



Proposal for the delivery of the MountainBikeNI Consortium 2022 – 2023

April 2022

Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) has prepared this proposal in order to request support from trail managing Councils for the financial year 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023.

This proposal outlines:

1. Overview of Outputs
2. Added value gained from adopting a consortium approach
3. Proposal for 2022 / 2023

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	NMDDC	MUDC	BCC	FODC
Partner Support	£16,974	£9,450	£5,250	£5,250
Sponsorship Contribution	£10,000	£5,000	0	0
Partner Total	£26,974	£14,450	£5,250	£5,250
% of Delivery Capacity	52%	28%	10%	10%
Fundamental Outputs				
Mountain Bike NI Consortium	✓	✓	✓	✓
MountainBikeNI.com Website	✓	✓	✓	✓
Customer Interaction	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trail Centre Specific Outputs				
Trail Cards E-commerce	✓	✓	x	x
Mountain Bike NI Trails Team (Volunteer Ranger Scheme)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sponsorship Liaison	✓	✓	x	x
Marketing Outputs				
NI Marketing via MTBNI Channels	✓	✓	✓	✓
ROI Marketing Campaigns	✓ (£2100)	✓ (£1050)	x	✓ (£1050)
Business Upskilling	✓	✓	x	✓
Destination Support	✓	✓	✓	✓

Fundamental Outputs	NMDDC	MUDC	BCC	FODC
MountainBikeNI Consortium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	✓	✓	✓	✓
MountainBikeNI.com Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and maintain the MountainBikeNI.com website including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Trail Centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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 	✓	✓	✓	✓
MountainBikeNI Social Platforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and maintain the MountainBikeNI social media platforms on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook Instagram Twitter YouTube 	✓	✓	✓	✓
Customer Interaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deal with customer enquiries via telephone, email and social media in a timely manner 	✓	✓	✓	✓

Trail Centre Specific Outputs	NMDDC	MUDC	BCC	FODC
Trail Cards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	✓	✓	x	x

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate any reprint / redesign of trail cards¹ Provide quarterly report of trail card sales within overall work programme report 				
MountainBikeNI Trails Team (Volunteer Ranger Scheme)² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sponsorship Liaison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In partnership with National Trail Centre managing councils recruit a title sponsor for MountainBikeNI.com and the National Trail Centres Agree annual sponsorship plan with sponsors and act as key liaison to maximise benefits of both parties Manage the ongoing relationship with the sponsor 	✓	✓	x	x

Marketing Outputs	NMDDC	MUDC	BCC	FODC
NI Marketing via MTBNI Channels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from NI based Mountain bikers via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of blog content Implementation of E-marketing plan Implementation of social media plan Creation and distribution of press releases to local and NI media 	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rol Marketing via MTBNI Channels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from Rol based Mountain bikers via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of blog content Implementation of E-marketing plan Implementation of social media plan 	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rol Marketing Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness levels, visitation and spend from Rol based Mountain bikers via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of a targeted marketing campaign to include offline and online advertising, social media advertising, social influencer marketing, PR, FAM trips etc. 	✓	✓	x	✓

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

² Council partners to deliver maintenance days including provision of lunch

Business Upskilling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Council workshops for local tourism service providers • Proactive engagement with local tourism service providers (accommodation, eateries and activity providers) to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 ○ Update of on-line toolkit for local tourism service providers including visitor profiles and requirements, product and service advice, marketing recommendations / opportunities and best practice benchmarking • Ongoing support and promotion of the trail head providers • Distribution of two e-newsletters to relevant stakeholders re marketing campaign updates, promotional opportunities and support 	✓	✓	x	✓
Destination Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to Council Tourism teams to accurately incorporate the promotion of mountain biking within a wider tourism offering 	✓	✓	✓	✓

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
- The ability to **cross sell** between trail centres i.e. consumers interested in or visiting the Mourne 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 attracting 49,346 visits in 2021/22 (6% increase from 2020/2021)
- E-marketing Database of 10,653
- Social media following of 30,000+ (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

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, Gosford and Barnett Demesne Mountain Bike Trails
- Visitor Safety knowledge gained from:
 - membership of Visitor Safety Group (VSG)
 - staff training investment including VSG and other relevant workshops
- Mountain bike market knowledge gained from proactive:
 - benchmarking from competitor destinations
 - engagement with UK and ROI wide industry experts
 - staff training investment including learning journeys and industry conferences
- Marketing expertise gained from:
 - 10+ years of proactively promoting outdoor recreation / activity tourism in Northern Ireland via Outdoor Recreation NI platforms such as WalkNI.com
 - 10+ years delivering activity tourism marketing outputs for Tourism Northern Ireland

3. Proposal 2022 / 2023

Delivery of Outputs

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RoI Campaign

Source	Amount / £	% of campaign delivery
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	2,100	50%
Mid Ulster District Council	1,050	25%
Fermanagh & Omagh	1,050	25%
TOTAL	£4,200	100%



MOUNTAINBIKENI HIGHLIGHTS
(APRIL 2021–MARCH 2022)

Prepared by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland



WEBSITE

Received **49.3k** unique visits.



Rostrevor MTB Trails received **14.9k** page visits

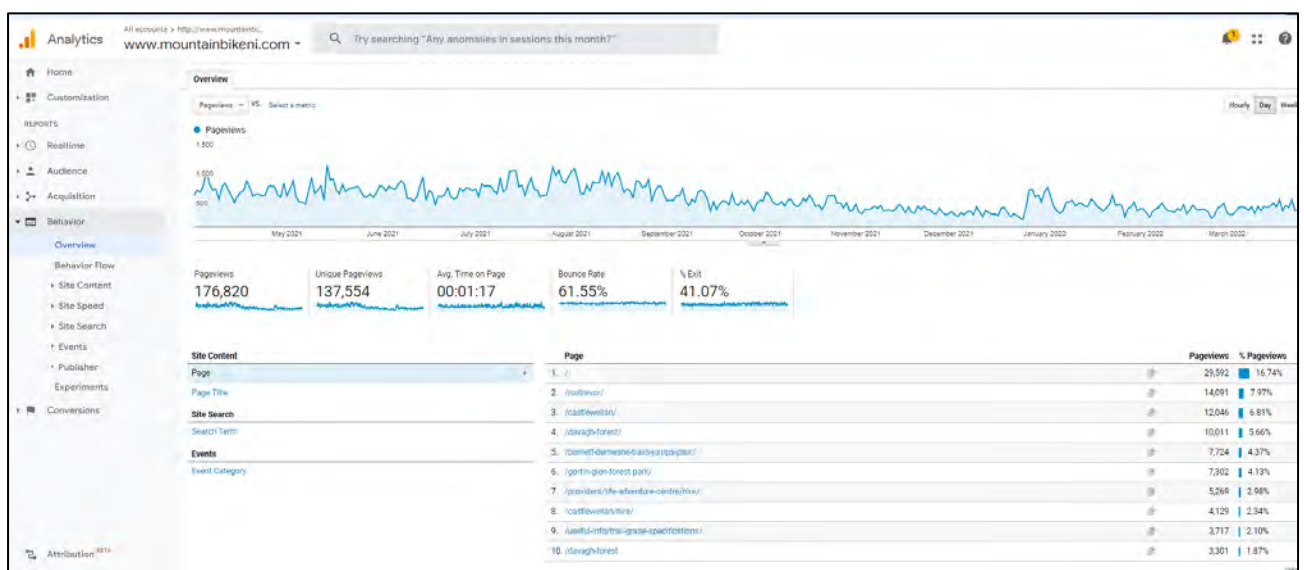
Castlewellan MTB Trails Profile received **12k** page visits

Davagh Forest MTB Trails Profile received **10k** page visits

Barnett Demesne Trails Profile received **7.7k** page visits

Gortin Glen Forest Park Profile received **7.3k** page visits

Blessingbourne Estate Profile received **2.9k** page visits



ONLINE MARKETING – BARNETT DEMESNE



Barnett Demesne Jumps Park Renovations

Jumps 1 to 3 at Barnett Demesne Jumps Park have received a makeover from Belfast City Council following the recent surge in visitors to the site. For anyone who has visited the park recently, they'll know the atmosphere has been electric - get down and enjoy it if you haven't already!

While lines 4 to 6 remain closed, the works on lines 1-3 have improved the structure and security of the jumps and will ensure they're in good condition for years to come.

[Barnett Demesne Trails and Jumps Park](#)

ONLINE MARKETING – BLESSINGBOURNE ESTATE



Spend autumn at Blessingbourne Estate

Without wanting to sound dramatic, it can be a tad horrifying to contemplate the end of summer. Fear not though, there is something you can do to make the transition that much more pleasant! Book a MTB trip for yourself and your friends to [Blessingbourne Estate](#)'s award winning accommodation, and experience some amazing trails right on your doorstep!

[Book a Trip to Blessingbourne Estate](#)



Treat the Family to a Trip at Blessingbourne Estate

With Covid-19 restrictions continuing to linger into the year, many people continue to opt for the staycation model of holidaying. [Blessingbourne Estate](#)'s award winning accommodation provides all the benefits of a luxurious trip, with the added bonus of a mountain bike trail centre on your doorstep. What's not to love?

[Book a Trip to Blessingbourne Estate](#)



Storm Barra Closes Trail Centres Across NI

High winds from Storm Barra meant a number of trail centres had to be closed around Northern Ireland. [Blessingbourne Estate](#) and [Davyagh Forest](#) remain closed, while all of the others have reopened. Please exercise caution in case of any further fallen branches on the trails. To keep up to date with closures, visit [MountainBikeNI.com](#).

[Check Trail Closures](#)



Superb MTB Trails, Superb Experiences at Blessingbourne Estate

With restrictions easing around the country, it's the perfect time to book a trip for you and the family. [Blessingbourne Estate](#) provides you with stunning grounds and award winning accommodation for all the family to enjoy, whilst - importantly - also giving you 13km of red and blue MTB trails to enjoy! There's even a pump track for the beginners in the house to get stuck into.

[Book to Stay At Blessingbourne Estate](#)



4 Reasons to be Optimistic About the Future of Mountain Biking in NI

The news is pretty heavy wherever you look these days. We'd like to try and brighten your day with a little positivity in the form of an analysis of the different reasons we should be optimistic about the future of mountain biking here.

[Click below to read about them!](#)

ONLINE MARKETING – CASTLEWELLAN



Winners of the MountainBikeNI Awards

It's taken some time to announce due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we can now at last reveal the winners of the MountainBikeNI Awards 2020-2021, sponsored by [Chain Reaction Cycles](#)! You can read a full breakdown of the results in our latest [MountainBikeNI blog here](#), but the TL;DR version is below:

Have your acceptance speeches ready:

Trail Centre of the Year - [Castlewellan AND Gortin Glen Forest Park](#) (our first EVER tie)

Best MTB Friendly Cafe - [Urban Cafe, Castlewellan](#)

Best Trail Section - [Stream Trail, Davagh Forest](#)

Best MTB Friendly Accommodation - [Sparrowview Glamping](#)

Most Active MTB Club of the Year - [Gortin Glen MTB Club](#)

Crash of the Year - [There He Goes](#)

Chain Reaction Cycles Competition Winner - Warren Campbell

[Read the blog now](#)



Castlewellan Volunteer Trail Day on BBC 1

The production team from BBC 1's Home Ground programme recently followed along with the MountainBikeNI Volunteers. Presenter Gavin Andrews then took to the trails with local MTB professional, [Glyn O'Brien](#).

Watch the episode now by clicking the button below - the mountain biking segment begins at 07:45.

[Watch the Home Ground Episode Now](#)



Trail Cards On Sale Again

As Covid-19 restrictions begin to ease, we're delighted to begin selling our MountainBikeNI Trail Cards again. Purchase them by visiting the respective trail page on MountainBikeNI and selecting 'Trail Cards - Order Yours Here'.

Please be aware trail cards are currently only available for the national trail centres.

[Visit MountainBikeNI.com Now](#)



Record Breaking Visitors on the Trails at Castlewellan

The mountain bike trails at [Castlewellan Forest Park](#) have had their busiest year ever according to recently released figures.

Almost 35,000 riders were clocked on the over 20km of free to ride trails between April 2020 and March 2021 – an increase of 32% on the previous year, which was itself one of the highest on record. This is more impressive still considering the trails were closed for a number of months during the beginning of the pandemic.

Early indications show that this trend only seems to be continuing throughout the 2021 summer, which we're delighted to see.

[Read More About Visitor Figures](#)



WIN THE ULTIMATE MTB STAYCATION

- Overnight Stay at The Yew Tree Barn
- e MTB Hire from Life
- Brunch from Award Winning Urban Cafe


FOR YOU AND A FRIEND

URBAN CAFE **YEW TREE BARN** **MountainBikeNI** **BIKE NI**

Last Chance to Win an Epic MTB Staycation

MountainBikeNI has teamed up with the lovely people at The Yew Tree Barn, Life Adventure Centre and Urban Cafe to give you the chance to win an amazing mountain biking trip with a friend.

To enter, all you have to do is click the button below! The winners will be announced on Tuesday 31st August.




THE ADVANTAGES OF TRAILHEAD PROVIDERS

The 5 Advantages of Trailhead Providers

Trailhead providers are something which mountain bikers can sometimes take for granted, but having them at trail centres can open a whole new world of benefits. We take a look at what Northern Ireland's trailhead providers offer to your MTB experience.


[Read the Blog](#)



Chain Reaction Cycles Staff Assist with Maintenance Day at Castlewellan

A big thank you to the staff members from [Chain Reaction Cycles HQ](#) and [their Belfast store](#) who helped out the [Moume Heritage Trust](#) team during a recent maintenance day. Days like these are always a great opportunity for mountain bikers to meet the people who look after the trails on a day to day basis and see the extent of the work they do.

[Visit ChainReactionCycles.com](#)



BikeMourne Welcomes a New Fleet of E-Bikes

The team at [BikeMourne](#) and [Life Adventure Centre](#) have just taken delivery of their new Electric Full Suspension MTB fleet! And what a fleet! 🚴

They are currently available in [Castlewellan](#) and soon to be available in [Roostrevor](#). In addition, they've also got their new HardTail, Full Suspension and Electric HardTails in stock, so if you like playing with new toys... now's the time to look! Do so via the link below.

Oh and one more thing - new bikes, means the ex-hire fleet is now up for clearance, with HardTails, Full Suspension and Electric Full Suspension remaining. These won't last long so if genuinely interested, call the team direct on 02843770714. First come first served.

[Book to Try a Brand New E-Bike Now](#)

ONLINE MARKETING – DAVAGH FOREST



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[Visit MountainBikeNI.com Now](#)



New Trailhead Provider at Davagh Forest

There have been several exciting developments around Davagh Forest recently (not least of which has been the opening of the OM Dark Sky Observatory). To add to this, there is now a new trailhead provider based a short distance from the trails.

Sperrin Bike Hire currently have a fleet of Carrera Vengeance bikes, for all sizes. You can find them online by pressing the button below.

[Find Bike Hire at Davagh Forest](#)



OM Dark Sky Observatory Now Open

The much anticipated OM Dark Sky Observatory is now open at Davagh Forest. While not directly related to the trails, it's great news as this truly unique experience inevitably draws more people to the area and in turn, introduces more people to the world of mountain biking.

[Visit the OM Dark Sky Observatory](#)



Grab and Go From OM Dark Sky Observatory While Visiting Davagh Forest

A coffee to heat you up after a day out on the trails is hard to beat. The OM Dark Sky Observatory has a Grab and Go facility inside it which mountain bikers can avail of, as well as a food facility and toilets.

Better still, you can check out one of Northern Ireland's newest and most unique tourism experiences while you're there!

[Learn More about the OM Dark Sky and Observatory](#)



Trail Closures Around Northern Ireland

High winds from Storm Dudley and Eunice have meant a number of trail centres are closed around Northern Ireland. [Blessingbourne Estate](#) and [Davagh Forest](#) are closed, while all of the others have issued warnings to exercise caution in case of fallen trees. To keep up to date with closures, visit [MountainBikeNI.com](#).

If you come across any fallen trees on the trails, please report them by emailing info@mountainbikenl.com.

[Check Trail Closures](#)



Send Us Your Best Pictures and Videos

Love showcasing pictures from your recent rides? Have an epic video of you shredding through some horrendous weather on the trails?

We want to see it! We'll be compiling all of the content sent to us over the next few weeks and publishing it in a blog for everyone to see. You can email us your content via the link below or just use the #MTBNI when posting to social media.

[Send MountainBikeNI Your Content](#)

ONLINE MARKETING – GORTIN GLEN FOREST PARK



GUIDED E-BIKE TOURS OF GORTIN GLEN

1.5 / 2 HOUR TOUR - £35 PP
INCLUDES A TEA/COFFEE AT THE GORTIN GLEN CAFE
OUR STATE OF THE ART E-BIKE BIKES WILL HELP POWER YOU THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL
GORTIN GLEN FOREST PARK, WHILST LEARNING ALL ABOUT THE PARK'S HISTORY,
WILDLIFE AND SURROUNDING AREA FROM OUR LOCAL GUIDES.
LET US SHOW YOU THE BEST OF GORTIN GLEN FOREST PARK, THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY AND
BOOK NOW AT WWW.CAMPBASEADVENTURES.COM




Try a Guided E-Bike Tour of Gortin Glen Forest Park with Campbase Adventures

The team at [Campbase Adventures](http://CampbaseAdventures.com) are offering the opportunity to immerse yourself in local stories around Gortin Glen Forest Park. It's deep history, and incredible scenery on their state of the art electric mountain bikes - which help take out most of the leg-work!

Upcoming dates include Sat 19th and 26th February, Sat 6th, 19th and 26th March.

[Book for a Guided Tour Now](#)




JOIN THE VOLUNTEER RANGERS TODAY!

Join the MTBNI Volunteer Team for Gortin Glen Forest Park

MountainBikeNI are calling for people to join the volunteer rangers scheme, which is sponsored by [Chain Reaction Cycles](http://ChainReactionCycles.com), at [Gortin Glen Forest Park](http://GortinGlenForestPark.com). This usually involves volunteering for three or four days in the year to help the full time rangers with trail maintenance work, such as resurfacing, drainage, litter collection and so on.

If you'd like to be involved with the scheme, email us via the button below and we'll be in touch with more details soon.

[Email Now](#)



Free Red Bull on Offer at Campbase Adventures in Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails

The kind people at Red Bull have kindly provided [Campbase Adventures](http://CampbaseAdventures.com) with hundreds of cans of their product for riders visiting [Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails](http://GortinGlenForestPark.com). So not only can you get your bike hire and uplift service from the crew, they'll also help you meet your caffeine quota for the day!

[Campbase Adventures](#)



Update on Repairs at Gortin Glen Forest Park Trails

Kelan's Chase and the River Run MTB Trails remain closed following severe water damage. Repairs will be taking place over the next 7 days and they should hopefully be open for riders to ride within the next 2 weeks.

[Keep Up to Date with Trails Work](#)



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[Read the blog now](#)



Campbase Adventures Appointed Trailhead Provider at Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails

[Campbase Adventures](#) are now providing bike hire and an uplift service at [Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails](#). That's not all though! They'll soon also be offering a tour service, as well as a bike shop and members only area. If you haven't been to Gortin to experience the trails there, you've now got one more reason to do so!

[Campbase Adventures](#)

ONLINE MARKETING – ROSTREVOR



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[Visit MountainBikeNI.com Now](#)



Share your pictures with MountainBikeNI

We always love to see your pictures from the trails. These shots from Colin, Robert and Ian in particular are great as all three showcase the next generation of riders at one of the most scenic mountain bike locations in Northern Ireland, [#KodakCorner](#). To share, just include #MountainBikeNI when posting your pictures online!

Search #MountainBikeNI

6 MOST COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY NEW RIDERS



6 Most Commonly Asked Questions from New MTBers

We spoke to some of the people who contact MountainBikeNI interested in starting mountain biking and asked them what their biggest questions were about the sport. Check them out, and our answers, by clicking the link below.

Answering the Most Common Questions from Beginner Riders

Barnett Demesne: Mentioned in 2 News Stories and 2 Blogs

News

BARNETT DEMESNE JUMPS PARK RENOVATIONS

MAY 5

Jumps 1 to 3 at Barnett Demesne Jumps Park have received a makeover from Belfast City Council following the recent surge in visitors to the site.

While lines 4 to 6 remain closed, works have been completed in recent weeks to improve the structure and security of the jumps. The updates have been welcomed by local mountain bikers, who have seen a significant rise in visitors to the jumps park since the beginning of lockdown.

As with many places, the influx of people can pose problems for maintenance and upkeep however the recent works will ensure the jumps park remains in top condition for a long time to come.



News

TRAIL CLOSURES AS STORM BARRA HITS

DEC 7

Trail centres across Northern Ireland are closed today with the arrival of Storm Barra. The trails are currently closed at Barnett Demesne, Blessington Estate, Castlewellan, Donagh Forest and Redwater MTB Trails.

Riders are also strongly advised against visiting Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails.

All trails will be reopened following a safety check.



4) Bonuses

Trailhead providers can offer a host of other experiences and benefits. [Blessington Estate](#) for example, has award winning accommodation which you and the family can stay at.



[Lila Adventure Centre](#) at [Castlewellan](#) has a delightful café with a fire and plenty of space to sprawl out. [Spermin Bike Hire](#) can give you the run down on all the information about the new and nearby [Dark Sky Observatory](#). [Cambridge Adventures](#) is currently offering free cans of Red Bull and the team at [Belfast Activity Centre](#) run expert coaching sessions around [Barnett Demesne MTB Trails](#).

These bonuses are often particularly useful if you're not familiar with the area; your trailhead provider will keep you right in terms of places to visit and spots to eat and drink, if that's what you're looking for.



So, not this one then.

Stick to green trails until you get used to your bike, then to blue trails until you get used to trying obstacles on the bike. Don't be in any rush to progress - mountain bikers are incredibly supportive of new riders and everyone started out on these trails at some stage. Another tip to ensure you minimise injury if you do happen to come off, is to ensure you have the right gear. Helmets are a non negotiable and ideally a good, well reviewed helmet at that. Gloves, knee and elbow pads also help to minimise the sting.

2. How can I find the nearest mountain bike trails?

Time for a little self promotion! [MountainBikeNI.com](#) lists all of the official trail centres in Northern Ireland. Each trail centre has it's own profile page with information about the trail and the difficulty levels you can expect, as well as other information like trailhead providers and outlines of the route.

3. Are there any local clubs to join?

Starting out can be a little intimidating, so joining a MTB club (or a road cycling club with a MTB contingent within it) can be a good way to get out with a few experienced heads. You can find a map outlining the list of [official clubs in Northern Ireland here](#). Clubs often will be able to direct you to an appropriate trail and specific section of trail, will pair you up with other riders and encourage you to have a laugh while you pick up the basics. Although one of the smaller trail centres, [Barnett Demesne](#) is a good example of a trail centre with lots of local clubs to pick from.



Blessingbourne Estate: Mentioned in 2 News Stories and 3 Blogs


News

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TRAIL CLOSURES



News

TRAIL CLOSURES IN PLACE AS STORMS

FEB 16


Please be aware that trail closures are in place at [Blessingbourne Estate](#) and [Davigall Forest MTB Trails](#) with Storms Dudley and Eunice. There are also advisories in place at all other trail centres - please exercise extreme caution. There are currently reports of fallen trees at [Gortin Glen Forest Park](#), and there are likely to be more down elsewhere.

TRAIL CLOSURES



4) Bonuses

Trailhead providers can offer a host of other experiences and benefits. [Blessingbourne Estate](#) for example, has award winning accommodation which you and the family can stay at.



[Life Adventure Centre](#) at [Castlewells](#) has a delightful café with a fire and plenty of space to sprawl out. [Sperrin Bike Hire](#) can give you the run down on all the information about the new and nearby [Dark Sky Observatory](#). [Campbase Adventures](#) is currently offering free cans of Red Bull and the team at [Belfast Activity Centre](#) run expert coaching sessions around [Barnett Demesne MTB Trails](#).

These bonuses are often particularly useful if you're not familiar with the area; your trailhead provider will keep you right in terms of places to visit and spots to eat and drink, if that's what you're looking for.


What helps even more with this wave of compound interest is the bike industry in Northern Ireland is fortunate to be home to the likes of [Chari Bicycles Cycles](#), one of the biggest brands in the world for mountain bikes.



Riders enjoying a breather at [Blessingbourne Estate Mountain Bike Trail](#)

This sort of interest is what the people who are deciding where to spend public money look at; if constituents love mountain biking and those numbers keep going up, then where political interest will lie and where ultimately, it becomes easier to secure funding for new trails. Speaking of which...

There are a lot of factors that go into deciding where your next mountain bike destination will be. Today [MountainBikeNI](#) explores the myriad of reasons why Rol riders should get #OnYerBike and head north



1. It's so close

If you're thinking about exploring the mountain biking world, you don't have far to travel. Luckily on this island, we have plenty of incredibly exciting trails on our doorstep. Northern Ireland is home to six mountain bike trails that encompass black, red, blue and green trails, as well as a number of downhill trails and orange features.

Dublin's fair city is a short distance to two of NI's biggest trails, only an hour and a half from [Rostrevor](#) and just under two hours to [Castlewells](#). You're also much closer to the mountain bike trails in Northern Ireland if you live in the west of Ireland with [Blessingbourne Estate](#) only a half an hour journey from Monaghan and Cavan. The MTB trails at [Gortin Glen Forest Park](#) in County Tyrone are only a half an hour journey from the border of Donegal. With these wonderful trails situated only a few hours up the road, it's a must try for MTB riders across Ireland.

Castlewellan: Mentioned in 3 News Stories and 4 Blogs

News

[SEE ALL NEWS](#)

GLOBAL BRAND PROVIDES HELPING HANDS

NOV 3

Volunteers from [Liams Backpacks](#) joined Mourne Heritage Trust last this week to assist in a maintenance day at Castlewellan Mountain Bike Trail. It was reported during the summer that the trails have had their busiest year on record, and they continue to lead the mount of Northern Ireland's most popular trail centre, with over 25,000 people visiting between 2020 and 2021.

This growth in visitors to the trails has led to increased pressure on Mourne Heritage Trust, who maintain all the mountain bike trails centres and the integrity of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Newry, Mourne and Down region.

During the maintenance day, volunteers collected litter, repaired damage, and dug drainage along a large section of the more than 27km trails within the Forest Park, Sperrin. Many from Mourne Heritage Trust outlined the significant benefit that volunteer days like this have.

"There is a lot of work required to maintain all of the sites we manage, so to get nearly 15 extra pairs of hands is a massive help to us. We always try to make the work enjoyable, and just that it's part work and part 'work and talk'. As the weather begins to turn this is a good time to ensure the trails are in the best possible condition for springtime weather."

Volunteers from Chain Reaction, who are the sponsors for Northern Ireland's Harp Road Trails, included staff from their Belfast store, as well as a multitude of employees from different departments from their Mullack Head office.

Stephen Laid from Chain Reaction's Reactor Road retail store said the amount of work required to keep the trail in good shape was surprising: "It's something I think we all like for granted, and you don't realise how much work goes into keeping the trails looking great until you're actually out and seeing the sheer number of things that you need to do. So it's been great to be here and help out."

Dan McMillan, another volunteer from the bike design team, said, "It's been great to be out with a bunch of guys from customer services, house brands, merchandising and other departments, to all come together and tidy up the trails. It's interesting to see, there's a lot more maintenance that goes on that anyone imagines. Personally, I ride here quite often so it's really good to give something back."

The winter is typically a period during which multiple storms can cause serious damage to the trails and require diversions and closures for longer periods of time. The volunteer scheme to assist Mourne Heritage Trust is open on an ongoing basis, as Brian Laughlin from MountainBikeNI outlined.

"Our maintenance days in conjunction with Mourne Heritage Trust are a real asset, both for maintainable bikers and the team who are looking after the trails year-round. It gives both groups an opportunity to provide feedback and as some of the guys mentioned here today, is a reminder of just how much work the trails require to keep at a high standard."

If anyone would like to assist with volunteer maintenance days, you can find more information at <https://www.mourneheritagetrust.com/our-work/maintenance-days/>



News

[SEE ALL NEWS](#)

CASTLEWELLAN VOLUNTEER TRAIL DAY ON BBC ONE

MAY 15

The production team from BBC One's Home Ground programme recently followed along with the MountainBikeNI Volunteers. Presenter Gavin Andrews then took to the trails with local MTB professional Glyn O'Brien.

Watch the episode now by clicking the button below- the mountain biking segment begins at 07:45.

[For more information, click here.](#)

JUN
4

The popular mountain bike trails at [Castlewellsan Forest Park](#) have had their busiest year ever according to newly released figures.

Almost 35,000 riders were clocked on the over 20km of five to ride trails between April 2020 and March 2021 – an increase of 32% on the previous year, which was itself one of the highest on record. This is more impressive still considering the trails were closed for a number of months during the beginning of the pandemic.

At Castlewellsan, riders are treated to trails for a variety of abilities, ranging from child friendly green trails, novice blues, challenging red trails, and even includes two epic black trail challenges for the adrenaline junkies. The offering of different abilities has been a key component to the trails success, as more and more people turned to the outdoors for something to do during the pandemic.

Kath Maguire from local Castlewellsan mountain bike club, 'Feel Good Factor' – a women's only group for those interested in the outdoors – said:

"We love the Castlewellsan trails, and the club make great use of them – they are our 'go to' trail centre... Feel Good Factor ladies enjoy riding here, particularly with the longer stretch coming in the evenings. The forest is beautiful and the trail allows you to enjoy the hilly terrain as well as take in the beauty of the forest, lake and aspect of the Mourne."

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Laura Devlin was delighted with the news. "The mountain bike trails at Castlewellsan have clearly proven to be invaluable to the local community during the pandemic. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful and well maintained natural resources on our doorstep. I am very proud that of the work that Council and our local private sector have put in which has resulted in such a strong outdoor recreation package."

One key player in the private sector at Castlewellsan Forest Park over the years has been the outdoor adventure provider, Life Adventure Centre. One of Life's Directors, Martin McMillan, has witnessed firsthand the surge in numbers to the park in the last year:

"The past year has been exceptionally challenging for all aspects of society, not least the business community, particularly what would be deemed as 'non-essential'. That said, the newfound appreciation of the outdoors and the various pursuits it offers, particularly in times of crisis, has proven that what we offer may be much more essential than first realised. When permitted, we've been privileged to play a part in supporting what for many is a new start in not just the activity itself but the outdoors in general. We're very much looking forward to achieving some normality in the not-too-distant future and shall endeavour to continue supporting access to the outdoors, the many activities and resulting benefits it offers."

The growth in users hasn't been without its challenges however, as addressed in a recent public awareness campaign #TheRightSideOfOutside. Martin Carey, the Chief Executive of Mourne Heritage Trust recognised the issues this posed to his team, who manage and maintain the trails, but considers it a good problem to have:

"It is very pleasing to see the value so many people have derived from the Castlewellsan trails over the last year or so. They have clearly been a vital outlet for people in these difficult times and that makes the work of looking after them all the more satisfying. Of course, with that popularity came increased management pressures but, with the support of funders, our team has risen to the challenge and we are reassured by positive feedback on the condition of the trail network."

Even with the easing of restrictions, visitor numbers to Castlewellsan's trails have continued to grow, with March alone seeing an increase of more than 100% on the previous year. This has in turn driven up the demand for mountain bikes with which to ride the trails – something trail sponsors, [Chain Reaction Cycles](#) are familiar with.

The Managing Editor at [Chain Reaction Cycles](#), Matt Cole said,

"To see growth like this is a great boost of confidence for all involved in the mountain bike industry in Northern Ireland. Chain Reaction Cycles has been a proud sponsor of the national trails since they opened in 2013 and we are proud of our local roots, with the company having started out in Ballyclare over 30 years ago.

In particular the rise in new mountain bikers shows that more people are discovering the fantastic resources that are on their own doorstep and getting out to look after their physical and mental health."

Ethan Loughrey from MountainBikeNI, the brand which promotes all of Northern Ireland's official trail centres, was hopeful the figures would reshape people's concepts of mountain biking and encourage others to give it a try:

"It has been amazing to see the figures just go up and up in the last year. People sometimes assume that mountain biking is an all flying, ultra-adrenaline sport but the truth is that we have trails that suit every ability, and I would really encourage everyone to give them a try. They are also a shining example of how capital investment and private sector endeavor can successfully combine to bring a sustainable economic injection to rural economies."

The popularity of Castlewellsan Mountain Bike Trails reflects the wider growth in the sport, with several new trail centres opening within the last few years in Northern Ireland, most recently at Garlin Glen Forest Park in Co. Tyrone.

The mountain bike trails are owned by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and maintained by Mourne Heritage Trust. Please adhere to the latest current government advice on exercising outdoors.

For more information on the Castlewellsan Mountain Bike Trails please visit [MountainBikeNI.com](#)



[Life Adventure Centre](#) at Castlewellsan has a delightful café with a fire and plenty of space to sprawl out. [Spermin Bike Hire](#) can give you the run down on all the information about the new and nearby [Dark Sky Observatory](#). [Campbase Adventures](#) is currently offering free cans of Red Bull and the team at [Belfast Activity Centre](#) run expert coaching sessions around [Barnett Demesne MTB Trails](#).

These bonuses are often particularly useful if you're not familiar with the area; your trailhead provider will keep you right in terms of places to visit and spots to eat and drink, if that's what you're looking for.

5) Broaden your MTB connections

The world of MTB is growing rapidly but it's still a familial one, with a strong culture of community once you embrace it. In that sense, making the connections with your trailhead providers is the natural thing to do, opening new relationships that can benefit you for years to come.



Bike broken down 1km into a ride? If you know your trailhead provider, pop back and see if they can lend a hand. Most of them will do everything they can to ensure your experience on the trails is a positive one; that's why they're there!

A big thank you to [Life Adventure Centre](#), [Spermin Bike Hire](#), [Campbase Adventures](#), [Blessingbourne Estate](#) and [Belfast Activity Centre](#) for all their support over the years. Follow them by clicking the links above!

4. How good are the trails?

Don't just take our word for it, hear it from the people who know what they're talking about. Check out our YouTube channel to hear what the likes of Greg Callaghan, Dan Wolfe and Colin Ross have to say about Northern Ireland's trails.

Arguably just as importantly are the ordinary cyclists; and trails in Northern Ireland have seen a year on year rise in the numbers visiting trail centres for almost 4 years now. Castlewellan MTB Trails actually enjoyed their busiest ever year last year!

Thinking about hiring?

If you don't have a bike or don't fancy dragging it up the road, there is always the option of hiring when you're there. There are mountain bikes to hire for all abilities and preferences across all our centres. Check out our 'Trails Map' section to find out where to hire.

For more information about mountain biking in Northern Ireland, visit [MountainBikeNI.com](https://mountainbikeNI.com)

3. Are there any local clubs to join?

Starting out can be a little intimidating, so joining a MTB club (or a road cycling club with a MTB contingent within it) can be a good way to get out with a few experienced heads. You can find a map outlining the list of [official clubs in Northern Ireland here](#)*. Clubs often will be able to direct you to an appropriate trail and specific section of trail, will pair you up with other riders and encourage you to have a laugh while you pick up the basics. Although one of the smaller trail centres, [Barnett Demesne](#) is a good example of a trail centre with lots of local clubs to pick from.



Learning the ropes at Castlewellan MTB Trails

Favourite MTB Trail Centre in NI

Making history in the MountainBikeNI Awards, we have a tie! Both [Castlewellan](#) and the fresh faced newcomer [Gortin Forest Park MTB Trails](#), were tied with the most votes in this category!



As things get back to normal it means you've even more reason to get the bike out and visit these two trail centres (as local Covid 19 restrictions allow; see current regulations for mountain biking [here](#).)

Davagh Forest: Mentioned in 8 News Stories and 3 Blogs

FURTHER UPDATE ON COVID RESTRICTIONS

DEC 13

Updated on 13th December 2021

Although many coronavirus implications have eased, regulations and guidance remain in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Continue to protect yourself and others by following public health advice.

The following information has been taken from [NI Direct](#) and updates specifically to undertaking outdoor recreation:

- **Travel:** You should avoid visiting places where there is a chance that large numbers of people will gather and crowds will form. If you go somewhere and there are crowds which will make social distancing difficult, consider going somewhere else instead.
- **Outdoor Gatherings:** Outdoor gatherings of 30 people or fewer do not need a risk assessment. You should maintain social distancing as well as good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.
- **Outdoor Sport:** All outdoor sport, whether organised formally by your local sports club or informally by a group of friends, is permitted. To determine the maximum number of people permitted to attend or participate in an outdoor sporting activity/event, the organiser or operator must carry out a risk assessment. Outdoor sporting activities/events of 30 people or fewer do not need a risk assessment. Any behaviour which may encourage the risk of transmission around sports activities, such as car sharing, congregation of people on the sidelines and sporting conditions, should be avoided.

Spending time outdoors can significantly improve physical and mental wellbeing. To stay safe outdoors, you should always follow the **'Be Outdoor Smart - Leave No Trace - Love The Place'** guidance alongside government protocols and public health guidelines by:

1. Being prepared - check the site and facilities you need will be open before you leave home
2. Planning ahead - wear appropriate clothing and footwear, bring the right kit, choose activities that are within your skills and capabilities and check the weather forecast
3. Parking with care - go early to get a car parking space as carless parking can create a road hazard or block access for Emergency Services, local farmers and residents
4. Choosing quiet locations - avoid peak times and popular sites to help maintain social distancing and leave a place better than you found it
5. Bringing and using hand sanitizer - especially after handling surfaces and wash your hands as soon as you can back indoors
6. Sharing the space with all - respect staff, volunteers and signage and other users of the site and avoid gathering around key areas such as car parks, information points etc.
7. Taking your litter and dog waste home with you
8. Keeping your dog under control - stop it from approaching other people and their dogs, cattle and wildlife and avoid bringing dogs to areas where livestock are present
9. Copying nature but don't disturb it - watch wildlife from a distance, stay on paths, quiet and don't stay long
10. Avoiding starting open fires and only light a barbecue in a designated barbecue area
11. Only camping in designated camping areas

For more information on enjoying healthy and inspiring visits to our outdoor places visit [NI Direct](#).



News

[SEE ALL NEWS](#)

TRAIL CLOSURES IN PLACE AS STORMS

FEB 16

Please be aware that trail closures are in place of [Binnendrumm Lough](#) and [Dunmurry Forest M10, Binn](#) with Storms Dudley and Eunice. There are also closures in place of all other trail centres - please exercise extreme caution. There are currently reports of fallen trees at [Dunmurry Forest Park](#), and there are likely to be more down elsewhere.

News

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SHARE YOUR MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURES!

FEB 7

Calling all mountain bikers! During the month of February, MTBNI are collating your mountain bike adventures across all our trails. We are calling for you to share with us your mountain bike adventures by sending your pictures, videos, blogs, or written thoughts from any of the official trail centres across NI. If you are interested, please email info@mountainbikeni.com, (using WeTransfer if the files are above 15MB).

We look forward to hearing from you!

#MountainBikeNI.

News

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MID ULSTER £1.8M INVESTMENT PLANS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION TO BENEFIT DAVAGH FOREST

JAN 17

A capital programme in Mid Ulster valued at in excess of £1.8M will contribute to the development of outdoor play opportunities and improved access to outdoor recreation across the district in the coming years.

The multi-million pound investment plans from Mid Ulster District Council will see a total of 10 projects delivered by late spring 2022, with a further 5 projects in the pipeline for later in the year.

In addition to new investment bike trails at Davagh Forest, there will be extensive works alongside Coolishard Canal and its town centre, a range of improvements at Inscorm Forest, Pannery Forest and Ballinacorney Wood, upgrades to children's play areas in Magillish, Cuckoo and Magillish, and the installation of connecting walkways and footpaths in Co. Down. Clonoe and Eglar are among the projects about to begin.

Chair of the Council, Councillor Paul McLean said, "More and more people are relying on outdoor recreation as a way of taking care of their physical and mental health, especially during the pandemic and 2021 saw increased amounts of visitors to Mid Ulster outdoor recreation sites."

"It became apparent therefore that many of these sites needed improvements to access and facilities, and our focus for the early part of 2022 is to make more outdoor recreation opportunities open to residents and visitors alike."

"Almost two years on from the start of the pandemic, we are acutely aware that our tourism and hospitality industry continues to suffer the effects of multiple lockdowns and a reduction in footfall and visitor numbers, and so it is important that we continue our drive to develop innovative tourism product which will help attract domestic, and eventually, out of state visitors."

"These works would not be possible without the support of a range of funding bodies and programmes, so thanks should go to them for supporting the revitalization of the district."

News

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ON 'YER BIKE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND

MAR
16

Northern Ireland MTB Trails Ready for St. Patrick's Day Weekend!

Mountain bikers across the island of Ireland are expected to visit the mountain bike trails in Northern Ireland over the bank holiday weekend as part of the [#ONYERBIKE](#) campaign.

Northern Ireland boasts 6 incredible trail centres dotted across the region that means you'll just be a short trip away whether you're coming from Sligo or Donegal, or from Dublin or Monaghan.

With the recent addition of [Gortin Glen Forest Park Mountain Bike Trails](#), riders coming from the Republic of Ireland can experience the rugged beauty of the Sperrin Mountains while riding in Gortin or, NI's hidden jewel in the collection, [Donagh Forest](#), home to some of the most epic rock drops you'll find.

Better known are the trails located in the Mourne Mountains, as varied as they are popular. [Castletown Mountain Bike Trails](#) enjoyed their busiest ever year in 2021 with mountain biking exploding in popularity over lockdowns. With a fantastic range of black, red, blue and green trails as well as a top class trailhead provider in [Liff Adventure Centre](#), Castletown has everything you could want in a national trail centre.

[Rostrevor](#) has also seen popularity increase over the last year with rider figures growing by around 12%, illustrative of the epic views, incredible riding and well earned reputation which Rostrevor has developed over the past 9 years.

Wherever you're going, make sure and share your adventure with us. Get [#ONYERBIKE](#) and use that hashtag!



UPDATED GUIDANCE ON COVID-19

APR
21

The government have updated their restrictions to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and to help manage the pressures on the health and social care system. During this time, the single most important action we can all take is to follow the public health advice.

The current regulations will be reviewed on 13th May 2021.

The following information has been taken from [NI Direct](#) and applies specifically to undertaking outdoor recreation:

- Travel: To help reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading you should stay in your local area. If you go somewhere and there are crowds which will make social distancing difficult, consider going somewhere else instead.
- Outdoor Gatherings: Up to 10 people (including children of all ages) from a maximum of two households can meet outdoors. You should maintain social distancing by being at least two metres apart, as well as good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.
- Outdoor Areas, Visitor Attractions & Activity Centres: Outdoor parks, play areas, outdoor areas of properties operated by the National Trust and the outdoor areas of statutory homes, historic homes and castles are permitted to remain open. From 22nd April outdoor visitor attractions and activity centres may reopen.
- Outdoor Exercise & Sports:
 - Up to 10 people (including children of all ages) from a maximum of two households can take part in outdoor exercise or sports activities.
 - Up to 15 people (including coaches) can take part in structured outdoor sports training, through clubs or individuals affiliated to recognised sport's governing bodies or representative organisations for sport and physical activity.
 - Outdoor sports facilities can re-open but only to permit their use for those allowed in the regulations. Club houses and indoor sports facilities (changing rooms, showers, kitchens, meeting rooms), apart from essential toilet facilities must stay closed.
 - From 23rd April squad training can resume, as well as competitive outdoor sports. No spectators are permitted and numbers (including officials, participants, management and support personnel) should be restricted to the minimum number required for the delivery of the event and should not exceed 100.
 - The return to sport protocols set in place by sport's governing bodies should be strictly adhered to including hygiene measures, social distancing and other mitigations. Sport NI has provided further guidance for governing bodies / representative organisations on the [Return to Sport Protocols for Outdoor Sport](#).

Spending time outdoors can significantly improve physical and mental wellbeing. To stay safe outdoors, you should follow the "Be Outdoor Smart – Leave No Trace – Love The Place" guidance by:

1. Planning ahead – check if your destination will be open and what facilities are available
2. Respecting the emergency services – now is not the time to end up in hospital
3. Scaling back your ambitions – choose activities that are within your skills and capabilities
4. Parking with care – careless parking can create a road hazard or block access for Emergency Services, local farmers and residents
5. Avoiding peak times and popular sites to help maintain social distancing
6. Bringing and using hand sanitiser, especially after touching surfaces and wash your hands as soon as you are back indoors
7. Respecting the wishes of landowners, local communities and other users of the site
8. Keeping at least 2 metres apart from anyone outside your household or bubble where possible
9. Not leaving your house if you have any COVID-19 symptoms or if you are self-isolating
10. Taking your litter home with you
11. Keeping your dog under control
12. Enjoying nature but do not disturb it
13. Only starting fires in designated BBQ areas

For the most up to date status of key outdoor recreation guidelines please visit [NI Direct](#).



News

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SHARE YOUR CONTENT AND WIN A CHAIN REACTION CYCLES VOUCHER

MAR
1

Throughout February and March 2022 we are asking mountain bikers to share their pictures and videos from Northern Ireland's best content!

Email to info@chainreactioncycles.co.uk or simply use the [#ChainReactionCycles](#) and you'll be in with a chance of winning one of three £50 vouchers for [Chain Reaction Cycles](#).

It can be a standard bike pic, a video of a particularly gnarly drop, GoPro of you jumping it - whatever you want!



News

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MAR
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Wherever you're going, make sure and share your adventure with us. Get [#ONYERBIKE](#) and use that hashtag!



While we're not in the loop of all the plans ahead, there is no doubt there is a trend at the minute for adding to trail centres. [Drogheda Forest](#) will be having new trails added to it, there was the recent opening of trails at the GAP and as mentioned above - success for mountain bike trails tends to beget more success for mountain bike trails.

4) New found interest in our health

It's hard to argue with the fact that Covid-19 made us all acutely aware of our overall health. The statistics continue to show that being overweight increases your chances of being seriously ill with the disease, and so society as a whole has never had a greater reason to set aside time to ensure we are exercising enough and eating healthily.



In addition to the physical element, there are copious number of studies that reflect the health benefit of being outdoors in green spaces.

The benefits of mountain biking are that it offers people a non traditional way to get fit. Better still, advances in e-bike technology mean that even with injuries or despite what people might consider 'age restrictions' anyone can get into the sport and give themselves a moderate workout climbing to the top of a mountain.

Favourite MTB Trail Section in NI

It's a triple whammy for the Stream Trail section at [Drogheda Forest](#), fighting off stiff competition from both the black trails in [Castlevellon](#) and some of the newer trails at [Gortin Glen Forest Park](#).



Speed and fun are the order of the day if you haven't ridden the Stream Trail before. Also, what the heck are you doing?! Go try it right now!

4. Is mountain biking expensive?

This answer unfortunately is 'it depends'. Bikes aren't exactly cheap but a basic one can be purchased relatively cheaply. We're biased obviously but [Chain Reaction Cycles](#), who sponsor the national mountain bike trails, have some great entry level bikes at good prices.



Once you get into mountain biking you'll not believe the number of variations you can source for your bikes

After that, the sport is as cheap or as expensive as you want to make it. In fact, most of the trail centres are free to ride which often surprises people. The risk comes if you get *into* into it, then you won't be satisfied with just the one bike. Some people aren't even satisfied with two bikes. You may laugh, but you too may become that person.


Of course if purchasing a bike isn't an option, you can also hire bikes from local trailhead providers such as [Belfast Activity Centre](#) for [Barnett Demesne MTB Trails](#), [Spermin Bike Hire](#) for [Drogheda Forest](#), [Camobase](#)

Gortin: Mentioned in 3 News Stories and 4 Blogs

News

TRAIL CLOSURES IN PLACE AS STORMS

FEB 16 Please be aware that trail closures are in place at [Blauwboezemere Estate](#) and [Gortin Glen MTB Trails](#) with Storms Dairine and Eolaine. There are also advisories in place at all other trail centers - please exercise extreme caution. There are currently reports of fallen trees at [Gortin Glen Forest Park](#), and there are likely to be more down elsewhere.




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News

COACHING WITH DONZO

MAR 19 A coaching day with one of the best in the business! We are limited to a total of 8 people so book fast to ensure you're not disappointed! For more information search Campbase Adventures or click the link below.

[See more information about Donzo](#)



[SEE ALL NEWS](#)

News

TRAILHEAD PROVIDER APPOINTED AT GORTIN GLEN FOREST PARK

JUL 26 [Campbase Adventures](#) have been appointed as the official trailhead providers for Gortin Glen Forest Park Mountain Bike Trails. Operating on site, the team offer mountain bike hire suitable for kids, as well as a good number of hard tail and full suspension bikes. Protective equipment is also available.

Better still, an uplift service is now in operation at Gortin with a bespoke bike trailer fitted to carry you up those hefty climbs in the Sperrins.

They are also planning to soon open a bike shop and a MTB membership area at Gortin Glen Forest Park itself. Keep an eye on their social media pages for more information!

[For more information, click here.](#)



[SEE ALL NEWS](#)

News

FREE RED BULL WITH CAMPBASE ADVENTURES AT GORTIN GLEN FOREST PARK MTB TRAILS

SEP 29 The kind people at Red Bull have, as part of celebrations for things beginning to open up again, have sent hundreds of cans to Gortin Glen Forest Park, where trailhead providers Campbase Adventures are looking after them.

It is well known Red Bull are a huge supporter of mountain biking, with events like Red Bull Rampage and Fox Hunt's being two of their major events.

If you're visiting the trails at Gortin, stop by the team at Campbase Adventures and pick yourself up and energy boost for the day for free.

While you're there, the team can also help you with advice on the trails, bike hire, uplift and - starting soon - a special 'Beginner Deal' where they'll give you all the basics on how to mountain bike and where you're best suited for going in the forest.






[SEE ALL NEWS](#)

bikeni.com/blog/

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Of course if purchasing a bike isn't an option, you can also hire bikes from local trailhead providers such as [Wildland Activities Centre](#) for [Bannagh Downstream MTB Trails](#), [Spartan Bike Hire](#) for [Downagh Forest](#), [Campbase Adventures](#) for [Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails](#) and [Life Adventure Centre](#) for [Castlewellan](#) and [Shanaghy MTB Trails](#). This can be helpful in deciding which bike you like the feel of before actually making a purchase.

2) Uplifts

Although not available from all trailhead providers, an uplift service is a God send if you're planning a long day on the trails and you're not looking to pedal all day. "Up hills" are a part of mountain biking as much as downhill are, but that doesn't mean you have to ignore the helping hand of the trailhead providers.



Uplifts are currently only available at [Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails](#) from [Campbase Adventures](#).

Favourite MTB Trail Centre in NI

Making history in the MountainBikeNI Awards, we have a tie! Both [Castlewellan](#) and the fresh faced newcomer [Gortin Forest Park MTB Trails](#) were tied with the most votes in this category!



As things get back to normal it means you've even more reason to get the bike out and visit these two trail centres (as local Covid 19 restrictions allow; see current regulations for mountain biking here.)

Most Active MTB Club

The new category to the MTBNI Awards had a LOT of interest. The winner however ended up with a strong margin - congratulations [Gortin MTB Club](#)! If you don't already, make sure to give them a follow as they showcase what [Gortin](#) has to offer.



3) Plans Afoot

Everyone is likely now familiar with Northern Ireland's newest mountain bike trails, [Gortin Glen Forest Park Mountain Bike Trails](#). If not, treat yourself to a visit and we can promise you'll be blown away by what's on offer there, especially after it's addition of trailhead provider [Campbase Adventures](#).



[Campbase Adventure](#) offer bike hire and an uplift service for [Gortin Glen Forest Park](#)

While we're not in the loop of all the plans ahead, there is no doubt there is a trend at the minute for adding to trail centres. [Downagh Forest](#) will be having new trails added to it, there was the recent opening of trails at the GAP and as mentioned above - success for mountain bike trails tends to breed more success for mountain bike trails.

Rostrevor: Mentioned in 2 News Stories and 3 Blogs

News

[< SEE ALL NEWS](#)

BOOK ROSTREVOR UPLIFT WITH BIKE MOURNE


JAN 25

Uplifts for mountain bikers remain available with [Bike Mourne](#) for [Rostrevor Mountain Bike Trails](#). Bike Mourne are currently offering bike hire and uplifts throughout the winter, every weekend until the end of March.

There are options for both groups and individuals and booking for each date must be done at least 24 hours in advance.

For more information, click the link below.

[For more information, click here.](#)



News

[< SEE ALL NEWS](#)

ON 'YER BIKE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND

MAR 16

Northern Ireland MTB Trails Ready for St. Patrick's Day Weekend!

Mountain bikers across the island of Ireland are expected to visit the mountain bike trails in Northern Ireland over the bank holiday weekend as part of the [#OnYerBike](#) campaign.

Northern Ireland boasts 6 incredible trail centres dotted across the region that means you'll just be a short trip away whether you're coming from Sligo or Donegal; or from Dublin or Monaghan.

With the recent addition of [Gortin Glen Forest Park Mountain Bike Trails](#), riders coming from the Republic of Ireland can experience the rugged beauty of the Sperrin Mountains while riding in Gortin or, NI's hidden jewel in the collection, [Dovagh Forest](#), home to some of the most epic rock drops you'll find.

Better known are the trails located in the Mourne Mountains, as varied as they are popular. [Castletwellan MTB Trails](#) enjoyed their busiest ever year in 2021 with mountain biking exploding in popularity over lockdowns. With a fantastic range of black, red, blue and green trails as well as a top class trailhead provider in [Life Adventure Centre](#), Castletwellan has everything you could want in a national trail centre.

[Rostrevor](#) has also seen popularity increase over the last year with rider figures growing by around 12%, illustrative of the epic views, incredible riding and well earned reputation which Rostrevor has developed over the past 9 years.

Wherever you're going, make sure and share your adventure with us. Get [#OnYerBike](#) and use that hashtag!



BIKE DESTINATION FOR PEOPLE IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Posted on April 11, 2022 @ 2:11 PM

There are a lot of factors that go into deciding where your next mountain bike destination will be. Today [MountainBikeNI](#) explores the myriad of reasons why RoI riders should get #OnYerBike and head north



1. It's so close

If you're thinking about exploring the mountain biking world, you don't have far to travel. Luckily on this island, we have plenty of incredibly exciting trails on our doorstep. Northern Ireland is home to six mountain bike trails that encompass black, red, blue and green trails, as well as a number of downhill trails and orange features.

Dublin's fair city is a short distance to two of NI's biggest trails, only an hour and a half from [Rostrevor](#) and just under two hours to [Castlewellingan](#). You're also much closer to the mountain bike trails in Northern Ireland if you

Q1. How likely am I to get injured?

This is a big one and not something to immediately brush over with assurances that mountain biking is a completely safe sport. It isn't, which is also part of the reason so many of us love it. Not only will telling a new rider that they won't get hurt be disingenuous - they'll probably just not believe you.

The best thing you can do here is to manage expectations and advise on the best way to minimise injury. Yes, it is possible you'll come off your mountain bike in the early days, but you can reduce the odds of this happening substantially by doing a few things. Firstly, only riding on trails of appropriate ability.



So, not this one then.

SOCIAL MEDIA



25,347



2,755



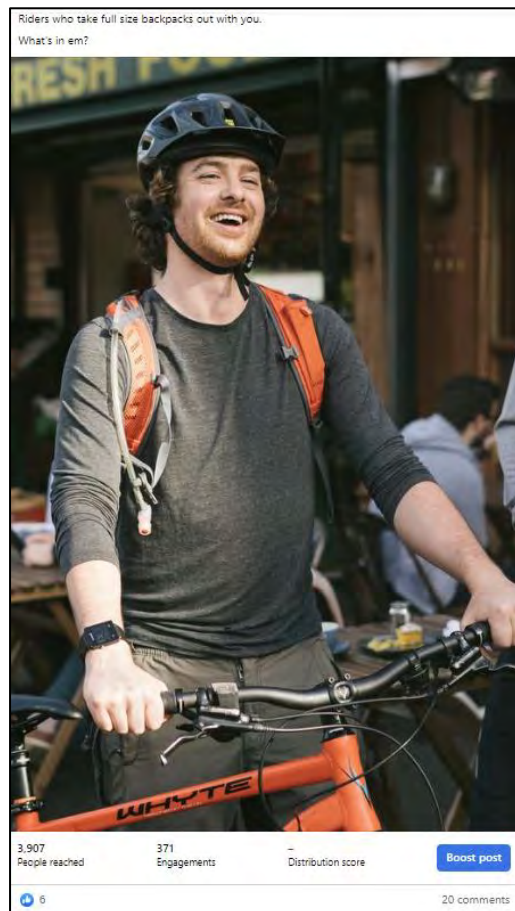
2,918



1,167


Continued branding on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. 2% growth in social media

Barnett Demesne - 7 Posts



MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 28 July 2021 · 🌐

Want to simultaneously get some peace from the kids and teach them how to mountain bike?
Sign up for these 3 day courses from [Outdoor Concepts](#) that will be taking place at Barnett Demesne MTB Trails from next Monday 2nd August.



Summer Holiday Mountain Bike Kids Camp - Mountain Bike NI
These 3 day courses each week over the summer are designed to give your young MTB rider a whole new set of skills to enhance their riding, confidence and their control. On day 1 we assess ability and then begin to...

3,783 People reached 216 Engagements - Distribution score [Boost post](#)


👍❤️ 2 16 comments

Like Comment Share

Comment as MountainBikeNI 🗨️ 📷 📧 📧

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 28 August 2021 · 🌐

Fed up of all the bad news?
Then look no further! We've written a short blog on the reasons to be optimistic about the future of MTBing in Northern Ireland.
Check it out here: <http://www.mountainbikeni.com/.../4-reasons-to-be-.../>



6,311 People reached 342 Engagements - Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍❤️ 13 3 comments 1 share

MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Jun 3, 2021

Trails have shaped up really well after a makeover by @belfastcc! 🥰🥰🥰🚲



1 🔄 ❤️ 📌 📌


MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Jul 28, 2021

How would you like to get some peace from the kids, whilst also getting them into mountain biking?

Check out @outdoorconcepts 3 day courses for kids that start on Monday 2nd August at Barnett Demesne MTB Trails:
mountainbikeni.com/events/57624/s...



🗨️ 🔄 ❤️ 📌 📌



mountainbikeni · Following

mountainbikeni Trails have shaped up really well after a makeover by @belfastcitycouncil! 🥰🥰🥰🚲
51w

chris.mckee2005 Where's this? ❤️
51w Reply

therealslim.skiny Where is this please 🗨️

109 likes
JUNE 3, 2021


😊 Add a comment... 📌

Blessingbourne Estate - 13 Posts

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 8 May 2021 ·

Local trails like those at Blessingbourne Estate have been incredibly valuable over the last year - what's your local / why do you love it?



2,316
People reached

74
Engagements

—
Distribution score

Boost post

8

2 comments

Like

Comment

Share

Most relevant

Comment as MountainBikeNI

Karl Price

Blessingburn is great, especially in the wet... But my local and favourite is Davagh.. so disappointed the work has stopped on the new trails... Still love it.....

Like

Reply

1 y


2

View more comment

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 28 January ·

Blessingbourne Estate is the perfect mountain bike getaway for the family.
- 8km of red trail with some great features along the way
- 4km of blue trail and a pump track for the kids to enjoy
- Award winning accommodation on site... See more



3,726
People reached

131
Engagements

—
Distribution score

Boost post

23


1 share

MountainBikeNI

@MountainBikeNI · Dec 6, 2021

Tis the season! 🍂

Trail closures will be in place TOMORROW TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER at Barnett Demesne, Blessingbourne Estate, Castlewellan, Davagh Forest and Rostrevor MTB Trails.
We'll add to closures as we get them.



1


1

1

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 17 February ·

TRAIL CLOSURES
Please be aware that trail closures are in place at Blessingbourne Estate and Davagh Forest MTB Trails with Storms Dudley and Eunice.
There are also advisories in place at all other trail centres - please exercise extreme caution. There are currently reports of fallen trees at Gortin Glen Forest Park, and there are likely to be more down elsewhere.... See more



2,052
People reached

5
Engagements

—
Distribution score

Boost post

1 comment



MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Jan 29

...

Blessingbourne Estate @Blessingbourne is perfect for a getaway with the family.

- 8km of red trail with some great features along the way
- 4km of blue trail and a pump track for the kids to enjoy
- Award winning accommodation on site



2

1

5



Castlewellan - 16 Facebook Posts

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 14 May 2021 ·

The MountainBikeNI Awards, sponsored by Chain Reaction Cycles are finally here!
We'll be announcing them over the next few days, but if you'd like to speed the process up, click below to find the winners.
<http://www.mountainbikeni.com/blog/>




3,274 People reached 122 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

15

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 14 May 2021 ·

Trail Centre of the Year - For the first time ever, we've got a tie! Exactly 26.55% of the vote went to both Castlewellan MTB Trails AND the new kid on the block, Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails.
Congratulations to both!



35,494 People reached 2,688 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

97 29 comments 21 shares

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 15 May 2021 ·

You guys REALLY love URBAN CAFE Castlewellan - fourth year in a row voted Best MTB Friendly Cafe!
Congrats to the whole team, who have been open through almost the entire pandemic and, as anyone who has dropped in with them knows, are some of the nicest people to be found.




2,971 People reached 78 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

22 2 comments

MountainBikeNI
Published by Darragh Grimes · 7 June 2021 ·

Great to see record breaking numbers visiting the trails at Castlewellan! 🥳
http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/.../castlewellan-...



5,475 People reached 358 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

41 8 comments 2 shares

Like Comment Share

Most relevant ▼

Comment as MountainBikeNI

Balazs Gazdag
Great trails for all levels of experience

MountainBikeNI
Published by Damagh Grimes · 14 June 2021 ·

NEW COMPETITION! 🏆 🌳 🚴
Win the Ultimate MTB Staycation!
To enter please visit our website www.mountainbikeni.com/
Best of luck! 🍀
@yewtreebarn
Life Adventure Ctr
URBAN CAFE Castleswellan
Chain Reaction Cycles



WIN THE ULTIMATE MTB STAYCATION

- Overnight Stay at The Yew Tree Barn
- e MTB Hire from Life
- Brunch from Award Winning Urban Cafe

FOR YOU AND A FRIEND






2,591 People reached 91 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 24 August 2021 ·

This is your last chance to enter our fantastic competition to win an epic MTB Staycation trip for you and a friend. Thanks to our friends at Yew Tree Barn - with Jacuzzi Brand Hot Tubs, Life Adventure Ctr and URBAN CAFE Castleswellan for the brilliant prizes.
To enter just click this link: <https://bit.ly/3mFtHvI>
The winners will be announced on Tuesday 31st August. Good luck!



WIN THE ULTIMATE MTB STAYCATION

- Overnight Stay at The Yew Tree Barn
- e MTB Hire from Life
- Brunch from Award Winning Urban Cafe

FOR YOU AND A FRIEND







5,390 People reached 169 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

8 2 shares

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 8 October 2021 ·

Getting to that stage where the leave avalanches will soon be building up.
Happy riding this weekend, wherever you're going!



2,954 People reached 45 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

9 2 comments 1 share

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Most relevant

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 15 November 2021 ·

Some pictures from the recent Volunteer Maintenance Day with Chain Reaction Cycles and Chain Reaction Cycles Belfast. The day was organised by the team at Moumelive.
Thanks to all the guys who kindly gave up their time to help with resurfacing, litter picking and all the other small jobs that ensure the trails stay in top condition.
Interested in volunteering? Find more information at:
http://www.mountainbikeni.com/_/mountainbikeni-trails/



8,223 People reached 729 Engagements [Boost post](#)

37 1 share



MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Jun 14, 2021

NEW COMPETITION! 🎉 🏆 🏆 🏆

Win the Ultimate MTB Staycation!

To enter please visit our website mountainbikenl.com

Best of luck! 🍀

@theyewtreebarn
 @LifeAdventureCI
 @urbancafeastlewellan
 @Chain_Reaction

WIN THE ULTIMATE MTB STAYCATION

- Overnight Stay at The Yew Tree Barn
- e MTB Hire from Life
- Brunch from Award Winning Urban Cafe

FOR YOU AND A FRIEND

URBAN CAFE YEW TREE MountainBikeNI.com BIKE

MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Jan 30

Kicking it at #Castlewellan

7

mountainbikenl · Following

mountainbikenl Great to get recent breaking numbers clicking the link at Castlewellan! 🍀

10 likes

mountainbikenl · Following

mountainbikenl NEW COMPETITION! 🎉 🏆 🏆 🏆

Win the Ultimate MTB Staycation!

To enter please visit our website mountainbikenl.com

Best of luck! 🍀

@theyewtreebarn
 @LifeAdventureCI
 @urbancafeastlewellan
 @Chain_Reaction

@daggycrider @pennycake21

46 likes


mountainbikenl · Following

mountainbikenl On the Bike

mountainbikenl Amazing views from the mountain bike! 🍀


23 likes

Davagh Forest - 22 Facebook Posts


MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 2 April 2021 ·

That sun was perfect.

Post below any snaps of you on the trails today!



2,322
People reached


16
Engagements

—
Distribution score


Boost post

Like

5


MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 27 April 2021 ·

In the last few months there has been a significant rise in the number of complaints made about walkers veering onto MTB trails; and of mountain bikers cutting onto walking trails at points. The simplest solution is for everyone to follow the waymarked signs. Responsible shared use of outdoor sites is so important, never more so than now, so that everyone feels comfortable and can enjoy their activity - without having to worry about bumping into someone on the trails that isn't supposed to be there.



14,129
People reached

1,633
Engagements

—
Distribution score

Boost post

64


31 comments 4 shares


Like

Comment

Share

Most relevant


 Comment as MountainBikeNI


Tim Walsh
 Just be polite when meeting bikers / walkers... ffs we all did it for years.. sweeper , warn walkers more bikes coming down trail in a polite way ... its plonkers being rude to each other that's leading to resentment , traps etc... nice to be nice 🙏🙏

Like

Reply


1 y

7

1 reply

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 9 May 2021 · 🌐

#DavaghRocks



6,806 People reached 746 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍 89 7 comments


👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Most relevant ▼

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 18 May 2021 · 🌐

Next prize in the MountainBikeNI Awards, sponsored by [Chain Reaction Cycles](#) - Best MTB Friendly Accommodation.

Congratulations [Sperrin View Glamping](#)! Not bad for your first time on the nominees list 😊



SPERRINVIEW GLAMPING

27,550 People reached 2,206 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)


👍 61 12 comments 14 shares

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 19 May 2021 · 🌐

And our final award - trail section of the year for 2020-21 is...

The Stream Trail!

Fighting off competition from the new trails at Gortin Glen Forest Park, as well as previous year winners, this is the Stream Trail's third year to take the gold. Thanks to everyone who voted, to our sponsors at [@ChainReactionCycles](#) and congratulations to all the winners!




STREAM TRAIL

6,499 People reached 793 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍 56 18 comments 1 share

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 14 July 2021 · 🌐

This feeling 🥰




3,847 People reached 113 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍 77 2 shares

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 29 July 2021 ·

Love this piece from Discover Northern Ireland.
A tour de force through NI, and great to see the MTB Trails at #DavaghForest included with Rosco Lines.
Whole thing is great but the mountain biking kicks off at 18:36:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsaB9MZ889g...>
#MountainBikeNI #Rosco Mid Ulster District Council



7,702 People reached 436 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)


29 4 comments 1 share

Like Comment Share

Comment as MountainBikeNI

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 26 August 2021 ·

Great seeing Paulo Ross out on the trails at Davagh Forest! The growth in mountain biking in NI over the last 2 years has been phenomenal, so it's great to see it being shared even wider.
He had a fairly good coach from the looks of it too 😊
#DavaghRocks Vitus First Tracks Enduro Cup



11,167 People reached 1,049 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

76 7 comments

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 3 December 2021 ·

Big shout out to Niall Convery for the litter lift he did around Davagh Forest last week.
Folks if you bring it with, please bring it home again.




6,819 People reached 345 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

73 2 comments

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 17 December 2021 ·

Happy riding this weekend folks!
A heads up there are trail diversions in place at Davagh Forest due to fallen trees. Please follow any diversion signs you encounter.




2,074 People reached 18 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

2

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 17 January · 🌐

Climbing on the bike.
The climb at Davagh Forest (endearingly called "The Widow Maker") is an example of a climb with great views. Are you happy to climb if the views are good?
Or would you prefer downhills, uplifts and e-bikes all day long?



13,668 People reached 1,161 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍 57 27 comments 4 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Comment as MountainBikeNI 🗨️ 📷 📧 📧

Simon Stockton
Climbs are all part of mountain biking, love them, I'm maybe not great at them but there's a good sense of achievement making it to the top of a hard one!! 🏆 🥰 3

Like Reply 18 w

➦ 1 reply

[View 15 more comments](#)

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 21 January · 🌐

Fantastic article from [National Geographic UK](#) about everything there is to do in the Sperrins, including mountain biking at Davagh Forest and Gortin Glen Forest Park 🏆




NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.CO.UK
Going off-grid amid the drama of Northern Ireland's Sperrin Mountains
The Sperrin Mountains are an ancient, storied landscape of stone circles, dark skies and literary...

4,112 People reached 176 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍 14 1 share

MountainBikeNI
Published by Darragh Grimes · 8 February · 🌐

Share Your Mountain Bike Adventures!
Mountain Bike NI want to see your mountain bike adventures.
Send us your pictures / videos (stunts or crashes; chilled rides or races) to info@mountainbikeni.com (using WeTransfer if it's over 15mb) and we'll share our favourites at the end of the month 🏆





1,679 People reached 27 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍 2 1 share

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 9 February · 🌐

A reminder about works ongoing at Rostrevor MTB Trails:
As part of the ongoing construction works of Phase 2 of the New Fallows Trail within Rostrevor Forest it is necessary to utilise Helicopter aerial lifting to transport materials to parts of the new route.
These works are scheduled to commence on Monday 7th February 2022 for approximately 10 days (weather dependent) between the hours of 8am & 5.30pm including Saturday and Sunday.
The exclusion zone highlighted red on the attached map is the helicopter operating area and for health & safety reasons this exclusion zone will be strictly out of bounds for public access during this period.
Some forest access roads will not be accessible through this exclusion zone. Signage and diversions will be in place advising walkers & bikers of closures.
Both the Red & Black Mountain Bike Trails will be closed throughout this time.
Both Downhill trails - On the pulse & Mega mission will remain open.
We would ask for the public's co-operation during this time.
NB- this work will also fall under normal CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) guidelines.
#MountainBikeNI
WalkNI






MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 10 March ·

We're currently producing an exciting new video on the trails here, but in the meantime here's a throwback to [Greg Callaghan](#) killing it at Davagh Forest. Enjoy!



MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 25 November 2017 ·

We're not saying that just because [Greg Callaghan](#) loved Davagh Forest MTB Trails you should too but... Actually, sorry that is exactly what we're saying 😊

Ch... See more

2,068

158

—

Create Ad

People reached

Engagements

Distribution score

12

1 comment 1 share



MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Dec 17, 2021


Happy riding this weekend folks!

A heads up there are trail diversions in place at Davagh Forest due to fallen trees. Please follow any diversion signs you encounter.



1

3




MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 18 March ·

Get ready and get [#OnYerBike](#) this bank holiday weekend!

<http://www.mountainbikeni.com/.../on-ye-bike-for-st-.../>



2,325

21

—

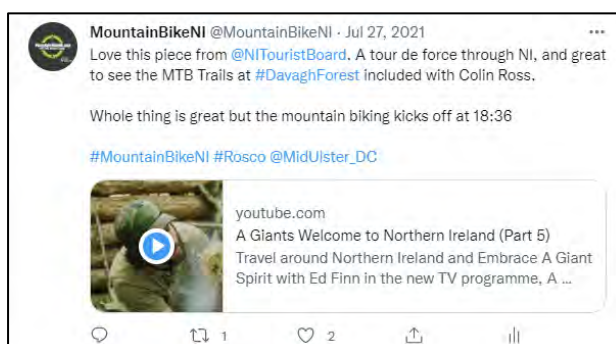
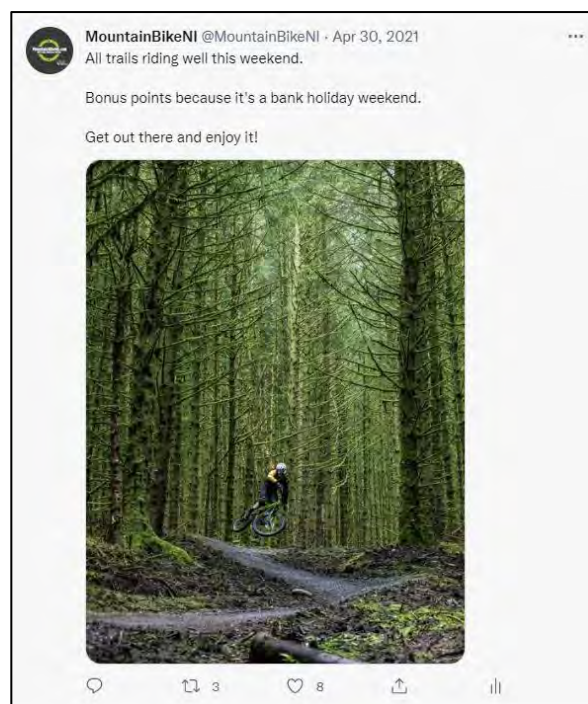
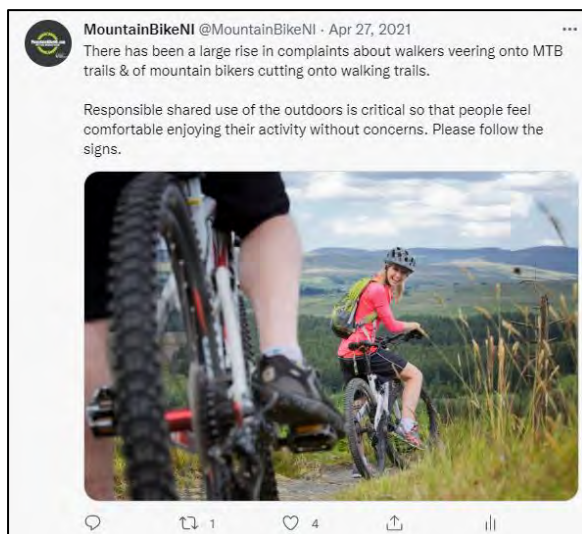
Boost post

People reached

Engagements

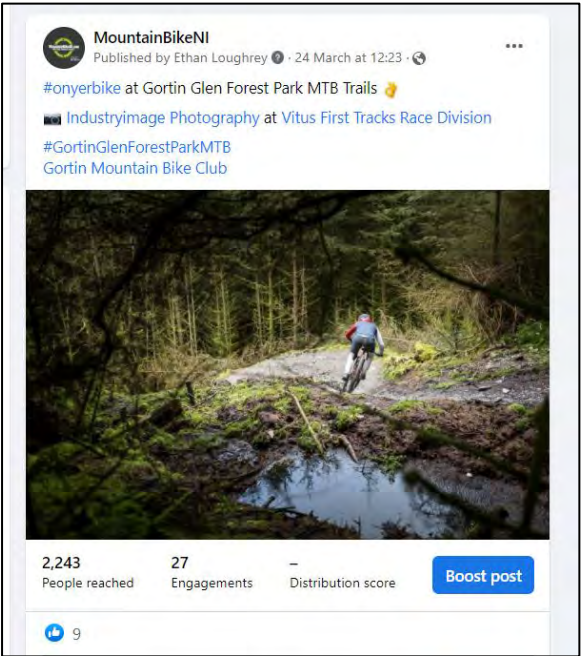
Distribution score

6





Gortin - 18 Facebook Posts





MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 10 March at 13:46 · 🌐

🔥🔥🔥



Vitus First Tracks Enduro Cup

9 March at 17:21 · 🌐

Finally the cat is out of the bag!

Round 1 hits Gortin Glen on the 10th April. It's a 1 day Mash up style race. Entries open Friday 11th March at 6pm.

Numbe... [See more](#)

2,401

35

—

People reachedEngagementsDistribution score

Boost a post

👍 2



MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 26 January · 🌐

Pretty peaceful at Gortin Glen Forest Park 🌲

[Gortin Glen Forest Park Co Tyrone](#)



4,157

158

—

People reachedEngagementsDistribution score

Boost post

👍 27

👍 Like

💬 Comment

🔗 Share

 Comment as MountainBikeNI

🗨️

📷

✉️

🔖



MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 25 January · 🌐

This is pretty incredible - aerial view of the MTB Trails at [Gortin Glen Forest Park Co Tyrone](#)

[Gortin Mountain Bike Club](#)



Glenn Sloan is at Gortin Mountain Bike Club.

16 January · Gortin · 🌐

[C-More Flying School & Club](#) to Gortin Mountain Bike Club for a look.

1,588

88

—

People reachedEngagementsDistribution score

Boost a post

👍 13



MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 20 December 2021 · 🌐

The MTBNI volunteer ranger scheme, sponsored by [Chain Reaction Cycles](#), is being extended to Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails.

If you'd like to join the crew there (usually helping our 3 or 4 times a year in normal times) drop us a PM and we'll send you more details.



1,985

47

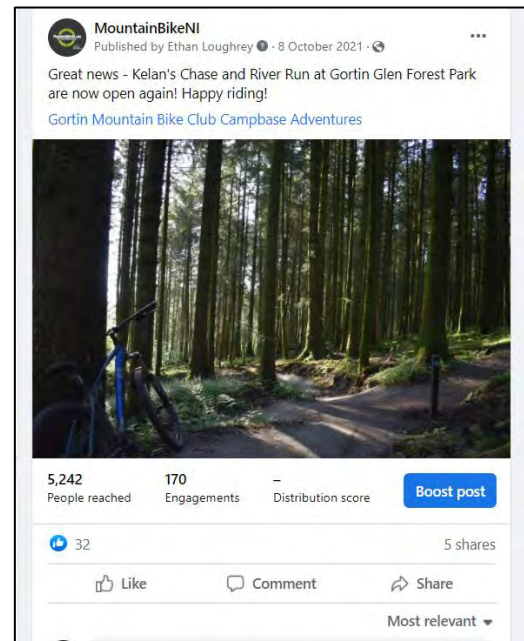
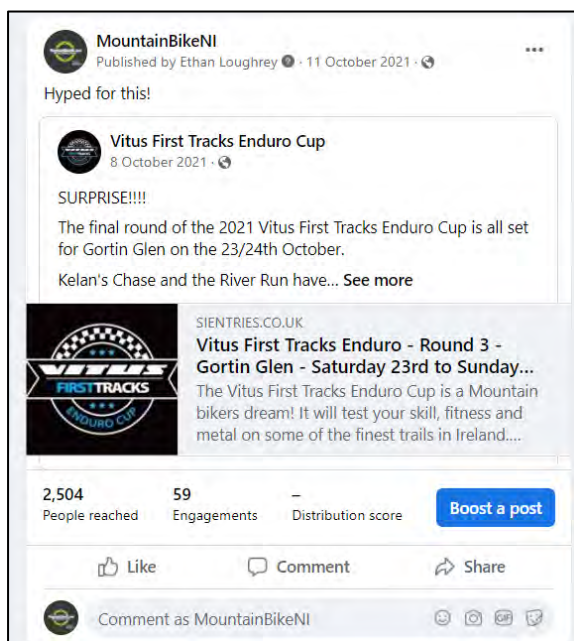
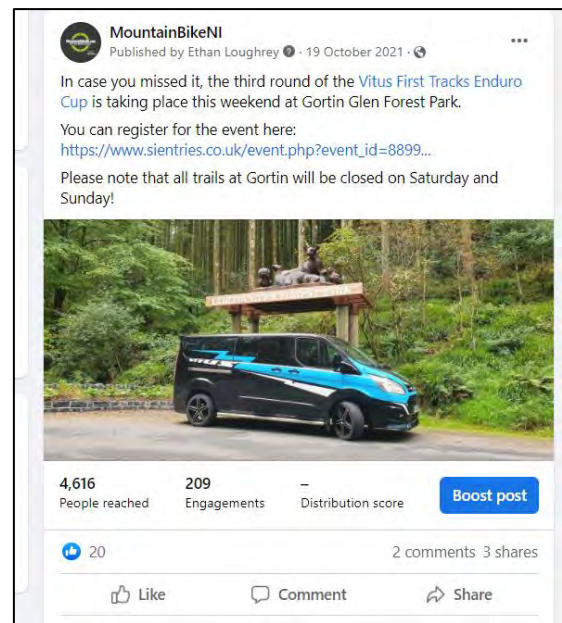
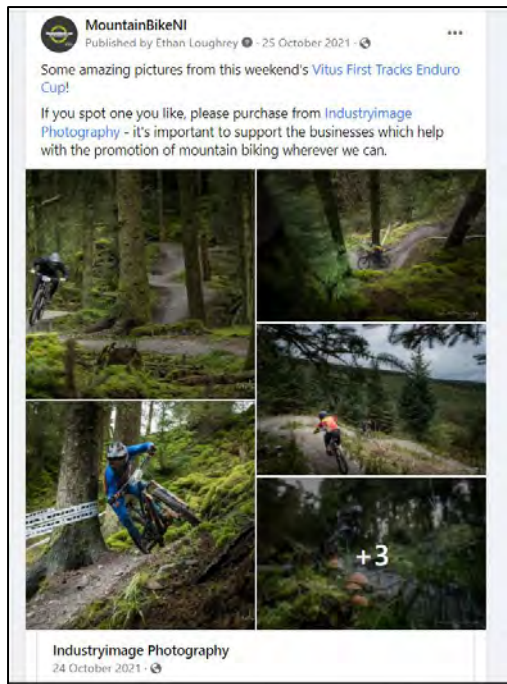
—

People reachedEngagementsDistribution score

Boost post

👍 7

2 comments



MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 1 October 2021 ·

👉 Half price on uplifts at Gortin's trails this weekend! 👉

Campbase Adventures

Campbase Adventures is at Gortin Glen Forest Park Co Tyrone.

30 September 2021 · Gortin ·

★ HALF PRICE OFFER! THIS WEEKEND ONLY! ★

To celebrate the launch of our new bespoke MTB uplift trailers we are offering half price on al... See more

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 13 September 2021 ·

Trails Notice:

Approximately 275m of outward and inward MTB Trails at Gortin Glen Forest Park, adjacent to the Campsite, will be closed this week in order to create a two-way trail leading out from the upper car park to the Red MTB Trails (The Mountain & Sika's Run).

Cyclists should use the scenic drive for this period for outward and return trips.

6,684240

People reachedEngagements

—

Distribution score

Boost post

3

3 comments1 share

Like

Comment

Share

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 8 August 2021 ·

Update

Kelan's Chase and the River Run trails at Gortin Glen Forest Park Co Tyrone have been closed due to excessive water damage following the bad weather.

Gortin Mountain Bike Club Campbase Adventures

Gortin Mountain Bike Club

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 26 July 2021 ·

So good to see Gortin's brand new uplift and bike hire providers doing so well!

Go give them a follow at Campbase Adventures!

Campbase Adventures

19 July 2021 ·

Our first international visitors! 🌍✈️

Nigel Eccles and his two sons visiting Gortin Glen Forest Park today all the way from New York City!

Thanks for visi... See more

8,347335

People reachedEngagements

—

Distribution score

Boost a post

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 14 July 2021 ·

Sun's out...

Water's out!

It's pretty muggy out there, don't forget to bring plenty of fluids for whatever trails you're hitting!

6,803

311

—

People reached

Engagements

Distribution score

Boost post

36

6 comments

1 share

Like

Comment

Share

Most relevant

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 15 May 2021 ·

Our next prize received the most votes of any category. The most active MTB club of the year, as voted by you, was...

Gortin Mountain Bike Club - congratulations! Many people will know the hard work these guys and girls have put in over the last few years, and as our last result shows, it has paid off.

6,275

371

—

People reached

Engagements

Distribution score

Boost post

38

1 comment

7 shares

Like

Comment

Share

Most relevant

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 14 May 2021 ·

Trail Centre of the Year - For the first time ever, we've got a tie! Exactly 26.55% of the vote went to both Castlewellsan MTB Trails AND the new kid on the block, Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails.

Congratulations to both!

35,494

2,687

—

People reached

Engagements

Distribution score

Boost post

97

29 comments

21 shares

Like

Comment

Share

Most relevant

MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 29 April 2021 ·

The weather has been incredible over the last week or two. Hit us up with some of your picture of you out enjoying the trails!

5,635

617

—

People reached

Engagements

Distribution score

Boost post

16


14 comments

Like

Comment

Share


Most relevant



MountainBikeNI

Published by Ethan Loughrey · 24 March · 🌐

#onyerbike at Gortin Glen Forest Park MTB Trails 📍
📷 Industryimage Photography at Vitus First Tracks Race Division
#GortinGlenForestParkMTB
Gortin Mountain Bike Club




2,363
People reached

27
Engagements

—
Distribution score

Boost post

👍 9



mountainbikeni · Following

mountainbikeni

in case you missed it, the third round of the Vitus First Tracks Enduro Cup is taking place this weekend at Gortin Glen Forest Park.

You can register for the event here: https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?event_id=8898&fbclid=IwAR1FWzLmwgwe1xviA_oXGyfaUeEO948XB07gCyiVeSwKBVPGrfe3fo7k

Please note that all trails at Gortin will be closed on Saturday and Sunday!

#environment @vitusfirsttrackmtb @gortin_mtb @gortinglenforestpark

31m

79 likes

OCTOBER 19, 2021



MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Apr 29, 2021

The weather has been incredible over the last week or two.

Hit us up with some of your picture of you out enjoying the trails!



🗨 2

🔄

👍 6

📌

📶




MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · May 6, 2021

👍👍

callum scott @ciscottweet · Apr 29, 2021

Replying to @MountainBikeNI



🗨

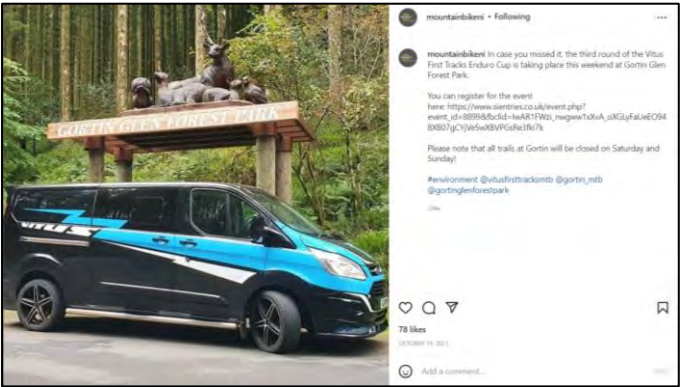
🔄

👍 4

📌

📶






Rostrevor - 18 Facebook Posts

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 30 April 2021 · 🌐

All trails riding well this weekend.
Bonus points because it's a bank holiday weekend.
Get out there and enjoy it!




2,552 People reached 53 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍 19 1 share

MountainBikeNI
Published by Darragh Grimes · 7 June 2021 · 🌐

!!! Important Notice !!!

The Downhill trails at Rostrevor will be closed from tomorrow for up to 3 weeks as trail works take place. Keep an eye on MountainBikeNI for when they reopen! 😊




8,645 People reached 635 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍 41 16 comments 10 shares

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 18 December 2021 · 🌐

The most common questions we receive from new riders (and their answers)
<http://www.mountainbikeni.com/blog/>



6 MOST COMMON QUESTIONS
ASKED BY NEW RIDERS

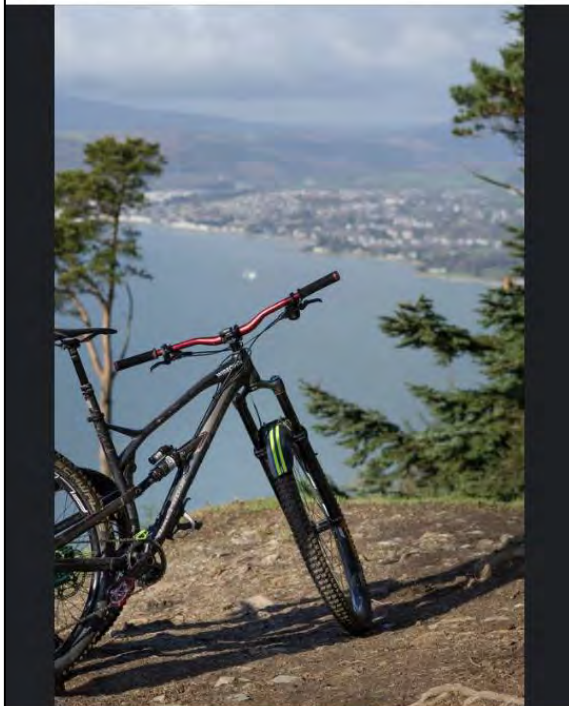
3,678 People reached 159 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

👍 4 4 comments

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 2 January · 🌐

New Year, New Bike?

If Santa was particularly good to you this year hook us up with a picture in the comments below of the new ride!



3,365 People reached 45 Engagements — Distribution score [Boost post](#)

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 9 February ·

The guys in Rostrevor MTB are recruiting marshalls for the first round of IDMS, April 2nd & 3rd. If you're a parent of a son or daughter starting in Irish Downhill, this is a fantastic way to get involved and help out the Downhill community. Also get a few bob for your troubles too! More information over on [Irish Downhill Mountainbike Series IDMS](#)

IDMS

ROUND 1 2/3 APRIL ROSTREVOR, CO DOWN ROSTREVOR MTB

ROUND 2 20/21 AUGUST SHRONABOY FARM, KILLARNEY KILLARNEY CC

ROUND 3 24/25 SEPTEMBER THE GAP, DUBLIN GAP MTB

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 23/24 JULY BREE, CO WEXFORD BREE RACING

HIGH5 BBB CYCLON

Irish Downhill Mountainbike Series IDMS

7 February ·

Mark the dates in your calendar - 2022 IDMS venues and dates officially announced!! 2022 Irish Downhill National Championships confirmed for July!

The IDMS 20... See more

3,054
People reached

44
Engagements

-
Distribution score

Boost a Post

MountainBikeNI
Published by Ethan Loughrey · 15 February ·

The trails at Rostrevor are now open again 🎉🏆

3,860
People reached

221
Engagements

-
Distribution score

Boost post

25

1 share

MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Jun 7, 2021

!!! Important Notice !!!

The Downhill trails at Rostrevor will be closed from tomorrow for up to 3 weeks as trail works take place. Keep an eye on @MountainBikeNI for when they reopen! 😊

2

5

MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Jan 2

New Year, New Bike?

If Santa was particularly good to you this year hook us up with a picture in the comments below of your new ride!

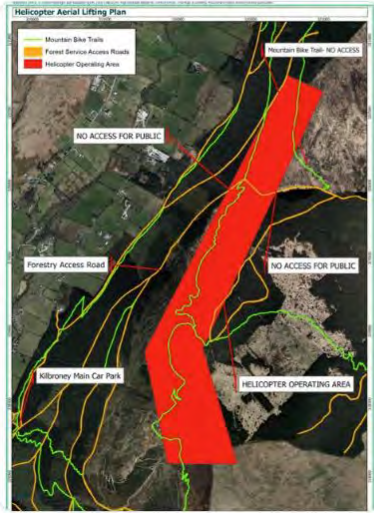
2



MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Feb 6

...

Trails closure at the red and black trails at Rostrevor MTB Trails for up to 10 days. More information here: facebook.com/MountainBikeNo...



1

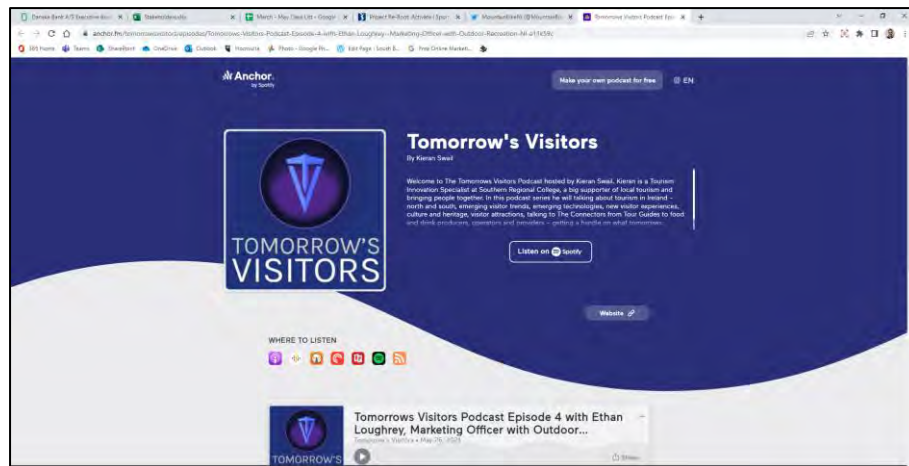



Miscellaneous Assistance

Ongoing recruitment for a Gortin Glen Forest Park Volunteer Ranger Team

Advice on purchasing signage panels


Promotion of Gortin Glen Forest Park in tourism podcast




MountainBikeNI
 Published by Ethan Loughrey · 26 April 2021 ·

If you're wondering what the current guidelines are for outdoor recreation, we have them right here:

<http://www.mountainbikeni.com/.../updated-guidance-on.../>



MOUNTAINBIKENI.COM
Updated Guidance on Covid-19 - Mountain Bike NI
 The government have updated their restrictions to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and to help manage the pressures on the health and social care system. During this time, the single most important action we can all take i...

1,330
 People reached

45
 Engagements


—
 Distribution score






Boost post

Like

Comment

Share


 Comment as MountainBikeNI


MountainBikeNI
 Published by Ethan Loughrey · 20 May 2021 ·

<http://www.mountainbikeni.com/.../covid-19-restrictions.../>

The guidelines will be reviewed again on Thursday 10th June.



1,808
 People reached

104
 Engagements


—
 Distribution score

Boost post

Like


Comment

Share


MountainBikeNI
 Published by Darragh Grimes · 19 July 2021 ·

Check out the link below regarding the updated Covid-19 guidance for MTB!

<http://www.mountainbikeni.com/.../updated-covid-19.../>



MOUNTAINBIKENI.COM
Updated Covid-19 guidance for Mountain Biking - Mountain Bike NI
 Although many coronavirus restrictions have eased, regulations and guidance remain in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

1,537
 People reached

55
 Engagements

—
 Distribution score

Boost post

Like

Comment

Share



MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · May 20, 2021

...

We've the latest Covid-19 guidance on outdoor recreation:
mountainbikenl.com/news/42665/cov...

This will be updated on Thursday 10th June.



1



MountainBikeNI @MountainBikeNI · Oct 29, 2021

...

Partial DH Closure: The top section of Mega Mission is closed until further notice due to water damage.



2



4

