

## Appendix 1: Statutory Framework and Policy Context

A hierarchy of interrelated strategies and policies are of immediate significance to the protection, conservation and management of Antrim Coast & Glens AONB.

### *Regional Strategies*

The **draft Programme for Government (dPFG) 2016** is the highest level strategic document of the Northern Ireland Executive, which sets out governmental priorities and actions for a defined period. A draft Programme for Government was published in 2016 but is yet to be officially ratified. However, the document forms the basis for the current Outcomes Delivery Plan and so can be considered as active.

<a href="#">Draft Programme for Government 2016 - 2021</a>	Outcome 2: We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment
	Outcome 4: We enjoy long, healthy, active lives
	Outcome 5: We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential
	Outcome 10: We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest

The **Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS)** is an overarching statutory, strategic planning framework which influences regional development across Northern Ireland. This document addresses economic, social and environmental issues with a view to achieving and encouraging sustainable development across the region. The RDS shapes and informs the various planning policies, strategies and local development plans which govern planning and development across Northern Ireland.

<a href="#">Regional Development Strategy 2035 Building a Better Future</a>	RG4: Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of tourism infrastructure
	RG6: Strengthen community cohesion
	RG11: Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment
	SFG13: Sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open Countryside

The **Everyone’s Involved: Sustainable Development Strategy** was developed by the NI Executive in 2010 and aims to provide a framework for working towards sustainable development across NI. This is in line with the UK’s commitment to the **UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals** which include:

<a href="#">UN Sustainable Development Goals</a>	4. Good Health and Wellbeing
	8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth
	13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
	14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

	15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
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### Planning

Since 2008, planning and development in Northern Ireland has undergone substantial reform. In 2015, under the *Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011*, Councils were given responsibility for planning, approvals, the development & implementation of local development plans and planning enforcement. The Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) retains responsibility for regionally significant planning policy and decisions, legislation and oversight/guidance for Councils.

The [Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2015](#) (SPPS) and individual **Planning Policy Statements (PPS)** are statutory policies which remain material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals but will eventually be superseded by local development plans once adopted. The SPPS, supplemented by individual PPSs, provides important protections for natural, built and cultural heritage; they govern development within or adjacent to protected areas, non-designated sites of nature conservation and/or heritage interest and aim to safeguard against inappropriate development.

The SPPS states that:

‘Development proposals in AONBs must be sensitive to the distinctive special character of the area and the quality of their landscape, heritage and wildlife, and be in accordance with relevant plan policies.’

The SPPS also advises that Planning Committees take account of any guidance or recommendations provided within AONB Management Plans or design guides when assessing planning or development proposals within an AONB.

<a href="#">Planning Policy Statements</a>	PPS 2 – Planning and Nature Conservation (1997)
	PPS 3 – Access, Movement and Parking (2005)
	PPS 4 – Planning and Economic Development (2010)
	PPS 6 – Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage (1999)
	PPS 8 – Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation (2004)
	PPS 16 – Tourism (2013)
	PPS 21 – Sustainable Development in the Countryside (2010)
	PPS 23 – Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Places (2014)

## Area Plans

Area Plans also currently govern local planning decisions and development.

The **Northern Area Plan 2016** applies within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area (the AONBs northern section). The **Larne Area Plan 2010** currently applies across the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area which sits within Antrim Coast and Glens AONB.<sup>1</sup>

<a href="#">Northern Area Plan 2016</a>	ENV1 – Local Landscape Policy Areas
	ENV2 – Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
	ENV3 – Trees
	ENV4 – Development Adjacent to a Main River
	ENV5 – Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest
	OSR1 – Public Rights of Way & Permissive Paths
	COU1 – Rathlin Island
<a href="#">Larne Area Plan 2010</a>	NV1, NV2, NV4, NV5, MAN EN1, MAN EN2, MAN EN4, MAN EN5
	WD2
	T1
	R2
	MN1, MN3
	COU3

## Local Development Plans

Under the provisions of the *Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011* and the *Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015*, Councils must prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP) for their area. When adopted, LDPs will supersede current regional policies contained within the suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and existing area plans. The new LDPs will form the basis of planning decisions on development proposals within Council areas and will be informed by current regional policies and strategies.

[Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Local Development Plan](#) will be prepared in line with its published LDP timetable.

[Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Draft Plan Strategy](#) is expected to be adopted in 2022.

Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Forum will continue to advocate for the protection, conservation and promotion of the AONB within the new local planning context.

## Marine Development

In recent years a new marine planning system has also been introduced across the UK, in accordance with the *UK Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009* and the *NI Marine Bill 2012*. The [UK Marine Policy](#)

<sup>1</sup> The Ballymena Area Plan 1986-2001, the Carrickfergus Area Plan 2001 (and Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 – unratified) also apply within MEABC area outside the AONB boundary. Many of the MEABC Area Plans are long past their notional end date but remain material considerations in the planning process until the adoption of the MEABC Local Development Plan 2030.

[Statement 2011](#) is a statutory framework for the new marine planning system and regional Marine Plans. It provides policy to facilitate the sustainable development of the marine area. The draft [Marine Plan for Northern Ireland](#), when adopted, will provide regionally specific policies governing planning and development in NI's marine area.

*Community Planning*

Under the *Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014* local authorities are required to incorporate community planning into the organisation and delivery of their various functions. As such, Councils have adopted statutory Community Plans to provide frameworks for community development within council areas.

It is recommended that the AONB Management Plan and associated Action Plan take opportunities to develop AONB initiatives or actions which align with the objectives of relevant Community Plans.

<a href="#">A Better Future Together: A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 – 2030</a>	A healthy safe community
	A sustainable, accessible environment
	A thriving economy
<a href="#">Putting People First: The Mid and East Antrim Community Plan 2017</a>	Community Safety & Cohesion
	Good health and wellbeing
	Our Environment
	Progress in Education
	Sustainable Jobs and Tourism

Other Relevant Strategies, Policies and Documents						
Geodiversity	Biodiversity	Built Heritage	Culture	Tourism & Economic Development	Outdoor Recreation	Access and Accessibility
<a href="#">UK Geodiversity Action Plan: A framework for enhancing the importance and role of geodiversity</a>	<a href="#">Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention, 1979)</a>	<a href="#">The Venice Charter 1964</a>	<a href="#">UK Government Culture White Paper (2016) DCMS</a>	<a href="#">A Prospectus for Change: A Strategic Framework to unlock the potential of heritage-led tourism in Northern Ireland (2017) TNI</a>	<a href="#">Our Great Outdoors: The Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland (2014) DCAL (now DfC), Sport NI, NIEA and TNI.</a>	<a href="#">Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Equality Scheme</a>  <a href="#">Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Equality Scheme</a>
<a href="#">Northern Ireland's Geodiversity Charter</a>  <a href="#">Action Plan</a>  GSNI	<a href="#">Convention on Biological Diversity: Aichi Biodiversity Targets</a>	<a href="#">The Burra Charter</a>	Strategy for Culture and Arts 2016 - 2026 (Northern Ireland) draft (unpublished)	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Events Strategic Vision to 2020</a> , TNI	<a href="#">Sport Matters: the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation, 2009-2019</a> , Sport NI	<a href="#">Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Disability Action Plan 2019-2023</a>  <a href="#">Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Disability Action Plan 2020-2024</a>
<a href="#">Earth Science Conservation Review</a>  DAERA NIEA, NMNI	<a href="#">EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives</a>	<a href="#">Architecture and the Built Environment for Northern Ireland, (2006)</a> , DCAL (now DfC)	<a href="#">Inspire, Connect, Lead: A five-year strategic framework for developing the arts 2019-2024</a> , Arts Council NI	<a href="#">TNI 2018 Study</a>	<a href="#">Making Northern Ireland's Outdoors Great: A Strategic Plan for Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland 2015-2020</a> , ORNI	<a href="#">Access to the Countryside Audit for the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (2012)</a>
<a href="#">Rathlin Island Policy (2010) DRD (now DfI)</a>	<a href="#">EU Water Framework Directive</a>  <a href="#">River Basin Management Plan: North Eastern District (NIEA)</a>  <a href="#">River Basin Management Plan:</a>	<a href="#">Antrim Coast &amp; Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Design Guide (1989)</a> , DoE (now DAERA)	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Museums Policy</a> , DCAL (now DfC)	<a href="#">Everyone's Involved: Sustainable Development Strategy (2010)</a> , NI Executive	<a href="#">Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2029</a> , MEABC	<a href="#">Rathlin Island Access and Interpretation Audit (2012)</a> ORNI for CCGHT

	<a href="#">North Western District (NIEA)</a>					
<a href="#">Geodiversity Audit (2013)</a> , CCGHT	<a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a> (2018), UK Government	Conservation Area Design Guides ( <a href="#">available from planningni.gov.uk</a> )	<a href="#">Open Doors to Culture: Causeway Coast &amp; Glens Borough Council Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy 2016-2021</a>	<a href="#">Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2018</a> , CCGBC	<a href="#">Assessing Outdoor Recreation demand in the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB</a> (2012) CCGHT	<a href="#">Signage Audit</a> (2016), ORNI for CCGHT
	<a href="#">Valuing Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020</a> (2015), DAERA	<a href="#">Rathlin Island Policy</a> (2010) DfI		<a href="#">Tourism and Destination Management Strategy 2015-2020</a> , CCGBC	PPSs Community Plans (health and wellbeing)	
	<a href="#">Northern Ireland Priority Species List</a> , DAERA			<a href="#">Amplify: The Integrated Economic Development Strategy for Mid and East Antrim 2018-2030</a> , MEABC		
	<a href="#">Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland</a> (2018), DAERA			<a href="#">Rathlin Island Policy</a> (2010) DfI		
	<a href="#">An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland</a> (2013) DAERA			Tourism Strategy (2017) MEABC  (Strategy currently being renewed)		
	<a href="#">Rathlin Island European Marine Site Management Scheme</a> , DoE (now DAERA)			National Trust Sustainability Study (expected 2021)		
	<a href="#">Rathlin Island Policy</a> (2010) DfI			<a href="#">Scoping Report: Review of available data for assessing</a>		

				<a href="#">the environmental impact of tourism on the environment of the Causeway Coast and Glens Area (2020), CCGHT/TNI</a>		
	<a href="#">Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan</a>			<a href="#">Scoping Study: Exploring potential sustainable tourism certifications in the Causeway Coast and Glens area (2020), CCGHT/TNI</a>		
	<a href="#">Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan</a>					

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## Appendix 2: Landscape and Seascape Character Areas in Antrim Coast and Glens AONB

\*\*Points in table to be bullet pointed

\*\*Landscape orientation

### Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000

LCA	Key characteristics	Landscape condition and sensitivity to change
Rathlin Island (and Causeway Coast) LCA 157	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-High plateau landscape with distinctive rugged coast, stepped profile and rocky knolls</li> <li>-Exposed sheep-grazed landscape of windswept trees and broken walls</li> <li style="padding-left: 40px;">-Rural landscape with main settlement around Church Bay</li> <li>-Long views from hills across the coast</li> </ul>	On high basalt plateau the prominence of wires/poles on skyline, the poor repair of walls and banks and presence of derelict stone buildings gives a slightly degraded appearance. Many small disused quarries add interest to plateau tops.
Ballycastle Glens LCA 119	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Scenic valleys and attractive rocky rivers surrounded by smooth rounded hills</li> <li>-Undulating glen slopes supporting rough and improved pastures bounded by hedgerows with gorse</li> <li>-Roads following glen sides, linking traditional white farmsteads and newer large farm buildings</li> <li>-Coastal town of Ballycastle within a sheltered bay</li> <li>-Historic remains including mottes, crosses, raths and standing stones</li> </ul>	Steep slopes, long views, wooded river corridors and low lying wetland areas of sedge and almer make LCA very vulnerable to change. New farm buildings prominent in landscape and do not integrate well with traditional smaller scale farms. Upper slopes drystone walls in poor repair. Forestry plantations straight edged boundaries fit poorly with landscape character. Some views of slopes damaged by peat cutting on upper moorlands.
Fair Head LCA 120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Narrow coastal strip on the northern slopes of the Antrim Plateau</li> <li>-Dramatic cliffs with igneous intrusions giving rise to prominent headlands and sheltered bays</li> <li>-Small scale rough pastures and rocky moorland clinging to the steep coastal edge</li> <li>-Degraded round stone walls and derelict stone farmhouses</li> <li>-Important historic features on Fair Head</li> <li>-Coastal road winding along the cliff edge, with seaward views to Kintyre and the Scottish islands</li> </ul>	Coastal fringe in natural pristine condition but very sensitive to change. Plateau above cliffs is more degraded with exposed pastures, broken walls and derelict stone farms – also sensitive to change due to open, exposed character and large number of historic features.
Moyle Moorlands and Forests LCA 118	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Large scale, open and smooth moorlands dissected by small rocky burns</li> <li>-Rough grazing of unimproved grassland and heather with areas of blanket bog</li> <li>-Prominent conifer plantations on lower hillslopes</li> <li>-Exposed landscape with few roads or settlements and scattered farms on the edges of the uplands</li> </ul>	Highly sensitive to change due to open exposed character and fragile upland ecosystem. Commercial forestry and peat cutting have eroded an otherwise pristine landscape. Open skylines extremely visible and very sensitive to change, eg. Wind farms, radio masts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Extensive views across open moorland and to the coast</li> <li>-Important archaeological features on the summits</li> </ul>	
Moyle Glens LCA 121	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Dramatic steep glacial valleys within the Antrim Plateau</li> <li>-Northern glens (Glendun, Glенаan) are v-shaped with undulating sides – southern glens (Glenballyemon, Glenariff) are u-shaped with basalt cliffs</li> <li>-Well wooded appearance with hedgerows, trees and ancient broadleaf woodlands</li> <li>-Long straight gorse hedgerows and degraded stone walls running up slopes (the 'ladder farms')</li> <li>-Roads following the contours along valley sides</li> <li>-Settlements are concentrated in the bays at the foot of each Glen</li> <li>-Extremely scenic and distinctive valleys with long coastal views and a backdrop of wild moorland</li> </ul>	Entire landscape of Antrim Glens sensitive to change. Steep upper slopes have a wild, remote character and any form of landscape change would be prominent against backdrop of high, open moorland. At lower elevations, long open seaward views would result in any significant change being highly visible. Landscape generally in good condition but some stone wall and other boundaries suffering degradation. Some recent developments occupy insensitive sites and lack continuity with traditional design. Caravan sites are prominent.
Garron Plateau LCA 122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Open uneven moorland plateau reaching 438m at Mid Hill</li> <li>-Distinctive stepped slope profile with rocky outcrops, steep descents and deeply incised streams</li> <li>-Moorland grasses predominate with sheep grazing as the major land use</li> <li>-Wind-blown beech trees and stone walls stand silhouetted against the moorland backdrop</li> <li>-Heather on the summits covers extensive tracts of peat bog, with small scale peat cutting</li> <li>-Derelict stone cottages</li> </ul>	Open moorland grazed to sustain a diverse vegetation structure and presence of a peat bog is a valuable asset. Post and wire fencing on open moorlands is in good condition. Variety of upland habitats (grassland, moorland, moss) sensitive to changes in land use eg. Commercial forestry. Open and elevated landscape, with long views, sensitive to vertical structures eg. transmission masts as would be highly visible. Most sensitive areas are within Garron Plateau ASSI, valuable peatland habitats. Two further ASSIs located on LCAs eastern side (Blackburn & Gortnagory ASSIs).
Central Ballymena Glens LCA 117	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Broad undulating glens overshadowed by imposing moorland summits</li> <li>-Volcanic plug of Slemish is a distinctive landmark visible from the glens</li> <li>-Regular field pattern with stone walls or hedgerows on the valley floor and fencing on the upper slopes</li> <li>-Mounds and knolls on the glen floor</li> <li>-Scots pine, beech and mature hedgerow trees create a strong sense of enclosure</li> <li>-White houses, traditional farmsteads and small whitewashed villages stand out as attractive elements</li> <li>-Archaeological remains including raths, chambered graves and standing stones</li> </ul>	Good landscape condition with neat, intact field boundaries, preserved traditional farmsteads and good tree age structure. Extremely sensitive to change due to distinctive character and scenic quality, views from surrounding ridges and major tourist routes. Undulating landform within the glens serves to shelter or accommodate limited development.
Larne Glens LCA 123	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Incised glens with smooth ridges rising to stepped moorland and opening out at the Larne coast</li> <li>-Small to medium scale pastures with hedgerows or intact stone walls making a robust field pattern</li> <li>-Evenly scattered white farm buildings stand out as distinctive features against a green backdrop</li> <li>-Blocks of coniferous forest within the glen, and broadleaved woodland clinging to steeper glen slopes</li> </ul>	Extremely good condition with robust stone walls and well maintained hedgerows. Geometric field pattern softened by a network of deciduous woodland, much of which is classed as 'ancient woodland'. Highly sensitive to change due to existing condition and high number of visitors who travel to LCA to enjoy its scenic beauty. Middle and upper glen slopes sensitive to afforestation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Old quarry workings, and some active quarries</li> <li>-Roads along the length of the glens provide long views along the valleys and out to sea at the coast</li> </ul>	
Larne Basalt Moorland LCA 124	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Exposed broad, rounded summits reaching to between 300 and 400m, with commercial forestry</li> <li>-Bare of vegetation except a covering of tussocky moorland grasses and some scrub</li> <li>-Windswept gorse in field boundaries and roadside verges</li> <li>-Derelict pastures with rushes and gorse on the edge of the moor, and derelict stone walls reinforced by wire fencing</li> <li>-Small isolated stone dwellings</li> <li>-Windfarms and radio masts are prominent features</li> </ul>	Moorland landscape in good condition. Some derelict pastures and stone walls on edges of moor are in poorer condition. Landscape around Slemish is well maintained, designated as an ASSI. Open character and high visibility of the moorland summits renders them highly sensitive to changes in land use pattern, land cover or vegetation structure. Scenic quality, AONB status and popularity of landscape all adds to landscape's sensitivity.
Larne Coast LCA 126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rough, highly contoured pasture fringed by a rocky shoreline</li> <li>-Basalt headlands and cliffs create striking 'gateways'</li> <li>-Sparse scrubby vegetation, exposed rocks and stone walls</li> <li>-Small wooded glens on steep slopes of basalt uplands</li> <li>-Large settlements on expanded coastal margins (Ballygally) with expansive seaward views to Maidens Lighthouse and Ailsa Craig</li> </ul>	High scenic quality. Stone walls important element of landscape and their condition a clear indication of landscape condition. Coastline highly sensitive to change due to scenic value and status as popular visitor attraction (A2 Coast Road). Increased development around Larne has led to loss of a distinct urban edge. Larne Coast contains a number of important sites of Earth Science interest.
Larne Ridgeland LCA 127	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Gently undulating landform dominated by long south west to north east ridges</li> <li>-Gradual transition from lush pastures to upland with smaller, scrubby, wall-enclosed fields</li> <li>-Well structured pastoral farmland of large geometric fields bound by hedgerows</li> <li>-Communications and services corridor with prominent pylons and roads</li> <li>-Sparse settlement with farm buildings and occasional isolated bungalows and houses</li> <li>-Long views bounded by skyline moorland ridges</li> </ul>	Field structure robust but has been subject to decline from lack of management. Roads and pylons visually intrusive at times. Pattern of fields and woodlands on valley slopes particularly sensitive to change. Shores of Larne Lough protected as part of Lough Shores ASSI and as an SPA.

See [DAERA website](#) for more information on NILCA 2000.

## Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment 2016

RLCA	Key characteristics	Forces for change
North Coast and Rathlin Island RLCA 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Distinctive coastline of rugged cliffs punctuated by occasional sandy bays which rise to a plateau with broad sandy bays with dune fields in the west and coastal hills leading to steeply sloping hillsides of the Antrim Plateau in the east.</li> <li>-To the south the land slopes gently down to the valley of the Bush River, which curves around from the Antrim Plateau to Bushmills.</li> <li>-Densely settled landscape along the coast. Settlement is sparser on higher ground and in the farmland away from the shoreline.</li> <li>-Few trees located near to the coast, those that are present are stunted and windswept.</li> <li>-Frequent ruins of defensive features found in strategic locations along the coastline including Dunluce Castle.</li> <li>-The uplands of the Antrim Plateau provide a dramatic backdrop to the RLCA in the east.</li> <li>-The rich natural and historical interest of the area makes it a popular tourist destination with scenery, culture and sport drawing in visitors. Holiday homes and caravan parks are frequent throughout the area.</li> <li>-There are numerous sites which are designated for their wildlife importance including many of the islands and cliffs which are designated due to the presence of priority species and habitats.</li> <li>-Raths, chambered graves, cairns and standing stones are generally concentrated on higher ground further from the coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Coastal erosion may increase due to climate change, loss of dune systems or increased cliff failures and subsequent damage to biodiversity, archaeology. Natural coastal processes of erosion and accretion are integral to sustainability of beach and dune systems and should be safeguarded</li> <li>-Warmer summers attracting more visitors to RLCA</li> <li>-Increase in drought and flood conditions leading to damage to inland habitats.</li> <li>-Increasing visitor numbers likely to bring continued pressures on infrastructure and increased recreational development. May impact on the perceived wildness of the coast.</li> <li>-Prominent new farm buildings sometimes out of scale with the landscape and poorly assimilated with trees.</li> <li>-Ongoing pressure for residential development, including for second homes and holiday cottages.</li> <li>-Consideration should be given to potential cumulative effects arising from modern developments seeking to reflect the traditional 'clachan' type.</li> <li>-Successful implementation of Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site Management Plan and AONB Management Plans will have a positive impact on the AONB landscape in future.</li> </ul>
Maine and Braid River Valley RLCA 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Wide, open and gently undulating valley carved from the wider expanse of the Antrim basalt, with distinctive rounded glacial drumlins found over the width of the valley.</li> <li>-Varied field pattern with larger fields on the valley floor becoming smaller as the land slopes upwards to the current limits of improved farmland. Beyond this limit field sizes increase significantly.</li> <li>-Field boundaries are formed of a strong network of hedgerows and with frequent trees including beech and birch.</li> <li>-Clogh River feeds into the River Maine from the hills to the east, and is contained within a more intimate, wooded, steeply sloping valley which is of scenic interest.</li> <li>-Encompasses some of the smaller hills on the expansive basalt band of the Antrim Plateau – including Carncoagh Hill, Knockboy Hill and Skerry Rock.</li> <li>-The Long Mountain ridge overlooks the valley, with Garves wind farm being highly visible throughout the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Increased likelihood of flood events will impact on the pasture land and townscapes in this area, with potential erosion of river banks.</li> <li>-Lower river flows leading to decline in river quality</li> <li>Summer droughts impacting on remaining active bogland and stress on wetland habitats</li> <li>-Hedgerow trees could be impacted by drier conditions</li> <li>-Traditional field boundaries (stone walls etc) vulnerable to changes in farming practices or insertion of new houses.</li> <li>- New single homes in countryside increasing, potential for cumulative effects should be considered.</li> <li>-Emergence and spread of Ash dieback could lead to widespread losses of ash trees, a common feature of hedgerows and woods in this area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The rural, tranquil feel found throughout much of the valley is affected by the numerous transport corridors emanating from Ballymena.</li> <li>-Valued wetland habitats including undisturbed active raised bog which is of European importance.</li> <li>-Extensive westward views from the higher hills and elevations (such as Carncoagh Hill and Knockboy Hill) to the Sperrins.</li> <li>-Slemish Mountain is located on the boundary of the Antrim Plateau and is a prominent outcrop which is highly visible throughout the landscape and famed for its association with St. Patrick.</li> </ul>	
<p>Antrim Plateau and Glens RLCA 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Distinctive rugged coastline dotted with cliffs and bays which dramatically rises to the uplands of the Antrim Plateau, the latter characterised by broad expanses of peat bog.</li> <li>-Distinctive basalt geology with coastal chalk outcrops.</li> <li>-Numerous scenic and tranquil glens carved by glacial action punctuate the hills, with valleys and watercourses generally flowing northeast or southwest.</li> <li>-Visually prominent outcrop of Slemish, on the western boundary of this RLCA, is visible from much of the surrounding area and is famous for its association with St. Patrick.</li> <li>-Large coniferous forest plantations are frequently found on the rolling uplands, some of which are Forest Parks and are open to the public for recreation.</li> <li>-Nationally and internationally valuable semi-natural habitats include upland raised blanket bogs.</li> <li>-Area popular with tourists attracted by the natural beauty of the area, outdoor recreational opportunities and historical associations.</li> <li>-A long history of settlement and visible time depth, from Neolithic sites to medieval clan warfare and later associations with Scottish settlers.</li> <li>-Settlement concentrated on lower land in the Glens where the soil is more fertile.</li> <li>-A mixture of small to medium sized fields which are bounded by hedges and trees in the Glens with a transition to stone walls on the upland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Summer droughts may damage blanket bogs and lead to increase in dry heath habitats</li> <li>-Important species may become locally extinct</li> <li>-Drier condition increasing risk of wildfires, damaging biodiversity and landscape.</li> <li>-Increased erosion due to increase in flooding.</li> <li>-Landslips affecting the coast road could have impacts on communities and tourism.</li> <li>-Coastal erosion affecting coastal wetland habitats, beaches and coastal communities.</li> <li>-Warmer summers may lead to increasing visitors and increasing demand for facilities and accommodation.</li> <li>-Drier conditions may negatively impact on broadleaved woodlands</li> <li>-Landscape sensitivity studies may be required to determine potential for landscape to absorb further wind farm developments or single turbines, without adversely affecting the character of the AONB.</li> <li>-Natural coastal processes of erosion and accretion are integral to sustainability of beaches and should be safeguarded</li> <li>-Offshore, any development of marine renewables or fish farms in the coastal waters is likely to be visible from the elevated coastlines of Antrim. Consideration should be given to potential impacts of these installations.</li> <li>-Traditional field boundaries (stone walls etc) vulnerable to changes in farming practices or insertion of new houses.</li> <li>-Pressure for housing development in the Antrim glens is likely to mainly be for second homes in the countryside, changing the traditional patterns of settlement.</li> <li>-Extensive Forest Service coniferous forests on the main plateau are subject to clear-felling and replanting regimes.</li> <li>-Historic peat cutting has now largely ceased, except for small-scale cutting as turbarry rights, but has impacted adversely on the integrity and condition of peat bogs.</li> <li>-Recreational development, including car parking, caravan parks and golf courses, can form relatively prominent features along the coast, particularly when seen from above.</li> <li>-The popularity of this area with visitors is likely to bring continued pressure for infrastructure in the area.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Development of all types will bring the potential for additional lighting into this landscape, which is valued as a potential dark sky area with little impact from light pollution.</li> <li>-Pressure is likely to continue for further extraction of the white limestone in Glenarm, resulting in highly visible extraction sites and potentially uncharacteristic post-restoration landscapes.</li> <li>-Changes in grazing regimes could alter the condition of hill pastures and bogs, with both undergrazing and overgrazing affecting different areas.</li> <li>-Successful implementation of the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Plan and Action Plan will have a positive impact on the AONB landscape.</li> </ul>
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See [DAERA website](#) for more information on NIRLCA 2016 (map viewer).

#### Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment 2014

SCA	Key characteristics	Forces for change
Ballycastle Coast SCA 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Extremes of currents, overfalls and eddies across the dynamic waters of Rathlin Sound.</li> <li>-Crashing waves against rocky outcrops and series of predominantly vertical cliffs of varying height, geology and landform.</li> <li>-A diverse geological composition of Basalt, Chalk and Dolerite to the west of Ballycastle and</li> <li>-Carboniferous Limestone with beds of sandstone and ironstone to the east.</li> <li>-Varying depths of very dynamic sea above predicted habitats of infralittoral, circalittoral and deep circalittoral fine and muddy sands and occasional infralittoral rocks, some protruding above the sea.</li> <li>-At the eastern end of the SCA, Fair Head at 200 m high with a striking thick sill of Dolerite forms a very distinctive and prominent headland.</li> <li>-The series of exposed cliffs are punctuated by the sheltered bay at Ballycastle, containing the town and a stretch of sandy beach, backed by sand dunes.</li> <li>-A distinctive series of numerous large sea caves between Kinbane and Ballycastle.</li> <li>-Along the isolated cliffs tops, swathes of semi-improved and semi-natural coastal grasslands enclosed by remnant stone walls with patches of gorse.</li> <li>-Impressive views across Rathlin Sound towards Rathlin Island.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The Chalk and Basalt cliffs are naturally eroding and this is likely to accelerate with the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>-The exploration of hydrocarbons in the Rathlin Basin.</li> <li>-Possible development of deep geothermal resource.</li> <li>-Possible landfall for tidal energy developments off Rathlin and Fair Head.</li> </ul>
Rathlin SCA 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Crashing waves against a dramatic series of rugged vertical cliffs, sea caves, vegetated steep slopes, and headlands with lighthouses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The exploration of hydrocarbons in the Rathlin Basin.</li> <li>-Proposed tidal energy development off Rathlin.</li> <li>-Changes in demography of the island population.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Extensive and constantly changing panoramic views across wild sea backed by views of the Antrim Coast and distant views towards Kintyre Peninsula, Islay, Jura, Ailsa Craig, Arran and the Rhins of Galloway.</li> <li>-Extremes of currents, overfalls and eddies across the dynamic waters of Rathlin Sound and the mixing of the Atlantic and Irish to the north of the Island.</li> <li>-A number of interesting sub-marine geological features including a submerged partly-enclosed basin within the bedrock structure.</li> <li>-The sight, sound and smell of large seabird colonies along north and west cliffs.</li> <li>-Several ship wrecks located close to shore of the Island.</li> <li>-Many maritime sites, including harbours, quays, slipways, landing places and lighthouses.</li> <li>-Swaths of semi-natural open grasslands and heaths with patches of gorse on steeper slopes.</li> <li>-Undulating pastures enclosed by an extensive network of remnant stone walls and fences.</li> <li>-Small loughs with reeds and patches of wet grasslands.</li> <li>-Isolated scattered dwellings and farmsteads connected by small roads and tracks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Possible geothermal energy exploitation.</li> <li>-Replacement of the obsolete wind turbines.</li> </ul>
Torr Head Coast SCA 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A largely inaccessible and unspoilt coastline with a strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and naturalness.</li> <li>-Crashing waves against prominent and exposed rocky headlands, most notably Torr Head.</li> <li>-Dramatic views across the expansive North Channel and commercial shipping lanes, with distant views of Scotland.</li> <li>-Underwater, dramatic sloping shelves drop away to deep, turbulent waters.</li> <li>-A complex and varied coastal geology with large swathes of vegetated landslips with semi-natural grasslands, scrub, pockets of broadleaved woodland and small streams.</li> <li>-Relatively deep open sea with very strong currents with underlying sands, muds and infralittoral rocks.</li> <li>-Calmer waters within small secluded shingle bays enclosed by rocky headlands.</li> <li>-A concentration of archaeological sites on and close to Torr Head, including cashels, Megalithic tomb, souterrains, enclosures, standing stones, and Killowen graveyard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The series of landslips are subject to on-going marine erosion at the cliff foot and the impacts of climate change are likely to increase this.</li> <li>-Two areas off this SCA have been licensed for development of tidal energy generation with additional pressures for the landfall and transmission of the electricity generated.</li> <li>-The exploration of hydrocarbons in the Rathlin Basin.</li> </ul>
Northern Glens Coast SCA 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A dramatic and complex geology forming large-scale, steep, east facing slopes that culminate in sea cliffs and vegetated slopes with a considerable degree of slumping.</li> <li>-Open views across the expansive North Channel and commercial shipping lanes, with distant views of Scotland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The effects of climate change and natural erosion could result in the need to upgrade engineered sea defences along the coast road.</li> <li>-A possible increase in offshore fish farms.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Large sweeping bays provide shelter to traditional nucleated coastal towns and villages located on flat land at the lower reaches of wooded valleys.</li> <li>-Dramatic sloping shelves drop away to relatively deep, turbulent waters important for subtidal marine biodiversity.</li> <li>-Crashing waves against broad rocky headlands and rocky outcrops.</li> <li>-A winding open coastal road provides constantly changing views of wide open sea backed by dramatic coastal landforms.</li> <li>-Sections of pebbles, boulders and sands along the shoreline within the sheltered bays.</li> <li>-Concentrations of cultural sites around the settlements of Cushendun and Cushendall including several Medieval coastal churches and graveyards.</li> <li>-Semi-improved pastures along cliff tops enclosed by hedgerows and remnant stone walls, with occasional small clumps of broad-leaved woodland.</li> </ul>	
Southern Glens Coast SCA 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sweeping sheltered bays with intertidal sand, pebble and boulder beaches, contained by exposed rocky headlands.</li> <li>-A backdrop of dramatic basalt cliffs and scarp slopes, often wooded.</li> <li>-Open views across the expansive North Channel and commercial shipping lanes, with distant views of Scotland.</li> <li>-Strong counter currents and eddies close to the shore.</li> <li>-Set amongst a cluster of rocky outcrops out to sea, the 'Maidens' light towers are distinctive features within an otherwise open, expanse of sea.</li> <li>-Relatively deep sea with underlying coarse seabed sediments and extensive maerl beds.</li> <li>-An open coast road along a raised beach at the foot of the cliffs, marked by a distinctive white limestone and dark basalt sea wall, where headlands and cliffs form a sequence of striking 'gateways'.</li> <li>-Sheltered traditional coastal settlements with harbours located within flat valley bottoms.</li> <li>-A number of defensive sites are dotted along the coast.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The effects of climate change and natural erosion could result in the need to upgrade sea defences along the coast road.</li> <li>-Possible increases in visitor numbers with pressure for additional visitor and recreational facilities including marina development.</li> <li>-The Maidens have been identified as a potential site for tidal power generation.</li> </ul>

See [DAERA website](#) for more information on NIRSCA 2014.

### Appendix 3: Natural Heritage Designations in Antrim Coast and Glens AONB

Designated sites	International	National	Local	
Acravalley			SLNCI	<b>Ramsar site</b> – The Convention on Wetland of International Importance was adopted by UK Government in 1973 and designates wetland sites of international importance.
Altataunaghanny Woodland			SLNCI	
Altifiren Glen			SLNCI	<b>SAC</b> – Special Areas of Conservation are designated under the EU Habitats Directive and are afforded statutory protection by UK law and must be under favourable management. At present NIEA are working with partners to develop updated SAC Conservation Management Plans. SACs can cover terrestrial and marine habitats, such as Rathlin Island SAC. Marine SACs listed are adjacent to the AONB area.
Altgal Burn			SLNCI	
Altmore Burn			SLNCI	
Altnahinch			SLNCI	
Aghenagerragh River Bog			SLNCI	
Antrim Hills	SPA			
Ardclinis			SLNCI	<b>SPA</b> – Special Protection Areas are designated under the EU Birds Directive and are internationally important areas for breeding, over-wintering and migrating of priority bird species. At present RSPB are developing a Conservation Management Plan for Garron Plateau SPA. SPAs can cover both terrestrial and marine habitats, such as Rathlin Island SPA.
Ballyberidagh Glen			SLNCI	
Ballycastle Beach			SLNCI	<b>ASSI</b> – Areas of Special Scientific Interest are defined by the <i>Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (NCALO)</i> as areas of high conservation and natural heritage value. ASSIs can cover coastal/marine areas. Marine ASSIs listed are adjacent to the AONB.
Ballycastle, Castle Point		ASSI		
Ballycastle Coalfield		ASSI		
Ballygalley Head		ASSI		
Black Burn		ASSI		
Breen Wood	SAC	ASSI NNR		
Broughmore			SLNCI	<b>NNR/NR/FNR</b> – National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Nature Reserves (NRs) are designated under NCALO and are important natural heritage areas, reserved and managed for conservation and with special opportunities for study/research - NNRs being considered prime examples of national importance. Forest Nature Reserves (FNRs) are designated by Forest Service.
Capecastle		ASSI		
Carey Valley		ASSI		
Carnaneigh Point			SLNCI	<b>MCZ</b> – Marine Conservation Zones are designated under <i>The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013</i> . MCZs protect nationally important marine habitats, species and geological/geomorphological features within NI's Inshore Region.
Cave House			SLNCI	
Clady Burn			SLNCI	
Cleggan Valley		ASSI		
Cloghastucan		ASSI		
Craigagh Wood			SLNCI	
Cranny Falls		ASSI	LNR	
Cool Wood			SLNCI	
Coolranny			SLNCI	
Cushendun Bay			SLNCI	
				<b>SLNCI</b> – Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance are designated and protected via planning policies such as local area or local development plans. Local development plans are currently in development for both Council areas covering the AONB; SLNCIs may change once local development plans are ratified.

Cushendun Caves			SLNCI	LNR - Councils may designate local nature reserves (LNRs) under NCALO for sites of local natural heritage interest.
Cushenilt			SLNCI	
Cushleake Mountain (Cushendun Quarry)			SLNCI	*It should also be noted that additional sites of local importance include non-statutory nature reserves managed by other agencies or conservation organisations (such as Ulster Wildlife, RSPB and National Trust).
Doey Plantation			SLNCI	
Drumaculin Blanket Bog			SLNCI	
Drumfresky			SLNCI	
Escort Port			SLNCI	
Fair Head and Murlough Bay		ASSI	SLNCI	
Feystown		ASSI	LNR	
Galboly		ASSI	SLNCI	
Garron Plateau	Ramsar SAC	ASSI		
Glenaan			SLNCI	
Glenariffe		ASSI NNR		
Glenariff Cliff			SLNCI	
Glenariff Glen		ASSI NNR		
Glenariff Lakes		FNR		
Glenariff Waterfalls		NNR		
Glenarm Woods		ASSI	LNR	
Glenballyeamon River		ASSI		
Glen Burn		ASSI		
Glendun (Knocknacarry)			SLNCI	
Glenshesk Wood			SLNCI	
Glenshesk Valley			SLNCI	
Gortnagory		ASSI		
Greenaghan			SLNCI	
Knock Dhu Sallagh Braes		ASSI		
Leckpatrick Point			SLNCI	
Lemnalary		ASSI		
Lifeboat House			SLNCI	

Linford		ASSI	
Little Deer Park		ASSI	
Loughan Bay			SLNCI
Loughan Wood			SLNCI
Lough Galboly			SLNCI
Loughnafanaghy			SLNCI
Minnis		ASSI	
Old Pier			SLNCI
Port Obe			SLNCI
Port Vinegar			SLNCI
Rathlin Island	SPA SAC (Marine & terrestrial)	MCZ	
Ally Lough			SLNCI
Ballycarry		ASSI	SLNCI
Ballyconagan			SLNCI
Ballygill North		ASSI	
Church Bay		ASSI	
Church Quarter and Mullindress			SLNCI
Rathlin Coast		ASSI	
Kebble		ASSI/NR	
Kinramer		ASSI/NR	
Kinkeel Lough			SLNCI
Ushet			SLNCI
Red Arch			SLNCI
Red Bay	SAC (Marine)		
Retreat			SLNCI
Rock Port			SLNCI
Scawt Hill		ASSI	
Slieveanorra and Croaghan		ASSI NNR	
Slieveanorra Moor		FNR	
Straidkilly Wood		ASSI NR	
Tavanaghorna Wood			SLNCI

Tavnaghboy			SLNCI	
Tievebulliagh		ASSI		
The Maidens	SAC (Marine)	ASSI (Marine)		
Toberbilly			SLNCI	
Tornamoney			SLNCI	
Torr Head		ASSI		
Tow River Wood		ASSI		
Waterfoot		MCZ		

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## Appendix 4: Important and Priority Species in Antrim Coast and Glens AONB

[NI Priority Species list](#) includes 481 species of conservation priority within NI, including UK priority species and those requiring conservation action. The NI Priority Species list is currently under review.

[EU Habitats Directive](#) ensures conservation for a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic animal and plant species.

[EU Birds Directive](#) aims to protect the wild bird species of Europe.

[The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats \(the Bern Convention\)](#) is a binding international legal instrument for nature conservation that covers the natural heritage of the European continent and some African states. It aims to ensure the conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species in their natural environment.

Species	NI Priority Species	Upland	lowland	Woodlands	Rivers/lakes	Marine/Coastal	Notes
Heather		x					Varieties of this low growing perennial shrub are characteristic of the AONBs upland habitats.
Lesser butterfly-orchid	x	x		x			Mostly restricted to damp, acidic and marshy environments in uplands, such as unimproved heath and peatlands. May also be found in scrub and woodlands.
Irish lady's-tresses	x	x					Also a UK priority species, this wild orchid is found in various locations across NI, normally in lowland areas but has been recorded in the AONBs upland wetland areas.
Juniper	x	x				x	A UK Priority Species, this evergreen perennial is found in NE Antrim, particularly along the AONBs basalt cliffs.
Marsh saxifrage	x	x					Annex II and Annex IV species of the EU Habitats Directive, an Appendix I species of the Bern Convention. This yellow-flowered perennial favours wetland environments – in NI it is only found at Garron Plateau.
Meadow cranesbill	x						Nationally scarce, found at a handful of sites in NI. Mainly restricted to the North Coast and on Rathlin Island.
Wood cranesbill	x		x	x			Extremely scarce. The Irish population of this wild geranium is found mostly at Glenarm and Feystown nature reserves within ACG AONB. Found mostly in woodlands and lowland meadows.

Sphagnum bog mosses		x					Fundamental bog-building mosses, vital for the formation of peatland. Highly sensitive to damage and is taken as a good indicator of the condition of peatlands.
Chough	x					x	A member of the crow family, Choughs are red listed as an All-Ireland Priority Species. Only a single breeding pair remains in the island of Ireland – on Rathlin Island within the AONB.
Curlew	x	x					Annex II of the EU Birds Directive, these breeding waders are critically endangered in Northern Ireland. Found in wet grasslands around Glenwherry and Slemish.
Golden Plover	x	x					Annex I species of EU Birds Directive. Breeds in moorland.
Hen harrier	x	x					Annex I species of EU Birds Directive, UK red-listed and NI Priority species. Population endangered by habitat loss and persecution. Nests amongst heather in uplands, including Antrim Hills SPA .
Herring gull	x				x	x	Herring gulls can be found along the NI coastline, including at Rathlin Island, and some freshwater lakes. Populations are in rapid decline.
Merlin		x	x	x		x	Smallest falcon found breeding in NI. Breeds primarily in moorland but has also been found to occasionally use old nests in coniferous forests. In winter moves to lowland areas including farmland and coastal regions.
Puffin						x	These seabirds are characteristic of Rathlin Island during the summer months and nest in the cliffs of the island.
Razorbill						x	Classified as Amber on the UK's list of species of conservation concern, these seabirds are characteristic of Rathlin Island in the summer months.
Red grouse	x	x					Annex II species of EU Birds Directive. Glenwherry Hills Regeneration Partnership has increased red grouse numbers in the Glenwherry area through sustainable moorland management.
Skylark	x	x	x				Annex II species of EU Birds Directive.
Twite	x		x			x	Annex II species of the EU Birds Directive and Appendix III of the Bern Convention. Twite are red listed as a species of conservation concern, these ground nesting birds can be spotted along the AONBs cliffs and coastal areas.
Bottlenose dolphin	x					x	Annex II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Appendix II of the Bern Convention. Live in the marine areas off NI's coastline and are routinely spotted near Rathlin Island and in other areas.
Brown long-eared bat	x	x	x	x			Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Appendix II of the Bern Convention. This bat species roost often in open roof spaces of older and disused buildings. They hunt for insects in woodlands, parks and gardens and have been recorded hibernating in tunnels, caves and ice houses during the winter months.
Common dolphin	x					x	Protected under Annex II, IV & V of the EU Habitats Directive. Routinely spotted off the coast of the AONB.

Common seal	x					x	Listed under Annex II and V of the EU Habitats Directive and Appendix III of the Bern Convention. Common seal is often found in the AONBs intertidal area and along its coastlines.
Grey seal						x	Listed under Annex II and V of the EU Habitats Directive and often found along the AONBs coastline.
Irish Hare	x	x	x				Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive and listed under Appendix III of the Bern Convention. Found in upland and lowland heath and grasslands.
Otter	x				x	x	Found in a variety of aquatic habitats including rivers, lakes and coastal areas. Recorded in areas including Glenarm and Glendun.
Pine marten	x	x	x	x			Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive and Appendix III of the Bern Convention. Reaching near extinction on the island of Ireland in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century, pine marten remain one of the island's rarest species. Pine marten have been recorded in coniferous forests of the AONB, including Ballycastle Forest.
Pipistrelle (nathusius')	x			x	x	x	Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Appendix II of the Bern Convention. This bat species tend to roost within 2 km of a body of water and prefer to hunt along the edges of woodland or parkland. In NI, they are primarily found in Co. Antrim and Co. Down.
Pipistrelle (soprano)	x	x	x	x	x	x	Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Appendix III of the Bern Convention. This bat species is found in both rural and urban areas, roosting in a variety of locations including trees, barns, under slates, barge boards etc
Red squirrel	x	x	x	x			Red squirrel populations on the island of Ireland are under threat due to grey squirrel encroachment. Local volunteer led schemes are in place to protect red squirrel populations within the AONB.
Argent and Sable moth	x	x	x				This scarce day-flying moth is found in heathlands and is nationally scarce.
Cryptic wood white butterfly	x	x	x				NI holds 100% of the UK population of this species. It is most commonly found in scrubby grassland than woodland (despite its name).
Marsh Fritillary butterfly	x						Annex II of EU Habitats Directive and Annex II of the Bern Convention. This species is in rapid decline and has only been recorded at a handful of sites across NI in recent years.
Viviparous (common) lizard	x	x	x	x		x	Ireland's only native reptile. It can be found in a wide variety of habitats throughout Northern Ireland, including upland heath and boglands, coniferous forests and in sand dunes and coastal areas. Also a UK Priority Species.
Trichoglossum walteri - fungus	x	x	x				This fungi has been recorded at only 5 sites in NI, including near Slemish and at Torr Head. It favours semi-natural grassland environments.

\*This is not an exhaustive list – please see the [Habitas](#) website for more information on NI Priority Species. See also [CCGHT list of Priority Species, Species of Conservation Concern and Designated Sites](#) and Local Biodiversity Action Plans for more information.

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## Appendix 5: Built Heritage Designations in Antrim Coast and Glens AONB

State care monuments within Antrim Coast and Glens AONB:

SMNO	TOWNLAND	Description
009:003	BONAMARGY	Franciscan Friary
015:002/015:003	COSHKIB	Two earthworks: the Twin Towers
014:004	DUNCARBIT	Standing stones (2)
015:001	MONEYVART	Layd Church
019:006	LUBITAVISH	Court tomb: Ossian's Grave

Scheduled monuments within Antrim Coast and Glens AONB:

SMNO	TOWNLAND	Description
030:003	SOLAR	Church and graveyard
035:022/035:023	KILLYGLEN	Motte, church, graveyard and Medieval settlement
035:023	KILLYGLEN	Motte, church, graveyard and Medieval settlement
029:004	DOONAN	Motte: Doonan Fort
030:004	BALLYGILBERT	Standing stone
035:003	LINFORD	Round cairn
034:054	LINFORD	17th-century settlement overlying Neolithic settlement
035:013	CORKERMAIN	Motte: Ballyhackett Motte
035:018	DROAGH	Motte
040:006	RORY'S GLEN	Motte
040:005	DEMESNE (KILWAUGHTER)	Motte: Kilwaughter Mote
030:017	LISNAHAY SOUTH	Court Tomb
025:001	NAPPAN	Mound
034:022	OWENCLOGHY	Barrow
035:053	BALLYGAWN	Round cairn
035:030	DUNTEIGE	Megalith
035:035	BALLYHACKETT	Souterrain
035:007	BALLYGAWN	Raised rath
035:009	SAINT CUNNING	Church (site of)
039:010	BALLYALBANAGH/BALLYNASHEE	Hilltop round cairn
035:031	LINFORD	Standing Stone
029:014	GREAT DEER PARK	Mound
039:020	KILLYLANE	Ecclesiastical enclosure with souterrains
029:019	AULT ALIAS GOWKSTOWN	Wedge tomb: Giant's Grave
035:002	DUNTEIGE	Wedge tomb : Giant's Grave
035:004	LINFORD	Earthworks
005:004	BALLYVOY	Passage tomb (remains of): Crockateemore
005:006	CROSS	Passage tomb
009:012	DRUMNAKEEL	Mound: possible barrow
001:004	BALLYGILL NORTH	Fortified outcrop: Doonmore
001:009	KNOCKANS (RAITHLIN ISLAND)	Ecclesiastical enclosure: Kilvoruan
001:010	KNOCKANS (RAITHLIN ISLAND)	Sweat House
001:017	CARRAVINDOON	Graveyard: Kilvoruan

001:047	CRAIGMACAGAN	Round cairn
009:002	BONAMARGY	Possible motte: Dunrainey
008:020	BROOM-MORE	Motte
008:021	BROOM-MORE	Earthwork
008:008	BALLYLIG	Standing stone
008:003	KNOCKANS	Rath with souterrain
008:006	CLOGHANMURRY	Standing stone
004:001	TOWN PARKS (BALLYCASTLE)	Dunineny Castle
005:001	TORNABODAGH	Fortified outcrop: Doon
005:003	BALLYVOY	Court tomb
005:007	CROSS	Motte and bailey: Doonmore Fort
005:011	CROSS	Crannog in Lough na Cranagh
005:016	TERVILLIN	Court tomb: Cloghafadd
009:005	BROUGHANLEA	Cross
013:014	TULLAGHORE	Crosses (2)
010:001	VARIOUS	Passage tomb: Carnanmore
010:011	AUGHNAHOLLE	Barrow Cemetry
015:014	CASTLE PARK (CUSHENDUN)	Castle Carra
015:018	ALTAGORE	Cashel
020:005	DRUMNACUR	Old Graveyard with cross-carved stone
020:018	CUSHENDALL	Castle: Court McMartin
001:005	BALLYGILL MIDDLE (BROCKLEY)	Prehistoric axe factory
001:006	BALLYGILL MIDDLE	Church site: Kilabrida
001:052	BALLYCARRY	Castle (site of)
009:001	TOWN PARKS (BALLYCASTLE)	Mound: Dun a Mallaght
009:019	WEST TORR	Passage tomb and house foundations
009:020	BALLYVENAGHT	Portal tomb: Cloghananca No 2
009:021	BALLYVENAGHT	Portal tomb: Cloghananca No 1
009:022	BALLYVENAGHT	Portal tomb
009:023	BALLYVENAGHT	Wedge tomb
009:117	BALLYVENAGHT	Long Cairn
009:024	GLENMAKEERAN	Dual court tomb
015:005	FALLINERLEA	Rath
015:002/015:003	COSHKIB	Two earthworks: the Twin Towers (area surrounding and embracing the state care monument)
009:027/009:029	EGLISH	Court tomb and mound
020:001	ARDCLINIS	Church and graveyard
039:012	BRAETOWN	Raised rath
028:018	BALLYMENA	Stone Enclosure
029:033	CLEGGAN	Multivallate Rath
033:023	CARNSTROAN	Ring Cairn
034:013	TAMYBUCK	Cashel
029:092	ANTYNANUM	Court tomb
029:039	TAMYBUCK	Wedge Tomb
029:031	TICLOY	Portal tomb: the stone house
024:010	CARGAN	Chuch (site of) and graveyard: Deschart or Diskert
034:035	BUCKNA	Field system and enclosures
033:021/033:022	CARNSTROAN	Raised rath, enclosure and ancient fields: The Swine Craes
024:500	NEWTOWN CROMMELIN	Iron smelter

028:019	BALLYMENA	Court tomb
015:047	LAYD	17th Century house, 'Old castle'
020:010	RED BAY	Tower House
014:004	DUNCARBIT	Standing stones (2): (area surrounding the state care monument)
015:027	BALLYCLEAGH	Standing stone
033:012	MAGHERAMULLY; LOUGHCONNELLY	Skerry Church and graveyard
029:006	CLONEY (GLENARM)	Franciscan Friary
035:005	BALLYKACKETT; LINFORD	Promontory Fort: Knock Dhu
001:013	BALLYCARRY	Fortification: Bruce's Castle
020:008	KNOCKANS NORTH; KNOCKANS SOUTH; FORIFF	Promonory Fort: Lurigethan
019:009/019:012	CLOGHS	Round Cairn and Neolithic axe factory
005:034 ETC	BIGHOUSE; GOODLAND; TORGLASS	Settlement landscape, Neolithic
035:036	BALLYGAWN	Passage tomb: Cloughogan
008:001	STROAN	Passage Tomb on Knocklayd Mountain
009:028	LOSSETT	Megalithic Tomb
034:021	OWENCLOGHY	Ring barrows (2)
035:010	BALLYRUTHER	Motte
035:001	DUNTEIGE	Cross-incised boulder: Penal altar
015:013	BALLYCLEAGH	Standing Stones (2)
035:061	BALLYCOOS	Flint Quarry
019:006	LUBITAVISH	Court tomb, 'Ossian's Grave' (area surrounding state care monument)
029:044	GLENARM DEMESNE	Henge
015:004/015:079	FALNAGLASS	Two barrows
004:020	CLARE	Prehistoric enclosure
020:003	GALBOLY LOWER	Promontory Fort 'Dunmaul'
015:008	INISPELLAN	Craigagh Altar- Altar with carved slab in enclosure
034:037	BUCKNA	Enclosure and Structures
034:049	BUCKNA	Wedge Tomb
028:037	LOUHLUGHAN	Circular structure and ancillary features
009:049	BALLYVENNAGHT	Round Cairn
029:009	GLEBE	Church and graveyard, 'Glore Church'.
005:019	BIGHOUSE	Drumnakill Church
003:075	KEBBLE	Quay complex. 'Cooraghy Pier'
040:001	BALLYHAMPTON	Mound
020:500	GALBOLY LOWER	Pump-house
035:026	KILLYGLEN	Standing stone
010:031	BALLINLOUGHAN	Ring barrow
009:030	CHURCHFIELD	Culfieghtrin church, -ruins of medieval church
009:003	BONAMARGY	Franciscan Friary, -'Bonamargy Friary'
008:025	TOWN PARKS	ICE HOUSE
009:012	TORNAROAN	SALT PAN
010:008	EAST TORR	ICE HOUSE
003:219	KEBBLE	SHIP GRAFFITO
009:176	DRUMACULLIN; DUNCARBIT	MEGALITHIC TOMB

015:069	BALLYTEERIM	TWO ENCLOSURES
013:013	KNOCKANS	STANDING STONE
005:012	TERVILLIN	UNCLASSIFIED MEGALITHIC TOMB
009:011	DRUMNAKEEL	GRAVEYARD & CROSS-CARVED STANDING STONE
014:006	CORVALLY	STANDING STONE
014:007	BREEN	STANDING STONE
009:038	CRAIGBAN	COURT TOMB
009:500	TOWNPARKS (BALLYCASTLE)	GLASS KILN
020:064	CUSHENDALL	Fundamental Bench Mark
040:097(AREA A)	OLD FREEHOLD	Findspots of Flint & Pottery
040:101(AREA B)	OLD FREEHOLD	Findspots of Flint & Pottery
190:001/190:002	BEAGHS	Barrows or Carins: Hugh McPhelim O'Neill & Servant's Tombs
001:014 ETC	DEMESNE	Standing Stone, Cist Burial & Prehistoric Cemetery
035:015	BALLYGALLEY	Bawn & Walled Garden
005:500	Broughanlea	Airway and Drainage Tunnel for "The White Mine"
005:501	Tornaroan	Mine Entrance for the North Star Colliery

Register of parks, gardens and demesnes of historic interest:

Site	Status
Cairndhu (Ballygalley)	gardens – supplementary
Carnfunnock Country Park (Ballygalley)	demesne and now public park – registered
Cleggan Lodge (Broughshane)	parkland – supplementary
Drumnasole (Carnlough)	demesne – registered
Garron Tower	gardens – supplementary
Glenarm Castle	demesne – registered
Kilwaughter Castle (Larne)	parkland – supplementary
Magherintemple (Churchfield, Ballycastle)	parkland – registered
The Manor House (Churchquarter, Rathlin Island)	gardens - registered

Conservation Areas:

**Ballycastle** – Designated in 1990, the area includes the historic upper town around The Diamond, part of the Lower Town and the connecting tree and villa lined mall of Quay Road.

**Cushendun** - The village and surrounding lands were designated as a CA in 1980 due to its unique architectural inheritance, partly influenced by Clough Williams Ellis (a leading architect of his time) and its picturesque setting.

**Cushendall** - Designated in 1975, being only the second such area in Northern Ireland. The CA includes the historic core of the village on the west bank of River Dall, together with the extensive wooded grounds of The Cottage and Court McMartin, and the older parts of the settlement on Kilnadore Road and Coast Road.

**Carnlough** - Designated in 1981, the area includes the historic core of the village and the listed harbour area.

**Glenarm** - Designated in 1978, the area encompasses the historic core of the village, the harbour area and the extensive Glenarm Castle and its impressive gardens and parkland.

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## Appendix 6: Consultation Findings

### Stakeholder Consultation

From October 2019, consultations (1-2-1 meetings and correspondence) were conducted with representatives from key stakeholder organisations with a direct interest in the management of Antrim Coast & Glens AONB.

#### Main aims for consultation:

- Key opportunity for stakeholders to provide input into the new Management Plan
- Information gathering on relevant projects, initiatives, data collation
- Agreeing actions with relevant stakeholders, for new AONB Action Plan

In February 2020, *Antrim Coast and Glens AONB: Vision, Aims & Objectives Key Stakeholder Workshop* was hosted by CCGHT at Carnfunnock Country Park. The workshop captured stakeholders' insights and feedback and a report detailing its findings can be viewed [here](#).

Issues and themes raised by consultation were noted and informed the aims and objectives of this Management Plan, and actions in the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Action Plan 2021-2025.

<b>List of stakeholders consulted</b>	
<b>Organisation/Body</b>	<b>Department/Team</b>
DAERA	CAFRE (Glenwherry Hill Farm)
	Forest Service
	NIEA Countryside Management Delivery
	NIEA Earth Sciences
	NIEA Marine and Fisheries
DfC	NIEA Marine Litter
	Historic Environment Division
DfI	Road Service Traffic Management
CCGBC	Business Support (Alchemy)
	Coast and Countryside
	Community Development
	Community Planning
	Environmental Services
	Museums Service
	Planning
	Rural Development
	Tourism
	MEABC
Community Planning	
Museums Service	
Parks and Open Spaces	
Planning	
Rural Development	
National Trust	Tourism
	North Coast
Ulster Wildlife	Nature Reserves
	Living Seas
RSPB	East

Outdoor Recreation NI	
Geological Survey of NI	
CeDAR	
NI Raptor Study Group	
Butterfly Conservation	
Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful	
Irish Grouse Conservation Trust	
Glenarm Estate	
The Conservation Volunteers	
Ulster Farmers Union	
Heart of the Glens LPS Steering Group	
Translink	
PSNI	Crime Prevention
Rathlin Development and Community Association	
Glenarm Wildlife Group	
Glens of Antrim Historical Society	
Glens Red Squirrel Group	

### Community Questionnaire

A Community Consultation Questionnaire was published online on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and ran until 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This questionnaire was publicised using CCGHT social media and mailing lists and community participation was incentivised via a prize draw. 97 responses were received, the vast majority from residents living within the AONB.

The Community Questionnaire was later re-issued from 28<sup>th</sup> August to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Residents of Rathlin Island were particularly encouraged to complete the questionnaire and were incentivised via a second prize draw. 20 responses were submitted.

In total 117 responses were received, feedback provided is summarised below.

<b>Before this questionnaire were you aware of the Antrim Coast &amp; Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty? (Y/N)</b>	
Yes	95%
No	5%

<b>What do you value most about the Antrim Coast &amp; Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty? (multiple choice)</b>	
Natural open spaces & outstanding views	74%
Outdoor recreation opportunities	17%
Built & cultural heritage	18%
Wildlife & habitats	21%
Local communities & villages	24%
It provides a livelihood	7%

## What challenges do you think face the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB now and in the future?

This was an open-ended question, with a variety of themes and topics voluntarily raised by multiple respondents.

Theme/ topic raised	No of respondents	% of respondents
Sustainable development (including tourism)  Respondents highlighted the need to balance economic development within the AONB with protecting the natural environment.	22	19%
Inappropriate development (residential, commercial, energy, mineral extraction) within the AONB  4 of the 20 respondents expressed concern over the development of wind farms in the AONB specifically	21	18%
Lack of appropriate infrastructure and amenities – for visitors and residents (accommodation, services, visitor experiences)	15	13%
Lack of funding and investment across the AONB  Several respondents specifically raised concern that a lack of EU funding after Brexit could be detrimental	15	13%
Over tourism  Respondents raised concern that tourism pressures were having detrimental impacts on the natural environment and on local communities within the AONB	13	11%
Access issues and poor transport networks  Includes free and affordable access to sites and car parks.	11	9%
Pollution and littering  This includes both marine and terrestrial litter or fly tipping.	10	9%
Community resilience  Lack of support for communities, fears over the decline of services and economic migration from the AONB.	8	7%
Lack of affordable housing for AONB residents	8	7%
Protection of Biodiversity  Respondents specifically raised concern over the decline of biodiversity and the protection of priority habitats and species within the AONB.	7	6%
Climate Change  Coastal erosion was noted as a particular concern	6	5%
Preservation of the AONBs natural beauty	6	5%
Lack of awareness of the AONBs value and features for both locals and visitors	6	5%
Employment and job creation	6	5%

Benefits from tourism not fully being explored or achieved Respondents felt that tourism could be expanded within the AONB, to the benefit of local communities.	6	5%
Impact of Covid-19 *Raised in Questionnaire issued in August/Sept 2020	4	3% of total [20% of September respondents]
Criticism of the National Trust	3	3%
Lack of strategic vision for the AONB area	2	2%
Rural isolation	2	2%
Invasive species (grey squirrels)	1	1%
Anti-social behaviour	1	
Engaging youth with the outdoors	1	

Development within the AONB emerged as a key issue for the majority of respondents. The need for sustainable development (balancing economic and infrastructure development with protecting the natural environment) was raised by 19% of respondents. 18% expressed concern over the impacts of inappropriate development within the AONB (on the natural environment and landscape character), while 5% identified protecting the area's natural beauty as a challenge.

While only 6% explicitly raised concerns over the protection of the AONBs biodiversity, a general understanding of the need to protect the AONB landscape and natural environment was reflected in repeated concerns over inappropriate development and the promotion of sustainability amongst respondents.

A lack of development and tourism was also highlighted. 5% felt that the full benefits of tourism were not being explored or achieved locally within the AONB. While 13% highlighted a lack of amenities or services for residents and visitors, including accommodation and recreational experiences. Concern over limited funding and the potential of a further decline in funding and investment was also raised by 13% of respondents.

Concern over the potential economic impacts of Covid-19 were raised by 20% of those who responded to the Community Questionnaire issued in September 2020 (4 out of 20 respondents).

<b>How can Antrim Coast &amp; Glens AONB better benefit local communities? (multiple choice)</b>	
Increased tourism and economic opportunities	39%
More training, volunteering opportunities & support for local groups	29%
Improve outdoor recreation opportunities, improving health & wellbeing	36%
Local stories & culture shared & celebrated	26%
Help landowners look after our special areas	33%

### **What activities would you hope to see in Antrim Coast & Glens AONB in future?**

This was an open-ended question, with a variety of themes and topics voluntarily raised by multiple respondents.

<b>Theme/ topic raised</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>% of respondents</b>
More provision of outdoor recreation across the AONB  This includes respondents who highlighted a particular outdoor recreation activity (eg. Kayaking, rambling, cycling)	24	21%
History/heritage-based events and activities	22	19%

Including heritage based guided tours, walks and talks across the AONB. Heritage skills training and heritage spaces.		
More culture-based events and activities Including music, dance, festivals, food experiences 7 of these respondents specified storytelling as a desired activity	21	18%
Improvements to access infrastructure Includes improvements to signage, waymarking, extension of access routes and networks (eg. Cycling routes, walking trails and pathways)	13	11%
Conservation of landscape and natural environment 2 respondents specified work with farmers/landowners to improve the environment.	7	6%
Family friendly activities	7	6%
Biodiversity events	6	5%
Tree planting	6	5%
More training and volunteering opportunities	5	4%
Conservation of built and cultural heritage	4	3%
Tackling litter and plastics	4	3%
Better promotion of events and activities within the AONB	3	3%
More economic development support for local communities	3	3%
More activities for young people	3	3%
Educational activities	2	2%
More activities for the elderly	1	1%
Invasive species control	1	1%

Outdoor recreation emerged as a key point. 21% of respondents articulated a desire for additional outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences across the AONB and a further 11% wished to see improved access at pre-existing outdoor recreation sites (such as improved waymarking and signage, the extension of walking trails and cycling routes).

Built and cultural heritage-based activities also proved popular, with 19% expressing a desire for more heritage-based events and activities (guided walks, talks and tours) and 18% for cultural events (eg. festivals, music, dance, storytelling). A total of 6% wished to see conservation work and a further 5% specified tree planting as a desired activity.

The need for more family friendly activities was highlighted by 6% of respondents.

#### Any further comments?

Respondents had the open-ended opportunity to add additional comments.

Theme/ topic raised	No of respondents	% of respondents
AONB is a special place	6	6%
More awareness needed for the value and special features of AONB	5	4%
Conserve and protect the AONB	3	3%
Prevent inappropriate development	3	3%
Support for greenways and green tourism	2	2%
Support for sustainable development	2	2%
Protection of biodiversity	2	2%

Work with farmers/landowners to protect the environment	2	2%
Improve traffic flow at Cushendall	2	2%
Improve access	2	2%
Supportive of training opportunities	2	2%
Support for outdoor recreation	1	1%
Prevent over-tourism	1	1%
Reduce plastic use by local businesses	1	1%
Improve transport networks	1	1%

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