# The provision of access for outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland

# **Key Stakeholder Consultation**

# 27<sup>th</sup> January – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

# **NI Local Council Version**



**Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

# 1.0 Introduction

#### **1.1** The value of our outdoors

Northern Ireland has a mixture of extremely varied and beautiful lands and seascapes within a very small geographical area. Mountains, moorlands, forests, extensive inland waterways and a spectacular coastline all make up our local environment. Our towns and cities tend to be relatively small and therefore greenspace, such as hills, forests and parks are in close proximity to most of the people who live and work here. However, access to the natural environment is often restricted and the provision varies from area to area.

A recent survey<sup>\*</sup> identified that the benefits of spending time outdoors during the COVID-19 lockdown were significant. 84% of participants reported feeling physical health benefits and 90% reported benefits related to mental health and wellbeing. Benefits were strongest amongst people who visited the outdoors most often during lockdown and people with quality trails and greenspaces close to home. 51% of respondents expected to spend more of their free time outdoors than they did pre-lockdown. People would most like to be able to visits local parks, the countryside and coast, to walk on off-road trails and to spend time with family and friends. There was significant support for the development and improvements of walking and cycling trails.

\* Survey carried out by Outdoor Recreation NI in May 2020. The full report is available at <u>http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/news/new-survey-highlights-importance-of-accessing-outdoors-safely-during-covid-19/</u>

Apart from health and well-being benefits, outdoor recreation contributes to Northern Ireland society in a wide range of areas, including social inclusion, community cohesion, environmental awareness, rural development and economic opportunities.

However, our natural environment is also a living, working and active environment with the majority of the land farmed and producing our food, drinking water and supporting livelihoods.

The development of the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland (<u>Our-Great-Outdoors-The-Outdoor-Recreation-Action-Plan-for-Northern-Ireland SportNI-2014.pdf</u> (<u>outdoorrecreationni.com</u>) identified a need to review and initiate the development and consolidation of appropriate outdoor recreation legislation.

It is important that a suitable balance is struck between enabling public access to our natural environment, while protecting that environment and ensuring landowners rights.

#### 1.2 Accessibility

Public access to land in Northern Ireland is more restricted than other parts of the United Kingdom. Land ownership in Northern Ireland is significantly different from the rest of the United Kingdom as most farms are of a much smaller scale, with a proportionately higher number of the population with land owning interests.

Although some areas of the countryside may have been used freely for recreation for many years, the public have no general rights to wander over open land, mountains, moorland, woodlands,

the foreshore, etc. However, many landowners tolerate access to their land without a formalised agreement.

Generally speaking, in Northern Ireland, public access is restricted to:

## a) Public Rights of Way;

A Public Right of Way is "a highway which any member of the public may use as a right - not a privilege granted by the landowner". It is a permanent legal entity and remains in existence until it is extinguished, or diverted, by due legal process. Detail on Public Rights of Way is available on NI Direct at <u>https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/public-rights-way</u>

### b) where the public have the landowner's permission to visit;

Local councils may make Permissive Path Agreements with landowners for people to use an agreed portion of their land, under agreed conditions, as a means to secure quality recreational access.

- C) areas of land which are in public ownership and to which the public are invited to use; Northern Ireland's public land comprises of just over 6% of the total land area. This includes public land managed by:
  - o Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), including;
    - Forest Service
    - NI Environment Agency (country parks, nature reserves etc.)
  - Department for Communities (DfC)
  - District Councils
  - Loughs Agency
  - Northern Ireland Water
  - Waterways Ireland

Note: Permitted access to public land does not necessarily create a Public Right of Way.

## 2.0 Aim of this consultation

The aim of this consultation is to seek the views of key stakeholders on the current provision members of the public have to Northern Irelands natural environment for outdoor recreation, and investigate how provision can be improved, while protecting the environment and recognising the needs of landowners. This consultation <u>is not</u> considering an overall "Right to Roam", or the development of National Parks in Northern Ireland.

Stakeholders identified for initial consultation include:

- Representative groups of those who use the outdoors for recreational purposes
- Representative groups of landowners / land managers
- Environmental groups

• Those who enforce related legislation

A list of Key Stakeholders who have been invited to provide their views is provided at Annex A. If you feel we have omitted any significant group please contact us at the e-mail / address below.

A broader public consultation is expected following the consideration of responses from key stakeholders.

Submissions should be:	
e-mailed (preferable) to:	AccessforOutdoorRecreation@daera-ni.gov.uk
or	
hard copies sent to:	Stephen Emerson RNRPD: Natural Heritage Policy Branch Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Belfast BT7 2JA

The closing date for submissions is **29<sup>th</sup> March 2021** 

# **3.0** Alternative Formats

On request, we can arrange to provide other formats of the documents above, such as -

- Paper Copy
- Large Print
- Braille
- Other languages

To request an alternative format, please contact us by one of the following methods:

e-mail (preferable):	AccessforOutdoorRecreation@daera-ni.gov.uk
Write to:	Stephen Emerson RNRPD: Natural Heritage Policy Branch Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Belfast BT7 2JA
Telephone:	028 9056 9432

Text Relay: If you have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via:

- Text Relay using the Next Generation Text Service (NGTS).
- Making a call from a textphone dial 18001 + number.
- Making a call from a telephone dial 18002 + number.

# 4.0 Your details:

We use this information in order to communicate with you if we need to clarify your response or for further communications.

Tit	le (e.g. Mr, Mrs, Ms etc.)	Mrs	
Fo	rename or initials	Anne	
Surname		Reid	
Fu	ll postal address	Dungannon Park, Ballynorthland Demesne, Dungannon	
Ро	stcode	BT71 6DY	
Em	ail address	Anne.reid@midulstercouncil.org	
Are	you responding as an:		
a)	Individual		YES / NO
lf "Y	ΈS", do you:		
0	Participate in outdoor rec	reational activities?	YES / NO
	Please identify which		
0	recreation?	ich the public may wish to use to facilitate outdoor	YES / NO
	Provide details (if relevan	t)	
0	Other (please state)		
b)	Organisation / Group	YES / NO	
	If "YES", does your organi	sation / group:	
0	Participate in, or organ	ise, outdoor recreational activities?	YES / NO

	Please identify which activities	
0	Own, or manage, land which the public may wish to use for outdoor recreation? Y Please identify the type of land (e.g. mountain, lowland farmland, woodland etc.)	ES / NO
0	Other (please state)	

#### **Organisation / Group Details:**

0	Organisation/Group name	Mid Ulster District Council
0	Full postal address	Dungannon Park, Ballynorthland Demesne, Dungannon
0	Postcode	BT71 6DY
0	Contact name	Anne Reid
0	Contact email	Anne.reid@midulstercouncil.org

#### • Which category best describes your organisation (select one item)

•	Community organisation	
•	Third sector / equality organisation	
•	Landowner / land manager	
•	Private sector organisation	
•	Representative body for professionals	
•	Local government	$\boxtimes$
•	Community Planning Partnership	
•	Public Body, including Executive Agencies, NDPBs, NHS etc.	
•	Academic or Research Institute	
•	Other (please state)	

#### Publication of responses - your permissions:

We may wish to publish responses to this consultation, in summary and where possible in detail. We would like your permission to publish your response:

Please select one item (Required)

- Publish this response <u>with</u> your name
- Publish this response <u>without</u> your name
- <u>Do not</u> publish this response

Note that when we publish reports on a consultation, we do not publish your email or postal address or other information about you.

We may share your response internally with other Northern Ireland Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you. Are you content for Northern Ireland Government to contact you in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please select (Required)

Yes 🛛 No 🗌

# 5.0 Consultation:

You are invited to respond to whichever of the following questions are relevant to you, or those who you represent. However, you should not feel obliged to respond to questions which are not.

Do not feel limited to the space provided. Please feel free to expand the comments boxes or attach additional pages if required.

PLEASE NOTE: This consultation is not reviewing specific sports in Northern Ireland, it is specifically looking at the provision of access to the countryside to partake in outdoor activities.

# 5.1 Current Provision

Q1: Do you believe there is sufficient public access to the natural environment for outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland?

#### <del>YES /</del> NO

Please feel free to comment below

With only 6% of land available for public use within NI, Council considers that this is insufficient for public use. Within Mid Ulster District Council area there are vast expanses of open space, eg Sperrins with limited access for public recreation through this resource.

Engaging with the Outdoors – Trends in Outdoor Recreation, May 2020 research carried out by Outdoor Recreation NI shows a 35% increase in people getting outdoors. The effect that being outdoors has on our mental health has been well documented. Council feels that there needs to be a greater provision for access to the outdoors to enable more people to get out. Q2: Do you feel that Public Rights of Way are adequately identified to the public? YES <del>/ NO</del>

Please feel free to comment below

All information on asserted public rights of way within Mid Ulster District Council are available from Spatial NI. This accessible to public and adequately identifies Public Rights of Way in the District.

However Council does not hold information of any other Public Rights of Way that may exist beyond those that have been asserted.

Primarily for land owners/managers (however views are welcome from all participants):

Q3: What difficulties have you encountered, or do you foresee, in establishing or managing public access through your land, or the land you manage?

Council considers that land opened and managed for public use requires this use to be well-publicised. Patrons using the land must abide with the rules set out therein eg, restricted opening hours, dogs on leads etc.

The increased use and access to land creates additional demands on Council resources in terms of maintenance and day-to-day management. Increased expectations of users also leads to increased demands in terms of facility provision e.g. ablution, lighting.

There can also be instances of littering and anti-social behaviour which have to be managed and controlled on a site by site basis. This places additional pressure on limited Council resources. Primarily for land owners/managers (however views are welcome from all participants):

Q4: What would encourage you to agree to public access through your land, or the land you manage, for recreational purposes?

Council land is open for public recreation where it is safe and suitable to do so. However, further public access could be provided. This is often restricted due to the lack of capital and revenue funding to open up e.g. greenways, blueways, walking, horseriding trails etc.

Greater support would also need to be provided in terms of legal advice around PROWs and other legislation. This would support Council in developing further access to our and connecting lands to create and sustain a quality outdoor experience.

#### Public Land

Northern Ireland's public land comprises of just over 6% of the total land area. This includes public land managed by:

- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), including;
  - o Forest Service
  - NI Environment Agency (country parks, nature reserves etc.)
- Department for Communities (DfC)
- District Councils
- Loughs Agency
- Northern Ireland Water
- Waterways Ireland

Q5: Do you believe that an adequate amount of <u>public land</u> is available for outdoor recreational purposes?

### <del>YES /</del> NO

Please feel free to comment below

COVID has resulted in the increased use of out door spaces. During this time the Council has seen significant demands on the current available outdoor spaces. This has resulted in issues with car parking, littering, maintenance requirements etc. due to the high numbers of people using available public land.

However Council considers that with more and more people are seeking to get outdoors but there is inadequate provision of accessible public land available for outdoor recreation. Much of the public land is inaccessible from safety perspective or have the necessary additional ancillary facilities to support the demand that currently exists.

Mid Ulster Council has developed strong relationships with various other public organisations e.g. Forest Service. The Council has been proactive in developing its outdoor recreation

product. The current high level of demand means that the amount of public land available currently is insufficient.

Q6: How could existing public land be better used in relation to outdoor recreation?

There are many opportunities that exist with the current portfolio of public land that could be developed to meet current and future demand. It will require a partnership approach to develop further.

- Developing access to forests and existing natural environments e.g. Sperrins
- Council feels that if there was a better provision of path networks within public land then this would encourage greater use of these sites.
- If land available to be used for outdoor recreation was publicised on a central database/source detailing where people could get outdoors.
- Council considers the possibility of linking public land to villages and communities with the use of safe footpaths or path networks.

Primarily for public land managers (however views are welcome from all participants):

Q7: What difficulties have you encountered, or do you foresee, permitting public access to the land you manage where access does not currently exist or where increased access is sought?

There may be significant investment required at the outset to ensure that public land is made accessible were suitable. The ability to increase access will depend on availability of capital funding to progress new projects or extend existing.

Council considers that managing public expectation to accessing land is perhaps one of the biggest challenges. Council feels that if all information with regards to public land could be accessed from a central database/source outlining the requirements of each site then this would be a valuable asset. Patrons using the land must abide with the rules set out therein eg, restricted opening hours, dogs on leads etc.

The increased use and access to land creates additional demands on Council resources in terms of maintenance and day-to-day management. Increased expectations of users also leads to increased demands in terms of facility provision e.g. ablution, lighting.

There can also be instances of littering and anti-social behaviour which have to be managed and controlled on a site by site basis. This places additional pressure on limited Council resources. Managing anti-social behaviour on sites can be a difficulty. However, it is felt that an increased public presence, eg members of the public, staff, PSNI etc can assist in easing this.

Primarily for public land managers (however views are welcome from all participants):

Q8: How could any difficulties identified in Q7 be reduced or negated?

Greater support would need to be provided in terms of legal advice around PROWs and other legislation. This would support Council in developing further access to our and connecting lands to create and sustain a quality outdoor experience.

Additional financial support in terms of capital and revenue costs would allow Council to continue to provide additional accessible public space.

Council feels that if all information with regards to public land could be accessed from a central database/source outlining –

- Where public access is available.
- The requirements of each site.

This could also outline the site managing body, opening hours, rules etc of each site, information such as parking, toilet facilities, where to report a problem etc

# 5.2 Current Legislation

The Guide to Public Rights of Way and Access to the Countryside: Guidance Notes on the Law, Practices and Procedures in Northern Ireland is a practical manual, produced by the Environment & Heritage Service (now the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs), which aims to clarify the legal position in Northern Ireland, and the practice and procedures that should be followed.

The principle legislation relating to access to the countryside in Northern Ireland is **The Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983** (<u>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1983/1895/data.pdf</u>)</u> which deals with public rights of way and access to open country. It also identifies responsibilities on local councils and landowners.

**The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1985** (<u>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1985/170</u>) gives the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs powers to undertake a variety of roles for the enjoyment and conservation of the countryside and amenity lands.

#### The Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

(<u>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1986/2232</u>) has been used by local councils to make Permissive Path Agreements with landowners for people to use an agreed portion of their land as a means to secure quality recreational access. A permissive path agreement can operate under limitations and can endure for whatever period of time the council and landowner are willing to agree. It does not create a new public right of way (where one did not already exist), but a route which the landowner has given permission for people to use.

# Questions 9 - 11 are aimed that those who have had cause to refer to legislation in relation to access issues, however views are welcome from all participants.

Q9: How often would you refer to legislation in relation to access issues?	
<ul> <li>Daily / Weekly</li> <li>Monthly</li> <li>Yearly</li> <li>Rarely</li> <li>Never</li> </ul>	
Please feel free to comment below	

Q10: Please identify any difficulties you have with current legislation and/or Guidance in relation to public access.

Please be as specific as you can and identify which legislation and section you are referring to.

Council considers the following:

The Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 - It is unclear as to who has responsibility of maintenance and liability over an asserted public right of way.

There are no powers within the Order to differentiate between a public right of way that could be for the greater public good and have the potential to provide a quality outdoor recreation experience against those that Council investigate for personal gain/neighbour dispute.

The lack of specialist assistance and guidance from central Government Departments with regards to the Order is a risk to Councils.

Q11: How could the issues raised in Q10 be resolved? Please be as specific as you can and identify which legislation and section you are referring to.

The issues could be resolved by:

Further guidance/clarification in the order re: maintenance and differentiation between public and private benefit.

The Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 - A dedicated government resource to assist Council's with public right of way enquiries, legal assistance and advice. This may help to mitigate against high legal costs and unnecessary Court action.

## 5.3 **Opportunities**

Q12: How could the provision of access to the outdoors for recreational purposes be improved?

There are many opportunities that exist with the current portfolio of public land that could be developed to improve provision of access to the outdoors as well as meet growing demand. It will require a partnership approach to develop further.

- Strengthen the legislation so that Councils and other public bodies have more power to easily acquire land or access to land.
- Greater emphasis on community trails or core path networks linking villages and communities to green spaces/forests. Then communities would feel that they have a valuable resource on their doorstep.
- Access to the outdoors must consider and be implemented to adequately accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.
- Developing access to more forests and existing natural environments e.g. Sperrins
- Council feels that if there was a better provision of path networks within public land then this would encourage greater use of these sites.
- If land available to be used for outdoor recreation was publicised on a central database/source detailing where people could get outdoors.
- Council considers the possibility of linking public land to villages and communities with the use of safe footpaths or path networks.
- Making sure that sufficient resources are available to maintain and service outdoor spaces that are accessible for recreation.

What have other jurisdictions done to improve access for outdoor recreation?

Legislative changes in Great Britain over the past 20 years have increased the availability of access to the natural environment significantly. Under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, especially since 2005 people across England and Wales have the freedom to access land, without having to stay on designated paths. Approximately 8% of England and 20% of Wales is classed as 'access land'. In Scotland the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 established a right of non- motorised access over most land and inland water.

**The provision of a "Right to Roam"**, and the development of National Parks has previously been considered in Northern Ireland and <u>is not being considered as part of this consultation.</u> However some aspects of Scotland's Land Reform Act 2003 may provide the basis for improvement in Northern Ireland.

As a requirement of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, core path plans are drawn up by local authorities after consultation with communities, land managers and path users. **Core path networks** are interlinking routes that normally join, or are close to, communities. They are normally part of the wider path network of long distance walking and cycling routes, and local and community paths. Many Northern Ireland local councils have included the development of path networks in their current Community Plans.

Q13: Do you believe that a Core Path Network would be a possible solution to improving access for outdoor recreation?

## YES <del>/ NO</del>

Please feel free to comment below

A priority within Mid Ulster's Outdoor Recreation Strategy is the development of community trails. Council therefore would be supportive of a Core Path NEtwrok that with a greater emphasis on community trails or core path networks linking villages and communities to green spaces, forests, or heritage sites. Communities would feel that they have a valuable resource on their doorstep. This would also include the provision of better footpath network linking these resources. Q14: What would be the potential opportunities, benefits, or uses, of a Core Path Network in Northern Ireland?

Potential benefits include:

- A Core path network would act as a central thread connecting communities to sites or heritage/green space etc.
- It would provide a safe quality outdoor resource for members of the public.
- It would assist in providing an interest in local resources/heritage.
- The health and well-being benefits of being outdoors are well documented. A path network connecting communities will aid the health and well-being of all users.

Q15: What difficulties do you foresee in establishing a Core Path Network in Northern Ireland?

**Core path networks** are interlinking routes that normally join, or are close to, communities. They are normally part of the wider path network of long distance walking and cycling routes, and local and community paths.

One of the main difficulties for Council would be the acquisition of the land. Most of the land in NI is in private ownership with no incentives on the landowner to set it aside for outdoor recreation.

Acquisition of land can be costly. Coupled with the insurance, liability and ongoing maintenance costs, the establishment and operation of a Core Path Network may be unaffordable for local government.

Q16: How could landowners be encouraged to provide access, through their land, to develop a Core Path Network?

Council considers that if incentives such as subsidies from Central Government paid on land were given the same value for outdoor recreation as they are for the food-agri industry then this may assist in persuading landowners to set aside land for outdoor recreation.

Strengthening the legislation to support Council and other public bodies when they require access to private land to develop the Core Path Network.

Q17: What features would you like to see in a Core Path Network? (e.g. cycle lanes, circular routes etc.)

Council feels that a core path network should be open, where possible, to all types of nomotorised activity, eg pedestrian, cycling, canoeing and horse-riding.

The nature of the route may be circular if possible or linear, this will vary on a site-by-site basis. The network should be interconnecting and provide options for users to vary route, distance and difficulty.

Q18: What other opportunities, in relation to the provision access for outdoor recreation, should be considered?

# 5.4 Miscellaneous

Q19: Please feel free to provide further views on any aspect of the provision of access for outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland

N/A

Submissions should be e-mailed (preferable) to: <u>AccessforOutdoorRecreation@daera-ni.gov.uk</u>

or hard copies sent to:

Stephen Emerson RNRPD: Natural Heritage Policy Branch Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs Klondyke Building Cromac Avenue Belfast BT7 2JA

The closing date for submissions is **29<sup>th</sup> March 2021** 

# THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE SPECIFICALLY FOR LOCAL COUNCIL OFFICERS AND HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL KEY STAKEHOLDER VERSION

Q20: How many Public Rights of Way are in your council area?

The number of public rights of way is unknown. However there are 16 asserted public rights of way, under The Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 within Mid Ulster District Council.

Comments:

N/A

What barriers are there to providing/maintaining this information?

Council considers a lack of a records and resources to be the barrier in providing information regarding PROWs.

Q21: How many of these Rights of Way are currently being asserted?

There are 16 asserted public rights of way, under The Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 within Mid Ulster District Council.

Comments:

N/A

What barriers are there to asserting Rights of Way?

Lack of assistance and guidance from Central Government Departments if there is a dispute/unclear following the collection of evidence.

Lack of specialist advisors that could assist Council in assessing complex cases of asserting Rights of Way.

Q22: (a) Is there an up to date map which identifies Public Rights of Way are in your council area?

### YES <del>/ NO</del>

(b) Is it publically accessible?

#### YES <del>/ NO</del>

Comments:

All asserted public right of way are recorded and help on Spatial NI.

What barriers are there to providing/maintaining this information?

None currently.

Q23: How many Public Rights of Way have been developed in your council area in the past 5 years?

Comments:

There have been 2 assertions in the past 5 years.

What barriers are there to developing Rights of Way?

Council has developed an Outdoor Recreation Strategy which outlines its actions for the next 5 years. As part of this community trails feature heavily. It is felt that community trails will be located in an area where there is a community and can be a well-used resource. Its is considered that this is a better use of council assets than developing rights of way that may serve little or no quality public resource.

# List of Groups invited to participate in "The provision of access for outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland - Key Stakeholder Consultation"

If you feel we have omitted any significant group please contact us at <u>AccessforOutdoorRecreation@daera-ni.gov.uk</u>

Angling NI	
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (Countryside Officers)	
Ards and North Down Borough Council (Countryside Officers)	
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (Countryside Officers)	
Belfast City Council (Countryside Officers)	
Belfast Hills Partnership Recreation Group	
British Horse Society	
Canoeing Association of Northern Ireland	
Causeway Coast Adventure Racing (CCAR)	
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Countryside Officers)	
Causeway Coast and Glens Outdoor Recreation Forum	
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside	
Cycling Ulster	
Derry City & Strabane District Council (Countryside Officers)	
Disability Action NI	
Disability Sport NI	
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (Countryside Officers)	
Horse Sport Ireland	
Irish Kite Surfing Association	
Irish Water Ski Federation	
Leave No Trace Ireland	
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (Countryside Officers)	
Local Rural Support Networks	
LVRP recreation forum	
Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark	
MENCAP	
Mid and East Antrm Council (Countryside Officers)	
Mid Ulster District Council (Countryside Officers)	
Mountaineering Ireland	
Mourne Outdoor Recreation Forum	
National Outdoor Recreation Forum (NORF)	
National Trust Northern Ireland	
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Countryside Officers)	

NI Agricultural Producers Association (NIAPA)
NI Association for Mental Health (Niamh)
NI Environment Link
NI Greenways
NI Heritage Fund
NI Mountain Bike Alliance
NI Protected Area Network
NI Rural Women's Network
Northern Ireland Archery Society
Northern Ireland Federation of Sub Aqua Clubs
Northern Ireland Orienteering Association
Northern Ireland Sports Forum
Northern Ireland Surfing Association
Outdoor Industry Association (NI)
Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI)
Ring of Gullion Outdoor Recreation Forum
Royal Yachting Association (NIC)
Rural Action
Rural Community Network
Speleological Union of Ireland
Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Forum
Sport Northern Ireland
Strangford Lough and Lecale Outdoor Recreation Forum
Sustrans
Triathlon Ulster
Ulster Branch, Irish Amateur Rowing Union
Ulster Farmers Union (UFU)
Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs
Ulster Gliding Club
Ulster Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club
Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster