



BINEVENAGH AONB ACTION PLAN 2017-2022



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST







1. CONSERVE OR ENHANCE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OR AMENITIES OF THE BINEVENAGH AONB

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
1.1	Review and submit an updated Landscape Partnership Scheme application which includes the Binevenagh AONB	CCGHT [Local Authority] [Community Associations] [Government Agencies]	X					In2016/17CCGHTreceived recommendations on an application for a Landscape Partnership Scheme in the Binevenagh area. A small application steering group will review and submit an updated Landscape Partnership Scheme application in April 2017 Costs: Staff costs
1.2	Provide advice and support to local interest groups, voluntary sector organisations and local businesses which help contribute to delivery of the NCALO objectives	CCGHT [Local Authority] [Community Groups] [Local Businesses]	X	X	X	X	X	CCGHT will, where possible, provide support to local interest groups, voluntary sector organisations and local businesses, so that they can both benefit from, and contribute to, sustainable management of the Binevenagh AONB ensuring delivery of the NCALO objectives Costs: Staff costs
1.3	Review the landscape character assessments of the Binevenagh AONB	CCGHT [NIEA] [Local Authority]	X	X	X	X	X	There are currently four Landscape Character Areas that cover the Binevenagh AONB. CCGHT will review these areas and the original landscape analysis. Where appropriate, the characterisations will be updated Costs: Staff costs

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
1.4	Deliver an appropriate drainage seminar for landowners in the Binevenagh AONB to improve understanding of water storage in upland areas and highlight measures which can reduce service costs for landowners and public authorities. Landowners will be provided with opportunities to visit successful drainage schemes and training to develop personalised drainage plans	CCGHT [NIEA WMU] [CMU] [DfI] [Forest Service] [NIW]		X	X			CCGHT, in partnership with relevant agencies in the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, and Department for Infrastructure, will organise and deliver an appropriate drainage seminar This will upskill landowners and public authorities in the development of drainage plans and encourage the introduction of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), which help enhance the landscape and amenities of the Binevenagh AONB Costs: Staff costs, venue hire, transport and materials [approximately: £4,000]
1.5	Present options to enhance the contribution of former industrial and quarry sites, to the natural beauty and amenity value of the Binevenagh AONB	GSNI [CCGHT] [Local Authority] [RSPB] [Sport NI] [ORNI] [Local Businesses] [Mountaineering Ireland]			X			With careful management, former industrial and quarry sites can make a significant positive contribution to the natural beauty and amenity value of AONBs, including enhanced biodiversity and opportunities for the public to learn about geology GSNI will work with partners to present options to enhance the natural beauty and amenity value of such sites in the AONB Costs: Staff costs, transport and materials [approximately: £3,000]
1.6	Identify appropriate roadside verges and hedgerows for biodiversity enhancement and carry out the appropriate work	CCGHT [Local Authority] [NIEA] [DfI] [CAFRE] [CMU] [Community Groups] [TCV]	X	X	X	X	X	CCGHT will work with partners to identify roadside verges and hedgerows, which are suitable for alterations in their management, to enhance their ecological value. This will link closely with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's "Don't Mow, Let it Grow" Scheme. Each partner will be responsible for funding biodiversity enhancement schemes e.g. purchase of trees, fencing etc. Costs: Staff costs, transport and materials [approximately: cost neutral]

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
1.7	Deliver an annual landowner training programme [at least four events per year] which provides farmers with practical skills and experience to enhance the natural beauty, amenity value and resilience of the landscape within the AONB Link to 2.4	CCGHT [CAFRE] [CMU] [DfI] [Forest Service] [WT] [Local Authority] [Community Groups]	X	X	X	X	X	AONBs in Northern Ireland are owned by a range of private and public individuals, and organisations. Farming is an important economic driver in the Binevenagh AONB, and sustainable management of farmland is key to the long term future of the area's beauty, amenity value and local communities. CCGHT will work with partners to provide landowners with practical skills and experience to enhance management of farmland within the AONB, including liability and managing risk Costs: Staff costs, venue hire and material [approximately: £2,000 per annum]
1.8	Organise a series of annual litter picks [at least three per year] within the Binevenagh AONB, targeting identified problem areas	CCGHT [KNIB] [Local Authority] [Local Businesses] [Community Groups] [Local Schools] [TCV]	X	X	X	X	X	CCGHT and partners will engage local volunteers to clean up identified problem areas within the AONB. Where possible, CCGHT and partners will seek funding to allow local groups to maintain areas. Litter hot spots include Lough Foyle shore, Bann Estuary, Magilligan Point and Ballinrees Reservoir The Binevenagh AONB Management Forum will investigate potential for corporate sponsorship of events Costs: Staff costs [c.£150 per event, or £600 per annum]



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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
1.9	Maintain a GIS database covering features relating to the natural landscape, historical sites and amenities of the Binevenagh AONB	CCGHT [DAERA] [DfC HED] [Local Authority]	X	X	X	X	X	CCGHT will continue to maintain and improve the GIS database for the Binevenagh AONB Costs: Staff costs
1.10	Create a photographic archive which helps document changes in the natural beauty, land management and amenity value of the Binevenagh AONB over the past 150 years	CCGHT [Local Authority] [Local Businesses] [Community Groups]		X	X			CCGHT will lead a two year initiative to collect photographs of the landscape of the AONB, from public and private collections, which can be used to assess changes in the natural beauty, land use and amenity value of the AONB over the past 150 years Costs: Staff costs, venue hire, materials [£750]



2. CONSERVE WILDLIFE, HISTORIC OBJECTS OR NATURAL PHENOMENA WITHIN THE BINEVENAGH AONB

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
2.1	Seek funding and develop a landscape scale ecosystem services plan by 2022, to enhance the protection and management of priority habitats and species	CCGHT [Local Authority] [DAERA] [Dfi] [Local Community] [Local Businesses]		X	X	X	X	CCGHT and partners will review the ecosystem services provided within the Binevenagh AONB, including supporting services, provisioning services, regulating services and cultural services. Working with the local community, the partnership will develop a landscape scale ecosystems services plan to enhance priority habitats and species protection and long term management, specifically focussing on beach systems, wetlands, uplands, commercial and native woodlands, rivers and freshwater habitats Costs: Staff costs, venue hire, materials and catering, consultancy fees [approximately £12,000 over four years, £3,000 per annum]
2.2	Work with partners to develop and implement an annual pilot project to conserve and enhance priority habitats and species within the AONB	CCGHT [Local Authority] [NIEA] [Dfi] [CMU] [Local Businesses] [Local Community]	X	X	X	X	X	Establish pilot projects to enhance upland habitats, including an increased distribution of Arctic – Alpine species, the enhancement of hazel woodlands and habitat mapping across the AONB Enhance one habitat or species per year Costs: Staff costs, materials, transport [approximately £1,000 per project per annum]
2.3	Carry out a mapping exercise of the habitats across the Binevenagh AONB creating a GIS layer with all habitats accurately mapped	CCGHT [NIEA]	X	X				CCGHT will take a two phase approach to map the habitats of the AONB. Phase 1 will focus on the NI Priority Habitats in 2017/18, followed by Phase 2 which will map the remaining habitats in 2018/19 Costs: Staff costs and training in GIS

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
2.4	Through an annual landowner training programme, encourage farming practices which conserve and enhance biodiversity, particularly farmland biodiversity, while being respectful of the historic environment in line with good farming practice and cross compliance regulations Link to 1.7	CCGHT [NIEA] [CMU] [CAFRE] [Local Authority] [Local Businesses] [Local Community] [DfC HED] [TCV]	X	X	X	X	X	Year 1. Provide controlled burning training Year 2. Increase expanse of lowland meadows Year 3. Improve management of arable field margins Year 4. Extend grazing in coastal habitats Year 5. Enhance conservation of historic built heritage features on farms The result will be a better managed landscape across the AONB Costs: Staff costs, venue hire and materials [Approximately: £2,000 to £12,000 depending on required measures]
2.5	Identify areas in the Binevenagh AONB which may need improvement to the current management of grazing and where appropriate, implement new sensitive grazing regimes	CCGHT [Local Authority] [NIEA] [CMU]				X		CCGHT and the local Biodiversity Officer will work together to identify areas within the AONB, which would benefit from enhanced or newly introduced grazing regimes and develop new schemes where appropriate, improving habitat management across the AONB Costs: Staff costs and materials
2.6	Develop and implement a plan to return Aghanloo Wood ASSI to favourable condition, which has the support of landowners	CCGHT [Local Landowners] [NIEA] [CMU] [Local Authority] [Local Community]	X	X				Aghanloo Wood, since designation, has fallen into unfavourable condition. CCGHT will, in partnership with local landowners, apply for consent and if possible, implement management practices which help return Aghanloo wood to favourable condition, namely – controlled grazing and fencing or boundary work(s) to enable development of suitable conditions for diverse ground flora, including the rare Birds-nest Orchid. A coppicing regime & control of feral goats could be considered Costs: Staff costs and materials [Funding for fencing costs of £20,000 to be sourced]

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
2.7	Encourage the development of new native woodlands, and provide advice on the management of current woods	Woodland Trust [CCGHT] [Local Authority] [NIEA] [Forest Service] [CMU] [CAFRE] [Local Community] [TCV]	X	X	X	X	X	Encourage local landowners to plant trees in suitable locations. Hold an annual woodland talk or event to inform on best practise, management and highlight funding streams. Provide advice to landowners, who currently have woodlands, on how they could be managed to improve their ecological value. Observe an increase in coverage of native tree species over the period of the plan Costs: Staff costs, venue hire, catering and materials [Approximately: £150 per event, £350 - £750 per 1,500 tree giveaway]
2.8	Promote the measures that can be taken to control bracken and where possible, introduce these in identified problem areas	CCGHT [Local Landowners] [NIEA] [CMU] [CAFRE] [Local Authority]		X				Bracken is a very invasive species which can out compete native ground flora in a range of habitats. CAFRE will provide a training event to help landowners implement control measures in problem areas e.g. Ulster Gliding Club and Binevenagh Mountain, reducing its cover across the AONB Costs: Staff costs, venue hire, catering [Approximately: £150]
2.9	Develop and implement a habitat and species management plan at the Ulster Gliding Club	CCGHT UGC [Local Authority] [MFC] [Local Schools & Community]	X					CCGHT and the local biodiversity officer will assist the Ulster Gliding Club in the creation of a wildflower meadow on the club grounds and take action to address the problems with bracken Costs: Staff costs and materials [Approximately: cost neutral, necessary materials to be purchased by UGC]

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
2.10	Recruit volunteers within the AONB to participate in the annual all-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Schemes	CCGHT [CEDaR] [NIEA] [National Biodiversity Data Centre] [Local Authority] [Local Community]	X	X	X	X	X	Hold one Bumblebee training event during summer 2018 to recruit and train local volunteers in how to identify and survey Bumblebees and encourage them to adopt survey squares within the AONB Costs: Staff costs, venue hire, catering and materials [Approximately: £75 per event]
2.11	Create a wetland nature reserve on the former Shackleton Barracks site along the Lough Foyle shore	NIW [NIEA] [Local authority] [LA] [RSPB] [CCGHT]	X	X	X			NI Water will create an Integrated Constructed Wetlands at Ballykelly. The 85.8 acre site will act as a bioremediation scheme for Ballykelly's waste water treatment works, which will deal with waste water in an ecologically friendly way, while benefiting wildlife The development could include visitor access, bird hides, interpretation panels and visitor information online Costs: Full project – estimated £2.6 million
2.12	Survey the distribution of Juniper across Binevenagh AONB and develop opportunities to conserve or enhance distribution	CCGHT [NIEA] [Local Authority] [CEDaR]	X	X	X			Juniper is a priority species in Northern Ireland and the population has reduced greatly across the Binevenagh AONB. A survey of Juniper on Binevenagh will be carried out to ascertain the current populations. The results of this survey will be used to formulate a project to preserve the current extent and increase its range Costs: Staff Costs
2.13	Restore the Moors of Castlerock to good ecological condition	Local Authority [NT] [Translink] [CCGHT] [Local Community]	X	X				This area of maritime heath habitat has degraded greatly and requires urgent conservation work. The Local Authority will introduce fencing, designated walkways, bracken control, scrub removal and conservation grazing to restore the habitat to good condition

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
2.14	Carry out habitat management at Altikeeragh Raised Bog ASSI to halt degradation of the site, caused by self-seeded conifers from the surrounding plantations and the manmade drains which remove water from the site	NIEA [Local Authority] [CCGHT]	X	X	X	X	X	NIEA will work to restore Altikeeragh Raised Bog ASSI to favourable condition by blocking manmade drains and removing self-seeded conifers from the bog Costs: Staff costs & contractor hire [Costs part of NIEAs routine management of the ASSI]
2.15	Hold a week long survey event on the distribution of non-native invasive species across the AONB and begin a programme of control and a public awareness campaign	Local Authority [CCGHT] [NIEA] [CAFRE] [UFU] [CMU] [CEDaR] [UUC] [QUB] [Local Community Groups] [Translink] [TCV]	X	X	X	X	X	Hold training events with the local community and volunteer network in the identification of non-native invasive species. Hold a weeklong event targeting problem areas to assess the distribution of invasive species. Subsequently implement a programme of control and eradication, targeting the worst affected areas. Provide guidance to landowners on identification of species and effective methods for removal Year One – focus on Sea Buckthorn Year Two – Japanese Knotweed Year Three – Himalayan Balsam Year Four – Giant Hogweed Year Five – Grey Squirrel
2.16	Working cross-border, identify the most ecologically important areas of Lough Foyle and present options for enhanced protection of these sites	Loughs Agency [Local Authorities in NI & ROI] [NIEA] [DfI] [MED] [Crown Estate] [RSPB]	X	X	X	X	X	Lough Foyle, as a shared space, is recognised as highly important, ecologically, both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. In Northern Ireland, sections of the Lough fall within SPAs, ASSIs and an International protected Ramsar site. There is the potential, to work on a cross-border basis, to enhance habitat protection further, with designations such as Marine Reserves for special areas Costs: Staff costs

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
2.17	Develop beach management plans for each of the AONB beaches and implement these, based on the principles outlined in the Causeway Coast and Glens Beach Management Strategy	Local Authority [NT] [MOD] [NIEA] [MED]	X	X	X	X	X	Following the successful development and implementation of the beach management strategy, operators will create individual beach management plans and bring these into operation. These plans will be in keeping with the beach management strategy and will ensure the sustainable management of the beaches of the AONB
2.18	Develop and implement a Binevenagh Wildfire Prevention and Protection Strategy	CCGHT [NIEA] [UFU] [CAFRE] [CMU] [NIAPA] [NI FRS] [Community Groups]	X	X				Wildfires can have a dramatic impact on the landscape, habitats and the residing species. CCGHT will develop and implement a Binevenagh Wildfire Prevention and Protection Strategy and introduce it across the AONB to safeguard the landscape from the threat of wildfires Costs: Staff costs, venue hire, materials [£3,000 per year]
2.19	Produce ASSI Management Plans to enhance conservation of geological features of Areas of Special Scientific Interest within the Binevenagh AONB	CCGHT [GSNI] [Local Authority] [NIEA]	X	X	X			Through the Drifting Apart Project, access and interpretation at Geological ASSIs will be enhanced through Management Plans for the geological elements of ASSIs Year One- Tircreven ASSI (Interp. Only) Year Two – Binevenagh ASSI Year Three – Magilligan Point ASSI Costs: Staff costs
2.20	Raise awareness of the geology and geomorphology of the AONB, within the local community and its visitors, through a series of annual geology based events	CCGHT [GSNI] [Activity Providers] [Local Authority]	X	X	X	X	X	Raise awareness of the geology & geomorphology to the local community & visitors through a series of annual geology based events (at least two per annum) and investigate learning opportunities with schools and further education bodies Costs: Staff costs, material, catering, transport, external expertise and services [approximately: £150 per event or £300 per annum]

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
2.21	Develop a publication looking at the historic fisheries and wildfowling of the River Roe and its estuary	CCGHT [Roe Angling Limited] [LA] [Irish Society]			X			Preserve the history of the former large scale salmon fishery at the mouth of the River Roe and the local wildfowl hunting in specialised boats by producing a publication and online resource Costs: Staff costs and publishing [approximately: £2,500]
2.22	Promote and provide traditional built heritage skills development courses and establish a coordinated series of seminars and training for the historic environment and cultural heritage	CCGHT [UAHS] [DfC HED] [NIEA] [CAFRE]			X	X	X	Help conserve the natural and built heritage whilst enhancing enjoyment of the AONB by developing a coordinated series of seminars on how to protect, conserve and promote the historic, environmental and cultural heritage of Binevenagh AONB. Co-ordinate an annual series of traditional skills and crafts courses Costs: Staff costs, venue higher, external expertise and services [approximately: £500-£6,000 per event, subject to successful LPS funding]
2.23	Develop & update guidance through CCGHT.org on the restoration of traditional built heritage features such as round gate posts, field barns, graveyards and use of traditional materials	CCGHT			X			CCGHT and partners will provide information on the restoration of traditional built heritage features on ccght.org, giving local landowners the required information on how to protect and restore the heritage features on their land Costs: £3,000 / staff costs

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
2.24	Carry out conservation work on the most sensitive buildings and monuments, as identified on NIEAs & BHARNI (Built Heritage At Risk NI) prioritised lists	DfC HED	X	X	X	X	X	Assist owners of designated and non-designated monuments to source funding to carry out conservation work Costs: Staff costs
2.25	Raise awareness of the heritage of historic graveyards and ensure they are preserved and maintained sympathetically	CCGHT [DfC HED] [NT] [Local Authority] [Local Community] [TCV]		X	X	X	X	Historic Graveyards have their own specific conservation needs and may have statutory protection, but can be detrimentally impacted by the erection of unsympathetic memorials or surrounds. Ensure that historic graveyards are preserved and traditional graves are maintained Carry out conservation work at Drumachose and Dunboe old graveyards Costs: Staff costs and conservation work
2.26	Restore Aghanloo Trainer Dome and develop interpretation about the facility and surrounding airfield Link to 3.18	Private Landowner [DfC HED] [SASM] [CCGHT] [Local Authority]		X	X	X	X	The WW2 anti-aircraft training unit is only one of three left in the British Isles and is currently deteriorating without protection. Seek funding and restore the trainer dome and other buildings in the airfield and where possible, open them up to the public as an interpretative information attraction Costs: Staff costs, materials, external expertise and services
2.27	Produce a publication which explores the heritage of the shipping industry in the AONB	CCGHT [Local Heritage Groups] [DfC HED] [LA] [Local Authority] [UUC]		X				Raise awareness of the former shipping industry across the AONB with a focus on Coleraine Harbour, the Broharris Canal and shipwrecks by creating a publication and online resource, while preserving the historic information and resources Costs: Staff costs and publication [approximately: £2,500]

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			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
2.28	Produce a publication on the railway heritage of the AONB	CCGHT [Heritage Groups] [Local Authority] [Translink] [RPSI]			X			Raise awareness and safeguard the history of the development of the Derry~Londonderry - Coleraine railway line and its impact on the AONB by creating a publication and online resource Costs: Staff costs and publication [approximately: £,2500]
2.29	Develop a project on the former linen industry in Articlave, along the Articlave River and how it impacted the local landscape	CCGHT [Local Heritage Groups] [Local Authority] [The Clothworkers Company]				X		The Articlave River was once a hive of activity for the production of Flax for the linen industry, with the associated mills, bleach greens and mill races. Create a publication and online resource which tell the story of the industry. Investigate the possibility of creating a walking trail, with interpretive information, taking in the remnant features of the former industry, preserving its history Costs: Staff costs and publication [approximately: £2,500]
2.30	Create an information point on emigration and the diaspora of the area, with a focus on the people of the Binevenagh AONB	CCGHT [Local Heritage Groups] [Local Authority]					X	There is great interest, particularly from North Americans and Australasians, to trace their ancestors in the local area. Develop an information point to inform locals and visitors about the people of the AONB, how they lived and how this migration shaped the area Costs: Staff costs, venue and materials [approximately: £5,000]
2.31	Promote and encourage the collection of biodiversity records and submit them to CEDaR	CCGHT [CEDaR] [Local Authority]	X	X	X	X	X	Promote the collection of environmental data across the area and encourage the submission of this data through the specific data entry point for the Binevenagh AONB developed by CEDaR, increasing our knowledge of the current condition of the biodiversity of the AONB

3. PROMOTE PUBLIC ENJOYMENT OF THE BINEVENAGH AONB

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
3.1	Develop and maintain at least six information points within the Binevenagh AONB, where locals and visitors can access information about the landscape, biodiversity, history, geology and local activities	CCGHT [Local Authority] [Translink] [Local Businesses] [Community Groups] [MFC]	X	X				Currently a range of sites such as Castlerock Community Association Visitor Centre, the Benone Tourist Centre, Coleraine & Limavady Tourist Information Centres provide information about the Binevenagh AONB. This action will help maintain these information points and identify new locations such as the new Bellarena train halt and the Ulster Gliding Club, improving the information available to the public and visitors alike Costs: Staff costs and materials [approximately: £2,000 per site]
3.2	Produce a new Binevenagh AONB interpretation and activity guide	CCGHT [DAERA] [Translink] [Local Authority] [ORNI] [Sport NI]		X				Partners will work together to produce a new Binevenagh AONB interpretation and activity guide which will improve public knowledge of, and encourage more people to get out into and enjoy the AONB Costs: Staff costs and publication [approximately: £6,000]
3.3	Provide high quality information resources about Binevenagh AONB to tourist information centres within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	CCGHT [Local Authority] [Tourism NI]	X	X	X	X	X	Partners will work together to produce a new Binevenagh AONB interpretation and activity guide Costs: Staff costs and publication [approximately: £6,000]



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3.4	Promote AONB resources through Visit Causeway Coast and Glens tourism website	Local Authority [CCGHT] [Tourism NI]	X	X	X	X	X	This provides an opportunity to share and integrate material for the mutual benefit of the agencies and the AONB Costs: Staff costs
3.5	Carry out an audit of the existing materials for the AONB covering natural heritage, geology, history and the local area	CCGHT	X			X		Every third year CCGHT will carry out an audit of existing AONB materials, and provide an update to partners which highlights any issues or requirements, improving the quality of service Costs: Staff costs
3.6	Provide training to local recreation and activity providers to enhance the service and range of activities they can provide in relation to biodiversity, geology, history and landscape interpretation	CCGHT [Local Businesses] [Local Authority] [ORNI] [Tourism NI]	X	X	X	X	X	CCGHT will provide Information on biodiversity, history, geology, walking routes etc. to local recreation and activity providers to enhance their service, improve public enjoyment and open up the Binevenagh AONB to an increased diversity of interest groups Focus on at least one new activity per year Costs: Staff costs, training costs
3.7	Extend the reach of AONB activities to new groups and partners both within and surrounding the Binevenagh AONB	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	CCGHT will extend its activities across the AONB and to the surrounding communities, including participation in and promotion of cross border projects Costs: Staff costs
3.8	Develop the “Friends of the Binevenagh AONB programme” into an active network of volunteers both within and around the AONB, aiming to get at least 10 new volunteers registered per year and host four volunteer events	CCGHT [Local Authority] [Causeway Volunteer Centre] [NT] [Local Businesses] [Community & Sports Groups]	X	X	X	X	X	Working with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, establish a volunteer network within the AONB and create opportunities for interested groups to get involved and carry out a variety of tasks. This should include partnership with schools, universities, scouts/guides and other charitable organisations Costs: Staff costs, training and materials

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3.9	Promote enjoyment and appreciation of the AONB by developing, circulating and promoting an annual events programme with at least five dedicated Binevenagh AONB events per year	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	CCGHT and partners will develop an annual events guide, designed to promote enjoyment of the AONB. CCGHT will host a minimum of five events per annum across the AONB Costs: Staff costs, materials, services and publication [approximately £800]
3.10	Extend the Magilligan Field Centre operation period to include July and August	Magilligan Field Centre [Relevant Education Authority]		X	X	X		The Magilligan Field Centre has huge potential as a residential extra-curricular field school during the school holidays. The Centre will seek permission from the relevant education authority to extend operations year round. This will open up the AONB to more groups improving the protection & understanding of the area for future generations. The Centre should seek to be operational by the summer of 2018 and host at least 6 groups per summer Costs: Cost neutral
3.11	Host a Bio Blitz within the Binevenagh AONB	CCGHT CEDaR [MOD] [NIEA] [QUB] [UUC] [Local Authority]	X	X				Partners will work together to hold at least one Bio Blitz within the AONB. The Magilligan system, particularly the Umbra, Benone and Ballymaclary would be an ideal location, using the Benone Tourist complex facilities. Seek to have 50 participants and collect 750 different biodiversity records Costs: Staff costs, materials, venue hire and catering [approximately £750]
3.12	Produce a small booklet promoting the tourism potential of the Bann Valley, including its unique history, biodiversity, recreation opportunities and natural beauty	Local Authorities [CCGHT] [Tourism NI] [Local Businesses] [Waterways Ireland]			X			Highlight the scenic beauty and local sites of interest along the Bann Valley with a focus on the Coleraine area and Bann Estuary. Promote the recreational opportunities available and work with at least one accredited activity provider to extend their range of activities Costs: Staff costs and publication [approximately: £2,500]

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
3.13	Produce interpretation of the colonisation of Ireland by early settlers along the Lower Bann and develop Mountsandel Forest as a visitor attraction	Local Authority [CCGHT] [DfC HED] [Irish Society] [Coleraine Rotary Club] [Local Businesses] [Community Groups] [Tourism NI]	X	X	X	X	X	The AONB has a rich history of early settlers from the sites in the Bann Estuary and particularly Mountsandel. As the oldest recorded settlement in Ireland, with a continuous history to modern day, Mountsandel is a unique site, with huge potential. Raise awareness and improve interpretation of the Mesolithic settlers by producing a publication and, working with partners, develop Mountsandel as key visitor attraction
3.14	Enhance visitor interpretation of the Lough Foyle baseline survey, including its links to international surveys	CCGHT [Local Authorities] [QUB]	X	X				Improve public access and interpretation at sites of interest along the Foyle Baseline and improve information on existing online resources. Hold at least one event explaining the history of the Foyle Baseline Costs: Staff costs, materials, transport and catering [approximately: £300]
3.15	Ensure sustainable tourism principles are maintained for the increased visitor numbers to the area as a result of TV and films	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	The success of TV shows and films such as Game of Thrones, has led to great publicity of the AONB worldwide, greatly increasing the visitors to the area. To protect the natural beauty, historic objects and landscape of the area, ensure sustainable management and promotion of the sites of interest Costs: Staff costs
3.16	Extend the Townland & Fieldnames Project outside the initial project area	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	Building on local interest, extend the Townlands and Fieldnames project to include surrounding areas, safeguarding these traditional names for future generations Update the online map as new information becomes available, ensuring the exhibition is displayed in at least two venues per year Costs: Staff costs

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
3.17	Produce a publication on the military and landscape heritage within the AONB	CCGHT [Local Authority] [MOD] [QUB] [DAERA]			X			Raise awareness of the military and landscape heritage of the AONB by producing a publication, similar to the “Defending the Causeway Coast AONB” booklet Costs: Staff costs and publication [approximately: £3,000]
3.18	Promote and deliver community archaeology experiences	CCGHT [DfC HED] [QUB] [UUC] [Local Community]		X		X		CCGHT will seek to secure at least two community archaeology experience events within the Binevenagh AONB and engage with at least 80 people Costs: Staff costs, materials, venue hire, external expertise and services [approximately: up to £10,000 for a full dig]
3.19	Support and develop the “Leave No trace” ethic across the Binevenagh AONB	[CCGHT] [Sport NI] [Local Authority] [ORNI] [Activity Providers] [Leave No Trace Ireland]	X	X	X	X	X	Partners will support and develop the “Leave No Trace” ethic as a single message and education process for responsible and sustainable use of the Binevenagh AONB for recreation



4. PROVIDE OR MAINTAIN PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE BINEVENAGH AONB

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
4.1	Develop an Outdoor Recreation Strategy for the Binevenagh AONB	CCGHT [Local Authority] [ORNI] [Sport NI] [Tourism NI]	X	X	X	X	X	The strategy will identify the key issues and opportunities in the area and outline a clear set of actions, policies and objectives for outdoor recreation in the AONB Costs: Staff time + Venue Hire
4.2	Following on from the audit of interpretation signage within the AONB in 2016, ensure that the identified issues are amended (Link to 3.5)	CCGHT [NIEA] [Local Authority] [ORNI]	X	X	X			The signage audit identified a number of outdated, duplicated or inaccurate signs. Ensure that any errors are corrected and information is kept up to date. Outdated signage will be replaced and new signage introduced to cover any relevant topics currently not covered Costs: Staff costs, design, production and installation of new signage [approximately: £1,500 per new sign]
4.3	Develop a social media information point to inform walkers, cyclists, and other users of the AONB, about access issues	Local Authority	X					Develop a tool to inform users on access issues such as temporary closures to paths, roads, parking etc. A combination of tools such as the social media and internet sources would be the most effective Costs: Staff costs
4.4	Improve access to the countryside throughout the AONB by developing new walking routes	Local Authority [CCGHT] [Local landowners] [ORNI] [TCV]	X	X	X	X	X	To encourage more people to get out and enjoy the AONB, some possible new walking routes have been identified: • Gortmore View Point to Downhill • Ballyhacket View Point to Gortmore View Point Include signage with route information for the distance, gradient, difficulty, surface etc.

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
4.5	Maintain and where possible, enhance the current North Sperrin waymarked trails through the AONB Forests and develop individual trails through each of these forests	Local Authority [CCGHT] [Local landowners] [Forest Service] [ORNI]	X	X	X	X	X	Enhance the AONB forest trails and develop new trails to improve access across the AONB New/enhanced trails include: • Grange Park Wood • Ballyhanna Forest • Binevenagh Forest • Springwell Forest • Cam Forest
4.6	Improve information and interpretation at protected sites across the AONB	CCGHT [Local Authority] [NIEA]	X	X	X	X	X	Improve the interpretation and information available at sites across the AONB. The identified sites include: • Tircrevan Burn • Magilligan NR • Roe Estuary NNR • Binevenagh NNR • Bann Estuary Costs: Staff costs, materials, external expertise and services [approximately: £2,000 - 3,000 per site]
4.7	Improve access to the Giant's Sconce and promote the history of the site	Local Authority [CCGHT] [Local landowners] [DfC HED] [Forest Service]	X	X	X			Open up and promote the Giant's Sconce to visitors. Make provisions for parking and marked trails. Produce interpretation to inform visitors of the importance of the site
4.8	Promote and develop opportunities for off-road cycling, mountain biking, walking, kayaking, boat tours and other recreation activities within the Binevenagh AONB	Local Authority [CCGHT] [Sport NI] [ORNI] [Tourism NI] [DAERA] [DF] [DI]		X	X	X	X	Encourage the development and promotion of outdoor recreation opportunities, through accredited providers, across the AONB, to improve public access to the area and increase public enjoyment Costs: Staff costs

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
4.9	Develop Binevenagh Mountain and surrounding forests as a centre for Mountain Biking and other outdoor recreation activities	Local Authority [Local Community and Sport Groups] [Sport NI] [ORNI]	X	X	X	X	X	Develop a network of mountain bike trails across Binevenagh mountain, catering for all skills, from children's tracks to high skill routes By the end of 2021 have established at least one formal off-road cycling or mountain biking trail within the AONB Provide other trails, such as walking trails, with the associated facilities and interpretation, linking to other local sites Costs: Staff costs, materials, external expertise and services [c £1.75 – 2.5 million]
4.10	Increase the number of bicycles which can be carried on trains and improve cycling facilities at train stops within the AONB	Translink [CCGHT] [Local Authority]	X	X				With a move to six car trains, bicycle capacity should be increased. Translink should work with partners to improve facilities for those wishing to cycle in the AONB e.g. access to water, route information, secure bike stands Install an AONB information point at the new Bellarena Train Halt & Castlerock Station and provide facilities for cyclists improving access and enhancing enjoyment of the AONB
4.11	Review bus timetables within the AONB to coincide with the introduction of a new hourly timetable on Derry-Londonderry line	Translink	X					A new hourly timetable is to be introduced on the Derry-Londonderry line. Translink will review bus timetables to better coincide with the new train timetable, improving access across the AONB
4.12	Ensure at least two sites within the AONB participate in the annual European Heritage Open Days Event	DfC HED	X	X	X	X	X	As part of the annual three day European Heritage Open Days event, DEARA and CCGHT will work with partners to ensure at least two sites within the AONB participate

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
4.13	Improve visitor access at the Magilligan Martello Tower and provide enhanced visitor experience	DfC HED [Local Authority] [DAERA] [CCGHT]	X	X				Update interpretation on the tower and highlight the links with the others around the UK, Ireland and further afield. Make a closer link to the tower at Greencastle. Potentially train volunteers to act as guides, who could open the tower to visitors on select summer days Costs: Staff costs, publication and materials [Up to £7,000 for improved interpretation and publication]
4.14	Increase visitor accommodation facilities within the AONB	Local Authority [Tourism NI] [Local Businesses]	X	X	X	X	X	Identify new accommodation opportunities or open up currently derelict facilities e.g. Guysmere, Castlerock to improve visitor access and enjoyment in the AONB Explore the options for wild and semi-wild camping
4.15	Address the problem of off road motor vehicles being used in areas without permission	Local Authority PSNI [ORNI]	X	X	X	X	X	Increase public awareness of suitable locations in the local area, highlight health & safety issues and encourage members of the public to report illegal activities in order to protect special habitats, reduce risk of injury to participants and the general public and improve enjoyment These identified problem areas include beaches and Binevenagh Mountain Costs: Staff costs





SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS – NON SPECIFIC TO THE BINEVENAGH AONB

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
S1	Take account of relevant actions in this plan when developing planning policies and/or guidance	Local Authority	X	X	X	X	X	CCGBC Planning will take account of relevant actions in this plan ensuring good management of the AONB
S2	Appropriate Assessment of the Action Plan	CCGHT [NIEA]	X	X	X	X	X	Review the impact of actions in the Plan on designated sites by carrying out a desktop screening of the actions to produce a table of potential impacts on designated sites Develop in partnership with NIEA, an 'Appropriate Assessment' if required under Article 6 of the Habitat Regulations
S3	Support the delivery of LBAP targets which relate specifically to the Binevenagh AONB	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	CCGHT will work with partners to ensure that support is given to biodiversity actions which relate specifically to the AONB
S4	Where possible, facilitate non-partisan dialogue between members of the public and potential or existing renewable and non-renewable energy development companies within the AONB	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	Where a need is defined CCGHT will facilitate non-artisan dialogue between renewable and non-renewable energy development companies which express an interest in operating within the AONB Costs: Staff costs
S5	Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Management Plan and review in 2020 Publish, disseminate, and implement the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan for 2020-30	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	Ensure coordinated approach to the implementation of the Management Plan Monitor the implementation of the Management Plan on a regular basis Review the Management Plan in Year 5 and prepare the 2020-30 Management Plan Review the State of the AONB report

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
S6	Benchmark awareness of the AONB amongst Northern Ireland MLAs and subsequently increase this through social media	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	Information provided through innovative mixed media could significantly improve awareness and understanding of AONB Status amongst politicians and policy makers Costs: Staff costs
S7	Ensure Binevenagh AONB needs are taken into consideration at all policy level	CCGHT	X		X		X	Prepare a communication strategy aimed at senior level within central and local government and local people Investigate opportunities for strengthened AONB legislation in Northern Ireland Ensure that AONB Management remains a priority for both central and local government after the Review of Public Administration
S8	Carry out a mid-term review of the management plan objectives and actions	CCGHT AONB Management Forum			X			To be carried out in Summer 2019
S9	Develop a budget for the core functions of the AONB Management Unit and for projects	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	Seek funding for core functions of AONB Management Unit Develop the Action Plan projects and seek funding to implement them Investigate funding package from different central government departments and local governments Investigate other funding opportunities for the delivery of projects within the Management Plan

	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY [PARTNERS]	YEAR					FURTHER DETAILS/ COSTS/FUNDING SOURCES
			17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	
S10	Develop links with the local education system and where possible, encourage collaboration on actions within the plan	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	Promote the AONB to schools, through various means Develop curriculum linked education opportunities and provide local authorities with information packs of AONB literature and resources Produce new AONB related education activities, resources & programmes suitable for early years, primary & post primary education Work with at least 50 children per year Costs: Staff time & cost of projects
S11	Implement NIPAN's Memorandum of Understanding and Action Plan (to be developed with Collaboration NI)	CCGHT	X	X	X	X	X	Need to streamline activities between different landscape scale organisations (NGOs) and to find opportunities for financial savings Ensuring the delivery of actions that are high priority for the conservation and positive management of landscapes of national importance (AONB)





ABBREVIATIONS

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest	NI	Northern Ireland
CAFRE	College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise	NIAPA	Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association
CCA	Castlerock Community Association	NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
CCGBC	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	NIEA WMU	NIEA Water Management Unit
CCGHT	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	NIPAN	Northern Ireland Protected Area Network
CCR	Causeway Coastal Route	NIW	Northern Ireland Water
CEDaR	Centre for Environmental Data and Recording	NNR	National Nature Reserve
CMU	Countryside Management Unit	NR	Nature Reserve
CVC	Causeway Volunteer Centre	NT	National Trust
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	ORNI	Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland
DCC	Donegal County Council	PRoW	Public Rights of Way
DCSDC	Derry City and Strabane District Council	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
DF	Department of Finance	QUB	Queens University Belfast
DfC HED	Department for Communities – Historic Environment Division	ROI	Republic of Ireland
DI	Department for Infrastructure	RPSI	Rail Preservation Society of Ireland
EU	European Union	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
FRS	NI Fire and Rescue Service	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
FS	DAERA Forest Service	SASM	Shackleton Aviation and Space Museum
GIS	Geographic Information System	SPA	Special Protection Area
GSNI	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland	TCV	The Conservation Volunteers
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund	Techs	Technical Colleges
Irish Society	The Honourable The Irish Society	TNI	Tourism Northern Ireland
KNIB	Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful	UAHS	Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
LA	Loughs Agency	UFU	Ulster Farmers Union
LPS	Landscape Partnership Scheme	UGC	Ulster Gliding Club
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	UK	United Kingdom
MED	DAERA Marine Environment Division	UUC	Ulster University Coleraine
MFC	Magilligan Field Centre	WT	Woodland Trust
MOD	Ministry of Defence		
NBDC	National Biodiversity Data Centre		
NCALO	Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order		
NEELB	North Eastern Education Library Board		





