

The provision of access for outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland

Key Stakeholder Consultation

27th January – 29th March 2021



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

*Sustainability at the heart of a
living, working, active landscape
valued by everyone.*

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The value of our outdoors

Northern Ireland has a mixture of extremely varied and beautiful lands and seascapes within a very small geographical area. Mountains, moorlands, forests, extensive inland waterways and a spectacular coastline all make up our local environment. Our towns and cities tend to be relatively small and therefore greenspace, such as hills, forests and parks are in close proximity to most of the people who live and work here. However, access to the natural environment is often restricted and the provision varies from area to area.

A recent survey* identified that the benefits of spending time outdoors during the COVID-19 lockdown were significant. 84% of participants reported feeling physical health benefits and 90% reported benefits related to mental health and wellbeing. Benefits were strongest amongst people who visited the outdoors most often during lockdown and people with quality trails and greenspaces close to home. 51% of respondents expected to spend more of their free time outdoors than they did pre-lockdown. People would most like to be able to visit local parks, the countryside and coast, to walk on off-road trails and to spend time with family and friends. There was significant support for the development and improvements of walking and cycling trails.

* Survey carried out by Outdoor Recreation NI in May 2020. The full report is available at <http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/news/new-survey-highlights-importance-of-accessing-outdoors-safely-during-covid-19/>

Apart from health and well-being benefits, outdoor recreation contributes to Northern Ireland society in a wide range of areas, including social inclusion, community cohesion, environmental awareness, rural development and economic opportunities.

However, our natural environment is also a living, working and active environment with the majority of the land farmed and producing our food, drinking water and supporting livelihoods.

The development of the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland ([Our-Great-Outdoors-The-Outdoor-Recreation-Action-Plan-for-Northern-Ireland_SportNI-2014.pdf](#) ([outdoorrecreationni.com](http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com))) identified a need to review and initiate the development and consolidation of appropriate outdoor recreation legislation.

It is important that a suitable balance is struck between enabling public access to our natural environment, while protecting that environment and ensuring landowners rights.

1.2 Accessibility

Public access to land in Northern Ireland is more restricted than other parts of the United Kingdom. Land ownership in Northern Ireland is significantly different from the rest of the United Kingdom as most farms are of a much smaller scale, with a proportionately higher number of the population with land owning interests.

Although some areas of the countryside may have been used freely for recreation for many years, the public have no general rights to wander over open land, mountains, moorland, woodlands,

the foreshore, etc. However, many landowners tolerate access to their land without a formalised agreement.

Generally speaking, in Northern Ireland, **public access is restricted to:**

a) Public Rights of Way;

A Public Right of Way is “a highway which any member of the public may use as a right - not a privilege granted by the landowner”. It is a permanent legal entity and remains in existence until it is extinguished, or diverted, by due legal process. Detail on Public Rights of Way is available on NI Direct at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/public-rights-way>

b) where the public have the landowner’s permission to visit;

Local councils may make Permissive Path Agreements with landowners for people to use an agreed portion of their land, under agreed conditions, as a means to secure quality recreational access.

c) areas of land which are in public ownership and to which the public are invited to use;

Northern Ireland’s public land comprises of just over 6% of the total land area. This includes public land managed by:

- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), including;
 - Forest Service
 - NI Environment Agency (country parks, nature reserves etc.)
- Department for Communities (DfC)
- District Councils
- Loughs Agency
- Northern Ireland Water
- Waterways Ireland

Note: Permitted access to public land does not necessarily create a Public Right of Way.

2.0 Aim of this consultation

The aim of this consultation is to seek the views of key stakeholders on the current provision members of the public have to Northern Ireland’s natural environment for outdoor recreation, and investigate how provision can be improved, while protecting the environment and recognising the needs of landowners. **This consultation is not considering an overall “Right to Roam”, or the development of National Parks in Northern Ireland.**

Stakeholders identified for initial consultation include:

- Representative groups of those who use the outdoors for recreational purposes
- Representative groups of landowners / land managers
- Environmental groups
- Those who enforce related legislation

A list of Key Stakeholders who have been invited to provide their views is provided at Annex A. If you feel we have omitted any significant group please contact us at the e-mail / address below.

A broader public consultation is expected following the consideration of responses from key stakeholders.

Submissions should be:

e-mailed (preferable) to: AccessforOutdoorRecreation@daera-ni.gov.uk

or

hard copies sent to: Stephen Emerson
RNRPD: Natural Heritage Policy Branch
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs
Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Belfast BT7 2JA

The closing date for submissions is **29th March 2021**

3.0 Alternative Formats

On request, we can arrange to provide other formats of the documents above, such as -

- Paper Copy
- Large Print
- Braille
- Other languages

To request an alternative format, please contact us by one of the following methods:

e-mail (preferable): AccessforOutdoorRecreation@daera-ni.gov.uk

Write to: Stephen Emerson
RNRPD: Natural Heritage Policy Branch
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs
Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Belfast BT7 2JA

Telephone: 028 9056 9432

Text Relay: If you have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via:

- Text Relay using the Next Generation Text Service (NGTS).
- Making a call from a textphone dial 18001 + number.
- Making a call from a telephone dial 18002 + number.

4.0 Your details:

We use this information in order to communicate with you if we need to clarify your response or for further communications.

Title (e.g. Mr, Mrs, Ms etc.)	Miss
Forename or initials	Sarah
Surname	Morrell
Full postal address	475 Antrim Road Belfast
Postcode	BT15 3DA
Email address	smorrell@ufuhq.com

Are you responding as an:

a) Individual

YES / **NO**

If "YES", do you:

- Participate in outdoor recreational activities?

YES / NO

Please identify which _____

- Own, or manage, land which the public may wish to use to facilitate outdoor recreation?

YES / NO

Provide details (if relevant) _____

- Other (please state) _____

b) Organisation / Group

YES / NO

If "YES", does your organisation / group :

- Participate in, or organise, outdoor recreational activities?

YES / **NO**

Please identify which activities _____

- Own, or manage, land which the public may wish to use for outdoor recreation? **YES** NO
Please identify the type of land (eg mountain, lowland farmland, woodland etc.) UFU represent landowners of all types
- Other (please state) _____

Organisation / Group Details:

- Organisation/Group name Ulster Farmers' Union
- Full postal address 475 Antrim Road Belfast
- Postcode BT15 3DA
- Contact name Sarah Morrell
- Contact email smorrell@ufuhq.com
- Which category best describes your organisation (select one item)
 - Community organisation
 - Third sector / equality organisation
 - Landowner / land manager
 - Private sector organisation
 - Representative body for professionals
 - Local government
 - Community Planning Partnership
 - Public Body, including Executive Agencies, NDPBs, NHS etc.
 - Academic or Research Institute
 - Other (please state) _____

Publication of responses - your permissions:

We may wish to publish responses to this consultation, in summary and where possible in detail.
We would like your permission to publish your response:

Please select one item (Required)

- Publish this response with your name
- Publish this response without your name
- Do not publish this response

Note that when we publish reports on a consultation, we do not publish your email or postal address or other information about you.

We may share your response internally with other Northern Ireland Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you. Are you content for Northern Ireland Government to contact you in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please select (Required)

Yes No

5.0 Consultation:

You are invited to respond to whichever of the following questions are relevant to you, or those who you represent. However, you should not feel obliged to respond to questions which are not.

Do not feel limited to the space provided. Please feel free to expand the comments boxes or attach additional pages if required.

PLEASE NOTE: This consultation is not reviewing specific sports in Northern Ireland, it is specifically looking at the provision of access to the countryside to partake in outdoor activities.

5.1 Current Provision

Q1: Do you believe there is sufficient public access to the natural environment for outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland?

YES / NO

Please feel free to comment below

The UFU cannot comment on whether or not there is sufficient access to the natural environment for outdoor recreation in NI. The provision of access varies across the country. In some areas there is likely to be sufficient access for the local community and in others areas, access may be lacking.

The UFU believe that there is under utilised land owned by public organisations that should be available for recreational activities. Not only are there sites that are not open to the public, but sites that are open are not managed to their full potential. All suitable public land should be available to the public before requesting access to private land.

Q2: Do you feel that Public Rights of Way are adequately identified to the public?

YES / NO

Please feel free to comment below

More could be done to highlight public rights of way to people in the local area.

Current permitted access should be publicised generally through articles in the local press and by distributing maps and leaflets to local libraries, tourist information centres and other outlets. More specific promotions should also be targeted at the clubs, societies and other groups that can be expected to make most use of the land. Anybody can usually find out if a route is an asserted public right of way by consulting the appropriate council, however if the public don't even know the path exist they cannot make use of the already granted access.

At peak times, when the weather is good and on bank holiday weekends etc. popular sites are not able to manage the volume of people – not enough parking spaces, bins etc. If more people were aware of public rights of way in their area and used them more frequently popular beauty spots may not be as busy. When areas get overcrowded problems such as littering and inconsiderate parking are more likely to become an issue.

Primarily for land owners/managers (however views are welcome from all participants):

Q3: What difficulties have you encountered, or do you foresee, in establishing or managing public access through your land, or the land you manage?

Difficulties that landowners encounter include:

- Litter
- Livestock worrying
- Dog fouling
- Antisocial behavior
- Parked cars which block access to gates and laneways.
- Parked cars that block rural roads - road users cannot travel along the road, including farmers , emergency services, and local people.
- Damage to property such as gates and fences
- Biosecurity problems
- A claim or fear of a claim against the landowner
- Damage to crops
- Trespass
- Public safety concerns

The UFU foresee these difficulties to continue, as to prevent them happening there needs to be a behavioral shift and attitude change amongst the general public.

Primarily for land owners/managers (however views are welcome from all participants):

Q4: What would encourage you to agree to public access through your land, or the land you manage, for recreational purposes?

In all instances public land should be considered first before approaching landowners to request new access.

Early engagement with landowners is crucial when attempting to agree new access routes. Where there is a genuine need for more recreational space, and the local community can demonstrate the need, and not those outside the local community who simply want to create more walking routes, landowners are more likely to consider agreeing new access.

Landowners would be more likely to agree access, if the local council took responsibility for the management, maintenance and liability of agreed access and the loss of income from agriculture was compensated for. Agreeing new access should always be voluntary and never forced by public authorities.

The ability to temporarily close the path with advance notice, due to busy periods in the farming calendar when it is not suitable to have the public on farm – lambing, carting slurry/silage etc. Or, permanently extinguish a path when the actions of users are having a detrimental effect on the farm business would also be beneficial.

During good weather at very popular recreational sites such as the Mourne and coastal routes, wardens on pathways to patrol the public would reduce some of the difficulties that farmers experience.

An overall behavioral change from the general public would encourage landowners to agree access. Recreational users must be aware of the repercussion of their actions on farm businesses and the fines they can expect for not obeying the countryside code. Appropriate signage would be necessary to help walkers understand potential risks and penalties for irresponsible behavior

Landowners need to feel reassured and supported that if they have any issues with the path they know who to contact and that the issues will be resolved quickly and effectively. Certain existing access has caused difficulties for landowners as problems have not been rectified or taken seriously by local authorities.

Public Land

Northern Ireland's public land comprises of just over 6% of the total land area. This includes public land managed by:

- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), including;
 - Forest Service
 - NI Environment Agency (country parks, nature reserves etc.)
- Department for Communities (DfC)
- District Councils
- Loughs Agency
- Northern Ireland Water
- Waterways Ireland

Q5: Do you believe that an adequate amount of public land is available for outdoor recreational purposes?

YES / **NO**

Please feel free to comment below:

Local forest are well known walking routes, however the public may be less aware of other public bodies stated that have land available to the public.

What percentage of the 6% of public land is actually open to the public? Just because land is publicly owned, it does not necessarily mean it is open to public. UFU believe that all suitable public land should be available for recreational use and that as close to 100% of public land should be open to the public.

Q6: How could existing public land be better used in relation to outdoor recreation?

The facilities at existing public land should be improved to make it an attractive space for the public to use for recreational purposes. For example provide suitable carparking, access, toilets and bins.

Ballinrees Reservoir, Coleraine was a popular place for people to exercise for over 30 years until 2020 when NIW denied access to pedestrians by closing the car park. The decision was taken following advice that sightlines coming out onto the Windyhill Road were not safe, despite the entrance to the carpark being the same for 30 years. By closing the car park, the general public began parking on the roadside which is also dangerous. Had NIW chosen to improve the sightlines and access into and out of the carpark rather than closing the site to the public, the walking route could continue to be enjoyed by local people safely.

Another example of poorly managed public facilities is Gosford Forest Park. Members of the public park on the roadside either because they do not want to pay for parking or because there is not enough spaces. If the public demand is there the need for better facilities should be provided.

Primarily for public land managers (however views are welcome from all participants):

Q7: What difficulties have you encountered, or do you foresee, permitting public access to the land you manage where access does not currently exist or where increased access is sought?

The UFU cannot provide comment on behalf of public land managers.

Primarily for public land managers (however views are welcome from all participants):

Q8: How could any difficulties identified in Q7 be reduced or negated?

The UFU cannot provide comment on behalf of public land managers.

5.2 Current Legislation

The **Guide to Public Rights of Way and Access to the Countryside: Guidance Notes on the Law, Practices and Procedures in Northern Ireland** is a practical manual, produced by the Environment & Heritage Service (now the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs), which aims to clarify the legal position in Northern Ireland, and the practice and procedures that should be followed.

The principle legislation relating to access to the countryside in Northern Ireland is **The Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983** (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1983/1895/data.pdf>) which deals with public rights of way and access to open country. It also identifies responsibilities on local councils and landowners.

The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1985/170>) gives the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs powers to undertake a variety of roles for the enjoyment and conservation of the countryside and amenity lands.

The Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1986/2232>) has been used by local councils to make Permissive Path Agreements with landowners for people to use an agreed portion of their land as a means to secure quality recreational access. A permissive path agreement can operate under limitations and can endure for whatever period of time the council and landowner are willing to agree. It does not create a new public right of way (where one did not already exist), but a route which the landowner has given permission for people to use.

Questions 9 - 11 are aimed that those who have had cause to refer to legislation in relation to access issues, however views are welcome from all participants.

Q9: How often would you refer to legislation in relation to access issues?

- Daily / Weekly
- Monthly
- Yearly
- Rarely
- Never

Please feel free to comment below.

UFU refer to access legislation most commonly throughout the Spring and Summer months whenever most outdoor recreational activity occurs. However on average this would be monthly over the period of the whole year.

Q10: **Please identify any difficulties you have with** current legislation and/or Guidance in relation to public access.

Please be as specific as you can and identify which legislation and section you are referring to.

The Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 –

The duty to maintain and protect public rights of way is primarily the role of the local council, however they are not statutorily required to ensure the safety of anyone using it and the legislation is not clear who is responsible should an accident occur. If council are responsible for maintenance of the route they should too be responsible for the liability. If a route is not suitably maintained accidents are more likely to happen, even though the landowner is not responsible for maintenance, they may suffer as a result of a claim.

Councils have compulsory powers to create a public path where they see a need. Creation of new paths should be decided in conjunction with landowners and the local community; councils should never make the decision of creating a path without consulting a range of stakeholders first.

A 1993 Access Study highlighted the difficulty of dealing with access issues alongside many other competing demands within councils. Due to different demands and stretched resources, councils can struggle to meet their statutory duties under the Access Order. Some landowners report problems with maintenance of pathways and difficulty finding a council representative to consider their issues.

The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

When addressing members queries regarding access, this legislation is rarely referred to as it applies more to conservation of the environment and habitats rather than access provision.

The Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

Permissive path agreements which this legislation facilitates, have been viewed positively by landowners. Paths usually only exist for a limited period of time, this is advantageous as once the agreement expires landowners, the local community and the council can consider if it is in the best interest of all stakeholders to renew the agreement or seek access elsewhere.

Q11: How could the issues raised in Q10 be resolved?

Please be as specific as you can and identify which legislation and section you are referring to.

A review of access legislation to create one piece of key overarching access legislation for public access to the countryside. Currently, within each piece of access legislation there are several types of access agreements. Reducing the number of access agreements would be beneficial for councils and landowners when considering new access. Landowners should be involved in developing or making changes to access legislation as a key stakeholder.

5.3 Opportunities

Q12: How could the provision of access to the outdoors for recreational purposes be improved?

More awareness of areas that are already available for outdoor recreation and improved facilities at those sites such as parking, bins and toilets.

What have other jurisdictions done to improve access for outdoor recreation?

Legislative changes in Great Britain over the past 20 years have increased the availability of access to the natural environment significantly. Under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, especially since 2005 people across England and Wales have the freedom to access land, without having to stay on designated paths. Approximately 8% of England and 20% of Wales is classed as 'access land'. In Scotland the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 established a right of non- motorised access over most land and inland water.

The provision of a "Right to Roam", and the development of National Parks has previously been considered in Northern Ireland and **is not being considered as part of this consultation.** However some aspects of Scotland's Land Reform Act 2003 may provide the basis for improvement in Northern Ireland.

As a requirement of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, core path plans are drawn up by local authorities after consultation with communities, land managers and path users. **Core path networks** are interlinking routes that normally join, or are close to, communities. They are normally part of the wider path network of long distance walking and cycling routes, and local

and community paths. Many Northern Ireland local councils have included the development of path networks in their current Community Plans.

Q13: Do you believe that a Core Path Network would be a possible solution to improving access for outdoor recreation?

YES / NO

Please feel free to comment below

UFU neither agree or disagree that a Core Path Network (CPN) would be a solution to improving access. Access needs in every community are different, councils should endeavor to engage with communities and meet their needs at a local level.

A core network of paths, does present some challenges as it will require agreement from a range of stakeholders in the area which may not always be possible. If creating a CPN, existing paths should be linked before new landowners approached.

Any new access requested should allow landowners to enter into voluntary agreements only. Under no circumstances should land be vested to provide public access or link paths. All access should be requested and agreed on a voluntary basis

A CPN loop structure does potentially create a more enjoyable walking/ recreational experience.

Q14: What would be the potential opportunities, benefits, or uses, of a Core Path Network in Northern Ireland?

UFU believe a CPN presents the following potential opportunities:

- A safe off road walking route.
- Depending on the area, some people may be able to use it to walk/ cycle to work/ shops etc.
- Connect people with nature and the environment
- Improved mental and physical health
- Opportunities for businesses along the walking route
- Educational resource for schools and community groups
- Volunteer opportunities for school and community groups

Q15: What difficulties do you foresee in establishing a Core Path Network in Northern Ireland?

UFU foresee a CPN to presents the following potential difficulties:

- Obtaining voluntary agreement from all landowners could prevent the loop structure
- The typically small size of land holding in NI is an obstacle to the implementation of a CPN. Specifically, if access is proposed across land owned by several individuals, the process of negotiation could be time consuming and derailed by a single landowner. In addition different landowners will require different compensation. A farmer will require compensation for income lost from normal farming practices, however other landowners such as churches, community groups etc. will require different compensation.
- The temptation for local authorities to vest land to provide access to land in order to link paths.
- Many popular walks and farmland are ecologically sensitive areas that farmers and other organisations work to protect. Allowing access could be very damaging to the habitat and wildlife. This is evident through the damage caused to the Cuilcagh Mountain. Since the boardwalk was opened in 2015 the number of visitors to the mountain have increased by 2,000% with over 70,000 walkers visiting the attraction each year compared to 3,000 before the boardwalk opened. The rise in popularity has been attributed to the Legnabrocky boardwalk which was installed to protect the rare blanket bog on the mountain and has unintentionally drawn visitors from far and wide. An Office for National Statistic report has indicated that the increased popularity has *'threatened to damage the peatlands the walkway was built to protect.'* The actions of the public are actively undermining the effort and resources invested in this area.
- The cost to deliver as CPN. Who is funding this project? Given the benefits to society such a project should not be funded solely by the agriculture budget but consider input from the Department of Health, Education, Communities, Infrastructure etc..

Q16: How could landowners be encouraged to provide access, through their land, to develop a Core Path Network?

Please see answer to question 4.

Q17: What features would you like to see in a Core Path Network? (e.g. cycle lanes, circular routes etc.)

Walkers only on any routes in the countryside new or existing for safety reason.

Q18: What other opportunities, in relation to the provision access for outdoor recreation, should be considered?

Efforts should be made to increase the awareness of public land that is already available for recreation. Land that is already available could be improved through better facilities (bins, parking, picnic benches etc) to make it an attractive place for recreational activities.

5.4 Miscellaneous

Q19 Please feel free to provide further views on any aspect of the provision of access for outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland

Once again, It is imperative that any proposed access agreements are voluntary and that farmers are not forced to agree access.

Whilst demand for access to the countryside has increased, it is important to remember that for many the countryside is their place of work. This applies particularly to farmers whose best asset is their land. It is vital that a balance is struck between the wishes of society and the normal operation of the farm business.

Farms are workplaces and their primary purpose is food production. Provision of access should never supersede a farms primary function to produce food. Biosecurity is of paramount importance on farms and throughout the NI agri-food industry to produce safe, nutritious and traceable food. Industry adhere to strict biosecurity protocols and visitors to farm must sign into farms, wear protective clothing, disinfect boots etc. Farmers are nervous and do not understand why industry must follow these protocols but the general public are exempt when on farmland. The onus is on the farmer to uphold high biosecurity standards and to prevent the spread of disease and granting access presents a considerable risk.

The first COVID-19 lockdown illustrated how ill-informed some members of the general public are on the countryside code and how to behave in the countryside. The 'new visitor' to the countryside saw an increase in problems such as littering and livestock worrying. The minority of people that cause harm, unintentionally or not have significant impact on landowners attitudes towards access. However, UFU do enjoy a good working relationship with Outdoor Recreation NI and the Ulster Federation of Ramblers Clubs. We recognise that both these organisations and their members promote responsible behavior in the countryside.

Submissions should be e-mailed (preferable) to: AccessforOutdoorRecreation@daera-ni.gov.uk

or hard copies sent to:

Stephen Emerson
RNRPD: Natural Heritage Policy Branch
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs
Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Belfast BT7 2JA

The closing date for submissions is **29th March 2021**

Annex A

List of Groups invited to participate in “The provision of access for outdoor recreation in Northern Ireland - Key Stakeholder Consultation”

If you feel we have omitted any significant group please contact us at
AccessforOutdoorRecreation@daera-ni.gov.uk

Angling NI
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (Countryside Officers)
Ards and North Down Borough Council (Countryside Officers)
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (Countryside Officers)
Belfast City Council (Countryside Officers)
Belfast Hills Partnership Recreation Group
British Horse Society
Canoeing Association of Northern Ireland
Causeway Coast Adventure Racing (CCAR)
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Countryside Officers)
Causeway Coast and Glens Outdoor Recreation Forum
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
Cycling Ulster
Derry City & Strabane District Council (Countryside Officers)
Disability Action NI
Disability Sport NI
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (Countryside Officers)
Horse Sport Ireland
Irish Kite Surfing Association
Irish Water Ski Federation
Leave No Trace Ireland
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (Countryside Officers)
Local Rural Support Networks
LVRP recreation forum
Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark
MENCAP
Mid and East Antrim Council (Countryside Officers)
Mid Ulster District Council (Countryside Officers)
Mountaineering Ireland
Mourne Outdoor Recreation Forum
National Outdoor Recreation Forum (NORF)
National Trust Northern Ireland
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Countryside Officers)
NI Agricultural Producers Association (NIAPA)
NI Association for Mental Health (Niamh)
NI Environment Link

NI Greenways
NI Heritage Fund
NI Mountain Bike Alliance
NI Protected Area Network
NI Rural Women's Network
Northern Ireland Archery Society
Northern Ireland Federation of Sub Aqua Clubs
Northern Ireland Orienteering Association
Northern Ireland Sports Forum
Northern Ireland Surfing Association
Outdoor Industry Association (NI)
Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI)
Ring of Gullion Outdoor Recreation Forum
Royal Yachting Association (NIC)
Rural Action
Rural Community Network
Speleological Union of Ireland
Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Forum
Sport Northern Ireland
Strangford Lough and Lecale Outdoor Recreation Forum
Sustrans
Triathlon Ulster
Ulster Branch, Irish Amateur Rowing Union
Ulster Farmers Union (UFU)
Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs
Ulster Gliding Club
Ulster Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club
Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster