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**Executive Summary**

Landscapes are formed through the interaction of natural forces and cultural influences. The way people perceive the landscape is an inherent part of how it is valued. It is the relationship between people and place, together with a unique cultural and natural heritage that creates individual identity. The experience and enjoyment of a place is strongly influenced by the landscape setting.

The European Landscape Convention (ELC), ratified by the UK in 2007, underlines that landscape’s natural and cultural components form a whole. The Convention strives to maintain and improve landscape quality everywhere, helping the public and institutions recognise both the importance of the landscape, and of working together to take part in decision making.

Situated in County Antrim in the northeast corner of Northern Ireland, the Glens of Antrim radiate outwards towards the Irish Sea from the Antrim Plateau. Once isolated from the rest of Ireland by poor access, this hidden region has an exceptional landscape with stunning scenery that reflects its designation as the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Its dramatic coastline with headlands and harbours, its magnificent nine Glens with fast flowing rivers and its unique sense of light and space has given the area a special character that is appreciated by local people and by the many visitors who travel here every year.

[9 Glens Image]

The landscape you see today is the result of an incredibly varied geology and thousands of years of human settlement. Fields of ‘ladder farms’ with stone walls and hedgebanks run up the glen sides, whilst scattered woodlands perch on steeper slopes. The hilltops are covered with open grassland and blanket bogs with their rich and often uncommon wildlife, and in places bear the scars of mining and turf cutting.

[Ladder Farms]

[Craigagh Wood]

[Garron Plateau]

The long history of settlement is marked by ancient earthworks and tombs, stone enclosures, churches and castles. Groups of farmsteads – the ‘clachans’ – and isolated whitewashed farmhouses are scattered through the valleys, together with characteristic round gate posts and whin hedgerows. It is also marked by a community with local traditions and culture, and a strong sense of place.

[Community Image]

During the development phase, the Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme (HLF LPS) supported a series of commissions, consultations and workshops relating to industrial heritage, access to the countryside, geology, community participation and biodiversity. This work has led to the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership’s Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) for the Glens of Antrim.

Between April 2012 and April 2013, the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) worked with the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (HoGLPS) Steering Committee, representing local and regional organisations, 4 Local Councils, community groups, local interest groups, conservation organisation’s and landowners to develop the scheme for a 5 year implementation phase.

Key to the success of the development phase has been to manage expectation whilst ensuring that the projects that go forward reflect the need of the region. The projects that have been selected are interlinked as they bring together the many strands of biodiversity, sustainable upland management, historic environment and promotion of our heritage under the four programmes set by HLF.

This action plan identifies not only a collection of projects but a series of related work programmes that will result in benefits to the communities and the landscape of the Glens of Antrim. Many opportunities will exist for local people to become involved in the projects that have been put forward. These range from volunteering opportunities, learning and interpreting our industrial heritage and fieldname history, developing heritage gateways and opportunities to learn heritage skills or become involved in geodiversity, biodiversity and creative landscape projects. It is hoped that this work is just the beginning of a new journey for the Glens of Antrim, and that further programmes of work will continue beyond the life of the HoGLPS.

Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme

April 2013

**Introduction**

**Authors**

This LCAP has been written primarily by Sarah Irwin, Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager, with significant input from LPS Assistants Edna Ornelas-Rodriguez, Siobhán Porter and Semele Turro. Maxime Sizaret, Acting Chief Executive of CCGHT and other staff members have contributed significantly to the completion of this LCAP.

Information was contributed by a number of organisations in line with their specific expertise, including the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI), the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) as well as a range of local interest groups from across the Glens.

Officers from the four Local Councils have helped shape this document. These include:

Ballymena Borough Council

Ballymoney Borough Council

Larne Borough Council

Moyle District Council

The plan has been created during the development phase of April 2012 – April 2013. The following papers have focused the development of this plan and are appendices to this document:

**Access and Learning:**

Access to the Countryside Audit for the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme, ORNI, 2012.

Assessing Outdoor Recreation in the Glens of Antrim, Joseph Timlin, 2012

**Biodiversity:**

Local Biodiversity Action Plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens Council Cluster Area, 2013 - 2018

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (Draft) for Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne Council Areas

**Geodiversity:**

A Geodiversity Audit and Action Plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens, Dr. Burke and Associates, 2013

**Agriculture and Farming:**

Baseline Report on Farmer Perceptions of the Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme, Una McBride, 2012

**Village and Community Engagement:**

Village Plans Assessment – Common Themes in Glens Village Action Plans, Marie Andre, 2012

**Industrial Heritage:**

Industrial Heritage Audit for the Glens of Antrim, Quarto Consultants, 2013

**Arts and Crafts:**

Creating a Viable Craft Economy in the Glens of Antrim, Place Solutions, 2013

**Other:**

Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan, 2008 – 2018

Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Plan, 2012 - 2020

**Guiding Principles**

The section below highlights the various guiding principles that have been considered for the production of this plan.

**Landscape as a Framework for Delivery**

Landscapes are the result of action and interaction of natural (geodiversity, biodiversity, climate) and cultural influences (historic, industrial and current land uses, settlement patterns and human interventions). Landscapes are living and breathing. People’s perceptions are an inherent part of how landscape and its character and qualities are experienced and valued. Landscape acts as a framework for the delivery of meaningful projects

Landscapes provide both the physical setting for everyday life, habitats for nature and wildlife, as well as influencing the wellbeing and quality of life for individuals and society as a whole. The landscape of the Glens provides a living for many of the people who live there and they are an important expression of the relationship between people and place, of our natural, cultural and built heritage, as well as shaping our identity.

The character, quality and condition of our landscape is influenced by natural processes such as climate change, as well as agricultural practises and land use, resource management and development. The landscape offers a platform to deliver projects that connect people to place thus can be seen as a framework for the delivery of meaningful initiatives that have value for people and place.

**The European Landscape Convention**

The authors were closely guided by the ethos of the European Landscape Convention (ELC). The ELC is the first international treaty devoted exclusively to the management, protection and planning of all landscapes in Europe. It underlines that landscape forms a whole, whose natural and cultural components should be considered together, not separately.

The ELC defines landscape as ‘An area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. (Council of Europe 2000)

It highlights the importance of developing landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and creation of landscapes and establishing procedures for the general public and other stakeholders to participate in policy creation and implementation.

The UK Government has signed up to the Convention, which came into effect in the UK in March 2007, demonstrating that UK landscapes, including Northern Ireland, matter for the health, wealth and wellbeing of society, for our cultural identity and for the diverse habitats that exist as part of them.

**Ecosystem Services**

Humankind benefits from a multitude of resources and processes that are supplied by [ecosystems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecosystems). Collectively, these benefits are known as ecosystem services and include products like clean [drinking water](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drinking_water) and processes such as the [decomposition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decomposition) of wastes. While scientists and [environmentalists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmentalists) have discussed ecosystem services for decades, these services were popularised and their definitions formalised by the United Nations 2005 [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Ecosystem_Assessment) (MA), a four-year study involving more than 1,300 scientists worldwide. Taking an ecosystem services approach to the HoGLPS will allow us to develop meaningful projects that connect a wide variety of resources together.

**Sustainable Development**

The ethos of sustainable development has been a guiding principle for the LCAP for the HoGLPS. Sustainable Development is defined as ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’ (Brundtland Report, 1987). It is important that each project is sustainable and, like the landscape, seeks to connect economic, social and environmental components together.

**The Green Glens of Antrim**

The Glens of Antrim are famous for their natural beauty, the friendliness of the people and their cultural richness, particularly in the areas of music, dancing, folklore and sport. The prefix Glen is common across both Ireland and Scotland, and comes from the Gaelic word ‘gleann’ meaning valley. This project covers the famous and renowned nine Glens of Antrim:

Glenarm Glen of the army

Glencloy Glen of the hedges

Glenariff The arable glen

Glenballyeamon Edward’s town glen

Glenaan The glen of the colt’s foot

Glencorp Glen of the slaughtered

Glendun Glen of the brown river

Glenshesk Glen of the reeds or sedges

Glentaisie Glen of the Princess Taisie of the bright sides

The Glens of Antrim have been the subject of many poems and songs, including the following, which describes the Glens in their true glory:

‘The Green Glens of Antrim’

*Far across yonder blue*

*Lies a true paradise*

*With the sea rippling over*

*The shingle and spice.*

*Where the gay honeysuckle*

*Is luring the bee*

*And the green Glens of Antrim*

*Are calling to me.*

*If only you knew*

*How the light of the moon*

*Turns a blue Irish bay*

*To a silver lagoon.*

*You’d imagine the picture*

*Of heaven it would be*

*Where the green Glens of Antrim*

*Are welcoming to me.*

*And I hope to return*

*To my own Cushendall*

*It’s the one place I know*

*That can outshine them all.*

*Till I know every stone*

*I will recall every tree*

*Where the green Glens of Antrim*

*Are heaven to me.*

*But I’d be where the people*

*Are simple and kind*

*And among them there is one*

*That’s been aye in my mind.*

*So I pray that the world*

*That in peace let me be*

*Where the green Glens of Antrim*

*Are heaven to me.*

Composed and written by Kenneth North

The name ‘Glens of Antrim’ evokes strong images of magnificent scenery, lush green glens, rivers and waterfalls, while the Garron Plateau and other upland areas conjure images of wide open moorland, purple heather and grazing sheep.

The Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, which includes the HoGLPS, is home today to 22,500 people, grouped in settlements mostly along the coastline, or scattered in farms throughout the area. These dynamic communities, with their traditions of art, music and sports, and their strong connections with the land, are inextricably linked to its character – deriving livelihoods from its resources and helping to shape its special features. The largest town, Ballycastle to the north, is an important centre for commerce, while the villages along the coast, such as Cushendall, Carnlough and Glenarm are old fishing communities.

[Derelict Buildings]

The Glens of Antrim is changing – old farmhouses, barns and other historic features are disappearing from the landscape, wildlife habitats are threatened, house prices are increasing rapidly and new development is altering the character of settlements. Developing the LCAP is an important step in recognising what is valued in the area, devising objectives for the future and finding mechanisms to make sure that change helps to maintain the intrinsic character of the countryside.

[Abandoned listed buildings/historic buildings]

[Wildlife Threats]

**Participation and Consultation**

It has been clear from the outset that – as set out in the initial development phase application for the HoGLPS – the LCAP would focus on some key distinctive attributes of the Glens of Antrim: upland management conservation works and biodiversity, field boundary restoration, village design planning, coordination of heritage activities, heritage gateways, industrial and cultural heritage trails and tales and heritage training. However, in order to ensure that the details of the programme were developed, to highlight any gaps or opportunities, it was important to hear from the local people.

A number of community workshops and information sessions were held across the Glens to highlight the aspects of heritage that people clearly wish to see protected and enhanced. Community engagement is pivotal to the success of the LCAP and ultimately connecting people with their Glens of Antrim heritage. The process contributed to both the generation of ideas for, and development of, the detail of the various projects outlined in Section 4 and 5 of this document. The following consultations were held across the Glens between April 2012 and April 2013:

1. Heart of the Glens Information Session – Laragh Lodge, Glenariff
2. Community Workshop – Thyme and Co, Ballycastle
3. Community Workshop – Cushendall Development Offices, Cushendall
4. Community Workshop – Houston’s Mill, Broughshane
5. Community Workshop – Londonderry Arms Hotel, Carnlough
6. Community Workshop – Glenarm Tourist Information Centre, Glenarm
7. Accessing the Countryside Workshop – Ballymena Showgrounds, Ballymena
8. Arts and Crafts Stakeholder Consultation – Houston’s Mill, Brougshane

The workshops were promoted through the CCGHT website, local press, posters and social media. A survey was also circulated with the posters, at meetings and via the email distribution lists held by CCGHT. See Appendix X for examples of the posters, press coverage and a summary of the consultation workshops and survey findings.

[Consultation Photographs]

As well as organising specific workshops for the community of the Glens, the LPS Manager also attended various festivals and events across the Glens throughout the development phase to network with the local people and understand the needs and opportunities. The following events were attended by the LPS Manager, with leaflet and survey distributions carried out:

1. Carnlough Vintage Day, July 2012
2. Lammas Fair, Ballycastle, August 2012
3. Heart of the Glens Festival, August 2012
4. Heritage Open Day, Old Church Cushendun, September 2012

[Festival photographs]

**Partnership**

A Steering Committee was established for the HoGLPS. Organisations represented in this partnership include the following. See Appendix X for a Term of Reference for the HoGLPS Steering Committee.

|  |
| --- |
| **Statutory Authorities** |
| Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) |
| Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) |
| Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) |
| **Local Authorities** |
| Ballymoney Borough Council |
| Ballymena Borough Council |
| Larne Borough Council |
| Moyle District Council |
| **Community, Voluntary and Interest Group Sector** |
| Glens Red Squirrel Group |
| Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland |
| North Antrim Community Network |
| Antrim Glens Tourism Group |
| Council for Nature Conservation and Countryside |
| Causeway Coast and Glens Regional Tourism Partnership |
| Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) |
| Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) |
| **Landowners** |
| National Trust |
| DARD Forest Service |
| Northern Ireland Water |

The group met collectively on five occasions as follows:

* 26th June 2012
* 21st August 2012
* 11th September 2012 (Site Visit Day)
* 7th November 2012
* 21st March 2013

The Steering Committee advised on research, consultation processes and acted as the ‘critical friend’ for projects. The committee also advised and identified possible match funding sources. The Partnership Agreement for the HoGLPS has been signed by the Chair of the Steering Committee, Patrick Casement, on behalf of all partners.

CCGHT arranged a site visit day for the committee and the wider Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Group. The theme for this visit was ‘industrial heritage’. See Appendix X for a copy of our newsletter, Pulse, Issue One which details the visit. This was an opportunity for the partners to see the rich industrial heritage within the Glens, and to see the potential for projects centred on industrial and historic heritage within the HoGLPS.

[Site Visit Photographs]

**Landscape Conservation Action Plan – Scheme Overview**

The LCAP is a key document which outlines the landscape area and its heritage, why it matters, what is happening to it and what needs to be done and by whom. The projects identified and detailed should reflect the needs of the region and the document should clearly show how the benefits of the scheme will be maintained.

In Section 1, there is an overview of the Glens of Antrim which utilises the work of the Landscape Character Assessment and the heritage found within. A major section on heritage details the biodiversity and the historic environment whilst the cultural associations champion the important links between people and place. This section also outlines the various audiences that are engaged in the landscape, providing an audit of existing audience activities, infrastructure and services.

Section 2 explains the story of the Glens of Antrim and the significance this distinctive landscape has regionally, nationally and internationally.

Section 3 outlines the risks and opportunities relating to the special features identified in sections 1 and 2, as well as summarising the feedback from the consultation workshops and surveys regarding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats being identified in the Glens. From this analysis, the HoGLPS is seen as having the potential to make a significant impact on the conservation and enhancement of the Glens of Antrim.

Section 4 showcases how the HoGLPS will focus on its overall aims and objectives of the plan and how it will act as a key management tool.

Section 5 is the scheme plan and costs which will identify the projects going forward for the scheme implementation in 2013. This section will contain the detailed project delivery plans for the actions identified in Section 4. The methods for choosing projects and the changes that have been made since the stage one application are highlighted.

Section 6 sets out CCGHTs approach to sustainability and how CCGHT intend to continue the Partnership after HLF funding has finished. It is crucial that the projects offer legacy and continuity, beyond the life time of the HoGLPS.

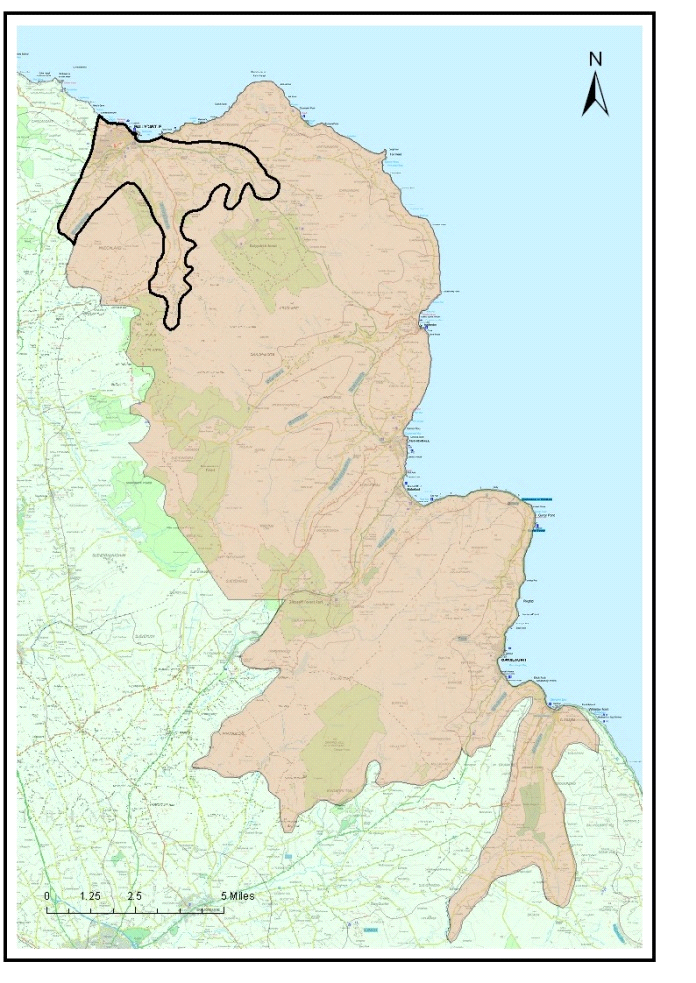
Section 7 and Section 8 relates to the evaluation and monitoring processes involved in the scheme, how the plan was adopted and how it will be reviewed over the course of the implementation phase 2013 – 2018.

**Section 1A – Understanding the Glens of Antrim**

The HoGLPS can be defined by the following LCAs:

* Ballycastle Glens
* Fair Head
* Moyle Moorlands and Forests (part of)
* Moyle Glens
* Garron Plateau
* Larne Glens

The HoGLPS, as previously mentioned, boasts the nine Glens of Antrim, each with distinctive natural, cultural and historic heritage. The following section will detail each of the LCAs and the Glens which are represented in that designated area, providing information on the distinctiveness of that Glen. Where no Glen is fully represented, this will be known as a ‘connective landscape’. Whilst the nine Glens are unique and infamous, it is important to recognise that each of these landscapes is interconnected, in natural, cultural and historic heritage. In Section 4, we identify themes for the HoGLPS. These have been identified to highlight the cross over between the Glens, their stories and heritage.

**Landscape Character Area – The Ballycastle Glens**

Consisting of a number of steep-sided valleys, the Ballycastle Glens houses scenic river valleys and attractive rocky rivers enclosed by smooth rounded hills. Farmland in the area mostly consists of improved grassland and rough grazing. Fields are mostly bordered by hedgerows which often include gorse and thorn, giving diversity in colour and texture. Degraded stone walls are characteristic of upper slopes. Valleys have rich vegetative diversity with trees and broadleaved woodlands associated with river corridors and hedgerows. Forestry plantations with harsh, straight edges feature on some slopes. Roads mainly follow valley edges with attractive stone bridges crossing rivers. Historical features in the area include mottes, crosses, raths and standing stones. These are located throughout the valley sides.

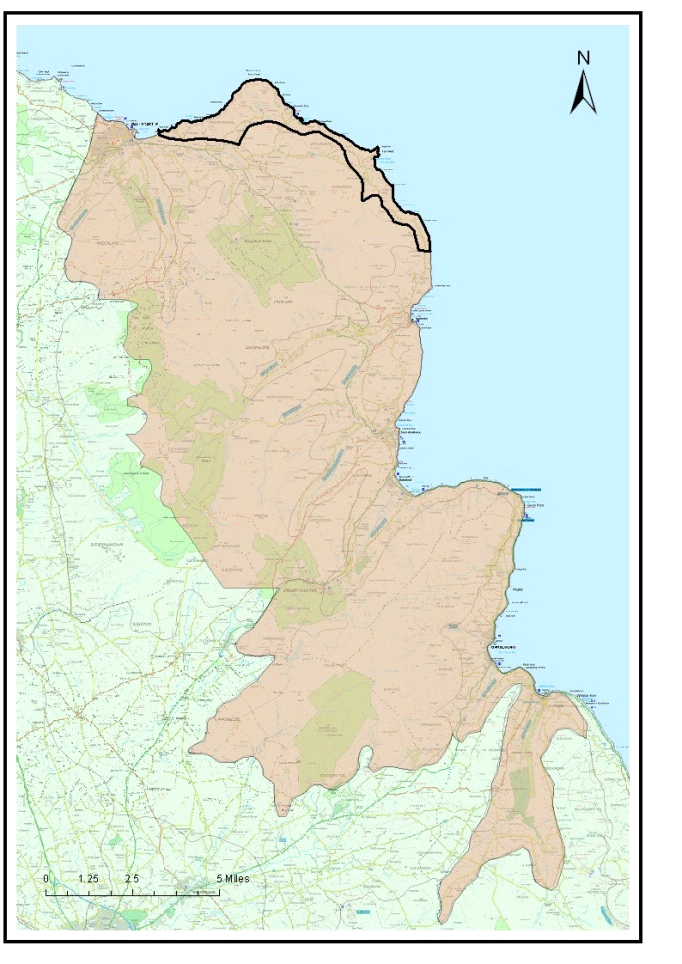
**Glens Represented – Glentaisie and Glenshesk**

1. Glentaisie

Glentaisie is the most northerly of the nine glens and, lying as it does at the foot of Knocklayde Mountain, is probably the most sheltered. It is about five miles long and opens out to a fine sandy beach at the beautiful historic town of Ballycastle. Situated 25 miles from Ballymena and 20 miles from Coleraine, the area is steeped in history. Glentaisie was named after the Princess Taisie, the daughter of King Dorm of Rathlin Island. According to legend, Taisie, renowned for her great beauty, was bethrothed to Congal, heir to the Kingdom of Ireland. The king of Norway also sought her hand in marriage, and when he arrived to claim his bride her wedding celebrations to Congal were underway. The King of Norway and his army tried to capture Taisie but in the subsequent battle he was killed and his army fled leaderless and empty handed. More recent history deals with the arrival of the MacDonnell Clan from Scotland and even more recent is the fact that the first ever wireless message across a stretch of water was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Ballycastle to Rathlin in 1898.

1. Glenshesk

Glenshesk is a pleasant glen lying on the eastern side of Knocklayde Mountain opening out to the sea at Ballycastle. Like Glentaisie, on the other side of Knocklayde, it is also full of historic lore and at its foot lie the ruins of the Franciscan Friary of Bonamargy which was built for the friars by the local chieftain, Rory MacQuillan in 1485. As a result of a few fierce battles it became the property of the MacDonnell Clan who had no qualms about setting fire to the friary when it was occupied by the English forces under the command of Sir William Stanley in 1584. This glen is peppered with standing stones marking the burial places of saintly men and women and of brave clan leaders killed in battle.

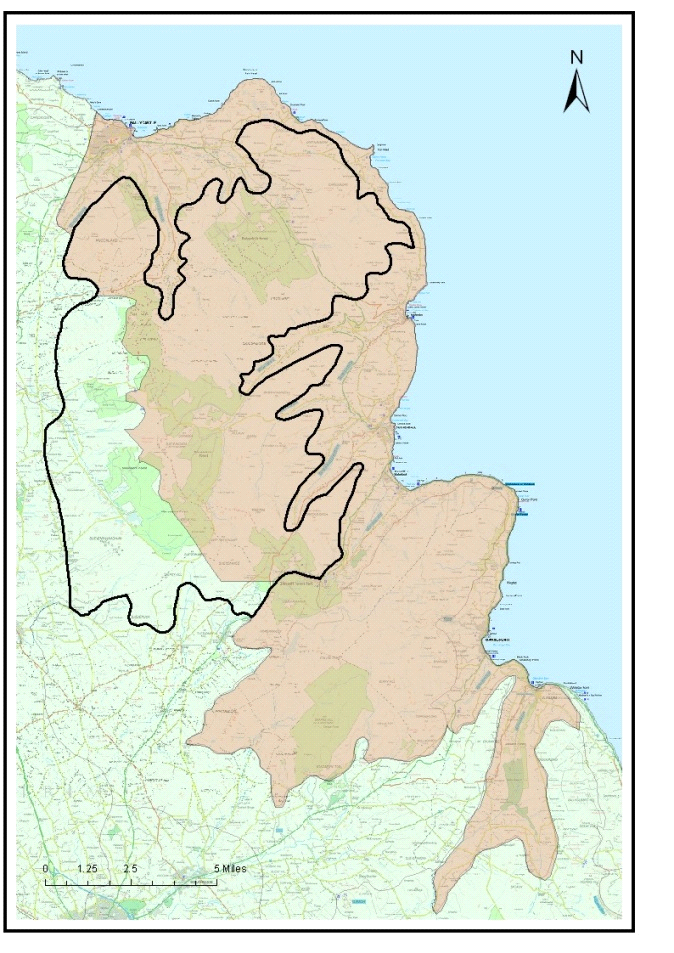
**Landscape Character Area - Fair Head**

The interesting topography of this area results from its complex underlying geology of schists and basalts with igneous intrusions giving rise to prominent cliffs and headlands. The various geological strata have led to the development of cliffs of striking contrasts in colour and form. Small streams drop steeply from the plateau into small secluded bays, such as Murlough bay. Farming in the area is mostly small-scale rough grazing. Minimal vegetation occurs on exposed cliff tops. This is contrasted with deciduous woodlands and meadows found below cliffs. Narrow roads are bordered by hedgerows, many of which are dominated by fuchsia. Settlements in the area are mainly small white-washed houses with red or green roofs. Historic features are important along this coastal fringe, crannogs, cairns and chambered graves are all associated with Fair Head.

**A Connective Landscape**

Fair Head, whilst part of the Glens of Antrim topographic history, is an area that does not contain one of the nine Glens of Antrim. Rather, this region offers a connection between the Northern and middle glens

**Landscape Character Area - Moyle Moorland and Forest**

A large scale, sweeping moorland landscape, with distinctive peaks such as Knocklayd and Slieveanorra. Land cover in this area mainly consists of unimproved grasslands, heather and large areas of blanket bog. Important archaeological features such as chambered graves and standing stones are associated with moorland summits. In contrast with open moorland, there are a number of extensive conifer plantations. These are mostly conifer plantations located on hill slopes with harsh, straight edges, though some broadleaved forest occurs along lower slopes. Few roads service the area and settlements are mainly traditional white-washed farmsteads located on lower moorland edges and sheltered valleys. This area offers extensive views across open moorland and coast. Recently, radio masts and wind farms have become a feature of the skyline.

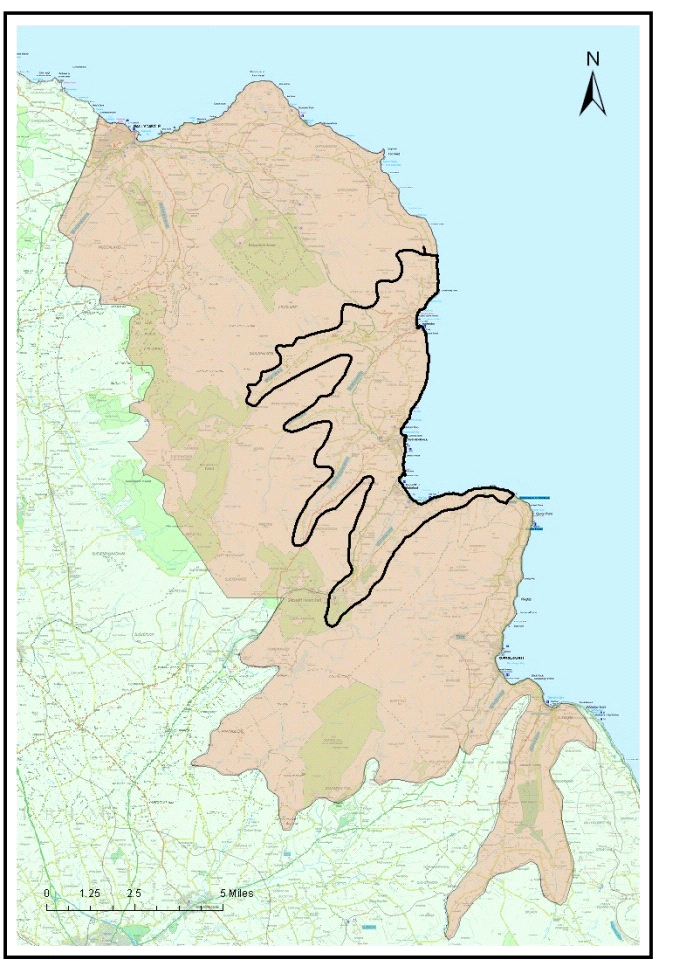
**A Connective Landscape**

This moorland landscape offers a connection between the Northern and middle glens, like that of Fair Head LCA. This region contains some of the most intact blanket bog habitat in Northern Ireland, with designations including ASSI, NR and SPA.

**Landscape Character Area - Moyle Glens**

The Moyle Glens, which include the famous Glenariff, are a series of steep sided valleys carved out of the schist’s and basalt of the Antrim Plateau by glacial activity. Northern glens have steep v-shaped slopes, with more southerly glens having more sweeping u-shaped profiles with dramatic basalt cliffs. The valleys fall towards the sea, with the rocky mountain streams and waterfalls becoming meandering streams as they reach the flat floodplains near the coast. Distinctive peaks and hills such as Tieveragh, Tievebulliagh, and Lurigethan are dominant in this landscape. Fields with prominent hedges and trees, and broadleaved woodland are concentrated on lower slopes, with gorse hedgerows and stone walls following the former townland boundaries on the higher valley sides. Roads follow the sides of the glens, linking the typical white-washed farm cottages. The principal settlements of Cushendun and Cushendall have dramatic landscape settings at the coastal gateways to the Glens.

**Glens Represented – Glenann, Glendun, Glencorp, Glenballyeamon and Glenariff**

1. Glenaan

Also known as the Fuchsia Glen, Glenann lies between Glenballyeamon and Glendun and runs into Glencorp. Tievebullagh (where porcellanite was mined to make polished stone axes in prehistoric times) commands the space between Glenballyeamon and Glenann. Through the glen flows the Glenann River which has its source at the foot of Trostan (the highest peak on the Antrim Plateau), it joins the Ballyeamon River near the cross-roads, three miles north of the village of Cushendall.   
  
The foot of Glenann joins the Cushendall - Ballycastle road and is 3 miles from Cushendun, 18 miles from Ballymoney, 20 miles from Ballymena, 35 miles from Larne and 30 miles from Belfast International Airport. Once a thickly populated glen, as evidenced by the remains of many wallsteads scattered around the hill sides, including the deserted clachan of Knockban. There are less than 20 occupied houses in the glen now but some new houses are being built.

1. Glendun

Nestling in what is locally known as the Middle Glens, Glendun, also known as the brown glen, is found 30 miles from Larne, 25 miles from Ballymena and 32 miles from Coleraine. A peaceful glen, it has the largest area of deciduous woodland due mainly to landlords such as the Whites of Broughshane who planted the 71 acres known as Craigagh Wood. The National Trust Village of Cushendun is situated at the mouth of the river Dun and during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was an important trading port with Scotland.

1. Glencorp

This glen runs south to north from Glenann merging into Glendun. It lies between Gruig Top to the north and Cross Slieve to the south. Two roads run through it: the main road from Cushendall to Cushendun or Ballycastle, the Tromra Road, and the 'High Road' or the 'Middle Road' now called the Ballybrack Rd. The 'High Road' was the main road before the present lower route was constructed in the 1830s as part of the new Coast Road. Lanes or 'loanins' connected the dwellings on the braes of Gruig Top with this road. Some of these 'loanins' still exist and traces of the rest can still be seen in the landscape today. No one now lives on the high braes, the houses are lower down. There are about 30 families currently residing in this glen.

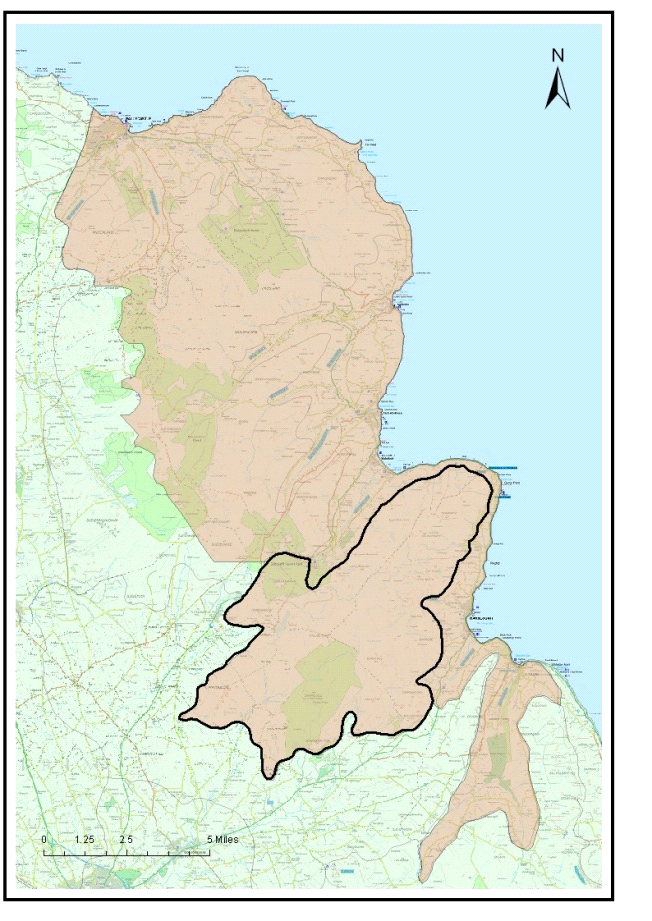
1. Glenballyeamon

This beautiful glen is 15 miles from Ballymena, turning left at the signpost for Cushendall. After travelling through Parkmore townland with the forest of Glenariff on your right, the vegetation clears to the expanse of the glen sweeping down to the Irish Sea and beyond towards the Mull of Kintyre. It can also be reached via the Coast Road from Larne, although it is better appreciated from an elevated vantage point. The bottom of Genballyeamon lies between the crossroads where the Cushendall Road meets Gault's Road, and Cushendall Bridge, meeting at the top of the glen at Parkmore townland. The southern boundary is Lurigethan and the western limits are the slopes of Trostan and the side of Tievebulliagh.

1. Glenariff

Glenariffe (Gleann Airbh) is situated approximately 25 miles north of Larne, 18 miles from Ballymena and 40 miles from Coleraine, and is comprised of more than twenty seven townlands and quarter lands. The glen is the result of a combination of volcanic activity and glaciations and is a perfect example of a U – shaped valley. The fertile plain extends from the one mile, sandy beach to about 3 miles inland between the Carrivemurphy / Glenariffe mountain ranges and Lurig (or Lurg) plateau. The mountain range is Lurig or Lurg meaning a long shine which the plateau is and Lurgeadan/Lurigeadan is that brow of the mountain range overlooking the boat slip. The quaint and picturesque village of Waterfoot, which was described in Lieut. Chaytor’s 1830 survey as an ancient Danish settlement, is the largest place of habitation in the glen and, although small, is a popular holiday resort. On the northern side are the caves which were inhabited until mid-1800s.

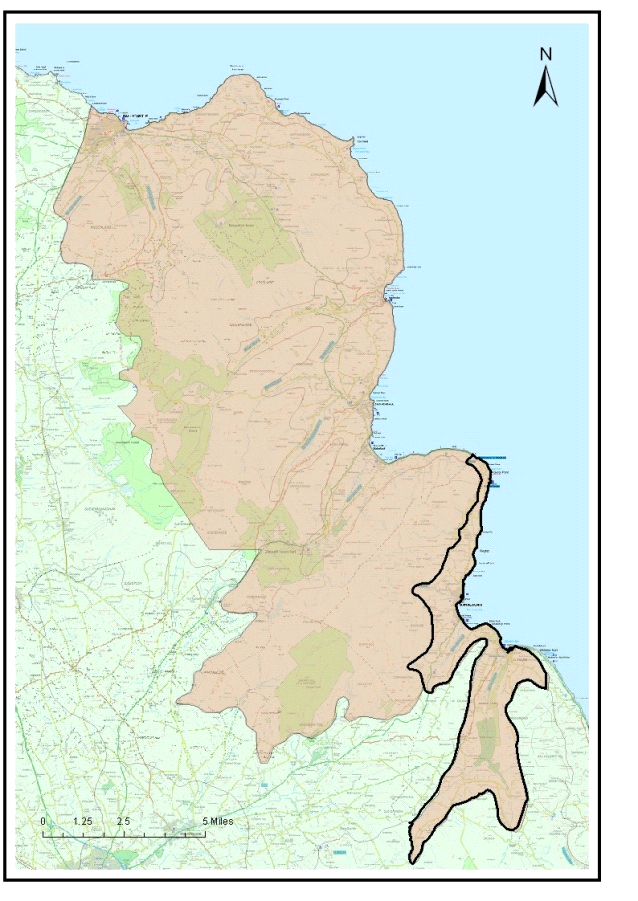
The distinctive pattern of ladder farms, which extend to the Lurig plateau, gives each farm an equal share of lowland pasture, hill-ground and mountain grazing. The forest park, waterfalls and scenic surroundings have made Glenariffe a tourist attraction since the mid-1800s and rightfully earned it the name of *Queen of the Glens.* There have been many variations of spelling; however, Glenariffe is the most locally accepted English spelling. Some people maintain this means the glen of the ploughman; however a local scholar held the theory that the name derived from the townland of Foriff (Foriffe) - glen of the pasture area.

**The Garron Plateau**

Accommodating the largest area of intact blanket bog in Northern Ireland, the Garron plateau is part of a table of upper basalt stretching from central Ballymena to Garron Point on the coast. The area consists mainly of open, uneven moorland. The uneven nature of the Garron Plateau has produced many upland lakes and reservoirs. Upland areas support important communities of heather, rushes and moorland grasses; peat cutting is evident in some places. Land use in the area is mainly rough grazing; this is concentrated on the lower slopes. There are a few isolated cottages and barns in upland areas and roads do not penetrate beyond the edges of the plateau.

**A Connective Landscape**

Whilst the Garron Plateau does not represent any of the glens, it is an extremely important connecting zone between the middle and southern glens. It is an exceptional landscape that is extremely visual from the highest points of the middle and southern glens. With the Dungonnell Reservoir sitting in the heart of the Garron Plateau, this landscape provides a resource for many of the connecting glens.

**Larne Glens**

The Larne Glens are made up of two deeply incised valleys of the Glencloy and Glenarm rivers which extend inwards from the coast. The villages of Carnlough and Glenarm are situated at the mouth of each glen. There is stark contrast in landscape between the diverse glen landscape and exposed uplands. Steep valleys provide shelter for a number of farmsteads. Well-structured pastures, surrounded by stone walls or hedgerow, are typically triangular in shape to ‘fit’ with the landform. Deciduous woodland, hedgerow trees and conifer plantations give the glens a wooded appearance. Scars from disused quarries create distinctive landmarks.

**Glens Represented –Glencloy and Glenarm**

1. Glencloy

Lying about 14 miles north of Larne, this glen takes its name from the stone ditches in the upper glen and on Garron mountain. Some of these have been shown to date from the Bronze Age. The main village is Carnlough (population about 1000) stretching along most of the bay. A further 500-600 people live in the upper glen. Archaeological excavations at Bay Farm have uncovered evidence of Neolithic occupation (around 4000 B.C.) and further excavations in the same general area uncovered a Bronze Age settlement dated between 2000 and 1500 B.C. Doonan Fort about 2 miles west of Carnlough and Dungallan Fort about 2 miles north of Carnlough are Norman mottes. The great fort of Dunmaul at Garron Point was also adapted as a motte although it undoubtedly pre-dates the Normans. There is a strong local tradition that it was a Viking stronghold.

1. Glenarm

Lying about 12 miles north of Larne it is the most southerly of the Nine Glens of Antrim. The village of Glenarm has a population of about 500 people with perhaps 600-700 in the upper glen. There was an important fort here in Norman times providing an outlet to the sea for the extensive Norman settlement in mid-Antrim. The harbour has recently been renovated and a new marina created with moorings for some 75 boats. Glenarm Castle, dating from 1750 with early 19th century alterations lies near the village and the Antrim Estate extends up the Glen for about four miles on both sides of the river. The Church of Ireland stands on the site of a Third Order Franciscan Friary founded about AD 1500 with part of the walls still visible. The great Shane O'Neill, killed at Cushendun in 1567 is reputed to be buried here, minus his head which was displayed on a spike at Dublin Castle.

**1.3 Natural Heritage**

The Glens of Antrim has an outstanding diversity of landscape and habitats, as described in the previous section, from the open moorlands and blanket bogs, the intimate mosaic of grasslands, woodlands and wetlands in the valleys, to the rugged coastline and the sea. This diversity of form and habitats supports a wildlife resource of international importance.

**1.3.1 Biodiversity**

Below lists the range of habitats and species found within the HoGLPS.

*Woodlands*

The Antrim Glens host some of the best sites in Northern Ireland to visit unspoiled, ancient woodlands. One of the largest continuous areas of intact ancient woodland in Northern Ireland can be found in Glenarm Demesne. Maps dating back to the 1650s show the area of woodland, which remains the same location and shape today. This provides an important habitat for a number of bats, rare bird and insect species.

Small private woodlands are common throughout the HoGLPS area. These often comprise of conifers, mainly dominated by Sitka Spruce or Scots Pine. There are also larger conifer State Forest plantations, such as those throughout the Moyle Moorlands and Glenarm State Forest. Many of these plantations have replaced peatlands, greatly reducing the biodiversity value of the site. Commonly, the red squirrel is the only priority species recorded. Mixed conifer and broadleaved plantations are also present in smaller numbers. Craigagh Wood in Cushendun is another example of rich ancient woodland, flourishing with rare species, habitats and archaeological significance.

[Glenarm Forest]

[Red Squirrels]

*Arable and Grassland Habitat*

Farmland in the HoGLPS area is predominantly grassland, with improved pasture common in lowlands and rough grazing at higher altitudes. The biodiversity value of farmland is generally poor. In many areas, high levels of grazing, repeated cutting for silage and the use of agricultural chemicals has led to depleted biodiversity. There is however examples of farmland managed for biodiversity. In the Glenarm area, careful grazing and cutting regimes maintain species rich meadows.

Field abandonment is common in places. In upland areas this often leads to increased areas of bracken and the associated loss in biodiversity. In some lowland areas where drainage has not been maintained, fields have reverted back into rush dominated swards. These areas provide important breeding habitat for wading birds such as snipe, curlew and lapwing.

[Snipe]

[Curlew]

[Lapwing]

[Bracken]

In species poor farmland areas, biodiversity is often concentrated in hedgerows. Hedgerows provide important habitat for a variety of woodland and farmland species as well as corridors for movement around the landscape. In higher regions, hedgerow banks provide important refuge for spring flowering plants from encroaching bracken in abandoned fields. In the LPS area, many hedges are poorly maintained, ‘gappy’ and often comprised of only hawthorn and gorse.

[Hedgerows]

*Heathland and Blanket Bog*

While Coniferous forests have been planted over a large proportion of the uplands of the Antrim Glens, heath and blanket bog remain extensive in many areas.

[Red Grouse]

[Hen Harrier]

The Garron Plateau, an area of international importance, is the most extensive area of intact upland blanket bog in Northern Ireland. This area provides important habitat for a wide variety of animals, plants and mosses. Irish Red Book bird species associated with the area include red grouse, golden plover, dunlin, merlin and hen harrier.

[Peat cutting]

Historically, peat cutting has been common in many areas and peat erosion is widespread. Management for game birds (including burning, overgrazing and drainage) has also had a negative impact on the biodiversity of many areas. In other parts, gorse has spread over many abandoned upland fields. This can reduce overall biodiversity, but can be important for some bird species.

*Wetlands and Lakes*

Rivers providing drainage for plateaus throughout the Glens are associated with a variety of priority species, including otters, river jelly lichens and a number of bryophytes. A number of upland, base poor lakes occur on the Garron Plateau. These provide important habitat for breeding mallard, teal and redshank birds as well as wintering grounds for tufted duck and pochard. The Glendun River is a fantastic source for salmon, with a number of anglers sustainably using this stretch of river for fishing. The Glens Angling Club is extremely proactive in terms of raising awareness of the river ecosystem and the need to safeguard the salmon habitat.

[Glendun River]

*Coastal Areas*

Much of the coastline is comprised of rock platform and boulders, which generally supports a good diversity of flora and fauna. Cliffs, such as those found at Fair Head, provide safe nesting sites for many rare and uncommon birds as supporting a number of rare flowering plants such as the Welsh poppy. Littoral sites present relatively poor biodiversity due to their exposure. Exceptions to this include more sheltered sites, such as Murlough Bay. A further exception to this is the Larne Glens area where most of the coast is in boulders, predominantly chalk boulders. Sub-littoral and littoral chalks are Northern Ireland Priority Habitat’s and support a distinctive cohort of algae and animals.

[Welsh Poppy]

For a more in depth understanding of the range of priority habitats and species in the Glens of Antrim, please refer to the Local Biodiversity Action Plans for the Causeway Coast and Glens Cluster Area and the Larne, Ballymena and Carrickfergus Council Areas.

[Map of Habitats and Species NIEA]

**1.3.2 Geodiversity**

Geology is the origin of the region’s natural beauty and wildlife riches. Nearly all of the geological ages of Northern Ireland are represented in the HoGLPS. The dominant structure is the hard and acidic basalt lava flows of the Garron Plateau, protecting the soft rocks beneath. Where the hard crust has been penetrated by rivers and glaciers, the Glens have been gouged out. Steep crags and cliffs characterise the Glen sides and coastal fringe, defining the landscape of the region. Coastal erosion has exposed some of the most important geological sequences in Ireland and many of these are protected as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). Please see section 2 for further information on ASSIs and designations within the HoGLPS.

Volcanic plugs of dolerite rising above the Antrim Plateau are particularly distinctive with the larger ones such as Scawt Hill and Tievebulliagh. At the latter, a slipped block of basalt was metamorphosed to form porcellanite, a very rare type of rock used by Neolithic people to make axe heads.

[Scawt Hill]

[Tievebulliagh Axe Heads]

The Pleistocene Ice Age carved out the Glens of Antrim and provided the scenery which is the basis of the area. More recently, the Holocene period provided a range of sediments which provide a record of the impact of humans on the environment, most notably the peat of the Garron Plateau.

In addition to determining the character and arrangement of the habitats of the region, geology is closely linked to early human activity by providing the mineral resources for a developing society. Porcellanite, limestone for lime and construction, coal, peat, iron ore, bauxite and a range of other lesser minerals were utilised from the first arrival of humans through to today. The infrastructure needed to extract and transport this mineral wealth provides the bulk of the regions industrial archaeology.

[Limestone Industry]

**1.4 Built Heritage and the Historic Environment**

The evidence of at least 9,000 years of human occupation is present throughout the Glens of Antrim. The resource is rich and well-studied. Key to understanding the historic environment is

* The relationship between the Glens of Antrim and Scotland which provided an exchange of people and ideas by sea between the two regions
* The geology and physical structure which isolated the region from the rest of Ireland and also separated the communities of the Glens. It also provided the natural resources which has determined much of the region’s archaeology and built heritage

The archaeological evidence of all of the ages since the Neolithic period is represented throughout the Glens of Antrim. Religious artefacts are also important from the Early Christian period onward. The influence of the religious divide in the politics and culture of the region is shown to be very old indeed.

The region is rich in buildings of historic or architectural merit and these are protected as listed buildings. The majority of the stock is vernacular buildings relating to the farmed landscape, or structures associated with the industrial heritage. Grand houses, historic parks and gardens and military heritage are also represented but to a lesser extent.

[Ossian’s Grave]

[Glenarm Estate]

[Red Bay Castle]

The historic resource is non-renewable, and its protection and management is a particular priority for the Glens of Antrim. Many of the most important sites are protected by law, and most of the undesignated sites are recorded on NIEAs Sites and Monuments Record. Five designated conservation areas also help to protect significant villages. However, the care and management of the historic resource is less assured. State owned monuments are generally in acceptable condition while the condition of those in private ownership is variable, with many falling into disrepair.

[Lime Kiln in Carnlough]

Many listed buildings, and unlisted buildings of historic interest, are deteriorating or becoming derelict, with many being replaced by, or incorporated into, new buildings.

[Carnlough Library]

**1.5 Cultural Heritage**

Much of the character of the Glens of Antrim is derived from its close associations with Scotland. Previously part of the ancient sea kingdom of Dalriada, the Scottish influence is evident everywhere in place-names, music, language and dance. Fought over by the McQuillans, MacDonnells and near neighbours the O’Neills, its turbulent history is reflected in the many battle sites throughout the area such as Slieveanorra and Glentaisie. Glenarm Castle has been home to the Antrim McDonnells for over 400 years.

[Battle of Orra Site]

Folklore is alive and well within the Glens of Antrim and the area has always had strong associations with the ‘wee folk’ or the fairy culture. Many of the place names reflect this tradition. In terms of mythology the area has associations with ‘Ossian the Bard’, the ‘Children of Lir’ and also produced Julia McQuillan, Bonamargy’s ‘Black Nun’ who could reputedly predict the future. The area has many literary associations and oral history, music and dance are all still strong. The middle Glens around Cushendall are famous for traditional sports especially hurling whilst four oar gig racing takes place within many of the coastal villages but is especially popular in Carnlough.

[Coastal Rowing]

[Hurling]

The communities of the Glens worked the land, fished the coastal waters and entertained themselves with the occasional ceili, a tradition of gathering in each other’s dwellings to share music ideas, sing and enjoy the ‘craic’ or entertainment in the Glens.

**Section 1B – Audience Development and Tourism**

It is important to highlight the audiences who use and access the Glens of Antrim. In this section, we develop some of the major audience themes as the basis of the audience development aspect of the LPS.

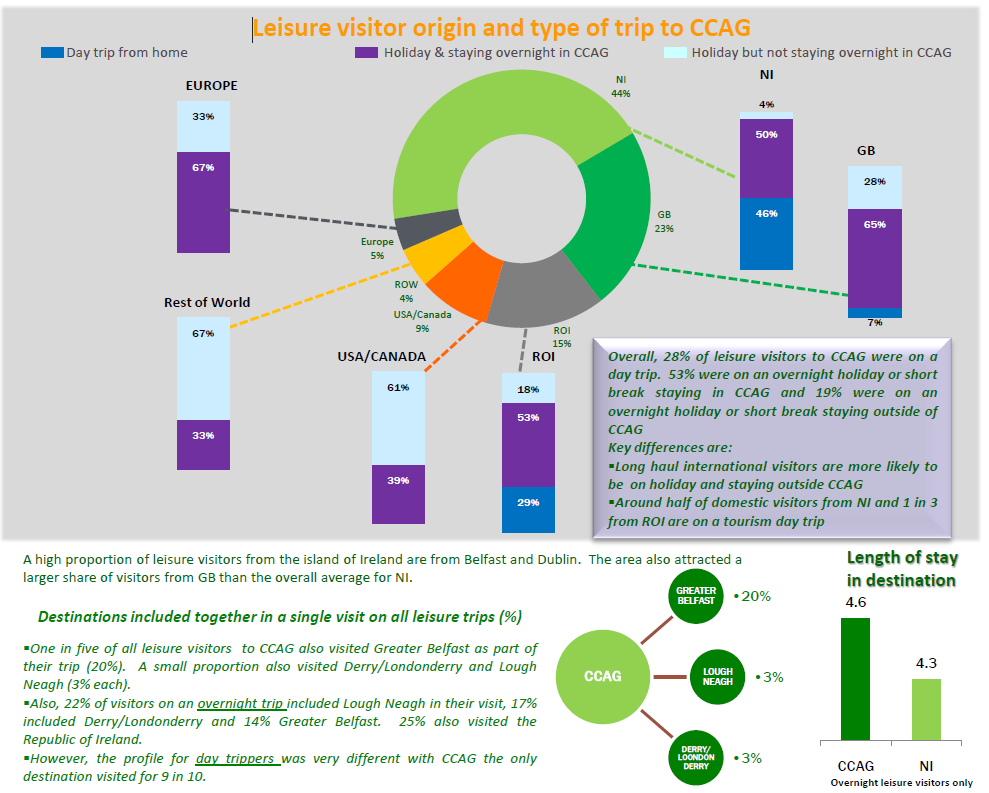
The purpose of this audience development analysis is to help shape the HoGLPSs understanding of, and determine the approach towards, engaging new audiences, and greater numbers of existing audiences, to access and appreciate the natural, industrial, geological and cultural heritage present in the Glens of Antrim.

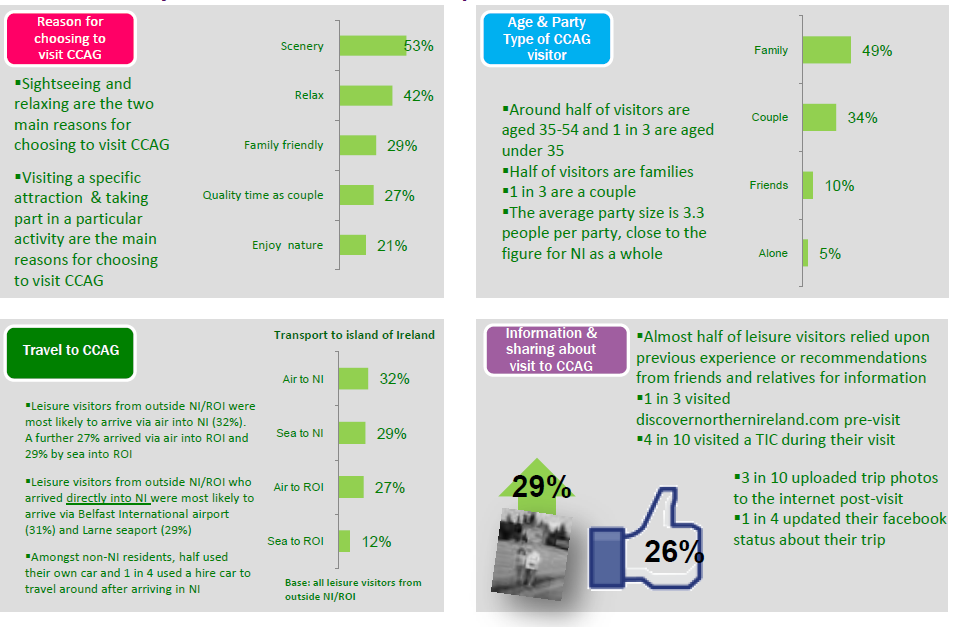
As well as analysis of key research, surveys and audits, the findings of the audience development analysis have been shaped by the discussions of the LPS Steering Committee and other mechanisms, such as the Walking Groups Consultation Evening.

**1.1 Regional Audience and Recreation Statistics**

Specific information relating to outdoor activities and visitor information in the Glens of Antrim is limited. As the Glens are now part of a wider Causeway Coast and Glens Destination, much of the research and figures relates to the destination as a whole.

NITB prepare visitor surveys relating to attitudes and perceptions in Northern Ireland, according to regions. Below highlights the main visitor attitudes and perceptions in the Causeway Coast and Glens (CC&G) in 2011.



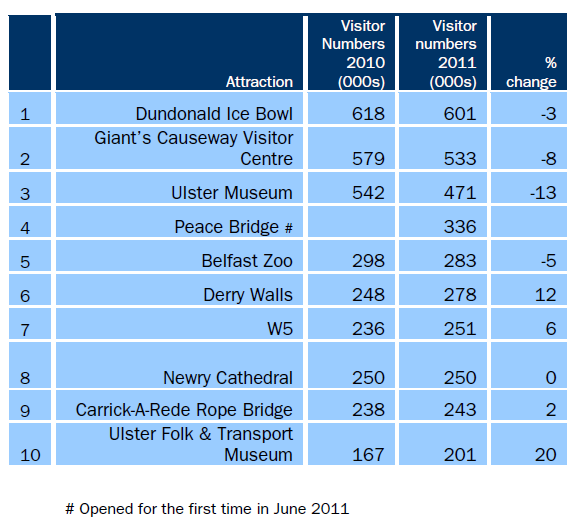
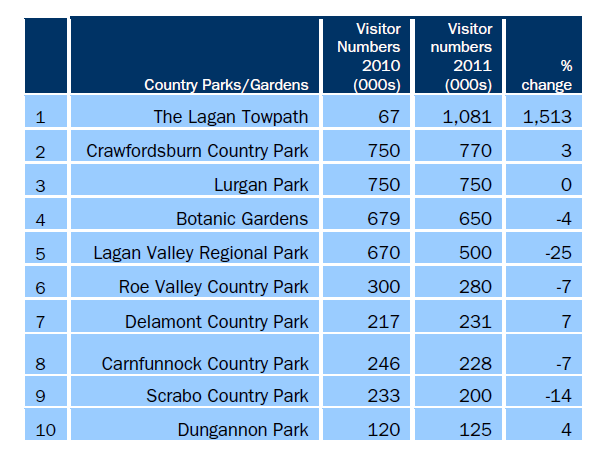
From the findings above, one of the main points to note is that 28% of visitors were on a day trip, with 53% staying overnight and 19% enjoying a short break staying outside of the CC&G. This highlights the issue of maintaining visitors within the destination, and increasing visitor spend, as many book accommodation outside. 

Scenery, relaxation and nature are considered the tops reasons for visiting the CC&G. The age profile of visitors tends to be mainly 35-54 year olds, with 4 in 10 people visiting a local Tourist Information Centre to find out attractions and activities.

A Northern Ireland Visitor Attraction Survey was conducted in 2011 by the Department for Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI). The report provides an analysis of the most up to date information from the Visitor Attractions Survey in NI. The figures for participating visitor attractions show:

1. There were approximately 12.4 million visits made during 2011 to NI
2. There was a 5.9 % increase in the number of visitors to attractions from 2010
3. Country Parks/Parks/Forests account for the largest proportion of visitors

As you can see from the tables below, of the top 10 Northern Ireland attractions listed in 2011, not one of these attractions was in the Glens of Antrim. Of the country parks in Northern Ireland, only Carnfunnock Country Park, located in the wider AONB but not the HoGLPS, was listed in the top 10 country park attractions.



The Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Plan 2012 offers detailed information on current destination visitor numbers, SWOT analysis, types of visitors and key issues. Below highlights 7 themes which this plan will develop action against. It is important to note that developing the landscape, culture and heritage assets is a key theme. Further, the development of strong partnerships and networks is highlighted as a key strand. In terms of audience development and encouraging activities and tourism in the Glens, it will be important to link with CC&G Tourism Ltd and wider partners to ensure delivery of this plan in line with the LPS. Please refer to the CC&G TAP 2012 for further detail relating to tourism trends and audience patterns for the wider destination.

**1.2 Heart of the Glens Audience and Recreation Statistics**

In order to understand more locally the existing audience trends and perceptions, a recreational audit was conducted in 2012 as part of the HoGLPS. This audit reviewed the existing outdoor recreation opportunities and activities taking place in the area in order to understand needs and future opportunities. See Appendix X for a copy of the audit.

**1.2.1 Existing Audiences**

The following table provides an assessment of the types of audiences engaging in activities in the Glens of Antrim. The table sets out audience categories along with some information on current stage of development.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Audience | Current Mechanisms and Issues |
| Visitors | The Glens of Antrim is renowned for its scenic beauty and outstanding landscape value. It has been identified as a key ‘destination’ by the NITB, together with the Causeway Coast and is one of 5 signature project regions in Northern Ireland. The majority of visitors are day trippers from other parts of Northern Ireland. |
| Local Interest Groups | There are a number of active and highly valued interest groups in the Glens. Most notable is the Glens of Antrim Historical Society, who have been active for almost 50 years. Other historical societies exist in Ballycastle and Glenravel. The Antrim Glens Tourism Group is another highly active interest group and conservation interest groups including the Glens Red Squirrel Group and the Glens Angling Club engage in natural heritage related work. The two Local Biodiversity Action Plan Groups within the Glens also contribute to effective natural heritage of the region. |
| Local Community Groups | The Glens of Antrim is extremely rich with local community groups, centred on the conservation towns and villages, focusing on natural, cultural and built heritage. The North and South Antrim Community Networks are the ‘hub’ organisations and a full list of the range of groups can be found by visiting their respective websites. |
| Farmers and Small Landowners | The majority of land is under private ownership in the Glens and the number of farmers (both full and part time) has declined from 1,024 in 2000 to 931 in 2007, a reduction of nearly 10%. The number of agricultural holdings has decreased from 863 to 778 over the same period. As the land under agricultural management has remained the same, this date indicates farms are increasing, slightly in size and employing fewer people - part of the continuing international trend for increasing farm efficiency. Over 80% of farms are still categorised as 'small' (1-2 person businesses) or 'very small' (too small to provide full time employment for one person). The local economy is under severe pressure in some sector with farmers and fishermen needing to find additional incomes. |
| Large Landowners | The largest public landowner in the Glens is DARD Forest Service. They manage a number of key sites including Slievanorra, Glenariff and Ballycastle Forest. Other large landowners include the National Trust, responsible for areas such as Cushleake and Cushendun Village, and NI Water, who owns approximately 2000 hectares (ha) of the Garron Plateau. |
| Outdoor Recreation Users – Individuals, groups and businesses involved in a range of activities | Outdoor recreation is popular in the Glens, with a strong climbing community at Fair Head and a range of walking groups located throughout the region. Coastal activities are also popular, including sailing and kayaking. Walking has been identified as the most popular activity, followed by cycling, mountaineering and angling. |
| Outdoor Recreation Bodies | Ardclinis Outdoor Activity Centre is one of the longest standing outdoor activity providers in the Glens, offering activities in archery, walking, climbing and water sports. Statutory bodies including Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland and the 4 Local Council’s also play a key role in promoting and offering outdoor activities. An Outdoor Recreation Forum for the Causeway Coast and Glens is in existence, although their meetings have been sporadic over the last two years. A review of outdoor activity for the Moyle Council area has just been completed. |
| Young People and Students | The Glens of Antrim is a popular destination for the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme, scouts and girl guide training. There are two secondary schools within the landscape partnership, with a number of young people travelling from outside the area into the region. CCGHT works with many of the primary schools in the region and through the consultation with communities it has been identified that there is a particular absence of organised and coordinated activity for children to explore their landscape. |
| Policy Makers | The Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Plan is the main overarching policy that exists for the Glens of Antrim. However, this plan is not statutory or binding in terms of legislation. Currently, the Causeway Coast and Glens destination is shortlisted to become the 1st National Park in Northern Ireland, and a White Paper on primary legislation for National Parks in Northern Ireland has been developed. |

**1.2.2 Access and Recreation**

Access and recreation in the Glens of Antrim is complex with a myriad of land owned and managed by a great number of stakeholders. Overall, access in the Glens uplands especially is largely informal and unofficial. For many walking clubs and Duke of Edinburgh groups, verbal agreements are made with private landowners on an ad-hoc basis. Within the Glens of Antrim, the Forest Service is seen as the most significant provider of outdoor and countryside recreation through key provisions such as the Glenariff Forest Park.

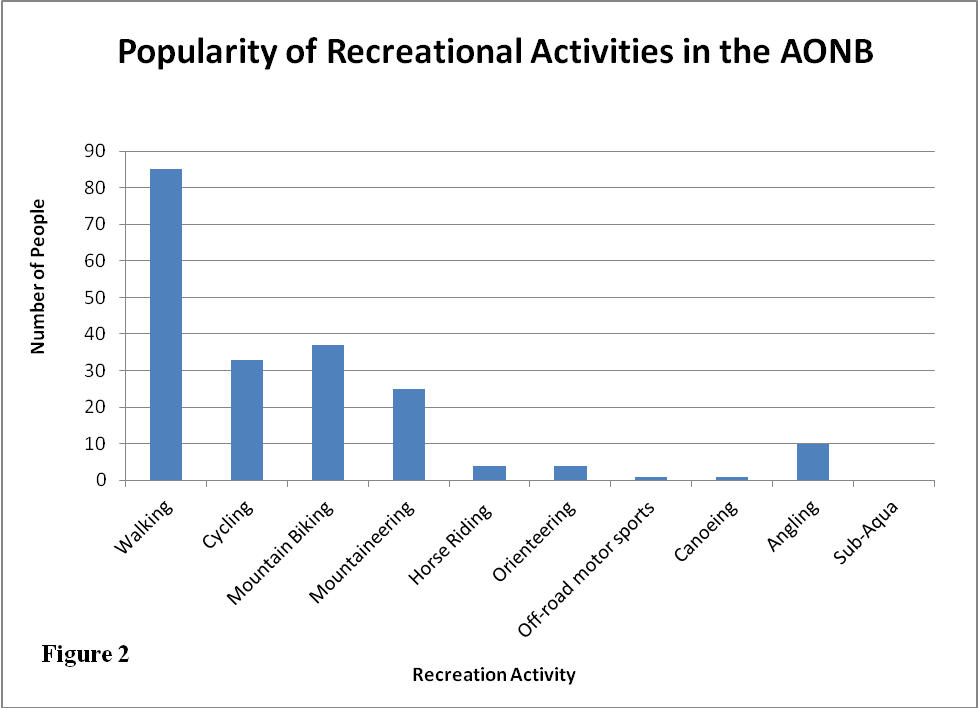
[Map of Landownership in the Glens]

Tourism is an important part of the past, present and future of the Glens of Antrim. The infamous 9 Glens of Antrim and its significance as a landscape of wonder, folklore and tales have brought many people here from all walks of life.

Tourism accommodation in the Glens of Antrim is largely coastal – the majority are bed and breakfast, and self-catering. There is a hostel in Ballycastle, but none elsewhere in the region, though there are camping barns at Ballyeammon, Kinramer and Drumkeerin. Tourism statistics reveal that the Causeway Coast and Glens area attracts 850,000 visitors a year, spending £108m. There are over 200 visiting boat journeys to the coast. Over half of visitors go walking in the area, a third visit historic buildings.

As part of the consultation and analysis of audience development in the Glens of Antrim, a survey was conducted to assess outdoor recreation demand. The study was comprised of a mixed method approach, involving both interviews and public surveys, and the results of the full audit can be found in the Appendix.

The survey was carried out by 200 participants within the AONB during Summer 2012 at three different locations including Ballycastle Town, Glenariff Forest Park and Larne Promenade. The Figure below illustrates the popularity of a range of outdoor activities in the Glens of Antrim.



As illustrated from the chart, walking is by far the most popular activity (43%), followed by mountain biking, cycling and mountaineering. The remaining activities were not seen as being as popular: canoeing, off road motor sports and sub-aqua activities.

**Walking**

Northern Ireland attracted 149,000 visitors in 2009 whose main purpose was recreational walking alone (NITB 2012). The Glens of Antrim cater for a wider range of people through a variety of short walks (up to 5 miles), medium walks (5-20 miles), long walks (over 20 miles); these include: Orra More / Slieveanorra, Altarichard, Slemish, Glenullin, Sallagh Braes, Scawt Hill / Feystown, Antrim Hills Way and Glenariff.

[Map of ‘Public Ways’ in the Glens]

There are 3 long distance Way marked Ways within the Glens of Antrim:

* + Causeway Coast Way
  + Moyle Way
  + Antrim Hills Way

There are 2 medium distance (5-20 miles) quality walks:

* + Croaghan Way
  + Glenariff Forest Park Scenic Trail

There are 11 short distance (0-5miles) quality walks:

* + Cranny Falls
  + Glenarm Coast Walk
  + Layd Church
  + Layd Walk
  + Straidkilly
  + The Millibern
  + Glenariff Nature Reserve Waterfalls Walk
  + Glenariff Rainbow Trail
  + Glenariff Viewpoint Trail
  + Cushendun Long Walk
  + Cushendun Short Walk

[Walking]

**Mountain Biking**

In the Glens there are a number or areas catering for mountain biking. The Antrim Hills Way trail, Ballyboley Forest, Ballycastle / Coolaveely Forest, Ballycastle to Fair Head, Ballypatrick Forest, Glenariff Forest. Although mountain biking is growing in the Glens area, it is done so unofficially. Larne Council Countryside Officer highlighted that, ‘*Mountain biking is growing more popular but in the Larne Council area itself there are no facilities. Glenariff Forest Park has great potential for mountain biking. It takes place but illegally, it’s not insured or managed so if this could be carried out properly it would be good for the AONB as a whole*.’

**Cycling**

There are various cycling routes available for local people and visitors throughout the Glens which also vary in length. There are short, medium, and long routes including the Ballycastle Route, Ballymoney Route, Cushendall Route, and Slemish Route.

[Cycling]

[Map of cycle networks]

**Mountaineering**

Mountaineering is identified as the fourth most popular activity. Currently, Ballygally Head, although difficult to access for larger groups, is used. Fairhead is also identified as a popular spot by the Queen’s University Mountaineering Club as rock conditions are suitable and relatively safe compared to other areas.

[Rambling/Mountaineering]

**1.2.3 A Signature Destination**

[CC&G Marker}

[TAP Cover]

The Causeway Coast and Glens has been identified as a key destination by the NITB and The Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Plan 2012‐2017 is a roadmap to guide stakeholders, the tourism and hospitality industry and local communities in their concerted efforts to build tourism in the destination. Tourism is recognised as one of the Causeway Coast and Glens region’s major opportunities to contribute to raising the profile and image of the area, while also adding significant value to Northern Ireland’s competitiveness. In particular, the plan will help grow tourism by establishing a common vision and framework for action to which all stakeholders can commit.

**Section 2 – Statement of Significance**

Significance can be individual or shared; shared within a family, with a group defined by similar interests or defined geographically. It can be ephemeral or last for centuries. Different elements can have significance in their own right. Significance can lie in the assemblage of the many and the commonplace (by accident or by design) as much as it can in an outstanding element in its own right. What is significant to the visitor is likely to be different to that which is significant to those who have their roots and everyday lives in an area.

The Glens of Antrim are well known for the magnificent scenery and coastal headlands, bays and wooded glens, as outlined in Section 1. They have their own distinctive historical identity reflected in the ruins of castles, monuments and churches, the patterns of field, farm and village and the scars of quarries and mines.

Each of the nine green valleys has a character of its own. Together they form a beautiful realm of rivers, waterfalls, wild flowers and birds.

For the most part, the people are the descendants of both the ancient Irish and their cousins the Hebridean Scots across the narrow Sea of Moyle, and the Glens were one of the last places in Northern Ireland where Gaelic was spoken.

People of the Glens are great storytellers. They will tell you that the main haunts of the 'wee folk' - the 'gentle' (supernatural) places - are Lurigethan mountain and Tiveragh Hill. Mischievous creatures at the best of times, the fairies are said to take devastating revenge on anyone rash enough to cut down a fairy thorn. A wild place remote from the outside world before the coast road came; many folk tales and superstitions have survived. You hear them in the friendly village shops and every little pub, and soon you're thinking they may all be true. Music and dance festivals last for days. Everyone stays much longer than they mean to. Even in summer you can smell the fragrance of turf fires.

**2.1 Designated Sites of Significance**

Designating special areas for protection is an effective way of ensuring our wildlife and natural landscapes retain their individual significant characteristics. There is a significant range of recognised national and international designations in the Glens of Antrim worthy of protection. Below highlights the range of designations and the number found within the HoGLPS. The range of designations demonstrates its significance as a landscape.

**2.1.1 Natura 2000**

The Natura 2000 (N2K) network is a European-wide network of protected nature conservation areas that have been established to ensure the long term survival of Europe's most valuable habitats and species, including those that might be endangered. The establishment of the N2K network by the European Union (EU) fulfils a community obligation under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. It is the centrepiece of EU nature and biodiversity policy.

The network is composed of:

* Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) - designated by EU Member States under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), and
* Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - designated by EU Member States under the 1979 Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

**2.1.2 RAMSAR Sites**

The RAMSAR Convention’s mission is ‘the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.’ The convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, recognising wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities.

**2.1.3 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)**

ASSIs are protected areas that represent the best of our wildlife and geological sites that make a considerable contribution to the conservation of our most valuable natural places.

**2.1.4 National Nature Reserves**

A nature reserve is defined as an area of importance for flora, fauna or features of geological or other special interest, which are reserved and managed for conservation and to provide special opportunities for study or research.

The following table lists the designations found within the HoGLPS Area:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location** | **ASSI** | **NNR** | **RAMSAR** | **SAC** | **SPA** |
| **Antrim Hills** |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| **Ballycastle Coal Field** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Blackburn** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Breen Wood** | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |
| **Breen Forest** |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| **Cape Castle** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Carrey Valley** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Castle Point** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Cleggan Valley** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Cloghastucan** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Fairhead & Murlough** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Feystown** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Galboly** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Garron Plateau** | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  |
| **Glenariff** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Glenariff Glen** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Glenariff Waterfalls Forest** |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| **Glenarm Wood** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Glenballyeammon River** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Gorntnagory** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Lemnalary** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Red Bay** |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| **Slieveanorra** |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| **Slieveanorra & Croaghan** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Straidkilly Wood** | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |
| **Tievebulliagh** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Torr Head** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Tow river Wood** | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| **Glen Burn** |  |  |  |  |  |

[Map of HoGLPS Designations]

The Garron Plateau is an ASSI, SAC and a SPA, containing the most extensive area of intact upland blanket bog habitat in Northern Ireland. The peatland complex is composed of active blanket bog, transitional mire and calcareous fen. The vegetation includes a mixture of cross-leaved heath, deer grass and hare’s tail cotton grass. The area is a designated SPA for hen harrier and merlin.

Many of the best biodiversity sites are included in the ASSIs. Some are small and scattered. The ASSI series covers around 8535 ha, 12% of the Glens of Antrim area. The resource of protected woodland, species-rich grassland and lowland wetland is very small.

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs) are a second tier of protected sites. The programme of identification is determined by the ten-year timeframe for Area Plan development.

The wider countryside outside of ASSIs and SLNCIs remains a substantial resource for nature conservation. Without formal protection such wildlife is dependent on good farming practise and, latterly, the benefits of agri-environment schemes.

The Woodland Trust has compiled an Ancient Woodland (AW) Inventory for Northern Ireland. A number of AW sites have been planted with non-native species and are in need of restoration.

Recent studies at the Great Deer Park, in Glenarm, show the site is the best in Northern Ireland for biodiversity associated with parkland and wood pasture (it also has archaeological importance) and ranks in the top flight of UK sites. Although already an ASSI for AW communities, it also qualifies on all three veteran tree ASSI criteria.

The coastal land and inshore waters are rich in natural resources and wildlife, containing about 50% of the region’s biodiversity. The cliffs support many coastal plant communities and are internationally important nesting sites for seabirds such as guillemot, razorbill and puffin.

[Guillemot]

[Razorbill]

The marine life of the Glens of Antrim is extremely rich and varied. The exposed rocky shores and sub-tidal rocky habitats around much of the coastline have very diverse plant and animal communities. Calcareous algae beds (known as Maerl) are found at Garron Point and Ballygally Head. Common and grey seals, the harbour porpoise and the bottlenose dolphin are key marine mammal species (See ‘Life in the sea off the Antrim Coast’, guidebook published by CCGHT).

**2.2 Historic Heritage**

Human activities have modified the landscape of the Glens since the Stone Age. Evidence of these past activities, settlements and ways of living can be found throughout the Glens of Antrim.

In the Glens there is evidence of [Neolithic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neolithic) communities. At Glencloy, Neolithic people had megalithic tombs in the uplands, while they lived in settlements near the coast at the end of the valley. The beaches were sources of [flint](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint), as evidenced by [stone tool](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_tool) (lithic) production sites in the Glens. At Madman's Window (near Glenarm) Neolithic chipping floors and stone axe rough outs were found along with Neolithic pottery, scrapers, flakes, and leaf-shaped arrowheads. At Bay Farm in Carnlough, a Neolithic site near marshland, archaeologists found [occupation debris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occupation_debris), charcoal, postholes, flint cores, axes and Neolithic pottery.

Porcellanite axe heads from Tievebulliagh were traded throughout Britain and Ireland. Court, Portal and Passage Tombs can be found at Carnamore close to Torr Head. A large promontory fort at Lurigethan near Cushendall village, along with wraths and cashels are typical features of the region. Historic monuments dotted throughout the landscape include Ossian’s Grave in Glenaan, Layd Church near Cushendall and Bonamargy Friary in Ballycastle. Although much of this archaeology is presented through impressive artefacts at the Ulster Museum, the landscape interpretation and access to many of these important sites remain hidden from public view.

The 17th century marks the broad division between *monuments* and the later *listed buildings*, of which there are many more. The main architectural interest of the area is in vernacular and industrial buildings. The area has an important post-1700 industrial heritage, most notably associated with the linen, corn milling and kelp industries, though the extraction of lime, iron-ore and coal were also of local significance. Other important sectors of historic heritage whose significance is increasingly understood include historic parks and gardens, defence heritage, battlefields and maritime artefacts. The agricultural industry from this period is evident by the stone walls associated with ladder farms. Glenariff has probably the finest example of this field pattern. Clachans – small hamlets of farmsteads – are one of the defining features of the rural settlement pattern. They arose around the mid-19th Century and are one of the main repositories of rural vernacular architecture.

[Clachans]

[Vernacular Buildings]

[Villages]

[Map of Listed Buildings]

[Map of Industrial Sites]

[Map of Buildings at Risk]

Later settlements aggregated mostly around gateways to the sea such as rivers and ports, less often to other centres of industry and commerce. The settlements include a diverse stock of vernacular architecture from the grand house to the workers abode. Topography places major constraints on the availability of suitable building sites. Few settlements occur above 250m, and rural vernacular buildings are thus limited in number. Five towns and villages have designated Conservation Areas – Cushendun, Cushendall, Glenarm, Ballycastle and Carnlough. These recognise the importance of the collective townscape of historic and vernacular architecture, as well as examples of significant buildings which should be recognised and promoted for their value. No studies have been undertaken on the landscape settings for the conservation areas.

Early vernacular architecture greatly reflected the locations in which structures were built. Sites in the rural areas were selected to be accessible but sheltered, often fitting snugly and unobtrusively within the contours of the landscape. Local builders passed down local styles and used very local materials. This provided clusters of distinct architectures. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, buildings became less local in character. Technological advances allowed larger buildings of universal design to be built. They could be entirely independent of topographic controls, panoramic views and prominent spots being particularly favoured.

**2.3 Farming Heritage**

‘They take life easier on their hillside farms with time to pause for talk…’ John Hewitt

The Glens area is often pictured as a natural landscape but it should be remembered that most of what we see and enjoy was man-made and planned. The fascinating patchwork of field patterns has resulted from farmers’ attempts to scrape a living from a sometimes less than friendly terrain. Particularly distinctive are the ladder farms which run side by side up the sloping sides of Glenariff. Low down in the glen there are large fields: further up, the fields get smaller: and above that there is moorland or upland pasture, which at one time was held in common.

[Farmers/Farming]

In the Glens, the usual method of cultivation was by means of lazy beds or rigs. Lazy beds derived their name from the fact that the ground did not have to be dug over. Lazy beds provided an excellent method of cultivation giving double depth of soil in those areas where it was shallow. In spite of the hardships and difficulties of farming in parts of the Glens, many local people were reluctant to leave them.

[Lazy Beds]

This living landscape and its many small farms (beef cattle and sheep) have produced an intimate patchwork of hedgerows and dry stone walls. The area’s agricultural sector is complemented by a vibrant agri-food sector where a variety of key produce such as the Glens of Antrim Potatoes, Glens of Antrim Water and Glenarm Salmon have a presence in the region.

[GOA Potatoes]

[GOA Water]

[Glenarm Salmon]

**2.4 A Legendary Landscape**

The Glens of Antrim form a distinctive part of County Antrim. The musically sounding names of the Glens are Gaelic and their meaning relate to the character of the Glens or events of long ago. Several well-known Celtic legends are connected with the Glens including the story of the Children of Lir. Also connected is the story of Deirdre and the Sons of Uishneach and Finn McCool, who mistakenly killed his faithful hound Bran at Doonfin in Glenshesk, and Ossian, the Early Christian warrier-poet, who is remembered in Glenaan.

Loughareema, on the road from Ballycastle to Cushendun is known as ‘the Vanishing Lake’ on account of its habit of suddenly disappearing as if some unseen hand had pulled out the plug. The name is Gaelic - Loch an rith amach – meaning the running out lough. In her poem ‘Loughareema’ Moira O’Neill, poetess of the Glens, relates how the fairy horsemen ride round the lough from dusk to first light.

[Loughareema]

The links with Scotland particularly during the Kingdom of Dalriada are of central importance in defining the cultural and historic identity of the Glens of Antrim. The Glens was one of the last Irish-speaking areas of Ulster, where it was the universal language of much of the area until the construction of the Coast road in the 1850’s. Decline in use was advanced by the turn of the 20th Century, inaugurating a nationwide initiative, the Gaelic Revival.

**2.5 Fairy Lore**

In the legendary landscape of the Glens it is no surprise that belief in fairies is wide spread. There are townland names and minor place names referring to fairies – Shane’s from Siodhean meaning the ‘fairy hill’, Rathshee from Rath Siodhe meaning ‘the fort of the fairies’ and Breen from Bruidhean meaning the ‘fairy palace.’ More commonly referred to in the Glens as ‘the wee folk’ the fairies’ have long inspired storytelling, music and poetry in the Glens contributing to its significance as a landscape.

[Fairies/folklore]

**2.6 Community Spirit**

The character of the Glens of Antrim is as much the communities who live there as the physical form of the hills and valleys. These communities, who have been settled here for thousands of years and who derive their livelihoods from the landscape, have a rich and diversified culture – a product of their close association with the land, their relative isolation in the Glens and their strong traditional link with nearby Scotland. The link between people and place in the HoGLPS is extremely significant, and one which should not be underestimated.

The communities of the Glens are varied, consisting of a myriad of small farms and hamlets, coastal villages and the regional centre of Ballycastle. Nearby villages and towns which have an influence on the Glens of Antrim are Larne, Ballymena, Broughshane and Ballymoney. Within the HoGLPS there are five Conservation Villages. These are Cushendun, Cushendall, Waterfoot, Carnlough and Glenarm.

Before the Coast Road was built in 1842, many of the coastal communities could be connected only by boat. The villages developed distinctive identities and culture and strong inter village rivalry.

[Map of conservation villages]

[Old Antrim Coast Road Shot/People]

**2.6.1 Valued Heritage**

As part of the consultation process, it was important to understand what the community value in terms of their heritage. A survey was distributed across the Glens of Antrim, aimed at local community and interest groups, to find out more about what people value. Please see Appendix for a copy of the survey. Below lists a number of key statements that local people highlighted when asked about why they value the Glens of Antrim:

* *An AONB, unexploited and unspoilt, timeless, natural and amazing*
* *Inspired by local people*
* *Under promoted, great historical significance*
* *Historic beauty with lots of potential*
* *Unique within the NI landscape, beautiful and inaccessible*
* *Outstanding, unique and known worldwide*
* *Robust natural heritage*
* *Outstanding area of cultural and natural heritage*
* *Area of outstanding natural biodiversity*
* *Iconic and internationally known*
* *Peaceful and tranquil*
* *One of the most beautiful places in the world, rich in history and culture*
* *Spectacular, unspoilt, unique*

The above statements confirm that people value their landscape in the HoGLPS; The words ‘outstanding’, ‘significant’ and ‘beautiful’ being used quite frequently to describe the Glens.

Many artists, poets and writers have been inspired by the Glens of Antrim, writing poems, songs and literature on its outstanding, significant beauty. Songs include the Blue Hills of Antrim:

The Blue Hills of Antrim I see in my dreams,

The high hills of Antrim, the glens and the streams

In the sunlight and shadow, in weal and in woe

The sweet vision haunts me wherever I go

John Hewitt wrote a poem about Ossian’s Grave:

We stood and pondered on the stones

Whose plan displays their pattern still;

The small blunt arc, and sill by sill,

The pockets stripped of shards and bones.

The Legend has it, Ossian lies

Beneath this landmark on the hill,

Asleep till Fionn and Oscar rise

To summon his old bardic skill

**2.6.2 The Glens of Antrim Historical Society**

The Glens of Antrim Historical Society (GOAHS) emphasises the importance of the less tangible cultural resource – oral history, legends and the written archive. The GOAHS celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2015 and is a fine example of a society of local people who demonstrate commitment to celebrating and understanding the historic fabric of the Glens of Antrim. The Glynns, an annual report by the GOAHS that is available to all, offers poetry, updates and research report into history, culture and people.

[Glynn’s Cover]

**2.7 Celebrating and Enjoying the Landscape**

Tourism is an important part of the past, present and future of the Glens of Antrim. The infamous 9 Glens of Antrim and its significance as a landscape of wonder, folklore and tales have brought many people here from all walks of life for many years. For a detailed analysis of audiences and tourism trends in the Glens of Antrim, please refer to Section 1B.

**2.7.1 Heritage Activities**

A range of fantastic festivals and events are held each year in the Glens of Antrim which showcase local community pride and passion for the landscape. The Heart of the Glens Festival is an extremely successful community event running since 1990. It is held every August in and around the village of Cushendall with many locals and visitors alike making it their annual holiday. The 9 day festival covers a wide range of events for all age groups and promises to provide enjoyment and entertainment for all the family.

[HOG Festival]

The Oul Lammas Fair in Ballycastle is one of Ireland's oldest traditional fairs held each year in Ballycastle at the end of August (last Monday & Tuesday). Visitors and local people can savour the atmosphere of the live music and the many hundreds of stalls selling souvenirs and bric-a-brac of every description including the Oul Lammas Fair's traditional Dulse (a dried edible seaweed) and Yellowman (a confectionery).

[Lammas Fair]

Comprising of events that highlight the unique historic Sporting, Music and Food cultures of Ireland and Scotland, the Dalriada Festival reflects our shared heritage which extends back in time to the ancient kingdom of the Dal Riada and beyond. Billed as N.Ireland’s biggest cultural and heritage Festival, the main objective of the Festival is to *Recycle* and share talent, *Renew* passion and belief in our local area and *Regenerate* excitement in our land, its people and our shared cultural heritage. Attracting in excess of 20,000 visitors this festival has something for everyone from Highland Games, Fine Foods, Celebrity Chef demonstrations, arts and crafts, live music and children’s entertainment to large outdoor concerts which to date has featured the likes of The Priests, General Fiasco, Duke Special, Amici Forever, Ronan Keating, Sharon Corr and many others.

[Dalriada Festival]

The above festivals are only a snapshot into the number of events on offer for local people and visitors in the Glens of Antrim. The Coastal Rowing Championships in Carnlough, the newly established Ghost in the Glens Festival and the range of vintage days and fairs held across the landscape highlights the importance of such events to local people.

**2.7.2 Access**

Outdoor recreation is varied and includes walking, cycling, game angling, rock climbing, sea fishing, sailing and sub-aqua. The narrow rural roads of the Glens are attractive routes for motorists but are much less safe for walkers, cyclists and horseriders, especially after dark. This can restrict opportunity for experiencing the Glens of Antrim in a more environmentally sensitive way. A section of the National Cycle Network passes through the region on the coast road from Ballycastle to Larne and from Broughshane to Glenarm on the Ecos Trail.

The Moyle Way and Antrim Hills Way long distance trails cross the Glens of Antrim and there are walks in Glenariff Forest Park and Breen Forest. There are also many short walks throughout the area around villages, to waterfalls and other places of interest and along the coast.

Marine tourism is forecast to grow steadily over the next few years. Activities such as boating, kite flying, kite surfing, surf kayaking, sub-aqua and marine wildlife tourism are increasingly taking place around the coasts.

[Access images]

[Cycling]

**Section 3 – Risks and Opportunities**

In working in such a wide area there are going to be many risks and opportunities and it is the responsibility of the partnership to identify those that are pertinent to the projects that will be delivered in the time period. This section looks at the main risks and opportunities relating to the natural, built and cultural heritage of the Glens of Antrim and considers the barriers to accessing the landscape. The risks and opportunities identified in this section will aid in the shaping of the themes and projects in Section 4 and Section 5.

**3.1 Risks and Opportunities in the Glens of Antrim**

The Glens of Antrim is an extremely dynamic and ever changing landscape. Due to this there are various risks which may hinder the Landscape Partnership Scheme. In addition to this there are great opportunities which can be developed in order to enhance the Glens of the Antrim to its full potential.

In order to anticipate and manage risk it is important to highlight these according to the natural, built and cultural heritage, as well as risks associated with the management of the Landscape Partnership Scheme throughout its delivery phase.

The stakeholder and community consultation that was held relating to risks and opportunities as part of the Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2008-2018 was an opportune platform for partners to discuss risk and opportunity relating to the Glens. The Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Plan 2012 – 2020 provides an outline of risks and opportunities for tourism development in the Glens of Antrim. Furthermore, the consultation that has been held as part of the community engagement of the development phase and the surveys conducted capture risks and opportunities for the Glens of Antrim. The various risks are summarised below.

**3.1.1 Biodiversity**

Risks

* Risks to protected species including the bird interest in the Antrim Hills recognised by the Special Protection Area, Red Grouse (a declining species in Northern Ireland) and Hen Harrier in the Garron Plateau, insect-eating Butterwort, native Ash and Hazel woodlands in the Green Glens, and the Red Squirrel species protected by the Glens Red Squirrel Group. Other species include: Irish Hare; European Otter; Curlew; Skylark; Golden Plover; Song Thrush; Spotted Flycatcher; Irish Lady’s Tresses; Marsh Huney Fungus; Bog Orchid; Dark Leaved Willow; Wood Crane’s Bill
* Risks to priority habitats including: Oakwood (Craigagh, Glenarm, and Tow River Woods); Mixed Ashwood (Glenariff Woods & Straidkilly); Wet Woodland (Breen Wood, Cranny Falls & Tow River Wood); Peatland Blanket bog (Garron Plateau); Upland Heathland (Antrim Hills); Calcareous Grassland (Glenariff); Lowland Dry acid Grassland (Glenarm Woods); Purple Moor-grass & rush pasture (Antrim Hills & Glenarm Woods)
* Private landowners’ decisions over priority habitats which, in turn, can greatly affect priority species and priority habitats
* Coastal erosion which can affect the wide range of different habitats and marine life
* Climate change can have various impacts on species and habitats. There is a mix of habitats, plants and species in inter-tidal zones and sub-tidal zones
* Risks to wetland sites can have a direct affect to priority habitats (such as Fens; Purple Moor-grass & Rush Pasture; Reedbeds)
* Pollution to fresh water habitats can dramatically affect both flowing and standing waters in terms of nutrient water levels and delicate life forms

Opportunities

* Raise awareness of the importance of priority habitats and species through organised events and training days for local people
* Offer support and guidance to land managers and farmers on appropriate habitat management and wildfire management, particularly in relation to uplands
* Conservation and enhancement of habitats and species including rivers, coastline, red squirrel, butterfly and bird populations to ensure protection

**3.1.2 Geodiversity and Landscape**

Risks

* Development can drastically have an impact on ecosystems. Protection is therefore essential as geodiversity is irreplaceable
* Changes in geodiversity can have an impact on Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)
* Coastal erosion which can affect the wide range of different habitats and species
* Changes in soil management can directly impact natural environment and rural economy
* Threats to soil functions have direct impact on carbon storage and greenhouse gas emissions
* Deterioration or damage of rocks by natural events, quarrying, excavation, or collection
* Anti-social activities including vandalism, graffiti, inappropriate motor bike or car use

Opportunities

* Raise awareness of importance of geology and archaeology to local people, visitors and schools through workshops, booklets, interpretation and learning days
* Monitor geological change and collate known data on risks for future management
* Promote geology via a wide range of trails and digitised online trails to better understand importance and complexities

**3.1.3 Cultural and Historical Heritage**

Risks

* The survival of beliefs, traditions, and folklore is important as there is a decline in the population in the Glens
* Decline in communities. Villages in the Glens have developed distinctive identities and culture
* Lack of funding to promote cultural heritage. The economy has a great effect in the amount of exposure cultural heritage can achieve
* Lack of interest amongst youth concerning Gaelic language. This can lead to decline in knowledge and use of Gaelic
* Lack of variety of cultural events to promote and give exposure to local communities
* Lack of knowledge to preserve historic heritage
* Funding can affect the amount of maintenance and preservation historical monuments can have

Opportunities

* Support local festivals and events that promote cultural heritage and historic identities
* Offer workshops and training events on interpreting landscapes and recognising heritage features
* Support enhancement and restoration of listed building, historic monuments and derelict buildings
* Involve local communities, and particularly young people, in compiling archives of historic information on townlands, fieldnames, patterns and landscape features
* Digitise cultural and historic heritage by supporting local historical societies to digitise archives and web based learning

**3.1.4 A Living Landscape**

Risks

* The economy can affect agri-food sector where a variety of key food and drinks processors such as Bushmills Whiskey, Glens of Antrim Potatoes, Glens of Antrim Spring Water have a presence in the region
* Industry has had a significant impact on the area. The coastlines, Glens and upland plateau have been the focus of many industries including coal and iron mining, limestone quarrying, agriculture and fishing, textile manufacturing, salt making and kelp
* Road networks can affect the living landscapes in terms of impact and aesthetics. The Causeway Coastal Route has been an important industry for the area
* Lack of appropriate skills and resources to support restoration and enhancement of traditional dilapidated field boundaries and farm features

Opportunities

* Support land managers in restoring field boundaries and patterns including hedgerows, traditional gate posts and features, providing skills training for young people
* Promote the industrial heritage of the landscape as a living landscape through trails, tales and heritage events
* Support the agri-food and artisan industry and promote local craft and produce

**3.1.5 Access and Enjoyment**

Risks

* Lack of access to important sites and historic monuments from the public
* Lack of road and motorway infrastructure maintenance for public and tourism access
* Poor signposts to direct and inform the public about cultural and historic heritage
* Lack of intellectual or knowledge of people or resources in order to aid with distribution of information
* Cultural or social prejudices
* Lack of adequate finance, funding, or support to support communities or activities
* Organisational or partnership issues. How organisations are ran or relationships amongst partnership organisations can have an impact of projects and activities
* Potential unofficial or illegal use of landscape e.g. mountain biking

Opportunities

* Support provision of improved existing access and new access trails
* Enhance key heritage gateway sites to signpost and inform local public about cultural and historic heritage
* Inspire communities to work collaboratively on heritage activities and projects including village design guiding, organising events and sharing experiences
* Support the promotion of the Glens of Antrim as part of the wider Causeway Coats and Glens Destination in Northern Ireland

**3.2 Community Perceptions**

A crucial part of the process for understanding risks and opportunities was consultation with the local community throughout the Glens via the community workshop sessions (see Section 1.4 Participation and Consultation). The following table highlights the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) expressed from the consultation process in respect to the Glens of Antrim.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths**  Outstanding natural beauty  Culture and heritage  Coastline  Natural resources  Natural organic crafts and intrigue in local history  Significant woodlands  Local community pride  Wonderful landscape with its heritage still in tact  Scottish links, village plans, cultural traditions  Strong music traditions, landscape and heritage  Strong community identity  Fame, history and culture  Farming heritage | **Weaknesses**  Lack of infrastructure  Lack of marketing for area  Lack of environmental consideration given to projects  Little help and advice on developing funding applications  Little partnership working  Inaccessible areas, poor existing trail networks  Lack of public transport facilities  Inappropriate development  Lack of design expertise in change/development and maintenance |
| **Opportunities**  Tourism potential as a world class visitor destination  Vast potential for staycations  Hub for local crafts and traditional skills  Centre of excellence for skills training in landscape  Better connection between partners through LPS | **Threats**  Lack of activities for young people  Migration of young people away from the Glens  Rise in unemployment  Loss of traditional skills  Litter  Dereliction  Decline in farming |

The main risks relating to the natural, built and cultural heritage of the Glens of Antrim relates closely to the SWOT Analysis carried out with local communities. The HoGLPS will attempt to manage such risks and threats and provide an opportunity to enhance our heritage offering through the projects we develop over the five year implementation phase.

**3.4 Heart of the Glens Management Risk Assessment**

There are a number of anticipated risks to the delivery of the scheme. The below table highlights the risks, how likely the risk is of occurring and the actions that will be taken to ensure this is managed and prevented. The risks outlined in the table refer mainly to internal management and organisation of projects over the implementation phase. Further details on the roles and responsibilities of each of the LPS staff members can be found in Section 6.3.1. New Management Structure. However, those responsible for managing the risk are identified in this table.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nature of Risk | Likelihood of Occurrence | Impact | Action to prevent risk | Person(s) responsible for managing risk |
| Lack of partnership (match) funding | Medium | High | Continual engagement with partnership funders via LPS Steering Committee, Working Groups and individual meetings/presentations | LPS Manager |
| Lack of financial and time commitment by partners | Medium | High | Quarterly LPS Steering Committee meetings, quarterly working group meetings (or more frequent if required) and maintain interpersonal relationships with partners | LPS Manager  Landscape Projects Officer  Outreach and Volunteer Officer |
| LPS team job roles not filled | Low | High | Advertise the positions to a wide range of audiences and platforms. Once appointed, ensure regular supervision and appraisal meetings to ensure progress being made | LPS Manager |
| Failure to engage local community groups and interest groups | Low | High | Involve interest and local community groups in all aspects of decision making process and project development. Input via working group meetings and regular consultation and communication. | Outreach and Volunteer Officer |
| Failure to engage volunteers | Medium | High | Actively recruit volunteers, develop a strong volunteer brand and coordinate closely with existing local volunteer groups throughout the duration of the scheme | Outreach and Volunteer Officer |

*Stage II Submission Document for the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme for the Heritage Lottery Fund*

*A plan that aims to conserve, enhance and promote the outstanding natural, cultural and historic beauty of the Glens of Antrim, showcasing local community pride and passion for this spectacular living landscape as a place to enjoy, gain inspiration from and protect.*

**Section 4 – Aims and Objectives**

So far, the LCAP has outlined the landscape, described its heritage significance and highlighted the main risks and opportunities for the Glens of Antrim. This section details how the projects that go forward will deliver the aims and objectives of the HoGLPS.

*The Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme’s vision is to:*

*‘Conserve, enhance and promote the outstanding natural, cultural and historic beauty of the Glens of Antrim, showcasing local community pride and passion for this spectacular living landscape as a place to enjoy, gain inspiration from and protect.’*

**4.1. Strategic Aims and Objectives**

The following strategic aims and objectives have been agreed by the HoGLPS Steering Group and as such will provide the framework to achieve the vision as set out above over the next 5 years. These aims have been developed as they provide a direct link to the four programme aims of the Landscape Partnership Scheme. To summarise, these have been set by HLF as the following:

**A** Conserving or restoring the built and natural features that creates the historic landscape character

**B** Increasing community participation in local heritage

**C** Increasing access to and learning about the landscape area and its heritage.

**D** Increasing training opportunities in local heritage skills

With this in mind, the following aims and objectives have been agreed to reflect the ethos of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

**Strategic Aims:**

1. To conserve and enhance the natural and built heritage features of this rich, historic landscape, shaped by centuries of man’s activities
2. To reconnect local people to their landscape, increasing community participation in understanding and appreciating the unique heritage of the Glens
3. To create more opportunities to access and enjoy this outstanding landscape, its recreational potential and local heritage
4. To ensure that a high quality series of heritage skills and training opportunities are made available to all

**Strategic Objectives:**

CCGHT will work in partnership with a range of groups and individuals:

1. To support the delivery of sustainable upland management across the Glens
2. To support the protection and enhancement of the quality of a full range of Glens priority habitats and species, in line with the Local Biodiversity Action Plans
3. To enhance and where possible restore selected built heritage features to ensure their long term conservation
4. To encourage and inspire a wide range of internal and external audiences to learn about and participate in heritage activities across the Glens
5. To develop and coordinate a sustainable volunteer programme to encourage local people to engage in practical conservation work across the Glens
6. To support local clubs, societies and groups to deliver excellent heritage festivals and events across the Glens, providing training, advice and materials
7. To support learning about key natural and built heritage features through improved access, interpretation and raising awareness materials
8. To promote the Heart of the Glens landscape heritage through creative media, the arts and craft based initiatives
9. To offer a range of heritage skills and training across the Glens to encourage local people to interpret landscape, promote its special qualities and inspire others

**4.2 Themes for Implementation**

In order to successfully develop and implement projects within the HoGLPS, a number of themes have been identified. These themes have been developed as a result of the community consultation workshops, identified risks and opportunities, feedback from the LPS Steering Committee and individual meetings with key stakeholders throughout the development phase. Through these themes, CCGHT can ensure that the vision, strategic aims and objectives are successfully achieved. Each theme contains a number of projects, with each project being named and given a code and number. These project names and codes refer to the project timetable and budget set out in Section 5. We will explain below why each theme has been identified, what they will mean in practise and what they will achieve. The themes are:

1. **Encouraging Upland Management and Farmer Engagement**
2. **Protecting our Future**
3. **Preserving our Past**
4. **Coordinating Heritage Activities**
5. **Inspiring Communities**
6. **Gallivanting in the Glens**
7. **Creative Glens**

The following table shows the Project Code, Project Title and its associated Theme. Each project is given a code corresponding to the Programme it falls under i.e. A1 lies under Programme A, but it also contains a theme reference i.e. UM1 to show which theme it relates to. This will show how each of the projects cross link and connect with a wide variety of the programme aims.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Project Code* | *Project Title* | *Project Theme Reference* |
| *A1* | *Management Planning for Uplands* | *Upland Management 1* |
| *A2* | *Supporting Land Managers* | *Upland Management 2* |
| *A3* | *Biodiversity Enhancement Programme* | *Protecting our Future 1* |
| *A4* | *Lifelines of the Glens* | *Preserving our Past 2* |
| *A5* | *Heritage Infrastructure* | *Heritage Activities 2* |
| *A6* | *Village Heritage* | *Inspiring Communities 1* |
| *B1* | *Community Archaeology* | *Preserving our Past 2* |
| *B2* | *Heritage Festivals and Events* | *Heritage Activities 1* |
| *B3* | *Heritage Helpers Volunteer Programme* | *Inspiring Communities 2* |
| *B4* | *Artisans of the Glens* | *Inspiring Communities 3* |
| *B5* | *Community Fixed Point Photography* | *Creative Glens 1* |
| *C1* | *For Peat's Sake* | *Upland Management 3* |
| *C2* | *Habitat Stations* | *Protecting our Future 2* |
| *C3* | *Fishing for Resources* | *Protecting our Future 3* |
| *C4* | *Heritage Trails and Tales* | *Preserving our Past 3* |
| *C5* | *The Language of Landscape* | *Preserving our Past 4* |
| *C6* | *Digitising Heritage* | *Creative Glens 2* |
| *D1* | *Heritage Skills* | *Protecting our Future 4* |
| *D2* | *Making Landscapes Work For You* | *Preserving our Past 5* |
| *D3* | *Landscapes and Literature* | *Creative Glens 3* |
| *D4* | *Heritage Tour Guiding* | *Inspiring Communities 4* |

## 4.2 A Golden Thread Approach to Heart of the Glens Projects

It is important to highlight how the projects have been developed in the Heart of the Glens LPS. Whilst the LCAP outlines the risks, opportunities, community perceptions, themes and projects, the below table should clearly show the flow of process. In the LCAP, each project has been assigned to a particular theme, or themes. Each of the themes has been carefully developed based on the feedback from the community workshops and consultations with key stakeholders, local people and visitors as well as the risk and opportunity analysis carried out within the development phase. The risks identified in the LCAP Section 3, and thus identified below have been gathered from various sources, including Local Biodiversity Action Plans, the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Plan as well as through the community consultations held within the development phase.

The following table outlines the various risks, opportunities, associated theme(s) and project(s), and how the flow of information and analysis has led to the final projects being developed for the stage II submission to HLF. The table also lists which LCA, Glens and/or Connective Landscape, as described in Section 1a Understanding the Glens of Antrim, the projects will be carried out in. The projects have also been developed based on the initial proposals identified in the development phase application.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Risks (as identified in Section 3)  \*Indicates new risks/opportunities not previously stated in LCAP | Opportunities (As identified in Section 3) | Theme(s) (As identified in Section 4) | Associated Project(s) (As identified in Section 5) | Landscape Character Area(S) involved | Glen(s) /Connective Landscape involved |
| *Biodiversity* |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Private landowners decisions over the management of priority habitats and species in the Glens | * Offer support and guidance to land managers and farmers on appropriate habitat management and wildfire management, particularly in relation to uplands | Protecting our Future | * A3 Biodiversity Enhancement Programme | ALL | ALL |
| * Coastal erosion, including coastal squeeze, which is having an affect on the wide range of different habitats and marine life | * Raise awareness of the importance of priority habitats and species through organised events and training days for local people | Protecting our Future | * A3 Biodiversity Enhancement Programme * C2 Habitat Stations * C3 Fishing for Resources | ALL | ALL |
| * Climate change is causing various impacts on species and habitats. There is a mix of habitats, plants and species in inter-tidal zones and sub-tidal zones in the Glens | * Conservation and enhancement of habitats and species including rivers, coastline, red squirrel, butterfly and bird populations to ensure protection * Raise awareness of the importance of priority habitats and species through organised events and training days for local people | Protecting our Future | * A3 Biodiversity Enhancement Programme * C2 Habitat Stations | ALL | ALL |
| * Risks to wetland sites can have a direct affect to priority habitats (such as Fens; Purple Moor-grass & Rush Pasture; Reedbeds) | * Conservation and enhancement of habitats and species including rivers, coastline, red squirrel, butterfly and bird populations to ensure protection | Protecting our Future | * A3 Biodiversity Enhancement Programme * C2 Habitat Stations | ALL | ALL |
| * Pollution to fresh water habitats can dramatically affect both flowing and standing waters in terms of nutrient water levels and delicate life forms e.g. Glendun and Glenariff River | * Conservation and enhancement of rivers, marine and coastal estuaries * Raise awareness of the importance of priority habitats and species through organised events and training days for local people | Protecting our Future | * C3 Fishing for Resources * C2 Habitat Stations | Moyle Glens | Glendun  Glenariff |
| *Peatland and Heathland* |  |  |  |  |  |
| * \*Peat extraction causing erosion of blanket bog | * Work with environmental groups, land managers and owners to conserve and enhance peatland and heathland habitats | Upland Management and Farmer Engagement | * A1 Management Planning for Uplands * A2 Supporting Land Managers * C1 For Peat’s Sake * D1 Heritage Skills | Moyle Moorland and Forest  The Garron Plateau | Connective Landscapes: The Garron Plateau  Moyle Moorland and Forest |
| * \*Drainage and run off erosion causing water pollution and deterioration of water quality | * Work with environmental groups, land managers and owners to conserve and enhance peatland and heathland habitats | Upland Management and Farmer Engagement | * A1 Management Planning for Uplands * A2 Supporting Land Managers * C1 For Peat’s Sake | Ballycastle Glens  Moyle Moorland and Forest  The Garron Plateau  Larne Glens | Glentaisie  Glenshesk  Glendun  Glenaan  Glenarm  Connective Landscapes:  The Garron Plateau  Moyle Moorland and Forest |
| * \*Inappropriate burning and flailing of heather | * Raise awareness of appropriate wild fire and heather management, in partnership with land managers | Upland Management and Farmer Engagement | * A2 Supporting Land Managers | ALL | ALL |
| * \*Overgrazing and trampling | * Work with environmental groups, land managers and owners to conserve and enhance peatland and heathland habitats | Upland Management and Farmer Engagement | * A2 Supporting Land Managers | ALL | ALL |
| * Threats to soil functions is having a direct impact on carbon storage and greenhouse gas emissions | * Raise awareness of the value of peatlands as an effective carbon store for climate change management | Upland Management and Farmer Engagement | * A2 Supporting Land Managers * C1 For Peat’s Sake | The Garron Plateau  Moyle Moorlands and Forest | Connective Landscapes:  The Garron Plateau  Moyle Moorlands and Forest |
| Geodiversity and Archaeology |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Deterioration or damage of rocks by natural events, quarrying, excavation, or collection | * Promote geology via a wide range of trails and digitised online trails to better understand importance and complexities | Preserving our Past | * B1 Community Archaeology * C4 Heritage Trails and Tales | ALL | ALL |
| * Anti-social activities including vandalism, graffiti, inappropriate motor bike or car use on site sensitive areas | * Raise awareness of importance of geology and archaeology to local people, visitors and schools through workshops, booklets, interpretation and learning days | Preserving our Past | * B1 Community Archaeology | ALL | ALL |
| Living Landscape |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Industry has had a significant impact on the area. The coastlines, Glens and upland plateau have been the focus of many industries including coal and iron mining, limestone quarrying, agriculture and fishing, textile manufacturing, salt making and kelp | * Promote the industrial heritage of the landscape as a living landscape through trails, tales and heritage events | Preserving our Past | * C4 Heritage Trails and Tales | Ballycastle Glens  Fair Head  Moyle Glens  Larne Glens  The Garron Plateau | Glentaisie  Glenshesk  Glendun  Glenballyeamon  Glenariff  Glenarm  Connective Landscapes:  The Garron Plateau |
| * Lack of appropriate skills and resources to support restoration and enhancement of traditional dilapidated field boundaries and farm features | * Support land managers in restoring field boundaries and patterns including hedgerows, traditional gate posts and features, providing skills training for young people | Preserving our Past | * A4 Lifelines in the Glens | Moyle Glens  Larne Glens  Ballycastle Glens | Glentaisie  Glenshesk  Glendun  Glenaan  Glenariff  Glencorp  Glenarm  Glencloy |
| * \*Ageing population of the Glens is risking the knowledge transfer of origin of townlands, place names and historic heritage | * Involve local communities, and particularly young people, in compiling archives of historic information on townlands, fieldnames, patterns and landscape features | Preserving our Past | * C5 The Language of Landscape | ALL | ALL |
| * \*Lack of appropriate understanding of landscape, tourism potential and opportunities | * Provide workshops, skills and training in landscape identification for working tourism businesses, accommodation providers and local people | Preserving our Past | * D2 Making Landscapes Work for You | ALL | ALL |
| * Lack of interest amongst youth concerning Gaelic and/or Ulster Scots traditions. This can lead to decline in knowledge of culture and heritage | * Offer workshops and training events on interpreting landscapes and recognising heritage features | Preserving our Past | * D2 Making Landscapes Work for You * C3 The Language of Landscapes | ALL | ALL |
| * The economy can affect agri-food sector where a variety of key food and drinks processors such as Bushmills Whiskey, Glens of Antrim Potatoes, Glens of Antrim Spring Water have a presence in the region | * Support the agri-food and artisan industry and promote local craft and produce | Inspiring Communities | * B4 Artisans of the Glens | ALL | ALL |
| Cultural Heritage |  |  |  |  |  |
| * The survival of beliefs, traditions, and folklore is important as there is a decline in the population in the Glens | * Support local festivals and events that promote cultural heritage and historic identities * Digitise cultural and historic heritage by supporting local historical societies to digitise archives and web based learning | Coordinating Heritage Activities | * B2 Heritage Festivals and Events | ALL | ALL |
| * Lack of funding to promote cultural heritage. The economy has a great effect in the amount of exposure cultural heritage can achieve | * Support local festivals and events that promote cultural heritage and historic identities | Coordinating Heritage Activities | * B2 Heritage Festivals and Events | ALL | ALL |
| * Lack of knowledge and appreciation of deterioration of listed buildings and historic monuments | * Support enhancement and restoration of listed building, historic monuments and derelict buildings | Coordinating Heritage Activities | * A5 Heritage Infrastructure | ALL | ALL |
| * Lack of variety of cultural events to promote and give exposure to local communities | * Support local festivals and events that promote cultural heritage and historic identities | Coordinating Heritage Activities | * B2 Heritage Festivals and Events | ALL | ALL |
| Access and Enjoyment of Heritage (Cross cutting risks with themes) |  |  |  |  |  |
| * Lack of access to important sites, information and historic monuments from the public | * Support provision of improved existing access and new access trails, both via physical trails and online promotion/interaction | Preserving our Past  Creative Glens | * C4 Heritage Trails and Tales * C6 Digitising Heritage | ALL | ALL |
| * Poor signposts to direct and inform the public about cultural and historic heritage | * Enhance key heritage gateway sites to signpost and inform local public about cultural and historic heritage | Coordinating Heritage Activities | * A5 Heritage Infrastructure | ALL | ALL |
| * Lack of resources for interested people to aid with distribution and promotion of heritage information | * Support interested individuals in heritage tour guide training and skills | Inspiring Communities | * D4 Heritage Tour Guiding | ALL | ALL |
| * Lack of adequate finance, funding, or support to support communities or village activities | * Inspire communities to work collaboratively on heritage activities and projects including village design guiding, organising events and sharing experiences | Inspiring Communities | * A6 Village Heritage | Ballycastle Glens  Moyle Glens  The Garron Plateau  Larne Glens | Glentaisie  Glenshesk  Glendun  Glenaan  Glenariff  Glenballyeamon  Glencloy  Glenarm  Glencorp |
| * Potential unofficial or illegal use of landscape e.g. mountain biking | * Offer workshops and training events on appropriate use of landscape and sustainable tourism | Preserving our Past | * D2 Making Landscapes Work for You | ALL | ALL |

**Further Opportunities**

To aid in monitoring landscape and heritage change that relates to a number of the risks/threats identified above, we will have two projects that will aim to provide an archive and online platform for key stakeholders, partners, land managers, local communities and visitors. These projects are B5 Community Fixed Point Photography and C6 Digitising Heritage, and will cover the nine Glens of Antrim.

A common theme that is identified in Section 4 is the Heritage Helpers Volunteer Programme. This project will relate to many of the programmes and projects listed. In order for CCGHT to engage volunteers and sustain numbers throughout the lifeline of the scheme, opportunities to become involved in nature conservation, built heritage restoration, community participation and access/learning will be offered.

**Community Consultation**

A crucial part of the process for understanding risks and opportunities was consultation with the local community throughout the Glens via the community workshop sessions (see Section 1.4 Participation and Consultation). The following table highlights the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) expressed from the consultation process in respect to the Glens of Antrim.

This SWOT analysis further helped CCGHT identify the projects going forward into the stage II submission, and in particular identify the themes for the Heart of the Glen LPS. Below highlights the various themes that have been developed and how they relate to at least one of the SWOT analyses feedback information.

Upland Management and Farmer Engagement

Protecting our Future

Preserving our Past

Coordinating Heritage Activities

Inspiring Communities

Creative Glens

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths**  Outstanding natural beauty  Culture and heritage  Coastline  Natural resources  Natural organic crafts and intrigue in local history  Significant woodlands  Local community pride  Wonderful landscape with its heritage still in tact  Scottish links, village plans, cultural traditions  Strong music traditions, landscape and heritage  Strong community identity  Fame, history and culture  Farming heritage | **Weaknesses**  Lack of infrastructure  Lack of marketing for area  Lack of environmental consideration given to projects  Little help and advice on developing funding applications  Little partnership working  Inaccessible areas, poor existing trail networks  Lack of public transport facilities  Inappropriate development  Lack of design expertise in change/development and maintenance |
| **Opportunities**  Tourism potential as a world class visitor destination  Vast potential for staycations  Hub for local crafts and traditional skills  Centre of excellence for skills training in landscape  Better connection between partners through LPS | **Threats**  Lack of activities for young people  Migration of young people away from the Glens  Rise in unemployment  Loss of traditional skills  Litter  Dereliction  Decline in farming |

**Theme 1 - Encouraging Upland Management and Farmer Engagement**

We will support a number of upland demonstration sites across the Glens, to work in partnership with landowners and land managers, local community and interest groups to assist with sustainable management of a variety of upland habitats. Engagement and raising awareness through events and training will be a key component of this theme. In Year 1, the main focus of this theme will involve engaging with landowners and farmers, planning the way forward for positive and sustainable upland management in the Glens of Antrim and raising awareness of the importance of collaboration.

We will work in partnership with the private and public landowners to conserve and enhance blanket bog, and raise awareness of the value and significance of peat as a not only an effective carbon store but to relive the historic memories of life on the blanket bogs. For Peat’s Sake will include an oral history project with local farmers along the Garron, a peatland awareness week and an educational programme to involve school children in monitoring carbon levels in peatlands.

As part of our annual training and skills calendar, we will offer skills in heritage conservation. This will include training days and events in hedge-laying, dry stone walling, species recording and identification as well as monitoring pollution levels in our rivers. UM4 will be a cross cutting project and will also directly relate to our second theme ‘Protecting Our Future.’ Through the farmer and landowner engagement in UM1, UM2 and UM3, we can ensure that a high quality and variety of heritage conservation skills are offered.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Encouraging Upland Management and Farmer Engagement | |
| UM1 | Management Planning for Uplands (A1) |
| UM2 | Supporting Land Managers (A2) |
| UM3 | For Peat’s Sake (C1) |
| UM4 | Heritage Conservation Skills (D1) |

**Theme 2 - Protecting Our Future**

It is important to share information about what is of value in the landscape, and foster a willingness to take action to protect it. As mentioned in this LCAP Section 1.3.1 Biodiversity ‘The Glens of Antrim has large areas so important for wildlife they are protected by international law.’ With the extensive variety of flora and fauna in the HoGLPS, our aim is to work collaboratively with the local Biodiversity Officers and interest groups to assist with the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) that impact the region. Collaboratively, we will develop a programme of enhancement works for key habitats and species including the rivers, blanket bog and coastal waters, the red squirrel, butterflies, moths and bats. In order to develop our biodiversity programme, a working group will be established involving the local biodiversity officers, interest groups and agencies. Raising awareness materials including booklets, trails and events will form an important strand of this project, and we will link such events to our guided heritage activities programme highlighted in the C4 Heritage Trails and Tales Project.

We will offer a range of skills in species recording, monitoring and identification through ‘learning zones’, and this project will be known as ‘Habitat Stations’. This project will be designed to educate young children on priority habitats and species, and therefore, will link to PF1 Biodiversity Enhancement Programme (A3)

We will develop a river and marine educational project called ‘Fishing for Resources’. We will develop a Salmon in the Classroom initiative that connects primary school children with their local rivers by establishing indoor salmon hatcheries. This project is designed to encourage P6 and P7 primary school pupils to appreciate and value their environment and biodiversity by watching nature in action. A total of 14 schools will be engaged to learn about the importance of the Atlantic salmon in the Glens.

As part of the PF1 Biodiversity Enhancement Programme (A3), we will work with biodiversity officers, volunteer and interest groups to coordinate a series of biodiversity training days and events to involve local people in recording species, identifying invasive species and taking part in large scale biodiversity recording days, also known as ‘bio blitz’ events. This project will run as part of our annual training calendar and will directly link with UM4 Heritage Skills (D1)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Protecting Our Future | |
| PF1 | Biodiversity Enhancement Programme (A3) |
| PF2 | Habitat Stations (C2) |
| PF3 | Fishing for Resources (C3) |

**Theme 3 - Preserving Our Past**

We will work closely with DARD Countryside Management, local farmers and landowners to deliver a field boundary restoration project. We will repair stone walls in the Glens of Antrim and provide financial support through third party grant aid up to a maximum of 50% for the restoration or re-establishment of field boundaries in a number of locations.

We will work collaboratively with a number of key partners to reinvigorate the historic heritage of the Glens of Antrim through a Heritage Trails and Tales Project. Human activities have modified the landscape of the Glens since the Stone Age and evidence of these past activities, settlements and ways of living can be found. We will aim to create a number of walking, web based and audio trails that promote industrial, cultural and geological heritage of the Glens.

Through a Partnership with Queen’s University’s Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork (QUB CAF) and the Glens of Antrim Historical Society (GAHS), we will aim to deliver a five year community archaeology programme, training volunteers to survey and document sites across the glens and giving volunteers, community groups and school groups the opportunity to participate in archaeological excavation.

The townland is a unique feature of the Irish landscape and is one of the most ancient divisions in the country. The origins of townlands often take their names from local landscape features. Given the natural vegetation of the island many townlands take their names from local trees and plants as well as the geological features that surround them. We will work with the local historical societies to facilitate a 9 Glens wide townlands and fieldnames project entitled ‘The Language of Landscape’. This provides a great opportunity to interpret the natural landscape of the HoGLPS and provides an important historical record for the region.

We will offer a series of training days/workshops, as part of our annual training calendar that ‘train the trainers’ in interpreting and valuing landscape. This may include ecosystem services and valuing heritage, training local tourism businesses in the need to leave no trace, coastal erosion issues and path erosion with visitors. Training will also include identifying landscape features such as geology, archaeology and built heritage features.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Preserving Our Past | |
| PP1 | Lifelines of the Glens (A4) |
| PP2 | Community Archaeology (B1) |
| PP3 | Heritage Trails and Tales (C4) |
| PP4 | The Language of Landscape (C5) |
| PP5 | Making Landscapes Work for You (D2) |

**Theme 4 - Coordinating Heritage Activities**

In an area so rich with existing heritage festivals, events and gateway areas, we will seek to enhance and promote the range of activities available with a view to providing synergy and collaboration amongst the various local festival and event groups, heritage centres and communities.

A notable feature of our approach to this is to bring together the range of heritage groups through a sharing experiences symposium in Year 1, to discuss the main issues and barriers to heritage activities, share knowledge and exchange expertise. This symposium will include a series of workshop sessions for both the heritage event organiser and those wishing to become more involved in heritage activities. In the summer of Year 1, we will support heritage activities as a direct result of the sharing experiences symposium.

We will launch a Heritage Festivals and Events Fund, providing financial support of up to 50% for activities such as heritage technical support, heritage materials and interpretation and/or support for training and development. The key aim of this fund is to support existing groups to enhance their heritage offering, whilst ensuring that these groups connect with each other to result in a coordinated approach to heritage activities

We will work closely with a range of groups to enhance key gateway and/or heritage centres and/or sites in the Glens to offer an enriched visitor and community experience. Support may include materials, interpretation boards and panels, awareness days and community engagement. Many of the local community groups are already focused on promoting their local heritage through identified centres, sites or buildings. Heritage Gateways will support these efforts and therefore enhance the local heritage experience.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Coordination of Heritage Activities | |
| HA1 | Heritage Festivals and Events (B2) |
| HA2 | Heritage Gateways (A5) |

**Theme 5 - Inspiring Communities**

The HoGLPS area contains five Conservation Villages of Cushendun, Cushendall, Waterfoot, Carnlough and Glenarm, each with a Village Plan and Action Plan. These Village Plans are fairly recent documents which have been developed involving heavy consultation with the community. A number of actions relate to the local heritage of these villages and IC1 Village Heritage (A6) would aim to offer financial and/or technical support for enhancing local heritage within these villages.

We will aim to deliver an excellent volunteer programme for the HoG entitled the ‘Heritage Helpers’ Volunteer Programme, available for participation by a number of audiences. The volunteers will have the opportunity to avail of a number of volunteer days, training events and workshops as part of our annual training calendar. The volunteer programme will act as a very important thread throughout the lifetime of the HoGLPS.

A Heart of the Glens Food and Artisan Festival will be implemented in Year 5 of the HoGLPS. This festival will provide an opportunity for the partners of the HoGLPS to work collaboratively to celebrate the fantastic heritage we have worked hard to promote over the four years leading up to this event. This festival will involve the farmers engaged in Theme 1, the range of festival and event organisers supported in Theme 3, the volunteers inspired to support the work of the LPS as well as many more, to develop a nine Glens wide food festival. A key aim of this project will be to inspire local communities and visitors to value their local heritage. Events will include storytelling, traditional music sessions, arts and crafts demonstrations, and cookery classes and craft workshops. This will be a two week festival, organised out of season, which will continue annually or possibly biannually, beyond the lifetime of the HoGLPS.

We will offer tour guide training for local community groups and individuals who will have the opportunity to lead walks and events happening within the HoGLPS. These individuals will be trained in walk leadership, storytelling and delivering guides.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Inspiring Communities | |
| IC1 | Village Heritage |
| IC2 | Heritage Helpers Volunteer Programme |
| IC3 | Artisans of the Glens |
| IC4 | Heritage Tour Guiding |

**Theme 6 - Creative Glens**

Monitoring landscape change is an important tool for environmental managers. Through engaging local communities, stakeholders and partners in fixed point photography, we are connecting people with their landscape as well training those in fixed point photography and GPS usage. This project will also involve gathering an archive of images to be used as an effective monitoring tool. Sites will be chosen across the HoG by the local people and land managers, will be recorded 4 times a year for the duration of the scheme and will be available to view on our ‘virtual museum’ via our website.

Landscapes and Literature will include inspiring young people to become involved in storytelling, song writing and creative writing about their landscape and its significance. We will work with partners to develop a literature exhibition road show and through this project; young people will receive training in song writing and storytelling with local expertise.

Through a new HoG website, we will provide audiences with the opportunity to download online heritage trails, e-learning resources for schools and teachers, access a new interactive heritage map that highlights various key sites of landscape value and interest, as well as working with partners to explore new and creative ways to understand and value heritage.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Creative Glens | |
| CG1 | Community Fixed Point Photography |
| CG2 | Digitising Heritage |
| CG3 | Landscapes and Literature |

**4.3 Connecting Themes to HLF Programmes**

The table below sets out how the themes of the scheme align with the LP programmes. Against each theme we have identified the various constituent projects and cross-referenced with the relevant LP Programme. The individual projects are primarily identified for budgeting and management purposes and do feature some overlap. For example, the identified projects with PF1 Biodiversity Enhancement Programme in the title represent an integrated programme rather than stand-alone projects and the achievement of the aims of one depends on the others. Thus some of the benefit accruing from this project under Programme A will be to other Programmes.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| THEME | Programme A – Conserving and Enhancing the Natural and Built Heritage | Programme B – Increasing Community Participation | Programme C – Access and Learning | Programme D – Heritage Skills and Training |
| Encouraging Upland Management and Farmer Engagement | UM1 Management Planning for Uplands  UM 2 Supporting Land Managers | ***Farmer engagement will be a strong element of UM1, UM2, UM3 and UM4*** | UM3 For Peat’s Sake | UM4 Heritage Skills |
| Protecting our Future | PF1 Biodiversity Enhancement Programme | ***Community and school groups will be involved in PF1/PF2/PF3/PF4*** | PF2 Habitat Stations  PF3 Fishing for Resources | ***Training and skills will be included in PF1*** |
| Preserving our Past | PP1 Lifelines in the Glens | PP2 Community Archaeology and Geology | PP3 Heritage Trails and Tales  PP4 The Language of Landscapes | PP5 Making Landscapes Work for You |
| Coordinating Heritage Activities | HA2 Heritage Infrastructure | HA2 Heritage Festivals and Events | HA1 and HA2 will improve access to sites and enhance routes | HA1 will involve training and workshops for festival and event organisers |
| Inspiring Communities | IC1 Village Heritage | IC2 Heritage Helpers Volunteer Programme  IC3 Artisans of the Glens | ***Learning outcomes will be a strong element of IC1 and IC2*** | IC4 Heritage Tour Guiding |
| Creative Glens | ***Enhancing the natural landscape will be a strong feature of CG1, CG3 and CG2*** | CG1 Community Fixed Point Photography | CG2 Digitising Heritage | CG4 GIS Mapping and GPS Training |

Some themes have projects identified against only one or two Programmes representing the best fit for that particular project. That is not to say, however, that some of these projects do not also contribute to other Programme areas and where this is the case we have identified additional benefits – highlighted in ***bold italics*.** Again it is for clarity of budgeting and management that these projects have not been further subdivided to reflect the contributions that they deliver to other Programmes.

**4.4 Common Threads**

An important feature of HoGLPS projects is their mutually reinforcing nature intended to ensure that the whole Programme amounts to greater than the sum of the individual parts. This complementarity and interdependence is demonstrated in the table above which shows how a number of closely related projects make up thematic areas of impact and how most of these themes extend across more than one LP Programme area. Interdependence is further specified in relation to each project in Section 5. However, we feel it is important to highlight common themes and threads that will cut across many of the projects throughout the implementation phase.

**4.4.1 Heritage Training and Skills**

It is intended that the heritage skills and training offered throughout Programme D will be cross cutting with many of the programme projects. It is important to embed the layer of training and skills in all of the projects we develop as this offers added value to the delivery of the project, and enhances the legacy of the overall project and its impact in the landscape. We will achieve this through an annual calendar of training, skills and volunteer days.

**4.4.2 Volunteer Programme**

The Heritage Helpers Volunteer Programme developed under Programme B will relate to many of the programmes and associated projects. In order to engage volunteers and sustain numbers throughout the lifeline of the scheme, opportunities to become involved in nature conservation, built heritage restoration, community participation and access and learning will be offered. The volunteers will assist in enhancing the overall impact of the projects and once again, enhance the legacy of the scheme. Once again, volunteers will continue to be given opportunities to participate through our annual calendar of training, skills and volunteer days.

**4.4.3 Sustainability and Maintenance Management**

Sustainable development is a crucial thread that must be maintained with every project that is developed and delivered. It is important to offer a positive impact economically, socially and environmentally and with each project that is implemented, the ethos of sustainable development will remain. Adding to this will be the important issue of management and maintenance of projects, and ensuring that with every project, careful management and where applicable, maintenance allowances will be made. Please see Appendix for a copy of our Maintenance and Management Plan.

**4.5 Management**

It is important to ensure that the above aims, objectives and themes are carefully managed throughout the duration of the implementation phase. Partnership working will be central to the success of the scheme. Below highlights how we will avoid conflict through a well-structured series of working groups, and how we will communicate effectively with partners and external audiences.

**4.5.1 Avoiding Conflict**

The Partnership is confident in the ability to achieve the strategic aims and objectives of HoGLPS and thus implement a sustainable landscape partnership scheme over the coming years. In order to avoid conflict, throughout the development phase, the LPS Manager and the associated partners have engaged closely, developing projects in partnership. The group has involved all those stakeholders necessary to project plan and develop initiatives, including NIEA Natural Heritage, NIEA Built Heritage, the Local Councils, local interest groups, community organisations and land managers.

The Partnership contains many of the relevant agencies but, for reasons including efficiency of operation, cannot involve all of those whose input we will need to draw on in implementation of the projects. There will be aspects of the wide programme of actions envisaged in this LCAP that will require the knowledge and expertise beyond the LPS Steering Committee.

We will therefore be establishing a complementary network of working groups to bring this wider expertise, the membership of which will be flexible to draw in additional people as need/ opportunity arises. The groups are set out in the following table and the groups will be established according to the LPS themes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Working Group | Lead Officer | Members | Projects |
| Glens Conservation | Landscape Projects Officer | NIEA, Ulster Farmers Union, RSPB, National Trust, NI Water, DARD, Forest Service | UM1 Management Planning for Uplands  UM2 Supporting Land Managers  UM3 For Peat’s Sake  UM4 Heritage Skills  PP1 Lifelines of the Glens |
| Biodiversity | Landscape Projects Officer | Local Council Biodiversity Officers, The Glens Red Squirrel Group, Butterfly Conservation NI, NI Bat Group, Glens Angling Club, Ulster Wildlife Trust, National Trust, NIEA, LBAP members | PF1 Biodiversity Enhancement Programme  PF2 Habitat Stations  PF3 Fishing for Resources |
| Volunteering | Outreach and Volunteer Officer | Volunteer Now NI, Local Councils, NIEA, Conservation Volunteers, Local Interest Groups | IC2 Heritage Helpers Volunteer Programme |
| Industrial and Historic Heritage | Landscape Projects Officer | Local Councils, Mid Antrim Museum Services, Antrim Glens Tourism Group, Glens of Antrim Historical Society, Glenravel Historical Society, Glenarm Estate, CC&G Tourism Ltd | PP4 The Language of Landscapes  PP2 Community Archaeology and Geology  PP5 Making Landscapes Work for You |
| Heritage Activities and Communities | Outreach and Volunteer Officer | Local community groups, festival organisers, Antrim Glens Tourism Group, local interest groups, NITB, Local Councils, CC&G Tourism Ltd | HA1 Heritage Festivals and Events  HA2 Heritage Infrastructure  IC4 Heritage Tour Guide Training  IC1 Village Heritage  IC3 Artisans of the Glens |
| Access and Outdoor Recreation | Landscape Projects Officer | Local Councils, Outdoor Recreation NI, Sports NI, Walking Groups, Antrim Glens Tourism Group, RSPNB, NI Water, National Trust | PP3 Heritage Trails and Tales |
| Creative Glens | Outreach and Volunteer Officer | Local Councils, Arts and media experts, NITB, CC&G Ltd, local interest groups | CG1 Landscapes and Literature  CG2 Community Fixed Point Photography  CG3 Digitising Heritage |

**4.5.2 Branding and Awareness**

The Partnership has endorsed a new branding initiative for the HoGLPS. It was agreed that this brand should represent the various partners involved and we welcome any number of partners involved in conserving and enhancing the heritage of the Glens of Antrim to adopt the logo as part of their raising awareness.





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A newsletter will be produced for the HoGLPS entitled ‘Pulse’ to capture the range of activities and projects that will be developed. This newsletter will be circulated and distributed to local community groups, residents, tourism businesses, Tourist Information Centres (TICs), stakeholders and government agencies quarterly.

**Section 5 – See Excel Workbook**

**Section 6 – Sustainability**

**6.1 Introduction**

HoGLPS will seek to promote and deliver high quality projects in keeping with the aims and objectives of the LPS, in order to sustain and maintain partnerships and community links. It recognises that 5 years of HLF financial support must be seen as the impetus for an on-going process of growth and development which will result in a sustainable legacy for our landscape and its people.

The Partnership has sought to address sustainability of the Projects by working closely with partner organisations, the community through strong engagement, by providing training opportunities and ensuring that the staff from HoGLPS will work closely on shared objectives so creating a platform for future work.

The coordinated management of the project area in the long term will be ensured, by merging HoGLPS Team and CCGHT team together. The CCGHT manages and promotes 3 AONBs, the Heart of the Glens LPS sitting within one of these three – the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB. By working closely and collaboratively, staff can share experiences and best practise and encourage projects that have ended in the LPS to be continued in the other AONBs. This will also ensure that all partners recognise the value of AONBs and their landscape setting.

During the lifeline of the scheme, the LPS team together with the CCGHT team will look for funding opportunities to enable us to retain staff members beyond the schemes 5 year implementation. Maintaining strong relationships with the LPS Steering Group and the wider CCGHT Board will ensure that the opportunity for continuation of funding is met.

Members of the LPS Steering Group are also represented on the wider Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Group and thus connect to the CCGHT Board. Because of the synergy between these two groups, the LPS Steering Group meetings will be held at the same time as the AONB group. This will also ensure a synergy between the two partnerships.

**6.2 Maintaining Benefits and Key Activities**

The Programmes and Projects described in Section 5 will be of enormous benefit to the heritage of the Glens of Antrim, its community and to visitors and through these indicators the success and evaluation of the scheme can be monitored. Whilst recommendations for project specific sustainability are written into every project in Section 5, it is important to consider a more strategic approach.

**6.2.1 Implementation of Programme A – Conserving and Enhancing the Natural and Built Heritage**

Programme A includes all those projects that are dominated by conservation activity relating to the natural and built heritage - principally, the conservation and enhancement of our uplands, field boundaries, priority habitats and species, industrial and community village heritage. Sustainability will be based on maintenance and management of this conservation, and this will be achieved through an effective partnership approach and via the management and maintenance budget included in the scheme budget.

Programme A will also include training, skills and funding for conservation and restoration and in doing so offers a long term added value to land managers, local people and conservation organisations.

**6.2.2 Implementation of Programme B – Increasing Community Participation**

Programme B includes those projects that address community engagement, participation and inspiring locals in becoming involved in heritage activities. In particular, the projects within this programme will include farmer engagement, community archaeology and geology, the heritage helper’s volunteer programme and coordinating heritage activities and festivals. A large number of community groups are already actively engaged in heritage activities and festivals in the Glens and we have an active set of local interest groups with volunteers, and through the LPS, we can offer long term coordination of events, provide training and development in order to allow these existing, long standing groups to enhance their heritage offering.

**6.2.3 Implementation of Programme C – Access and Learning**

Programme C includes those projects which seek to improve access and learning opportunities. In particular, this will include enhancing our heritage gateway sites, developing heritage trails and tales, habitat stations for learning and implementing a long standing guided walks and events programme. The access projects that will be developed under the LPS include a MacDonnell Trail, an Industrial Mining Trail, Audio Guide Trail of the Antrim Coast Road and improving access between the Garron Plateau and the Glenariff Forest Park. The LPS includes four Local Authorities who have a responsibility for land within the scheme area. These are Ballymoney, Ballymena, Moyle and Larne Councils. Each council already has statutory responsibility to maintain public rights of way. Further, we have developed strong links with other land owners including NI Water, DARD Forest Service and NIEA. Where access improvements will be developed, we have sought to work with existing access to improve and enhance. This will ensure the long term sustainability of the trails as existing partnerships have a remit to maintain access for visitors.

**6.2.4 Implementation of Programme D – Heritage Skills and Training**

Programme D relates to heritage skills and training for a range of audiences within the Glens of Antrim. In particular, we will provide conservation, invasive species and habitat management training, training in traditional heritage skills such as dry stone walling and hedge laying as well as training for heritage events, marketing, PR, tour guiding and GIS Mapping. These training programmes will be delivered in partnership with a range of partners and external expertise, and will act as an overarching theme of all the projects going forward, as each will offer some element of training and skills development. To ensure sustainability under programme D, we will keep a record of all training the was conducted of the 5 year period as well as listing those who participated and with this, we will aim to include a new long term focus of offering training and skills to people under the main strategic objectives of the CCGHT.

**6.2.5 Implementation of Programme E – Overheads, scheme staffing and running costs**

Programme E refers to the management, overheads and scheme staffing. The sustainability of this is highlighted in more detail in Section 6.4 Organisational Structure Sustainability.

**6.3 Completed Partnership Work**

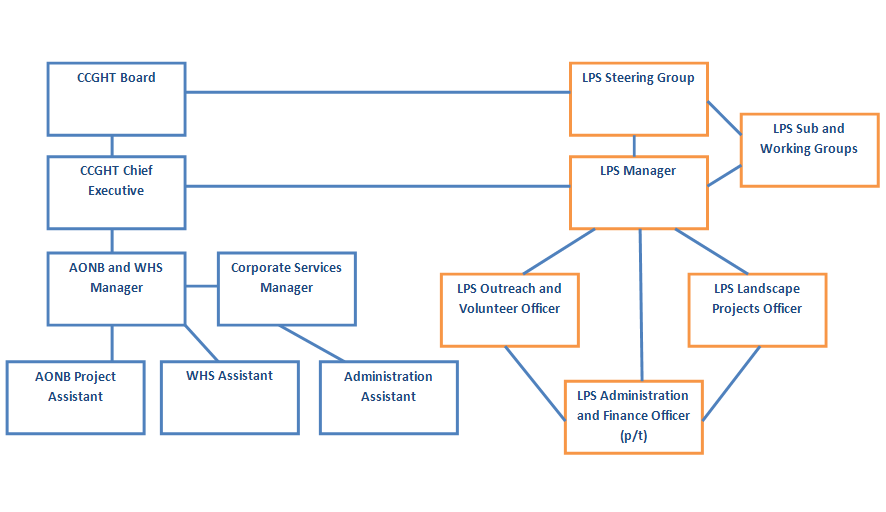
Reference to Section 5 of the LCAP will reveal that a certain number of projects will be signed off at or before the end of the implementation period. Despite these projects being stand-alone and ‘one-off’ these projects will be carried into the wider work of the CCGHT and implemented in other AONBs. Furthermore, with CCGHT receiving funding for protected area management and sustainable development, it may be possible to repeat projects within the region in future years and or enhance such projects to offer a further dimension.

**6.4 Organisational Structure Sustainability**

With the creation of HoGLPS and with new staff members a new managerial structure will be in place. The new management structure will operate in close partnership with CCGHT management and adhere to the aims and objectives set out in Section 4.

**6.4.1 New Management Structure**

The following is a diagram that demonstrates the new management structure in orange. As you will see from the structure, there is a strong link between the HoGLPS team and the CCGHT team:



The LPS Steering Group will direct and facilitate the development and delivery of the LP. The Group, where appropriate, will be expanded to include professionals and expert advisors from relevant organisations and landowner and community representatives to fully represent the interests of the LP. The Group will meet on a quarterly basis in order to direct, facilitate and keep members up to date with progress.

The LPS Sub and Working Groups will direct and steer the development of the programmes. They will reflect the nature of the themes and the proposed projects of the LP. The Sub Groups will comprise of members, interested community members and relevant professional advisors. Sub Groups will evaluate project proposals, delivery programmes, partnership funding and delivery mechanisms. The sub-group format will be an effective method for focussing the aims and objectives of the projects and a more efficient use of members’ time. There will be effective communication between the Sub Groups and the LPS Steering Group through the LPS Manager. It is anticipated that the Sub Groups will cover the broad themes of:

1. Upland Conservation
2. Biodiversity
3. Volunteering
4. Industrial and Historical Heritage
5. Heritage Activities and Communities
6. Access and Outdoor Recreation
7. Creative Glens

In total 4 staff members will be employed over the 5 year period of the Scheme. In order to efficiently and adequately sustain the running of the Scheme it is essential that the following employment positions are implemented:

**Landscape Partnership Scheme Manager**- To oversee the implementation and management of HoGLPS. The Landscape Projects Officer, the Outreach and Volunteer Officer and the Administration and Finance Officer will work under the day-to-day line management and direction of the LPS Manager.

**Landscape Projects Officer**- To oversee the identified programme of practical conservation actions for natural, built and cultural heritage. To engage with key stakeholders and landowners to identify and implement planned measures and agree project solutions.

**Outreach and Volunteer Officer**- To lead in the delivery of outreach and volunteer engagement activities in HoGLPS in order to maximise local and visitor involvement in the scheme and to improve the appreciation and understanding of the special landscape features of the area.

**Administration & Finance Officer**- To assist in the development and delivery of HoGLPS providing administrative support to the Scheme Manager, Landscape Projects Officer, Outreach and Volunteer Officer, the LPS Steering Group, LPS Sub Committees and Partners and will be responsible for day-to-day clerical and financial management.

These job positions will help contribute to economic benefits as the Scheme allows for new job opportunities. In keeping with the aims and objectives, high quality training will be implemented in order to support local groups and societies. Please see Appendix for a full list of the job descriptions.

**6.3.2 Promoting the Scheme and Public Services**

The Scheme will set out to promote public services in various ways. There will be publications and exhibitions, concentration in communications and media, and a management and maintenance budget in place. In particular:

* Publications will be developed and exhibitions will tour venues such as local libraries, schools, community halls and heritage centres to increase the community awareness and understanding of not only the heritage landscape but also of the aims and objectives of the LPS.
* Communications and media will be embraced in order to facilitate promotion of the Scheme. The development of a comprehensive website where people can access information about HoGLPS will be in place. It has also been written into the Outreach and Volunteer Officer to his or her key duties to write press releases (newspaper columns, e-zines, social media posts) and to develop web based interpretation resources (podcasts, apps and downloads) with assistance from the Administration and Finance Officer.
* A management and maintenance budget will be set aside for future use when and as necessary. The Scheme will begin implementing the budget starting on its Year 5 (the last year) beginning in 2018 and lasting over a 10 year period. This sustainable approach will ensure the continuation of the scheme after Landscape Partnership Scheme.

**6.5 Partnership Structure Sustainability**

It is imperative that a sustainable and long term structure is established to ensure legacy with the HoGLPS. Below indicates how the HoGLPS will maintain strong partnerships throughout the duration of the scheme.

**6.5.1 Conserving Long Term Partnerships**

The scheme will aim to maintain current partnerships, including statutory and local authorities who will support the Scheme with project development and partnership funding. The community, voluntary and interest group sector which the Scheme aims to support; and landowners’ engagement (please refer to Introduction Section 1.5 Partnership for specific partnerships). Partners of the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership shall commit to:

* Work within the partnership agreement
* Devote time as required for meetings
* Achieve the purposes of the LPS through constructive working with other members and partners
* Disseminate information or requests to the bodies or individuals that they represent

In adhering to these commitments it is predicted that amicable and constructive partnerships will be established and maintained throughout the scheme and beyond. A Partnership Agreement has been put into place and all partners have signed and agreed to the ethos of the agreement for the duration of the scheme. Please see Appendix for a copy of the Partnership Agreement.

**6.5.3 Sustaining Community Benefits**

There are various ways in which the Scheme will seek to establish its long term benefits:

* A volunteer programme will include a series of participatory events and activities and would be cross cutting with the other HoG themes. The CCGHT will take a proactive approach to providing opportunities for people to volunteer in conservation projects. HoGLPS aims to build on the success of current volunteer activity in the Glens of Antrim including those involved in the Glens of Antrim Historical Society, The Glens Red Squirrel Group, Conservation Volunteers NI and many more
* Workshops and training development will be implemented. The Outreach and Volunteer Officer will develop and coordinate the delivery of the ‘Heritage Helpers’ Volunteer Policy, skills and training workshops and resource packs. Programme D- Heritage Skills and Training will also specifically focus on training sessions
* Sustainability Accreditation Scheme will be developed in order to actively engage young people and schools in community based projects. This will encourage young people and schools to aim high and stick to programmes working their way up from a Bronze, to a Silver and to a Gold certification. The accreditation scheme will be implemented locally in hopes to establish it nationally
* The range of projects is reflective of the need of the LPS region and its partners. With a common vision identified, it is hoped that partners will work collectively to deliver a wide selection of initiatives that will not just benefit the people and visitors but the partners themselves as a responsibility to deliver landscape management

**6.6 Conclusion**

From the discussion above, it is clear that the Partnership has sought to address sustainability by:

* Demonstrating that the partnership is committed to delivering high quality and sustainable projects
* Establishing a strong volunteer programme that is resourced and motivated to continue an on-going programme of activities
* Merging the LPS team and CCGHT team together to encourage collaboration and the continuation of projects beyond the lifeline of the scheme
* Ensuring community and interest groups take ownership of heritage activities, projects and events and develop ways of working collectively in the future
* Ensuring that the ethos of the LPS is adopted and endorsed by the LPS Steering Group and the wider network of the AONB and CCGHT Board
* Encouraging an understanding of, and a pride in, the heritage landscape which will engender a more caring attitude towards it
* Ensuring the partnership, and in particular land managers, to accept management and maintenance responsibilities for infrastructure installed/improved on their land and where needed, the LPS would provide a maintenance and management allowance for infrastructure/improved land or access projects
* Ensuring the two staff teams (LPS/CCGHT) work closely on shared objectives creating a platform for future work
* Providing local people with the skills to enable them to seek heritage related work

**Section 7 – Monitoring and Evaluation**

The following section provides a framework for the on-going monitoring and evaluation that the HoGLPS will adopt. Monitoring will be conducted by project staff and volunteers using the milestones associated with the timetabled work each year; the aim being to ensure that the project delivers its agreed programme within the required timescale. Evaluation refers to the process of reflecting, in a structured manner, on project delivery, outcomes and to assess the effectiveness and/or efficiency of each project.

**7.1 Our Approach to Monitoring**

The main purpose of monitoring the projects within the HoGLPS will be to ensure the following:

1. Accountability and Value for Money – to help the lead partners and funders decide whether time and money has been properly spent and outputs delivered
2. Management – to help managers and partners in their tasks of managing risk and making key decisions to ensure the programme’s execution might be made more effective and/or efficient in the time that remains
3. Learning – to help those involved and others gain insights and understanding that might be useful elsewhere
4. Empowerment – to enhance the skills, knowledge and commitment of the participants and to make this available to colleagues and contacts

**7.1.1 Documentary Evidence**

In the guidance document ‘Evaluating Your HLF Project’ advice on monitoring and reporting is clearly made. The Partnership intends to adopt this guidance. However, it also recognises that numerical reporting cannot tell the whole story of a Project’s Success. Even so, numbers provide an important starting point and foundation for evaluation.

The project partners, staff and volunteer participants will collect, analyse and report on the following to ensure effective monitoring. These will be outlined to each of the working groups and to the LPS Steering Committee:

* The HoGLPS LCAP and the yearly updates, taking timetables, budgets and milestones as the main reference points
* Internal progress reports and HLF Project Management reporting forms
* Papers and minutes of meetings, including papers for the lead partners
* Diaries, timesheets and volunteering recording forms
* Financial data, showing cash flow and budgets
* Procurement records, showing all transactions and invoices
* Staff records, demonstrating on-going management and appraisal of all staff posts within the partner organisation/core project team
* Newsletters and press cuttings
* A copy of products of interpretation and other raising awareness materials
* A photographic record of ‘before’, ‘during’ and ‘after’ project work and a collection of any video material produced

In particular, the LPS Staff and Volunteers will use the below table as a guide to monitor and report a range of activities throughout the lifetime of the HoGLPS:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Temporary Exhibitions and Displays | Lasts for less than 12 months and will be counted only once |
| Festivals and Events | Lasting one day or more, with a clearly defined theme or focus  These will be counted only once, even if they take place over more than one day |
| Guided tours, talks and activities | Led by staff or specialist guides/leaders  Count actual number of walks, tours and/or activities, not just the overall guided programme |
| Publication or information technology applications | The number of publications, CD-ROMS, online trails/guides or other technology applications your project created including websites  The number of people helping to create the material |
| Regular Visitors | People who visit the attraction or facility associated with your project  To assess the change in the pattern of visits before and after HLF funding |
| Volunteering | Measured by multiplying the number of volunteers with the average number of hours for each volunteer each year and the number of years that your project took from start to finish (total volunteer hours = number of volunteers x average number of hours for each volunteer every year x number of years of the project) |
| Training | Recorded once, under the most appropriate skills heading e.g. construction, conservation, managing heritage sites, recording  Will include any structured programme of on-the-job training, skill sharing, work based learning and work experience (student and/or voluntary) |
| People characteristics | Characteristics of the people involved, under the followed categories:   * Age group * Gender * Ethnic Background * Socio-economic group * Disability |
| Ethnicity | * Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, other) * Asian (Chinese) * Black (Caribbean, African, other) * White * Mixed ethnic group |
| Socio- economic groups | * Higher managerial and professional occupations * Lower managerial and professional occupations * Intermediate occupations * Small employers and own account workers * Lower supervisory and technical occupations * Semi-routine occupations * Routine occupations * Never worked and long term unemployed * Students are ‘Not Classified’   See www.statistics.gov.uk/methods\_quality/ns\_sec/nssec\_self\_coded\_method.asp |

* 1. **Evaluating Our Project Outcomes**

With the information gathered and monitored during the life of the projects and at the end of the implementation stage, the HoGLPS will be in a position to report and evaluate the Project Outcomes, which have been highlighted per project in Section 5. This will be an analysis of the difference the projects have made to the heritage landscape, its people and to the Partnership.

The Partnership will report on the outcomes which have been identified per project in Section 5, but will also be required to consider the following:

1. The difference each project has made to the heritage
   1. How have the projects brought heritage into better condition?
   2. How will the Partnership make sure that the heritage is better managed and maintained in the future?
   3. How has heritage been identified and better understood?
2. The difference the projects have made for people
   1. Have they helped more people to learn about heritage?
   2. Have they helped more people to enjoy heritage?
   3. Have they provided new skills and experience?
   4. Have they developed people’s understanding of their own and other people’s heritage?
   5. Have they contributed to an improved sense of identity and community?
   6. Have they improved the quality of the local environment?
3. The main groups of people who have benefited from the Projects
4. How the Partnership will maintain the benefits of its projects in the long term
   1. Will the projects maintain or create staff posts to drive work forward for the long term
   2. How will the projects change the service it will offer to the public?
   3. How will the projects make new, long term commitments to heritage?
5. The impacts of the projects on the environment
   1. Have the projects had a positive impact on the environment and how have the negative impacts been kept to a minimum?

A Delivery Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Pro-Forma will be completed for each project. See Appendix ?? for a template copy of the Pro-Forma document. This document will be a useful monitoring and evaluation tool for LPS Staff and Volunteers, and will be completed annually or at the end of each project, depending on the need.

**7.3 Final Evaluation**

At the end of the project the following two feedback components will be supplied to HLF and partners:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation Pro-Forma Report (or Summative Evaluation) - quantitative and qualitative of storytelling, comparing aspirations first laid out in our application. A final 10% of our grant will be retained by HLF until this has been sent.
2. Evaluation Questionnaire- this will be sent by HLF within one year of the completion of our project. Information given will include number of activities undertaken, the number of visitors we have received (when appropriate), and the amount of training or volunteer involvement.

**Section 8 – Adoption and Review**

**8.1 Adoption of the LCAP**

The HoGLPS LCAP has been adopted by the LPS Steering Committee, prior to its submission to HLF for stage two funding at its 5th and final development phase meeting. Please see Appendix for a copy of the 5th LPS Steering Committee Minutes held on 21st March 2013. The LPS Steering Committee has and will continue to be involved in inputting into the LCAP during every stage of its development. It will be this group who will be responsible for monitoring and ensuring the LCAP is used and effectively transposed in practise. During the lifetime of the HoGLPS, the LPS Manager will be responsible for ensuring the work programme that stems from the plan is followed.

The LCAP will be reviewed on an annual basis during the lifetime of the HoGLPS to ensure that the assumptions made are still valid and ensure that projects are true to the strategic aims and objectives as outlined within the Plan.

**8.2 Availability of the LCAP**

Copies of this LCAP will be given to every LPS Steering Committee member via a HoG branded USB pen. Further copies of the plan will be held by CCGHT, the LPS Team and HLF.

The LCAP will also be uploaded onto the new HoGLPS website and the CCGHT website. This will be made available for download as the partnership has always adopted an open approach to availability.