SUPPORT FROM NI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

My congratulations go to the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust and to all those who participated in developing this first management plan for the Binevenagh Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is never easy to arrive at a concise statement of what it is that makes an area special to those with widely differing interests. In the case of Binevenagh, there is a consensus that the outstanding landscape qualities are placed foremost in the minds of those who live in or visit the area.

This plan is testament to the determination and minds of those who can shape its future.

Ehelon Poole
Minister for the Environment

THE TWELVE OBJECTIVES FOR THE BINEVENAGH AONB

1. Ensure that opportunities are offered to all to learn about the special environment of the AONB
2. Ensure good protection of the natural habitats and species of the AONB especially priority habitats and species of the AONB especially priority habitats and species
3. Ensure that national and international designated sites are in good condition, well managed and promoted
4. Ensure that wider environmental conditions are of the highest standard
5. Ensure that the character of the AONB is protected
6. Improve awareness of, and participation in, the historic environment and encourage its enjoyment by all, enhancing access where appropriate
7. Ensure that knowledge of historic environment and cultural heritage available in the AONB is comprehensively
8. Ensure good protection of designated buildings, sites and monuments
9. Encourage and enhance a sense of ownership, prosperity and local culture, and maintaining the
10. Enable vibrant communities to grow sustainably
11. Ensure that the Binevenagh AONB offers first class experience for visitors and local people wanting to enjoy the area especially in the outdoor recreation domain
12. Establish a mechanism for the effective implementation of the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan

Land and Sea

What people say

Stunning views of Foyle Basin
Rich in heritage
A microcosm of Ireland
A unique variety of flora and fauna
Internationally important area for migrating birds
Tranquil, majestic and picturesque beauty
Outstanding natural scenery

Sustainable Communities

P E O P L E ‘ S V I S I O N I S T H A T IN 2030...

The Binevenagh AONB Management Plan

Over the past eighteen months the spotlight has been on Binevenagh AONB, developing a strategy for the long term management of this spectacular area. In the early stages a series of public events were held to gather the views of the local communities.

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Binevenagh AONB

Summary of the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan

These helped develop the long term vision of the AONB which was agreed at a December 2009 by Binevenagh AONB Management Forum. The Forum then looked at and refined the objectives of the Management Plan and the implementation of the AONB Master Plan. Following on from this a series of strategic workshops and consultation took place with key stakeholders. The draft Management Plan was published in April 2010 and went to the public consultation phase.

Thank you to all those who have taken part in this process, and thank you for your continuing support to implement this plan.

Only with this support will Binevenagh truly be in safe hands!
1. Magical Marine Life

Lough Foyle is home to some of the best marine life in Europe for marine life. The area is also home to the only surviving sand dunes in Northern Ireland, with a registered sand dune being one of the most important in Europe.

2. Rich Maritime Heritage

The coastline of Binevenagh AONB has a range of maritime sites, from sailing locations, landing places and sheds to coastal defence sites such as the Menado Tower or World War II pillboxes. Offshore there are a large number of shipwrecks, some of which are situated in the area.

3. Spectacular Cliffs

The cliffs of Binevenagh are a unique feature in Northern Ireland, where the cliffs are formed from the Triassic period and are one of the finest examples of such cliffs in Europe.

4. Steeped in History

The area has a long and rich history, with the first evidence of human activity dating back to the early Christian period. Many of the early settlements are still visible in the area, and are a testament to the area's rich history.

5. Unique Archaeology

There are a number of ancient sites in the area, featuring prehistoric and Romano-British features, as well as a number of ancient sites which are of archaeological interest.

6. Rich Farmland

The area has some of the most productive soils in Northern Ireland, which are artificially drained, creating sandy fields, ditches and roads which form a distinctive pattern of straight lines and right angles. The lands are farmed with upwards of five staff.

7. Something for everyone

There is something for everyone, from boating on the river, to walking along the cliff line and upland area. The area is a rich and diverse landscape, with a wide range of habitats and features.

8. A living landscape

The area is changing — old farmhouses, barns and other historic features are disappearing from the landscape, while wildlife habitats are threatened by development. The Management Plan is an important step in protecting the area and ensuring that it is managed in a way that is sustainable.

What are the challenges, and how will the plan help?

The area is changing — old farmhouses, barns and other historic features are disappearing from the landscape, while wildlife habitats are threatened by development. The Management Plan is an important step in protecting the area and ensuring that it is managed in a way that is sustainable.

What does the plan say about a management body?

It recommends the setting up of a dedicated Binevenagh AONB Management Unit, and uses management as a tool to help improve the area. The plan recognises that the area is under-resourced, with a small management team and a limited budget, and suggests using partnerships to help in the delivery of management plans.

What's the legal background?

The area was designated under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) 1985, providing for the protection and management of the countryside.

Which places are covered?

The area includes the Binevenagh AONB, the Portnellan Rural Estate, and the whole of Lough Foyle in the west and south over Binevenagh to River Ward, covering 16,034 hectares. It lies within the Borough of Derry City Council and Coleraine Borough Council. The plan also considers the Grangemore sand dune.

What does the plan say about the future?

Planning and financing are the keys to the future of the AONB. The plan aims to ensure that the area is managed in a way that is sustainable, and that it continues to be enjoyed by the public and for providing new development opportunities.

What does the plan say about how to work?

The plan is divided into two main sections: the strategy and the implementation. The strategy provides an overview of the area, identifies the threats and opportunities facing the area, and sets out a vision for the future. The implementation section provides guidance on how to achieve the vision, and includes a number of specific actions.