



Causeway Coast
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
(AONB) Action Plan 2020-2025



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST



Introduction

This five-year Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Action Plan was produced by the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) on behalf of partner organisations represented within the Causeway Coast AONB Management Forum and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), an agency within the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

The 2020-2025 Action Plan identifies tasks required to meet the aim and objectives of the 2013-2023 Causeway Coast AONB Management Plan and supports other natural heritage designations such as Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and Natura 2000 sites.

A 30-year vision for the Causeway Coast AONB

“The Causeway Coast AONB will be recognised and promoted as a world class, spectacular and unspoilt landscape upon which a unique cultural history has developed. Vibrant and proud communities will inspire and implement exemplary management strategies and welcome everyone to enjoy and learn about the area’s outstanding natural and cultural heritage in a sustainable manner”.

Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The special landscapes that make up the Causeway Coast are of national importance and in 1989 were recognised as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Causeway Coast AONB hosts a variety of landscapes; the most notable area of the coastline is the Giant’s Causeway formation of basalt columns, which forms part of the Giant’s Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site.

The western part of the AONB is characterised by an extensive dune system at East Strand, Portrush. Alternating white chalk and black basalt cliffs characterise the coastline and Dunluce Castle forms a spectacular landmark with views of Donegal and the Skerries to the north. Towards the east the AONB features farmland, small settlements and skirts the town of Ballycastle. The rich natural and historical interest of the area makes it a popular tourist destination with scenery, culture, and sport. Popular sites for visitors include the Giants Causeway WHS, Bushmills Distillery, Dunluce Castle and Carrick-a-rede. Holiday homes and caravan parks are frequent throughout the area.

AONBs in Northern Ireland

AONBs in Northern Ireland are designated under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (NI) 1985 (NCALO). Under this legislation DAERA may, in relation to an area designated an AONB, make proposals for;

- **conserving or enhancing the natural beauty or amenities of that area**
- **conserving wildlife, historic objects or natural phenomena within it**
- **promoting its enjoyment by the public**
- **providing or maintaining public access to it.**

DAERA underpins AONB designations by supporting Management Forums, Management and Action Plans and related activities. CCGHT receives support from DAERA NIEA to provide a secretariat service for the Causeway Coast AONB Management Forum and to undertake a range of activities.

Causeway Coast AONB Map



Dunluce Castle



Bell Heather



Giant's Causeway

This five-year Action Plan sets out actions for a range of partners, under four objectives and a supportive section. These reflect the objectives of the AONB Management Plan.

- 1 Conserve and enhance the natural environment**
- 2 Raise awareness, enjoyment and increase access to the area's exceptional biodiversity and geodiversity**
- 3 Protect, enhance and increase access to the historic fabric of the AONB and associated cultural traditions**
- 4 Promote vibrant and sustainable communities with a strong sense of identity**
- 5 Supportive section - Monitoring and reporting progress**

Changes since the previous Action Plan

There have been several changes since the 2013-2018 Causeway Coast AONB Action Plan was published. Each has been considered during the development of this plan.

Local Council

Following local government reform in April 2015 the number of Northern Ireland councils was reduced from twenty-six to eleven. The Causeway Coast AONB, which originally traversed both Coleraine Borough and Moyle District Council, now sits wholly within Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council (CCGBC). The majority of planning powers were devolved to the new councils (under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011), including:

- **Local Development Plan (LDP) preparation.**
- **Development Management (determining the vast majority of planning applications); and**
- **Planning Enforcement.**

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) retain planning powers in respect of the following:

- **Determination of regionally significant and 'called-in' planning applications.**
- **Regional Development Strategy (RDS).**
- **Regional planning policy.**
- **Planning Legislation.**
- **Performance management; and**
- **Oversight and guidance for councils.**

In carrying out these new planning functions each council operates the following:

- **A 'Scheme of Delegation': this details the planning functions that have been delegated to planning officers and those which require to be determined by the Council's Planning Committee; and**
- **A 'Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee': this details the procedures to be followed by the Planning Committee (that are not already covered by the Council's Standing Orders and Councillors' Code of Conduct).**

Development significantly impacts the landscape and so the Management Forum have input into the consultation processes for the Local Development Plan. In September 2018 CCGHT submitted a representation on behalf of the Forum to the Preferred Options Paper (POP), championing the AONB. Future development will be likely to greatly impact the landscape of the AONB, therefore, CCGHT will continue to encourage the Management Forum to fully participate in the Council's Local Development Plan process.



Ballintoy Harbour

DAERA

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is an agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) (formerly Department of the Environment) and continues to be responsible for AONB designations.

DAERA has been responsible for driving sustainable development in Northern Ireland since May 2016. The principles of sustainable development have been integrated into the work of all Departments and District/Borough Councils through the draft Programme for Government and the Northern Ireland Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan. The Outcomes Delivery Plan focuses on twelve outcomes. These have been considered in the development of this Action Plan.

Tourism

Northern Ireland and the Causeway Coast has experienced an increase in tourism in recent years. In 2018, the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area, of which the Causeway Coast AONB is a key destination, received just over one million visitors which equated to 3.1 million overnight stays. This represents a 33% increase in visitor numbers and a 17% increase in overnight stays on 2014. The tourism industry is a significant employer within CCGBC providing 12% of jobs in 2018.

Increases in visitor numbers to the Causeway Coast AONB are well demonstrated by the increase of visitors to the National Trust's Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre. In 2013 there were 754,000 visitors, this increased to over one million in 2017. This rise has led to issues regarding traffic management and a lack of appropriate infrastructure with coaches, for example, loading and offloading visitors and travelling through small settlements and minor roads not designed to facilitate these.

Screen tourism, particularly related to HBO Game of Thrones is a growing trend and proving to be a significant motivator for travel, serving to powerfully showcase the unique landscapes, culture, people and stories offered by a destination. However, this has resulted in some issues within the AONB; pinch points for traffic such as at Ballintoy Harbour and small sites receiving an influx of visitors etc.

Screen tourism and the general rise in visitor numbers has put further pressure on the landscape capacity of the area and this has the potential to negatively impact on the landscape character of the area.

Climate Change

Climate change is an unprecedented challenge for Northern Ireland (NI) and will impact on the Causeway Coast AONB. Adaptation action and planning is essential for managing the resilience of society and the natural environment in an uncertain future, as well as for the known current and projected impacts of a changing climate. UK Climate Projections (UKCP) confirms sea-level rise in the UK will affect Northern Ireland's coastlines by increasing flood risks and vulnerability to storm surges proving detrimental to the natural coastal environment, including the habitats and the species it supports.

DAERA are responsible for coordinating a cross-departmental response to the risks and opportunities relevant to NI in the Climate Change Risk Assessment including development and publishing of an NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme. The Management Forum support efforts to understand, mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Consultation Summary

This Causeway Coast AONB Action Plan incorporates feedback and information from;

- **Stakeholder correspondence**
- **Public consultations**
- **Liaison with a wide range of partner organisations**

A number of actions will be delivered by CCGHT and most of these will be resourced through CCGHT's existing DAERA Environment Fund. However, many actions in this Plan are subject to external funding from a range of sources which have not yet been secured.

CCGHT, the Causeway Coast AONB Management Forum and partners will work to secure the resource required to deliver the actions prescribed. Sourcing and securing funding may affect time scales, delivery partners and scope. It is recognised that there will be challenges in delivering on some actions however it is anticipated that solutions will be identified and the Action Plan will be completed.

The Action Plan will be subject to annual review by CCGHT with input from the Management Forum and partners.

A crucial element of this development process was consultation with local people, communities and businesses to find out their perceptions of the area and their desires for the future. Numerous organisations and individuals contributed to the development of this Action Plan.

Community Participation

Two public consultation events were held on 19th September 2019 in Sheep Island View Hostel, Ballintoy and Bushmills Youth Hostel. These events were promoted through social media, email, posters and advertisement in local newspapers. An invitation to all Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Councillors was issued as part of an AONB team mail out in early September.

CCGHT staff liaised with Northern Area Community Network (NACN) who represent numerous community groups in the area. NACN circulated notification about the process and request for comments and action suggestion to its members.

The AONB team also attended a large community event; The Potato Festival and Community Open Day at the Giant's Causeway on 5th October 2019. The AONB team engaged with 150 individuals and discussed the AONB Action Plan and issued Action Plan comment forms to interested people.

Key points from the consultation included;

Education	Promotion	Public transport	Tour guiding training
Improved Signage	Partnerships	Traffic issues	Community Initiatives
Access	Protection of sites/habitats	Habitat & Species training and events	Sustainable approach and management

These responses have been considered by the AONB team and incorporated into the development of the Plan. Actions attempt to recognise or address the consultation comments.



Visit The Virtual World



Drifting Apart Earth Science Virtual Reality Exhibit; Coastal Zone Centre, Portrush

1. CONSERVE & ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Delivers on	<p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p> <p>The Birds Directive</p> <p>The Habitats Directive</p> <p>Shared Horizons Policy Statement</p> <p>Valuing Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020</p> <p>Sustainable Development Strategy 2010</p> <p>Marine Policy Statement 2011 & draft Marine Plan for NI</p> <p>Study and Gap Analysis of Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Regional Development Strategy 2035</p> <p>Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI</p> <p>Northern Area Plan 2016</p> <p>Planning Policy Statements</p> <p>PPS 2 – Natural Heritage</p> <p>PPS 8 – Open Space, Sport & Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>PPS 16 – Tourism</p> <p>PPS21 – Sustainable development in the countryside</p> <p>Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA)</p> <p>Community Plan, Causeway Coast and Glens: 2017-2030</p> <p>Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council</p> <p>All Ireland Pollinator Plan</p> <p>*Note this is not an exhaustive list of relevant plans, policies and strategies</p>
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Objective	Action	Lead Agency [Partners]	Year(s)	Outputs
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Managing the AONB Forum - Actions 1.0 to 1.9

1.0	Review the Management Forum Terms of Reference	CCGHT	20/21 & 23/24	CCGHT will lead the Management Forum in review of the Terms of Reference to ensure they meet the current needs of the AONB.
1.1	Maintain full representation according to the Management Forum Terms of Reference	CCGHT	Annually	Following review CCGHT will work to achieve and maintain full representation on the Forum.
1.2	Coordinate and host 3 AONB Management Forum meetings annually to drive delivery of the Management and Action Plan	CCGHT	Annually	CCGHT, as secretariat, will coordinate, host and facilitate 3 AONB Management Forum meetings annually to discuss matters relevant to the CCAONB and drive delivery of the Management and Action Plan. At least one meeting per year will bring Binevenagh, Causeway Coast and Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Forums together providing an opportunity for collaborative thinking and training.

Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
1.3	Enhance Management Forum's understanding of NCALO legislation and AONBs	CCGHT [Management Forum] [DAERA] [NIPAN]	Annually	CCGHT will provide Forum members with a digital copy of the relevant NCALO legislation. CCGHT will engage with NIPAN, other AONB Management Groups and relevant organisations and groups to encourage networking, information sharing and knowledge transfer. CCGHT will provide training opportunities to Forum members when possible. Combined AONB meetings offer an opportunity for this.
1.4	Update Management Forum on activities and information related to the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast UNESCO World Heritage Site	WHSPM	Annually	The World Heritage Site (WHS) Project Manager will provide routine updates at Management Forum meetings on implementation of the WHS Action Plan and relevant activities happening at the Site.
1.5	Champion the AONB	Management Forum	Annually	Management Forum members are to champion the AONB designation through their work and at other opportunities. They should act as AONB point of contact within their organisations or group.
1.6	Advocate Government for stronger AONB protection	NIEL	Annually	Northern Ireland Environment Link, along with CCGHT and partner AONB Management Authorities, will advocate Government to improve statutory recognition of AONBs.
1.7	Engage with and respond to Government and other consultations, which are relevant to CCAONB	Management Forum [CCGHT]	Annually	Management Forum members will inform CCGHT of relevant consultations. If CCGHT are notified of consultation opportunities and deem it relevant to the AONB it will be circulated to members. CCGHT may draft a response and circulate this to the Forum for comment prior to submission. If timescale permits the matter will be discussed at a Forum meeting. Members should strive to attend consultation events likely to impact the CCAONB.

Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
1.8	Recognise and support the AONB in the Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland	DAERA NIEA	Ongoing	DAERA are developing an Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland. DAERA will recognise and support the protection and conservation of the AONB in the Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland.
1.9	Provide up to date and relevant AONB information online	CCGHT	Annually	CCGHT will maintain and update the AONB's online platforms including webpages and social media pages. These platforms provide the AONB with an online presence which encourages greater understanding of the AONB and its special qualities. CCGHT will maintain a section of their website which provides access to AONB Management Plans, AONB information and research papers. CCGHT will strive to make information accessible. This may require redesign of material and platforms.
1.10	Develop and deliver a landowner information programme encouraging farming practices that promote positive management to conserve and enhance the AONB landscape and other designations	CCGHT [DAERA] [National Trust] [CAFRE] [CCGBC]	Annually	CCGHT will collaborate with suitable organisations and partners to identify relevant training and information opportunities for landowners. At least one event will be held within the AONB annually. CCGHT will work with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Trust (2020-2021 & 2022-2023) to assist delivery of events and/or awareness of the herbal ley's demonstration and resilient farming practices that they are delivering. These methods of highly productive farming produce significant benefits for pollinators, other wildlife and soil health. DAERA and CAFRE to promote the best methods of controlling scrub, rushes, bracken and gorse. CCGBC to raise awareness of biodiversity related projects such as Don't Mow Let It Grow
1.11	Monitor AONB landscape changes through Fixed-Point Photography	CCGHT [DAERA]	Annually	CCGHT established a Fixed-Point Photography project at 11 sites in the CCAONB in January 2019. Sites were selected based on Landscape Character Areas and will be photographed four times annually. CCGHT will complete an annual analysis and present findings to the Management Forum. Photographs will be submitted to DAERA on a quarterly basis. **linked to Action 2.1
1.12	CCGBC Planning to provide an annual update on planning applications within the AONB	CCGBC Planning	Annually	The Management Forum would gain greater understanding of development in this sensitive landscape through an annual summary of development applications in the AONB. Context to the scale, approval rate and general trends should be provided.

Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
1.13	Share Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Landscape Study and update on outcomes	CCGBC Planning	20/21	<p>CCGBC Planning commissioned a Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Landscape Study (2019-2020) as part of evidence gathering for the Local Development Plan.</p> <p>LCAs are important reference points and provide comment on the landscapes of the AONB. The Management Forum should be aware of LCAs and any changes to them.</p> <p>CCGBC Planning representative or relevant person will provide an overview of the review and highlight any changes to LCAs within the Causeway Coast AONB.</p>
1.14	Continue to share existing resources which translate the landscape and seascape character of the area to the public	CCGHT [CCGBC]	Annually	CCGHT holds videos which translate the special qualities of the landscape and seascape character areas and coastal landscape features and highlights the vulnerabilities of this coastline. These videos will be promoted to the public by various members of the Management Forum.
1.15	Management Forum to keep informed of, and participate in, the development of the Local Development Plan	Management Forum CCGBC Planning	Ongoing	<p>CCGBC is developing a Local Development Plan (LDP). The AONB is a sensitive landscape and as such the Management Forum should consider proposals put forward for the LDP, ensuring AONBs are appropriately considered and recognised in the LDP strategy and policies.</p> <p>CCGBC Planning should make the Management Forum aware of stages within the LDP and opportunities to feed into the process.</p> <p>The Management Forum should review information and documents and develop a response if appropriate.</p>
1.16	DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division to provide overview and update on issues and opportunities relating to designation and management of marine protected areas	DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division	Annually	DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division will provide information and update on issues and opportunities for the Causeway Coast AONB in relation to marine matters, specifically marine protected areas and report to the Causeway Coast AONB Management Forum Meeting.
1.17	Provide quality information about the AONB including maps	CCGHT Management Forum	Annually	<p>All Forum members, partners and other relevant organisations are to ensure that high quality and easily accessible information linked to the AONB is available through digital media or printed literature. Suitable use of the AONB name, logo and information should be included in all relevant channels.</p> <p>CCGHT will continue to produce, develop and share literature. This may include printed literature, web-based information and other media formats. Quantity of printed material to be reduced by 50%.</p>

Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
1.18	Provide information on access and continue providing access within the AONB	CCGBC	Annually	CCGBC Coast and Countryside Team work to maintain and increase access and access opportunities throughout the AONB. Through webpages, literature and if appropriate at events the team will provide information on access and work with interested landowners to develop access.
1.19	Provide a quality beach experience	CCGBC National Trust	Annually	Beach operators should undertake responsible management practices in line with quality standards to enable beach users to enjoy a quality experience. Where possible Blue Flag Awards will be sought for beaches and bathing waters and specifically White Rocks Beach.
1.20	Develop a plan to declare the AONB as a PlasticSmart Region	CCGBC Environmental Resources Team [Management Forum] [CCGHT]	2020-2022	CCGBC Environmental Resources Team will work with CCGHT and others to produce a plan to declare the AONB a PlasticSmart AONB.
1.21	Explore feasibility of introducing sea bins along the Causeway Coast	CCGHT [CCGBC]	2021	To support a reduction on marine litter CCGHT will carry out a feasibility study and produce a report on introducing sea bins along the coast. Then seek funding to implement the report and its recommendations. Report to be submitted to NIEA and presented to Management Forum. Partners to work together to install sea bins if viable.
1.22	Support the raptor bird population through support of the NI Raptor Study Group	CCGHT	Ongoing	CCGHT will collaborate with the NI Raptor Study Group to support research and education about raptors. Training and education opportunities will be delivered and offered in the AONB.
1.23	Develop guidance material for the public on how to report instances of marine or coastal pollution	DAERA Marine & Fisheries Division and NIEA CCGHT	2022	DAERA operate a water pollution hotline. Together Marine and Fisheries, DAERA and CCGHT will develop and disseminate guidance material on how the general public can log pollution instances. This is likely to focus on coastal or marine pollution however, may take in freshwater waterways. The output may be a range of information posters or a video aimed at social media.

Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
1.24	Increase conservation of the AONB by sharing information and training on identification of species and habitats, measures to enhance biodiversity, practical skills, tackling invasive species, geodiversity etc.	CCGHT CCGBC DAERA NIEA Earth Science and Heritage Officer DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division	Annually	CCGHT will work with CCGBC and DAERA NIEA Earth Science, and Heritage Officer and DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division to share and promote information and co-ordinate training opportunities on identification of species and habitats, measures to enhance biodiversity, practical skills, tackling invasive species and geodiversity etc. Geology is the foundation of the natural environment and therefore is an important factor of natural heritage training and understanding. CCGHT will work with DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division to include marine based training courses in this activity. This activity will include annual public education and outreach regarding removal of non-native species.
1.25	Protection of important species and habitats from the threat of wildfires by establishing a baseline of wildfire activity and development of suitable activities to raise awareness of the issues and address them where possible	CCGHT DAERA NIEA	Ongoing	DAERA NIEA to provide CCGHT with information and training on wildfire issues. This will include access to the NI Wildfire Strategy and invitation to CCGHT to attend NI Wildfire Forum meetings. CCGHT will engage with NIFRS to access existing information and develop relevant AONB scale information. CCGHT and NIEA will collaborate to determine and deliver suitable activities to identify AONB specific wildfire issues and seek to address these. This is likely to include raising awareness and may involve training and site works.
1.26	Support Leave No Trace ethics and promote principles to the public and recreation providers	CCGHT	Annually	CCGHT will continue to support Leave No Trace and promote the ethics and principles to the public and recreation providers, encouraging responsible practice to conserve and protect the AONB.
1.27	Sustainable Resilient Coasts Project to support coastal management issues within the AONB	CCGHT	2020-2022	CCGHT is partner on the EU Sustainable Resilient Coast project. The outcomes of the project will be shared with coastal management organisations covering the AONB area to support sustainable coastal management.

Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
1.28	DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division to work with CCGHT to promote understanding of marine environment and translate the values and meaning of marine designations	DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division	2022	DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division to work with CCGHT to further promote the marine environment and the values of marine designated areas, translating this into jargon-free content for local people, operators and the Management Forum. Clear information and training on reporting sightings and stranding's/ beaching to be included. This output is likely to be a video, building on the success of previous 'life along the coast' videos covering the AONB area.
1.29	Support the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) and promote to residents and visitors	CCGBC CCGHT All Ireland Pollinator Plan Butterfly Conservation	Annually	Seek opportunities to support and promote the importance of our pollinators through the promotion of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and other initiatives such as Don't Mow, Let It Grow and the Big Butterfly Count. Host at least one pollinator linked event annually. Identify and develop at least one pollinator project with in the AONB.
1.30	CCGBC to actively identify Non-native invasive species on Council land holdings and act if appropriate	CCGBC	Ongoing	CCGBC Biodiversity Officer to actively identify invasive species on Council land holdings and where appropriate introduce an eradication or control programme.
1.31	Develop a CCGBC Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)	CCGBC	2021	CCGBC Biodiversity Officer to develop a Local Biodiversity Action plan for the CCGBC area spanning 2020- 2025. Consulting with CCGHT and the Causeway Coast AONB Management forum to ensure their actions are aligned. Through the LBAP identify suitable locations to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and work with CCGHT to designate one LNR in the life-time of this plan.





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AND INCREASE ACCESS
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2. RAISE AWARENESS, ENJOYMENT AND INCREASE ACCESS TO THE AREA'S EXCEPTIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY

Delivers on	<p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p> <p>The Birds Directive</p> <p>The Habitats Directive</p> <p>Shared Horizons Policy Statement</p> <p>Valuing Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020</p> <p>Sustainable Development Strategy 2010</p> <p>Study and Gap Analysis of Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter, GSNi</p> <p>Marine Policy Statement 2011 & draft Marine Plan for NI</p>	<p>Regional Development Strategy 2035</p> <p>Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI</p> <p>Northern Area Plan 2016</p> <p>Planning Policy Statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPS 2 – Natural Heritage PPS 8 – Open Space, Sport & Outdoor Recreation PPS 16 – Tourism PPS21 – Sustainable development in the countryside <p>Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA)</p> <p>Community Plan, Causeway Coast and Glens: 2017-2030</p> <p>Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council</p> <p>All Ireland Pollinator Plan</p> <p>CCGBC Tourism Destination Plan</p> <p>*Note this is not an exhaustive list of relevant plans, policies and strategies</p>
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Action		Lead Agency [Partners]	Year(s)	Outputs
2.1	Showcase and celebrate Fixed Point Photography through an exhibition and or associated event within Causeway Coast AONB	CCGHT [DAERA]	22-23	<p>The exhibition and/or event will showcase the FPP project, specifically displaying the outcomes of the project to date. It is anticipated the three AONBs will be included.</p> <p>This activity will increase understanding of the special landscape qualities of the AONB and the event will present NCALO legislation in a translated way to the public.</p> <p>*Linked to Action 1.11</p>

Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
2.2	Raise awareness of the AONB with elected representatives via an annual mail out	CCGHT	Annually
			CCGHT will contact elected representatives each year detailing the AONB, current activities and engagement opportunities accompanied by the AONB guide and annual events programme to elected members. The correspondence will champion the AONB's protection. This activity may be merged with other CCGHT communication regarding AONBs and is likely to include CCGBC Councillors, MLAs and MPs.
2.3	Identify locations in the AONB which experience litter/fly-tipping and undertake at least two litter picks in the AONB	KNIB [CCGHT] [CCGBC Environmental Resources] [Coast Office]	Annually
			Litter and fly-tipping negatively impact the natural environment and landscape. CCGHT will work with Keep NI Beautiful, CCGBC Environmental Resources Team and the public to identify problem areas and deliver at least two litter pick activities each year within the AONB to help conserve the natural environment. It is expected these will be terrestrial and will include at least one marine event. Activities may coincide with campaigns such as Big Beach Clean, Marine Litter clean up and LitterSmart.
2.4	Support the delivery of relevant Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) activities and contribute to targets.	CCGHT [CCGBC]	Annually
			CCGHT will ensure the CCGBC Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) reflects the needs of the AONB. CCGHT will work with the CCGBC Biodiversity Officer to identify actions and targets that can be supported.
2.5	Engage young people with the AONB	CCGHT	Annually
			Develop education packs and provide associated training which will encourage young people to engage with the AONB and help protect and conserve it. Materials will contribute to the Eco-Schools programme and include landscape and seascapes.
2.6	Create a biodiversity loan box scheme aimed at young audiences	CCGHT [CCGBC Biodiversity Officer] [CEDaR]	21/22
			CCGHT will work with CCGBC Biodiversity Officer to identify and compile suitable biodiversity essentials in a Biodiversity Loan Box. Instruction guides will be created and guidance on how to report findings to CEDaR included. Content will be in line with curriculum and Eco-schools programme. CCGHT will promote and facilitate the loan box to schools and established youth groups. Groups may be required to submit a deposit and provide evidence of box in use. The resource should increase biodiversity records in the AONB and raise awareness and understanding of the natural environment including priority habitats and species.
2.7	Maintain and update biodiversity loan boxes	CCGHT	23-24
			CCGHT will review user evaluation forms and usage of the biodiversity loan box and refine and update the contents if necessary.

Action		Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
2.8	Raise awareness of the AONB and its resources with younger audiences by providing AONB literature and resources	CCGHT	21-22 & 23-24	Education facilities i.e., schools and youth clubs within the AONB will be supplied with a selection of AONB literature and resources. CCGHT will run engagement events with two primary schools within the AONB during the lifetime of the Action Plan.
2.9	Provide at least one community, interest or education group with training in monitoring and reporting terrestrial or marine habitats and wildlife	CCGHT [CCGBC Biodiversity Officer] [CEDaR]	Annually	CCGHT will work with CCGBC biodiversity officer and CEDaR to host training for monitoring and reporting terrestrial or marine habitats and wildlife. This will be supported by CCGHT's Priority and Species research project. **Linked to Action 2.8
2.10	Undertake a review of records for the AONB and identify gaps in data	CEDaR	2021	CEDaR will review records available for the AONB and provide an overview for the Management Forum. Activities to increase records and address gaps in information will be devised and delivered by a range of Forum members.
2.11	Increase understanding and recordings of priority habitats and species	CCGHT	Annually	CCGHT will host a research placement or collaborate with a wildlife group to collect data and raise awareness of one priority habitat and species per year. Outreach and promotion of wildlife recordings will be part of this activity. Species and habitat will be selected each year from the NI priority list.
2.12	Encourage the collection of biodiversity data across the CCAONB and its submission to CEDaR	CCGHT [CEDaR]	Annually	CCGHT will encourage collection and submission of biodiversity data as a matter of routine and will raise awareness of the CCAONB entry point. CCGHT will encourage CCGHT event facilitators to submit recordings to CEDaR. This will increase our knowledge of the current condition of the biodiversity of the AONB. See Action 2.6, CCGHT will encourage users of Biodiversity Loan Box to collect and submit biodiversity data.
2.13	Host an annual event to raise awareness of the marine and coastal environment	Ulster Wildlife [Coast Office]	Annually	Ulster Wildlife will host a marine event for the public to raise awareness of the marine and coastal environment within and around the AONB

Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
2.14	<p>With support from Keep NI Beautiful, CCGHT will encourage non-Eco Schools within the Causeway Coast AONB to get involved in the Eco-schools programme</p> <p>CCGHT</p> <p>[KNIB]</p> <p>[CCGBC Environmental Resources]</p>	21-22	<p>KNIB are Eco-Schools co-coordinators in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The marine environment is an important asset to the CCAONB. CCGHT will work with Eco-Schools NI to raise awareness and understanding about the marine environment.</p> <p>CCGHT will work with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to identify nonparticipating schools within the Causeway Coast AONB and host an event to raise awareness, introduce Eco Schools and encourage Eco Schools membership.</p>
2.15	<p>Include and improve biodiversity, geodiversity and seascape content in material such as video, publications and interpretation</p> <p>CCGHT</p> <p>Management Forum</p> <p>National Trust</p> <p>CCGBC</p>	Annually	<p>All forum members should incorporate biodiversity and geodiversity content including seascapes in output material where possible and refer to designated areas where appropriate.</p> <p>CCGHT will ensure relevant information is included in AONB material. CCGHT may contribute to this action through the development of further Geo Virtual Reality (GeoVR) content and may address issues with interpretation signage within the AONB (1 per year).</p>
2.16	<p>Support the NI Geodiversity Charter by delivering two events with at least one to take place on a designated site of geological or biodiversity interest</p> <p>GSNI</p> <p>DAERA NIEA Earth Sciences</p>	Annually	<p>GSNI and DAERA NIEA Earth Science Heritage Officer will lead at least two events of geological interest in the AONB, at least one of these events will be held within a designated area. These could be outdoor activities; information talks or similar, but all should aim to increase understanding and awareness of the natural resources and heritage of the AONB. This supports the NI Geodiversity Charter.</p> <p>These events may be included in CCGHTs annual events programme.</p>
2.17	<p>Provide and promote accurate information on geology within the AONB through the Earth Science Conservation Record and seek to safeguard sites and features by recognising them</p> <p>NIEA Earth Science and Heritage Officer</p>	Annually	<p>NIEA will ensure the Earth Science Conservation Record (ESCR) is up to date with accurate information on sites or features of geological interest.</p> <p>The special geology and geological features of the AONB will be recognised through the ESCR and may be progressed to being designated by NIEA.</p> <p>At least one site or feature will be added to the ESCR in the life of this plan.</p>

Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
2.18	Undertake geological ASSI condition assessments. Share the outcome and call upon the Management Forum to help address issues identified if suitable	NIEA Earth Science and Heritage Officer	<p>Annually</p> <p>NIEA's Earth Science and Heritage Officer completes condition assessments for geological aspects of ASSIs (10 within AONB) on a rolling 6 year basis. The Officer will complete these duties as standard and share the process and outcomes with the Management Forum (starting 2021).</p> <p>Where an issue has been identified, and the Management Forum could help ie: scrub clearance, the Officer will call upon the Management Forum.</p>
2.19	Create a video or media output which showcases the outstanding geological heritage of the AONB, explaining the landscapes of the AONB	CCGHT NIEA Earth Science and Heritage Officer GSNI	<p>2023</p> <p>Partners will collaborate to create a video, or similar, which showcases the outstanding geological heritage of the AONB and explains the landscapes present today.</p> <p>The video should be developed as a learning resource for schools but also for the general public.</p>
2.20	Participate in the National Outdoor Recreation Forum and champion the AONB in this forum	CCGHT	<p>Annually</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation NI co-ordinate the National Outdoor Recreation Forum (NORF). CCGHT will participate in the NORF, championing the AONB and working to increase access to and within the AONB in a manner which conserves the special landscapes and habitats within it.</p> <p>It is expected that this group will advocate for a Recreation Bill for Northern Ireland. CCGHT will support this and draw benefits for the AONB where possible.</p>
2.21	Promote responsible outdoor event planning within the AONB	CCGHT [ORNI]	<p>Annually</p> <p>CCGHT will continue to participate on the Outdoor Event Planning steering group (coordinated by ORNI and meeting up to twice per year) and assist in the delivery of an annual seminar.</p> <p>CCGHT will ensure an outdoor event planning seminar is held in the Causeway Coast AONB (in the lifetime of this plan) to address local issues and engage with local recreation providers (minimum of 5 engaged with). The event will signpost to existing permission formats (various landowners) and need for aftercare post-event.</p>
2.22	Increase enjoyment, access and understanding of the AONB through at least five events	CCGHT	<p>Annually</p> <p>CCGHT will organise, promote and deliver at least five events throughout the year within the AONB. Events will raise awareness, enjoyment, understanding and increase access to the AONB's exceptional natural environment and heritage. Events should promote or include conversation activities.</p> <p>These events are likely to be part of CCGHT annual events programme and will be promoted online and via printed material.</p>

Action		Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
2.23	Host a partnership event within the Causeway Coast AONB and encourage usage of bus and trains	CCGHT [Translink]	Annually	CCGHT & Translink will co-promote a partnership event as part of the CCGHT annual events programme. Participants will be encouraged to use public transport to attend the event and in return will receive a discounted event ticket price. The event is likely to be included in CCGHT's annual events programme.
2.24	Showcase CCGHT & the Causeway Coast AONB within Causeway Coast & Glens Bus & Train summer booklet (Mar-Sept)	Translink	20-21 & 23-24	CCGHT & Translink will work in partnership to include CCGHT and AONB content within the Translink seasonal bus and train publication as a feature advert (suitable artwork to be supplied by CCGHT).
2.25	Support Citizen Science activities within the AONB	Management Forum	Annually	All Forum members will support Citizen Science activities which engage people with their landscape, natural and built heritage and present the AONB as a location for the research/activity. Details of the research and opportunities to get involved will be promoted via the AONB online platforms and Forum Members. Outcomes of research will be shared if possible.
2.26	Establish a Geopark which includes the AONB	CCGHT Geopark Working Group	2025	CCGHT will further efforts to establish a Geopark which includes the AONB. The Geopark Working Group will undertake this task and information will be shared with the Management Forum and via online. The group will meet at least twice per year and undertake relevant activities to catalogue geo-hazard research, promote the outstanding geological resources and heritage of the area and provide learning opportunities for local people.
2.27	Produce Disability Access Audit	CCGHT	20-21	CCGHT will coordinate a Disability Access Audit of the AONB and present a prioritised list of sites for enhancement.
2.28	Review Disability Access Audit of the AONB	CCGHT	Annually	CCGHT will review the Disability Access Audit to look at working practices and outputs to ensure these are accessible for a range of audiences and adapt practices as necessary. The Forum will enhance one recommended site in the lifetime of the plan.
2.29	CCGHT to develop accessible versions of AONB literature and information	CCGHT	2024	The AONB guide booklet to be made available in audio (or appropriate) format - guided by the accessibility review. All CCGHT material will be available in easily readable electronic format.
2.30	Host earth science exhibition at the Coastal Zone Centre	DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division	Ongoing	CCGHT collaborated with DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division to create and install an Earth Science exhibition at the publicly accessible Coastal Zone Centre. DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division will continue to host and provide access to this exhibition. Opportunities to enhance content will be sought.

PROTECT, ENHANCE AND
INCREASE ACCESS TO THE
HISTORIC FABRIC OF THE ACORN
AND ASSOCIATED CULTURAL
TRADITIONS



3. PROTECT, ENHANCE AND INCREASE ACCESS TO THE HISTORIC FABRIC OF THE AONB AND ASSOCIATED CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Delivers on	European Landscape Convention 2000 Shared Horizons Policy Statement	Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) Community Plan, Causeway Coast and Glens: 2017-2030 CCGBC Tourism Destination Plan Northern Ireland Domestic Tourism Strategy March 2020 *Note this is not an exhaustive list of relevant plans, policies and strategies
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	Action	Lead Agency [Partners]	Year/s	Outputs
3.1	Scope feasibility of an annual festival which promotes heritage and provenance of local food and drink of the Causeway Coast and Glens area	Taste Causeway	20-21	Taste Causeway will scope the feasibility of an annual festival that will link to Slow Food with a focus on fish, whiskey and other food and drink and local traditions that are derived from the CCAONB.
3.2	Host traditional heritage businesses to showcase artisan craft including food and drink and encourage local people to learn the craft. Event to happen during off-peak season	CCGHT [National Trust] [Coast Office] [Taste Causeway]	21-22 & 23-24	CCGHT in partnership with relevant organisations will co-ordinate a traditional skills showcase to highlight where training courses and opportunities are available. This will help promote and sustain traditional crafts and skills of the AONB area and will be held in the off-peak season to encourage residents to attend. It will increase awareness and appreciation of its cultural heritage. This may be achieved through the various i.e., Community Open days and Potato Festival, Économusée open days
3.3	Host a community mapping Geographic Information Systems (GIS) session training event - to assist in populating CCAONB heritage maps	QUB [CCGHT] [Coast Office]	20-21 & 22-23	CCGHT will identify suitable areas on the Open Street Map website and work with Queen's University Belfast to host community mapping GIS events within the AONB. This will increase the volume of heritage mapped in the AONB and upskill local people.

Action	Lead Agency	Year/s	Outputs
3.4	At the WHS provide, update and maintain promotional materials and resources which increase understanding of the wider CCAONB	National Trust [CCGHT]	Annually The National Trust will display a selection of CCGHT publications relevant to the AONB within the visitor centre. The visitor centre receives a high volume of visitors and therefore providing information on the AONB here will raise awareness and understanding among a large audience.
3.5	Provide CCGBC Visitor Information Centres and other relevant locations within the AONB with a selection of publications	CCGHT [CCGBC Tourism Team]	Annually This will help to ensure that Causeway Coast AONB information and resources (maps, interpretation etc) are widely accessible and available for visitors. This will increase the visitor experience and understanding in and around the AONB and ensure it is accessible for all. CCGHT will work with CCGBC Tourism team to review publication supply mechanisms and review what type of material is required and relevant.
3.6	Promote CCGHT & AONB events through CCGBC annual visitor guide and Discover NI website	CCGHT [CCGBC] [TNI]	Annually CCGHT will supply event details to share through CCGBC & TNI promotional channels.
3.7	Review and update CCGHT 2016 Signage Audit	CCGHT [ORNI] [CCGBC] [National Trust]	2022 Using the 2016 Signage Audit CCGHT will update the profile for each item and endeavour to include new signage in the AONB. Partners such as ORNI, CCGBC and National Trust will provide information upon request. CCGHT will share the updated Signage Audit with partners including a prioritised list of signage to be addressed and encourage uniformity and to avoid duplication within the AONB.
3.8	Ensure at least one additional site within the AONB participates in the annual European Heritage Open Days event	DfC Historic Environment Division	2022-2025 As part of European Heritage Open Days event, DfC and CCGHT will work with partners to encourage at least one additional site participates in the event during the lifetime of the action plan. This will increase access to the historic environment and cultural heritage of the AONB.
3.9	Support the Économusée artisan network	CCGHT	2020-2025 CCGHT will continue to support and develop the Économusée artisan network. Artisans demonstrate heritage skills and work to sustainably profit from the heritage of the area.
3.10	Raise awareness of the Économusée concept among local food and drink businesses	Taste Causeway	Annually Taste Causeway will encourage local food and drink businesses who meet the Économusée criteria to apply to enhance the visitor experiences within the Causeway Coast AONB

Action	Lead Agency	Year/s	Outputs
3.11	Promote and encourage the use of online archives and learning resources which relate to heritage	CCGBC Museum Service [CCGHT]	Annually Work with appropriate partners to encourage the use of online repositories or archives which preserve and promote diverse histories of the CCAONB. Support relevant projects by appropriate partners. Support the delivery of information sessions, training or workshops, on utilising online repositories / archives for historical and/or genealogical research.
3.12	Work with CCGBC Museum Services and local groups to establish and build a CCAONB collection as part of the NI Archive	CCGHT [CCGBC Museum Services]	21-22 CCGBC Museum Services will provide CCGHT with online training and access to the NI archive to enable upload of relevant AONB information to offer better access of information to the public.
3.13	Capture an aspect of the heritage of the Causeway Coast AONB through collaborative interpretative development	CCGHT [Management Forum] [CCGBC Museum Services] [National Trust] [Local Community Groups]	22-23 & 24-25 CCGHT and relevant partners will produce an exhibition, information leaflet or interpretation on a selected built or cultural topic within the CCAONB, e.g. Girona, local archaeology, local agriculture, built heritage etc.

Action	Lead Agency	Year/s	Outputs
3.14	Co-ordinate, promote and deliver an archaeology event or conservation works CCGHT [DFC Historic Environment Division] [Causeway Museum Service]	21-22	Working with Historic Environment Division (HED) a shortlist of historic monuments and/or buildings of interest or at risk will be created. This may include locations with the potential for archaeological digs or conservation activities. The Management Forum will select a suitable site and in conjunction with HED, and pending landowner agreements and necessary permissions etc. CCGHT will progress delivering on the project which will include public participation. The project will be profiled on CCGHT website and volunteering or engagement opportunities promoted. **Note archaeological digs and conservation activities are costly, and resource is not already secured for this activity. CCGHT and the Management Forum will seek to secure funding and deliver what is viable within available resources.
3.15	Review and where necessary update Buildings Database and NISMR for locations within AONB	DFC Historic Environment Division	Annually DFC Historic Environment Division maintains a Buildings Database and Sites and Monuments Record for Northern Ireland. HED reviews and updates this on an ongoing basis and will continue to do this for locations within the AONB.
3.16	Boost understanding of the AONB via a CCAONB Guide to designation	CCGHT	2024 CCGHT will make available the Guide to Designation and if opportunity allows it will translate the content into more easily accessible formats e.g. infographics
3.17	Attend CCGBC's 'Destination Management Forum' Meetings	CCGHT	Biennially CCGHT will attend this relevant meeting with the aim of harnessing a sustainable approach to tourism.
3.18	CCGHT will ensure Northword-Storytagging captures the cultural heritage of the AONB	CCGHT	2020-2022 CCGHT are working on the EU project Northword-Storytagging. Opportunities to capture cultural heritage stories in the AONB will be taken. This may include myths, legends, based on artifacts, farming practices or maritime heritage.



**PROMOTE VIBRANT AND
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
WITH A STRONG SENSE
OF IDENTITY**

4. PROMOTE VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WITH A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY

Delivers on	European Landscape Convention 2000 Shared Horizons Policy Statement Sustainable Development Strategy 2010	Community Plan, Causeway Coast and Glens: 2017-2030 Marine Policy Statement 2011 & draft Marine Plan for NI CCGBC Tourism Destination Plan Northern Ireland Domestic Tourism Strategy March 2020
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	Action	Lead Agency [Partners]	Year(s)	Outputs
4.1	DfI will assess the viability of environmentally friendly public transport options	DfI – Roads	Annually	Department for Infrastructure Roads will continue to explore the viability of introducing electric, or more environmentally friendly public transport options in the AONB.
4.2	DfI will update the Causeway Coast AONB Management Forum on the challenges maintaining the Causeway Coastal Route	DfI-Roads	Annually	Department for Infrastructure Roads will provide an update on the Causeway Coastal Route, the challenges they face maintaining the popular driving route and history of the road and discuss the methodology to address these challenges.
4.3	Support the work of Tourism Clusters	Management Forum	Ongoing	AONB Management Forum members to continue to support the Tourism Cluster – signposting relevant information to the group and informing them of any relevant training or opportunities. Tourism Cluster should be invited to attend CCAONB Management Forum to provide an update at least once every 2 years.
4.4	Attend a local business event to promote AONB status and benefits	CCGHT [CCGBC] [Tourism Clusters] [TNI]	Annually	CCGHT will attend a local business information event to raise awareness of the AONB, ongoing events and potential benefits of AONB status to tourism providers to ensure that this message is passed onto visitors.
4.5	Work with activity and tour operators, encouraging them to incorporate AONB information and values into their offering	CCGHT [CCGBC] [Tourism Clusters] [TNI]	21-22 & 23-24	CCGHT will run an information event or training to highlight the outstanding heritage of the AONB and to encourage activity and tour operators to include these aspects on their offering, specifically their script. CCGHT will provide copies of AONB literature. This will increase their knowledge of natural, built and cultural heritage and highlight how these can be incorporated into their business opportunity whilst being made aware of the sustainability and capacity of the AONB.

Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
4.6 The Management Forum should review and consider the National Trust's Sustainability Study This may lead to follow up actions	CCGHT [National Trust] [TNI] [DAERA NIEA]	20-21	The National Trust's sector leading Sustainability Study is likely to provide insight into the impacts and behaviour of visitors and those who access the World Heritage Site, Carrick-a-rede and Whitepark Bay. It will also provide comment on the local community. It is anticipated that a range of actions will be published. The Management Forum should review the report and actions and work with the National Trust to deliver these if applicable.
4.7 Knowing Your Home traditional skills project participants will present to the Management Forum	Coast Office	20-21	Coast Office with support from National Trust to lead on Knowing Your Home project within the AONB which engages young adults on a free 6-month accredited programme of outdoor adventure, conservation and environmental learning. This includes the John Muir award. The participants will present to the Management Forum during the project.
4.8 Develop and circulate an AONB e-newsletter	CCGHT [CEDaR]	Annually	CCGHT will develop and circulate an e-newsletter annually. The newsletter will contain information on the AONB and CCGHTs activities to support the AONB. It will be circulated to forum members, businesses, libraries, schools, community associations and other relevant groups. This will also promote training opportunities, information sessions, recreational and educational events etc within CCAONB using social media. CEDaR to contribute training opportunity information
4.9 Reciprocal promotion of funding, volunteer and other opportunities available to communities	KNIB [CCGHT]	Annually	CCGHT & Keep NI Beautiful will circulate relevant information informing members of opportunities available. CCGHT will circulate this information on social media and on an annual E-zine
4.10 Provide a platform and support for entrepreneurs and businesses in the CCAONB	Naturally North Coast & Glens	Annually	Naturally North Coast & Glens will provide a sustainable and supportive platform that nurtures and supports new and existing businesses within the CCAONB championing entrepreneurship and providing self-employment opportunities.
4.11 Collaborate with and support one group in conserving and protecting their local area	CCGHT [Community Groups] [PSNI Crime Prevention Unit] [Local Businesses]	Annually	Each year CCGHT will connect with at least one local interest group, voluntary sector organisation or local business providing them with information on the AONB, NCALO and other related matters. CCGHT will signpost the group and support them in protecting and conserving the AONB, furthering sustainability of the community. Delivery of this will vary, it may be through providing training on habitat and species identification, co-ordinating litter picks (terrestrial/marine), developing a heritage trail or similar.

Action		Lead Agency	Year(s)	Outputs
4.12	Northern Area Community Network (NACN) to obtain an update from CCGHT relating to the Causeway Coast AONB area. This information will be circulated to all local community groups on an annual basis	NACN	Annually	<p>Northern Area Community Network (NACN) will liaise with CCGHT to obtain information in relation to the CCAONB area and circulate to local community associations in the NACN bulletin which is sent out to all groups.</p> <p>Periodically NACN will liaise with CCGHT to inform of any newly established or ceased community groups.</p>
4.13	Engage education/local interest groups with the CCAONB and topics that are relevant to WHS	National Trust	Annually	<p>National Trust will raise awareness of the Causeway Coast AONB and WHS through the rangers and guided tours.</p> <p>[National Trust] Provide site visits for education groups and above, tours on biodiversity/ geodiversity</p> <p>[National Trust] Provide training courses to local interest groups</p>
4.14	Host an event outlining funding opportunities and business support for small businesses within the AONB	CCGBC Alchemy Scheme Business Support	Annually	<p>Alchemy work with stakeholders providing a collaborative approach to support businesses. This ranges from bespoke advice and support, workshops and networking events an opportunity to grow the business.</p> <p>Annual Alchemy events will enhance knowledge of available support to local businesses within the Causeway Coast AONB</p>
4.15	Run an “Art of Your AONB” competition	CCGHT	22-23	<p>To raise awareness and facilitate the creation of art CCGHT will work with partners to develop and run an “Art of Your AONB” competition.</p> <p>An open call for art representing or based on the CCAONB will be issued and an exhibition organised.</p> <p>A prize will be issued to the winner based on public and/or expert vote.</p> <p>This will engage people with the landscape and special qualities of the AONB.</p>
4.16	Provide training in heritage tour guiding and/or storytelling	CCGHT [CCGBC] [TNI]	21 -22	<p>Working with the CCGBC Tourism Team and Tourism NI, CCGHT will identify training based on cultural heritage. This will be delivered within the AONB and feature the heritage of the AONB.</p> <p>Training may be OCN Heritage Tour Guide Training or Story Telling Training.</p>
4.17	Based on the outcome of 4.16 hold a showcase event for those trained in storytelling/tour guiding	CCGHT	22-23	<p>This event will be shaped by the type of training delivered however it should be delivered by the training attendees. It may take the form of a story telling event or a heritage walk and talk within the AONB.</p>





5. MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRESS

Action		Lead Agency [Partners]	Year(s)	Further Details
5.1	Review Action Plan delivery and share progress reports	CCGHT	Annually	CCGHT will track progress of AONB Management Plan and Action Plan, creating a report which will be made available to Management Forum, named agencies in the Action plan, Stakeholders and online. The Management Forum and named agencies will be required to provide information for the progress report.
5.2	Develop new CCAONB Management Plan	CCGHT [Management Forum] [DAERA NIEA]	23-24	CCGHT will work with relevant partners and the Causeway Coast AONB Management Forum to develop the 2024 Management Plan on behalf of DAERA NIEA.
5.3	Review and develop the new CCAONB Action Plan	CCGHT [Management Forum] [DAERA NIEA]	2025	CCGHT will work with relevant partners and the Causeway Coast AONB Management Forum to review the 2020-2025 CCAONB Action Plan and commence development of the 2025-2030 CCAONB Action Plan.
5.4	Report to AONB Management Forum on the implementation progress of the Management Plan	CCGHT	Annually	CCGHT will update members on Action Plan progress during the Management Forum Meeting
5.5	Prepare and publish an annual report on progress of the Management and Action Plan	CCGHT	Annually	To track progress of the Management and Action Plan delivery an annual progress report will be prepared and published by CCGHT. This will be presented to the Management Forum and published on CCGHTs website.

Action	Lead Agency	Year(s)	Further Details
5.6 Management forum members to provide written updates if unavailable to attend an AONB Management Forum meeting	Management Forum	Annually	CCGHT will request an update as a matter of routine to members that are unavailable to attend a Management Forum meeting. This will ensure members are kept up to date.
5.7 Ensure sufficient resource is available to deliver Action Plan.	Management Forum	Annually	If delivery of actions is being hindered by resource availability the Causeway Coast Management Forum should work with CCGHT to identify and secure appropriate resource.





Rockpool event Photocredit: Ulster Wildlife

****Disclaimer**

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this Action Plan is accurate. However, the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions. This Action Plan refers to several external Strategies and Policies the inclusion of which does not signify any endorsement. The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust is not responsible for the contents of the Strategies and Policies, or any links contained within them.

List of acronyms

AIPP	All Ireland Pollinator Plan	LDP	Local Development Plan
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	LNR	Local Nature Reserve
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest	NACN	Northern Area Community Network
CAFRE	College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise	NCALO	Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (NI) 1985
CCAONB	Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
CCGBC	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	NIEL	Northern Ireland Environment Link
CCGHT	Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust	NIPAN	Northern Ireland Protected Area Network
CEDaR	Centre for Environmental Data Recording	NIRLCA	NI Regional Landscape Character Assessment
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	NT	National Trust
DFC	Department for Communities	ORNI	Outdoor Recreation NI
DfI	Department for Infrastructure	POP	Preferred Options Paper
ESCR	Earth Science Conservation Record	QUB	Queens University Belfast
FPP	Fixed Point Photography	RDS	Regional Development Strategy
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
GSNI	Geological Survey N.I	TNI	Tourism Northern Ireland
HED	Historic Environment Division	UKCP	UK Climate Projections
KNIB	Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful	UW	Ulster Wildlife
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	WHS	World Heritage Site
LCA	Landscape Character Area	WHSPM	World Heritage Site Project Manager



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