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## Mid Ulster District Council Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan

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Prepared by Outdoor Recreation NI on behalf of Mid Ulster  
District Council

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March 2020

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## ACRONYMS

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
CANI	Canoe Association Northern Ireland
DEA	District Electoral Area
DAERA	Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure
DfC	Department of Communities
DFI	Department of Infrastructure
FSNI	Forest Service NI
GIS	Geographic Information System
ILDRA	Irish Long-Distance Riders Association
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LPS	Landscape Partnership Scheme
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUDC	Mid Ulster District Council
NCN	National Cycle Network
NGB	National Governing Body
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIOA	Northern Ireland Orienteering Association
NNR	National Nature Reserve
ORAP	Outdoor Recreation Action Plan
ORNI	Outdoor Recreation NI
PROW	Public Right of Way
RDP	Rural Development Programme
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SGLP	Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership
SPA	Special Protection Area
TNI	Tourism NI
UAF	Ulster Angling Federation
UHGPC	Ulster Hang Gliding and Paragliding School
URRA	Ulster Rural Riders Association

## FOREWORD

Please note that this report is not an exhaustive list of all current outdoor recreation within Mid Ulster. The results recorded are based on the information received through consultation with various organisations and local groups.

Although every endeavour has been taken to ensure accuracy in mapping, some trails, sites, public land and activities may appear under-represented due to a lack of feedback or limited response.

This report and Action Plan however do provide a comprehensive picture of the status of current outdoor recreation and opportunities for future development in the Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) area.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) was commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) to prepare an Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the Council area which will provide direction for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment over the period 2020-2025 within the Mid Ulster District Council area.

Given the special qualities of the area, it is vital that any Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the area takes a balanced approach to ensure that the very resource which provides the opportunities for recreation and enjoyment is protected and managed appropriately.

It is well recognised that outdoor recreation realises significant benefits both in personal terms to individual participants and in wider terms to society, the economy and the environment. More specifically this includes getting more people active and therefore generating cost savings to the health service, improving the educational attainment of children and young people, supporting people into education, employment and training for example, through volunteering, increasing social capital and creating economic prosperity through tourism.

MUDC area covers an area of some 1714 km<sup>2</sup>, straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east. The MUDC area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area (DEA) namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola and Torrent.

The outdoors of the MUDC area has undoubtedly a high-quality natural resource base, both spatially extensive and diverse in nature. The area includes forests, woodlands, loughs, wetlands, canals, rivers, uplands and open land. This extensiveness and diversity of the resource base lends itself to the provision of opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreation activities for both the local population and for an increasing number of visitors to the area.

Within the area, the key providers of outdoor recreation are Forest Service NI (FSNI), MUDC, NIEA, Waterways Ireland, DAERA, RSPB, Woodland Trust, National Trust and the Ulster Wildlife Trust. In addition, a significant contribution to the provision of outdoor recreation within the Mid Ulster area is made from community associations, private sector activity providers and through initiatives such as the Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership, the Blackwater Regional Partnership and the Lough Neagh Partnership.

An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, public and private landowners, outdoor activity providers, community associations and groups, clubs, SORF members and the general public. In addition, seven public consultation events took place, one in each of the Council's seven DEAs.

From the consultation process several key issues regarding the current and future management, development and promotion of outdoor recreation in MUDC were identified. These included:

#### Management:

- there is some provision within the MUDC's new staff structure for posts related to the development, management and promotion of outdoor recreation.
- few mechanisms exist within MUDC to encourage collaboration between the many different organisations and interest groups involved in outdoor recreation across the area. These include landowners/land managers, NGBs, private sector activity providers and service providers
- there is disparity between the number and quality of outdoor recreation sites that currently exists based on the boundaries of the former three legacy Councils.
- monitoring and consequently understanding the level of use being made of sites across MUDC is limited with only a few key sites having counters in place to record user numbers.

#### Development:

- current provision is concentrated in several geographic areas and these are particularly important in determining the area's future outdoor recreation proposition namely; the Lower Bann, western shores of Lough Neagh, the Clogher Valley corridor, the area that falls within the Sperrins AONB and the Blackwater /Ulster Canal Corridor.
- there are several key activity sites across the area that are important and will continue to remain so in determining the area's future outdoor recreation proposition.
- whilst all 22 Forests across the area provide local recreation opportunities, some forests have the potential if developed appropriately, to attract visitors from outside the MUDC area.
- in terms of specific activities, the area already offers good walking, mountain biking, canoeing, orienteering and angling opportunities but there is still significant opportunity to develop specific products further to increase the outdoor recreation product.
- several initiatives currently being developed have the potential to create 'stand out' recreation products namely; the Clogher Valley and Ulster Canal Greenways, the Lower Bann Blueway, the Heaney Trails, Davagh Forest and the western shores of Lough Neagh (Ballyronan/Traad).
- whilst the area already has several informal walking trails around villages and along river corridors, there is an overwhelmingly demand for a formal network of Community Trails to be developed across the area.
- specific bodies/initiatives have and will continue to play a significant role in the development of local outdoor recreation initiatives e.g. Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, local community groups and private sector activity providers.

#### Promotion:

- there is an absence of a strategic approach to the communication and marketing of information on outdoor recreation.
- information available on the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Mid Ulster particularly through the existing MUDC channels such as the Council website is currently limited.
- the experience to date with MountainbikeNI.com and WalkNI.com has shown that there are also other highly effective mechanisms, external to the Council's core channels, to promote the opportunities available.

- some of the more niche customers such as camping and caravans are provided with good levels of information, but the more 'mass' offering to local people or visitors on outdoor recreation and parks is insufficient.
- there is some discrepancy between the sites of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area in the provision and quality of onsite visitor information and signage particularly within the area's forests. In addition, partly due to the legacy of each Council, there is an absence of identity in the visitor information and signage.
- there is an expressed desire by local people in the MUDC area to have better access to information on the outdoor recreation opportunities available across MUDC.
- the integration between key areas of the Council, including Leisure and Tourism, to collate, disseminate and promote information on outdoor recreation in a meaningful way to local people and visitors is limited.
- the Marketing and Communication Team at MUDC are currently reviewing their plans for key platforms. There is a clear direction to simplify and integrate the approach under the Council brand.

An Action Plan setting out 24 key recommendations costed at £4,763,047 over the next 5 years was developed. Of the total budget, 3.8% is towards staffing the implementation and delivery of the Plan.

The main recommendations were:

#### Management Structures:

- On-going review of staff structure
- Expand the membership of the Council's existing Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group.
- Put in place an adequately resourced rolling maintenance programme for all current and future outdoor recreation facilities.
- Monitor existing and develop where appropriate new SLAs with Community Groups for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities.
- Monitor existing and install new counters at outdoor recreation sites.

#### Master Planning:

- Undertake Master Planning/Feasibility Studies for three Regional Sites and four Local Sites.
- Develop a Community Trail Plan for each DEA.

#### Product Development:

- Support the development of the Lower Bann Blueway.
- Support the development of the Clogher Valley Greenway and the Ulster Canal Greenway.
- Develop 3 regional multi-use activity hubs.
- Develop 7 local multi-use activity hubs.
- Assess the feasibility of a canoe trail on the Lower Ballinderry River.
- Extend the Davagh Mountain Bike Trail system.
- Deliver the Clogher Valley off-road mountain biking trail
- Develop an off-road longer distance horse riding trail in the Clogher Valley.
- Develop short and medium distance walking trails.
- Develop a network of Community Trails across the area.

### Promotion/marketing

- Prepare a 5-year Marketing Strategy and tactical Marketing Action Plan.
- Develop visitor information and signage guidelines for all forest recreation sites.
- Undertake a review of signage, visitor information and waymarking at all outdoor recreation sites.
- Implement new visitor information and signage guidelines at all outdoor recreation sites across the area.
- Develop an Outdoor Recreation Participation Plan.
- Develop partnerships with the private sector to deliver outdoor recreation participation programmes.

# 1. BACKGROUND

## 1.1 Introduction

A survey undertaken for Sport England (2015) revealed that 89% of people value *outdoor spaces* like forests, lakes and waterways as much as they value leisure centres, pitches and courts for sport<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the survey highlighted that almost one third of those currently active outdoors want to do more with a further survey undertaken for Natural England in the same year, reporting that 94% of the adult population in England believe having access to green open spaces close to where they live is important and that spending time outdoors is an important part of their life<sup>2</sup>.

In Northern Ireland, walking is, by far, the most participated in physical activity. 65% of the population of Northern Ireland participate in walking and cycling whereas only 58% of the population take part in activities which typically take place in leisure centres including swimming, keep fit, weight training and football.

Despite the evidence, few policy makers and politicians truly value the contribution that outdoor recreation makes to society and consequently there has been a concerted effort recently across the UK to get outdoor recreation the recognition it deserves alongside sport.

This Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) area sets out a strategic framework for the period 2020-2025 in order to help reposition outdoor recreation within the Council. It will help improve co-ordination, collaboration, capacity and the Councils' capability to meet the current and future challenges in a way that maximises opportunities, benefits, investment and resources.

In addition, it will help consolidate into one joined up Plan previous pieces of work undertaken individually by the legacy Dungannon and South Tyrone, Magherafelt and Cookstown Councils.

Given the special qualities of the area, it is vital that any Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the area takes a balanced approach to ensure that the very resource which provides the opportunities for recreation and enjoyment is protected and managed appropriately.

## 1.2 Aim

The overall aim of the Strategy is:

'To prepare a Strategy that will provide direction for the sustainable development, management and promotion of future outdoor recreation facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment over the period 2020-2025 within the Mid Ulster District Council area'.

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<sup>1</sup> Getting Active Outdoors - Sport England (2015)

<sup>2</sup> MENE Report - Natural England (2015)

### 1.3 Objectives

In order to achieve the aim of the Strategy, the following objectives were carried out:

- detail and GIS map the nature and extent of current outdoor recreation provision in the MUDC area including;
  - all land, air and water-based activities
  - whether these take place on public and private land
  - both area and site-specific facilities
  - PROW and access agreements
- detail and GIS map the current land management bodies involved in outdoor recreation provision in the area - private, public, community, Forest Service NI (FSNI), NI Water, charitable trusts, etc.
- detail and GIS map all environmental designations across the region.
- outline the relevant context of outdoor recreation within the area, against what is happening at a regional and national level.
- conduct consultation with relevant stakeholders including Council elected representatives, Council Officers, local community, tourism and business sector, public bodies, national governing bodies (NGB) of sport and user groups to identify current outdoor recreation provision and aspirations for future development of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area.
- benchmark current provision and future development against other areas in the UK identifying current trends and best practice.
- complete a SWOT analysis identifying the issues which could potentially affect the success of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area moving forward.
- identify the future opportunities and priorities for both strategic development and site-specific development that will increase the outdoor recreation opportunities across the area for both the local population and visitors alike.
- undertake a financial review of current service resources impacting on existing outdoor recreation provision.
- produce a 5-year Action Plan (2020-2025) outlining clear recommendations and priorities for development and identify partner organisations who can help deliver the Plan's actions.
- cost the Action Plan providing estimates for both capital works and revenue costs and identify potential sources of funding to help deliver the Plan.

#### 1.4 Outdoor Recreation defined

The term outdoor recreation invokes many different images. For some it automatically triggers a stereotype of activities such as rock climbing, canoeing and orienteering. For others it has a much wider connotation including general leisure activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding. Outdoor recreation therefore includes all land, water and air activities normally found in a rural or urban fringe location that depend upon sustainable access to the natural environment including those which use built facilities but which have their roots in the outdoors and are predominantly reliant on the natural environment e.g. mountain biking, canoeing (Table 1). Outdoor Recreation spans all levels of participation, ranging from the informal to formalised and organised events.

<b>LAND</b>	<b>WATER</b>	<b>AIR</b>
Adventure Racing	Angling	Model Flying
Archery	Boat cruising	Gliding
Boot Camps	Canoeing	Hang Gliding and Paragliding
Bouldering	Coasteering	Micro-light Flying
Bush Craft	Diving	Sky Diving
Caving	Hover crafting	
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Rowing	
Climbing	Sailing	
Cycling (On-and Off-Road)	Stand Up Paddle boarding (SUP)	
Fell Running	Surfing	
High Ropes/Zip lines	Water ski-ng	
Horse riding	Wakeboarding	
Kite Buggy and Land Buggy	Jet ski-ing	
Mountain Biking		
Mountain Boarding		
Orienteering		
Paintballing and Combat		
Segway		
Walking		
Zorbing		

Table 1 Outdoor Recreation Defined

## 1.5 Benefits of Outdoor Recreation

It is well documented that participation in outdoor recreation realises significant benefits both in personal terms to individual participants and in wider terms to society, the economy and the environment.

More specifically this includes getting more people active and therefore generating cost savings to the health service, improving the educational attainment of children and young people, supporting people into education, employment and training for example through volunteering, increasing social capital and creating economic prosperity through tourism.

### 1.5.1 Health and Well-Being

The link between active outdoor recreation participation and improved physical and mental health is well documented through research<sup>3</sup>. It is known that it contributes to the reduction of illnesses such as type 2 diabetes, some types of cancer, osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease, can help tackle obesity and reduce the risk of depression, dementia and Alzheimer's.

In addition, contact with green spaces and natural environments is also known to improve psychological well-being, by improving self-perception and self-esteem, mood and sleep quality and by reducing levels of anxiety and fatigue<sup>4</sup>

A recent report (September 2016) has indicated that outdoor exercise delivers an estimated £2.2bn of health benefits to adults in England each year and therefore natural environments should be protected and managed for health promotion<sup>5</sup>

### 1.5.2 Environmental Awareness

Participation in outdoor recreation is also one of the main ways of developing environmental awareness and care for the outdoors. Although the majority of the Northern Ireland population now lives in towns and cities, enjoying and using the outdoors enables many people to become aware and develop an understanding of the natural environment and its landscapes, wildlife, history and culture. For those who take up environmental volunteering, social return on investment research shows that £1 invested in environmental volunteering can lead to a return of up to £4<sup>6</sup>. It has also been shown that people who volunteer in sport have a 10% greater self-esteem, emotional well-being and resilience and are 15% less likely to worry<sup>7</sup>

### 1.5.3 Community Cohesion and Social inclusion

The added value that outdoor recreation can bring to communities, particularly through increased social capital has become increasingly recognised over the past few years. Outdoor recreation promotes social inclusion, making communities become more cohesive and stronger. Research has shown that higher levels of social capital are associated with better health, higher educational achievement, better employment outcomes and lower crime rates.

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<sup>3</sup> A Countryside for health and well-being- the physical and mental health benefits of green exercise (CRN, 2005)

<sup>4</sup> Learning in the Natural Environment, Understanding the diverse benefits of learning in natural environments (Natural England, 2012)

<sup>5</sup> BBC online news. 20 September 2016. Kinver (2016)

<sup>6</sup> Inspiring People, Improving Places. (BCTV, 2010)

<sup>7</sup> Hidden Demands – uncovering the true value of sport volunteers (Join In, 2015)



#### 1.5.4 Growing the Economy

In 2013, SportNI, NIEA and Tourism NI published a report on the economic contribution of outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland which found that outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland generated £102million gross added value and that the sector employs more than 3,537 Full Time Equivalent<sup>8</sup>.

In addition, the importance of outdoor recreation development on the local economy through tourism is significant. The outdoor adventure tourism sector was estimated by Mintel to be worth €128m in Northern Ireland in 2013, increasing to €146m<sup>9</sup> by 2018, whilst in Wales, outdoor activity tourism contributes £481 million per annum to the economy<sup>10</sup>, in the Republic of Ireland overseas visitors engaging in activity tourism are worth €1.2 billion per annum<sup>11</sup> and in England 42.4 million adults visiting the natural environment generate a total visitor spend of £21 billion per annum<sup>12</sup>.

## 2. SCOPE

### 2.1 Project Area

MUDC covers an area of some 1714 km<sup>2</sup>, straddles two counties, running from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south and from the Sperrin Mountains in the west to the shores of Lough Neagh in the east.

The MUDC area is divided into 7 District Electoral Area (DEA) namely; Carntogher, Clogher Valley, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Moyola and Torrent (Fig.1).

The Council serves a population of over 141,000, one third of which live in urban areas. The area's principal towns are Cookstown, Coalisland, Dungannon, Magherafelt and Maghera. Two thirds of its population live in rural areas.

The outdoors of the MUDC area has undoubtedly a high-quality natural resource base, both spatially extensive and diverse in nature. The area includes forests, woodlands, loughs, wetlands, canals, rivers, uplands and open land. This extensiveness and diversity of the resource base lends itself to the provision of opportunities for a wide range of outdoor recreation activities for both the local population and for an increasing number of visitors to the area.

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<sup>8</sup> Assessing the Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation in NI (SportNI, NEA, NUITB, 2013)

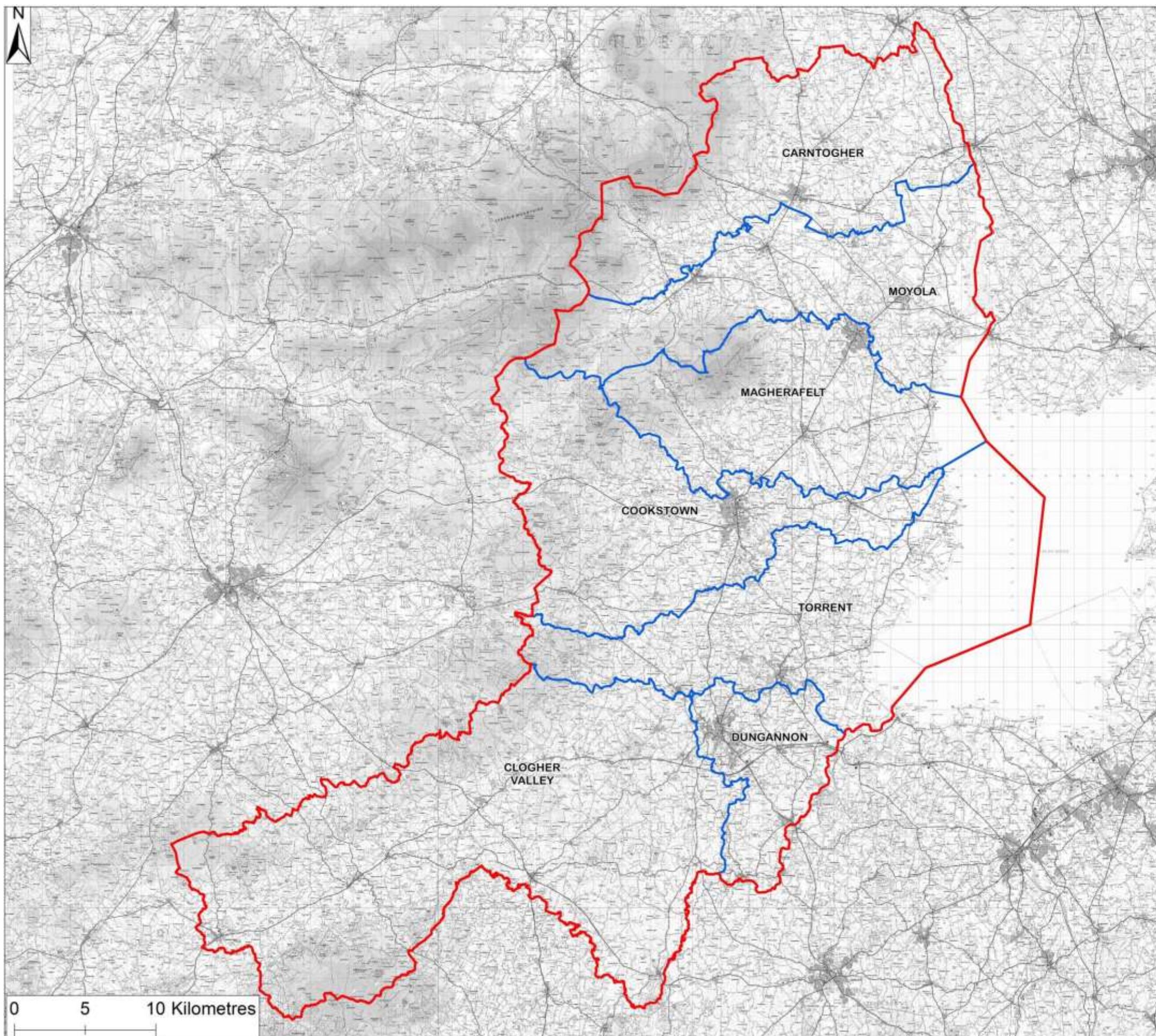
<sup>9</sup> Information from Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2021 (BTS, 2016)

<sup>10</sup> The Economic Impact of Outdoor Activity Tourism in Wales (Visit Wales, 2014)

<sup>11</sup> Survey of Overseas Travellers (Failte Ireland, 2011)

<sup>12</sup> MENE Survey 2012-2013. (Natural England, 2014)





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

DEA - Overview

1:125,000

**Key**  
 DEA Boundaries  
 MUDC Boundary

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Figure 1. District Electoral Areas within MUDC



The exceptional quality of many of Mid Ulster's landscapes and waterscapes, together with the recognition of the need to protect and conserve its rich natural resources for future generations is reflected in the scale and range of environmental designations across the area.

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

The Mid Ulster area includes seven different types of statutory natural heritage designations ranging from National to European level (Fig.2). The study area incorporates:

- 23 Landscape Character Areas (LCA)
- 1 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- 48 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)
- 10 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- 3 National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- 4 Ramsar sites; and
- 2 Special Protection Areas (SPA)

(see Appendix A for details)

Mid Ulster also has a substantial amount of Ancient Woodland. Ancient woodland is considered NI's richest land-based wildlife habitat, as well as one of the most important cultural links to the past, and once lost, cannot be replaced. Of the 1,457 hectares of Ancient Woodland present in Mid Ulster, 41% is owned by Forest Service NI (FSNI) (590 hectares). Ancient Woodland is largely undesignated but has the potential to become a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Mid Ulster is also awash with built heritage and features of archaeological interest (Fig.3) including the Beaghmore Stone Circles, Creggandevsky Court Tomb and Anya's Tomb.

Within the area there are:

- 212 features listed on NIEA's Scheduled Monuments Record as being under 'state care', 'scheduled', 'state care and scheduled' or 'listed'
- 198 Scheduled Areas;
- 1301 Listed Buildings<sup>13</sup>

(see Appendix B for list of Scheduled Areas)

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<sup>13</sup> NIEA's SMR can be found at: [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/built-home/protection/scheduled\\_monuments-2.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/built-home/protection/scheduled_monuments-2.htm)



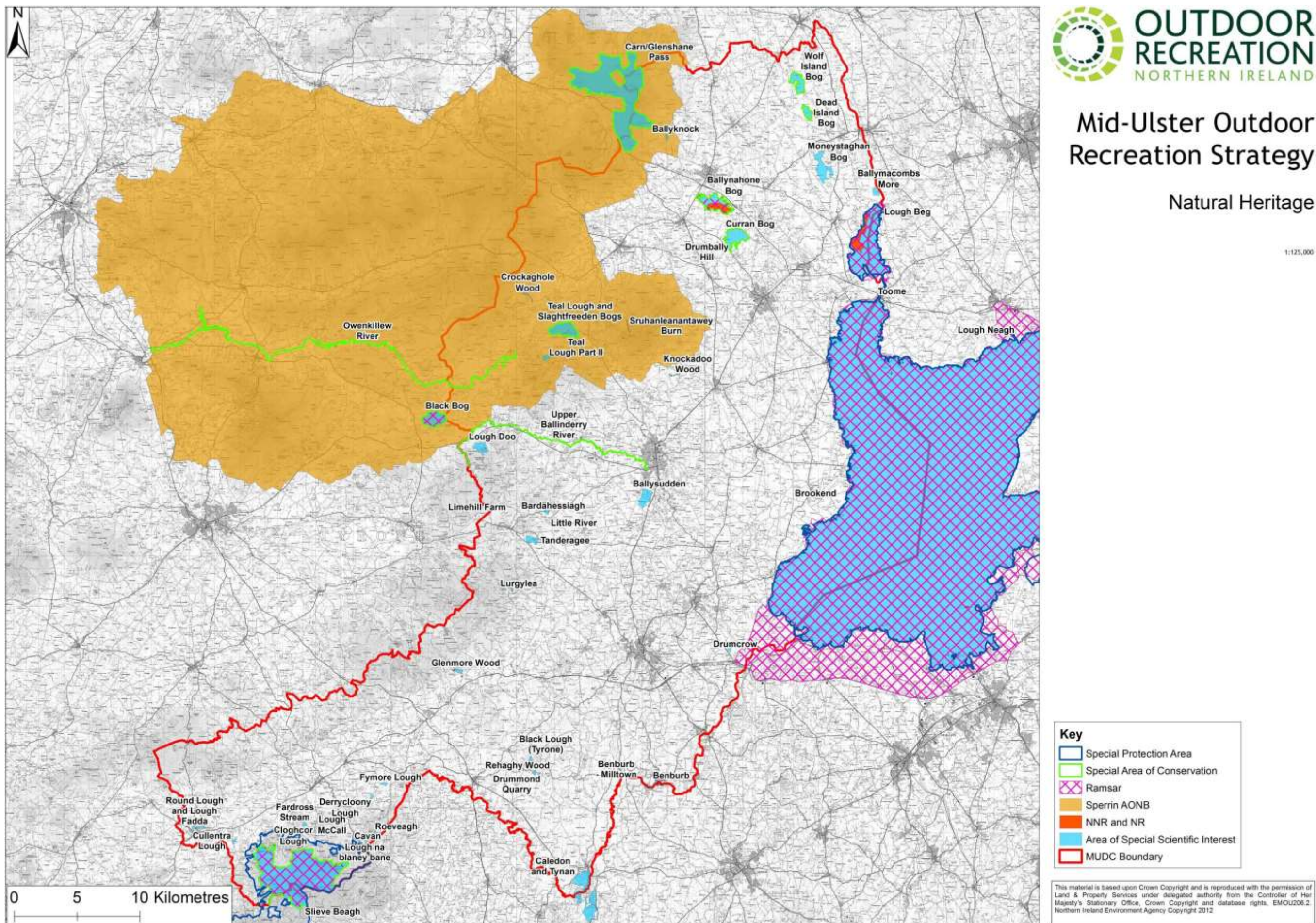


Figure 2. Natural Heritage Designations within MUDC



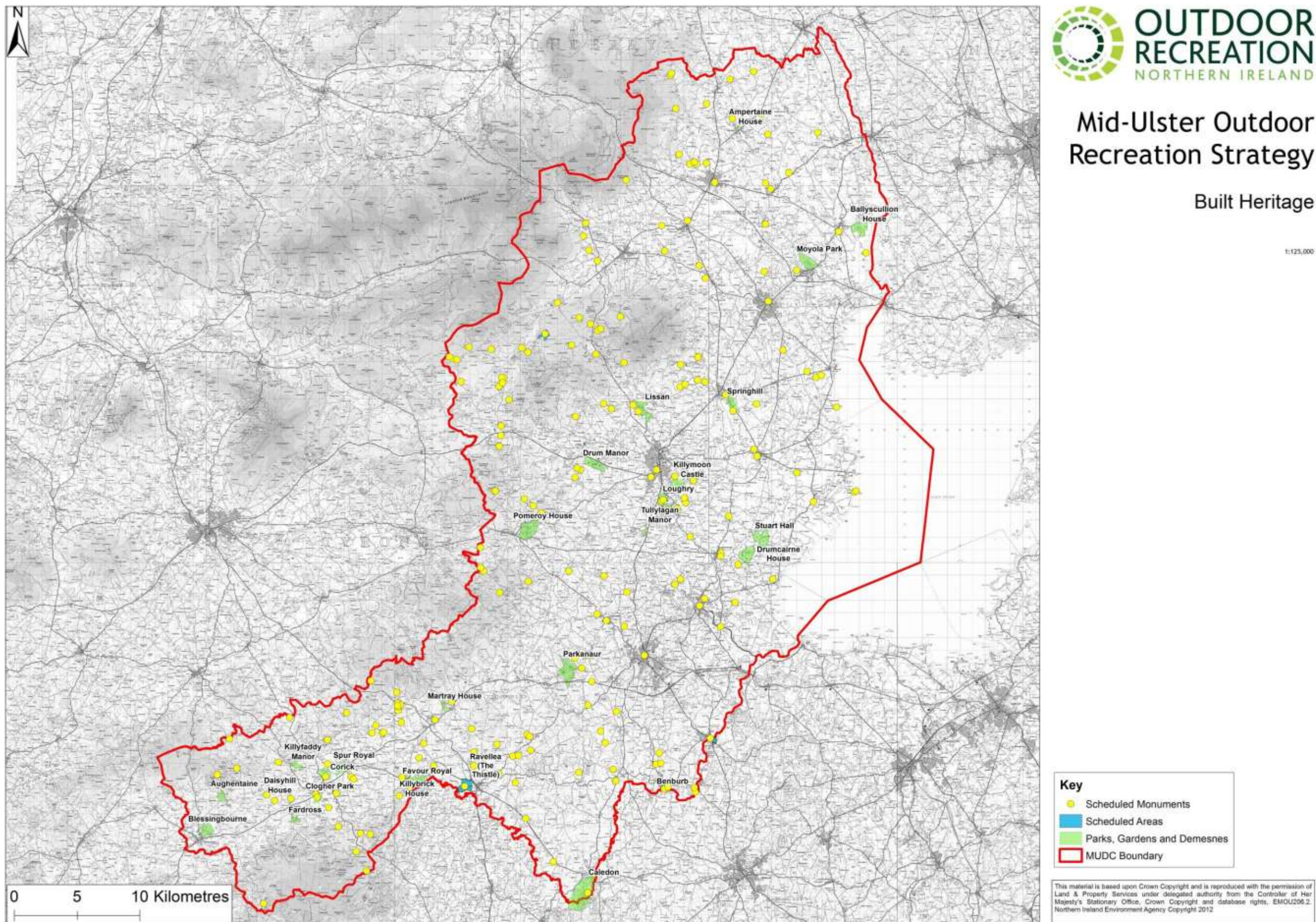


Figure 3. Built Heritage within MUDC



Most of the land in Mid Ulster is owned and managed by FSNI. The remaining land is owned and managed by other public sector organisations including DAERA, NIEA, NI Water, Waterways Ireland, the Council and environmental organisations such as the National Trust and the Woodland Trust whose key remit includes heritage preservation and public access.

9 landowners have been identified:

- Forest Service NI (FSNI)
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEARA)
- NI Water
- Waterways Ireland
- National Trust
- Ulster Wildlife Trust
- Woodland Trust
- Local council

See Appendix C for full list of sites.

Fig.4 shows the extent and distribution of land owned/managed by government and environmental organisations within the study area. Where the extent of the landownership was known, this was shown in polygon format e.g. FSNI owned land. Where the extent of land ownership was not known, this is shown in point or triangle format.

In addition, that part of the MUDC area which forms part of the Sperrins has a significant proportion of both private land and 'common' land, that is, land owned by more than one person. This is typically confined to the uplands.

There are also two private estates in the area which facilitate controlled public access namely, Blessingbourne and Lissan House. Both estates are also designated 'Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes'.



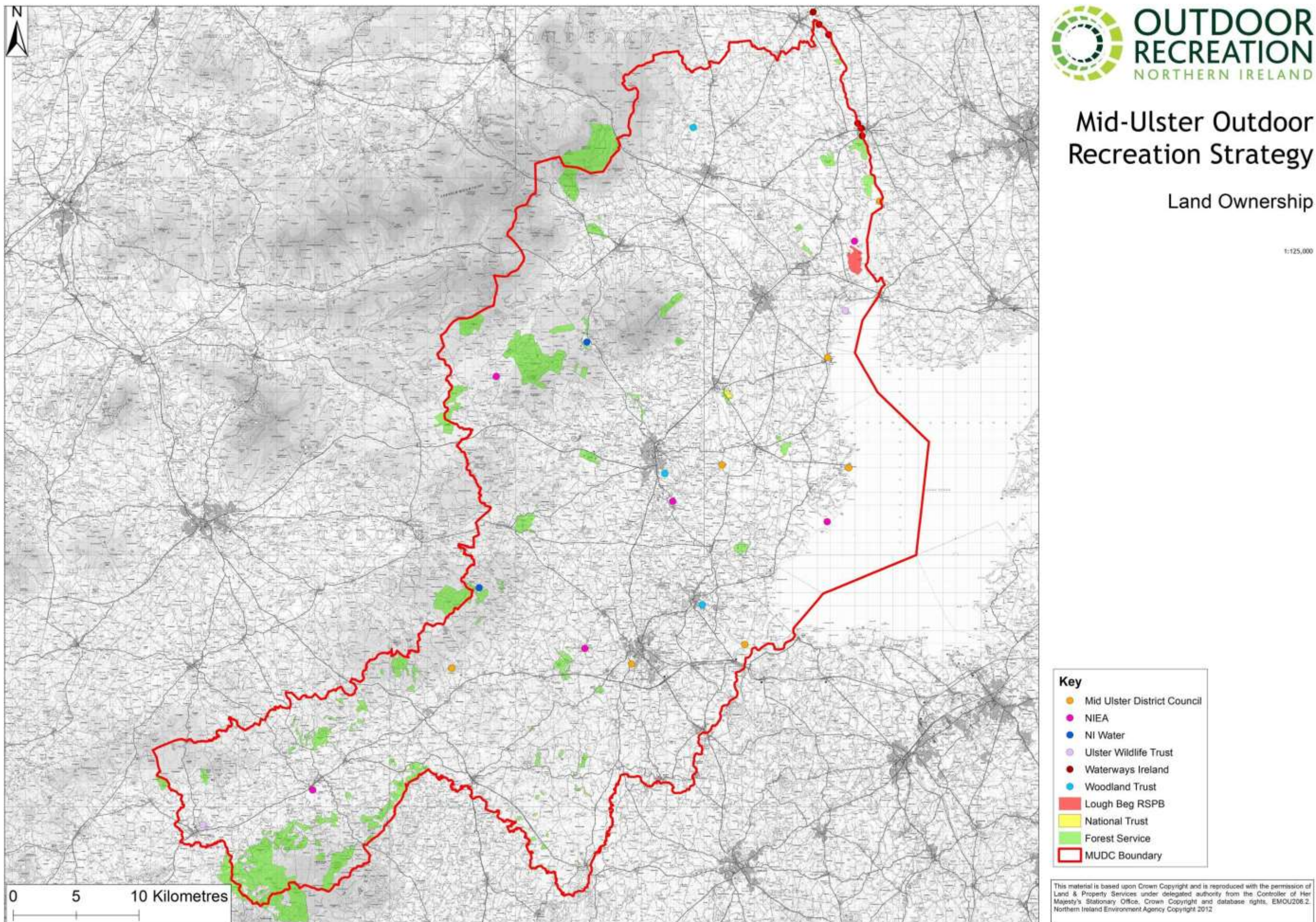


Figure 4. Land ownership in MUDC



## 3. CONTEXT

### 3.1 Introduction

This Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Mid Ulster is set in the context of numerous strategic, regional and local plans, strategies and policy statements including:

1. Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021
2. Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019
3. Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland (SportNI, DCAL, Tourism NI and NIEA, 2014)
4. Our Passion, Our Place - NIEA Strategic Priorities 2012 – 2022
5. Regional Development Strategy for NI 2035
6. Northern Ireland Changing Gear – A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland
7. Exercise, Explore and Enjoy – A Strategic Plan for Greenways (DFI, 2016)
8. Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 –2024 (ORNI, 2014)
9. A Fitter Future For All - Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022 (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2012)
10. Assessment of the Existing and Potential Tourism Development Opportunities Available from NI Forests (NITB and Forest Service NI, 2012)
11. Tourism Strategy for NI to 2020
12. Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2004)
13. Planning Policy Statement 16 – Tourism (2013)
14. Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019
15. Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan
16. Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans
17. Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 – 2021 for Mid Ulster District Council
18. Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Sperrins
19. Dungannon and South Tyrone Forests – Tourism and Recreation Scoping Study
20. Lough Neagh – Assessing the Current and Potential Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Opportunities
21. Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan 2014 - Lough Neagh Partnership
22. Draft 2014 –2019 Lough Neagh Destination Management Plan -Lough Neagh Partnership

Although all the above are important, the following 9 documents are considered of most relevance and detailed below:

1. Draft Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2016 – 2021
2. Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019
3. Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland
4. Exercise, Explore and Enjoy – A Strategic Plan for Greenways
5. Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 –2024
6. Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019
7. Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan
8. Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans
9. Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 – 2021 for Mid Ulster District Council

A summary of the remaining 13 documents are included in Appendix D.

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

The Draft Programme for Government 2016–2021 is currently out for public consultation. In due course, the Programme for Government Framework will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and an Anti-Poverty/Social Strategy. The Programme will also inform the development of the Executive's budget over the course of this mandate and provide a mechanism for ensuring limited funds are best directed to where they can contribute most.

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

The strategic outcomes are supported by 42 indicators, which are clear statements for change. The following indicators are particularly relevant to the proposed project:

- Reduce health inequality
- Increase life expectancy
- Improve mental health
- Improve our attractiveness as a destination and improve our international reputation.

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

### **3.1.2 Sport Matters - The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009 – 2019**

Whilst Northern Ireland's environment provides conditions of international quality for a range of activities, Sport Matters recognises that not everyone will wish to achieve in performance sport and the Strategy encourages the development and use of open spaces for a variety of informal recreational and outdoor pursuits. Being out in the fresh air enjoying the scenery, whilst taking exercise, is recognised as important elements of Sport Matters. The Strategy acknowledges that the natural environment provides many opportunities for a range of sporting and physical recreation activities but that access issues exist.

In aspiring to the target that "by 2019 Northern Ireland will have developed a range of new, improved and shared sports facilities to a standard comparable with other similar regions of the UK", the Strategy indicates that this will require:

- public access to and sustainable use of, publicly owned lands across Northern Ireland for sport, physical recreation and activity tourism (2015 target included in the Strategy);
- a planning system which facilitates and protects the provision of spaces for sport and physical recreation by following Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2019 target included in the Strategy).

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

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

### **3.1.3 Our Great Outdoors - The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland**

This Action Plan published in 2014 was commissioned by Sport NI and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) with support from Tourism NI and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) Inland Waterways Branch.

The Action Plan highlights the importance of making the outdoors accessible to everyone and the opportunities that there are to participate, not only in rural areas but also in the urban fringes.

The Plan's vision is: "a culture of dynamic, sustainable outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland"

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

- there are increasing opportunities and improved access and infrastructure for sustained and increased participation for everyone in a broad range of outdoor recreation activities
- there are accompanying benefits to local communities, especially those who are socially excluded in terms of health, social inclusion, cohesion, equality, and economic development; and
- people enjoy the outdoors and show a high degree of responsibility for themselves, towards others and towards the environment they are using, and play their part in maintaining, supporting and enhancing our environment and heritage.

### **3.1.4 Exercise, Explore and Enjoy – A Strategic Plan for Greenways**

Published by DFI in 2016, the Strategic Plan for Greenways fulfils a commitment in the 2015 Bicycle Strategy to explore the potential for the development of greenways.

The Plan's aim is to 'encourage a substantial increase in the number of people walking and cycling as a regular part of everyday life through the building of a connected and accessible regional Greenway network which will significantly increase the length of traffic free routes.

It is anticipated that realising the vision will create a region where active lifestyle and active travel can become part of everyday life for everyone – improving health and well-being, economic activity, social interaction and providing a resource for recreation and leisure.

The Plan identifies potential routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network from which Secondary Greenway Network could progressively extend across the region. The Plan also suggests that plans in the future may provide for a third level network of community paths that would provide doorstep opportunities to connect local communities to their local green space and neighbouring communities.

The Primary Greenway Network proposed includes a 97 km greenway from Dungannon to Coleraine and a 51 km greenway in the Secondary Network from Caledon to Maguiresbridge via the Clogher Valley and the Ulster Canal from Moy to Caledon. Also, part of the proposed greenway from Doagh to Draperstown via Antrim and Magherafelt and Craigavon to Derry-Londonderry via Omagh (Fig. 5)



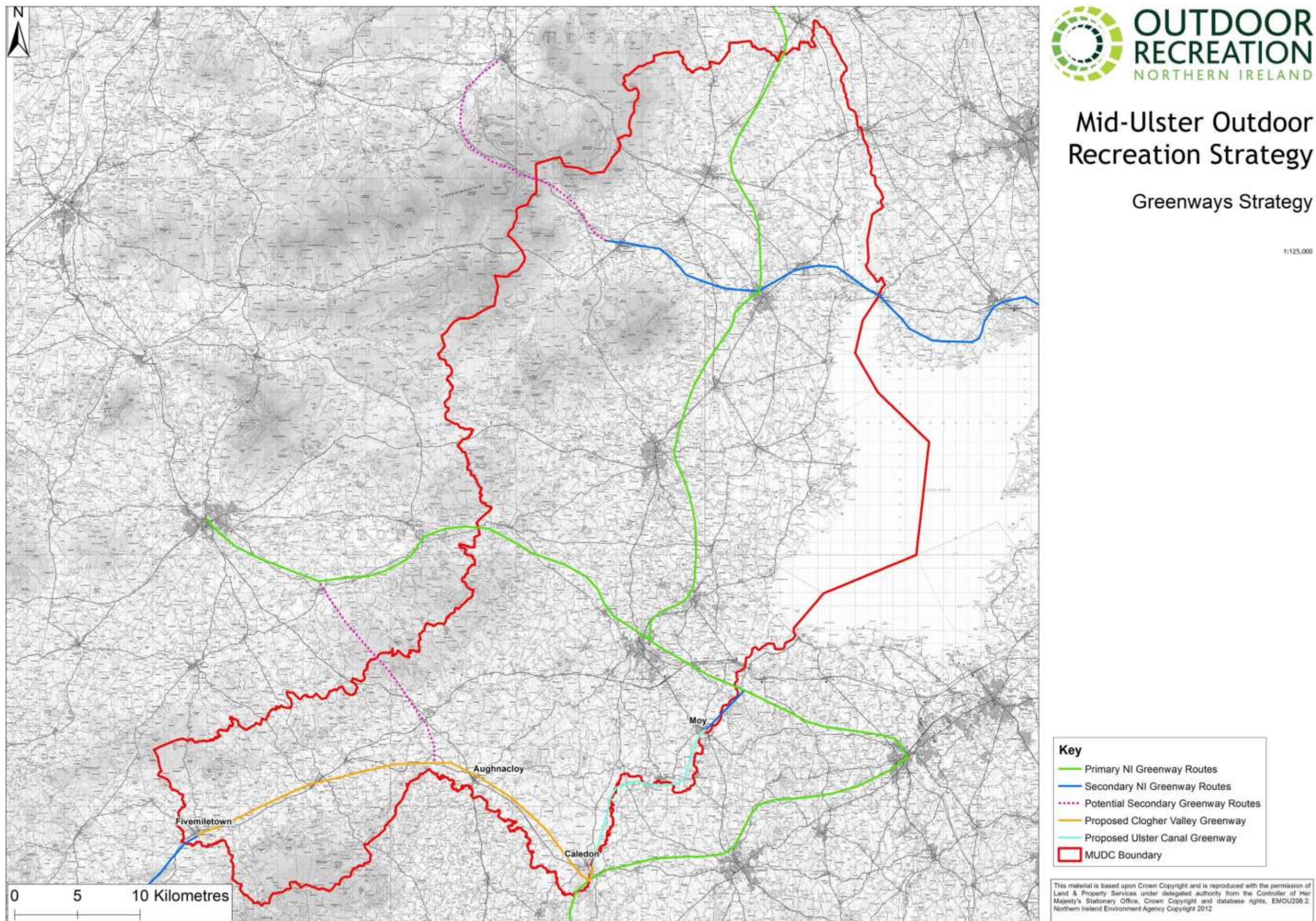


Figure 5. Proposed Greenways within MUDC



### **3.1.5 Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 –2024**

The vision of this Strategy, published by Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) in 2014, is to ‘make Northern Ireland a world class mountain bike destination’.

By delivering this vision, a wide range of significant economic and social benefits will be achieved, such as greater economic prosperity, sustained employment in the trail construction sector through the building and maintenance of trails and increased employment in the visitor services sector. Social benefits include increased health and wellbeing of the population as participation levels rise and more people take up mountain biking, improved social inclusion as the trails attract a wide demographic population base, improved community cohesion, local enthusiasm harnessed and channelled into trail development, trail management and trail maintenance, physical connection of communities to trails and greater sporting success by local mountain bikers in all mountain biking disciplines as a consequence of improved formal trail facilities.

The Strategy identified Tyrone and the Sperrins destination as having the potential to become a short break destination for mountain biking, with Davagh Forest Park and Gortin Glen Forest Parks operating as two National Trail Centres complemented by the Regional Trail Centre of Blessingbourne Estate. It also identified the potential to create long-distance rides including one in the Clogher Valley in the short to medium term and another in Tyrone and Sperrins, which may include Slieve Gallion in the longer term (2024).

### **3.1.6 Mid Ulster District Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019**

The overarching vision of the Council’s Corporate Plan is ‘Mid Ulster Council aspires to be at the heart of our community’.

The Council has identified several key issues of importance to the people across Mid Ulster including; education, the economy, the environment, safety, a sense of belonging, partnership working, improved infrastructure, accessible amenities and attractive vibrant, tourism villages and open spaces. These issues are reflected in four themes namely:

1. Delivering for our People
2. Creating Growth
3. Sustaining our Environment
4. Building Unity

Theme 1: ‘Delivering for our People’ includes as its priorities for action: ‘High quality, responsive, indoor and outdoor recreational services with increased customer numbers and satisfaction’.

Theme 2: ‘Creating Growth’ recognises the importance of a capital investment and improvement programme for the area including improving the physical infrastructure and connectivity of Mid Ulster and the importance of optimising the tourism potential of Mid Ulster’.

Theme 3: ‘Sustaining our Environment’ recognises the important of the environment which the Plan notes as deserving to be protected, preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of everyone. Specific priorities include:

- maximising potential of the area’s natural and built attractions and facilities, building collaborative partnerships and strategic alliances
- realising the tourism potential of Mid Ulster, being clear upon the opportunities and targeting resources

- developing and enhancing parks, play areas and open spaces to encourage physical activity and open the countryside in a sustainable manner to our community.

The importance of community planning is recognised in Theme 4: 'Building Unity', whereby a key priority of the Council is to use Community Planning and consequently Community Trails to connect communities and form collaborative partnerships.

### 3.1.7 Mid Ulster District Council Community Plan

Community Planning is a significant new statutory power which has been presented to Councils within Northern Ireland as a result of local government reform. Mid Ulster's first Community Plan published in 2016 sets out the vision of:

'Mid Ulster – a welcoming place where our people are content, healthy and safe; educated and skilled; where our economy is thriving; our environment and heritage are sustained; and where our public services excel'.

The Plan sets out 15 outcomes to be achieved through a number of actions that have been structured into 5 themes namely:

- Economic growth
- Infrastructure
- Education and Skills
- Health and Well Being and
- Vibrant and Safe Communities

Running across the five themes are three cross cutting themes which impact on all aspects of life in Mid Ulster. One of these is 'sustainable environment' which recognises that Mid Ulster is home to many precious environments which its people have fostered and cherished for generations.

Four of the five themes include actions relating directly to the wider agenda of outdoor recreation as follows:

#### Economic growth

- maximise tourism investment and employment concentrating on the three strategic tourism themes of Seamus Heaney, Activity and Heritage.

#### Infrastructure

- secure the transfer of Lough Neagh into public ownership.
- progress the reinstatement of the Ulster Canal and its greenway links.
- increase the protection of, and access to and development of heritage assets – both natural and man-made including; Seamus Heaney countryside, O'Neill heritage, Lough Neagh, Sperrins, Beaghmore and the area's forests.

#### Health and Well Being

- deliver a Recreation and Active Lifestyle Plan which will provide formal and informal recreation and play opportunities.

#### Vibrant and Safe Communities

- promote and develop shared space across the area.

### 3.1.8 Mid Ulster District Council Village Plans

Forty-six village plans cover MUDC. Many of these have been updated within the past 12 months. Within many of the individual Village Plans there are specific recommendations relating to the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities. These have been extracted and are highlighted in Appendix E.

### 3.1.9 Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for 2016–2021 for Mid Ulster District Council

Prepared by BTS, the Action Plan sets out the vision for tourism in Mid Ulster as;

‘to enhance Mid Ulster’s image and reputation for visitors and grow the visitor economy to £50m by 2021 as measured by overnight visitor expenditure’.

In order to achieve this vision, the Plan highlights five strategic themes and interrelated actions for delivery one of which is the:

- development of three strategic tourism strands (Seamus Heaney, Archaeological Sites history and heritage and Outdoor Activities).

The development of outdoor activities in the area is therefore recognised as serving as one of the three strategic core propositions for Mid Ulster to attract visitors, encourage them to stay longer in the area and ensure that tourism contributes to the local economy.

The Action Plan states that ‘the objective of focussing on the outdoor activity market lies in its scale and size and the opportunity of strengthening the competitiveness of the Mid Ulster destination, by building on this underdeveloped sector’.

Key actions identified in the Plan to improve the economic contribution of outdoor and activity tourism include:

- creating a coherent and compelling range of outdoor activity sites and facilities by pulling all existing and potential new sites under one umbrella.
- positioning Mid Ulster as a centre of excellence for the visitor, thus encouraging them to visit the area, stay longer and spend more.
- the development of the outdoor and activity tourism product comprising both physical development and management and organisational dimensions – marketing, interagency collaboration and cluster development.
- the development of key Forest Parks – Parkanaur, Knockmany and Drum Manor.
- the delivery of a year-round programme of events.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

Both primary and secondary research techniques were employed during the preparation of the Strategy. Data from previous projects within the area supplemented with further on-line research was used to complement an extensive consultation exercise.

Background and contextual information, existing outdoor recreation provision and land ownership within the project area was collated from the following sources:

Websites:	WalkNI.com, CycleNI.com, CanoeNI.com, MountainbikeNI.com, EcotrailsNI.com, OutdoorNI.com
Previous projects:	Public Land Mapping Phase 1 and 2 (ORNI, 2013) Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan (Lough Neagh Partnership, 2013) Sperrins Walking Audit (ORNI, 2010) An Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Sperrins AONB (ORNI, 2013) Lough Neagh - Assessing the Current and Potential Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Opportunities (ORNI, 2014) Dungannon and South Tyrone Forests – Tourism and Recreation Scoping Study (ORNI, 2015) Lower Bann Corridor recreation, tourism and commercial product identification study (BTS, 2016) Seamus Heaney Trails Concept Plan

Consultation involved a variety of techniques including email, telephone, face-to-face, on-line questionnaires and a series of public consultation events. In total, seven public consultation events took place, one in each of the Council's seven DEAs. See Appendix F for details of the different consultation methods used throughout the preparation of the Strategy and details of the public consultation events and methods used to promote them.

At each of the consultation events a short presentation, given by ORNI, was followed by facilitated discussion where attendees had the opportunity to report the sites and areas they currently use for outdoor recreation, which activities they do at each and what they would like to see developed in the future. In total 55 people attended the public consultation events, the results of which are detailed in Appendix H.

Site visits also took place to those sites across the area which has been identified as being important in providing future outdoor recreation in the area.

All data collected was analysed and presented using the spatial mapping tool ArcGIS. The following information was mapped:

- current provision of all land, air and water-based activities (sites and trails)
- land ownership (public and private)
- both area and site-specific facilities
- Public Rights of Way (PROW) and permissive path agreements



- environmental designations
- future development opportunities

## 5. CURRENT PROVISION

### 5.1 Introduction

Given the extensiveness and diversity of the Mid Ulster resource base, the current provision of outdoor opportunities within the area is wide ranging. The following table lists the outdoor recreation activities known to take place in the area.

OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY PROVIDED FOR		
LAND	WATER	AIR
Archery	Angling	Hang Gliding and Paragliding
Boot Camps	Boat cruising	
Bouldering	Canoeing	
Bush Craft	Sailing	
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Water ski-ing	
Climbing	Wakeboarding	
Cycling (On-and Off-Road)	Jet ski-ing	
Fell Running		
High Ropes/Ziplines		
Horse riding		
Mountain Biking		
Orienteering		
Paintballing		
Segway		
Walking		
Zorbing		

Table 2. Outdoor recreation activities currently provided for in the MUDC area.

Many of these activities are offered largely and, in some cases, exclusively, by private activity providers in the MUDC area, mostly on their own land. In contrast, several activities namely; walking, cycling (road and mountain biking), canoeing, orienteering and fishing, are provided for at numerous sites across the MUDC area.

For some activities a differentiation is made between those that are provided for on a formal versus those that take place on an informal basis.

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

Table 3. Definition of formal versus informal provision.

## **5.2 Key providers of outdoor recreation**

Within the area, the key providers of outdoor recreation are those landowners/land managers as previously detailed in section 2.1. In addition, a significant contribution to the provision of outdoor recreation within the Mid Ulster area is made from community associations, private sector activity providers and through initiatives such as the Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership, the Blackwater Regional Partnership and the Lough Neagh Partnership.

### **5.2.1 Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership**

Although the area covered by The Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership (SGLP) that falls within the Mid Ulster area is relatively small namely, the Moyola Valley and Slieve Gallion area, the contribution the Partnership made in providing for outdoor recreation per se in the area was significant. 'Enhancing access' to the Sperrins was one of four main aims of the SGLP and a key strength of the Partnership was the ability to negotiate access on the ground with private landowners to allow the delivery of walking trails, heritage trails and improving access along the Moyola River corridor.

### **5.2.2 Blackwater Regional Partnership**

Established in 2000, the Blackwater Regional Partnership sought to improve the environmental, economic and community development of the Blackwater region by working in partnership with the legacy Armagh City, Banbridge District and Craigavon Borough Councils and Monaghan County Council. Concentrating on the villages and settlements along the route of the Blackwater River and the Ulster Canal namely, Maghery, Charlemont, Moy, Benburb, Blackwatertown, Caledon and Tynan, Middletown, Augher and Clogher, the Partnership has been instrumental in providing opportunities for outdoor recreation in the area particularly with respect to developing and promoting the walking and cycling product of the area and progressing the reinstatement of the Ulster Canal and its greenway links. It continues to deliver the following events; Paddle the Blackwater, Bike the Blackwater, Blackwater 10k and the Ulster Canal Festival.

### **5.2.3 The Lough Neagh Partnership**

The Lough Neagh Partnership, a not-for-profit company, is made up of representatives from the main government departments, local Councils and the private and community sector. Established in 2003, it has played a significant role in the development, management and promotion of the Lough. It previously managed a £3.8 million Rural Development Programme (RDP) with a focus on developing the Lough as a tourism destination and since 2009 it has continued to be funded by the local Councils around the Lough for its promotional and marketing of the Lough as a tourism destination. Outdoor recreation development projects funded in the past by the Lough Neagh Partnership include upgrading Ballyronan Marina and the Lough Neagh Canoe Trail.

### **5.2.4 Community Associations**

Several proactive community associations are involved in providing outdoor recreation which directly benefit the local community and visitors alike. These include:

- Carntogher Community Association and its work in providing walking trails on Carntogher Mountain, private land and trails in Drumnaph Community Nature Reserve
- Broughderg Community Association and its work in Davagh Forest and the Beaghmore Stone Circles
- Pomeroy Community Association and its work in Pomeroy Forest

- Bann Valley Community Association and its work on creating Community Trails at Clady and Inishrush
- Reahaghy and Brantry Community Groups linked to Bantry Forest project
- Eskra Community Association in conjunction with Knockmany Forest
- Portglenone Community Association and its work on creating a recreation hub at Portglenone
- Muintir na Mointeach and its work in creating recreation facilities at Washing Bay
- BADGER and its work in creating recreation facilities at Castlebay

### 5.2.5 Outdoor Activity Providers

Within Mid Ulster there are three significant commercial activity providers operating namely, The Jungle, Todds Leap and AWOL all of whom mostly operate on their own land. Their outdoor recreation and tourism offering appeals to a specific, niche market, i.e. Tourism NI's 'young and lively', the adrenaline seekers, youth and corporate groups and hen/stag parties. However, despite providing a 'unique experience' which fulfils Tourism NI's 'experiential tourism', typically they do not hold visitors in the area for longer than a few hours to a day.

#### 5.2.5.1 The Jungle NI

Located 2 miles outside Moneymore, Jungle NI offers the visitor a multitude of 'adventure' activities including paintballing, zorbing, forest segway tours and llama trekking. It is also home to Northern Ireland's first and only 'Go Ape' style high ropes course which has two variations, a tree top course for adults or 'Tarzans' and one aimed at 'Mowglis' or children aged 5-11 years.

Glamping pods are available on site with electric lighting and power sockets and heating. In addition, it operates the Old Manor House in Moneymore, a former Bed & Breakfast, offering en-suite accommodation solution for groups.

#### 5.2.5.2 Todds Leap

Todds Leap Activity Centre located near Ballygawley offers a range of adventure and team building activities including archery, clay pigeon shooting, climbing wall, paint balling and zip line as well as a purpose built off-road driving course. It also offers on-site accommodation for up to 100 people with the option of staying in traditional log cabins to the more modern glamping snooze box. Additional facilities include showers, bed linen and Wi-Fi and a fully licensed bar and restaurant.

#### 5.2.5.3 AWOL

A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure, located in the Blackwater Valley offers a wide range of group activities. Activities are land-based and water-based and they also offer a range of mobile adventure activities including archery, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering, mud slide and assault course. It also provides a range of skills courses in outdoor activities, bushcraft, BCU/ICU Canoe & Kayak, RECI & II First Aid, GNSA archery awards and orienteering. They also run workshops in traditional crafts, Coracle boat building, canoe paddle making and nature projects.

Within the area there are also several mobile operators working. Most of their work makes use of the recreational facilities on publicly owned land given the infrastructure of basic services such as parking, toilets and changing facilities.

### 5.3 Land-based Activities

Fig. 6 shows the current provision in the Mid Ulster area for the following land-based activities: adventure racing, archery, boot camps, bushcraft, clay pigeon shooting, climbing, fell running, high ropes/Ziplines, mountain boarding, paintballing, segway, zorbing and horse riding.

These activities are offered largely, and in some cases exclusively, by private activity providers, mostly on their own land. In contrast, several land-based activities namely; walking, cycling (road and mountain biking), canoeing and orienteering are provided for at numerous sites across the area.

#### 5.3.1 Adventure Racing

In the past the area has been used by Causeway Coast Adventure Racing to host one of its winter races. Although not strictly adventure racing, The Jungle NI offers charity events such as the 'Zombie Run' and it held its first 'Rampage Weekender' during April 2017 which combined a 10km run with 40 obstacles. The event has over 1000 competitors and is now held annually.

#### 5.3.2 Archery

Archery is primarily delivered either by organised clubs affiliated with the Northern Ireland Archery Society or private activity providers, both site-based and mobile. Archery takes place at the following sites:

- The Jungle NI (on-site)
- Todds Leap NI
- A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure
- Loughry College (via Take a Bow Archery club)

Bubble Ball NI also offers Archery and while it is a mobile operator, it is based in Mid Ulster.

Target archery is the most popular form of archery whereby participants shoot stationary circular targets at varying distances. However, 'Take a Bow Archery Club' at Loughry College also facilitates field archery whereby participants move around a site or over rough terrain shooting targets.

#### 5.3.3 Boot Camps

Boot camps in this study refers to the use of the outdoors for the improvement of physical fitness. Both The Jungle NI and Todds Leap provide boot camps using their own land and facilities.

#### 5.3.4 Bushcraft

A relatively new outdoor recreation activity, bushcraft involves learning skills to facilitate survival in the wild such as lighting fire by friction, eating wild food and making a water tight shelter from natural materials. Drumlamph Farm (provided by Carntogher Community Association) is the only provider in the area.

#### 5.3.5 Clay Pigeon Shooting

Traditional and laser clay pigeon shooting are both provided in Mid Ulster. Both are a form of target shooting whereby participants use either a shotgun, air rifle or laser to essentially shoot a moving clay target known as 'clay pigeons' which mimic real birds. Both The Jungle NI and Todds Leap offer clay pigeon shooting.

### **5.3.6 Climbing**

Mid Ulster does not lend itself to the activity of climbing with few topographical features such as crags and exposed rock faces. However, Todds Leap and The Jungle NI both provide climbing via artificial climbing walls whilst A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure offer abseiling both on and off-site.

### **5.3.7 Fell running**

Fell running, governed by the Northern Ireland Mountain Runners' Association, is typically a competitive sport but also a popular leisure activity. Although no formal provision for fell running in the area was identified, fell running is popular on an informal basis in many of the area's forests particularly Knockmany. In addition, Blood Sweat and Tears Extreme 10k use Parkanaur Forest and Davagh Forest as venues for their extreme running.

### **5.3.8 High Ropes /Ziplines**

Both The Jungle NI and Todds Leap have zip lines on-site. In addition, the Jungle NI is home to Northern Ireland's first and only 'Go Ape' style high ropes course which has two variations, a tree top course for adults and another for children aged 5-11 years.

### **5.3.9 Horse Riding**

Horse riding takes place predominantly on local riding schools' land, private estates, e.g. Lissan House Riders and FSNi land e.g. Crocknagrally Forest. Within the area, equestrian centres include Beechill Stables, Clogher Valley Horses, The Forest Stables, Marsh Kyfe Riding School and Meadowvale Equestrian Centre.

### **5.3.10 Mountain Boarding**

Mountain boarding also known as Dirtboarding, Off-road Boarding or an All-Terrain Boarding (ATB) is provided for at A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure.

### **5.3.11 Paintballing**

Paintballing is provided by The Jungle NI, Todds Leap and A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure on their own land.

### **5.3.12 Segway**

The only provider offering segway tours is The Jungle NI who use their own land and equipment.

### **5.3.13 Zorbing**

The Jungle NI is the only provider offering zorbing within the area.



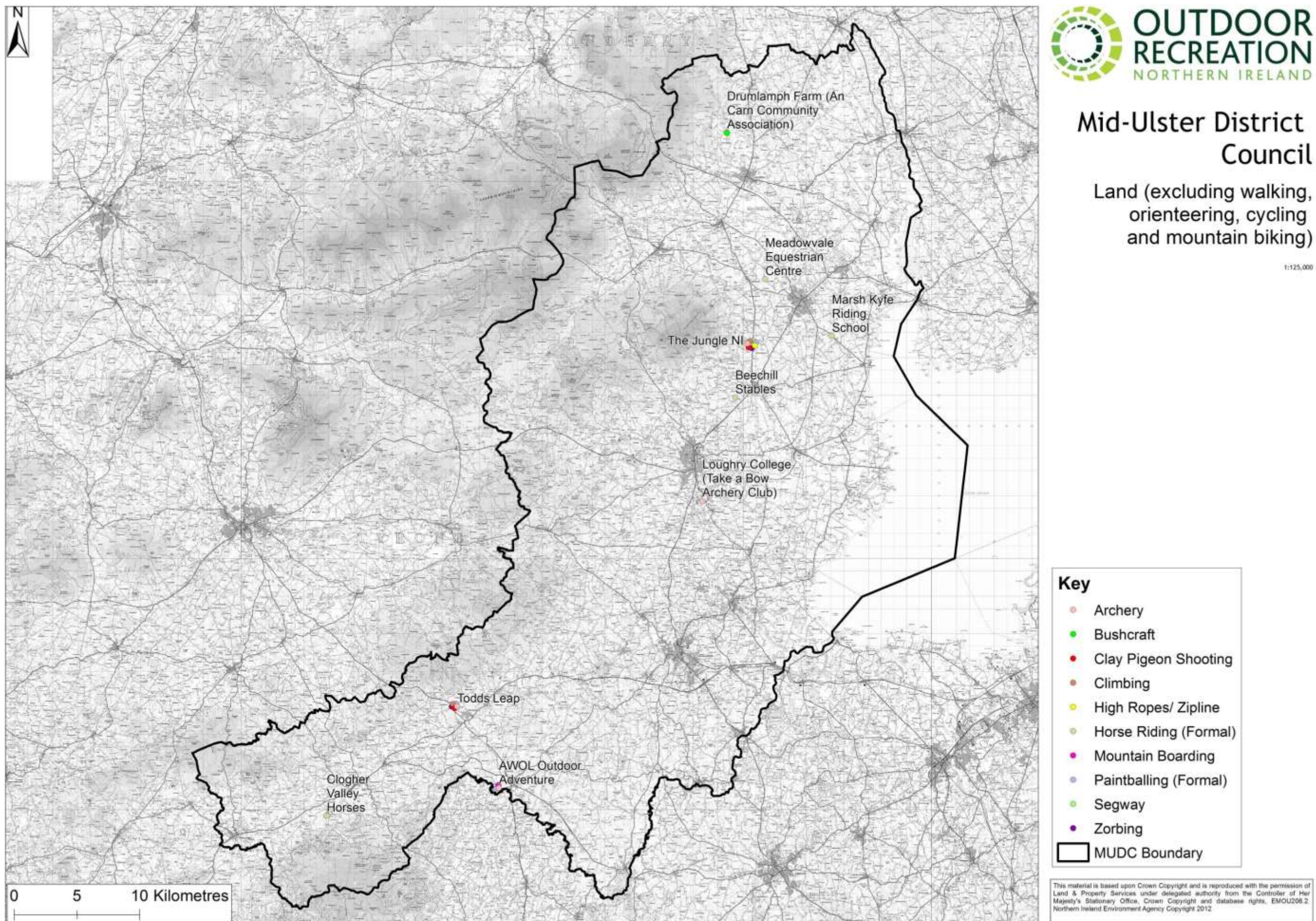


Figure 6. Land-Based Activities within MUDC



### 5.3.14 Walking

Walking is one the most popular and well-developed forms of outdoor recreation geographically spread across MUDC. The area contains a range of walking opportunities from 'quality walks' to formal and informal walks to PROW and permissive paths.

#### 5.3.14.1 Quality Walks

Developed in 2007 by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI), the 'Quality Walk' Scheme recognises and promotes Northern Ireland's best short, medium and long-distance walking routes and includes the Waymarked Ways and sections of the Ulster Way. All Quality Walks have been accredited in partnership with NIEA and Tourism NI and promoted on WalkNI.com

Within the Mid Ulster area over 100km of quality walks exist comprising of:

- 2 sections of the Ulster Way totalling 14km in length
- 1 long-distance quality walk 8.4km in length
- 3 medium-distance quality walks totalling 30.7km in length
- 20 short-distance quality walks totalling 50.5km in length

Type	Section/ Name	Length (km)
<b>Ulster Way</b>	Moneyneany to Dungiven (partial)	6.1
	Gortin to Moneyneany (partial)	7.9
<b>Waymarked Way/ Long Distance Quality Walk (+32km/+20miles)</b>	Sliabh Beagh Way (partial)	8.4
<b>Medium Quality Walk (8-32km/5-20miles)</b>	Carntogher Way	9.8
	Crockbrack Way	11.7
	Hudy's Way	9.2
<b>Short Quality Walk (0-8km/0-5miles)</b>	Argory Lime Tree Walk	3.2
	Benburb Valley Park	6.3
	Blessingbourne Woodland Walk	3.8
	Davagh Forest	2.4
	Derrynoyd River Trail	1.4
	Derrynoyd Wood Trail	3.2
	Drum Manor Forest Park	3.2
	Drum Manor Forest Park - Forest Plots Trail	2.2
	Drum Manor Terrace and Pleasuregrounds Trail	1.2
	Dungannon Park	2
	Eagles Rock Trail	6.7
	Glenmore Scenic Walk	1.9
	Lough Fea	4
	Moydamlaght Forest - medium trail	2.1
	Moydamlaght Forest - short trail	1.6
	Plantin Park	1
	Reuben's Glen	1
	Springhill House Beech Walk	0.6
	Springhill House Swapit Hill Walk	1.7
	Springhill House Woodland Walk	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>103.6km</b>

Table 4. Quality Walk provision in the Mid Ulster area



#### 5.3.14.2 Formal Walking

In addition to the Quality Walks, there are several sites where formal walking takes place. A formal walking route is defined as a route which is signed and/or has on-site information but is not classified as a Quality Walk. Routes not classified as a Quality Walk either do not meet the Quality Walk assessment criteria, or they may not yet have been assessed. A full list of known formal walking sites in MUDC can be found in Appendix G.

There are several other formal trails which have been developed and are managed by local Councils, community associations and public bodies with a community interest, e.g. Sperrins Gateway Landscape Partnership Scheme. Many of these are 'heritage trails' and have been designed to link the many features of unique historic and archaeological interest.

#### 5.3.14.3 Informal Walking

In addition to Quality and formal walking routes, informal walking occurs at sites mostly used by the local community. An informal walking route has no route signage or information present on-site and the route has not been classified as a Quality Walk. A full list of known informal walking sites within MUDC can be found in Appendix G.

In many cases, informal walking takes place on land which although there is not necessarily a designated trail, the public have a right to access to, for example, the general public has a right to access to all Forest Service land on foot.

#### 5.3.14.4 Public Rights of Way (PROW)

PROWs are routes that the public are legally allowed to access, regardless of whether the land is in public or private ownership. PROWs are created through the Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 and responsibility for implementing this Order lies with District Councils. District Councils are also responsible for the management and maintenance of PROWs.

The Mid Ulster area has 7 PROWs totalling 15.9km (Table 5). In addition, work is currently on-going to investigate a further two alleged PROWs namely, Dunman Lane, Cookstown and Spring Road/Brookmount Road, Coagh.

Route Type	Name ( legacy Council name)	Length (km)
<b>Public Right of Way</b>	Drum Road Loop, Dunnamore (Cookstown)	3.6
	Innevall (Cookstown)	1.6
	Gort Moss (Cookstown)	6.3
	Old Chapel Road, Warwicks Way (Cookstown)	0.4
	Loup Road to Ballyeglish Old Graveyard (Cookstown)	0.3
	Loughry Estate (Cookstown)	2.2
	Mullan Road (Cookstown)	1.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15.9km</b>

Table 5. PROWs in the Mid Ulster Council area.



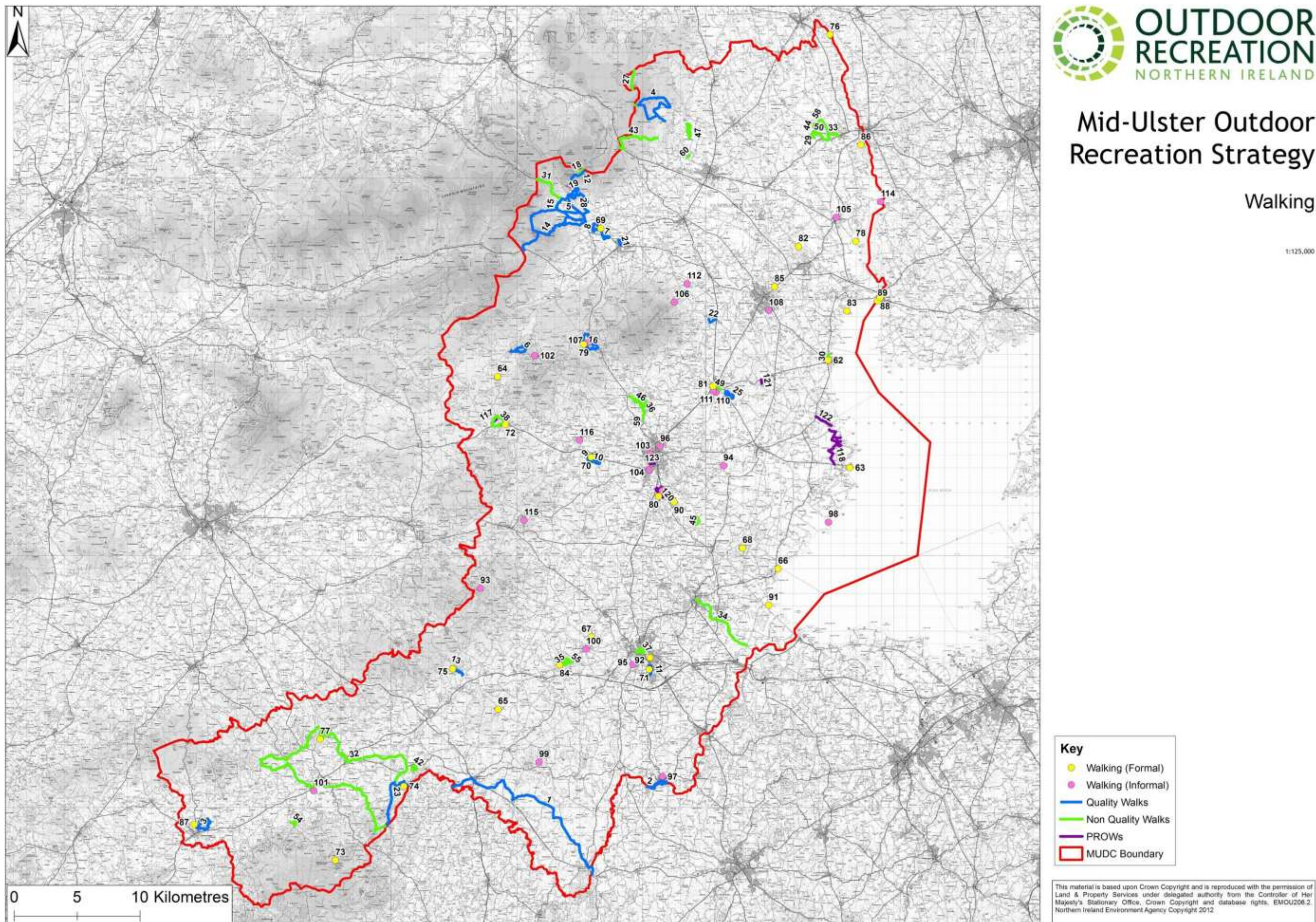


Figure 7. Walking Provision within MUDC



### 5.3.15 Cycling

Cycling is divided into cycling (on and off-road) and mountain biking. In MUDC area cycling infrastructure is well developed and this together with the area's scenic landscape and quiet country road network provides the ideal environment. Consequently, cycling is one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities in Mid Ulster. Cycling provision was mapped as either on or off-road and a distinction made between those sites where cycling takes place formally versus informally.

In 2005, Sperrins Tourism Limited developed 12 on-road cycling routes known as 'The Sperrins Cycle Routes'. These circular, waymarked routes (Fig.8) range from 18 to 65km with six falling within the Mid Ulster area namely;

- Gold Cycle Route (3.2km)
- The White Hare Cycle Route (58km)
- The Lough Fea Cycle Route (66km)
- The Slieve Gallion Cycle Route (40km)
- The Moyola Cycle Route (18km)
- The Swatragh Cycle Route (24km)

Fig.8 also shows how the six routes link into the National Cycle Network (NCN) routes 94 and 95. NCN route 95 (Belfast – Ballyshannon) traverses the Mid Ulster area providing 72km cycling in Mid Ulster. Route 94 also incorporates the 'Loughshore Trail' and as its name suggests, follows the shores of Lough Neagh (46km). Route 94 also incorporates the Ballyronan to Ardboe Cross Trail (14km).

The other significant formal cycle trail provided and promoted on CycleNI.com within Mid Ulster is the Carleton Trail Cycle Route.

Formal off-road cycling sites, sometimes known as 'family cycling' facilities, were identified at the following locations

- Blessingbourne Estate
- Dungannon Park
- Windmill Wood

Despite the considerable provision of formal trails, no information exists in the numbers using these routes. Except for CycleNI.com limited information exists for the visitor about facilities along these routes, i.e. accommodation, toilets, cafes, etc.



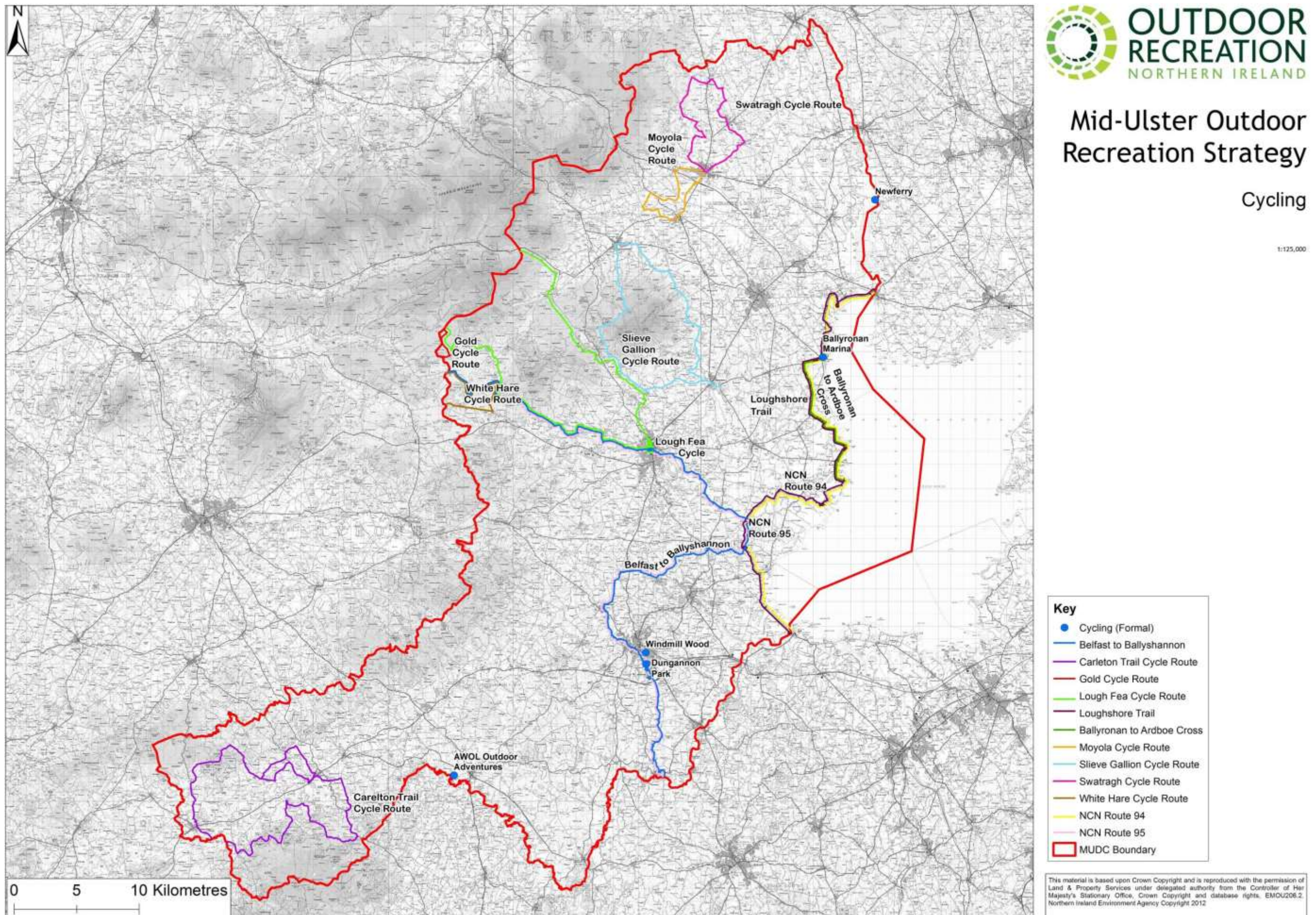


Figure 8. Cycling Provision within MUDC



### 5.3.16 Mountain Biking

Off-road cycling in the form of mountain biking is one of the fastest growing outdoor recreation activities in Northern Ireland. The MUDC area boasts one of Northern Ireland's three National Trails Centres (Davagh Forest) and one of Northern Ireland's three Regional Trail Centres (Blessingbourne Estate) (Fig.9).

#### 5.3.16.1 Davagh Forest (National Trail Centre)

Developed in 2013 by the former Cookstown Borough Council in partnership with FSNI, Davagh Forest provides 26.5kms of mountain bike trails, including 7.5kms of blue trail, 16kms of red trail and 3kms of green trail. It also has a pump track and skills park.

Since the trails were launched in early 2013 visitor numbers have far exceeded expectations. In 2017, over 10,000 visits were made to the mountain bike trails in Davagh.

The trails have also hosted several events including a round of the Ulster XC series and National Points Series and the Davagh Enduro and Youth Enduro.

#### 5.3.16.2 Blessingbourne Estate (Regional Trail Centre)

The trails at Blessingbourne, a partnership between the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and the Estate's owners were developed in two phases. Phase 2 was launched in 2013 culminating in a total of 12kms of mountain bike trails, including 4km of blue trail, 8km of red trail and a small pump track. The site provides toilets and a café which is open on a seasonal basis.

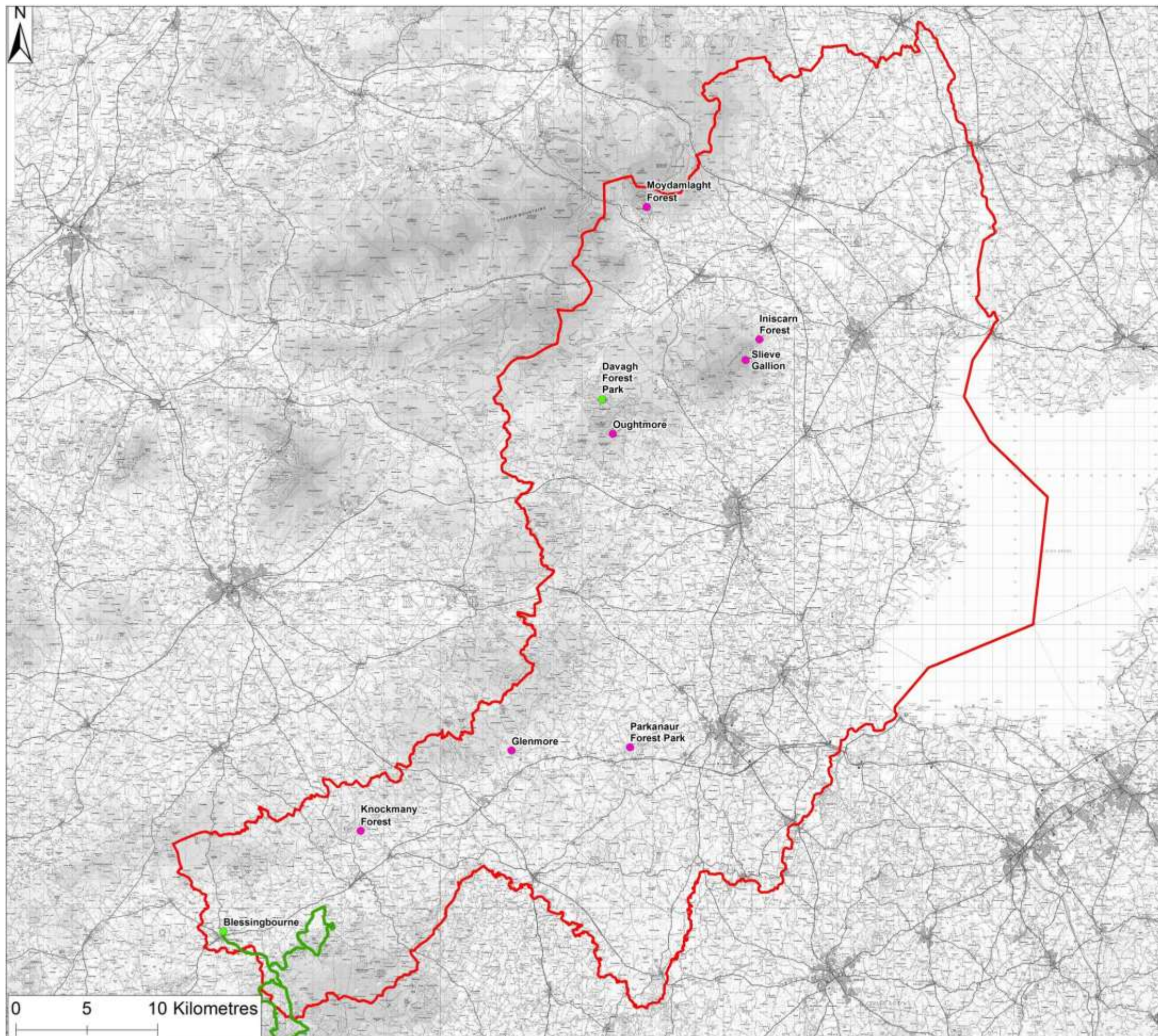
Within Mid Ulster, informal mountain biking also occurs at the following sites:

- Glenmore
- Iniscarn Forest
- Knockmany Forest
- Moydamlaght Forest
- Oughtmore Mountain
- Parkanaur Forest Park
- Slieve Gallion

The Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 – 2024 (ORNI, 2014) defines a long-distance ride as a cross-country trail providing at least 1 days biking along a route in excess of 35km with at least 75% off-road or minimum 'C – Class' or 'minor road'. A 40km Clogher Valley long-distance ride through Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh with a trailhead in Fivemiletown has been identified.

However, the Mountain Bike Northern Ireland Research Report (October 2016) carried out by Cogent Management Consulting on behalf of the MountainBikeNI Consortium identified that mountain bike enthusiasts spend only 4% of their time riding long-distance trails i.e. more than 35km with the use of a map. Moreover, only 10% of mountain bike enthusiast respondents indicated that they ride more than 4 hours a day on a typical mountain bike trip. Any decision to develop future long-distance trails in MUDC should take account of the findings of this research.





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

### Mountain Biking

1:125,000

Key	
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	Mountain Biking (Formal)
<span style="color: magenta;">●</span>	Mountain Biking (Informal)
<span style="color: green;">—</span>	Clogher Valley Long Distance MTB Trail
<span style="color: red;">—</span>	MUDC Boundary

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Figure 9. Mountain Biking Provision within MUDC



### 5.3.17 Orienteering

Within the area orienteering is relatively well developed due to the area's popularity as a training environment for Duke of Edinburgh, Scout and Guide groups (Fig.10). It predominantly occurs within the area's forests and is available to the community, clubs and visitors either through the governing body, Northern Ireland Orienteering Association (NIOA) or through Todds Leap and A.W.O.L Outdoor Adventure who provide orienteering both on and off-site.

Permanent orienteering courses (POC) are located in:

- Drum Manor Forest Park
- Benburb Valley Park
- Parkanaur Forest
- Dungannon Park
- Windmill Hill, Dungannon

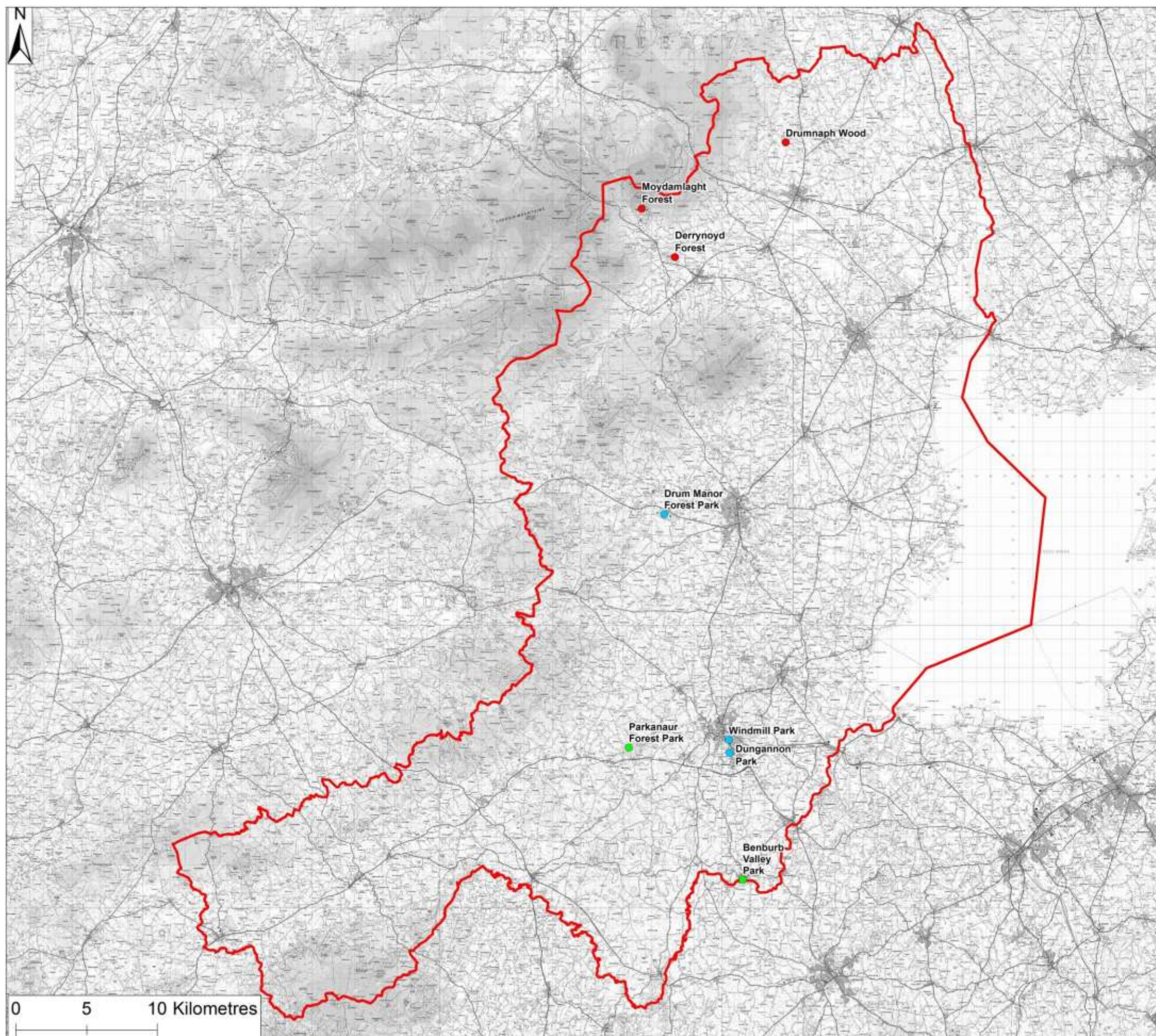
whilst the following sites although not having a permanent course have been mapped:

- Moydamlaght Forest (Mullaghmore)
- Derrynoyd Forest
- Drumlamph Wood

The area also has two 'ecotrails' located at

- Benburb Valley Park
- Parkanaur Forest





## Mid-Ulster Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Orienteering (Formal)

1:125,000

Key	
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Mapped
<span style="color: blue;">●</span>	Permanent Orienteering Course (POC)
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	POC and Ecotrail
<span style="border: 2px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	MUDC Boundary

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Figure 10. Orienteering Provision within MUDC



## 5.4 Water-based Activities

Fig. 11 shows the current provision in the MUDC area for the following water-based activities: angling, boat cruising, water skiing/wake boarding and jet skiing, whilst Fig. 12 shows the current provision in the area for canoeing/kayaking.

### 5.4.1 Angling

Angling currently takes place on most rivers and loughs/lakes in Mid Ulster however the pattern of use differs between water courses with some being over-subscribed and others under-subscribed.

Main fishing rivers: Ballinderry, Blackwater, Torrent, Moyola and the River Bann.

Most of the rivers in Mid Ulster are 'spate' rivers and so provide ideal 'game' environments for migratory fish such as salmon and sea trout.

Loughs/Lakes: Ballysaggart Lough, Ballyronan, Battery Harbour, Dungannon Park, Lough Fea, Roundlake, Fivemiletown, Blessingbourne Lakes, Brantry Lough, Carrick Lough, Creevelough, Enagh Lough, Tullygiven.

Like the rest of Northern Ireland, angling in the Mid Ulster is a complicated process of permits and licences. The fishing rights will also differ depending on the river or lough/lake and as such territorial issues can arise. In some cases, the fishing rights may be courtesy of one party, but another party is responsible for issuing the permit and rod licence.

For both the local community and visitors interested in recreational angling this can be a complicated system exacerbated by the lack of co-ordinated information about where to fish, catch and release' policies, start and end dates for the angling season, where and how to access the different rivers and loughs, etc.

These issues are largely removed however when angling is provided either through a private activity provider or on a private estate, whereby the provider owns the rights, provides the permits, offers advice, acts as a 'guilly' or guide and arranges transport and/or accommodation.

Altmore Fishery offers fly/game fishing on a 5 acre stillwater fishery near Pomeroy, whilst, The Jungle NI offers fishing off site, taking groups to Annaginney Fishery.

### 5.4.2 Boat Cruising

Boat cruising takes place from three sites in Mid Ulster namely, Portna Lock, Hutchinson's Quay and Aughnahoy Jetty.

### 5.4.3 Water skiing /Wakeboarding

Water skiing/ wakeboarding takes place from Aughnahoy Jetty and Newferry on the Lower Bann River, Ballyronan Marina and Roughan Lough. Waterway Ireland's waterski zone on the Lower Bann is highlighted in Fig. 11

### 5.4.4 Jet Skiing

Jet skiing takes place from Aughnahoy Jetty on the Lower Bann and Ballyronan Marina. Fig. 11 highlights Waterways Ireland's jet-ski zone on the Lower Bann River.

### 5.4.5 Sailing

Sailing takes place from Ballyronan Marina, Battery Harbour and Curran Quay.



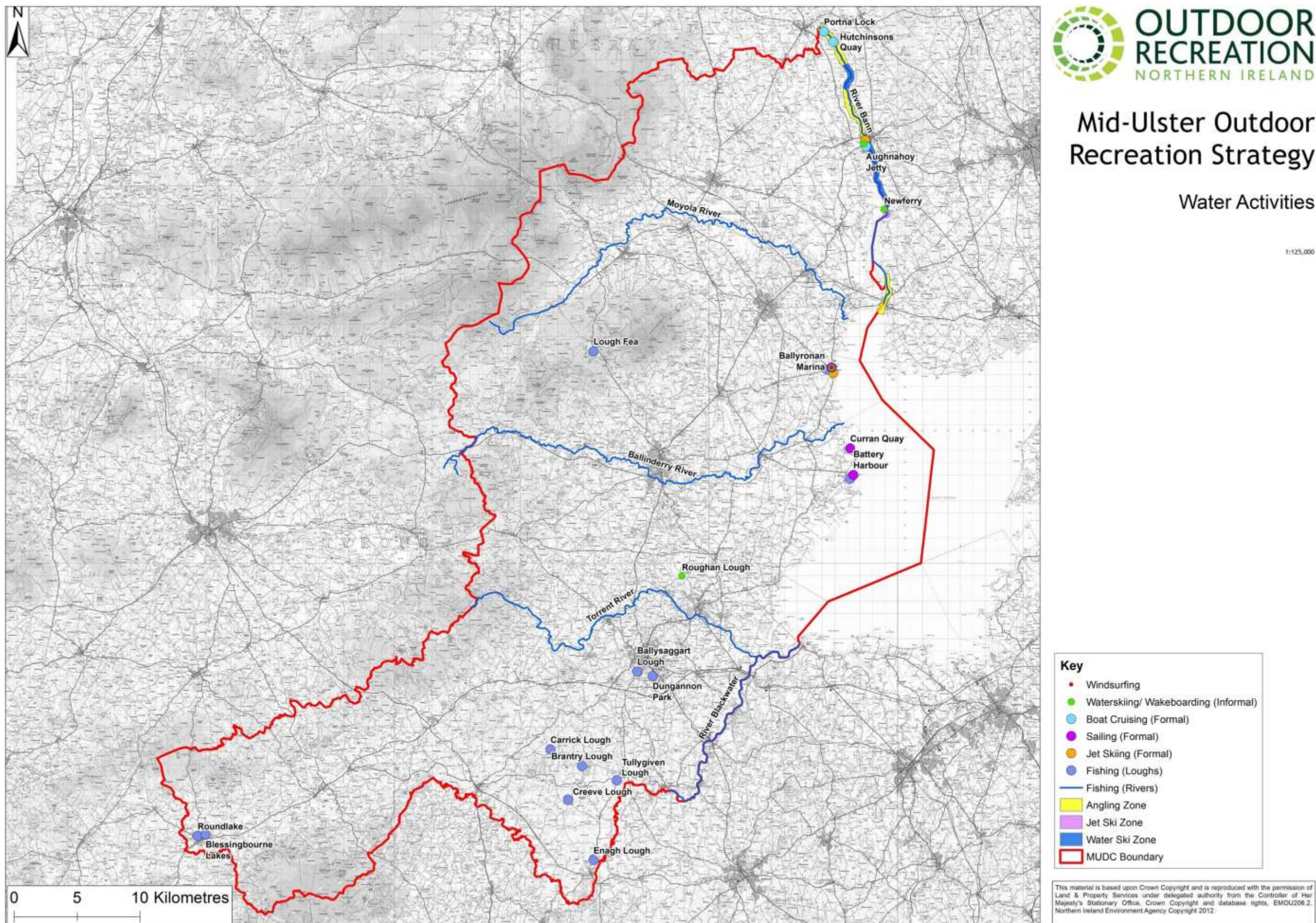


Figure 11. Water Activities Opportunities within MUDC



### 5.4.5 Canoeing / Kayaking

Like walking and cycling, canoeing and kayaking are also very popular outdoor activities taking place in Mid Ulster. This is directly related to the quality of paddling available. The MUDC area encompasses three of Northern Ireland's five inland Canoe Trails namely, the River Blackwater, Lough Neagh and the Lower Bann (Fig.12).

#### 5.4.5.1 Blackwater Canoe Trail

The River Blackwater flows from the slopes of Murley Mountain above Fivemiletown along the Clogher Valley. Between Augher, Aughnacloy and Caledon the river forms the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The River provides a 20km canoeing trail for canoeing enthusiasts of all abilities. 1.6km upstream from Bond's Bridge the Callan River joins the River Blackwater of which both the upper and lower stretches are paddled by canoeists. Beginning from the river jetty at Moy, 'Paddle the Blackwater' is one of several events hosted by the Blackwater Regional Partnership that encourages people to get out and enjoy the outdoors of the Blackwater Region.

#### 5.4.5.2 Lower Bann

Developed in 2008, the 58km Lower Bann Canoe Trail starts at Lough Neagh and finishes at the Atlantic Ocean. With access points at Portna Lock, Hutchinson's Quay, Aughnahoy Jetty and Newferry, the Trail offers canoeists both tranquil waters and some faster flowing sections.

#### 5.4.5.3 Lough Neagh Canoe Trail

Lough Neagh is the United Kingdom's largest inland lake with a shoreline of over 150km. Paddlers can explore the numerous bays and inlets around the Lough or the vast expanse of open water whilst observing a diversity of wildlife and historical sites. Mid Ulster access points to the Canoe Trail include Traad Point, Ballyronan Marina, Kinturk Quay, Battery Harbour, Brockagh Point and Washing Bay.

In addition to the River Blackwater and the Lower Bann River being used for canoeing, the Ballinderry River is also a popular canoeing venue for white water enthusiasts. Accessing from Ardtrea, the Ballinderry River provides an 8km informal stretch of grade II water from Corkhill Bridge to Cookstown with weirs at regular intervals.



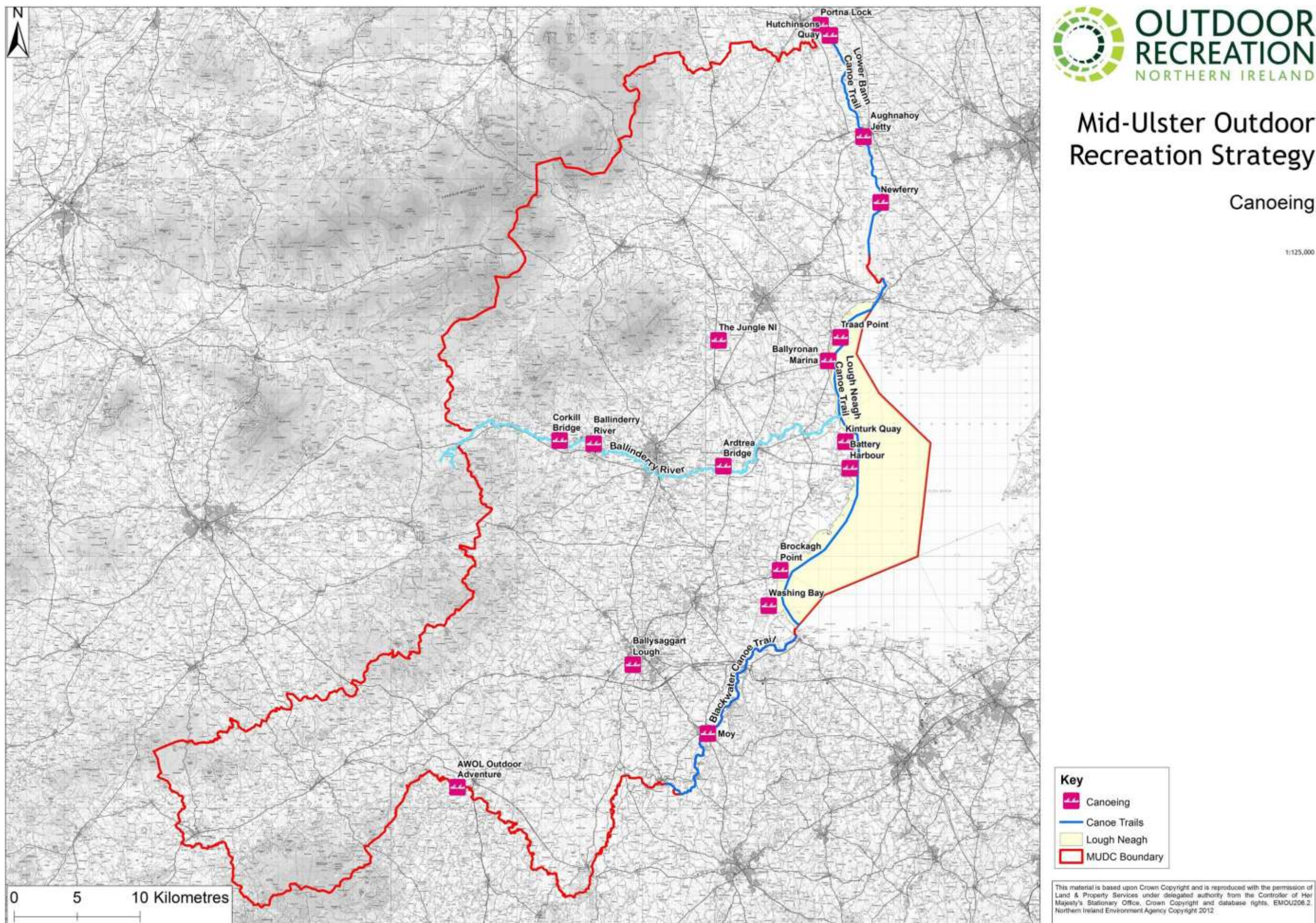


Figure 12. Canoeing Provision within MUDC



## 5.5 Air-based Activities

### 5.5.1 Hang Gliding/Paragliding

The only air-based sport that takes place in the MUDC area is hang gliding/paragliding (Fig.13).

Hang gliding is the non-motorised activity of flying or soaring through the air suspended in a harness from a single, fixed wing aircraft overhead whilst paragliding is where a glider sits in a harness suspended from a fabric 'parachute-type' kite above his/her head.

Except for experienced individuals gliding solo, the Ulster Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club is the primary provider of hang gliding and paragliding in Northern Ireland. In Mid Ulster the club launch from the following sites, with prior agreement with the landowner:

- Slieve Gallion
- White Mountain
- Craigagh Hill
- Crockmore/Crockbrack (to the south of Craigagh Hill)



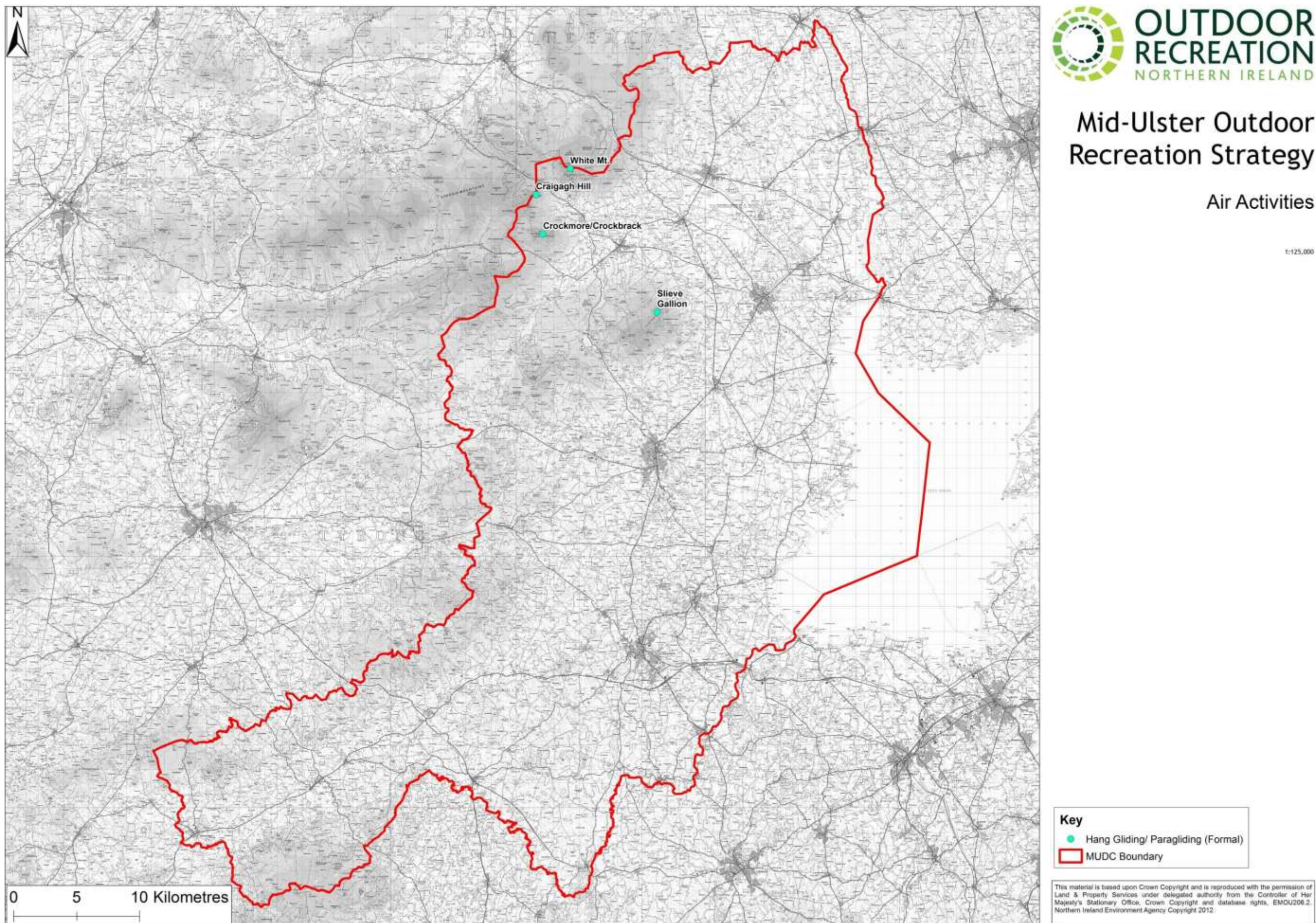


Figure 13. Air Based Activities in MUDC



## 6. CONSULTATION RESULTS – KEY FINDINGS (DEAs)

An extensive process of consultation was carried out with individual Council Officers, Council elected members, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), public and statutory agencies, public and private landowners, outdoor activity providers, community associations and groups, clubs, SORF members and the general public.

Appendix H includes for individual sites within each DEA the detailed responses from the consultation process merged with the findings from recent Council documents that include outdoor recreation provision and opportunities e.g. Village Plans. For each site the 'status quo' and 'future opportunities' are detailed.

This section includes a general synopsis of some of the key findings from the consultation followed by a SWOT analysis which details the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the current provision and future development of outdoor recreation at a local level in the Mid Ulster area. The key findings are divided into;

- Management - refers to both the resources and structures that are required to ensure a high quality and a consistent experience for all outdoor recreation users to the area.
- Development - refers to both the outdoor recreation infrastructure required to do an activity e.g. trails, canoe steps etc and the supporting visitor services and facilities which enhance the product and tourism offering.
- Promotion - refers to the wide range of media required to heighten the awareness of the local population and visitors to the area of the opportunities that exist for taking part in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities.

### 6.1 Key findings -Management

From the consultation process several issues regarding the current and future management of outdoor recreation in Mid Ulster were identified including:

- there is some provision within the MUDC's new staff structure for posts related to the development, management and promotion of outdoor recreation.
- few mechanisms exist within MUDC to encourage collaboration between the different organisations and interest groups involved in outdoor recreation across the area. These include landowners/land managers, NGBs, private sector activity providers and service providers.
- there is disparity between the number and quality of outdoor recreation sites that currently exists based on the boundaries of the former three legacy Councils.
- monitoring and consequently understanding the level of use being made of sites across MUDC is limited with only a few key sites having counters in place to record user numbers.

#### 6.1.1 Staff resourcing

The area has suffered in the past from none of the three legacy Councils having a dedicated Outdoor Recreation Officer in post.

In 2018, the Council recruited a Parks and Countryside Development Officer who is responsible for overseeing the management and delivery of the new Strategy, securing funding for development projects, working in partnership with other organisations in the delivery of projects and for all legal documentation associated with any new access initiatives and SLAs with community groups etc.

Resourcing the Strategy with appropriate staff is fundamental to its future delivery and ultimate success. The current staffing structure should therefore be monitored and reviewed throughout the lifetime of the Strategy.

### **6.1.2 Co-ordination of user groups, private activity providers etc**

There are currently few opportunities to allow those involved directly or indirectly in outdoor recreation participation and business across the Council area to come together to share experiences, knowledge and look at opportunities for improved collaboration on a wide range of outdoor recreation issues.

In other areas across Northern Ireland the mechanism to do this is through a Local Outdoor Recreation Forum which includes governing bodies of sport, local clubs, activity tourism providers, community groups and those involved in the outdoor recreation service industry e.g. accommodation providers. Given that within the Council, a Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group already exists, it is recommended that this Group is expanded to include a larger representation from the outdoor recreation sector per se rather than a new Outdoor Recreation Forum being set up.

In addition, it is essential that the Council works in partnership with its neighbouring Councils on projects such as the Lower Bann Blueway, Ulster Canal Greenway, developing walking trails in the Sperrins and developing long-distance mountain biking and horse-riding trails in the Clogher Valley.

### **6.1.3 Maintaining the product**

MUDC is still emerging from a time whereby the three legacy Councils had very different agendas, priorities and budgets with regards to outdoor recreation development, management and promotion.

Consequently, the Council area shows disparity between the number and quality of outdoor recreation sites that currently exists based on the boundaries of the former three legacy Councils. Issues regarding the level of maintenance at sites was raised at all 7 public consultation events. An adequately resourced rolling maintenance programme is therefore required to redress the current situation and maintain any future sites developed. This will require a co-ordinated approach between Property Services and Parks and Countryside.

Consideration should be given to:

- having a dedicated maintenance resource for the combined Parks and Countryside/Outdoor Service to allow for greater effectiveness and efficiency and encourage a proactive maintenance approach as opposed to the current reactive approach.
- making greater use of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with Community Groups. Currently the Council has seven SLAs with local community groups, at a cost of £35,450 for the upkeep of outdoor recreation facilities namely;
  - Pomeroy Community Association - check the play park in Pomeroy Forest daily and the walking trails weekly
  - TABBDA - provide the visitor amenity facilities at Ballyronan
  - TWCC – Traad Point conservation works
  - Kildress Community Association - maintain the Dunnamore Riverside Trail
  - Muintir na Mointeach - maintain the visitor amenity site at Washing Bay
  - Battery Harbour Management Company - carry out amenity maintenance and inspection at The Battery

- Broughderg Community Association – maintain the visitor servicing facilities at Davagh Forest.

Entering SLAs with Community Groups will not only empower communities through volunteering but is more likely to result in greater appreciation and respect for the outdoor recreation resource in their area.

All existing SLAs were reviewed and updated in 2017-2018. These should continue to be monitored going forward.

#### 6.1.4 Counters

Having the evidence base that highlights the use made of the area's outdoor recreation sites is vital moving forward.

Currently counters are located at the Round Lake - Fivemiletown, Ballyronan, Dungannon Park, Lough Fea, Blessingbourne Estate, Davagh Forest, Knockmany Forest, Brantry Forest, Portglenone Blueway, Coalisland Canal, Augher Riverside Path, Iniscarn Forest, Pomeroy Forest.

Moving forward any new outdoor recreation developments should automatically include the positioning of counters to help justify and prioritise any current and future expenditure on the site.

### 6.2 Key findings- Development

From the consultation process it became evident that:

- current provision is concentrated in several geographic areas and these are particularly important in determining the area's future outdoor recreation proposition namely; the Lower Bann, western shores of Lough Neagh, the Clogher Valley corridor, the area that falls within the Sperrins AONB and the Blackwater /Ulster Canal Corridor.
- there are several key activity sites across the area that are important and will continue to remain so in determining the area's future outdoor recreation proposition.
- whilst all Forests across the area provide local recreation opportunities, some forests have the potential if developed appropriately, to attract visitors from outside the MUDC area.
- in terms of specific activities, the area already offers good walking, mountain biking, canoeing, orienteering and angling opportunities but there is still significant opportunity to develop specific products further to increase the outdoor recreation product.
- several initiatives currently being developed have the potential to create 'stand out' recreation products namely; the Clogher Valley and Ulster Canal Greenway, the Lower Bann Blueway, the Heaney Trails, Davagh Forest and the western shores of Lough Neagh (Ballyronan/Traad).
- whilst the area already has several informal walking trails around villages and along river corridors, an overwhelming demand exists for a formal network of Community Trails to be developed across the area.
- specific bodies/initiatives have and will continue to play a significant role in the development of local outdoor recreation initiatives e.g. Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, local community groups and private sector activity providers.

### 6.2.1 Specific Product Development

Opportunities exist in the area to improve both the existing outdoor recreation infrastructure and supporting visitor services and facilities. The activities which have the greatest potential for future development are walking, off-road family cycling, mountain biking, and horse riding.

The area is still merging from a time whereby the three legacy Councils took a very different approach to developing access, particularly on private land. Consequently, much of the area's outdoor recreation potential has not been fully capitalised upon. The upland area in the north west of the Council area could be significantly developed, including that area which falls within the Sperrins AONB. Steeped in history, culture and rich in natural and built heritage the area could be developed as a key component to the overall walking product in the wider Sperrins area. Creating medium-distance multi-day walking trails in this area would be a welcome addition to the outdoor recreation proposition. Examples include linking Lough Fea to Davagh Forest.

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

Although the National and Regional Mountain Bike Trail Centres at Davagh Forest and Blessingbourne Estate respectively are already two of the area's strongest products, there is still an opportunity to develop mountain biking further for both the local community and activity tourists to the area. There is a desire to see the mountain bike product enhanced at Davagh through extending the trail network as well as the delivery of a long-distance off-road mountain biking trail in the Clogher Valley, parts of which could also be developed as a long-distance off-road horse-riding trail.

Currently the provision for family off-road cycling within the area is weak and consequently opportunities to create safe off-road family cycling trails should be considered at all sites which are highlighted for potential development.

Although the orienteering product is relatively strong in the area, recent developments by the NIOA Active Clubs Officer has shown the ability of orienteering as a powerful tool for community cohesion and social inclusion and therefore this work should be supported moving forward.

The potential to develop a canoe trail on the Ballinderry River requires more consideration, but undoubtedly the development of the Lower Bann Blueway (see section 6.2.5) will help increase the profile of this activity in the area.

Across the Mid Ulster area outdoor recreation provision is also characterised by activity-based 'hubs' defined as multi-use sites which offer a variety of both outdoor activities and support visitor services (accommodation, community services, cafe/restaurant, toilets, changing facilities, parking, etc.) in the one place. Many of these hubs are associated with community associations and there is a willingness by many of the community groups e.g. Broughderg Community Association, Carntogher Community Association, Pomeroy Community Association, Friends of Lissan House, Portglenone Community Association and Muintir na Mointeach etc to work with the Council and others to develop these further to enhance the outdoor recreation product.



### 6.2.2 Forest Development

Without doubt one of the area's strongest propositions for the future development of outdoor recreation in the Mid Ulster area lies in the resource afforded by the area's 22 forests. Whilst some of these forests will never be more than a valuable local recreation resource, others have the potential to attract visitors from outside the area if appropriately developed as activity hubs.

MUDC already has in place with FSNI an MOU and licences for certain activities in specific forests e.g. play and trails in Pomeroy Forest, mountain biking and play in Davagh Forest, trails and toilet block in Knockmany Forest and trails in Brantry, Derrynoid, Iniscarn and Moydamlaght Forests. A commitment from MUDC to enter into similar agreements in the future is a key component of the future success of developing the recreation offer in the forests.

Work is already at an advanced stage in Davagh Forest to develop the recreational offering and create a strong tourism proposition through the Dark Skies project which is due to open in 2020. Several other Forests namely, Drum Manor and Parkanaur have been identified as key outdoor recreation development sites moving forward. Both these forests will require detailed Masterplans in order to make best use of the site and best use of Council's scarce resources.

Priorities for the other forests include; working in partnership with pro-active local community groups at Altmore and Pomeroy, delivering the long-distance Mountain Bike ride through Crocknagrally, Mullaghfad, Fardross and Favour Royal Forests, developing a long-distance horse riding trail through the Clogher Valley forests, linking Iniscarn Forest to the surrounding villages and Slieve Gallion, expanding the outdoor recreation offer at Drumcainne and Moydamlaght forests and linking up Davagh Forest to Broughderg Forest and the surrounding uplands using the former network of green lanes previously used by children walking to school across the mountains.

The fundamental issue identified within all the area's 22 forests relates to the lack of basic infrastructure and lack of customer-focus. All were found to require significant improvements in the visitor welcome, interpretation and waymarking. The development of an overall 'identity' for the forests in MUDC in order to provide a cohesive experience for users of the forests, as well as instilling a sense of place will be important moving forward and could be rolled out over the lifetime of the Strategy.

See Appendix I for a Case Study on Dalby Forest, North Yorkshire.

### 6.2.3 Greenway Development

Within Northern Ireland's new Greenways Strategy, the aim of which is to 'encourage a substantial increase in the number of people walking and cycling as a regular part of everyday life through the building of a connected and accessible regional Greenway network', the Primary Greenway Network proposed includes a 97 km greenway from Dungannon to Coleraine and a 51 km greenway in the Secondary Network from Caledon to Maguiresbridge via the Clogher Valley. Also, part of the proposed greenway from Doagh to Draperstown via Antrim and Magherafelt and Craigavon to Derry-Londonderry via Omagh falls within the Mid Ulster Area as does the Ulster Canal Greenway section from Moy to Caledon (Fig.5).

Funding of £16,000 was secured in 2017/2018 by the Council from DFI to carry out feasibility studies for two of the area's potential greenways namely, the Ulster Canal Greenway and the Clogher Valley Greenway. Considerable work has already taken place on the Ulster Canal Greenway by Waterways Ireland and its partners, of which the Blackwater Regional Partnership is one. The Ulster Canal Greenway would link Castle Saunderson in Co.Cavan to Charlemont in Co.Armagh mainly along the route of the disused Ulster Canal and using sections of disused railway infrastructure. The Ulster Canal Greenway section within the Mid Ulster Council runs from Moy to Caledon and is approximately 20 miles in length.

It is recognised however that the success of the area's proposed Greenways is largely out of the Council's hands as development is totally dependent on whether individual landowners along the route are willing to co-operate and enter into access negotiations and ultimately agreements with the Council. As with any access project when working with a corridor of landowners, ultimately the project will either fail or succeed based purely on securing access. This is a time-consuming process and one that requires building up trust with the landowners.

Developing any of the above Greenways in the Mid Ulster area would realise significant benefits to the area both within the immediate vicinity of the Greenway and the wider MUDC area in terms of health and well-being, social inclusion, community cohesion and economic prosperity. Neither of these Greenways are expected to bring a significant increase in the number of visitors to the area, but rather act as a significant community resource like the Waterford to Dungarvan Greenway (see Appendix I for Case Study). However council should consider further developmental studies to progress.

The Greenways Strategy also suggests that plans in the future may provide for a third level network of 'Community Paths' that would provide doorstep opportunities to connect local communities to their local green space and neighbouring communities. This suggestion directly reinforces the consultation responses referred to in section 6.2.1.

#### 6.2.4 Lough Neagh

The recreational offer around the western shores of Lough Neagh currently shows great disparity between the quality and provision of outdoor recreation facilities at individual sites. Whilst some sites have seen significant developments and modernisation of facilities e.g. jetties, visitor centre, marinas, play parks, picnic tables, viewing points etc others have been neglected resulting in their decline. These sites are now in need of significant development to bring their recreation provision up to a standard that makes it inviting to the user.

Ballyronan /Traad Point has been identified as having the potential to become a significant 'multi-activity hub' i.e. it has the potential to attract day visitors from outside the Mid Ulster area and consequently future development around western shores of Lough Neagh will concentrate on this site. The development of a Masterplan for this site is an essential first step.

Most sites around the western shores of Lough Neagh are however defined as a 'local hubs', i.e. providing a valuable resource for the local community. These include Castlebay, Washing Bay and The Battery. Irrespective of whether the site is a regional or local hub, as a minimum, all sites should be modern and inviting to the user.

With the drop in the Lough's water level and subsequent increase in private land ownership along the Lough's shoreline resulting in a significant reduction of access to the shore, the development of Community Trails is an important consideration in improving access to the shoreline and recreation hubs around the Lough for local residents moving forward.

Given the range of environmental designations on and around the Lough, any future development must be carried out sensitively in order to minimise any impact it may have on this designated environment.

Although it is likely that the complexities relating to the administration and management of Lough Neagh have significantly impacted development of outdoor recreation opportunities in the past due to a lack of co-operation amongst those bodies responsible, recent initiatives such as the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership Scheme is seeking to redress this situation. A £2.49 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund will see the delivery of 27 integrated projects around the lough shore over the next five years.

Several of these are directly related to the provision of outdoor recreation. Much of the work is being delivered in partnership with organisations such as the RSPB and the Council.

#### 6.2.5 Lower Bann Blueway

The Lower Bann River which stretches for 60km from Toome to the Atlantic is rich in wildlife, history and built and natural heritage as evidenced by the wide range of environmental designations attributed to it. Although considerable development has taken place along the River in recent years, for the River to maximise its full outdoor recreation potential moving forward, several key issues have been identified that require urgent addressing namely;

- the River is currently a hidden asset, not readily identifiable as a destination and therefore it cannot capitalise on its role in social and economic development
- currently access on the water allows full length navigation but the riverbanks only allow fragmented riverbank routes for walkers and cyclists
- given that the Lower Bann drains Lough Neagh, Rivers Agency is obligated to manage the water levels in Lough Neagh releasing excess into the Lower Bann with consequent impacts on water levels and flows which then impacts water and riverbank-based recreation e.g. sailing and angling.
- water skiing and jet skiing zones are not always being adhered to by the user groups thereby causing damage to the biodiversity and habitats of the area.

In order to address these issues, Waterways Ireland is working to create a 'Blueway' along the Lower Bann which will significantly enhance the recreational opportunities in this part of Mid Ulster.

A Lower Bann Blueway would result in the development of a multi-use trail running alongside the already fully navigational water course linking walking, cycling, canoeing and paddle boarding with local towns and villages, leading to the creation of recreational hubs (clusters of activity), which then can be marketed as a 'Blueway', making the Lower Bann become more visible and recognised as a valuable recreational asset in the MUDC area.

Within the confines of the MUDC boundary along the Lower Bann, Toome and Portglenone have been identified as 'recreational hubs' i.e. sites that provides quality leisure facilities and amenities. Extensive work has taken place recently at Portglenone to develop the angling and walking product.

Four other sites that fall within the MUDC boundary along the River have been identified as 'significant sites' namely; Lough Beg and Church Island, Newferry West, Hutchinson's Quay and Portna. These are locations along the River that are integral to the overall Lower Bann visitor experience but avoid overprovision of amenities, necessitates lower levels of investment as well as acknowledging potential environmental sensitivities.

It is important that Mid Ulster Council 'buys' into the concept of the Blueway along the Lower Bann both investing in the development of the 'hub' and 'significant' sites as well as the 'Blueway' marketing brand.

See Appendix I for a Case Study of the Shannon Blueway

In addition to the work being led by Waterways Ireland, other major contributors to the development of the outdoor recreation proposition on the Lower Bann include the RSPB and proactive community groups.

The RSBP is currently working with Forest Service NI to acquire a licence for approximately 100 hectares of peatland north of Newferry which it hopes to restore into a publicly accessible nature reserve whilst the Bann Valley Development Association is involved in developing a network of Community Trails near



Clady and Inishrush, Portglenone Community Association is involved in developing angling and the Fisherman's Walk at Portglenone whilst TIDAL is involved in development around Toome.

#### **6.2.6 Seamus Heaney**

One of Mid Ulster's Tourism Strategy's three strategic tourism strands, the Seamus Heaney project, is already well developed with the opening of the Seamus Heaney HomePlace in Bellaghy in 2016.

Work is currently on-going to develop a trail linking Seamus Heaney's poetry and literature to places and landscapes close to the Lower Bann. The project includes developing recreational opportunities through developing new trails along the Moyola River at Castledawson and Long Point on the Strand at Lough Beg. It is anticipated that this walking product will form a significant element of any marketing/promotion of outdoor recreation in the area moving forward. These sites will also form part of a Heritage Trail which is currently being developed along the full length of the River Bann and down the western shores of Lough Neagh.

The Heaney walking trails' project currently falls under the Culture and Arts function of MUDC. It is recommended that once the individual trails are delivered on the ground, they should be transferred to the Parks and Countryside Service function of the Council given they will require on-going management, maintenance and monitoring.

#### **6.2.7 The Heart of Ancient Ulster - Landscape Partnership Scheme**

Although the area covered by the proposed Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership within the Mid Ulster area is relatively small, the contribution the Partnership is expected to make to outdoor recreation within the wider area is significant. In particular, the project will involve working with local landowners and communities on the ground to secure access to allow the delivery of heritage trails to the area's Neolithic features including chambers and Bronze Age circles. This will be complemented by visitor services e.g. car parking, interpretation etc where appropriate.

### **6.3 Key findings –Promotion**

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

- there is an absence of a strategic approach to the communication and marketing of information on outdoor recreation.
- there is currently limited information available on the opportunities for outdoor recreation in Mid Ulster particularly through the existing MUDC channels such as the Council website.
- the experience to date with MountainbikeNI.com and WalkNI.com has shown there are other highly effective mechanisms, external to the Council's core channels, to promote the opportunities available.
- some of the more niche customers such as camping and caravans are provided with good levels of information, but the more 'mass' offering to local people or visitors on outdoor recreation and parks is insufficient.
- there is a discrepancy between the sites of outdoor recreation in the MUDC area in the provision and quality of onsite visitor information and signage particularly within the area's forests. In addition, partly due to the legacy of each Council, there is a lack of identity in the visitor information and signage.
- there is an expressed desire by the local people in the MUDC area to have better access to information on the outdoor recreation opportunities available across MUDC.

- the integration between key areas of the Council, including Leisure and Tourism, to collate, disseminate and promote information on outdoor recreation in a meaningful way to local people and visitors is limited.
- the Marketing and Communication Team at MUDC are currently reviewing their plans for key platforms. There is a clear direction to simplify and integrate the approach under the Council brand:
  - o a cull of sub-brands is underway, and it is advised that the development of further branding should be avoided

### 6.3.1 Marketing Strategy

It was expressed during the consultation that outdoor recreation does not appear to enjoy the same marketing effort and promotion to residents as other areas within MUDC such as leisure centres and the arts. Whilst the value of leisure centres and the arts is not in question, there is an opportunity to increase the profile and marketing of outdoor recreation given the strong demand and evidence regarding participation and visitor levels for these. The most appropriate and effective way to do this is to develop a Marketing Strategy in partnership with the Marketing and Communications Team.

In terms of marketing, the objectives that outdoor recreation is required to deliver is referenced in the MUDC Corporate Plan, Community Plan and Tourism Strategy:

- increase customer numbers (Corporate Plan)
- encourage physical activity within the community (Corporate Plan)
- promote shared space across the area (Community Plan)
- optimise the tourism potential (Corporate Plan)
- increase Mid Ulster's image and reputation for visitors (Tourism Strategy)

It is recommended that a simple segmentation is undertaken for participants of outdoor recreation and visitors to places of outdoor recreation in MUDC for two reasons. Firstly, the tactics and platforms to market to the segments is somewhat limited and there will be little opportunity to target highly defined segments. Also, the marketing of outdoor recreation in the area is still in its infancy.

The segmentation should recognise that:

- Segments who regularly participate in 'Afternoons Out' will be key
- Given the objectives outlined above, some segments will reside outside MUDC area
- Outdoor Recreation enthusiasts are an important but small segment

### 6.3.2 Marketing Action Plan

The development of the Marketing Strategy in partnership with the Marketing and Communication team will drive the development of a tactical 5-year Marketing Action Plan. The Marketing Action Plan should cover all areas of marketing outdoor recreation and parks including promotional tactics and platforms, working with partners, events and participation programmes.

This report does not seek to pre-empt the outputs of the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan but outlines the recommended approach:

#### 6.3.2.1 Integrated Marketing Approach

Given the rich and extensive nature of the product and potential range of programmes, activities and events, developing platforms dedicated to outdoor recreation and parks in MUDC such as a website and Facebook page is a route that could be taken. However, this is not recommended, but rather a coordinated and integrated approach within Council because;

- MUDC already has several powerful communication platforms in place. This includes several Facebook pages (VisitMagherafelt has 3945 likes; VisitCookstown has 5485 likes), its website and a magazine that is delivered to 55,000 homes twice per year
- if a website and/or Facebook page was developed for outdoor recreation for MUDC area, it would be difficult to drive sufficient visitors to merit the initial development and ongoing maintenance costs
- the development of independent platforms would weaken MUDC branding and reputation and potentially disassociate the product from MUDC

This integrated approach has implications for the tactics and platforms employed to promote outdoor recreation.

#### 6.3.2.2 Websites

It is recommended that outdoor recreation information is hosted within the newly created MUDC website. Currently there is an opportunity to add to the information on the website and the navigation within 'Things To Do' to make it easier for browsers to find information. It is recommended that the navigation is reviewed to link in with Council's new website.

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

In addition, ORNI launched in 2018, an online mapping facility called OutmoreNI which helps local people find out what outdoor recreation opportunities are available on their doorstep and in their local area. There is potential that this technology could be hosted for the MUDC area within the MUDC website and would directly support the development of the proposed Community Trail Network.



The website events calendar is dominated by major events such as arts events. When major events are held in outdoor recreation sites, such as 'Picnic in the Park' at Dungannon Park, then these should continue to feature prominently in the calendar also. There is a gap for smaller events and activities that take place on a more frequent basis, for example a walking group that meets regularly to walk around Lough Fea or the Park Run that takes place weekly in Cookstown. Within the Marketing Action Plan, an online solution should be sought to communicate the events that are taking place so that local people are encouraged to take part. This is particularly critical to meet the MUDC objectives of encouraging physical activity within the community (Corporate Plan objective) and increasing customer numbers (Corporate Plan).

#### 6.3.2.3 Social Media

It is recommended that outdoor recreation is promoted on the existing Facebook pages hosted by MUDC and no new pages are created. There is a strong engaged base on the current council Facebook pages. A process and content plan should be created for outdoor recreation and parks on these Facebook pages. It will be the responsibility of the Parks Division to develop and feed content to the marketing team.

Whilst there are no current plans to integrate the numerous leisure centre pages, it is strongly recommended that as part of the Marketing Action Plan the Marketing and Communication team consider how best to promote outdoor recreation and parks on social media. Given the huge participation levels in outdoor recreation and the importance of parks to tourism, as well as the crossover into leisure, it is critical that this is resolved.

#### 6.3.2.4 Other Platforms, Campaigns & Partnerships

The use of other promotional platforms and the development of marketing campaigns will be determined by the objectives in the Marketing Strategy and detailed as part of the Marketing Action Plan. However, there are several key channels that should be specifically recognised.

The MUDC residents' magazine is delivered to 55,000 residents twice per year. As part of the Marketing Action Plan, it is recommended that outdoor recreation and parks are included in each edition and the content focused on raising awareness of the offering as well as specific campaigns or events.

MUDC already has bought into the consortium with Outdoor Recreation NI for MountainbikeNI and WalkNI Marketing. It is recommended that given the enormous web visitors (almost 750,000 visitors to WalkNI.com) and the benefits that MUDC enjoy from ORNI's marketing expertise in this area, that this agreement is maintained.

It is recommended that the marketing for the proposed development of the Blueway would be developed in partnership with Waterways Ireland who already have a successful brand and blueprint in place for promoting Blueways in Ireland.

There are several products in MUDC that attract niche outdoor enthusiasts such as paddlers and campers and caravanners. It is recommended that, as well as including these products as part of the wider outdoor recreation offering, MUDC targets these niche segments through the channels they consume such as camping websites, canoeing websites (CanoeNI.com) and associations.

### 6.3.3 Branding

MUDC's outdoor recreation sites lack a consistent identity. Given the high participation levels in outdoor recreation activities such as walking and the attraction of parks and forests for visitors, it is important that outdoor recreation and parks have a strong identity to provide a cohesive experience for visitors and local people.

Although MUDC are in a period of consolidating a plethora of existing sub brands, given the significance of the area's 22 forests in providing outdoor recreation opportunities for both locals and visitors, it is recommended that a simple graphic device is developed for all forest recreation sites. The graphic device should be simple in design and colour so that it can be employed across a whole variety of platforms such as websites, signage and waymarking.

(see Appendix I for Case Study of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council's new brand identity for forest recreation sites).

### 6.3.4 Signage & Waymarking

Within an outdoor recreation site such as a park or forest, it is essential to erect visitor information signage and where appropriate, trail waymarking. This is very important from a marketing perspective and of critical importance in terms of visitor enjoyment and risk management.

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

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

The graphic device developed for the area's forests should be fully incorporated into all aspects of the visitor information signage and waymarking within forests. This will help build customer recognition and ultimately improve the customer experience.

### 6.3.5 Events and Participation programme

A key mechanism to attract people to take part in outdoor recreation and visit sites of outdoor recreation and parks is to host events and participation programmes. Whilst there are some events and participation programmes that take place already, a more extensive and coordinated event and participation programme is recommended. This should form a key part of the Marketing Action Plan and the detail will be determined by the key segments targeted.

A small number of large events to attract local people and visitors from outside the MUDC area should be held in the two regional sites, namely Dungannon Park and Davagh Forest. These events could be an integral part of the tourism and outdoor recreation marketing plans. In addition, an events programme for the Regional Multi-Activity Hubs should be developed as these sites are developed.

In addition, it was recognised from the consultation process that one of MUDC's greatest assets moving forward is the enthusiasm and competencies of local community groups, local clubs and the private

sector, all of them having the potential to promote and market the outdoor recreation offer. It is recommended that MUDC supports community outdoor recreation events and club participation programmes as much as possible.

In addition, there may be an opportunity to capitalise on the success of the two major private sector activity providers, The Jungle NI and Todd's Leap. Exploratory meetings with these businesses should be conducted to determine the possibility of developing a strategic partnership at regional parks or multi-activity hubs, whereby they would develop a seasonal base at these sites and provide outdoor activities on a commercial basis. Full analysis of the commercial opportunity would be required to determine if any support, financial or otherwise, would be required by MUDC to entice these businesses to consider this opportunity.

There are other significant opportunities to further encourage participation in outdoor recreation in the sites, trails and parks in MUDC. These opportunities could include:

- development of led-walking groups who meet in outdoor recreation sites and parks
- increase in the number of Park Runs that take place in the MUDC area
- development of 'sports' programmes taking place in places of outdoor recreation and parks

A key partner to develop these participation programmes is the MUDC Sports Development team whose programmes and staff are part funded by Sport NI's Everybody Active Programme. Specifically, in Everybody Active, SportNI have asked Councils to focus on walking and cycling as two key activities as SportNI recognise their mass appeal and ease of access to all residents. It is recommended therefore that an Outdoor Recreation Participation Plan is created in partnership with the Leisure team to encourage participation in outdoor recreation at sites and parks throughout MUDC.

### **6.3.6 Marketing Resource and Expertise**

Currently within the Parks and Countryside team, no dedicated marketing resource exists to lead the marketing effort and liaise with the Marketing and Communications team. The following duties will have to be subsumed by the Parks and Countryside Development Officer namely;

- assist the Marketing and Communication Team in MUDC to develop a Marketing Strategy and Marketing Action Plan
- lead on the implementation of the Action Plan, including:
- develop content for parks and outdoor recreation for MUDC website and other MUDC platforms
- develop campaign plans for events and other activities
- liaise with other partners such as Waterways Ireland, ORNI to promote MUDC offering
- assist in the design the visitor information and waymarking signage guidelines for outdoor recreation sites.



## 6.4 SWOT Analysis

The following SWOT analysis details the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the current provision and future development of outdoor recreation at a local level in the Mid Ulster Council area. The information contained in the SWOT analysis summarises the feedback gained through consultation and secondary research.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central location in NI i.e. 1 hour's drive from large population</li> <li>- Scenic landscape and diverse variety of habitats used for outdoor recreation e.g. mountain, valleys, canals, loughs, rivers, forests, parks etc.</li> <li>- Rich in heritage and archaeological sites</li> <li>- MUDC Tourism Strategy has recognised outdoor recreation as one of its three strategic tourism strands</li> <li>- Area includes Davagh Forest - NI's first proposed Dark Skies Reserve</li> <li>- Area includes Seamus Heaney Home place and proposed heritage walking trails</li> <li>- Area includes part of the Lower Bann - one of only two proposed 'Blueways' in NI</li> <li>- Area includes part of the largest freshwater lake in the UK and Ireland in Lough Neagh</li> <li>- Abundant wealth of forests (22) for recreation development</li> <li>- Area includes two of NI's proposed primary Greenways</li> <li>- Area includes one of NI's three national mountain bike trail centres and one of NI's two regional mountain bike trail centres</li> <li>- Three of NI's five inland canoe trails flow through the area</li> <li>- Abundance of rivers for angling e.g. Ballinderry, Torrent, Moyola</li> <li>- Current 'niche' activity provision through outdoor activity providers, e.g. Jungle NI, Todd's Leap and AWOL</li> <li>- Unique 'adventurous' activity products currently on offer, e.g. high ropes (Go Ape), paintballing, zorbing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sperrins AONB - part of which falls within MUDC has no Management Plan or Management Body in place.</li> <li>- Silo approach taken to developing, managing and promoting outdoor recreation across the area</li> <li>- Family off-road cycling product weak in general across the area</li> <li>- Poor access to heritage and archaeological sites</li> <li>- Reactive approach to PROW</li> <li>- Fragmented bank access to the Lower Bann river corridor for walking and cycling as much of the land is privately owned</li> <li>- Land along the proposed Greenways predominantly privately owned</li> <li>- Conflict between users and conservation in areas e.g. water skiers and jet skiers not adhering to zones on Lower Bann</li> <li>- Difficulty retaining visitors in the area for longer than a single trip</li> <li>- Poor connectivity between some communities and green space</li> <li>- Lack of formal campsites, glamping and air de service etc. for recreational users</li> <li>- Lack of visitor welcome in Forests</li> <li>- No on-going rolling maintenance programme in place</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development already delivered by proactive Community Associations</li> <li>- SLAs already in place with 6 Community Associations for maintenance of sites</li> <li>- Community Trail buy-in already happening across the area</li> <li>- LNLPS in place – remit includes funding and delivering outdoor recreation development in Lough Neagh, Lough Beg and beyond</li> <li>- MoU in place with FSNI and proactive MUDC stance on taking on licence agreement for outdoor recreation on FSNI land</li> <li>- Number of successful events and participation programmes in place</li> <li>- Recognition of the importance of marketing to the success of participating in the outdoors</li> <li>- MUDC already a member of the NI marketing consortiums WalkNI.com and MountainbikeNI.com</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor information available on MUDC promotional channels (e.g. website) on outdoor recreation and parks</li> <li>- There is a proliferation of Facebook pages, none of which lend themselves to the promotion of outdoor recreation</li> <li>- Not a recognised tourist destination for outdoor recreation</li> <li>- Tourist market is dominated by day visitors (including educational market) with limited spend to the area</li> <li>- CanoeNI.com the main marketing website to market the three Canoe trails has lost its funding</li> <li>- Lack of partnership and collaboration across the outdoor recreation industry per se in the region</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve collaboration between all interested parties in outdoor recreation by expanding the membership of the Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</li> <li>- Improve and increase partnership working between the Council and community organisations particularly through maintenance SLAs</li> <li>- Capitalise on outdoor recreation development around NI's first proposed Dark Skies Reserve at Davagh</li> <li>- Capitalise on Seamus Heaney Home place and proposed heritage walking trails</li> <li>- Capitalise on the Lower Bann becoming one of the first 'Blueways' in NI</li> <li>- Capitalise on the proposed Ulster Canal Greenway (cross border) and the Clogher Valley Greenway</li> <li>- Capitalise on the proposed development on the western shores of Lough Neagh at Ballyronan and Traad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inadequate resources put in place</li> <li>- Availability and sources and priority of outdoor recreation within the Council's overall funding priorities</li> <li>- Raising awareness, identification of sources, availability, securing match funding</li> <li>- Competing agendas of multiple stakeholders and silo approach (vertical flow of information) – lack of partnership working</li> <li>- No one 'destination' brand for marketing and promotion</li> <li>- Lack of partnership working across Council departments and with external partners</li> <li>- Poor community buy-in for tourism (leisure/activity/heritage)</li> <li>- Poor industry buy-in for outdoor recreation development</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walking: develop opportunities in the uplands and foothills, low level walks, riverside walks, pathways linking communities and green space and linking existing walks, focus on agreed routes and potential permissive paths</li> <li>- Proactive PROW investigation</li> <li>- Mountain biking: extend Davagh Forest trail and deliver the Clogher Valley long-distance ride.</li> <li>- Horseriding: facilitate the delivery of a long-distance horse-riding trail in the Clogher Valley</li> <li>- Strengthen existing activity hubs and develop new regional and local activity hubs.</li> <li>- Develop a Community Trail Plan for each DEA and deliver in each a Community Trail network</li> <li>- Deliver and coordinate event's/participation programme across the area working with local clubs, communities, NGOS and the private sector</li> <li>- Consolidate and enhance the existing product as a basis for increasing provision and participation</li> <li>- Improve disabled access through the area where possible</li> <li>- Improve the visitor welcome and basic visitor servicing at all forests</li> <li>- Increase accommodation offer at sites e.g. pods, glamping</li> <li>- Develop a strategic approach to marketing outdoor recreation and parks</li> <li>- Develop an integrated approach to marketing outdoor recreation across MUDC to enhance the visibility, appeal and promotion of the area for outdoor activities</li> <li>- Organisations with expertise in marketing outdoor recreation such as ORNI and Waterways Ireland are available to support</li> <li>- Get involved more with national web sites including WalkNI, CycleNI, MountainbikeNI and OutmoreNI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding: raising awareness, identification of sources, availability, securing match funding</li> </ul>
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## 7. ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan should be read in conjunction with Section 6 and Appendix H. It does not include Actions detailed in Appendix H which are already being led, delivered or funded by another organisation within the Council area e.g. Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The cost is the total cost over the lifetime of the Strategy. For a more detailed breakdown of the costs see Appendix J and Appendix M which details an annual costed Action Plan.

Code	Site/Trail/ Area	Action	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Cost over 5 years	
					Existing Budget	New Budget

A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)						
A1.	Council wide	<b>Parks and Countryside Development Officer.</b> Review staff structure throughout lifetime of the Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> </ul>	On-going	£213,297	
A2.	Council Wide	<b>Expansion of the existing Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b> - to include all those involved directly/indirectly with outdoor recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> <li>Community Association</li> <li>Governing Bodies of Sport</li> <li>Private Activity Providers</li> <li>Accommodation Providers</li> <li>Lough Neagh Partnership</li> </ul>	Year 1 On-going	Staff time	
A3.	Council Wide	Co-ordinate and deliver through Property Services an adequately resourced <b>rolling maintenance programme</b> to include all current and future outdoor recreation facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> <li>Community Association</li> </ul>	On-going	£675,000	
A4.	Council Wide	Maintain and monitor existing SLAs with Community Groups. Develop new Partnership SLA's e.g Community Forest projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MUDC</li> <li>Community Association</li> <li>Private Estates</li> </ul>	On-going	£177,250	£90,000

		Develop where appropriate new <b>SLAs with Community Groups</b> for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities in their local community. Provide the appropriate training on what is expected in terms of visitor experience and facility maintenance checks.				
A5.	Council Wide	Monitor existing locations of <b>counters</b> and install at all new outdoor recreation sites across the Council area moving forward.  Collection contracted out twice a year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MUDC</li></ul>	On-going	£15,000	
B: MASTER PLANNING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)						
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b>  <b>Regional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ballyronan Marina and Wood/Traad Point (Year 1-2)</li><li>Parkanaur Forest (Year 2-3)</li><li>Drum Manor Forest Park (Year 3-4)</li></ul> <b>Local</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Altmore Cappagh (Year 1-2)</li><li>Drumcairne Forest (Year 2-3)</li><li>Windmill &amp; Cabin Wood (Year 3-4)</li><li>Iniscarn Forest (Year 4-5)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MUDC</li><li>Private Sector</li><li>FSNI</li><li>DAERA</li><li>DfC</li><li>DFI</li></ul>	Year 1-5		£135,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for each of the 9 DEAs  Will involve extensive community consultation, GIS mapping, prioritisation of trails to be developed and scoping of prioritised routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MUDC</li><li>Individual communities</li></ul>	Year 1-5	Staff time	
C: PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)						

C.PRODUCTDEVELOPMENT – MULTI ACTIVITY (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)					
C1	Lower Bann (multi trails – both on and off the water)	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Waterways Ireland</li> <li>• Mid and East Antrim Council</li> <li>• Causeway Coast and Glens Council</li> <li>• DAERA</li> <li>• DFC</li> <li>• FSNI</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> </ul>	Years 1-2	Staff time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway (family cycling and walking)	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support by developing brief/studies and engaging with DFI's competitive grant process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• DFI</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> <li>• Omagh and Fermanagh Council</li> </ul>	Years 3-4	Staff time    £25,000
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway (family cycling and walking)	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support by developing brief/studies and engaging with DFI's competitive grant process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Waterways Ireland</li> <li>• Monaghan County Council</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> </ul>	Years 2-3	Staff time    £25,000
C4 (see Appendix K for rationale for inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballyronan/Traad Point (Year 1-5)</li> <li>• Parkanaur Forest (Year 2-5)</li> <li>• Drum Manor Forest (Year 3-5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• FSNI</li> <li>• DAERA</li> <li>• DfC</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> <li>• Private sector</li> </ul>	Years 2-5	Staff time    £1,850,000



C5 (see Appendix L for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altmore Cappagh (Year 1-2)</li> <li>• Drumcaine Forest (Year 2-3)</li> <li>• Portglenone (Year 2-3)</li> <li>• Windmill Park (Year 3-4)</li> <li>• Cabin Wood (Year 3-4)</li> <li>• Ballysaggart Lough (Year 4-5)</li> <li>• Iniscarn Forest (Year 4-5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Ulster Council</li> <li>• Private sector</li> <li>• FSNI</li> <li>• DAERA</li> <li>• DfC</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> <li>• Woodland Trust</li> <li>• NI Water</li> </ul>	Years 1-5	£1,000,000
<b>C. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – CANOEING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)</b>					
C6	Lower Ballinderry River	<b>Canoe Trails</b> – assess the feasibility of establishing a canoe trail on the Lower Ballinderry River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• CANI</li> <li>• DAERA</li> </ul>	Years 1 - 3	£5,000
<b>C. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT - MOUNTAIN BIKING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)</b>					
C7	Davagh Forest	<b>National Mountain Bike Centre</b> – develop the existing Trails Centre through the extension of the current trail network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• FSNI</li> </ul>	Years 1-2	£500,000
C8	Clogher Valley	<b>Off-road long-distance ride</b> - facilitate NI first long-distance mountain biking trails using the forests of the Clogher Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Fermanagh and Omagh District Council</li> <li>• Forest Service NI</li> <li>• DAERA</li> </ul>	Years 1	£2,500

C. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – HORSE RIDING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)					
C9	Clogher Valley	<b>Off-road long-distance ride</b> – support the development of off-road horse-riding trails in conjunction with FSNI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Forest Service NI</li> <li>• DAERA</li> <li>• Private landowners</li> <li>• ILDRA</li> <li>• URRRA</li> </ul>	Year 2-5	Staff time £5,000
C. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT – WALKING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)					
C10	Council Wide	<b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area. Map out walking routes and trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Community association</li> <li>• Strabane and Derry</li> </ul> <p>Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causeway Coast and Glens Council</li> <li>• Local Walking Clubs</li> <li>• Community Associations</li> </ul>	Years 2-5	Staff time £25,000
C11	Council Wide	<p><b>Community Trails</b> – assist in the development of a network of Community Trails across the area. The following will need further detailed investigation and physical assessment as part of the wider Community Trail Plan as per recommendation B2 in order to prioritise projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altmore – Altmore Reservoir</li> <li>• Aghareaney – Donaghmore</li> <li>• Ballinderry River – Ardrea to Drapersfield River</li> <li>• Ballysaggart Lough – Dungannon Town</li> <li>• Desertmartin – to Iniscarn Forest</li> <li>• Draperstown – Tobermore along the Moyola River</li> <li>• Draperstown – Moneyneany along the Douglas River</li> <li>• Drumullan to Springhill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Community Associations</li> <li>• Private landowners</li> <li>• DAERA</li> <li>• FSNI</li> <li>• National Trust</li> <li>• DfC</li> <li>• NI Water</li> <li>• Waterways Ireland</li> </ul>	Years 1-5	Staff time (£)TBC

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenvale Cookstown – Ballinderry River</li> <li>• Gortmoss/Gort Lane</li> <li>• Lissan House Trails</li> <li>• Moneymore – Springhill Wood</li> <li>• Portglenone – Newferry</li> <li>• Portglenone – Hutchinson's Key – Portna – Kilrea</li> <li>• Parkanaur to Castlecaulfield – Donaghmore</li> <li>• Pomeroy Forest – Pomeroy Village</li> <li>• Sandholes along the Tullylagan River</li> <li>• Stewartstown – Crieve Lough</li> <li>• Tullaghoge – Loughry</li> <li>• Tullaghoge Fort – Tullyhogue village</li> </ul>			
<b>D: PROMOTION/MARKETING (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)</b>					
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Strategy &amp; Plan</b> – develop a 5-year Marketing Strategy for outdoor recreation and parks and a tactical Marketing Action Plan	• MUDC	Year 1	Staff time
D2	Council Wide	<b>Identity</b> – develop a graphic device within the MUDC brand for forest outdoor recreation sites	• MUDC	Year 1	£5,000
D3	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information &amp; Signage Guidelines</b> – develop brand guidelines for all outdoor recreation sites	• MUDC	Year 1	£15,000
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information &amp; Signage Review and Implementation</b> – undertake a review of signage, visitor information and waymarking at the current portfolio of outdoor recreation sites and parks in order to recommend the action required to meet the guidelines. Implement across sites	• MUDC	Year 2-5	Staff time
D5	Council Wide	<b>Outdoor Recreation Participation Plan</b> – develop a plan in collaboration with Leisure to encourage people to take part in physical activity at sites of outdoor recreation with a focus on walking and cycling	• MUDC	Year 1	Staff time



D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUDC</li> <li>• Private sector</li> </ul>	Year 1-5	Staff time
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>					<div>Existing                      New</div> <div><b>£1,080,547    £3,682,500</b></div>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>					<b>£4,763,047</b>

## 8. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

There are several funding programmes which would support outdoor recreation development. (See Appendix M for details)

Fund / Programme	Grants Available	Applicant	Timeframe
The National Lottery Community Fund – People and Communities	Upto£100,000at 100%	Voluntary or community groups	Open all year round
The National Lottery Community Fund – Awards for All	Upto£10,000at 100%	Voluntary or community organisations, schools and statutory bodies	Open all year round
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£3,000 to £10,000 at 100%	Not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage and partnerships	Open all year round
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£10,000 to £100,000 at 100%	Not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage and partnerships	Open all year round
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£100,000to£250,000 at 95%	Not-for-profit organisations and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations	Set application windows each year
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£250,000 to £5 million at 90%	Not-for-profit organisations and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations	Open all year round
Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland - Community Grants Programme	The average grant is currently between £3,000 - 4,000.	Registered charities with an income of less than £1 million	Open all year round
Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme	£500 to £5,000	Voluntary, community organisations, schools & third level education organisations, youth groups & sports clubs Housing Association and Housing Executive residents	Year on Year

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A - List of natural heritage sites in Mid Ulster Council Area

Natural Heritage Type	Name	Natural Heritage Type	Name
AONB	Sperrin	ASSI	Ballymacombs More
ASSI	Wolf Island Bog	ASSI	Rehaghy Wood
ASSI	Dead Island Bog	ASSI	Round Lough and Lough Fadda
ASSI	Ballyknock	ASSI	Tanderagee
ASSI	Carn/Glenshane Pass	ASSI	Lough na blaney bane
ASSI	Ballynahone Bog	ASSI	Lough McCall
ASSI	Curran Bog	ASSI	Lurgylea
ASSI	Toome	ASSI	Knocknacloy
ASSI	Lough Beg	ASSI	Moneystaghan Bog
ASSI	Crockaghole Wood	ASSI	Sruhanleanantawey Burn
ASSI	Teal Lough Part II	ASSI	Brookend
ASSI	Teal Lough and Slaghtfreeden Bogs	ASSI	Caledon and Tynan
ASSI	Owenkillew River	ASSI	Drumbally Hill
ASSI	Black Bog	ASSI	Drummond Quarry
ASSI	Upper Ballinderry River	ASSI	Benburb - Milltown
ASSI	Ballysudden	ASSI	Roeveagh
ASSI	Limehill Farm	ASSI	Cavan
ASSI	Bardahessiagh	ASSI	Cloghcor Lough
ASSI	Little River	ASSI	Knockadoo Wood
ASSI	Lough Neagh	ASSI	Lough Doo
ASSI	Glenmore Wood	ASSI	Black Lough (Tyrone)
ASSI	Benburb	ASSI	Derrycloony Lough
ASSI	Fymore Lough	ASSI	Drumcrow
ASSI	Fardross Stream	ASSI	Slieve Beagh
ASSI	Cullentra Lough		
LCA	South Sperrin	LCA	Sperrin Mountains
LCA	Brougher Mountain	LCA	Clogher Valley Lowlands
LCA	Beaghmore Moors and Marsh	LCA	Binevenagh



LCA	Glenshane Slopes	LCA	Slieve Gallion
LCA	Slievemore	LCA	Upper Moyola Valley
LCA	Cookstown Farmlands	LCA	Dungannon Drumlins and Hills
LCA	Carrickmore Hills	LCA	Blackwater Valley
LCA	Loughgall Orchard Belt	LCA	Garvagh Farmland
LCA	West Lough Neagh Shores	LCA	Lower Bann Valley
LCA	Magherafelt Farmland	LCA	Lough Neagh Peatlands
LCA	Moyola Floodplain	LCA	Armagh Drumlins
LCA	Slieve Beagh		

NNR/NR	Ballynahone Bog	NNR/NR	Lough Neagh Islands
NNR/NR	Lough Beg		

SAC	Wolf Island Bog	SAC	Black Bog
SAC	Carn – Glenshane Pass	SAC	Upper Ballinderry River
SAC	Ballynahone Bog	SAC	Slieve Beagh
SAC	Teal Lough	SAC	Dead Island Bog
SAC	Owenkillew River	SAC	Curran Bog

SPA	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	SPA	Slieve Beagh - Mullaghfad - Lisnaskea
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RAMSAR	Ballynahone Bog	RAMSAR	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg
RAMSAR	Black Bog RAMSAR Site	RAMSAR	Slieve Beagh RAMSAR Site

## APPENDIX B– List of scheduled areas in Mid Ulster Area

TOWNLAND	EDITED TYPE	TOWNLAND	EDITED TYPE
Ballyronan Beg	Counterscarp rath	Annagh More	Crannog
Moneymore	Rath	Ballygawley	Castle
Mullanahoe	Souterrain	Beagh (Temporall)	Mound
Grange	Standing Stones (2) (area surrounding the state care monument)	Lisgorgan Glebe	Rath
Grange	Standingstone (area surrounding the state care monument)	Knockoneill (Tamnybrack)	Rath
Carrydarragh	Rath	Dreenan	Rath
Castle Farm	Castle and Village: Stewartstown	Corick	Stone alignments and circle
Beaghmore	Cairn	Tamnadeese	Rath
Beaghmore	Cairn	Aghagaskin	Rath
Broughderg	Stone Circle and alignment	Tullybrick	Wedge tomb
Beaghmore	Cairn and alignment	Upperland	Rath
Davagh Lower	Ring cairn, stone circle and alignments	Drumderg	Portal tomb: Dergmore's Grave
Broughderg	Megalithis Tomb	Tintagh	Promontory fort
Dunmore	Mound: moat (lough Fea)	Annagh and Moneysterlin	Crannog at loughinsholin
Slaghtfreedan	Megalithic tomb: Giant's grave and 'cairns'	Coolsaragh	Rath: Drumbally Fort
Killucan	Wedge tomb: Carnanbane (area surrounding the state care monument)	Coolnasillagh	Stone circle and alignment
Killucan	Long Cairn (area surrounding the state care monument)	Tirnony	Church: Killelagh
Muntober	Rath: the black fort	Moneyneany	Rath
Feegarran	Trackway	Granaghan	Rath
Moymore	Stone circles (9) and alignments	Craigmore	Rath
Lissan	Rath: birch Hill	Gulladuff	Rath
Loughry	Wedge Tomb: Giant's Grave	Moygall	Barrow
Killymoon Demesne	Court Tomb	Tullynagee	Rath
Donaghery	Standing Stone	Tullynagee	Bivallate Rath
Gortnagarn	Court tomb	Slaghtneill	Wedge Tomb: Giant's Grave
Tattykeel	Standingstone (area surrounding the state care monument)	Ballymully	Wedge Tomb
Broughderg	Cist burial and associated features	Moneyguiggy	Rath: White Fort
Ballymultrea	Plantation castle, bawn and village site: Salterstown	Lismoyle	Bivallate Rath

Gortatray	Trivallate Enclosure	Dunglady	Multivallate Rath: Dunglady Rath
Belagherty	Bivallate Rath	Cabragh	Windmill: Knockcloghrim
Mawillian	Rath: The Fort	Tobermore	Rath
Magheraglass	Church and enclosure (area surrounding the state care monument)	Doon	Rath
Moymore	Barrow	Dernabane	Large Enclosure
Ballybriest	Stone Circle Complex	Culnagrew	Standing stone and burials
Ballindrum	Rath	Lisnagleer	Standing Stone 'Clogh Corr'
Doorless	Rath	Mobuy	Standing stone and site of stone circle 'Druid's Circle'
Terressan	Rath	Reloagh	Crannogs
Drumard	Rath	Beleevna-beg	Concentric stone circles
Ballyneill More	Rath	Golan	Henge
Feegarron	Wedge Tomb	Intake	Church, graveyard and bullaun: Church Island
Feegarron	Wedge Tomb	Broughderg	Court Tomb: Carnanagarranbane
Davagh Lower	Wedge tomb: Big Man's Grave	Clogher Demesne	Large Hilltop Enclosure
Cloghog	Rectangular enclosure - artillery fort?	Ballybriest	Wedge Tomb (area surrounding the state care monument)
Carr	Platform rath	Ballybriest	Dual court tomb, 'Carnanbane' (area surrounding the state care monument)
Sess Kilgreen	Passage tomb: standing stones (2)	Ballywholan	Court tomb, 'carnagat' (area surrounding the state care monument)
Rousky	Aghaloo Church	Sess Killgreen	Passage Tomb
Shantavny Irish	Passage tomb	Murnells	Portal tomb and long cairn 'Dermot and Grania's Bed' and round cairn
Cullamore	Court tomb: Giant's Grave	Crannogue	Fortified mound
Derrydrummond	Court tomb: Giant's Graves	Mulnagore	Hut platform
Lislane	Wedge tomb	Glege (Ballyclog)	Church: Ballyclog Old Church
Stakernagh	Crannog in Lough Aughlish	Broughderg	Stone circles, alignments and cairn
Carnteel	Church	Mormeal	Ecclesiastical site - 'Kilcronaghan Church'
Roughan and Tullagh Beg	Crannog	Mullaghwothragh	Windmill
Clogherny/Crossteely/Cadian	Crannog	Tamlaght	Standing Stone 'The Honeymug Stone'



Lismore	Rath	Innishrush	Crannog in Green Lough (area surrounding the state care monument)
Sessia	Rath	Ballymulderg Beg	Mound
Lungs	Earthwork: oval platform with terrace	Broughderg	Two stone circles and a standing stone
Aughnacarney	Rath	Castletown	Ring Barrow
Lisdoart	Platform rath	Dungororan	Rath (area surrounding the state care monument)
Tullydowey	Artillery Fort: Mulland Fort	Lisgobban	Bivallate Rath 'Ligobban Fort'
Knockaginny	Rath	Clogher Demesne	Clogher Hillfort (area surrounding the state care monument)
Corick	Rath and tree - ring	Moymore	Rath
Mullans	Rath	Roughan	Castle
Favour Royal Demesne	Bivallate Rath	Farsnagh and Sessia	Ecclesiastical site: environs of Ardboe cross and abbey
Durless White	Rath	Drumcoo	Castle and house (site of) 'Dungannon Castle'
Findermore	Cross-carved standing stone: Abbey Stone	Tullybrick	Prehistoric field and cairn complex
Creevelough	Rath	Dunnamore	Wedge Tomb
Branny	Hilltop Enclosure	Loughry	Rath
Mallabeney	Hillfort	Tamlaght	Portal tomb 'Cloghtogle'
Shantavny Scotch	Wedge tomb	Glencull	Cross-head built into wall of farm outbuilding
Corboe	Rath	Aghintain	17th-Century fortified house and bawn. 'Aghintain Castle'
Ballyness	Standing Stone	Beaghmore	Area of archaeological potential north of Beaghmore Stone Circles
Favour Royal Demesne	Bivallate Rath	Sess Kilgreen	Megalithic Tomb
Altmore alias Barracktown	Court Tomb	Clogher Demesne	Ecclesiastical site. 'Clochar Mac nDaimeni'
Sess Kilgreen	Mound	Beagh More	Round cairn and standing stones, 'Mickey Bradley's Cairn'
Demesne	Caledon Cross	Ballymully	Ecclesiastical site and enclosure. 'Destertlyn Old Church'
Cadian	Sweat House	Gortmerron	Fragment of Romanesque arch
Tullydowey	Clonfeacle Cross	Ballymully Glebe	Inauguration Site: Tullaghoge Fort
Kilnagrew	Crannog	Charlemont/Moy	Charlemont Fort

Mullaghmore	Rath	Caledon	19th-century Beam engine with engine house and chimney base
Altmore alias Barricktown	Megalith	Lislane	Wedge tomb
Sess Kilgreen	Passage tomb: decorated standing stone	Tattykeel	Megalithic Tomb
Glenchuil	Passage tomb: (sometimes known as Glenchuil fort)	Castletown	Eelweir and associated features
Tycanny	Large hilltop enclosure	Gortalowry	Rath (rescheduled area)
Killyliss	Rath: Killyliss fort (area surrounding the state care monument)	Brackaville; Annagher	Chimneys (4)
Lismore	Favor Royal Bawn	Annagher	Chimney
Crew	Platform Rath	Strawmore	Standing stone; poss. Megalithic tomb
Errigal	Rath	Magherafelt Town Parks	Multiperiod church and graveyard
Bloomhill	Rath	Drumgormal	Bivallate Rath
Glasdrummond	Court Tomb	Brackaville; Gortgonis	Coalisland Canal, eastern portion of canal basin (IHR 5141)
Keady	Platform Rath	Gortgonis	Coalisland Canal, Reach 1 (IHR 5141)
Edenageeragh	Rath: Lismaloe Fort	Gortgonis	Coalisland Canal, Reach 2 (IHR 5141)
Sessiamagaroll	Rath and motte: Sessiamagaroll fort	Gortgonis	Coalisland Canal, Reach 3 (IHR 5141)
Tullygiven	Crannog	Gortgonis; Annaghmore	Coalisland Canal, Reach 4 (IHR 5141)
Shanmaghry	Wedge Tomb	Annaghmore; Derrytresk	Coalisland Canal, Reach 5 (IHR 5141)
Martray	Rath: Martray Fort	Derrytresk	Coalisland Canal, Reach 6 (IHR 5141)
Glenkeen	Platform Rath	Derrytresk	Coalisland Canal, Reach 7 (IHR 5141)
Glenoo	Church, graveyard and bullaun: Killycawna	Loughry	Prehistoric Enclosure
Annagh More	Crannog	Ballywholan	State Care Portal Tomb 'Carnfadrig'

## APPENDIX C – Land owners / Land Managers in Mid Ulster.

SITE	LANDOWNER/MANAGER
Coalisland Canal, Ballysaggart Lough, Glenmore, Ardtrea Bridge, Windmill Park, Dungannon Park, Ballyronan Marina/Traad Point	Mid Ulster Council
Altmore	Forest Service NI
Bann Woods South	Forest Service NI
Caledon	Forest Service NI
Clabby	Forest Service NI
Cookstown	Forest Service NI
Creggan	Forest Service NI
Crocknagrally	Forest Service NI
Davagh	Forest Service NI
Derrynoyd	Forest Service NI
Drum Manor	Forest Service NI
Dunmoyle	Forest Service NI
Fardross	Forest Service NI
Favour Royal	Forest Service NI
Glenshane	Forest Service NI
Iniscarn	Forest Service NI
Knockmany	Forest Service NI
Moydamlaght	Forest Service NI
Moyola	Forest Service NI
Mullaghfad	Forest Service NI
Parkanaur	Forest Service NI
Pomeroy	Forest Service NI
Portglenone	Forest Service NI
Springhill and Wellbrook Beetling Mill	National Trust
Lough Beg NNR	DEARA
Brookend NNR	DEARA
Loughry	DEARA
Tullaghoge SCM	Department for Communities
Beaghmore SCM	Department for Communities
Castlecaulfield Castle SCM	Department for Communities
Clogher Hill Fort SCM	Department for Communities
Altmore (Upper and Lower) and Lough Fea	NI Water
Lough Beg	RSPB
Moyola Waterfoot	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Blessingbourne	Ulster Wildlife Trust
Portna Lock	Waterways Ireland
Hutchinson's Quay	Waterways Ireland
Portglenone Wood Jetty	Waterways Ireland
Aughnahoy Jetty	Waterways Ireland
Cabin Wood	Woodland Trust
Drumlamph Woodland	Woodland Trust
Gortgonis Wood	Woodland Trust



## APPENDIX D – Strategic Context.

### Our Passion, Our Place NIEA Strategic Priorities 2012 – 2022

Under the 'People and Places' priority, a strategic goal of NIEA is to create the opportunity for everyone to appreciate and enjoy the natural environment, with success being defined as more of the natural and built heritage becoming available for the public to enjoy.

Another goal under this priority is to ensure NIEA's natural environment and built heritage assets meet the needs of society and local communities. Success in achieving this goal is defined as their portfolio of historic properties, nature reserves and country parks being managed to provide best value for the people of Northern Ireland.

Under the strategic priority of creating 'A Healthy Natural Environment' the need to protect and conserve the historic environment is highlighted, along with creating sustainable, diverse landscapes with rich biodiversity that are resilient to change.

The final relevant strategic priority is 'Sustainable Economic Growth', the aim of which is to create a green economy that reflects the value of the environment and builds prosperity. This strategic goal aims to work towards the value of Northern Ireland's natural and built assets to the economy being fully realised. This will be achieved through encouraging the use of the natural and built environment, resulting in enhanced access to and information on 50 significant properties, as well as increased awareness on the contribution of the natural and built environment to contribute to economic growth.

### Regional Development Strategy for N. Ireland 2035

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

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

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

The Spatial Framework for Northern Ireland identified within the RDS, states that Enniskillen should be a gateway and a main hub within the region.

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

RG7: Support urban and rural renaissance through:

- Developing innovative ways to bring forward under-utilised land and buildings

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

- Sustaining and enhancing biodiversity
- Protecting and managing important geological and geomorphological features
- Protecting, enhancing and restoring the quality of inland water bodies
- Recognising and promoting the conservation of local identity and distinctive landscape character

SFG11: Promote economic development opportunities at Hubs

- Promote and exploit the potential for economic development.

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

- Facilitate the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in appropriate locations – recreation opportunities contribute to local communities.

### **Northern Ireland Changing Gear – A Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland**

The main vision of this Strategy published by DRD in 2015 is ‘a community where people have the freedom and confidence to travel by bicycle for everyday journeys. A main objective is to ‘improve opportunities for social interaction – 22% of households in Northern Ireland do not have access to a car/van. Improved cycling infrastructure enhances the travel opportunities for those who don’t have access to a car/van’.

Implementation of the Bicycle Strategy will support participation in sporting activities and improve access to and development of recreational facilities.

The Strategy recognises that there are differences in cycling between urban and rural environments, and that DRD will continue to invest in enhancing the physical infrastructure in rural areas.

In seeking to increase opportunities to use the bicycle in rural areas, DRD recognises that many rural roads are spaces to be shared by a range of users including people walking, people using the bicycle and people in motorised vehicles. It is important that all of these users feel safe when using rural routes, particularly vulnerable pedestrians and cyclists. This can be done through investment in infrastructure in combination with improved respect and understanding between all road users. It also recognises that Greenways in rural areas can be valuable recreational assets as well as providing a link to local facilities i.e. community trails.

### **A Fitter Future For All - Framework for Preventing and Addressing Overweight and Obesity in Northern Ireland 2012-2022.**

This Framework published by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety aims to “empower the population of Northern Ireland to make healthy choices, reduce the risk of overweight and obesity related diseases and improve health and wellbeing, by creating an environment that supports and promotes a physically active lifestyle and a healthy diet”.

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

Greater access to public and privately-owned land is articulated as one of the outcomes to achieve this.

### **Assessment of the Existing and Potential Tourism Development Opportunities Available from NI Forests.**

Completed for NITB and Forest Service NI in 2012, by KPMG, in association with Oxford Economics and Louise Browne Associates, this report sets out a forward vision for forest related tourism in Northern Ireland as:

‘ to use the forest estate to deliver an exceptional visitor and short break experience for all which will increase the economic impact of forest related tourism in Northern Ireland’

In progressing the vision and objectives seven development principles will underpin all activity that will be implemented. The most relevant to the development of an Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Mid Ulster include:

- Forest related tourism will need to be developed and marketed as an integral and key component of a wider geographical tourism product. However, in exceptional circumstances, strategically significant opportunities for individual forests may play an important role in overall forest and tourism development
- Development opportunities progressed in relation to forest related tourism will reflect environmental considerations – in terms of additional employment, prosperity and quality of life.
- Development will recognise the benefits that will accrue to local rural communities as well as potential revenue growth on a regional scale
- Effective partnerships will be put in place including partnership agreements with public sector organisations

In addition, the report highlighted the importance of providing ‘quality’ information, services, orientation facilities, activities and accommodation.

### **Tourism Strategy for NI to 2020**

As indicated in the draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020, while much has been achieved there is still much to do to create a successful, high quality and competitive destination for tourists. The development of an exceptional visitor experience in relation to forest related tourism has a key role to play in this context. Partnership working is required at strategic and operational level and needs to involve a variety of public, private and community sector partnerships. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development providing support and facilitating others in the provision of recreational activities was highlighted as a key area in the report. In the Action Plan, a priority of introducing high quality recreation products within forest was proposed.

### **Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) - Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2004)**

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



Open Space is defined in PPS8, Open Space, Sport and outdoor Recreation as

‘all open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canal, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity’.

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

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

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

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

It recognises the important contribution of tourism to the NI economy in terms of the revenues it generates, the employment opportunities it provides and the potential it creates for economic growth.

It also recognises the importance of ‘sustainable tourism development’, that is, tourism that meets the needs of present tourist and host regions while protecting and enhancing opportunity for the future. Sustainable tourism development is brought about by balancing the needs of tourists and the tourism industry with those of the destination.

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

### **Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Sperrins (ORNI on behalf of SportNI, 2013)**

Carried out on behalf of SportNI by ORNI in partnership with the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Forum, the Plan considered existing outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities in the Sperrins, identified the gaps in provision and recommended priorities for development over the next 5-10 years which would accommodate both the needs of the local community and visitors to the area. The Plan highlighted that because of several issues at a local and national level, the area has witnessed a lack of development in terms of the outdoor recreation product delivered on the ground. Two Action Plans were produced:

- A Strategic Action Plan with 21 overarching principles to act as a strategic framework for the integrated development of outdoor recreation in the Sperrins and informed by condensing and generalising the actions which make up the second plan namely;
- A Working Action Plan which contains 72 site and activity-specific actions which will guide the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Forum over the next 5-10 years and other organisations with a mutual interest in outdoor recreation in the Sperrins area.

Several of the key recommendations include increased provision for walking, mountain biking, orienteering, angling etc. within the Mid Ulster area.

### **Dungannon and South Tyrone Forests – Tourism and Recreation Scoping Study**

Commissioned by the former Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, an audit of the tourism and recreation potential of 9 forests within the Council area namely Parkanaur, Brantry, Fardross, Favour Royal, Knockmany, Dunmoyle, Mullaghfad, Crocknagrally and Caledon was carried out by ORNI. The Study recognised that whilst some of the forests in the area provide a range of outdoor recreation and activity tourism opportunities, the potential of the forests in terms of providing for the local population and visitors alike, had not yet been realised. The Study assessed the current tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities available within the Forests and then made recommendations for future development, investment and management arrangements, taking account of what is happening at a national level in forests and in the wider areas in terms of tourism.

### **Lough Neagh – Assessing the Current and Potential Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Opportunities.**

Commissioned by Inland Waterways of DCAL, ORNI completed in 2014 a study to assess the recreation opportunities and provision of recreation facilities that exist around Lough Neagh. Sites were separated into 'regional' and 'local recreational nodes, a regional node defined as one which has the potential to attract day visitors from the surrounding area and further afield whilst a local recreational node is one that provides recreational opportunities mainly for local communities.

Within the Mid Ulster area, Ballyronan and the Battery were identified as regional nodes, with Washing Bay was identified as a local recreational node. It also identified that whilst some nodes have had significant development and modernisation of facilities, other smaller nodes have been neglected and now require significant development.

The report also highlighted that:

- Any future development of recreation on and around the Lough should be carried out sensitively
- The success of outdoor recreation development on or around the Lough was dependent on joined up thinking amongst those tasked with its administration
- The development of Community trails would improve access to the shoreline and recreation nodes around the Lough for residents and visitors alike
- A consistent branding, signage and interpretation and way marking strategy is needed to ensure the successful promotion of the Lough and its amenities.

### **Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan (Lough Neagh Partnership)**

In 2013, Lough Neagh Partnership carried out a co-operation project for Lough Neagh one element of which included completing an audit / gap analysis and action plan for improving built, cultural and natural heritage and visitor activities around the Lough. This required a comprehensive audit of existing visitor infrastructure and identifying opportunities for the provision of improved and/or new facilities.

The detailed audit and stakeholder consultation identified a number of gaps and needs relating to recreation and related activities on and around the Lough:

- No recreational angling provision on the Lough – need for developing fishing stand and permit infrastructure
- Existing beach facilities are underutilised and there is a potential to develop wild swimming bases on the Lough

- Existing caravan caravanning and camping facilities are of good quality. However, more innovative facilities are needed, particularly those which tie in with existing recreation products such as cycle and canoe trails
- Tradd Point underutilised for recreation
- Provision of marina facilities on the east side of the Lough is poor – particularly for providing safe havens between Sandy Bay and Antrim
- Lack of innovative products, such as mountain biking and pump tracks and underutilisation of existing cycle and canoe trails
- Navigation and safety issues (including markers and dredging) still exist on the Lough, hindering access to rivers and facilities
- Forest Service Northern Ireland facilities around the Lough are underutilised and would require developments such as outdoor gyms, play trails, nature walks, mountain biking etc.
- No significant heritage trail around the whole of the Lough

The Lough Neagh Gap analysis and Action Plan called for the development of a Lough Neagh Development Plan for 2013 – 2018 as informed by the Gap and SWOT analysis and informed by strategic documents from other government departments local councils in order to reflect strategy priorities.

The plan created a vision: *'In 2019 Lough Neagh, will have an unrivalled reputation as a different place to live, work and visit, building on its unique natural, built and cultural heritage'*. Suggests that any future development of the Lough is dependent on a number of important actions, linked to a number of relevant common themes:

**Theme 1:** Sustainable product development of the built, natural and cultural tourism products

**Theme 2:** Promote and brand the Lough's unique image and destination focusing on the day visitor and domestic market and making use of technology and events

**Theme 3:** Develop the tourism and cultural tourism skill base of local tourism providers and communities

**Theme 4:** Develop strong partnerships and networks

### **Draft 2014 – 2019 Lough Neagh Destination Management Plan (Lough Neagh Partnership)**

The draft Destination Management Plan was developed to maximise the benefits of increased tourism to Lough Neagh. In tandem with the Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan, the Destination Management Plan identified the gaps and issues relating to current provision for tourism on and around the Lough.

It set strategic priorities, outputs and actions as per the four themes outlined in the Lough Neagh Gap Analysis and Action Plan. Outdoor Recreation relevant to the Mid Ulster area was considered under

**Theme 1: Sustainable Product Development of the Built, Natural and Cultural Heritage of Lough Neagh:**

1. Develop Pump Cycle Centres at 4 Lough shore sites
2. Provide Quality camping and pod-based provision at 4 shore sites
3. Establish 3 swimming beaches on Lough with water / wild swimming activities

**Theme 3: Develop the tourism and cultural tourism skill base of local providers and communities:**

1. Establish 3 swimming beaches on Lough with trained swimming instructors on Lough with waster / wild swimming activities



#### Theme 4: Develop Strong Partnerships and Networks:

1. Develop integrated rural development programme for shores of Lough Neagh around the themes of activity tourism

The Management Plan has outlined the following key performance indicators in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme for outdoor recreation. These are:

- 4 pod and camping provisions at Lough Neagh shore sites
- Provision of 4 pump cycle products
- New Lough Neagh Heritage Trail
- Develop Lough Neagh angling programme
- Pilgrimage trail from Moortown to Ardboe Cross
- 3 new beaches developed

## APPENDIX E – Village Plan Recommendations related to outdoor recreation opportunities.

45 villages in the Mid Ulster area have had Village Community Plans completed. The table below provides an overview of those Village Plans only which have identified future opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Village Plan	Current status	Future potential
<b>Annaghmore (Clonoe)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insufficient range of activities to help older people stay fit and healthy</li> <li>Insufficient recreational facilities for women and families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of off-road cycle tracks, walkways.</li> </ul>
<b>Ardboe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of provision for the elderly</li> <li>Ardboe Cross no toilets, car parking, security</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish older person's group that will run activities including a walking group</li> <li>Develop a Lough Shore mini guide to support the wider tourism development of water and land-based recreation – charter boating, fishing, walking, cycling, wildlife, birdwatching trails.</li> <li>Develop toilets and car parking at Abbey.</li> </ul>
<b>Augher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade sections of walkway along the River</li> <li>Basic facilities at Knockmany need improved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct survey on the walkway along the River Blackwater and identify areas where work is needed</li> <li>Investment needed at Knockmany to bring facility up to standard for local people and visitors</li> </ul>
<b>Ballinascreen (Ballinascreen, Moneyneany, Straw and Sixtowns)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Park for Moneyneena had been earlier identified</li> <li>No safe place to go off road walking or running in Straw and the 'Big bridges'</li> <li>Development of Derrynoyd Forest and Rural College</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate further</li> <li>Provision of safe off-road walking and cycling track – Old railway line considered a possibility.</li> <li>Develop a playpark in the area</li> <li>Look at options to revive the facility and its surroundings</li> </ul>
<b>Ballinderry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Ballinderry River and Cott Lane (fishing, walking, etc)</li> <li>Angling facilities inadequate</li> <li>Canoeing facilities inadequate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Cott Lane and Gortmoss Walkway and better signage at Cott Lane</li> <li>Information boards at key sites</li> <li>Develop a walkway along the Ballinderry River</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angling infrastructure needs improved.</li> <li>• Develop a canoe trail along the Ballinderry River</li> </ul>
<b>Ballygawley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lighting around walkway at playing field is not enough</li> <li>• Walkway is prone to flooding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erect floodlights around the walkway</li> <li>• Install proper drainage along pathway</li> </ul>
<b>Ballymaguigan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of footpaths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and wellbeing activities – sports activities and walks cross country.</li> </ul>
<b>Ballyronan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism potential of Lough and marina need to be maximised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism strategy and Marketing Plan needed for the area</li> </ul>
<b>Bellaghy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate access from Bawn to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• Inadequate signage</li> <li>• No heritage trail linking Seamus Heaney landmarks noted in his poetry</li> <li>• More health and well-being projects required</li> <li>• Wetlands underused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and link Bawn by path to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• New signage of heritage sites e. Lough Beg, Toners Bog</li> <li>• Develop Seamus Heaney Trail</li> <li>• Develop cross country walks and walking group</li> <li>• Development of famous wetlands</li> </ul>
<b>Benburb</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family walking and cycling trails needed</li> <li>• Need to develop community facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop walking and cycling routes in Benburb Valley Park along Ulster Canal Greenway.</li> <li>• Develop a Park Ranger Service to manage the eco system in Benburb Valley and River Blackwater</li> <li>• Develop a community fishing hub at River Blackwater</li> </ul>
<b>Brocagh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boats cannot access the quay because of sandbars</li> <li>• Need to develop permissive paths and greenway</li> <li>• Exploit heritage sites</li> <li>• Little opportunity for older people to stay healthy and active as well as no recreational facilities for women and families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract to dredge channel into the quay and maintain on an annual basis</li> <li>• Develop off-road cycle tracks to allow young people and families to walk and cycle safely between shops, school and Brocagh Community Centre</li> <li>• Develop tours, walks and events for visitors to the area</li> <li>• Develop range of events and activities in Brocagh Community Centre to encourage active lifestyle</li> </ul>
<b>Broughderg</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximization of use of Davagh Forest and increased visitor services and experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of:</li> <li>• Bird watching facilities</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Forest Garden / Nature Trail (link schools)</li> <li>• More walking trails, geared towards families, challenging and non-challenging</li> <li>• Angling Facilities, stock river, salmon spawn/sea trout</li> <li>• Incorporate disability access where possible</li> <li>• Showers /changing area</li> <li>• Camping facility / glamping pods</li> <li>• Brick built BBQ facilities (Island in middle of carpark suggested for picnic area /tables)</li> <li>• Activities/Equipment for older children outside of playpark, e.g. Zip lines</li> <li>• Seating in/near playpark</li> <li>• Cycle rental / repair (consistent times)</li> <li>• GPS App of Forest developed (dependent on broadband)</li> </ul>
<b>Bush</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant development in village for necessary footpaths. Potential for a settlement mini Greenway with pedestrian/cycle paths around the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath link to Dungannon/Tamnamore/Clairefields required</li> </ul>
<b>Caledon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caledon has a wealth of natural resources which could be promoted as a valuable rural tourism tool. The Blackwater River, and Ulster Canal, represent a vital part of Caledon's fabric and are a valuable resource to the village and its heritage – Glaslough/Caledon walkway and famine wall project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities to promote natural resource tourism – potential for Greenway/Riverside/Outdoor Gym/Cross Border walk-way project – needs ongoing maintenance needed to check over-growth on riverbank – picnic area spruce-up, - dog fouling provision of scoop-bag and waste bin</li> </ul>
<b>Churchtown/Lissan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lissan House and grounds is a key asset – yet little evidence of buy in from the local community</li> <li>• Limited disability access for anglers and ramblers at Lough Fea</li> <li>• Valuable local assets are under-developed, under-promoted and under-utilised due to access and wider knowledge</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructure support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Working Group with reps from Lissan House Trust and Community. Local needs analysis to be undertaken.</li> <li>• Learning journey to other successful community/heritage projects</li> <li>• Increase accessibility at Lough Fea</li> <li>• Project development and feasibility associated with Lissan House, Lough Fea and Slieve Gallion</li> <li>• Accommodation provision within the area to be further investigated (including B&amp;B, bunk barns, bothys glamping etc)</li> </ul>
<b>Clady</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of footpath from Fisherman's Walk to Portglenone. Lacking facilities also.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of river walkways and Bann (walk from Bann Bridge to Molloy's Ford)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for walkways/greeway circuit from Clady-Innisrush-Glenone-Clady.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walkway to be investigated</li> </ul>
<b>Clogher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic facilities at Fardross Forest need improved</li> <li>• Caravan Park needs to be promoted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment needed at Fardross to bring facility up to standard for locals and visitors</li> <li>• Encourage maintenance of the caravan park and encourage greater use through MUDC tourism information</li> </ul>
<b>Coagh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximisation of the area's natural resources in developing a rural tourism product to support the local village economy</li> <li>• Inadequate angling facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop walks including Hanover House to the old mill, linking up with Ballinderry along the River and creating a circuit from Hanover House to the football club and back into Coagh along the Ballinderry Road (CP)</li> <li>• Improve existing infrastructure</li> <li>• Identification of potential routes and liaison with local landowners</li> <li>• Develop names and signage for walks</li> <li>• Liaise with Rivers Agency re provision of angling facilities in Ballinderry River</li> <li>• Liaise with local angling club to confirm requirements regarding use of anglers' huts</li> </ul>
<b>Culnady, Innisrush and Tamlaght</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stone bridge linking Innisrush to Clade needs maintained and enhanced as part of a walking trail</li> <li>• River walk along Clady River consistently floods</li> <li>• Lack of opportunities for activities within the three villages and limited provision of space for development of activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop points of interest board for users of the walk</li> <li>• Walk needs better protected to allow users full access</li> <li>• Develop green space for recreational walking and cycling. Potential for creation of allotments. Dedicated space for Mother and Toddler provision</li> </ul>
<b>Desertmartin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iniscarn Forest has minimal development but has high potential for tourism.</li> <li>• There are few health and well-being projects outside mainstream sports</li> <li>• Elderly isolated</li> <li>• Loss of tourism potential from Slieve Gallion and surrounding Sperrins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Iniscarn Forest.</li> <li>• Establish community allotments, walkway circuit (CP)</li> <li>• Establish walking group</li> <li>• Develop a walking trail from Lough Fea to Slieve Gallion</li> </ul>
<b>Drummullan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise potential of the area's natural resources in developing a rural tourism product to support the local village economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop walking routes identifying local beauty spots/historical places of interest e.g. Ballinderry River/St Patrick's Well/The Drummullan Giant – link to Springhill</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing interest in walking and cycling in the area -need for safe routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tourism signage and interpretation developed</li> <li>Development of footpath to link up two rural roads providing a safe walk (CP)</li> <li>Support plans for Greenway Development and connect Drummullan</li> </ul>
<b>Edendork</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cullion Lake under-developed in terms of local wetland/heritage/ecosystem resource</li> <li>No footpath provision off the Coalisland Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential development as local amenity/educational resource with access pathways and signage</li> <li>Lobby DfI for provision of adequate foot paving off the main Coalisland Road</li> </ul>
<b>Eglilsh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very few areas for open recreation in the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify potential Greenways and walking routes in the area</li> </ul>
<b>Fivemiletown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Round Lake is a major asset</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure Round Lake is maintained on a regular basis</li> <li>Additional equipment would be welcomed</li> </ul>
<b>Galbally and Cappagh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reservoir should be enhanced and developed</li> <li>The area has many natural resources which should be enhanced as potential tourism products</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out feasibility study on potential development at Cappagh Reservoir in relation to environmental and tourism potential</li> <li>Carry out scoping exercise of local natural resources with tourism potential</li> </ul>
<b>Gulladuff / Termoneeny</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of developed walkways - Scullions Cross/chapel walk and others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The creation of a cycle lane network, specifically from the Termoneeny centre to Gulladuff village.</li> <li>Look at the potential for developing off road cycling.</li> <li>Developing walkways - Scullions Cross/chapel walk, Dreenan Road and others</li> </ul>
<b>Killyman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for a settlement mini Greenway with pedestrian /cycle path around the village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need a dropped kerb at Cavanagh Road</li> </ul>
<b>Moortown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HLF Landscape Partnership produced a three-part report including cross country walking and heritage trails with key points within the village</li> <li>No secure outdoor recreational space for young people</li> <li>Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Airfield, The Battery Harbour and the Old Cross</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information sharing with key agencies and Council Tourism Strategy. Join up all initiatives to ensure a strategic approach to planning</li> <li>Create secure outdoor recreation space at the Youth centre</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of water-based recreation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploit the area's water and land base outdoor recreation, charter boating, fishing, walking, cycling wildlife, birdwatching trails – links to Kinturk centre</li> <li>Progress ORNI report on water-based recreation at the Battery Harbour</li> </ul>
<b>Moygashel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrance to Dungannon Park at Moygashel end isn't aesthetically pleasing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tidy up entrance and ensure it is maintained. Need to maintain and enhance the area at Bleach Field that links the village to Dungannon Park</li> </ul>
<b>Newmills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunity for local people to walk and cycle safely on an off-road path. Develop permissive paths and Greenway to aqueduct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop of off-road cycle tracks</li> </ul>
<b>Pomeroy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximising the use of Pomeroy Forest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension and development of pathways, signage and information boards, picnic tables</li> <li>Install toilet facilities with open access for playpark use</li> <li>Additional bins installed</li> <li>Car parking needed beside playpark</li> <li>Develop access path and lighting linking the forest entrance at front and rear back to the village</li> <li>Suitable area for various outdoor activities</li> <li>Develop campsite facilities /glamping</li> <li>Safe access route between Queen Elizabeth II Primary school and the Forest (CP)</li> <li>Re develop old forestry school building and out-building as a multi-use shared asset of the community</li> <li>Redevelop old forestry school building and out-buildings as a multi-use shared asset of the community e.g. toilets and accommodation for forest users</li> </ul>
<b>Sandholes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local recreation assets under-developed, promoted and under utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop river walkways along the Tullylagan River</li> <li>Develop access to Tullylagan House and gardens</li> </ul>
<b>Stewartstown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Almost ¼ of population have a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop walking routes at Drumcaine Forest</li> <li>Map walking and cycling routes around the Village</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few opportunities for walking and cycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCN route at Drumcairne</li> <li>Walking routes at Drumcairne</li> <li>Link both areas together and create a shared space 'village green'</li> <li>Develop access trail to Crieve Lough and erect interpretation panels, signage etc</li> <li>Explore feasibility of improving Stuart Hall</li> <li>Develop walking, cycling and play infrastructure at Drumcairne Forest</li> </ul>
<b>Swatragh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River walkway cycle route/nature walk along the river.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop informal walkway between Swatragh and Upperlands</li> </ul>
<b>The Rock &amp; Slatequarry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is demand for access and improvement to The Church Moss as a safe walking route</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance and extension of walkway at Church Moss (problem with Japanese Knotweed) needs removed</li> </ul>
<b>Tullyhogue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valuable local assets under promoted and underutilised eg Fort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop footpaths to Fort</li> </ul>
<b>Upperlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural resources in the area that are not being used could be promoted as a valuable rural tourism tool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redevelopment of the amphitheatre area as a park and recreational space for the village with links to the pathways along the river and redevelopment of the civic space entrance area</li> <li>Identify accessible routes for walk/cycle paths. Develop waymarked walking routes, allotments, walking clubs – possible linkages with Dams project</li> <li>Develop a scheme for the development of the Beetling Dams as a natural asset providing green accessible space, water-based activities, walking and fishing</li> <li>Phased project required. Phase 1 involved the completion of a feasibility study and development plan, phase 2 – securing the necessary funding and phase 3 – implementation of the Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Washing Bay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to develop small scale infrastructure to retain and attract visitors</li> <li>Lack of accessible and usable walkways</li> <li>Wetlands should be enhanced and developed</li> <li>Bogland areas need to be preserved</li> <li>Nature walk needs to be kept clear and clean for visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camping site redevelopment, cycle store, hire of boats, quayside and beach development</li> <li>Create a full accessible and safe walkway for residents which will link pitch at Derrylaughan with nature walk and canal/river and Greenways</li> <li>Investigate better ways to enhance the wetland features including better access to the Lough</li> <li>Initiate a scheme to preserve the existing bogland</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beach area in need of development and linking in with pathway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear shrubbery and tidy nature walk area and develop an appropriate management plan for same</li> <li>• Develop sandy beach and open link in with existing pathway</li> </ul>
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## APPENDIX F – Consultation.

### Consultation methods used during the preparation of the Strategy.

<b>Consultee Category</b>	<b>Consultation Method</b>
Council Officers	Face-to-face meeting Invited to DEA public consultations
Council Elected Member	Invited to DEA public consultations
Governing Bodies of Sport	Face-to-face meeting or telephone interviews (depending on convenience)
Public/Statutory Agencies	Face-to-face meeting (where relevant) Follow-up phone call to discuss (where relevant)
Activity Providers	Face-to-face meeting Telephone interviews
Community Groups	Invited to DEA public consultations Face-to-face meetings (where appropriate)
Activity Clubs	Invited to DEA public consultations
SORF members	Face-to-face consultation and follow up with individuals where appropriate through face to face consultation
Private landowners	Direct email and telephone call
General Public	Invited to DEA public consultations

### Details of Public Consultation Events

Event dates and venues were as follows (2017):

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| - 23 <sup>rd</sup> January, Cookstown Leisure Centre          | Cookstown DEA      |
| - 31 <sup>st</sup> January, Maghera Leisure Centre            | Carntogher DEA     |
| - 31 <sup>st</sup> January, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bellaghy | Moyola DEA         |
| - 2 <sup>nd</sup> February, Dungannon Park                    | Dungannon DEA      |
| - 2 <sup>nd</sup> February, Cornmill Centre, Coalisland       | Torrent DEA        |
| - 6 <sup>th</sup> February, Ballygawley BADA Community Hall,  | Clogher Valley DEA |
| - 8 <sup>th</sup> February, Meadowbank Sports Arena           | Magherafelt DEA    |



Each consultation event was promoted widely through the following channels:

- direct emails to all community groups within the area through Council Community Development Service
- editorial in local newspapers including Derry Post, Mid Ulster Mail, Mid Ulster Observer, Tyrone Courier, Tyrone Herald and Tyrone Times
- websites including Outdoor Recreation NI.com, OutdoorNI.com, WalkNI.com, Rural CommunityNetwork.com, CommunityNI.com and Mid Ulster Council consultation page
- direct emails through in-house mailing lists, Rural Community Network and various governing bodies
- Facebook pages including WalkNI and social media channels across Council
- wide circulation of consultation poster which advertised dates, venues and purpose of the events to community groups and youth organisations
- consultation posters printed on coriboard located at public parks and play parks across Mid Ulster

### Details of Councillor DEA Work Shop Meetings

Event dates and venues were as follows (2020):

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| - 20 <sup>th</sup> January, Magherafelt Council Offices | Magherafelt DEA    |
| - 20 <sup>th</sup> January, Magherafelt Council Offices | Moyola DEA         |
| - 22 <sup>nd</sup> January, Dungannon Council Offices   | Clogher Valley DEA |
| - 27 <sup>th</sup> January, Ranfurly House Dungannon    | Dungannon DEA      |
| - 28 <sup>th</sup> January, Magherafelt Council Offices | Carntogher DEA     |
| - 5 <sup>th</sup> February, Cookstown Council Offices   | Cookstown DEA      |
| - 5 <sup>th</sup> February, Cookstown Council Offices   | Torrent DEA        |

## APPENDIX G- Formal and Informal Walks in MUDC

### Formal Walking Routes in Mid Ulster

Name	Landowner	Cross referenced to Fig.7
Ballyronan Marina	MUDC	62
Battery Harbour	MUDC	63
Beaghmore SCM	DfC	64
Branny Trail	MUDC	65
Brockagh	MUDC	66
Castlecaulfield Pavilion	MUDC	67
Cookstown Forest	FSNI	68
Derrynoyd Forest	FSNI	69
Drum Manor Forest Park	FSNI	70
Dungannon Park	MUDC	71
Dunnamore Riverside Walk	MUDC	72
Fardross Forest	FSNI	73
Favour Royal Forest	FSNI	74
Glenmore	DCAL	75
Hutchinson's Quay	WI	76
Knockmany Forest	FSNI	77
Lough Beg NNR	NIEA/DEARA	78
Lough Fea	NI Water	79
Loughry	DARD	80
Manor Path	MUDC	81
Moyola Forest	FSNI	82
Moyola Water Foot	UWT	83
Parkanaur Forest Park	FSNI	84
Portglenone Forest	FSNI	86
Roundlake	MUDC	87
Toome Canal	MUDC	88
Tullahoge SCM	DfC	90
Washing Bay	MUDC	91
Windmill Wood	MUDC	92

## Informal Walking Sites in Mid Ulster

Name	Land Owner	Cross referenced to Fig.7
Altmore Low and High	NI Water	93
Ardtrea Bridge		94
Ballysaggart Lough	MUDC	95
Brookend NNR	NIEA/DEARA	96
Caledon Forest	FSNI	99
Castlecaulfield Castle SCM	DfC	100
Clogher Hill Fort SCM	DfC	101
Iniscarn Forest	FSNI	106
Lough Fea	NI Water	107
Moydamlaght Forest	FSNI	113
Newferry	MUDC	114
Pomeroy Forest	FSNI	115
Wellbrook Beetling Mill	National Trust	116

## APPENDIX H – Consultation responses for each DEA

### CARNTOGHER DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Derrynoyd Forest and Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>102 ha broadleaved forest owned and managed by FSNI</li> <li>Derrynoyd Centre currently vacant – leased to Workspace Enterprises Ltd.</li> <li>Forest used for walking, orienteering, informal mountain biking, shooting</li> <li>Access to the Moyola River for angling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trail along the Moyola River/maintenance upgrade</li> <li>Adventure play hub</li> <li>Camping</li> <li>Family off-road cycling and pump track</li> <li>Improved maintenance in Forest</li> </ul>
Drumnaph Community Nature Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enthusiastic community group (Carntogher Community Association)</li> <li>Currently maintain 29km of trails</li> <li>Site mapped for orienteering</li> <li>Smart phone app developed for the Reserve</li> <li>Currently developing natural play area</li> <li>Offer family events e.g. lantern walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain additional outdoor recreation sites nearby with Council support through a SLA</li> <li>Develop more family focused events with Council support</li> <li>Consider opportunities for family off-road cycling in the area</li> <li>Fitness/trim trials</li> <li>Running trail and events</li> </ul>
Hutchinson's Key and Moneygran Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amenity area immediately adjacent to Moneygran Wood is owned and managed by Waterways Ireland</li> <li>Jetty</li> <li>Slipway – currently unusable – no plans to do up.</li> <li>Parking, picnic tables and litter bins</li> <li>Coarse angling – no purpose-built fishing stands</li> <li>c. 16,000 users from Feb 2016 – September 2016</li> <li>Walking path (1.4km) leads between Hutchinson's Quay and Portna.</li> <li>Access and egress point on the Lower Bann Canoe Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Named as a 'significant site' on the proposed Lower Bann Blueway</li> <li>Create viewpoints to the River within Moneygran Wood</li> <li>Develop a Community Trail linking Kilrea, Portna and Hutchinson's Quay</li> <li>Erect angling stands in Moneygran Wood</li> <li>Develop a multi-use walking and cycling trail within Moneygran Wood</li> <li>SLA with local community organisations</li> <li>Visitor picnic sites on FSNI lands/lease agreement option</li> </ul>
Moneystaghan Wood to view	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FSNI has a right of access to the Wood for business purposes only e.g. harvesting.</li> <li>No formal public access to the site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council to enter into a licence agreement with FSNI to develop a walking trail in the Wood.</li> </ul>



Toner's Bog (Bellaghy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal car parking for 3-4 cars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiate access along a 300m laneway leading off the A54 to the Wood with private landowners.</li> <li>• Formalise and increase the car park to accommodate 10 cars</li> <li>• Develop a 1km trail through Moneystaghan Wood leading to a raised viewing platform of Toner's Bog - referred to in Seamus Heaney's most widely renowned poem 'Digging'.</li> <li>• Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> </ul>
Portglenone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marina/mooring/fresh water</li> <li>• Motorhome stations</li> <li>• River walkway</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Children's playground</li> <li>• Events e.g. Gig n the Bann</li> <li>• Private jetty</li> <li>• Café/Shops/ Public Houses</li> <li>• Coarse fishing stands – there are currently 89 fishing stands on the west bank of the river, south of the bridge. A car park and path lead to the fishing stands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a proposed 'hub' on the Lower Bann Blueway to unlock the Lower Bann corridor as a leisure and tourism resource</li> <li>• Support Mid and East Antrim Council and Portglenone Enterprise Group in the development of facilities in Portglenone including development of recreational opportunities in the Portglenone Forest, additional motorhome stations, moorings, changing facilities, accommodation,</li> <li>• Develop the Fisherman's Walk Community Trail south along-side the River to Newferry incorporating Glenone Wood</li> <li>• Work with WI to host the 2019 European Coarse Fishing Championships by providing a minimum of 130 fishing stands</li> <li>• Increase number of fishing events from local to international level</li> <li>• Interpretation, orientation and public art</li> </ul>
Greenlough Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension to existing network of community trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist local community to develop additional community trails</li> </ul>
Carntogher, Glenshane and Moneyneany, Davagh  Sperrin Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No long-distance walking trail in the north west part of Mid Ulster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to develop a multi-day walk in the north west of Mid Ulster that could be marketed as a viable walking product offer to both local and visitors to the area.</li> <li>• SLA with community groups for trail inspection/maintenance throughout Sperrins area</li> <li>• Trails audit throughout Sperrins area</li> </ul>

## CLOGHER VALLEY DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Tullyvar Landfill site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site is in Council ownership</li> <li>• 70-80 acres landfill site between Ballygawley and Aughnacloy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the potential to develop the site as an outdoor recreation site – long-term ambition.</li> </ul>
Brantry Lough and Forest (part of Caledon Forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both well used by local community</li> <li>• Walking, running, dog walking, angling</li> <li>• Brantry Lodge recently refurbished beside forest</li> <li>• Strong community support for development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site recognised as a key local recreational site for development</li> <li>• Develop a quality off-road family cycling trail in Brantry Forest</li> <li>• Link Forest to Brantry Lough</li> <li>• New natural play</li> <li>• Improved waymarking</li> <li>• Create a trail head</li> <li>• Increased staffing by Council</li> <li>• SLA Agreements with Community Groups</li> </ul>
Clogher Valley Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no Greenways in Mid Ulster</li> <li>• Feasibility study currently on-going</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the Clogher Valley Greenway concept further using the former railway line of Clogher valley. This will involve extensive landownership negotiation.</li> <li>• Continue to work towards securing further funding from DFI towards more detailed feasibility study</li> </ul>
Ulster Canal Greenway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no Greenways in Mid Ulster</li> <li>• Feasibility study currently on-going</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the Ulster Canal Greenway in partnership with Waterways Ireland, ABC Council and Monaghan County Council</li> <li>• Continue to work towards securing further funding from DFI towards more detailed feasibility study.</li> </ul>

Clogher Valley Long distance off-road cycling trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently no formal long-distance off-road mountain biking trails in Mid Ulster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete on the ground the 40km long-distance off-road mountain biking trail in the Clogher Valley starting at Fivemiletown and taking in Crocknagrally, Fardross, and Mullaghfad Forests</li> <li>Erect panels</li> <li>Promote on MountainbikeNI.com</li> </ul>
Clogher Valley long-distance off-road horse riding trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently no formal off-road horse-riding trail in Mid Ulster</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a scoping exercise to consider the potential of developing a waymarked long-distance off-road horse-riding trail in the Clogher Valley using the extensive forest network.</li> </ul>
Crocknagrally Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well used community resource but little to attract the visitor to the forest</li> <li>Minimal infrastructure in place.</li> <li>Walking and horse-riding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a quality, waymarked looped trail within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads.</li> <li>Develop a car parking facility and basic visitor infrastructure to include picnic table and seating along any trails developed</li> <li>Enhance existing signage in the form of a visitor welcome, interpretation panel and waymarking.</li> </ul>
Fardross Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large forest</li> <li>Formal walking and cycling trails</li> <li>Carleton Trail passes through the forest</li> <li>Car parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance existing waymarked looped trails within the forest.</li> <li>Develop new waymarked looped trails within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads.</li> <li>Enhance existing signage in the form of a visitor welcome, interpretation panel and waymarking.</li> </ul>
Favour Royal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>500ha forest owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Formal walk leading to historic St Patrick's Chair and Well site</li> <li>Sliabh Beagh Way and Carleton trail passes through the forest</li> <li>Wild-flower meadow and deer lawn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance existing waymarked looped trails within the forest.</li> <li>Develop new waymarked looped trails within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads.</li> <li>Develop the Sliabh Beagh Way to include more of Favour Royal Forest, increasing the percentage of the route that is off road.</li> <li>Enhance existing signage in the form of a visitor welcome, interpretation panels and waymarking.</li> </ul>
Knockmany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>390ha forest owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Forest is extensively used by runners, walkers, horse riders and mtb</li> <li>3 looped formal walks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site recognised as a key local recreational site for development</li> </ul>

and Lumford's Glen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carleton Trail passes through the Forest</li> <li>• FSNi meeting room and toilets closed</li> <li>• Historic Anya's Tomb on-site</li> <li>• 4 car parking areas servicing the site</li> <li>• Beside Lumford's Glen – currently closed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires a Masterplan to be drawn up for the forest in full consultation with all the user groups. Decisions for future development and investment to be based on outcomes of this Plan.</li> <li>• Short term – establish basic services e.g. toilets</li> <li>• Short term – establish all-ability/multi-use trail around Lake</li> </ul>
Mullaghfad Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>• Formal walking trails</li> <li>• Sliabh Beagh Way and Carleton trail passes through the forest</li> <li>• Informal cycling</li> <li>• Shooting</li> <li>• No facilities or services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a quality, waymarked looped trail within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads, linking with Crocknagrally where appropriate.</li> <li>• Develop a car parking facility and basic visitor infrastructure to include picnic table and seating along any trails developed</li> <li>• Develop signage in the form of a visitor welcome, interpretation panel and waymarking.</li> </ul>
Parkanaur Forest Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 ha mixed coniferous and broadleaved woodland</li> <li>• Mostly owned by Forest Service NI and is managed as a commercial plantation and woodland.</li> <li>• FSNi own and manage the White Deer enclosure, which is open for members of the public to walk through</li> <li>• Manor House privately owned and occupied by Parkanaur College, a further education facility for young adults with learning difficulties.</li> <li>• Speedwell Trust, a cross community educational charity has leased some buildings on-site</li> <li>• Walled Garden is operated as a plant nursery by the private sector.</li> <li>• Forest has 3 short distance formal looped walks suitable for leisure walkers.</li> <li>• Ecotrail present on site.</li> <li>• Shooting also takes place within the boundary of the forest, throughout the year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site recognised as a key regional site for development</li> <li>• Requires a detailed Masterplan which will consider the full development of the site including trails, play, signage, interpretation, visitor services including the caravanning and camping offer. This Study will include a detailed business case.</li> <li>• Decisions for future development and investment to be based on outcomes of this Plan.</li> <li>• Develop a Community Trail from the Forest along the Torrent River to Donaghmore via Castlecaulfield</li> </ul>
Round Lake, Fivemiletown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tired resource</li> <li>• Caravan area</li> <li>• Slip way</li> <li>• Carleton trail passes through the site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site recognised as a key local recreation site for development – needs repositioned in terms of new development</li> <li>• Develop the fishing offer – boat fishing</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider use of Lake for other water-based activities e.g. canoeing, sailing etc.</li> <li>• Work with the private sector to consider viability of running participation programmes based at the Lake</li> <li>• Consider alternative accommodation offer e.g. pods, glamping</li> <li>• Relaunch the site as part of a combined recreation offer with Blessingbourne Estate</li> </ul>
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## COOKSTOWN DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Ballinderry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of tourism potential from key sites of Ballinderry River and Cott Lane (fishing, walking, etc.)</li> <li>• Angling facilities inadequate</li> <li>• Canoeing facilities inadequate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Cot Lane and Gortmoss Walkway including improved signage at both</li> <li>• Information boards at key sites</li> <li>• Develop a Community Trail from Ardtrea to Drapersfield</li> <li>• Improve angling infrastructure</li> <li>• Carry out a feasibility study to see if the Ballinderry River could be developed into a canoe trail.</li> </ul>
Birchwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small regenerating native woodland established in 2002 backing directly onto the Ballinderry River and located between two local communities at Coagh and Derrychrin</li> <li>• Car parking space for 6 cars</li> <li>• Currently used for walking (informal), angling and shooting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve angling infrastructure</li> </ul>
Cabin Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6.5ha wood managed by the Woodland Trust and the Council</li> <li>• 1km from the edge of Cookstown</li> <li>• Walks include a short 30min all-ability circular walk around the wood and a 1.2km riverside walk giving access to a further 21ha of wood</li> <li>• Picnic area and seating</li> <li>• Interpretation throughout</li> <li>• No toilet facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site recognised as a key local recreational site for development</li> <li>• Develop walking trails, family cycling trails, adventure play etc.</li> <li>• Develop toilets facilities</li> <li>• Create better linkages to Cookstown.</li> <li>• Investigate off-road links to Cookstown via Killymoon</li> </ul>

Churchtown and Lissan	Lissan House and grounds key recreational asset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish working group with Lissan Trust, develop proposals</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area's natural resources not being utilised</li> <li>Inadequate angling facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Community Trail along the Ballinderry River</li> <li>Investigate angling opportunities</li> </ul>
Davagh Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of NI's only three National Trail Centre for mountain biking</li> <li>Formal walking trails</li> <li>Children's Play area</li> <li>Small toilets and changing area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create NI's first Dark Sky Park</li> <li>Visitor centre incorporating toilets and changing facilities for the recreational user</li> <li>Introduce alternative accommodation offer</li> <li>Increase the length of the mountain bike trails and walking trails</li> <li>Develop play more in keeping with the Forest environment</li> </ul>
Drumullan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area's natural resources not utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Community Trail e.g. Ballinderry River/St Patrick's Well/The Drumullan Giant – link to Springhill</li> </ul>
Drum Manor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>227 acres forest situated close to Cookstown</li> <li>Owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Large car park with toilets, play area, gardens, lawn areas, waymarked trails</li> <li>31 caravan and camping stands with modern facilities</li> <li>Walking product no longer fit for purpose (2015)</li> <li>Permanent Orienteering Course</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified as a key regional outdoor site for development</li> <li>Undertake a Masterplan for the Forest, set against ambitions to develop other Forests in Mid Ulster as regional sites e.g. Parkanaur, Davagh</li> </ul>
Pomeroy Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>Children's play area managed by Council under license from FSNi (2015)</li> <li>Walking, running, camping and shooting</li> <li>Fitness trail, Sculpture trail, Natural Play</li> <li>Enthusiastic and motivated Community Group</li> <li>Hosts large scale event e.g. Santa's Trail (7000+)</li> <li>Range of building on site (former Forestry School)</li> <li>Car park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified as a key local outdoor site for development</li> <li>Community Group already working to develop the Forest</li> <li>Maintain existing SLA with Community Group for on-going maintenance of play and walking trails</li> <li>Extend and develop pathways, signage and information boards, picnic tables</li> <li>Install toilet facilities with open access for playpark use</li> <li>Additional car parking needed</li> <li>Develop campsite facilities /glamping</li> <li>Develop a Community Trail linking the Forest to the village of Pomeroy</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-develop old forestry school building and out-buildings as a multi-use shared assets of the community e.g. toilets and accommodation for forest users</li> </ul>
Sandholes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local recreation assets under-developed, promoted and under utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Community Trail along the Tullylagan River</li> </ul>
Tullaghoge Fort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recently developed by HED (DfC)</li> <li>New car parking, walking trails and interpretation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link site to the village of Tullaghoge by creating a Community Trail.</li> <li>Link site to Loughrey, Mid Ulster Sports Arena and back into Cookstown</li> </ul>

#### DUNGANNON DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Aghareaney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aghareaney – Donaghmore</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate community trail opportunities</li> </ul>
Ballysaggart Lough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path only goes around 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the Lough</li> <li>Car parking for 15 cars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate looped walk opportunities around the Lough</li> <li>Link the Lough to Dungannon town using a safe off-road alternative</li> <li>Provide toilet facilities</li> <li>Provide play appropriate to the setting</li> </ul>
Railway Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant green space in the centre of Dungannon</li> <li>Earl's Trail passes through the Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the options for linking Railway Park to Dungannon Park off-road.</li> <li>Develop land Council has recently acquired for outdoor recreation</li> <li>Consider family off-road cycling/walking trails</li> <li>Adventure type play facility</li> <li>Pump track and skills park</li> </ul>
Benburb Priory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant green space in Benburb</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with the Servite Trust to deliver the network of fully costed and designed multi use trail network within the Priory grounds and incorporate this into the wider Blackwater outdoor recreation product</li> </ul>

Dungannon Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant green space for the whole Mid Ulster area</li> <li>• Formal walks</li> <li>• Caravan Park</li> <li>• Play facility</li> <li>• Café</li> <li>• Car park</li> <li>• Toilets and changing area</li> <li>• Angling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the options for linking Railway Park to Dungannon Park off-road.</li> <li>• Consider site for all-inclusive play park for the Mid Ulster area – designed to be appropriate to the Park's setting.</li> </ul>
Drumglass Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland, Oaks Road Dungannon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community trail</li> <li>• Sensory Garden</li> <li>• Partnership project with Sperrins Special School</li> </ul>
Windmill Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large green open space</li> <li>• Network of tarmacked trails – inappropriate for woodland setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put in a permanent cycle cross facility</li> <li>• Deliver the fully costed and designed multi use trail network (walking and off-road family cycling)</li> <li>• Tunnel link to Dungannon Park (off-road)</li> </ul>



## MAGHERAFELT DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Ballyronan Marina and Ballyronan Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the most popular access points on the western shores of Lough Neagh and one of only two blue flag marinas in NI</li> <li>• Council managed facility</li> <li>• Car Parking, picnic tables, abundant greenspace</li> <li>• Café and toilets available within the on-site community facility</li> <li>• Caravan and camp site – 22 caravans and 5 tents – includes own toilets and shower block, electivity and water hook up</li> <li>• Berthing facilities for 88 boats - pontoons moorings and mast hoist.</li> <li>• Slipway – 300 recorded slipway launches in 2013</li> <li>• Secure boat park</li> <li>• Marina amenities (changing) open to the public at a charge</li> <li>• Small beach</li> <li>• Access/egress point on the Lough Neagh Canoe trail - has canoe polo area</li> <li>• Two small play areas and football pitch</li> <li>• 1.5km signed walk to Ballyronan Wood – also used informally for cycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a key regional outdoor site for development</li> <li>• New alternative accommodation e.g. pods</li> <li>• Develop shoreline walks and linkages to local communities</li> <li>• Including linkage to Tradd point</li> <li>• Orienteering/ecotrail development within Ballyronan Wood, Marina and Tradd point</li> <li>• Develop angling infrastructure</li> <li>• Develop a small pump track at the Marina</li> <li>• Develop the beach at Ballyronan marina for wild swimming</li> <li>• Develop and promote existing walking trails for family and leisure cycling</li> <li>• Develop the play offering – rationalise to one area.</li> <li>• Events calendar (including sailing, canoe and canoe polo events)</li> <li>• Develop a Tourist Information Point/reception area within the Centre</li> <li>• Provide catering facilities</li> <li>• Improve marina infrastructure</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destination on the 180km circular Loughshore Cycling Trail</li> <li>• Ballyronan Wood served by car park, picnic tables</li> <li>• Bird hide at the northern edge of the breakwater</li> <li>• Home to the passenger vessel 'Maid of Antrim' – trips of Lough Neagh</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development with private sector providers activity programmes e.g. sailing/canoeing to make use of marina, caravan and camping.</li> </ul>
Iniscarn Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well used community resource</li> <li>• No parking (lay by provides for 6 cars)</li> <li>• Formal walking trails</li> <li>• Trail running</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link Forest to summit of Slieve Gallion</li> <li>• Car parking improvements</li> <li>• Develop appropriate on-site visitor facilities/play equipment</li> <li>• Signage for trails</li> <li>• Upgrade picnic site</li> </ul>
Lissan Forest and Lissan House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42ha forest located immediately adjacent to Lissan House Estate.</li> <li>• Forest managed under license with FSNi by the Lissan Estate</li> <li>• Estate managed by the Lissan House Trust. Little evidence of buy-in from the local community</li> <li>• Car park for 20+ cars in Estate</li> <li>• 7 waymarked walking trails and waymarked horse-riding trail</li> <li>• Toilets, picnic areas, guided house tours of Estate</li> <li>• Signage and interpretation throughout Lissan Estate</li> <li>• Sense of neglect to Estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider how the Council could work better in partnership with the Lissan House Trust to develop the site more fully for recreation.</li> <li>• Learning journey to other successful community/heritage projects</li> </ul>
Lough Fea and Lough Fea Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal walking, running, angling</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Play</li> <li>• Car parking</li> <li>• Landscaped garden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a key local outdoor site for development</li> <li>• Significant site for recreation</li> <li>• Upgrade the toilets</li> <li>• Create play for older children</li> <li>• Animate the walking trail for children</li> <li>• Improved facilities for disabled access (anglers and walkers)</li> <li>• Consider option for linking Lough Fea Wood to Davagh Forest off-road.</li> </ul>
Moorside - Desertmartin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal short Community Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Community Trail along the River where possible to link to Iniscarn Forest</li> </ul>
Slieve Gallion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PRoW – Public Path/Hiking Trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigation/extension to trails and possible links to Davagh Forest</li> <li>• Picnic site refurbishment</li> </ul>

Springhill Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small strip of broadleaved forest (13 ha), located adjacent to the National Trust owned property of 'Springhill House currently used for walking and shooting</li> <li>• Layby accommodating 2 cars at entrance</li> <li>• Unsustainable trails</li> <li>• Unwelcoming feel for visitors and evidence of anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• No formal car parking, visitor services &amp; facilities</li> <li>• No signage (includes information, interpretation, waymarking and signage)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a small car park to service the forest</li> <li>• Develop a sustainable walking trail</li> <li>• Create a Community Path between the village of Moneymore, Springhill Wood and Springhill House</li> <li>• Installation of appropriate waymarking and interpretation</li> </ul>
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## MOYOLA DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Bellaghy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate access from Bawn to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• Inadequate signage</li> <li>• No heritage trail linking Seamus Heaney landmarks noted in his poetry</li> <li>• More health and well-being projects required</li> <li>• Wetlands underused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and link Bawn by path to Church of Ireland</li> <li>• New signage of heritage sites e. Lough Beg, Toners Bog</li> <li>• Develop Seamus Heaney Trail (on-going)</li> <li>• Develop cross country walks and walking group</li> <li>• Development of famous wetlands</li> </ul>
Long Point Wood to view Church Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no public access to Long Point Wood</li> <li>• RSPB in negotiations with the NIEA (landowner) regarding securing a lease for the site</li> <li>• No formal car parking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a 700m walking trail through Long Point Wood leading to a raised viewing platform overlooking Church Island – referred to in the poems 'Stepping-Stones', The Strand at Lough Beg'</li> <li>• Create a car park for up to 11 cars</li> <li>• Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> </ul>
Castledawson Moyola River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tarmacked riverside walk developed by NIHE adjacent to the Riverside Housing Estate in Castledawson. Walking trail informally extended to the former railway bridge</li> <li>• Informal parking available nearby</li> <li>• Small parking space available in Riverside Estate</li> <li>• Several informal fishing stands exist – not constructed to recognised standard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade existing informal walking trail to create a formal walking trail from the Estate to the former railway bridge</li> <li>• Develop a small car park within the Riverside Estate for 7 cars</li> <li>• Create a landscaped greenspace at the beginning of the trail</li> <li>• Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> <li>• Build new fishing stands along the length of the riverside walk</li> </ul>

Newferry (West)	<p>Mid Ulster own and manage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car park</li> <li>• canoe steps, jetty and pontoons, slipway</li> <li>• Management and maintenance issues at the site – not very well maintained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a 'significant site' in the Lower Bann Blueway.</li> <li>• Support and Mid and East Antrim's development of Newferry East</li> <li>• Upgrade toilet facilities</li> <li>• Develop small play area</li> <li>• Interpretation and orientation</li> <li>• Develop a trail along the River to Portglenone</li> </ul>
Newferry Peatlands, Lough Beg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no access to Newferry Peatlands, Lough Beg. Site owned by FSNi and was used as a commercial peat extraction site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain licence from FSNi for 100 ha (check this with Seamus)</li> <li>• Develop a new Nature /Wetlands Reserve</li> <li>• Create a series of walking trail around the Reserve</li> <li>• Create a small car park</li> <li>• Consider options for linking the site to Newferry Est on the Lower Bann River</li> <li>• Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> </ul>
Traad Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Nature Reserve historically used by UU as a research facility</li> <li>• Owned and managed by MUDC</li> <li>• Site is in a poor state of repair and not open to the public for access</li> <li>• No recreational facilities</li> <li>• Slipway</li> <li>• Traad Ponds site is privately owned</li> <li>• Local conservation and wildfowl group currently use the site for wildfowling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a key regional outdoor site for development but only when combined with Ballyronan Marina and Wood</li> <li>• Develop a network of walking and off-road family cycling trails and associated facilities including toilets</li> <li>• Develop an off-road walking trail to connect Traad Point and Ballyronan complex</li> <li>• Develop an ecotrail (orienteering based) alongside any potential development</li> <li>• Explore the option of developing 'Natural Play' at Traad Point.</li> <li>• Investigate the viability of boat tours from Traad to Ballyronan (private sector)</li> </ul>
Toome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derelict Lockkeepers Cottage – Waterways Ireland have leased this asset to TIDAL</li> <li>• Old Sand Quay poorly maintained</li> <li>• River walkway</li> <li>• Lock</li> <li>• Slipway</li> <li>• Canoe steps</li> <li>• Jetty/pontoon</li> <li>• Community centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a 'gateway hub' in the proposed Lower Bann Blueway</li> <li>• Support East and Mid Antrim and TIDAL to develop the Lockkeepers Cottage as Waterways Heritage Centre with café and toilets. Project to be complete by June 2017, upgrading of Old Sand Quay for amenity space and new car parking facility.</li> <li>• Support TIDAL to carry out a feasibility study into the viability of developing a marina.</li> <li>• Market the area more as a Game of Thrones location and consider sculptures/art associated with the programme</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking, restaurant, public house, toilets (100yds)</li> <li>• Game of Thrones film location</li> <li>• c. 36,000 users from Feb 2016 – Sept 2016</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the potential to create a facility for freestyle canoeing (standing wave) to European level and slalom course in partnership with CANI, WI and Mid and East Antrim Council</li> <li>• Review the potential to develop an artificial canoe slalom site in partnership with CANI, WI and Mid and East Antrim Council</li> </ul>
Rubens Glen Carndaisy Wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Walking trails and PRow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance programme for existing trails</li> <li>• Signage and picnic facilities</li> </ul>

## TORRENT DEA

Site	Status Quo	Opportunities
Ardboe Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no formal access from Ardboe Cross to Battery Harbour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a 3km shoreline walking path from Ardboe Cross to Moortown, Battery.</li> <li>• Provide car parking area at the Church</li> <li>• Market the walking trail as a Pilgrimage Walk</li> </ul>
Altmore Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small forest owned and managed by FSNi</li> <li>• Altmore Reservoirs upper/lower located adjacent to the forest and owned by NI Water</li> <li>• Community passionate about the development of the Forest</li> <li>• Forest straddles MUDC and FODC areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a quality, waymarked looped trail within the forest, taking advantage of existing forest roads.</li> <li>• Develop a car parking facility and basic visitor infrastructure to include picnic table and seating along any trails developed</li> <li>• Develop signage in the form of a visitor welcome, plus interpretation and waymarking.</li> <li>• Link the village of Cappagh through a Community Trail to Forest</li> <li>• Develop water recreation on Altmore reservoirs</li> <li>• Develop children's play facilities</li> </ul>

Coalisland Canal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited walking along the Canal Towpath</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide safe road crossings/improve maintenance</li> <li>Provide toilet facilities and car parking</li> <li>Signage</li> <li>Develop community partnerships for canal</li> </ul>
Donaghmore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Backford Bridge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access improvements for walking/cycling</li> </ul>
Castlebay Broacagh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loughshore trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate community trail development</li> </ul>
Derryloughan Bog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently limited access to Derryloughan Bog. Site owned by Department of Education and Learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council and local community group to obtain licence from Dept Education and Learning for 150ha</li> <li>Develop a new Nature /Wetlands Reserve</li> <li>Create a series of walking trails using ramparts.</li> <li>Develop appropriate interpretation on-site</li> </ul>

Drumcaine Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 78ha forest owned and managed by FSNI.</li> <li>• Attractive features e.g. late 19<sup>th</sup> century terraces and ponds that used to be part of a Japanese Garden</li> <li>• Car park for 30+ cars closed due to anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Currently used for walking, mountain biking (informal), horse riding (informal) and shooting (leased to Mid Ulster Gundog Association)</li> <li>• Walking routes poorly signposted</li> <li>• Poor basic infrastructure, no signage, no interpretation.</li> <li>• Unsustainable and unauthorised trails have been built and are in use</li> <li>• Perceived to have been left to deteriorate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a key local outdoor site for development</li> <li>• Re-open the car park to service users of the forest</li> <li>• Create a 'welcome' for visitors to the forest</li> <li>• Develop walking and off-road family cycling trails</li> <li>• Create visitor attraction by landscaping the overgrown terraces and ponds</li> <li>• Create a nature's play facility.</li> <li>• Install appropriate waymarking, signage and interpretation</li> <li>• Walking/Cycling trails</li> </ul>
Stewartstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local recreation assets under-developed, promoted and under utilised</li> <li>• Few opportunities for walking and cycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Community Trail to Crieve Lough and erect interpretation panels, signage etc</li> </ul>
The Battery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprises a small harbour offering sheltered mooring and jetties for 12 boats. Mast hoist</li> <li>• Council managed facility</li> <li>• Home to Lough Neagh Rescue service housed in large, imposing an industrial looking structure on the shoreline</li> <li>• Poorly signed from main access road</li> <li>• Uninviting poorly maintained car park and open space area</li> <li>• Old picnic tables and barbeque pits</li> <li>• Small beach</li> <li>• No toilets</li> <li>• Signage outdated and poorly maintained</li> <li>• Small, old, and uninviting play park</li> <li>• Informal walking towards Ardboe Cross</li> <li>• No cycling provision</li> <li>• No angling facilities</li> <li>• Access point on the Lough Neagh Canoe Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a local outdoor site for development</li> <li>• Redevelopment and modernisation of node including landscaping, improved signage and visitor facilities e.g. picnic tables, seating, barbeque pits</li> <li>• Harbour infrastructure improvements</li> <li>• Develop formal linkages to Ardboe Cross, nearby communities and other shoreline walks</li> <li>• Develop the beach for wild swimming</li> <li>• Consider developing a pump track</li> <li>• Redevelop existing play facilities</li> <li>• Develop angling infrastructure</li> <li>• Revisit current SLA with local Community Group for the maintenance of the facility</li> </ul>
Washing Bay/Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council managed facility, poorly signed from main access routes</li> <li>• Includes 4ha Local Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Car parking and toilet and café facilities (within on-site Healthy Living Centre) opened by request.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as a local outdoor site for development</li> <li>• Develop the play facilities and consider a pump track</li> <li>• Create a walking trail along the shoreline of the Washing Bay Wetlands to access small beach.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well maintained landscaping</li> <li>• Rough camping available</li> <li>• Short shoreline walks through the wetlands</li> <li>• Access points on the Lough Neagh canoe trail</li> <li>• Two small play areas and small beach</li> <li>• Interpretation /signage vandalised and outdated</li> <li>• No formal walking trail along the shoreline of the Washing Bay Wetlands Park to access the beach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration of beach facility and hold 2 swimming events a year</li> </ul>
Donaghmore – Castlecaulfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No walking trail currently linking the two villages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a Community Trail along the River Torrent to connect Donaghmore and Castlecaulfield</li> </ul>



## APPENDIX I

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

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

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

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

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



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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Case Study 2: Shannon Blueway

A Blueway is a network of approved and branded multi-activity recreational trails and sites, based on or closely linked with the water, together with providers facilitating access to activities and experiences. Blueways can be used by all ages and abilities - with something for everyone, the slogan "Blueway, do it your way" has been adopted to reflect their accessibility and diversity. The essential aim of a Blueway is to increase the recreational use of the inland waterways and thereby to generate economic, health, social and community benefits.

Launched in October 2014, the Shannon Blueway covers the four Counties of Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford and Cavan and is the first of its kind in Ireland where a myriad of recreational activities have been developed and bundled together as a single or multiple visitor experience and tourism proposition. It is an innovative, safe and easy to use series of on-water and land-based trails. It allows guided and unguided paddling and walking along the Lough Allen Canal and River Shannon from Drumshanbo to Leitrim Village, as well as paddling on a looped trail on the Camlin and Shannon Rivers, starting from picturesque Richmond Harbour. As well as providing access to experiences on the waterways for visitors, The Shannon Blueway also connects villages and communities in a predominantly rural setting.



The Shannon Blueway comprises:

- 26.5km of canoeing trails - Camlin River Loop (10km), Drumshanbo to Carrick-on-Shannon (16.5km)
- 26km of walking trails - Battlebridge Lock to Drumhauver Bridge (10km), Cloondara to Longford Town Walking Trail (16km))
- 23.5km of cycling trails - Cloondara to Longford Town Cycling Trail (16km) and Drumleague Lock Looped Cycling Trail (7.5km)



A number of partners were involved with the lead agency, Waterways Ireland, in developing the Shannon Blueway. These included Canoeing Ireland, The National Trails Office of the Irish Sports Council, Fáilte Ireland, Local Authorities and Tourism Offices. Much work has been carried out with local communities and businesses around the Blueway, to develop packages combining activity with places to stay, eat and go. The initiative is rooted in local engagement and partnership working. Funding for the product was provided by the Rural Economic Development Zone Pilot Programme

## Project Stages

### Stage 1: Product Development

The project saw the creation of a network of defined trails, built to agreed technical standards upon existing infrastructure within a natural waterway environment with a consistent look and feel. A partnership approach was taken for both applying for funding and in the delivery of the product.

A feasibility study was conducted to assess existing provision and trail product. The paddling trail was created using existing waterways with work completed to provide more access points etc. The Irish Sports Council trail standards (inspection procedures, grading systems etc) for inland trails were used in the development of the trails including for the paddling trails.

Waterways Ireland worked with the councils on the land-based product to upgrade existing trails. Both regional signage directing people from the road and signage on the trails was designed and installed. This included directional signage to the existing provisions e.g. service block and toilets for people using the trails



### Stage 2: Activation

The Blueway has been activated by:

- Service Providers (making access easy) - Cycle Hire, Canoe Trips, SUP instructors, Walking Guides
- Inspiration and Creativity - authentic and immersive experiences and stories
- Cohesively presenting all that the region offers - a collaborative approach between businesses to create packages

Emphasis was placed on local businesses collaborating to provide the Blueway experience for the customer. The success of the Blueway required collaboration on a regional rather than County level. Through rural tourism funding Waterways Ireland facilitated network events to engage with local businesses and encourage them to collaborate and cross sell their products. The Blueways website provides the platform to promote the offers with the aim of creating a one stop shop for the consumer,

making access to the Blueway easy and encouraging greater visitor spend in the area. Since the launch of the Blueway existing businesses have expanded and new start-ups have emerged.

Over 100,000 visitors were recorded on the navigations in the Shannon Blueway area during the April to October 2015 period, with many recreational businesses established to service the demand from Blueway visitors. The Shannon Blueway won the Lakelands & Inland Waterways 'Sport Tourism Innovation Award' at the Local Authority Members Association awards and was nominated for 'Best Outdoor Escape' by Outsider magazine.

Support has been given for events to encourage use of the Blueway by local communities and sports groups. The Shannon Blueway Adventure Festival <https://www.bluewayadventure.ie/> is an annual event that takes place April / May. Under the guidance and support of the Waterways Ireland sponsorship programme, the event encourages outdoor fun on the Shannon Blueway, bringing communities together through a community tourism initiative supported in partnership with Leitrim County Council, Fáilte Ireland and IPB Insurance. The weekend incorporates walking, paddling and cycling along or on the Shannon Blueway, with participants enjoying historical talks and the chance to participate in the Shannon Blueway Adventure Race.

## Promotion

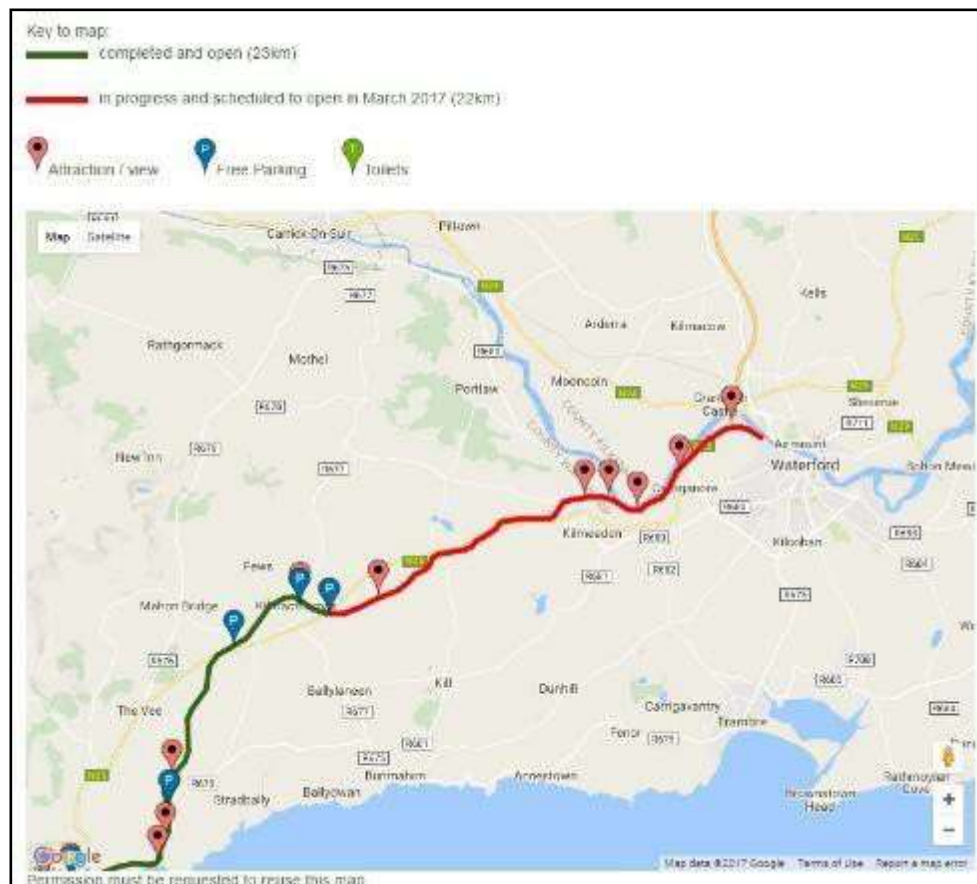
A bespoke website was developed [www.bluewaysireland.org](http://www.bluewaysireland.org) providing information on trails, experiences, visitor services, events and news.



### Case Study 3: Waterford – Dungarvan Community Greenway



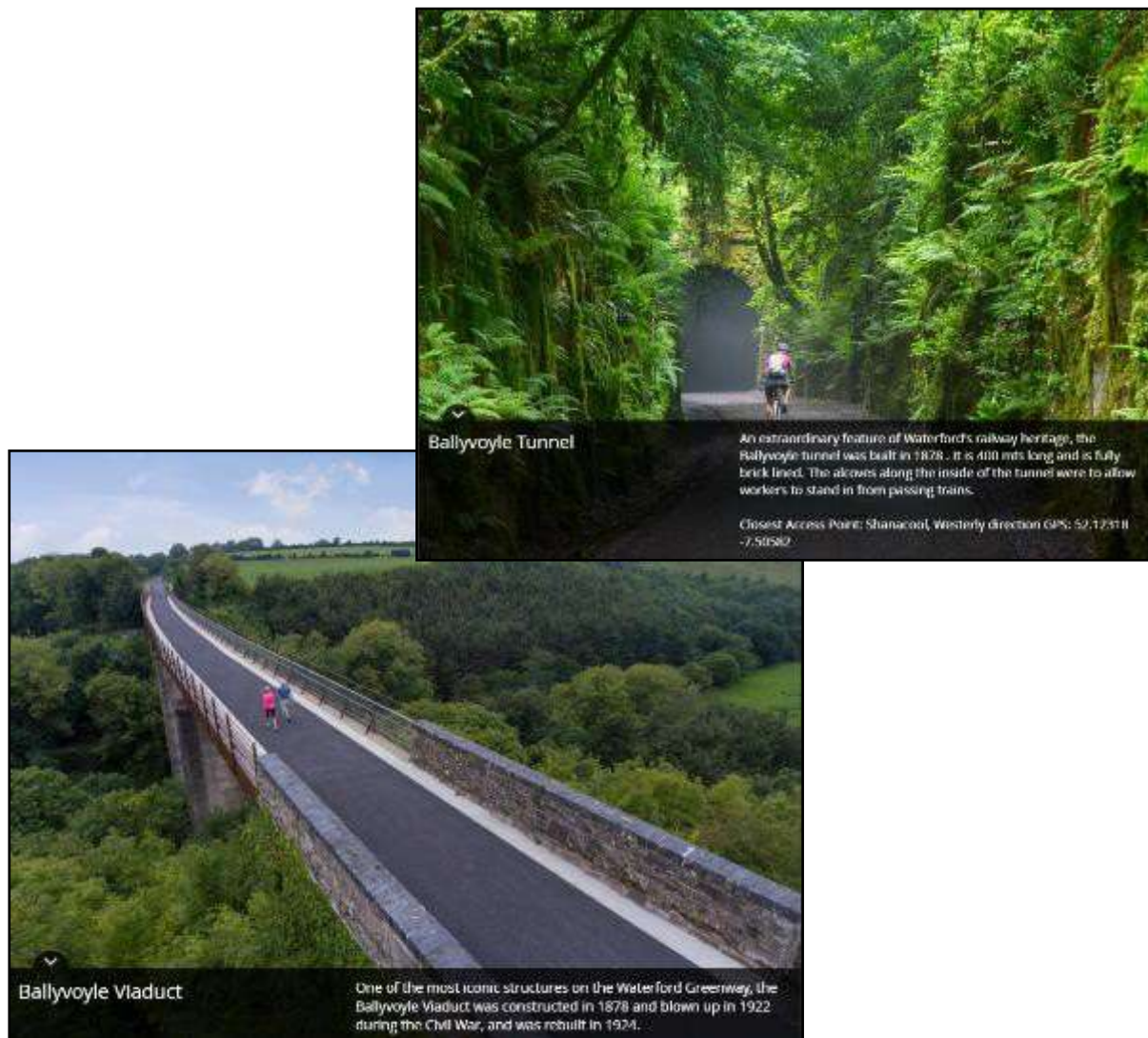
The Waterford Greenway is a spectacular 46 km off-road cycling and walking trail along an old railway line from the quays of Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, to Dungarvan. It passes across three viaducts and along an atmospheric tunnel with the route passing a Viking settlement, Norman Castles, medieval ruins, an old workhouse, deserted railway stations and a heritage railway train that still runs along part of the track. Work on the Greenway began at the start of the century when Waterford City and County Council obtained a licence from Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ), Ireland's national public transport provider. The first section, a 4km stretch from Dungarvan to Ballinroad was officially opened in 2013 with the Ballinroad to Kilmacthomas stretch opened three years later in September 2016. The remaining 22kms from Kilmacthomas to Waterford City opened in March 2017.





There are 11 points of interest along the greenway

<http://waterfordcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=2a724abe1b72494d9f87e65db5edf6b6#> . The most iconic sections of the route include:



The Greenway has been developed by Waterford City and County Council with the co-operation of local property owners, the support of communities along the route and with supporting funding from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The total budget for the project was €7.4 million.

Key to the development of the greenway was the input of Deise Greenway, a group of Co Waterford residents, whose aim was to get the Railway Line developed as a community amenity for the people of Waterford with the potential of tourism accruing because of its existence. They recognised the importance of preserving and developing the railway line for present and future generations and have played a proactive part in championing the Greenway and promoting it ([www.deisegreenway.com](http://www.deisegreenway.com)).

Significant community involvement in the project was welcomed by the Council who engaged with the communities to form a Steering Committee for the overall project. Where communities could bring significant benefit or value for money the Council worked with them to make available financial aid to support works being completed.



The Greenway was developed for several reasons namely;

- *rural transport and connecting communities*: The trail provides suburban pedestrians and cyclists with the opportunity of accessing services in both Dungarvan and Waterford City as it already passes through a number of suburban estates in Dungarvan and recent developments in the City lie just to the South of the line and can be accessed from it.
- *to create walking trails for the local community*: Dungarvan, Kilmacthomas and Waterford City have all got the key services which walkers and cyclists need. One of the key objectives of the development was to provide Community Loops of varying difficulty in these three places. Along the route there are various safe locations for car parking, which provide a range of options for users of the trail.
- *to provide access for walkers to the Comeragh Mountains*: The town of Kilmacthomas is strategically placed directly in the centre almost equidistant from Waterford and Dungarvan and approx. 22 km from both. For many walkers, this is an ideal stopover point while also operating as a vantage point for access to walking in the Comeragh Mountains.
- *existing Infrastructure could be used*: Many of the viaducts and bridges were in working condition meaning only remedial work was needed in many cases. As a direct linear route, there was limited need to provide and maintain signage with most of the signage concentrating on points of access and egress, re-assurance, community loops, and relevant services near the trail.
- *tourism potential*: The Greeway is Ireland's longest, 4km longer than the Great Western Greenway which is 42km. It is expected to attract large numbers of domestic and international visitors now that it is complete and open.

Source: *Step by Step; A Walking Strategy for County Waterford*

Waterford Council is now actively encouraging people to contact them with business ideas for services along the Greenway; accommodation, cafes/restaurants, bike hire etc. As there are occupied Railway Cottages at most of the level crossings, these or others near the trail, could see the potential of developing accommodation or food services. There are currently 5 bike hire providers situated in Waterford, with several of the companies supplying delivery and collection to accommodation providers on request.

The Greenway currently has a 5 star rating on Tripadvisor:

[https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction\\_Review-g186638-d10166976-Reviews-Waterford\\_Greenway-Waterford\\_County\\_Waterford.html](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g186638-d10166976-Reviews-Waterford_Greenway-Waterford_County_Waterford.html)

And is promoted through:

- Website: <http://www.visitwaterford.com>
- Interactive map: <http://waterfordcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=9dc02c1380b649da96d0a7032cababe1>
- Leaflet: <http://www.deisegreenway.com/WaterfordGreenwayBrochure.pdf>

#### Case Study 4: Brand identity for Forest Recreation sites in Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon Borough Council area.

In 2016 Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council commissioned ORNI to develop a Spatial Masterplan for Gosford Forest Park. A key element of the project was to work with Mc Cadden Design to produce a new brand for the Forest Park that could be used on all visitor signage in the Park including, entrance panels, entrance banners, waymarking, trailhead panels, safety signage etc. Given the success of the brand, this has now been rolled out on all forest recreation sites in the ABC Council area.



**APPENDIX J: Costed 5-year Action Plan** (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
<b>MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>							
A1	Existing Park and Outdoor Recreation Officer	40,940	41,783	42,642	43,519	44,413	213,297
A3	Maintenance Programme	100,000	125,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	675,000
A4	SLAs with Community Assoc Existing 6 @ £35,450	35,450	35,450	35,450	35,450	35,450	177,250
	New SLAs - 3 @ £10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	90,000
A5	Counter Maintenance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	15,000
<b>MASTER PLANNING</b>							
B1	Masterplans / Feasibility Studies for 3 Regional and 4 Local Sites	40,000	40,000	40,000	15,000		135,000
<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>							
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway			25,000			25,000
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway		25,000				25,000
C4	Regional Hub Development		600,000	600,000	600,000	50,000	1,850,000
C5	Local Hub Development		300,000	300,000	200,000	200,000	1,000,000
C6	Feasibility study for Canoe Trail	5,000					5,000
C7	Davagh MTB trails		500,000				500,000
C8	Clogher Valley Long Distance Ride	2,500					2,500
C9	Long-distance horse-riding trail		5,000				5,000
C10	Walking Trails (short /medium)		10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
C11	Community Trails		TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
<b>PROMOTION / MARKETING</b>							
D2	Brand Identity for forest recreation sites	5,000					5,000
D3	Visitor Information and Signage Guidelines	15,000					15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£256,890</b>	<b>£1,695,233</b>	<b>£1,221,092</b>	<b>£1,071,969</b>	<b>£517,863</b>	<b>£4,763,047</b>

## APPENDIX K Regional Activity Hubs – rationale for inclusion and prioritisation (£1,850,000)

KEY CRITERIA THAT HELPED INFORM SITE INCLUSION	Ballyronan/Traad	Parkanaur Forest	Drum Manor Forest
1. Owned or managed by Council or FSNI (i.e. public body)	Y	Y	Y
2. Previous investment already made by Council or FSNI	Y	Y	Y
3. Basic existing services/infrastructure already in place e.g. car parking	Y	Y	Y
4. Site capacity allows for new/enhanced facilities	Y	Y	Y
5. Have already a legacy of being a popular outdoor recreation base	Y	Y	Y
6. Feasibility/Master Plans already in place	N	N	N
7. Feasibility/Master Plans identified for immediate preparation	Y	Y	Y
8. Funding applications already being prepared/submitted to a variety of funders	N	N	N

**Sites in order of priority:** Ballyronan/Traad, Parkanaur Forest, Drum Manor Forest. Already recognised outdoor recreation sites, gives a good geographical spread across the Council area and includes both land and water-based activities to be included.



## APPENDIX L: Local Multi-Activity Hubs – rationale for inclusion and prioritisation (£1,000,000)

KEY CRITERIA THAT HELPED INFORM SITE INCLUSION AND PRIORITISATION	Altmore/Cappagh	Drumcairne Forest	Portglenone	Windmill Wood	Cabin Wood	Ballysaggart Lough	Iniscarn Forest
1. Owned or managed by Council or other public body/eNGO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Previous investment already made by Council or others e.g. Government Dept	N	N	Y	Y	Minimal	Y	N
3. Existing services/infrastructure already in place e.g. car parking	Y	Y	Y	Y	Minimal	Y	Y
4. Site capacity allows for new/enhanced facilities	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5. Have already a legacy of being a popular outdoor recreation site	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Active community group/club supportive of project	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
7. Active support/finances for project from another Government agency/part of a much wider project	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N
8. Feasibility/Master Plans already in place/being planned	Y	Y	Fishing Stands	Y	N	N	Y
9. Funding applications already being prepared/submitted	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
10. Overwhelmingly support at public consultation for the site to be enhanced/developed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Prioritisation of sites:** Altmore/Cappagh, Drumcairne Forest, Portglenone, Windmill Wood, Cabin Wood, Ballysaggart Lough and Iniscarn Forest.

All present significant opportunities to develop outdoor recreation at the centre of local communities across the Council area.

Portglenone is part of a much wider Waterways Ireland Blueway initiative that should be supported.

Windmill Wood was considered in the past as an excellent venue and whilst some design/construction work was completed, this site was never developed to its full potential and should be re looked at to accomplish this.

Altmore/Cappagh, Drumcairne and Iniscarn have strong community buy-in and offer important opportunities to develop local door-step forest access opportunities in rural areas.

Cabin Wood and Ballysaggart Lough are well used sites on the edge of large populated areas that require additional investment to bring the make the visitor experience more enjoyable.

## APPENDIX M: Action Plan split up into years

### YEAR 1 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
<b>A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of <b>Parks and Countryside Development Officer</b> for the Council area.	£40,940
A2.	Council wide	<b>Expansion of the existing Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b> - to include all those involved directly/indirectly with outdoor recreation.	Staff time
A3.	Council wide	On-going <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£100,000
A4	Council wide	Monitor existing <b>SLAs with Community Groups</b> for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities in their local community.  Provide training to these Community Groups on what is expected in terms of visitor experience and facility maintenance checks.  New SLA's 1 @£10,000	£35,450   £10,000
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	Maintain existing <b>counters</b> across the Council area	£3,000
<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b>  <b>Regional</b> – Ballyronan Marina and Traad Point  <b>Local</b> – Altmore/Cappagh	£40,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 1 DEA  Will involve extensive community consultation, GIS mapping, landowners' negotiation	Staff time

C: DEVELOPMENT			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff Time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway	Staff time
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway	Staff time
C5 (see Appendix L for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altmore/Cappagh</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£200,000
C6	Lower Ballinderry River	<b>Canoe Trails</b> – assess the feasibility of establishing a canoe trail on the Lower Ballinderry River	£5,000
C8	Clogher Valley	<b>Off-road long-distance ride</b> - deliver NI first long-distance mountain biking trails using the forests of the Clogher Valley	£2,500
D: MARKETING and PROMOTION			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – Preparation of Marketing Strategy and Action Plan	Staff Time
D2	Council Wide	<b>Identity</b> – develop a graphic device within the MUDC brand for forest outdoor sites	£5,000
D3	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information &amp; Signage Guidelines</b> – develop guidelines for all sites of outdoor recreation and parks	£15,000

D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information &amp; Signage Review</b> – undertake a review of signage, visitor information and waymarking at the current portfolio of outdoor recreation sites and parks in order to recommend the action required to meet the guidelines. Implement as time allows	Staff time
D5	Council Wide	<b>Outdoor Recreation Participation Plan</b> – develop a plan in collaboration with Leisure to encourage people to take part in physical activity at sites of outdoor recreation with a focus on walking and cycling	Staff time
D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time

## YEAR 2 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
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A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of a <b>Parks and Countryside Development Officer</b> for the Council area.	£41,783
A2.	Council wide	On-going - <b>Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b>	Staff time
A3.	Council wide	On-going roll out of <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£125,000
A4.	Council wide	On-going SLAs with existing Community Groups and develop 1 new <b>SLAs</b> New SLA's 1 @£10,000	£35,450 £10,000
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	On-going maintenance of counters at major outdoor recreation sites across the Council area	£3,000



<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b> <b>Regional</b> – Parkanaur Forest <b>Local</b> – Drumcairne Forest	£40,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 2 DEAs	Staff Time
<b>C: DEVELOPMENT</b>			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff Time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway	Staff time
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway Development of brief/studies and engaging with DFI's competitive grant process	Staff time £25,000
C4 (see Appendix K for rationale for inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ballyronan/Traad</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£600,000

C5 (see Appendix L for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<p><b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drumcairne Forest, Portglenone</li> </ul> <p>(this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)</p>	£200,000
C7	Davagh Forest	<p><b>National Mountain Bike Centre</b> – develop the existing Trails Centre through the extension of the current trail network</p> <p>(includes capital costs of the trails, waymarking etc)</p>	£500,000
C9	Clogher Valley	<p><b>Off-road long-distance ride</b> - facilitate NI's first long distance off-road horse-riding trail using the forests of the Clogher Valley (signage/waymarking)</p>	Staff time + £5,000
C10	Council Wide	<p><b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area. (signage/waymarking)</p>	Staff time + £10,000
C11	Council Wide	<p><b>Community Trails</b> – develop a network of Community Trails across the area. The following will need further detailed investigation and physical assessment as part of the wider Community Trail Plan as per recommendation B2 in order to prioritise projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altmore – Altmore Reservoir</li> <li>• Aghareaney – Donaghmore</li> <li>• Ballinderry River – Ardtrea to Drapersfield River</li> <li>• Ballysaggart Lough – Dungannon Town</li> <li>• Desertmartin – to Iniscarn Forest</li> <li>• Draperstown – Tobermore along the Moyola River</li> <li>• Draperstown – Moneyneany along the Douglas River</li> <li>• Drumullan to Springhill</li> <li>• Greenvale Cookstown – Ballinderry River</li> <li>• Moneymore – Springhill Wood</li> <li>• Lissan House Trails</li> <li>• Portglenone – Newferry</li> <li>• Portglenone – Hutchinson's Key – Portna – Kilrea</li> </ul>	Staff time + £TBC

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkanaur to Castlecaulfield – Donaghmore</li> <li>• Pomeroy Forest – Pomeroy Village</li> <li>• Sandholes along the Tullylagan River</li> <li>• Stewartstown – Crieve Lough</li> <li>• Tullaghoge – Loughry</li> <li>• Tullaghoge Fort – Tullyhogue village</li> </ul>	
<b>D: MARKETING and PROMOTION</b>			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – implement the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan.	Staff time
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information and Signage</b> – roll out a visitor information and signage programme at key sites across the Council area	Staff time
D9	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time

### YEAR 3 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
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<b>A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of a <b>Parks and Countryside Development Officer</b>	£42,642
A2.	Council wide	On-going - <b>Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b>	Staff time
A3.	Council wide	On-going roll out of <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£150,000

A4.	Council wide	On-going SLAs with existing Community Groups and one new SLA for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities in their local community.  New SLA's 2 @£20,000	£35,450
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	On-going maintenance of counters across the Council area	£3,000
<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b>  <b>Regional</b> – Drum Manor Forest Park <b>Local</b> – Windmill Wood	£40,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 2 DEAs	Staff Time
<b>C: DEVELOPMENT</b>			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff Time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway  Development of brief/studies and engaging with DFI's competitive grant process	Staff time  £25,000
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway	Staff time
C4 (see appendix K for rationale for inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parkanaur Forest</li></ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£600,000
C5 (see Appendix L for rationale and inclusion)	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Windmill Wood and Cabin Wood</li></ul>	£200,000



and prioritisation)		(this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	
C10	Council Wide	<b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area. (signage/waymarking)	Staff time + £5,000
C11	Council Wide	<b>Community Trails</b> – develop a network of Community Trails across the area. See year 2 for full list	Staff time + £TBC
<b>D: MARKETING AND PROMOTION</b>			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – implement the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan.	Staff time
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information and Signage</b> – roll out a visitor information and signage programme at key sites across the Council area	Staff time
D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time

**YEAR 4 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)**

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
<b>A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of a <b>Park and Outdoor Recreation Officer</b> and <b>two Assistant Park and Outdoor Recreation Officers</b> for the Council area.	£43,413
A2.	Council wide	On-going - <b>Council Tourism Outdoor Cluster Group</b>	Staff time
A3.	Council wide	On-going roll out of <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£150,000
A4.	Council wide	On-going SLAs with existing Community Groups New SLA @ £10,000	£55,450
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	On-going maintenance of counters at major outdoor recreation sites across the Council area	£3,000
<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B1	Council Wide	<b>Undertake Master Planning /Feasibility Studies for the following sites:</b> <b>Local – Iniscarn Forest</b>	£15,000
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 1 DEA	Staff Time
<b>C: DEVELOPMENT</b>			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff Time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway	Staff time
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway	Staff time

C4 (see Appendix K for rationale for inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drum Manor Forest Park</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£600,000
C5 (see Appendix L for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballysaggart Lough</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£200,000
C10	Council Wide	<b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area (signage/waymarking)	Staff time + £5,000
C11	Council Wide	<b>Community Trails</b> – develop a network of Community Trails across the area. See year 2 for full list	Staff time + £TBC
<b>D: MARKETING AND PROMOTION</b>			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – implement the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan.	Staff time
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information and Signage</b> – roll out a visitor information and signage programme at key sites across the Council area	Staff time
D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time

**YEAR 5 (priorities and scheduling may vary or change subject to council approval)**

Code	Site / Trail / Area	Action	Cost
<b>A: MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES</b>			
A1.	Council wide	On-going employment of a <b>Park and Outdoor Recreation Officer</b> for the Council area.	£44,413
A3.	Council wide	On-going roll out of <b>maintenance programme</b> with Property Services to include all outdoor recreation facilities across the MUDC area	£150,000
A4.	Council wide	On-going SLAs with existing Community Groups and develop 5 new <b>SLAs with Community Groups</b> for the on-going maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities in their local community. New SLAs @ £10,000	£55,450 £10,000
A5.	Mid Ulster-wide	On-going maintenance of counters at major outdoor recreation sites across the Council area	£3,000
<b>B: MASTER PLANNING</b>			
B2	Council Wide	Develop a <b>Community Trail Plan</b> for 1 DEA	Staff time
<b>C: DEVELOPMENT</b>			
C1	Lower Bann	<b>Lower Bann Blueway</b> - proactively support the development of a Blueway on the Lower Bann through investing in the development of sites and marketing.	Staff time
C2	Clogher Valley Greenway	<b>Clogher Valley Greenway</b> – continue to support the development of a Clogher Valley Greenway	Staff time
C3	Ulster Canal Greenway	<b>Ulster Canal Greenway</b> - continue to support the development of the Ulster Canal Greenway	Staff time
C4 (see Appendix 12 for rationale for inclusion)	Council Wide	<b>Regional multi-activity hubs</b> – develop for visitors and the local community the following sites including a wide range of outdoor recreation products accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conclusion of previous multi-activity hub development</li> </ul>	£50,000



and prioritisation)		(this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	
C5 (see Appendix 13 for rationale and inclusion and prioritisation)	Council Wide	<b>Local multi-activity hubs</b> - develop for the local community the following sites for outdoor recreation including a wide range of outdoor recreation product accompanied by appropriate visitor servicing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iniscarn</li> </ul> (this includes capital costs associated with trails, play, signage, interpretation, car parking, accommodations, catering etc)	£200,000
C10	Council Wide	<b>Walking trails</b> – develop short and medium distance walks across the north west of the Council area linking into the wider Sperrins area. (signage/waymarking)	Staff time + £5,000
C12	Council Wide	<b>Community Trails</b> – develop a network of Community Trails across the area. See Year 1 for full list	Staff time + £TBC
<b>D: MARKETING AND PROMOTION</b>			
D1	Council Wide	<b>Marketing Resource</b> – implement the Marketing Strategy and Action Plan.	Staff time
D4	Council Wide	<b>Visitor Information and Signage</b> – roll out a visitor information and signage programme at key sites across the Council area	Staff time
D6	Council Wide	<b>Develop partnerships with the Private sector</b> - generate more outdoor activity on the ground by developing strategic partnerships with local private sector businesses and/or contracting the delivery of programmes at the Council's key outdoor recreation sites	Staff time

## APPENDIX N: Funding Opportunities

### The National Lottery Community Fund

#### People and Communities

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

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

Grants range from £10,000 to £500,000 for projects lasting 1-5 years. Grants for small scale capital projects is capped at £100,000 but up to 100% of costs.

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

The programme is open for applications all year round.

For more information see - [tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/people-and-communities](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/people-and-communities)

#### Awards for All Northern Ireland

Awards for All is an open programme, therefore **there are no closing dates** for applications.

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

The programme is open to:

- voluntary or community organisations
- schools
- statutory bodies

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

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

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

For more information see: [tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/awards-for-all-northern-ireland](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/awards-for-all-northern-ireland) The National Lottery Heritage Fund

**The National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £3,000 – £10,000**

**Suitable for:**

- not-for-profit organisations
- private owners of heritage

**Project length:** up to one year.

**Deadlines:** None

**The National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £10,000 - £100,000**

**Suitable for:**

- not-for-profit organisations
- private owners of heritage and partnerships

**Deadlines:** None.

**The National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £100,000-£250,000**

**Suitable for:**

- not-for-profit organisations
- partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations

**Deadlines:** 2019/20 Deadlines are quarterly and can be found below:

- March 2019 for a decision in June 2019
- 28 May 2019 for a decision in September 2019
- 20 August 2019 for a decision in November 2019
- 19 November 2019 for decision in March 2020

**Assessment process:** Assessment of applications take 12 weeks and following assessment, is assigned to a quarterly committee meeting. Applicant contribution: At least 5% of the project costs.

**The National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £250,000 - £5 million**

**Suitable for:**

- not-for-profit organisations
- partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations

Before applying: Submit an expression of interest form and The National Lottery will let the applicant know if they are invited to apply.

**Project length:**

- development phase up to two years

- delivery phase up to five years

**Deadlines are quarterly and can be found below:**

- March 2019 for a decision in June 2019
- 28 May 2019 for a decision in September 2019
- 20 August 2019 for a decision in November 2019
- 19 November 2019 for decision in March 2020

Assessment process: Assessment of applications will take 12 weeks and following assessment, it will be assigned to a quarterly committee meeting.

Contribution: Contribute of at least 5% of project costs for grants up to £1 million and at least 10% for grants of £1m or more.

For more information: [heritagefund.org.uk/funding/national-lottery-grant-heritage](https://heritagefund.org.uk/funding/national-lottery-grant-heritage)

### **Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland**

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

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

The programme is open to registered charities with an income of less than £1 million. The Average Grant is currently between £3,000-£4,000.

**For more information see** [halifaxfoundationni.org/programmes/community-grant-programme](https://halifaxfoundationni.org/programmes/community-grant-programme)

### **Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme**

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

The small grants scheme provides support to volunteer projects that:

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

Grants are available from £500 to £5,000 and are open to volunteer and community groups, all school and third level education organisations, youth groups and sports clubs undertaking civic pride projects in supporting Council areas.



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

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

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

**The next round of the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme will be launching on 16th April 2019. For more information see [www.livehereandlovehere.org](http://www.livehereandlovehere.org).**