

## Introduction

This five-year Antrim Coast & Glens 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 Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Forum and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Spanning 2021-2025, it identifies tasks required to deliver on the aims and objectives of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Plan 2020-2030.

## A vision for the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB

The outstanding landscape and rich heritage of Antrim Coast & Glens is protected, valued and celebrated, nurturing resilient thriving communities and attracting visitors from near and far.

Stakeholders, landowners and local communities work together to protect the AONB and its unique character, natural environment, built heritage and rich cultural traditions and to derive the full benefits that Antrim Coast & Glens AONB has to offer.

**\*\*ACTIONS/PARTNERS IN YELLOW = YET TO BE CONFIRMED/AGREED**



Aims	Objectives
(1) Conserve and protect the landscape character of Antrim Coast & Glens AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Monitor landscape character areas to identify changes</li> <li>(b) Promote traditional heritage skills</li> <li>(c) Encourage sustainable and appropriate development within the AONB</li> </ul>
(2) Conserve and protect the natural and historic environment of Antrim Coast & Glens AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Support landowners to deliver sustainable land management and conservation</li> <li>(b) Support the conservation of priority habitat and species, protected areas, listed buildings and key sites</li> <li>(c) Promote climate change adaptation and mitigation measures</li> <li>(d) Support research and monitoring programmes that inform conservation actions</li> </ul>
(3) Encourage sustainable use, access and enjoyment of the AONB, contributing to the resilience and wellbeing of local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Extend inclusive access and outdoor recreation opportunities within the AONB</li> <li>(b) Promote sustainable tourism initiatives</li> <li>(c) Support local communities in sustainable business initiatives</li> <li>(d) Discourage inappropriate behaviour in the countryside through outreach and education</li> </ul>
(4) Foster a sense of pride in the AONB and raise awareness of its landscape, natural environment, heritage and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Raise awareness of AONB designation and its benefits for local communities</li> <li>(b) Support natural, built and cultural heritage based education and events within the AONB</li> </ul>
(5) Pursue a collaborative and partnership approach to AONB management and nurture community driven action within Antrim Coast & Glens AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Maintain AONB Management Forum and encourage information sharing amongst key stakeholders for AONB management</li> <li>(b) Promote volunteering, community projects and training opportunities within the AONB</li> <li>(c) Support the work of local community, environmental and heritage groups</li> </ul>

An Action Plan implementation section follows Aim 5.

**(1) Conserve and protect the landscape character of Antrim Coast & Glens AONB**

<b>Deliverables</b>	<p>European Landscape Convention 2000          NI Landscape Charter 2014          Draft Programme for Government 2016 - 2021          Shared Horizons Policy Statement          Sustainable Development Strategy 2010          UN Sustainable Development Goals          Marine Policy Statement 2011 &amp; draft Marine Plan for NI          NI Landscape Character Assessment 2000 (NILCA)          NI Regional Landscape Character Assessment 2016 (NIRLCA)</p>	<p>Regional Development Strategy 2035          Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI          Northern Area Plan 2016, Larne Area Plan 2010          Planning Policy Statements              PPS 2 – Natural Heritage              PPS 6 – Archaeology and Built Heritage              PPS 8 – Open Space, Sport &amp; Outdoor Recreation              PPS 16 – Tourism              PPS21 – Sustainable development in the countryside</p> <p>Rathlin Island Action Plan 2016-2020</p> <p>*Note this is not an exhaustive list of relevant plans, policies and strategies</p>
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**Objective 1a: Monitor landscape character areas to identify changes**

Action	Lead Agency [Partners]	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Outputs
Monitor AONB landscape changes through Fixed Point Photography	CCGHT [DAERA NIEA]	●	●	●	●	●	CCGHT commenced a Fixed Point Photography Project at 11 sites in ACG AONB in January 2019, on behalf of NIEA. Sites were selected based on Landscape Character Areas, each will be photographed four times annually. An annual analysis will be completed and findings presented to NIEA and the Management Forum.
Showcase and celebrate Fixed Point Photography	CCGHT [DAERA NIEA]			●			Run an exhibition or event to showcase the findings of the FPP project and increase understanding of the special landscape qualities of the AONB. NCALO legislation will be presented in a public-friendly way.

							It is anticipated CCGHT's three AONBs will be included.
Share any updates to AONB Landscape Character Areas	CCGBC Planning MEABC Planning	●					Both Councils instigated reviews of Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) as part of evidence gathering for Local Development Plans. The Management Forum should be informed of any changes or updates to LCAs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGBC Planning to share and present on The Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Landscape Study (2021).</li> <li>• MEABC Planning to present on MEABC LCA Review.</li> </ul>
Continue to share and create resources that translate landscape and seascape character for the public	CCGHT [Management Forum]	●	●	●	●	●	CCGHT own resources such as videos and literature which help to translate the special qualities of the seascape and landscape while highlighting sensitivities. CCGHT will continue to share and promote these resources, with help from the Management Forum, and develop at least one new resources during the life of the Plan.
<b>Objective 1b: Promote traditional heritage skills</b>							
Deliver traditional heritage skills training at Glenwherry Hill Farm	CAFRE [CCGHT]	●	●	●	●	●	Heritage skills training such as hedge laying or drystone wall building will be delivered to support landowners maintain the special qualities of the AONB landscape such as field boundaries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry stone walling courses at Glenwherry Hill Farm annually from winter 2021.</li> <li>• Hedge laying &amp; planting courses at Greenmount College from winter 2021.</li> </ul> <p>CCGHT to promote CAFRE heritage skills training opportunities.</p>

Continue to offer training and promote traditional skills and within the AONB and beyond	TCV [CCGHT]	●	●	●	●	●	<p>The Conservation Volunteers will continue to offer traditional heritage skills training via the 'Practical Skills' short course programme and will offer practical experience opportunities for volunteers/individuals trained in traditional heritage skills eg. fencing, hedge laying, dry stone walling.</p> <p>TCV will offer at least three heritage skills opportunities within CCGHT operational area over the life of this Plan. CCGHT to promote and support where possible.</p>
Support and promote heritage skills training initiatives within the AONB	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	<p>CCGHT will promote HED's NI Heritage Skills Programme and opportunities as they arise.</p> <p>Opportunities to develop partnerships and encourage heritage skills training initiatives within the AONB area will be taken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGHT will connect with DfC Heritage Skills Group, report back to Management Forum and follow up any opportunities.</li> <li>• Heritage Skills group will be invited to present to AONB Management Forum (2023).</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 1c: Encourage sustainable and appropriate development within the AONB</b>							
Management Forum will remain informed of Local Development Plans and input as necessary	Management Forum CCGBC Planning MEABC Planning	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Both Councils are developing Local Development Plans (LDPs), including policies and guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Planning officers will update the Management Forum and highlight opportunities to input.</li> <li>• AONB Management Forum will work together to submit responses when necessary.</li> </ul>
Provide overview of planning	CCGBC Planning	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Each Council will provide a summary of applications made in the AONB, providing context on scale, trends and approval rates where possible.</p>

applications within the AONB	MEABC Planning						
Produce an updated design guide for the AONB	DAERA NIEA						DAERA NIEA will produce an updated design guide for the AONB to encourage use of sympathetic building techniques and styles which support the AONB's built heritage and character.
Engage with and respond to consultations relevant to the AONB	Management Forum [CCGHT]	●	●	●	●	●	Members and CCGHT will inform Management Forum of relevant consultations and attend if appropriate.  If necessary and appropriate, CCGHT will co-ordinate responses on behalf of the Forum.
Advocate Government for stronger AONB protections	NIEL [Management Forum]	●	●	●	●		Northern Ireland Environment Link, supported by AONB Management Forum members, will advocate Government to improve statutory recognition of AONBs.

## (2) Conserve and protect the natural and historic environment of Antrim Coast & Glens AONB

<b>Deliverables on</b>	<p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p> <p>NI Landscape Charter 2014</p> <p>Draft Programme for Government 2016 - 2021</p> <p>Shared Horizons Policy Statement</p> <p>Sustainable Development Strategy 2010</p> <p>UN Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>Marine Policy Statement 2011 &amp; draft Marine Plan for NI</p> <p>EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives</p> <p>EU Water Framework Directive</p> <p>EU Birds Directive</p> <p>EU Habitats Directive</p> <p>Valuing Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020</p> <p>An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland</p> <p>CCGBC Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>MEABC Local Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>Regional Development Strategy 2035</p> <p>Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI</p> <p>Northern Area Plan 2016, Larne Area Plan 2010</p> <p>Planning Policy Statements</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">PPS 2 – Natural Heritage</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">PPS 6 – Archaeology and Built Heritage</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">PPS21 – Sustainable development in the countryside</p> <p>A Better Future Together: A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 – 2030</p> <p>Putting People First: The Mid and East Antrim Community Plan 2017</p> <p>Rathlin Island Action Plan 2016-2020</p> <p>All Ireland Pollinator Plan</p> <p>NI Geodiversity Charter</p> <p>NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024</p> <p><small>*Note this is not an exhaustive list of relevant plans, policies and strategies</small></p>
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### Objective 2a: Support landowners to deliver sustainable land management and conservation

Action	Lead Agency [Partners]						Outputs
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	

<p>Develop and deliver landowner information programmes encouraging farming practices that promote positive management to conserve and enhance the AONB landscape and other designations</p>	<p>CCGHT [DAERA] [National Trust] [CAFRE] [UFU] [TCV]</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>CCGHT will partner with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAERA Countryside Management Delivery to continue to promote agri-environment schemes eg. Environmental Farming Scheme.</li> <li>• National Trust (2022-2024) to deliver at least one event to raise awareness of environmental farming practices within the AONB.</li> <li>• DAERA and CAFRE to promote the best methods of hedge management, peatland restoration, controlling scrub, rushes, bracken and gorse. CAFRE will continue to deliver landowner training in these areas - at least one training event per year within the AONB.</li> <li>• UFU to assist in the promotion and delivery of CCGHT landowner engagement events - to support a minimum of two events during the life of this Plan.</li> <li>• TCV to continue to provide support and practical help for landowners wishing to undertake habitat management and improvement.</li> </ul>
<p>Continue HoTG LPS Legacy with Farm Resilience Scheme</p>	<p>CCGHT</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review existing farm plans created under HoTG Resilient Farms Scheme.</li> <li>• Work with farmers and relevant partners to create new resilient farm plans. 5 over the lifetime of this Plan and at least one on Rathlin Island (subject to funding).</li> <li>• Engage with at least 15 farmers and landowners in relation to farm resilience</li> </ul>
<p>Promote farm resilience and nature friendly farming in AONB uplands</p>	<p>CCGHT</p>				●		<p>CCGHT will host a seminar on upland farm resilience that promotes nature friendly farming and relevant agri-environment schemes.</p> <p>CCGHT will engage and collaborate with relevant partners to deliver seminar.</p>



<p>Encourage landowners in and around Antrim Hills SPA to join agri-environment schemes to improve upland management</p>	<p>RSPB [CCGHT]</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Encourage landowners in and around Antrim Hills SPA (and Garron Plateau specifically) to avail of agri-environment schemes to implement sustainable land management in AONB uplands.</p> <p>The current CABB Project at Garron Plateau SAC is projected to end in its current form in January 2022 but the CABB legacy is anticipated to form the basis for agri-environment focused conservation delivery in the Antrim Plateau, Coast and Glens area for the period up to 2030, as defined by the RSPB Northern Ireland Strategy 2019 – 2030.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSPB are facilitating a DAERA Environmental Farming Scheme funded Group Option in the Antrim Hills, ‘The Antrim Hills Curlew Initiative’. RSPB will continue to work with the 45+ landowners within this group and give advice to an additional 45 in the Antrim Hills Area, covering c.8000 ha.</li> <li>• RSPB will continue to investigate and promote alternative support mechanisms for farmers not currently able to avail of agri-environment schemes. This may include commonage areas, partnership working (e.g. NI Water) and other funding mechanisms e.g. Peace+.</li> <li>• CCGHT will seek to support the above actions where possible, via promotion and outreach activities.</li> </ul>
<p>Launch and delivery of Garron Plateau SAC Conservation Management Plan 2021-2031</p>	<p>RSPB [CCGHT]</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSPB will deliver a programme of site visits for the public and AONB Management Forum to Garron Plateau SAC during the life of this Action Plan.</li> <li>• RSPB will develop at least one volunteer opportunity, in partnership with CCGHT, within Garron Plateau SAC during the life of this Action Plan.</li> <li>• RSPB will update AONB Management Forum, presenting on CABB project and legacy 2021/22 and providing regular updates as requested/required on Conservation Management Plan delivery.</li> </ul>

							These actions form part of RSPB's community/stakeholder engagement programme, as part of the delivery of the Garron Plateau SAC Conservation Management Plan.
Support landowners on Rathlin Island and beyond to deliver sustainable land management for the conservation of priority bird species	RSPB	●	●	●	●	●	<p>The RSPB will fund a Conservation Officer for two years, working with landowners across the North Coast of Antrim and Rathlin. The focus of advice will be on priority species habitat and species in the area including corncrake and chough.</p> <p>The RSPB will encourage landowners to sign up for DAERA's Environmental Farming Scheme and continue to advocate DAERA for the set-up of an EFS Group Option in this area.</p>
<i>Support landowners, land managers and the public to identify and reduce non-native invasive species within the AONB</i>							
Develop invasive species report with key recommendations	CCGHT		●				The HoTG Invasive Species report will be reviewed and revised by experts to provide an up to date AONB-wide report. Partners will contribute information where possible.
Land managers will identify and control non-native invasive species on their land	DAERA NIEA Forest Service CCGBC Biodiversity Officer MEABC Growing Communities UW	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Land managers will identify and control invasive species on their holdings, tracking reports and taking action where possible (at least one site annually).</p> <p>A co-ordinated approach to invasive species control should be taken – where possible named partners should co-ordinate control efforts with adjacent landowners and share best practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGBC will deliver targeted invasive species control utilising volunteers at problem sites within the AONB.</li> <li>• MEABC Growing Communities to deliver invasive species control with volunteers at selected sites, two events per year.</li> <li>• UW will continue to conduct invasive species surveys to inform individual site plans at UW Nature reserves within the AONB.</li> </ul>

	National Trust						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasive species will be added as a standing agenda item for the Management Forum – members to report on actions taken and opportunities for collaboration.</li> </ul>
Councils to prioritise native species in planting activities where possible and appropriate	CCGBC MEABC	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Both Councils will prioritise native species in planting activities and projects where appropriate, and will ensure that identified invasive species are not used.</p> <p>2022/23 – MEABC Growing Communities to present to AONB Management Forum and partners on biodiversity friendly planting initiatives.</p>
Develop a volunteer group trained in accredited invasive species control and work with partners to deliver invasives removal at selected sites	CCGHT [UW] [MEABC]		●	●	●		<p>CCGHT will work with partners to deliver invasive species control training (PA1 PA6 PA6AW, including stem injection training) for at least 10 volunteers/landowners - 2022/24. Two on site events per year will be delivered with trained volunteers.</p> <p>UW will host invasive species control training at UW Nature Reserves, at least one event.</p>
Develop a strategy for the control of Greylag Geese	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Working with partners, CCGHT will co-ordinate and support a range of activities which develop and deliver a Greylag Goose control strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CCGHT will connect with and provide training for 3 landowners who have Greylag Geese present.</li> <li>- Deliver Masters project (QUB)</li> <li>- Establish baseline data for sward damage</li> </ul>
Deliver rats and ferrets control on Rathlin Island to support seabird conservation efforts	RSPB	●	●	●	●	●	<p>The RSPB will work in partnership with the Life RAFT Steering Group to deliver a rat and ferret eradication project across the island, a conservation action for priority ground nesting birds – RDCA leading social-economic study.</p>

<p>Raise awareness and understanding of Invasive Species with the public and staff</p>	<p>CCGBC Biodiversity Officer</p> <p>MEABC Growing Communities</p> <p>CCGHT</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEABC Growing Communities to deliver at least one invasive species awareness event within the AONB during the life of this Plan</li> <li>• MEABC to continue to highlight the issue of invasives with local biodiversity groups and on social media where appropriate</li> <li>• CCGBC Actions - Deliver 1 x invasives outreach event per year and 1 x invasives training event for Council staff per year.</li> <li>• CCGHT will deliver two invasive species awareness events per year (2022-2023).</li> </ul>
<p>Expand the Red Squirrel Safari network within the AONB</p>	<p>Glens Red Squirrel Group</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>GRSG will work to expand the Red Squirrel Safari network within Antrim Coast and Glens. This will help to raise public awareness of the impact of invasive grey squirrel populations within the AONB, and the conservation actions required to protect native red squirrels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GRSG will develop interpretation for users at Cregagh Wood (this may include digital or physical interpretation eg. digital trails, geocaching etc).</li> <li>• GRSG will scope suitable additional sites to expand the Red Squirrel Safari network.</li> <li>• GRSG will pursue relevant funding streams if appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p>Seedling Removal Project</p>	<p>CCGHT</p> <p>TCV</p> <p>[Forest Service]</p>		●	●	●	●	<p>Produce a report identifying and prioritising locations of seedling encroachment from coniferous forest plantations into sensitive lands, with a focus on protected areas and the risk to vulnerable upland environments.</p> <p>CCGHT, TVC and Forest Service will work in partnership with landowners to trial a seedling removal scheme at one pilot site (2023). If feasible this scheme will be rolled out across the AONB, with seedling removal undertaken at a minimum of 3 further priority sites (or a minimum of 5 hectares) identified in the scoping report, within the life of this Plan.</p>

Establish at least 4 management agreements to improve condition of scheduled monuments within the AONB	DfC Historic Environment Division	●	●	●	●	●	<p>HED will work with private landowners to develop at least four management agreements that will improve maintenance and conservation of scheduled monuments, over the life of this Plan.</p> <p>HED will keep Management Forum updated and facilitate at least one site visit to illustrate best practice for the conservation management of historic monuments.</p>
<b>Objective 2b: Support the conservation of priority habitats and species, protected areas, listed buildings and key sites</b>							
Recognise and support the AONB in the Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland	DAERA NIEA	●	●	●	●	●	DAERA NIEA will recognise and support the AONB and its protection and conservation in the Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland.
Support the conservation of raptor bird populations within the AONB	CCGHT NIRSG [PSNI]	●	●	●	●	●	<p>NIRSG will partner with CCGHT to deliver area-specific news, information and training events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual social media campaign directed by NIRSG, delivered by CCGHT</li> <li>• One training event every second year, delivered by NIRSG and facilitate by CCGHT (2022 &amp; 2025).</li> </ul> <p>PSNI Crime Prevention will support CCGHT/NIRSG at a suitable event to discuss farm security and wildlife persecution, specifically raptors (2022/23).</p>
Support the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) and promote to residents and visitors of the AONB	CCGBC Biodiversity Officer	●	●	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGHT will host one pollinator themed event per year</li> <li>• CCGBC will deliver 1 x public engagement event per year. Annual event will focus on a relevant AIPP action where possible.</li> <li>• MEABC to reduce herbicide use by 15% year on year on Council lands</li> <li>• MEABC Growing Communities will continue to promote organic gardening within Council area</li> </ul>

	MEABC Growing Communities  CCGHT  Butterfly Conservation						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MEABC Growing Communities will continue to raise awareness of pollinator species via 'Creature Calendar' initiative and other relevant avenues.</li> <li>Butterfly Conservation will work with one community to develop AIPP 'Actions for Pollinators' over the life of the plan.</li> </ul>
Encourage Councils and other stakeholders to support AIPP	Management Forum	●	●				AONB Management Forum will encourage Councils to ratify their support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.
Engage volunteers to assist in the monitoring and conservation of lepidoptera within the AONB	Butterfly Conservation	●	●	●	●	●	<p>BC will establish a new transect monitoring survey within the AONB- to be walked by local volunteers.</p> <p>BC will host either Big Butterfly Count or Moth Night within the AONB over the life of the Plan.</p>
Continue management of wildflower meadows created via HoTG LPS Great Glens Grasslands	CCGHT CCGBC MEABC Growing Communities National Trust Private landowners	●	●	●	●	●	<p>All partners will act on opportunities to enhance, engage the public or offer volunteer opportunities at Great Glens Grasslands sites.</p> <p>CCGHT will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and report on maintenance of Great Glens Grasslands via pre-agreed 10 Year Management Plans with relevant site owners.</li> <li>Facilitate 2 volunteer opportunities at GGG sites annually.</li> <li>Make available GGGs booklet digitally.</li> <li>Work to expand the GGG network by 5 additional sites over the life of the Plan - collaborate with Old Cushendun Church to establish a wildflower meadow (2021/22).</li> </ul>

<p>Encourage maintenance and development of native wildflower meadows and unimproved grasslands</p>	<p>MEABC Growing Communities  CCGBC Biodiversity Officer  UW  National Trust</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Councils will provide information, support and materials to communities and landowners, encouraging the establishment and maintenance of native wildflower meadows and suitable grasslands to improve biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGBC will hold at least one volunteer opportunity event at wildflower meadows annually, eg. ragwort pulling at Agnew’s Field.</li> <li>• CCGBC Biodiversity Officer to advise and support landowners interested in establishing native wildflower meadows on their holdings</li> <li>• MEABC Growing Communities will seek to establish 3 additional wildflower sites within the AONB over the life of the Plan.</li> <li>• UW, partnering with CCGHT and National Trust, will continue to cultivate and plant rare wildflowers (eg. wood cranesbill) at suitable sites – translocation of rare wildflower species to be attempted at a minimum of 2 GGG sites and at 2 additional sites within the AONB.</li> </ul>
<p>Deliver conservation management at Glenarm Nature Reserve</p>	<p>UW</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>UW will continue to deliver the Oak Haloing Project at Glenarm Estate (Glenarm Woods ASSI). Project works to improve the condition of oakwood within the ASSI, through targeted tree and scrub removal and the introduction of long term conservation management.</p> <p>This project supports a wide range of priority habitats and species (invertebrates, fungi, flora, red squirrel) and supports the favourable management of 154 ha of designated land (ASSI).</p>
<p>Deliver Biodiversity Action Plans</p>	<p>CCGBC Biodiversity Officer  MEABC Growing Communities</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Both Councils will develop and deliver Biodiversity Action Plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGBC will publish new LBAP <b>by DATE</b></li> <li>• CCGBC and CCGHT will work together to designate 1 local nature reserve. 1 site within the life of the Plan.</li> <li>• CCGHT and MEABC will work together to designate 1 local nature reserve within the AONB during the life of the Plan</li> </ul>

	[CCGHT]						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGHT will be a named partner in both LBAPs and undertake relevant activities.</li> </ul>
Safeguard geological sites and features through designation	NIEA Earth Science and Heritage Officer	●	●	●	●	●	<p>NIEA will safeguard geological features via monitoring and designation.</p> <p>Aim to designate at least one earth science site or feature within the life of this plan.</p>
Co-ordinate, promote and deliver a built heritage project or conservation works	<p>CCGHT</p> <p>DfC Historic Environment Division</p> <p>[Glens of Antrim Historical Society]</p> <p>[Management Forum]</p>				●	●	<p>CCGHT will partner with Historic Environment Division (HED) and Glens of Antrim Historical Society to develop a shortlist of historic monuments and/or buildings of interest or at risk.</p> <p>CCGHT will prioritise sites and progress activities to deliver a conservation or excavation project which facilitates public participation.</p> <p>*Note archaeological digs and conservation activities are costly, and resource is not secured for this activity. CCGHT and the Management Forum will seek to funding and deliver what is viable within available resources.</p>
Provide information and guidance on how to restore or maintain built heritage features	DfC Historic Environment Division	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Engage at least 10 site owners annually regarding restoring and maintaining built heritage sites eg. Maintenance Week. This should include listed buildings, scheduled monuments or other sites of interest.</p> <p>Deliver at least two engagement events within the AONB during the life of this plan.</p> <p>Ensure that online guidance materials are up to date and accessible.</p>



Support Hands-on Heritage	CCGHT [UAH]	●	●	●			CCGHT will support UAH <i>Hands on Heritage</i> by facilitating at least one roadshow event. CCGHT will share <i>Hands on heritage</i> information and support project app.
<b>Objective 2c: Promote climate change adaptation and mitigation measures</b>							
Sustainable Resilient Coasts will support coastal communities	CCGHT [Management Forum]	●	●				CCGHT is delivering the NPA funded Sustainable Resilient Coast project within the AONB area. Rathlin Island is the project case study location. The Management Forum will support this activity.  The outcomes of the project will be shared with coastal management organisations covering the AONB area to support sustainable coastal management.
Continue research and information sharing on the impacts of climate change on coastal environments	DAERA Marine and Fisheries	●	●	●	●	●	DAERA Marine and Fisheries will continue research into the impact of climate change on marine and coastal environments.  Findings will be communicated with relevant partners when appropriate eg. AONB Management Forum and stakeholders.
Support landowners to plant native tree species	CCGHT MEABC Growing Communities CCGBC Coast & Countryside	●	●	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEA4Trees will see 58,000 trees planted across Mid and East Antrim Borough by 2024. CCGHT will advocate for and facilitate suitable planting within the AONB including hedgerows.</li> <li>• CCGHT will deliver at least one hedge laying or hedgerow maintenance training event in support of the MEA4Trees initiative.</li> <li>• CCGHT will support Woodland Trust to facilitate 160,000 native trees (or 100ha) planted within the AONB by landowners during the life of this Plan.</li> <li>• CCGBC – tree planting activity needed</li> </ul>

	Woodland Trust						
Identify and prioritise areas of afforested peat for restoration in Antrim forests	Forest Service	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Develop a process for identifying and mapping potential candidate restoration areas of afforested peatland, based on peat depth, slope and topography.</p> <p>The restoration of peatlands contributes to climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration and also provides additional ecosystems services, such as improved water quality in catchment areas. Peatlands are also priority habitats for wildlife.</p>
<b>Objective 2d: Support research and monitoring programmes that inform conservation actions</b>							
Review habitats and species records for the AONB and identify data gaps	CEDaR [Management Forum]		●				<p>CEDaR will review AONB records and provide an overview for the Management Forum which identifies data gaps.</p> <p>Forum must review and agree actions to increase records and address data gaps.</p>
Increase understanding and recordings of priority habitats and species	CCGHT	●	●	●			<p>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.</p>
Monitor the condition of priority habitats and species within the AONB's protected areas	DAERA NIEA	●	●	●	●	●	<p>NIEA Conservation and Designations Branch will continue with regular monitoring, focused within designated sites and Natura 2000 sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NIEA will present to the Management Forum covering activities, key findings and issues (2023)</li> <li>NIEA will make data accessible for stakeholders via DAERA website</li> <li>NIEA will continue to review the priority habitats and species lists and make available online</li> </ul>

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NIEA will publish Natura 2000 site conservation Management Plans for XX sites and implement monitoring activities</li> </ul>
Encourage the collection and submission of biodiversity data	CCGHT [CEDaR]	●	●	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCGHT will encourage collection and submission of biodiversity data to CEDaR, and promote the AONB function on CEDaR. This will be achieved via social media, at events and training. CEDaR will support CCGHT.</li> <li>CCGHT event facilitators must submit event sightings to CEDaR.</li> <li>CCGHT will collaborate with CEDaR to host at least one biodiversity data collection event within CCGHT's operational area annually.</li> </ul>
Monitor geological sites and features and tackle identified issues.	NIEA Earth Science and Heritage Officer	●	●	●	●	●	<p>NIEA's Earth Science and Heritage Officer will complete ASSI condition assessments for 10 ASSIs on a rolling 6 year basis.</p> <p>Findings, including overview of practices will be presented to the Forum in 2021 with updates as necessary.</p> <p>The Officer will outline any issues and the Management Forum will act to resolve where possible e.g. scrub clearance.</p>
Conduct a natural hazard survey for Antrim Coast and Glens AONB	GSNI	●					Conduct a geological hazard survey for parts of the AONB and identify areas of significant risk – include recommended actions to mitigate risks of hazards identified.
Review and where necessary update Buildings Database and NISMR for locations within AONB	DfC Historic Environment Division	●	●	●	●	●	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.
Continue work to digitise paper records for marine archaeology in and around the Antrim Coast	DAERA Marine and Fisheries	●	●				DAERA's Marine Historic Environment Advisor will continue to digitise paper records for marine archaeology in waters off the Antrim Coast. Estimated completion April 2022.

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**(3) Encourage sustainable use, access and enjoyment of the AONB’s landscape and heritage, contributing to the resilience and wellbeing of local communities.**

<b>Deliverables on</b>	<p>Draft Programme for Government 2016 - 2021                  Shared Horizons Policy Statement                  Sustainable Development Strategy 2010                  UN Sustainable Development Goals                  A Prospectus for Change: A Strategic Framework to unlock the potential of heritage-led tourism in Northern Ireland (TNI, 2017)                  CCGBC Tourism and Destination Management Strategy 2015-2020                  Amplify: The Integrated Economic Development Strategy for Mid and East Antrim 2018-2030                  Rathlin Island Action Plan 2016-2020                  Regional Development Strategy 2035                  Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI                  Northern Area Plan 2016, Larne Area Plan 2010</p>	<p>Planning Policy Statements                  PPS 8 – Open Space, Sport &amp; Outdoor Recreation                  PPS 16 – Tourism                  PPS21 – Sustainable development in the countryside</p> <p>A Better Future Together: A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 – 2030                  Putting People First: The Mid and East Antrim Community Plan 2017</p> <p>Our Great Outdoors: The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2014                  MEABC Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2029                  CCGBC Disability Action Plan 2020 - 2024                  MEABC Disability Action Plan 2019 - 2023</p> <p><i>*Note this is not an exhaustive list of relevant plans, policies and strategies</i></p>
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**Objective 3a: Extend inclusive access and outdoor recreation opportunities within the AONB**

Action	Lead Agency [Partners]	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Outputs
Provide information on access and continue providing access within the AONB	CCGBC Coast and Countryside  MEABC Outdoor Recreation	●	●	●	●	●	CCGBC Coast and Countryside Team and MEABC Outdoor Recreation Team to work to maintain and increase access and access opportunities throughout the AONB. Councils will provide information on access via appropriate avenues and will continue to work with interested private landowners, organisations or agencies (eg. Forest Service) to extend access routes where appropriate.

		[Forest Service]						
Conduct Disability Access Audit of AONB outputs and prioritised locations	CCGHT [CCGBC] [MEABC]	●	●	●	●			<p>CCGHT will review AONB activities and outputs and consult user groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop guidance on creating more accessible AONB material and take action (2021).</li> <li>• Ten sites (at least 3 in AONB) will be identified through user group consultation and audited to identify necessary access works in 2021.</li> <li>• One site in CCGHT operational area will be developed by 2024.</li> <li>• CCGHT staff will receive training on accessibility practices in 2021.</li> <li>• Guidance and findings shared with AONB Management Forum and other stakeholders (2021).</li> </ul>
AONB literature will be made more accessible	CCGHT	●						<p>AONB guide booklet and three other booklets will be made available in audio description and sign language format. Booklets will be hosted on CCGHT website and will be promoted and shared.</p> <p>All new CCGHT material will be presented in accessible electronic formats.</p>
Participate on the National Outdoor Recreation Forum	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●		<p>ORNI 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>

								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.
Establish an Outdoor Recreation Task & Finish Group	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●		CCGHT will establish a task and finish group to address specific outdoor recreation issues within the AONB (2021). Council recreation officers will be standing members, others will depend on the task at hand. The group will meet when necessary and collaborate to find solutions.
Support and promote sustainable outdoor recreation through training	ORNI MEABC Outdoor Recreation CCGBC Coast & Countryside	●	●	●	●	●		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ORNI will continue to provide training opportunities for sustainable outdoor recreation and will host at least one training event within the AONB during the life of this plan.</li> <li>MEABC Outdoor Recreation team will deliver at least one sustainable outdoor recreation training event within the AONB annually eg. guided hills day.</li> <li>CCGBC Coast &amp; Countryside will deliver at least one sustainable outdoor recreation training event within the AONB during the life of this plan.</li> </ul>
Increase enjoyment, access and understanding of the AONB through at least five events	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●		CCGHT will organise, promote and deliver at least five events within the AONB, as part of an annual Events programme. 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.
Hold a public event annually on UW Nature Reserves	UW	●	●	●	●	●		Ulster Wildlife will hold at least one event annually to promote enjoyment and access at UW Nature Reserves within Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.

Increase public access to the natural environment on Rathlin Island	RSPB	●	●	●	●	●	<p>The RSPB will expand visitor operations at the west light Seabird Centre to include RSPB run events outside of the seabird breeding season.</p> <p>The RSPB will launch and promote the new Craigmacraigan trail and other trails across the island, including Roonivoolin.</p>
Support VICs and other locations with publications	CCGHT [CCGBC Tourism] [MEABC Tourism]	●	●	●	●	●	<p>To promote and share information on the AONB, CCGHT will provide publications including topical booklets, maps and leaflets to VICs and other locations such as hotels. This will likely happen via an annual publication delivery.</p> <p>CCGHT will work with Councils to gauge stock needs and transition to digital and more accessible formats. Target to reduce CCGHT printing by 50% by 2025.</p>
Review and update CCGHT 2016 Signage Audit	CCGHT CCGBC Coast and Countryside MEABC Parks and Outdoor Spaces	●	●	●	●	●	<p>CCGHT will review and update 2016 Signage Audit and present findings to the Management Forum by 2023.</p> <p>Councils will work to address signage issues highlighted, eg. removing outdated signage, increasing accessibility or conducting repairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sites within CCGBC area of the AONB</li> <li>• 2 sites within MEABC area of the AONB</li> </ul>
Scope and develop a community trails project	Management Forum	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Management Forum will commission a scoping study to identify benefits and appetite for community trails within the AONB. Sites of key potential (with community support and clear community benefit) will be highlighted.</p> <p>Management Forum members will pursue appropriate resourcing and next steps if sites of key potential are identified.</p>



Update signage/waymarking for AONB walking routes	MEABC Outdoor Recreation/ RDP  CCGBC Coast and Countryside/ RDP	●						Councils will maintain and improve signage and waymarking for walking routes such as the Ulster Way and Antrim Hills Way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councils to deliver the International Appalachian Trail, funded through the Rural Development Programme (RDP).</li> </ul>
Maintain and manage trails established under HoTG LPS	CCGHT  CCGBC  MEABC  Private landowners	●	●	●	●	●		CCGHT will review HoTG LPS 10 Year Maintenance Agreements to ensure trail maintenance is being managed by the competent authority.  Where possible all partners will utilise funding, volunteer or community initiatives to support trail maintenance.
Increase participation in European Heritage Open Days	DfC Historic Environment Division  CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●		DfC and CCGHT will encourage at least one additional site to participate in European Heritage Open Days during the life of the Plan. This will increase access to the historic environment and cultural heritage of the AONB.
<b>Objective 3b: Promote sustainable tourism initiatives</b>								
Host a partnership event and encourage public transport use	CCGHT  Translink		●				●	CCGHT & Translink will develop and promote two partnership events as part of CCGHT's events programme, during the life of the Plan.  Attendees will be encouraged to travel to the events via public transport and will benefit from a reduced event fee. The event will be co-ordinated (time/venue) to tie in with public transport.

							Events will promote 'green tourism' and tie into relevant environmental issues if possible.
	Share information on maintaining the Causeway Coastal Route.	DFI-Roads		●			Department for Infrastructure, Roads Division, will present to the Management Forum on work, challenges and future issues of the Causeway Coastal Route, a key access road in the AONB.
	Support Antrim Geopark Project Working Group to explore viability and develop a Geopark	CCGHT Management Forum GSNI DAERA NIEA	●	●	●	●	CCGHT is leading a working group to set-up and develop a Geopark which will include the AONB. This process will include many activities and hold the community at the core. The Management Forum will support this effort and disseminate information about the Geopark.
		Tourism NI					Sustainable Tourism action TBC
	Promote sustainable tourism practices and initiatives	CCGBC Tourism MEABC Tourism	●	●	●	●	Councils to promote sustainable tourism initiatives, providing online information re sustainable tourism and promoting via social and other media channels as appropriate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councils will deliver at least one sustainable tourism information event for local tourism businesses within the life of this Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 3c: Promote local communities in sustainable business initiatives</b>							

Support the Économusée artisan network	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Économusée will be opened in 2021</li> <li>• International Conference is due Autumn 2021</li> </ul>
Raise awareness of the Économusée concept among local food and drink businesses	CCGBC Alchemy MEABC Tourism Clusters	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Tourism Clusters and Councils' business support teams will encourage local food and drink businesses who meet the Économusée criteria to apply to enhance the visitor experiences within ACG AONB.</p>
Encourage and facilitate collaboration between all businesses to offer quality enhanced experiences	Tourism Clusters	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Through meeting and networking, clusters will create the products to increase the stay all along the Causeway route, while spanning the 3 distinct areas, but offering the visitor a seamless experience.</p>
Provide a platform and support for entrepreneurs and businesses in ACG AONB	Naturally North Coast and Glens	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Naturally North Coast &amp; Glens and the Mid and East Antrim Food and Drink Network [MEABC Amplify] will provide a sustainable and supportive platform that nurtures and supports new and existing businesses within ACG AONB championing entrepreneurship and providing self-employment opportunities.</p>
Support the work of Tourism Clusters	Management Forum Tourism NI	●	●	●	●	●	<p>AONB Management Forum members to continue to support Antrim Glens Tourism Cluster – signposting relevant information on the cluster and informing them of training opportunities or events.</p> <p>Tourism Clusters invited to attend Management Forums and provide an update biennially. CCGHT will attend Cluster meetings.</p> <p>Tourism NI to continue to support Tourism Clusters.</p>

Host an event outlining funding opportunities and business support for small businesses within the AONB	CCGBC Alchemy	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Council’s business support team will work with stakeholders, providing a collaborative approach to support local businesses. This ranges from bespoke advice and support, workshops and networking events.</p> <p>Annual Alchemy events will enhance knowledge of available support for local businesses within ACG AONB.</p>
Support tour guides and storytellers to grow and develop their business product	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Support tour guides and storytellers trained via HoTG LPS and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021/22 – Scope viability of tour guide business network</li> <li>• Provide digital support and business signposting</li> <li>• Deliver one business development event annually</li> <li>• Support at least two new tour guiding or storytelling experiences during the life of this Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 3d: Discourage inappropriate behaviour in the countryside through outreach and education</b>							
Promote responsible outdoor event planning within the AONB	CCGHT [ORNI]	●	●	●	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ORNI to coordinate the NI Outdoor Event Planning steering group and put in place suitable mechanisms and advice for outdoor event organisers.</li> <li>• CCGHT to participate in the group and feed back to Management Forum</li> <li>• CCGHT will collaborate with ORNI to host an outdoor event planning seminar within the lifetime of this plan, to address local issues - engaging with a minimum of 5 local outdoor recreation providers.</li> </ul>
Reduce litter within Antrim Coast and Glens AONB	Management Forum CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Litter is an issue within the AONB and a range of activities and approaches are needed to address it:</p>

	KNIB [CCGBC Environmental Resources] [MEABC Growing Communities]						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGHT will work with the Management Forum and others to identify litter and fly-tipping hotspots in the AONB (2021) and promote these for litter-picking events.</li> <li>• CCGHT will collaborate with KNIB and Councils to run at least one litter pick event annually within the AONB.</li> <li>• CCGHT will deliver one marine litter pick within the life of this plan. Activities may coincide with Big Beach Clean or Marine Litter clean up.</li> <li>• CCGHT will promote KNIB training, events and app.</li> <li>• KNIB to continue to conduct litter surveys within the AONB area and make data accessible.</li> <li>• CCGBC will continue to promote their LiveSmart campaign within the AONB area and will deliver at least one information event biennially within the AONB area.</li> <li>• MEABC to continue to support KNIB Live Here Love Here.</li> <li>• MEA Growing Communities to deliver at least one community clean up within the AONB per year.</li> </ul>
Continue to pursue Seaside Awards for beaches along Antrim Coast	MEABC	●	●	●	●	●	<p>MEABC will continue to pursue Seaside Awards designation for three beaches along the Antrim Coast.</p> <p>MEABC will retain Green Flag Status at Carnfunnock Country Park.</p>
Explore feasibility of introducing sea bins along the Antrim coast	CCGHT [CCGBC] [MEABC]	●					<p>CCGHT present a feasibility report to NIEA and Management Forum. Council Marine Officers will be engaged.</p> <p>Partners to pursue the installation of sea bins if viable.</p>
Develop public guidance material on how to report	DAERA Marine & Fisheries		●				<p>DAERA operate a water pollution hotline. Together Marine and Fisheries, NIEA and CCGHT will develop and disseminate guidance material on how the general public can log pollution instances.</p>

instances of marine or coastal pollution	Division DAERA NIEA  CCGHT						This is likely to focus on coastal or marine pollution however, may take in terrestrial waterways. The output may be a range of information posters or a video aimed at social media.
Establish and provide a secretariat service to a wildfire advisory/information group which covers the AONB area	CCGHT  DAERA NIEA						CCGHT will set-up a wildfire advisory/information group/forum that will incorporate the AONB area. As possible and appropriate the group will ensure to undertake relevant tasks which might include training and site work within the AONB.  A mechanism will be identified for updating DAERA when wildfires occur with the AONB.
Deliver wildfire awareness event and online materials	CCGHT  DAERA NIEA						CCGHT, with support from the Wildfire Advisory Group once established, to develop and deliver wildfire awareness digital materials and deliver a pilot wildfire awareness event for landowners within the AONB.  CCGHT to contribute and other relevant partners to engage in wildfire awareness activities.
Support and promote Leave No Trace principles to the public and recreation providers	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	CCGHT will continue to support Leave No Trace and promote the ethics and principles to the public and recreation providers, encouraging responsible practices to conserve and protect the AONB.  CCGHT, with partner support, will deliver at least two Leave No Trace training events during the life of this Plan.
Encourage schools to join Eco-Schools programme	KNIB  [CCGHT]	●	●	●	●	●	KNIB will collaborate with CCGHT to identify schools not in the Eco-schools programme and host an event and provide support to encourage them to join. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target is one additional school in the Eco-Schools Programme by 2025</li> </ul>

**(4) Foster a sense of pride in the AONB and raise awareness of its landscape, natural environment, heritage and culture**

<b>Deliverables on</b>	Shared Horizons Policy Statement A Prospectus for Change: A Strategic Framework to unlock the potential of heritage-led tourism in Northern Ireland (TNI, 2017) CCGBC Tourism and Destination Management Strategy 2015-2020 Amplify: The Integrated Economic Development Strategy for Mid and East Antrim 2018-2030	Rathlin Island Action Plan 2016-2020 Valuing Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020 CCGBC Local Biodiversity Action Plan MEABC Local Biodiversity Action Plan All Ireland Pollinator Plan NI Geodiversity Charter  *Note this is not an exhaustive list of relevant plans, policies and strategies
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**Objective 4a: Raise awareness of AONB designation and its benefits for local communities**

Action	Lead Agency [Partners]	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Outputs
Champion the AONB	Management Forum	●	●	●	●	●	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.
Provide quality information about the AONB including maps	CCGHT Management Forum	●	●	●	●	●	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.  CCGHT will maintain and update the AONB's online platforms including webpages and social media pages.
Raise awareness of the AONB with elected representatives annually	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	CCGHT will contact elected representatives annually sharing information about the AONB, current activities and events. This may form part of CCGHT's core communication activities.

<p>Raise awareness of the AONB and its resources with younger audiences by providing AONB literature and resources.</p>	<p>CCGHT</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Education facilities i.e., schools and youth clubs within the AONB will be supplied with a selection of AONB literature and resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGHT will run engagement events with two primary schools within the AONB during the life of this Plan.</li> </ul>
<p>Promote ACG AONB information via social/digital media where possible and appropriate</p>	<p>Translink  [CCGHT]</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Translink will support the promotion of ACG AONB content and information via appropriate social media/ digital channels where possible.</p> <p>Translink and CCGHT will work together on at least one joint social media campaign, promoting relevant AONB themes/information, during the life of this Plan.</p>
<p>Present and translate AONB Guide to Designation for the public</p>	<p>CCGHT</p>				●		<p>CCGHT will make the AONB Guide to Designation available online.</p> <p>Activities to translate the key messages into public friendly formats will be completed.</p> <p>Eg. infographic or accessible video, storymap etc</p>
<p>Encourage activity/tour operators to value and celebrate the AONB</p>	<p>CCGHT</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>CCGHT will use existing platforms such a Tourism Clusters to share AONB information and present the key values and special qualities of the AONB, encouraging local operators to incorporate this into their standard information.</p> <p>CCGHT will seek opportunities to present to visitor experience providers – engaging at least one provider annually.</p>



<p>Improve digital communications to promote and reflect AONB themes and activities</p>	<p>CCGHT</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>●</p>	<p>CCGHT will improve digital communications to better promote and reflect AONB activities and themes, and to better engage groups including forum members, businesses, libraries, schools, community associations, marginalised groups and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021/22 – develop a communications plan, focusing on improving digital communications.</li> <li>• Improve Search Engine Optimisation of ACG AONB webpage.</li> <li>• Double ACG AONB social media engagement by 2025– current figures 1100 likes/1200 followers.</li> <li>• Engage more marginalised groups and heritage-based businesses within the AONB.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Objective 4b: Support natural, built and cultural heritage based education and events within the AONB</b></p>							
<p>Coordinate a heritage skills/craft event during the off-peak season</p>	<p>CCGHT [MEABC Museums]</p>			<p>●</p>			<p>CCGHT will work with partners to coordinate an off peak event which showcases and celebrates heritage skills and crafts that support AONB heritage, links to training opportunities will be made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEABC Museums will work with CCGHT to support the delivery of a heritage skills/craft event in Summer/Autumn – this event may tie in with August Craft Month or European Heritage Open Days.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Links to Objective 1b.</a></p>

Increase awareness and use of NI Archive	CCGBC Museum Services  [CCGHT]	●	●	●	●	●	<p>NI Archive is a publicly accessible digital heritage information archive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCGBC Museum Services will host at least one NI Archive event within the AONB – promoting use of the Archive and training on how to navigate or contribute to the site.</li> <li>• CCGHT will add at least one collection or project to NI Archive annually or 5 in total.</li> </ul>
Create content to celebrate an aspect of the AONBs built or cultural heritage	CCGHT		●			●	<p>CCGHT will work with partners such as local heritage groups to develop an exhibition, booklet, video or other interpretation output which showcases and celebrates a special feature or part of the AONB's built or cultural heritage.</p>
Celebrate the industrial heritage of Antrim Coast and Glens AONB	MEABC Museums	●	●	●	●	●	<p>MEABC Museums will co-ordinate at least one event or programme annually which celebrates the industrial heritage of the AONB and its surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MEABC Museums will continue to promote Industrial Heritage Week and online resources relating to industrial heritage.</li> <li>• MEABC Museums will deliver a virtual event/tour to tie in with Industrial Heritage Week (June 2021).</li> <li>• In future years, MEABC Museums aims to re-instate industrial heritage tours.</li> </ul>
The Northword Project will document and promote the cultural heritage of the AONB	CCGHT  [UU]	●	●				<p>CCGHT (in partnership with UU) will deliver the Northword project, an NPA funded project 2020-2022, which seeks to</p>

							<p>capture and celebrate heritage and support local businesses and creative producers within CCGHT’s operational area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 30 local stories captured and archived via Northword websites.</li> <li>• 5 businesses supported to create products based on heritage stories and receive training.</li> <li>• Up to 15 stories digitised and 5 brought to life via augmented reality.</li> <li>• Heritage stories, businesses and products will be promoted via Northword websites and app.</li> </ul>
Run a series of talks exploring the built and cultural heritage of Antrim Coast and Glens AONB	Glens of Antrim Historical Society [CCGHT]	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Glens of Antrim Historical Society will deliver an annual programme of talks exploring the heritage of the AONB.</p> <p>CCGHT will help facilitate one talk per year within this programme, relevant to the AONB.</p>
Include and improve biodiversity/geodiversity content in material such as videos, publications, signage and other interpretation	Management Forum	●	●	●	●	●	<p>All Forum Members will review their content and take opportunities to incorporate biodiversity and geodiversity in materials, and refer to the AONB and other designations.</p>
Improve digital access to geological and cultural heritage on Rathlin Island	CCGHT	●	●				<p>CCGHT will, in collaboration with relevant partners, create a Rathlin chapter in the Field Guide to the Geodiversity of the Causeway Coastal Route.</p> <p>This activity supports objectives of the East Light House redevelopment on Rathlin.</p>

Support the NI Geodiversity Charter through public events	GSNI NIEA Earth Sciences	●	●	●	●	●	GSNI and NIEA Earth Science Heritage Officer will lead at least one event of geological interest in the AONB annually, preferably within a designated area. Events should aim to increase understanding and awareness of the natural resources and heritage of the AONB.  Events may be part of CCGHT's Events Programme.
Create a video or media output which showcases the outstanding geological heritage and landscapes of the AONB	CCGHT NIEA Earth Science and Heritage Officer GSNI		●				Named partners will collaborate to create a video, or similar, which showcases the outstanding geological heritage of the AONB and explains the landscapes present today. The video should be developed as a learning resources for schools but also for the general public.
Host an annual event to raise awareness of the marine and coastal environment	UW	●	●	●	●	●	Ulster Wildlife will host at least one marine or intertidal event per year for the public, to raise awareness of the marine and coastal environment within the AONB.  UW Living Seas will deliver a minimum of 2 community engagement events within the AONB annually. Target to engage 30 individuals per year (2021-2022).
DAERA Marine and Fisheries to work with CCGHT to promote understanding of the marine environment and marine designations	DAERA Marine and Fisheries [CCGHT]					●	Marine and Fisheries 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.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This output is likely to be a video, building on the success of previous 'life along the coast' videos covering the AONB area.</li> </ul>

								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An associated training event on reporting strandings/beachings should accompany this video in 2024.</li> </ul>
	Raise awareness of marine archaeology off the Antrim Coast	DAERA Marine and Fisheries	●	●	●	●	●	DAERA's Marine Historic Environment Advisor will deliver one marine archaeology event annually within the AONB, raising awareness and understanding of marine archaeology off the Antrim Coast.

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**(5) Pursue a collaborative and partnership approach to AONB management and nurture community driven action within Antrim Coast & Glens AONB**

<b>Delivers On</b>	Shared Horizons Policy Statement Sustainable Development Strategy 2010 A Better Future Together: A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 – 2030	Putting People First: The Mid and East Antrim Community Plan 2017 Rathlin Island Action Plan
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**Objective 5a: Maintain AONB Management Forum and encourage information sharing amongst key stakeholders for AONB management**

Action	Lead Agency [Partners]	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Outputs
Review the Management Forum Terms of Reference	CCGHT	●	●		●	●	CCGHT will lead the Management Forum in review of the Terms of Reference to ensure they meet the current needs of the AONB.  The Forum should have a diverse range of stakeholders, including community groups.
Maintain full representation according to the Management Forum Terms of Reference	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	Following review, CCGHT will work to achieve and maintain full representation on the Forum.
Co-ordinate Management Forum meetings	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	CCGHT will continue to act as Management Forum secretariat and will coordinate and facilitate 3 AONB Management Forum meetings annually.  One meeting will bring Binevenagh, Causeway Coast and Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Forums together for a joint meeting.

	Enhance Management Forum's understanding of NCALO legislation and AONBs	CCGHT [Management Forum] [DAERA]	●	●	●	●	●	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 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).
	Circulate and share information on funding opportunities to relevant stakeholders	Management Forum	●	●	●	●	●	AONB Management Forum to circulate and share information regarding relevant funding opportunities with stakeholders where appropriate. This is especially encouraged when funding supports AONB actions, aims or objectives.
<b>Objective 5b: Promote volunteering, community projects and training opportunities within the AONB</b>								
	Support Citizen Science activities within the AONB	Management Forum	●	●	●	●	●	All Forum members will support Citizen Science activities that engage people with their landscape, natural and built heritage and present the AONB as a location for research. Details of research and citizen science opportunities will be promoted via the AONB's online platforms and via Forum Members. Outcomes of research will be shared with relevant stakeholders if possible.
	Provide intertidal survey training and deliver citizen science projects within the AONB area	UW	●	●	●	●	●	Ulster Wildlife will deliver at least one intertidal survey training event annually and will continue to pursue and support citizen science projects generally and within the AONB.

								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shore NI: UW Living Seas will deliver at least 1 Shore NI training session within the AONB (2021/2022). This session will train community members to ID and record wildlife along the Antrim Coast (target of 10 volunteers recruited from across NI by Oct 2022).</li> <li>• Big Rockpool Ramble: UW Living Seas will promote the Big Rockpool Ramble event at a minimum of two locations with the AONB annually. This event encourages the public to spot and record marine wildlife along NI's coasts.</li> </ul>
Supporting communities to undertake environmental projects to improve their local area	TCV	●	●	●	●	●		TCV provides help and support to communities wanting to undertake environmental projects to improve their local area. TCV's Community Network provides competitively priced insurance cover for community groups.
Establish an indoor youth facility in Glenarm	Glenarm Village Committee [CCGHT]	●	●	●	●	●		<p>Glenarm Village Committee will continue to scope and pursue the establishment of a venue for indoor youth activities, at Glenarm. Committee will research an appropriate location and relevant funding streams to further the project.</p> <p>CCGHT will offer advice, guidance when appropriate and will signpost the group to further support and relevant funding opportunities.</p>
Provide volunteering opportunities within the AONB	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●		CCGHT will deliver a minimum of 4 volunteer events annually.



								CCGHT to develop a hand-tools library for community volunteering.
Support upskilling and digital access to geological and cultural heritage on Rathlin Island	CCGHT RDCA	●	●					CCGHT will work with RDCA to provide certified drone training for 4 people to enhance access to inaccessible aspects of the Island, specifically supporting access to geology and habitats. Trainees will contribute content to educational materials and the East Light House project.
<b>Objective 5c: Support the work of local community, environmental and heritage groups</b>								
Support the Glenarm Wildlife Group	UW	●	●	●	●	●		Ulster Wildlife will continue to support the activities of Glenarm Wildlife Group and will provide training and support community actions in the Glenarm area.  UW will continue to circulate relevant training, funding and other opportunities to Glenarm Wildlife Group.  UW will continue to engage with the group and support them where possible in promoting local wildlife and community engagement within the AONB.
Collaborate with and support one group in conserving and protecting their local area.	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●		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.

								Delivery 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.
	Northern Area Community Network will share AONB information with the community network	NACN	●	●	●	●	●	NACN will liaise with CCGHT to obtain information in relation to the AONB area and circulate in NACN bulletin which is sent to local groups.  Periodically NACN will inform CCGHT to inform of any newly established or ceased community groups.
	Continue to support community action and involvement in Cushendun	National Trust	●	●	●			National Trust will continue to support local community organisations in Cushendun in delivering community engagement events which raise awareness of natural heritage, landscape and farming issues.  In 2020 the National Trust initiated a 3 Year Community engagement project in the village, working with Supporting Communities. Project will attempt to foster increased links between National Trust and the local community.
	Provide support to community organisations and groups	CCGBC Community Development  MEABC Community Development	●	●	●	●	●	Councils' community development teams will deliver at least two presentations or networking events within the AONB during the life of this plan (one per Borough). Presentations should cover topics including funding, resilience and sustainability.

	<p>Contribute to Community Plans and highlight AONB role</p>	<p>CCGHT Management Forum</p> <p>CCGBC Community Planning</p> <p>MEABC Community Planning</p>	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Community Planning Strategic Partnerships will be aware of the AONB Management Forum and invite CCGHT to attend Community Planning committees and be a named partner in Community Plans – supporting the delivery of Community Plan objectives within CCGHT’s operational area.</p> <p>CCGHT will report back to Community Planning teams on AONB actions delivered which contribute to Community Plan objectives.</p> <p>CCGHT and Management Forum will highlight the role of AONB management in contributing to Community Plan delivery where possible.</p>
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## Action Plan Implementation

Action	Lead Agency [Partners]						Further Details
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Monitor Action Plan delivery and share progress	CCGHT	●	●	●	●	●	Track implementation and share report annually with Management Forum, agencies named in the Action plan, stakeholders and online platforms. The Management Forum and named agencies must provide information for the progress report.
A pragmatic approach to Action Plan implementation will be taken	Management Forum  All partners	●	●	●	●	●	A pragmatic approach to the implementation of this Action Plan will be taken.  Actions are subject to funding and resources. Timelines for action delivery may be adjusted to allow for funding or project requirements, or to adapt to partner work plans. It is acknowledged that, in some cases, one activity can satisfy more than one action within this plan – collaborative and cross cutting activities are encouraged to support effective delivery of this Plan. If an action cannot be delivered an alternative activity will be sought where possible.
Management Forum members to provide updates to the Forum	Management Forum	●	●	●	●	●	CCGHT will request updates as a matter of routine. Forum Members unavailable to attend a Management Forum meeting will submit a written update to be shared with the group.
Ensure sufficient resource is	Management Forum	●	●	●	●	●	Management Forum should work with CCGHT to identify and secure appropriate resource, especially if delivery of actions are hindered by resource availability.

available to deliver Action Plan							
Review and develop the 2026-2030 ACG AONB Action Plan	CCGHT [Management Forum] [DAERA NIEA]						CCGHT will work with relevant partners, NIEA and the AONB Management Forum to develop the 2026-2030 ACG AONB Action Plan.

**\*\*Disclaimer**

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this Action Plan is accurate. However, 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. 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**

- ACG Antrim Coast & Glens
- AONB Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- AIPP All Ireland Pollinator Plan
- ASSI Area of Special Scientific Interest
- BC Butterfly Conservation
- CABB Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity
- CAFRE College of Agriculture Food & Rural Enterprise
- CCAONB Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- CCGBC Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
- CCGHT Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
- CEDaR Centre for Environmental Data Recording
- DAERA Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

DfC	Department for Communities
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
EU	European Union
FPP	Fixed Point Photography
GGG	Great Glens Grasslands
GRSG	Glens Red Squirrel Group
GSNI	Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
HED	Historic Environment Division
HoTG LPS	Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
KNIB	Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful
MEABC	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
NACN	Northern Area Community Network
NCALO	Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (NI) 1985
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NIEL	Northern Ireland Environment Link
NIFRS	Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
NILCA	Northern Ireland Landscape Character Area
NIPAN	Northern Ireland Protected Area Network
NIRLCA	Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Area
NIRPG	Northern Ireland Raptor Study Group
NISMR	Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record
NORF	National Outdoor Recreation Forum
NPA	Northern Periphery and Arctic Area
NT	National Trust
ORNI	Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland

QUB	Queens University Belfast
RDCA	Rathlin Development and Community Association
RDP	Rural Development Programme
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
TCV	The Conservation Volunteers
TNI	Tourism Northern Ireland
UAH	Ulster Architectural Heritage
UFU	Ulster Farmers Union
UU	Ulster University
UW	Ulster Wildlife
VIC	Visitor Information Centre

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