



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

**FODC232**

## **FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Position Paper Five

### **Environmental Assets**

May 2015

## **Environmental Assets of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council**

**Purpose:** To provide members with an overview of the existing environmental assets in the district and how these are protected.

**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 statutory framework and interrelationship with the local development plan; and**
- (iii) an overview of the built, natural and landscape heritage within our Council area.**

**Recommendation:** That the Planning Committee notes the contents of this paper and the obligations of protecting the various assets compiled within.

### **1.0 Introduction**

**1.1** This is one of a series of position papers being presented to the Planning Committee as part of the preparatory studies aimed at gathering the evidence base for the new local development plan. This particular paper is aimed at:

- informing members of their European protected site obligations and potential implications; and
- furthering awareness of the link between the built, natural and landscape heritage and the local development plan function.

**1.2** In Fermanagh and Omagh, the evidence of our past can be seen in archaeological and historic features such as tombs and forts, castles and churches, townhouses and farmhouses, grand architecture and vernacular buildings, industrial features and planned parklands. These physical survivals of our past are to be valued and protected and provide an important link to our understanding of both the present and the past. They are also important economic assets providing revenue to the economy through environmental activities, tourism and recreation.

- 1.3** The richness of our natural heritage, both in terms of landscape, natural environments and biodiversity is recognised in the significant number of international and regionally designated important sites. As custodians of our district, it is our responsibility to protect them for future generations. At many levels, development can potentially adversely impact on our environment and it is therefore important that all those involved in the planning process ensure that any potential environmental impacts, whatever the scale, are identified to enable effects to be considered, avoided or mitigated for.
- 1.4** 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 Settlement Appraisal.
- 1.5** 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. This information is summarised in associated appendices. The paper also provides an overview of the main landscape character areas of the council area and the variations between them are also identified based on the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000. This strand will be further explored in a later paper which will also include the development pressure analysis.

## **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**

- 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 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 and enhance and manage the coast;
- 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;
- Protect designated areas of countryside from inappropriate development (either directly or indirectly) and continue to assess areas of designation; and
- Consider the establishment of one or more National Parks.

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

**2.4** 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 and the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland contain current regional policies in relation to the environment including protection of rural landscapes and the coast.

**2.5** These documents will be replaced by the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), a Draft of which was issued for consultation in February 2014. 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.

**2.6** In preparing LDPs, councils should take into account the implications of local policies and proposals on all features of the archaeological and 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 range of 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)
- **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)
- **Community Listed Buildings** (local listing) – buildings which maybe important to local communities but due to insufficient architectural or historic interest do not warrant statutory protection as listed buildings (council responsibility)

**2.7** 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.

**2.8** 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 (see Appendix 1 for list of legislation). 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)
- **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 provide 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.

(c) **Other Relevant Strategies**

- 2.9** 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 Northern Ireland, 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.
- 2.10** 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.
- 2.11** It is important to recognise the biodiversity significance of Northern Ireland’s habitats in 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.
- 2.12** 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. The Fermanagh and Omagh District has examples of 30 priority habitats such as upland heathland, blanket bog, mesotrophic lakes, Parkland, mixed ashwoods and oakwood.

- 2.13** NI Priority species 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. These include species of bees, beetles, birds, butterflies, crustaceans, fish, fungi, lichens, liverworts, mammals, molluscs, mosses, moths, reptiles and vascular plants. Of the 481, 119 occur in the Council area. From time to time the lists of Northern Ireland priority habitats and species are updated.

Further information on these habitats and species is contained in the Appendix 2 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Audit 2014.

- 2.14** 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.

- 2.15** 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)**.

- 2.16** In addition to the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy, LDPs should also have regard to any Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) which have been prepared for the district council area. LBAPs 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 Omagh and Fermanagh LBAPs were both published in 2008 and a new LBAP covering the new district council area is due for release in summer 2015. The Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan Audit 2014 (Appendix 2) highlighted a number of significant threats to biodiversity including habitat loss and fragmentation; development; non-native invasive species; environmental crime; climate change; vandalism and insensitive management.

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

- 2.17** Combined with the comprehensive coverage of European Directives, 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.

- 2.18** 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.
- 2.19** 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.
- 2.20** 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.
- 2.21** 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.
- 2.22** 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.
- 2.23** 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. However, the undertaking of SA incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment, will be the responsibility of the Council.

### **3.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS OF FERMANAGH AND OMAGH**

**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, whatever their scale, 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. Therefore, in this section, we have provided a summary of the built, natural and landscape assets which pertain to Fermanagh and Omagh.

#### *Archaeological and Built Heritage Features within our Council Area*

**3.3** Our council area contains:

- 19 State Care Monuments
- 410 Scheduled Monuments
- 2455 Unscheduled Monuments
- 16 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes
- 674 Listed Buildings
- 3 Conservation Areas
- 18 Areas of Townscape Character or Village Character
- 235 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)
- 2 Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest
- 3 Areas of Archaeological Potential

It should be noted that there are no Areas of Townscape Character or Local Landscape Policy Areas designated in the Omagh Area Plan 2002 as these types of designations were introduced after that plan was adopted. However, the Omagh Area Plan did designate a small number of Landscape Policy Areas based on areas of especially high amenity or local significance such as dominant hill tops or ridges, and areas of woodland or river banks. These are distributed across the four towns and three of the villages. As part of the plan preparation process, all existing LLPA and LPA designations will be reviewed and any additional LLPAs identified. Any additional ATCs will also be identified.

#### *Nature Conservation Designated Sites within our Council Area*

**3.4** Our council area contains:

- 8 RAMSAR sites
- 20 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- 3 Special Protected Areas (SPAs)

- 117 ASSI's
- 17 National Nature Reserves
- 1 Local Nature Reserve

Further details of the above archaeological, built and natural heritage features can be found in Appendix 3 and Maps 4A to 4C of Appendix 4. 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)

### *Landscape Character within our Council Area*

- 3.5** Our Council landscape provides a rich resource of productive agricultural land, settlement sites for nature conservation and archaeological and historical features and remains which illustrate ways in which the land has provided for human occupation and activity in the past. It also provides for many recreational needs and has the potential to become an increasingly important tourist asset.
- 3.6** Landscapes of national importance have merited designations as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). A significant part of the Sperrin AONB (designated 2008) lies within the District. The purpose of designation is to protect and conserve the scenic qualities of the area and promote their enjoyment.
- 3.7** All of the NI landscape has been classified by the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000 (NILCA 2000). This uses accepted systematic methods of landscape character assessment. The NI landscape has been subdivided into 130 different landscape character areas, each with a distinctive character, based upon local patterns of geology, land form, land use, cultural and ecological features. The Fermanagh and Omagh District contains 26 Landscape Character Areas, some of which are shared with neighbouring districts (see Map 4E, Appendix 4). It is recognised that some types of landscapes have a greater ability to absorb development than others. This will be examined in more detail in a later paper as part of the rural development pressure analysis. On 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015, NIEA published for consultation a draft Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA) which covers 26 regional landscape character areas. This will form a framework for updating of local-scale assessments that could replace the NILCA 2000.
- 3.8** The district's landscapes include part of the Sperrin Mountains which form a backdrop to much of the district in the north east, the mountain valleys of the Glenelly and Owenkillew rivers lying below an expanse of open moorland, the Strule Valley, numerous drumlin features, the scenic and valued resource of the Lakelands, dramatic cliffs and mountains such as Cuilcagh, lowlands such as Arney, Garrison and

Camowen Valley, areas of lowland raised bog and rolling farmland. There is a particular remoteness and a wilderness element to many of these portions of the District.

- 3.9** The Northern Ireland Character Assessment 2000 (NILCA) also identified **Areas of Scenic Quality** and defined them as landscapes of regional or local importance for their scenic quality, i.e. important landscape resources in their own right, regardless of location or setting. They represent a second tier (below AONBs) in the hierarchy of landscape classifications. There are four Areas of Scenic Quality in the district located at Bessy Bell, Lough Melvin, Derrin Mountain and Colebrooke Estate. The landscape assessment as provided by the NILCA series will, in conjunction with the pressure analysis, help to identify areas of landscape that are particularly vulnerable to any development and which are of high scenic value with the view to designating them as Special Countryside Areas (see below).
- 3.10** The district has the distinction of having the first UNESCO European Geopark in the United Kingdom and Ireland when the Marble Arch Caves Global Geo-Park was designated in 2001. It also carries the distinction of being the world's first International Global Geopark, since the inclusion of an extension to the park to incorporate parts of west Cavan at a joint meeting of UNESCO and the European Geopark Network in September 2008 (See Map 4D, Appendix 4).

#### *Special Countryside Areas*

- 3.11** The Islands Countryside Policy Area as identified in the Fermanagh Area Plan 2007 changed in title to Special Countryside Area (SCA) following the introduction of PPS 21. SCAs are regarded as exceptional landscapes such as mountains, stretches of the coast or lough shores and certain views or vistas. The quality of the landscape and unique amenity value is such that development should only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. As part of the Countryside Assessment, it may be necessary to identify additional areas and designate them as SCAs with local policies brought forward to protect their unique qualities.
- 3.12** The council area also contains a wealth of remains of industrial heritage, all of which are reminders of economic development in the area. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency record and update data containing industrial heritage. Industrial heritage sites would include former mills, factories, bridges and railway fixtures. The Ulster Canal which runs from Fermanagh through Counties Monaghan and Armagh constitutes an important industrial heritage feature. The Fermanagh Area Plan (FAP) 2007 seeks to protect the Ulster Canal

from any development which could prejudice its future development or restoration.

### *Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development*

- 3.13** Due to their nature, scale, location and duration of operation, mineral developments often impact more severely on the environment than other forms of development. They may damage or destroy nature conservation sites and structures and remains of historic and archaeological interest that are of importance. The special landscapes of Fermanagh contain areas which require protection from the effects of further mineral extraction. The FAP therefore identified Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development (ACMDs) to safeguard the most valuable and vulnerable areas from such detrimental development. Their identification takes account of nature conservation interest, the man-made heritage, scenic quality and visual prominence, amenity value and geological interest.

### *Loughs and Rivers*

- 3.14** The district contains the second-largest lake system in Northern Ireland and the fourth largest in Ireland. The lakes that compose Lough Erne are widened sections of the River Erne which rises in the Republic of Ireland and flows north-westerly before draining into Donegal Bay at Kildoney Point. Upper Lough Erne is an SAC and SPA and many of its tributaries including Colebrook, Tempo and Swanlinbar are designated Salmonid under the Freshwater Fish Directive.
- 3.15** A small portion of Lough Melvin lies in the north west of the district and it supports important fish populations including Arctic charr, Atlantic salmon and three distinct sub-species of trout – sonaghen, gillaroo and ferox.
- 3.16** The River Strule is the upper main spine of the Foyle catchment, originating in Omagh at the confluence of the Camowen and Drumragh rivers. It is fed by two major tributaries, the Owenkillew River located north of Gortin, and the Fairy Water, north west of Omagh. The Rivers Strule and Camowen along with Owenreagh, Quiggery and the Fairy Water are of international importance for Atlantic Salmon, along with other important fish species such as Sea Trout, Brown trout, European Eel, Pike and Perch.

## **4.0 Conclusions and Recommendation**

- 4.1** This paper has described 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 local development plan will need to balance development with the protection of the environmental assets already identified at international, national and regional level. There are also many sites which are currently not identified and are of local importance. Therefore, in the process of preparing the LDP, sites of local nature conservation importance, areas of archaeological potential, local landscape policy areas and areas of townscape character will be identified. It will also bring forward policies or proposals for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural and built heritage.

- 4.2** It is recommended that the Planning Committee notes this summary and the legal requirements for the protection of the various assets as part of the plan preparation process.

**APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL HERITAGE LEGISLATION**

**APPENDIX 2: FODC LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (LBAP) AUDIT**

**APPENDIX 3: STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS**

Appendix 3A: Natural Heritage

Appendix 3B: Built Heritage

Appendix 3C: Other Designations

**APPENDIX 4: MAPS**

Map 4A: Sites of International Nature Conservation Interest

Map 4B: Sites of National Nature Conservation Interest

Map 4C: Historic Sites & Monuments

Map 4D: Global GeoPark

Map 4E: NIEA Landscape Character Areas

## **Appendix 1**

### **Natural Heritage Legislative Context**

#### **(a) European Legislation**

The relevant European statutory framework is as follows:

- The Birds Directive - 1979 EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive - 1985
- The Habitats Directive - 1992 EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- Water Framework Directive – 2000
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive - 2008

#### **European Designations / International Conventions**

The relevant European / International designated sites arising from the above legislation are as follows:

- European sites - Special Protection Areas (SPA's)
- European sites – Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)
- Global networks – Ramsars

#### **(b) National Legislation**

The relevant UK and NI legislation for transposing EC Directives in relation to natural heritage is as follows:

- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 ('Conservation Regulations') transpose the requirements of the EC 'Habitats' Directive and aspects of the 'Wild Birds' Directive into domestic legislation
- The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 apply the EIA Directive to the planning process in Northern Ireland.
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (NI) 2003 transposes the Water Framework Directive.

- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004 transpose the SEA Directive into NI legislation.
- The UK Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 transposes the Marine Strategy Framework Directive into UK legislation.

**(c) Other relevant NI legislation is as follows:**

- The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985
- The Environment (NI) Order 2002 – for designating ASSI's
- The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009
- The Planning Act (NI) 2011
- The Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011
- The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013
- The Planning (Local Development Plans) Regulations (NI) 2015
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015 (These regulations allow councils to undertake environmental assessments for relevant planning applications within EU designated sites)

**APPENDIX 2: FODC LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (LBAP)  
AUDIT**

# Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

## Local Biodiversity Action Plan

### Audit

**(December 2014)**

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## **Introduction**

Biodiversity is an immeasurable asset to the Council area. It provides us with essential Ecosystem Services, without which our communities, businesses and farmers could not function. Many countries have attempted to quantify the value of these services (clean water, flood defence, pollination, disease control, medicine, recreation etc) to society to ensure that we fully understand its contribution.

In Northern Ireland, the conservation of biodiversity has been translated into a number of pieces of legislation that safe-guards and protects, for example, landscapes, rivers and species. For public bodies, the 'Biodiversity Duty' under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 states that "it is the duty of every public body, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions".

### **Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (FODC)**

With Local Government Reform underway and Fermanagh and Omagh District Councils to merge in April 2015, it is an opportune time to review the Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) for both Councils. The expectation is that an LBAP for Fermanagh & Omagh District Council will be delivered in summer 2015, celebrating the shared landscape in the new Council area. The delivery of a new LBAP is part-funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The current LBAPs for Fermanagh District Council (FDC) and Omagh District Council (ODC) will form the basis for the new LBAP. FDC's LBAP was published in September 2008 with ODC's LBAP being published in the same year. Baseline data was gathered to inform these LBAPs and compiled into Audits. The audits for both Councils have been provided to members of the Steering Group and are available upon request from the Biodiversity Officer.

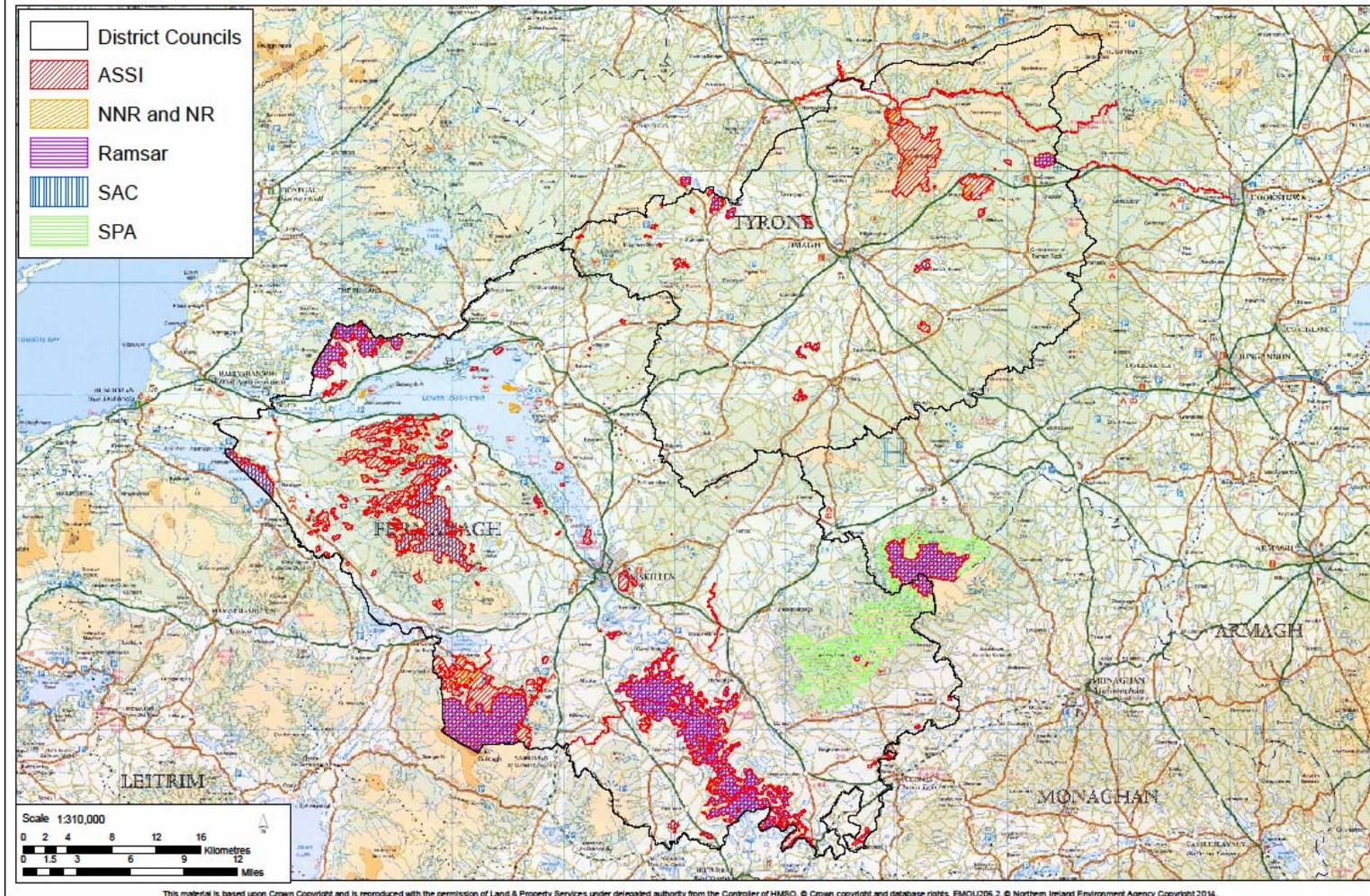
Much of the data that was gathered and included in the 2008 Audits remain unchanged. Data for the intervening six-year-period has been sought and gathered and added to what we already know. Agencies and organisations that have provided current data for the audit include:

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
- Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR)
- National Biodiversity Data Centre, Republic of Ireland
- Butterfly Conservation Northern Ireland (BCNI)
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland Recorder for Co. Fermanagh

In addition to actively-seeking current data for the audit, two public consultation events were organised and publicised in the local press. The events were held on Tuesday 7th October at FDC's Townhall and on Thursday 9th October 2014 at ODC's The Grange building.

Finally, a mass-mailing of a consultation letter was sent out to registered community groups and associations with both Councils. Notification of the consultation was also placed on the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council website [www.fermanaghomagh.com/](http://www.fermanaghomagh.com/) with public consultation to run until 31st December 2014.

## FERMANAGH AND OMAGH NATURAL HERITAGE PROTECTED SITES



## **Overview of Habitats and Species**

This Audit is an update of the previous Council's LBAP Audits of 2008. These audits provided comprehensive descriptions of the type of habitats and range of species that occur in the area. With this information already available, it is not repeated in this document.

### **Habitats:**

The list of Northern Ireland Priority Habitats has been reviewed and updated since the last audits. The list has been expanded from a number of 40 to a current list of 51 Priority Habitats.

We are confident that all possible priority habitats in the FODC area have been identified although excluding habitats such as Arable Field Margins and Traditional Orchards are debatable. A list identifying the priority habitats present in the FODC area follows. The comparative numbers are as follows:

- FDC 2008 - 20/40 NI Priority Habitats
- ODC 2008 - 15/40 NI Priority Habitats
- FODC 2014 - 30/51 NI Priority Habitats

### **Species:**

The list of Northern Ireland Priority Species has also been reviewed and updated since the last audits were carried out. The list has been expanded considerably from 275 to 481 and it is also under review at the moment.

Identifying all Northern Ireland Priority Species that occur in the FODC is a more difficult task than identifying habitats. Unlike habitats, species are mobile, can be migratory, can go unrecorded or become extinct. The FODC area is less well-served by expert recorders although it is visited by specialist groups and surveyed by NIEA's Habitats Team as part of their monitoring work.

We expect that the better-known and understood priority species have been identified in the audit. Not all specialist groups have replied to our requests for information or data was difficult to access so it is likely that not all species were identified. However, we feel that the list is still comprehensive and is a good reflection of priority species found across the FODC area.

- FDC 2008 - 90/275 NI Priority Species\*
- ODC 2008 - 43/275 NI Priority Species\*
- FODC 2014 - 119/481 NI Priority Species

\* as quoted in 2008 Audits

## **Northern Ireland Priority Habitats Present in FODC**

<b>HABITAT TYPE</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
Lowland Meadows	x
Calcareous Grassland	x
Peat and clay exposures	x
Montane heath	x
Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	x
Arable field margins	
Blanket bog	x
Blue mussel beds	
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	x
Coastal saltmarsh	
Coastal sand dunes	
Coastal vegetated shingle	
Estuarine rocky habitats	
Eutrophic standing waters	x
Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	
Hedgerows	x
Horse mussel beds	
Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	x
Intertidal chalk	
Intertidal mudflats	
Intertidal underboulder communities	
Limestone pavements	x
Lowland dry acid grassland	x
Lowland fens	x
Lowland heathland	
Lowland raised bog	x
Maerl beds	
Maritime cliff and slopes	
Marl lakes	x
Mesotrophic lakes	x
Mud habitats in deep water	x
Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes	x
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	x
Ponds	x
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	x
Reedbeds	x
Rivers	x
Sabellaria alveolata reefs	
Saline lagoons	
Seagrass beds	
Sheltered muddy gravels	x
Subtidal chalk	
Subtidal sands and gravels	
Tide-swept channels	
Traditional orchards	
Upland flushes, fens and swamps	x
Upland heathland	x
Upland mixed ashwoods	x
Upland oakwood	x
Wet woodland	x
Parkland	x

## **Habitats**

### **Gardens and Urban Green Spaces**

FODC manages a wide range of types of land and properties, many open to the public. These include buildings, cemeteries, public parks, play grounds, open spaces, walkways etc. These spaces along with those in private or business ownership such as domestic gardens or even waste ground all have the potential to be valuable for biodiversity.

The range and/or extent of habitats and species in these 'gardens and urban green spaces' in FODC area is beyond the scope of this audit. However, studies undertaken in a number of urban areas such as Bristol or London assessing their biodiversity value have demonstrated considerable benefit for wildlife.

### **Hedgerows**

Hedges are defined as linear boundaries, comprised of planted shrubs. A species-rich hedgerow should contain six or more woody species on average in a 30 metre length. If the hedge has less than this but has a rich ground flora of grasses and wildflowers such as primrose, common dog-violet etc then can still be classified as species-rich.

Hedgerows are rich habitats for wildlife, including plants, birds, mammals and insects. Additionally, hedgerows function as wildlife corridors for all these species allowing them to safely move across the landscape in search of nesting sites, food and shelter etc.

Hedgerows are also not just important for wildlife but also for farming, protecting our wider landscape and also have cultural heritage value. Hedgerows act as property boundaries, provide shelter for stock and help protect against soil erosion and may also assist in the prevention of the spread of disease.

Hedgerows are a common feature of the wider countryside and are intrinsic to our landscape. Arguably one of our most important habitats with their banks, drains and associated verges, hedges harbour many of our celebrated species and are a feature that many people identify with.

### **Woodlands**

There are an estimated 37,500 hectares of woodlands in the FODC area. Coniferous forests representing 60% of the total are normal found in the upland areas and consist largely of non-native species such as Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Lodgepoles pine and larch. They play a significant role in the conservation of a number of priority species such as red squirrel and hen harrier.

Broadleaved and mixed woodlands covering 11,500 hectares are normally found at lower elevations and includes a range of plantation types ranging

from mature semi-natural woodlands to newly planted single species crops. These broadleaved woodlands have more biodiversity interest than the coniferous forests and host a wide range of priority species.

### **Grassland and Roadside Verges**

FODC area holds a significant proportion of species-rich grassland in Northern Ireland. There are 5 NI priority habitat types present in the area namely; lowland meadows, calcareous grassland, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland dry acid grassland, and purple moor grass and rush pasture.

Calcareous grassland is species-rich grassland occurring on shallow, lime-rich soils. It often occurs as part of a transition or habitat mosaic with other habitats such as wet heath and acid grassland. In the area, it is closely associated with limestone pavement and turloughs. It can also be found on road verges, extraction sites and recreational sites.

While the majority of our biodiverse grasslands have been lost to modern farming practices, development etc., a significant proportion of what remains occurs in West Fermanagh and South Tyrone (currently being highlighted by an Ulster Wildlife project 'Saving our Magnificent Meadows').

Outside these meadows, roadside verges have inadvertently become a refuge for grassland habitats. Low nutrient levels, minimum disturbance and/or limestone substrates have contributed to their development or protection. Roadside verges can mimic the woodland edge with a proliferation of spring-flowering plants such as primrose, wild garlic and bluebells or they may reflect high-summer meadows.

### **Uplands, Bogs and Heaths**

Peatlands continue to be one of the most characteristic features of the FODC area. Our temperate oceanic climate is particularly suited to the development of peat, particularly along the western side of the country. There are three distinctive types of peatland ecosystems namely: lowland raised bog, blanket bog and fens. There are 6 NI priority habitats present in the Council area that reflect this broad habitat type with a number of other associated habitats.

In addition to these systems being important reservoirs for biodiversity, they are also valuable on a number of other fronts including functioning as carbon sinks providing an increasingly important flood alleviation defence role. Bogs are an intrinsic part of our cultural heritage and have harboured some of our most significant archaeological finds over the decades from treasure hoards and bog bodies to ancient trackways and ritual monuments.

Peatland habitats provide researchers and students with invaluable opportunities to look into our past environments, climate events and changing land uses through the fossil records preserved in their depths.

### **Wetlands, Lakes and Rivers**

The Fermanagh Lakelands found within the FODC area is deservedly-known for its biodiverse, scenic and recreational value. The lakelands are central to the character of the area and inform much of the landscape. The diversity of the habitats and species found in the Council area owe much to the presence of the lakelands; 11 NI priority habitats are associated with wetlands.

The reedbeds, muddy banks and their associated flood plains and wet meadows provide a host of invaluable transition zone opportunities for wildlife including plants, insect life and wildfowl. Wet woodlands frequently fringe their shores offering a different set of opportunities to other groups of wildlife such as mammals.

This broad habitat group also include streams and rivers. Notable rivers that occur in the area include the Cladagh River, Erne River, the Sillees River, the Colebrooke River, the River Strule and Owenkillew River. These rivers are also home to a wide range of species including mammals, birds, invertebrates and fish. Scrub and strips of woodland often follow river corridors as do belts of wildflower meadows along their banks, further enhancing their value.

### **Calcareous Habitats**

The FODC area hosts a significant quantity of NI calcareous habitat - calcareous grassland. This type of grassland is found on soils rich in calcium or other basic minerals such as chalk. The resource is principally found in the Knockmore scarpland and Cuilcagh and Marlbank areas. A range of different plant species has developed including Irish eyebright and blue moor grass as well as wild thyme, harebell and bird's foot trefoil. These sites are home to a large range of breeding butterflies and moths including the marsh fritillary butterfly and the narrow-bordered bee hawk-moth. Other typical associated priority species are the Irish hare and skylark.

An associated NI priority habitat is limestone pavement - the only area in NI to have this resource is West Fermanagh, concentrated in the Killykeeghan & Crossmurrin Nature Reserve, in the Marl Bank area.

## **Natural Heritage Protected Sites in FODC**

There are a range of designations available to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/> ) that can be used to protect, enhance and highlight a site or species. These designations ensure that the UK along with its partners in the EU and the international community can meet its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (<http://www.cbd.int/>).

### **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**

AONB's are areas that are designated because their landscape is distinctive in character and has special scenic value. The designation is designed to protect and enhance the qualities of an area and to promote their enjoyment by the public.

REFERENCE	NAME	DISTRICT COUNCIL	COUNTY
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Sperrin	Omagh District Council	Tyrone

### **National Nature Reserves (NNR)**

NNRs are some of the best examples of wildlife, habitats and geology found across NI. They can contain a wide range of species, communities and geology and their designation is a public recognition of their importance. The main aim of managing these sites is to conserve their features now and for future generations. A secondary aim is to provide opportunities for the public to experience these natural habitats and landscape features and to interact quietly with nature.

NAME	HABITAT TYPE	COUNCIL	COUNTY
Correl Glen Forest	Woodland, heath	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Marble Arch	Woodland, River	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Meenadoan	Peatland	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Boorin	Heath, woodland	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Murrins Forest	Heathland	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Castlecaldwell Forest	Fen, scrub	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Crossmurrin	Upland grassland	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Hanging Rock & Rossaa Forest	Cliff, woodland	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Reilly & Gole Woods	Woodland	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Castle Archdale Forest	Islands in Lower Lough Erne	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh

Lough Naman Bog	Peatland	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Ross Lough	Lake, wetland	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Killykeeghan	Grassland	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh

### Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

LNRs are areas that have been specially set-aside for biodiversity and where people can enjoy wildlife. LNR's do not necessarily contain rare or threatened species or habitats - they are usually areas with good wildlife content which are accessible to people and provide them with opportunities to be close to nature.

LNR's are declared by the local authority, demonstrating their commitment to protecting biodiversity. Often designation is linked to actions and targets within a council's LBAP.

NAME	HABITAT TYPE/DESCRIPTION	FERMANAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL	FERMANAGH
Killyfole Lough Local Nature Reserve	Lough encompassing a range of habitats including hedgerows, wet woodland and reedbeds.	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh

### Ramsar's

The Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and use of wetlands and their resources. It provides for all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, recognising wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities.

NAME	DISTRICT COUNCIL	COUNTY
Black Bog	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Fairy Water Bogs	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Pettigoe Plateau	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Slieve Beagh	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Cuilcagh Mountain	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Upper Lough Erne	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Fardrum & Roosky Turloughs	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Magheraveely Marl Loughs	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh

### Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

SACs are areas which have been given significant protection under the European

legislation of The Habitats Directive. These sites have been designated because of a possible threat to the special habitats or species which they hold and to provide increased protection for a range of wildlife of importance to biodiversity on a national and international level.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Owenkillew River	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Black Bog	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Upper Ballinderry River	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Fairy Water Bogs	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Pettigoe Plateau	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Largalinn	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Monawilkin	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Melvin	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
West Fermanagh Scarplands	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Slieve Beagh	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Cuilcagh Mountain	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Magheraveely Marl Loughs	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Moninea Bog	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Upper Lough Erne	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Toonagh Beg Bog	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Cranny Bogs	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Deroran Bog	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Tully Bog	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh

### **Special Protected Areas (SPAs)**

SPAs are designated under the European Commission Direction on the Conservation of Wild Birds, the Birds Directive. All member states are required to identify internationally important areas for breeding, over-wintering and migrating birds and designate these areas as SPAs.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Pettigoe Plateau	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Upper Lough-Erne	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh

### Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)

ASSIs are areas of land that have been identified through surveys as being of the highest degree of conservation value. These areas have a well-defined boundary and are largely in private ownership. Conservation of these areas is achieved by co-operation. The law relating to these areas is contained in the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. NIEA must declare land as ASSI if it is of special scientific interest because of flora, fauna, or geological features.

NAME	DISTRICT COUNCIL	COUNTY
Carrickbrawn	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Monawilkin	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Monawilkin	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Knockballymore Lough	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Moninea Bog	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Beagh Big	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Garvros	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Moneendogue	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lergan	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Drumlisaleen	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Horse Island	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Dernish Island	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Corraslough Point	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Inishroosk	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Pettigoe Plateau	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Cuilcagh Mountain	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Cuilcagh Mountain	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Cuilcagh Mountain	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Tattenamona Bog	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Upper Lough Erne - Crom	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Mill Lough	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Killymackan Lough	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Slieve Beagh	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh, Tyrone
Kilroosky Lough	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Summerhill Lough	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Burdautien Lough	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Upper Lough Erne - Galloon	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Upper Lough Erne – Belle Isle	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Upper Lough Erne - Trannish	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Braade	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Finn Floods	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Largalinny	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Tullanaguiggy	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh

ASSI (cont'd/...)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Magheramenagh	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Bellanaleck	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Annachullion Lough	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Drumacrittin Lough	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Ground Bridge	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Melvin	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Boho	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Knockninny Hill	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Glennasheever	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Tullysrnadeega	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
The Cliffs of Magho	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
The Cliffs of Magho	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
West Fermanagh Scarplands	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Kilnameel	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Edenaclogh Wood	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lurgan River Wood	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lenaghan Wood	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Conagher	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Mullynaskeagh	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Scolban	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Aleater	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Corry	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Banagher	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Cruninish Island	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Hare Island	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Devenish Island	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Navar Scarps and Lakes	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Navar Scarps and Lakes	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Big Dog Scarps and Lakes	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Big Dog Scarps and Lakes	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Tedd	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Drumharvey	Fermanagh District Council	Tyrone
Paris Island Big	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Knocknashangan	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Blackslee	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Ross	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Largy Quarry	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Coolcran	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh

ASSI (cont'd/...)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Makenny	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Gravel Ridge Island	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Drumbegger	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Keadew	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Larkhill	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Ederney Quarry	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Glen East	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Tower More	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Castlecoole	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Anierin	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Naman Bog and Lake	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Tempo River	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Gortalughany	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Gortalughany	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Marlbank	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Marlbank	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Florence Court	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Formal	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Ballagh	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Carnmore	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Scribbagh	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Stranacally	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Dromore Big	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Crockanaver	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Lough Alaban	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Tonnagh Quarry	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Frevagh	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Drumcully	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Rushy Hill	Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh
Black Bog	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Fairy Water Bogs	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Deroran Bog	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Drumlea and Mullan Woods	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Drumlea and Mullan Woods	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Owenkillew and Glenelly Woods	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Owenkillew and Glenelly Woods	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Straduff	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Cranny Bogs	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Tonnagh Beg Bog	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Tully Bog	Omagh District Council	Tyrone

ASSI (cont'd/...)

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Upper Ballinderry River	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Murrins	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Owenkillew River	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Owenkillew River	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Owenkillew River	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Dunaree Hill	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Kirlish	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Sloughan and Willmount Glens	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Lisdoon	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Dromore	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Lough Corr	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Scraghy	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Annaghagh Bog	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Mullaghcarn	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Mountfield Quarry	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Cashel Rock	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Lough Macrory	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Drumowen	Omagh District Council	Tyrone
Lough Lark	Omagh District Council	Tyrone

## **Species**

Species that were identified in FDC and ODC Audits were carried over into the FODC Audit. In addition, records from CEDaR for the FODC area were thrawled-through and any new Priority Species recorded in the intervening period between the audits were included.

Specialist organisations and experts were also asked to comment on the presence or absence of particular species. However, not all species groups on the NI Priority Species list have been confirmed yet as being present/absent (eg fungi or lichen).

A list of Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC) is no longer maintained by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and therefore, this list does not appear in the current audit.

### **Diversity, Range and Recording**

The FODC area has a wide-ranging diversity of species present in the area. Our diverse landscapes from upland peatlands to lowland flood plains and from mixed oak woodlands and lakes to species-rich meadows are home to some of NI's most iconic and/or endangered species.

Despite being land-locked and therefore not possessing any coastal habitats or species, the area is still possibly the most biodiverse of all the Council areas in NI. As a result of this status, the area attracts many groups and recorders wishing to explore, examine or expand on what we know about our wildlife. While much of our natural heritage has been recorded and identified, there are still many less-well-known species groups that are relatively under-recorded.

## **Northern Ireland Priority Species identified in Audits**

The Northern Ireland Priority Species list of threatened species that require conservation action can be found on NIEA's website [www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/biodiversity](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/biodiversity). There are 481 species on the list and it is currently under review. The list is designed to assist those involved in the conservation of biodiversity by guiding decisions on where to target action and invest resources.

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>FERMANAGH DC AUDIT 2008</b>	<b>OMAGH DC AUDIT 2008</b>	<b>FODC AUDIT 2014</b>
<b>Bees</b>			
A solitary bee ( <i>Andrena clarkella</i> )			X
<i>Andrena haemorrhoa</i>			X
<i>Andrena fucata</i>			X
<i>Andrena praecox</i>			X
<i>Andrena scotica</i>			X
<i>Andrena subopaca</i>			X
<i>Bombus (P.) barbutellus</i>			X
A parasitic bumblebee ( <i>Bombus (P.) bohemicus</i> )			X
<i>Bombus (P.) campestris</i>			X
<i>Bombus (P.) sylvestris</i>			X
Moss Carder Bee ( <i>Bombus muscorum</i> )			X
Buff-tailed bumblebee ( <i>Bombus terrestris</i> )			X
Bumblebee ( <i>Bombus lucorum</i> )			X
Bumblebee ( <i>Bombus pascuorum</i> )			X
Bumblebee ( <i>Bombus lapidarius</i> )			X
Bumblebee ( <i>Bombus jonellus</i> )			X
Bumblebee ( <i>Bombus hortorum</i> )			X
Bumblebee ( <i>Bombus pratorum</i> )			X
<i>Halictus rubicundus</i>			X
<i>Lasioglossum albipes</i>			X
<i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i>			X
<i>Lasioglossum cupromicans</i>			X
<i>Lasioglossum fratellum</i>			X
Cuckoo bee ( <i>Nomada marshamella</i> )			X
<i>Nomada ruficornis</i>			X
<i>Sphecodes ferruginatus</i>			X
<b>Birds</b>			
Barn owl	X	X	X
Black-headed gull			X
Black tailed godwit	X		X
Bullfinch	X	X	X
Common swift			X
Corncrake		X	X
Cuckoo			X
Curlew	X	X	X

SPECIES	FERMANAGH DC AUDIT 2008	OMAGH DC AUDIT 2008	FODC AUDIT 2014
Dunlin			X
Fieldfare			X
Goldeneye			X
Golden plover			X
Grasshopper warbler	X	X	X
Greenland white-fronted goose			X
Hedge accentor			X
Hen harrier	X	X	X
Herring gull	X	X	X
House sparrow	X	X	X
Lapwing	X	X	X
Lesser redpoll			X
Linnet	X	X	X
Pintail			X
Pochard			X
Quail		X	
Redshank	X	X	X
Redwing			X
Red grouse	X	X	X
Reed bunting	X		X
Scaup			X
Short-eared owl	X	X	X
Shoveler			X
Skylark	X	X	X
Song thrush	X	X	X
Spotted flycatcher	X	X	X
Starling	X	X	X
Twite		X	X
Tree sparrow	X		X
Tufted duck			X
Whimbrel			X
White-tailed eagle			X
Whopper swan			X
Wood warbler			X
<b>Bats</b>			
Brown long-eared bats	X	X	X
Daubenton's bat	X	X	X
Leisler's bat	X	X	X
Natterer's bat	X	X	X
Nathusius' pipistrelle	X	X	X
Common pipistrelle	X	X	X
Soprano pipistrelle	X	X	X
Whiskered bat	X	X	X
<b>Mammals &amp; Reptiles (exc. bats)</b>			
Irish hare	X	X	X
Otter	X	X	X
Red squirrel	X	X	X
Pine marten ( <i>Martes martes</i> )			X

SPECIES	FERMANAGH DC AUDIT 2008	OMAGH DC AUDIT 2008	FODC AUDIT 2014
West European Hedgehog ( <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> )			x
Common lizard ( <i>Zootoca vivipara</i> )			x
<b>Beetles &amp; Pondskaters</b>			
Arctic diver ( <i>Agabus arcticus</i> )			x
Relative diver ( <i>Agabus congener</i> )			x
Horsetail sloth weevil ( <i>Bagous lutulentus</i> )			x
A ground beetle ( <i>Carabus clatratus</i> )	x		x
Transition marsh beetle ( <i>Cyphon punctipennis</i> )			x
The Zircon Reed beetle ( <i>Donacia aquatica</i> )	x		x
Two-tone reed beetle ( <i>Donacia bicolora</i> )	x		x
Highland great diving beetle ( <i>Dytiscus lapponicus</i> )			x
Bereft scavenger beetle ( <i>Hydrochus brevis</i> )			x
Rockhopper beetle ( <i>Hydrocyphon deflexicollis</i> )			x
Three bs diver ( <i>Hydroporus glabriusculus</i> )			x
Sharp's parallel diver ( <i>Hydroporus longicornis</i> )			x
Nine-lined diver ( <i>Hygrotus novemlineatus</i> )			x
Copper diver ( <i>Llybius chalconatus</i> )			x
A ground beetle ( <i>Lebia cruxminor</i> )	x		x
Moss beetle ( <i>Ochthebius bicolon</i> )			x
Davis' river diver ( <i>Oreodytes davisii</i> )			x
A ground beetle ( <i>Pterostichus aterrimus</i> )	x		
A pond skater ( <i>Limnoporus rufoscutellatus</i> )		x	
<b>Butterflies, Damselflies &amp; Hoverflies</b>			
Small blue butterfly ( <i>Cupido minimus</i> )	x		x
Dingy skipper ( <i>Erynnis tages</i> )	x		x
Cryptic Wood white	x		x
Marsh fritillary ( <i>Eurodryas aurinia</i> )		x	x
Small heath ( <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> )			x
Large heath ( <i>Coenonympha tullia</i> )			x
Grayling ( <i>Hipparchia semele</i> )			x
Irish damselfly	x	x	x
A hover-fly ( <i>Cheilosia ahenea</i> )	x		x

SPECIES	FERMANAGH DC AUDIT 2008	OMAGH DC AUDIT 2008	FODC AUDIT 2014
<b>Crustaceans &amp; Molluscs</b>			
White-clawed crayfish	x	x	x
Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> )	x	x	x
Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> )			x
<b>Moths:</b>			
Grey dagger ( <i>Acronicta psi</i> )			x
Knot grass ( <i>Acronicta rumicis</i> )			x
Forester ( <i>Adscita statices</i> )			x
Beaded chestnut ( <i>Agrochola lychnidis</i> )			x
Green-brindled crescent ( <i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i> )			x
Ear moth ( <i>Amphipoea oculea</i> )			x
Dusky brocade ( <i>Apamea remissa</i> )			x
Garden tiger ( <i>Arctia caja</i> )			x
Sprawler ( <i>Asteroscopus sphinx</i> )			x
Centre-barred sallow ( <i>Atethmia centrago</i> )			x
Dark brocade ( <i>Blepharita adusta</i> )			x
Minor shoulder-knot ( <i>Brachylomia viminalis</i> )			x
Haworth's minor ( <i>Celaena haworthii</i> )			x
Crescent ( <i>Celaena leucostigma</i> )			x
Latticed heath ( <i>Chiasmia clathrata</i> )			x
Small square-spot ( <i>Diarsia rubi</i> )			x
Small phoenix ( <i>Ecilptopera silaceata</i> )			x
August thorn ( <i>Ennomos quercinaria</i> )			x
Grey mountain carpet ( <i>Entephria caesiata</i> )			x
Small eggar ( <i>Eriogaster lanestris</i> )			x
Autumnal rustic ( <i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i> )			x
Double dart ( <i>Graphiphora augur</i> )			x
Narrow-bordered bee hawk moth ( <i>Hemaris tityus</i> )			x
Ghost moth ( <i>Hepialus humuli</i> )			x
Rustic ( <i>Hoplodrina blanda</i> )			x
Rosy rustic ( <i>Hydraecia micacea</i> )			x
Brindled beauty ( <i>Lycia hirtaria</i> )			x
Broom moth ( <i>Melanchra pisi</i> )			x
Rosy minor ( <i>Mesoligia literosa</i> )			x
Oblique carpet ( <i>Orthonama vittata</i> )			x
Powdered quaker ( <i>Orthosia gracilis</i> )			x
Wood tiger ( <i>Parasemia plantaginis</i> )			x

SPECIES	FERMANAGH DC AUDIT 2008	OMAGH DC AUDIT 2008	FODC AUDIT 2014
Dark spinach ( <i>Pelurga comitata</i> )			x
Grass rivulet ( <i>Perizoma albulata</i> )			x
Argent & Sable ( <i>Rheumaptera hastata</i> )			x
Shaded broad-bar ( <i>Scotopterys chenopodiata</i> )			x
White ermine ( <i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i> )			x
Buff ermine ( <i>Spilosoma luteum</i> )			x
Pale eggar ( <i>Trichiura crataegi</i> )			x
Cinnabar ( <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i> )			x
Sallow ( <i>Xanthia icteritia</i> )			x
Dark-barred twin-spot carpet ( <i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i> )			
Heath rustic ( <i>Xestia agathina</i> )			x
Neglected rustic ( <i>Xestia castanea</i> )			x
<b>Fungi:</b>			
<i>Clavaria zollingeri</i> (fungi)		x	x
The big blue pinkgill ( <i>Entoloma bloxamii</i> ) (fungi)	x	x	x
Pink waxcap ( <i>Hygrocybe calyptriformis</i> ) (fungi)	x	x	x
Olive earth tongue ( <i>Microglossum olivaceum</i> ) (fungi)	x		x
<i>Trichoglossum walteri</i> (fungi)	x		x
<b>Lichen</b>			
<i>Enterographa elaborata</i> (lichen)	x		x
<i>Strigula lateralis</i> (lichen)	x		x
<b>Liverworts, Mosses, Stoneworts &amp; Lichen</b>			
<i>Anastrophyllum hellerianum</i> (liverwort)	x		x
Meylands pouchwort ( <i>Calypogeia integristipula</i> ) (liverwort)	x		x
Swedish pouchwort ( <i>Calypogeia suecica</i> ) (liverwort)	x		x
Turpswort ( <i>Geocalyx graveolens</i> )	x		x
Bud-headed grove moss ( <i>Aulacomnium androgynum</i> )	x		x
Appleyard' feather moss ( <i>Brachythecium appleyardiae</i> )	x		x
<i>Dicranodontium asperulum</i> (moss)	x		x
Slender-thread moss ( <i>Orthodontium gracile</i> )	x		x
Irish rock-bristle ( <i>Seligeria oelandica</i> )	x		x
<i>Rhynchostegiella curviseta</i> (moss)	x		x
Clint-crisp moss ( <i>Tortella densa</i> )	x		x

SPECIES	FERMANAGH DC AUDIT 2008	OMAGH DC AUDIT 2008	FODC AUDIT 2014
<i>Weissia brachycarpa</i> var. <i>brachycarpa</i> (moss)	x		x
Lesser smoothcap ( <i>Atrichum angustatum</i> ) (moss)		x	x
<i>Aulacomnium androgynum</i> (moss)		x	x
Lesser bearded stonewort ( <i>Chara curta</i> )	x		x
Pointed stonewort ( <i>Nitella mucronata</i> )	x		x
A lichen ( <i>Micarea hedlundii</i> )		x	x
<b>Vascular Plants</b>			
Chaffweed ( <i>Anagallis minima</i> )	x		x
Melancholy thistle ( <i>Cirsium heterophyllum</i> )	x		x
Cornish heath ( <i>Erica vagans</i> )	x		x
Irish eyebright ( <i>Euphrasia salisburgensis</i> )	x		x
Juniper ( <i>Juniperus communis</i> )	x		x
Yellow bird's-nest ( <i>Monotropa hypopitys</i> )	x		x
Dense-flowered orchid ( <i>Neotinea maculate</i> )	x		x
Frog orchid ( <i>Coeloglossum viride</i> )			x
Lesser butterfly orchid ( <i>Platanthera bifolia</i> )			x
Small white orchid ( <i>Pseudorchis albida</i> )			x
Serrated wintergreen ( <i>Orthilia secunda</i> )			x
Dark-leaved willow ( <i>Salix myrsunifolia</i> )		x	x
Heath cudweed ( <i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i> )	x	x	x
Intermediate wintergreen ( <i>Pyrola media</i> )	x	x	x
Blue eyed-grass ( <i>Sisyrinchium bermudiana</i> )	x		x
Greater water-parsnip ( <i>Sium latifolium</i> )	x		x
Irish lady's tresses ( <i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i> )	x		x
Killarney Fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> )	x		x
Holly fern ( <i>Polystichum lonchitis</i> )			x
Globeflower ( <i>Trollius europaeus</i> )	x		x
Fen violet ( <i>Viola persicifolia</i> )	x		x
Bog rosemary ( <i>Andromeda polifolia</i> )			x
Elongated sedge ( <i>Carex elongate</i> )			x
Green-flowered helleborine ( <i>Epipactis phyllanthes</i> )			x
Fen bedstraw ( <i>Galium uliginosum</i> )			x

SPECIES	FERMANAGH DC AUDIT 2008	OMAGH DC AUDIT 2008	FODC AUDIT 2014
Field gentian ( <i>Gentianella campestris</i> )			x
Tubular water-dropwort ( <i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i> )			x
Greater water-parsnip ( <i>Sium latifolium</i> )			x
Irish whitebeam ( <i>Sorbus hibernica</i> )			x
Marsh stitchwort ( <i>Stellaria palustris</i> )			x
<b>Fish</b>			
European eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )			x
Artic charr	x		x
Pollan ( <i>Coregonus autumnalis pollan</i> )	x		x
Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )		x	x
Brown trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> )		x	x

## **Locally Important Habitats and Species**

### **ODC – Audit 2008**

In addition to identifying Priority Species in the ODC area, the Omagh audit 2008 also sought to identify locally important species and habitats - those that were important to the local people and communities of Omagh. A number of methods were chosen to identify these as follows:

- Omagh LBAP Partnership
- Community Group nomination form
- Community Group and Omagh library presentations
- Omagh LBAP Steering Group

Following is a list of locally-important species and habitats for the ODC area. This process was undertaken after the audit in FDC and therefore does not appear in the 2008 Audit.

### **Habitats**

<b>HABITATS</b>
Lowland raised bog
Oak woodland
Rivers and Streams
Built-up areas and gardens
Species-rich hedgerows

### **Species**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SPECIES</b>
Atlantic salmon	Rigid hornwort
Brown trout	Oblong-leaved sundew
Lamprey species	Creeping willow
Freshwater pearl mussel	Cowberry
Irish hare	Common wintergreen
Otter	Intermediate wintergreen
All bats	English stonecrop
Curlew	Stone bramble
Lapwing	Geum x intermedium
Corncrake	Agrimony
Kingfisher	Lesser bladderwort
Blackbird	Water lobelia
Robin	Hawkweed
Snipe	Small cudweed
Skylark	Mountain everlasting
Barn owl	Heathcudweed
Cuckoo	Horned pondweed
Dipper	Great fen-sedge
Dragonflies	Splender sedge
Irish damselfly	Spring sedge
Smooth newt	Tall bog-sedge
Common lizard	Water sedge
Frog	Wood millet
Hedgehog	Wood fescue

Bluebell	Downy oat-grass
Ling heather	Yellow oat grass
Bog mosses	Least bur-reed
Primrose	Bird's nest orchid
Lesser clubmoss	Lesser twayblade
Quilwort	Small white orchid
Dutch rush	Fragrant orchid
Variegated horsetail	Frog orchid
Adder's tongue	Beech fern
Wilson's filmy-fern	Brittle bladder-fern

### **FODC – Audit 2014**

Through a range of methods, largely listed below, locally-important habitats and species for the new Council were identified.

- Public Consultation Events
- Email and postal consultation
- LBAP Steering Group
- Events, meetings and conversations
- Personal communication

### **Habitats**

<b>HABITATS</b>
Urban spaces (parks, gardens, grounds)
Hedgerows
Woodland
Roadside verges, species-rich grassland
Blanket Bog
Upland heathland
Riparian habitats/riverbanks/wet woodlands

### **Species**

<b>SPECIES</b>	
Cuckoo	
Whooper swan	
Snipe	
Migrating birds inc swallows, geese	
Kingfishers	
Hen harrier	
Otters	
Pine marten	
Irish hare	
Red squirrel	
Bats	
Hedgehog	
White-clawed crayfish	
Frog	
Newt	
Brown trout & sea trout	

Atlantic salmon	
Eel	
Orchids	
Sundews	
White water-lily	
Fresh-water pearl mussel	
Non-native invasive species	
Hazel	
Spindle	
Bluebell	
Peacock butterfly	
Dragonflies and damselfys	
Dingy skipper	
Marsh fritillary	
Garden tiger moth	

### **Threats and Opportunities**

Our natural heritage is something that most people value – perhaps not always on its face-value but on the opportunity it affords such as wood for the fire, an opportunity to catch some supper or to get some quality downtime like a walk in a wood. These opportunities rely on mature trees, clean water and the presence of woodland – and each of these will have someone monitoring them to ensure they are available for use.

Despite the presence of legislation, priority lists and agencies, we continue on a downward decline in terms of biodiversity. Some of these can be attributed to global causes while others have more local origins. Legislation, guidance etc is attempting to close the gap on these but of course, implementation, monitoring and enforcement are key.

Following are some of the most significant threats to biodiversity:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Development
- Non-native invasive species
- Environmental crime eg pollution, persecution
- Vandalism, fly-tipping
- Climate change
- Insensitive management

Where there are threats, there are also opportunities to eliminate, minimise or mitigate against them. Within Northern Ireland, we have all the expertise we need to get the balance right. The FODC area is also very fortunate to have within its boundaries agencies, organisations and experts who are working to conserve, educate etc on what we have. A partnership approach is one way we can ensure we get the best value, advice and impact.

Following are some of the opportunities we can take:

- Partnerships
- Community engagement
- Guidance and Best Practice standards
- Land management practices
- National survey campaigns
- Projects

## **Conclusion**

The new Council area will encompass diverse landscapes, habitats and species. This rich biodiversity is reflected in the range of designations found across the area as well as the priority species found to occur within its boundaries.

Both Councils have had the benefit of LBAPs and it is expected that this next phase will build on the experience and success of what has gone before it. While FODC are reviewing the LBAPs, the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy is also under review and we hope that with an early publication, it will help inform and direct the new LBAP.

There are many compelling reasons to ensure that our natural heritage is protected, valued and increased wherever possible. Our rich natural heritage is a cornerstone for attracting visitors into the area and provides an essential backdrop for activities and attractions. It is also important to give the next generation the opportunity to make the new biodiversity discoveries that are out there waiting for them. A healthy and diverse environment also helps to deliver well-being and health for our communities and businesses.

FODC would like to thank all those that have contributed towards the development of the Audit. We look forward to developing and delivering an LBAP that we hope will go some way in highlighting, promoting and raising awareness of our truly diverse natural heritage.

## Acronyms

Following is a list of the abbreviations with their full names that appear in the document.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>FULL NAME</b>
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
CEDaR	Centre for Environmental Data and Recording
DCAL	Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure
FDC	Fermanagh District Council
FODC	Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NNR	National Nature Reserve
ODC	Omagh District Council
SAC	Special Area of Conservation (Habitats Directive)
SOCC	Species of Conservation Concern
SPA	Special Protected Areas (Birds Directive)

## **APPENDIX 3: STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS**

APPENDIX 3A: Natural Heritage

APPENDIX 3B: Built Heritage

APPENDIX 3C: Other Designations

## **APPENDIX 3A: STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS - NATURAL HERITAGE**

### **3A (i) Sites of International Importance**

#### **Ramsar Sites**

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, requires Contracting Parties to designate suitable wetlands for inclusion in the Ramsar List. As a Contracting Party to the Convention, the UK is required to designate wetlands in accordance with criteria agreed by these parties for inclusion in a list of “Wetlands of International Importance”. The delegate countries were concerned with wetland and waterfowl conservation and the objectives are to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands, both now and in the future, and to encourage a wise use of wetlands. A wetland is defined as being an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural, or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt and including areas of intertidal marine water.

**8** Ramsar sites have been designated within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area.

- Black Bog Ramsar Site (Omagh);
- Fairy Water Bogs Ramsar Site (Omagh);
- Pettigoe Plateau Ramsar Site (Fermanagh);
- Fardrum & Roosky Turloughs Ramsar Site (Fermanagh);
- Cuilcagh Mountain Ramsar Site (Fermanagh);
- Upper Lough Erne Ramsar Site (Fermanagh);
- Slieve Beagh Ramsar Site (Fermanagh)
- Magheraveely Marl Loughs Ramsar Site (Fermanagh)

#### **Special Protection Areas (SPA's)**

Special Protection Areas (SPA's) are designated under the European Commission Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) (The Birds Directive). All European Community member States are required to identify internationally important areas for breeding, overwintering and migrating birds and designate them as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The United Kingdom practice is to protect these areas under domestic legislation before classifying them as SPAs. The Birds Directive is implemented in Northern Ireland through the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995.

There are **3** SPAs within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area.

- Pettigo Plateau SPA,
- Upper Lough Erne SPA, and
- Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA.

## **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)**

The EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) (The Habitats Directive) requires member states to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), to protect some of the most rare or seriously threatened habitats and species in a European context and take measures to maintain and restore them. The Directive identifies those habitats and species at greatest risk as priority habitats or species, and member States must provide for their declaration as SACs. The Habitats Directive is implemented in Northern Ireland through the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995. There are currently **20** SACs within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area.

- Owenkillew River SAC;
- Black Bog SAC;
- Deroran Bog SAC;
- Tully Bog SAC;
- Fairy Water Bogs SAC;
- Cranny Bogs SAC;
- Tonnagh Beg Bog SAC;
- Upper Ballinderry River SAC;
- Lough Melvin SAC;
- West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC;
- Monawilkin SAC;
- Largalinny SAC;
- Fardrum & Roosky Turloughs SAC;
- Cuilcagh Mountain SAC;
- Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC;
- Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC;
- Slieve Beagh SAC;
- Upper Lough Erne SAC;
- Moninea Bog SAC; and
- Pettigoe Plateau SAC

Classified SPAs and SACs together form the European wide network of sites known as 'Natura 2000'.

## **3A (ii) Sites of International Importance**

### **National Nature Reserves**

A nature reserve is defined as an area of importance for flora, fauna or features of geological or other special interest, which are reserved and managed for conservation and to provide special opportunities for study or research. Environment and Heritage Service declares National Nature Reserves under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. Sites of national and sometimes international importance are usually managed by the Department's Northern Ireland Environment Agency or by agreement with a voluntary conservation body. There are **17** National Nature Reserves within the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area.

- Boorin NNR18;

- Murrins NNR28;
- Meenadoan NNR17; and
- Claraghmore NNR53
- Tullywannia Beg NNR54;
- Castlecaldwell Forest NNR31;
- Lough Naman Bog NNR6;
- Correl Glen Forest NNR4;
- Castle Archdale Islands Forest NNR3;
- Ross Lough Forest NNR29;
- Hanging Rock and Rossaa Forest NNR34;
- Crossmurrin NNR61;
- Lusty Beg NNR58;
- Reilly & Gole Woods NNR37;
- Inishfendra NNR59;
- Killykeeghan NNR60;
- Marble Arch NNR7;

### **Marble Arch Caves Global Geo-Park (UNESCO)**

This special area of Fermanagh became the first UNESCO European GeoPark in the United Kingdom and Ireland when it was designated in 2001. It also carries the distinction of being the world's first International Global GeoPark, since the inclusion of an extension to the park to incorporate parts of west Cavan at a joint meeting of UNESCO and the European GeoPark Network, in September 2008. See map – Appendix 4D, for more details.

### **Areas of Special Scientific Interest.**

There are **117** Areas of Special Scientific Interest designated under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order 1985 within the Plan area either in whole or part, which are listed as follows. Areas of Special Scientific Interest are areas of land that have been identified by scientific survey as being of the highest degree of conservation value by reason of any of their flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features.

ASSI's have a well-defined boundary and by and large remain in private ownership. The underlying philosophy is to achieve conservation by co-operation with landowners who receive a list of notifiable operations which the Department considers might harm the nature conservation interest of the site and may therefore require a management agreement. (For Map See Appendix 4B)

See list on next page for ASSI details.

**List of ASSI's in Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (1<sup>st</sup> April 2015)**

1)	Annachullion Lough	59)	Knocknashangan
2)	Annaghagh Bog	60)	Knockninny Hill
3)	Ballagh	61)	Largalinny
4)	Banagher	62)	Largy Quarry
5)	Beagh Big	63)	Larkhill
6)	Bellanaleck	64)	Lenaghan Wood
7)	Big Dog Scarps and Lakes	65)	Lergan
8)	Black Bog	66)	Lisdoon
9)	Blackslee	67)	Lough Alaban
10)	Boho	68)	Lough Aleater
11)	Braade	69)	Lough Anierin
12)	Burdautien Lough	70)	Lough Corr
13)	Carnmore	71)	Lough Corry
14)	Carrickbawn	72)	Lough Formal
15)	Cashel Rock	73)	Lough Lark
16)	Castle Coole	74)	Lough Macrory
17)	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River	75)	Lough Melvin
18)	Conagher	76)	Lough Naman Bog and Lake
19)	Coolcran	77)	Lough Scolban
20)	Corraslough Point	78)	Lurgan River Wood
21)	Cranny Bogs	79)	Magheramenagh
22)	Crockanaver	80)	Makenny
23)	Cruninish Island	81)	Marlbank
24)	Cuilcagh Mountain	82)	Mill Lough
25)	Dernish Island	83)	Monawilkin
26)	Deroran Bog	84)	Moneendogue
27)	Devenish Island	85)	Moninea Bog
28)	Dromore	86)	Mullaghcarn
29)	Dromore Big	87)	Mullynaskeagh
30)	Drumacrittin Lough	88)	Murrins
31)	Drumbegger	89)	Owenkillew and Glenelly Woods
32)	Drumcully	90)	Owenkillew River

33)	Drumharvey	91)	Paris Island Big
34)	Drumlea and Mullan Woods	92)	Pettigoe Plateau
35)	Drumlisaleen	93)	Ross
36)	Drumowen	94)	Rushy Hill
37)	Edenaclogh Wood	95)	Scraghy
38)	Ederney Quarry	96)	Scribbagh
39)	Fairy Water Bogs	97)	Slieve Beagh
40)	Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs	98)	Sloughan and Willmount Glens
41)	Finn Floods	99)	Straduff
42)	Florence Court	100)	Stranacally
43)	Frevagh	101)	Summerhill Lough
44)	Garvos	102)	Tattenamona Bog
45)	Glen East	103)	Tedd
46)	Glennasheevar	104)	Tempo River
47)	Gortalughany	105)	The Cliffs of Magho
48)	Gravel Ridge Island	106)	Tonnagh Beg Bog
49)	Ground Bridge	107)	Tonnagh Quarry
50)	Hare Island	108)	Tower More
51)	Horse Island	109)	Tullanaguiggy
52)	Inishroosk	110)	Tully Bog
53)	Keadew	111)	Tullysrnadeega
54)	Killymackan Lough	112)	Upper Ballinderry River
55)	Kilnameel	113)	Upper Lough Erne - Belleisle
56)	Kilroosky Lough	114)	Upper Lough Erne - Crom
57)	Kirlish	115)	Upper Lough Erne - Galloon
58)	Knockballymore Lough	116)	Upper Lough Erne - Trannish
		117)	West Fermanagh Scarplands

## **APPENDIX 3B: STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS - BUILT HERITAGE**

### **3B (i) Archaeological Sites and Monuments**

#### **State Care Sites**

Archaeological sites and monuments are taken into the care of the department under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. State care sites and monuments represent all periods of human settlement in Ireland from 8000 BC to the 20th century. They are protected and managed as a public asset by the NIEA. All are presented for public access, education and enjoyment. There are **19** state care sites within the Fermanagh & Omagh District council area.

#### **Scheduled Monuments**

The Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 provides protection for archaeological sites and monuments. There are over **400** of these 'scheduled' monuments within Fermanagh & Omagh District council area.

#### **Unscheduled Monuments**

There are over **2400** other recorded archaeological sites and monuments within the council area. The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record is held and updated by Northern Ireland Environment Agency and is available to the public.

#### **Listed Buildings**

Article 42 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 requires the department 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. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015, there were **674** listed buildings / structures within the new council area. Built Heritage section of the NIEA should be contacted for more detailed and up to date information: <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/>

#### **Conservation Areas**

The Planning (NI) Order 1991 (Article 50) provides the Department with the power to designate an area of special architectural or historic interest as a Conservation Area. Within the new council area there are **3** Conservation Areas. These are Lisnaskea, Enniskillen and Omagh. Individual townscape and design advice is given in the relevant designation booklets.

## **APPENDIX 3C: STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS – OTHER DESIGNATIONS**

### **Areas of Townscape or Village Character (ATC/AVC)**

Areas of Townscape Character (ATC's) including Areas of Village Character are designated by the Department through the development plans with accompanying local policies for the control of development within these areas. In the Fermanagh & Omagh Council area:

- Enniskillen and Irvinestown are designated as ATC's along with the following villages: Ballinamallard, Belcoo/Holywell, Belleek, Brookeborough, Derrygonnelly, Ederney, Garrison, Kesh, Lack, Lisbellaw, Magheraveely, Maguiresbridge, Newtownbutler, Pettigoe/Tullyhommon, Rosslea and Tempo.

### **Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest**

Devenish and Topped Mountain in Fermanagh are designated as Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest. The designation of the overall setting in which a number of individual and related monuments are located, or an area of historic landscape, as an Area of Significant Archaeological Interest, is intended to protect the individual sites or monuments and their settings and the essential character of the area from inappropriate development. Devenish, with its group of ruined ecclesiastical buildings and its landscape setting of Lough Erne, is unique in Northern Ireland. Topped Mountain has a rich range of prehistoric monuments in traditional rural surroundings including remains of a bog with archaeological potential.

### **Areas of Archaeological Potential**

PPS 6 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 development plans. These areas are referred to as Areas of Archaeological Potential and will be identified in the Plan. There are 3 Areas of Archaeological Potential in our council area. Currently, these comprise the historic cores of Enniskillen, Lisnaskea and Newtownbutler. They indicate to developers those areas, that on the basis of current knowledge, it is likely that archaeological remains will be encountered in the course of future development or change. Planning Policy for the control of development is contained in PPS 6.

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

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has prepared a register of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest in Northern Ireland. There are currently 16 registered historic parks, gardens and demesnes within the council area and 15 supplementary entries. All sites are detailed as follows:

#### **Registered**

- Bellisle
- Castle Archdale

- Castle Caldwell
- Castle Coole
- Castletown Manor/Monea
- Colebrooke Demesne/Ashbrooke
- Crom Castle
- Ely Lodge
- Florence Court
- Fort Hill Gardens
- Lisgoole Abbey
- Necarne Castle
- Spring Grove/Rosslea Manor
- Tempo Manor
  
- Beltrim
- Lisnamallard House

### **Supplementary**

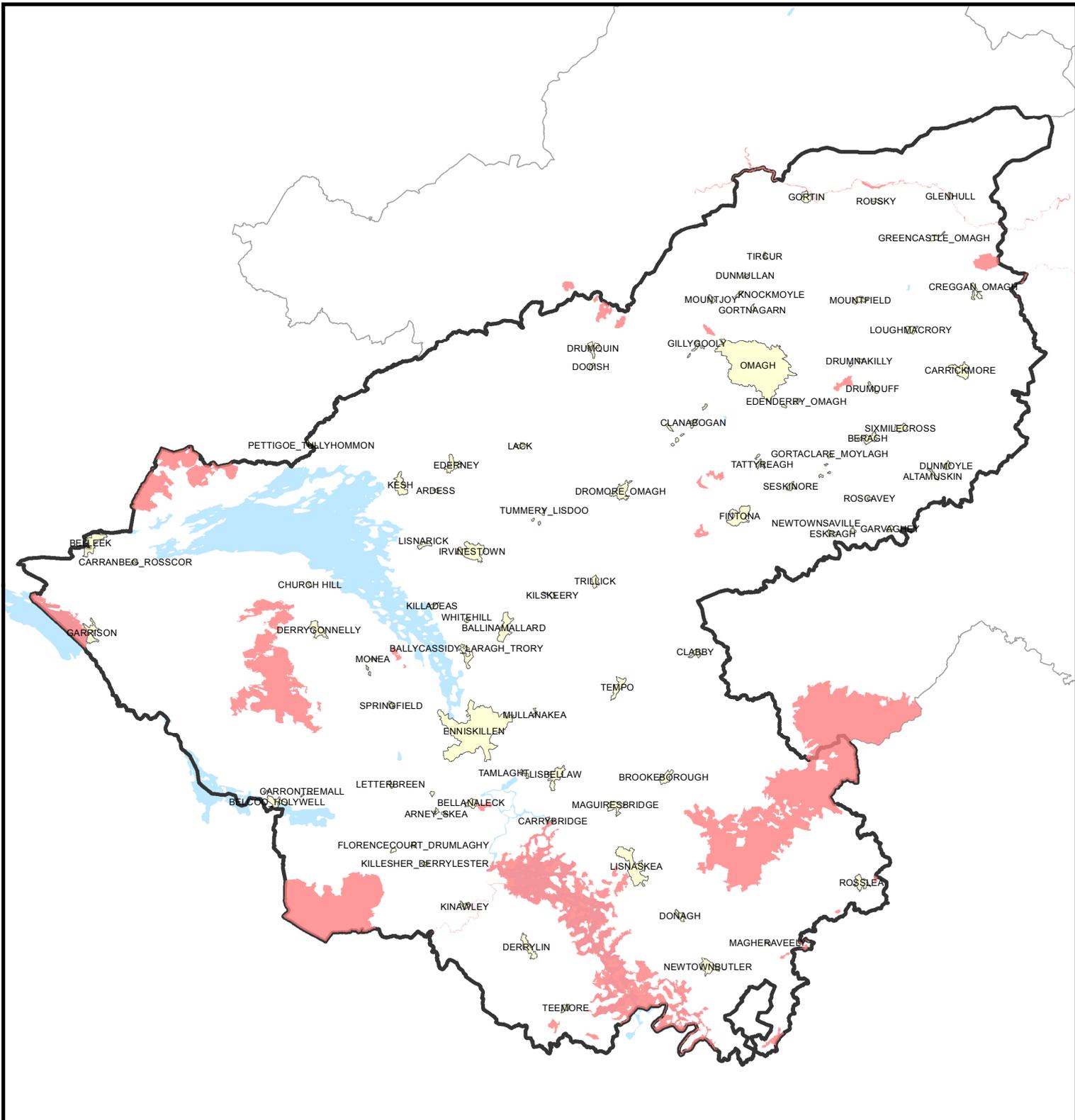
- Bellevue
- Crocknacrieve
- Dresternan Castle
- Drumgoon
- Gardenhill
- Jamestown
- Killyreagh
- Knockballymore
- Manor Waterhouse
- Snow Hill
- The Waterfoot
  
- Corkill
- Creevenagh
- Edenfel
- Termon

### **Industrial Heritage**

The Fermanagh & Omagh council area contains a wealth of remains of industrial heritage, all of which are reminders of economic development in the area. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency record and update data containing industrial heritage. Industrial heritage sites would include former mills, factories, bridges and railway fixtures. The Ulster Canal which runs from Fermanagh through Counties Monaghan and Armagh constitutes an important industrial heritage feature. The Fermanagh Plan 2007 sought to protect the Ulster Canal from any development which could prejudice its future development or restoration. The Fermanagh & Omagh council area is also particularly rich in rural industrial heritage sites.

The Industrial Heritage Record is included in the Department's Monument's and Buildings Record (MBR), and this map based archive can be accessed by the public through Built Heritage, (NIEA) 5-33 Hill Street, Belfast BT1 2LA.

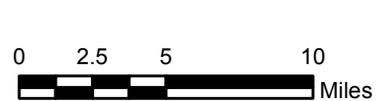
## **APPENDIX 4: Maps**

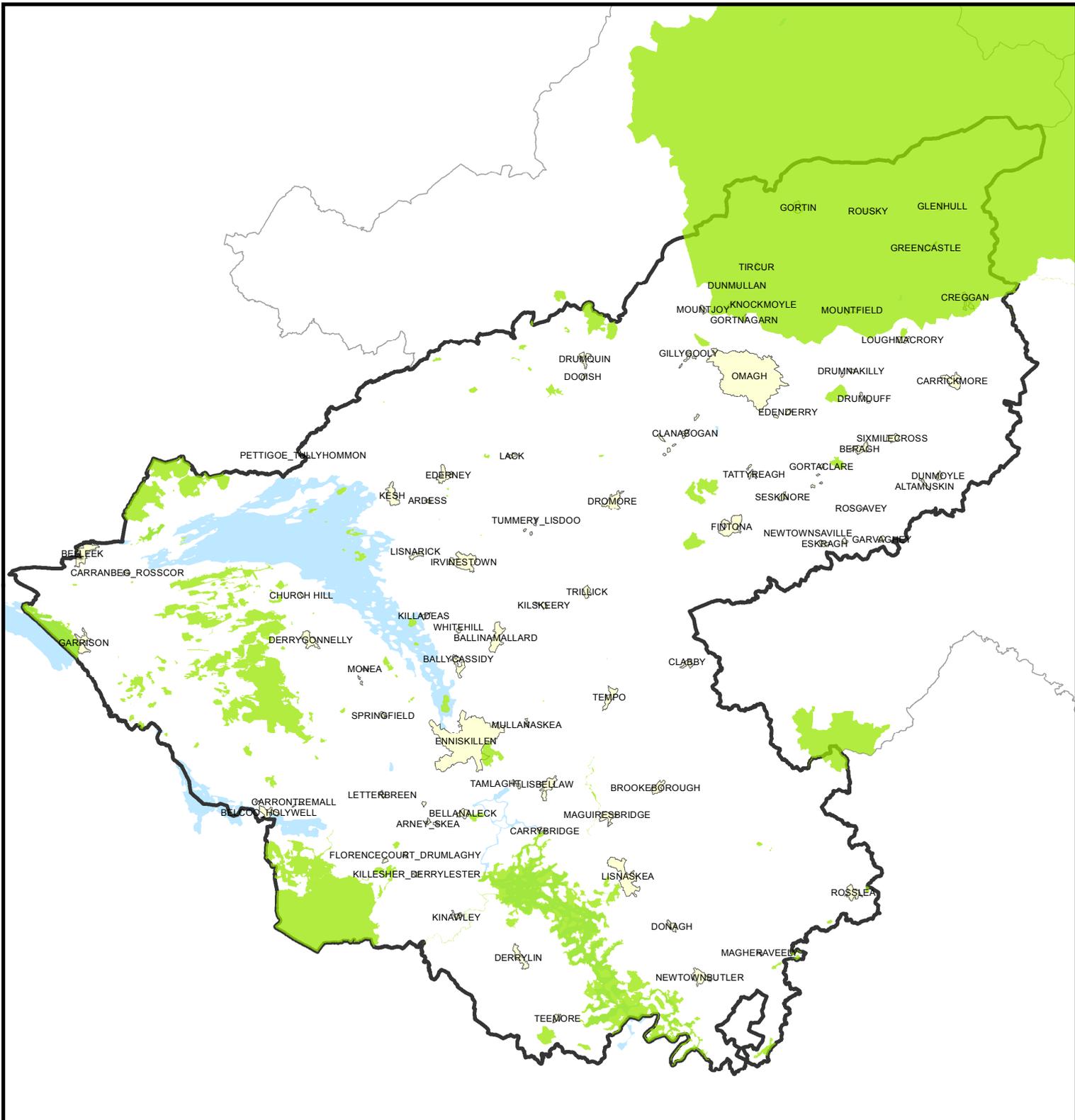


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## Map No.4A - Sites of International Conservation Importance

- RAMSAR / Special Area of Conservation (SAC) / Special Protection Area (SPA)**
- FODC Boundary**
- Water bodies**
- Settlements**





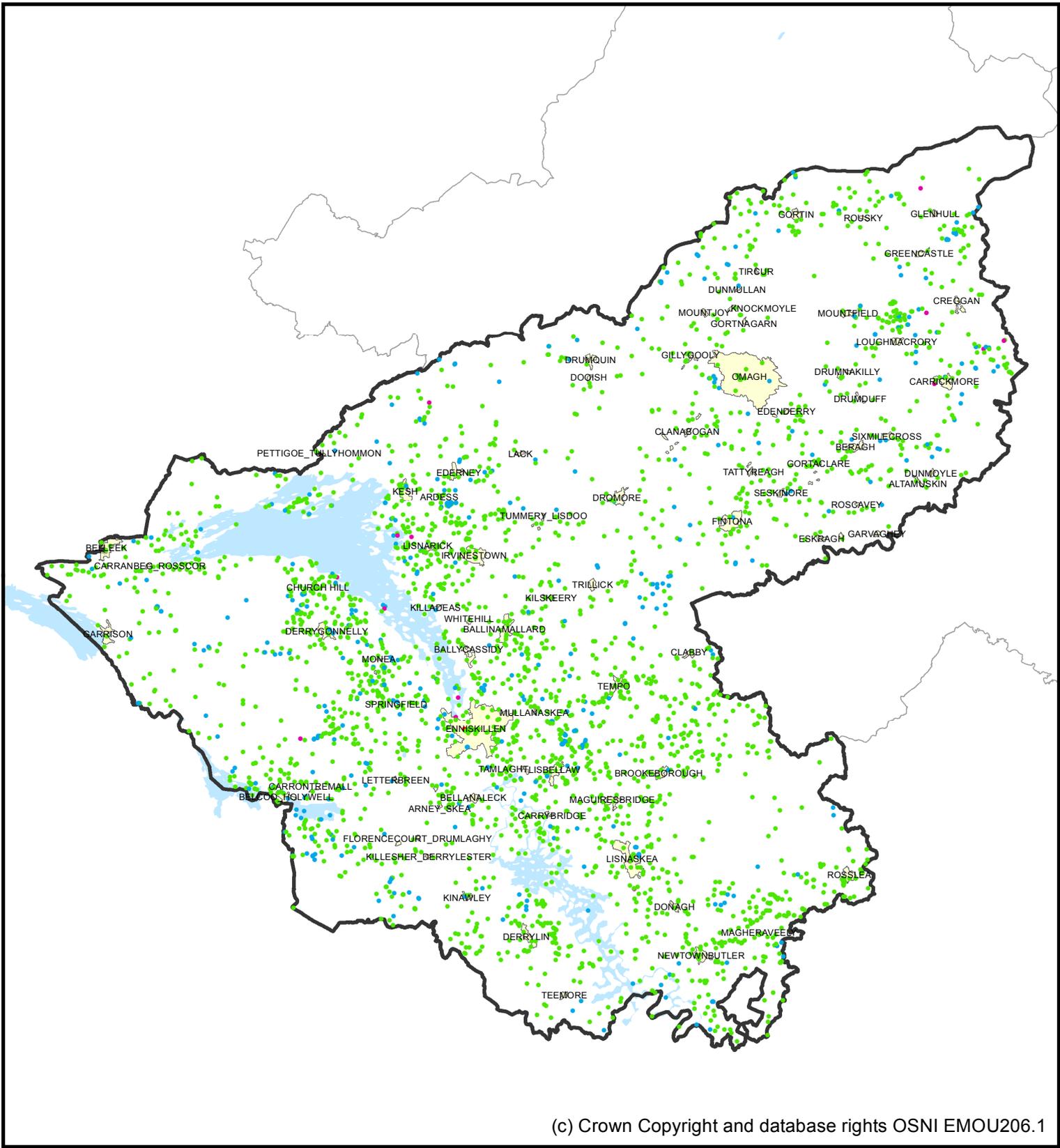
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### Map No.4B - Sites of National Conservation Importance

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) / Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) / Nature Reserve
- FODC Boundary
- Water bodies
- Settlements





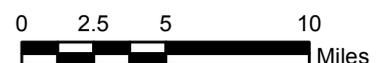
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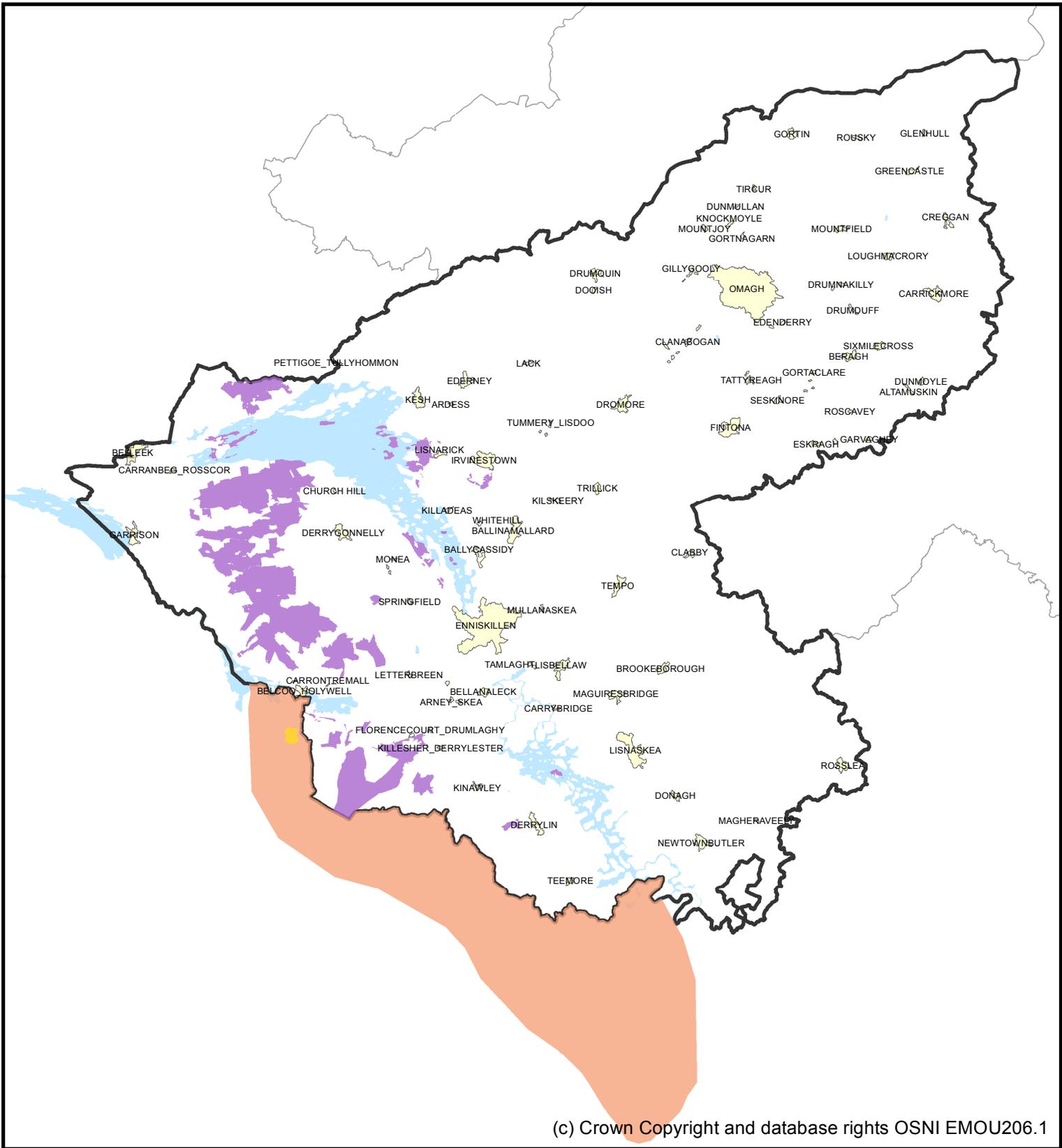
## Map No.4C - Historic Sites & Monuments

### PROTECTION

- Listed Monument
- State Care and Scheduled
- Scheduled
- Unscheduled

-  FODC Boundary
-  Water bodies
-  Settlements





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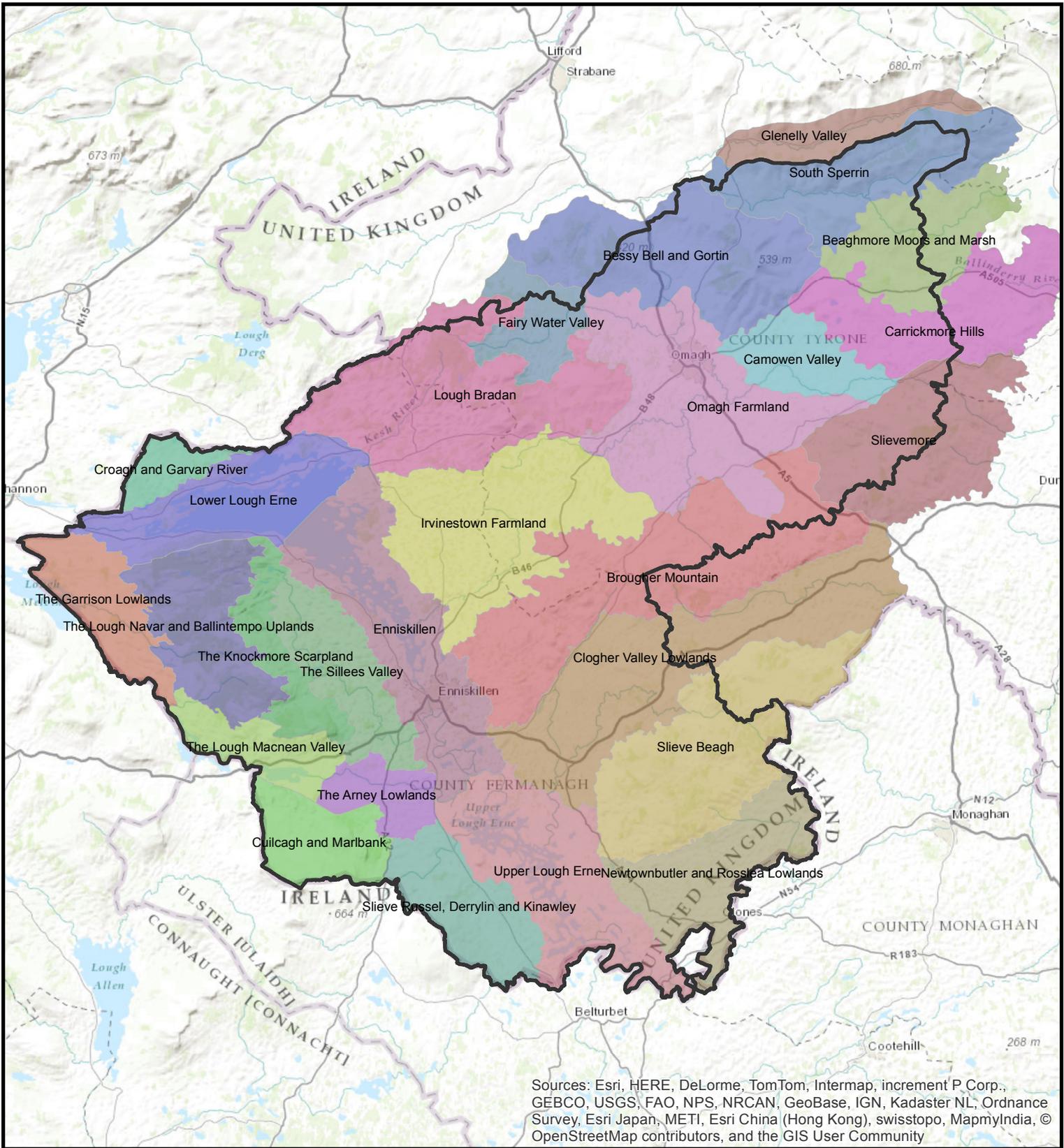


## Map No.4D - Global GeoPark and Expansion Area

**Name**

- Cavan Forest in expansion area
- Cavan expansion area
- Marble arch caves European Geopark
- FODC Boundary
- Water bodies
- Settlements





Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

## Map No.4E - NIEA Landscape Character Areas



FODC Boundary

0 2.5 5 10  
Miles

