

Proposal for the delivery of the MountainBikeNI Consortium 2018 – 2019

January 2018

Outdoor Recreation NI has prepared this proposal in order to request support from trail managing Councils for the period 1^{st} April 2018 – 31^{st} March 2019.

This proposal outlines:

- 1. Overview of Outputs
- 2. Added value gained from adopting a consortium approach
- 3. Proposal for 2018 / 2019

1. Overview of Outputs:

Outdoor Recreation NI will continue to assign staff resources to the MountainBikeNI Consortium in order to continue to promote Northern Ireland as a 'must visit mountain bike destination'.

Whilst promotion will take place under the MountainBikeNI umbrella brand each destination will be clearly differentiated within marketing activity.

The focus of marketing activity will be within Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in order to deliver on key objectives:

- Increase number of visits within each trail centre
- Increase the engagement of mountain bikers with the local economy i.e. increase economic impact

| Partner | MUDC | NMDDC | BCC |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Partner Support | £16,666 | £11,666 | £5,000 |
| Sponsorship Contribution | £5,000 | £10,000 | 0 |
| Partner Total | £21,666 | £21,666 | £5,000 |
| % of Delivery Capacity | 45% | 45% | 10% |
| Fundamental Outputs | | | |
| Mountain Bike NI Consortium | \checkmark | \checkmark | \checkmark |
| MountainBikeNI.com Website | \checkmark | \checkmark | \checkmark |
| Customer Interaction | \checkmark | ✓ | \checkmark |
| Trail Centre Specific Outputs | | | |
| Trail Cards E-commerce | \checkmark | ✓ | × |
| Mountain Bike NI Trails Team | \checkmark | ✓ | \checkmark |
| (Volunteer Ranger Scheme) | | | |
| Sponsorship Liaison | \checkmark | ✓ | × |
| Marketing Outputs | | | |
| NI Marketing via MTBNI Channels | \checkmark | \checkmark | \checkmark |
| NI Marketing Campaigns | \checkmark | × | × |
| | (£2075) | | |
| ROI Marketing Campaigns | \checkmark | ✓ | × |
| | (£6500) | (£6500) | |
| Destination Support / Business | \checkmark | ✓ | × |
| Upskilling | | | |

In addition, and at no further cost to partners, ORNI will take the strategic lead on:

- MTB Research
- Revision of Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland

A. Fundamental Outputs

A.1. MountainBikeNI Consortium

- Act as the Secretariat for the MountainBikeNI Consortium minimum of 2 meetings per annum
- Agree meeting dates, venue, agenda and circulate minutes
- Prepare and agree annual work programme and provide a progress report on a quarterly basis

A.2. MountainBikeNI.com Website

- Manage and maintain the MountainBikeNI.com website including:
 - All Trail Centres
 - Manage Trail Centre Profile including event calendar in liaison with trail managers
 - Update of Trail Conditions (diversions, closures etc) as required in liaison with trail managers
 - National Trail Centres Only
 - Annual update of downloadable online destination guides
 - Proactive liaison with local tourism service providers (accommodation and eatery) to ensure their web profiles are targeted to the mountain bike market and offers are available in line with campaigns
- Continue to provide high quality and accurate information and content (as required) for Tourism Northern Ireland's consumer website DiscoverNorthernIreland.com
- Provide accurate information and content (as required) for councils' tourism websites
- Proactive Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) to ensure competitive Google Ranking for key terms in both Great Britain (GB) and Republic of Ireland (ROI) markets

A.3. Customer Interaction

• Deal with customer enquiries via telephone, email and social media in a timely manner

B. Trail Centre Specific Outputs

B.1. Trail Cards

- Manage and maintain the e-commerce platform within MountainBikeNI.com
- Proactively engage with tourism service providers and relevant retail outlets to encourage stocking and sale of trail cards
- Facilitate any reprint / redesign of trail cards¹
- Provide quarterly report of trail card sales within overall work programme report

¹ Additional budget will be required for trail card design and print costs

B.2. MountainBikeNI Trails Team (Volunteer Ranger Scheme)²

- Lead the recruitment of MTB volunteers and manage database
- Communicate dates of maintenance days and allocate volunteers
- Manage MountainBikeNI Trails Team Facebook Group
- Proactively publicise the work of the MountainBikeNI Trails Team
- Organise a training and reward programme in conjunction with the trail sponsor

B.3. Sponsorship Liaison

- In partnership with National Trail Centre managing councils recruit a title sponsor for MountainBikeNI.com and the National Trail Centres
- Agree annual support programme with sponsors and act as key liaison to maximise benefits of both parties
- Manage the ongoing relationship with the sponsor

C. Marketing Outputs

C.1. NI Marketing via MTBNI Channels

- Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from NI based Mountain bikers via:
 - Design and implementation of the annual content, social media and e-marketing plan against key segments and trigger points
 - Create and circulate positive media stories to local and NI media re mountain biking and events, ensuring prominent destination / local authority message (as appropriate)

C.2. NI Marketing Campaigns – MUDC Only

- Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from NI based Mountain bikers through the further enhancement of activities under C.1 via:
 - Delivery of a targeted campaign activity (within budget proposed £2075) to include editorial, advertorial, advertising (online / offline bundles), advocacy, PR FAM Trips

C.3. ROI Marketing Campaigns

- Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from ROI based Mountain bikers via:
 - Delivery of a targeted campaign activity (within budget proposed £13,000) to include editorial, advertorial, advertising (online / offline bundles), advocacy, PR FAM Trips

² Council partners to deliver maintenance days including provision of lunch

C.4. Destination Support and Business Upskilling

- Business Upskilling:
 - Support Council workshops for local tourism service providers
 - Proactive engagement with local tourism service providers (accommodation, eateries and activity providers) to ensure:
 - their offering is targeted to the mountain bike market i.e. 'MTB Friendly'
 - innovative offers are available in line with campaigns
 - increased awareness of MTB product offering within their destination
 - Deliver on-line toolkit for local tourism service providers including visitor profiles and requirements, product and service advice, marketing recommendations / opportunities and best practice benchmarking
 - Distribution of two e-newsletters to relevant stakeholders re marketing campaign updates, promotional opportunities and support
- Destination Support:
 - Provide support to Council Tourism teams to accurately incorporate the promotion of mountain biking within a wider tourism offering

D. MTB Research

- Conduct on-line surveys with local businesses to establish a barometer relating to economic impact
- Proactively liaise with Tourism Northern Ireland to gain detailed understanding of methodology utilised within Mountain Bike Northern Ireland Research Study
 - Utilise learnings to identify requirements for ongoing comparable research relating to economic impact
 - Conduct primary research and analysis to provide an update on research findings relating to economic impact (Budget Dependent)

E. MTB Strategy

- The Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014-2024 identified the requirement for formal review pending research findings
- ORNI will proactive liaise with key stakeholders to agree a revised Strategy to reflect:
 - Tourism NI Mountain Bike Northern Ireland Research Study
 - Department for Economy Tourism Strategy (pending release)
 - Local authority Community Plans, Tourism Strategy / Action Plans, Recreation Strategy / Action Plans
 - Sport NI Sport and Physical Activity Participation Study

2. Added value gained from adopting a consortium approach

Outdoor Recreation NI is able to provide the following added value to those councils supporting the MountainBikeNI Consortium:

Consortium Approach

A consortium approach provides the following benefits:

- Economies of scale in campaign costs, project costs such as MTB Research
- The ability to **cross sell** between trail centres i.e. consumers interested in or visiting the Mournes based trails will learn about the Davagh Trails and vice versa
- A greater potential to attract (via tender) a sponsor
- Improved brand, destination and product recognition

Marketing Foundation

The following marketing foundation is already in place – reducing the need for supporting councils to further invest elsewhere:

- MountainBikeNI.com website
- E-marketing Database of 13,551
- Social media following of 23,777 (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Strong relationship with MTB journalists demonstrated by generation of PR worth an equivalent advertising value of £1.3 million since April 2013

Expertise & Knowledge

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland is a not–for–profit organisation whose role is to develop, manage and promote outdoor recreation across Northern Ireland therefore those councils supporting the consortium benefit from its significant expertise and knowledge.

- Product knowledge gained from:
 - proactive campaigning for 10+ years for the development of mountain biking in Northern Ireland
 - driving the development of Rostrevor, Castlewellan, Blessingbourne, Castle Ward and Barnett Demesne Mountain Bike Trails
- Visitor Safety knowledge gained from:
 - o membership of Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group (VSCG)
 - \circ $\;$ staff training investment including VSCG and other relevant workshops $\;$
- Mountain bike market knowledge gained from proactive:
 - \circ benchmarking from competitor destinations
 - engagement with UK and ROI wide industry experts
 - o staff training investment including learning journeys and industry conferences
- Marketing expertise gained from:
 - 9+ years of proactively promoting outdoor recreation / activity tourism in Northern Ireland via Outdoor Recreation NI platforms such as OutdoorNI.com. WalkNI.com
 - o 9+ years delivering activity tourism marketing outputs for Tourism Northern Ireland

3. Proposal 2018 / 2019

Delivery of Outputs

| Partner | MUDC / £ | NMDDC / £ | BCC / £ |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Partner Support | 16,666 | 11,666 | 5,000 |
| Sponsorship Contribution | 5,000 | 10,000 | 0 |
| Partner Total | 21,666 | 21,666 | 5,000 |
| % of Delivery Capacity | 45% | 45% | 10% |

Campaigns

| Source | Amount / £ | % of campaign delivery |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Newry, Mourne and Down | 6,500 | 43% |
| District Council | | |
| Mid Ulster District Council | 8,575 | 57% |
| TOTAL | 15,075 | 100% |



MOUNTAINBIKENI CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW 2017 / 2018

SUMMER 2017 MARKETING CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVE

RAISE AWARENESS OF THE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS AT DAVAGH FOREST AND BLESSINGBOURNE ESTATE AMONGST NORTHERN IRISH MOUNTAIN BIKERS.

CAMPAIGN BUDGET

| DAVAGH FOREST TRAILS MID-ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL | £1,245 (60%) |
|---|--------------|
| BLESSINGBOURNE ESTATE TRAILS MID-ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL | £830 (40%) |
| TOTAL | £2,075 |



Reaction

TRAILS MAP

r ASSAU

SEARCH TRAILS

 $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$

USEFUL INFO

MTB CLUBS

OVERVIEW

MOU

Davagh Forest lies in an untouched rural landscape of rolling hills and sweeping forests.

ceNL.com

rails Northern Ireland

powered by

Located approximately 6 miles north west of Cookstown, Davagh Forest offers gentle mountain biking and walking trails as well as an impressive 16km red trail with some rock slab drops you will never forget!

The Davagh Forest Trails are a Mid Ulster District Council Facility.

ORDER YOUR TRAIL CARD HERE

Check out <u>#DavaghRocks</u> photos on Instagram

Download <u>DavaghNav</u> from your Apple or Android App Store for GPS Activated Navigation

TRAILHEAD FACILITIES

Changing Facilities

| | Bike Hire |
|---|-------------|
| P | Car Parking |
| | Tollets |
| H | Blke Wash |

TRAIL CENTRE CONDITIONS

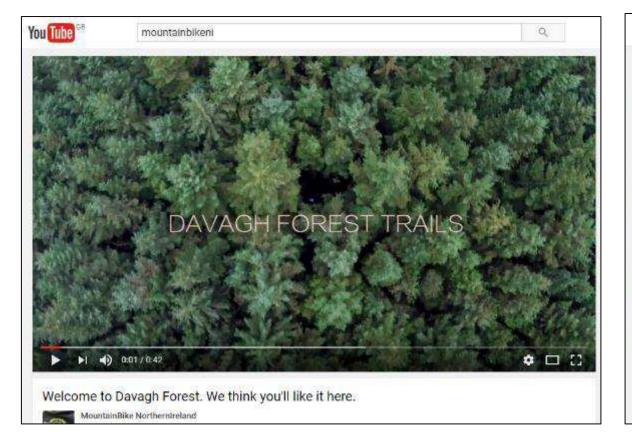
Trail Ranger Update: 05/01/18

Following a brief closure due to Storm Eleanor, all fallen trees have been cleared and the trails have been reopened.

THESE TRAILS ARE PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

ENENSETTE

CAMPAIGN VIDEOS





CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey I?I - August 8 at 7:00pm - 🕲

Welcome to Davagh Forest. We think you'll like it here.



Welcome to Davagh Forest

MOUNTAINBIKENI.COM



Learn More

MountainBikeNI with Blessingbourne and 2 others. Published by Ethan Loughrey (?) November 16, 2016 - @

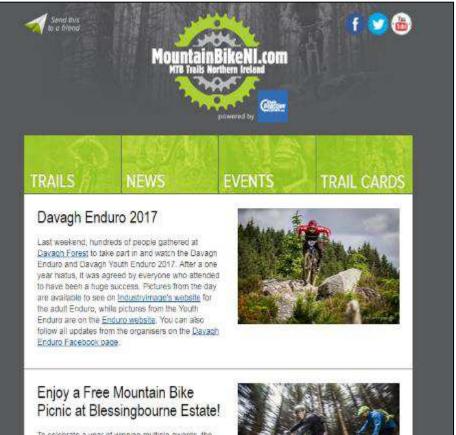
We're delighted to to show off our new video at Blessingbourne Estate Mountain Bike Trails.

Blessingbourne - located just outside Fivemiletown in Co. Tyrone - is perfect for mountain bikers, families and couples for a weekend break. The Estate boasts over 12km of red and blue trails, a pump track, miles of walking trails, a play park and much more.

For more information on the trails at Blessingbourne, visit: http://mountainbikeni.com/blessingbourne/ ... See More



ONLINE MARKETING



To celebrate a year of winning multiple awards, the team at <u>Blessingbourne</u> are offering a prize to one of our NountainBikeNI followers. You can win free bike hire for up to 4 people, along with a delicious lunch hamper.





Photo Blog of Davagh Forest and Blessingbourne Estate

Pasted on June 27, 2017 @ 5.01 PM in Mountainpling

A picture is worth 1,000 words, or so they say. With that in mind, we want to show off some of our favourite social metha photographs from <u>Devanh Forest</u> and <u>Dessenctionume Estate</u>.



BRAND ADVOCACY



Former Irish Downhill Champion Visits Davagh and Blessingbourne

Posted on July 17, 2017 @ 6.41 PM In Mountainbiking

Newry-based mountain biking legend Glyn O'Brien and fellow adventurer wife Catherine took a trip west to Blessingbourne Estate and Davagh Forest recently to visit the mountain bike trails on offer there.

Blessingbourne Estate

On a typically damp summer evening we made our way to the beautiful Elessingbourne Estate, in Fivemiletown. Co.Tyrone





Check out this trip I did with the wife Catherine C/Brien aka Cato a few weeks ago. It rained a bit but we didn't care and just kept or RI MountainBikeNI Blessingbourne Mountain Bike Trait Davagh Forest Traits #northernireland



| ountain Bike |
|---|
| fountain Billing Ireland In Bilking Ireland, MTB |
| |
| 35 others |
| |
| |



SOCIAL MEDIA

| 🗿 Instagram | Q, Search | 0 0 |) | 0 |
|-------------------|------------------|--|----|----------|
| | | mountainbikeni | | |
| | | francis_manzocchi Looks sick | × | * |
| | | | × | |
| | | timmysloan @psloaner get practicing the tail whips | × | |
| | | 101 mm | х | |
| | | scottg0103 @adach95 no | × | |
| 1 - Martin State | | clyne_62 @rklandscapesni | × | |
| | | gl2nnc Some day | × | * |
| | | 00 | | |
| 1 March 1 March 1 | A CARACTER STORE | 6.216 views | | |
| - 18 the Hall Is | | AUGUST 9, 2017 | | |
| | | Add a comment | •• | . |

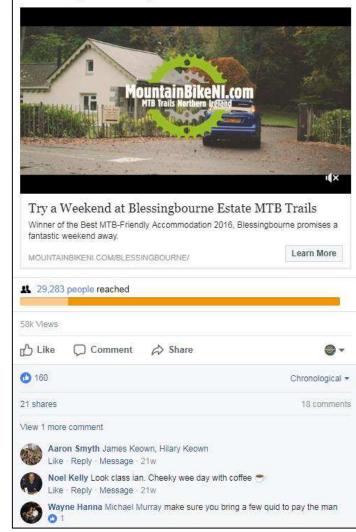
SOCIAL MEDIA



Written by Ethan Loughrey [?] - 11 August 2017 - 🚱

12km of great trails in the picturesque Clogher Valley, Blessingbourne Estate has something for all the family to love.

...





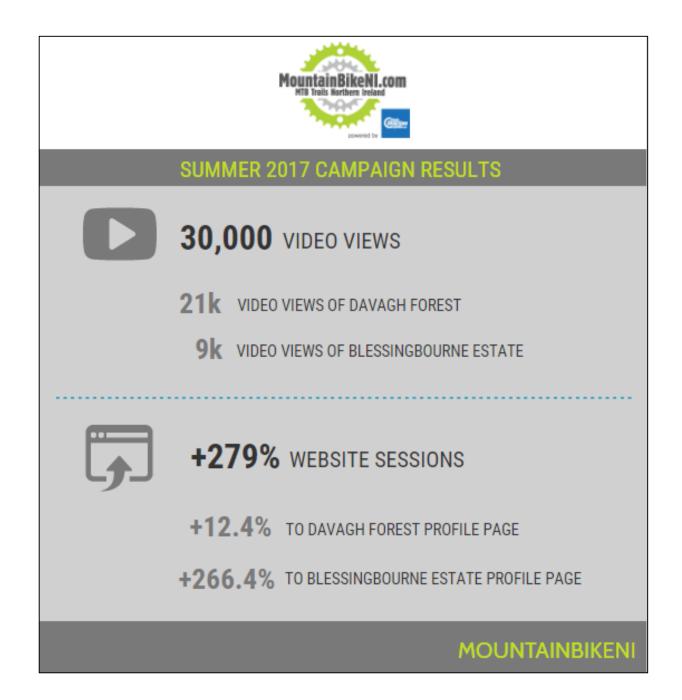
Written by Ethan Loughrey [?] - 9 August 2017 - 😋

Davagh Forest Mountain Bike Trails are amazing. Come explore them for yourself.

...



| Welcome to Davagh Forest. We Think Y | ou'll Like it |
|--|---------------------------|
| Here. | |
| 16km of Red Trail, Skills Park, Pump Track and some of the in Northern Ireland. | most beautiful scenery |
| MOUNTAINBIKENI.COM/DAVAGH-FOREST/ | Learn More |
| 1 25,862 people reached | |
| 28k Views | |
| 🖒 Like 😡 Comment 🏟 Share | • |
| 001 122 | Chronological 🕶 |
| 13 shares | 18 comment |
| View 2 more comments | |
| James O'Connor Dave De Courcy Kyle Lawson Barry Pollard John Loughran | O'Halloran Richard |
| Like - Reply - Message - 22w | |
| John Loughran Trips, trips and more trips. So much c | on our doorstep!! I'm in. |



AUTUMN 2017 MARKETING CAMPAIGN

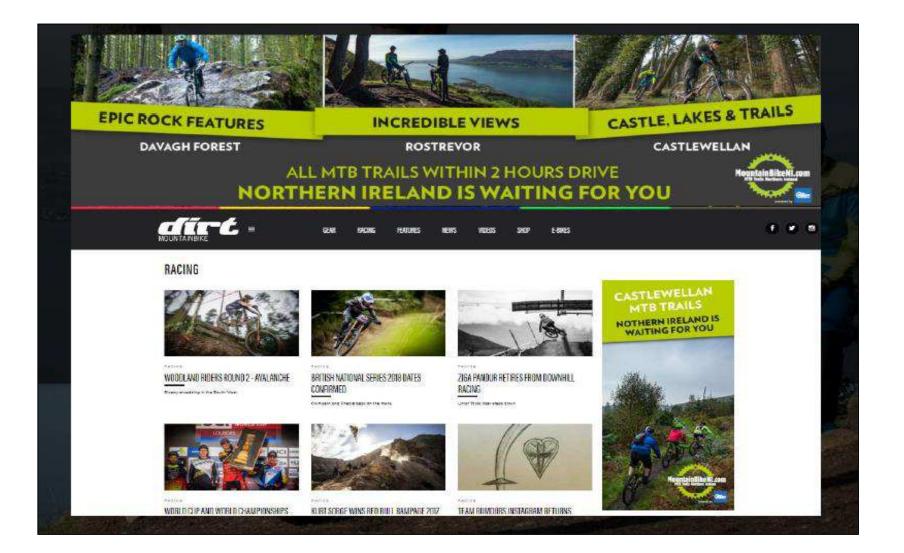
CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVE

CONTINUE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE NATIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS AMONGST MOUNTAIN BIKERS IN ROI.

CAMPAIGN BUDGET

| CASTLEWELLAN MTB TRAILS NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL | £1,650 |
|--|--------|
| ROSTREVOR MTB TRAILS NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL | £1,650 |
| DAVAGH FOREST TRAILS MID-ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL | £1,650 |
| TOTAL | £4,950 |

GEO – TARGETED ADVERTISING



E-MARKETING



Davagh Night Enduro Returns

Ireland's only Night Enduro returns to Davagh Forest this Saturday 4th November, as one of the most anticipated events of the year. Kicking off at 1pm with the youth enduro, the adults race will begin between 6:30pm and 7pm. Riders will compete in three different categories; intermediate, sport and female, across 5 stages.

As part of their entry, entrants will receive a t-shirt, professionally printed number board, water and bananas during the event, chipped timing and all the other essentials that make a great enduro.

Register now to take part in the Davagh Night Enduro.

The Legend of #BostonDon

The <u>Red Bull Foxhunt</u> at <u>Rostrevor Mountain Bike</u> <u>Trails</u> was epic for many reasons; the current DH World champ, <u>Loic Bruni</u> was there. Colin Ross continues to be the most popular man in attendance, despite the presence of world famous superstars like Rob Warner and Gee Atherton, and <u>Kelan Grant</u> had a blitzing win that left the competition for dead.

But for one man, this year's event was a life changing experience. 'BostonDon' (we're legally obliged to use that name) was the only American to take part in the race. Don had travelled - unsurprisingly - all the way from Boston to take part and was blown away by the experience.



TRAILS NEWS EVENTS

Davagh Enduro 2017

Last weekend, hundreds of people gathered at <u>Davach Forest</u> to take part in and watch the Davagh Enduro and Davagh Youth Enduro 2017. After a one year hiatus, it was agreed by everyone who attended to have been a huge success. Pictures from the day are available to see on <u>Industryimage's website</u> for the adult Enduro, while pictures from the Youth Enduro are on the <u>Enduro website</u>. You can also follow all updates from the organisers on the <u>Davagh</u> <u>Enduro Facebook page</u>



TRAIL CARDS

Enjoy a Free Mountain Bike Picnic at Blessingbourne Estate!

To celebrate a year of winning multiple awards, the team at <u>Blessingbourne</u> are offering a prize to one of our MountainBikeNI followers. You can win free bike hire for up to 4 people, along with a delicious lunch hamper.

To be in with a chance of winning all you need to do is like the <u>Blessingbourne Facebook page</u> and email info@mountainbikeni com with the name of one of the sections of <u>Mountain Bike Trail at Blessingbourne</u>!

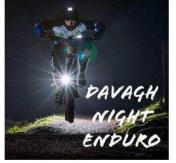
You can find these on the <u>Blessingbourne section of</u> <u>MountainBikeNI</u> Entries close at 12pm on Friday 7th July - good luck!

Photo Blog of Davagh Forest and Blessingbourne Estate

We love seeing you guys on the trails. With that in mind, we've put together a photo blog of some of our favourite pictures that you've shared on social media from <u>Davagh Forest</u> and <u>Blessinobourne Estate</u>. Check it out on <u>MountainBliceNi com</u>!



Check out our interview with him on MountainBikeNI.





SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey (?) · 23 October - 🚱

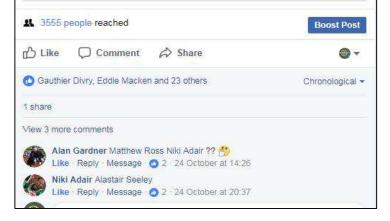
Excited for the only Night Enduro in Ireland? You bet we are. Get signing up for the Davagh Night Enduro now. Davagh-Enduro



...

Davagh Night Enduro - Mountain Bike NI

Set over the Davagh forest trails riders will tool up with lights and fight it out for the fastest time over 5 stages with the added benefit of real time timing system. MOUNTAINBIKENI.COM





BRAND ADVOCACY





ronanzero • Following

ronanzero Any excuse to visit one of my favourite parts of the country. Delighted to be asked by @mountainbikeni to ride & review some of their finest trails this weekend. An over night road trip with my partner in grime @gavinfeeney as we hit #rostrevormountainbiketrails all day Saturday & then onto #davaghforesttrails finishing up in #castlewellanmountainbiketrails can't wait. #mountainbikeni #davaghrocks #castlewheelin djjohnnyholmes No better man! gavinfeeney Can't wait! \Box Q

Q
 17 likes
SEPTEMBER 20
Add a comment...

CAMPAIGN RESULTS OVERVIEW

| OBJECTIVE | RESULT |
|------------------------|--------|
| ROI WEBSITE SESSION | +15% |
| ROI FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS | + 8% |