



Belfast Local Development Plan

Technical Supplement 7
Natural Heritage
August 2018





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1.0 Introduction

Purpose of this Document

- 1.1 This technical document has been prepared to draw together the evidence base that has been used to inform the preparation of the Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035. It is one of a suite of topic-based technical supplements that should be read alongside the LDP to understand the rationale and justification for the policies in the draft Plan Strategy.
- 1.2 The document builds upon the suite of 18 thematic topic papers published alongside the LDP Preferred Options Paper (POP), which established the baseline position at that time (January 2017) and identified the key issues to be addressed by the LDP. This technical document therefore updates this baseline position along with the Natural Heritage topic paper, sets out the evidence base that has informed the relevant policies within the draft Plan Strategy.
- 1.3 Again, this document forms part of a series of thematic reports to accompany the draft Plan Strategy. Whilst each of the technical supplements can be read separately, there are inevitably important related matters and background evidence within other documents also.
- 1.4 It should be noted that the evidence base collected to inform the LDP also forms the basis for additional assessments and appraisals required as part of the plan preparation process, most notably the Sustainability Appraisal. By combining the evidence gathering stages for both the Sustainability Appraisal and LDP, we aim to streamline the documentation produced and avoid duplication. It will also help to ensure that sustainable development is embedded in the planning process and that the Sustainability Appraisal is one of the main drivers informing the preparation of the LDP.

Planning and Natural Heritage

- 1.5 The planning system has an important role in enhancing and conserving our natural heritage, recognising it as an asset to society and in promoting sustainable development and wellbeing. This technical supplement provides a review of the policy context affecting the natural heritage in Belfast. The document also sets out an audit of the relevant designations and protections and analysis of the main issues for the LDP. This paper includes consideration of issues relating to biodiversity, nature conservation, trees, landscape and coast. See also other relevant documents such as the Countryside Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment which accompany the DPS.
- 1.5 The environment in general and, in particular, environmental protection is the very foundation of the planning system, the purpose of which is, as stated in the Strategic Planning policy Statement for NI (SPPS), to secure the orderly and consistent development of land whilst furthering sustainable development and improving health and wellbeing. The planning system operates in the public interest, including of individuals and local communities and also in the interests of the region as a whole. It also seeks to address the future needs of society as well as the present and, in doing so, the planning system must ensure the protection of the environment, including protecting important assets and improving environmental quality.

- 1.6 The DPS sets out the council's draft planning policies for the conservation, protection and enhancement of our natural heritage. Natural heritage is defined as "the diversity of our habitats, species, landscapes and earth science features". The public interest requires that all development is carried out in a way that would not cause demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance, such as natural heritage.
- 1.7 The council, through the DPS, will ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national and local importance; priority and protected species; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.
- 1.8 The council will 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 about. The DPS will 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.
- 1.9 As part of the LDP preparation, the council is also required to carry out a number of assessments on the emerging development plan document proposals. These include:
- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, requires the council, under statutory duty, to undertake a SA. SA is a tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (that is social, environmental and economic factors). This is required in relation to both development plan documents.
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – The European Directive 2001/42/EC for SEA is transposed into Northern Ireland law by the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004. The SEA procedure seeks to ensure the integration of environmental considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes. It will be undertaken in relation to both development plan documents as an integral part of the SA process above.
 - Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) - The EU Habitats Directive (93/43/EEC) requires a competent authority (the council) to undertake a HRA to consider the potential impact of the LDP policies and proposals on European nature conservation sites.
- 1.10 The Shared Environmental Services (SES) team provides support to the council on a range of specialist functions, including the HRA on planning applications and during the preparation of the LDP to assess and advise on the impacts of European sites.
- 1.11 Cognisance of our natural heritage during the formulation of the LDP is key in balancing development pressures along with the restoration and conservation of our natural heritage and environment. The plan-making process will identify Belfast's environmental features including our natural and countryside assets, through the preparation of a Countryside

Assessment. This has been published separately as part of the documents associated with the DPS.

- 1.12 This technical document identifies and reviews the existing natural heritage designations and landscapes within the plan area from a land use planning perspective. The best available information has been used in compiling this paper. However it may need to be revised in light of the release of any new data. It contains some original data that refers in places to the former BMAP pre-local government reform, when the boundary of Belfast City Council was enlarged. Where possible and relevant, data has also been included which relates to the new Belfast City Council area. In addition, any data used in the previous topic paper (January 2017) has been updated where there is more recent data, so that the overall statistical evidence base is as up to date as possible.

2 Policy Context

National and Regional Policy

Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy

- 2.1 The NI Executive's 'Everyone's Involved – Sustainable Development Strategy' 2010 includes six priority areas for action, the most relevant of which is "striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and better quality environment". This priority action contains the following strategic objectives, which the LDP should take account of:
1. Ensure an appropriate policy and legislative framework is in place supported by a regulatory regime which will deliver statutory environmental standards in respect of air, water and other environmental pollution.
 2. Promote sustainable land management.
 3. Promote sustainable marine management.
 4. Ensure our built heritage is used in a sustainable way.
 5. Improve the quality of life of our people by planning and managing development in ways which are sustainable and which contribute to creating a better environment.
 6. Take action to reduce biodiversity loss.

Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035

- 2.2 The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) provides regional guidance to conserve, protect and where possible enhance our natural environment. It recognises that Northern Ireland's natural environment is unique with its diverse biodiversity, its landscape and its waterways. It notes that everyone should have the right to a well-appointed environment for good quality of life and it is our responsibility to protect the environment as a sustainable asset for future generations. In this way, RG11 advises the policy objectives the natural environment are to 'Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment'.

- 2.3 RG11 outlines ten strategic goals, as follows:

- Sustain and enhance biodiversity;
- Identify, establish, protect and manage ecological networks;
- Protect and encourage green and blue infrastructure within urban areas;
- Protect and manage important geological and geomorphological features;
- Protect, enhance and 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 for designation and consider the establishment of one or more National Parks.

2.4 Specific to the Belfast metropolitan area, 'SFG5: Protect and enhance the quality of the setting of the BMUA [Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area] and its environmental assets' contains the following three actions necessary to implement the strategic policy:

- Protect areas of high scenic value, undeveloped coast line, Belfast Lough, the Lagan Valley Regional Park and the hills around the BMUA from development;
- Protect and enhance the network of open spaces in the BMUA; and
- Make use of green space to help manage access to important wildlife sites and minimise the potential for damage due to visitor pressure.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

2.5 The SPPS contains five core planning principles, the most relevant of which is 'Preserving and Improving the Built and Natural Environment'. It stresses the importance of the scenic quality of Northern Ireland's landscapes to our cultural identity, history and sense of place and reflects the Executive's commitment to preserve and improve the built and natural environment and halt the loss of biodiversity. This requires an integrated approach to the management of the natural and cultural aspects of the landscape with the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs) providing the ideal platform to set the strategic objectives and site-specific policies necessary to frame these goals.

2.6 The SPPS requires LDPs to adopt a strategic approach to identify and promote the design of ecological networks to help reduce the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats. 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.

2.7 The SPPS notes that LDPs and the policies they contain should be rigorously assessed for their environmental impacts. Councils should apply the precautionary principle when considering the impacts of a proposed development on natural or international significant landscape or natural heritage resources.

Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage

2.8 The RDS and SPPS are complemented by a suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) that cover a wide range of planning topics. PPS2 "Natural Heritage" is of particular relevance to this documents and the policy objectives of PPS2 are:

- to seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage;
- to further sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integrated 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 adaption to climate change

Marine Strategy Framework Directive - Marine Policy Statement (MPS)

- 2.9 The Marine Strategy Framework Directive was formally adopted by the European Union in July 2008. It provides the legislative framework for an ecosystem approach to the sustainable management of the marine environment. The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) was published in 2011 and was prepared and adopted under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The MPS provides the policy framework for the marine planning system and aids decision making on plans affecting the marine environment.

Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (draft 2018)

- 2.10 The draft Marine Plan reflects the unique character of the Northern Ireland marine area and the needs of its users. It will contribute to the delivery of national and regional policy objectives. It will facilitate the sustainable development of the marine area. The draft document was issued for consultation from 18th April to 15th June 2018 and consultations are now closed. The Marine Plan (when adopted) will be used by public authorities in taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area, including authorisation or enforcement decisions, and decisions that relate to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the marine area
- 2.11 The interaction between the land and sea planning systems is important. Terrestrial planning extends to the Mean Low Water Mark while marine planning and licensing extend to the Mean High Water Mark. Therefore, the LDP will have to be cognisant of the emergence of the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.

National and Regional Policy – Biodiversity

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011

- 2.12 The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the WANE Act) places a statutory duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity when carrying out their functions. NIEA maintain a list of priority species which require conservation action - see Appendix 3 for the Belfast Priority Species List. Under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (as amended) there are special conservation measures for many priority species. Alongside this, some priority species are also protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) and the Wildlife Order 1985 (as amended). The Habitats Directive also requires continuous monitoring of the population certain species with the aim of achieving Favourable Conservation Status (FCS).

Northern Ireland Priority Species (NIPS)

- 2.13 Northern Ireland priority species are those which require conservation management and require conservation action due to their decline, rarity and/or importance to the environment. NIEA have reviewed the priority species list which currently stands at 481 species, an increase of 271 from the previous count in 2002 which contributed to the then, NI Biodiversity Strategy. Out of the 481 NIPS, 93 are considered as 'marine'. These include species of algae, bees, beetles, birds, fish, butterflies, fungi and mammals. The full list can be viewed in Appendix 3. In the Belfast City Council area, there are 200 recorded NIPS, of which 8 are considered fully marine or have marine features.

Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy

- 2.14 In 2015, the Department of the Environment (now DfI) published Northern Ireland's second Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy sets out how Northern Ireland plans to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. It builds upon the first Biodiversity Strategy published in 2002 but adopts the modern and internationally agreed approach that emphasises the management of biological systems to deliver the materials and services upon which people depend – the ecosystem services approach.
- 2.15 While protection of individual species and habitats is essential, the thrust of the Strategy is to manage natural and man-modified systems to deliver a multitude of outputs which support society and the economy. Protection of individual species and habitats is both a tool for delivery and approach. However, recognition of interconnectedness and complexity of biological systems enables a more coherent approach, producing an intelligible and evocative Strategy that makes it clear that biodiversity protection is absolutely fundamental to society and the economy.
- 2.16 The Biodiversity Strategy states that at "... international, EU, UK and Northern Ireland levels we now need to consider how best to meet the challenge of halting biodiversity loss". The purpose of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy is: "to make progress towards halting overall biodiversity loss, establish an ecosystem approach and help business and society in general have a greater understanding of the benefits that nature can bring to everyday life in Northern Ireland." The Strategy then lists a number of high-level regional challenges which will require particular attention:
- valuing the environment in the broadest context;
 - reducing the impact of climate change;
 - obtaining adequate resources for biodiversity projects from a wide range of sources;
 - encouraging ecosystem scale protection measures;
 - enhancing data gathering and management;
 - tackling invasive species; and
 - engaging society more fully to halt biodiversity loss.

Northern Ireland Biodiversity Action Plan (NIBAP)

- 2.17 NIBAP refers to the goals of the SPPS, "working towards halting the loss of biodiversity" and its recognition of supporting and conserving green and blue infrastructure. NIBAP encourages new and innovative ways of tackling the decline of biodiversity through 'biodiversity offsets' which are "conservation activities designed to deliver biodiversity benefits in compensation for losses incurred during development and there is increasing interest in this as a mechanism for ameliorating to some extent the negative impacts of development on biodiversity. However, recreating entire habitats is extremely costly and time consuming and can rarely replicate the complexity of natural systems."¹

¹ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/natural-policy-biodiversity-strategy-to-2020-2015.pdf>

2.18 The Biodiversity Duty

The WANE Act places a statutory duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity. This also places a duty upon all government departments and public bodies, including non-departmental public bodies and local authorities, to further the conservation of biological diversity when carrying out their functions.

UK National Ecosystem Assessment Northern Ireland Summary 2011

2.19 Ecosystem services are the benefits provided by ecosystems that contribute to making human life both possible and worth living. This report provides an analysis of Northern Ireland's environment and the ecosystem services it provides, looks at the changes over time, examines the factors driving current changes and provides recommendations on how Northern Ireland's land and sea can be managed to ensure delivery of a wide range of benefits to enhance well-being by forming the basis of future management systems. The key recommendations included:

- The Northern Ireland National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) should inform policy and decision-making;
- A fully integrated cross-departmental and intersectoral approach is needed;
- Greater understanding is required at public and political levels of ecosystem services;
- Further research, especially around establishing financial values for service delivery, is required;
- Effective delivery of ecosystem services requires informed and integrated management across a range of habitats that supports high levels of biodiversity and ensures long-term resilience to changing circumstances;
- The role of ecosystem services in mitigating the effects of human impacts, including climate change and biodiversity loss, should be considered in all decisions about the use of land and sea;
- Carbon management needs to be seen as an important part of management for multiple service delivery;
- The full value of sequestration in existing habitats must be factored into carbon and greenhouse gas budgets and targets and given weight when making decisions on land management regimes;
- Planning and management policies need to be aligned with natural processes to maintain the capacity for multiple service delivery;
- A network of ecologically coherent sites should form a core for integrated management within the wider environment, delivering ecosystem services and minimising environmental degradation; and
- The island of Ireland should be considered as a whole for ecosystem management.

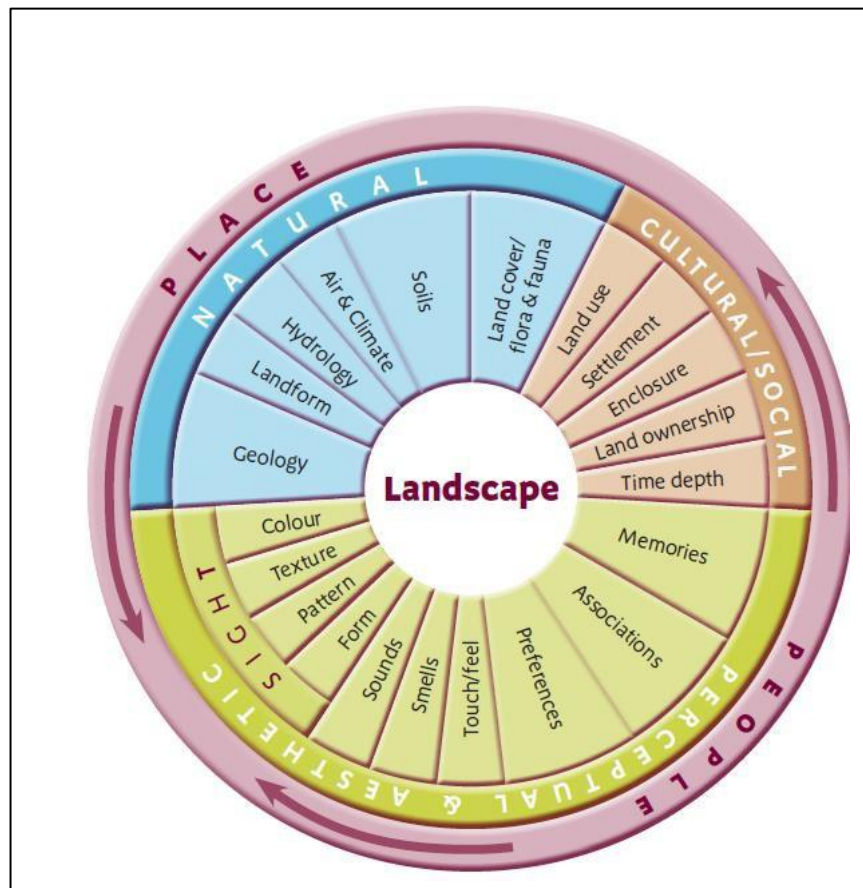
National and Regional Policy – Landscape

European Landscape Convention

2.20 The European Landscape Convention was signed in Florence in October 2000. It was ratified by the United Kingdom in November 2006 and entered into force for the United Kingdom in March 2007. The Republic of Ireland has also ratified the European Landscape Convention. The European Landscape Convention defines 'landscape' as 'an area as perceived by people whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'.

- 2.21 The Convention states that; "... every planning action or project should comply with landscape quality objectives. It should in particular improve landscape quality, or at least not bring about a decline. The effects of projects, whatever their scale, on landscape should therefore be evaluated and rules and instruments corresponding to those effects defined. Each planning action or project should not only match, but also be appropriate to the features of the places."
- 2.22 The scope of the concept of landscape, which formerly focussed solely on conserving the most scenic designated areas, has been extended to cover natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding, as well as every day or degraded landscapes. Figure 1 shows Natural England's landscape wheel which emphasises the multi-faceted nature of landscapes. It encompasses the elements that comprise physical landscapes and also how they are perceived which results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.

Figure 1: Landscape Wheel (Natural England 2014)

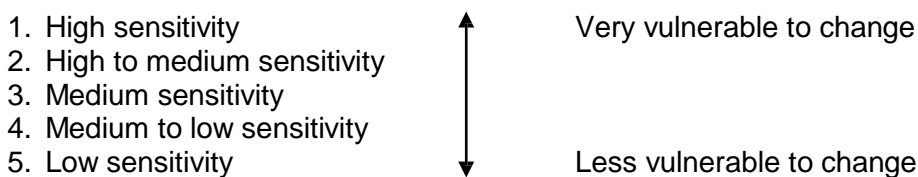


Landscape Character Assessments

- 2.23 Landscape Character Assessment is a tool in identifying the landscape features that give a locality it's 'sense of place'. The process can help to inform the makeup of urban areas including our city and townscape areas as well as our rural assets. The defining of landscape character areas (LCAs) that exhibit similar characteristics or cohesive form helps to set a baseline that can help us understand our landscapes and also assist in making decisions about managing development.
- 2.24 The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (NI) 1985 (NALCO) is the current legislative basis for protecting landscapes. The Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000 (NILCA) identified 130 distinct LCAs as fragile landscapes at risk of development pressures, of which seven are in Belfast:
- LCA 97 Belfast/Lisburn
 - LCA 104 Craigantlet Escarpment
 - LCA 105 Castlereagh Slopes
 - LCA 106 Lagan Parkland
 - LCA 110 Derrykillultagh
 - LCA 111 Divis Summits
 - LCA 112 Belfast Basalt Escarpment
- 2.25 Appendix 1: shows the locations of the LCAs and Appendix 2 gives a description of the key characteristics for each LCA, including the landscape condition and sensitivity to change.

Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes (2010)

- 2.26 In conjunction with PPS18: Renewable Energy, this SPG provides guidance on the visual and landscape impact of wind energy development. The guidance is based on an assessment of the overall sensitivity level of wind energy development of each of the 130 LCAs. The LCAs are given an overall sensitivity level using a five point scale –



- 2.27 The LCAs identified as being vulnerable to change include:

LCA 97 Belfast/Lisburn: High to Medium Sensitivity

The LCA has a highly urban landscape which means there is limited space for any significant wind energy development. The basin landform creates visually prominent skylines and edges, which are sensitive. Brownfield or industrial areas are most suited to wind energy development but caution must be paid to other significant constraints i.e. airport, habitats etc.

LCA 104 Craigantlet Escarpment: High Sensitivity

Due to its intrinsic character, small scale features and visually prominent location on the edge of the urban area this LCA is highly sensitive to wind energy development.

LCA 105 Castlereagh Slopes: High Sensitivity

This landscape is highly sensitive to wind energy development due to its intrinsic character which includes many small scale features. It is visually exposed and has a prominent location on the edge of the urban area. It is a key part of Belfast's landscape setting and is highly valued, notwithstanding the presence of some existing man-made influences and issues of landscape management.

LCA 106 Lagan Parkland: High Sensitivity

The LCA is regarded for its high scenic value and is designated an AONB and is a recreational and heritage asset to Belfast and the adjacent urban areas which gives rise to its inherent highly sensitive rating to wind energy development.

LCA 110 Derrykillultagh: High to Medium Sensitivity

Whilst, in theory, this landscape could potentially be suited to wind energy development, the northern parts of the LCA, which is visually in the lee of the Belfast Hills when viewed from Belfast and Lisburn. Its southern half is generally much more sensitive in terms of both scale and visibility.

LCA 111 Divis Summits: High Sensitivity

The iconic character of Belfast Hills framing the city, is the most sensitive of all the upland and escarpment landscapes. Whilst each individual summit is a landmark in its own right, together the summits bear strong influence on the settlement formation of Lisburn, Newtownabbey and the natural formation of Belfast Lough. It is arguable whether wind energy development would alter the character of the Hills, the visibility of the natural, cultural and recreational values associated with the Belfast Hills would heighten its sensitivity.

LCA 112 Belfast Basalt Escarpment: High Sensitivity

Despite localised issues of intrusion and poor landscape quality, the distinctive character of the escarpment has a strong influence on the physicality of Belfast and Belfast Lough. Alongside the practical obstacles of wind energy development, the character of the escarpment would be fundamentally altered. The visibility would be a burden upon the landscape and would affect the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational value of the LCA.

Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA)

- 2.28 The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment (NIRLCA), was published in February 2016, identifies 26 regional scale landscape character areas and provides a regional framework for landscape character and an impartial evidence base comparable to the rest of the UK which will guide strategic decisions about landscape and set the context for more detailed local landscape studies in the future. There are four RLCA's within the Belfast City Council area. The following descriptions have been taken from NIRLCA and are also included in the council's Countryside Assessment document:

South Antrim Hills and Six Mile Water (No.19)

This RLCA comprises the Six Mile Water valley and the hills that surround it, including the southern flanks of the Antrim Plateau at Browndod and Drumadarragh Hill. To the south of the Six Mile Water, the Belfast Hills form a prominent ridge to the north of the

Belfast Lough, overlooking both the lough and the city.

The Belfast Hills run from the hills above Larne Lough, south-westwards to North Carn and Woodburn Forest, before dropping to Newtownabbey and Carnmoney Hill. Further south-west, the hills rise again to Collinward, Squires Hill, Divis and White Hill. These hills form an open and windswept upland plateau with a transition to more sheltered farmland with more substantial hedges on the gentle northern slopes. Fields are enclosed by gappy hedges or stone walls. On the plateau there are shallow valleys with marshy areas or loughs, often surrounded by conifer and mixed woodland plantations. The southern slopes of the hills, within RLCA 21, form a dramatic basalt escarpment above Belfast and the lough shores. Carnmoney Hill acts as a landmark feature on the approach to Newtownabbey as its natural rugged setting is in contrast to the settlement and industrial developments around it.

Belfast Lough and Islandmagee (No.20)

Belfast Lough is a U-shaped glacial valley, with a sea-flooded floor and steep sides. The Belfast Lough RLCA encompasses the valley sides, between the sea and the break of slope at the top of the scarps of the Belfast Hills and the Castlereagh Hills. The valley continues inland, where the floor is settled (RLCA 21) and the side slopes diminish.

Belfast and Lagan Valley (No.21)

The Belfast and Lagan Valley follows the lower part of the River Lagan from Moira near Lough Neagh eastwards to the sea at Belfast. Downstream of Moira, the river has a broad flat flood plain that is heavily settled.

The valley is framed to the north by the dramatic slopes of the Belfast Hills including Black Mountain and Cave Hill, with a sharp contrast between the heavily urbanised and built up area in the valley and the exposed and upland character of the hills. To the south, the landform change is less dramatic, rising gently to undulating drumlin farmland south of Newtownbreda. Further east, Craigantlet Escarpment runs between Dundonald and Hollywood and forms part of the backdrop to Belfast. It has deep wooded glens and encroachment of development on the ridge, including the Parliament Buildings at Stormont that stand out as a major landmark on the ridge. To the west, there is a transitional area between the Lagan Valley and the Lough Neagh basin.

Settlement in the valley includes Belfast and its industrial port, airport, city centre and surrounding residential areas. Settlement is more or less continuous through Dunmurry to Lisburn. Wetlands along the river exclude development and former estate parklands, golf courses and the racecourse break up the settlement pattern and provide public open space. At the fringes of the settlements, and upstream of Lisburn, there is farmland with hedged medium scale pastoral fields and numerous hedgerow trees tending to be of ash, oak and beech. The Lagan towpath forms an important recreational route along the river, which is used for recreational water activities including rowing.

This area is heavily influenced by communications, both in the form of a dense network of roads including the A2, but also railways and power lines. The valley does, however, have a contained character, when seen from high surrounding land the settlement can be

seen to stop where the land rises, and from within settlements, the hill slopes that frame the valley are visible.

Down Drumlins and Holywood Hills (No.22)

The Down Drumlins and Holywood Hills form part of the extensive drumlin field that extends across Armagh and Down, with an almost continuous covering of drumlins. The area takes in rural lowland with subtle underlying relief including the upper Lagan Valley and the River Ravarney valley, as well as the undulating Castlereagh Hills and Holywood Hills, which rise to 200m.

Local Policy Context

- 2.29 The current planning policy context at a local level is complex as a result of a successful legal challenge to the adoption of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015. There are therefore five existing development plans that relate to parts of the Belfast district, alongside draft BMAP. All of these documents will be superseded at the adoption of the new Belfast LDP 2035.

Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001

- 2.30 The current development plan for the majority of the Belfast district is the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001, which was adopted in December 1989. The area covered by the plan included the whole of the administrative area of the former Belfast City Council area, together with the urban parts of the former district council areas of Castlereagh, Lisburn and Newtownabbey as well as Greenisland and Holywood.
- 2.31 The purpose of the BUAP was to establish physical development policies for this broad urban area up to 2001, clarifying the extent and location of development and providing a framework for public and private agencies in their investment decisions relating to land use. Although alterations were made in 1996, the BUAP is now largely out-of-date and was formally superseded by the BMAP in September 2014. However, BMAP was quashed as a result of a judgement in the court of appeal delivered on 18 May 2017, meaning that the BUAP 2001 remains the statutory development plan for most of the council's area.

The Lisburn Area Plan 2001

- 2.32 The change in council boundary as a result of the local government reform on 1 April 2015, and the subsequent quashing of BMAP, means that the Lisburn Area Plan 2001 remains the statutory development plan for a small portion of Belfast's district around Dunmurry. Adopted on 4 July 2001, the Lisburn Area Plan sought to establish physical development policies for Lisburn and its surroundings up to 2001. However, as work on the development of BMAP had commenced at the time of adoption, an element of provision had been incorporated so that the area's reasonable housing development needs could continue to be met with some certainty until such time as the successor BMAP was in place.

Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan 2005

- 2.33 The quashing of BMAP also means that the Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan (adopted in 1993) was re-instated as the statutory development plan for the Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP). It sets out the strategy and policies associated with the protection and enhancement of the natural and man-made heritage of the LVRP. Its main objectives are to conserve the landscape quality and features of the Lagan Valley and to enhance recreational use by the public.

Belfast Harbour Local Area Plan 1990-2005

- 2.34 The quashing of BMAP also means that the Belfast Harbour Area Local Plan (adopted in 1991) was also re-instated as the statutory development plan for Belfast Lough and its foreshores, encompassing land east of the Belfast to Larne railway line and west of the Sydenham By-Pass and the Belfast to Bangor road. It was prepared within the strategy set out in the Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 and underlines the importance of the harbour area to Belfast and to the Northern Ireland economy.

North Down and Ards Area Plan 1984-1995

- 2.35 A small section of the Belfast District at Knocknagoney was subsumed into Belfast as part of local government reform in 2015. The quashing of BMAP means that this area reverts back to the original North Down and Ards Area Plan 1984-1995 (adopted 1989).

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015

- 2.36 Although formally adopted in 2014, this process of final BMAP adoption was declared unlawful as a result of a judgement in the court of appeal delivered on 18 May 2017. This means the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001 and the other Development Plans provides the statutory plan context for the area. However, BUAP was published in 1990, nearly 30 years ago. The Belfast City Council Plan Area has undergone massive transformation since then, particularly in the city centre. The formal development plans which apply are dated and silent on many of the planning issues pertinent to needs of current planning decision making. In recognition of this unique circumstance and taking account of the short term transitional period in advance of the adoption of the Local Policies Plan it is important to provide clarity in relation to the application of planning policy.
- 2.37 Draft BMAP, in its most recent, post-examination form remains a significant material consideration in future planning decisions. It was at the most advanced stage possible prior to formal adoption. Draft BMAP referred to throughout the LDP Draft Plan Strategy documentation therefore refers to that version. However, the council has also had regard to the provisions of the draft BMAP which was published in 2004, the objections which were raised as part of the plan process and the Planning Appeals Commission Inquiry report.
- 2.38 The SPSS's transitional arrangements provide for continuity until such times as a new LDP for the whole of their council area is adopted to ensure continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions.
- 2.39 BUAP contains fewer zonings or designations than draft BMAP and delineates a city centre boundary which has expanded significantly since then by virtue of the application of Draft

BMAP. The council therefore intends to use a number of the existing designations contained in the draft BMAP, insofar as it relates to the Belfast City Council Plan Area, to form the basis of decision making until the LDP is adopted in its entirety. A list of the existing draft policy designations is contained in Appendix A of the LDP Draft Plan Strategy.

Belfast City Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan

- 2.40 The Belfast City Council 'Local Biodiversity Action Plan' (2007) sets out how the council seeks to deliver actions for the conservation of biodiversity across the city. The objectives of the plan include:
- conserve national and local priority species and habitats in Belfast,
 - raise awareness of biodiversity
 - get people involved with biodiversity
 - develop biodiversity partnerships.
- 2.41 The plan is currently under review and will be revised with an updated action plan and will draw parallels with the new NI Biodiversity Strategy 2015, 'Valuing Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020'.

3 Natural Heritage Profile

International Designations

European Sites

- 3.1 Natura 2000 includes sites of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar Sites. These sites can be influenced by implementation of land use zonings and policy. Each identified site is managed through a set of conservation objectives which should be taken into account when developing the LDP.
- 3.2 SPAs are sites established under the European Commission Directive of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC), commonly known as the 'Birds Directive'. SPAs are important areas for breeding, over-wintering and migrating birds. Currently Belfast has two SPAs, Belfast Lough SPA and Belfast Lough Open Water SPA.
- 3.3 Belfast Lough is a large intertidal sea Lough situated at the mouth of the River Lagan. The inner part of the Lough comprises a series of mudflats and lagoons; the outer Lough is restricted to mainly rocky shores and small sandy bays on the southern shore with more extensive mixed sediment intertidal areas on the northern side.
- 3.4 **Belfast Lough SPA** is 428.64 ha in area and qualifies under Article 4.1 of the 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive by supporting Bar-tailed Godwit and migratory species of Redshank and Turnstone over winter. The area also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl. Over winter, the area regularly supports individual waterfowl including Goldeneye, Redshank, Turnstone, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Shelduck, Mallard, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Eider, Curlew, Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Scaup.
- 3.5 Belfast Lough SPA also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) by regularly supporting internationally important populations of Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit. Additionally, the site qualifies under the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC under Article 4.1 by supporting Common Tern, Arctic Tern and Bar-Tailed Godwit.
- 3.6 Numbers of wintering Redshank have been declining since the SPA designation. This is concurrent with UK and indeed International trends. As a result, the status of Belfast Lough is considered 'unfavourable'.
- 3.7 The **Belfast Lough Open Water SPA** covers 5,591.73 ha in area and comprises of the marine area below the mean low water mark. Seawards it extends to a notional boundary between the eastern limits on the north and south shores of the Outer Belfast Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) at Kilroot and Horse Rock respectively. The boundary towards the head of the Lough is a notional line between Greencastle on northern shore and Holywood Bank on the southern shore. The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the 79/409/EEC Directive by supporting Great Crested Grebe, an internationally important species.
- 3.8 The current status of the SPA features of the Belfast Lough Open Water is of 'favourable' status. However, the population of Great Crested Grebe is being closely monitored

following a recorded decline in 2010/11 which was potentially due to weather conditions. Although populations have been steadily recovering, the feature is being closely monitored.

- 3.9 In January 2016, NIEA proposed an agglomeration of a number of existing designated sites into one SPA - the East Coast (Northern Ireland) Marine SPA. The proposed SPA includes coastal and near shore waters from Ringford near Carnlough in the north, the marine area of Larne Lough, the marine area of Belfast Lough, waters around the Copeland Islands and off shore of the Ards Peninsula to Cloghan Head, near Ardglass in the south. The site would also subsume the existing Belfast Lough SPA and Belfast Lough Open Water SPA. The site covers a diverse range of seabed habitats, from extensive coastal fringing reefs of various lithologies to the fine silt of inner Belfast Lough. The purpose of adjoining the above SPA's is to support internationally important populations of Great Crested Grebe, Red-throated Diver, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Manx Shearwater, and Eider Duck.
- 3.10 SACs are sites that have been given protected under the European Legislation of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The designated sites are for other species other than birds such as special habitats, species, grasslands and wetlands of biodiversity importance on an international scale. There are no SACs directly located within Belfast.
- 3.11 The **Ramsar Convention** 1971 is an international treaty that provides a framework for sensitive use of wetlands. Wetlands are productive ecosystems and provide us with fresh water but have been subject to human interventions and converted to other uses. The convention includes "all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans." Wetlands as ecosystems are extremely important for biodiversity conservation which is recognised for the wellbeing of society. The management of our wetlands is important and are sensitive to trans-boundary water and air pollutants.
- 3.12 UK Government applies the procedures for Ramsar sites under the Habitats Regulations. There are 20 Ramsar sites designated, with a further three sites proposed, in Northern Ireland of which one site is located in Belfast, Belfast Lough. The Ramsar site at Belfast Lough covers 433ha and qualifies under Criterion 3 of the Ramsar Convention which supports populations of Common Redshank in winter. The Belfast Lough SPA boundary is entirely coincident with that of the Belfast Lough Ramsar Site. DAERA is responsible for implementing and complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive through the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) which transposes the Habitats Directive.
- 3.13 The **OSPAR Convention** was agreed in Paris and came into effect in 1998. The OSPAR convention replaced both the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (the Oslo Convention) (adopted in 1972) and the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources (the Paris Convention) (adopted in 1974) with the intention of addressing the pollution affecting the North East Atlantic area. A key part of the OSPAR biodiversity strategy is the development of a network of MPAs to ensure the biodiversity, environmental and ecological quality of the maritime ecosystems are conserved, protected and managed sustainably. OSPAR is guided by the ecosystems approach which is an interaction of the impacts of human activity and the physical

environment of plants, animals and microbes. In Belfast two areas have been identified in the OSPAR biodiversity strategy; Belfast Lough Open Water SPA and Belfast Lough SPA.

National – Nature & Biodiversity

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

- 3.14 The WFD is transposed into law through the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (Statutory Rule 2003 No. 544). WFD aims to achieve 'Good Ecological Status' or better, for the quality of all water bodies. This means ensuring healthy aquatic ecosystems whilst balancing water/nature protection and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- 3.15 A key feature of the WFD is the development of River Basin Management Plans which takes an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of water environment. Belfast falls within the North Eastern River Basin District.
- 3.16 NIEA has formed a NI Water Management Unit River Basin District Group to deliver a series of catchment projects in partnership with government agencies and stakeholders. An example of these catchment programmes includes, the 'Living with Water Programme' is a strategic drainage infrastructure programme that aims to improve water quality within the Belfast Lough Catchment. This programme will seek to protect against flood risk by determining the level and types of capital infrastructural investment that is necessary to alleviate the problem which will in turn have a multiplier effect for economic and environmental benefit.

Priority Habitats

- 3.17 Although a significant portion of the LDP area is heavily urbanised, it is rich in natural heritage resources and contains important wildlife habitats. Northern Ireland contains 51 priority habitats of which 17 are located in the Belfast City Council area. The sites may vary in size but all of the habitats are of importance based on habitat and species diversity and rarity. These habitats are as follows (note this may not be an exhaustive list):

- Parkland
- Upland mixed Ashwoods;
- Wet woodland;
- Upland Oakwood;
- Lowland meadows;
- Upland Heathland;
- Eutrophic standing waters;
- Intertidal Mudflats;
- Rivers;
- Coastal saltmarsh;
- Lowland raised bog;
- Reedbeds;
- Lowland Fens;
- Maritime cliff and slopes;
- Open Mosaic Habitats in Previously Developed Land;
- Hedgerows and;
- Ponds.

Main Habitat Types

- 3.18 The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy identifies a range of habitats across Northern Ireland. Those represented in the LDP area include:
- wetlands including rivers, streams, lakes, swamp, fen and carr woodland;
 - peatlands including heathland and bogs;
 - woodlands including plantations and semi natural woodlands and boundary features such as hedgerows;
 - grasslands including arable or cultivated land; and
 - Open Mosaic Habitats in Previous Development Land
- 3.19 Most of the following section is derived from Countryside Assessment, draft BMAP 2015 and adjusted to reflect the Belfast City Council area, unless otherwise referenced.

Wetlands

- 3.20 The Belfast City Council area contains several important wetland areas. The Belfast Harbour Estate wetlands are important sites for birds including barn owl, curlew, golden plover, linnet, reed bunting, roseate tern, skylark, song thrush and spotted flycatcher. Bog meadows is the last large area of the Blackstaff floodplain that has not been developed. The site has a variety of habitats extending from higher ground in the west with rough grazing and grading into fen and swamp. Within the area, reed bunting, corncrake and skylark have previously been recorded.

Rivers and Lakes

- 3.21 The River Lagan is the largest river in the LDP area. Many stretches of the River Lagan contain important habitats for wildlife including otter, nesting birds, coarse fish and Spuce's bristle moss. Aeration equipment has been installed below Stranmillis in an attempt to improve the water quality and Laganside wildlife groups are working towards the creation of wildlife and conservation areas as part of Laganside regeneration. Collin River contains salmon and brown trout and is an important tributary feeding the Lagan.
- 3.22 The LDP area contains a number of Mesotrophic Lakes and Eutrophic Standing Waters. Galwally Lake is the only Mesotrophic Lake is within the area.

Coastal and Marine

- 3.23 The designated coastal area follows the coastline of Belfast Lough and extends to the Low Water Mark, including the narrow strips of coast between the High Water Mark and the Low Water Mark, with the exception of the designated urban area. It contains many environmentally sensitive areas, and also listed buildings and scheduled monuments with an industrial heritage value.
- 3.24 The coast, and the seas around it, includes highly productive and biologically diverse ecosystems, with features which serve as critical natural defences against storms, floods and erosion. A number of species and habitats are recognised as internationally important and the majority of the coastline is protected for its special interest. A wide variety of coastal habitats can be found including mudflats, sea-grass beds, coastal saltmarsh, sandy beaches, boulder and rocky shore. Stretches of these areas are internationally and nationally important for birdlife including roseate tern, golden plover, curlew and seabirds

such as cormorants and shags. Wall brown butterfly has also been recorded in saltmarsh within the area.

Peatlands

- 3.25 Areas of shrub heath (upland heathland) are found around the summits and slopes of Black Mountain, Divis, Wolf Hill, Squires Hill and McIlwhans. The majority of the lowland bog patches, which once existed, have been drained for agriculture, colonised by trees, or used as refuse tips.

Woodlands

- 3.26 Northern Ireland is currently one of the least wooded countries in Europe and many of the woodlands are in poor condition both in terms of age structure and the presence of wildlife. There is greater awareness of the benefits of woodland as a viable educational source, outdoor recreation provision and the wider contribution they make to quality of life. Their value to the environment is vital for fostering biodiversity, providing habitats but also help to ameliorate pollution and stabilise soil.
- 3.27 Many of the woodland and treed areas in the Belfast City Council area have their origin in former demesnes and estates. Within these woodlands a mixture of mature broad leaves dominate, particularly beech, oak, lime, and sycamore, with ash, birch, elm, yew, maples and horse chestnut. Occasionally the woodlands contain scots pine, larch, a variety of exotic trees and shrubs or small conifer plantations. Examples of demesne and estate woodlands occur at Malone House and at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park. Several of these woodland areas are examples of lowland woodland pasture and parkland.
- 3.28 Other woodland types found within the LDP area include upland mixed ashwoods, wet woodland and upland oakwoods. Upland mixed ashwoods are dominated by ash with hazel, alder, beech, birch, rowan or wild cherry. Examples of these woodlands can be found in Cavehill Country Park. Ash dominated woodlands also exist in small patches at Longhurst and Lagan Meadows. Wet woodlands dominated by willow and alder can be found at Edenderry, Campbells Hill and River Lagan. Small areas of oak dominated woodland can also be found at Rathmore Grammar School, Malone Golf Course, Barnett's Demesne and Edenderry.
- 3.29 Other notable wooded areas include areas along various rivers and glens including Connor Burn, Belmont Glen, Cregagh Glen, Edith of Lornes Glen and Golden Glen and hazel dominated woodland at Hulls Glen and Cavehill. Elsewhere patches of woodland are found around old quarries, as planting within parklands or around farmsteads. Coniferous Plantations are often small in extent and are located at Belvoir Forest Park, Barnett's Demesne and Mary Peters Track.
- 3.30 Many organisations such as the Woodland Trust, National Trust, RSPB, Ulster Wildlife Trust and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), own and manage land for nature conservation interests. This has led to increased planting of native trees such as hazel, oak, ash, rowan and cherry.
- 3.31 Under the Forest Service, DAERA sustainably manage existing woodlands. Belvoir Park Forest is the only forest recreation area DAERA manage. Covering 94 hectares along the

south bank of the River Lagan, it is situated in the boundary of Lagan Valley Regional Park. Alongside its value as a unique natural heritage asset, the Park contains archaeological sites. Whilst commercial forestry is the main role of these areas and have an open public access policy on all woods, hence they never close to the public and provide an accessible recreation and amenity resource.

Community Woodlands

3.32 The Woodland Trust is a charity dedicated to the protection of native woodland heritage. They protect ancient woodland, acquire woodland and sites for planting, creating valuable urban green space, enhancing biodiversity by expanding woodland cover for the benefit of public enjoyment. The Woodland Trust manage the following sites:

- Woodland Walkway, Knockmount Gardens
- Ligoniel Wood, Mill Avenue
- Old Throne Wood, Antrim Road
- Mill Dam Wood, Ballygomartin Road

3.33 Woodlands within the Belfast City Council area support a number of priority species including red squirrel, Irish hare, pipstrelle bats, skylarks, golden plover, barn owl, yellowhammer, tree sparrow, bullfinch, song thrush, wall brown butterfly, moschatel, small white orchid and pink meadow cap fungi.

Hedgerows

3.34 Hedgerows are important for biodiversity with over 50 Northern Ireland priority species associated with hedges. As well as biodiversity hedgerows are important for not just biodiversity but are listed as a key characteristic of numerous landscape character areas. Hedgerows are listed as a natural influence within the Belfast and Lagan Valley Area of Landscape Character.

Grasslands

3.35 There are several notable grassland areas within the LDP area. For example, Lagan Meadows is a grazed grassland which features wild flowers, marshy grassland, open water and swamp, with clumps of tussock sedge scrub and woodland. This is an important area for red squirrel, otters, bullfinch, song thrush, skylark, reed bunting and linnet. There are areas within the Belfast Hills that contain wet and dry semi-natural grassland and acidic mat grass and purple moor grass. Grasslands within the Belfast Hills areas support red grouse, marsh fritillary butterfly, juniper, moschatel, pink meadow cap, smooth cat's ear and Irish lady's tresses.

3.36 Improved grassland is the dominant land use outside the urban environment in the Belfast City Council area. Rough grassland is scattered throughout the area and is often found in damp inter-drumlin areas, valley bottoms, higher ground, thin soils, and on exposed sites with steep slopes. Examples of rough grassland are located near Black Mountain, Divis, Cave Hill, Balmoral Industrial Estate and Belfast Harbour. Rough grassland areas can support Irish hare, curlew, reed bunting, skylark, song thrush, linnet, spotted flycatcher and chough. Biodiversity in areas of improved pastures and arable land is often concentrated in

hedgerows. Hedgerows in the area are predominantly hawthorn, with occasional beech and ash.

Open Mosaic Habitats in Previously Developed Land

- 3.37 Belfast has a good proportion of this type of site including parts of Belfast Harbour Estate, quarry sites in the hills surrounding Belfast and cleared industrial sites.

Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)

- 3.38 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are protected sites which are of special interest by reason of their flora, fauna, geological and/or physiological features designated under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (as amended). Sites are protected to conserve biodiversity and geodiversity. There are four ASSIs in Belfast:

- Inner Belfast Lough also contains a number of Earth Science Conservation Review (ESCR) sites exhibiting a range of Ordovician, Carboniferous and Permian features of national geological interest.
- Craigantlet Woods represents a large block of semi-natural woodland. Due to the inaccessibility of the woods, it has been relatively undisturbed maintaining a high degree of naturalness. The site was recorded as having 'unfavourable' status in 2009 due to the spread of non-native invasive species, principally sycamore.
- Belvoir ASSI within the former Belvoir Estate with the exception of Moreland's Meadow. It is designated for its parkland and wood pasture habitat and associated species.
- Bellevue is important because of its geology. It is one of a series of sites that exhibits the Clay-with-Flints, a unique deposit whose exposure is mostly confined to the Antrim Plateau.

Areas of Scientific Interest (ASI)

- 3.39 Declared under the Amenity and Lands Act (Northern Ireland) 1985, consideration must be given to maintaining the feature of scientific interest but development may proceed subject to appropriate restrictions. ASIs in many respects are treated similarly to ASSIs but there is less control over land use. At present, Hazelwood ASI is the only such designation within Belfast which contains a diverse ground flora carpet of woodland herbs and provides a suitable home to multi stemmed hazel.
- 3.40 Under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, 3 other statutory designations were identified. **Nature Reserves and National Nature Reserves** are areas designated for their rich flora, fauna or features of geological or other special interest qualities. The sites are managed by DfI, DAERA or by agreement with another body such as a council or voluntary conservation body. There are no Nature Reserves or National Nature Reserves in Belfast City Council area.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

- 3.41 The Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013 allows for the creation of MCZ's to protect and conserve important species of marine wildlife, habitats, geology and geomorphology. Currently the DfI DEARA is consulting on proposals for MCZ's in the Northern Ireland

inshore region (out to 12 nautical miles). The closest pMCZ to Belfast is the Outer Belfast Lough.

Local – Nature & Biodiversity

Local Nature Reserves

3.42 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) can be provided by councils under the powers conferred to them under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. They can provide a platform for education and research as well as for public information services and recreational uses. Daft BMAP has identified LNRs within the Belfast City Council area (see also Appendix 4):

- **Ballyaghagan** comprises of species rich hay meadows and an area of upland blanket bog. Some of the fields have rock outcrops with local calcareous species present, acid flushes and more neutral taller grassland swards. Plants found within the acid areas include Common Butterwort and Bogbean.
- **Hazelwood** - Hazel woodland and scrub with good examples of multi stemmed hazel. The woodland contains a diverse ground flora carpet of woodland herbs.
- **Bog Meadows.** The 19 ha (47 acre) Bog Meadows nature reserve, managed by the Ulster Wildlife Trust, lies close to the heart of Belfast City adjacent to the M1, Milltown Cemetery and St. Louise's College. It consists of a variety of habitats including areas of open water, swamp, marshland and wet grassland.

Bog Meadows is also an important site for both breeding and overwintering birds including Reed bunting, Sedge warbler, Skylark, Grasshopper warbler, Lapwing and Snipe. The open water and ditches are ideal habitat for plants such as branched bur-reed, common and ivy-leaved duckweed, water starwort, watercress, fool's watercress and brooklime. Horsetail, reedmace, reed canary-grass, floating sweet-grass, soft rush, sharp-flowered rush, brown sedge, marsh marigold, wild angelica, lesser spearwort, water mint, tufted hair-grass, marsh willowherb, marsh bedstraw, marsh ragwort and celery-leaved buttercup are found in the marshy areas. In the drier grassland cuckoo flower, star, glaucous and hairy sedges, knap weed, common spotted orchid, meadowsweet, cat's-ear, autumn hawkbit, meadow vetchling, bird's-foot trefoil, ragged robin, meadow buttercup, common sorrel and ragwort can be found.

- **Lagan Meadows** is 49 hectares in size and historically was the source of Belfast's first piped water supply over 200 years ago. The spring at Lester's Dam, which provided the water, still runs and gives rise to the wetlands and marsh for which Lagan Meadows is best known. But this attractive 49 hectare site also contains grazed pasture, meadow and woodland. Separated from the main park by the former Lagan canal is Moreland's Meadow, where mature veteran oaks and cedars dominate the grazed pasture. The following species can be viewed:
 - Wetland birds, including snipe, woodcock, grasshopper warbler, sedge warbler and reed bunting.
 - Woodland birds, including song thrush, dunnock, wren and tree creeper.
 - Amphibians, frogs spawning in early spring. Insects including banded demoiselle, blue-tailed and azure damselfly, orange-tip, ringlet and cryptic wood white butterfly.
 - Trees including oak, ash, willow, alder and hawthorn.

- Wildflowers, including common spotted orchid, lady's smock, yellow flag, ragged robin and devil's bit scabious.

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs)

- 3.43 Alongside the international and national designations for natural heritage assets, the identification of local designations can also be undertaken through the development plan process. In the Belfast City Council area, there are 61 SLNCIs (7 of which are identified as geodiversity importance) designated in accordance with PPS 2: Natural Heritage and these are listed in Appendix 8. Appendix 9 maps the location of the SLNCI's including geodiversity SLNCIs.

Trees and Woodland

- 3.44 Urban trees are an essential multifaceted resource, providing a vast array of benefits for people, local communities and the cityscape. Trees have a high amenity value and make a positive contribution to the social, cultural and physical environment. Trees can help to define an area and create a sense of place such as Cyprus Avenue and contribute to the 13 conservation areas in Belfast. Trees support wildlife habitats and contribute to the health and wellbeing of people. Trees absorb gases associated with air pollution such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) which is known to cause respiratory problems. Also, providing a natural flood defence, trees can help to conserve ground water as well as create a noise buffer.
- 3.45 There is a growing evidence to show that people find well-appointed green environments more relaxing, thus reducing stress levels, improving mental wellbeing and contributing to a better quality of life. There are three ways in which the planning system can safeguard trees:
- **Tree Preservation Orders:** The Council has a duty to protect trees under Section 122 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are designated to trees (either singularly or in a group) which are of high amenity or historic value or, for its rarity. There are over 160 TPOs in Belfast. Appendix 10 shows the location of TPOs in Belfast.
 - **Trees in Conservation Areas:** Trees make an important contribution to the appearance and character of a conservation area. Trees situated in conservation areas are treated with the same status of singular trees subject to a TPO.
 - **Trees protected by a retention condition** is a stipulation applied to planning permission. The purpose of a retention condition for trees is to ensure trees are protected and not damaged during construction; and/or trees that offer a high amenity impact are retained to embed the new construction into the natural environment.

National – Landscape

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

- 3.46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are of national importance as their landscapes possess a distinctive character and landscape features of high scenic value. The purpose of this designation is to protect and enhance the qualities of these areas for environmental fulfilment, outdoor recreation and public enjoyment. Management of these areas falls upon landowners, public bodies and voluntary bodies.
- 3.47 The Lagan Valley AONB was designated in 1965 and most of which falls within the Lagan Valley Regional Park. It is the only AONB in the Belfast City Council area. Appendix 5: Landscape Designations Map shows the location of the Lagan Valley AONB.
- 3.48 The characteristic features of the Lagan Valley AONB include riverbank scenery, diverse biodiversity, meadows, woodland and amenity parklands. Alongside the natural environmental assets of this area, it is also rich in diverse heritage including its contribution to the development of Belfast through its cultural and industrial heritage through linen production. The area became an attractive location for the early industrialists of Belfast whose successors built large houses and create the distinctive planted demesnes.
- 3.49 Over recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the conservation, recreation and tourism potential of the river, towpath and canal. There have been improvements in the water quality of the River Lagan over the years and water activities, such as angling, canoeing, rowing and motor boating are becoming a regular feature of the river.
- 3.50 The Lagan Valley Regional Park is a valuable asset for the people of Belfast. It has an integral position adjacent to Belfast and is a huge recreational resource covering 2116 hectares and stretching for 13 miles along the River Lagan from Belfast City to Lisburn City. Its location is situated partly within the Belfast and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council areas.

Landscape Character Assessment Review

- 3.51 The council is required to undertake a review of Landscape Character Assessments as part of the LDP process. In order to inform the evidence base for the purposes of bringing forward an appropriate policy approach for the countryside within the LDP, the council has updated the development pressure analysis previously undertaken for the POP stage of the LDP.

Development Pressure Analysis

- 3.52 The findings of the Development Pressure Analysis will inform the review of the existing Landscape Character Assessments located within the council area. This will allow the council to determine if any significant changes to the landscape character have occurred and to reflect any changes in a revised LCA.
- 3.53 Development pressure analysis seeks to identify those areas where significant development pressure has occurred and/or where local rural character is under threat of significant change. It typically involves an assessment of the cumulative impact of one-off single dwellings in the countryside and of renewable energy applications in the countryside.
- 3.54 The analysis focuses on the impact of new and replacement single dwellings as well as renewable energy applications on the Belfast City Council countryside. The countryside is

defined as lands outside the settlement development limits as set out by the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (BMAP). The findings of the analysis are set out below.

Single Housing Analysis

- 3.55 Due to the urban nature of the Belfast City Council area, the number of rural single house and replacement applications compared to other councils is minimal. For example, as detailed in the previous POP stage countryside assessment, in 2015/2016 there were 2,746 applications in Northern Ireland and of these only 3 were in the Belfast City Council area. Since 2004 there has been a general downward trend in the number of planning applications for single and replacement dwellings, however in 2017/18 Belfast City Council has received 13 applications for rural single dwellings – 6 approvals for new single dwellings, 5 approvals for replacement dwellings and 2 refusals for new dwellings. Nevertheless, the number of applications remains low.
- 3.56 In order to assess the spatial distribution of development pressure, all new and replacement dwellings with permission were mapped in 2015. This information, combined with sensitive areas mapping, such as the Lagan Valley AONB, means development pressure on the sensitive areas within the countryside can be effectively assessed. The mapping indicates that development in the countryside is not uniform and there are relatively small geographical areas where applications are more concentrated, reflecting the limited demand and limited opportunities for dwellings in the countryside in the rural part of the City Council area. This represents very limited ongoing development pressure within the countryside area of Belfast. It also must be acknowledged that much of the rural area is also covered by landscape and natural heritage designations that apply additional controls over new development.

Renewable Energy Analysis

- 3.57 Belfast City Council has utilised the Northern Ireland Planning Renewable Energy Monthly Statistics from April 2004 to March 2018 in analysing renewable energy applications. In comparison to other councils, Belfast receives very few applications for renewable energy technologies in the city's countryside area. Of the 58 renewable energy applications received in 2017/2018 in Northern Ireland, Belfast received 1 application for solar panel. This represents the fewest applications within any council in Northern Ireland.
- 3.58 There have been very few applications for single wind turbines and there have been no applications for a wind farm. This would be expected due to Belfast being predominately an urban area. There have been more applications within Belfast for solar panels than any other type of renewable energy. It is recognised that the public attitude towards renewable energy is changing. While there have been increases in renewable energy applications in Northern Ireland as a whole, there has been little change within Belfast City Council. This may change in the future and so continuous monitoring is required of the numbers and locations of renewable energy proposals

Conclusion to LCA Review

- 3.59 The urban environment encompasses the totality of the built form of the city. It includes recent and contemporary developments and our built heritage assets – including archaeology, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, areas of townscape character, historic parks and gardens, historic buildings of local importance and vernacular heritage structures.
- 3.60 The development pressure analysis has indicated that there have been only minor changes and development around Belfast since the publication of the existing Landscape Character

Assessments. These changes are not considered to be of such significant impact that require change to the existing LCA' and their conclusion. This may not have been the case had the Belfast City Council area contained large renewable energy installations or new afforestation, such as may be the case elsewhere. Therefore, the existing LCAs remain relevant for Belfast. In this regard, the detailed boundaries of any local landscape designation will be considered at the next stage of the LDP, being the Local Policies Plan.

Local - Landscape

Earth Science Interests and Assets

3.61 Earth science assets include geology and geomorphology and this is defined by draft BMAP as "the rocks and landforms of Northern Ireland from the surface on which life has developed, they have a major influence in determining the biodiversity of regions and, more directly, the physical character of the landscape.' Draft BMAP identifies the following areas of earth science interest in Belfast:

- Bellevue
- Carr's Glen
- Crow Glen
- Ballygomartin Sill
- Collin Glen
- Ballymiscaw

3.62 Draft BMAP2015 contains a Countryside and Coast Strategy, which aims "to conserve or enhance the rural landscape, ensure the protection of the metropolitan setting; and protect the Coastal Area". Landscapes which are particularly sensitive because of their quality, or which need particular protection because of their location and the pressures for development on them, are afforded special protection by additional policies and designations in Draft BMAP 2015, including the following:

- Rural/urban Landscape Wedges
- Local Landscape Policy Areas
- BMA Coastal Area
- Areas of High Scenic Value
- Belfast Hills Access Points
- Lagan Valley Regional Park

Rural Landscape Wedges

3.63 Rural Landscape Wedges consist of buffer landscapes and open areas that can fulfil any of the following objectives set out in Policy COU 1:

- distinguish and maintain the separate identities of the component parts of the Metropolitan Area;
- prevent the merging of the component parts of the Metropolitan Area;
- provide an important element in defining and protecting the setting of settlements; and
- maintain the rural character of the countryside.

3.64 Appendix 5: Landscape Designations Map shows the four 'Rural Landscape Wedges' within the Belfast City Council area:

- Hannahstown
- Glencregagh, Castlereagh Countryside (43.88ha of 62.80ha (69.9%))
- Mosside (rural), Lisburn Countryside (15.57ha of 162.54ha (9.6%))
- Holywood, North Down Countryside (9.98ha of 82.61ha (12.1%))

3.65 It is essential that Rural Landscape Wedges are protected from inappropriate development. Within the Rural Landscape Wedges identified above, all proposals will be assessed against prevailing regional planning policies for development in the countryside. In addition, proposals will be required to demonstrate how they will maintain the open nature of the wedge to ensure visual separation and protect the identities of the component areas. It will therefore be important to consider the impact of any proposed development on the integrity of the wedge, and on the need to retain separation between settlements.

BMA Coastal Area

3.66 Draft BMAP Policy COU 3 - **BMA Coastal Area** states that within the designated coastal area, planning permission will only be granted to development proposals which meet the following criteria:

- the proposed development is of such national or regional importance as to outweigh any detrimental impact on the coastal environment; or
- it can be demonstrated that any proposal will not harm the qualities of the coastal landscape, while still protecting nature conservation value.

Areas of High Scenic Value

3.67 Areas of High Scenic Value (AHSV) are designated to protect the setting of the city and other areas of particular landscape merit. Draft BMAP Policy COU 6 –'Areas of High Scenic Value' states that planning permission will not be granted for development proposals that would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the quality, character and features of interest in Areas of High Scenic Value.

3.68 Any assessment of quality and character in the Area of High Scenic Value shall include consideration of:

- Location of the site within the landscape and positioning of the proposal within the landscape;
- undue prominence, particularly in more open and exposed landscapes; and
- integration of development into the landscape including degree of natural enclosure; and
- relationship with surrounding buildings; and
- design, including form, scale and massing.

3.69 There are portions of three AOHSV in Belfast which can be viewed in Appendix 5: Landscape Designations Map:

- Belfast Basalt Escarpment (191.73 of 3012.79ha (6%))
- Castlereagh Slopes (2.48 of 1257.64ha (0.2%))
- Castlereagh Escarpment (275.30 of 904.73ha (30.4%))

Belfast Hills

- 3.70 The Belfast Hills area takes in Carnmoney Hill and Cave Hill to the north and Colin Glen, Divis and Black Mountain and Slievenacloy to the west. The operational boundary of the Belfast Hills Partnership encompasses approximately 4,400 hectares (11,000 acres).
- 3.71 The Hills are important for their landscape, natural and man-made heritage, visual amenity and as a resource for recreation, education and tourism. They are regarded as one of Northern Ireland's finest natural assets, characterised by an abundance of wildlife and significant archaeological features, it is vital that this backdrop is protected from inappropriate development.
- 3.72 The three main issues affecting the Belfast Hills are land use, conservation and recreation. Agriculture is the major land use within the Belfast Hills. Some of the land is used for hill farming and is of marginal economic value, with evidence of neglect such as the abandonment of farmhouses and buildings and the degradation of field boundaries. The western portion of the hills contains land of much higher agricultural potential.
- 3.73 For over a century the Belfast Hills have been a source of materials for the growth and development of Belfast. Since the 1960s the increased scale and intensity of quarrying operations and the diversity of their product has caused significant environmental impacts and public concern.
- 3.74 The hills have attracted a considerable amount of landfill activity as a result of the proximity of numerous inactive quarries and a continuous supply of waste materials from the city. Planning permission has been granted for some of this disposal, however recently there has been a significant increase in the incidence of unauthorised disposal in old quarries, by the roadside and on agricultural land. This can cause a threat to surface and ground water.
- 3.75 The Belfast Hills provide a great resource for outdoor recreational activities within easy reach of a large urban population. Walking to appreciate the countryside and the views is particularly popular and the hills provide opportunities for many types of informal recreation. Formal attractions include Colin Glen, Cave Hill Country Park, the Belfast Castle Estate and Belfast Zoo, and there may be future opportunities to provide additional sensitive access to the hills.

Belfast Hills Access Points

- 3.76 Draft BMAP Policy COU 8 – 'Belfast Hills Access Points' allows for development of limited access and small-scale interpretative/visitor facilities dependent upon proposals: improving access to the Belfast Hills; being small scale and integrating with the landscape; and having no adverse impact on the quality or character of the landscape. There are sixteen access points to the Belfast Hills which are shown on Appendix 5: Landscape Designations Map.

Lagan Valley Regional Park

- 3.77 Draft BMAP 2015 contains three policies to limit inappropriate development within the Lagan Valley Regional Park:
- Policy COU 10 - Development Proposals outside the Metropolitan Development Limit and Settlement Development Limits in the Lagan Valley Regional Park;
 - Policy COU 11 - Lagan Valley Regional Park Nodes (planning permission will be granted to development proposals for appropriate and sensitively designed recreational, tourist, interpretative and educational facilities); and
 - Policy COU 12 - Development Proposals in the Lagan Valley Regional Park within the Metropolitan Development Limit and Settlement Development Limits.

Urban Landscape Wedges

- 3.78 Urban Landscape Wedges are open areas that are designated to separate localities within the urban area. They have a significant role in helping to define and retain the identities and character of the component parts of the urban area and preventing the merging of different city communities. Their open character can break up the visual impact of the housing mass in the area and offer additional benefits to local residents by enhancing amenity and by providing opportunities for informal and formal recreational use and provision of linkages to walking and cycling networks.
- 3.79 The designated Urban Landscape Wedges can be viewed in Appendix 5: Landscape Designation Map:
- Bellevue/Fortwilliam - between North Belfast and the Glengormley area in Newtownabbey;
 - Milltown - between Whiterock, St.James area and Lower Andersonstown, West Belfast;
 - Colin Glen - between Suffolk, West Belfast and Dunmurry/Colin area, Lisburn;
 - Lagmore Glen - between Belfast and Metropolitan Lisburn; and
 - Dundonald (Castlereagh) between Dundonald and the boundary of Knock, East Belfast.

Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)

- 3.80 LLPAs are designated to help protect those areas within and/or adjoining settlements which are considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and are therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development. They include:
- Archaeological sites and monuments and their surroundings;
 - Listed and other locally important buildings and their surroundings;
 - River banks and shore lines and associated public access;
 - Attractive vistas, localised hills and other areas of local amenity importance; and
 - Areas of local nature conservation importance, including areas of woodland and important tree groups.
- 3.81 There are 86 LLPAs designated in the Belfast Council area which are listed Appendix 7 and shown on Appendix 5: 'Landscape Designations Map'. In this regard, the detailed boundaries of any local landscape designation will be considered at the next stage of the LDP, being the Local Policies Plan.

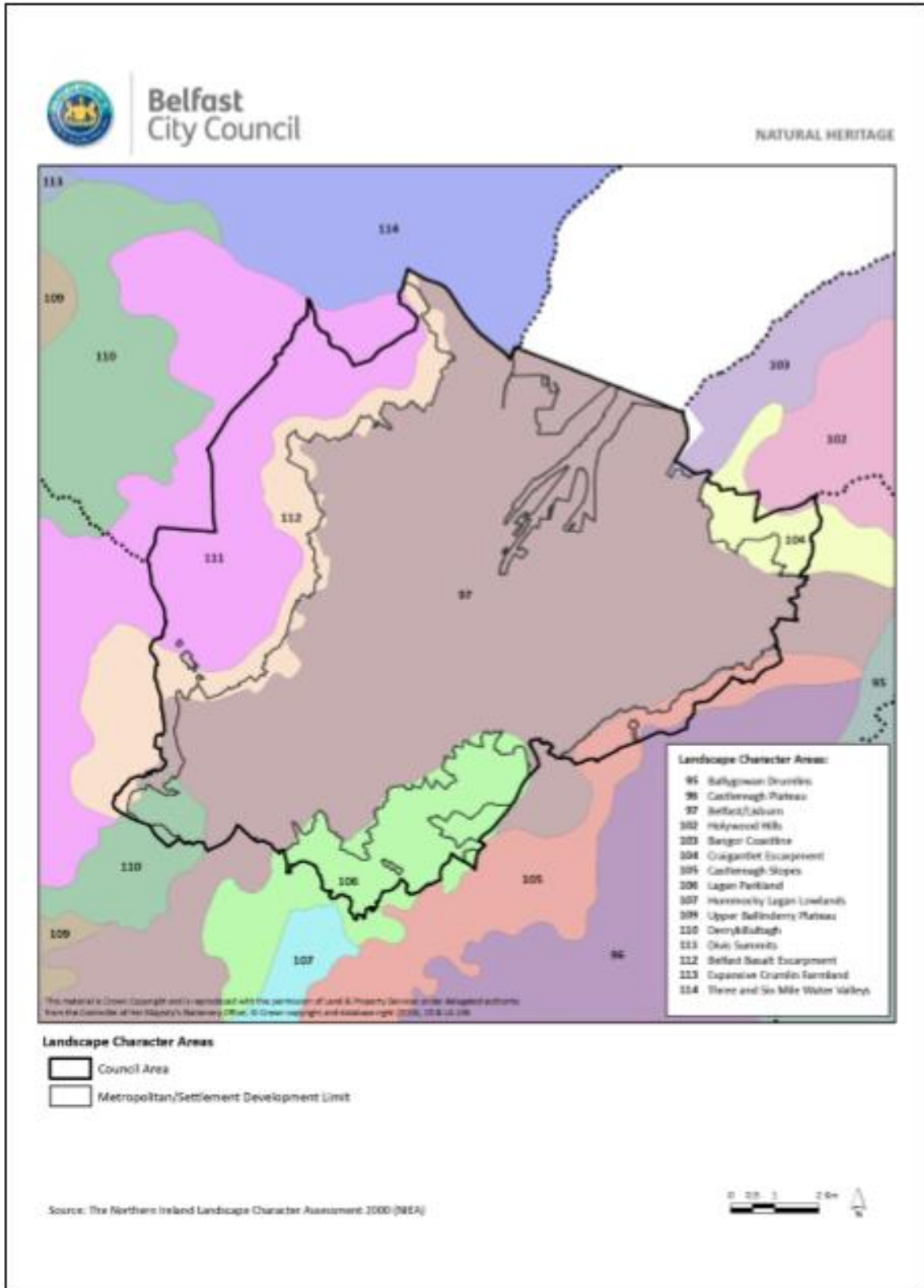
4 Draft Plan Strategy Policy Approach

- 4.1 The LDP Preferred Options Paper (POP) set out the proposed vision, key aims and objectives for the new Belfast LDP and the public consultation has indicated wide general support for the proposed approach. The overall structure of the draft Plan Strategy (DPS) generally retains the thematic approach used in the POP, set under an overall vision and development strategy.
- 4.2 Sustainable and inclusive development is at the heart of the LDP and the LDP is required to strike a balance in meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of the current population, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development to improve and enhance the balance between economic, social and environmental conditions to deliver economic success, and a better quality of life for people living in Belfast. Protecting and conserving the city's natural heritage is fundamental to the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the area.
- 4.3 One of the main objectives of the POP, under the 'green and active' theme, was to ensure a protected, enhanced and attractive natural setting, reinforcing uniqueness and accessibility to all who live, work and enjoy the city. There is strong recognition of the value of protecting the natural heritage of Belfast, the surrounding hills, the countryside, Belfast Lough and Lagan Valley Regional park, with a diversity of landscapes, habitats, species and geology, insofar as the LDP can facilitate such protection and enhancement of important environmental assets. The following LDP objectives are of particular relevance to this theme:
- To protect, enhance and link the natural environment and biodiversity by managing the location and design of new developments; and
 - To protect and conserve the natural asset of Belfast countryside/coast and hills by managing proposed development in sensitive areas.
- 4.4 In the POP, we proposed to adopt a strategic approach to protecting the natural heritage of Belfast and safeguarding biodiversity. We also proposed to protect and provide development opportunities for green and blue networks to help support biodiversity, improve visual amenity and help to provide habitats for wildlife in the urban area. Our preferred approach received significant public support in the POP consultation.
- 4.5 Following on from the POP stage, the DPS includes a number of strategic policies that over-arch the entire plan. These also relate to the overall vision and provide a link to the more detailed operational policies. They seek to improve health and wellbeing, enhance visual amenity, protect and enhance ecosystem services and generally promote sustainable development.
- 4.6 Taking the above into account, the DPS has addressed the issues around the protection of the natural environment generally through the policies on natural heritage and landscape. This includes policies for designated nature conservation sites, other areas of natural

interest and consideration of biodiversity improvement measures in the development of an integrated green and blue infrastructure network.

- 4.7 There are also clear linkages to other policies, including those relating to healthy communities, open space and sustainable development. The DPS acknowledges that there is a need to give appropriate protection of natural heritage assets, taking account of their relevant importance. It also recognises that the environment is one of the three pillars of sustainable development and that an appropriate balance has to be struck. It is further acknowledged that the importance of the city's natural heritage is also a key influence of the city's social economic wellbeing. The DPS also seeks to ensure good accessibility to existing and new facilities for current and future residents.
- 4.8 The DPS natural heritage policies will give all due consideration to its environmental and statutory obligations and powers to ensure appropriate protection and conservation of the natural environment, including the landscape setting of the city. These are in accord with the RDS and SPPS and also generally reflect the established planning policy approach to natural heritage.
- 4.9 The protection, enhancement and provision of local designated sites, will be reviewed at the next stage of the LDP, the Local Policies Plan. This will include a review of boundaries to ensure that, they remain appropriate and necessary. In the meantime, any development proposals will be assessed against the relevant policy framework set out in the DPS.

APPENDIX 1: Local Landscape Character Areas



APPENDIX 2: Local landscape character areas – Key Characteristics

The Landscape Character Areas were prepared by Environmental Resources Management, commissioned by DoE and supported by Planning Service. Whilst the following LDA descriptions have been extracted from BMAP's Countryside Assessment, they do not represent formal policy of the DoE. This section contains a description of the LCAs that affect the Plan area and are taken directly from BMAP's Countryside Assessment:

Belfast/Lisburn (No. 97)

The Belfast/Lisburn Landscape Character Area encompasses the Belfast and Lisburn urban areas, together with their broader landscape setting. It is defined by the steep ridges and escarpments, which enclose the Lagan Valley at the head of Belfast Lough. Belfast is mostly contained within the valley, although urban development has spread along the narrow coastal strips to the north and south of the Lough and inland along the Lagan and Enler Valleys. The City of Lisburn is also sited on the River Lagan but is further upstream and enclosed by slightly lower slopes. There are long views over both urban areas from the surrounding upland landscapes.

The steep escarpments and ridges on the margins of the city provide a series of landmarks. The Belfast Basalt Escarpment to the north has a rugged, untamed character; Carnmoney Hill, an outlier to the north west of the basalt escarpment, dominates the landscape setting of Newtownabbey; the Craigtlet Escarpment on the fringes of the Holywood Hills encloses East Belfast and the slopes of the Castlereagh Escarpment provide a continuous backdrop to the urban districts of South Belfast and Castlereagh.

Belfast's formal parks, such as Ormeau Park, the Botanic Gardens and Victoria Park and Lisburn's Wallace Park, provide welcome breathing space for the city centre but are relatively small in relation to the city as a whole. The Lagan Valley Regional Park is on a completely different scale. This and the other smaller river corridor parks, such as the Connswater, Lagmore and Collin Glen linear parks, have a more natural character and provide a valuable link between the urban areas and their wider landscape setting. The Laganside walkways now extend the footpath links along the Lagan right through to the city centre.

Craigtlet Escarpment (No. 104)

The Craigtlet Escarpment is a prominent ridge of Silurian rocks, which forms the escarpment to the Holywood Hills. The escarpment encloses and shelters the urban edge of east Belfast, which pushes up against the ridge, extending into the woodlands at Stormont. The government buildings stand out as a major landmark, situated high up on the ridge. A dense network of woodlands and avenues gives the landscape a robust structure, particularly around Stormont. Green pastures extend along the ridge, divided by hedgerows and shelterbelts. The rural/urban interface is strong and well defined. There are clear views to the ridge from the surrounding lowlands and adjacent escarpments, including an important view across Belfast Lough from the M2 at Newtownabbey; any development on the ridge is highly visible.

Castlereagh Slopes (No 105)

The Castlereagh Slopes are the steep slopes of the north western margins of the Castlereagh Plateau, to the south east of the Belfast/Castlereagh urban area. The prominent ridge has a smooth, rolling landform and a steep gradient. It averages 130m but at Braniel Hill, reaches an approximate height of 170m. It is deeply dissected by steep glens, which are generally well wooded. The broad slopes of the ridge are divided into a patchwork of undulating pastures and hedgerows. The remnant landscapes of the many historic estates and country houses of the Lagan Valley remain an important influence. Avenues and lines of mature beech trees mark the entrances, carriage drives and former estate boundaries and the buildings themselves are often important features in the landscape.

Lagan Parkland (No. 106)

An amenity parkland landscape set within the historic, designed landscapes of a series of 18th and 19th Century estates. The undulating, steep slopes of the narrow river valley are well-wooded, with a variety of formal designed landscapes, commercial forests and natural habitats. There is a linked sequence of wooded spaces and the deep river valley seems remote from its immediate urban surroundings. Golf courses, public open space and playing fields dominate areas of flatter land on the upper fringes of the river valley. To the south of the river, a neat, rolling agricultural landscape of estate farmlands has belts of mature trees. Winding, linear woodlands follow the local streams and narrow roads, which characterise the landscape close to the foot of the Castlereagh Slopes.

The river corridor is characterised by its early industrial heritage. This is reflected in the surviving mill buildings, the disused canal and by numerous minor artefacts such as the weirs, sluices and other ruins along the canal towpath. The Giant's Ring is a dramatic Neolithic site of national significance. It consists of a high circular earth bank enclosing a megalithic tomb on a flat site beside the River Lagan. The Park also contains a number of raths and two defensive mottes on the riverbank at Belvoir and Edenderry.

Derrykillultagh (no. 110)

Rolling, relatively elevated farmland landscapes on the margins of the Antrim basalt plateau. The area is characterised by rounded hills and shallow slopes, although there are some gullies and the southern boundary of the landscape character area is marked by a steeper escarpment slope. Many slopes are divided by straight, narrow glens, which form a ladder pattern in views from below. The plateau descends gently to the west, where there is a gradual transition to the claylands on the edge of Lough Neagh.

The farmland landscape often has a relatively untidy character, with patches of gorse and scrub and a rather disconnected hedgerow network. The shallow valleys often contain areas of marsh and many fields are partially infested with rushes. Gorse and holly are typical hedgerow species and often mark the transition to marginal farmland. There are typically small farms and smallholdings which are surrounded by paddocks and scattered barns, although there is a gradual transition to a landscape of larger fields, hedgerow trees and more prosperous farmsteads on the western margins of the plateau. Most farmsteads consist of small, white rendered buildings sited on the mid-slopes or local ridges and connected to roads by straight, right-angled tracks. The older farmsteads are often focal points in the landscape, particularly where they are associated with lines and stands of mature trees. A network of straight roads follow the ridges and connect linear villages; most junctions are staggered cross-roads.

Divis Summits (No. 111)

The Antrim basalt plateau ends in a series of broad, rounded summits overlooking Lisburn and Belfast. The principal summits of Black Mountain, Squires Hill and Cave Hill reach up to 400m, with Divis standing at 478m. They generally have gentle slopes, with some gullies and abrupt, steep slopes in places. However, the summits along the edge of the basalt escarpment have much steeper slopes, which plummet towards Belfast. Between the summits, the upper plateau has extensive areas of shallow, partially waterlogged moss, which is surrounded, by areas of marginal farmland. The landscape is relatively open, with extensive areas of windswept moss and rough farmland. However, the valley slopes have a more farmed character, with straight, overgrown hedgerows, belts of mature trees and farmsteads. There are important archaeological remains, particularly on the summits of Cave Hill. The landscape has a rather irregular, patchy pattern, with areas of scrub and wasteland which are often associated with abandoned mineral workings, derelict farmsteads and areas of waterlogged or unfarmed land.

Belfast Basalt Escarpment (No. 112)

The edge of the Antrim basalt plateau is well defined by a steep scarp slope which wraps around and contains the north west edge of Belfast. The black basalt outcrops have a distinctive, sheer profile, which is broken by a series of steep, wooded glens. The Hills are pitted with quarries and have a rugged, almost brutal character. They provide a dramatic contrast to the dense urban areas below. The dark basalt overlies a thin band of chalk, which forms a strong contrast in colour whenever it is visible. Belfast Castle, at the northern end of the narrow strip, is set in a densely wooded designed landscape, which contrasts with the rugged, rural character of the scarp edge.

The lower escarpment slopes are a mixture of hummocky open pasture with gappy hedgerows and stands of deciduous woodland on steeper slopes. There are extensive areas of regenerating scrub and gorse. Narrow roads provide steep links between the ridge-top road and Belfast, winding up the basalt edge. The slopes are pitted with quarries. Most are abandoned and have a rugged, untidy character and many are associated with fly tipping. The quarries are prominent and a strong influence on landscape character and quality. The basalt edge provides an opportunity for panoramic views over the city of Belfast.

APPENDIX 3: BELFAST PRIORITY SPECIES LIST 2015Source: <https://data.nbn.org.uk/Organisations/20>; National Museums Belfast

Group	Latin Name	Taxon Common Name
Bees	<i>Andrena coitana</i>	Bee
Bees	<i>Andrena denticulata</i>	Bee
Bees	<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	Bee
Bees	<i>Bombus campestris</i>	Field Cuckoo Bee
Beetles	<i>Carabus clatratus</i>	a ground beetle
Beetles	<i>Cneorhinus plumbeus</i>	a weevil
Beetles	<i>Haliphus apicalis</i>	saltmarsh crawler water beetle
Beetles	<i>Hydraena nigrita</i>	black moss beetle
Beetles	<i>Hydrocyphon deflexicollis</i>	rockhopper beetle
Beetles	<i>Hydroporus morio</i>	quicksilver diver
Beetles	<i>Oreodytes davisii</i>	davis's river diver
Beetles	<i>Ptinus subpilosus</i>	a spider beetle
Birds	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Arctic Skua
Birds	<i>Motacilla flava cinereocapilla</i>	Ashy-Headed Wagtail
Birds	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl
Birds	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull
Birds	<i>Limosa</i>	Black-Tailed Godwit
Birds	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Black-Throated Diver
Birds	<i>Pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch
Birds	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Common Scoter
Birds	<i>Crex</i>	Corncrake
Birds	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo
Birds	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Curlew
Birds	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin
Birds	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare
Birds	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle
Birds	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Golden Plover
Birds	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Goldeneye
Birds	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Goshawk
Birds	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Grasshopper Warbler
Birds	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	Greenland White-fronted Goose
Birds	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Hen Harrier
Birds	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull
Birds	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow
Birds	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Knot
Birds	<i>Vanellus</i>	Lapwing
Birds	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet
Birds	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Little Tern
Birds	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	Pale-Bellied Brent Goose
Birds	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Pintail
Birds	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Pochard
Birds	<i>Lagopus</i>	Red Grouse

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Birds	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Redshank
Birds	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing
Birds	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting
Birds	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Ring Ouzel
Birds	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate Tern
Birds	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Scaup
Birds	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-Eared Owl
Birds	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Shoveler
Birds	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark
Birds	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush
Birds	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Sooty Shearwater
Birds	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher
Birds	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling
Birds	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Tree Pipit
Birds	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Tree Sparrow
Birds	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Tufted Duck
Birds	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle Dove
Birds	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	Twite
Birds	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel
Birds	<i>Cygnus</i>	Whooper Swan
Birds	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Wood Warbler
Birds	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow Wagtail
Birds	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer
Birds	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	Blue-Headed Wagtail
Birds	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush
Birds	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock
Birds	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Snipe
Birds	<i>Sturnus vulgaris subsp. vulgaris</i>	Common Starling
Birds	<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift
Birds	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	Willow Ptarmigan
Birds	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull
Butterflies	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	Grayling
Butterflies	<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>	Marsh Fritillary
Butterflies	<i>Leptidea reali</i>	Real's Wood White
Butterflies	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	Small Blue
Butterflies	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	Small Heath
Butterflies	<i>Leptidea juvernica</i>	Cryptic Wood White
Butterflies	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>	Dark Green Fritillary
Butterflies	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall Brown
Butterflies	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>	Wood White
Fish	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	River Lamprey
Fungi	<i>Trichoglossum walteri</i>	a fungus
Fungi	<i>Clavaria zollingeri</i>	Violet Coral
Fungi	<i>Hygrocybe lacmus</i>	Grey Waxcap
Fungi	<i>Entoloma bloxamii</i>	Big Blue Pinkgill
Fungi	<i>Microglossum olivaceum</i>	Olive Earthtongue

Lichens	<i>Collema dichotomum</i>	River Jelly Lichen
Liverworts	<i>Metzgeria pubescens</i>	Downy Veilwort
Liverworts	<i>Marsupella funckii</i>	Funck's Rustwort
Liverworts	<i>Cladopodiella francisci</i>	Holt Notchwort
Liverworts	<i>Cephaloziella rubella</i>	Red Threadwort
Mammals	<i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i>	Irish Hare
Mammals	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Otter
Mammals	<i>Martes martes</i>	Pine Marten
Mammals	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Red Squirrel
Mammals	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	West European Hedgehog
Molluscs	<i>Limax cinereoniger</i>	Ash-Grey Slug
Molluscs	<i>Zenobiella subrufescens</i>	Brown Snail
Molluscs	<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>	Copse Snail
Molluscs	<i>Radix auricularia</i>	Ear Pond Snail
Molluscs	<i>Leiostryla anglica</i>	English Chrysalis Snail
Molluscs	<i>Zonitoides excavatus</i>	Hollowed Glass Snail
Molluscs	<i>Merdigera obscura</i>	Lesser Bulin
Molluscs	<i>Vertigo antiverigo</i>	Marsh Whorl Snail
Molluscs	<i>Aplexa hypnorum</i>	Moss Bladder Snail
Molluscs	<i>Acicula fusca</i>	Point Snail
Molluscs	<i>Anisus vorticulus</i>	Little Whirlpool Ram shorn
Molluscs	<i>Spermodea lamellata</i>	Plaited Snail
Molluscs	<i>Musculium lacustre</i>	Lake Orb Mussel
Mosses	<i>Campylopus subulatus</i>	Awl-leaved Swan-neck Moss
Mosses	<i>Brachydontium trichodes</i>	Bristle-leaf
Mosses	<i>Aulacomnium androgynum</i>	Bud-headed Groove-moss
Mosses	<i>Seligeria calcarea</i>	Chalk Rock-bristle
Mosses	<i>Rhabdoweisia fugax</i>	Dwarf Streak-moss
Mosses	<i>Bryum intermedium</i>	Many-seasoned Thread-moss
Mosses	<i>Orthotrichum sprucei</i>	Spruce's Bristle-moss
Mosses	<i>Bartramia ithyphylla</i>	Straight-leaved Apple-moss
Mosses	<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>	Varnished Hook-moss
Mosses	<i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>	Slender Green Feather-Moss
Moths	<i>Stilbia anomala</i>	Anomalous
Moths	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	August Thorn
Moths	<i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i>	Autumnal Rustic
Moths	<i>Dasypolia templi</i>	Brindled Ochre
Moths	<i>Melanchra pisi</i>	Broom Moth
Moths	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	Buff Ermine
Moths	<i>Atethmia centrigo</i>	Centre-Barred Sallow
Moths	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar
Moths	<i>Celaena leucostigma</i>	Crescent
Moths	<i>Blepharita adusta</i>	Dark Brocade
Moths	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Dark-Barred Twin-Spot Carpet
Moths	<i>Graphiphora augur</i>	Double Dart
Moths	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	Feathered Gothic

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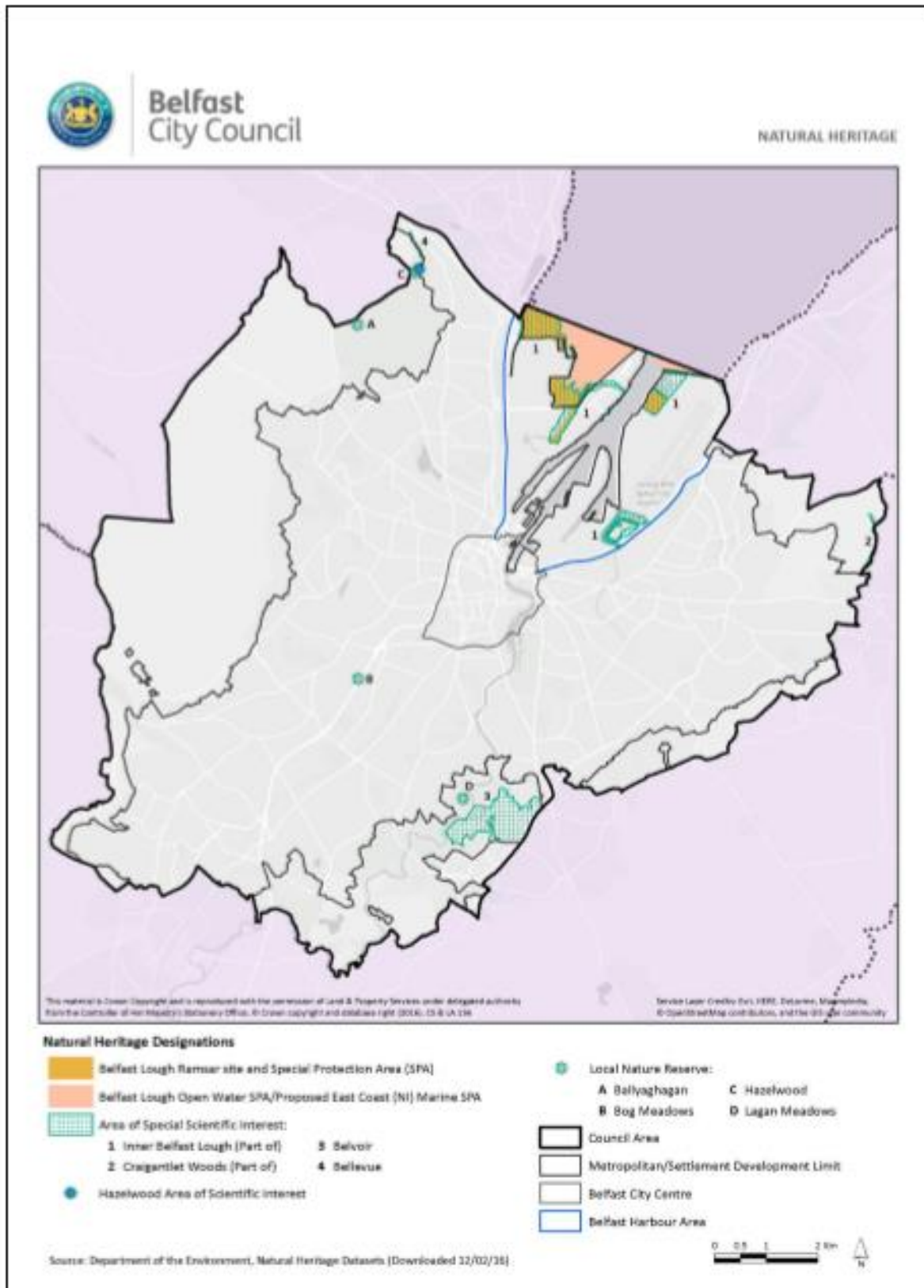
Moths	<i>Apamea remissa</i>	Dusky Brocade
Moths	<i>Agrochola helvola</i>	Flounced Chestnut
Moths	<i>Adscita statices</i>	Forester
Moths	<i>Epirrhoe galiata</i>	Galium Carpet
Moths	<i>Euxoa nigricans</i>	Garden Dart
Moths	<i>Arctia caja</i>	Garden Tiger
Moths	<i>Hepialus humuli</i>	Ghost Moth
Moths	<i>Perizoma albulata</i>	Grass Rivulet
Moths	<i>Allophyes oxyacanthae</i>	Green-Brindled Crescent
Moths	<i>Acronicta psi</i>	Grey Dagger
Moths	<i>Celaena haworthii</i>	Haworth's Minor
Moths	<i>Xestia agathina</i>	Heath Rustic
Moths	<i>Tholera cespitis</i>	Hedge Rustic
Moths	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	Knot Grass
Moths	<i>Chiasmia clathrata</i>	Latticed Heath
Moths	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	Mottled Rustic
Moths	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	Mouse Moth
Moths	<i>Hemaris tityus</i>	Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth
Moths	<i>Orthonama vittata</i>	Oblique Carpet
Moths	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	Powdered Quaker
Moths	<i>Xanthorhoe decoloraria</i>	Red Carpet
Moths	<i>Mesoligia literosa</i>	Rosy Minor
Moths	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	Rosy Rustic
Moths	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	Rustic
Moths	<i>Xanthia icteritia</i>	Sallow
Moths	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	Shaded Broad-Bar
Moths	<i>Mythimna comma</i>	Shoulder-Striped Wainscot
Moths	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	Small Phoenix
Moths	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	Small Square-Spot
Moths	<i>Chesias legatella</i>	Streak
Moths	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	White Ermine
Moths	<i>Parasemia plantaginis</i>	Wood Tiger
Moths	<i>Entephria caesiata</i>	Grey Mountain Carpet Moth
Reptile	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Viviparous Lizard
Vascular Plants	<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Alder Buckthorn
Vascular Plants	<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>	Annual Knawel
Vascular Plants	<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue
Vascular Plants	<i>Anagallis minima</i>	Chaffweed
Vascular Plants	<i>Gentianella campestris</i>	Field Gentian
Vascular Plants	<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog Orchid
Vascular Plants	<i>Gnaphalium sylvaticum</i>	Heath Cudweed
Vascular Plants	<i>Pyrola media</i>	Intermediate Wintergreen
Vascular Plants	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper
Vascular Plants	<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly-Orchid
Vascular Plants	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Crane's-Bill
Vascular Plants	<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	Moschatel
Vascular Plants	<i>Cryptogramma crispa</i>	Parsley Fern

Vascular Plants	<i>Fumaria purpurea</i>	Purple Ramping-Fumitory
Vascular Plants	<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>	Shepherd's Cress
Vascular Plants	<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	Small Cow-Wheat
Vascular Plants	<i>Pseudorchis albida</i>	Small-White Orchid
Vascular Plants	<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	Water-Violet
Vascular Plants	<i>Monotropa hypopitys</i>	Yellow Bird's-Nest
Vascular Plants	<i>Euphrasia anglica</i>	Glandular Eyebright
Vascular Plants	<i>Ruppia maritima</i>	Beaked Tasselweed
Vascular Plants	<i>Salix myrsinifolia</i>	Dark-Leaved Willow
Vascular Plants	<i>Sorbus rupicola</i>	Rock Whitebeam

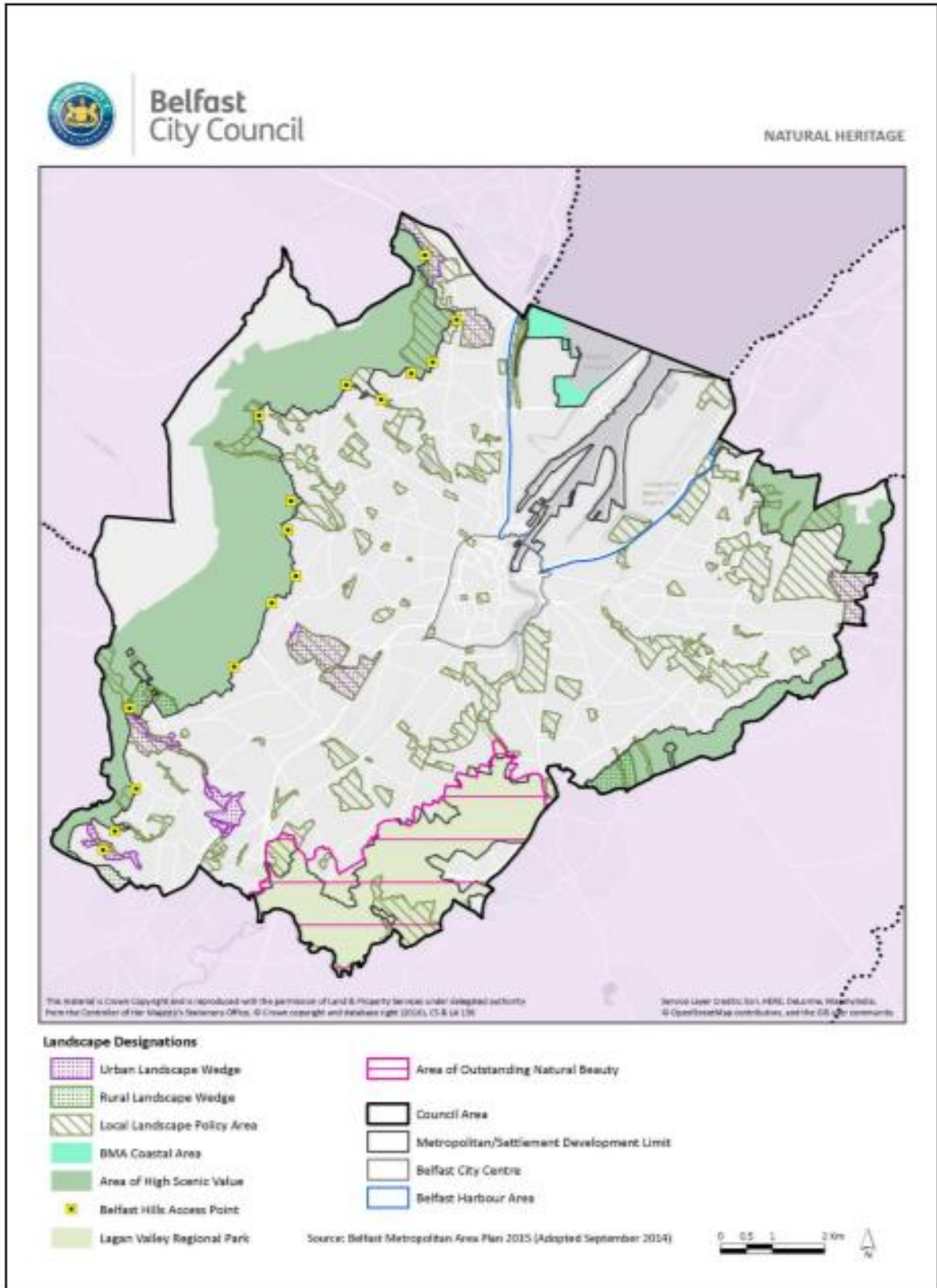
Marine List

Mammals	<i>Halichoerus</i>	Grey Seal
Mammals	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbour Porpoise
Mammals	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottle-Nose Dolphin
Mammals	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Common Seal
Fish	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Brown Trout
Fish	<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European Eel
Fish	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Atlantic Salmon
Fish	<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>	Lesser Spotted Dogfish

APPENDIX 4: NATURAL HERITAGE DESIGNATIONS MAP



APPENDIX 5: LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS MAP (Draft BMAP)



APPENDIX 6: BELFAST HILLS ACCESS POINTS (Draft BMAP)

TYPE_NAME	REFERENCE	LOCATION	ADDRESS
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/01	BELFAST CITY	COLIN GLEN (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/02	BELFAST CITY	UPPER SPRINGFIELD ROAD (PROPOSED)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/03	BELFAST CITY	WHITEROCK ROAD (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/04	BELFAST COUNTRYSIDE	BALLYGOMARTIN ROAD (PROPOSED)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/05	BELFAST CITY	LYNDHURST VIEW PARK (PROPOSED)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/06	BELFAST COUNTRYSIDE	GLENCAIRN ROAD, FORTHRIVER (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/08	BELFAST COUNTRYSIDE	HORSESHOE BEND, CRUMLIN ROAD (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/09	BELFAST COUNTRYSIDE	CARR'S GLEN, BALLYSILLAN ROAD (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/10	BELFAST CITY	UPPER CAVEHILL ROAD (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/11	BELFAST COUNTRYSIDE	DOWNVIEW PARK WEST (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/12	BELFAST CITY	ANTRIM ROAD (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	CA 03/13	BELFAST CITY	BELFAST ZOO, ANTRIM ROAD (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	LN 03/01	METROPOLITAN LISBURN	LAGMORE DAM (PROPOSED)
ACCESS POINT	LN 03/02	METROPOLITAN LISBURN	LAGMORE ROAD (EXISTING)
ACCESS POINT	LN 03/03	METROPOLITAN LISBURN	COLINWELL ROAD (PROPOSED)

APPENDIX 7: LOCAL LANDSCAPE POLICY AREAS (LLPAs) (Draft BMAP)

Plan Proposal	BMAP Reference	Designation
Hannahstown	Designation HN 02	Local Landscape Policy Area
Hannahstown	Designation HN 03	Local Landscape Policy Area
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 085	Local Landscape Policy Area: Alexandra
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 086	Local Landscape Policy Area: Ardmore
Outer Belfast City	Designation ML 12	Local Landscape Policy Area: Areema
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 087	Local Landscape Policy Area: Avoniel
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 088	Local Landscape Policy Area: Ballysillan
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 089	Local Landscape Policy Area: Balmoral Golf Course
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 090	Local Landscape Policy Area: Belfast Castle / Fortwillam
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 091	Local Landscape Policy Area: Belfast Royal Academy (BRA)
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 092	Local Landscape Policy Area: Belmont Glen
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 093	Local Landscape Policy Area: Belmont Park
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 094	Local Landscape Policy Area: Benview
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 095	Local Landscape Policy Area: Blanchflower / Patton
Belfast City Centre	Designation CC 028	Local Landscape Policy Area: Blythefield
Outer Belfast City	Designation ML 13	Local Landscape Policy Area: Bogstown Glen, Metropolitan Lisburn
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 096	Local Landscape Policy Area: Campbell / Ormiston
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 097	Local Landscape Policy Area: Carr's Glen
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 098	Local Landscape Policy Area: Cherryvale

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Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 099	Local Landscape Policy Area: Cherryvalley
Belfast City Centre	Designation CC 029	Local Landscape Policy Area: City Hall
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 100	Local Landscape Policy Area: Clarawood
Belfast City Centre	Designation CC 030	Local Landscape Policy Area: Clifton 1
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 101	Local Landscape Policy Area: Clifton 2
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 102	Local Landscape Policy Area: Colin Glen Part of (73.58 of 76.66 ha (96.0%))
Outer Belfast City	Designation ML 14	Local Landscape Policy Area: Colin Road, Metropolitan Lisburn
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 103	Local Landscape Policy Area: Cranmore / Bladon
Outer Belfast City	Designation MCH 32	Local Landscape Policy Area: Cregagh Glen
Outer Belfast City	Designation MCH 31	Local Landscape Policy Area: Cregagh Glen, Metropolitan Castlereagh
Outer Belfast City	Designation ML 15	Local Landscape Policy Area: Derriaghy River, Metropolitan Lisburn
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 104	Local Landscape Policy Area: Dundonald Wedge
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 105	Local Landscape Policy Area: Dunville
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 106	Local Landscape Policy Area: Falls
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 107	Local Landscape Policy Area: Forth River / Wolf Hill / Ligoniel
Outer Belfast City	Designation ML 16	Local Landscape Policy Area: Glenburn, Metropolitan Lisburn
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 108	Local Landscape Policy Area: Glencairn
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 109	Local Landscape Policy Area: Glenmachan / Garnerville
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 110	Local Landscape Policy Area: Grove

Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 111	Local Landscape Policy Area: Half Moon Lake
Outer Belfast City	Designation MCH 36	Local Landscape Policy Area: Hillfoot, Metropolitan Castlereagh
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 112	Local Landscape Policy Area: Holy Cross
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 113	Local Landscape Policy Area: Hunterhouse / Wedderburn /Rathmore
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 115	Local Landscape Policy Area: Knock Golf Course / Hospital Glen
Outer Belfast City	Designation MCH 37	Local Landscape Policy Area: Knockbreda, Metropolitan Castlereagh
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 114	Local Landscape Policy Area: Knocknagoney
Outer Belfast City	Designation ML 17	Local Landscape Policy Area: Lagmore, Metropolitan Lisburn
Outer Belfast City	Designation ML 18	Local Landscape Policy Area: Laurel Glen, Metropolitan Lisburn
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 116	Local Landscape Policy Area: Ligoniel Park
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 117	Local Landscape Policy Area: Loughview
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 118	Local Landscape Policy Area: Lower Crescent
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 119	Local Landscape Policy Area: Malone Church
Outer Belfast City	Designation HD/15	Local Landscape Policy Area: Maryfield
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 120	Local Landscape Policy Area: Milltown / Bog Meadows
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 121	Local Landscape Policy Area: Mountain Hill
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 122	Local Landscape Policy Area: Musgrave
Belfast Harbour Area	Designation BHA 10	Local Landscape Policy Area: North Foreshore

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Outer Belfast City	Designation ML 19	Local Landscape Policy Area: Old Colin Wood, Metropolitan Lisburn
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 123	Local Landscape Policy Area: Oldpark
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 124	Local Landscape Policy Area: Orangefield / Dixon
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 125	Local Landscape Policy Area: Ormeau Park
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 126	Local Landscape Policy Area: Pirrie Park
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 127	Local Landscape Policy Area: River Lagan / Botanic
Belfast City Centre	Designation CC 031	Local Landscape Policy Area: Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI)
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 129	Local Landscape Policy Area: Seaview
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 130	Local Landscape Policy Area: Shandon / Gilnahirk
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 131	Local Landscape Policy Area: Shankill
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 132	Local Landscape Policy Area: Somerton
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 133	Local Landscape Policy Area: Somme
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 134	Local Landscape Policy Area: Springfield Park and Dam
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 128	Local Landscape Policy Area: St. Mary's
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 135	Local Landscape Policy Area: Stormont
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 136	Local Landscape Policy Area: Strandtown
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 137	Local Landscape Policy Area: Strangford
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 138	Local Landscape Policy Area: Stranmillis
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 139	Local Landscape Policy Area: Strathearn
Belfast Harbour Area	Designation BHA 11	Local Landscape Policy Area: Tillysburn

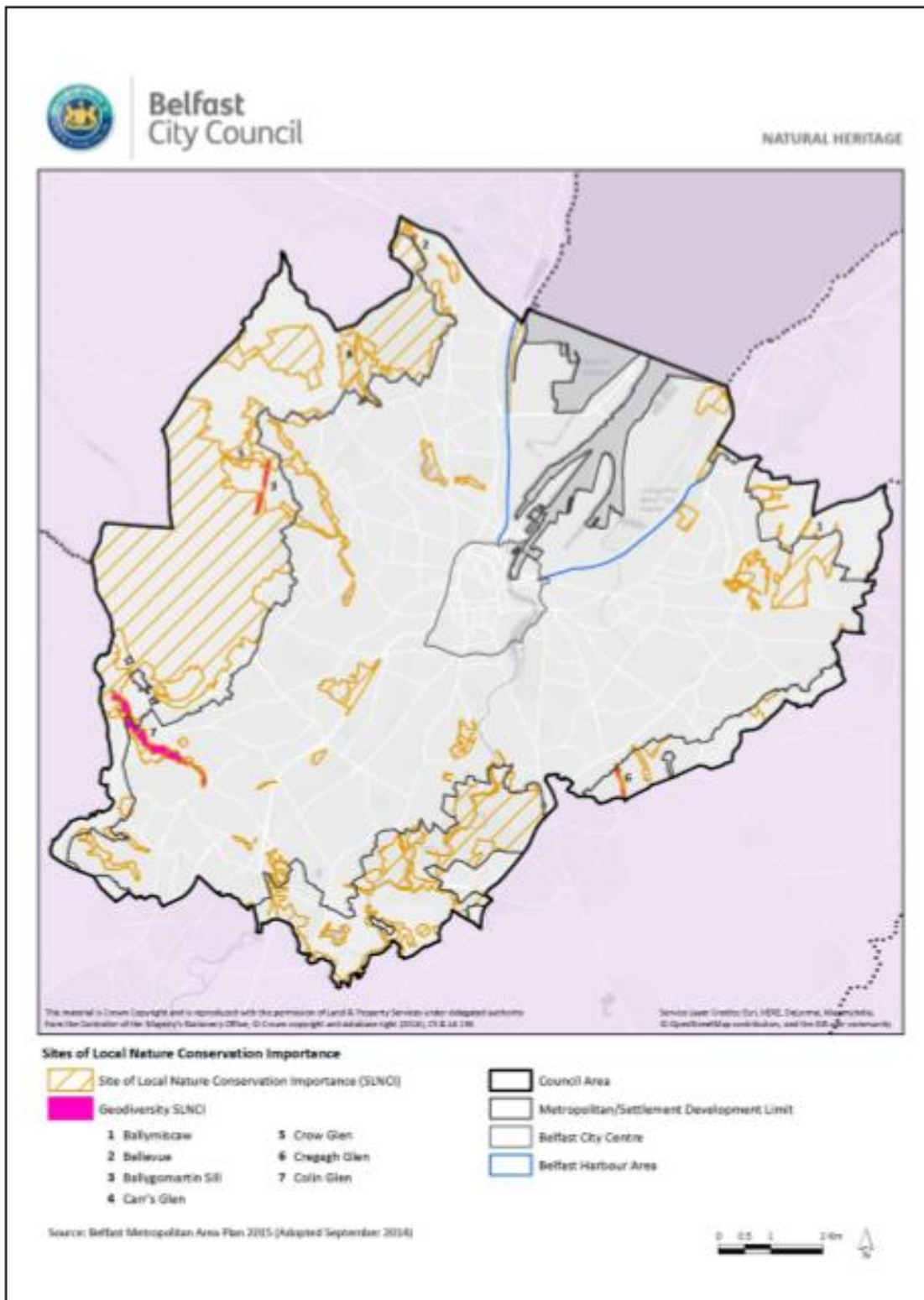
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 140	Local Landscape Policy Area: Trench
Outer Belfast City	Designation MCH 40	Local Landscape Policy Area: Tullycarnet, Metropolitan Castlereagh
Belfast Harbour Area	Designation BHA 12	Local Landscape Policy Area: Victoria / King George
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 141	Local landscape Policy Area: Wandsworth Road
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 142	Local Landscape Policy Area: Waterworks
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 143	Local Landscape Policy Area: West Kirk / Shankill Memorial Park
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 144	Local Landscape Policy Area: Willis's Lake
Outer Belfast City	Designation BT 145	Local Landscape Policy Area: Woodvale Park
Small Settlement: Natural Environment	Designation BLN 02	Local Landscape Policy Areas Ballylesson/ Edenderry,

**APPENDIX 8: Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
(Draft BMAP)**

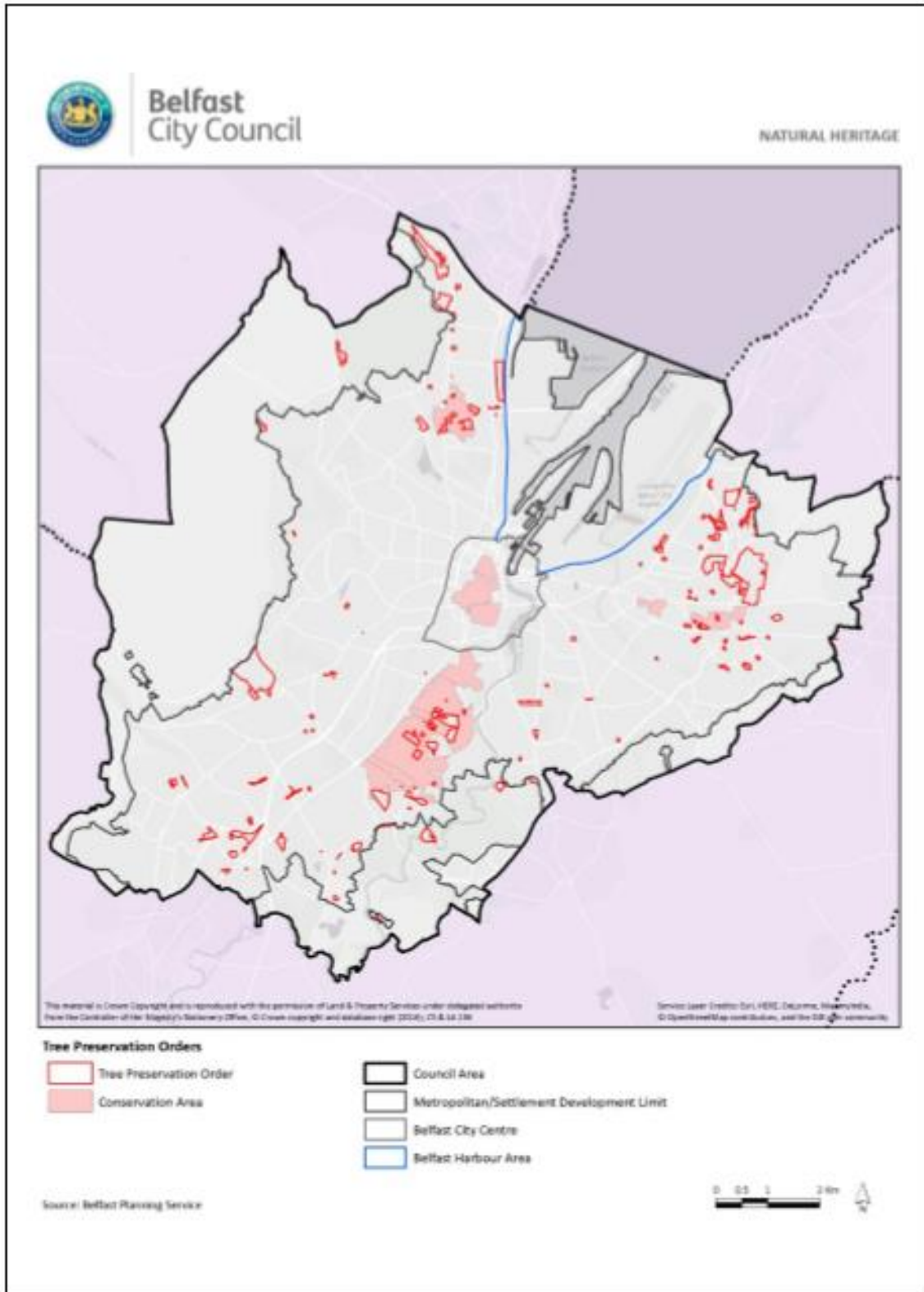
List of Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs)	
BMAP Ref	Site
BT 084/01	Alexandra Park
MCH 28/01	Ardnally Scout Centre
	Ballydrain Lake
BT 084/02	Ballygomartin River, Glencairn
CA 01/02	Ballygomartin Sill Geodiversity
BT 084/03	Ballymiscaw (Geodiversity)
BT 084/04	Barnett's Demesne
BHA 09/01	Belfast Harbour Estate
HS 10/02	Belfast Harbour Estate (North Down) Part of 4.40 of 25.41ha (17.3%)
BT 084/05	Belfast Hills – Divis / Ligoniel
CA 01/03	Belfast Hills - Squire's Hill
BT 084/07	Bellevue (Geodiversity)
BT 084/06	Bellevue Bridge
BT 084/08	Belmont Glen
MCH 28/03	Belvoir (Part of 185.44 of 185.62 ha (99.9%))
BHA 09/02	Between M5 and Railway
BT 084/09	Bladon Park
BT 084/10	Bog Meadows, M1 / Falls Road
BT 084/11	Campbell College and Ormiston
CA 01/04	Carr's Glen Geodiversity
BT 084/12	Cave Hill / Collinward
BT 084/13	Clement Wilson Park
ML 11/01	Colin Glen (Geodiversity)
ML 11/02	Colin Glen / Hammils Bottom Part of (101.1 of 180.76 ha (55.9%)) 55.99
ML 11/03	Colin House
MCH 28/06	Cregagh Glen (Geodiversity)
MCH 28/07	Cregagh Glen and Lisnabreeny Part of (4.25 of 6.65 ha (63.9%))
CA 01/05	Crow Glen Geodiversity
BT 084/14	Crumlin Road / Upper Hightown Road
MCH 28/08	Dundonald Old Railway Line Part of (0.60 of 9.15 ha (6.6%))
BT 084/15	Dunmurry Schools
EY 02	Edenderry to Giants Ring
CA 01/06	Floodplain around Eel Weir
BT 084/16	Galwally
ML 11/05	Glen River at Dunmurry
LN 01/34	Glenburn
BT 084/17	Grounds at Stranmillis and Riddel Hall
MCH 28/10	Hillfoot Glen
MCH 28/11	Hillfoot Scrub
BT 084/18	Inverary
BT 084/19	Ladybrook

BT 084/20	Lagan Meadows
ML 11/06	Lagmore
BT 084/21	Lenadoon Dam
BT 084/22	Ligoniel Village
CR 02/06	Lower Braniel Road
BT 084/23	Lower Carr's Glen
BT 084/24	Milltown Cemetery
MCH 28/12	Minnowburn Part of (28.91 of 44.97 ha (64.3%))
HS 10/05	Redburn Part of (0.01 of 67.56ha (0.01%))
ML 11/07	Seymour Hill part of (1.65 ha of 51.34ha (3.2%))
CA 01/07	Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park
BT 084/25	South of M1 Roundabout, Junction 1
BT 084/26	Springfield Pond / Highfield Glen
BT 084/27	Stormont
BT 084/28	Throne Woodland
BHA 09/03	Tillysburn
BT 084/29	Upper Forth River
BT 084/30	Waterworks Park
BT 084/31	Woods at Glenmachan

APPENDIX 9: Map of SLNCs (Draft BMAP)



APPENDIX 10: Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)





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