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**Recreational, Tourism &
Commercial Product Identification
Study for the Lower Bann**

Volume 2 Appendices



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Appendix 1 - Planning Context

Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016 – 21

This was published in May 2016, as a consultative document (responses due in for 22nd July 2016). It is the new Executive's Framework that sets out the ambition it has for NI society. These ambitions are generational in nature. They are intended to address the big issues facing NI society and to make a difference to the things that matter most to people, focusing on the impact on NI people rather than the actions we take within Government.

The Programme is intended to work across boundaries, organisations, groups and communities for the common good. The Executive wants to work with local government, the private sector, voluntary and community sectors and beyond to maximise what can be achieved collectively.

The key elements of this new approach are:

- A focus on outcomes – these are things with which people can identify such as living longer and healthier lives or getting good jobs – designed to stay in place for a generation rather than a single Assembly term and define progress as a society
- Indicators which show the change the Executive wants to bring about
- Measures to identify success
- A focus on shifting what happens in people's lives such as jobs, education and health – not about how things are delivered
- A focus on impact rather than the amount of money spent or the number of programmes that have been introduced
- An opportunity for the Executive to work with local government, the private sector and the voluntary and community sectors about how to tackle the biggest challenges facing NI society

The Programme for Government Outcomes Framework identifies the Purpose as “Improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage, and driving economic growth.”

Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) - Planning for Sustainable Development, September 2015.

The Executive through the Department of the Environment published this policy document to consolidate many planning policy statements that had gone before and emphasise the need for sustainability in planning for development – ensuring that development is not at the expense of compromising on environmental standards.

The SPPS consolidates some twenty separate policy publications into one document, and sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system (from April 2015) with the aim of furthering sustainable development. It sets the strategic direction for the new councils to bring forward detailed operational policies within future local development plans, including what topics to address and how to address certain themes or issues within their plans.

The core planning principles of the two-tier planning system are:

- Improving Health and Well-being
- Creating and Enhancing Shared Space
- Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth
- Supporting Good Design and Positive Place Making
- Preserving and Improving the Built and Natural Environment

The SPSS restates the principles of the development of local plans, determining planning applications, appeals procedures, calling in planning applications, enforcement, judicial reviews, enquiries and planning conditions and agreements.

The SPSS identifies which policy provisions and guidance (PPSs) are retained, and which cancelled (pages 7 and 8).

Regional Development Strategy, 2035

This provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors. It does not redefine other Departments' strategies but complements them with a spatial perspective. It is a framework which provides the strategic context for where development should happen. It does not contain operational planning policy and guidance which is issued through Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) published by the Department of the Environment (DOE).

It influences:

- the Programme for Government (PfG)
- the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI)
- Departments' investments
- Councils' decisions and investments
- Investment by the private sector

It takes account of key driving forces such as population growth and movement, demographic change, the increasing number of households, transportation needs, economic changes, climate change and the spatial implications of divisions that still exist in our 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.

The RDS will influence the future distribution of development throughout NI including the marine area. It is not limited to land use but recognises that policies for physical development have far reaching implications. The RDS therefore addresses economic, social and environmental issues aimed at achieving sustainable development and social cohesion. The RDS is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

The Spatial Framework in the RDS accords with EU policy. It encourages clustering of places, includes policies to reflect local needs and emphasises the importance of understanding the function of urban and rural settlements.

The 8 aims of the revised RDS are:

1. Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of Northern Ireland
2. Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Londonderry as the principal city of the North West
3. Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential
4. Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities
5. Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places
6. Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake
7. Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change
8. Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world

Planning Policy Statements

These set out the policies of the Department of the Environment on particular aspects of land-use planning and apply to the whole of Northern Ireland. Their contents must be taken into account in preparing development plans and are also material to individual planning applications and appeals. Supplementary planning guidance (SPG) support, clarify and/or illustrate by example planning policy statements and plans. This can take the form of design guides or guides prepared for Conservation Areas. It also includes a set of Development Control Advice Notes that explain the criteria and technical standards to be considered when dealing with specific categories or particular aspects of development. Where relevant to a particular development proposal supplementary planning guidance will be taken into account as a material consideration in making decisions.

Relevant Planning Policy Statements with potential impact on the Lower Bann comprise:

- PPS 2: Natural Heritage - specifically the PPS pays attention to environmental designations and the need to protect these. This is particularly true of the Lower Bann corridor which contains amongst other, RAMSAR wetlands, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the Birds Directive for their importance as areas for breeding, overwintering and migrating birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive. SACs are selected for their importance as natural habitat types and as habitats of certain species
- PPS 4: Planning and Economic Development – includes the statement:
“To assist the achievement of a sustainable rural economy, the Department’s general approach is that development in the countryside should benefit economic activity while protecting or enhancing the environment.”
- PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and The Built Heritage – this suggests:
“Development plans may also include local policies for the protection and conservation of specific features of the archaeological and built heritage.”
“Environmental assets.....considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development. They may include archaeological sites and monuments and their surroundings...river banks and shore lines and associated public access...”
- PPS 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation - Policy OS 6 Development of Facilities ancillary to Water Sports will permit the development of facilities ancillary to water sports adjacent to inland lakes, reservoirs and waterways where a number of criteria are met (as specified in the document)
- PPS 16: Tourism – gives guidance on the development of tourist accommodation (hotels through to bunk houses and reuse of existing buildings for such purposes)

TSM 2 Tourist Amenities in the Countryside - planning permission will be granted for a tourist amenity in the countryside where it is demonstrated that: a) it is in association with and requires a site at or close to a particular tourism attraction located in the countryside, or b) the type of tourist activity in itself requires a countryside location.

It also gives guidance as follows: “Development Plans will ... need to consider how certain requirements of regional tourism policy as set out in PPS 16 are to be addressed locally, for example in regard to the safeguarding of tourism assets.”

“Pending the transfer of the development plan function to local government, such Plans should also have regard to Tourism Area Plans prepared by local councils.”

Local Development Plans

The table below identifies the planned local development plans and the pre-existing plans and where topic papers have been prepared by the local authorities making up the steering group for this study.

These will supersede existing Area Plans.

And within each district, Topic Position Papers will serve as the evidence base for the development of Local Development Plans and policies and proposals falling within them.

Local Development Plans ¹	Topic Papers ²	Existing Plans ³
<u>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</u> Local Development Plan 2030 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred Options Paper, due late summer 2016 • Adoption of Plan Strategy, end 2017 • Adoption of Local Policies Plan, early 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These will be prepared as part of the evidence base of the options appraisal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antrim Area Plan 1984-2001, adopted June 1989 (Not available online) • (Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015) • Randallstown Conservation Area • Toome Village Master Plan, launched 2011 (funded by Rural Development Programme with no statutory role).
<u>Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council</u> Local Development Plan	To date the following Topic Papers have been presented to Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Growth • Environment • Employment and Town Centres • Landscape Character • Settlement Evaluation • Public Utilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Area Plan 2016, adopted Sept. 2015 • Coleraine Town Centre Master Plan (DSD), May 2012 • Ballymoney Town Centre Master Plan (DSD), Jan. 2014
<u>Mid and East Antrim Borough Council</u> Local Development Plan 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Housing & Settlement • Employment Economic Development • Town Centre Opportunity Sites • Environmental Assets Position • Open Space & Recreation Position • Tourism • Public Utilities • Education Health & Community Facilities • Development Pressure Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001, adopted Nov. 1989 • Ballymena Town Centre Master plan (DSD), April 2009

¹ Dates are indicative

² Available at time of writing

³ Those in brackets have limited relevance to the Lower Bann

Local Development Plans ¹	Topic Papers ²	Existing Plans ³
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Settlement Evaluation Paper Appendices • Strategic Settlement Evaluation • Minerals Development 	
<p><u>Mid Ulster District Council</u></p> <p>Local Development Plan 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of Plan Strategy, Spring 2018 • Adoption of Local Policies Plan, Spring 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Pressure Analysis • Employment and Economic Development Paper • Environmental Assets Paper • Housing Position Paper • Health, Education & Community Uses • Housing Allocation Paper • Landscape Assessment Position Paper • Minerals Paper • Open Space Recreation and Leisure Position Paper • Population Growth • Utilities Paper • Strategic Settlement Evaluation Position Paper • Sustainability Assessment Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment • Tourism Position Paper • Town Centre Position Paper • Transportation Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magherafelt Area Plan 2015, adopted Dec. 2011

Appendix 2 - Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment Detail

Lough Neagh Basin (14)

Landscape Character Description

Lough Neagh is a freshwater lake covering an area of 392km². It is found within a broad shallow basin formed from subsidence of a magma chamber following intense volcanic activity some 35 million years ago. The lough is the source of much of Northern Ireland's fresh water supplies, and is 25m deep at its deepest, although much of the lough is around 9m deep. The lough is home to the only stable population of Irish pollan (*Coregonus pollan*), as well as European eels that spawn in the Sargasso Sea, and landlocked populations of salmon. Lough Neagh is also home to many bird species, and has been designated as a Ramsar site, Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA) because of its international importance for overwintering wildfowl.

The landscape around the lough is generally rural, with areas of wetland semi-natural habitat including fens, wet grassland and carr, giving way to a mixed farmland landscape. Settlements and roads are set on higher, better drained land around the basin, and the loch shores are not generally settled. Restoration works along the lough shore are focussed on environmental improvements and are not generally tourism related.

Lough Beg is located to the north of Lough Neagh and lies on the Lower Bann, the border between County Londonderry and County Antrim. The Lower Bann flows into Lough Beg from the south and continues to the sea to the north. The inflowing tributaries and outflowing Lower Bann river dissect the basin area.

Key Characteristics

- Flat, expansive large scale basin surrounding Lough Neagh, the largest freshwater body in Britain and Ireland
- Area of international importance to overwintering wildfowl and designated a Ramsar site, Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA)
- The Lough and the surrounding area are steeped in legend and history, which are often associated with the ruins in this area, such as Shane's Castle
- The lough is well-used for water based recreation, including boating, angling and bird watching
- The lough supports important fishing industry, including for eels which are exported to France
- A settlement pattern dictated by the presence of roads and areas of higher ground due to the hydrology underlying this area. Major roads do not pass too close to the lough for this reason
- Transition from typical wetland vegetation of fen, rushes, willow, and other marshy habitats near the lough to medium-small scale fields

Natural Influences

- Much of this LCA is designated as a Ramsar site, including Lough Neagh and Lough Beg. The site is internationally important for Whooper Swan. The overwintering bird population can number in the tens of thousands
- Fens, wet grassland and carr are common semi-natural habitats around the shores of the loughs, which are often designated for their natural interest and include Lough Beg Nature Reserve and Lough Gullion ASSI
- The area is highly valued for nature conservation with the damp grasslands being important sites for breeding waders the wet woodlands and areas of lowland moss being of high ecological importance. Ecological designations within the area include Ballynahone Bog NNR, ASSI, SAC

and Ramsar and Curran Bog ASSI, and SAC. The whole of Lough Neagh is designated as Ramsar, ASSI and SPA due to bird populations. The lough supports breeding terns and great crested grebes and numerous over wintering wildfowl and waders

Cultural Influences

- Commercial fishing of eels, fresh-water herring and dollaghan (brown trout) takes place in the Lough. Eel originating from Lough Neagh has Protected Geographical Status in the EU. The lough bed is also dredged for sand. Lough Neagh is also an important source of fresh water for Belfast
- Victorian canals linked Lough Neagh with the Lower Bann, Belfast, Coalisland and, less successfully, Lough Erne. These canals are no longer fully navigable. The water level of the lough is maintained by use of a barrage at Toome
- Lough Neagh shore trail provides access for visitors. The lough is an important amenity for local residents, and facilities include a marina and lough cruises. Peat lands Country Park covers 265 hectares and is famous for hosting the Northern Ireland Bog Snorkelling Championships
- The area includes several airfields including Belfast International Airport at Aldergrove and the former RAF base at Nutt's Corner as well as a number of private airfields. For many visitors to Northern Ireland arriving at Belfast International Airport, this landscape will be their entry point

Past, present and future forces for change

- Water quality is a key issue for Lough Neagh, which is relied on for drinking water and fishing. The lough is susceptible to eutrophication and algal blooms which could affect quality
- Much of the lough shore is relatively inaccessible retaining strongly rural character with the fringed lough shores, inlets, bays and headlands having a tranquil character. Pressure for tourism and housing development around the lough shore may affect these qualities
- Sand and gravel extraction on the lough shore has led to erosion of the character of narrow roads by heavy vehicles. Sand dredging within the lough has the potential to impact on ecosystems and water quality
- Strong recreational interest in the area including water sports, bird watching, fishing, cycling and walking at various sites around the Lough. The popularity of the area with visitors is likely to bring continued pressure for infrastructure
- Remnants of overcut peat are evident in places. The remnant lowland peat bogs in this landscape are small in extent, and have been extensively cut for peat extraction particularly in the south close to the mouth of the River Blackwater. Pressure on these remaining areas of peat could lead to erosion of the resource with consequences for biodiversity and carbon sequestration

Indicators of change

The following features and aspects in this area could be monitored to assist in understanding future landscape change:

- Water quality and fish populations within the lough
- Condition of, and erosion along, the lough shores

Lower Bann Valley (15)

Landscape Character Description

The Lower Bann Valley is the link between Lough Neagh and the north coast. It is a broad open valley running roughly north-south, overlain with glacial drumlins. The landform is low, with much of the valley lying below 100m AOD, although the flanks of Long Mountain Ridge to the east and the Sperrin and Binevenagh hills to the west rise higher. The landscape is of pastoral farmland, with hedges marking field boundaries that flow over the landform, with larger fields on the flood plain and smaller fields over the drumlins.

The floodplain of the river is extensive, with semi-natural habitats including areas of peat and wet woodland including Wolf Island Bog SAC. There are relatively few crossing places over the Lower Bann River, and roads tend to run along the valley (with the closest roads to the river avoiding the floodplain), or across the valley, forming a network. Settlements are generally located near the bridging points over the river, including Portglenone, Kilrea and Agivey.

The Lower Bann River is the only outflow of Lough Neagh, and flows north through Lough Beg and on through an extensive area of farmed drumlin fields before reaching the Atlantic at Portstewart (see RLCA 16). The river is canalised, with a number of locks, but remains important for the passage of European eels and salmon heading to Lough Neagh, and has high amenity value as it is used for water based recreation including canoeing and fishing. The river also provides a setting for walking, with camping sites found along the watercourse.

To the east the land rises up to the Long Mountain Ridge which forms a subtle physical boundary between the Bann Valley and the Maine Valley. Farmland near Garvagh to the west gently slopes up towards the Sperrin Hills.

The Lower Bann Valley is rich in industrial heritage, particularly close to the river, which played an important part in the industrialisation of the north of Ireland, especially in the linen industry and fisheries, as well as forming an important transport corridor. Today, the river has high levels of rural scenery and tranquillity, away from the main roads, and is used for recreational water activities. The Bann is the County boundary between Antrim and Londonderry, and is also generally seen as a cultural watershed between the western and eastern parts of Northern Ireland.

Key Characteristics

- Wide, open valley of the Lower Bann River running northwards from Lough Neagh towards the Atlantic Ocean
- Frequent glacial drumlins on gently undulating land used for farming, particularly to the east of the area
- High amenity value of the river, used for water based recreation including canoeing and fishing. The river also provides a setting for walking, with camping sites found along the watercourse
- Varied field pattern, with large expansive fields separated by drainage ditches on the valley bottom, particularly near the floodplain. On slopes and the drumlins away from the river, the field pattern is smaller and enclosed by hedgerows with frequent trees and copses
- Views changing throughout due to topography and tree cover, with more open and expansive views from the higher slopes and on the valley floor where there is less tree cover
- Elevated views from the rising land towards the Sperrins in the west and Long Mountain Ridge in the east
- Deeply rural and tranquil landscape away from the main road corridors
- Semi-natural habitats include wet woodlands and bog, including the SAC Wolf Island Bog
- Dispersed settlement pattern with nucleated villages
- Occasional raths, several Registered Parks including Leslie Hill, Lizard Manor and Bovagh House

Natural Influences

- A wide, broad river valley carved through the wider expanse of the Antrim basalt, with drumlins indicating the past glacial action in this area
- Land is generally low lying (less than 70m AOD) over most of the RLCA, rising gently up to the west and east
- Highly rural landscape, with productive pastoral fields being the predominant land use
- The Lower Bann River is an important conduit for migrating eels and salmon, which are economically important species
- Expansive floodplain, with semi-natural habitats including areas of peat and wet woodland
- Fields away from the floodplain are generally enclosed by intact and well-maintained hedges with frequent hedgerow trees
- A larger field pattern on the valley bottom and floodplain which becomes smaller on the drumlins and slopes to the east and west of the area
- Important bog habitat is located within the floodplain, including Wolf Island Bog, which is a designated SAC for its intact active raised bog

Cultural Influences

- The Bann is well used for recreational boating and fishing; there are marinas at Drumaheglis and at Portglenone. A series of locks allow navigation along the river and into Lough Neagh
- The River Bann is the longest river in Ulster and has played an important part in the industrialisation of the north of Ireland. Today salmon and eel fisheries are the most important economic features of the river

Past, present and future forces for change

- The remnant lowland peat bogs in this landscape are small in extent, and have been extensively cut for peat extraction. Commercial peat extraction is ongoing by the Bann, to the north of Lough Beg. Pressure on remaining areas of peat could lead to erosion of the resource with consequences for biodiversity and carbon sequestration
- Weirs along the Bann could potentially be utilised for hydro-electric power generation
- Evidence of hedgerow removal in areas with good quality farmland leading to field amalgamation. If left to continue this will likely strengthen the open and intensively farmed character found with area of this landscape

Indicators of change

The following features and aspects in this area could be monitored to assist in understanding future landscape change:

- Extent and condition of intact lowland peat bogs
- Number of hydroelectric generating consents along the Bann
- Intactness of field patterns and condition of hedgerows

Appendix 3 - Landscape Character Assessment Detail

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
North Coast Bush Valley	16	yes	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive coastline of rugged cliffs punctuated by occasional sandy bays which rise to a plateau with broad sandy bays with dune fields in the west and coastal hills leading to steeply sloping hillsides of the Antrim Plateau in the east • Landscape with a coastal influence, rising from rugged cliffs to a plateau with coastal hills and dunes found periodically along the coast • Densely settled landscape along the coast. Settlement is sparser on higher ground and in the farmland away from the shoreline • Few trees located near to the coast, those that are present are stunted and windswept • Garry Bog is contained in the basin further inland, and is one of the largest areas of undamaged lowland raised bog in Northern Ireland. Garry Wood is also located in this basin and is predominantly coniferous • The rich natural and historical interest of the area makes it a popular tourist destination with scenery, culture and sport drawing in visitors • Within the basin, a medium scale rural landscape with more frequent hedges and trees abounds • There are numerous sites which are designated for their wildlife importance • Rathes, chambered graves, cairns and standing stones are generally concentrated on higher ground further from the coast
Lower Bann Valley	15	yes	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide, open valley of the Lower Bann River running northwards from Lough Neagh towards the Atlantic Ocean • Frequent glacial drumlins on gently undulating land used for farming, particularly to the east of the area • High amenity value of the river, used for water based recreation including canoeing and fishing. The river also provides a setting for walking, with camping sites found along the watercourse • Varied field pattern, with large expansive fields separated by drainage ditches on the valley bottom, particularly near the floodplain. On slopes and the drumlins away from the river, the field pattern is

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
				<p>smaller and enclosed by hedgerows with frequent trees and copses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Views changing throughout due to topography and tree cover, with more open and expansive views from the higher slopes and on the valley floor where there is less tree cover • Elevated views from the rising land towards the Sperrins in the west and Long Mountain Ridge in the east • Deeply rural and tranquil landscape away from the main road corridors • Semi-natural habitats include wet woodlands and bog • Dispersed settlement pattern with nucleated villages • Occasional raths, several Registered Parks including Leslie Hill, Lizard Manor and Bovagh House
Lough Neagh Basin	14	yes	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat, expansive large scale basin surrounding Lough Neagh, the largest freshwater body in Britain and Ireland • Area of international importance to overwintering wildfowl and designated a Ramsar site, Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA) • Farmland, drumlins and peat dominates the landscape to the south and the land has been extensively modified following peat extraction in the south west • The lough and the surrounding area are steeped in legend and history, which are often associated with the ruins in this area • The lough is well-used for water based recreation, including boating, angling and bird watching • The lough supports important fishing industry, including for eels which are exported to France • A settlement pattern dictated by the presence of roads and areas of higher ground due to the hydrology underlying this area. Major roads do not pass too close to the lough for this reason • Transition from typical wetland vegetation of fen, rushes, willow, and other marshy habitats near the lough to medium-small scale fields

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
Coleraine Farmland	54	yes	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic rocky coastline with indented broken cliffs of basalt to north of Coleraine • Rugged sand dune ridges create a distinctive wild landscape at the mouth of the Bann • Linear ridges and valleys, with rocky outcrops and gorse on elevated land; broader, open lowlands to east of Coleraine • The River Bann flows in a narrow, wooded valley to the south of Coleraine • Long coastal views to the Causeway Coast and to the Bann Estuary • Long strands
Lower Bann Flood Plain	53	yes	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat floodplain of the Lower River Bann; undulating landform towards outer margins of floodplain • Numerous winding rivers, with the wide channel of the River Bann at the centre of the floodplain • Extensive blocks of wet woodland on the margins of some rivers; smaller birch woodland on higher land • Pastures vary in size; some small-scale, linear fields beside rivers • Large farms with prominent buildings • Straight roads on embankments across the floodplain
Lower Bann Valley	52	yes	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively flat, expansive landscape on the lower reaches of large rivers and fringes of Lough Neagh and Lough Beg • Shallow drumlins form 'islands' surrounded by flat, open pastures; they have a diverse landscape pattern, with farmsteads and mature trees • Large open fields on floodplain, often surrounded by straight drainage ditches • Some poorly-drained areas within the farmland; large wet woodlands and bog on more extensive low-lying land • Extensive ribbon development along straight roads, which often end at farms towards the fringes of Lough Neagh and Lough Beg • Mature hedgerow oak trees are prominent features in a well-connected network of hedgerows • Belts of mixed woodland are features of the Bann Valley near Portglenone

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
Long Mountain Ridge	58	yes	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinct rounded ridge orientated north-south with undulating side slopes and a broad rounded crest • Pastoral farmland with strong hedge line geometry and numerous trees; patches of moss on the exposed ridge top, especially towards the north • Wooded estates, with distinctive buildings, designed landscapes and avenues of beech on lower slopes overlooking the River Main valley • Settlements and houses frequent and regularly distributed, often on raised areas; more numerous on ridge sides, but rarely a dominant feature • Scale varies considerably; large at bottom in flat, open terrain, medium to small on intricate, undulating sides and vast at the top • Distant elevated views into lowlands and across to other ridges
North Lough Neagh Shores	61	yes	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat, open land rising from Lough Neagh into gentle sloping hinterland • Densely wooded shoreline to south east; more open, reed fringed edge to west • Numerous tiny islands close to shore; shoreline has complex profile of bays and headlands • Diverse, irregular pattern of landcover, including marsh, moss, pasture, rough grassland and reed beds at lough edge • Backed by extensive flat pasturelands with large open fields, fragmented hedges and straight drainage ditches • Settlement on shoreline confined to farms and small settlements; individual isolated houses more common on farmland to rear • Expansive views along shoreline and over to distant Lough shores
Moyola Flood Plain	50	no	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat, extensive floodplain, with numerous winding rivers and tributary streams • Pastures with extensive patches of poorly drained soils and marsh • Straight, open drainage ditches • Large blocks of scrubby fen woodland

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few settlements, farmsteads are on slightly elevated terrain • Straight roads raised on embankments form sparse network with many dead ends • Hedgerows enclose most fields; hedgerow oak trees are characteristic features in many areas • Groups of deciduous trees near farmsteads
Garvagh Farmland	51	no	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland drumlin landscape with drumlins which are consistently aligned along a SWNE axis; land rises and becomes more undulating to the west • Drumlins are evenly-sized and create deeply undulating terrain with rounded slopes and a diverse landscape character • Winding rivers and numerous streams, with peaty marsh on the floodplain of some smaller rivers • Fields form an even, geometric patchwork over the drumlins, becoming irregular in shape on the flatter land in between • Dense hedgerows, many hedgerow trees and small deciduous woodlands form a diverse pattern; often wire fencing on marginal farmland • Numerous scattered farms, typically sited half-way up drumlin slopes; many small settlements concentrated at road junctions
Cullybackey and Clogh Mills Drumlins	59	no	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive rounded drumlins on the valley floor and surrounding low ridges, aligned in a north west to south east direction • Hedgerows and open stone walls along field boundaries emphasise the undulating landform. Mature hedgerow trees stand out as silhouettes on top of the mounds • Small-scale field pattern varies according to the scale of the local landform; the scale generally increases to the edges of the valley • Farms display a variety of building styles and are scattered randomly across the hills • Roads follow landform, rising smoothly over and winding around the drumlins • Archaeological remains, including raths and mottes

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
Dervlock Farmlands	56	no	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open, rolling intensive farmland crossed by numerous shallow valleys. Mixed land uses dominated by improved pastures and some arable fields • Medium sized regularly shaped fields separated by neatly trimmed hedgerows, fences and some trees. Large area of plantation woodland • Scattered small settlements and individual houses, bungalows and farm buildings along edges of straight lanes and up short access tracks • White painted two storey traditional buildings, and large new farms with associated long horizontal barns
Eastern Binevenagh Slopes	38	no	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low rolling plateau, falling gradually from basalt uplands eastwards towards the River Bann • Fairly steep, narrow glens; gullies on higher land to west • Poor quality pastures with patches of gleyed soils, partially infested with scrub and rushes • Fragmented hedgerows and broken stone walls • Fields have angular geometric shapes; size varies with terrain and elevation • Numerous scattered dwellings and farms; many derelict buildings • Few woodlands; mostly in steep valleys on higher land on margins of basalt upland • Dense network of straight, narrow lanes and tracks
Garry Bog	55	no	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat expanse of farmland, carr, heath and conifer plantation • Medium sized fields used for improved and rough grazing are divided by straight, wet ditches and post and wire fences • The area is crossed by the dyked Burn Gushet River and a few straight, embanked and fenced rural roads • Sparse grey and white pebbledash houses and bungalows, and large modern farm buildings with big barns; few older cottages • Open landscape, long, flat views to surrounding rolling farmland and hills beyond

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
Causeway Coast and Rathlin Island	57	no	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High plateau landscape with distinctive rugged coast, stepped profile and rocky knolls • Coast includes unique formation of the Giant's Causeway • Exposed sheep grazed landscape of windswept trees and broken walls; gorse on rocky knolls separates small fields of rough grazing • Rural landscape with villages associated with coastal bays; large, white hotels on cliff tops; modern bungalows; old derelict cottages on knolls • Ruined castles on cliff top locations along the coast. Long views are available from elevated areas across the coast and inland
Binevenagh	36	no	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sloping upland basalt plateau ending at a dramatic, cliff-like escarpment • Escarpment summits have a distinctive profile and form a sequence of local landmarks • Large-scale mosaic of upland moor and extensive conifer plantations • Open, exposed upland moors, with few native trees or field boundaries • Rocky outcrops and scree slopes reveal grey basalt rock • Patchy, textured pattern of moorland grass, heather, rushes and stunted scrubby bushes
Magilligan Lowlands	35	no	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely flat alluvial plain, dominated by the Binevenagh cliffs • Rugged sand dune ridges shelter Magilligan Strand • Homogeneous landscape of rectangular fields subdivided by a grid of drainage ditches • Isolated farm buildings reached by straight, embanked tracks branching at right angles from the main road • Principal settlements form linear development along main road • Open, with occasional isolated hedgerows and groups of trees; some small shelterbelts near farm buildings • Geometric pattern gives landscape an artificial, engineered character

Appendix 4 - Landscape Character Assessment sensitivities and principles for accommodating new development

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Landscape Condition and Sensitivity to Change	Principles for Accommodating New Development
Coleraine Farmland	54	yes	yes	<p>The coastline and the Bann estuary are particularly sensitive and the sand dune landscapes at the mouth of the Bann are designated as SPA and ASSI, as they are of particular importance for birds.</p> <p>The cliff tops between Portstewart and Portrush are dominated by golf courses, which are well-established and integrated within this windswept setting, but exposed caravan parks and recent housing developments are often intrusive, particularly where they are sited on local skylines.</p> <p>There are long, sweeping views to the Causeway Coast from the lowlands to the east of Coleraine and the farmland in these areas is particularly vulnerable to the impact of rural development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale landscape elements, such as an area of undulating landform, a network of field stone walls and a group of traditional buildings beside a church are important in this relatively large scale landscape and should be carefully conserved, together with their wider landscape setting • Woodland planting will create stronger landscape structure and identity in areas where housing is anticipated, particularly in relatively elevated areas, where planting will provide a backdrop to new development • The use of local grey basalt for new buildings would reflect tradition and provide a sense of unity
Lower Bann Flood Plain	53	yes	yes	<p>The condition of the landscape varies. There is much evidence of hedgerow removal in areas with good quality farmland.</p> <p>Low-lying pastures are often in poor condition, with areas infested by rushes on the edges of the wet woodlands.</p> <p>The disused airfield to the west of Landagivey is a relatively degraded area,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development may be accommodated easily in the landscape if it is linked to existing clustered settlements at road junctions • Further ribbon development along roads will block views across the floodplain and to the rivers

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Landscape Condition and Sensitivity to Change	Principles for Accommodating New Development
				<p>with considerable scope for improvement. The floodplain is a relatively sensitive landscape, rich in wetland habitats.</p> <p>The immediate margins of the river channels are particularly sensitive for their nature conservation value, and the rivers are important visual features in the landscape.</p>	
Lower Bann Valley	52	yes	yes	<p>The flat floodplain landscapes are particularly sensitive where they are overlooked by the ridges to the east of Portglenone, and in areas where there is extensive wetland habitat.</p> <p>The open floodplain landscape to the north of Lough Beg typically contains birch scrub, marshy grassland and heather, but much of the bog has been subjected to extensive peat cutting, transforming vast areas into featureless bleak expanses which have a profound impact on the local landscape character.</p> <p>Lough Neagh and Lough Beg are designated as ASSIs and as an SPA. Lough Neagh is also a Ramsar site in recognition of its importance for birds.</p> <p>The extensive wetland fringes of both loughs are particularly sensitive to change. The area around Toome has a particularly degraded character, with extensive loss of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow trees, shelterbelts or woodlands may help to integrate new development, especially large-scale industrial development on flat land • Red-painted barn roofs are characteristic of the area and may be used to ensure new farm buildings 'fit' with local landscape character • Locating new development away from the road will ensure that dense ribbon development does not obscure views across the floodplain




LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Landscape Condition and Sensitivity to Change	Principles for Accommodating New Development
				hedgerows and poorly sited, prominent industrial development close to the river bank.	
Long Mountain Ridge	58	yes	yes	<p>This landscape is intensively used as an agricultural resource, for housing and for roads. Moderate increases in these will not substantially alter its character, although proliferation of housing could threaten landscape character.</p> <p>The moorland is quite fragmented and substantially undermanaged; its conservation is paramount to local landscape character on the upland ridge top. Peat cutting, wind farms, pylons and telecommunication masts are pressures for change in this moorland area.</p> <p>The estate woodlands on the eastern slopes of the ridge are particularly prominent in views from the River Main valley and are relatively sensitive to change. There are signs that some of the woodlands are undermanaged and that prominent stands of trees may be in the early stages of decline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houses in promontory locations may provide a focus for views but should be carefully designed; sheltered locations are more appropriate • Development should be concentrated in small clusters on the ridge top to establish a community identity and retain its open, undeveloped character • Use of tree shelter will help to blend houses with the landscape and enhance the woodland structure of the landscape • Large wind farms are inappropriate in this landscape, but small groups of turbines may create visual interest on the ridge tops. Occasional telecommunication masts may also be accommodated

LCA Name	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Landscape Condition and Sensitivity to Change	Principles for Accommodating New Development
North Lough Neagh Shores	61	yes	yes	<p>Most of this landscape is grazed intensively and its flat relief has encouraged large field sizes. Hedgerows are generally in poor condition but this permits characteristic views across the lough.</p> <p>The simplicity of this landscape, at least in the farmed interior, makes it fairly resilient to change, although it is vulnerable to a decline in field structure.</p> <p>There is a risk that large structures and large scale development would be particularly prominent in this rural landscape setting.</p> <p>The shoreline is a more fragile landscape which benefits from its open aspect and diverse edge and landcover. The Lough itself is designated as an ASSI, an SPA and is also a Ramsar Site. It is also classified as an 'Area of Scenic Quality'.</p> <p>The farmed shore edge is subject to a low level of management.</p> <p>Any reduction in grazing pressure would result in regeneration of woodland and encroachment by scrub and rush although this would add to its diversity and visual interest.</p> <p>Ad hoc and isolated new houses on the shoreline would lead to loss of its</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open views may be maintained by prohibiting any development at the lough edge, unless it is associated with existing settlements and designed to reflect their pattern and form

LCA Name	Refer- ence	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Landscape Condition and Sensitivity to Change	Principles for Accommodating New Development
				essential openness and degradation of the undeveloped shoreline character. The wooded shoreline to the east is more resilient although neglect of woodland creates pressure for change in this area.	




Appendix 5 - Visual Landscape Character Assessment




Details	Image
<p>ID number: 1</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC1</p> <p>VLC Description: Low lying ground</p> <p>Nearest Town: Toome</p> <p>Description: Low lying unimproved grassland on the outskirts of Toome</p> <p>Sensitivity: High</p>	
<p>ID number: 2</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC2</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland with recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Toome</p> <p>Description: Wooded area incorporating Toome Canal walk route and river access via lock gate, slipway and jetty. Lock Keeper's Cottage currently under development through local community group.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 3</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC3</p> <p>VLC Description: Industry</p> <p>Nearest Town: Toome</p> <p>Description: Commercial sand extraction site</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 4</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC10</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture screened</p> <p>Nearest Town: Toome</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland screened from the river by mature deciduous trees</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 5</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC4</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Toome</p> <p>Description: Village of Toome and associated housing (both sides of river)</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	



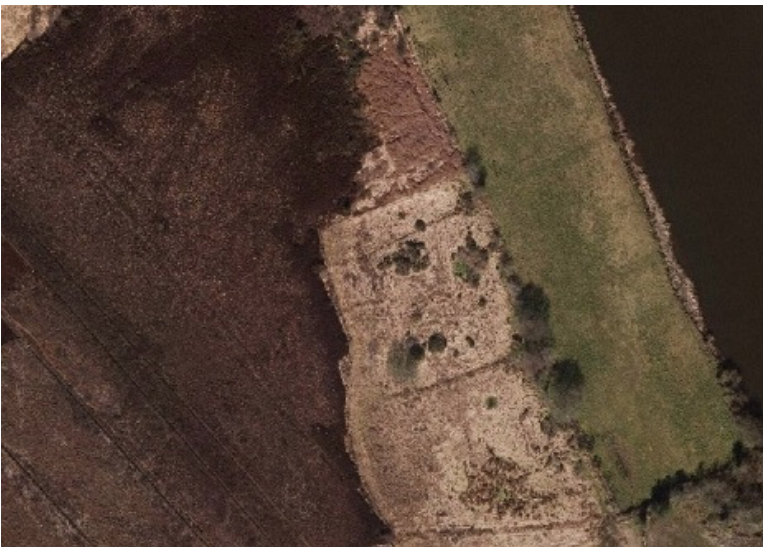
Details	Image
<p>ID number: 6</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC3</p> <p>VLC Description: Industry</p> <p>Nearest Town: Toome</p> <p>Description: Eel fishery and associated infrastructure</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 7</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC1</p> <p>VLC Description: Low lying ground</p> <p>Nearest Town: Toome</p> <p>Description: Low lying unimproved grassland between Toome and Lough Beg (both sides of river)</p> <p>Sensitivity: High</p>	
<p>ID number: 8</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC8</p> <p>VLC Description: Rush pasture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Toome</p> <p>Description: Low lying rush pasture on both sides of Lough Beg. Semi screened by woodland in places.</p> <p>Sensitivity: High</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 9</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC6</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland</p> <p>Nearest Town: Toome</p> <p>Description: Isolated pocket of broadleaf woodland on the shore of Lough Beg</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 10</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC5</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Newferry</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland, includes sporadic scrub along riverside</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 11</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Newferry</p> <p>Description: Newferry East and West -parking, access to the water via slipway, jetty and canoe step.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	



Details	Image
<p>ID number: 12</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC1</p> <p>VLC Description: Low lying ground</p> <p>Nearest Town: Newferry</p> <p>Description: Low lying unimproved grassland adjacent to the river and Ballymacombs More</p> <p>Sensitivity: High</p>	
<p>ID number: 13</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC5</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Newferry</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland, may include sporadic trees/ scrub along riverside</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 14</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC7</p> <p>VLC Description: Peat land</p> <p>Nearest Town: Newferry</p> <p>Description: Commercial peat extraction site - Ballymacombs More</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 15</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Newferry</p> <p>Description: Culbane Clay Pigeon Shooting club</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 16</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC6</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone</p> <p>Description: Block of Portglenone Forest, used for commercial timber rather than recreation. Majority is coniferous, screened from the river by deciduous trees.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 17</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC2</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland with recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone</p> <p>Description: Block of Portglenone Forest, used for commercial timber as well as recreation. Walking trail, fishing stands, visitor facilities and a floating pontoon are present.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	


Details	Image
<p>ID number: 18</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone</p> <p>Description: Coarse Angling Facility owned and managed by Mid Ulster District Council. Parking, walkway and fishing stands screened from the river by deciduous trees.</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 19</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC10</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture screened</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland screened from the river by deciduous trees</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 20</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC14</p> <p>VLC Description: Settlement</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone</p> <p>Description: Town of Portglenone and associated housing</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	




Details	Image
<p>ID number: 21</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone</p> <p>Description: Portglenone Marina and associated infrastructure</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 22</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC5</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland, may include sporadic trees/scrub along riverside</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 23</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC7</p> <p>VLC Description: Peat land</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone</p> <p>Description: Area of peat land screened from the river by tree line</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	



Details	Image
<p>ID number: 24 VLC Category: VLC6 VLC Description: Woodland</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone Description: Block of coniferous forest within Bann Woods</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 25 VLC Category: VLC10 VLC Description: Agriculture screened</p> <p>Nearest Town: Portglenone Description: Low lying improved grassland screened from the river by deciduous trees</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 26 VLC Category: VLC6 VLC Description: Woodland</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea Description: Coniferous and mixed woodland, part of Bann Woods</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	




Details	Image
<p>ID number: 27</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC2</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland with recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea</p> <p>Description: Portna - mixed woodland, part of Bann Woods (owned by FSNi), walk and cycle trail present, amenity area including picnic tables, access to the river via slipway and floating pontoon</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 28</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC5</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland, includes sporadic trees/scrub along riverside</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	



Details	Image
<p>ID number: 29</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC3</p> <p>VLC Description: Industry</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea</p> <p>Description: Privately owned fish farm at Portna</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 30</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC4</p> <p>VLC Description: Settlement</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea</p> <p>Description: Kilrea town</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 31</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC6</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea</p> <p>Description: Mixed woodland, part of Bann Woods</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 32 VLC Category: VLC10 VLC Description: Agriculture screened Nearest Town: Kilrea Description: Low lying improved grassland screened from the river by deciduous trees Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 33 VLC Category: VLC11 VLC Description: Low lying screened Nearest Town: Kilrea Description: Low lying unimproved grassland screened from the river by deciduous trees Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 34 VLC Category: VLC6 VLC Description: Woodland Nearest Town: Kilrea Description: Deciduous woodland Sensitivity: Medium</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 35</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC5</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland, may include sporadic trees/scrub along riverside</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 36</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC3</p> <p>VLC Description: Industry</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea</p> <p>Description: Movanager Fish Farm, associated infrastructure, lock gates and floating jetty</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 37</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC2</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland with recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea</p> <p>Description: Two isolated blocks of deciduous woodland at Movanager with lock gates, access to the river via slipway, jetty and canoe steps</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	




Details	Image
<p>ID number: 38</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC10</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture screened</p> <p>Nearest Town: Kilrea</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland screened from the river by deciduous trees</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 39</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Carnroe (Kilrea)</p> <p>Description: Waterways Ireland owned recreation site, offering jetty and canoe step access to the river, as well as a lock gate to bypass the weir, plus associated infrastructure</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	



Details	Image
<p>ID number: 40</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC5</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Bendooragh</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland, may include sporadic trees/ scrub along riverside</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 41</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC3</p> <p>VLC Description: Industry</p> <p>Nearest Town: Bendooragh</p> <p>Description: Disused industrial site with riverside car parking</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 42</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Balnamore</p> <p>Description: Airfield screened from the river via scrub and improved grassland</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	



Details	Image
<p>ID number: 43</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC10</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture screened</p> <p>Nearest Town: Balnamore</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland screened from the river by scrub</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 44</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Balnamore</p> <p>Description: Drumaheglis Marina and Caravan Park, visitor facilities and access to the water via slipway and jetty/pontoon</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	

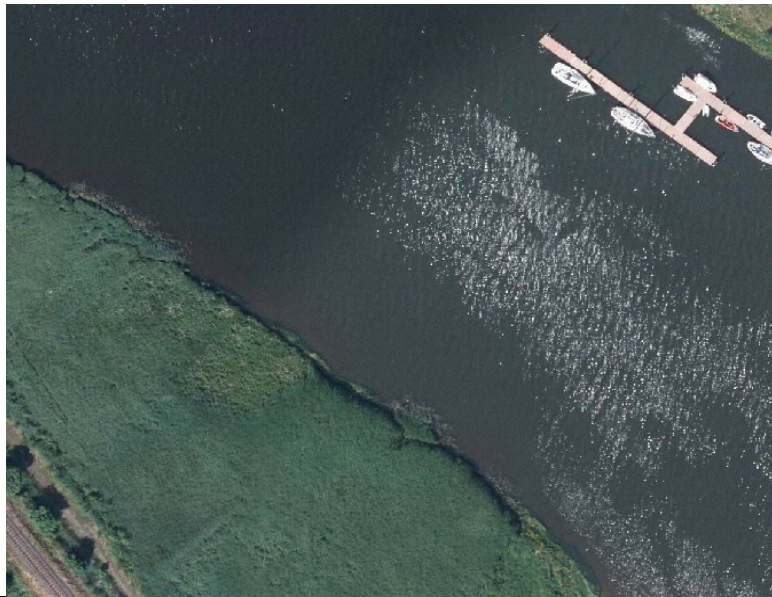


Details	Image
<p>ID number: 45</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC6</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland</p> <p>Nearest Town: Macfinn</p> <p>Description: Deciduous woodland part of which is owned by FSNI as part of Bann Woods</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 46</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC2</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland with recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Dromore</p> <p>Description: Small block of deciduous woodland, with access to the river via jetty and canoe steps at 'Camus'. Riverside housing visible</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	



Details	Image
<p>ID number: 47</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC5</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Dromore</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland, may include sporadic trees/ scrub along riverside</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 48</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Dromore</p> <p>Description: Privately owned recreation area with access to the water via slipway and pontoon (Ski Supreme)</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 49</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC6</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Deciduous woodland part of which is owned by FSNi as part of Somerset Forest</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	




Details	Image
<p>ID number: 50</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC2</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland with recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Deciduous woodland (owned by FSNI - Somerset Forest/ Castleroe), with walking trails</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 51</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC4</p> <p>VLC Description: Settlement</p> <p>Nearest Town: Castleroe</p> <p>Description: Castleroe village</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 52</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC2</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland with recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Deciduous woodland (owned by FSNI - Somerset Forest), with walking trails with access to the water at Somerset (slipway, canoe step and jetty) and at The Cutts (canoe steps, lock gates and jetty). Industry present in the form of sluice gate and fishery. Private housing present adjacent to the river</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 53</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC2</p> <p>VLC Description: Woodland with recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Deciduous woodland (owned by FSNI - Somerset Forest), with walking trails with access to the water at Mountsandel (jetty)</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	
<p>ID number: 54</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC4</p> <p>VLC Description: Settlement</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Coleraine – areas zoned for both commercial, industrial and residential purposes</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 55</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Christie Park - walk trail and access to the water via jetty and canoe steps. Car park and amenity block present</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 56</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Playing fields and riverside walkway at County Hall</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 57</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC1</p> <p>VLC Description: Low lying ground</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Low lying unimproved grassland/ scrubland</p> <p>Sensitivity: High</p>	
<p>ID number: 58</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC9</p> <p>VLC Description: Recreation</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Coleraine Marina with access to the water via slipway and jetty, plus associated infrastructure</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 59</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC5</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland, includes sporadic scrub along riverside</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 60</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC10</p> <p>VLC Description: Agriculture screened</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Low lying improved grassland screened from the river by deciduous trees, scrub and low lying unimproved grassland/ scrub</p> <p>Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 61</p> <p>VLC Category: VLC11</p> <p>VLC Description: Low lying screened</p> <p>Nearest Town: Coleraine</p> <p>Description: Low lying unimproved grassland screened from the river by scrub</p> <p>Sensitivity: Medium</p>	

Details	Image
<p>ID number: 62 VLC Category: VLC9 VLC Description: Recreation Nearest Town: Portstewart Description: Portstewart Golf Course Sensitivity: Low</p>	
<p>ID number: 63 VLC Category: VLC12 VLC Description: Low lying coastal Nearest Town: Castlerock Description: Sand dunes and coastal low lying salt marsh Sensitivity: High</p>	
<p>ID number: 64 VLC Category: VLC12 VLC Description: Low lying coastal Nearest Town: Portstewart Description: Sand dunes and beach Sensitivity: High</p>	

Appendix 6 - Details of ecological designations along the River Bann

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
SPA	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	40835.53	UK9020091	yes	yes	<p>Qualifying Species</p> <p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season: Common Tern representing 6.0% of the breeding population in Ireland • Over winter: Bewick's Swan representing 5.4% of the wintering population in Ireland, Golden Plover, representing 2.6% of the wintering population in Ireland, Whooper Swan, representing 10.3% of the wintering population in Ireland <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the breeding season: Black-headed Gull, 2.0% of the breeding North-western Europe - breeding population, Great Crested Grebe representing at least 1.0% of the breeding North-western Europe - wintering population • On passage: Great Crested Grebe, representing at least 1.6% of the North-western Europe - wintering population • Over winter: Goldeneye, representing at least 3.6% of the wintering North-western/Central Europe population, Great Crested Grebe representing at least 1.2% of the wintering North-western Europe - wintering population, Pochard representing at least 7.5% of the wintering North-western/North-eastern Europe population, Scaup representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Northern/Western Europe population, Tufted Duck representing at least 2.2% of the wintering North-western Europe population <p>Assemblage qualification: A seabird assemblage of international importance</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the breeding season, the area regularly supports 67,690 individual seabirds including: Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Gull, Black-headed Gull and Common Tern. <p>Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over winter, the area regularly supports 99,221 individual waterfowl including: Greylag Goose, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover, Great Crested Grebe, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Scaup, Goldeneye, Bewick's Swan, Cormorant, Lapwing, Shelduck, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Shoveler, Coot and Little Grebe.
SAC	Dead Island Bog	54.56	UK0030323	no	yes	<p>General site character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bogs, marshes, water-fringed vegetation, fens (92.2%) Dry grassland, steppes (0.6%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (7.2%) <p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site 7110 Active raised bogs</p> <p>Priority feature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dead Island Bog is a lowland raised bog lying in a shallow inter-drumlin hollow within the Lower Bann valley. Special features include a large, intact core of deep peat, which exhibits a wide range of characteristic vegetation and structural features. These include shallow pools and a well-developed hummock and lawn complex. The bog surface supports a dense and diverse cover of Sphagnum bog-mosses. Notable species include Sphagnum imbricatum, forming several small, hummocks scattered over the surface, cranberry Vaccinium oxycoccos, and great sundew Drosera longifolia in several of the pools.

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
SAC	Wolf Island Bog	118.02	UK0030303	no	yes	<p>General site character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bogs, marshes, water-fringed vegetation, fens (96%) • Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (4%) <p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site 7110 Active raised bogs</p> <p>Priority feature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wolf Island Bog represents one of the largest areas of intact active raised bog in Northern Ireland. The site displays a well-defined dome and characteristic vegetation and structural features, including pool, hummock and lawn complexes. Bog-mosses are well-represented, including the hummock-forming species <i>Sphagnum imbricatum</i> and <i>S. fuscum</i>.
SAC	Garry Bog	154.76	UK0016610	no	yes	<p>General site character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bogs, marshes, water-fringed vegetation, fens (100%) <p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site 7110 Active raised bogs</p> <p>Priority feature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garry Bog in Northern Ireland is a large active raised bog with an exceptionally extensive and well-developed pool complex and partially intact lagg. <i>Sphagnum fuscum</i> and <i>S. imbricatum</i> occur on the site and <i>S. pulchrum</i> is found in abundance in the pool system.
SAC	Bann Estuary	347.94	UK0030084	yes	yes	<p>General site character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidal rivers, estuaries, mud flats, sand flats, lagoons (including salt work basins) (30%) • Salt marshes, salt pastures, salt steppes (7%) • Coastal sand dunes, sand beaches, machair (40%) • Bogs, marshes, water-fringed vegetation, fens (14%)

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humid grassland, mesophile grassland (7%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (2%) <p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site 2130 "Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (""grey dunes"")"</p> <p>Priority feature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bann Estuary in Northern Ireland contains a series of three sand dune systems, which are part of the same physiographic unit. The most morphologically diverse are at Portstewart, where transverse dune ridges are up to 30m high. 'Grey dune' is the most extensive vegetation community and is dominated by marram <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> and red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>. Short sward communities within this are characterised by a floristically diverse range of herbs and in places lower plants. Lady's bedstraw <i>Galium verum</i>, wild thyme <i>Thymus polytrichus</i> and wild pansy <i>Viola tricolor</i> are widespread. <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 "Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")"</p>
SAC	Magilligan	1058.22	UK0016613	no	yes	<p>General site character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidal rivers, estuaries, mud flats, sand flats, lagoons (including salt work basins) (24.7%) Coastal sand dunes, sand beaches, machair (75.3%) <p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site 2130 "Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (""grey dunes"")"</p> <p>Priority feature</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magilligan in Northern Ireland is one of the largest calcareous dune systems in the UK, with a well-developed and largely undisturbed system of ridges and slacks. Fixed dune vegetation with red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i> and lady's bedstraw <i>Galium verum</i> is very extensive and dominates most of the site. Much of the grassland is tall, with downy oat-grass <i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i> prominent, but the more open areas have wild thyme <i>Thymus polytrichus</i> and are notable for an abundance of the moss <i>Rhytidium rugosum</i>. • 2170 Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) Magilligan is one of the largest calcareous dune systems in the UK. It has an extensive and well-developed series of dune slacks which contain virtually all of the dune slack vegetation in Northern Ireland. Most of the slack vegetation is dominated by creeping willow <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i>, although more open humid slacks and older hollows filled with mire vegetation also occur. • 2190 Humid dune slacks Magilligan in Northern Ireland is one of the largest dune systems in the UK. It has an extensive and well-developed series of humid dune slacks, which contain virtually all of the dune slack vegetation in Northern Ireland. The dunes are of an acidic character. A wide range of slack vegetation occurs on the site, including wet open dune slacks at an early succession stage, slacks dominated by creeping willow <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> and older hollows filled with mire vegetation. The hydrology of the site is little modified and the structure and function of the site are therefore well-conserved. <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 "Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")"</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <p>1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i> 1395 Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i></p>
SAC	Skerries and Causeway	10862.00	UK0030383	no	yes	<p>General site character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine areas, sea inlets (100%) <p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <p>1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time 1170 Reefs 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves</p> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <p>1351 Harbour porpoise</p>
Ramsar	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	50165.84	UK12016	yes	yes	<p>Lough Neagh is situated in the centre of Northern Ireland. It is the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom covering an area of 383 km² with a longest length of 30.5 km and narrowest width of 12.1 km across the middle. The lake is very shallow for its size, with a mean depth of 8.9m.</p> <p>At its deepest point it extends down to 34m. The 125 km shoreline is mostly exposed with wave beaten rocks and stones but there are also some sheltered, sandy bays with better-developed marginal vegetation including some reed beds. This site also contains a smaller lake, Lough Beg (1,125 ha) to the north. Lough Beg (meaning 'little lough') is essentially a widening of the Lower Bann River just downstream from where it leaves Lough Neagh. Lough Beg is very shallow, with a mean depth of 1-2m.</p> <p>Qualifies under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ramsar criterion 1</i> - A particularly good representative example of natural or near-natural wetlands, common to more than one biogeographic region. The site is the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom. Lough Neagh

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						<p>a relatively shallow body of water supporting beds of submerged aquatic vegetation fringed by associated species-rich damp grassland, reed beds, islands, fens, marginal swampy woodland and pasture. Other interesting vegetation types include those associated with pockets of cut-over bog, basalt rock outcrops and boulders, and the mobile sandy shore.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ramsar criterion 2</i> - Supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species or sub-species of plant or animal or an appreciable number of individuals of any one of these species. The site supports over 40 rare or local vascular plants which have been recorded for the site since 1970. The lough and its margin are also home to a large number of rare or local invertebrates, including two aquatic and two terrestrial molluscs, a freshwater shrimp, eight beetles, five hoverflies, seven moths and two butterflies. Of the rare beetles recorded two, <i>Stenus palposus</i> and <i>Dyschirius obscurus</i>, have their only known Irish location around the Lough. The Lough also supports twelve species of dragonfly. • <i>Ramsar criterion 3</i> - This site is of special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of a region because of the quality and peculiarities of its flora and fauna. The site regularly supports substantial numbers of individuals from particular groups of waterfowl which are indicative of wetland values, productivity and diversity. In addition, this site is of special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of Northern Ireland because of the quality and peculiarities of its flora and fauna. A large number of plants and animal species are confined or almost confined to this area within Northern Ireland. • <i>Ramsar criterion 4</i> - This site is of special value as the habitat of plants or animals at a critical stage of their biological cycles. The site supports an important assemblage of breeding birds including the following species with which occur in nationally important numbers: great crested grebe, gadwall, pochard a, tufted duck, snipe and redshank. Other important breeding wetland species include shelduck, teal, shoveler, lapwing and curlew.

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ramsar criterion 5</i> - Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 86639 waterfowl • <i>Ramsar criterion 6</i> - Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Tundra swan Species with peak counts in winter: Whooper swan, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Greater scaup, Common Goldeneye. Species with peak counts in spring/ autumn: Great cormorant, Mute swan • <i>Ramsar criterion 7</i> - The site supports a population of pollan, one of the few locations in Ireland and one of the two known locations in the UK (the other is Lower Lough Erne). It is one of the most important species in Ireland in terms of faunal biodiversity since it occurs nowhere else in Europe, and the Irish populations are all well outside the typical range – the Arctic Ocean drainages of Siberia, Alaska and north-western Canada, where it is known as the Arctic Cisco.
Ramsar	Garry Bog	154.76	UK12011	no	yes	<p>Garry Bog is one of the largest lowland raised bogs in Northern Ireland. The raised bog which covers most of the site exhibits the full range of characteristic vegetation and structural features associated with this type of habitat such as bog pools and hummock complexes with extensive Sphagnum-rich bryophyte carpets. The lagg surrounding the bog has been cut for turf, creating a mosaic of waterlogged cuttings at different levels, separated by elevated 'ramparts'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ramsar criterion 1</i> - The site is a large and relatively intact example of a lowland raised bog and one of the best examples of this habitat in the UK.

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
NNR	Lough Beg	147.59	NNR7	yes	yes	<p>The Strand' on the west shore of Lough Beg is a large expanse of wet grassland that is flooded each winter and which has never been agriculturally improved. The nature reserve, with Church Island as its focal point, comprises 300 acres of this habitat.</p> <p>In spring and autumn, migrating birds on their way through may pause on their journey to rest and feed. Black-tailed godwit, green sandpiper, wood sandpiper, greenshank and knot are seen every year.</p> <p>In early summer, the sky above the nature reserve is alive with the calls of breeding waders. It is possible to hear the drumming of snipe, the piping whistles of redshank and the peewit calls of lapwing, all of which depend on this soft, wet ground to rear their families.</p> <p>Many rare plants including pennyroyal and the Irish ladies' tresses orchid share this habitat with the birds. Winter brings floods and with them hundreds of wildfowl to feed on the inundated grasslands.</p> <p>Church Island, formerly known as Irish Toide, was the site of a pre-Viking monastery. The island has an eighteenth century spire, a ruined medieval church and an old graveyard.</p>
NNR	Altikeeragh	180.48	NNR9	no	yes	<p>Altikeeragh Nature Reserve encompasses the entire ASSI, which is owned by NIEA. This relatively intact area of peat land is bound by extensive afforestation to the south and east and by cut over bog to the north and west.</p> <p>The importance of this site relates to the peat land vegetation communities, and the structural features which are typical of undisturbed sites. These include blanket bog vegetation with some raised bog characteristics, a well-developed pool system, flat bog plains and localized flushes and soaks.</p> <p>The vegetation of the intact bog surface is characterized by Sphagnum mosses, heather, cross-leaved heath, deergrass, hare's-tail cotton grass and occasional crowberry. In the wetter areas a well-developed topography occurs, with prominent Sphagnum hummocks and flat waterlogged lawns with abundant</p>

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						<p>bog asphodel and common cottongrass. Much of the blanket bog surrounding the intact unit has been cut for turf, creating a mosaic of habitats, depending on peat depth and the age of cutting.</p> <p>Vegetation communities vary from extensive areas of acid grassland, through more concentrated flushes, to extensive areas of regenerating bog. The bog provides habitat for upland birds such as snipe, red grouse and raven.</p>
ASSI	Lough Neagh	39495.09	ASSI030	yes	yes	<p>Lough Neagh, the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom, is a relatively shallow body of water supporting beds of submerged aquatic vegetation fringed by associated species-rich damp grassland, reed beds, islands, fens, marginal swampy woodland and pasture.</p> <p>Other interesting vegetation types include those associated with pockets of cut-over bog, basalt rock outcrops and boulders, and the mobile sandy shore. [picture of a nesting coot] Over forty rare or local vascular plants have been recorded for the site since 1970; the most notable are eight-stemmed waterwort, marsh pea, Irish lady's tresses orchid, alder buckthorn, narrow small-reed and holy grass. All these plants are protected under Part 1 of Schedule 8 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985.</p> <p>The lough and its margin are also home to a large number of rare or local invertebrates, including two aquatic and two terrestrial molluscs, a freshwater shrimp (<i>Mysis relicta</i>), eight beetles, five hoverflies, seven moths and two butterflies. Of the rare beetles recorded two, <i>Stenus palposus</i> and <i>Dyschirus obscurus</i>, have their only known Irish location around the Lough. The Lough also supports twelve species of dragonfly.</p> <p>Three notable fish also occur in the lough, the river Lamprey and the Pollan; both Irish Red Data Species, and the eel, which is present in large numbers and commercially fished.</p> <p>Internationally important numbers of waterfowl regularly winter on the lough, with the peak number averaging over 66,800 birds since 1988. Individually, species which qualify as internationally important are whooper swans pochard,</p>

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						<p>tufted duck, scaup and Goldeneye. Species which qualify as nationally important are great crested grebe, cormorant, mute swan, Bewick's swan, shelduck, Wigeon, gadwall, teal, mallard and coot.</p> <p>In the summer the Lough supports internationally important numbers of breeding black-headed gulls and has the largest concentration of great crested greb in Ireland. Nationally important numbers of breeding redshank, snipe, common tern, tufted duck, pochard, shoveler and gadwall are found (the last three being Irish Red Data Species).</p> <p>Lough Neagh ASSI also contains a nationally important Earth Science Conservation Review Site (ESCRS) at Traad Point, in the form of a sand bar development.</p>
ASSI	Lough Beg	1053.22	ASSI027	yes	yes	<p>Lough Beg and its associated aquatic vegetation form part of the internationally important Lough Neagh Ramsar site for wintering wildfowl. Breeding populations of snipe, redshank and curlew are among the highest in Northern Ireland. Associated wet grasslands, including lake inundation and rush pasture types contains rare vascular plant assemblage including the Biodiversity Action Plan Species Irish ladies tresses.</p> <p>Swamp vegetation forms an extensive band in shallow water along the east shore, with stands of horse tail and spike rush.</p> <p>The western shore consists of some of the most extensive areas of unimproved meadows in Northern Ireland. The sward is rich with herbs and sedges. A large number of rare or local vascular plants occur including Northern small reed, waterwort, pennyroyal, Irish Ladies tresses orchid, Awlwort and slender-leaved pondweed.</p> <p>The internationally important populations of wintering wildfowl is comprised chiefly of pochard, teal, shoveler and whooper swan. It is also a passage site for significant numbers of waders- black-tailed godwit and Ruff, plus the occasional rarity that this site seems to present annually.</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
ASSI	Ballymacombs More	27.48	ASSI072	yes	yes	<p>Ballymacombs More ASSI is important because of the buried deposits of diatomite found there. Diatomite is made up of individual shell-like cases which once formed part of a microscopic plant. Countless numbers of these shells accumulated along the northern shore of Lough Neagh and Lough Beg, resulting in the formation of diatomite. Associated sand, clay, peat and wood also occur within the deposits.</p> <p>The diatomite tended to be deposited during times of high lake level possible during seasonal flooding. Ballymacombs More is of particular interest because the diatomite and related material is buried by bog peat. These can be studied to reveal when lake related deposits stopped forming and peat bog developed. Materials such as pollen contained within the diatomite and associated deposits can be used to reconstruct the environment in which it formed and also to help with estimating the age of the various materials.</p> <p>Plant pollen provides information about the surrounding landscape. For example Ballymacombs More holds information on the decline of Scot's pine from being a frequent and widespread species across the area some 7,000 years ago to its decline 1,000 years later.</p>
ASSI	Moneystaghan Bog	163.96	ASSI305	no	yes	<p>Situated 5km northwest of Lough Beg, Moneystaghan Bog represents one of the largest remaining areas of uncut lowland raised bog in Northern Ireland. It is a remnant of a once extensive system of raised bogs that developed along the Bann River Valley. Although a number of activities, including peat cutting have occurred around the periphery of the bog, the majority of this extensive peat land remains intact.</p> <p>The deep peat deposits at Moneystaghan Bog have formed within a series of natural topographical depressions to the west of the River Bann. Over thousands of years impeded drainage and waterlogged conditions have led to the formation of the raised bog on either side of an esker ridge which runs from the north to the south of the area. Because of the size of the bog and the complexity and depth of the peat, Moneystaghan Bog exhibits a wide range of characteristic structural features, with extensive pool, hummock and lawn complexes and an internal soak occurring within the bog plain.</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<p>The bog vegetation is characterised by a high cover of bog-moss, ericoid dwarf-shrubs and other associated plants. Within Moneystaghan Bog the pool complexes, internal soaks, water-logged 'lawns' and many of the old cuttings are exceptionally wet, with the water-table extending to the bog surface. Species are characterised by bog asphodel, white beak-sedge and common cottongrass.</p> <p>The pool complexes are typically dominated by feathery bog-moss, with bogbean abundant in a number of them. The insectivorous round-leaved sundew and more notably great sundew and the nationally rare golden bog-moss are also prevalent around the pool margins. Additional species include cranberry and the rare bog-rosemary, which occurs here at one of only several known sites in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Additional habitat diversity is provided by areas of old peat cuttings and the esker ridge which runs through the middle of the bog. In cut-over areas that are comparatively freely-draining, downy birch and willow woodland with a herb layer dominated by purple moor-grass has developed. These wet woodland communities are largely restricted to the northern and southern margins of the bog. Where the peat cuttings are deepest to the north of the intact bog surface, plant communities vary from swamp vegetation dominated by common reed, bottle and water horsetail, through acid fen, to localised pockets of species-rich fen where ground waters influence the vegetation composition. The notable lesser tussock-sedge occurs in this species-rich fen community. In contrast, the esker ridge which is composed of sands and gravels deposited at the end of the last ice-age, supports a small area of hazel woodland with blackthorn.</p> <p>Moneystaghan Bog also provides important habitats for a range of animals including breeding birds, mammals and invertebrates. The intact surface of the bog is especially important for feeding and breeding waders such as curlew and snipe. In addition, there is evidence of badger activity within the scrub woodland on the esker ridge.</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
ASSI	Dead Island Bog	54.56	ASSI125	no	yes	<p>It is one of the best remaining examples of a lowland raised bog within the flood plain of the Lower Bann. Turf cutting has been confined to the margins, leaving the majority of the bog intact.</p> <p>Special features include a large, intact core of deep peat, which exhibits a wide range of characteristic vegetation and structural features. These include shallow pools and a well developed hummock and lawn complex. The bog surface is permanently wet and supports a dense and diverse cover of Sphagnum bog-mosses. Typically the vegetation is characterised by ericoid dwarf shrubs and other associated species. Over much of the bog plain, the vegetation is dominated by Heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> and Cross leaved Heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> with frequent associates including Hare's-tail Cottongrass <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>, Common Cottongrass <i>E. angustifolium</i>, tussocks of Deergrass <i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i> and locally frequent Bog Myrtle <i>Myrica</i>.</p> <p>These species are generally associated with <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>, which is the dominant hummock-forming moss on the bog. In addition, the notable moss <i>Sphagnum imbricatum</i> forms several small, low hummocks scattered over the surface.</p>
ASSI	Wolf Island Bog	118.02	ASSI131	no	yes	<p>A very large area of intact lowland raised bog in two units, which together represent one of the largest remaining examples of lowland raised bog in Northern Ireland. Physiographical interest of the site relates to peat stratigraphy which is internationally significant.</p> <p>The site yields palaeoenvironmental data on possible Neolithic forest clearance, the decline of the native Scot's pine, the effects of historical volcanic eruptions and botanical responses to climatic change. Biological interest relates to the size of the site together with the classic 'domed' profile which displays a wide range of characteristic vegetation and structural features, including pool, hummock and lawn complexes.</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<p>Notable species typical of a wet bog surface include the rare hummock forming mosses, Sphagnum imbricatum and Sphagnum fuscum and the rare Sundew Drosera intermedia.</p> <p>The lagg surrounding the intact bog has been cut for turf in the past, creating a mosaic of habitats ranging from acid grassland through dry heath to acid woodland dominated by birch with occasional rowan.</p>
ASSI	Tully Hill	86.80	ASSI220	yes	yes	<p>The Tully Hill area comprises a major flat-topped delta and associated ridges formed during a period of rapid ice retreat. It is an outstanding example of this deglacial land form assemblage. The Tully Hill complex, when assessed in the context of the wider area, provides a range of sedimentary and geomorphological evidence which explains the nature of deglaciation in the mid Bann valley.</p> <p>As ice retreated southwards, a lake formed with water and sediment coming from the adjoining glacier. The structure of Tully Hill indicates that it was formed from sediments deposited by a high velocity stream flowing beneath the ice mass into the lake, while its southern steep side suggests contact with an ice mass. The height of the hill compares well with that of another delta to the south, on which Kilrea is built.</p> <p>These deltas record temporary halts in the retreat of the glacier front, when sediments built up almost to the level of the waterbody surface. That both deltas show similar elevations indicates a static lake level of around 40m above sea-level in the mid Bann valley. The ridge or esker deposits adjoining the southern slopes of the hill are thought to represent the courses of stream that flowed below the ice, feeding sediment into the lake.</p>
ASSI	Craigs	13.46	ASSI372	no	yes	<p>Craigs has been declared as an ASSI because of its species-rich wet grassland. Species-rich grassland tends to occur only where traditional farming practices have been maintained. Such species-rich grassland is now a rare habitat in Northern Ireland.</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<p>A special type of species-rich wet grassland known as Purple Moor-grass and rush pasture occurs over much of the site, resulting in the occurrence of species adapted to water movement and wetter conditions. Plants characteristic of this community include Sharp-flowered Rush, Autumn Hawkbit, Devil's-bit Scabious and Carnation Sedge and the mosses Glittering Wood-moss and Neat Feather-moss. In addition to the grassland itself, Craigs is also an important site for Lesser Butterfly-orchid, a declining species in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Species typical of wetter conditions are found alongside the rush pasture vegetation in these areas. Plants associated with this area include Common Butterwort, Marsh Hawk's-beard, Marsh Arrowgrass and Bogbean.</p>
ASSI	Garry Bog	122.23	ASSI004	no	yes	<p>This site is important as it contains one of the largest remaining areas of undamaged lowland raised bog in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>It is especially important for its partially intact lagg, its extensive well-patterned pool system and its high cover of Sphagnum species, including abundant hummocks of Sphagnum imbricatum and Sphagnum fuscum.</p> <p>The nationally rare Sphagnum pulchrum is a prominent 'pool edge' species, and is thought to occur here in greater abundance than on any other site in Northern Ireland.</p>
ASSI	Garry Bog II	32.53	ASSI127	no	yes	<p>The area is of special scientific interest because of its physiographical features and peat land flora and lies adjacent to the south of Garry Bog ASSI. It includes a small lowland raised bog which is hydrologically connected to the main site. The intact surface displays a small pool complex with moderate hummock and hollow development supporting a number of rare species.</p> <p>The Garry Bog system is internationally significant for peat stratigraphy which displays a classic succession from clay and lake muds, through reed swamp and wood peats to raised bog peats.</p> <p>Recently, volcanic glass shards (tephra) have been identified in the peat column, permitting more reliable correlation of the peat stratigraphy.</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
ASSI	Bann Estuary	347.94	ASSI208	yes	yes	<p>Bann Estuary ASSI incorporates a series of sand dune systems which, together with the lowest section of the River Bann, are part of the same physiological unit that has evolved over the last 6,000 years. The study of the dune sediments provides information critical to understanding sea-level history in the area and the development stages and processes in the evolution of temperate dune soils.</p> <p>Biological interest relates to the complex mosaic of habitat types associated with the diverse morphology and soils of the dune systems. These include embryo dunes bound together by sand couch and extensive areas of white dune, which are dominated by marram grass. The grey dune complex includes a number of damp hollows and blow-outs and supports an array of plant and animal communities including rare and unusual species. The oldest dunes consist of a short-grazed sward, which supports the rare shepherd's cress. Salt marsh associated with the river estuary and rich fen communities to the east of the Pottagh River support an array of plant species. In addition, the woodland at Kilcranny provides additional habitat diversity.</p> <p>The Bann Estuary site is used by significant numbers of passage and wintering waders and wildfowl and is also important for breeding species including shelduck, redshank, snipe and lapwing.</p>
ASSI	Magilligan	1058.11	ASSI068	no	yes	<p>Magilligan is one of the best examples of a sand dune system in Northern Ireland and is notable for several reasons, including its extent and largely unmodified nature, the wide range of plant and animal communities present, and the number of rare vascular and bryophyte species, including the variegated horsetail. No other Northern Ireland site has as great a number of dune grassland and dune slack plant communities.</p> <p>Several notable invertebrate species and communities also occur here, particularly in the dune slacks.</p> <p>The system extends along a substantial portion of the north coast of Northern Ireland, and is an internationally recognised classical beach-ridge cusate</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<p>foreland with active prograding dunes (which also presents a detailed record of Holocene sea-level changes). It is the largest and most intensively studied coastal accumulation site in Ireland and amongst the top such localities in Europe.</p> <p>Ornithological interest includes great northern diver, red-throated diver, black guillemot and sanderling. Little tern have previously bred at Magilligan Point and it is hoped that they will return.</p>
ASSI	Altikeeragh	180.48	ASSI171	no	yes	<p>An area of intact blanket bog within a large expanse of modified peat land. The site comprises an area of typical blanket bog vegetation, with an extensive upland raised dome. The well developed pool and hummock complex associated with the dome is the main feature of the site. Areas of cutover bog provide habitat diversity.</p> <p>Notable species include the hummock-forming sphagnum imbricatum. The bog also provides habitat for upland birds.</p>
ASSI	Toome	0.89	ASSI 52	yes	yes	<p>The area is of special scientific interest because of its diatomite deposits. Diatomite consists of accumulated diatom frustules with differing amounts of clay, silt, sand and peat. Diatoms are microscopic aquatic plants surrounded by a silica box, or frustules, of various shapes, depending on the species. Past commercial exploitation in the Lough Neagh basin has reduced the area of intact material to a small number of localities.</p> <p>At Toome the diatomite forms part of the lowest lake terrace of Lough Neagh and is up to 2m above the present lough level. This site contains the longest total sequence of diatomite and associated deposits (3-4m thick in places) encountered in a recent survey of the remaining diatomite deposits of the Bann valley. In addition, the site shows associations with organic material (early reed swamp peats) and geomorphological features (sandbanks together with former river channels or lagoons). This location is also of importance as any geomorphological changes here would have had considerable influence on water levels in the lough, given its position as the sole outlet for the entire Lough Neagh basin since post glacial times.</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						This assemblage gives a record of past water levels in the Lough Neagh basin, and of climatic change. These remaining sites are amongst the most important deposits of freshwater diatomite in the British Isles, and are unique when considered with the associated materials.
AONB	Binevenagh	16594.13	AONB6	yes	yes	<p>General description Binevenagh AONB covers the area between the Roe Estuary and Magilligan, the cliffs of Binevenagh, the Bann Estuary and Portstewart sand dunes.</p> <p>The severe skyline of the cliffs at Binevenagh makes a breathtaking contrast with the outstanding expanse of Magilligan Strand. This is one of the finest beaches in the Province and stretches for 8 km, from Downhill to the narrows of Lough Foyle. The steep, round-topped grassland hills and the sandy shoreline are the dominant features, separated from the rocky shores of Donegal by one kilometre of sea.</p> <p>Natural Heritage of Binevenagh AONB</p> <p>Much of the landscape of the Binevenagh AONB is characterised by long beaches and extensive dune systems. Within these dune systems there are examples of creeping willow, embryonic and shifting dunes whilst the damp areas in between the dunes are known as 'dune slacks'. The Bann Estuary is also an important site in relation to the study of coastal physiography. Both have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).</p> <p>These are special habitats and important for the wide range of different plants and invertebrate species they support. There are many different insects here as well including the brightly coloured burnet moth and butterflies such as the meadow brown, grayling and marsh fritillary. The River Bann is noted for salmon and sea trout. The Bann estuary is also noted for eels and the mudflats here are important for many waders such as the redshank and lapwing. Shelduck have been known to nest in the sand hills near Castlerock.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage of Binevenagh AONB</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<p>Binevenagh AONB has been settled since Mesolithic times and the area around both the Bann and the Foyle estuaries has a rich archaeological heritage. Several sites have been excavated near Portstewart Strand and Castlerock to reveal flints, scrapers and pottery. Further up the Bann at Grangemore there were several other important finds including a dugout canoe, one of five found on the lower stretch of the river, pottery, beads and bronze age pins. There have been many shipwrecks along this exposed northern coastline. The Bar Mouth at the entrance to the Bann has always been particularly hazardous and here there are records of over 25 shipwrecks.</p> <p>Built Heritage of Binevenagh AONB</p> <p>Hazlett House, just outside Castlerock, was built in 1690 and is a rare Irish example of 'cruck' construction. Originally a rectory, the house has no foundations but was built around a frame of curved timbers or 'crucks'. Hazlett House is now owned by the National Trust and is open to the public. Castlerock railway station dates from 1873-75 and was designed by Charles Lanyon. At Downhill Estate there is a series of interesting buildings associated with Sir Hervey Bruce, Bishop of Derry.</p>
AONB	Causeway Coast	4212.96	AONB4	no	yes	<p>General description</p> <p>The Causeway Coast boasts the only World Heritage Site in Northern Ireland. Designated in 1989, it is a place of natural beauty encompassing 18 miles of spectacular coastal scenery with dramatic cliffs and headlands broken by sandy beaches backed by dunes. A rich variety of wildlife thrives on the offshore islands and rocks, amid the cliffs and sand dunes, and within the farmed countryside.</p> <p>Above the sea, the land is intensively farmed up to the very cliff top. The few trees that survive the battering by salt winds are huddled in sheltered hollows. Buildings are prominent in this open landscape with good examples of clachans (groups of single storey houses) and isolated nineteenth century farm houses surrounded by barns and outbuildings.</p> <p>Natural Heritage of Causeway AONB</p>

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
						<p>From late April through to July, many of the wild flowers that flourish along the Causeway Coast add colour to the rocky coves and headlands. Marram grass is the anchor that holds the dunes in place. It thrives in this dry and abrasive habitat, putting down deep roots that bind the loose sand. Marram grass can be weakened when undercut by waves to expose its roots; too much human trampling can also damage the marram grass. In spring, gorse with its bright yellow flowers add vivid colour to the landscape.</p> <p>Insect life within the AONB includes a wide range of butterflies, crane flies, beetles and weevils. The burnet moth, green with red spots, lives among the marramgrass.</p> <p>This is a harsh coast for trees but they do survive in sheltered valleys or hollows. In these areas ash, hazel and blackthorn add some softness to the otherwise stark coastline. Other groups of trees, mostly sycamore and sitka spruce, have been planted as shelter belts around farms and houses.</p> <p>Cultural Heritage of Causeway AONB</p> <p>Catching fish and shellfish along parts of the north coast has provided food and a way of life since Mesolithic times.</p> <p>Above the beaches and cliffs lies a fertile and productive farmland. Basaltic soils support agriculture with crops of barley and potatoes set among improved grasslands. Overall the landscape is open and windswept with perpetual exposure to harsh salt winds that stunt tree growth and twist hedgerow thorn bushes. Field boundaries near the coast are usually earthbanks (ditches) or dry stone walls, with hawthorn hedges becoming more typical inland. Post and wire fences are now frequently used to supplement or replace hedges and banks.</p>
SLNCI	Lough Beg (Mullanakil)	8.42	N/A	yes		Wet grassland contiguous with the grassland of Lough Beg ASSI
SLNCI	Lough Beg (Newferry)	5.70	N/A	yes		Wet grassland contiguous with the grassland of Lough Beg ASSI

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
SLNCI	Tyranee	34.36	N/A	yes		Rushy semi-improved damp grassland with records of breeding Curlew.
SLNCI	Colebreene Wood	Not known	BSLN 15 / CSLN 12	yes		Small but good quality woodland with Birch, Ash, Oak, Alder and Beech. A rich herb layer is present including Bluebell, Wood Anemone and Lesser Celandine as dominant.
SLNCI	McCollum's Hill South	Not known	BSLN 31		yes	A large area of bog with perhaps 25% of its surface still intact. Recovery of the cut-over parts has generally been good with sphagnum cover locally very good. The uncut area has a reasonable structure with some indication of pool formation and good Sphagnum cover on a generally wet surface. Some scrub woodland adds to the diversity around the margins.
SLNCI	Quaw Burn	Not known	BSLN 33		yes	A cut-over raised bog on two distinct levels with the lower having a mature Heather/Purple Moor-grass mosaic. White Beaked Sedge is frequent and Sphagnum moss forms low hummocks. The upper parts have been burnt in the past but have a Sphagnum moss coverage of over half of the area. Snipe have bred
SLNCI	Ballywindell and Lower	Not known	CSLN 03	yes		A wet Birch woodland on cut over bog with a varied age structure and good regeneration. Mosses dominate the ground layer with other typical bog species such as Common Cottongrass, Purple Moor-grass and Heather. Much of the area is very wet with quaking mats.
SLNCI	Bovagh Woods	Not known	CSLN 05	yes		These three woods south of the Agivey River near Bovagh Bridge are probably remnants of the old Bann Woods referred to in early records. The two southern ones are the more natural with a canopy dominated by Birch and Hazel with some Oak, Wych Elm, Ash, Alder and Beech. The herb layer is variable but contains Dog Violet, Herb Bennet, Wood Anemone, Enchanter's Nightshade, Bluebell, Ramsons, Lesser Celandine, Primrose and Meadowsweet. In the northern wood nearest the river, although the canopy is more mixed with mature Beech and Lime, there is again a diverse herb layer indicative of long established woodland.

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
SLNCI	Carneety	Not known	CSLN09		yes	Part of the woodland in this site is wet and dominated by Alder with typical marshy species as a field layer. Large exposed rock outcrops support extensive bryophyte assemblages. The drier parts are dominated by Ash with Hazel, Hawthorn and Sycamore. Here Bluebell, Wood Anemone, Lesser Celandine, Primrose and Wood Sorrel are abundant.
SLNCI	Carranroe Burn	Not known	CSLN10	yes		Small but good quality woodland with Birch, Ash, Oak, Alder and Beech. A rich herb layer is present including Bluebell, Wood Anemone and Lesser Celandine as dominant.
SLNCI	Castlerock Golf Course	Not known	CSLN11	yes		Unmanaged areas retain typical dune grassland communities with records for Purple Fumitory and Heath Cudweed.
SLNCI	Crab Lough	Not known	CSLN14	yes		A small shallow peaty-bottomed lake at the edge of Kilrea Golf Course with vegetation typical for its type. The lake is recorded as an outlier location for the Irish Damselfly which has a predominantly southern distribution in Northern Ireland.
SLNCI	Culnaman	Not known	CSLN17	yes		A partially cut-over raised bog with regenerating bog and woodland habitats. The woodland is mostly around the periphery and consists mainly of Birch, Willow, Holly and Rowan with good regeneration. The bog has two distinct parts – drier towards the north dominated by leggy Heather but very wet to the south with many Sphagnum dominated pools, abundant Bogbean, Bog Asphodel, Common Cottongrass and Cross leaved Heath.
SLNCI	Dromore Wood	Not known	CSLN18	yes		A small but good quality Hazel/ Oak wood with Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Holly understorey. The field layer is dominated by Wood Anemone with Bluebell, Lesser Celandine, some Primrose and Common Dog-violet. A stream adds variety to the site.
SLNCI	Farranlester	Not known	CSLN26	yes		Diverse mesotrophic rush grassland with wet areas in places.
SLNCI	Grange	Not known	CSLN30	yes		Typical dune grassland with records for Smooth Cat's Ear and one of only a few sites where Shepherd's Cress has been recorded.

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
SLNCI	Kathleens Lough	Not known	CSLN32	yes		A kettle-hole lake with a ribbon of marginal swamp vegetation. Bottle Sedge is abundant in much of the swamp – dominant in parts or with Canary Reed-grass, Creeping Bent and Floating Sweet-grass. Fen Pondweed, not common in this area, is recorded from the site.
SLNCI	Kilrea Dam	Not known	CSLN33	yes		A small lake with swamp vegetation at the northern end and a narrow band of emergent vegetation elsewhere. The swamp is dominated by either Yellow Flag or Soft Rush, Meadow Sweet and Floating Sweetgrass with some Marsh Willowherb, Bog Stitchwort and Greater Stitchwort. The marginal strip contains Watercress, Brooklime, Marsh Bedstraw and Cuckooflower. Horned Pondweed, not common in this area, forms submerged stands. The south end of the lake has a wet wood fringe.
SLNCI	Knockantern	Not known	CSLN35	yes		A mixed semi-natural and plantation woodland with two main components – a relatively young section on lower flatter land near the river and a much older strip on a fairly steep strip further inland. The younger part is fairly wet and dominated by Grey Alder, Alder, Birch, Ash and Sycamore. The herb layer comprises Herb Robert, Wood Dock, Foxtail, Creeping Buttercup, Remote Sedge, Wood Sedge and Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage. The older woodland is drier – mainly Ash with some Sycamore and scattered Oak, Beech and Black Poplar. The shrub layer contains mainly Hawthorn and Elder with some Willow. Bluebell is occasional in the ground flora with Ivy and Honeysuckle. Ferns such as Hart’s-tongue, Broad Buckler-fern and Male Fern are abundant. To the west of the site and close to the river is a marshy marginal strip with Meadowsweet, Wild Angelica and Common Reed. The rare Large Bitter cress occurs at the river margin in several places downstream towards Coleraine.
SLNCI	Portstewart Golf Links	Not known	CSLN41	yes		An extensive area of sand dunes that extend into Portstewart Golf Course. Rough grassland areas throughout the site have species rich dune vegetation comprising, Black Knapweed, Wild Thyme, Lady’s Bedstraw, Eyebright and Harebell. The mosaic of grassland habitats throughout the golf course forms an important continuation to the Bann Estuary grey dune system.

Designation	Name	Area (ha)	Reference	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Description
SLNCI	Sandleford Bridge	Not known	CSLN43	yes		A small area of marshy grassland adjacent to Sandleford Bridge. Several Crack Willow line the marginal zone of the River Bann. Marsh Marigold dominates with Water Forget-me-not, Bogbean, Common Spotted-orchid and Ragged Robin. The rare plants Green Figwort and Large Bitter-cress have been recorded at this site in the past.
SLNCI	Somerset Ponds	Not known	CSLN44	yes		A small area of damp woodland with main tree species Ash, Alder and Lime. The shrub layer is well developed and has Goat Willow, White Willow and Hawthorn. The herb layer is good with Primrose, Wood Anemone, Bugle and Common Dog violet. Green Figwort has been recorded from this area in the past.
SLNCI	The Rough Hills	Not known	CSLN45	yes		A fairly large cut-over raised bog with some broadleaf woodland. Much of the bog surface remains wet with abundant Sphagnum. Heather is dominant with Cross-leaved Heath and Hare's tail Cottongrass. The wood is mainly Hazel, Oak and Holly, with Wood Sorrel and Sanicle as herbs.

Appendix 7 - Details of built heritage designations along the River Bann

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Smrno	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
State Care		Yes	ANT022: 024	Megalithic tomb	Craigs dolmen. Passage tomb: craigs dolmen	NEOLITHIC	C9739817278	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	LDY007: 001	Mound	Fort. Mound: fort	UNCERTAIN	C7915031540	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY007: 004	Souterrain	Souterrain with ogham stone	E.CHRIST.	C8044030640	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY007: 020	Multi-period site	Moundsandel, kilsantain, dun-da-beann. Prehistoric settlement site, motte, promontory fort & artillery fort: Moundsandel fort	MESOLITHIC	C8530030700	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY007: 024	Motte & bailey	Motte & possible bailey	MEDIEVAL	C8760029270	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY033: 010	Crannog	Green lough, green lough crannog. Crannog in green lough	E.CHRIST.	C9368004210	Mid Ulster
		Yes	LDY037: 003	Fortification	Bellaghy bawn. Plantation castle & bawn on site of rath: Bellaghy bawn	E.CHRIST.	H9534096340	Mid Ulster
		Yes	ANT022: 023	Megalithic tomb	The broad stone. Court tomb: the broad stone	NEOLITHIC	C9792717550	Mid and East Antrim

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Name	Associated interest	Area (ha)	Council
Parks, Gardens and Demesnes Register	Yes		Anderson Park	HB 3/18/22 - Drinking Fountain	19816.15	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		Ballyscullion House	HB 8/9/11 A - house; HB 8/9/11 B - stable block	1010996.04	Mid Ulster
		Yes	Beardville	HB 3/5/14 - House; HB 3/5/13 - Gate Lodge	212068.66	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	Benvarden House	HB 4/2/2 - house, gates, walls, outbuildings & bridge	13514.08	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	Bovagh House	HB 3/3/28 - HOUSE	233938.89	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	Cromore	HB 3/7/10 - gate lodge, HB 3/7/11 - house	463675.51	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	Downhill	HB 3/12/15 - House & Ha-Ha; HB 3/12/16 - Mussenden Temple; HB 3/12/14 - Mausoleum; HB 3/12/18 - Lion Gate & Lodge; HB 3/12/12 - Bishop's Gate & Lodge; HB 3/12/19 - Ice House & Dove Cote; HB 3/12/11-13 & 17-20 Landscape features, demesne offices etc.	961338.96	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	Glebe House		87839.71	Mid and East Antrim
	Yes		Guy Wilson Daffodil Garden		16398.71	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		Knocktarna House	HB 3/6/4 - house	166783.04	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes	Leslie Hill		1583875.53	Causeway Coast and Glens	

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Name	Associated interest	Area (ha)	Council
		Yes	Lizard Manor	HB 3/3/17 - house & stables	196154.26	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		Moore Fort		261577.63	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		Moore Lodge		304525.35	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	Moyola Park	HB 8/10/1 - House	1072692.43	Mid Ulster
	Yes		O Hara Brook		414736.49	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		Portglenone House	HB 7/6/10 - House; HB 7/6/40 - Abbey	903142.20	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	Rockwood	None	18820.49	Mid Ulster

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
Scheduled Monument		Yes	ANT017:020	Barrow	Round Barrow	Bronze Age	C9560022440	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:032	Barrow	Round Barrow	Prehistoric	C9284027640	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY007:103	Bench Mark	Fundamental Bench Mark			Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	MRL012:023	Coastal Monument	Berne House. The Berrins Fishing Station: Berne House			Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT031:038	Crannog	Lough Tarmin, Loughtamand, Lough Tammin, Loughtammin, Loughtamin, Loughtarmin, Lough Toman, Lough Tamin, Lough Tamand. Crannog in Former Lough Tamin	E.Christ.	D0070008090	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY033:010	Crannog	Green Lough, Green Lough Crannog. Crannog in Green Lough	E.Christ.	C9368004210	Mid Ulster
	Yes		LDY007:027	Earthwork	The Dales, Ardvee Kahan, Ardeveekahan. Earthworks: The	Uncertain	C8756029100	Causeway Coast and Glens

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
					Dales or Ardvee Kahan			
		Yes	LDY002:001	Ecclesiastical Site	Church & Graveyard	C17th	C7582035410	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY003:013	Ecclesiastical Site	Ballywillin. Church & Graveyard: Ballywillin	Med/L.Med	C8705038700	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY012:003	Ecclesiastical Site	Chapel of Aghadowey, Agivey Church, Agivey Chapel. Church, Graveyard Hole-Stone & Font: Agivey Church or Chapel of Aghadowey	Uncertain	C9033022210	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY042:014	Ecclesiastical Site	Church Island. Multi-Period Church, Graveyard & Bullaun: Church Island	E.Christ.	H9753094630	Mid Ulster
		Yes	ANT012:015	Ecclesiastical Site	Ecclesia Calva De Tullothgarra, Kilmoyle, Talacorre. Church & Graveyard on Site of Medieval Church: Kilmoyle Church	Medieval	C9283228437	Causeway Coast and Glens

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
		Yes	ANT017:003	Ecclesiastical Site	Old Church Tower, Church of Balibony, Balibony. Medieval & Later Church, Tower & Graveyard: Old Church Tower, Church of Balibony	Medieval	C9494025806	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY007:022	Ecclesiastical Site	Multiperiod Monastery, Church & Graveyard with Cross & Bullaun	E. Christ.	C8716728969	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT022:022	Enclosure	Craigs Upper, Irish Craigs. Enclosure	Uncertain	C9754018110	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY003:040	Findspot	Findspot Of Flints & Pottery	Prehistoric	C8074035430	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		MRL021:003	Ford	Tidal Ford & Mesolithic Material		C84963111	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY007:100	Ford	Ford		C87592891	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT049:070	Fortification	Fortified House & Bawn & Site of Battle, 1641	Post-Med	J0377086740	Antrim and Newtownabbey
	Yes		LDY007:094	Fortification	Loughan Island or Inis-An-Loughan. Castle: Loughan Island	Medieval	C8778028760	Causeway Coast and Glens

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
	Yes		ANT042:012	Fortification	Toome Castle. Tower-House & Bawn: Toome Castle	Late-Med	H9894590271	Antrim and Newtownabbey
		Yes	MRA006:009	Harbour	Old Dock. Harbour - Old Dock	Uncertain	C8550140890	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT006:004	Hillfort	Dunmull. Hillfort, Bullaun And Well: Dunmull	E. Christ.	C8895037100	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT006:003	Megalithic Tomb	Druid's Altar, Gigmagog's Grave. Wedge Tomb: Gigmagog's Grave	Neo/B.A.	C9073037330	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT022:024	Megalithic Tomb	Craigs Dolmen. Passage Tomb: Craigs Dolmen	Neolithic	C9739817278	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT037:042	Megalithic Tomb	Megalithic Tomb	Prehistoric	D0652000690	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	LDY011:013	Megalithic Tomb	Grey Stone. Portal Tomb: Grey Stone	Neolithic	C8470023350	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT022:023	Megalithic Tomb	The Broad Stone. Court Tomb: The Broad Stone	Neolithic	C9792717550	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY019:008	Megalithic Tomb	Black Stone, Daff, Daff Burial Ground, Duff Stone, Duff Stone. Passage Tomb: The Daff Stone, Duff Stone,	Neolithic	C8893616550	Causeway Coast and Glens

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
					Black Stone or Daff Burial Ground			
	Yes		LDY003:008	Motte & Bailey	Motte, Bailey & Outer Enclosure	Medieval	C8350034200	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:023	Mound	Mound, Possible Motte	Uncertain	C9418022980	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		ANT016:002	Mound	Raised Rath (Or Motte?)	E. Christ.	C9178023680	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		ANT016:005	Mound	Mound - Motte	Medieval	C8921026190	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:001	Mound	Raised Rath	E. Christ.	C9243026320	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:005	Mound	Drumard. Mound, Possibly Motte: Drumard	Medieval	C9600027740	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:008	Mound	Mound - Round Barrow	Prehistoric	C9771025580	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:009	Mound	Raised Rath	E. Christ.	C9801025810	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:048	Mound	Mound - Barrow	Prehistoric	C9657024850	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT026:018	Mound	Mound: Possible Raised Rath Or Motte	E. Christ.	C9895009920	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY006:014	Mound	Mound, Possibly Motte	Uncertain	C7501033010	Causeway Coast and Glens

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
		Yes	LDY007:010	Mound	Piper's Hill. Long Mound: Piper's Hill	Uncertain	C8173028620	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY007:029	Mound	Mound, Possibly Signal Mound	Uncertain	C8771028830	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY007:042	Mound	Mound	Uncertain	C8788028680	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY011:015	Mound	Tappatowsie. Mound: Tappatowsie	Neolithic	C8749023830	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY011:023	Mound	Barrow	Uncertain	C8771022710	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY003:079	Occupation Site	Occupation Site	Neolithic	C8040035160	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	MRL006:001	Occupation Site	Flint Scatter and Occupation Layer	Prehistoric	C8436039870	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		MRL012:003	Occupation Site	Sandhill Occupation Site	Neolithic	C8060035400	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		MRL012:017	Occupation Site	Sandhill Occupation Site	Neolithic	C8020035100	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY002:501	Pier	Railway Bridge			Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY002:500	Pier	West Mole - Ihr 01376			Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY003:500	Pier	East Mole - Ihr 01376			Causeway Coast and Glens

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
	Yes		LDY003:078	Pillbox	WWii Pillbox - Dhp No.125	Modern	C7855036240	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY002:006	Promontory Fort	Dungannon Fort. Promontory Fort : Dungannon Fort	E. Christ.	C7596035040	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:004	Rath	Platform Rath	E. Christ.	C9621025300	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:006	Rath	Raised Rath	E. Christ.	C9692026580	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT017:007	Rath	Raised Rath	E. Christ.	C9800027120	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT022:006	Rath	Raised Rath	E. Christ.	C9668020950	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		ANT026:002	Rath	Raised Rath	E. Christ.	C9364014880	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT026:013	Rath	Lisnacannon. Multivallate Rath: Lisnacannon	E. Christ.	C9975011920	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT031:008	Rath	Grannystown Counterscarp Rath With Four House Platforms: Grannystown	E. Christ.	C9912007100	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	ANT031:019	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	D0091004580	Mid and East Antrim

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
		Yes	ANT032:035	Rath	Rath And Structures	E. Christ.	D0534004600	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	ANT037:035	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	J0566099010	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	ANT037:039	Rath	Counterscarp Rath	E. Christ.	J0472097200	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	LDY002:004	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	C7738034130	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY003:006	Rath	Cashlandoo. Raised Rath: Cashlandoo	E. Christ.	C8228036320	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY006:010	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	C7551031990	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY006:013	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	C7523032700	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY007:014	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	C8331029410	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY007:015	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	C8305030100	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY008:001	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	C9083029840	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY011:006	Rath	Counterscarp Rath	E. Christ.	C8145025970	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY018:007	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	C8779015240	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY018:011	Rath	Lissatinny. Rath: Lisatinny	E. Christ.	C8385016350	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY047:004	Rath	Bivallate Rath	E. Christ.	H9356084730	Mid Ulster

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
		Yes	LDY033:003	Rath	Dunglady Fort. Multivallate Rath & Quaker Graveyard: Dunglady Fort	E. Christ.	C8971004070	Mid Ulster
		Yes	LDY033:005	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	C8921005690	Mid Ulster
		Yes	LDY042:006	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	H9200093250	Mid Ulster
		Yes	LDY047:005	Rath	Counterscarp Rath	E. Christ.	H9396084900	Mid Ulster
		Yes	ANT036:005	Rath	Counterscarp Rath	E. Christ.	D0047302265	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY027:001	Rath	Bivallate Rath	E. Christ.	C8858809064	Mid Ulster
		Yes	LDY037:009	Rath	Rath	E. Christ.	C9137501007	Mid Ulster
		Yes	ANT032:036	Rath & Souterrain	Rath & Souterrain	E. Christ.	D0513004530	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	ANT032:037	Rath & Souterrain	Rath & Souterrain	E. Christ.	D0452004490	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	LDY047:006	Rathpossible	RATH	UNCERTAIN	H9282085200	Mid Ulster
		Yes	LDY006:009	Rock Fortification	Duncethirn, Lungern, Sconce Hill, Giant's Sconce, Duncethirn. Rock Fortification: Giant's Sconce or Duncethirn	Uncertain	C7724029830	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY007:045	Settlement	Macosquin, Merchant Taylors' Buildings. Plantation Village Site with Mill, House	Post-Med	C8250028800	Causeway Coast and Glens

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
					& Bawn: Macosquin Or Merchant Taylors' Buildings			
	Yes		LDY019:003	Settlement	Movanagher Castle. Plantation Castle, Bawn & Village Site: Movanagher Castle	Post-Med	C9203015890	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY012:005	Settlement	Agivey, Agivey Bawn, Ironmongers' Buildings. Plantation Village Site, House, Bawn & Mill: Agivey, Agivey Bawn & Ironmongers' Buildings	Post-Med	C9011822884	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY002:007	Settlement Site	Prehistoric Sandhills Settlement Site	Neolithic	C7817335696	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY007:037	Settlement Site	Moundsandel Mesolithic Settlement Site: Moundsandel	Mesolithic	C8533830749	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		ANT036:029	Standing Stone	Standing Stone	Prehistoric	H9877097040	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	LDY006:011	Standing Stone	Standing Stone	Prehistoric	C7811032310	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		ANT036:026	Standing Stone	Standing Stone	Prehistoric	C9875202459	Mid and East Antrim

Protection	Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	SMRNo	General Type	Detailed Type	Period	Grid Reference	Council
		Yes	ANT026:015	Standing Stone	Standing Stone	Prehistoric	C9923510607	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	ANT037:007	Standing Stone	Standing Stone	Prehistoric	D0486302480	Mid and East Antrim
		Yes	ANT043:032	Standing Stone	Standing Stone	Prehistoric	J0593394023	Antrim and Newtownabbey
		Yes	LDY003:072	Standing Stone	Standing Stone	Prehistoric	C8254337325	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY003:011	Standing Stone	The White Wife, Cloghagalla Standing Stone: The White Wife, Cloghagalla	Prehistoric	C8474938719	Causeway Coast and Glens
		Yes	LDY011:017	Sweat House	Sweat House	Uncertain	C8028824495	Causeway Coast and Glens
	Yes		LDY002:019	World War II Defence	WWII Pillbox, Dhp No.290			Causeway Coast and Glens

Appendix 8 -Funding Opportunities

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
Rural Tourism Scheme under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	<p>There will be three calls for applications</p> <p>2016: First Call</p> <p>Expressions of interest – call closed 26/02/16</p> <p>Closed call for application – deadline TBC</p> <p>2016: Second Call</p> <p>Expressions of interest call - 01/08/16 – 19/08/16</p> <p>Closed call for application – 05/09/16 – 30/09/16</p> <p>2017: Third Call</p> <p>Expressions of interest call - 31/07/17 – 18/08/17</p> <p>Closed call for application – 04/09/17 – 29/09/17</p>	£500,000 (75%)	£166,666 (25%)	£666,666	<p>Projects should provide long term tourism impact for the community in the rural area.</p> <p>Projects should align with the aims and objectives of Tourism NI and should as priority target out of state visitors.</p> <p>Projects will be typically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital infrastructure • Provide increase in out of state visitors • Job creating (during capital build and after completion) • Promote / encourage Partnership approach with other statutory organisations sharing a common goal • Flagship unique type / notable / high impact rural tourism focused actions <p>N.B. Applications may only be made by local authorities</p>
Rural Basic Services Scheme under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	Estimated November 2016	£250,000 (75%) TBC	£82,500 (25%) TBC	£332,500 TBC	<p>Support for investments in the setting up, improvement or expansion of local basic services for the rural population including leisure and culture, and the related infrastructure.</p> <p>Projects must relate to the main theme of Innovative Service Delivery. Infrastructure will be limited to small-scale developments however there may be derogations from this rule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing facilities to provide services for rural communities

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing community enterprises to provide services for rural communities e.g. childcare/eldercare • Demonstration or pilot projects to enhance existing service provision • Recreational, cultural and leisure activities <p>The following beneficiaries are eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Voluntary Sector (inc Social Economy Enterprises engaged in non-economic activity) • Local Council • Strategic Public Body e.g. Health Authority • Local Council /Private Partnership (where the Local Council is the grant recipient) • Local Council / Community Voluntary Sector partnership (where the Local Council is the grant recipient) <p>This will be administered Local Action Groups (LAGS) via local authorities.</p> <p>More information available at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/leader</p>

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
Rural Business Investment Scheme under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	TBC – varies for each LAG	<p>New micro business Capital Grant £5,000 - £30,000</p> <p>Existing micro enterprise Capital Grant £5,000 - £50,000</p> <p>Existing Small Enterprise Capital Grant £5,000 - £90,000</p> <p>All micro and small businesses may also apply for technical support, bespoke training and marketing support £500 - £5000</p>	<p>Up to 50% for the private sector and social economy enterprises</p> <p>Up to 50% for all applicants</p>		<p>Support is provided for capital investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities in rural areas for all micro and small enterprises.</p> <p>A micro enterprise is an enterprise with less than 10 employees; a small enterprise is an enterprise with less than 50 employees. This might be either an activity which is new for an existing enterprise</p> <p>1 (or an expansion of an existing activity leading to job creation) or a new business start-up.</p> <p>Beneficiaries under this support option are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Individuals (18 years of age or over) in rural areas • Micro or small enterprises (performing non-agricultural activity) • Social Economy Enterprises engaged in economic activities in rural areas Eligibility conditions <p>This will be administered Local Action Groups (LAGS) via local authorities.</p> <p>More information available at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/leader</p>

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
Rural Broadband Scheme under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	TBC – varies for each LAG	£100,000 (75%)	£25,000 (25%)	£125,000	<p>This scheme will provide financial support (£2m) to fill the gap for rural dwellers who cannot avail of broadband and will help address the very rural ‘not spots’ that are not within the scope of any other government initiatives. Funding will be limited to small broadband infrastructure schemes that will involve innovative community led solutions for local access.</p> <p>The following beneficiaries are eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Voluntary Sector (inc Social Economy Enterprises) • Local Council • Local Council /Private Partnership (where the Local Council is the grant recipient) • Local Council / Community Voluntary Sector partnership (where the Local Council is the grant recipient) <p>The following beneficiaries are eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Voluntary Sector (inc Social Economy Enterprises) • Local Council • Local Council /Private Partnership (where the Local Council is the grant recipient) • Local Council / Community Voluntary Sector partnership (where the Local Council is the grant recipient) <p>This will be administered Local Action Groups (LAGS) via local authorities.</p> <p>More information available at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/leader</p>

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
Village Renewal Scheme under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	TBC – varies for each LAG	Capital Grant £5,000 - £500,000 (75%) Technical support and bespoke training £500 - £5,000 (75%)	£1,250 - £125,000 (25%) £125 - £1,250 (25%)	£6,250 – £625,000 £725 - £6,250	<p>The Village Renewal Scheme will provide financial support (£8m) primarily for the drafting of integrated village plans and also for the renewal of rural villages through Village Plans. The village plan is a working document that has the support of the community. It should provide a needs based strategic framework to co-ordinate specific development actions.</p> <p>Support for Village Renewal must fit with the Council Community Plans and integrate with the Village Renewal plans supported under the 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme. 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.</p> <p>The beneficiaries of the Village Renewal Scheme are local authorities and community groups. Local authorities must work in partnership with the rural community to roll out the village plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Council • Local Council / Community Voluntary Sector partnership (where the Local Council is the grant recipient) <p>This will be administered Local Action Groups (LAGS) via local authorities.</p> <p>More information available at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/leader</p>

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
<p>Sport Northern Ireland Everybody Active 2020</p> <p>Outdoor Spaces Programme</p>	<p>Estimated June 2016 Launch</p> <p>Estimated Open call for applications September 2016</p>	£120,000 (50%)	<p>£120,000 (50%)</p> <p>May be utilised to match above RDP Basic Services</p>	£240,000	<p>Key Funding Aim: To increase quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions.</p> <p>Key Target Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with a disability (all ages) • Women (>16 years old) • Older people (drop-off marked from mid-40s onwards) • Most economically disadvantaged <p>Key Outdoor Spaces Programme Aim: Establishing more places for self-guided activity, e.g. walking trails; cycle routes and pump tracks</p> <p>Further criteria and application process is currently being finalised, however consultation indicates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £130k maximum funding per project • Limited to 2 per council area • Challenge Fund style application process
<p>Heritage Lottery Fund, Northern Ireland</p> <p>Our Heritage</p>	<p>There are no application deadlines for this programme; applications can be made at any time and are turned around within 8 weeks.</p>	£10,000 to £100,000 (100%)	£0	£10,000 to £100,000	<p>The Our Heritage open programme is for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK.</p> <p>As a minimum, HLF expect projects to achieve one outcome for heritage and one outcome for people.</p> <p>Outcomes for heritage:</p> <p>With HLF investment, heritage will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better managed • in better condition • better interpreted and explained identified/recorded

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
					<p>Outcomes for people: With HLF investment, people will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed skills • learnt about heritage • changed their attitudes and/or behaviour • had an enjoyable experience • volunteered time <p>Outcomes for communities: With HLF investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negative environmental impacts will be reduced • more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage • your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit • your local economy will be boosted • your organisation will be more resilient <p>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.</p> <p>More Information available at: https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes</p>

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
<p>Heritage Lottery Fund, Northern Ireland</p> <p>Heritage Grants</p>	<p>The application process is in two rounds with success at the second-round stage involving substantial development work</p> <p>Deadlines for first round applications:</p> <p>16 June 2016 for a decision in September 2016</p> <p>4 August 2016 for a decision in November 2016</p>	<p>£100,000 (up to £2 million or £5 million).</p>	<p>If your total grant request is less than £1million, you must contribute at least 5% of the costs of your development phase and 5% of the costs of your delivery phase.</p> <p>If your total grant request is £1million or more, you must contribute at least 10% of the costs of your development phase and 10% of the costs of your delivery phase.</p>	<p>Varies as per project total</p>	<p>The Heritage Grants open programme is for any type of project related to the national, regional or local heritage in the UK.</p> <p>As a minimum, HLF expect projects to achieve the following:</p> <p>For projects requesting less than £2million:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one outcome for heritage; and • one outcome for people; and • one outcome for communities <p>For projects requesting £2million or more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than one outcome for heritage; and • more than one outcome for people; and • more than one outcome for communities <p>Outcomes for heritage:</p> <p>With HLF investment, heritage will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better managed • in better condition • better interpreted and explained identified/recorded <p>Outcomes for people:</p> <p>With HLF investment, people will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed skills • learnt about heritage • changed their attitudes and/or behaviour • had an enjoyable experience • volunteered time <p>Outcomes for communities:</p> <p>With HLF investment:</p>

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negative environmental impacts will be reduced • more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage • your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit • your local economy will be boosted • your organisation will be more resilient <p>Under this programme, HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations; and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations.</p> <p>More Information available at: https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes</p>
Heritage Lottery Fund, Northern Ireland Park and Places	<p>The application process is in two rounds with success at the second-round stage involving substantial development work</p> <p>Deadlines for first round applications:</p> <p>1 September 2016 for a decision in December 2016</p> <p>29 February 2017 for a decision in June 2017</p> <p>The same deadlines apply to second-round applications and supporting documents.</p>	£100,000 up to £5 million	<p>If your total grant request is less than £1million, you must contribute at least 5% of the costs of your development phase and 5% of the costs of your delivery phase.</p> <p>If your total grant request</p>		<p>The Parks for People programme is for projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in the UK.</p> <p>Projects need to contribute to 10 outcomes</p> <p>Outcomes for heritage:</p> <p>With our investment, heritage will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better managed • in better condition • better interpreted and explained • identified/recorded <p>Outcomes for people:</p> <p>With our investment, people will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed skills • learnt about heritage • volunteered time

Fund	Open for Application	Maximum Funding Available	Match Funding Required	Total	Criteria Overview
	<p>These must be received up to 26 months after the first-round decision</p>		<p>is £1million or more, you must contribute at least 10% of the costs of your development phase and 10% of the costs of your delivery phase.</p>		<p>Outcomes for communities:</p> <p>With our investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit • negative environmental impacts will be reduced • more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage <p>Under this programme, HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations; and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations.</p> <p>More Information available at: https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes</p>

Appendix 9 - Sources (Literature review)

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- Tourism NI - Unique Outdoors - A practical guide to experiential tourism in NI
- Tourism NI – Visitor Attitude Surveys, 2014 (Lough Neagh and Its Waterways/ Causeway Coast and Glens)
- Ulster Farmers Union – Consultation response on a new Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for NI, February 2013
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- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation
- Waterways Ireland - Built Heritage Survey of the Lower Bann Waterway, Fred Hamond, 2013
- Waterways Ireland – Corporate Plan, 2014 – 2016
- Waterways Ireland and Georgina Campbell’s Guides - A Taste of the Waterways Favourite Places to Eat, Drink and Stay, 2013 Edition
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 - North Shannon and Shannon Erne Waterway Catchment, Scott Wilson, 2010
 - The Erne Recreational, Scott Wilson, 2011
 - Grand Canal Rural, Tourism Development International
 - Lough Derg Sustainable Marina Recreational and Tourism Development Study, Scott Wilson, 2008
 - Action Plan for Grand Canal Dock and Spencer Dock, Brady Shipman Martin, 2013
- Waterways Ireland - Waterway Users Research 2010 and 2014
- World Travel and Tourism Council - Travel and Tourism Economic Impact 2014

Appendix 10 – Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland Segmentation

Tourism NI Segments		Tourism Ireland Segments	
NI & ROI		Great Britain, Germany, France, North America	
Market segment	Motivators	Market segment	Motivators
Time Together	Romance, cool nightlife, gentle walking, shopping, relaxation, good quality food and drink, natural scenery, contemporary cultural experiences, landmarks.	Social Energisers	Lively pubs, good food, talking to locals, festivals, entertainment, street art, comedy, the cool places to eat and shop, fun visitor attractions.
Mature Cosmopolitans	Curiosity, authenticity, insight, exploration, eating out, natural beauty, relaxation, good quality food and drink, scenic drives, theatre experience, authentic pub experience.	Culturally Curious	Megalithic or early Christian sites, castles, gardens, museums, art galleries, good food and wine especially local specialties, unique local festivals and events.
Family Fun	Fun, quality time, safe, child orientated attractions and entertainment, memories, value for money offers, family accommodation, café, activities.	Great Escapers	Breath-taking landscapes, remote and exciting places, fun evening in an authentic pub, gentle exploration – walking, cycling, boating.
Young and Lively (ROI only)	Entertainment, cool nightlife, the ‘wow’ factor, city experience, contemporary culture and music festivals, events, the local scene, street animation.		

Appendix 11 – Tourism Audit

This is the summary of the audit of the tourism product and services along the 5 mile corridor of the Lower Bann. In total, the audit exercise identified 800 tourism products along the 5 mile corridor of the Lower Bann. Some operators have multiple facilities e.g. Hotel, Restaurant and Bar / Marina, Café and Caravan Site/ Gallery, Retail, Café. These businesses are only listed once and under the main category of business operation.

Facilities with no or little online presence may not be identified and smaller facilities in remote rural areas and outside the main centres may not have been identified, nor will many facilities e.g. cafes identify themselves as tourist related. Equally, some facilities may have closed but still be included on web sites.

We have sought to include only those facilities that, in our judgement, are most likely to attract discretionary visitor spend and offer something that would be appealing to visitors. Therefore independent, locally owned cafes and restaurants are included while chain catering outlets such as McDonalds and Costa Coffee are not. Craft shops are included while newsagents are not.

Type Business	Number of Categories and Total Businesses
Accommodation	
Bed & Breakfast	113
Caravan & Camping	9
Guest House	2
Guesthouse	14
Hostel	7
Hotel	21
Self Catering	433
Accommodation Total	599
Activities	
Angling	3
Archery	1
Bike Hire	3
Boat Hire	1
Boat Trips	5
Canoeing	3
Cookery School	1
Cruises	1
Diving	1
Family Attraction	3
Fishery	3
Golf	10
Horse riding	6
Karting	1
Leisure Complex	1
Outdoor Activities	6

Type Business	Number of Categories and Total Businesses
Paintball	1
Rowing	1
Sailing	2
Sea Fishing	3
Sea Safaris	1
Shooting	1
Sky Diving	2
Studio	1
Surfing	4
Tours	9
Water skiing	1
Water sports	1
Activities Total	76
Art Gallery / Craft / retail	
Crafts	3
Gallery	5
Outdoor	2
Pottery	1
Art Gallery / Craft / retail Total	11
Boat Supplies	
Boat Supplies	1
Boat Supplies Total	1
Food / Beverage Operation	
Cafes	22
Restaurant / Bar	42
Food / Beverage Operation Total	64
Garden Centre & Restaurant	
Garden Centre & Restaurant	1
Garden Centre & Restaurant Total	1
Health & wellbeing	
Health & wellbeing	2
Health & wellbeing Total	2
Marina	
Berthing	3
Berthing, Camping & Picnic Area & Motor Home Facility	1
Marina, Caravan & Camping	1
Marina Total	5

Type Business	Number of Categories and Total Businesses
Visitor Attraction	
Beaching	1
Family Attraction	17
Fish Farm	1
Historic Attraction	10
Museum	4
Nature reserve	1
Parks & Gardens	3
Tours	1
Visitor Attraction Total	38
Visitor Information	
VIC	3
Visitor Information Total	3
Total Businesses	800

Appendix 12 - Consultations

- Nora O'Neill, Portglenone Enterprise Group
- Damien Clarke, Portglenone Enterprise Group
- Norman Worthington, Portglenone Enterprise Group
- Kieran Adams, Portglenone Enterprise Group
- Sharon Mulhern, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
- John Eltham, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Máire Clarke, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
- Sinead McEvoy, Principal Planning Officer, Mid Ulster
- Ian Irwin, Head of Forest Management Forest Services
- Ruth Bond, Senior Engineer Rivers Agency
- Mert Thompson, Water Management Unit DAERA
- Brian Mullan, Waterways Ireland
- Michael Browne, Mid Ulster Council
- Clare Jones, Outdoor Recreation NI
- Diane Crookes, Outdoor Recreation NI
- David Laughlin, fisherman and advisor to The Honourable Irish Society
- Derek Buckley, fisherman and advisor to The Honourable Irish Society
- Jim Wilson, fisherman and advisor to The Honourable Irish Society
- Robbie Marshall, Ulster Angling Federation
- William Oliver (Chairman), Coleraine Harbour Commissioners
- Ian Donaghey, Coleraine Harbour Commissioners
- Pat McKeegan, (Harbour Master) Coleraine Harbour Commissioners
- Ashley Hunter, Canoe Association NI
- Conor McKinney, Ulster Wildlife Trust
- Dave Wall, Ulster Wildlife Trust
- Stephen Hodge, Simply Sea Kayak
- Lawrence McBride, Far and Wild
- Seamus Burns, RSPB
- Chris Murphy, Lough Beg for Life
- Una Johnston, TIDAL Toome
- Aubrey Irwin, Tourism Ireland
- Rosalind Mulholland, Ballyscullion House and Lough Beg for Life
- Richard Mulholland, Ballyscullion House and Lough Beg for Life

Consultation meeting, Toome, 27th April 2016

- Brian Cassells RBLNA Committee member
- Pat Close, Chief Executive, Lough Neagh Fishermen's Cooperative Society
- Stephen Douglas, Waterways Ireland
- Brian Duffin, TIDAL Chairman and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Una Johnston, Company Secretary TIDAL
- John Laverty, TIDAL Member
- Kathleen McBride, Tourism NI
- Drew Nelson RBLNA Chairman
- Nora O'Neill, Portglenone Enterprise Group
- Jimmy Thornton, TIDAL
- Alastair Uprichard RBLNA Hon. Sec.
- Kerr Woolsey, TIDAL Director

Consultation meeting, Coleraine, 28th April 2016

- Charlie Adjei, Causeway Lass, Charter Boat Working Group, Irish Federation of Sea Angling
- David Boyle, Newferry Waterski Club, County Antrim Paddle Sports Club
- Ivan Campbell, RHYA and Coleraine Yacht Club, Past Commodore
- Cathy Chauhan, Lough Neagh Fishermen's Co-op, Product Development Manager
- Seamus Connor, Inland Fisheries, Chief Fisheries Officer
- Denzyl Dinsmore, Coleraine Yacht club, LN & LB Associates,
- Stephen Douglas, Waterways Ireland
- David Flinn, Ulster Federation of Walking Clubs
- Richard Gillen, Coast and Countryside Unit, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
- Ivor Hanna, Hanna Boats
- Hazel Hannah, Hanna Boats
- Liam Hickey, Rotary Club of Coleraine, President
- Ashley Hunter, Canoe Association of Northern Ireland
- John Kane, DCAL Inland Fisheries
- Ciarian Kinney, Mountaineering Ireland
- Keith Leighton, Bann Rowing Club, Captain
- Mike McClure, SportNI
- Phyllis McGraw, Woodhall Education centre
- Paul McIlwaine, Bannside Ramblers
- Andrew McQuiggan, Irish Waterski and Wakeboard Federation, President
- Vonnie McWilliams, Causeway Coast Kayak Association, Secretary

- Gerry Meehan, EA Youth Service
- Teddy Roughan, DCAL N Area Fisheries Officer
- Rob Skelly, The Edge Watersports, Crannagh Activity Centre Owner, Harbour Commissioner, Irish Waterski and Wakeboard Federation, Lower Bann Watersports Club
- Mark Strong, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
- Kate Thompson, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Director

Steering Group

- Norma Herron, Marketing and Communications, Waterways Ireland
- Stephen Douglas, Senior Engineer, Lower Bann Navigation, Waterways Ireland
- Richard Gillen, Coast and Countryside Manager, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
- Christine Butler, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
- Paul Kelly, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Charmain Bell, Mid Ulster Council
- Kathleen McBride, Tourism NI
- Mike McClure, Sport NI
- Edward Montgomery, The Honourable Irish Society
- Chris Scott, Outdoor Recreation NI



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