

Competitions Rules

Terms and conditions of the 2025 AONB Photographic Competition.

1. About the Competition

- This competition is administered by Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) and Ards and North Down Borough Council (AANDBC) through the Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale AONB & Geopark team.
- The theme for the AONBs Photographic Competition is as detailed on www.ringofgullion.org.
- The theme is open to individual interpretation. You might choose to photograph wildlife (which includes animals and plants), landscapes, old buildings or stone walls or even the weather. Pictures of domestic animals (e.g. pets) and cultivated plants are not eligible. Images of wildlife in captivity must be declared as such.
- Each entry should be marked with name, contact telephone number (both daytime and evening), where the photo was taken and the age category into which it is entered. If not specified, the organizers will assume it is the over 18 category.
- Entries should be sent via the photo upload page on www.ringofgullion.org

1.1 Categories in the AONB Calendar

- Under 18 years old
- Over 18 years old

1.2 Dates

- The competition closes as specified on www.ringofgullion.org.
- The competition is open for entries from the 1st December 2025.
- The deadline for the entries is 5pm 14th August 2026.
- Overall Winners will be announced in September 2026.
- The AONB Calendar 2027 will be published and distributed in December 2026.

2. Conditions of Entry

2.1 Categories Under and Over 18, entry.

- Entries must be taken within one of the 3 AONBs, no exceptions. Boundary maps can be viewed on www.ringofgullion.org and clicking on about the AONB tab.
- Entrants can submit **a maximum of four photos** as electronic copy (max 10mb) in colour or black and white. Hard copy images cannot be accepted. It is recommended to be at least 1200 pixels on the longest length. Important - **Photographs must be landscape orientation!** Portrait images will not be considered.
- A high-resolution image with a minimum of 6MB, preferably over 10MB, will be requested if entries are shortlisted and entrants may be disqualified at the judge's discretion if high resolution images are not provided when requested (with exception for entries to the Under 18's categories).

3. Eligibility

- The Photography Competition is open to all – apart from anyone associated with the competition including the AONB team (and their partners and family), AONB board/committee members and judges.
- All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party.
- **Photos which have been entered into past Ring of Gullion or AONB Photo Competitions will not be accepted.**
- The entrants must be the sole owner of copyright in all photographs entered and must have obtained beforehand all necessary permission of any people/ private property featured in the entries

or their parents/guardians if children under 16 are featured. Further, entrants must not have breached any laws when taking their photographs. Entries containing unauthorised content will be disqualified.

- Prior to submission, entrants must not have offered any of their entries for sale, been paid for any publication of any of their entries or won or been a runner up in any other photographic competition with any of their entries.
- Entrants under the age of 12 years need to have parent or guardian consent to enter.
- Entrants must not be professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, a professional photographer is considered to be someone who makes more than half their annual income from the sale of their photographs.
- Images that are out of area, or, are out of focus will be disqualified and will be removed before judging.
- Images must be landscape in orientation to be considered for the calendar.

4. Ethics

- Images may be digitally enhanced to remove spots or scratches, but not manipulated. Entrants can enhance the picture to make it brighter, clearer etc., but not manipulate the content.
- The AONB & Geopark Officers and the judges reserve the right to exclude any image they believe may have been excessively manipulated so as to alter its authenticity.
- An image will be rejected if in the opinion of the judges it appears that the image has been taken in such a way that wildlife or animal welfare requirements may have been breached; protected species or habitats have been compromised; or the images has been otherwise taken in an irresponsible manner.
- Images which are portrait orientation, out of focus or are pictures of domestic animals (e.g. pets) and cultivated plants are not eligible and will be disqualified prior to judging.

5. Judging

- Judges hold the right to move entries to another category/month.
- The judges reserve the right not to make any award if, in their opinion, none of the entries meet the required standard.
- The decision of the judges is final, and no correspondence will be entered.
- For both under and over 18 categories: all entries will be judged by a panel of judges. The panel of judges will select a shortlist (the "Finalists") which, in their opinion, best illustrate the theme of the competition. They will consider a range of factors including composition, technical ability, originality, and interpretation of the theme.
- The judges will select a winner and runner up in the Over 18 category, and a winner in the Under 18 category.

6. Prizes

- AONB Calendar - Prizes will be awarded to winners of the under and over 18 category winners. A runner-up or second prize will also win a prize in over the 18 category. Prize money kindly donated by Ards and North Down Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council.
1st prize under 18 yrs old - £50
1st prize over 18yrs old - £100
2nd prize over 18yrs old - £50
- The prizes are non-transferable.
- The Council's reserves the right to substitute the whole or part of any listed prize with an alternative of equal monetary value (but the entrant shall not have any right to demand this).

7. Copyright and Usage

- Entrants will retain copyright in the photographs that they submit to NMDDC and AANDBC.

- By entering the competition all entrants grant to NMDDC and AANDBC the right to publish and exhibit their photographs on any media and on any NMDDC and AANDBC websites or social media sites.
- Entrants whose photographs are one of the Finalists pursuant to paragraph above grant to NMDDC and AANDBC (and other publishers authorized by NMDDC and AANDBC) the further rights to publish and exhibit their photographs in print, on their respective websites or in any other media including but is not restricted; exhibiting, competition calendar, for use in press and on websites.
- No fees will be payable for any of the above uses.
- Entrants whose photographs are one of the Finalists also agree to take part in post-competition publicity with councils.
- No profit will be made, and photographs will not be sold.
- Any media will be for the sole purpose of marketing the AONBs and Geopark We will make every effort to credit photographers, including in printed reproductions of their work.
- The entrant is responsible for any claim made by a third party against the submission.

8. Disclaimer

- The information given in these Terms and Conditions is correct, but the AONB teams reserves the right to change any of it without prior notice.
- By entering, entrants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules and AONB teams reserves the right to exclude any entry from the competition at any time and in its absolute discretion if they have reason to believe that an entrant has breached these rules. If a breach has occurred, but is discovered after the award of a prize, then the organisers may require the return of that prize.
- The AONB teams reserves the right to cancel this competition or alter any of the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control.
- If the winner is unable to be contacted after reasonable attempts have been made; the AONB teams reserves the right to either offer the prize to a runner up, or to re-offer the prize in any future competition.
- The organisers accept no responsibility for entries lost or delayed in transit.

9. Data Protection

- In entering the AONB Photographic Competition, you agree to the AONB & Geopark team using your details to process your application, only.
- By entering, you also agree that if selected as a winner of any prize, the AONB & Geopark teams may share your details with any potential future sponsor for the purpose of publishing the details of all winners (including the winning images), only.
- You are able to remove your consent at any time. You can do this by contacting judith.hassard@nmandd.org
- Please find the Privacy Notice here <https://cdn.ringofgullion.org/2023/11/Privacy-Notice-AONB-Calendar-Competition-2024.pdf>
- We respect your privacy and will never sell your data to any third party.

www.mournelive.com | www.strangfordlough.org | www.ringofgullion.org | www.niwater.com





Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**

**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council



**Ards and
North Down**
Borough Council



Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency

www.doeni.gov.uk/niea



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk