

| Contents | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Executive Summary | 2 |
| 1.0 Introduction | 4 |
| 2.0 Regional Policy Context | 4 |
| 3.0 Profile of Natural Heritage Assets | 13 |
| 4.0 Existing Area Plan | 22 |
| 5.0 Other Key Documents | 26 |
| 6.0 Key Findings | 31 |
| 7.0 Conclusion | 31 |
| Annex 1: Designated Tree Preservation Orders within LCCC | 33 |
| Annex 2: Forest Service Managed Forests within Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area | 35 |
| Annex 3: Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA's) in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area | 36 |
| Annex 4: Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area | 38 |
| Annex 5: Other Key Legislation | 40 |
| Annex 6: Maps (1-11) | 41 |

Executive Summary

This Position Paper provides the Council with an overview of the environmental assets in the new Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area, to consider their current status and potential for future protection/enhancement.

Any future decision making will need to be made within the context of a Sustainability Appraisal under the provision of Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011. This paper is therefore intended to generate members' ideas on how planning can best meet the needs of the environmental assets within the council area.

It is important to stress that in compiling the Position Paper the best information available has been used however it may need revised in light of the release of any new data.

The paper will provide a foundation on which work can commence on a Preferred Options Paper as part of introducing the new Plan Strategy for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to replace that contained in the existing Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan.

The aims of the paper are:

- To build the capacity of members to make informed planning decisions, particularly within the plan making context;
- To provide baseline information which will inform Development Plan policy making at local level;
- To assess the current status of the environmental assets within the Council area; and

- To link with important ongoing work in relation to the development of a Community Plan and other strategic work being undertaken by the Council.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper examines the natural heritage assets within the new Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area.
- 1.2 The paper sets out the regional context for the natural environment, which allows members to consider how environmental policy may be formulated within the context of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and other regional policy.
- 1.3 This is followed by an assessment of the existing Development Plan context and potential for future policies or enhancement of existing policies.
- 1.4 An overview of the environmental assets profile/baseline of the new Council area is examined.
- 1.5 Information has been derived from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)¹, the Department of the Environment (DOE), the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), the Department for Regional Development (DRD) and other Council sources where specified.

2.0 REGIONAL POLICY 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 relate to plan making and the natural environment are outlined in the following paragraphs.

¹ http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/other-index/digital-intro/download_page.htm

Regional Development Strategy (RDS 2035)

2.2 The RDS 2035 provides a framework for strong sustainable economic growth across the region and recognises that a growing regional economy needs a co-ordinated approach to the provision of services, jobs and infrastructure. It seeks to balance the needs of a “resilient, outward looking, more dynamic economy, whilst preserving and sustaining quality of life” and promotes a sustained urban renaissance in the cities and towns of the region. The Strategy provides a framework within which the physical and social progress of Northern Ireland can be improved. The shared vision of the region is described as:

“Working together to create an outward looking, dynamic and liveable Region with a strong sense of place in the wider world; a Region of opportunity where people enjoy living and working in a healthy environment which enhances the quality of their lives and where diversity is a source of strength rather than division”.

2.3 The policy sets out that the approach to this vision has to be; sustainable, cohesive, competitive and community focused, in order for this vision to be achieved.

2.4 Sustainable development is at the heart of the Regional Development Strategy. The RDS aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Our society and economies are completely dependent on the environment which encompasses them and are therefore bound to its limits and capabilities.

2.5 The RDS provides the following Strategy Guidance with respect to the Environment;

- Reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate mitigation and adaptation to climate change whilst improving air quality.

- Manage our waste sustainably.
- Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment.
- Promote a more sustainable approach to the provision of water and sewerage services and flood risk management.

2.6 The RDS outlines that the natural environment directly supports all life and is essential to well-being. Human impacts on landscapes over the last century, as the result of increased development, have adversely affected biodiversity. There has been a substantial reduction in the total area of semi-natural habitats due to ongoing land use intensification from agriculture and urbanisation. Regional Guidance 11 (**RG 11**) ‘Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment’ outlines the following with respect to the Natural Environment;

- **Sustain and enhance biodiversity** in line with the objective of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy to halt the loss of indigenous species and habitats.
- **Identify, establish, protect and manage ecological networks.** Ecological networks, including the protection of priority species, are needed to maintain environmental processes and help to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- **Protect and encourage green and blue infrastructure within urban areas.** Green infrastructure is defined by the European Commission as “the use of ecosystems, green spaces and water in strategic land use

planning to deliver environmental and quality of life benefits”². Blue infrastructure is seen to refer to ponds, streams and lakes³.

- **Protect and manage important geological and geomorphological features.** Northern Ireland has a remarkably diverse range of rocks and geomorphological features. While selected sites require protection for their scientific, educational and research value, other topographical and geological features, if sensibly managed, can play an active role in economic development.

- **Protect enhance and manage the coast.** The quality of coastal waters needs to be raised and coastal areas protected from coastal squeeze.

- **Protect, enhance and restore the quality of inland water bodies.** Rivers and Lakes support habitats and species of national and international importance. The quality and the ecological status of the water environment should be improved through fulfilment of statutory obligations. The Executive’s first cycle of River Basin Management Plans (2010-15) outline the current measures being taken to improve the quality of our coastal, inland and ground waters and achieve the Water Framework Directive’s aim of good ecological status⁴.

- **Recognise and promote the conservation of local identity and distinctive landscape character.** Landscape character is what makes an area unique. It is defined as “a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements, be it natural (soil, landform) and/or human (for example settlement and development) in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse”. The

² A Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) Planning for Sustainable Development (Page 10).

³ DRD (2010) Regional Development Strategy (RDS 2035) Building a Better Future.

⁴ River basin planning is an ongoing process that promotes sustainable water use while protecting and improving the water environment. More information available at (http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water/wfd/themes/riv_bsn_mngt_plng.htm).

Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000 provides valuable guidance on local landscape character and scenic quality.

- **Conserve, protect and where possible enhance areas recognised for their landscape quality.** Protected landscapes should continue to be managed through a partnership approach involving central and local government and the local communities.

- **Protect designated areas of countryside from inappropriate development (either directly or indirectly) and continue to assess areas for designation.** Designating special areas for protection is an effective way of ensuring our wildlife and natural landscapes retain their individual characteristics. Some areas are deemed of such importance that they are formally designated under various pieces of national and international legislation.

- **Consider the establishment of one or more National Parks.** This would conserve and enhance the natural, built and cultural heritage of areas of outstanding landscape value while promoting the social and economic development of the communities they support⁵.

Regional Planning Policy Statements

2.7 The RDS is complemented by the DOE's Planning Policy Statements, the most relevant of which is **PPS 2 Natural Heritage** which sets out policies for protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

2.8 The policy objectives of this PPS are as follows;

- to seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage;

⁵ 1- RDS 2035, DRD, March 2012: The RDS 2035.

- to further sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, economic and environmental development;
- to assist in meeting international (including European), national and local responsibilities and obligations in the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage;
- to 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;
- to protect and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity and the environment; and
- to take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change⁶.

The Role of Development Plans

2.9 Within the context provided by the precautionary principle, those responsible for the preparation of development plans should take full account of the implications of proposed land use zonings, locations for development and settlement limits on natural heritage features within or adjoining the plan area.

2.10 In addition, plan-makers may seek to protect and integrate certain features of the natural heritage when zoning sites for development through “key site requirements”. In addition development plans should seek to identify and promote green and blue infrastructure where this will

⁶ DOE (2013) Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage.

add value to the provision, enhancement and connection of open space and habitats in and around settlements.

2.11 Natural heritage features will normally be identified as part of the process of Countryside Assessment carried out in association with plan preparation. Local designations arising from the plan should be identified and policies brought forward for their protection and, where possible their enhancement, such as those for Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs). Development plans should also seek to identify and promote the design of ecological networks throughout the plan area which could help reduce the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats through a strategic approach.

2.12 The development plan should consider the natural and cultural components of the landscape and promote opportunities for the enhancement or restoration of degraded landscapes, particularly those affecting communities.

2.13 Planning authorities should ensure that potential effects on landscape and natural heritage, including the cumulative effect of development are considered when preparing development plans and policies. With careful planning and design the potential for conflict can be minimised and enhancement of features brought about⁷.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement

2.14 PPS 2 is to be replaced by the **Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPSS)**, a draft of which was issued for consultation in February 2014. When published in final form the provisions of the SPSS must be taken

⁷ DOE (2013) Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage.

into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.

2.15 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.

Role of the Local Development Plan

2.16 The Draft SPSS in relation to Natural Heritage outlines the following;

- In plan-making and decision-taking councils, will apply the precautionary principle that, where there are significant risk of

damage to the environment its protection will generally be paramount, unless there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

- In plan-making councils should take full account of the implications of proposed land use zonings, locations for development and settlement limits on natural heritage features within or adjoining the plan area.
- Local Development Plans (LDPs) should seek to protect and integrate certain features of the natural heritage when zoning sites for development through 'key site requirements'. In addition LDPs should seek to identify and promote green and blue infrastructure where this will add value to the provision, enhancement and connection of open space and habitats in and around settlements.
- Natural heritage features and designated sites should be identified as part of the plan-making process. Where appropriate, policies should be brought forward for their protection and / or enhancement. LDPs should also identify and promote the design of ecological networks throughout the plan area which could help reduce the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats through a strategic approach.
- LDPs should consider the natural and cultural components of the landscape and promote opportunities for the enhancement or restoration of degraded landscapes.
- Councils should ensure that potential effects on landscape and natural heritage, including the cumulative effect of development are considered when preparing LDPs and policies⁸.

⁸ DOE (2014) A Strategic Planning Policy for Northern Ireland (SPSS) Planning for Sustainable Development: Public Consultation Draft.

3.0 PROFILE OF NATURAL HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN LCCC

Fig. 1 Hierarchy of Nature Conservation Designations



International

- 3.1 The United Kingdom has transposed into UK law the terms of the European Commission (EC) Birds and Habitats Directives⁶, and both the Water Framework and Marine Strategy Framework Directives⁷. It is also a signatory to the Ramsar Convention in relation to the protection of wetlands.
- 3.2 **Special Protection Areas:** The Birds Directive provides for the selection of sites for their importance as areas for breeding, over wintering and migrating birds known as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Directive also requires Member States to strive to avoid the deterioration of habitats for wild birds outside designated sites. One Special Protected Area is located within Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg) (See Map No. 1).
- 3.3 **Special Areas of Conservation:** The Habitats Directive requires the protection of certain natural habitats through the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). It also requires the establishment of a system of strict protection for a list of species (other than birds) whose resting and breeding places and whose habitats must be protected to

secure their survival, wherever they occur in the member state's territory. There are no Special Areas of Conservation within Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area.

- 3.4 **Ramsar Sites:** These are wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention to protect those of international importance. It requires signatories to formulate and implement their planning for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. As a matter of policy, the UK Government has chosen to apply the procedures under the Habitats Regulations in respect of Ramsar sites. One Ramsar site is located within Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg). (See Map No. 2).

Fig. 2 Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Special Protection Area and Ramsar site



National

- 3.5 **The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended) [“the Wildlife Order”]** prohibits the intentional and reckless killing, taking, injuring or disturbance of all wild birds and of certain animals and any person who knowingly causes or permits this to be done shall be guilty of an offence. It also prohibits the intentional and reckless destruction, uprooting or picking of certain wild plants. **The Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011** in addition places a statutory duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity when exercising any functions. Nature conservation sites selected as European sites

under the Birds and Habitats Directives may also be underpinned, either wholly or in part, by sites selected at national level. These are the key pieces of legislation at a National Level.

- 3.6 **Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)** are given legal protection under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (as amended) which provides powers to designate, protect and manage them. These sites are of special interest by reason of their flora, fauna, geological and/or physiographical features and are designated under part IV of the Order. There are **8** Areas of Special Scientific Interest within the council area. (See Map No. 3).

Table 1: ASSI's within LCCC area by DEA

| Area's of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI's) | |
|---|-------------------------|
| ASSI | DEA |
| Leathemstown | <i>Killultagh</i> |
| Slievenacloy | <i>Killultagh</i> |
| Portmore Lough | <i>Killultagh</i> |
| Maghaberry | <i>Killultagh</i> |
| Ballynanaghten | <i>Downshire West</i> |
| Craigantlet Wood | <i>Castlereagh East</i> |
| Lough Neagh | <i>Killultagh</i> |
| Clarehill | <i>Downshire West</i> |

- 3.7 Under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, other statutory designations include:

- 3.8 **Nature Reserves and National Nature Reserves** – nature reserves can be of national (and sometimes international) importance. They are usually managed by the Department or by agreement with another Department, a District Council or a voluntary conservation body. Within the council area there is one nature reserve, Belshaw's Quarry (See Map No. 4).

Fig. 3. Image Illustrating Belshaw’s Quarry Nature Reserve



3.9 **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty** – designated by the Department of the Environment primarily for their high landscape quality, wildlife importance and rich cultural and architectural heritage. Within the council area **Lagan Valley AONB** is noted as an important designation (See *Map No. 5*).

Fig. 4 Lagan Valley AONB



Local

3.10 **Local Nature Reserves and Wildlife Refuges** – Local Nature Reserves can be provided by District Councils for nature conservation under powers conferred to them under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. They are particularly

appropriate for educational, recreational or public information services. The Department of the Environment can also provide a Wildlife Refuge under the Wildlife Order. There are no Local Nature Reserves within the council area.

- 3.11 **Trees and Woodland** – Trees can be protected through Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) under The Planning (Trees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. A TPO provides protection for trees considered to be of special value in terms of amenity, history or rarity⁸. It makes it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot or wilfully damage or destroy a protected tree, or to permit these actions, without first seeking the local planning authorities consent to do so. Within the council area 57 TPO's are noted. *(See Annex 1 for further details).*
- 3.12 Sustainable forest management, as set out by the Forestry Standard, is a fundamental part of forest policy in the north of Ireland. One of the purposes of the Forestry Act (NI) 2010 is to manage forests to help protect the environment and biodiversity. Unless otherwise exempt, the Forestry Act and associated subordinate legislation, regulates the felling of trees in private woodland.
- 3.13 There is approx.179.3 ha of Forest Service controlled woodland within the council area (49.4ha of broadleaf, 110.5ha of coniferous & 19.4ha of mixed woodland). Within the council area Belvoir and Hillsborough Forests are noted (212 ha in total)⁹. **In addition, there is a total of 1483 ha of non Forest Service Managed woodland across the Council area.** *See Annex 2 for further details.*
- 3.14 **Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA's)** are designated within or adjoining settlements on lands considered to be of greatest nature conservation or heritage interest, amenity value, landscape quality or local significance. There are **118 LLPS's** within the **C**ouncil area *(See Annex 3 for further details and Map No.6).*

⁹ Please note that the total forest service estate of 212ha includes non-forested areas.

- 3.15 **Landscape wedges**, including those within the urban area which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure, in particular where they follow river valleys, afford routes for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species. Landscape Wedges also serve to protect important landscapes. There are **6** landscape wedges within the council area (1 Urban Wedge and 5 Rural Wedges). (See Map No. 7).

Table 2: Landscape wedges within LCCC area

| Landscape Wedge | DEA |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Carryduff (Rural) | <i>Castlereagh South/East</i> |
| Glencregagh (Rural) | <i>Castlereagh South</i> |
| Newtownards (Rural) | <i>Castlereagh East</i> |
| Comber (Rural) | <i>Castlereagh East</i> |
| Mosside (Rural) | <i>Lisburn North</i> |
| Dundonald (Urban) | <i>Castlereagh East</i> |

- 3.16 A landscape wedge is designated at Mosside in order to maintain a separation between Lisburn and Belfast and protect Lisburn City's strong and independent identity.
- 3.17 A designated rural wedge at Carryduff aims to distinguish and maintain the separate identities of Cairnshill, Castlereagh and Carryduff by acting as a visual buffer. It prevents the merging of the two communities of Castlereagh and Carryduff and aims to define and protect the setting of Castlereagh and Carryduff whilst maintaining the rural character of the countryside. The Wedge is mainly agricultural and the western section, which consists of the Castlereagh Slopes is designated as an Area of High Scenic Value.
- 3.18 Glencregagh Rural Landscape Wedge is designated between East Belfast and Castlereagh. It prevents the merging of the two urban areas and aims to define and protect the setting of Castlereagh and maintain the rural character of the countryside.
- 3.19 Newtownards Rural Landscape Wedge aims to distinguish and maintain the identity of Dundonald. It defines and protects the setting of

Dundonald and Newtownards and also maintains the rural character of the countryside.

3.20 Comber Rural Landscape Wedge aims to distinguish and maintain the identity of Dundonald. It defines and protects the setting of Dundonald and Comber and maintains the rural character of the countryside.

3.21 Dundonald Urban Wedge aims to break up the visual impact of the housing mass in the area. It helps to retain and define the identities of the component areas of East Belfast and Dundonald.

3.22 **Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs)** are designated in accordance with PPS 2: Natural Heritage. Sites are identified on the basis of their flora, fauna or earth science interest. There are **113** SLNCI's within the council area (*See Annex 4 for further details and map no. 8*).

Lagan Valley Regional Park

3.23 The Lagan Valley Regional Park's special character derives from the combination of meandering river, rolling drumlin topography, high quality farmland, and attractive wooded parkland and forest. Within this diverse landscape is a rich variety of plant and animal life and man-made features marking over 9,000 years of human settlement¹⁰.

3.24 Lagan Valley Regional Park is Northern Ireland's first and only Regional Park. The Lagan Valley Regional Park was established in 1967 as one of three unique semi-urban designations in the UK at that time. The Lagan Valley Regional Park is located between Stranmillis, Belfast and Union locks, Lisburn and covers some 4,200 acres of countryside and eleven miles of riverbank¹¹. Lagan Valley Regional Park lies within the two local authority areas of Belfast City Council and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

¹⁰ Lagan Valley Regional Park-Local Plan 2005: Department of the Environment (DOE).

¹¹ <http://www.laganvalley.co.uk/about-us.html>

3.25 The Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan 2005 aims to;

-To protect and enhance the natural and man-made heritage of the Park.

-To conserve the essential character of the Park and to encourage its responsible public use.

-To seek to ensure that the various land uses and activities within the Park can co-exist without detriment to the environment¹².

3.26 The strategy of The Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan 2005 is to protect the rural character of the park, to further the opportunities for recreation and conservation, and to reconcile potential conflicts. The following objectives are contained within the plan to fulfil this strategy;

- To provide a statutory framework for the protection of the Park as an important green space.
- To ensure the conservation of the high quality landscapes within the Park.
- To promote the Park for informal countryside recreation and to encourage the provision of appropriate additional facilities.
- To conserve and enhance the ecological richness of the Park, particularly in areas of wildlife value.
- To regulate necessary development within the Park in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- To protect those buildings, structures, archaeological sites and monuments and other features in the historic landscape which

¹² Lagan Valley Regional Park-Local Plan 2005: Department of the Environment (DOE).

form the man-made heritage of the Park and to promote their wider public appreciation.

- To seek to create a strong identify and distinctive image for the Park¹³.

(See Map No. 9)

Areas of High Scenic Value (AOHSV)

3.27 The diversity of landscapes in the council area combine to provide a unique resource of significant environmental quality. Areas of High Scenic Value are designated to protect the setting of Urban Areas and other areas of particular landscape merit. All AOHSV are also designated as Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development. This will restrict new or extended mineral operations to those locations and proposals, which will minimise conflict with amenity, recreation and conservation interests in the council area. Six Areas of High Scenic Value are located within the LCCC area. (See Map No. 10).

Table 3: Areas of High Scenic Value within LCCC area

| Areas of High Scenic Value (AOHSV) |
|---|
| Portmore Lough |
| Magheraknock Loughs |
| Belfast Basalt Escarpment (Majority within Belfast City Council Area) |
| Craigantlet Escarpment |
| Castlereagh Slopes |
| Castlereagh Escarpment |

¹³ Lagan Valley Regional Park-Local Plan 2005: Department of the Environment (DOE).

Table 4: Total Natural Heritage designations within LCCC area

| | |
|---|-----|
| Ramsar Site | 1 |
| Special Protection Area | 1 |
| Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) | 6 |
| National Nature Reserves (NNRs) | 1 |
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) | 1 |
| Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) | 116 |
| Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA) | 118 |
| Landscape Wedge (Rural & Urban) | 6 |
| Area of High Scenic Value | 6 |
| Lagan Valley Regional Park | 1 |
| Lagan Valley Regional Park Nodes | 9 |

4.0 EXISTING AREA PLAN

- 4.1 **The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP)** is a development plan prepared under the provisions of Part 3 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 by the Department of the Environment (DOE). The Plan covers the City Council areas of Belfast and Lisburn and the Borough Council areas of Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey and North Down.
- 4.2 Volume 3 and Volume 5 of BMAP 2015 sets out policies on Lisburn and Castlereagh Districts respectively. These policies have been developed in the context of the Plan Strategy and Framework contained in Volume 1 of the Plan and are in general conformity with the RDS
- 4.3 BMAP 2015 outlines the following with respect to the natural assets of Lisburn and Castlereagh.

- Recognises Lisburn’s attractive setting, and seeks to protect the varied landscapes contained within its boundaries, including the Lagan Valley Regional Park.
- Recognises the various landscapes within Castlereagh so as to protect them from undesirable development.
- There are a number of important areas of nature conservation within the council area. Part of the Lough Neagh shoreline lies within the northwest of the council area and this is recognised internationally as a Ramsar Site, a Special Protection Area (SPA) and an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).
- There are several other ASSIs within the council area, a National Nature Reserve at Belshaw’s Quarry, and Local Nature Reserves at Edenderry, Portmore Lough and Slievenacloy.
- There are Areas of High Scenic Value comprising of Belfast Basalt Escarpment, Castlereagh Slopes, Magheraknock Loughs, Portmore Lough, Craigantlet Escarpment and Castlereagh Escarpment.

Lagan Valley Regional Park Nodes

- 4.4 A Series of nodes are identified based upon an existing focus of activity within which it is considered appropriate to locate recreational, tourist, interpretive or educational facilities. Within designated nodes favourable consideration will be given to the provision of seating, picnic areas, lighting, signage, public art, footbridges, pathways and viewpoints of an appropriate scale and location provided they visually integrate into the Park. No development will be permitted which would prejudice the future reopening of the Lagan Navigation¹⁴.

¹⁴ DOE (2014) Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan-District Proposals Lisburn. Part 4 Vol. 3.

Table 5: Lagan Valley Regional Park Nodes

| Lagan Valley Regional Park Nodes |
|--|
| Ballyskeagh (Adj. to Lisburn Distillery Football Ground) |
| Glenmore Activity Centre |
| Island at former Barbour Threads Mill |
| Lisburn Civic Centre |
| Union Bridge, Lisburn |
| Hillsborough Road, Lisburn |

4.5 Ballyskeagh (Adjacent to Lisburn Distillery Football Ground)

Key Site Requirements:

-Acceptable uses at this node are based on the predominant character of the area. These are defined as recreation, information/interpretative or educational facilities. Small-scale refreshment facilities or uses associated with outdoor sport and recreation are considered appropriate at this location.

4.6 Glenmore Activity Centre

Key Site Requirements:

-Acceptable uses at this node are based on the predominant character of the area. These are defined as biodiversity and education, amenity and outdoor recreation; and

-The Lagan watercourse, which forms the eastern boundary of the site, shall be integrated into the proposed development.

4.7 Island at former Barbour Tread Mill

Key Site Requirements:

-Development shall only include the following uses:

- Interpretative/visitor facilities
- Education/heritage uses
- Water based recreation facilities
- Refreshment/restaurant facilities

- Public open space
- Residential
- Hotel Development

4.8 Lisburn Civic Centre

Key Site Requirements:

-Development shall only include the following uses:

- Uses directly related to the Civic Centre
- Interpretative/visitor facilities
- Refreshment/Restaurant facilities
- Education/heritage uses
- Public Open Space

-The Lagan watercourse and disused Canal, which runs through the northern portion of the site, shall be integrated in the proposed development; and

-Built development shall be centred on, and shall retain the character of the existing building. Changes of use within the existing building to facilitate visitors are preferable.

4.9 Union Bridge, Lisburn

Key Site Requirements:

Development shall only include the following uses:

- Outdoor recreation and sporting facilities
- Interpretative/visitor facilities
- Small-scale refreshment facilities
- Education/heritage uses
- Public Open Space

-Development of the site shall only be permitted in accordance with an overall comprehensive master plan, which outlines the proposed design concept, objectives and priorities for the site and;

-The Lagan watercourse, which forms the south eastern boundary of the site, shall be integrated into the proposed development.

4.10 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn

Key Site Requirements

Development shall only include the following uses:

- Hotel
- Restaurant
- Car Parking
- Uses associated with biodiversity, amenity, information; and
- Outdoor water-based recreation

-Development of the site shall only be permitted in accordance with an overall comprehensive master-plan, which outlines the proposed design concept, objectives and priorities for the site; and

-The Lagan watercourse forms the northern and western boundaries of the node. Any proposed development shall demonstrate integration with and improved access to the river and Union Locks (See Map No. 11).

5.0 OTHER KEY DOCUMENTS

Lisburn's Lagan Corridor: Strategic Framework (2003)

5.1 The Lagan Corridor Programme (2003) is a major long-term project involving Lisburn City Council working in partnership with statutory bodies, businesses and local residents with a commitment to bring the river Lagan back to life. The Lagan Corridor is considered to be one of the council's key assets. The Council has been committed to the regeneration and reinvigoration of Lisburn's Lagan Corridor through an ongoing programme of works. Achievements include the following;

- Riverside regeneration at Lagan Valley Island;
- Section of towpath designated as part of route 9-National Cycle Network;
- Establishment of two towpath running trails;
- Annual Dragon boat race and children's Duck Derby.

5.2 The Delivery of a Strategic Framework supporting the Lagan Corridor Initiative shall provide an important range of benefits including;

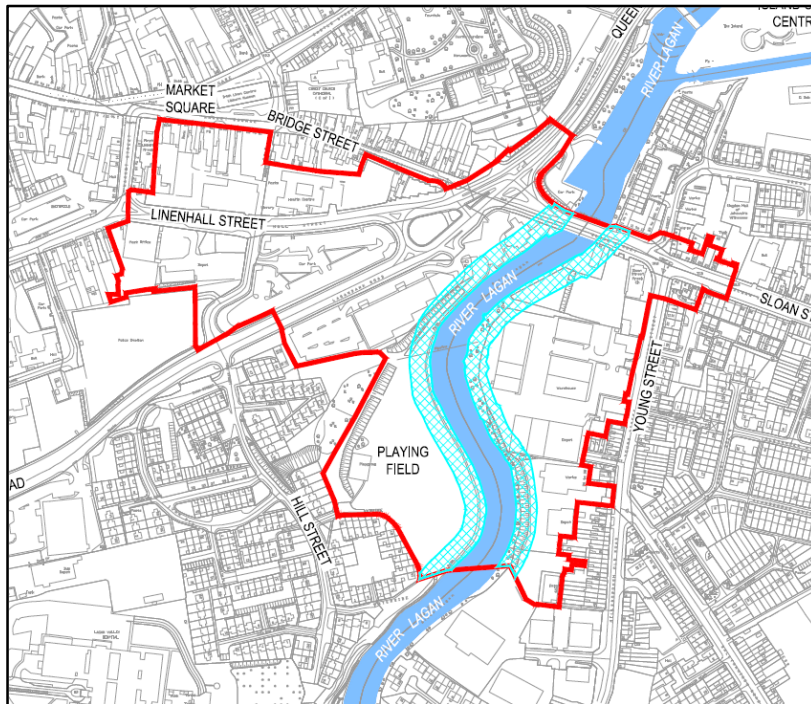
- Recognition of the central role of the River Lagan/Lagan Navigation as a regional asset, providing a wide range of environmental, social, community and economic benefits across the council area and beyond.
- Increased enhancement, awareness and usage of the waterway environment.
- The creation of 'Lisburn's Riverfront'.
- High quality riverside regeneration enhancing the natural and built environments.
- Conversion and re-use of buildings and riverside and canal side sites.
- Leisure and tourism focus.
- Improved amenity, recreation and public realm facilities¹⁵.

Comprehensive Development Scheme Laganbank Quarter, Lisburn

5.3 This document produced August 2014 outlines that the Department of Social Development's (DSD) objective in adopting the **Laganbank Quarter Development Scheme** (the Development Scheme) is to secure a comprehensive, major mixed use scheme, which will regenerate the Laganbank Quarter area of Lisburn, enhance the City Centre's regional role, integrate with the surrounding urban fabric, and strengthen links with the River Lagan.

¹⁵ Lisburn's Lagan Corridor (2003): Strategic Framework. Lisburn City Council.

Fig. 5. Boundary of Laganbank Quarter Development Scheme



5.4 The Development Scheme includes an appropriate mix of City Centre and riverside uses including: offices, retail, leisure, hotel, residential, cultural uses and car parking. The provision of high quality public open space is also required.

5.5 The following key environmental principles will be considered in taking forward the proposed Laganbank Quarter Development Scheme:

- In keeping with the biodiversity duty placed on public bodies by the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the principles will, where possible, ensure that existing natural biodiversity, and in particular mature vegetation, is retained in the natural and built environment and that opportunities are taken to enhance natural biodiversity and retain the function of the river and linked green spaces as a wildlife corridor.
- Particular note will be taken of the needs of Annex II Species listed within the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC that are present in the area, for example Kingfisher, Atlantic Salmon, River & Brook

Lamprey, Bats and Otters when considering detailed infrastructure components such as lighting, bridge design, pathways, planting and discharges.

- The LQDS will comply with all relevant action required to achieve and retain Good Ecological Potential for the River Lagan and its tributaries by 2015 within the terms of the EC Water Framework Directive – 2000/60/EC.
- Where new hard-standing such as car parking and road infrastructure is planned, Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) will be used to provide attenuation of run-off, reduce pluvial flooding, reduce spillage risk, and avoid pollution of watercourses.
- To minimise Lisburn’s carbon footprint and water use, opportunities will be taken to employ environmental technology to enhance the sustainability of building design. Taking this to a broader level, developments will be encouraged to develop and implement Green Infrastructure measures.
- Where sewerage infrastructure does not meet modern standards, opportunities will be taken to replace infrastructure, with particular focus on separating stormwater from foul sewage.
- The proposals have been screened to ensure compliance with the impact of 1:100 year flood events and the effects of predicted climate change.
- The Development Scheme will seek to facilitate “City Living” and to promote more sustainable forms of transport, e.g. walking, cycling and public transport journeys. This includes provision of a safe environment for non-car journeys for people of all ages.
- The Development Scheme will seek to manage existing road traffic more effectively within the development scheme area and improve

flows. In doing so, the development scheme will adhere to National Air Quality Standards, and seek to improve air quality through tree planting and green space provision.

- Significant archaeological & built heritage features of Lisburn, both designated and undesignated will be retained or conserved and recorded. Where possible, their context will be enhanced. This includes features of the historic Lagan Navigation. The environmental principles recognise the strong interaction between built and natural heritage in respect of nesting sites for swifts and other bird species and roosting sites for bats. Care will be taken to retain and enhance habitats for protected species and species of conservation concern.
- The Development Scheme will seek to respect the quality and character of the Lisburn and LVRP landscapes. Opportunities will be taken to enhance the section of the LVRP within the Development Scheme and to protect and enhance key views, adding value to the townscape.
- The future impacts of climate change should be considered in the design of buildings with inclusion of adaptability to relevant risks and opportunities.
- Any invasive species need to be managed and controlled during the planning and delivery of any development. It is already known that Japanese Knotweed is present in the area. A management plan will be devised in development of the affected sector.
- A number of the environmental principles could be met through the inclusion of a buffer zone along the River Lagan. This was considered as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment which underpins the Laganbank Quarter Development Scheme.

6.0 KEY FINDINGS

- **Consider ways** to manage development and plan for the future development within Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area in a sustainable manner taking account of the multiple array of natural heritage **assets** within the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Area.
- Explore opportunities along Lisburn's Lagan Corridor for extending access and circulation to the towpath and the wider river and canal environs that have the potential to become more important as routes for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Explore opportunities for recreation & leisure maximising use of the Lagan Valley Regional Park providing it can be demonstrated that no harm will be caused to natural conservation interests.
- Recognise the physical and economic importance of the natural heritage assets and explore opportunities for further enhancement or designation.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The purpose of this paper has been to provide base line information on the environmental designations within the Lisburn City& Castlereagh Council District.

7.2 It is therefore recommended to Members that:

- (i) This report is considered and revised as necessary.
- (ii) Local and regional organisations representing groups under Section 75 are identified, included in the Statement of Community

Involvement and consulted with as part of the process of formulating a new development plan.

- (iii) The needs identified are taken into account when formulating both the aims and objectives of the plan and future policy.
- (iv) Consideration is given to the existing natural heritage profile and Members' suggestions on changes/future improvements will be subjected to a sustainability appraisal.

Annex 1: Designated Tree Preservation Orders within LCCC area

| Reference | Address |
|----------------|--|
| 1996/02/TPO | 180 Newtownbreda Road, Castlereagh |
| 2000/02/TPO(1) | Land at Hydebank Playing Fields, Newtownbreda Road, Castlereagh |
| 2004/11/TPO | Millmount House, Millmount Road, Dundonald, Belfast (C'reagh) |
| 2005/01/TPO | 2 Eden Road, Gilnahirk, Castlereagh |
| 2006/21/TPO | Lands to rear of 292 Comber Road, Dundonald. |
| TPO/2005/0101 | Lands at 22 Lower Ballinderry Road, Ballinderry Upper. |
| TPO/2006/0001 | 80m SW of 27 Antrim Road, Lisburn |
| TPO/2006/0029 | Harmony Hill Arts Centre, Harmony Hill, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2006/0132 | Lands at Lisburn Leisure Park, Governors Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2007/0024 | Lands at 23 Lower Ballinderry Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2007/0049 | Lands at Chrome Hill, Ballyskeagh Road, Lambeg. |
| TPO/2007/0042 | Land at Holy Trinity Church, Ballylesson Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2007/0046 | Hillhall Primary School, Orrs Lane, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2007/0075 | 57 Ballyskeagh Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2007/0087 | Lands at 27 & 33 Culcavy Road, Hillsborough. |
| TPO/2007/0088 | Lands to the east of 27a Ballinderry Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2007/0125 | 126 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2008/0019 | Lands at Harmony House, Richmond Court, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2008/0020 | Lands at 3 Forest Glen, Glenavy. |
| TPO/2008/0059 | Lands at and surrounding 5 to 9 Legaterriff Road, Upper Ballinderry. |
| TPO/2008/0082 | Mill Street, Hilden Mill, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2010/0018 | Driveway to the front of 48, 50 & 52 Drumbo Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2010/0019 | Land at 17 Lough Road, Legaterriff. |
| TPO/2010/0030 | Land adjacent to 64 Ballinderry Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2011/0060 | Land at and adjacent to 59 & 60 Windmill Road, Hillsborough. |
| TPO/2013/0028 | Lands at Glenavy Road & Brokerstown Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2004/0026 | Wallace Park, Lisburn. |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| TPO/1993/0482 | Land at Dromore Road/Moira Road, Hillsborough. |
| TPO/2001/0011 | Lands to east of Main Street, Glenavy. |
| TPO/1993/0512 | Land at Deadwall Plantation, Lambeg. |
| TPO/2001/0025 | Land at 10Forthill, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2004/0069 | 102 Pond Park Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2007/0085 | Lands at Belvoir Park, Longstone Street, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2009/0110 | Lands at Rathvarna Resource Centre, 22 Pond Park Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2013/0052 | Moira Demesne. |
| TPO/2013/0034 | The Old Manse, 43 Lisburn road, Hillsborough. |
| TPO/2009/0024 | Lands at 300 Kingsway, The Conway Hotel Site, Dunmurry. |
| TPO/2009/0027 | Lands west of Culcavy Road, Hillsborough including 23, 23a, 25, 27, 41 & 43. |
| TPO/2009/0036 | Lands at Seymour House, Kingsway, Dunmurry. |
| TPO/1995/0011 | The Moravian Church, Lower Ballinderry, Lisburn. |
| TPO/1996/0012 | Laurelhill, Lisburn. |
| TPO/1978/0082 | Shell Filling Station, Hillsborough Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2000/0011 | Ballinderry Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2001/0011 | Lands to east of Main Street, Glenavy. |
| TPO/2004/0003 | Adjacent to 4 Lisburn Street, Hillsborough. |
| TPO/2004/0016 | 27 Lisburn Road, Hillsborough. |
| TPO/2004/0043 | Land at 10-12 Crumlin Road, Glenavy. |
| TPO/2004/0080 | Lands between Lisburn Road and Carnreagh Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2004/0062 | Southern Boundary at 90 Drennan Road, Boardmills. |
| TPO/2005/0020 | Lands at 8 Green Park, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2004/0048 | Lands at Shell Filling Station, Hillsborough Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2005/0053 | Lands to the rear of 8 Highfields Court, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2005/0069 | Shell Filling Station, 75-81 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn. |
| TPO/2012/0025 | Loughaghery House, Lakeland Road. |
| TPO/2012/0040 | 1 The Green, Dunmurry |
| TPO/2012/0068 | 2-7 The Brambles, Lisburn. |
| TPO/1995/0010 | Lands to rear of 107-113 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn. |
| | |

Annex 2: Forest Service Managed Forests within Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area

| Council Area | Forest | Forest Area (Ha) |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council - Forest Service Managed | Belvoir | 18 |
| | Hillsborough | 194 |
| | | 212 |
| Non Forest Service Managed | Across Council area | 1483 |
| | | 1695 |

Source: DARD/Forest Service.

Annex 3: Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA's) in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area

| | |
|--|--|
| Knockmore, Lisburn. | |
| Knockmore Road, Lisburn. | |
| Lissue, Lisburn. | Maghaberry. |
| McKinstry Road, Lisburn. | |
| Moira Road, Lisburn. | South of Derriaghy Road, Milltown. |
| Rath (rear of houses on Nettlehill Rd). | North of Derriaghy Road, Milltown. |
| Rathdown, Moira Road, Lisburn. | North West of Milltown. |
| Ravernet, Lisburn. | Oldpark Road, West of Milltown. |
| Stockdam/Belsize Road, Lisburn. | 19 & 21 Derriaghy Road, Milltown. |
| Wallace Park, Lisburn. | |
| | Ravernet House. |
| Governor's Road, Lisburn. | Ravernet River Corridor, Ravernet. |
| | |
| Hillsborough Forest Park, Hillsborough. | Stoneyford River and Reservoir. |
| Hillsborough Castle, Hillsborough. | Stoneyford River Corridor. |
| Mill Pond, Culcavy. | |
| River Corridor, Culcavy. | North Street, Upper Ballinderry. |
| Carnreagh, Hillsborough. | Ballinderry River Corridor. |
| Lisburn Road, Hillsborough. | |
| | Ballylesson/Edenderry. |
| Moira Castle Demesne. | |
| Rough Fort Rath. | Ballinderry River, Ballynadolly. |
| Fortwilliam House. | Glenavy Road, Ballynadolly. |
| Moira Presbyterian Churches. | |
| St. John's Church Moira. | Lock Keeper's House, Ballyskeagh. |
| | Ballyskeagh Road, Ballyskeagh. |
| Aghalee. | |
| | Windmill, Boardmills. |
| Banbridge Road, Dromara. | Creevy Road, Boardmills. |
| Hillsborough Road, Dromara. | Creevy Road/Drennan Road, Boardmills. |
| Begney Hill Road, Dromara. | Drennan Road, Boardmills. |
| Rathfriland Road Stream Corridor, Dromara. | |
| Dundrum Road Stream Corridor, Dromara. | Rafferty's Hill, Drumlough. |
| | Drumaknockan Road, Drumlough. |
| Drumbeg Road, Drumbeg. | Dromara Road, Drumlough. |
| Tributary of River Lagan, Drumbeg. | |
| | Dundrod. |
| Drumbo. | |
| | Ballynahinch Road, Duneight. |
| Crumlin Road, Glenavy. | Limehill Road, Duneight. |
| Glenavy River Corridor. | |
| | Between Ballynahinch road & Limehill Road, Duneight. |
| Ballinderry House, Lower Ballinderry. | Junction of Ballynahinch Road & Limehill Road, Duneight. |
| Portmore Road, Lower Ballinderry. | |

| | |
|--|--|
| East of Lower Ballinderry. | Shore Road, Feumore. |
| Feumore Road, Feumore. | |
| Feumore Road, Feumore. | Ballyregan Glen, Castlereagh. |
| Feumore Road, Feumore. | Cairnshill. |
| | Cregagh Glen (Part Off) |
| River Corridor & Mill Race, Halfpenny Gate. | Dunlady Glen. |
| Halfpenny Gate Road, Halfpenny Gate. | Forster Green. |
| | Fort/Ballyhanwood. |
| Halftown Road, Halftown. | Moat/Enler. |
| | Newtownbreda. |
| Hillhall Road, Hillhall. | Knock golf course/Hospital Glen Belfast (Part Off) |
| Hillhall Road, Hillhall | Dundonald Wedge, Dundonald. |
| | |
| Kesh Road, Kesh Bridge. | Mealough Road, Carryduff. |
| | Saintfield Road, Carryduff. |
| Lagan Corridor, Lambeg. | Comber Road, Carryduff. |
| Aberdelghy Golf Course, Lambeg. | Sloan's Avenue, Carryduff. |
| | Church Road, Carryduff. |
| Ravernet River Corridor, Legacurry. | South East Carryduff |
| Ballynahinch Road, Legacurry. | |
| Ballynahinch Road, Legacurry. | Church Road, Moneyreagh. |
| | Keel Way, Moneyreagh. |
| Long Kesh/Lower Broomhedge/Lurganure, Long Kesh. | |
| Church, Kesh Road, Long Kesh. | Ballyknockan, Ballyknockan. |
| Masonic Hall, Kesh Road, Long Kesh. | |
| | Crossnacreevy/Ryan Park. |
| Lurganure Road, Lower Broomhedge. | East of Crossnacreevy. |
| | |
| Lurganure. | Purdysburn, Purdysburn. |
| | |
| Lurganville. | |
| | |
| Magheraconluce Road, Magheraconluce. | |
| Rear of Properties on Magheraconluce Road, Magheraconluce. | |
| East of Magheraconluce, Magheraconluce. | |
| | |
| Ballynahinch Road, Morningside. | |
| | |
| River & Canal, Tullynacross. | |
| Tullynacross Road, Tullynacross. | |
| | |
| Halfpennygate Road, Upper Broomhedge. | |
| East of Upper Broomhedge, Upper Broomhedge. | |
| | |
| Lany Road, St. James. | |
| Lany Road, St. James. | |

Annex 4: Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area

| | |
|--|--|
| | Clontanagullion Lough, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Boomer's Reservoir, Lisburn. | Cluntagh Lough, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Deadwall Plantation, Lisburn. | Cooper Wetland, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Duncan's Dam, Lisburn. | Craneystown, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Hillsborough Old Road, Lisburn. | Crew Burn, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Hogg's, Lisburn. | Derrykillultagh, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Knockmore East, Lisburn. | Drumlough Fen, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Lagan at Hilden, Lisburn. | Dumb and Bow Lough, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Lissue, Lisburn. | Farrell's Fort, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Magheralave 1, Lisburn. | Glebe Road, Carr, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Magheralave 2, Lisburn. | Glenavy River at Glenavy, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Moneybroom Wood, Lisburn. | Glenavy River, South Bank, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Old Warren, Lisburn. | Groganstown Quarry, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ravernet River at Sprucefield. | Hillsborough-Dromore Old Railway, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Colin Glen/Hammils Bottom. | Knockany Road, Ballycarnannon, Lisburn. |
| Seymour Hill. | Lagan at Lambeg, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Hillsborough Park Lake. | Lambeg East, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Clarehill Quarry, Moira. | Larchfield Estate, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Moira Demense, Moira. | Leverogue Carr, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Broadwater/Friars Glen, Aghalee. | Limekiln Road, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Broadwater (Geodiversity), Aghalee. | Lisnatrunk, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ballygowan Meadow, Drumbeg. | Lough Aghery, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Drumbo Glen, Drumbo. | Lough Erne, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ballycarnannon Road, Lisburn Countryside. | McKeown's Plantation, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ballycreen Lough, Lisburn Countryside. | Moss Road Bog, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ballycrune Lough, Lisburn Countryside. | Mullaghdrin Hill, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ballylintagh Pond Carr, Lisburn Countryside. | North Stoneyford, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ballymacricket, Lisburn Countryside. | Portmore Lough, around ASSI, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ballymoneymore, Lisburn Countryside. | Quarry at Mouteagle Glen, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ballynacarrick, Lisburn Countryside. | Quarterlands Road East, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Ballynalargy Ponds, Lisburn Countryside. | Ravernet River (Drumra Hill), Lisburn Countryside. |
| Begney Lake, Lisburn Countryside. | Ravernet River at Legacurry, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Belfast Hills-White Mountain, Lisburn. Countryside | Rushyhill, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Belvedere, Lisburn countryside. | School Lane, Craneystown, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Bovolcan, Lisburn Countryside. | Sheepwalk Road, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Brown Moss, Quarterlands, Lisburn Countryside. | Slievenacloy ASSI margins, Lisburn Countryside. |

| | |
|--|--|
| Budore Bridge, Crumlin River, Lisburn Countryside. | Slievenagravery, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Burren Lough, Lisburn Countryside. | Standing Stones Hill, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Burren North, Lisburn Countryside. | Stoneyford River, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Cabra Road, Lisburn Countryside. | Summer Hill, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Campbell's Hill, Lisburn Countryside. | The Glen Rath, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Cargygray to Firbank, Lisburn Countryside. | The Temple, Lisburn Countryside. |
| Carnlougherin Road, Lisburn Countryside. | Wright's, McKee's and Henney, Lisburn Countryside. |
| | Conway Lane, Aberdelgy. |
| | |
| Beechill Road South, Belfast | Mill Road Quarry, Carryduff |
| Belvoir, Belfast. | Monlough, Carryduff |
| Cairnshill, Castlereagh. | Monlough Road West Fen and Wetlands, Castlereagh |
| Craigtlet Woods | Yate's Corner, Castlereagh (Geodiversity) |
| Cregagh Glen & Lisnabreeny, Castlereagh. | |
| Dundonald Old Railway Line, Dundonald. | Derriaghy Glen |
| Forster Green Hospital, Belfast. | Hull's Glen |
| Minnowburn, Castlereagh | Milltown Church, Milltown |
| Moyard, Castlereagh (Geodiversity) | Corry's Glen, Ravernet |
| Purdy's Burn, Belfast (Geodiversity) | Stoneyford Reservoir |
| Purdysburn Hospital, Belfast. | Glenavy/Killultagh Roads Junction. |
| Gransha Fen, Castlereagh | |
| Hillsborough Road Wetlands and Scrub, Moneyreagh. | |
| Interlaken, Ballygowan | |
| Killynure Road, Carryduff | |
| Knockbracken Glen, Carryduff | |
| Lough Moss, Carryduff. | |

Annex 5: Other Key Legislation

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Many projects which are likely to affect designated sites will be covered by the EIA Directive, which is transposed into domestic law in Northern Ireland through the **Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**. These regulations ensure that the likely effects of new development on the environment are fully understood and taken into account before planning permission is given for a proposed development to proceed. As such its purpose is to improve the quality of decision making by identifying potential environmental issues early in the project process.

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**. 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.

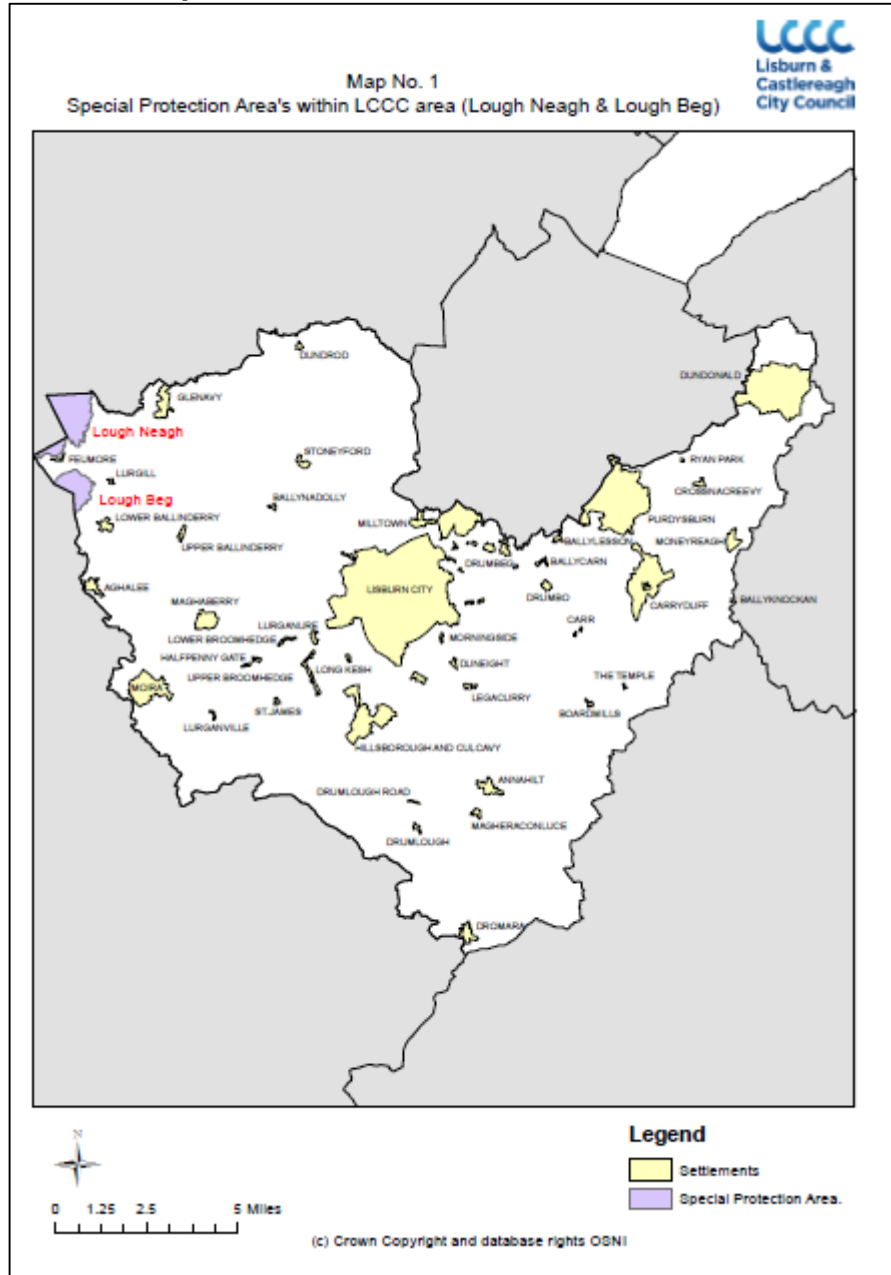
The common principle of both directives (EIA and SEA) is to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation. Consultation with the public is a key feature of environmental assessment procedures.

The **Environmental Liability Directive and Regulations**¹³ establish a framework for environmental liability based on the "polluter pays" principle, with a view to preventing and remedying environmental damage.

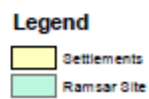
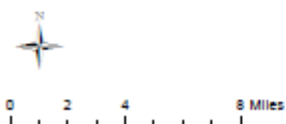
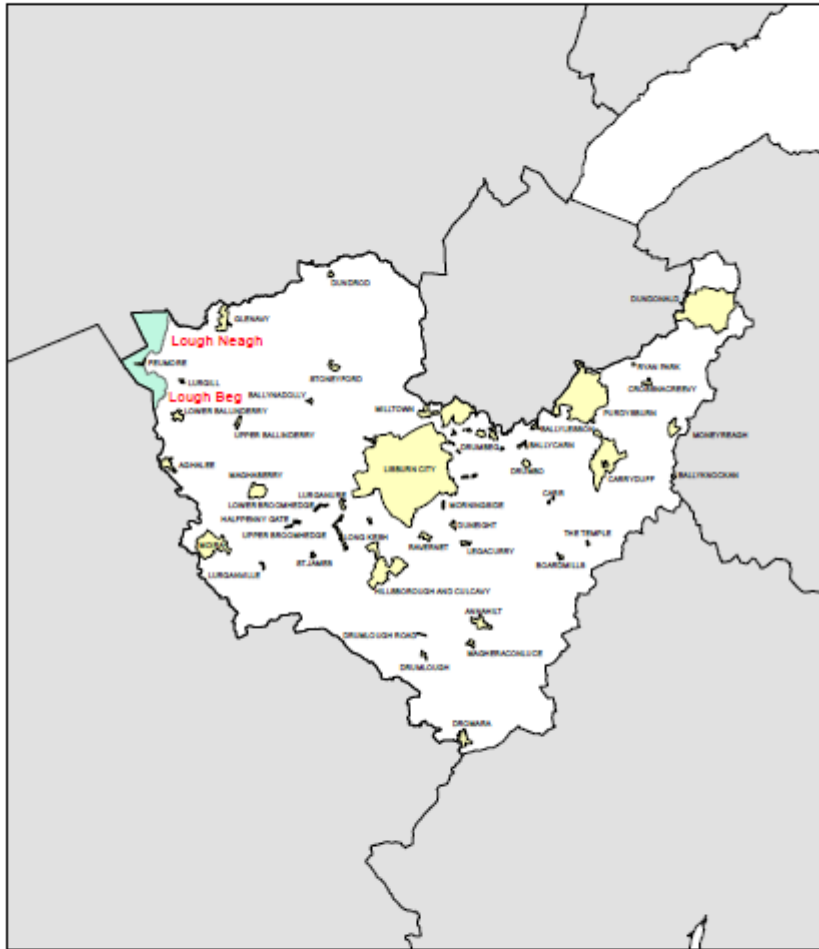
Habitats Regulations Assessment

Under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations¹⁴, 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.

Annex 6: Maps

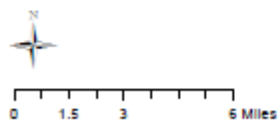
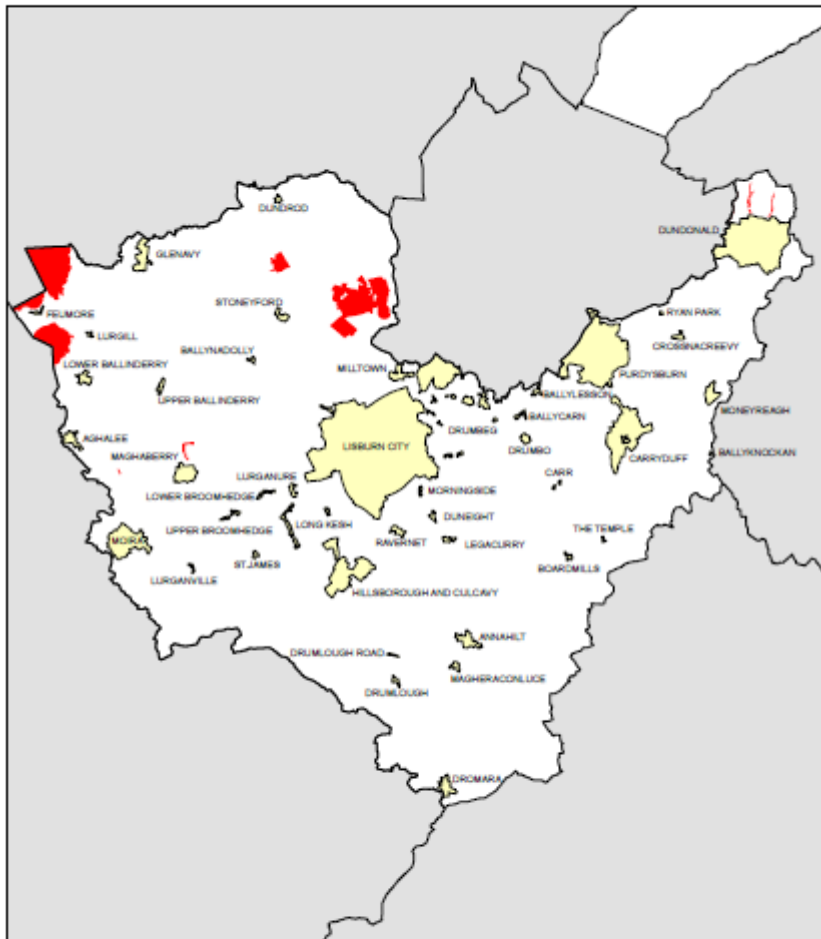


Map No. 2.
 Ramsar Site within LCCC area (Lough Neagh & Lough Beg)



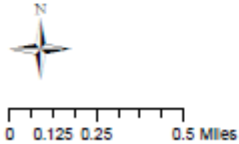
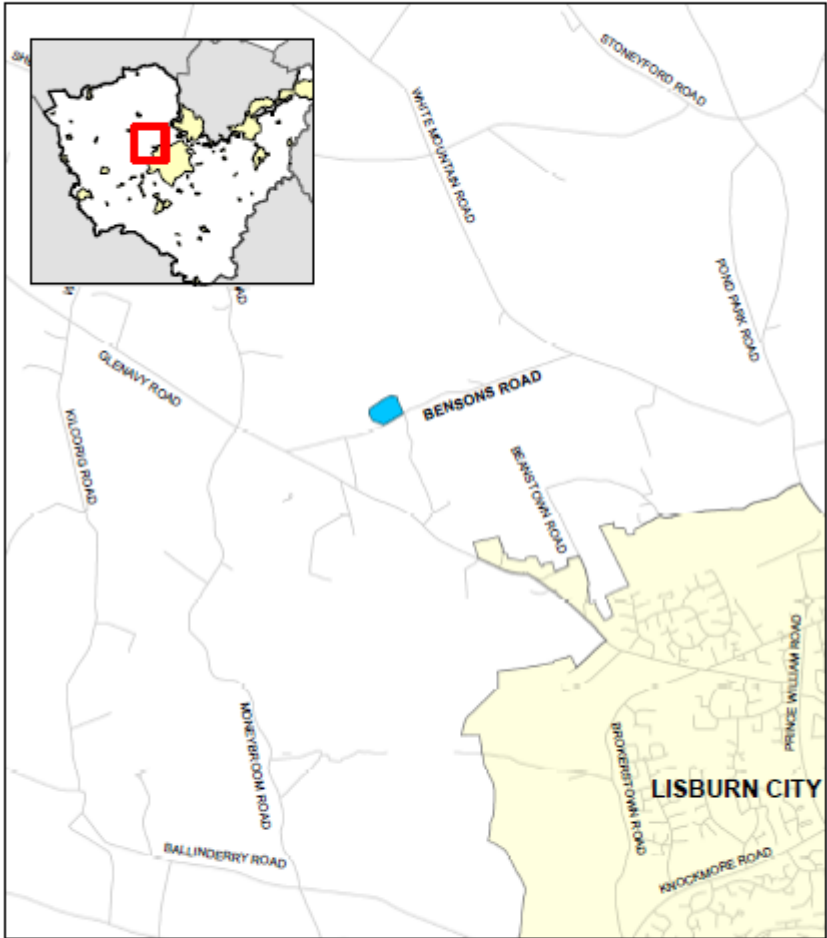
(c) Crown Copyright and database rights OSNI

Map No. 3
ASSI's within LCCC area.



(c) Crown Copyright and database rights OSNI

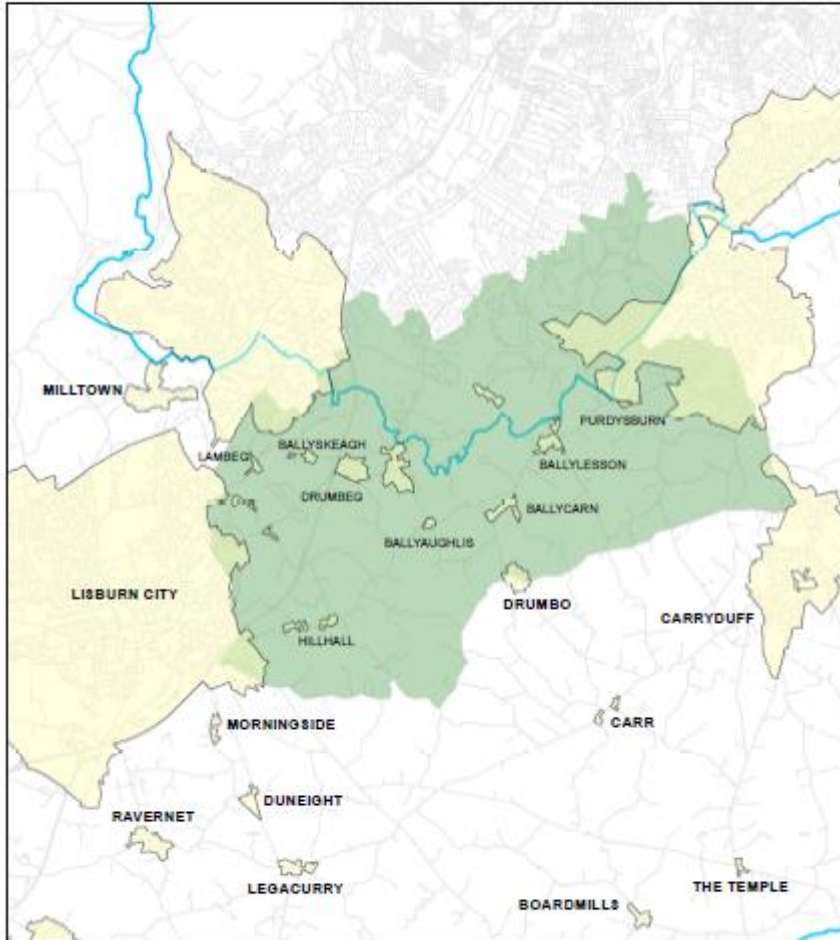
Map No. 4
Nature Reserve within LCCC area.



- Legend**
- Settlements
 - Nature Reserve
 - Road Network

(c) Crown Copyright and database rights OSNI

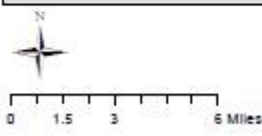
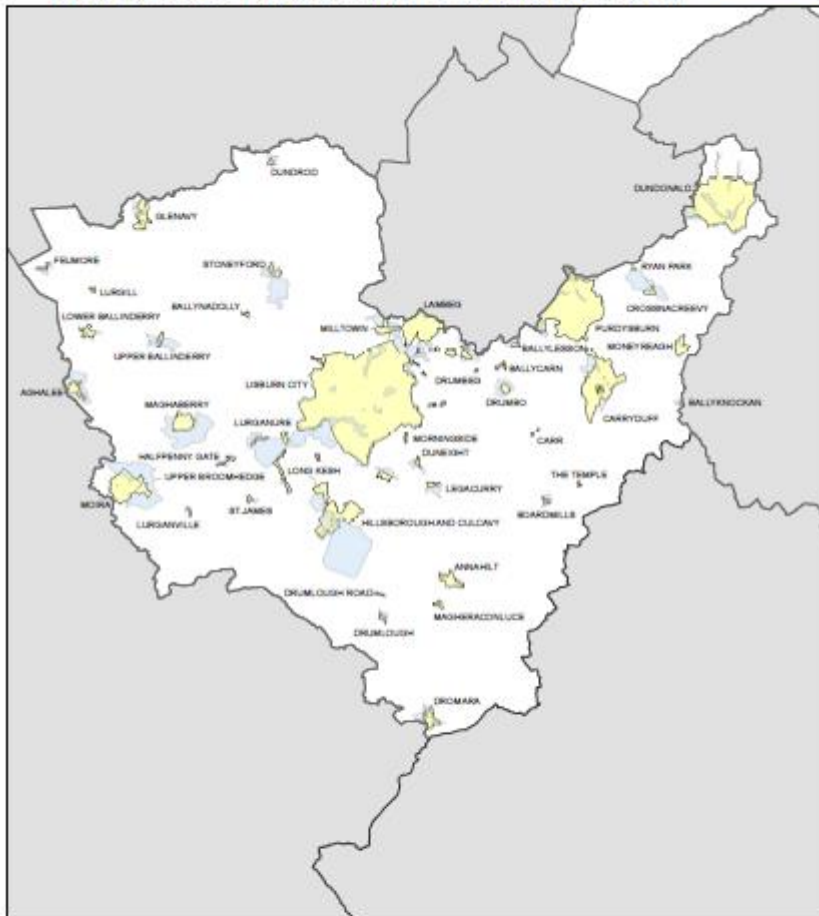
Map No. 5
Lagan Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)



(c) Crown Copyright and database rights OSNI



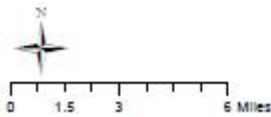
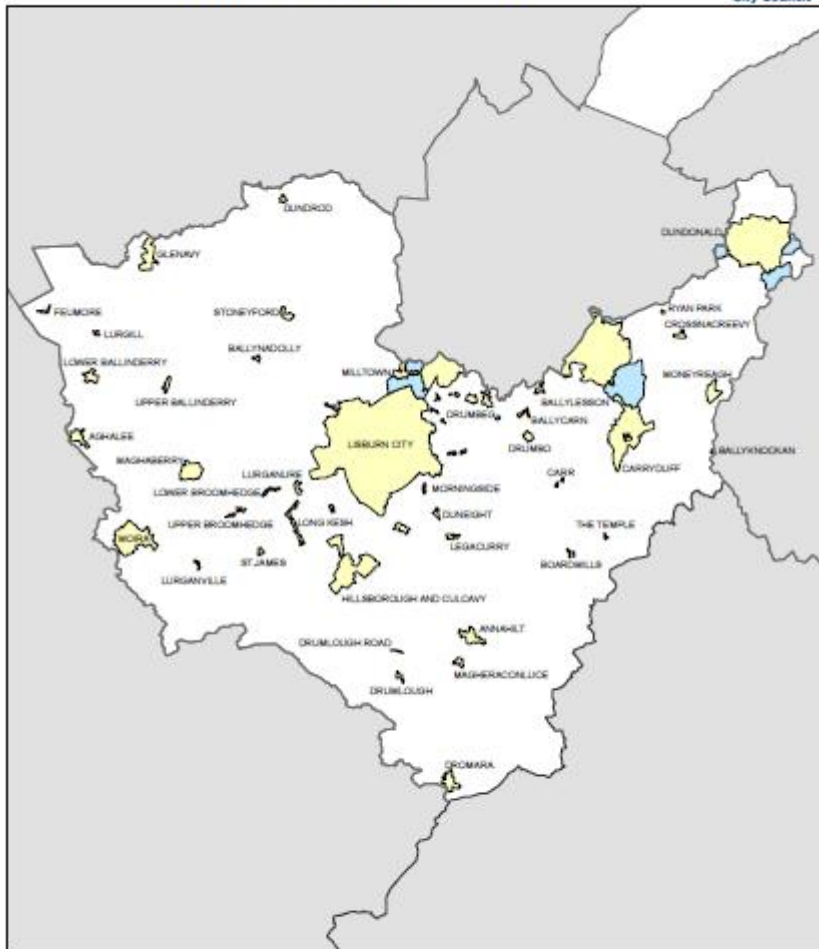
Map No. 6.
Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA's) within LCCC area.



Legend
 Settlements
 Local Landscape Policy Areas

(c) Crown Copyright and database rights OSNI

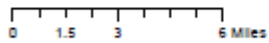
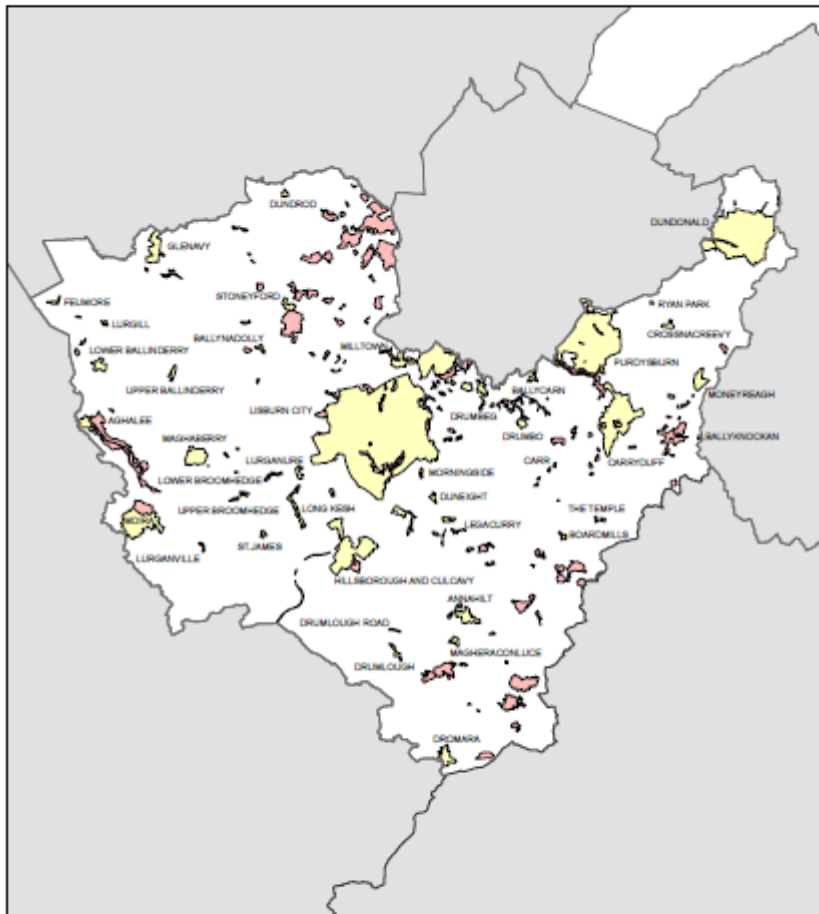
Map No. 7
Landscape Wedges within LCCC area.



Legend
 Settlements
 Landscape Wedge

(c) Crown Copyright and database rights OSNI

Map No. 8
Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) in LCCC area.

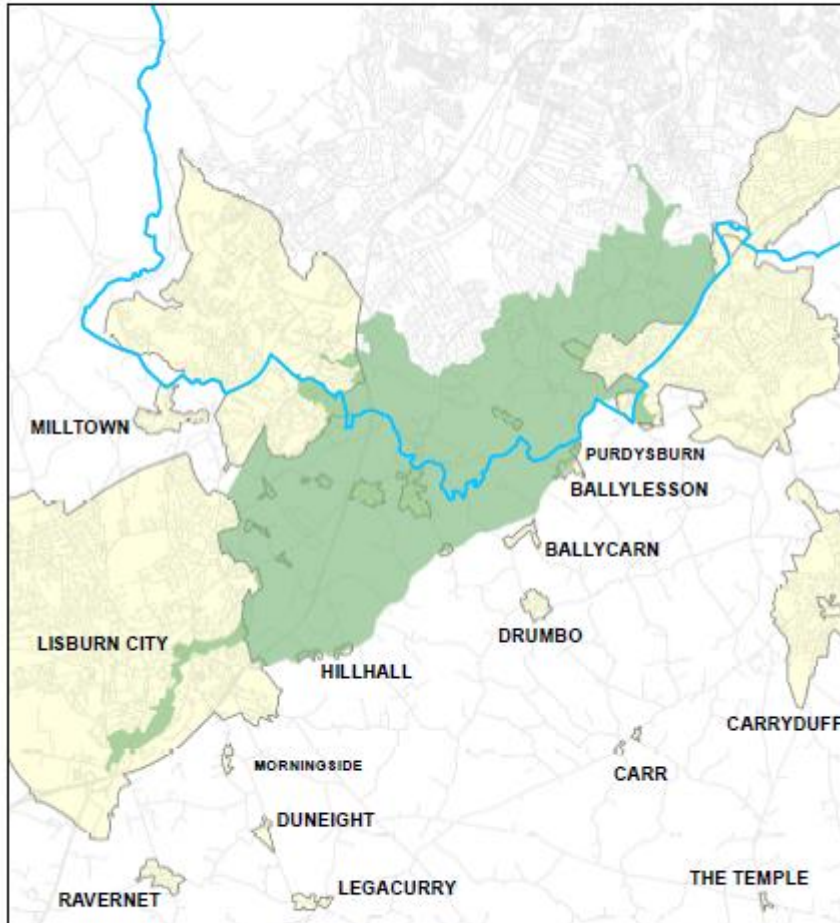


Legend

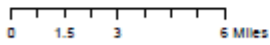
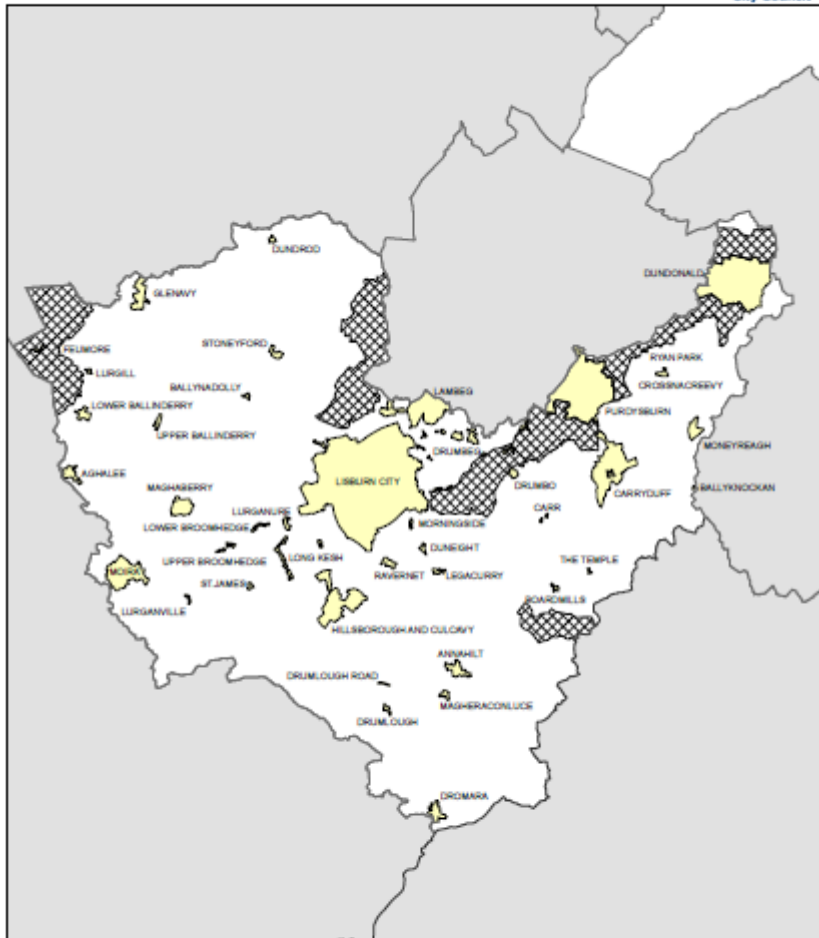
- Settlements
- Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI)

(c) Crown Copyright and database rights OSNI

Map No. 9 Lagan Valley Regional Park



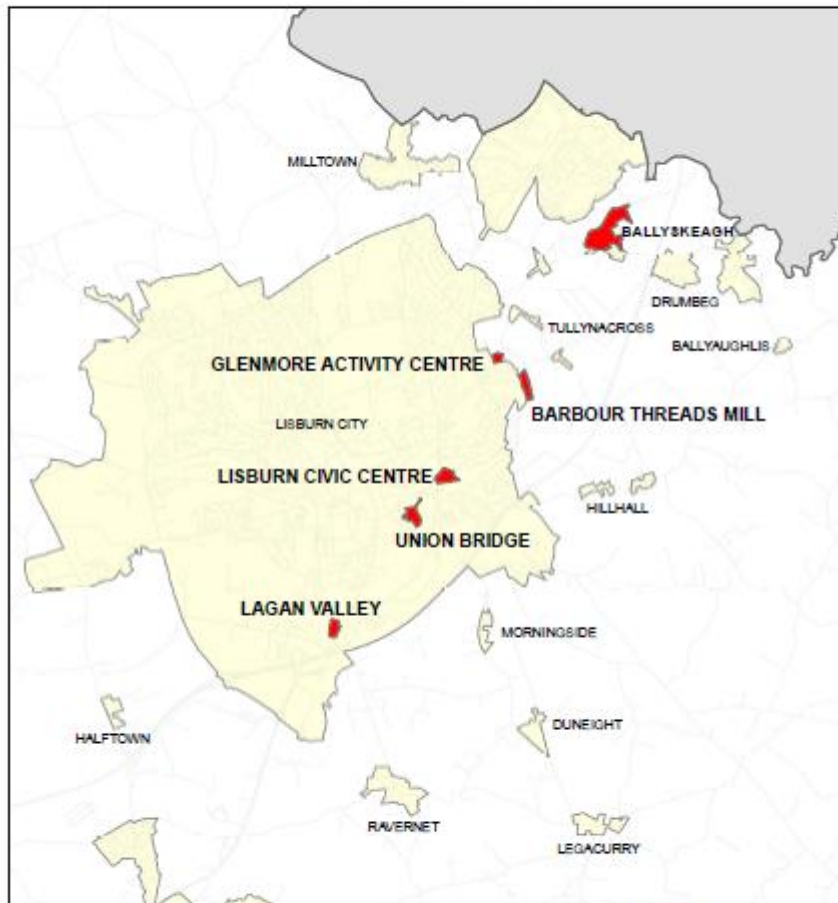
Map No. 10
 Areas of High Scenic Value (AOHSV) within LCCC area.



Legend
 [Cross-hatched box] Areas of High Scenic Value (AOHSV)
 [Yellow box] Settlements

(c) Crown Copyright and database rights OSNI

Map No. 11
Lagan Valley Regional Park Nodes



0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles



Legend

- Settlements
- Regional Park Node
- Road Network

(c) Crown Copyright and database rights OSNI