagement Programme**

It was recognised from the consultation process that one of the area’s greatest assets moving forward is the enthusiasm and competencies of local community groups and clubs. They have significant potential to promote the outdoor recreation offering to their local community. In order to assist these groups, it is recommended further support / guidance is provided to allow them access relevant Council and third-party funding programmes. This would allow clubs and organisations to develop bespoke events to act as a hook with follow up programmes providing opportunities for sustained participation.

## 14. SWOT ANALYSIS

The SWOT analysis outlines the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the current provision and future development of outdoor recreation at a local level in the study area.

The information contained in the SWOT analysis is a summary of feedback gained through consultation, site visits and desk research. The points are grouped together under headings according to the theme that they relate to, e.g. weaknesses associated with activities, or strengths associated with future development, etc.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p><b>Strategic Vision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong emphasis on activity tourism, health and well-being, natural and built environment within Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2019</li> <li>• Prominence of rural community empowerment and activity tourism within Council's Economic Regeneration and Investment Strategy 2015-2020</li> <li>• Prominence of outdoor adventure, cultural heritage, myths and unique stories with vision of Council's Tourism Strategy 2017-2021</li> <li>• Defined outdoor recreation outcomes and actions within Ring of Gullion AONB Management Plan 2017 – 2020 (Draft)</li> </ul> <p><b>Management Structures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated Ring of Gullion AONB Staff Resource</li> <li>• MOU in place between Council and Forest Service NI</li> </ul> <p><b>Location / Image</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Gateway into Newry, Mourne and Down</li> <li>• Located on key corridor between mass populations of Dublin and Belfast</li> <li>• Proximity to large local population within Newry City</li> </ul> <p><b>Landscape</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AONB Designation</li> <li>• Rich heritage, archaeology and geology</li> <li>• Variety of habitats, e.g. mountain, valleys, grassland, forests, river etc.</li> <li>• Protection provided by natural and built heritage designations</li> <li>• Unique biodiversity e.g. Red Squirrels</li> </ul>	<p><b>Management Structures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of permanent staff resource focus on area outside the Ring of Gullion AONB</li> <li>• Lack of strategic planning to outdoor recreation development at key sites leading to congestion and visitor conflict e.g. Slieve Gullion Forest Park</li> <li>• Outdoor recreation development divided amongst several departments within council i.e. leisure, tourism and ROGP</li> <li>• Silo approach to developing managing and promoting outdoor recreation</li> <li>• No strategic plan in place to develop, manage and promote outdoor recreation</li> </ul> <p><b>Landownership / Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High percentage of private land is unregistered</li> <li>• Perception that landowners are unwilling to allow people across their land unless landowners are indemnified against any claims arising from accident or injury</li> <li>• Uncertainty regarding ownership of Camlough Lake</li> <li>• Poor access and car parking at archaeological / built heritage sites</li> <li>• Reactive approach to PRoWs</li> </ul> <p><b>Location / Image</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Image remains negatively tainted from the legacy of 'the Troubles'</li> <li>• Perception of remote areas being 'unsafe'</li> </ul>



<p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong sense of community especially in rural villages / hamlets</li> <li>• Well established and proactive community groups</li> <li>• Well established and proactive clubs e.g. Newry Wheelers, Camlough Cycling Club, Newry Triathlon Club</li> <li>• Community driven events e.g. Camlough Lake Water Festival, Crooked Lake Triathlon</li> <li>• Community engagement within Ring of Gullion AONB e.g. Ring of Gullion Ambassadors Programme</li> <li>• Rich cultural tradition</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor Recreation Product / Experiences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent growth in entrepreneurial outdoor activity operators</li> <li>• Ongoing development of Carlingford Lough Greenway</li> <li>• Long Distance Walks - Ring of Gullion Way and Newry Canal Way</li> <li>• Ongoing masterplan development for Slieve Gullion Forest Park – driven by high volume visitor numbers</li> <li>• Integration of outdoor recreation with GAA e.g. walking / running trails around pitches, health and well-being initiatives</li> <li>• Abundance of lakes with high stock levels for angling</li> <li>• Unique open water / ICE Swimming at Camlough Lake</li> </ul> <p><b>Visitor Services &amp; Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AONB Signage Project</li> </ul>	<p><b>Landscape</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor connectivity between communities and green space</li> <li>• Majority of outdoor recreation opportunities require a car journey to access</li> <li>• High volume of litter and fly tipping</li> <li>• Tree felling due to tree disease has removed 'atmosphere and character' of some landscapes</li> </ul> <p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parochial nature of community groups</li> <li>• Lack of partnership approach</li> <li>• Over bureaucratic funding initiatives</li> <li>• Lack of club engagement with National Governing Bodies of Sport</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor Recreation Product / Experiences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited off road / family cycling opportunities</li> <li>• Lack of doorstep walking / cycling opportunities via community trails</li> <li>• Lack of 'All Ability' trails for walking and cycling</li> <li>• Lack of innovative natural adventure play</li> <li>• Orienteering: out of date maps</li> <li>• Lack of Quality Walks, PRoWs and permissive paths</li> <li>• Lack of horse riding trails and bridleways</li> <li>• Lack of 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map for the area</li> <li>• Fragmented approach by angling stakeholders</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underutilisation of resources such as Lough Ross and Camlough Mountain / Forest</li> <li>• Lack of opportunities for teenagers to partake in outdoor recreation</li> </ul> <p><b>Tourism Market</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourist market is dominated by day visitors with limited spend in the area</li> <li>• Less developed than other areas within Council from the perspective of road network, signage, mobile coverage</li> <li>• Lack of accommodation stock</li> </ul> <p><b>Visitor Services &amp; Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of visitor services e.g. toilets, parking, changing facilities, equipment hire, etc</li> <li>• Several public facilities closed e.g. Camlough Mountain Forest Drive, Ballintemple Viewpoint</li> <li>• Poor public transport and lack of rambler services</li> <li>• Lack of high quality, consistent and informative visitor information e.g. walking trailhead information panels</li> </ul> <p><b>Marketing &amp; Promotion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor dissemination of information about current activities</li> <li>• No central resource (e.g. website) containing information on outdoor recreation opportunities for local community</li> </ul> <p><b>Engagement / Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of engagement with communities out with the AONB e.g. Newtownhamilton, Belleek, Whitecross</li> </ul>
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Opportunities	Threats
<p><b>Management Structures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embryonic South Armagh Outdoor Recreation Forum</li> <li>• Embryonic South Armagh, Newry and Down Sports Association (SANDSA)</li> <li>• Ability for Council to avail of licences with FSNI in order to manage forests to provide additional/new outdoor recreation facilities</li> </ul> <p><b>Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased market awareness provided by Killeavy Castle development</li> <li>• Potential to combine arts, culture and heritage with innovative short activity breaks</li> <li>• Potential to build on partnerships with both Monaghan and Louth County Councils</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor Recreation Product / Experiences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catalyst Projects within Council's Tourism Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UNESCO Global Geopark</li> <li>○ Newry Canal Blueway</li> <li>○ Great Eastern Greenway – Connection from Newry to Carlingford</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Activity Hubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Camlough Lake</li> <li>○ Camlough Mountain / Forest</li> <li>○ Lough Ross</li> <li>○ Slieve Gullion Forest Park</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Management Structures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme (HLF Funded) due to conclude in August 2018</li> </ul> <p><b>Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrialisation may negatively impact upon permissive path agreements, scenic landscape, existing access and future development</li> <li>• Private land owners concerns over liability restricting access / development on private land</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor Recreation Product</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued silo product development overtaking a strategic approach</li> </ul> <p><b>Environmental</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree disease</li> <li>• Wild Fires</li> <li>• Anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Poor planning / development could lead to further path erosion, parking congestion</li> </ul> <p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for increased apathy due to slow delivery of outdoor recreation development</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of clarity due to current NI Assembly impasse and Brexit</li> <li>• Difficulty in securing match funding</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ See Table 11</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ring of Gullion Way – increase % of off-road walking</li> <li>○ Ring Dyke Way</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Marketing &amp; Promotion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated website to promote outdoor recreation provision for local community</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of relevant funding programmes – e.g. RDP, HLF, Sport NI</li> </ul>	
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## 15. ACTION PLAN 2017 – 2027

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Delivery Partners	Timescale
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A.	MANAGEMENT / STRUCTURE			
A1	Area Wide	<b>Ring of Gullion Partnership's</b> geographical remit should be extended to incorporate the entire study area i.e. Slieve Gullion DEA and Ward of Fathom.  Details at 13.1.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead)</li> <li>• ROGP</li> </ul>	Year 1
A2	Area Wide	<b>Ring of Gullion Partnership</b> increase in staff resource to include a dedicated Outdoor Recreation Officer.  Details at 13.1.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead)</li> <li>• ROGP</li> </ul>	Year 1
A3	Area Wide	<b>Broaden Current AONB Management Group / LPS Board</b> to including major landowners / land manager and promoters of outdoor recreation.  Details at 13.1.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• Council</li> <li>• Forest Service NI</li> <li>• The National Trust</li> <li>• Woodland Trust</li> <li>• NIEA</li> <li>• Loughs Agency</li> <li>• Sport NI</li> </ul>	Year 1
A4	Area Wide	<b>South Armagh Outdoor Recreation Forum</b> – utilise this plan to create a clear agenda for the Forum. Meet at least twice a year  Details at 13.1.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• Council</li> </ul>	Year 1

A5	Area Wide	<b>South Armagh Angling Forum</b> – Establish a Forum to address the current fragmented approach and provide an agreed vision, mission and objectives for the development of angling.  Details at 13.1.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• Council</li> <li>• Loughs Agency</li> <li>• Local Angling Clubs</li> <li>• Relevant National Governing Bodies e.g. Angling NI, Ulster Angling Federation, National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland</li> </ul>	Year 2
<b>B. DEVELOPMENT</b>				
B1	Area Wide	<b>Community Trail Plan</b> – Commission a trail plan to allow strategic development of trails  Details at 13.2.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead)</li> <li>• ROGP</li> </ul>	Year 2
B2	Site Specific	<b>Activity Hub Master Planning</b> – undertake master planning for the following sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camlough Lake (update 2011 masterplan)<sup>41</sup></li> <li>• Camlough Mountain</li> <li>• Lough Ross</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various see Section 13.2.3.2</li> </ul>	Year 1 – 2  Year 5 -7  Year 3-4

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<sup>41</sup> At the time of writing Council has issued an Invitation to Tender for Camlough Lake – Recreational Event Hub. The specification is split into two phases. Phase 1 includes an initial feasibility study and economical appraisal to agree the preferred option to provide a recreational event hub. Phase 2 is to develop the scheme to detailed design stage and obtain relevant statutory approvals to completion of RIBA Stage 3



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slieve Gullion Forest Park (ongoing)</li> </ul> <p>See details in Section 13.2.3.2</p>		Year 1 - 2
B3	Site Specific	<p><b>Community Hub Development</b> – undertake feasibility studies to develop the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kiltybane</li> <li>Derrymore House (Ongoing)</li> <li>Forkhill</li> </ul> <p>See details in Section 13.2.3.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>Council</li> </ul>	<p>Year 3-4</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Year 2</p>
B4	Area Wide	<p><b>Develop ‘Visitor Information and Signage Guidelines’</b> – to encompass welcome signage, information and interpretation, visitor safety, visitor orientation and trail waymarking</p> <p>See details in Section 13.2.3.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead)</li> <li>ROGP</li> </ul>	Year 1 -2
<b>C. SPECIFIC PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT - WALKING</b>				
C1	Trail Specific	<p><b>Develop Ring Dyke Way</b> – 60km route between all the peaks of ring dyke mountains</p> <p>See details in Section 13.2.3.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ROG Landscape Partnership (Lead)</li> <li>Council</li> </ul>	Year 1-2
C2	Trail Specific	<p><b>Enhance Ring of Gullion Way Experience</b> to create a high quality 2 day walking experience by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increasing % of off road walking</li> <li>increasing number of villages / communities incorporated within route</li> <li>enhancing the experience through tourism workshops</li> </ul> <p>See details in 13.2.3.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>Council</li> </ul>	<p>Year 3-6</p> <p>Year 7-10</p>

C3	Area Wide	<b>Prioritise Heritage Sites and theme trails</b> - a process of prioritisation should take place which cross references heritage significance with access potential to focus future resources See details in 13.2.3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• NIEA (Historic Environment Department)</li> <li>• Local Community</li> <li>• Private Landowners</li> </ul>	Year 3-6
C4	Site Specific	<b>Enhance Trail Head Infrastructure</b> – ensure development of trail head infrastructure i.e. signage, car parking, mobile catering (where applicable) matches trail development See details in 13.2.3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• Landowner / Land manager (various)</li> </ul>	Ongoing
C5	Trail Specific	<b>Support existing walking trail initiatives i.e.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife Safari (Glassdrummond Wood)</li> <li>• Slieve Gullion Sensory Trails</li> <li>• Slieve Gullion summit to lake trail restoration</li> </ul> See details in 13.2.3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROG Landscape Partnership (Lead)</li> <li>• Council</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>D. SPECIFIC PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – ANGLING</b>				
D1	Area Wide	<b>Deliver the objectives from South Armagh Angling Forum</b> – see Action A5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• Council</li> <li>• Loughs Agency</li> <li>• Local Angling Clubs</li> <li>• Relevant National Governing Bodies e.g. Angling NI, Ulster Angling Federation, National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland</li> </ul>	Ongoing

<b>E. SPECIFIC PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – ORIENTEERING</b>				
E1	Site Specific	<p><b>Develop Orienteering Maps</b> for the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slieve Gullion Forest Park (within Activity Hub Planning)</li> <li>• Camlough Mountain (within Activity Hub Planning)</li> <li>• Derrymore House (with Community Hub Planning)</li> <li>• Community Orienteering Forests e.g. Glasdrummond Wood</li> </ul> <p>See details in 13.2.3.7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• Council</li> <li>• NI Orienteering</li> <li>• FSNI</li> </ul>	<p>Year 1 -2</p> <p>Year 5-7</p> <p>Year 2-3</p>
<b>F. SPECIFIC PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – HORSE RIDING</b>				
F1	Site Specific	<p><b>Consider Horse riding trail development</b> – within master planning of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slieve Gullion Forest Park</li> <li>• Camlough Mountain</li> </ul> <p>See details in 13.2.3.7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• Council</li> <li>• FSNI</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>G. SPECIFIC PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT - CLIMBING</b>				
G1	Site Specific	<p><b>Encourage development of artificial climbing walls</b> within Community Centres and Multi-sports facilities<sup>42</sup></p> <p>See details in 13.2.3.9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• Council</li> <li>• Mountaineering Ireland</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>H. ENHANCE KEY TOURISM STRATEGY INITIATIVES</b>				
H1	Area Wide	<p><b>UNESCO Global Geopark</b> – support a revised application for UNESCO Global Geopark status which should be submitted to the UK National Commission for UNESCO and establish a new management structure to allow fully coordinated and cohesive management.</p> <p>See details in 13.2.3.10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead)</li> <li>• ROGP</li> <li>• Mourne Heritage Trust</li> </ul>	Year 1-5

<sup>42</sup>Capital cost for professionally installed artificial climbing walls range between £75 per square metre - £450 per square metres depending on spec required.  
Reference <http://www.epusa.com/download/technicaldata/6/ClimbingWallBudgetGuidelines.pdf>



H2	Newry Canal	<p><b>The Newry Canal Blueway</b> - move forward with the restoration of the Newry Ship Canal as a Blueway navigable by canoes and small boats and support the local IWAI chapter in undertaking the project.</p> <p>See details in 13.2.3.10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council</li> <li>• Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council</li> <li>• ROGP</li> <li>• Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (Lead)</li> </ul>	Year 1-5
H3	Newry	<p><b>Connecting with the Great Eastern Greenway</b> - Continue to work on developing the concept of the Great Eastern Greenway through building connectivity between the Newry Canal Towpath and Newry to Carlingford Greenway</p> <p>See details in 13.2.3.10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead)</li> <li>• DfI / Transport NI</li> </ul>	Year 1-5
<b>I.</b>	<b>PROMOTION</b>			
I1	Area Wide	<p><b>Experience Workshop and Mentoring Programme</b> – to act as a catalyst for experience development</p> <p>See details in 13.3.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead)</li> <li>• ROGP</li> <li>• Tourism NI</li> </ul>	Year 1
I2	Event Specific	<p><b>Events Mentoring Programme</b> – to increase bed nights for key events</p> <p>See details in 13.3.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead)</li> <li>• ROGP</li> <li>• Tourism NI</li> </ul>	Year 1
I3	Area Wide	<p><b>Improve Websites</b> – in order to provide a high quality source of outdoor recreation information to Visitors and Local Community</p> <p>See details in 13.3.1.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead)</li> <li>• ROGP</li> </ul>	Year 2-3
<b>J.</b>	<b>ADDRESSING ISSUES AND BARRIERS</b>			
J1	Area Wide	<p><b>Lobby for Access Legislation Change</b> – support NOF's campaign for access change by collating views of stakeholders within South Armagh</p> <p>See details in 13.4.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP</li> </ul>	Ongoing

J2	Area Wide	<p><b>Pilot Private Landowner Engagement Programme</b> - This pilot would be the first of its type in Northern Ireland and would require the following actions which would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a Council position paper of Private Landowner Agreement – it is understood this process is underway</li> <li>• Organising a workshop to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Debunk the myth of liability</li> <li>○ Outline the current options for access agreements on private land</li> <li>○ Showcase best practice from elsewhere</li> <li>○ Listen to and address landowner concerns</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identify pilot projects to deliver – perhaps via community trail plan process</li> </ul> <p>See details in 13.4.2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP</li> <li>• Council</li> <li>• UFU</li> </ul>	Year 2 – 3
J3	Area Wide	<p><b>Innovative Anti-Fly tipping Campaign</b> – establish a cross border campaign to highlight issues around fly tipping</p> <p>See details in 13.4.5.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP</li> <li>• Monaghan &amp; Louth County Councils</li> </ul>	Year 3-5
J4	Area Wide	<p><b>Youth Engagement Programme</b> – provide further support / guidance to allow local community groups and clubs access relevant Council and third-party funding programmes. This would allow clubs and organisations to develop bespoke events to act as a hook with follow up programmes providing opportunities for sustained participation.</p> <p>See details in 13.4.6.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROGP (Lead)</li> <li>• Council</li> </ul>	Ongoing

## 16. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

There are several funding programmes for which outdoor recreation development could be eligible.

### 16.1 Rural Development Programme (2014-20)

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) is jointly funded through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and is administered in Northern Ireland by DAERA. It supports a range of projects with the aim of developing the economic potential of rural areas.

#### 16.1.1 Rural Tourism Scheme

The Rural Tourism Scheme supports capital projects which provide long-term tourism impact for the community in the rural area.

The scheme has a total budget of £10M. Small scale infrastructure is defined as a project receiving a minimum grant of £250,000 and maximum grant up to £500,000 at 75% level of support. The remaining 25% match funding must be at least 5% cash from the applicant's own resources and contribution in kind (not to include buildings and or land) to a maximum of 20%.

Projects will be typically:

- capital infrastructure
- provide increase in out-of-state visitors
- job creating (during capital build and after completion)
- promote / encourage a partnership approach with other statutory organisations sharing a common goal
- flagship unique type / notable / high impact rural tourism focused actions
- align with the aims and objectives of Tourism NI and should as priority target out of state visitors.

The following should be taken into consideration:

- The scheme is open to local authorities and local authorities in partnership with organisations operating within the Community and Voluntary / Third sector or Public sector
- Evidence of match funding commitment must be in place at the time of application. All current match funding rules apply e.g. no other EU funding can be used as match.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> call is currently closed for applications. It is currently unclear as to when the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> call will be made
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is well progressed with an application under 1<sup>st</sup> call for Slieve Gullion Forest Park.

Further eligibility information available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/rural-tourism-scheme>



### 16.1.2 Rural Business Investment Scheme

The Rural Business Investment Scheme will provide investment support for the creation and development of micro and small enterprises (including farm diversification and private tourism businesses) in rural areas. Grant aid is available as follows:

Type of expenditure	Min. grant per project application / £	Max. grant per project application / £	Level of support
Capital Grant (New Micro Business)	5,000	25,000	Up to 50%
Capital Grant (Existing Micro Business)	5,000	35,000	Up to 50%
Capital Grant (Existing Small Business)	5,000	75,000	Up to 50%
Technical Support and Bespoke Training	500	5,000	Up to 50%
Marketing Support	500	5,000	Up to 50%
Marketing Support	500	10,000	Up to 50%

The following should be taken into consideration –

- Eligible applicants: Private individuals (18years or over) in rural areas (i.e. excluding towns with a population of more than 5,000) / Micro or Small enterprises (performing non-agricultural activity) / Social Economy Enterprises engaged in economic activities in rural areas (Please Note: The towns of Warrenpoint, Newcastle, Kilkeel and Ballynahinch are eligible; however no more than 20% of total business investment is to be allocated to projects in the above towns)
- Attendance Pre-application workshops is mandatory
- A Business Plan is required to support an application
- Written evidence of planning permission / statutory approvals from the relevant authorities is required (if relevant)
- Evidence of match funding is required
- A procurement exercise is required in advance of application

In advance of an imminent call for applicants, Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership will be holding a series of Mandatory Pre-Application Workshops for potential applicants during between 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June.

For more information contact:

Mourne, Gullion, Lecale Rural Development Partnership 0300 013 2233 ext 2506

### *16.1.3 Basic Services Scheme*

The Basic Services Scheme supports capital investments which provide access to basic services or improvements in social infrastructure to improve the welfare and access of those living in rural areas which are an integral part of and are in line with the Council Community Plan.

Capital grants available range from £5,000 to £250,000 up to 75%. Confirmation of match funding must be in place at the time of application with 5% from Council, 5% from the applicant and 15% other.

The Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership has received Expressions of Interest from the first call to potential applicants. At the time of writing invitations for application have not been released pending confirmation of available required match funding from Council.

The following should be taken into consideration –

- to be eligible to apply, applicants must attend a pre-application workshop followed by submission of an Expression of Interest (EoI) form.
- if the EoI is successful, application will be asked to submit full application in addition to a business plan
- all procurement must be carried out at time of full application
- projects must relate directly to the Council's Community Plan
- projects with a total cost exceeding £250,000 require a greenbook economic appraisal
- evidence in form of a written letter from Planning Service for projects where planning permission is not required

### *16.1.4 Village Renewal Scheme*

At the time of report writing this scheme was still under development by Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership. The development of the programme is pending the update of Village Plans which is currently being undertaken by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

The most up to date information available is via the Village Renewal Scheme – Scheme Sheet published by DAERA in February 2016. Local adaptations may be made but the following applies:

- the Scheme will provide financial support for the renewal of rural villages through village plans – this infers that any project which is included or specifically mentioned within the Village Plan will be eligible for funding through this scheme
- potential projects must fit with the Council's Community Plan
- The measure will aim to build on the overarching fabric of a village/town integrating with other funding from other government departments and agencies
- The measure will aim to address rural dereliction and prioritise reuse of existing derelict buildings, particularly to provide community infrastructure.
- only local authorities (i.e. Councils) in partnership with local community associations are eligible to apply
- the maximum grant available is likely to be at 75% for capital grants
- match funding of £25% must be provided by the Council

- there will be a call for Expressions of Interest with those successful asked to submit a full application with business case completed and all procurement carried out

For more information contact:

Mourne, Gullion, Lecale Rural Development Partnership

0300 013 2233 ext 2506

## 16.2 Sport NI – Everybody Active 2020

The key aim of the Everybody Active 2020 scheme is 'to increase quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions'.

Within the scheme there are four key programmes –

- Opportunities
- Workforce Development
- Outdoor Spaces – recommended for application
- Outreach, Capacity Building & Small Grants

The 'Outdoor Spaces' programme is about 'establishing more places for self-guided activity, for example walking trails, cycle routes and pump tracks'. The scheme has a total budget of £2 million.

The first call closed in February 2017 and was open to community groups, local authorities and voluntary / charity organisations. It is understood an application was submitted by Council in partnership with the National Trust relating to walking trails at Derrymore House.

Sport NI is aiming to have at least one new project in each of the 11 local council areas.

Total project cost	Maximum Sport NI funding	Maximum grant
Over £100,000	50%	£120,000
£100,000 and under	75%	£75,000

For more information – Contact Mike McClure at Sport NI – Tel: 02890 383 855.



## 16.3 Big Lottery

### 16.3.1 *People and Communities*

The 'People and Communities' programme is designed to support projects that work with local people to bring about positive changes in a community. Projects must meet the three key themes of –

- **People-led:** local people are meaningfully involved in development, design and delivery
- **Strengths-based:** supports people and communities to build on knowledge, skills and experience they already have to make the changes they want
- **Connected:** projects demonstrate a good understanding of other activities and services in the community and how the project complements these.

Grants range from £30,000 to £500,000 for projects lasting 2-5 years. Grants for small scale capital projects is capped at £100,000 but up to 100% of costs.

Eligible applicants are voluntary or community groups such as a charity, co-operative, social enterprise or community interest company. Partnerships are also eligible where the lead partner is one of the above.

The programme is open for applications all year round. To apply, applicants must phone and discuss the project with a Project Officer. Only if the project is deemed to 'ready' will the applicant be invited to submit an application form. A decision is typically given within 4 months.

For more information see - <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peopleandcommunities>

### 16.3.2 *Awards for All Northern Ireland*

Awards for All is an open programme, which means there are no closing dates for applications.

Awards for All provides funding to support you to work with local people to bring about positive changes in your community.

The programme is open to:

- voluntary or community organisations
- schools
- statutory bodies

The aim is to improve people's lives and strengthen community activity by helping:

- people to participate in their communities
- people to develop their skills and broaden their experience
- people to work towards better and safer communities
- improve people's physical and mental health and well-being.

Eligible projects can apply for grants of between £500 and £10,000.

For more information see <https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/northern-ireland/awards-for-all-northern-ireland>

## 16.4 Heritage Lottery Fund

### 16.4.1 *Our Heritage*

The Our Heritage open programme is for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK.

Under Our Heritage, HLF accept applications from not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage and partnerships. If individuals or for-profit organisations are involved, the public benefit from the project must be greater than any private gain.

Grants of £10,000 to £100,000 are available at up to 100%. There are no application deadlines for this programme; applications can be made at any time and are turned around within 8 weeks.

More information is available at: <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes>

### 16.4.2 *Heritage Grants*

The Heritage Grants open programme is for any type of project related to the national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Under this programme, HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations; and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations.

The application process is in two rounds with success at stage 2 involving substantial development work.

Funding is available from £100,000 up to £2 million or £5 million.

For those applying for grants of less than £1million, applicants must provide at least 5% of the development costs and 5% of the delivery phase costs

For those applying for grants of more than £1million, applicants must provide at least 10% of the development costs and 10% of the delivery phase costs

More information is available at: <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes>

### 16.4.3 *Park and Places*

The Parks for People programme is for projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in the UK.

Under this programme, HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations.

The application process is in two rounds with success at stage 2 involving substantial development work. Funding is available from £100,000 up to £5 million.

For those applying for grants of less than £1million, applicants must provide at least 5% of the development costs and 5% of the delivery phase costs

For those applying for grants of more than £1million, applicants must provide at least 10% of the development costs and 10% of the delivery phase costs

More information is available at: <https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes>

## 16.5 Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland

Lloyds Bank Foundation for Northern Ireland which has contributed £34.8m to the Voluntary and Community sector over the past 31 years has been re-named the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland.

The Community Grants Programme supports charitable organisations within Northern Ireland to enable people, who are disadvantaged or with special needs, to participate actively in their communities

The programme is open to registered charities with an income of less than £1 million. In 2016 the average grant was just over £3,500.

For more information see <http://www.lloydstsbfoundationni.org/>

## 16.6 Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme

Live Here Love Here is an annual Small Grants Scheme delivered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful in partnership with Local Councils, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Choice Housing, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and McDonald's.

The small grants scheme provides support to volunteer projects that:

- Use innovative ways to reduce littering and dog fouling where you live
- Improve the way your local environment is looked after, whether urban, rural or coastal
- Contribute to the development of civic pride within a community with a focus on environmental improvements
- To enhance or attract tourism to your community through environmental improvements

Grants are available from £500 to £5,000 and are open to volunteer and community groups, all school and third level education organisations, youth groups and sports clubs undertaking civic pride projects in supporting Council areas. In 2016, £109,000 of funding was made available supporting 78 local community projects.

The Small Grants Scheme is also open to all Housing Association and Housing Executive residents with support from Choice Housing, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and McDonald's throughout all council areas in Northern Ireland.

Local Councils and businesses have the option to partner with Live Here Love Here as a commitment to enable people to secure tangible benefits and build stronger community spirit. Their support to Live Here Love Here will help amplify the campaign's efforts to revitalise and reenergise neighbourhoods across Northern Ireland.

The scheme forms part of the wider Live Here Love Here programme, which includes an innovative media campaign and exciting volunteering opportunities to encourage participation all year round.

For more information see [www.livehereandlovehere.org](http://www.livehereandlovehere.org).



## 16.7 Funding summary

Fund / Programme	Grants Available	Applicant	Timeframe
<b>RDP Tourism</b>	Up to £500,000 at 75%	Council (Sole Applicant)  Council (Lead) in partnership with local community/voluntary organisations	1 <sup>st</sup> Call – Closed  2 <sup>nd</sup> Call – TBC
<b>RDP Business Investment</b>	Up to £75,000 at 50%	Private individuals (18years or over) in rural areas  Micro or Small enterprises (performing non-agricultural activity)  Social Economy Enterprises engaged in economic activities in rural areas	1 <sup>st</sup> Call imminent  Workshops scheduled between 1 <sup>st</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>RDP Basic Services</b>	Up to £250,000 at 75%	Council, voluntary sector including social economy enterprises	1 <sup>st</sup> Call – Ongoing  2 <sup>nd</sup> Call (depending on available funding) – TBC
<b>RDP Village Renewal</b>	Up to £200,000 at 75%	Council (Lead) in partnership with local community/voluntary organisations	Under development
<b>Sport NI</b>	Up to £120,000 at 50%  OR  Up to £100,000 at 50%	Council's, community, voluntary and charity organisations	1 <sup>st</sup> call closed  2 <sup>nd</sup> call - TBC
<b>Big Lottery – People and Communities</b>	Up to £100,000 at 100%	Voluntary or community groups	Open all year round
<b>Big Lottery – Awards for All</b>	Up to £10,000 at 100%	Voluntary or community organisations	Open all year round

		Schools	
		Statutory bodies	
<b>HLF Our Heritage</b>	£10,000 to £100,000 at 100%	Not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage and partnerships	Open all year round
<b>HLF Heritage Grants</b>	£100,000 to £5 million % varies depending on project value	Not-for-profit organisations; and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations	Set application windows each year
<b>HLF Park and Places</b>	£100,000 to £5 million % varies depending on project value	Not-for-profit organisations; and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations	Set application windows each year
<b>Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland - Community Grants Programme</b>	The average grant is currently between £3,000 - 4,000.	Registered charities with an income of less than £1 million	Open all year round
<b>Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme</b>	£500 to £5,000	Voluntary, community organisations, school and third level education organisations, youth groups and sports clubs  Housing Association and Housing Executive residents	Annual Programme.  2017 Scheme launched on 31/05/17 with application deadline of 21/06/17

## APPENDIX 1 – METHODOLOGY

The following detailed methodology was employed to prepare this report

Method	Purpose	Details
<b>1. Project Initiation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an introduction to key delivery staff</li> <li>• Agree the Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Agree methodology and timelines including schedule for progress updates</li> <li>• Identify further documentation that will assist the delivery of the project</li> </ul>	Meeting with Therese Hamill, Ring of Gullion AONB Officer, ROGP on 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017
<b>2. Desk research</b>	<p>Strategic Context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake an examination of strategic context within which the plan will operate</li> <li>• Ascertain the Plan's contribution to national and regional policies</li> </ul> <p>Current Provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an initial base of current provision utilising:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ORNI in-house records</li> <li>○ Existing promotional literature</li> <li>○ GIS and database audit of key organisations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>See Section 6</p>          <p>See Section 12</p>



<b>3. Consultation (Primary Research)</b>	<p>One to one – targeted consultation with primary stakeholders to capture specific information about current outdoor recreation provision and future opportunities</p> <p>Public Meeting – to inform local communities about the project, capture public opinion and provide an opportunity for local communities to contribute their ideas for development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See list of one to one consultees within Appendix 2</li> <li>• Public meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April at Mullaghbane Community Centre – See Appendix 4.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Site surveys</b>	<p>To gather site specific information regarding selected sites in order to verify data collated during desk research and consultation (where required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites visited included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ballymoyer Forest</li> <li>○ Camlough Lake</li> <li>○ Camlough Mountain / Wood</li> <li>○ Lough Ross</li> <li>○ Slieve Gullion Forest Park</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4. GIS mapping</b>	<p>To map all current provision of recreation sites and facilities, including future development opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See maps contained in report</li> </ul>
<b>5. Report writing</b>	<p>To analyse and present all findings and recommendations in a concise report</p>	

## APPENDIX 2 – ONE-TO-ONE CONSULTEES

The one-to-one consultee list was agreed with the ROGP in advance. Additional one-to-one consultees arose during the process,

No.	Name	Organisation
1	Amanda Smyth	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
2	Andy Patterson	Tourism NI
3	Angela Henry	Newtownhamilton Primary School
4	Ashley Hunter	Canoe Association Northern Ireland
5	Aubrey Bingham	Disability Sport NI
6	Banjo Bannon	
7	Catherine Murphy	Camlough Lake Water Festival
8	Catherine Murphy	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (ROW/Countryside Officer)
9	Cliff Wayenberg	Walking Holiday Ireland
10	Darren Rice	Ring of Gullion Partnership
11	Edward Mason	National Trust General Manager Mid Ulster (Derrymore House)
12	Fiona Miles	Ulster Rural Riders Association
13	Geoff Quinn	Irish Angling Development Alliance
14	Gordon Reid	Rowing Ireland
15	Helen Lawless	Mountaineering Ireland
16	Jacqueline McClelland	Newry Triathlon Club
17	Juls Hanvey	NI Orienteering Association
18	Mark Lambert	Gullion Adventures
19	Martin Grimley	Cycling Ulster (Off Road Commission)
20	Mary Farrell	Royal Yachting Association
21	Michelle Boyle	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Tourism Development Officer)

22	Neil Anderson	Irish Long Distance Riding Association
23	Padraig Carragher	Slieve Gullion Pods
24	Padraig Mallon	Camlough Lake Water Festival
25	Peter Quinn	Netwonhamilton Rural Centre - Chairman
26	Richard Caplice	Irish Angling Development Association / Lough Muckno Coarse Angling Club
27	Rosie Irwin	Woodland Trust
28	Seamus Crossey	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Capital Projects)
29	Seamus Murphy	Gap O The North Walking Club
30	Stephen McDowell	North East Adventures
31	Susan Spratt	British Horse Society Ireland
32	Theresa Nugent	Cullyhanna
33	Therese Hamill	Ring of Gullion Partnership
34	Thomas Marron	TiChulainn Cultural and Activity Centre
35	Trevor Wilson	Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association
36	Una Walsh	Ring of Gullion AONB representative on the Slieve Gullion DEA and tour guide

Additional detailed email submissions were provided by:

No.	Name	Organisation (if relevant)
1	Aine McQuade	
2	Anne Ward	Xhale
3	Dianne Kelly	
4	Dave Tosh	
5	Oliver McGauley	Camlough Lake Management Committee
6	Venora O'Brien	Ring of Gullion AONB Ambassador



## APPENDIX 3 – SUMMARY OF CAMLOUGH LAKE MASTERPLAN

Recommendations	
Recommendation 5: Improving access to the lake	<p><b>5a</b> Comprehensive development of the Wall End site and adjoining lakeshore to provide full range of amenities for visitors and activity users.</p> <p><b>5b</b> Comprehensive improvement scheme for Keggall Stop off point.</p> <p><b>5c</b> In the medium to longer term or, alternatively, consider scope to provide access at the Far End. This might include low key provision such as a small car/boat trailer park, picnic area interpretation and slipway. There may also be scope for a small campsite or self-catering provision. This would create another destination point within the lake and more interest for users.</p>
Recommendation 6: Realising Tourism Potential	<p><b>6a</b> Create a new stop off facility and extend the range of amenities for general visitors to the Lake.</p> <p><b>6c</b> Rationalise and improve visitor interpretation at key sites.</p> <p><b>6e</b> Support the ongoing development of the Lake Water Festival as a genuine tourist event. Seek to develop the Festival to involve all user groups and to reflect the rich cultural history of the surrounding area. Encourage events at the Lakeshore and within Camlough, Bessbrook, Mullaghbane and Meigh. Seek maximum publicity and PR. Include both niche and more general family orientated events.</p> <p><b>6g</b> Explore the possibility of using the Lake as a venue for Outdoor activity providers.</p>
Recommendation listed for all activities: Multi use facility for activity users	Develop a new multi use facility for activity users (water ski, canoeing, angling, swimming, triathlon, rowing, other) to include toilets, changing rooms, storage and rest room with basic self service catering. Incorporate provision for people with disabilities.

<p>Recommendation 10: Walking</p>	<p><b>10a</b> Establish a Working Group with landowners, residents, user groups and other interested organisations to examine the scope for the development of a Lakeshore Trail.</p> <p><b>10b</b> In the short to medium term seek to establish a shorter Lake side trail linking the Wall End site with Keggall Forest. Extend this route to connect with Camlough village.</p> <p><b>10d</b> Invite walking clubs to get involved in the Management group.</p> <p><b>10e</b> Develop Links with 'Leave No Trace' and put up signage</p> <p><b>10f</b> Get routes adopted by Walk NI and in Council promotions.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: Angling</p>	<p><b>11b</b> Safeguard and enhance existing fish stock in main lake and feeder rivers. Consider development of small hatchery. This could include interpretation with scope for educational use.</p> <p><b>11d</b> Seek to negotiate improved access for anglers along the Lake shore, particularly along the Ballinaleck shoreline.</p> <p><b>11e</b> Ensure the removal of temporary pontoons after use at the Wall End. (These impede anglers using the Wall End site).</p> <p><b>11f</b> Provide more access to fishing on the Lake for non club members.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12: Triathlon</p>	<p><b>12a</b> Develop a new multi use facility for activity users</p> <p><b>12b</b> Provide dedicated car parking and trailer park with turning area. Ensure all facilities are DDA compliant.</p> <p><b>12c</b> Develop and publicise annual calendar events for participants and spectators.</p> <p><b>12e</b> Provision of campsite close to Lake shore. If possible encourage the private sector to get involved.</p>

<p>Recommendation 13: Swimming</p>	<p><b>13a</b> Develop a new multi use facility for activity users</p> <p><b>13b</b> Assess the merits of designated swimming zone which would comply with Health and Safety standards. Swimming could be restricted to the Wall End area and/or a swimming lane running the entire length of the Lake along the eastern shore of the Lake. This should be clearly marked out with buoys.</p> <p><b>13c</b> Contact Health and Safety Executive for advice on what needs to be in place for swimming on open lakes.</p> <p><b>13d</b> Ensure adequate insurance cover is in place for all swimming events</p> <p><b>13e</b> Provision of a 15-20 pitch campsite close to the Lake shore</p> <p><b>13f</b> Ensure adequate safety provision in place (life rings, etc)</p>
<p>Recommendation 14: Water skiing</p>	<p><b>14a</b> Develop multi use facility for activity users</p> <p><b>14b</b> Introduce zoning system which excludes Water skiing from the Wall End section of the Lake and from a dedicated swimming land running the entire length of the Lake along the eastern shore</p> <p><b>14c</b> Review the potential for the establishment of national Water skiing event on the Lake</p>
<p>Recommendation 15: Cycling</p>	<p><b>15a</b> Develop multi use facility for activity users</p> <p><b>15b</b> Investigate the current status of National Route 9 on the National Cycle Network and the potential for developing this route in partnership with Sustrans.</p> <p><b>15c</b> Discuss with CAAN (currently Outdoor Recreation NI) the potential for identifying and signing a short and medium route around the Lake, connecting the villages of Camlough, Bessbrook and Meigh.</p>



	<p><b>15d</b> Consider the provision of bike stands at key sites around the Lake and in the villages</p> <p><b>15e</b> Explore the potential to establish a stand along cycling event around Camlough Lake and surrounding villages or around the Ring of Gullion/ South Armagh area</p>
Recommendation 16: Canoeing	<p><b>16a</b> Ensure Canoeing has equal representation alongside other users on the proposed new management structure.</p> <p><b>16b</b> Develop multi use facility for activity users</p> <p><b>16c</b> Provide dedicated car parking and trailer park with turning area. Ensure all facilities are DDA compliant</p> <p><b>16d</b> Ensure safe access and egress to the Lake. At least one, and preferably all, of these should be accessible for people with disabilities.</p> <p><b>16e</b> Provision of campsite close to Lake shore</p> <p><b>16f</b> Provision of 2-3 stop off points (small pontoons) around the Lake. These need not be accessible from the road</p>
Recommendation 18: Rowing	<p><b>18a</b> Consider the scope for introduction of 4-6 rowing boats (12-15ft) for hire. These could be introduced on a seasonal basis as the Lake develops a wider range of facilities for the visitor but only with the agreement of other activity users. Their use would need to be carefully regulated and restricted to the Wall End zone.</p> <p><b>18b</b> Consider provision for day boat as part of the overall improvement of visitor facilities at the Lake.</p>
Recommendation 19: Outdoor Activity Venue	<p><b>19a</b> Develop multi use facility for activity users</p> <p><b>19b</b> New partnership should invite presentation from Outdoor activity providers to establish suitability of the Lake, private sector requirements and likely benefits</p>

	<b>19c</b> Provision for the private sector to run outdoor adventure course to be included within the new Bye laws and regulation
Recommendation 20: Zoning	<b>20a</b> Consider the introduction of a simple zoning system to help avoid user conflict and improve user safety on the Lake.

## APPENDIX 4 - PUBLIC MEETINGS

One public consultation was held to provide members of the local community the opportunity to contribute to the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan.

The public meeting took place at Mullaghbane Community Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The meeting was promoted as follows:

- Press Articles in all key local papers within study area
- Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Website and Social Media Channels
- To community groups and activity providers in the study area via the DEA co-ordinators and Newry Visitor Information Centre
- Advertisement on local radio stations
- Outdoor Recreation NI Websites and social media channels
- Email sent to NGBS to send to clubs in the study area
- Email sent to NMDDC Elected Members (Cllrs) via Council secretary

In order to provide focus to the meetings the following format was used:

- Introduction to Outdoor Recreation NI
- Scope of Study
- Discussion Session 1: What is currently taking place?
- Discussion Session 2: What are the issues and barriers to outdoor recreation?
- Discussion Session 3: What would you like to see developed?



# OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSION SESSIONS FROM MULLAGHBANE PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

## **Session 1 – What is currently taking place?**

The general consensus from consultees was that there is a great variety of outdoor recreation taking place in the area within the local communities. Hill walking and water sport activity on the various lakes including open water swimming, triathlon, fishing and canoe/kayaking were the most popular activities taking place in the area. Cycling, horse riding, bushcraft and paragliding were also highlighted. Several annual community run outdoor recreation events were noted as playing a big part in encouraging outdoor recreation in the area e.g. Crooked Lake Triathlon, Twin Peak Mountain Challenge.

## **Session 2 – What are the issues and barriers to outdoor recreation?**

12 key themes came out of this discussion point, see below:

### **1. Access Restrictions**

One of the overriding themes brought up during this session was the lack of access throughout the study area. Consultees felt there was a lack of understanding over landowner liability, biosecurity risks, and Public Rights of Way. It was noted that there were a number of sites that although once fully accessible, have now had their access restricted with physical barriers preventing users from access e.g. Camlough Mountain, Ballintempo Viewpoint. There was also a frustration with the lack of access to off road historical sites in the area and the poor management and maintenance of existing Rights of Way. In particular it was noted that access on Forest Service land was an obstacle for accessing the Mass rock in Mullaghbane and Mass Rock in Carrive.

### **2. Multi-User Conflict**

It was noted that within a number of sites multiple activities take place sometimes resulting in user conflict. Different activities and clubs have different priorities and everyone's need to use the same site can create health and safety issues, additionally the success of one club can have an adverse effect on another. It was also noted that too many users on the same trails can lead to sustainability issues.

### **3. Connectivity**

The majority of consultees agreed that connectivity between current outdoor recreation products could be improved. Having to use busy roads to connect current walking and cycling trails was seen as an unnecessary risk to recreation users, especially young children. A lack of doorstep walking opportunities (i.e. those accessed without the need for a car) within local communities was also cited with a need for improving linkages between towns and villages via outdoor recreation identified.

### **4. Safety Concerns**

Lack of lighting for running, cycling and walking within the towns and villages was voiced as a safety concern particularly in the winter months preventing users from partaking in the aforementioned activities. Doorstep walking and cycling opportunities were very limited due to minor roads deemed too dangerous and a lack of off road trail provision / cycle paths to prevent the problem. Horse riders also noted their inability to use the roads due to safety concerns.

## **5. Facilities**

*Car Parking* - There was a strong feeling amongst consultees that car parking for access to walking routes could be improved. Car parking in Slieve Gullion was highlighted in particular as not being sufficient to cater for all users i.e. families using play park, walkers etc. There was a frustration amongst walkers with the lack of sufficient car parking within the ROG AONB for access to current walking routes for walking clubs. Those representing horse riders also raised the issue of existing car parks not catering for horse boxes.

*Changing/toilet facilities* – It was noted that there is a lack of appropriate facilities at recreation hubs where a number of activities are taking place e.g. Camlough Lake

*Basic walking/angling infrastructure* – It was voiced that limited infrastructure e.g. stiles, access gates is needed to greatly improve activities such as angling and walking.

## **6. Signage & Waymarking**

Consultees felt that signage and waymarking of outdoor recreation products on offer throughout the study area was currently inadequate and that more should be done to promote existing routes and trails in the area.

## **7. Support**

In terms of local authority support, consultees felt that the council's focus was the development and promotion of the Mourne area. There was a frustration with the lack of funding opportunities available and an uncertainty of how to access it. The often complicated process of applying for funding was also seen as a barrier to clubs / community groups wanting to further develop. More generally, it was felt that there should be more access to and information about training opportunities for clubs to allow them to sustain their activity i.e. first aid training, leadership, navigation training etc

## **8. Lack of Partnership**

Given that many of the outdoor recreation sites within the area are used by multiple user groups it was noted that a lack of partnership approach in terms of their development, for example, through joint funding applications. It was evident that there was a strong will to work in partnership but a lack of structured opportunities to provide the opportunity to do so.

## **9. Lack of Status / Promotion**

It was felt that the promotion of the area was lacking and that the area's unique geotourism was not well represented. It was noted that more could be done to promote geotourism in the area by linking with border counties in the South such as Cavan. It was felt there was no clear information for visitors and locals in terms of routes (and their suitability), activities and facilities.

## **10. Disabled Access**

It was expressed that the current provision of disabled access to the outdoors was inadequate in terms of all ability trails and access to other activities such as fishing.

## **11. Connection to Heritage / Environment**

Consultees felt there was a lack of access to the rural heritage sites in the area and furthermore a lack of opportunity to learn about the built and natural heritage of the area.

## **12. Aesthetics**

Litter, fly tipping and fouling were seen as major issues in many of the areas scenic viewpoints. The onset of Larch disease has also meant that some of the previously abundant tree landscape has had to be removed leaving areas open and barren.

### **Session 3 – What would you like to see developed?**

The main themes raised can be split into 10 categories, see below:

#### **1. Priority Sites**

Camlough Lake, Camlough Mountain and Lough Ross were highlighted as priority sites for outdoor recreation development moving forward. There was a particular appetite to make Lough Ross a disabled friendly site for outdoor recreation with the Department for Communities (DfC) mentioned as a potential funding source to enable this.

#### **2. Access**

Given the amount of privately owned land in the area with potential to be used for outdoor recreation, in particular walking, it was felt a strategy for negotiating access and ensuring the rights of way remain throughout South Armagh was needed. It was felt existing trails within the area should be made more accessible for all users. It was also suggested that common land north of Slieve Gullion could potentially be used for Bushcraft activity given that forest service land was not accessible for such an activity due to restrictions. Those representing horse riding were keen for access to existing trails such as the Newry Canal Towpath and Camlough Mountain with consideration to adequate parking space.

#### **3. Facilities**

Consultees wanted to see trailhead facilities developed/improved throughout the study area. In particular car parking and improved toilet facilities at Slieve Gullion and changing facilities and toilets at Camlough Lake (it was noted that Camlough village currently has no access to public toilets and such a facility would resolve this issue benefiting both the local community and outdoor recreation users). Further development of fishing stands on Newry Canal was also mentioned. It was felt more could also be done to make the most of Derrymore Wood with a play area and waymarked walks.

#### **4. Community links**

Consultees would like to see better connectivity between current recreation products and local communities. Possible linkages mentioned included a link from Muckno to Lough Ross, a walking link or footpath from Crossmaglen to Lough Ross, a Greenway to connect Newry to Slieve Gullion and in more general terms to join up villages and communities in the area which would also provide safe off road cycling for families. Links to the new Newry Greenway to Meigh Village and Slieve Gullion were also mentioned as well as a walking trail around Camlough Lake and Bessbrook pond.

#### **5. Support**

It was suggested that a platform for all recreational users and clubs to provide information, communication and support would prove useful as well as training opportunities for funding applications and a simpler funding application process. It was also felt that more education was needed about the areas environment as well practical education on road safety training.



## **6. Signage & Waymarking**

There was a general feeling that signage and waymarking of existing outdoor recreation products could be improved. As well as ensuring adequate waymarking on trails and at trailheads it was expressed that further signage directing people from the motorway to the Ring of Gullion AONB was critical to driving visitors to the area to experience the outdoor recreation opportunities. Consultees also felt that road signage should be improved to increase the safety of recreation users, especially young people.

## **7. Networking / Communication**

The need for open lines of communication between various clubs and outdoor recreation users was highlighted to ensure everyone can work together and enjoy the outdoor recreation facilities available, something which has the potential to be achieved through SANDSA.

## **8. Promotion**

Consultees were keen to see improved promotion of the outdoor recreation opportunities in the area for both locals and tourists. With a wealth of community organised events and activity it was felt better communication was needed in order for locals and visitors to be made aware of the vibrant calendar of activity and events taking place. Consultees also voiced the need for effective and suitable information for visitors and tourists, something which they felt Tourism NI had a role to play in achieving.

## **9. Masterplanning**

It was felt that the outdoor recreation products have been developed in isolation of each other which has led to a reduction in the overall experience and as such all users should be considered in the management and planning of future outdoor recreation sites and trails to ensure there is minimal user conflict and a positive user experience for all.

## **10. Orienteering**

Slieve Gullion and Camlough Mountain were mentioned as priority sites to be mapped for orienteering.

## ATTENDEES AT PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

**Venue:** Mullaghbane Community Centre

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017

No	Name	Organisation
1	Aileen McCarron	Lagan Valley Orienteering Club
2	Aoibheann Walsh	Mullaghbawn Road Runners / Rural Support
3	Catherine Murphy	Camlough Lake Water Festival
4	Cllr Gillian Fitzpatrick	NMMDC
5	Conor Brecknell	Camlough Canoe Club
6	Conor Haughey	NMMDC
7	Darren Rice	NMDDC
8	Declan McDonald	Féile Chamlocha
9	Declan Murphy	Camlough Community Association
10	Derek Watters	Druids walkers / Wee Binians
11	Des Murphy	Chair ROG LSP
12	Diane Cowan	Autism Families / CCG
13	Dianne Kelly	
14	Diarmuid Farmer	Red Branch Bushcraft
15	Geoff Quinn	IADA
16	Ita Crossan	Armagh Rambling Club
17	John Carragher	Crossmaglen Youth Club
18	Julie Garvin	ILDRA / URR
19	Kevin Murphy	Tí Chulainn
20	Mark Brecknell	Camlough Canoe Club
21	Mark Donohoe	Jaramas Investments (NI) Ltd

22	Mark Rice	Watchtower Adventures
23	Michael Gaffney	Crossmaglen Youth Club
24	Michelle Boyle	NMDDC
25	Mike McClure	Sport NI
26	Niamh Haughey	Triathlon
27	Niamh Murphy	Mullaghbawn Road Runners
28	Padraig Mallon	Openwater Infinity Swim Academy
29	Pauline Dowdall	Digging Deeper Project Community Restorative Justice
30	Petra Seibert	
31	Roisin Mulgrew	NMDDC
32	Seamus Larkin	Mullaghbawn GFC
33	Shane Kearney	Newry Rowing Club
34	Sinead McVeigh	
35	Síofra Walsh	Mullaghbawn Road Runners
36	Stephen Boyle	Newry Triathlon Club
37	Stephen Garvin	Armagh Rambling Club
38	Terence McCreesh	Culloville GAC
39	Thomas McStravick	Clanrye Group



## APPENDIX 5 – PUBLICLY OWNED / MANAGED LAND WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Organisation	Site	Area (Ha)	Sites	Total Area (Ha)
Forest Service NI	Ballymoyer <sup>43</sup>	18.60	31	1946.13
	Camlough (Keggal) <sup>44</sup>	5.13		
	Camlough	1.44		
	Camlough	2.16		
	Camlough (Ballynalack)	11.52		
	Camlough (Ballynalack)	7.40		
	Camlough	0.25		
	Camlough (Ballintemple)	58.14		
	Camlough	1.14		
	Camlough (Aghmakane)	28.11		

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<sup>43</sup> There are three blocks within Ballymoyer

<sup>44</sup> The site name refers to the Forest Name within FSNI GIS records. The name in brackets refers to the Block Name within FSNI GIS records. The block name is not always provided.

	Camlough (Carrickbrackan)	19.59		
	Camlough (Camlough)	162.78		
	Camlough (Bernish)	3.92		
	Camlough (Ballymacdermot)	3.11		
	Cold Brae <sup>45</sup>	160.49		
	Drumbanagher	70.64 <sup>46</sup>		
	Fathom <sup>47</sup>	145.76		
	Slieve Gullion (Carrive)	3.58		
	Slieve Gullion	0.34		
	Slieve Gullion (Quilly)	8.45		
	Slieve Gullion	0.26		
	Slieve Gullion	2.40		
	Slieve Gullion (Fork Mountain)	64.14		

<sup>45</sup> There are 12 Blocks within Cold Brae Forest. The blocks are not individually named within FSNI GIS records.

<sup>46</sup> An element of Drumbanagher Forest is out with the study area

<sup>47</sup> There are 5 Blocks within Fathom Forest. The blocks are not individually named within FSNI GIS records.

	Slieve Gullion	0.80		
	Slieve Gullion	0.76		
	Slieve Gullion	1.67		
	Slieve Gullion (Longfield)	651.34		
	Slieve Gullion (Cranney)	16.68		
	Slieve Gullion (Shanroe)	120.14		
	Slieve Gullion (Tievecrom)	76.12		
	The Fews <sup>48</sup>	299.25		
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Owned / Managed)	Amenity / Toilet Block, Amenity Area, The Planting	0.97	73	240.27
	Amenity area at Flagstaff, Newry	2.89		
	Amenity area at Kiltybane Lough	0.26		
	Amenity Area at Lough Ross, Crossmaglen	1.61		

<sup>48</sup> Elements of The Fews Forest are out with the study area. There are 10 blocks within the Fews Forest



	Amenity Scheme at Ballsmill, Silverbridge	0.90		
	Acquisition of SELB Lands at Tandragee Road	2.65		
	Bernish Viewpoint, Newry	0.33		
	Bessbrook Community Centre	0.79		
	Bessbrook Handball Alley	0.08		
	Camlough Lake	72.69		
	Car Park/Amenity Area at Aughnaduff, Mullaghbawn	0.11		
	Car Park/Picnic Park Area at Keggall Road	0.55		
	Charlemont Square and College Square	1.50		
	Cloughreagh Community Centre	0.35		
	College Square Bessbrook	0.18		
	Crossmaglen Community Centre	0.08		

	Cullyhanna Community Centre	0.12		
	Dorsey Community Centre	0.24		
	Foreshore at Newry river, Carlingford Lough	34.08		
	Forkhill - Land containing well pump feature	0.00		
	Forkhill Community Centre	0.22		
	Former Killeavy CoI and Graveyard	0.38		
	Jim Steen Park	1.54		
	Jonesboro Playing Field (New Site)	1.32		
	Land at High Street, Bessbrook	2.25		
	Land at J F Kennedy Park, Bessbrook	0.18		
	Land at Mountcharles And Bessbrook Park	6.13		

	Land at St Killian's GFC, Whitecross	0.07		
	Land for Regional Play Facility- Slieve Gullion	0.88		
	Meigh Community Centre	0.37		
	Mullaghbawn Community Centre	0.17		
	Mullaghbawn Environmental Scheme	0.21		
	Newry Canal	77.64		
	Newtownhamilton Community Centre	0.04		
	Open Space at Crossmaglen	0.56		
	Open Space at Crossmaglen	0.09		
	Open Space Land at Malachy Conlon Park/	0.16		
	Open Space, Belleek's Village	0.42		
	Permissive Path Agreement - Woodlane	0.04		



	Play Area and Kickabout At St Oliver Plunkett Park	0.15		
	Play Area at Ardross, Crossmaglen	0.30		
	Play Area at Art McCooley Park, Glassdrummond	0.22		
	Play Area at Bleary Bungalows, Corrinshogo	0.25		
	Play Area at Carnbane Gardens, Newry	0.08		
	Play Area at Carrick Vista	0.96		
	Play Area at Creggan, Crossmaglen	0.32		
	Play Area at Dungormley Estate, Newtownhamilton	0.04		
	Play Area at Fairview, Forkhill	0.12		
	Play Area at Fane Close, Culloville	0.17		
	Play Area at Latt Villas	0.07		

	Play Area at Latt Villas- New Estate	0.14		
	Play Area at Lismore Park, Crossmaglen	0.05		
	Play Area at Lisnalee Park, Drumnahunshin Road	0.17		
	Play Area at Low Road, Drumintee	0.64		
	Play Area at Meigh	0.33		
	Play Area at Moninna Villas	0.22		
	Play Area at Mullaghbawn, Newry	0.77		
	Play Area at Rathview Park, Crossmaglen	0.27		
	Play Area at Riverside Crescent, Bessbrook	0.39		
	Play Area at Tullydonnell, Silverbridge	0.19		
	Playground at The Gardens, Bessbrook	0.32		

	Playing Area at St Patrick's Park Cullyhanna	0.15		
	Playing Field at Drumilly, Belleeks	0.70		
	Playing Field at Mares Field, Camlough	1.00		
	Playing Field at Newtown And Recreation Area	1.66		
	Playing Field at Newtowncloghogue	1.49		
	Playing Fields at Allotment Gardens	0.96		
	Playing Fields at Cloughreagh	0.81		
	Playing Fields at Crossmaglen	3.65		
	Playing Fields at Fr. Cullen Park	0.49		
	Playing Fields, Meigh	1.68		
	Recreation Area at Bog Road, Forkhill	2.18		

	Recreation Area at Jonesboro	0.44		
	Slieve Gullion Walkways (Lands For Walk Ways)	5.95		
The National Trust	Ballymoyer <sup>49</sup>	19.68	2	65.67
	Derrymore House	45.99		
Woodland Trust	Canal Wood	8.6	1	8.6

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<sup>49</sup> Ballymoyer Forest is on land owned by the National Trust. Forest Service NI has a management role for the forest. It is understood that the management on the forest is in the process of being transferred to the Woodland Trust.



## APPENDIX 6 - PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND PERMISSIVE PATH AGREEMENTS

### Public Rights of Way

Location	Status	Length
Chapel Road to Seafin Road, Meigh	Carriageway	101.09
"Hip Road", Carewamean Road to border with the Irish Republic	Footpath	180.51
Father Cullen Park to Camlough River, Bessbrook	Footpath	409.07
Canal Quay to Gambles Road, Canal Towpath, Newry <sup>50</sup>	Footpath	10406.96
Ballard Road to Slieve Gullion South Cairn	Footpath	3023.12
Shean Road to Urney Graveyard, Forkhill	Footpath	777.95
Ballynabee Road to Father Cullen Park, Bessbrook	Footpath	509.04
Ballymoyer Forest Footpath	Footpath	2928.54
Millvale Road, Bessbrook To Craigmore Road, Newry	Footpath	907.49
Hillhead Road to Flagstaff Road	Footpath	528.05
Concession Road to the border with the Irish Republic <sup>51</sup>	Carriageway	236.37
Millvale Road at the Old Mill to Derrymore Road, Bessbrook	Footpath	796.90
Millvale Road to Derrymore Road at Beetle Road	Footpath	417.82
Killeavy Old Church (Ballintemple Road) to St. Monninna's Well	Footpath	635.74

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<sup>50</sup> An element of this PRoW extends beyond the study area. However, given that the Newry Canal is a key outdoor recreation product it has been included.

<sup>51</sup> It is understood that at the time of writing this PRoW is being legally contested

**Permissive Path Agreement**

Location	Status	Length
Carrickasticken Road to Forkhill River	Woodland	895.00

## APPENDIX 7 –DISABILITY SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND – GUIDANCE FOR OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

### **General considerations to assist people with disabilities:**

- Consider access from the point of arrival, whether on foot, by car or using public transport.
- Pathways and inclines – surfaces, gradient and width, including passing places; defined to avoid vehicle and pedestrian mix.
- Maintenance of ground surfaces e.g. preventing algae growth, water pooling (or the appearance of the latter).
- Signage – information and wayfinding (see below).
- Designated accessible parking for cars and buses; and drop-off. Discourage parking along access routes or pathways.
- Rest places at regular intervals and after steep ascents e.g. to assist older people and people with hidden disabilities such as heart problems. Consider seat style and the ability of wheelchair users and assistance dogs to rest alongside seated companions clear of pedestrian routes.
- Handrail support on lengthy or steep pathways / inclines.
- Guardrail design to offer uninterrupted views. If glass is used, fit safety markings to assist people who are partially sighted.
- People with Dementia – the value of fresh air; the importance of shelter / shade; a place to sit and watch.
- Scope for using the senses e.g. touch, light and shade, smell and colour from vegetation.
- Design of ramps and steps.
- External lighting.
- Visibility of localised obstructions or obstacles where unavoidable on routes.
- Maintenance of vegetation to reduce hazard.
- Accessible toilets, including provisions for independent and assisted use. See Section 4: [http://dsni.co.uk/files/Guide\\_1\\_Accessible\\_Sports\\_Facilities\\_Design\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://dsni.co.uk/files/Guide_1_Accessible_Sports_Facilities_Design_Guidelines.pdf)
- Changing – think of changing areas for babies, young persons and adults e.g. persons with profound and multiple disabilities requiring assistance.
- Design of inclusive outdoor eating / picnic facilities.
- Protection on steep inclines on descent.
- Accessible turnstiles / pass-through gateways (including opening mechanisms).
- Clearly marked routes in a combination of formats e.g. colour-coding supported by words.
- Location and protection of water features and the use of wayfinding tools to reach them – handrails, contrasting ground materials.

- Street furniture located close to, but clear of, circulation routes.
- Features positioned at a range of heights e.g. planters within reach.
- Suitable pathways or routes for use by all-terrain vehicles and assistance points during all-terrain vehicle use.
- Braille compasses and vibrating compasses can assist people with sight loss during orienteering.
- Accessibility of visitor information buildings / huts.
- Accessibility of bird hides and observation towers, including visibility from inside the hide for viewing e.g. one lowered viewing station with clear space in front.
- Width and level entrance to bird hides and observation tower openings.
- Usability and weight of viewing slot openings.
- Clear indication as to which bird hides are wheelchair accessible e.g. on maps, information, signs etc.
- Resting spots for disabled people close to bird habitats e.g. adjacent to swamps, lakes etc.
- Trail guide information in alternative formats e.g. audio, Large Print.
- Use of visual edge indicators or tapping rails on trail pathways.
- Cattle / dog grids can present barriers for people with disabilities.

#### **General considerations for jetties, quays and berths**

- Sloped access to pontoon jetty.
- Access to the water from the jetty e.g. hoist.
- Width of jetty.
- Surface of jetty and ensuring any gaps are not wider than 5mm.
- Sound signals for people with sight loss.
- Handrails.
- Upstands for safety.
- Where connection points are unavoidable, provide level changes.
- Gangplanks for use at connection boats (consider incline, width, handrails, surface).
- Accessible boat berths clearly marked using symbol signage.
- Raised edges to reduce the chances of wheelchairs (occupied or otherwise) being lost overboard.
- Sport England has useful information and general access issues relating to access to and into the water may be applicable. See: <http://www.sportengland.org/media/30246/Accessible-Sports-Facilities-2010.pdf>, p71-73. There is guidance on entrance gates, parking, pontoons, ramps and slip ways. Slipways should be no steeper than 1 in 15 and should be fitted with a winch system for the launch and recovery of boats. They state that were it is not possible to gain access to the water using a suitable ramp, a proprietary lifting platform should be installed.



## **Fishing and angling considerations**

### Fishing station

- Provision of fishing platform and access to it e.g. using suitable pathway (width, surface, gradient etc)
- Size of fishing platform
- Handrails and upstands
- Distance from end of platform to the water
- Rest places on routes to the fishing station
- Proximity to parking and toilet provisions

### Angling Jetty

- Size of angling jetty
- Slip resistant surface, handrails and upstand/beam edge
- Access onto the jetty e.g. adaptable height ramp to address water level changes and including handrails and slip resistant surface
- Table suitable for use by wheelchair users, for storing bait etc.
- Railing to facilitate the handling of rods at the end of the jetty
- Access from the jetty to fishing boats (e.g. easily manoeuvred rowing boat)
- Proximity to parking and toilet provisions

## **Water sports considerations**

- For specific guidance on rowing and sailing see Section 8.7 and 8.8: [http://dsni.co.uk/files/Guide 1 Accessible Sports Facilities Design Guidelines.pdf](http://dsni.co.uk/files/Guide_1_Accessible_Sports_Facilities_Design_Guidelines.pdf)

### Boating / Sailing

- Disabled people can often participate in water sports if the natural shoreline is improved and equipped appropriately.
- Accessible pontoons and jetties for boating.
- Extra equipment in the form of pontoon boats, canoes and inflatable boats (in addition to general rowing boats, sailing boats and motor boats).
- Platforms to allow wheelchair access to the river's edge.
- Access points to canoe trails.
- Contact Bob Harper of Belfast Lough Sailability: <http://www.belfastloughsailability.com/>
- Access to the sailing boat location e.g. ramped access to jetty.

- Boarding from jetty onto the sailing boat e.g. remote controlled hoist. Information on lifting equipment is available at <http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/rya-sailability/equipment-directory/Pages/hub.aspx>
- Location of hoists in terms of varying water levels at certain times.
- Type of sailing boat.
- Cruisers with walk-through from the pontoon.
- Steering seats.

### Canoeing

- Type of kayak or canoe e.g. two-seater for a person who is blind or partially sighted and an assistant.
- Access into the canoe.
- Level or gentle sloping shore.
- Ease of pulling the canoe ashore and provision of fixing points.
- Equipped base points, or canoeing / rowing centres.
- Proximity to parking, toilets and changing areas.
- Height of canoe jetty from the water (permanently fixed if there is no water level change).
- Ramped access to the jetty.
- See also: <http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Toolkit-to-Success-Making-Outdoor-Activities-Accessible-ORNI-2012.pdf>

### Outdoor swimming

- Access into the pool e.g. surface of water level with the surrounding area, hoist, easy steps
- Pool temperature
- Accessible changing and toilet areas
- Wheelchair storage space close to the pool
- Contrasting pool edge
- Slip resistant surface poolside
- Underwater handrails built into the depth of the pool wall
- Seats poolside

### **Other Outdoor Activities**

See <http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Toolkit-to-Success-Making-Outdoor-Activities-Accessible-ORNI-2012.pdf> which outlines key considerations in terms of climbing, canoeing, orienteering, archery, cycling and communication.

### **Signage considerations**

- Fieldfare Trust ([www.fieldfaretrust.org.uk](http://www.fieldfaretrust.org.uk)) undertook research into national standards for accessibility under the BT Countryside for All Project and offers useful technical information on

outdoor and countryside design for all. Link to the guidance on the internet:  
[http://www.eau.ee/~bell/Recreation\\_course%202008-9/Countryside%20for%20All/Introduction.pdf](http://www.eau.ee/~bell/Recreation_course%202008-9/Countryside%20for%20All/Introduction.pdf)

- 'Information Sheets' have the technical data for various design features:  
[http://www.eau.ee/~bell/Recreation\\_course%202008-9/Countryside%20for%20All/Information%20Sheets.pdf](http://www.eau.ee/~bell/Recreation_course%202008-9/Countryside%20for%20All/Information%20Sheets.pdf)
- See Section 6: [http://dsni.co.uk/files/Guide\\_1\\_Accessible\\_Sports\\_Facilities\\_Design\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://dsni.co.uk/files/Guide_1_Accessible_Sports_Facilities_Design_Guidelines.pdf)
- Disability Sport NI advises the use of the term 'Accessible' rather than 'Disabled' on signage.

### **General guidance to also consider in terms of signage:**

- Print size used on information boards needs to be large enough for people to read the text easily. As a guide, minimum print sizes are: 60-72 point for titles, 40-48 point for subtitles; 24 point for body text and 18 point for captions. 20 point print can be read 1.2m away.
- Tactile signs placed at a 60° angle can assist people with sight loss and can add sensory interest.
- Sign panels should be accessed on firm, level hardstand.
- Good colour combinations include: black on white; dark green on white; black on yellow; dark blue on white. Poor colour combinations include: pastel on pastel; yellow on orange; yellow on grey; yellow on white; blue on green; red on green; black on violet. A combination of primary, or secondary, colours will fail to offer good contrast e.g. green on green and for colour blindness avoid red / yellow / green.
- The colour of the board should contrast with the landscape behind and the text with the board. In general terms, a sign set against vegetation is best using white board and black/dark green/blue text.
- Using a matte finish board will eliminate glare or dazzle in bright conditions.
- Listening posts relate information audibly.

### **Other useful resources**

Sign Design Guide. A guide to inclusive signage. JMU and the Sign Design Society. Parker, P & Fraser, J. 2000.

British Standards Institute. BS 8300:2009 +A1:2010. Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people. Code of practice.

<http://www.rowingireland.ie/para-rowing/>

Irish Disabled Fly Fishing Association: <https://www.idffa.org>

British Disabled Anglers Association UK: <https://www.bdaa.co.uk/>

Ulster Angling Federation: <http://www.ulsteranglingfederation.com/>

<http://www.wheelyboats.org/>

## APPENDIX 8 – FORESTRY ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010 AND THE FORESTRY LAND BYELAWS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2013

### **Relevant excerpt from Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010**

#### ***Right of access to, and byelaws for, forestry land***

#### **Public right of access to, and byelaws for, forestry land**

31.—(1) Subject as follows, the public shall have right of access on foot to all forestry land for the purposes of recreation.

(2) That right of access does not extend—

(a) to any building or structure on forestry land; or

(b) to any facility on forestry land in respect of which a charge is payable under section 3.

(3) That right of access is subject—

(a) to byelaws under subsection (4); and

(b) in the case of land held by the Department under a lease, to the terms of the lease.

(4) The Department may make byelaws—

(a) making such provision as may appear to the Department to be necessary for the preservation of trees or timber on forestry land;

(b) prohibiting or regulating any act or thing likely to injure or disfigure forestry land or the amenities of, or facilities provided on, that land;

(c) providing for the reasonable use of forestry land by the public for the purposes of recreation;

(d) excluding or restricting the right of access conferred by subsection (1) in circumstances or for purposes specified in the byelaws and subject to such conditions (if any) as may be so specified.

(5) An authorised person may exercise such powers and perform such duties as the Department considers necessary for the enforcement of byelaws made under subsection (4).

(6) In particular an authorised person may remove or exclude from any forestry land a person who commits or whom the authorised person reasonably suspects of committing an offence.

(7) Where byelaws under subsection (4) declare a contravention of any provision of the byelaws to be an offence, a person contravening that provision commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction—

(a) to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale; and

(b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding one-tenth of level 3 on the standard scale in respect of each day during which the offence is continued after conviction.



## **Relevant excerpt from The Forestry Land Byelaws (Northern Ireland) 2013**

### **Access to forestry land**

5.—(1) The right of access granted under section 31(1) of the Act does not apply in relation to an area which is designated as restricted.

(2) The Department may restrict access in an area—

(a) where the Department has identified a health and safety risk, including risks associated with harvesting of trees, use of chemicals and construction works;

(b) where the Department is carrying out protection and management of wildlife, wildlife habitats or flora and fauna;

(c) to prevent the spread of animal or plant disease or plant pests;

(d) for a social, sporting, cultural or artistic event;

(e) which is subject to a lease, licence or agreement between the Department and a third party.

## APPENDIX 9 - NATURAL HERITAGE DESIGNATIONS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Type	Name	Reference	County	Legislation	Area (Ha)
<b>AONB</b>	Ring of Gullion	AONB5	Armagh	NCALO	15328.56

Type	Name	Reference	County	Species	Habitat	Earth Science	Area (Ha)
<b>ASSI</b>	Slieve Gullion	ASSI198	Armagh	Invertebrate assemblage, Breeding bird assemblage	Dry heath, Fens	Tertiary igneous	612.13
	Cashel Loughs	ASSI189	Armagh	Invertebrate assemblage	Fens		34.21
	Drumlougher Lough	ASSI205	Armagh	Invertebrate assemblage	Fens		23.54
	Tullyard	ASSI216	Armagh		Lowland meadow		1.49
	Carrickastickan	ASSI215	Armagh		Lowland meadow		3.74
	Loughaveely	ASSI206	Armagh	Invertebrate assemblage	Fens		4.74
	Levallymore	ASSI214	Down		Lowland meadow		8.02
	Lurgan Lough	ASSI204	Armagh	Invertebrate assemblage	Fens, Eutrophic standing waters		16.2
	Carlingford Lough	ASSI103	Armagh, Down	Common Tern, Dunlin, Great Crested Grebe, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, Redshank, Sandwich Tern, Shelduck, Invertebrate assemblage, Arctic Tern, Oystercatcher, Scaup	Coastal saltmarsh, Mudflats	Carboniferous stratigraphy, Pleistocene	1105
	Fathom Upper	ASSI238	Armagh		Lowland meadow		2.04

	Cam Lough	ASSI231	Armagh		Mesotrophic lakes		81.66
	Camlough Quarry	ASSI289	Armagh			Caledonian igneous, Tertiary igneous	0.38
	Cloghinny	ASSI293	Armagh			Tertiary igneous	4.26
	Lislea	ASSI290	Armagh			Tertiary igneous	5.22
	Glendesha	ASSI292	Armagh			Tertiary igneous	0.97
	Mullaghbane	ASSI291	Armagh			Tertiary igneous	5.49
	Clermont & Anglesey Mountain	ASSI409	Armagh		Dry heath		129.26
	Goraghowood Quarry	ASSI422	Armagh			Caledonian Igneous	4.01
	Carrivemaclone	ASSI423	Armagh			Caledonian Igneous	0.79

Type	Name	Reference	County	Area (Ha)
<b>SAC</b>	Slieve Gullion	UK0030277	Armagh	612.13

## APPENDIX 10 - BUILT HERITAGE DESIGNATIONS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Type	Reference	Name	Area (Ha)
<b>Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesne</b>	A-004	Ballymoyer	22.33
	A-024	DERRYMORE HOUSE and THE WOOD HOUSE	45.32
	A-014	Drumbanagher	165.62
	A-017	Forkhill House	26.52
	A-020	Hawthorn Hill	66.47
	A-041	Killevy Castle	82.26



Type	Reference	Type	General Type	Protection	Townlands	Located
Site or Monument	ARM032:013	Cashel	E.Christ.		Tievecrom	Located
	ARM032:014	Tober-Na-Cashel. Holy Well: Tober-Na-Cashel	Uncertain		Carrickbroad	Located
	ARM032:015	NON-ANTIQUITY -Natural Feature	UNCERTAIN		CARRICKBROAD	Located
	ARM032:016	Rath	E.Christ.		Tievecrom	Located
	ARM032:017	Sunday Well. Holy Well: Sunday Well	Uncertain		Tievecrom	Located
	ARM032:018	Standing Stone	Prehistoric		Tievecrom	Located
	ARM032:019	Battle of Moyry Pass. Battle Site: Moyry Pass, 1600	Post-Med		Carrickbroad	Located
	ARM021:005	Rath	E.Christ.		Ballygorman	Located
	ARM021:006	Rath	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Ballygorman	Located
	ARM021:018	Enclosure	Uncertain		Drumcrow	Located
	ARM021:019	Enclosure	Uncertain		Drumcrow	Located
	ARM021:020	Enclosure	Uncertain		Creggan Upper	Located
	ARM021:021	Rath? Or Landscape Feature?	E.Christ.		Lisadian	Located
	ARM021:022	Rath	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Lisadian	Located
	ARM021:023	Tree Ring	Modern		Lisadian	Located
	ARM021:024	Tree Ring	Modern		Lisadian	Located
	ARM021:025	Tree Ring	Modern		Lisadian	Located

	ARM021:026	Tree Ring	Modern		Lisadian	Located
	ARM021:027	RATH & Possible HOUSE	E.Christ.	Scheduled	LISADIAN	Located
	ARM021:028	Tree Ring	Modern		Lisadian	Located
	ARM021:029	Tree Ring	Modern		Lisadian	Located
	ARM021:031	Rath	E.Christ.		Ballintemple	Located
	ARM021:038	Rath	E.Christ.		Lisnalee	Located
	ARM021:039	Tree Ring	Modern		Drumharriff	Located
	ARM021:042	Platform Rath	E.Christ.		Corrinure	Located
	ARM021:046	MULTIPLE CIST CAIRN (Unlocated)	BRONZE AGE		BALLINTEMPLE; KNOCKAVANNON	Unlocated
	ARM021:047	Souterrain	E.Christ.		Cavanakill	Located
	ARM021:048	NON-ANTIQUITY - From Aps	UNCERTAIN		CREEVE	Located
	ARM021:050	NON-ANTIQUITY - Rock Outcrop	UNCERTAIN		DUVERNAGH	Located
	ARM022:001	Enclosure	Uncertain		Carrickbrack	Located
	ARM022:002	Enclosure	Uncertain		Cullentragh	Located
	ARM022:003	Lissummon Fort. Rath: Lissummon Fort	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Lissummon	Located
	ARM022:004	Rath	E.Christ.		Lissummon	Located
	ARM022:005	Clogh Inny. Non-Antiquity - Boulder: Clogh Inny	Uncertain		Cloghinny	Located

	ARM022:006	Grey Stones, The Cromlech Field. Cist With Cremation Burial: The Cromlech Field. Grey Stones	Prehistoric		Duvernagh	Located
	ARM022:007	Enclosure	Uncertain		Rathcarbry	Located
	ARM022:008	Enclosure	Uncertain		Ballydogherty	Located
	ARM022:009	Rath	E.Christ.		Lisnagree	Located
	ARM022:010	Standing Stone	Prehistoric		Goragh	Located
	ARM022:011	Enclosure	Uncertain		Tullyhappy	Located
	ARM022:012	Glenoran Well, Ballyoran Well. Holy Well: Glenoran Or Ballyoran Well	Uncertain		Duvernagh	Located
	ARM022:013	A.P. SITE - Probably Modern	UNCERTAIN		MULLAGHGLASS	Located
	ARM022:014	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Derrywilligan	Located
	ARM022:015	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Kilrea	Located
	ARM022:016	A.P. SITE - Circular Cropmark	UNCERTAIN		CARNBANE	Located
	ARM022:019	A.P. SITE - Circular Enclosure	UNCERTAIN		KILREA	Located
	ARM022:020	Drumbanagher House. House & Bawn: Drumbanagher House	Post-Med		Killybodagh	Located
	ARM022:017	Black Pig's Glen. Linear Earthwork: The Danes Cast (Part Of) Also Black Pig's Glen	Uncertain	Scheduled	Goragh	Located
	ARM022:021	BATTLE SITE, 1032 (Unlocated)	E.C./MED		DRUMBANAGHER	Unlocated
	ARM024:003	Three Cairns	Prehistoric		Tullyvallon	Located
	ARM024:004	TREE RING, Possibly Reused RATH	E.CHRIST.		ALTNAMACKAN	Located

	ARM024:005	Large Enclosure	Uncertain		Tullyvallon	Located
	ARM024:006	White Hill. Folklore Site: White Hill Or Palace Of King Lir	Uncertain		Tullyvallon	Located
	ARM024:007	Cairn	Prehistoric		Tullyvallon	Located
	ARM024:010	SOUTERRAIN (Unlocated)	E.CHRIST.		TULLYVALLAN	Unlocated
	ARM024:011	Donnelly's Hill. Megalithic Tomb?: Donnelly's Hill (Unlocated)	Prehistoric		Tullyvallon	Unlocated
	ARM025:001	Rath	E.Christ.		Carrickgallogly	Located
	ARM025:002	Rath? Or Tree Ring?	E.Christ.		Drumharriff	Located
	ARM025:004	RATH & Possible SOUTERRAIN	E.CHRIST.		DRUMHARRIFF	Located
	ARM025:005	Enclosure	Uncertain		Tullywinny	Located
	ARM025:006	Drumilly Fort. Rath: Drumilly Fort	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Drumilly	Located
	ARM025:007	Lissaraw Fort. Bivallate Rath & Possible Souterrain: Lissaraw Fort	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Lissaraw	Located
	ARM025:008	Rath	E.Christ.		Carrickcloghan	Located
	ARM025:009	The Long Stones. Cashel And Portal Tomb: The Long Stones	Neolithic	Scheduled	Aghmakane	Located
	ARM025:010	Court Tomb	Neolithic		Annacloghmullin	Located
	ARM025:011	Cairn	Prehistoric		Outleckan	Located
	ARM025:012	Carn Hill, Cairn Hill. Cairn: Cairn Hill	Prehistoric		Cavanakill	Located
	ARM025:013	Large Enclosure	Uncertain		Tullyah	Located
	ARM025:014	Enclosure	Uncertain		Carricknagavna	Located



	ARM025:015	Rath	E.Christ.		Carrickcloghan	Located
	ARM025:016	Standing Stone	Prehistoric		Belleek	Located
	ARM025:017	Tree Ring	Modern		Drumharriff	Located
	ARM025:018	CIST with URN BURIAL	BRONZE AGE		TULLYWINNY	Located
	ARM025:019	Court Tomb	Neolithic		Carrickananny	Located
	ARM025:020	Megalithic Tomb	Prehistoric		Outleekan	Located
	ARM025:021	Souterrain	E.Christ.		Carrickcloghan	Located
	ARM025:022	Souterrain	E.Christ.		Aghmakane	Located
	ARM025:023	ENCLOSURE (Unlocated)	UNCERTAIN		TULLYWINNY	Unlocated
	ARM025:024	FINDSPOT Of WOODEN POSTS (Unlocated)	UNCERTAIN		BALLINTEMPLE	Unlocated
	ARM025:025	Standing Stone	Prehistoric		Duvernagh	Located
	ARM026:001	Mullaghglass, Old Mullaghglass Church. Church & Graveyard: Mullaghglass	C16th		Latt	Located
	ARM026:002	Platform Rath	E.Christ.		Mullaghglass	Located
	ARM026:003	Counterscarp Rath	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Mullaghglass	Located
	ARM026:004	Rath	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Mullaghglass	Located
	ARM026:006	Rath	E.Christ.		Maghernahely	Located
	ARM026:007	Rath	E.Christ.		Derry More	Located
	ARM026:008	Derrymore Fort. Rath: Derrymore Fort	E.Christ.		Derry More	Located

	ARM026:009	Standing Stone	Prehistoric		Derrywilligan	Located
	ARM026:010	Enclosure	Uncertain		Carrickcloghan; Eshwary	Located
	ARM026:011	Rath	E.Christ.		Carrickcloghan	Located
	ARM026:012	Camlough Mountain. Cairn, Possibly Passage Tomb: Camlough Mountain	Prehistoric		Cross	Located
	ARM026:014	Cairn	Prehistoric		Ballinliss	Located
	ARM026:016	Cam Lough, Camlough Reservoir. Crannog (Submerged) In Camlough Reservoir	E.Christ.		Aghmakane; Keggall	Located
	ARM026:017	Enclosure	Uncertain		Carrickcroppan	Located
	ARM026:018	Enclosure	Uncertain		Derry More	Located
	ARM026:019	Carnbane, Karnbane/Cairnban, Tlachgdgha Ban. Megalithic Tomb - Passage Tomb?: Carnbane	Prehistoric		Carnbane	Located
	ARM026:020	Convent of Mercy, Magheriehelin, Yllagh. Multiperiod Church & Graveyard, Bawn, 4 Holy Wells & Convent: Magheriehelin, Yllagh, Convent of Mercy	Post-Med		Maghernahely	Located
	ARM026:024	Grant's Rocks. Souterrain: Grant's Rocks	E.Christ.		Carrickcroppan	Located
	ARM026:026	Standing Stone	Prehistoric		Carrickcroppan	Located
	ARM026:027	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Altnaveigh	Located
	ARM026:028	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Corrinshingo	Located
	ARM026:029	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Derry More	Located

	ARM026:030	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Derry More	Located
	ARM026:031	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Derry More	Located
	ARM026:032	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Carrickbracken	Located
	ARM026:033	A.P. Site - Rath?	Uncertain		Carrickcroppan	Located
	ARM026:034	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Derry Beg	Located
	ARM026:035	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Derry Beg	Located
	ARM026:037	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Carnagat	Located
	ARM026:039	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Derry More	Located
	ARM026:040	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Derry More	Located
	ARM026:041	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Carriveeeny	Located
	ARM026:042	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Altnaveigh	Located
	ARM026:045	Standing Stone	Prehistoric		Carnagat	Located
	ARM026:046	Megalithic Tomb	Prehistoric		Carnbane	Located
	ARM026:047	Forth Field. Enclosure: Forth Field (Unlocated)	Uncertain		Mullaghglass	Unlocated
	ARM026:048	Cashlan Field. Court Tomb?: Cashlan Field (Unlocated)	Prehistoric		Ballymacdermot	Unlocated
	ARM027:002	Harry Mount. Round Cairn: Harry Mount	Bronze Age	Scheduled	Tullyvallen	Located
	ARM027:003	Lisleitrim Fort. Multivallate Rath & Souterrain: Lisleitrim Fort	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Kiltybane Or Lisleitrim	Located
	ARM027:004	Lisleitrim Lough. Crannog in Lisleitrim Lough	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Kiltybane Or Lisleitrim	Located

	ARM027:005	Platform Rath	E.Christ.		Cullyhanna Little	Located
	ARM027:006	Corliss Fort Lower, Corliss Lower Fort. Rath: Corliss Lower Fort	E.Christ.		Corliss	Located
	ARM027:008	Cairn	Prehistoric		Teer	Located
	ARM027:009	Cullyhanna Lough. Early Bronze Age Settlement Site	Bronze Age		Cullyhanna Little	Located
	ARM027:010	A.P. SITE - Large Circular Enclosure	UNCERTAIN		ANNAGHMARE	Located
	ARM027:011	MEGALITHIC TOMB (Unlocated)	PREHISTORIC		ANNAGHMARE	Unlocated
	ARM027:012	Non-Antiquity	Uncertain		Annaghmare	Located
	ARM027:013	EARTHWORK (Unlocated)	UNCERTAIN		SHEETRIM	Unlocated
	ARM027:014	Penitential Station	Uncertain		Drumlougher	Located
	ARM027:015	Graveyard Field, Conan's Bed, The Clarthes, Conan's Grave, Leaban Conan. Megalithic Tomb: Leaban Conan Or Conan's Bed (Unlocated)	Prehistoric		Annaghmare	Unlocated
	ARM027:017	ENCLOSURE (Unlocated)	UNCERTAIN		CLOGHOGE	Unlocated
	ARM028:005	STANDING STONE, Possibly MEGALITHIC TOMB	PREHISTORIC		AUGHADANOVE	Located
	ARM028:009	Platform Rath	E.Christ.		Creggan Duff	Located
	ARM028:010	Cashel	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Carrigans	Located
	ARM028:011	Mcpartland's Forth. Double Ringed Cashel & Souterrain: Mcpartland's Forth	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Carrive	Located
	ARM028:012	The Relig, Relig Crom. Enclosure, Souterrain & Graveyard: The Relig Or Relig Crom	E.Christ.		Carrigans	Located



	ARM028:013	Souterrain	E.Christ.		Drumaltnamuck	Located
	ARM028:015	Shankill. Souterrain: Shankill	E.Christ.		Cloghinny	Located
	ARM028:016	Enclosure	Uncertain		Finiskin	Located
	ARM028:017	Rath	E.Christ.		Glebe	Located
	ARM028:018	Shankill, Kilnacru. Church Site & Graveyard: Kilnacru, Shankill	Uncertain	Scheduled	Mullaghbane	Located
	ARM028:019	Enclosure	Uncertain		Longfield	Located
	ARM028:022	MOUND, Possibly MEGALITHIC TOMB	PREHISTORIC		TULLYMACREEVE	Located
	ARM028:023	The Cloghfin, The White Stone of Watching, Calliagh Birras Stone, Cloghfin, Calliagh Berras Stone. Standing Stone: Cloghfin; Calliagh Berras Stone & The White Stone of Watching	Bronze Age	Scheduled	Tullynavall	Located
	ARM028:024	Cashel? (Placename Evidence Only)	E.Christ.		Cashel	Located
	ARM028:025	Souterrain	E.Christ.		Finiskin	Located
	ARM028:026	Megalithic Tomb	Prehistoric		Tullynavall	Located
	ARM028:027	The Relig. Graveyard Enclosure: Kilnacru, The Relig	Uncertain	Scheduled	Cashel	Located
	ARM028:029	CASHEL & Possible SOUTERRAIN	E.CHRIST.		CARRIGANS	Located
	ARM028:030	Souterrain? (Unlocated)	E.Christ.		Ummeracam (Johnston)	Unlocated
	ARM028:031	Fort Field. Cist? Burial: Fort Field (Unlocated)	Prehistoric		Dorsy Or Roxborough	Unlocated
	ARM028:032	Fort Field. Enclosure?: Fort Field	Uncertain		Dorsy Or Roxborough	Located
	ARM028:033	Shankill. Church Site & Graveyard: Shankill	Uncertain		Dorsy (Hearty)	Located

	ARM028:034	A.P. SITE - Circular Enclosure	UNCERTAIN		AUGHANDUFF	Located
	ARM028:035	Stone Structure - Penal Site?	Uncertain		Carrive	Located
	ARM028:036	Sweat House	Uncertain		Carrive	Located
	ARM029:001	The Danes Cast, The Danes Cast (South). Linear Earthwork: The Danes Cast (Part Of)	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Ballinliss	Located
	ARM029:003	Saint Blines Well. Holy Well: Saint Blines Well	Uncertain		Ballintemple	Located
	ARM029:006	Carn Hill. Cairn?: Carn Hill (Placename Evidence Only)	Prehistoric		Seafin	Located
	ARM029:007	Rath	E.Christ.		Newtown	Located
	ARM029:008	Cashel	E.Christ.		Aghayallogge	Located
	ARM029:013	The Shankill. Cashel, Reused as Killeen: The Shankill	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Foughill Otra	Located
	ARM029:015	ENCLOSURE (Rath) & SOUTERRAIN (Unlocated)	E.CHRIST.		BALLINTEMPLE	Unlocated
	ARM029:016	The Danes Cast, The Danes Cast (South). Linear Earthwork: The Danes Cast (Part Of)	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Aghayallogge	Located
	ARM029:017	Non-Antiquity	Uncertain	Descheduled	Newtown	Located
	ARM029:018	Souterrain	E.Christ.		Aghayallogge	Located
	ARM029:019	Tree Ring	Modern		Aghadavoyle	Located
	ARM029:020	Tree Ring	Modern		Fathom Lower	Located
	ARM029:021	Tree Ring	Modern		Fathom Lower	Located
	ARM029:022	Tree Ring	Modern		Fathom Lower	Located

	ARM029:023	Tree Ring	Modern		Fathom Lower	Located
	ARM029:024	Megalithic Tomb	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Clontygora	Located
	ARM029:025	Old Fort, The Old Fort. Enclosure: The Old Fort	Uncertain		Fathom Lower	Located
	ARM029:026	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Newtown	Located
	ARM029:027	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Newtown	Located
	ARM029:028	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Aghyalloge	Located
	ARM029:029	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Newtown	Located
	ARM029:030	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Newtown	Located
	ARM029:031	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Newtown	Located
	ARM029:032	A.P. Site	Uncertain		Ballymacdermot	Located
	ARM029:033	Tower-House	Late-Med		Fathom Upper	Located
	ARM029:034	MEGALITHIC TOMB (Unlocated)	PREHISTORIC		AGHADAVOYLE	Unlocated
	ARM029:035	MEGALITHIC TOMB (Unlocated)	PREHISTORIC		MEIGH	Unlocated
	ARM029:036	?Portal Tomb	Neolithic		Clontygora	Located
	ARM029:037	Kill-Oguey. Souterrain: Kill-Oguey	E.Christ.		Tamnaghbane	Located
	ARM029:038	Boyle's Fort. Cist Burials: Boyle's Fort	Prehistoric		Newtown	Located
	ARM029:039	ENCLOSURE (Unlocated)	UNCERTAIN		NEWTOWN	Unlocated
	ARM029:040	ENCLOSURE (Unlocated)	UNCERTAIN		BALLINLISS	Unlocated

	ARM029:041	FIELD CLEARANCE CAIRNS, Probably Modern	UNCERTAIN		CLONTYGORA	Located
	ARM029:042	Battle Site, 1600	Post-Med		Fathom Lower	Located
	ARM029:043	Non-Antiquities	Modern		Clontygora	Located
	ARM030:001	Corliss Fort, Donaghy's Fort, Corliss, The Beech Fort. Bivallate Rath And Souterrain: Corliss Fort, The Beech Fort or Donaghy's Fort	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Corliss	Located
	ARM030:002	Tullyard Fort. Counterscarp Rath: Tullyard Fort	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Tullyard	Located
	ARM030:003	Black Fort, The Black Fort, The Black Forth. Rath & Souterrain: The Black Fort	E.Christ.		Drumgose	Located
	ARM030:004	Lisamry Fort. Counterscarp Rath & Souterrain: Lisamry Fort	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Lisamry	Located
	ARM030:005	Rath	E.Christ.		Rathkeelan	Located
	ARM030:006	Standing Stones (Remains of Megalithic Tomb?)	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Carran	Located
	ARM030:007	Rath	E.Christ.		Carran	Located
	ARM030:008	Killyloughran, Mullyloughran. This Is Arm 030:026: Killyloughran	Uncertain		Urcher	Located
	ARM030:009	Lissaraw Fort. Rath & Souterrain: Lissaraw Fort	E.Christ.		Lissaraw	Located
	ARM030:010	Rath	E.Christ.		Crossmaglen	Located
	ARM030:011	Rath	E.Christ.		Drummuck	Located
	ARM030:012	Oval Enclosure	Uncertain		Cappagh	Located
	ARM030:013	Craiganoran. Cairn?: Craiganoran	Prehistoric		Drummuckavall	Located



	ARM030:014	Tree Ring	Modern		Glasdrummanaghy	Located
	ARM030:015	Rath	E.Christ.		Glasdrummanaghy	Located
	ARM030:016	Rath	E.Christ.		Annaghad	Located
	ARM030:017	Drumboy Fort. Counterscarp Rath & Possible Souterrain: Drumboy Fort	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Drumboy	Located
	ARM030:018	Cashel & ?Souterrain	E.Christ.		Drummuckavall	Located
	ARM030:019	Fanning's Fort. Rath: Fanning's Fort	E.Christ.		Cornahove	Located
	ARM030:020	Enclosure	Uncertain		Cornahove	Located
	ARM030:021	Rath	E.Christ.		Cornahove	Located
	ARM030:022	The Moat. Mound - Barrow?: The Moat	Prehistoric		Drumboy	Located
	ARM030:023	Lough Ross. Crannog? In Lough Ross	E.Christ.		Drumgose	Located
	ARM030:024	Enclosure	Uncertain		Cullaville	Located
	ARM030:025	Tree Ring	Modern		Cregan Bane Glebe	Located
	ARM030:026	Killyloughran Church. Church & Graveyard: Killyoughran	Late-Med		Urcher	Located
	ARM030:027	Cashel?	E.Christ.		Corliss	Located
	ARM030:029	Enclosure	Uncertain		Carran	Located
	ARM030:030	Lough Ross. Island, Possibly Crannog In Lough Ross	E.Christ.		Cornahove	Located
	ARM030:031	ENCLOSURE (Unlocated)	Uncertain		MONAGUILLAGH	Unlocated
	ARM030:032	Trackway? (Unlocated)	Uncertain		Moybane	Unlocated

	ARM031:001	Rath & ?Souterrain	E.Christ.		Liscalgat	Located
	ARM031:002	Rath	E.Christ.		Claranagh	Located
	ARM031:003	Counterscarp Rath	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Tullydonnell (Gage)	Located
	ARM031:004	Rath & ?Souterrain	E.Christ.		Tullydonnell (Gage)	Located
	ARM031:005	Counterscarp Rath	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Ballynaclosa; Tullydonnell (Gage)	Located
	ARM031:006	Carrickinaffrin. Hilltop Enclosure: Carrickinaffrin	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Shean	Located
	ARM031:007	Cairnan Hill. Cairn?: Cairnan Hill (Placename Evidence Only)	Prehistoric		Shean	Located
	ARM031:008	Enclosure	Uncertain		Shean	Located
	ARM031:009	Rath	E.Christ.		Carrickastickan	Located
	ARM031:010	Rath	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Carrickastickan	Located
	ARM031:011	Rath & ?Souterrain	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Carrickastickan	Located
	ARM031:012	Rath & Souterrain	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Carrickastickan	Located
	ARM031:013	RATH & Possible SOUTERRAIN	E.CHRIST.		CARRICKASTICKAN	Located
	ARM031:014	Rath & Souterrain	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Carrickastickan	Located
	ARM031:015	Enclosure	Uncertain		Carrickastickan	Located
	ARM031:016	Rath	E.Christ.		Tievecrom	Located
	ARM031:017	Enclosure	Uncertain		Carrickastickan	Located
	ARM031:018	Enclosure	Uncertain		Carrive	Located

	ARM031:019	Rath & Souterrain	E.Christ.		Cornoonagh	Located
	ARM031:020	Medieval & Post-Med. Church & Graveyard	Late-Med		Creggan Bane Glebe	Located
	ARM031:021	Cashel?	E.Christ.		Tullydonnell (Ocallaghan)	Located
	ARM031:022	Standing Stone (Unlocated)	Prehistoric		Carrickastickan	Unlocated
	ARM031:024	Sunday Well, Tiobhar Dia Domna. Holy Well: Sunday Well; Tiobhar Dia Domna (Unlocated)	Uncertain		Gage (Possible); Tullydonnell Ocallaghan	Unlocated
	ARM031:025	Forkill Mountain. Large Enclosure & Cairn on Forkill Mountain	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Carrickastickan	Located
	ARM031:026	SOUTERRAIN (Unlocated)	E.CHRIST.		SHEAN	Unlocated
	ARM031:027	Glasdrumman Castle. Tower-House & Bawn: Glasdrumman Castle	Late-Med		Glasdrumman	Located
	ARM031:028	Glasdrumman Lough. Crannog In Glasdrumman Lough	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Glasdrumman	Located
	ARM031:029	CASHEL (Unlocated)	E.CHRIST.		LISCALGAT	Unlocated
	ARM032:001	Rath	E.Christ.		Tievecrom	Located
	ARM032:002	Cofracloghy, Colfracloghy. Round Cairn with Cist: Cofracloghy	Bronze Age	Scheduled	Carrickbroad	Located
	ARM032:003	Rath	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Carrickbroad	Located
	ARM032:004	Lissacashel. Cashel & Souterrain: Lissacashel	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Carrickbroad	Located
	ARM032:007	Enclosure	Uncertain		Carrickbroad	Located
	ARM032:008	Rath	E.Christ.		Tievecrom	Located

	ARM032:009	Enclosure	Uncertain		Foughill Otra	Located
	ARM032:010	Cairn (Unlocated)	Prehistoric		Carrickbroad	Unlocated
	ARM032:011	Enclosure (Rath?) & Souterrain	E.Christ.		Tievecrom	Located
	ARM028:037	Standing Stone	Prehistoric		Carricknagavna	Located
	ARM025:026	Newtownhamilton. Historic Settlement: Newtownhamilton	Post-Med		Tullyvullan	Located
	ARM024:012	Possible Megalithic Tombs			Tullyvullan	Located
	ARM028:038	Enclosure			CARRIGANS	Located
	ARM021:030	Ballymoyer Old Church, Ballemoire, Lisdromaude. Post-Med. Church & Graveyard: Ballymoyer Old Church, Lisdromaude	Post-Med	Scheduled	Ballintemple	Located
	ARM025:003	Souterrain	E.Christ.	Scheduled	Carrickananny	Located
	ARM026:021	Cross-Carved Stone	Uncertain	Scheduled	Carrickcroppan	Located
	ARM027:001	Two Cross-Carved Stones	Uncertain	Scheduled	Tullyvullan (Tipping) West	Located
	ARM027:016	Standing Stone	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Tullyvullan (Tipping) West	Located
	ARM028:001	The Long Stone. Standing Stone: The Long Stone	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Ballard	Located
	ARM028:002	Giant's Grave. Megalithic Tomb: Giant's Grave	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Latbirget	Located
	ARM028:003	The Moate. Multiple Cist Cairn: The Moate	Bronze Age	Scheduled	Dorsy (Cavan O'hanlon); Dorsy Or Roxborough	Located
	ARM028:004	The Oul Grave. Portal Tomb: The Oul' Grave	Neolithic	Scheduled	Aughadanove	Located



	ARM028:014	The Shankill. Church Site & Cross-Carved Boulder: The Shankill	Uncertain	Scheduled	Cloghinny	Located
	ARM029:012	The Small Cairn. Megalithic Tomb: The Small Cairn	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Clontygora	Located
	ARM029:014	The Danes Cast, The Danes Cast (South). Linear Earthwork: The Danes Cast (Part Of)	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Seafin	Located
	ARM029:500	Newry Canal. Newry Canal - C.F. Dow 046:500 & Ihr 172	Modern	Scheduled	Aughantaraghan; Aughlish; Brackagh; Brannock; Cargans; Carnbane; Cloghoge; Demoan; Drumbanagher; Killybodagh	Located
	ARM028:039	Cairn			Cashel	Located
	ARM028:008	The Dorsy Entrenchment, The Dorsey Entrenchment. Large Earthwork Enclosure: The Dorsey Entrenchment	Iron Age	Scheduled	Dorsy; Tullynaval; Ummeracam	Located
	ARM026:005	Standing Stone	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Mullaghglass	Located
	ARM026:022	Megalithic Tomb - Court Tomb?	Prehistoric	Scheduled	Eshwary	Located

Type	Reference	Type	General Type	Protection	Townlands	Located
<b>State Care Site or Monument</b>	ARM026:015	Court Tomb	Neolithic	State Care and Scheduled	Ballymacdermot	Located
	ARM027:007	The Black Castle. Court Tomb: The Black Castle	Neolithic	State Care and Scheduled	Annaghmare	Located
	ARM028:006	North Cairn, Slieve Gullion North Cairn. Multiple Cist Cairn: North Cairn	Bronze Age	State Care	Ballard; Slieve Gullion	Located
	ARM028:007	Cailleach Bearas House, Calliagh Berras House, South Cairn. Passage Tomb: South Cairn; Ailleach Bearas House	Neolithic	State Care	Slieve Gullion	Located
	ARM028:020	Ballykeel Dolmen. Portal Tomb In Long Cairn With Cist: Ballykeel Dolmen	Neolithic	State Care and Scheduled	Ballykeel	Located
	ARM029:002	Killevy Churches, Killevy Old Church. Early Christian & Medieval Churches, Graveyard, Augustinian Nunnery & Round Tower: Killevy Churches	E.Christ.	State Care	Ballintemple	Located
	ARM029:004	North Cairn, Clonlum North Cairn. Court Tomb: North Cairn	Neolithic	State Care and Scheduled	Clonlum	Located
	ARM029:009	Lisdoo. Cashel & Souterrain: Lisdoo	E.Christ.	State Care and Scheduled	Killeen	Located
	ARM029:010	Lisbanemore. Cashel & Possible Souterrain: Lisbanemore	E.Christ.	State Care and Scheduled	Killeen	Located

	ARM029:011	The King's Ring. Court Tomb: The King's Ring	Neolithic	State Care and Scheduled	Clontygora	Located
	ARM032:005	Moyry Castle, Moiry Castle. Castle & Bawn: Moyry Or Moiry Castle	Late-Med	State Care	Carrickbroad	Located
	ARM032:006	Kilnasagart, Kilnesagart, Kilnasagart, Kilsagart, Cell Na Sacart, Cell Na Saccart. Kilnasagart Inscribed Pillar Stone & Cemetery With 6 Cross-Carved Stones: Cell Na Sacart	E.Christ.	State Care and Scheduled	Edenappa	Located
	ARM029:005	South Cairn, Clonlum South Cairn. Round Cairn With Portal Tomb: South Cairn	Neolithic	State Care and Scheduled	Clonlum	Located

Type	Reference	Type	Townland	Area (Ha)
<b>Scheduled Zone</b>	028:010	Cashel	Carrigans	0.17
	028:027	Rectangular earthwork: the Relig	Cashel	0.16
	028:018	Graveyard Enclosure: Kilnacru	Mullaghbane	0.71
	028:011	Cashel: Mc Partland's Forth	Carrive	0.17
	028:004	Portal tomb: the Oul'Grave	Aughadanove	0.02
	028:003	Multiple cist cairn : the Moate	Dorsy / Roxborough	0.05
	031:005	Rath	Tullydonnell ( & part Ballynaclosa)	0.49
	031:006	Hilltop Enclosure: Carrickinaffrin	Shean	0.43
	028:002	Megalithic Tomb: Giant's Grave	Latbirget	0.00
	022:003	Rath	Lissummon	0.33
	022:017	The Dases Cast: Linear earthwork visible at several points	Goragh	0.74
	026:003	Rath	Mullaghglass	0.71
	027:003	Multivallate Rath	Kiltybane/Lisleitrim	1.03
	027:004	Crannog in Lisleitrim Lough	Kiltybane/Lisleitrim	0.58
	028:001	Standing Stone: the Long stone	Ballard	0.01
	030:004	Rath: Lisamry Fort	Lisamry	0.38
	030:002	Rath: Tullyard Fort	Tullyard	0.46



	030:006	Standing Stones (remains of megalithic tomb?)	Carran	0.04
	030:001	Rath and Souterrain: Corliss Fort	Corliss	0.40
	030:017	Rath: Drumboy Fort	Drumboy	0.33
	031:003	Rath	Tullydonnell (Gage)	0.43
	031:011	Rath	Carrickastickan	0.17
	031:014	Rath	Carrickastickan	0.33
	032:006	Ecclesiastical site and bullaun (area surrounding the state care monument): Kilnasaggart	Edenappa	3.25
	032:004	Cashel and Souterrain	Carrickbroad	0.26
	032:003	Rath	Carrickbroad	0.32
	032:002	Round cairn with cist: Cofracloghy	Carrickbroad	0.20
	031:012	Rath and souterrain	Carrickastickan	0.43
	029:012	Megalithic tomb	Clontygora	0.04
	025:007	Rath: Lissaraw Fort	Lissaraw	0.55
	021:030	Church: Ballymoyer Old Church	Ballintemple	0.02
	025:006	Rath: Drumilly Fort	Drumilly	0.28
	027:016	Cross-carved stone	Tullyvallen (Tipping) West	0.01
	031:010	Rath	Carrickastickan	0.22
	029:024	Megalithic Tomb	Clontygora	0.05

	029:013	Cashel	Foughill Otra	0.32
	027:002	Round Cairn : Harry Mount	Tullyvallon	0.04
	025:009	Cashel and portal tomb: the Long stones	Aghmakane	0.08
	025:003	Southeastern	Carrickananny	0.03
	021:027	Rath	Lisadian	0.34
	021:022	Rath	Lisadian	0.37
	021:006	Rath	Ballygorman	0.41
	031:028	Crannog	Glasdrumman	0.39
	027:001	Cross-carved Stone	Tullyvallon (Tipping) West	0.01
	028:014	Cross-carved boulder	Cloghinny	0.01
	031:025	Round Cairn	Carrickastickan	0.03
	026:021	Cross-carved boulder	Carrickcroppan	0.00
	029:004	Court tomb: North Cairn (area surrounding the state care monument)	Clonlum	0.09
	029:009	Cashel: Lisdoo (area surrounding the state care monument)	Killeen	0.14
	029:010	Cashel: Lisbanemone (area surrounding the state care monument)	Killeen	0.36
	029:016	The Danes Cast (south) -Linear earthwork visible at several points	Aghayallogh	1.67
	029:016	The Danes Cast (south) - linear earthwork visible at several points	Aghayallogh	1.58
	029:014	The Danes Cast (south) - linear earthwork visible at several points	Seafin	0.94

	029:014	The Danes Cast (South) - Linear earthwork visible at several points	Seafin	1.44
	029:001	The Danes Cast (south) - linear earthwork visible at several points	Ballinliss	0.78
	029:005	Round Cairn with portal tomb 'South Cairn' (area surrounding the state care monument)	Clonlum	0.10
	028:008 & 023	Large earthwork and enclosure: the Dorsy Entrenchment and Standing Stone	Dorsy and Tullynavall	18.79
	29:500/46/500	NEWRY CANAL REACH 8	Various -see below	11.11
	29:500/046:500	NEWRY CANAL REACH 7	Kilmonaghan, Kilrea, Knockduff and Knocknanarny	7.04
	029:500/046:500	NEWRY CANAL REACH 6	Goragh, Kilmonaghan, Carnmeen and Drumiller	6.47
	29:500\46:500	NEWRY CANAL. REACH 5	Carnbane, Goragh and Carnmeen	4.80
	029:500	NEWRY CANAL REACH 4	Carnbane/ Lisdrumgullion	2.34
	029:500\46:500	NEWRY CANAL REACH 3	Lisdrumgullion and Damolly	3.07
	029:500\046:500	NEWRY CANAL REACH 1A	Various see below	40.75
	026:004	RATH	MULLAGHGLASS	0.33
	026:005	STANDING STONE	MULLAGHGLASS	0.01
	026:022	Court Tomb	Eshwary	0.08
	029:011	State Care Court Tomb 'The King's Ring'	Clontygora	0.23
	026:015	State Care Court Tomb	Ballymacdermot	0.46

	027:007	State Care Court Tomb	Annaghmare	0.68
	028:020	State Care Portal Tomb	Ballykeel	0.22



## APPENDIX 11 - QUALITY WALK CRITERIA

### What are Quality Walks?

The assessment of Northern Ireland's walking routes has been carried out by walkers for walkers. By choosing a Quality Walk you can leave home with the knowledge your selected route is one of the best Northern Ireland has to offer!

All Quality Walks have been accredited in partnership with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Tourism NI

### What can you expect from a Quality Walk?

All of the quality walks contained within WalkNI.com have been assessed on the ground by walkers for walkers. The following statements can be made about Quality Walks:

1. At least 50% of the route will be off road.
2. Car parking will be available (may be formal or informal).
3. Facilities such as toilets may be available.
4. Information on the walk will be available either on site or online.
5. Signage may be in place. If the route is not waymarked, an adequate route description has been provided on WalkNI that will allow the route to be navigated.
6. As part of the overall walk assessment consideration is given as to whether the walk is through scenic landscapes and if the walk is suitable for the tourist market.

### How is a Quality Walk Identified?

To identify the Quality Walks on the website, each walk has the following 'Quality Walk Stamp' located beside their title.

#### Quality Short Walks

0-5 miles



#### Quality Medium Walks

5-20 miles



#### Quality Long Walks

Over 20 miles



## APPENDIX 12 – BENCHMARKING

### Case Study 1: Dalby Forest Park, North Yorkshire

Dalby Forest, is an 8000acre forest in North Yorkshire owned and managed by the Forestry Commission.

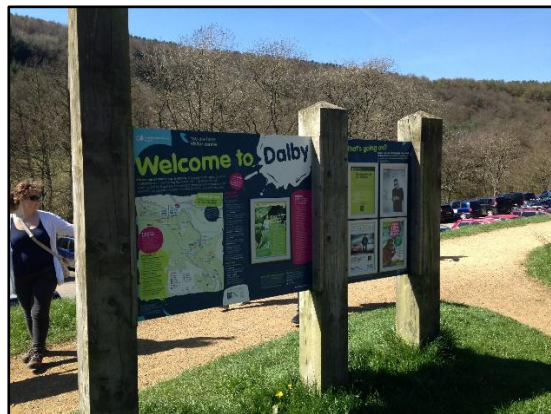
Its key target market is families and activity visitors. The profile of visitors to Dalby Forest consist of 48% families, 22% young independents (those aged 16-34 with no children), 18% aged 45-65 with no children and 11% to other groups.

Between 2005-2007 it implemented a structured 'Master Planning' approach to the development of its visitor/outdoor recreation attractions. The aim of the redevelopment project (which was implemented across the following three phases) was to refurbish, convert and reuse the existing assets on site in order to enhance the overall visitor experience.

Phase 1 included the redevelopment of the old Forestry Commission offices, estate yard and village hall to create a courtyard complex including craft workshops, a community resource centre, cycle hire and cycle wash facilities, a courtyard café and new toilets. This phase costed £1.1m and was funded by Yorkshire Forward (£375k), ERDF (£250k), Ryedale District Council (£50k) and the Forestry Commission (£425k).



Phase 2 consisted of the design and build of a high-specification visitor centre including an information desk, shop, restaurant, exhibition area, meeting room, toilets and Dalby Astronomical Centre. The building incorporated environmental and sustainable features and has won several awards for its design. Phase 2 cost £2.6m and was funded by Yorkshire Forward (£1m), ERDF (£820k), North York Moors National Park (£25k) and the Forestry Commission (£755k).



Phase 3 of the redevelopment included the replacement of old worn-out and unsustainable cycle trails and construction of a cycle skills area. In total the cycle trail development cost £461k and was funded by ERDF and Forestry Commission. Since then a new play area has also been installed in the Forest Park.



In the context of the above redevelopment project, consultation with the Forestry Commission highlighted that the three phases of work were addressing identified needs within the Forest Park and were in line with the overall ethos and strategic direction of Dalby Forest. However, further consultation with the Forestry Commission indicated that the individual phases of the project were developed and taken forward in order to meet the criteria of certain funding streams that were available during the period (e.g. ERDF).

Today the Park receives 450,000 visitors and generates income from car parking, leases with private operators and through holding events. The annual income for the Forest Park is £800,000 of which half is direct income from visitors. Individual visitors and groups to Dalby Forest are known to spend between £21-£30 in the local area during their visit.

Dalby Forest is one of seven forest parks in England which hosts Forest Live. Forest Live is the Forestry Commission's concert series that takes place throughout England each year (with up to 24 events across various summer weekends). Launched in 2001 it is an independent programme organised by the Forestry Commission bringing music to new audiences without commercial branding or sponsorship. It is understood that there are between 5,000 and 9,500 spectators at each venue. The Forestry Commission acts as the promoter in relation to Forest Live and is responsible for organising and managing the events, and for procuring key services for all seven sites including artist programming, power and lighting, staging, bars and catering, tent/marquees etc.

The Park employs both 'direct' staff (i.e. those directly involved with the day-to-day management and operations within the Forest) as well as an 'indirect' staffing complement (i.e. a proportion of the time of individuals at a regional or national level required for the management and operations of the Forest) as follows:

- Forest Management Director - Oversight of all forests within the Yorkshire Forest District (10% in Dalby)
- Area Land Agent - Oversight of all legal contracts, disputes, advice etc. (10% in Dalby)
- Civil Engineer - Responsible for maintenance of roads, bridges, car parks etc. relating to recreation (10% in Dalby)
- Building Surveyor - Responsible for building conditions surveys and managing contractors (10% in Dalby)
- Civil Engineer - Supporting with maintenance of roads, bridges, car parks etc. relating to recreation (10% in Dalby)
- Senior Manager - Responsible for managing recreational estate across Yorkshire (30% in Dalby)
- Visitor Centre Manager - Responsible for managing staff, budgets, the visitor centre, trails and visitor servicing, primarily at Dalby (80%).
- Forest Recreation Rangers - Coordinating of contracts, events and day-to-day management/operation of Dalby (3 x 100%).

It has a staffing budget of £216-£240K per annum, a marketing budget of £20k and an operational budget of £530,00.

In addition to the paid staff, Dalby strongly support the contribution of volunteers within the Forest. The 'Friends of Dalby Forest' has been established as a registered charity consisting of volunteers who meet regularly to enhance the facilities and product offering for visitors within Dalby Forest. The group has approximately 30 members and those that regularly volunteer can earn a free annual pass to Dalby Forest as recognition for their work. Example projects for the volunteers across the benchmark facilities include:

- Tie and cutting back overgrown vegetation and overhanging trees;
- Repainting bird hides;
- Relaying woodchip;
- Nature and wildlife projects
- Visitor 'meet and greet' activities;
- Maintenance of walking and mountain biking trails;
- Maintenance of accommodation products



## Case Study 2: Bunkers Hill, Castlewellan – Community Hub

In 2014, Down District Council commissioned Outdoor Recreation NI to enhance Bunkers Hill Forest in Castlewellan to make it a place that the local community would utilise and spend time. To develop the site the Council entered into a licence agreement with the landowners i.e. Forest Service Northern Ireland.

The forest has previously been impacted by significant tree felling due to larch disease and attracted anti-social behaviour. A detailed feasibility study was undertaken including community consultation, the recommendations of which led to the development of the following which opened in October 2015:

2km multi-use trail for walkers and family cyclists providing glorious views of Dundrum Bay, Slieve Croob and the Mourne Mountains

Play Trail was designed for children aged 4-11 years containing 11 bespoke timber items including a climbing wall, basket swings, teepee village and story teller's chair

Further enhancements to the access lane and installation of the new disabled car parking was completed in March 2016



The benefits of door step access to quality green space has been demonstrated by the c.31,000 visits to the per year since opening. The site is also used for community led events including wildflower planting and a Festival of Flight community barbeque.

Development costs were approximately £145,000 and part funded by Council, Rural Development Programme and NIEA NGO Challenge Fund.



### Case Study 3: Gortin Community Orienteering Group

In 2014, Outdoor Recreation NI completed an Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for SportNI and the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Forum. The Plan identified that the Sperrins AONB provided excellent opportunities for orienteering and in particular the potential to develop orienteering in the area at a community level. Following attendance at a public consultation meeting in the village of Gortin, regarding the development of Gortin Glen Forest Park, Conor Fadian, Northern Ireland Orienteering Association's (NIOA) Development Officer, discovered real enthusiasm for introducing orienteering in the area. Consequently, Conor put together a Plan of how he could get members of Gortin Community Association engaged and actively participating in orienteering.

An after-schools programme was quickly developed between St. Patricks Primary School and Gortin Controlled Primary School, this being the first time the schools had ever come together specifically for an after-schools programme.

Twenty three children took part in the programme and given its success, it was decided to enter the children as a combined school into the NI Schools Orienteering Championships. The team came away with first in the team event! Following the Schools Orienteering Championships, a series of introductory sessions were delivered during the summer and autumn of 2015 with many parents becoming actively involved by taking on Coach Education opportunities to assist in the development of the sport in the area. The group has currently 42 people signed up ranging in age from 5 to 47 years old. 17 local people have also completed an 'introduction to teaching orienteering course'.

With on-going support from NIOA and continued upskilling of those involved in the sport, it is hoped that orienteering will continue to thrive and remain an important way of the bringing the whole community of Gortin together in the future.



"The Orienteering sessions in Gortin have been of great benefit to the community as a whole. The children are mad keen for the activity and the parents show a bit of a competitive edge from time to time as well! To see the children winning the Schools Championships in Cookstown last May was a great way for the children to come together on the one team and achieve something. We hope it continues and leads to building a stronger community going forward." Angela O'Brien, Gortin Community Association

## Case Study 4: Hubbub UK – Love your Forest<sup>52</sup>

Hubbub UK is a charity that uses the latest thinking backed by academic research to explore new ways to run behaviour change campaigns.

Lucozade Ribena Suntory is committed to creating stronger links with local communities around their factories and reducing environmental impact. The company has a significant factory in Coleford in the Forest of Dean.

Love Your Forest is a collaborative project between Hubbub UK and Lucozade Ribena Suntory designed to reduce littering in the Forest of Dean by actively engaging with the local community to run creative new behaviour campaigns. Each year 250 tonnes of litter are removed from the Forest of Dean. The cost to local tax-payers for keeping the area clean is over £400,000.

Lucozade Ribena Suntory invested £40,000 in Love Your Forest which ran for a six-month period from April 2016 until September 2016 testing a range of new approaches to reduce littering.

Following local consultation, a series of campaigns were developed targeting littering at hotspots in the forest, roadside littering, littering in towns and routes to school. These campaigns including creating the UK's first litter shop, running an art installation project in the forest, delivering education campaigns in local schools, installing voting bins and creating a roadside gallery.



Little Shop of Horrors – UK's first litter shop

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<sup>52</sup> Love your Forest 2016 Impact Report, Hubbub UK 2016



Communitrees

The campaigns generated a high level of local engagement. 30 organisations contributed to the initial stakeholder discussions, 14 primary schools and 2 secondary schools participated in anti-littering educational activities, at least 2,850 local people were actively engaged in the campaign and the Love Your Forest Facebook Group secured 1,107 likes and had a reach of 63,200.

Surveying on completion of the project revealed that 82% of respondents would like to see similar projects in the future, 75.6% of participants stated they would like to see the expansion of the Love Your Forest campaign, 41.5% would like to see the creation of a Love Your Forest group to deliver new campaigns, 56.1% of people would like to see more collaboration of existing groups to create a strong local network and 43.9% of people would like local companies to invest in more anti-littering initiatives.

Nationally the campaign secured 16 broadcast features, 12 mentions in press media and 4 in trade press. This secured a total reach of 12.8 million and had an advertising value equivalent of £184,000. Coverage included BBC Inside Out, BBC World News, BBC Radio 5 Live, Heart FM, the BBC main news site, the Daily Telegraph, the Guardian, the Daily Mail, the Mirror and Huffington Post.

The evaluation methodology was not as robust as Hubbub would have liked. The ability to undertake effective evaluation was limited due to the size of the area concerned, a lack of baseline data, ever-tightening resource constraints faced by the local authority and the limited time available to develop the campaign. Two pieces of evaluation were undertaken. This suggested that the Communitrees installation reduced littering by 30% whilst the measurement of the impact of the Roadside Gallery proved inconclusive.

Love your Forest secured significant community engagement, generated a desire for further campaigns to be developed and increased awareness of the impact of littering in the forest. Insufficient data was collected to see whether this engagement changed behaviour to decrease litter.

There are sufficiently encouraging signs from the first months of the campaign for Lucozade Ribena Suntory to make a further local investment for year two. Key activities in this year will be to create a more robust evaluation framework, to embed the campaign into local community organisations, to expand the most successful elements by engaging more stakeholders and testing a new campaign.

The campaign is back in 2017, launching with a Trashconverter Van and a community event.

## Case Study 5: Lough Muckno<sup>53</sup>

Lough Muckno is located adjacent to Castleblaney in Co.Monaghan. The lough has a long tradition in coarse and pike angling with high stock levels of bream, roach, hybrids, perch and pike.

In terms of tourism, the Lough was traditionally a popular destination for visiting anglers from Great Britain since the 1970's. However, by the 2000's the numbers had diminished significantly. The key reason identified by a local stakeholder group was that the angling experience provided in Lough Muckno did not match that on offer in Great Britain. The coarse fisheries in Great Britain had been developed to allow a hassle-free approach i.e. the angler could park their car in close proximity to their peg, unload the considerable volume of required equipment (seats, bait boxes, nets and spare equipment) and catch large weights of stocked fish.

Lough Muckno (the water and fishing rights) is owned by Monaghan County Council, however the land surrounding the lough is owned by a combination of public and private landowners. A lack of a joint up approach had meant that access to the Lough for anglers had become fragmented.

An ambitious plan was formulated in 2009 to develop Lough Muckno as an International Standard Coarse Angling venue. It was considered that a well-prepared development and management plan could allow Lough Muckno to achieve its potential and provide economic benefit to the area.

Following initial consultation with local anglers and key stakeholders such as the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, a steering group was established and driven by the Irish Angling Development Alliance. The group developed a concept of 350 permanent and numbered angling pegs (approximately 15' in width) located 12 metres apart and connected by a vehicle access track (requiring new and upgraded tracks). It was proposed that on completion a management plan would be put in place with inputs from Monaghan County Council, An Garda Síochána, and various stakeholders, which would be overseen and operated by the local community.

Ongoing liaison with major stakeholder and landowners such as Monaghan County Council, Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, Coillte and Concra Wood Golf Club ensured co-operation and expertise in the development of the project.

The project received endorsement from the International Sport Fishing Confederation (CIPS) in 2010 and excerpt from their report stated:

*'This is indeed an impressive and prodigious water, capable of hosting the biggest events when the required infrastructural work is completed.'*

Monaghan County Council undertook a cost-benefit analysis and environmental impact study which supported an application to SEUPB Interreg IVA Programme. The development of Lough Muckno was allocated £519,519 in January 2011.

The official launch of Ireland's only CIPS approved fishery in September 2012 was marked by the hosting of the European Freshwater Fishing Championship which attracted 200 international anglers across 6 days of competition.

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<sup>53</sup> The case study was developed through a one-to-one consultation with Richard Caplice, Irish Angling Development Alliance. Further reference from <http://www.anirishanglersworld.com/index.php/media/lough-muckno-gets-the-green-light/>



Discussions with Richard Caplice indicates Lough Muckno continues to host 7 weekend festivals annually each of which attract approximately 100 anglers and 200 bed nights in the area. Each weekend the Lough attracts approximately 200 anglers of which 25% spend at least one night in the area. Richard Caplice estimates the economic value generated by the Lough is €3 million per annum. It is noted that Castleblaney has a large stock of accommodation to host visiting anglers.

Lough Muckno is accessed via key code (available by telephone) and no fee or permit is required. The Irish Angling Development Alliance and Lough Muckno Course Angling Club continue to manage and insure the facility. Monaghan County Council has no role in the management of the fishery however they do provide financial support for prize money for festivals c.€6,000 annually.

The promotion of the fishery is conducted via features in key specialist angling press and proactive use of Facebook. However, the key success is due to repeat customers and word of mouth referral both generated by the positive experience at Lough Muckno.

Activity on Lough Muckno is not restricted to angling, it is also popular for wakeboarding, walking, ornithology and photography.



## APPENDIX 13 – COMMUNITY TRAILS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is a Community Trail?**

A trail that connects communities to local outdoor spaces (e.g. community to a forest/open green space) and many also connect communities together (e.g. 2 communities connected via a riverside trail).

### **Why are Community Trails needed?**

While Northern Ireland is blessed with an abundance of greenspace, there is often a lack of infrastructure to allow local communities to get outdoors, 'close to home'/on their doorstep. The trails give people an opportunity to access the outdoors safely and with confidence. Cars and buses should not be necessary to access a community trail.

### **What does a Community Trail look like?**

Trails are clearly defined on the ground and usually waymarked. Usually have a designated 'trail head' with information – particularly important when it's a trail likely to be used by visitors.

- Can be looped or linear
- Should be at least 50% off-road – ideally 70% off-road
- May use historical routes e.g. canal towpaths, river bank walks, disused railways
- Surface may need upgrading – may need to build a new section of trail

### **Are they for walkers only?**

No – they can also be for family cycling and horse riding – depends on what the demand is from the local community and also the topography of the land. Where possible 'new build' trails should provide for those with accessibility issues e.g. those with limited mobility, mothers and pushchairs etc and where possible be 'multi-use' i.e. accommodate walkers and family cyclists.

### **What is surface of a community trail?**

Community trails can be grass surfaced, new build sections of crushed stone etc and obviously where they go on the road – tarmac. The most important thing is that the surface is sustainable.

### **Who takes on the management, maintenance and liability responsibilities of the trails?**

It's important that each community trail has a written, legal agreement in place which outlines who takes on the management, maintenance and liability responsibilities.

Most trails that use private land will involve putting in place a 'permissive path agreement'. This means the landowner gives formal consent to access their land along a prescribed route. This will be between the landowner and the Council. It can be 'custom' made to suit the landowner's and Council's specific terms and conditions. Without this agreement – very few public purse funders will give out money.

Trails that pass over public land – usually a licence /lease/agreement in place with the Council – can be with the Community Group. No access agreement is needed where a trail uses an existing public road or footpath.

**Can a community group enter into a 'permissive path agreement' with a landowner?**

No. They can however enter into their own legal agreement with a landowner as negotiated between solicitors. Community groups should be steered away at all times for taking on land used for public access because of the liability issue.

**Can a community group help the Council maintain and manage the Community Trail**

Yes – this will not only cut down costs to the Council but also help the community take ownership of the trail. Volunteers will need to be properly trained.

**What's the difference between a Community Trail and a Community Trail Network?**

Very simply – a Community Trail Network consists of a series of interconnecting or looped Community Trails of various lengths. Very often they may be developed around a single Community Trail which may service as the 'spine' for the Network. E.g. River corridor is the Trail – lots of off-shoots off the main spine then turns it into a Network.

**What about vesting land if the landowner will not give a permissive path agreement/does not want to sell the strip of land?**

This would be a last resort as Community Trails are about the community coming together for the better good of all people in that community. Vesting is usually contentious – avoid if at all possible.

**Would putting a Community trail over a stretch of land that a farmer gets a Single Farm payment on cause him to stop getting that?**

Yes – but the area of land that the farmer is losing his SFP on is so small (estimated at 3m wide strip) that in real terms this is minimal financial loss. SFP are on average £100-£200 a hectare. The Community Group could buy this stretch of land from the farmer.

**What is the single greatest issue causing a community group not to succeed in their efforts?**

Landowner permission

**Is there funding available to develop Community Trails?**

Yes – through the RDP Programme – basic services and village renewal potentially and through Sport NI's Everybody Active programme.

**What is the next step when a Community says they have an idea for a Community Trail?**

The most important part of developing the trail is doing consultation – especially with the landowners.

Unless there is an agreement in principle from the outset of the project that the landowners are supportive of the project and willing to enter into some sort of path agreement – then the Community group is wasting their time.

After consultation then there is a step by step process to go through involving detailed site assessment, mapping, consideration of barriers/constraints, drawing up detailed construction prescription documents, costing the project. For these stages Community groups need to bring in experts like ourselves.

**What is the best scenario for a Council to take this Community Trail Planning forward?**

In the ideal world the Council would commission a Council wide Community Trail Plan to be done. This would be an extensive, time consuming piece of work involving lots of consultation. One way forward is for

the Council to put out an expression of interest to all communities to see if they have any plans to develop Community Trails. Those that respond then would need to be prioritised against a criteria such as:

- those with greatest % off-road more favourable
- those with landowners consultation all completed and agreed in principle more favourable
- those with no obvious formal greenspace nearby more favourable
- community group can show previous delivery of projects

## APPENDIX 14 – TRAIL HEAD INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

The following costs are approximate and based on estimates and quotes obtained by outdoor Recreation NI in 2013. These should only be used as a guide. Where accurate costs are required, actual quotes should be obtained as prices will vary depending on individual site based conditions, user and management requirements.

All prices quoted include installation and are ex-VAT.

Type	Furniture Item	Approximate Cost	Example Photograph
Benches	Metal Bench	£350	
Benches	Stone Bench	£600	
Benches	Wooden Bench	£300	
Signage	Interpretation / Information Panel	£1000	

Signage	Warning / Notice Sign	£100	
Signage	Waymarker Post	£80	
Tables	Metal Picnic Table	£600	
Tables	Stone Picnic Table	£1000	
Tables	Plastic Picnic Table	£600	
Tables	Wooden Picnic Table	£350	