

## Appendix 1

### Rural Business Development Grants Scheme (TRPSI) 2022 – Successful Applicants

Organisation	Grant Award
C.P.R Clonoe Phone Repair	£849.50
Campervan Ireland Ltd	£4,999.00
Clogher Valley Guttering Ltd.	£588.77
Canavan Construction Ltd	£3,550.00
Wave the Animals LTD	£4,999.00
Cullear Engineering	£3,698.75
Adam Lyttle	£3,604.50
David A Scott Photography	£2,203.01
Mulgrew Construction & Utilities Ltd	£4,999.00
McErlean's Video	£2,540.95
Custom My Stuff	£2,187.49
Blossom Health NI	£3,764.50
Dreemore Gardening	£4,999.00
Wyse Bites	£1,192.14
Quinn Offsite Ltd	£4,999.00
All Spares	£4732.76
Big Tree Audio	£1,212.50
Dainty Robes	£4,999.00
Mid Ulster Metal Crafts	£4,999.00

Organisation	Grant Award
Origin Genetics Ltd	£4,731.18
GMT Metalworks Ltd	£4,999.00
Farrell Fencing Products Ltd	£4,999.00
Harkin's Pharmacy Ltd	£2,798.32
Lola and Stitch	£4,999.00
KAptured Moments	£1,730.00
Zen Therapies	£1,800.22
Homemade by Zoe	£649.01
Tir-Con Engineering Ltd	£4,999.00
Crucial Fabrications Ltd	£4,306.50
NorthPharma Consultancy Limited	£1,570.75
Glenshane Country Farm Ltd	£4,999.00
Larsplay Ltd	£4,050.00
Plant and Design Engineering	£4,999.00
Perfection by CMB	£1,370.00
Aughnacloy Autos	£1,317.00
Sean Rafferty	£3,989.99
Stephen McGuigan Duile Pottery	£2,161.59
Capa Ltd	£4,920.00
The Studio	£2,249.00
A1 Embroidery & Printing	£2,879.40

Organisation	Grant Award
AP MC Crory Engineering Ltd	£4,187.65
Mark Coyle Strength and Conditioning	£3,883.92
Valley Vehicle Repair	£3,975.00
Absolute Organic Wine Limited	£1,312.50
D McGorry haulage	£2,850.00
HES Engineering	£2,209.99
Speirs Landscapes	£3,623.50
Enhance Permanent Makeup By Rachael	£2,574.50
Specialist Concrete Solutions Ltd	£4,999.00
Tonagh Engineering Ltd	£2,465.00
RC Flat Roofing Systems Ltd	£4,999.00
Natrum Homeopathic Clinic & Dispensary	£4,250.00
CNC Ireland Ltd	£3,123.20
Thomas McVey (Dog Grooming)	£2,148.00
Ulster Ceramics Limited	£3,078.33
Rising PR	£1,756.01
JPS Netting Ltd	£4,999.00
Multitek Construction Ltd	£4,999.00
PM Boots	£1,697.27
TLC Grooming	£529.11
Electrotech Drives Ltd	£2,261.67

Organisation	Grant Award
SJ Conway Contracts & Plant Hire	£4,999.00
Oliver Corey Garages	£4,750.00
Property People Estate Agents	£4,625.75
Crushing Screening Parts Ltd	£4,999.00
Switch Electrics (Maghera) Ltd	£4,999.00
Tommy's Kitchen at Killymoon Castle	£3,618.00
Splash NI	£4,999.00
Pink Gate Design	£1,299.50
Digg for Success	£2,278.00
Annaginny Fishery Park Farm and Caravan Park	£1,914.58
PMA Trading	£3,337.50
Dynamic Equipment Ltd.	£4,999.00
Orla Rafferty Consulting	£2,098.00
SGK & Son 24HR Recovery Ltd	£551.28
Lennox Auto Services Ltd	£3,495.00
Kyle Davidson Tractor and Dump Trailer hire	£4,400.00
GMB Services (NI) Ltd	£4,969.70
Aecentus Ltd	£4,999.00
The Weatherbies	£2,393.52
NME Skin & Beauty	£4,999.00
Gerard O'Neill Engineering	£1,795.00

Organisation	Grant Award
ATF Buildings Ltd	£3,715.74
Torrent Credit Union Limited	£4,800.00
Brocagh Afterschool Club Ltd	£1,838.00
Architectural Timber Frames Ltd	£4,999.00
ML Dental Hygiene Clinic	£3,750.00
O'Gara Contracts Ltd	£4,999.00
Evander Hopper Design Ltd	£4,650.00
C & S Home Services NI Ltd	£4,050.00
Henry Murray Architectural services	£4,999.00
Weir & Co. (NI) Ltd	£4,825.00
Cutting Edge Prints Cookstown Ltd	£3,372.58
Heaney Brewing Company Ltd	£3,256.89
Devlin Glazing	£3,522.50
Blackhill Marquees	£4,794.50
David Preston Services	£3,183.97
Core Performance Gym	£2,058.50
Willow Moon Ireland	£954.00
Hills Agri Services	£4,999.00
CD Autorepairs	£3,354.00
Slatequarry Construction Ltd	£4,001.00
Carntogher Cabins	£4,999.00

Organisation	Grant Award
Vital Power Solutions LTD	£4,999.00
MC Music	£3,452.20
Bounce Abouts Ltd	£4,999.00
The Meadow Retreat	£4,999.00
Jimmy's Moy	£4,999.00
DTM Electrics Ltd	£1,838.26
Brenden Mulholland Plant Hire	£3,486.58
Sperrin Technical Laboratories Ltd	£3,932.50
Kirkpatrick Transport	£3,412.50
AMPM Flow & Energy Services Ltd	£694.00
Barran Yennie Peat Products	£4,999.00
LE Haslett & CO LTD	£4,999.00
Mid Ulster Pilates & Physiotherapy	£4,999.00
Precision Woodworks	£2,083.30
Home Cosmetics Ltd	£3,709.00
Harvey Hill Contracts Ltd	£988.11
Gary Davidson	£4,670.00
Philip Doyle Contracts	£1,917.26
Clear Sky Renewables Limited	£3,975.00
Gribbin Developments Ltd	£4,999.00
Wheelie Klean	£3,980.00

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>
Libre Interiors Ltd	£4,762.50
Gorestown Garden Products	£4,999.00
™ The Purist	£1,881.00
SOH Joinery	£3,735.95
R A Blair Ltd	£4,999.00
ECP Engineering Ltd	£4,576.50
Momentum Fitness	£3,827.51
Daly Mechanical Design	£4,999.00
TCS Contract Services	£2,594.00
Beyond Borders Film Limited	£2,588.50
Weir Bros Construction NI Ltd	£4,999.00
B-Bold (EU) Limited	£2,497.50
<b>Successful Applicants</b>	<b>Total LoO Amount</b>
<b>136</b>	<b>£429,902.22</b>

## Appendix 2A

### Minutes of Tourism Development Group Meeting dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

#### Present

<b>Hugh McCloy</b>	<b>Deputy Chair</b>
<b>Mary McKeown</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Council</b>
<b>Mary McGee</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Council</b>
<b>Charmain Bell</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Council</b>
<b>Grace Booth</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Council</b>
<b>Martha Beattie</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Council</b>
<b>Genevieve Bell</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Council</b>
<b>Norman Bell</b>	<b>Killymoon Castle</b>
<b>Richard Mulholland</b>	<b>Ballyscullion Park</b>
<b>Kieran Walsh</b>	<b>Walsh's Hotel</b>
<b>Simon Wiggins</b>	<b>South West College</b>
<b>Dermot Friel</b>	<b>Friel's Bar</b>
<b>Cathy O'Neill</b>	<b>Friel's Bar</b>
<b>Claire Murray</b>	<b>Deli on The Green</b>
<b>Cllr Niamh Doris</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Council</b>
<b>Cllr Sean Clarke</b>	<b>Mid Ulster Council</b>

	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>
	<p><b>Welcome</b> H McCloy chaired the meeting. Displayed minutes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and briefly outlined contents for accuracy.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Cllr Frances Burton, Mid Ulster Council Cllr Martin Kearney Mid Ulster Council Tanya Purvis, South West College Anne Birt-MacCartney, Northern Regional College Allison O'Keefe Mid Ulster Council Fiona McKeown Mid Ulster Council</p>	
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022</b> Circulated in advance of the meeting</p> <p><i>Proposed: Richard Mulholland    Seconded: Dermot Friel</i></p>	



2.	<b>Matters Arising</b> N/A	
3.	<b>Industry Update – TDG Members</b>  <b>Friels Bar</b> D Friel stated they submitted an application for Experiential Grant scheme with TNI for funding for Famine project. TNI facing budget constraints. Weekends are busy, up to 6 day week. Opened hen house out the back, good addition to property. Pizza offer at the weekends.  C O'Neill contact from further two tour operators hoping to do business.  <b>Ballyscullion Park</b> R Mulholland said that they had small tour groups, 16 people. Problems with getting people to stay in Mid Ulster. Tour group stay in bigger cities i.e. Derry and Belfast. Busy weekend with weddings.  D Friel said the Hotel cluster group will promote stays in Mid Ulster. Cluster members to develop product.  M McKeown, said she had a meeting with Game of Thrones in Banbridge. Game of Thrones tour business fluctuating with fuel prices affecting travelling.  <b>Walsh's Hotel</b> K Walsh said the hotel business has peaks and quieter times. It is a challenge to get people to stay in Mid Ulster. They had their first hen party stay in the new pods. Electricity bills are very high.  N Bell received feedback on the cost of hotels in Belfast and Dublin. He suggested that hotels in Mid Ulster should offer cheaper prices compared to cities to attract people to stay in Mid Ulster.  <b>Deli on the Green</b> C Murray said they are still experiencing staffing issues, staff can't take their holidays. They may have to make a decision to close a couple of days during the week to allow staff to get their holidays. August is a busy month. Jubilee weekend was busy. 20% VAT in April has impacted the restaurant.  <b>Killymoon Castle</b> N Bell said that tours are increasing, rise in small tour groups. Launch of WW2 tour and hidden heritage tour very	Address issue with travel time on buses with tour groups.

<p>4.</p>	<p>successful. He praised tourism staff in Council for their work on this and also highlighted the importance of networking with other local businesses to help encourage stays in Mid Ulster.</p> <p>M McGee said that ROI footfall is quiet in rural areas due to rising costs and fuel prices.</p> <p>M McKeown spoke to Esther Dobbins, National Trust Manager in Causeway. They can only take 4-5 coaches for their tours, encouraging this during off-peak times which has meant visitors have to stay an additional night.</p> <p><b>South West College</b> S Wiggins said they were going to focus on recruitment of courses starting in September. Offering apprenticeships in catering and hospitality which gives the opportunity to earn and learn at the same time.</p> <p>Cllr S Clarkes asked how do you attract people into apprenticeships? The College needs to be more proactive in making it clear that there are opportunities in the hospitality sector. Cllr N Doris agreed with this point, highlighting that Travel and Tourism courses offer a lot of transferable skills.</p> <p>C Murray said educational institutes need to approach the industry to promote apprenticeships and there is now need for full time courses in hospitality. S Wiggins highlighted that students starting out in the industry do require at least 2 years to study before being ready to enter into the workplace.</p> <p><b>Embrace tours</b> H McCloy said the wand making was successful. Outlook for next year, may be issues with travel &amp; accommodation.</p> <p><b>Business Engagement Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colin Neill webinar 'Facing the Challenges'</li> <li>• Unwinding time brand – training with McCadden</li> <li>• Tourism E-zine – monthly</li> <li>• A O'Keefe attended Royal Highland Show</li> <li>• Attending Clogher Valley Show (Tourism team have a stand)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Network with Mid Ulster to push tour operators down this way.</i></p>
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5.	<b>Tourism Development Group Restructure</b> M McGee said paper to go to Council for approval, lots of change in Council and need to review terms of reference. Feedback provided in next TDG meeting in Sept.	
6.	<b>Cluster Reports</b> Cluster reports circulated prior to meeting & shared on screen.	
6.1	<u><b>Seamus Heaney</b></u> No further comments	
6.2	<u><b>Archaeology, History &amp; Heritage</b></u> G Bell said there was a fourth date added to the Hidden Heritage Tours. Poetry and prayer tour on 7 <sup>th</sup> July. The tour will leave from The Burnavon, go onto Ardboe cross, Washingbay and Benburb Priory.  This has been promoted through social media and the Visit Mid Ulster website.  The Hidden Heritage tour in Killymoon 18 <sup>th</sup> June, very successful. C Bell spoke with Dorothy, next tour is nearly fully booked.	
6.3	<u><b>Outdoor Activities</b></u> No further comments.	
6.4	<u><b>Taste Mid Ulster Cluster</b></u> M McGee said they will take on board S Wiggins apprenticeship programme. Mentoring and training planned with group of businesses, need for greater footfall.	M McGee to feed information back out to wider industry and filter through the cluster re apprenticeships
6.5	<u><b>NEW Clogher Valley Cluster</b></u> M McGee said groups of businesses in Clogher Valley have been successful in getting a collaborative growth programme funded - phase 1 4 businesses have submitted an application. Applications had been successful, businesses had received their Letter of Offer. The group are starting in next few weeks to appoint a facilitator to implement phase 1 scoping study. Heaney Cluster in phase 2. Recruitment of other businesses in Clogher valley into the cluster an output.	
7.	<b>Visitor Monitoring Results</b> Circulated prior to meeting & figures shared on screen.	

	<p>M McKeown said new monitors are in for Fivemiletown Roundlake, Solar Walk (installed on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 22) had 6,195 people. Figures have all increased, based on a quarterly basis and Washingbay.</p> <p><b>8. Brown Signage</b>  G Bell said a paper for brown signage audit has been put together for next Council meeting to seek approval to recruit a company to conduct an audit in Mid Ulster. An audit will be carried out on signs that are currently there and on what's missing. This will commence in Autumn and take a 6 month period to complete. G Bell has corresponded with transport NI.</p> <p>D Friel asked is this being done in any other Council areas in the North? G Bell responded that no, this isn't. This is being conducted in-house.</p> <p>Cllr S Clarke asked in relation to the Sperrins scenic route signage. M McKeown conducted an exercise with M McGuigan, through Sperrins partnership doing a new scenic driving route and added in experiences to include Beaghmore, Lissan House and Friel's bar in Swatragh. It was also noted that signs need removed from those B&amp;B's that have closed down.</p> <p><b>H McCloy exited meeting at 11:20am.</b></p> <p><b>9. Summer Marketing Campaign Update</b>  M McKeown said that during Covid TNi provided match funding to assist in our campaigns. However funding is now not available and it is back to existing core funding, with a smaller budget of £12,000 this season. M McKeown said we need a bigger budget for campaigns in autumn/winter.</p> <p>M McKeown highlighted that through our campaigns the most effective method is digital, we are able to measure visitors and numbers through the Facebook page able to measure visitors and numbers.</p> <p>Tourism worked alongside the Marketing &amp; Communications to draw up the summer marketing campaign. This involved Stories from the Shore – Legends of the Lough, Lough Neagh and the Emigrants Walk. Council will partner with U105 to run competitions on social media and on the radio. This was an overnight stay in the new Ballyronan glamping pods. The campaign is running from 22<sup>nd</sup> June – through to July.</p>	
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10.	<p>Digital advertising is running through to August.</p> <p>M McKeown also mentioned the redevelopment of Ballyronan. J Kerr was commissioned to do the video of the Lough Shore, boat tours, Jigsaw Farm, Lough Neagh stories and Seamus Heaney Open Ground walk.</p> <p>There is an influencer coming in July, and an online campaign and radio advertising.</p> <p>20 summer offers through TNI on our Visit Mid Ulster website.</p> <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>M McGee mentioned that the Carbon Literacy course would be pushed back to Autumn. M McKeown said that A O'Keefe would be attending the Tourism awards on behalf of Mid Ulster. A O'Keefe attended the Royal Highland Show, and commented that our outdoor products were strong.</p> <p>G Bell mentioned the Great Days Out event which will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> Oct in The Glenavon Hotel, previously this event has been very successful.</p> <p>M McGee highlighted the launch of Tourism awards (NI Giant spirits awards) on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and wants to encourage businesses to enter. This has been promoted in the WhatsApp group.</p> <p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 11am venue TBC.</p>	<p>G Bell to report back approval from council in September meeting.</p>
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## **Appendix 2B**

### **Mid Ulster Council Tourism Development Group Officers Cluster Report – 29 June 2022**

#### **1. SEAMUS HEANEY CLUSTER – M MCGEE/C BELL**

Lara Goodall Consulting has commenced delivering the Phase 2 Collaborative Growth Programme with this group.

Members have signed up to at least one of the sub-groups, which are:

- Governance & Recruitment; and
- Skills Development
- Business Development;
- Festivals / Events;
- Marketing & Comms;

These sub-group meetings are now established and initial meetings to agree actions plans have commenced.

#### **Branding**

Brand identity process is underway. Initial brand concepts have been developed and are to be reviewed and selected by the cluster members. Launch of the new brand will be scheduled for mid-September 2022.

#### **Business Development**

Drop-in sessions have commenced with the businesses with the first offering support to identify opportunities to access grant funded Innovation Support through Invest NI. A number of the cluster businesses (4) to date have taken advantage of this in terms of reviewing their pricing strategy, making a Rural Development Grant application, securing Intertrade Ireland's Digital Marketing Support, accessing Intertrade Ireland's Elevate programme and reviewing business TNI funding application.

#### **Ezine**

The team has developed a monthly newsletter that will keep members up to date on activities within the group and funding / training opportunities.

#### **Governance**

The sub-group has been established and is completing a Governance Health Check. This will then guide the development of an action plan to develop a Code of Good Governance for the MUTC.

#### **2. ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY & HERITAGE CLUSTER – G BELL/M MCKEOWN**

The cluster group met for the first face to face meeting in over 2 years at Killymoon Castle on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**Presentation from the Planning Conservation Office of MUDC**

Sarah McNamee from the Planning Conservation Office MUDC: Environment and Conservation Section within the Local Development Plan Team under Strategic Planning provided a very comprehensive presentation on her role within MUDC and her own interest in heritage. Sarah has a RSUA Certificate in Historic Building Conservation and is the current secretary for the NI Branch for the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (from 2016).

Sarah is available to provide advice and guidance around relevant heritage funding opportunities that become available.

### **Hidden Heritage Tours 2022**

Hidden Heritage events have been arranged for 2022 and advertised through the Council social media. Numbers capped at 20. Bus leaves from the Burnavon, Cookstown and attendance at these events must be booked in advance.

- 18 June 2022 - Milky Bar Commando at Killymoon Castle
- 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - The Village of Ages, Donaghmore
- 8 October 2022 - The Emigrant's Walk, Carntogher mountain

### **Update from Cluster Members**

Engagement remains very positive within the group and with doors back open again for most businesses, members are seeing an increase in bookings for the Summer season.

## **3. OUTDOOR & EVENTS CLUSTER – A O Keefe/ C Bell**

### **Sperrins Hillwalking Festival**

Following a procurement exercise Far and Wild have been appointed to plan, organise, deliver and manage a two-day walking event delivered over four different weekends during the months of September 22 and March 23 across the four Council areas within the Sperrins.

Far and Wild, in partnership with each Council, will be responsible to develop a programme for themed walks to include local heritage, photography etc. and will emphasise the walking/countryside experience.

A joint Sperrins Partnership marketing template will be used by each Council and to promote the Festival across their digital platforms and [discovernorthernireland.com](https://discovernorthernireland.com). Promotion will be begin before the end of June. Bookings for each event will be made through Sperrins Partnership.

Mid Ulster Council Hill Walking event will take place 24 -25 September 2022

## **4. HOSPITALITY CLUSTER – CBELL/M MCGEE**

The Taste Mid Ulster programme was successfully launched by Mr Paul McLean, Council Chair as part of The Banquet celebration on Hill of The O'Neill, Dungannon on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

We currently have 17 businesses from across Mid Ulster signed up to this programme.

We plan to roll out a barometer survey across our businesses to give us real time feedback from them and allow us to be more responsive to the good and bad news out there.

This will be complemented by a planned chef skills programme set to commence in the Autumn.

The development and launch of Taste Mid Ulster is very much Phase 1 of our work with these businesses, we plan to further develop and promote Taste Mid Ulster in this current year and into the future.

In spite of all this the sector is going through real difficulty at the minute, with a “perfect storm” of energy cost hikes, staff shortages, wage pressures, VAT and rates.

**Colin Neil, Hospitality Ulster will join us and present to and advise this sector in a “Facing the Challenges” webinar on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 10am.**





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Department for  
**Communities**

ADD TO PLANNER 



## Saint Patrick's Chair & Well EHOD 2022

Augher

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

Clogher Parish invite you on a guided tour of Saint Patricks Chair & Well, in the picturesque wooded glen of Altadavin, Augher.

11 Sept 2022 Open 13:00 - 14:30

Free

BOOK NOW >

MORE INFO >

ADD TO PLANNER >



## Village Walk Clogher EHOD 2022

Clogher

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

Come and join us for walk around Clogher village.

9 Sept 2022 Open 19:00 - 21:00

Free

BOOK NOW >

MORE INFO >

ADD TO PLANNER >



## The Emigrant's Walk EHOD 2022

Maghera

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

The Emigrant's Walk - Taster tour & self guided walk on Saturday and Sunday at 10am

10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022 Open 10:00 - 17:00

Free

BOOK NOW >

MORE INFO >

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## Benburb Priory and Benburb Castle Open Day EHOD 2022

Benburb

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

Opened in 1997 and opening again in 2022 is Benburb Priory and Benburb Castle. A great day with living history characters to engage with you and tell you the history of the castle.

10 Sept 2022 Open 10:00 - 16:00

Free

MORE INFO >

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## Clonfeacle Parish Church (St. Patrick's) Benburb for EHOD 2022

Benburb

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

Clonfeacle Parish Church (St Patrick's) Benburb is a Plantation church dating from 1618. It is one of the oldest churches in the Diocese of Armagh still in regular use.

10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022 Various Opening Times

Free

MORE INFO >

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## Katie's Cottage for EHOD 2022

Bellaghy

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

The cottage is a fine example of a vernacular building and is a rare one and a half storey Grade B+ listed thatched cottage circa 1830. It was fully restored and renovated to a high standard in 2016/2017.

11 Sept 2022 Open 12:00 - 18:00

Free

MORE INFO >

ADD TO PLANNER >



## The Bridewell Living History Tours for EHOD 2022

Magherafelt

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

The Bridewell, an 1804 Courthouse and Gaol will be brought back to life with living history tours giving visitors the opportunity to experience life in the original cells of The Bridewell and participate in activities in the exercise yard!

10 Sept 2022 Open 09:30 - 17:00

Free

MORE INFO >

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## Lissan House for EHOD 2022

Cookstown

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

his EHOD, the house will be open for a free flow tour of the ground floor. A guide in each room will tell you something of that particular room, important contents and stories of the family characters who used to live and sleep under it's roof.

10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022 Open 11:00 - 15:00

Free

MORE INFO >

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## Tyrone Crafted Glass EHOD 2022

Coalisland

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

Tyrone Crafted Glass celebrate the legacy of the famous Tyrone Crystal factory which closed in 2010.

10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022 Open 12:00 - 15:00

Free

MORE INFO

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## Wellbrook Beetling Mill EHOD 2022

Cookstown

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

Discover Northern Ireland's last working water-powered linen beetling mill.

10 Sept 2022 Open 12:00 - 15:00

Free

MORE INFO

ADD TO PLANNER



## The Argory for EHOD 2022

Dungannon

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

Free flow self-guided tours of the house (with room guides manning the showrooms).

10 Sept 2022 Open 11:00 - 17:00

Free

MORE INFO

ADD TO PLANNER



## Springhill for EHOD 2022

Moneymore

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

A pretty plantation home revealing a family home with portraits, furniture and decorative arts.

10 Sept 2022 Open 11:00 - 17:00

Free

MORE INFO

ADD TO PLANNER



## Saint Michael's Parish Church for EHOD 2022

Clonee

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

Saint Michael's parish church is an historic building operating since the 15th Century.

10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022 Various Opening Times

Free

MORE INFO

ADD TO PLANNER



## Tullahoge Fort for EHOD 2022

Tullyhogue

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

This magnificent hilltop enclosure came into historical prominence in the 11th century when it was a dynastic centre and inauguration place of the Cenel nEogain (later the O'Neills). It was the residence of the O'Hagans who, with the O'Cahans,...

10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022 Various Opening Times

Free

MORE INFO

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## Coalisland Museum & Heritage Centre for EHOD 2022

Coalisland

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

Coalisland Museum & Heritage Centre introduces the remarkable history of this unique region.

10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022 Open 12:00 - 16:00

Free

MORE INFO

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## Errigal Heritage Centre - Mullanacross EHOD 2022

Aughnacloy

EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)


Community voluntary organisation Truagh Development Association, will have guides on hand to provide information on the history of the area as you visit the region for European Heritage Open days.

10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022 Open 11:00 - 16:00

Free

MORE INFO

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## Draperstown's Unique Heritage EHOD 2022

**Draperstown**  
EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)


The three churches surrounding the planned central triangle will be open for visits on the afternoon of Saturday 10 September and visitors can also follow a self-guided audio trail around the village

**10 Sept 2022** *Open 14:00 - 17:00*

Free

MORE INFO

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## Saint Macartan's Church, (The Forth) for EHOD 2022

**Aughier**  
EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)


Clogher Parish invite you on a guided tour of Saint Macartan's Church, Augher (The Forth Chapel).

**10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022** *Open 15:00 - 16:30*

Free

MORE INFO

ADD TO PLANNER



## Saint Michael's Parish Church for EHOD 2022

**Clonoe**  
EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)


Saint Michael's parish church is an historic building operating since the 15th Century.

**10 Sept 2022 to 11 Sept 2022** *Various Opening Times*

Free

MORE INFO

ADD TO PLANNER



## Benburb Priory and Benburb Castle Open Day EHOD 2022

**Benburb**  
EHOD (European Heritage Open Days)

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### Note:

The following events were also included in EHOD 2022 and were submitted to Discover Northern Ireland after this report was generated. In total 24 events took place across Mid Ulster.

- Caledon Mill Beam Engine
- Caledon Wool Store
- Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House Tours

<b>Report on</b>	River Blackwater Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	11 October 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Head of Technical Services

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>River Blackwater Feasibility Study</b> The River Blackwater has its source to the north of Fivemiletown, and divides the Counties of Armagh, Tyrone and Monaghan, entering Lough Neagh at Maghery.</p> <p>The river flows into Lough Neagh, which is the biggest Lough in the UK and Ireland and is situated in the centre of Northern Ireland. The Lough has no navigation authority but has a marker system maintained at favour by the Department for Infrastructure.</p> <p>Blackwater Community Barge Project made a request to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council and Mid Ulster District Council to carry out a study that would present short term and long-term solutions for the Blackwater, address issues raised and realise the economic tourism potential of the river. A Report was brought to Council in May 2022 with a River Blackwater Feasibility Study.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>River Blackwater Feasibility Study</b> In October 2021, Council commissioned a Feasibility Study for the River Blackwater; the study looked at the economic and tourism potential along the river. The Study has been completed and contains a series of recommendations and indicative costs presented.</p> <p>The main points covered within the study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of river boundary on relevant maps.</li> <li>• Identification of any special environmental and landscape features, character and designations associated with the River Blackwater.</li> </ul>

- Identification of the main legal responsibilities for the river in terms of planning, boating, tourism development, navigation, water quality, flooding, dredging, waste disposal, and funding.
- Context of previous River Blackwater studies and recommendations.
- Details of current tourism and community activity along the River Blackwater
- Consultation and feedback received from all relevant tourism stakeholders.
- Stakeholder consultation and identification of technical requirements and cost estimates for dredging the mouth of the river and repeat maintenance costs. Requirements for Planning, NIEA, HED and dredged waste disposal permissions identified.
- Assessment of connectivity between River Blackwater and Ulster Canal, Lough Neagh main towns that run along the river and Lough Neagh itself.
- Provide recommendations for potential development projects along the river.
- Identification of potential funding sources and lobbying opportunities for all potential river project work.

3.2 On 27 June 2022 a group of senior staff from both Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Mid Ulster Borough Council met at Oxford Island Craigavon to discuss the issues of dredging the mouth of the river Blackwater as a first stage on one pilot action to develop the larger navigable part of the Blackwater River.

There are two distinct channels by which the Blackwater River can access Lough Neagh to consider for potential dredging :

1. Straight to the river mouth where it opens into the Lough – The river is of navigational depth until it accesses the Lough, at which point, water clearance disappears and the channel is only few inches deep due to existing geology, rocks etc and the constant flow of storm drainage down the river settling when it meets with the greater water mass of Lough Neagh. This is obviously why Victorians decided to cut the Maghery Channel as part of the Canal Network at that time of construction.

**Conclusion - Too Expensive, very regular clearing would be required, technical feasibility to complete is unknown until much more detailed survey and core samples would need to be taken across the silt/debris bank.**

2. Maghery River Cutting, this is a 5 foot deep channel cut by the Victorians sometime around the turn of the century to enable canal traffic from Coalisland , Moy etc. The cutting itself is at or about 5 foot navigational depth, however the access into the Lough is severely silted and requires a channel cut to maintain accessibility for boat traffic.

	<p><b>Conclusion - Less expensive, Maghery Channel cut by the Victorians as the preferred access option at that time, less material to potentially remove to achieve a navigational channel.</b></p> <p>In practical terms, the Option 1 would technically be a shared enterprise with Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council given the District Boundaries meet in the middle of the River. With Option 2 – Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council are the principle authority as it is in their District. However we indicated at the June Officer meeting that MUDC would be prepared to assist through a Partnership Agreement or similar in seeking to move the project on. Both Councils need to move forward together.</p> <p>Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council have indicated that they would require further clarification about stepping into this space given the roles of DFI Rivers and Waterways Ireland. It is necessary to obtain some further assurances around this and potential for liability for any damage or issues going forward, along with continued responsibility for dredging in ad finitum. These issues have been previously flagged with DFI, with no real answers forthcoming.</p> <p>Potential Issues for Members to consider :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Least expensive and most achievable solution is to clear a channel at the end of the Maghery Cutting.</li> <li>2. The cutting is in Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council territory and as such MUDC can assist and support through a Partnership Agreement but Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon must be prepared to come forward in these discussions.</li> <li>3. Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council indicated they would like to see some legal viries why Council would undertake this work and not DFI / Rivers Agency / Waterways Ireland.</li> <li>4. MUDC / Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council need assurances on ongoing liabilities and who keeps the dredged channel clear going forward.</li> <li>5. There are some very technical assessments being demanded by NIEA even before anyone starts.</li> <li>6. It is suggested that a DAERA / DFI steering group needs established to consider the issues and provide a clear basis for any action by Councils going forward as well as consider the plugging of the legislative gap to enable the normal Agencies to fulfil their statutory responsibilities.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
<p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p>



	<b>Financial:</b> Required survey work at this stage will include a cost of approximately £40k.
	<b>Human:</b> Officer Time
	<b>Risk Management:</b> The environmental and technical requirements of the project will not be fully known until further survey work is undertaken.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications:  As per Council policy.
	Rural Needs Implications:  As per Council policy.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and approve that officers progress undertaking required survey work subject to Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Council agreeing to work in partnership and funding 50% of the cost of fees for legal and technical survey work required at this stage.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix 1 – Report for Lough Neagh Steering Group Appendix 2 – Summary update presentation



## **REPORT FOR LOUGH NEAGH BLACKWATER DREDGING STEERING GROUP 1/SEP/2022 G DARBY LNP**

### **BACKGROUND**

On 27 June 2022 a group of senior staff from both Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Mid Ulster Borough Council met at Oxford Island Craigavon to discuss the issues of dredging the mouth of the river Blackwater as a first stage one pilot action to develop the larger navigable part of the Blackwater River. This proposal will build on previous discussions between the Lough Neagh Partnership, the Department for Infrastructure and local stakeholders and local MLAs/MPs. After a number of presentations and discussions a way forward was agreed to commence in September 2022 after the summer recess. It was agreed that the tenders would be lead and coordinated by Mid Ulster District Council technical engineering section in September. This would be paid for upfront by Mid Ulster Council and then costs of two studies split between two Councils. The steering group would meet again at the end of Oct 2022.

### **WAY FORWARD**

To progress this proposal MUDC will have to complete the following main actions (Please note, all these actions should be developed and implemented in consultation with NIEA and relevant stakeholders): It is important to note that Mark Levy from MUDC has already meet with Waterways Ireland engineering staff to get specifications for the bathometry and chemical sampling tenders. Appendix One and two are LNP thoughts of tender specification requirements that may be of some help and assistance with cost estimates and recommended consultants

- a. Bathymetric survey of the project area to determine substrate depth and to quantify the volume of material to be removed (dredged) Sep 2022. See appendix One
- b. Based upon the above survey, prepare a sediment sampling programme and collect surface and at depth samples. These are required to quantify potential contaminant levels and to inform how the dredged material will be disposed. Timescale: Sep 2022. See appendix Two
- c. An extended Phase 1 habitat survey which is a core element of an ecological appraisal to highlight any potential ecological constraints to the proposal, as well as identifying opportunities for ecological enhancement. This is especially important in respect of the designation features of the River and Lough. Timescale: Oct 2022

- d. These three surveys in combination will provide sufficient data to inform the next set of report requirements. These specifications can be discussed at the Oct steering group meeting: (Timescale Nov – Dec 2022)
  - a. Habitat Regulation/ Appropriate Assessment Report
  - b. Waste management and disposal methodology
  - c. Implementation Environmental Management Plan
  - d. Habitat/Species impact mitigation measures
  - e. Cost
- e. Make formal applications to NIEA, Planners and other relevant permission bodies: Timescale: Jan 2023

## **OTHER AREAS**

A separate Blackwater Development Study and Plan and Lough Neagh Strategic Review and Plan has been developed by MUDC and LNP. The steering group for the dredging of the Blackwater should be extended to include senior representatives from the three main relevant Departments and act as a formal Management and Coordination Body for the Lough and navigable rivers. It was suggested that the new group are to meet twice a year and the use the above two plans as working tools. This builds on the formal passing of Lough Neagh and Navigable River motions by all three of the main Councils and the recent greater interest shown by Minister O Dowd and DFI staff in Lough Neagh.

## **APPENDIX ONE: BATHOMETRY SURVEY**

### **Tender Purpose**

Mid Ulster District Council wish to procure the services of a competent contractor to undertake a single beam bathymetric survey on a section of the River Blackwater, N. Ireland in advance of planned dredging works to maintain and deepen a proposed navigation channel. (MUDC to provide map area at mouth of river and at Canal cut and see estimate of sand accumulation at both sites and estimate which is the best preferred site with least amount of material to be dredged, the best value and better navigation requirements.)

### **Suggested company :**

Six-West Ltd

3c Heron Wharf

Heron Wharf Road

Belfast

Tel: 028 90731917

Email: [info@six-west.com](mailto:info@six-west.com)

Web: <https://six-west.com/service/survey/hydrographic-survey/>

Estimated Cost £2000 - £4000

## **APPENDIX TWO: SEDIMENT SAMPLING SURVEY REQUIREMENTS**

### **Tender Purpose**

Mid Ulster District Council are seeking tender submissions to undertake a geo-environmental Sediment and Water Sampling survey on a section of the River Blackwater, N. Ireland (Map indicating area at river mouth and Canal Cut to be provided to NIEA) in advance of planned dredging works to maintain and deepen the existing channel where it enters Lough Neagh. The Sediment and Water sampling exercise will involve both the onsite collection and off site chemical analysis of sediment and water samples for potential contaminants. The sediment samples will also undergo Particle Size Analysis (PSA).

### **Supplier Requirements**

1. Prepare a sediment sampling plan **which must be endorsed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)**. The sample plan will set out the sample locations as well as the specific biological, chemical and physical analysis requirements. At a minimum, sediment samples should be analysed for substances that are considered of most concern for the freshwater environment, those which have combined properties of persistence, toxicity and liability to bio accumulate including organotin compounds, heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and oils.
2. Subject to the recommendations of the sediment sampling plan, complete a combination of 'sediment surface' and 'at depth' sampling within the dredge envelope. The 'at depth' samples will be determined from the results of a bathymetric survey.
3. All samples, to be analysed by a Marine Management Organisation validated laboratory and compared against the Action 1 and Action 2 guidance values for sediment quality in the Northern Ireland Guidance: Dredging, Disposal and Aggregate Dredging, under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (NIEA, 2012).
4. Production of a report and associated maps outlining the analysis findings measured against existing waste management and disposal parameters and protocols. The validated laboratory must also provide a chain of custody evidence in support of the analysis results to prove samples have been handled and stored correctly.

### **Note on sediment quality standards**

The input of heavy and trace metals may cause contamination in aquatic sediments. Assessing the environmental importance of metal concentrations can be done by comparing collected sediment quality data to known background concentrations and sediment quality standards, however, there are currently no freshwater sediment quality standards for NI or UK.

Information and standards exist for marine systems and dredged material disposal. A set of quality standards, comparable to the marine ones, are those provided by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). These are commonly used, globally, on freshwater projects due to the absence of other aquatic sediment quality thresholds. The CCME provide freshwater sediment quality guidelines for the following metals; arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), copper (Cu), mercury (Hg), lead (Pb) and zinc (Zn). These metals are given sediment quality guidelines due to their known ability at high enough concentrations to cause toxic effects to aquatic species. The CCME defines two assessment values:

1. Interim Sediment Quality Guidelines (ISQG) / Threshold effect level (TEL): This represents the concentration below which adverse biological effects are rarely expected to occur.
2. Probable effect level (PEL): The level above which adverse effects are expected to occur frequently.

Where there are no suitable freshwater sediment quality standards, marine standards will be utilised such as the Action Levels provided by CEFAS. Definitions for CEFAS action levels are provided below:

1. AL-1: contaminant concentrations where concerns over the quantity and nature of the material and characteristics of the receiving area need to be taken into account; and
2. AL-2: contaminant concentrations which will generally preclude disposal at sea.

For this proposal, it is recommended that samples are compared against the Action Level 1 and Action Level 2 guidance values for sediment quality in the Northern Ireland Guidance: Dredging, Disposal and Aggregate Dredging, under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (NIEA, 2012) (see <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-guidance-dredging-disposal-and-aggregate-dredging-under-part-4-marine-and-coastal> )

#### **Note on sediment sampling methodology.**

- A combination of '*sediment surface*' and '*at depth*' sampling will take place. The '*at depth*' samples will be determined from the results of a bathymetric survey but as an indication at this stage, they should be taken at depths of 1m and 3m below the substrate surface for all '*at depth*' sample locations.
- A sampling pattern will comprise 15 locations along the length of the canal and / or river mouth. The locations selected for analysis will determine the

presence of contaminants in the deposits. The selection criteria should be designed to maintain a representative coverage across the study area whilst also allowing for the distribution of contaminants within the deposit down to the likely dredging depth (dependent on the findings of the bathymetry survey as referenced above).

- Sediment samples will be analysed for substances that are considered of most concern for the freshwater environment, those which have combined properties of persistence, toxicity and liability to bioaccumulate. Samples should therefore be analysed for a range of determinants (organic matter content, metals, nutrients, polychlorinated biphenyls - PCBs, pesticides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons - PAHs).

**Suggested Company**

RPS Consultancy

**Estimated Cost**

£5000 - £6000





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# Mid Ulster District Council

## River Blackwater

## Summary Update

27<sup>th</sup> June 2022





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- 2. River Blackwater**
- 3. Maghery Canal**
- 4. Sandbank**
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- 6. Calculation of Costs**
- 7. Maps and Images**

## Overview Map



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Three areas have been reviewed;

- The River Blackwater
- The sandbank located In Lough Neagh
- The Maghery Canal and canal entrance into Lough Neagh





## River Blackwater Review

- Current navigation depth is 9-12ft (2.7m-3.6m)
- From advice from various specialists safe navigation is recommended at least 1.5m.
- Therefore there doesn't appear to be any issue along this section of the river.
- However, it would be important to complete a bathymetric survey to confirm navigation depths and ensure it is consistent across the width and length of the river.
- Based on current info there would be no dredging works required.







## Maghery Canal Review

- Current navigation depth is 5ft (1.524m) along the canal.
- There is little freeboard in this section and it would be prudent to survey this but for consideration of costs 0.5m has been allowed for dredging.
- The section where the canal enters Lough Neagh has little navigation depth. DFI rivers hadn't completed investigation here but sand banks are evident in this section during navigation.
- Estimated dredging costs - £165k (3718m<sup>3</sup>) + dredging of the entrance channel ( blue dashed line ) estimate £300k
- A full bathometric survey will need completed to confirm the extent of works.





## Sandbank Review

- Current navigation depth is 1-3ft (0.3m-0.9m)
- The sandbank is approx. 25,000m<sup>2</sup>
- From advice from various specialists safe navigation is recommended at least 1.5m.
- There would be two options;
  - Remove the entire sand bank Est cost of £3.6m ( See table at end)
  - Cut a 20m wide navigation channel through the sand bank. Est cost £280k
- An important note to consider unless there is a significant traffic volume of large boats through the channel then it will continue to silt up and the dredging process will need repeated every 5-7 years.





## Summary of Est Costs

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### Summary of Est Costs

- River Blackwater - £0.00
- Maghery Canal + entrance - £470k
- Sand bank – 20m navigation Channel - £280k
- Surveys - £38k + £20k for any others
- **Total - £808k + ICT fee Est £80k therefore project estimate is £900k approx.**

### Surveys required would be the following and could be commenced now;

- HRA – I have been advised if full 3 stages are required then it could be in the region of £30k
- Bathometric survey - £5k - £8k ( This will determine the volumes of material to be dredged to give a more accurate pre cost estimate.
- WAC Testing – Waste Acceptance Criteria to determine where it can be disposed. - £2k-4k





## Background Calculation of Costs

Location	Overall Length	Chainage (m)	Section Length (m)	Width (m)	Adjusted Width (m)	Area m2	Existing Depth (m)	Proposed Depth (m)	Proposed Dredging Depth (m)	Volume m3	Excavate Disposal Rate per m3	Cost
River Black Water Green Line	880m					44,432m2	3		N/A	N/A	N/A	£0
Location	Overall Length	Chainage (m)	Section Length (m)	Width (m)	Adjusted Width (m)	Area m2	Existing Depth (m)	Proposed Depth (m)	Proposed Dredging Depth (m)	Volume m3	Excavate Disposal Rate per m3	Cost
Option 1- Dredge entire sand bank- Yellow Area						25,324m2	0.3	1.5	1.20	30389m3	£120	£3,646,656
Option 2- Cut a 20m channel through sand bank						1,926m2	0.3	1.5	1.20	2311m3	£120	£277,344
Location	Overall Length	Chainage (m)	Section Length (m)	Width (m)	Adjusted Width (m)	Area m2	Existing Depth (m)	Proposed Depth (m)	Proposed Dredging Depth (m)	Volume m3	Excavate Disposal Rate per m3	Cost
Maghery Canal Orange Line	470m	0-50	50	21	19	950	1.524	1.70	0.176	167.2	£120	£20,064
		50-100	50	16	14	700	1.524	1.70	0.176	123.2	£120	£14,784
		100-150	50	18	16	800	1.524	1.70	0.176	140.8	£120	£16,896
		150-200	50	22	20	1000	1.524	1.70	0.176	176	£120	£21,120
		200-250	50	18	16	800	1.524	1.70	0.176	140.8	£120	£16,896
		250-300	50	18	16	800	1.524	1.70	0.176	140.8	£120	£16,896
		300-350	50	16	14	700	1.524	1.70	0.176	123.2	£120	£14,784
		350-400	50	18	16	800	1.524	1.70	0.176	140.8	£120	£16,896
		400-450	50	18	16	800	1.524	1.70	0.176	140.8	£120	£16,896
		450-470	20	25	23	460	1.524	1.70	0.176	80.96	£120	£9,715
						7,810m2				1375m3		£164,947
Location	Overall Length	Chainage (m)	Section Length (m)	Width (m)	Adjusted Width (m)	Area m2	Existing Depth (m)	Proposed Depth (m)	Proposed Dredging Depth (m)	Volume m3	Excavate Disposal Rate per m3	Cost
Maghery Canal Entrance point to Lough Neagh see dashed blue line on map			250	20		5000	1	1.50	0.5	2500	£120	£300,000

\*£120/m3 rate based on similar rates for dredging carried out by Waterways Ireland. The rate is dependent on the distance to the nearest waste facility.

NOTE - Consideration and risk should also be factored in that estimates exclude removal of potential rock.

## Maps and Images



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Sandbank



Rock hazards





Currently limited/poor navigation guidance







