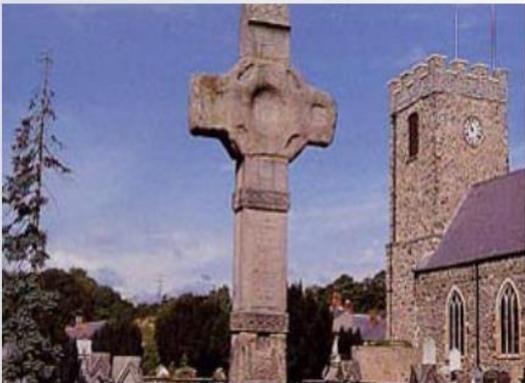


# Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Local Development Plan



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**PURPOSE:**

- **To provide members with an overview of the existing environmental assets in the borough and how these are protected and utilised.**

**CONTENT:**

**The paper provides information on:**

- (i) The regional policy context for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the built, natural and landscape heritage;**
- (ii) The interrelationship between the planning function and the statutory framework;**
- (iii) An overview of the built, natural and landscape heritage within our Council area.**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** This is one of a series of preparatory position papers being presented to Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Planning & Regulatory Services Committee aimed at gathering the evidence base for the new local development plan. This particular paper is aimed at:
- Informing members of their protected site obligations in relation to the natural and landscape heritage;
  - Informing members of their obligations with regards the protection, conservation and enhancement of the built heritage and archaeological resources; and
  - furthering awareness of the link between built, natural and landscape heritage and the local development plan function.
- 1.2** The development plan process will play an important role in identifying key features and assets of the countryside and balancing the needs of rural areas/communities with protection of the environment. This is facilitated by the preparation of Countryside Assessments which will normally include the following interrelated strands:
- an Environmental Assets Appraisal;
  - a Landscape Assessment;
  - a Development Pressure Analysis; and
  - a Strategic Settlement Appraisal.
- 1.3** This paper provides the first strand of the Countryside Assessment of the plan area incorporating an overview of nature conservation resources and historic, architectural and archaeological resources. It also provides a background to the environmental statutory and policy framework for preparing a local development plan.
- 1.4** The paper also provides an overview of the main landscape character areas of the council area and the variations between them as identified by the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000 and the draft Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (2015). This strand will be further explored in the Landscape Assessment paper.

## **2.0 REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT**

**2.1** The Regional Policy Context is provided by the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 and regional planning policy statements. A summary of these documents as they pertain to plan making and the built heritage, natural heritage and landscape protection is provided.

### **(a) Regional Development Strategy (RDS)**

**2.2** The RDS 2035 aims to protect and enhance the environment for current and future generations. It recognises that Northern Ireland's environment is one of its greatest assets which has benefits in terms of the economy and quality of life. Regional Guidance seeks to conserve, protect, and where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment (RG11). The built heritage of the Region is viewed as a key tourism and recreational asset as well as contributing to our sense of place and history and it is important to:-

- Identify, protect and conserve the built heritage, including archaeological sites and monuments and historic buildings;
- Identify, protect and conserve the character and built heritage assets within cities, towns and villages;
- Maintain the integrity of built heritage assets, including historic landscapes.

**2.3** The RDS provides regional guidance to conserve, protect and where possible enhance our natural environment. The natural environment directly supports all life and is an asset to society and in promoting sustainable development and well-being. It is therefore important to:

- Sustain and enhance biodiversity;
- Identify, establish, protect and manage ecological networks;
- Protect and encourage green and blue infrastructure within urban areas;
- Protect and manage important geological and geomorphological features;
- Protect, enhance and restore the quality of inland water bodies;
- Recognise and promote the conservation of local identity and distinctive landscape character;
- Conserve, protect and where possible enhance areas recognised for their landscape quality; and
- Protect designated areas of countryside from inappropriate development (either directly or indirectly) and continue to assess areas of designation.

**2.4** The RDS recognises that Northern Ireland has a rich and diverse archaeological and built heritage which contributes to our sense of place and history. It also regards built heritage as a key marketing, tourism and recreational asset that, if managed in a sustainable way, can make a valuable contribution to the environment, economy and society.

### **(b) Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for NI**

**2.5** A final form SPPS was published in September 2015 and is intended to consolidate 20 different planning policy statements into one document and set out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning

principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development. It sets the strategic direction for the new councils to bring forward detailed operational policies within future local development plans. Therefore the council needs to be mindful of the SPPS natural heritage and archaeological / built heritage key policy objectives (regional strategic) which are detailed below.

### **Natural Heritage (SPPS)**

- 2.6** Northern Ireland is a region of dramatic landscape contrasts and subtle transitions. The inherent diversity of the underlying rocks, landforms and soils has been augmented by centuries of settlement and land management, resulting in rich, varied and unique landscape patterns and features within the region. The diversity of Northern Ireland's habitats, species, landscapes and earth science features (i.e. natural heritage) is an important and highly valued asset of our society. Our natural heritage provides a wide range of opportunities for enjoyment, recreation and sustainable economic activity. The conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity, and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage are also fundamental to the overall health and well-being of our society.
- 2.7** Sustaining and enhancing biodiversity is fundamental to furthering sustainable development. The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy and EU Biodiversity Strategy seek to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems services by 2020. Furthermore, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 places a statutory duty on every public body to further the conservation of biodiversity.

#### Policy Objectives (Regional Strategic):

- 2.8** The following strategic policy as set out in the SPPS (NI) in relation to natural heritage must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs) and in the determination of planning applications:
- protect, conserve, enhance and restore the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage;
  - further sustainable development by ensuring that natural heritage and associated diversity is conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, economic and environmental development;
  - assist in meeting international (including European), national and local responsibilities and obligations in the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage;
  - contribute to rural renewal and urban regeneration by ensuring developments take account of the role and value of natural heritage in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment; and
  - take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change.

The only significant difference in the natural heritage strategic objectives of PPS 2: Natural Heritage and the SPPS (NI) is the inclusion of an objective in PPS 'to protect and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity and the environment'.

- 2.9** Appropriate weight must be given to designated sites of international, national and local importance; protected species; priority habitats and priority species; and to other biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.

- 2.10** Under the provisions of the SPPS, Planning Authorities should apply the precautionary principle when considering the impacts of a proposed development on national or international significant landscape or natural heritage resources. Planning authorities should ensure that the potential effects on landscape and natural heritage, including the cumulative effect of development are considered.

LDP Preparation:

- 2.11** In plan-making councils should take full account of the implications of proposed land use zonings, locations for development and settlement limits on natural heritage features and landscape character within or adjoining the plan area. Natural heritage features and designated sites should be identified as part of the plan-making process. Where appropriate, policies should be brought forward for their protection and / or enhancement. LDPs should also identify and promote the design of ecological networks throughout the plan area which could help reduce the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats through a strategic approach.
- 2.12** LDPs should seek to protect and integrate certain features of the natural heritage when zoning sites for development through 'key site requirements'. Incorporating biodiversity into plans for regeneration can help deliver economic and social growth by creating places where people want to live, work, invest in and visit.

**Archaeology and Built Heritage (SPPS)**

- 2.13** Archaeological and built heritage assets such as tombs and ring forts, historic and vernacular buildings, planned parklands, buildings and features associated with industrial heritage, are all important sources of information about our past, and are often significant landmarks in the present townscape and countryside. This archaeological and built heritage constitutes an irreplaceable record which contributes to our understanding of both the present and the past and is an important economic resource. Their presence usually adds to the quality of our lives and promotes a sense of local distinctiveness which is an important aspect of the character and appearance of cities, towns, villages and the countryside.
- 2.14** The planning system has a key role in the stewardship of our archaeological and built heritage. The aim of the SPPS in relation to Archaeology and Built Heritage is to manage change in positive ways so as to safeguard that which society regards as significant whilst facilitating development that will contribute to the ongoing preservation, conservation and enhancement of these assets.

Policy Objectives (Regional Strategic):

- 2.15** The following strategic policy as set out in the SPPS (NI) in relation to archaeology and built heritage must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs) and in the determination of planning applications:
- secure the protection, conservation and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage;
  - promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage; and
  - deliver economic and community benefit through conservation that facilitates productive use of built heritage assets and opportunities for investment, whilst safeguarding their historic or architectural integrity.

Only the third archaeology and built heritage regional strategic objective detailed above for the SPPS (NI) varies from the original objectives detailed in PPS6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage.

- 2.16** Archaeological remains of regional importance include monuments in State Care, scheduled monuments and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAs). Such sites (or constituent parts of them) benefit from statutory protection. Development which would adversely affect such sites or the integrity of their settings must only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

LDP Preparation:

- 2.17** The LDP, should identify the main built and archaeological heritage features, where they exist within the plan area (as detailed below), and bring forward appropriate policies or proposals for their protection, conservation and enhancement. It should also take into account the implications of its other local policies and proposals on all features of the archaeological and built heritage and their settings:

**Archaeological Sites and Monuments:**

- **Monuments in State Care and scheduled monuments** and all other sites and monuments located within the plan area.
- Where appropriate, LDPs should designate **Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAs)**. Local policies or proposals for the protection of the overall character and integrity of these distinctive areas should be included in LDPs, where relevant.
- LDPs should also highlight, for the information of prospective developers, those areas within settlement limits, where, on the basis of current knowledge, it is likely that archaeological remains will be encountered in the course of continuing development and change. These will be referred to as **areas of archaeological potential (AAPs)**.
- **Listed Buildings** are designated by the Department as being of 'special architectural or historic interest' under Section 80 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011. Whilst it may be impractical for a LDP to identify all current listed buildings throughout the plan area, it may be appropriate to highlight particular listed buildings and their settings which are integral to the character and inform broader heritage designations. These could include areas of townscape / village character or Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) within and adjoining settlements.
- A Register of **Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of special historic interest** in NI is held by the DoE. There are also a number of parks, gardens and demesnes which retain only some elements of their original form. These are included in an appendix to the main register as 'supplementary' sites. Councils should identify Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes along with their settings through the LDP, having regard to the register and supplementary lists; and bring forward local policies or proposals for the protection of the overall character and integrity of these distinctive areas, in consultation with the Department.
- Existing **Conservation Areas** have been designated by the Department under the Planning (NI) Order 1991. These are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or

enhance. LDPs should identify existing Conservation Areas within the plan area and may include local policies or proposals for their protection and / or, enhancement.

- **Areas of Townscape Character (ATC)** or Areas of Village Character (AVC): Many areas within settlements do not have the distinctive character to warrant Conservation Area designation. However, because of their own unique identity, it may be appropriate to identify and define these as areas of townscape or village character. Local policies or proposals and guidance for such areas should also be included in the plan or where appropriate in supplementary planning guidance.
- **Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)**: These consist of those features and areas within and adjoining settlements considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development. LDPs should, where appropriate, designate LLPAs and bring forward local policies and guidance to maintain the intrinsic landscape, environmental value and character of such areas.

### **(c) Regional Planning Policy Statements**

**2.18** Planning Policy Statement 2 (PPS 2): Planning and Nature Conservation, PPS 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage and PPS 6 Addendum, Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) set out the current regional policy for the protection of conservation interests. PPS 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside contain current regional policies in relation to the environment including protection of rural landscapes.

**2.19** PPS2 advises that the policy objectives for natural heritage are to:

- seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage;
- further sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, economic and environmental development;
- assist in meeting international (including European), national and local responsibilities and obligations in the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage;
- contribute to rural renewal and urban regeneration by ensuring developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment;
- protect and enhance biodiversity, geo-diversity and the environment; and
- take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change.

**2.20** LDPs should seek to protect and integrate certain features of the natural heritage when zoning sites for development through the use of 'key site requirements' (KSRs) and identify and promote green and blue infrastructure. Natural heritage features and designated sites should be identified as part of the plan-making process and where appropriate, policies brought forward for their protection and/or enhancement. A hierarchy of designations is available under European and local legislation and designation is primarily the responsibility of NIEA). Generally sites are selected for their rarity value or for the diversity of species and habitats they contain, or as a representative example of their habitat type on a local, national or international scale. Some designations are brought forward under the LDP process.

The range of designations includes:

*(i) International*

- **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** – sites selected under the Birds Directive (EC) as being important areas for breeding, over wintering and migrating birds
- **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)** – areas of certain natural habitats protected under the Habitats Directive. Collectively known as ‘Natura 2000’ sites.
- **Ramsar Sites** – wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention to protect those of international importance.
- **World Heritage Sites (WHS)** – designated under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972 which links the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. (The Giant’s Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site is the only WHS designated in Northern Ireland)

*(ii) National*

- **Areas of Special Scientific Interest** - sites which are of special interest by reason of their flora, fauna, geological and/or physiographical features are designated under the Environment (NI) Order 2002 (as amended)
- **Nature Reserves and National Nature Reserves** – managed by the DOE or by agreement with another Department, a District Council or a voluntary conservation body;
- **Marine Conservation Zones** – designated by the DOE to protect, conserve and manage its priority marine features (habitats, species, natural features); and
- **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty** – designated by the DOE primarily for their high landscape quality, wildlife importance and rich cultural and architectural heritage.

*(iii) Local*

- **Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Wildlife Refuges** – LNRs can be provided by District Councils under powers conferred on them under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. Wildlife Refuges are provided for under the Wildlife Order.
- **Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance** – identified through the LDP process with policies provided in the plan for their protection and /or enhancement.

**2.21** PPS6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage advises that the policy objectives of the planning system for archaeology and built heritage are to:

- secure the protection, conservation and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage;
- promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage; and
- encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

**2.22** In preparing LDPs, councils should take into account the implications of local policies and proposals on all features of the archaeological & built heritage and their settings, and the implications of proposed land use zonings, locations for development and settlement limits on natural heritage features within or adjoining the

plan area. LDPs should identify the main built and archaeological heritage features within the plan area and bring forward policies or proposals for their protection and conservation and enhancement.

These include the following:-

- **Archaeological Sites and Monuments** (State Care, scheduled and other sites & monuments)
- **Areas of Archaeological Potential** – areas within settlements where archaeological remains are likely to be encountered during development
- **Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes** – a register of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest is held by NIEA (DOE)
- **Conservation Areas (CAs)** – Areas of special architectural or historic interest
- **Areas of Townscape or Village Character** – areas of unique identity within settlements (designated through the plan process)
- **Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)** – features or areas within and adjoining settlements considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance (designated through the plan process)
- **Listed Buildings** – buildings designated as being of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ (NIEA responsibility)

In considering **non-designated heritage areas** such as an unlisted vernacular buildings - Councils may wish to bring forward bespoke local policies for such buildings. Current planning policies will remain as operational policy until the Plan Strategy for the whole Council Area has been adopted.

#### **(d) Other Relevant Strategies**

- 2.23** The EU Biodiversity Strategy seeks to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems services by 2020 and this is reflected in both Priority 3 of the Programme for Government (PfG) and the RDS. Furthermore, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 places a statutory duty on every public body to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy 2002 sets the framework for biodiversity action. The Biodiversity Strategy describes the main features of biodiversity in NI, identifies the main factors affecting it and proposes a number of measures to support biodiversity conservation up to 2016. A new biodiversity strategy is being prepared to help halt the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems up to 2020.
- 2.24** Biodiversity is the total variety of all living things – of wildlife habitats, wild plants and animals. At the larger scale, biodiversity relates to the variation in landscapes and habitats and at the smallest scale to genetic differences in plants and animals. Biodiversity is vital to the health of the planet and to quality of life. The enhancement of biodiversity will be one of the most powerful indicators of progress towards sustainability.
- 2.25** It is important to recognise the biodiversity significance of Northern Ireland’s habitats throughout the island, the British Isles and beyond. As one of the most westerly outliers of Europe, many of our communities of plants and animals represent extreme oceanic (mild and wet) examples.

- 2.26** The Biodiversity Strategy initially identified 40 habitat types as priorities for conservation action in Northern Ireland. This was later revised to 51 in April 2010. 20 of these habitat types are considered as 'marine' and would not therefore occur in the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon area. Of the remaining 31 'non-marine' species, 22 examples have been identified within the ACBCBC Borough equating to over 70% of potential NI habitat. These include blanket bog, lowland raised bog, hedgerows, parkland, purple moor grass and rush pasture, reedbeds, lowland fens, traditional orchards, wet woodland and oakwood. See Appendix 7 for full list.
- 2.27** NI Priority Species (NIPS) requiring conservation action are also identified and the list now stands at 481 species, an increase of 271 on the 'old' list when the NI Biodiversity Strategy was being prepared. Of the 481 (NIPS), 93 are considered as 'marine' and would not occur in the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon area. Of the remaining 388 'non-marine' species, 184 have been recorded in the Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon area, equating to just under 50% of potential NI species. These include species of beetles, birds, fish, mammals, molluscs, moths and vascular plants. Notable amongst these are the Cryptic Wood White Butterfly, Irish damselfly, Centre-barred Sallow Moth, Barn Owl, hedgehogs, common & soprano pipistrelle bats and the bee orchid & Irish Lady Tress plants. From time to time the lists of Northern Ireland priority habitats and species are updated. See Appendix 8 for full list.
- 2.28** The variety of landscape patterns to be found within Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon Borough has evolved as natural and human forces have shaped and modified the natural topography. This, coupled with an extremely varied soil composition due to perhaps one of the most geologically diverse areas on the island of Ireland, provides capacity for a wide range of habitats to develop.
- 2.29** The range of habitats vary from the urban and suburban gardens of the towns and villages to the vast waters of Lough Neagh, the rolling pastures and orchards to the foothills of the Mourne Mountains. These habitats, along with Loughs and wetlands, river valleys, hedgerows and woodlands, combine to provide an important natural habitat resource. Many of these are Northern Ireland Priority Habitats, and are therefore of national importance.
- 2.30** The range of priority habitats and species listed through the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy will be protected from development and proposals that could harm their integrity, continuity, links or ecological relationships.
- 2.31** The most common form of conserving biodiversity is designation, protection and management of the best sites of nature conservation importance. While areas of international and national nature conservation importance are already protected from development through other statutory designations, conservation of biodiversity is enhanced through the Plan by designating **Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs)**, 77 of which are currently designated in the borough.
- 2.32** In addition to the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy, LDPs should also have regard to the Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). LBAPs as prepared by individual councils, aim to conserve biodiversity through local partnerships, taking into account both national and local priorities by involving local people and local organisations through practical delivery of biodiversity conservation.

The ABC Council LBAP highlights a number of significant threats to biodiversity including infrastructure development, insensitive land management, nutrient enrichment, environmental crime and vandalism, climate change and non-native species. These have caused loss and fragmentation of habitat and species.

### **(e) Key Legislation for a Local Development Plan**

- 2.33** Combined with the comprehensive coverage of European Directives, it is a legal requirement on any planning authority to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation. Consultation with the public is a key feature of environmental assessment procedures. The level of environmental assessment is proportionate to the scale of the plan, programme or project proposed.
- 2.34** The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 now places a statutory duty on those planning authorities producing a LDP to undertake a **Sustainability Appraisal (SA)**. This incorporates the principles of sustainable development when preparing such plans and assesses not just the potential environmental impacts of the plan but any economic and social impacts as well.
- 2.35** To assess the environmental implications, the SA will incorporate a **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**. European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment', commonly referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, is transposed into Northern Ireland law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004 (EAPP (NI) 2004). The objective of SEA is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental consideration into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.
- 2.36** SEA must be carried out in conjunction with, and parallel to, the development of any plan and integrated with the plan process. Under the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Regulations, an Environmental Report is published with the draft plan and must be taken into account before the adoption of the LDP.
- 2.37** Under the provisions of the **Habitats Regulations**, plan-making authorities are required to undertake an **Appropriate Assessment** for any development plan (or development proposal) which either individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to significantly affect a European Site such as a SPA or SAC.
- 2.38** The purpose of an Appropriate Assessment is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site. The purpose of an appropriate assessment is to ascertain whether the plan is likely to adversely affect site integrity. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potentially damaging effects.
- 2.39** The Shared Environmental Service (Mid & East Antrim Borough Council) will provide advice to the Council to support the preparation of Local Development Plans and will carry out Habitats Regulations Assessments of these plans. The Shared

Environmental Service is currently considering an expansion of their services to Local Authorities to include support in carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Appraisal).

#### **(f) Development Management Obligations**

- 2.40** Development proposals are restricted where they are likely to impact upon the integrity of European or Ramsar sites as these are afforded the highest form of statutory protection. These designations will be identified in the LDP.
- 2.41** Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that, either individually or in combination with existing and / or proposed plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on the above sites.
- 2.42** Where a development proposal is likely to have a significant effect (either alone or in combination) or reasonable scientific doubt remains, council will be required by law to carry out an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. Only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site, can the planning authority agree to development and impose appropriate mitigation measures in the form of planning conditions. A development proposal which could adversely affect the integrity of a European or Ramsar Site may only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.
- 2.43** Certain types and scale of development proposals as covered in Schedules I and II in the Environmental Impact Assessment (2012) Regulations will either automatically be required to submit or will be subject of a determination by the planning authority to ascertain whether they need to submit an EIA. EIA is the process by which information about the environmental effects of a project is collected, assessed and taken into account in reaching a decision on whether the proposed development should be granted planning permission.
- 2.44** The presence or potential presence of legally protected species (Bats, Badgers, Otters etc.) under the Wildlife Order 1985 is also an important consideration in decision making. If there is evidence to suggest that a protected species is present on site or may be affected by a proposed development, steps must be taken to establish whether it is present and any likely impact on the species must be fully considered prior to any determination.

### **3.0 ACBCBC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS**

**3.1** Our Council area is one rich in built, natural and landscape heritage. Development at whatever scale has the potential to adversely impact on our environment. There is therefore a significant responsibility on all involved in the planning process to ensure that any potential environmental impacts are identified to enable effects to be considered, avoided or mitigated.

**3.2** As the planning authority, we must pursue our economic and social priorities while simultaneously being aware of our legislative obligations in relation to our environmental assets. A summary of the built, natural and landscape assets which pertain to the ABC Area are outlined below:

#### **3.3 Built Heritage**

Our council area contains:

- 15 State Care Monuments
- 169 Scheduled Monuments
- 1292 Unscheduled Monuments
- 1 Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (Navan)
- 21 Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP)
- 1063 Listed Buildings
- 14 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes (Registered Sites)
- 15 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes (Supplementary Sites)
- 5 Conservation Areas
- 16 Areas of Townscape / Village Character (ATC / AVC)
- 101 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)

As part of the plan preparation process, all existing LLPA and plan designations will be reviewed and additional LLPAs / ATCs identified as required.

#### **3.4 Background**

Northern Ireland has a rich heritage of archaeological sites, monuments and buildings representing the aspirations and achievements of past societies, providing evidence of settlement, agricultural, industrial and ritual activity from 9,000 years ago to the present day. Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council have an established built heritage containing a considerable number of listed buildings, archaeological sites and monuments, conservation areas and historic parks, gardens and demesnes. The built heritage forms an integrate part of our environment. Key policies for the control of development which affect these areas are provided within PPS6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage & PPS 6 (Addendum): Areas of Townscape Character.

#### **3.5 World Heritage Sites**

The World Heritage Convention, adopted by UNESCO in 1972, was ratified by the United Kingdom in 1984. It provides the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value and established a World Heritage List under the management of inter-governmental World Heritage Committee. Individual governments are responsible for nomination of sites and their subsequent protection and monitoring if selected.

There are no World Heritage Sites within the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough. However the Navan Fort complex is on the tentative list of potential sites for World Heritage Site nomination.

### **3.6 Archaeological Sites and Monuments**

The Department has statutory responsibility for the sites and monuments which are protected under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. Archaeological sites and monuments represent all periods of human settlement in Ireland from 8000 BC to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It is an offence to damage or alter a state care or scheduled site or monument in any way. No works should be planned or undertaken at the sites listed here without first consulting with NIEA: Built Heritage and obtaining any necessary Scheduled Monument Consent.

In NI, sites and monuments are referred to as a scheduled historic monument (for those in private ownership) or a monument in state care (for those in public ownership). There are also unscheduled sites, which although they have not yet received statutory protection, does not necessarily diminish its archaeological importance or its significance as an element in the historic landscape.

### **3.7 State Care Sites & Monuments**

State care sites & monuments are protected and managed as a public asset by the DOE (NI). Environment and Heritage Agency (NIEA) takes the lead in advising on and implementing the Government's environmental policy and strategy in Northern Ireland. NIEA is an agency of the Department of the Environment. All are presented for public access, education and enjoyment. Some sites have staffed visitor facilities and may have entrance charges. There are 15 state care sites within the plan area. These are as follows:

ACDC: 9

- Crosses (2) in Multiperiod Church & Graveyard, Eglisk
- Castledillon Obelisk, Turcarra
- Tynan Village Cross, Tynan
- Navan Fort Large Circular Enclosure, Mound etc, Navan
- Armagh Franciscan Friary, Demesne
- North Meridian marker for Armagh Observatory, Tullyard
- South Meridian marker for Armagh Observatory, Ballyheridan
- Haugheys Fort Multivallate Hilltop Enclosure, Tray
- The Kings Stables Earthwork: Ritual Pool, Tray

BDC: 5

- Dromore high Cross, Ballymaganlis
- School Cross, Drumadonnell, Katesbridge (moved from original site and now located at Castlewellan Forest Park, NM&D)
- Dromore Mound: Motte & Bailey, Ballyvicknacally
- Lisnavaragh Fort:Multvallate Rath, Lisnagade
- Lisnavaragh Fort:Multvallate Rath & Univallate Annexe, Lisnagade

CBC: 1

- Bivallate Rath, Lisnaminty

- 3.8** It is worth noting that it is intended that state care monuments and sites shall move from being managed by NIEA on behalf of the DOE to the new Department for Communities along with other DOE & DSD functions and specific DCAL, DETI & DEL functions.

*Scheduled Sites & Monuments*

- 3.9** The Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 provides protection for archaeological sites and monuments. There are 169 scheduled monuments within the ABC borough area.

*Unscheduled Sites & Monuments*

- 3.10** There are 1292 other recorded archaeological sites and monuments within the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council area.

See Appendix 1: Map (iii) which illustrates the State Care Historic Monuments and Sites within Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Council Borough.

The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record is held and updated by the NIEA and is available to the public via their website: [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/built-home](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/built-home).

This NIEA website contains full details of state care, scheduled & unscheduled sites.

**Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP) and Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI)**

- 3.11** PPS 6 Archaeology and Built Heritage indicates that where it is likely that archaeological remains will be encountered in the course of continuing development and change, such areas will be highlighted in local development plans. These areas are referred to as Areas of Archaeological Potential. They indicate to developers those areas, that in the basis of current knowledge, it is likely that archaeological remains will be encountered in the course of future development or change.
- 3.12** There are 21 Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP) in the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough as currently designated in Plans. These are as follows:

**Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough AAPs**

**ACDC AAPs (00):**

There are no AAPs designated within the Armagh Area Plan 2004 or the Armagh Area Plan 2004 (Alteration No 1: Countryside Proposals).

**BDC AAPs (17\*):**

1. Annaclone (i) - Annaclone node
2. Annaclone (ii) - Monteith node
3. Ardtanagh
4. Glasker
5. Lawrencetown
6. Scarva
7. Banbridge

8. Corbet
9. Dromore
10. Gilford
11. Katesbridge
12. Lenaderg
13. Loughbrickland
14. Moneyslane
15. Poyntzpass
16. Rathfriland
17. Tullylish

\* Poyntzpass AAP partly within Legacy ACDC & BDC Council Areas.

**CBC AAPs (4):**

1. Gamblestown (i)
2. Gamblestown (ii)
3. Scotch Street
4. The Birches

**DBC AAPs (0):**

Of the three DBC settlements transferred to ACBCBC, there are no AAPs designated within the Dungannon & South Tyrone Area Plan 2010.

**Area of Significant Archaeological Interest**

**3.13** There is one ABC Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) designated at the Navan complex. The extent of the ASAI is illustrated in Appendix 1: Map (iii). Navan Fort (Eamhain Mhacha) is the focus of a group of monuments which together form one of the most important areas of historic landscapes in Ireland. The main monuments in the Navan Complex as known at present are:

- Navan Fort
- Loughnashade
- Haughey's Fort
- The King's Stables
- a group of megalithic tombs

The Navan Fort complex is owned and managed by ABC Council and as previously indicated, it is on the tentative list of sites for World Heritage Site nomination.

There are various existing policies for Areas of Archaeological Potential and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest within the Armagh Area Plan 2004 (Alteration No 1) and the Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015. It should be noted that NIEA Historic Environment Division are currently undertaking a review of the Areas of Archaeological Potential.

**Listed Buildings**

**3.14** Section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the Department of Environment to compile a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, important for their value and contribution to the character and quality of settlements and the countryside. The process of listing and reviewing is constantly ongoing.

**3.15** As of November 2015, there were approximately 1063 listed buildings / structures within the ABC Borough Council area. The term 'building' is defined broadly and can include, for example, walls and bridges as well as structures falling in the more usual understanding of the term. Protection also extends to the interior of listed buildings and to most buildings within the curtilage of the listed structure.

### **3.16 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes**

NIEA has prepared a register of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest in Northern Ireland. There are currently 14 registered historic parks, gardens and demesnes within Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough as detailed below:

ACDC (6):

- Address
- Argory
- Gosford Castle
- Loughgall Manor House
- The Mall
- Tynan Abbey

BDC (5):

- Elmfield
- Loughbrickland House
- Gilford Castle
- Gill Hall
- Scarva House

CBC (3):

- Lurgan Park (Brownlow House)
- Coney Island
- Waringstown House

Appendix 1 – Map (iii) illustrates the 14 registered Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes. Appendix 6 details the 15 ABC supplementary site list for ABC Borough Council which are not registered.

There are various existing policies for Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes within the three existing area plans for the ABC Borough Council. There are also three Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes not detailed above which have a small portion within the ACBCBC Plan Area but mainly fall within an adjoining council area (Mid Ulster: Benburb & Caledon and Newry, Mourne & Down: Drumbanagher).

### **Industrial Heritage**

**3.17** The Plan Area contains a wealth of remains of industrial heritage, all of which are reminders of economic development of the area. The NIEA record and update data containing industrial heritage. Industrial heritage sites would include former mills, factories, bridges and railway fixtures. The Industrial Heritage Record is included in the DOE's Monument's and Building Record (MBR), and this map based archive can be accessed by the public through NIEA, Historic Environment Division, website: [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea).

## Conservation Areas

- 3.18** The Planning Act (NI) 2011 (Section 104) provides the Council with the power to designate an area of special architectural or historic interest as a Conservation Area. Within the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon area there are 5 Conservation Areas as follows:

### ACDC

- Armagh City
- Loughgall
- Richhill

### BDC

- Dromore

### CBC

- Lurgan

Conservation Area background, boundaries and townscape design advice is contained in the relevant designation booklets for the above Conservation Areas which is available on the DoE website – see following link:

[http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/supplementary\\_guidance/conservation.htm](http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/supplementary_guidance/conservation.htm)

## Areas of Townscape and Village Character

- 3.19** Areas of Townscape and Village Character are designated by the Council through the local development plan with accompanying local policies for the control of development within these areas. There are currently 16 Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) within the Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon Borough as detailed below. There are currently no designated Village Character Areas (AVC). A review of Areas of ATCs /AVCs will be undertaken to inform the Local Policies Plan.

### ACDC (AAP 2004)

- None

### BDC (BNMAP 2015): 12

- Annaclone
- Banbridge Town: (3 areas)
- Dromore: (2 areas)
- Gilford: (2 areas)
- Loughbrickland
- Rathfriland
- Scarva
- Tullylish

### CBC (CAP 2010): 04

- Lurgan: College Walk, Lough Road
- Portadown; Batchelor's Walk, Bridge Street
- Donaghcloney
- Charlestown

Boundary maps for the Areas of Townscape Character and their various policies can be found within the extant Banbridge / Newry & Mourne & Craigavon area plans.

### **3.20 Local Landscape Policy Areas**

In accordance with PPS 6 – Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, LLPAs are designated to help protect the environmental assets within or adjoining settlements.

LLPAs consist of those features and areas considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development.

They may include;

- archaeological sites and monuments and their surroundings;
- listed and other locally important buildings and their surroundings;
- river banks and shore lines and associated public access;
- attractive vistas, localised hills and other areas of local amenity importance; and
- areas of local nature conservation interest, including areas of woodland and important tree groups.

LDPs should, where appropriate, designate LLPAs and bring forward local policies and guidance to maintain the intrinsic environmental value and character of such areas.

**3.21** Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) may be used by the Council for those LLPAs where trees contribute significantly to visual amenity, and where trees are considered under threat from development. In cases where a Tree Preservation Order is already in existence the LLPA policy will act in addition to and without prejudice to any other statutory provision associated with this Order. Where riverbanks are included within a LLPA the Council will normally require that access is provided to the river corridor, as part of any development proposal. A landscape buffer may also be required between any development and the river corridor to maintain its intrinsic environmental value.

**3.22** Where LLPAs contain significant parts of historic parks, gardens and demesnes, conservation areas, listed buildings and archaeological monuments this policy will apply in addition to and without prejudice to any other statutory provision or policy relating to these features.

**3.23** The following is a list of the settlements where LLPAs have been designated. There are currently 101 LLPAs in ABC. A review of the Local landscape policy Areas will be undertaken to inform the Local Policies Plan. Those settlement with LLPA's are shown below:

#### **ACDC LLPAs (AAP 2004 Alteration No 1): 9**

Small Settlements (9)

1. Artasooley (2 areas)
2. Clare
3. Glenanne
4. Kilmore
5. Milltown (Aghory)
6. Salters Grange

7. St. Marys Terrace
8. Tassagh

### **BDC LLPAs (BNMAP 2015): 65**

#### Towns (35)

- Banbridge (20 areas)
- Dromore (7 areas)
- Gilford (6 areas)
- Rathfriland (2 areas)

#### Villages (12)

- Kinallen (2 areas)
- Lawrencetown (3 areas)
- Loughbrickland (2 areas)
- Scarva (3 areas)
- Poyntzpass
- Dromara

#### Small Settlements (18)

- Annaclone (2 areas)
- Ardtanagh
- Ashfield / Gowdstown
- Ballyroney
- Closkelt
- Corbet
- Glasker
- Glen
- Katesbridge (2 areas)
- Kilkinamurry
- Lenaderg (3 areas)
- Moneyslane (2 areas)
- Tullylish (1)

### **CBC LLPAs (CAP 2010): 27**

#### CAP 2010 CUA (12)

- Lurgan (5):
  - Lurgan Park, Lurgan Golf Course and Brownlow House
  - Lurgan College
  - Woodville House
  - St. Michaels Senior High
  - The Pines
- Portadown (6):
  - Peoples Park
  - Edenvilla
  - Drumcree Church
  - River Bann

- Killycomaine House
- Craigavon Area Hospital
- Central Craigavon (1):
- Carn

CAP 2010 Villages (11):

- Aghacommon
- Aghagallon
- Dollingstown
- Drumnacanvy (x2)
- Donaghcloney (x2)
- Magheralin (x2)
- Waringstown (x2)

CAP 2010 Small Settlements (4):

- Gibson's Hill
- Ballynabragget
- Milltown (Co. Armagh); and
- Tartaraghan

None of the three settlements that transferred from Dungannon Borough Council to ABC (Clonmore, Derrylee & Tamnamore) have any designated LLPAs.

Boundaries of our Local Landscape Policy Areas, their key features and the various policies for LLPAs are contained within the three extant plans.

### **Natural Heritage**

**3.24** Our council area contains the following natural heritage designations:

#### **International Designations:**

- 1 RAMSAR sites (Lough Neagh & Lough Beg)
- 2 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs: Peatlands Park & Montiaghs Moss)
- 1 Special Protected Areas (SPAs: Lough Neagh)

#### **National Designations:**

- 21 Areas of Special Scientific interest (ASSI's)
- 1 National Nature Reserve (Lough Neagh)
- 4 Nature Reserves

#### **Local Designations:**

- 3 Local Nature Reserves
- 77 Sites of Local Conservation Importance (SLNCI)

Further details including maps of the above international and national nature conservation designations can be found in Appendix 1 - Maps (i-iv). Additional information on all current environmental designations are available on the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) website: [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea)

## International Nature Conservation Designations

### RAMSAR Sites

- 3.25** There is one designated RAMSAR Sites that partly falls within ABC Borough Council.
- Lough Neagh & Portmore Lough.
- Lough Neagh** is situated in the centre of Northern Ireland. It is the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom covering an area of 383 km<sup>2</sup> with a length of 30.5 km at its longest point and a width of 12.1 km at its narrowest point, across the middle. The lake is very shallow for its size with a mean depth of 8.9 metres. At its deepest point it extends down to 34 metres. The 125 km shoreline is mostly exposed with wave-beaten rocks and stones but there are also some sheltered, sandy bays with better developed marginal vegetation including some reedbeds. This site also contains a smaller lake, Lough Beg (1,125 ha) to the north (within Mid-Ulster Council district) and a small satellite lake, Portmore Lough (286 ha) which is situated to the east of Lough Neagh (a portion of which falls within ABC).
- 3.26** Rivers flowing into Lough Neagh drain about 43% of Northern Ireland, plus part of County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland.
- 3.27** The Lough Neagh & Lough Beg Ramsar site qualifies under the following criterion of the Ramsar convention (further details contained within Appendix 2):
- Criterion 1 of Ramsar, by being the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom.
  - Criterion 2 of Ramsar, supports over forty rare or local vascular plants which have been recorded for the site since 1970.
  - Criterion 3 of Ramsar as this site regularly supports substantial numbers of individuals from particular groups of waterfowl which are indicative of wetland values, productivity and diversity.
  - Criterion 4 for supporting an important assemblage of breeding birds.
  - Criterion 5 by regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl in winter.
  - Criterion 6 as it regularly supports internationally important numbers of wintering Bewick's and whooper swans and by regularly supporting nationally important numbers of breeding common tern.
  - Criterion 7 by supporting a population of pollan, a salmonid fish which is common in Lough Neagh and one of the few locations in Ireland and one of the two known locations in the UK (the other is Lower Lough Erne).

### 3.28 Special Areas of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation are designated because they contain habitat types and/or species which are rare or threatened within a European context. Active raised bogs, blanket bogs and European dry heaths are examples of priority habitats. Furthermore lutra lutra (otter) and Salmo salar (Atlantic Salmon) are examples of priority species. Further detailed information of the priority habitats and species listed below are available on the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) website: [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea)

There are two designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council as follows:

- **Montiaghs Moss** supports active raised bogs

- **Peatlands Park** supports active raised bogs

### 3.29 **Special Protection Areas**

There is one designated Special Protection Areas within the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council:

- Lough Neagh.

### 3.30 **Lough Neagh SPA**

Situated in the centre of Northern Ireland, Lough Neagh is the largest freshwater lake in Britain and Ireland. The Special Protection Area includes three eutrophic water bodies, Lough Neagh and two related loughs, Lough Beg and Portmore Lough, together with surrounding swamp, fen, wet grassland and swampy woodland. It qualifies as a SPA by regularly supporting internationally important numbers of wintering Bewick's and whooper swans and nationally important numbers of breeding common tern. Also, under Article 4.2 of the Directive it qualifies as a wetland of international importance by regularly supporting over 20,000 of a variety of species of waterfowl in winter.

## **National Nature Conservation Designations**

### 3.31 **Areas of Special Scientific Interest**

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

There are 21 designated Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) within the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Council Borough. The extent of these are illustrated in Appendix 1 – Map (iv) and are as follows:

#### **ACDC:**

- **Annacramph Meadows** Annacramph Meadows ASSI, a 2.5 hectare site in Co. Armagh, is unimproved dry grassland comprised of two small hay-meadows. The fields are notable for the presence of a number of scarce species, generally confined to unimproved grassland.
- **Benburb–Milltown (either side of Blackwater River: both ACDC & DBC)** The Benburb–Milltown area is a special place because of its earth science interest. The area provides access to a sequence of sedimentary rocks exposed within the River Blackwater valley.
- **Caledon and Tynan** Caledon and Tynan is a special place because of its parkland and fen habitats.
- **Crossbane Lough** Crossbane Lough is a large, diverse site with a variety of plant communities.
- **Drumarg** The disused quarry and lands at Drumarg are of importance because of their geology and the presence of an associated cave system.
- **Drumcarn** Drumcarn is a large site with a wide range of habitats and vegetation communities. It has developed in a series of old peat cuttings between heath covered rocky outcrops.
- **Kiltubbrid Loughs** This site comprises a large basin containing two loughs surrounded by a variety of wetland habitats.

- **Moyrourkan Lough** Moyrourkan Lough is a large wetland with a diverse range of communities ranging from open water to swamp and fen. Marginal grasslands and carr woodland provide additional habit diversity.
- **Peatlands Park** (DBC Pre-RPA) Peatlands Park is of special scientific interest because of its woodlands, lowland raised bog and the fen and open waters of Derryadd Lough.
- **Straghans Lough** Straghans Lough is a large, diverse site covering a substantial area of semi-natural vegetation. Many wetland plant communities occur, with transitions from the open waters of the three loughs, through swamp, to a variety of fen types and wet grasslands.
- **Tullybrick Lough** Lying in a small interdrumlin wetland the lough appears to be fed mainly by calcareous springs. As result it has the typical characteristics of a marl lough, with very clear water and extensive growths of stonewort.

#### **BDC:**

- **Aughnavallog** This site is a special place because of its earth science interest. The area provides access to exposures of a granite-like rock called granodiorite that together with a number of other sites describe the Newry Igneous Complex
- **Lackan Bog** This site is the largest single block of lowland peat in County Down. An extensive cutover wetland with a complex mosaic of vegetation communities including poor fen, species-rich areas, pools in old cuttings and scrubby woodland with remnant bog vegetation.
- **Shannaghan Hill** This site is a special place because of its earth science interest. The area provides access to exposures of a granite-like rock called granodiorite and Silurian sedimentary rocks that together with a number of other sites describe the Newry Igneous Complex.

#### **CBC:**

- **Brackagh Bog** The area is of special scientific interest (ASSI) because of its wetland flora and fauna. Brackagh Bog lies in a small tributary valley of the River Bann just 3 km southeast of Portadown.
- **Derryvore** Derryvore is of special scientific interest for its wetland flora and fauna. The area is a diverse herb-rich wetland, with a number of unusual fen communities and several notable species.
- **Lough Gullion** Lough Gullion is located on Charlestown Road, Derrytrasna and is of special scientific interest for its wetland flora and fauna. Good quality fen, swamp and freshwater communities occur, and additional diversity is provided by wet grasslands, cut-over bog, scrub and wet woodland.
- **Lough Neagh (part within ABC)** Lough Neagh, the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom, is a relatively shallow body of water supporting beds of submerged aquatic vegetation fringed by associated species-rich damp grassland, reedbeds, islands, fens, marginal swampy woodland and pasture. Other interesting vegetation types include those associated with pockets of cut-over bog, basalt rock outcrops and boulders, and the mobile sandy shore. Over forty rare or local vascular plants have been recorded for the site since 1970. The Lough and its margin are also home to a large number of rare or local invertebrates. Three notable fish also occur in the Lough, the river Lamprey, the Pollan and the eel. Additionally, Internationally important numbers of waterfowl regularly winter on the Lough and in the summer the Lough supports internationally important numbers of breeding birds.

- **Portmore Lough (part within ABC)** is of special scientific interest because of its well developed transition from open water, through emergent swamp and fen, to carr woodland or fen meadow. It also has a considerable wintering wildfowl population.
- **Montiaghs Moss** Largely cutover lowland raised bog within the Lough Neagh basin consisting of an intricate mosaic of peat ramparts, trenches, pools, drains, interspersed with small hay fields, alder and willow carr and tall hedgerows. The diversity of habitats support a wide range of plant, insect and animal communities associated with both acid bog conditions and rich fen and swamp. Montiaghs Moss is particularly important as a site for rare plants.
- **Selshion** Isolated remnant of the once extensive wetland previously found to the south of Lough Neagh before the waterlevel of the lough was lowered during a series of drainage schemes. Selshion Bog lies off the Moy Road in partadown in an interdrumlin hollow where impeded drainage results in permanent wet conditions.

Further details of designated ASSI sites can be found on the NIEA site:  
[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/protected\\_areas\\_home/new\\_assi\\_landing\\_page.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/protected_areas_home/new_assi_landing_page.htm)

### 3.32 National Nature Reserve

- **Oxford Island National Nature Reserve** Oxford Island is a peninsula on the south-east shore of Lough Neagh. The nature reserve supports a wide range of habitats including wet meadows, reedbeds, woodlands and shoreline scrub, all of which are typical of the lake shore. Sheltered bays provide a refuge for large numbers of wintering wildfowl. Five miles of footpath pass through these grasslands and also take you to woodlands, ponds and the lough shore, while the natural grasslands of Kinnegoe meadows are alive with the colour of flowers and butterflies. The Lough Neagh Discovery Centre which is owned by ACBCBC Council tells the story of the lough's history and wildlife through audio-visual presentations, displays and interactive games.

### 3.33 Nature Reserves

- **Annagariff Nature Reserve (within Peatlands Park)** Annagariff Wood lies at the heart of this reserve, having survived as a hunting preserve for over 200 years. Although felled on occasion, it has never been farmed and most native tree species are present. Oak and birch predominate but rarities such as yew, aspen and alder buckthorn may be seen. Jays frequenting the canopy often scold resident sparrow-hawk and long-eared owls, while on the forest floor, flowers compete for the spring light and badgers find digging easy in the gravelly soils. Wood Ants abound in Annagariff which is the only Irish site for this species. Extensive fens and relict uncut raised bogs fringe the woods, home to many rare species of butterflies and moths. Six species of summering warblers fill the glades with birdsong, while in winter solitary peregrine falcons or hen harriers hunt for wood pigeon and duck. Plant life is also varied with several rare and interesting bog species present, including four carnivorous species which trap and eat insects to supplement the meagre nutrients available in this harsh environment. It is owned and managed by NIEA.

- **Brackagh Nature Reserve** Originally a raised bog, over 300 years of turf cutting, have left Brackagh Moss a maze of pools, drainage channels and peat ramparts. Most of the reddish acid bog peat was removed, exposing older, black, base-rich fen peat underneath. This variety in soils has resulted in an extremely varied flora. It is owned by NIEA.
- **Lough Neagh Islands:** About 80 of the islands in Lough Neagh are managed as part of the Lough Neagh National Nature Reserve. Populations of breeding birds are monitored every year. Tolans point at Derrymore in ABC is owned by NIEA.
- **Mullenakill (within Peatlands Park)** Mullenakill is an 8000 year old raised bog, within whose waterlogged 9m deep core lies the remains of past surface vegetation. Fed only by rainfall, the acidic bog supports a group of highly specialised plants. Moths and butterflies frequent the bog expanse, the rare large heath being a speciality to this site. Look out for the common lizards, they might be trying to spot a butterfly too, but not for the same reasons. Numerous snipe spend winter on the site and woodcock frequent the bog margins. It is owned and managed by NIEA.

## Local Nature Conservation Designations

### 3.34 Local Nature Reserves

- **Montiaghs Moss** – Site located north on Featherbed Road north-west of Aghagallon has been designated as a SAC, an ASSI and is also a local nature reserve. Largely cutover lowland raised bog within the Lough Neagh basin. The diversity of habitats support a wide range of plant, insect and animal communities associated with both acid bog conditions and rich fen and swamp. Owned by NIEA with information board but no formal public access, car park or formal paths through the site.
- **Slantry Wood Local Nature Reserve** – Site located on Charlestown Road, Craigavon adjacent to M12 consists of planted mature woodland, wet woodland and several species rich and rushy meadows. Owned and managed by ABC Council. Accessible to public with surfaced paths, information boards, car parking etc.
- **Turmoyra Marsh** – Grassland Fen. Site located on Kinnego Embankment, east of Boconnell Lane, Lurgan. Owned by NIEA with information board but no formal public access, car park or formal paths.

### 3.35 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCI)

The most common form of conserving biodiversity is designation, protection and management of the best sites of nature conservation importance. While areas of international and national nature conservation importance are already protected from development through other statutory designations, conservation of biodiversity is enhanced in the Plan through the designation of Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs).

In accordance with PPS 2 - Planning and Nature Conservation, SLNCIs are sites designated on the basis of their flora, fauna or earth science interest through local development plans. SLNCIS are either Local Nature Reserves or Wildlife Refuges. Local Nature Reserves are those established by District Councils under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. Wildlife Refuges are provided for under the Wildlife Order.

Below is a list of the 77 SLNCIs within the ACBCBC Plan Area by legacy council area. Further information regarding the rationale for SLNCI designation and their boundaries are contained within the existing Area Plans (Technical Supplements).

### **Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon Plan Area SLNCIs (77):**

#### **ACDC (AAP 2004 Alteration No 1):**

- Annacramph Lane
- Knockbane Bog
- Carganamuck Quarry
- Drumarg Cliff & Karst
- Loughgall Lake & Woodlands
- Argory Moss
- Loughnashade
- Aughnagurgan Lough
- Marlacoo Lake
- Carnagh Forest & Lakes
- Milford Cutting
- Carrigatuke Fen
- Milltown Benburb
- Carryhugh Fen
- Mowillin South
- Castle Dillion Lough
- Mowillin South West
- Clare Glen Woodland
- Navan Fort
- Clay Lake
- Outlack Bog
- Darkley Reservoir
- Tullybrick Lough
- Drumarg Cliff & Karst
- Tullynawood Lake
- Gentle Owens Lake
- Tynan Abbey
- Gosford Forest Park

#### **BDC (BNMAP 2015):**

- Islandderry Lough
- Glass Moss
- Rowantree Moss

- Drumbroneth Fen
- Skillyscolban Lake and Big Bog
- Gall Bog
- Park Bog
- Mullabrack Fen
- Drumaran Lake
- Kernan Lake
- Blue Bog Road
- Huntly Plantation and Havelock Woods
- Corbet Fen
- Drumiller
- Beechwood
- Chinauley Woods
- Corbet Lough
- Scarva Pond
- Edenderry Woodland
- Loughbrickland House
- Lough Shark
- Lough Brickland
- Danes Cast Fen
- Rathfriland
- Ballysallagh Fen
- Lough Moss
- Black Bog
- Shannaghan Hill
- Ballyroney Lake
- Gibson's Hill Woods and Fen
- Gargarry Fen
- Annahunshigo
- Hunshigo Lake
- Lisnisk
- Knocknagore Fen
- Katesbridge Wetland
- Ballymaganlis Wood (within Dromore SDL)

**CBC (CAP 2010):**

- Clare Bog
- Derryvore
- Craigavon Lake North (CUA)
- Foymore
- Derrykeeran
- Knocknagore Fen
- Derryvane North
- Lurgan Park Lake (CUA)
- Derryvane South
- Selshion Bog

#### **Ex-DBC (DSTAP 2010):**

- Derryhubbert / Derryardy
- Derryore

#### **3.36 Earth Science Interests and Other Assets (SLNCIs)**

The term earth science is taken to include both geology and geomorphology, and as the rocks and landforms of Northern Ireland form the surface on which life has developed, they have a major influence in determining the biodiversity of regions and, more directly, the physical character of the landscape.

Locations within geological / earth science interest or assets within the Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon Borough Council Area are as follows:

- **Armagh** – Annacramph Lane & Carganamuck Quarry, Drumarg Cliff & Karst, Navan Fort and Tynan Abbey.
- **Banbridge** – Ardglass, Ballymagreehan Quarry, Rathfriland, Slieve Croob and Shannaghan Hill.
- **Craigavon** – No geological SLNCIs were designated in the CAP 2010.

The geological SLNCIs listed above form part of the 77 designated ACBCBC SLNCIs detailed at section 3.33

#### **Landscape Character within our Council Area**

**3.37** Armagh Banbridge Craigavon comprises a diverse mix of landscapes including the southern shores of the Lough Neagh Basin, the orchard area concentrated around Loughgall, the Upper Bann Valley between Portadown and Katesbridge through Banbridge and the southern edges of the council containing the Carrigatuke Hills and Iveagh Slopes.

**3.38** Recognition to landscapes of national importance is given through the designation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The purpose of this designation is to protect and conserve the scenic qualities of the area and promote their enjoyment. The Slieve Croob portion of the Mourne AONB which was formerly within Banbridge District Council area has transferred to Newry, Mourne & Down District post RPA. Therefore, there are now no AONBs within the ABC Borough.

**3.39** All of the NI landscape has been classified by the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000. This uses an accepted systematic method of landscape character assessment. The NI landscape has been subdivided into 130 different landscape character areas, each with a distinctive character and number as detailed below. ABC comprises twenty-three distinct Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). A number of these LCAs overlap with neighbouring legacy district council areas and are detailed below and illustrated on Appendix 1 Map (ii).

#### **ACDC:**

- 46 – Blackwater Valley
- 47 – Loughgall Orchard Belt
- 65 – Upper Bann Floodplains
- 66 - Armagh Drumlins

- 67 – Armagh / Banbridge Hills
- 68 – Carrigatuke Hills

**BDC:**

- 65 – Upper Bann Floodplain
- 67 – Armagh/Banbridge Hills
- 69 – Newry Basin
- 76 – Ballyrone Basin
- 77 – Iveagh Slopes
- 78 – North Banbridge Hills
- 81 – Kilwarlin Plateau
- 82 – Dromore Lowlands
- 83 – Lower Slieve Croob Foothills (portion still in ABC)
- 84 – Mourne Foothills (portion still in ABC)
- 87 - Slieve Croob Summits (portion still in ABC)
- 88 – Craggy Dromara Uplands
- 89 – Hillsborough Slopes

**CBC:**

- 47 – Loughgall Orchard Belt
- 62 - East Lough Neagh Points
- 63 – Portmore Lough Fringe
- 64 – Lough Neagh Peatlands
- 65 – Upper Bann Floodplains
- 78 – North Banbridge Hills
- 79 – Craigavon Plateau
- 80 – Donaghcloney Valley
- 81 – Kilwarlin Plateau
- 100 – Upper Ballinderry Plateau

**DBC:**

- 47 – Loughgall Orchard Belt.

**3.40** The Northern Ireland Character Assessment 2000 (NILCA) also identifies **Areas of Scenic Quality**. They represent a second tier (below AONBs) in the hierarchy of landscape classifications which can be designated within Local Development Plans as Areas of High Scenic Value. Within the NILCA documents, there are two such ABC Areas of Scenic Quality as follows:

- Blackwatertown Valley; and
- the Lough Neagh Shores.

**3.41** A full examination of these Landscape Character Areas (LCA) will be addressed in the forthcoming Armagh Banbridge Craigavon's Landscape Assessment which is accompanied by a Pressure Analysis identifying areas of landscape that are particularly vulnerable to development. These two documents inform decisions on the need for environmental designations such as Areas of High Scenic Value or Special Countryside Area's (SCA's). Additionally this evidence will also help direct policy in the rural area.

## 4.0 ACBCBC SITE BASED FACILITIES

This section of the report contains information on Borough site based facilities with public access, their key features and ownership.

### 4.1 Public Access – Site Based Facilities

Public bodies own or manage significant land holdings and there are two types of public access in the Plan Area:

- Accesses associated with site based facilities such as forest parks, urban parks and lakes that are generally owned and managed by public bodies as outlined below; &
- Accesses intended to provide opportunities to explore wider areas of the open countryside.

### ACBCBC facilities owned and managed by public bodies

#### 4.2 Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Forestry Service):

##### Public Forests (NI):

The following are forests owned and managed by Forestry Service (DARD) with public access:

- **Drumbanagher Forest** is a small, mostly coniferous woodland close to a private estate near the village of Poyntzpass.
- The **Fews Forest** is a large conifer plantation of over 1,000 hectares, divided into three dozen or more individual forest blocks and bisected by numerous public roads.
- **Gosford Forest** Park comprises 240 hectares of mixed woodland and open parkland.
- **Loughgall Forest** is a mixed coniferous and broadleaf woodland located near the village of Loughgall.
- **Seagahan Forest** is a small coniferous woodland beside Seagahan Reservoir.

##### Examples of other ABC parks/locations open to the public & containing forested areas/walks:

- Oxford Island Nature Reserve (ACBCBC);
- Edenvilla Park, Portadown (ACBCBC);
- Craigavon City Park (inc Tannaghmore Gardens & Craigavon Lakes: ACBCBC);
- Portadown Public Park(ACBCBC);
- Coney Island, Maghery (owned by National Trust & managed by ACBCBC);
- Maghery Country Park (ACBCBC);
- Loughgall Country Park (ACBCBC);
- Corcrair Community Woodland, Portadown (Woodland Trust);
- Taghnevan Community Woodland, Lurgan (Woodland Trust);
- Slantry Wood, Charlestown Rd, Craigavon (owned by NIEA & managed in Trust by ACBCBC);

- Lurgan Park, Lurgan (ACBCBC);
- Ballyrone Walk (Lackan Bog: asserted public footpath);
- Gilford Riverside Park (ACBCBC);
- Loughbrickland park (ACBCBC);
- Whytes Estate, Loughbrickland (private owner offers access rights);
- Newry Canal Way (portion within ACBCBC owned and managed by Council);
- Ballymaganlis Wood, Dromore (Woodland Trust);
- Huntly Wood, Banbridge (ACBCBC);
- Solitude Park, Banbridge (ACBCBC);
- Markethill Wood, Markethill (Woodland Trust);
- Clare Glen, Tandragee (ACBCBC);
- The Palace Demesne Public Park (ACBCBC);
- The Mall, Armagh City (Owned by Mall Trustees & managed in trust by ACBCBC);
- Armagh Observatory Grounds (DCAL & ACBCBC);
- Ardress House, Ardress (National Trust);
- The Argory, The Moy (National Trust);
- Navan Fort Complex Grounds (ACBCBC); and
- Cranagh Wood, Armagh (Woodland Trust).

Full details of parks, open space and recreation facilities and amenity areas will be detailed within the ABC Open Space & Recreation Preparatory Study Paper. This is scheduled to come before Council in Spring 2016.

#### **4.3 Northern Ireland Environmental Agency**

NIEA manage the following nature reserve sites with additional detail contained in Appendix 5:

- Peatlands Park (containing Annagariff & Mullenakill nature reserves) is a 266 hectare area established in 1990. It is located east of Tamnamore (M1 Junction 13) in County Armagh provides visitor facilities, car parking, paths and a narrow gauge railway.
- Lough Neagh Islands National Nature Reserve (Lough Neagh islands comprises a series of small Nature Reserves around the shoreline of Lough Neagh. The council boundary splits Lough Neagh into sections with a portion within ACBCBC).
- Brackagh Bog (Moss) reserve is situated just off the A27, 2 miles south-east of Portadown and has two parking lay-bys along the Brackagh Moss road with an information panel and a path system north of the road.

#### **4.4 National Trust**

The National Trust manage two sites within ACBCBC:

- The Argory estate, east of The Moy; and
- Ardress House and grounds west of Portadown.  
(Data Source: National Trust 2015).

#### 4.5 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

The RSPB manage Portmore Lough nature reserve within ACBCBC:

- Portmore Lough nature reserve is a small lough and reserve located 1km east of Lough Neagh approximately 3km north-west of Derrymore. It is owned and managed by the RSPB and a portion of the lough is within ABC Borough.

#### Other ACBCBC facilities intended to access the wider countryside

#### 4.6 The Ulster Way

The Ulster Way, Northern Ireland's only long distance walking route, passes through the centre of the ABC Borough. There are two sections, a quality off-road section between Portadown and Newry along the Newry Canal and an on-road link section between Scarva and Aughnacloy as detailed below:

##### **The Newry Canal (Quality section)**

The Newry Canal Way is an 18-mile long section between Newry and Portadown exploring the restored towpath of the historic Newry Canal. This is a journey through the industrial heritage as well as the rolling countryside of southeast Ulster, and it offers walkers the chance to see a variety of birds and aquatic life. The firm, flat surfaces make this route well suited to all levels of walker.

##### **Scarva to Aughnacloy (Link section)**

Link Section linking Quality Section – Newry Canal Way to Quality Section – Sliabh Beagh Way; following an intricate series of rural roads taking in Tandragee, Clare Glen, Armagh, Killylea and Caledon. There are transport links between these Quality Sections (Data Source: <http://www.walkni.com/ulsterway>).

#### 4.7 The National Cycle Network

The National Cycle Network is a millennium project, the aim of which is to provide a safe, attractive, high quality network of traffic-free paths and traffic calmed roads running through and connecting to major urban centres of the United Kingdom. It will also provide a major new amenity for walkers and people with disabilities. The charity Sustrans is co-ordinating the project, which involved a partnership with District Councils, land-owning bodies, Government departments and specialist and local interest groups.

The following is a list of the National Cycle Routes in the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough:

- **Newry Canal (Route 9)** – This cycle and walking route travels along the Newry Canal Towpath from the Bann Bridge in Portadown to the Town Hall in Newry along a 20 mile path. The towpath passes through Scarva and Poyntzpass.
- **Loughshore Trail (Route 94)** – This route starts at Maghery, travels through Portadown and back towards the Lough at Kinnego Marina (Oxford Island). The route then follows the Lough up towards Antrim past Aghagallon and Gawleys Gate past Portmore Lough where it leaves the ABC Borough.

- **Ulster Canal (Route 11)** – The portion of this cycle route within ABC starts at Maghera past Peatlands Park through Clonmore, Tamnamore, Collegeland and Charlemont before leaving the borough at Blackwatertown.

(Data Source: Sustrans National Cycle Network website 2015).

**4.8** Below are details of other local cycle routes within the Plan Area that contain elements of and link into one or more of the national cycle routes (Source: [www.cycleni.com](http://www.cycleni.com)):

- Orchard County: A 33 mile route travels from Loughgall-Blackwatertown-Charlemont-The Argory-Clonmore-Maghera-Birches-Annaghmore.
- Tassagh: A 25 mile route travels from Armagh City-The Navan Centre– Milford-Tassagh Viaduct-Seagahan Dam-Killicapple-Cavanacaw- Armagh City.
- Craigavon Cycle Trail: A 35 mile route travels from Portadown along the Newry Canal Towpath to Knock Bridge then Knocknamuckly-Bluestone-Bleary-Waringstown-Magherealin- Cranagh Bridge, Aghagallon along the Lagan Canal – Kinnego – Craigavon Lakes & Park – Portadown.
- Bann Montiagh Trails: This routes offers a number of trails that travel along three routes ranging between 5 and 13 miles between the River Bann and Lough Neagh southern shore. It includes points of interest along the way such as the Bannfoot where the Bann meets Lough Neagh, Lough Gullion, Ardmore Point, Derrytrasna and through the townlands of Derrytagh South, Derryloiste, Derryinver, Derrycrow, Derrytagh, Ardmore and Derrycor.
- Birches & Maghera Trails: This routes offers a number of trails that travel from Maghera Country Park – Milltown-Columbkille beside the Bannfoot-The Birches-Clonmakate-past Derryadd Lough on towards and through Peatlands Park – Maghera.
- Katesbridge: A 19 mile route travels from Katesbridge alongside the route of then former railway line runs close to Corbet Lough then into the Dromara Hills towards Waringsford-Fedany Road –Katesbridge.
- Drumlins and Canal. A 22 mile route that is a mixture of rolling drumlin countryside and flat canal towpath. The route starts with Banbridge-Loughbrickland. From here the route climbs steeply to overlook Loughbrickland Lake and then you descend towards Poyntzpass. The route joins the canal towpath here for a six-mile flat run to Scarva. Soon the route leaves the canal towpath at Madden’s Bridge and joins the main Gilford to Tandragee road for a short spell before turning into Gilford, where the route climbs to the north of the town before descending through the village of Lawrencetown. You then cross the River Bann and follow the south side of the river to Banbridge.

## **Canals & Waterways Ireland**

**4.9** The following Canals run through portions of the ABC Borough. The waterways linked Lough Neagh and Portadown to Newry and the Irish Sea (Newry Canal),

Lough Neagh to Belfast Lough (Lagan Canal) and the Ulster Canal (Maghera to Lough Erne and the Shannon). Angling, boating, jet skiing, canoeing, cycling, walking, rowing and sailing are all available along these waterways. Service facilities along the route are provided at Oxford Island on Lough Neagh, Scarva Visitors Centre on the Newry Canal and various points along the Lagan Towpath. (Data Source: <http://www.waterwaysireland.org>)

#### **4.10 Ulster Canal:**

The Ulster Canal is a disused canal running through part of County Armagh, County Tyrone and County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland and County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland. The Ulster Canal links to Lough Neagh and the River Bann within ABC and a portion of the Canal still exists between Charlemont and Blackwatertown. In the early 19th century the idea of linking the lowlands around Lough Neagh with the Erne Basin and the River Shannon system became popular with the more progressive landowners and merchants of Armagh, Monaghan and Fermanagh. The Ulster Canal was built between 1825 and 1842 and was 74 km (46 mile) long with 26 locks. It ran from Charlemont on the River Blackwater to Wattle Bridge on the River Finn, south-east of Upper Lough Erne.

Planning permission was granted in 2010 to restore part of the historic Ulster Canal that has been disused since 1929. This involves two stretches: 5.5kms of river navigation from Quivvy Lough on the Erne System to Gortnacarrow in Co Fermanagh and 8.5kms of canal from Gortnacarrow to Clones in Co Monaghan. To date, no official proposals have come forward along the ACBCBC stretch of canal.

#### **4.11 Newry Canal:**

The Newry Canal was built to link the Tyrone coalfields (via Lough Neagh and the River Bann) to the Irish Sea at Carlingford Lough near Newry. It was the first summit level canal to be built in Ireland or Great Britain. It was authorised by the Commissioners of Inland Navigation for Ireland, and was publicly funded. It was opened in 1742, but there were issues with the lock construction, the width of the summit level and the water supply. Below Newry, a ship canal was opened in 1769, and both Newry and the canal flourished. The canal closed in 1936 and most of it was officially abandoned in 1949, with some in 1956. The ship canal closed in 1966 and the Authority was wound up in 1974.

Two sections of the redundant canal were bought by local authorities, for two pounds each, and the middle section was given to another two local authorities. The ship canal has been reopened for use by pleasure craft, and there have been attempts to reopen the Newry Canal, which have not yet been successful. The towpath between Portadown and Newry has become part of a long distance footpath and also part of the National Cycle Network. Some restoration has taken place, and the canal has become a haven for wildlife. Parts of it are also used for coarse fishing.

#### **4.12 Lagan Canal:**

The Lagan Canal was a 27 mile canal built to connect Belfast to Lough Neagh. The first section, which is a river navigation, was opened in 1763, and linked Belfast to Lisburn. The second section from Lisburn to Lough Neagh includes a small amount

of river navigation, but was largely built as a canal. At its peak it was one of the most successful of the Irish canals, but ultimately it was unable to compete with road and rail transport, and the two sections were closed in 1954 and 1958. The central section from Sprucefield to Moira was destroyed by the construction of the M1 motorway in the 1960s. Responsibility for most of it remains with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, although the section between Aghalee Bridge and Lough Neagh, including the final ten locks, passed into private ownership. There is an active campaign to re-open the canal, including reinstatement of the central section. The portion of the Canal between Aghalee Bridge and Lough Neagh is within ABC Borough.

There are proposals to restore the canal to once again provide a navigable link between Belfast and Lough Neagh. The Lagan Canal Restoration Trust was a logical development of this group, and was formed as a company limited by guarantee in 2008 with representatives from the four legacy councils which administer the areas through which the canal runs, and six other key partners, including the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure, and the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland. There are also representatives on the Trust Board from other local interest groups representing issues such as natural/built heritage, engineering, farming, tourism and business and community groups. The principle objective of the Lagan Canal Trust is to re-open the Lagan Navigation from Belfast Harbour to Lough Neagh.

A small section of the canal near Lisburn Civic Centre, which includes lock 12, has been restored to navigable condition, and there are three major sections of towpath which can now be accessed by the public. All of the locks and many of the other structures associated with the canal are scheduled monuments, which gives them some protection. A proposal for a £2.5 million scheme to build a new lock, weir and footbridge at Stranmillis Gateway, at the site of the original first lock, has been planned and is undergoing an economic appraisal. The project will include restoration of the second lock at Corby Wood. Lock 3 at Newforge has been restored, together with the lock keeper's cottage, with funding provided by the Heritage Fund, the Lottery Partnership Scheme and the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure. A 0.95-mile stretch of the towpath has been reopened at Aghagallon, following work by Craigavon Borough Council to obtain access rights. Since the closure of the canal, the section between Aghalee and Lough Neagh has been privately owned, and this is the first part of that section where public access has been restored.

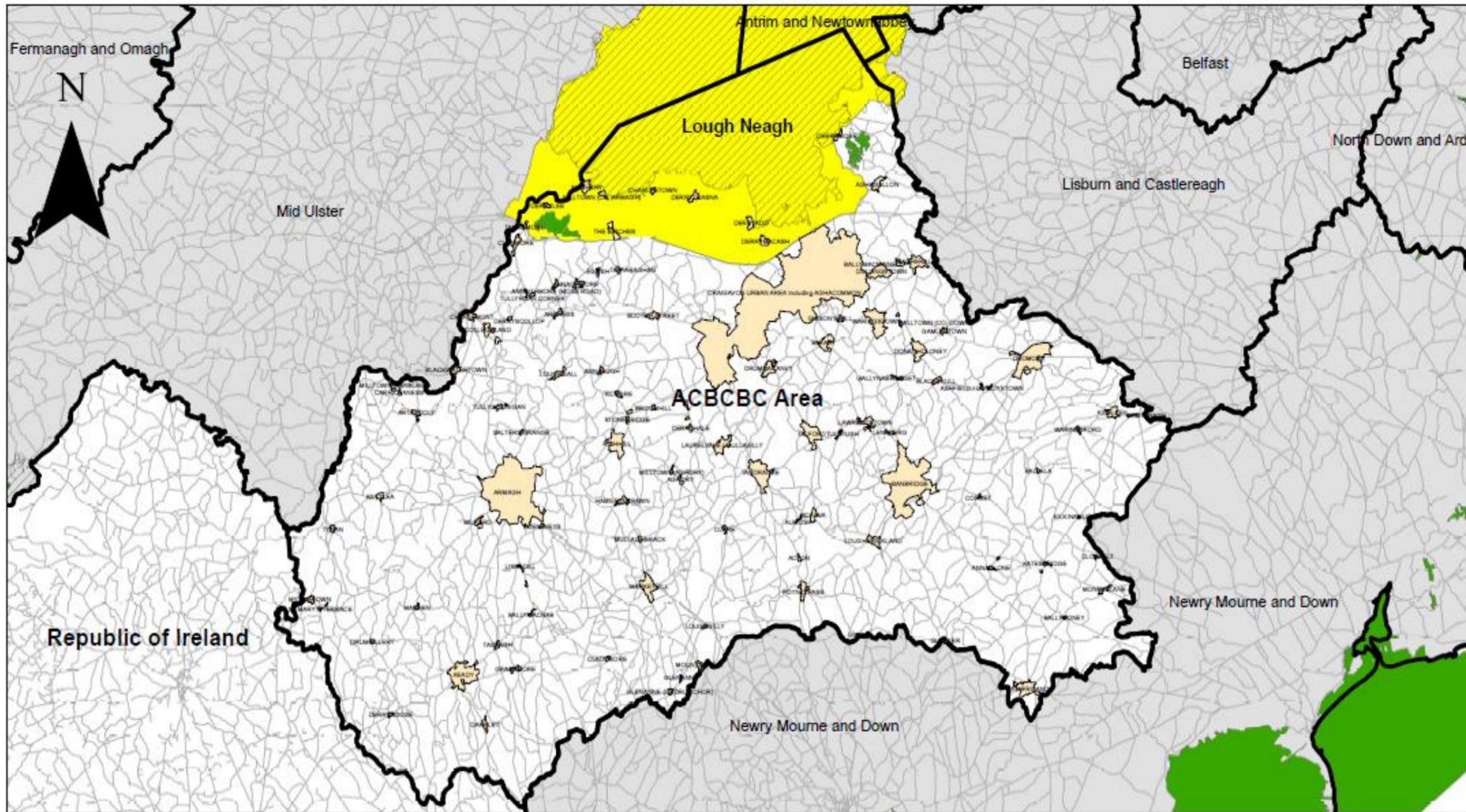
## **5.0 KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1** This paper has outlined the range of environmental assets, both built and natural, which are to be found within our council area. It has also set out the statutory obligations which a local authority must meet when preparing a local development plan. The Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Local Development Plan will need to balance development with the protection of the environmental assets already identified at international, national and regional level.
- 5.2** There are also many sites which are currently not identified and are of local Importance. Therefore, in the process of preparing the LDP further environmental sites including sites of local nature conservation importance, areas of archaeological potential, local landscape policy areas and areas of townscape character may be identified. It will also bring forward policies or proposals for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural and built heritage.
- 5.3** This paper was written to reflect the current position within the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council area as of February 2016.

## **Appendix 1: ACBCBC Environmental Assets Maps**

- (i) Map 1: ACBCBC International Nature Conservation Designation Map**
- (ii) Map 2: ACBCBC Landscape Character Area Map**
- (iii) Map 3: ACBCBC Key Built Heritage Designation Map**
- (iv) Map 4: ACBCBC National Nature Conservation Designation Map**

**APPENDIX 1.- ACBCBC Sites of International Nature Conservation Importance (SPA, SAC and RAMSAR's)**

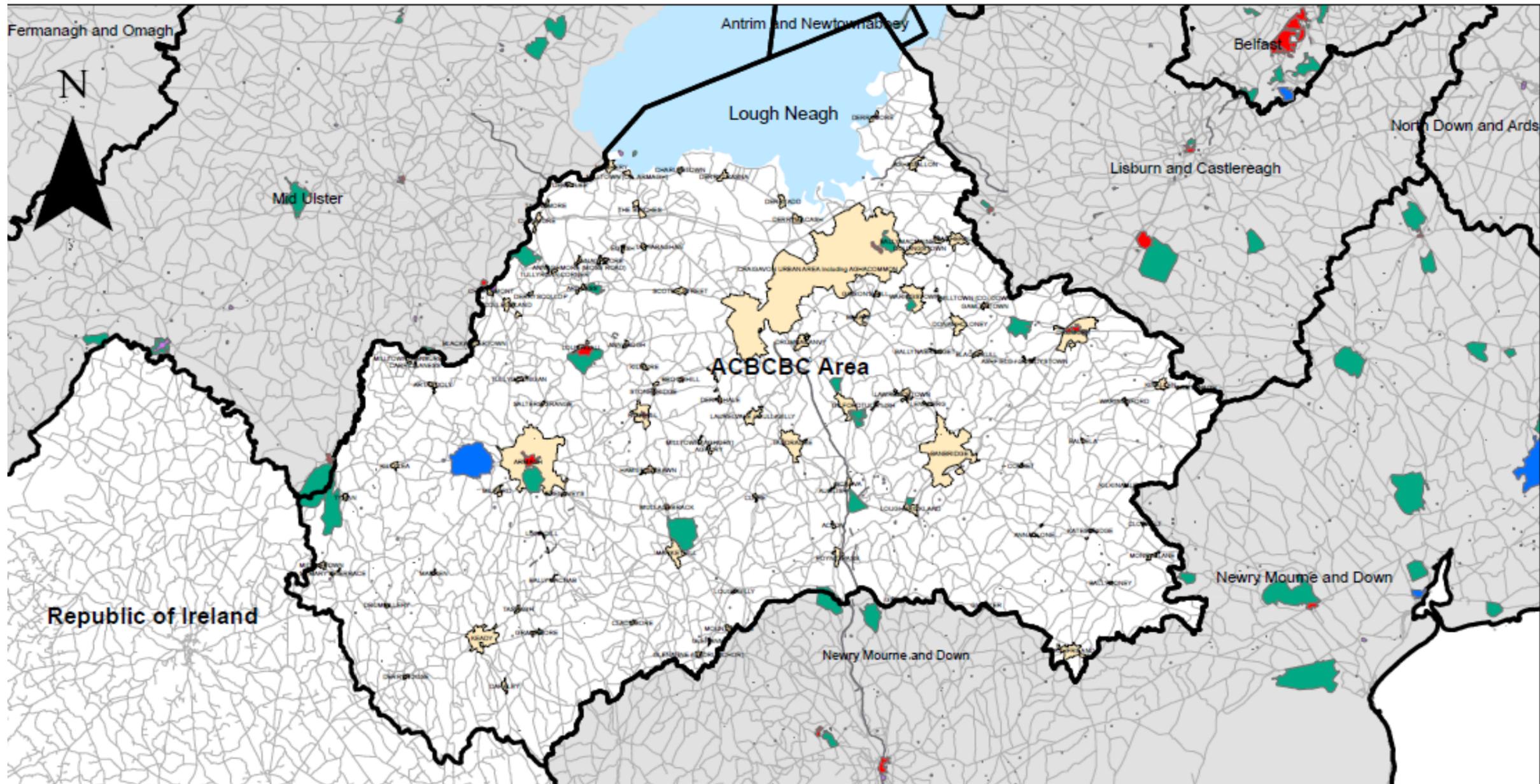


**Legend**

-  Settlement Development Limit
-  Special Protected Area (SPA)
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  RAMSAR
-  Plan Area



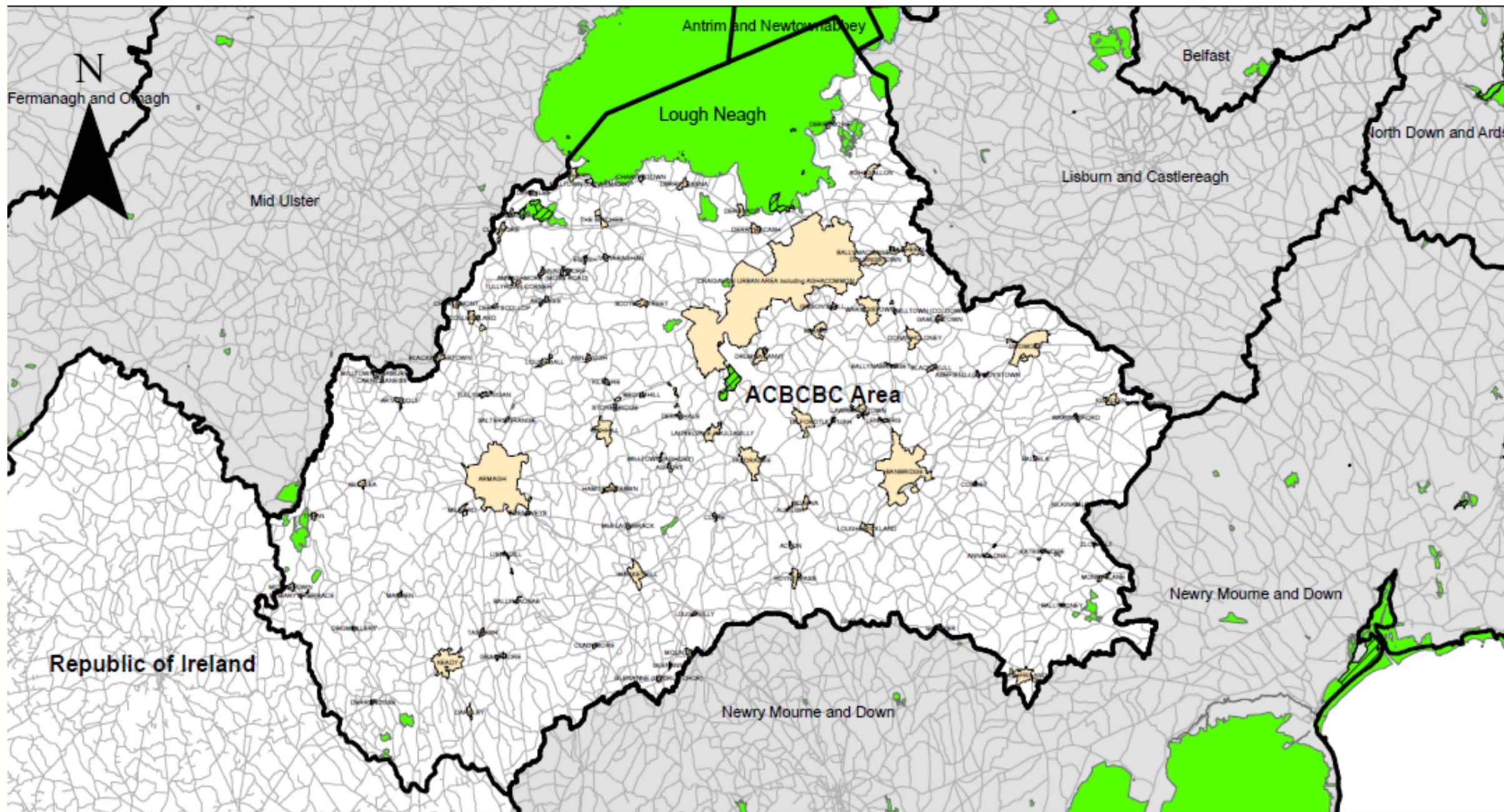
### APPENDIX 3.- ACBCBC Built Heritage (CA's, HPGD, Scheduled Monuments and ASAI)



#### Legend

- Conservation Areas (Armagh, Richhill, Loughgall, Lurgan & Dromore)
- Navan Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI)
- Plan Area
- Historic Parks, Gardens & Demesnes (Registered Sites Only)
- Scheduled Monuments in State Care
- Settlement Development Limit

## APPENDIX 4.- ACBCBC Sites of National Nature Conservation Importance (ASSI, NNR and NR)



### Legend

- Settlement Development Limit
- National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Nature Reserves (NR)
- Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)
- Plan Area

## Appendix 2:

### Lough Neagh & Lough Beg Ramsar Site Details

The Lough Neagh & Lough Beg Ramsar site qualifies under Criterion 1 of the Ramsar convention by being the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom. It is a relatively shallow body of water supporting beds of submerged aquatic vegetation fringed by associated species-rich damp grassland, reedbeds, islands, fens, marginal swampy woodland and pasture. Other interesting vegetation types include those associated with pockets of cut-over bog, basalt rock outcrops and boulders, and the mobile sandy shore.

It also, under Criterion 2 of Ramsar, supports over forty rare or local vascular plants which have been recorded for the site since 1970. The most notable are eight-stamened waterwort, marsh pea, Irish lady's tresses orchid, alder buckthorn, narrow small-reed and holy grass.

The Lough and its margin are also home to a large number of rare or local invertebrates, including two aquatic and two terrestrial molluscs, a freshwater shrimp *Mysis relicta*, eight beetles, five hoverflies, seven moths and two butterflies.

Of the rare beetles recorded two, *Stenus palposus* and *Dyschirus obscurus*, have their only known Irish location around the Lough Neagh. The Lough also supports twelve species of dragonfly.

Under Criterion 3 this site regularly supports substantial numbers of individuals from particular groups of waterfowl which are indicative of wetland values, productivity and diversity.

In addition, this site is of special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of Northern Ireland because of the quality and peculiarities of its flora and fauna. A large number of plants and animal species are confined or almost confined to this area within Northern Ireland.

Lough Neagh also qualifies under Criterion 4 for supporting an important assemblage of breeding birds including, in nationally important numbers, great crested grebe, gadwall, pochard, tufted duck, snipe and redshank. Other important breeding wetland species include shelduck, teal, shoveler, lapwing and curlew.

The site qualifies under Criterion 5 by regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl in winter including nationally and internationally important numbers of pochard, tufted duck, goldeneye, little grebe, great crested grebe, cormorant, mute swan, greylag goose, shelduck, wigeon, gadwall, teal, mallard, shoveler, scaup, and coot.

Under Criterion 6 it regularly supports internationally important numbers of wintering Bewick's and whooper swans and under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting nationally important numbers of breeding common tern.

Finally, the site qualifies under Criterion 7 by supporting a population of pollan, one of the few locations in Ireland and one of the two known locations in the UK (the other is Lower Lough Erne). The Pollan, a salmonid fish that is common in Lough Neagh, also survives in low numbers in Loughs Erne, Ree and Derg. It is one of the most important species in Ireland in terms of faunal biodiversity since it occurs nowhere else in Europe, and the Irish populations are all well outside the typical range – the Arctic Ocean drainages of Siberia, Alaska and NW Canada, where it is known as the Arctic cisco.

Source: [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/ramsar/ramsar\\_loughneagh.shtml](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/ramsar/ramsar_loughneagh.shtml)

## **Appendix 3:**

### **ABC Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Details**

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are those which have been given greater protection under the European legislation of The Habitat's Directive. They have been designated because of a possible threat to the special habitats or species which they contain and to provide increased protection to a variety of animals, plants and habitats of importance to biodiversity both on a national and international scale.

- Montiaghs Moss
- Peatlands Park

## **Appendix 4:**

### **ABC Special Protection Area (SPA) Details**

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated under the European Commission Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. All European Community member States are required to identify internationally important areas for breeding, over-wintering and migrating birds and designate them as Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

- Lough Neagh SPA (a portion of the Lough SPA within ACBCBC Borough)

## Appendix 5:

### ABC Nature Reserves

#### National Nature Reserves

**Oxford Island National Nature Reserve** Oxford Island is a peninsula on the south-east shore of Lough Neagh. The nature reserve supports a wide range of habitats including wet meadows, reedbeds, woodlands and shoreline scrub, all of which are typical of the lake shore.

Sheltered bays provide a refuge for large numbers of wintering wildfowl, especially diving ducks that can be easily seen from birdwatching hides overlooking the lough. Whooper and Bewick's swans can usually be found grazing on neighbouring fields. Five miles of footpath pass through these grasslands and also take you to woodlands, ponds and the lough shore. Displaying Great-Crested Grebes, duckling broods and many other wetland birds can be easily seen in the spring and summer while the natural grasslands of Kinnegoe meadows are alive with the colour of flowers and butterflies.

The Lough Neagh Discovery Centre tells the story of the lough's history and wildlife through audio-visual presentations, computers and interactive games.

These have been designed to challenge and inform visitors on aspects of the lough's ecology and management in an entertaining way.

#### Nature Reserves:

**Annagariff Nature Reserve (within Peatlands Park)** Annagariff Wood lies at the heart of this reserve, having survived as a hunting preserve for over 200 years. Although felled on occasion, it has never been farmed and most native tree species are present. Oak and birch predominate but rarities such as yew, aspen and alder buckthorn may be seen. Jays frequenting the canopy often scold resident sparrowhawk and long-eared owls, while on the forest floor, flowers compete for the spring light and badgers find digging easy in the gravelly soils. Wood Ants abound in Annagariff which is the only Irish site for this species. Their nests, some as big as a double bed, are monuments to their hard work. Extensive fens and relict uncut raised bogs fringe the woods, home to many rare species of butterflies and moths.

Six species of summering warblers fill the glades with birdsong, while in winter solitary peregrine falcons or hen harriers hunt for wood pigeon and duck.

Plant life is also varied with several rare and interesting bog species present, including four carnivorous species which trap and eat insects to supplement the meagre nutrients available in this harsh environment.

**Mullenakill (within Peatlands Park)** Mullenakill is an 8000 year old raised bog, within whose waterlogged 9m deep core lies the remains of past surface vegetation.

Fed only by rainfall, the acidic bog supports a group of highly specialised plants.

Most vital to the ecosystem are the *Sphagnum* mosses, which trap the water that helps to preserve the plant remains. With nutrients always scarce, tiny red sundews supplement their diets by catching and eating insects.

However, colour is abundant, the whites and yellows of the summer cotton-grasses and asphodels, giving way to the vivid autumn hues of the heathers and cranberries, while the mosses splash the surface all year long, with resplendant reds and oranges. Moths and butterflies frequent the bog expanse, the rare large heath being a speciality to this site.

Look out for the common lizards, they might be trying to spot a butterfly too, but not for the

same reasons. Numerous snipe spend winter on the site and woodcock frequent the bog margins.

**Brackagh Nature Reserve** Originally a raised bog, over 300 years of turf cutting, have left Brackagh Moss a maze of pools, drainage channels and peat ramparts. Most of the reddish acid bog peat was removed, exposing older, black, base-rich fen peat underneath. This variety in soils has resulted in an extremely varied flora.

Dense alder and willow carr woodlands open on to luxuriant species-rich fens and shallow pools, while in a few areas acidic bog mosses survive, bedecked with insect-eating sundew plants. In summer, pond edges and glades teem with the frenetic buzz of a myriad of insects.

**Lough Neagh Islands:** About 80 of the islands in Lough Neagh are managed as part of the Lough Neagh National Nature Reserve. Populations of breeding birds are monitored every year. On the islands as a whole, about 500 pairs of mallard, 300 tufted duck, 500 great-crested grebes, 30,000 black-headed gulls, 150 common terns and 60 mute swans nest. Islands are essential to provide secure nesting sites for many species of wetland birds as they provide safety and seclusion from predators such as foxes, rats and mink and disturbance from people and dogs. Much of the management work on the islands is carried out in the winter. Scrub is cleared to provide the best habitats for breeding birds such as gulls, ducks and terns. Competition for nest sites is intense on some of the larger islands that have black-headed gull colonies. Ducks and terns often choose to nest amongst these dense gull colonies as they gain additional protection from predators too wary to enter the noisy colony.

Source: [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/protected\\_areas\\_home/nature\\_resintro.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/protected_areas_home/nature_resintro.htm)

## Appendix 6:

### ACBCBC Historic Parks, Gardens & Demesnes

NIEA has prepared a register of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest in Northern Ireland. There are currently 14 registered historic parks, gardens and demesnes within Armagh Banbridge Craigavon District as follows:

#### ACDC (6):

- Ardross
- Argory
- Gosford Castle
- Loughgall Manor House
- The Mall
- Tynan Abbey

#### BDC (5):

- Elmfield
- Loughbrickland House
- Gilford Castle
- Gill Hall
- Scarva House

#### CBC (3):

- Lurgan Park (Brownlow House)
- Coney Island
- Waringstown House

In addition to the NIEA register of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest, there are also 15 ACBCBC supplementary sites which retain only some elements of their original form as follows:

#### ACDC (6):

- Castledillon
- Darton
- Fellows Hall
- Hockley Lodge
- Summer Island
- Tandragee Castle
- The Observatory

#### BDC (5):

- Lawrencetown
- Lisnabrague Lodge
- Brookfield House
- Moyallon House
- Wood Bank

CBC (4):

- Eden Villa
- Fairview House
- Raughlan
- Straw Hill

There are also three Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes not detailed above which have a small portion within the ACBCBC Plan Area but mainly fall within an adjoining council area (Mid Ulster: Benburb & Caledon and Newry, Mourne & Down: Drumbanagher).

SOURCE: [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/built-home/recording/gardens\\_r.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/built-home/recording/gardens_r.htm)

## **Appendix 7:**

### **List of NI Priority Habitat occurring in ACBCBC**

1. Arable Field Margins
2. Blanket Bog
3. Calcareous grassland
4. Coastal and Floodplain grazing marsh
5. Eutrophic Standing waters
6. Hedgerows
7. Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
8. Lowland Fens
9. Lowland Heathland
10. Lowland Raised Bog
11. Mesotrophic Lakes
12. Mixed Ashwoods
13. Oakwoods
14. Oligotrophic and Dystrophic Lakes
15. Open Mosaic Habitats on previously Developed Land
16. Parkland
17. Ponds
18. Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures
19. Reedbeds
20. Rivers and Streams
21. Traditional Orchards
22. Wet Woodland

**Source: ACBCBC Conservation Service December 2015**

## Appendix 8:

### List of NI Priority Species List occurring in ACBCBC

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Ants	<i>Formica aquilonia</i>	Scottish wood ant

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Bees	<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	A bee

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Beetles	<i>Agabus congener</i>	relative diver
Beetles	<i>Bagous frit</i>	short sloth weevil
Beetles	<i>Bagous l u t u l e n t u s</i>	horsetail sloth weevil
Beetles	<i>Carabus clatratus</i>	a ground beetle
Beetles	<i>Donacia aquatica</i>	zircon reed beetle
Beetles	<i>Donacia bicolora</i>	a beetle
Beetles	<i>Donacia cinerea</i>	hairy reed beetle
Beetles	<i>Dyschirius obscurus</i>	a ground beetle
Beetles	<i>Ha/iplus variegatus</i>	variegated crawler water beetle
Beetles	<i>Hydrochus brevis</i>	bereft scavenger beetle
Beetles	<i>Laccophilus hyalinus</i>	dinghy skipper
Beetles	<i>Ochthebius bico/on</i>	::moss beetle
Beetles	<i>Ochthebius exscu/ptus</i>	a moss beetle
Beetles	<i>Oreodytes davis</i>	davis's river diver
Beetles	<i>Otiorhynchus auropunctatus</i>	a weevil
Beetles	<i>Pelophila borealis</i>	a ground beetle

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Birds	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	goshawk
Birds	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	skylark
Birds	<i>Anas acuta</i>	pintail
Birds	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	shoveler
Birds	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	garganey
Birds	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	Greenland white-fronted goose
Birds	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	tree pipit
Birds	<i>Apus apus</i>	common swift
Birds	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	short-eared owl
Birds	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	pochard
Birds	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	tufted duck
Birds	<i>Aythya marila</i>	scaup
Birds	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	bittern
Birds	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	pale-bellied brent goose
Birds	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	goldeneye
Birds	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	dunlin
Birds	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	knot
Birds	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	lesser redpoll
Birds	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	linnet
Birds	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	twite
Birds	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	hen harrier
Birds	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	hawfinch
Birds	<i>Crex crex</i>	comcrake
Birds	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	cuckoo
Birds	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	bewick's swan
Birds	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	whooper swan
Birds	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	yellowhammer
Birds	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	reed bunting
Birds	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	black-throated diver
Birds	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	white-tailed eagle
Birds	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	red grouse
Birds	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	herring gull
Birds	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	black-headed gull
Birds	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	black-tailed godwit
Birds	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	grasshopper warbler
Birds	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	common scoter
Birds	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	yellow wagtail
Birds	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	spotted flycatcher
Birds	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	curlew
Birds	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	whimbrey
Birds	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	house sparrow
Birds	<i>Passer montanus</i>	tree sparrow
Birds	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	red-necked phalarope
Birds	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	golden plover
Birds	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	black-necked grebe
Birds	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	hedge accentor
Birds	<i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>	chough
Birds	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	bullfinch
Birds	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	starling
Birds	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	redshank
Birds	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	redwing
Birds	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	song thrush

Birds	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	fieldfare
Birds	<i>Tyto alba</i>	bam owl
Birds	<i>Vane/lus vane/lus</i>	lapwing

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Butterflies	<i>Coenonympha pamphi/us</i>	small heath
Butterflies	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>	marsh fritillary
Butterflies	<i>Leptidea reali</i>	Real's wood white

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Crustaceans	<i>Austropotamobius pal/ipes</i>	white-clawed crayfish

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Dragonflies	<i>Coenagrion lunulatum</i>	Irish damselfly

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Fish	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European eel
Fish	<i>Coregonus autumnalis pollan</i>	pollan
Fish	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	river lamprey
Fish	<i>Salmosalar</i>	Atlantic salmon
Fish	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	brown/sea trout

Group	Latin Name	Common name
Fungi	<i>Hygrocybe ovina</i>	a waxcap

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Liverworts	<i>Cephaloziella rubella</i>	red threadwort

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Mammals	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	West European hedgehog
Mammals	<i>Lepus timidus hibemicus</i>	Irish hare
Mammals	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	otter
Mammals	<i>Martes martes</i>	pine marten
Mammals	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Nathusius' pipistrelle
Mammals	<i>Pipistrel/us pygmaeus</i>	soprano pipistrelle
Mammals	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	brown long-eared bat
Mammals	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	red squirrel

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Molluscs	<i>Anodonta cygnea</i>	swan mussel
Molluscs	<i>Aplexa hypnorum</i>	moss bladder snail
Molluscs	<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>	copse snail
Molluscs	<i>Ba/ea perversa</i>	tree snail
Molluscs	<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	plaited door snail
Molluscs	<i>Leiostryla anglica</i>	English chrysalis snail
Molluscs	<i>Limax cinereoniger</i>	ash-black slug
Molluscs	<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>	horse mussel
Molluscs	<i>Pisidium filljeborgii</i>	Lilljeborg's pea mussel
Molluscs	<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	moss chrysalis snail
Molluscs	<i>Radix auricularia</i>	ear pond snail
Molluscs	<i>Spermodea lame/lata</i>	plaited snail
Molluscs	<i>Vertigo antivertigo</i>	marsh whorl snail
Molluscs	<i>Zenobia/la subrufescens</i>	brown snail

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Mosses	<i>Au/acornium androgynum</i>	bud-headed groove-moss
Mosses	<i>Bryum intermedium</i>	many-seasoned thread-moss
Mosses	<i>Orthotrichum sprucei</i>	Spruce's bristle-moss
Mosses	<i>Pseudocalliergon /ycopodioides</i>	large hook-moss

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Moths	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	grey dagger
Moths	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	knot grass
Moths	<i>Adscita statices</i>	forester
Moths	<i>Agrochola he/vola</i>	flounced chestnut
Moths	<i>Amphipoea oculea</i>	ear moth
Moths	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	mouse moth
Moths	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	dusky brocade
Moths	<i>Arctia caja</i>	garden tiger
Moths	<i>Atethmia centrigo</i>	centre-barred sallow
Moths	<i>Brachylomia viminalis</i>	minor shoulder-knot
Moths	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	mottled rustic
Moths	<i>Ce/aena haworthii</i>	Haworth's minor
Moths	<i>Celaena leucostigma</i>	crescent
Moths	<i>Chesias legatella</i>	streak
Moths	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	latticed heath
Moths	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	small square-spot
Moths	<i>Diloba caeruleocephala</i>	figure of eight
Moths	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	small phoenix
Moths	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	August thorn
Moths	<i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>	galium carpet
Moths	<i>Euxoa nigricans</i>	garden dart
Moths	<i>Graphiphora augur</i>	double dart
Moths	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>	narrow-bordered bee hawk moth
Moths	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	ghost moth
Moths	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	rustic
Moths	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	rosy rustic
Moths	<i>Melanchra persicariae</i>	dot moth
Moths	<i>Melanchra pisi</i>	broom moth
Moths	<i>Mesoligia literosa</i>	rosy minor
Moths	<i>Mythimna comma</i>	shoulder-striped wainscot
Moths	<i>Orthonama vittata</i>	oblique carpet
Moths	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	powdered quaker
Moths	<i>Parasemia plantaginis</i>	wood tiger
Moths	<i>Pelurga comitata</i>	dark spinach
Moths	<i>Perlzoma albulata</i>	grass rivulet
Moths	<i>Scapula marginepunctata</i>	mullein wave
Moths	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	shaded broad-bar
Moths	<i>SpUosomalubricipeda</i>	white ermine
Moths	<i>Spi/osoma luteum</i>	buffennine
Moths	<i>Tho/era cespitis</i>	hedge rustic
Moths	<i>Tho/era decima/is</i>	feathered gothic
Moths	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	cinnabar
Moths	<i>Xanthia ictertia</i>	sallow
Moths	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	dark-barred twin-spot carpet
Moths	<i>Xestia agathina</i>	heath rustic
Moths	<i>Xestia castanea</i>	neglected rustic
Moths	<i>Xylena exsoleta</i>	sword rass

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Reptiles	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	common lizard

Group	Latin Name	Common Name
Vascular Plants	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	bog-rosemary
Vascular Plants	<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>	narrow small-reed
Vascular Plants	<i>Carex elongata</i>	elongated sedge
Vascular Plants	<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	frog orchid
Vascular Plants	<i>Erigeron acer</i>	blue fleabane
Vascular Plants	<i>Euphrasia salisburgensis</i>	Irish eyebright
Vascular Plants	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	alder buckthorn
Vascular Plants	<i>Fumaria purpurea</i>	purple ramping-fumitory
Vascular Plants	<i>Galium uliginosum</i>	fen bedstraw
Vascular Plants	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	meadow crane's-bill
Vascular Plants	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>	wood crane's-bill
Vascular Plants	<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	heath cudweed
Vascular Plants	<i>Hierochloa odorata</i>	holy-grass
Vascular Plants	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	juniper
Vascular Plants	<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	marsh clubmoss
Vascular Plants	<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	tubular water-dropwort
Vascular Plants	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	lesser butterfly-orchid
Vascular Plants	<i>Sorbus hibemica</i>	Irish whitebeam
Vascular Plants	<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>	Irish lady's-tresses
Vascular Plants	<i>Stellaria palustris</i>	marsh stitchwort
Vascular Plants	<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>	shepherd's cress
Vascular Plants	<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>	Killarney fern
Vascular Plants	<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	globeflower
Vascular Plants	<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	spring vetch
Vascular Plants	<i>Vicia persicifolia</i>	fen violet

## NI PRIORITY SPECIES SELECTION CRITERIA

1	Listed as a UK Priority Species
2	Rapid decline (2% per year)
3	<p>Decline (1% year) with Northern Ireland being a stronghold (S) consisting of either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;50% Irish population or</li> <li>• &gt;20% UK population/range</li> <li>• or with the Irish or UK population restricted (R) to Northern Ireland i.e. Decline + 'S' or 'R'</li> </ul>
4	<p>Rare (confined to a small population of one or two sites in NI) with Northern Ireland being a stronghold (S) consisting of either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;50% Irish population or</li> <li>• &gt;20% UK population/range</li> <li>• or with the Irish or UK population restricted (R) to Northern Ireland i.e. Rare + 'S' or 'R'.</li> </ul>
5	At least 20% of international population of species or well-recognised subspecies occurring in Northern Ireland
6	Irish Red Data Book (ROB) species classed as critically endangered (CR), endangered (EN) or vulnerable (VU)
7	Red-listed species in either <i>Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland</i> (BOCCI) or the <i>UK Birds of Conservation Concern</i> (UK BOCC) lists.

(Source: ACBCBC Conservation Service December 2015)

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