**Collated information sharing pro-formas - May 2014**

Submissions:

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| **Member** | **Pro-forma submitted** |
| Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA) |  |
| Canal and River Trust (CRT) | Yes |
| Forestry Commission England (FCE) | Yes |
| Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) | Yes |
| Heritage Council of Ireland (HCI) |  |
| Historic Scotland (HS) |  |
| Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LV) |  |
| National Trust (NT) | Yes |
| Natural England (NE) |  |
| Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) | Yes |
| Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) | Yes |
| Natural Resources Wales (NRW) |  |
| Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) | Yes |
| Scottish Executive (SE) |  |
| Scottish National Parks (SNP) | Yes |
| Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) | Yes |
| Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) |  |
| Sport Recreation Alliance (SRA) | Yes |
| Sport Scotland (SS) | Yes |
| Waterways Ireland (WI) |  |
| Visit Wales (VW) |  |

Collated info:

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| **Publications / Information** | **Woods for Learning**  ***Tree Stories*** (an FCS learning resource for children) was published recently to widespread acclaim. It features a tale about a different tree species for every month of the year.  ***Woodland Workout*** (an FCS collection of physical activities, with accompanying teachers’ notes and Commonwealth Games supplement) will be sent to all schools in Scotland at the end of April with a covering letter. This will be featured by the General Teaching Council of Scotland and Education Scotland. | FSC |
| NITB Consumer Website  NITB Industry website – se especially ‘Intelligent Perspective Series’ which describes NITBs four experience themes;  Unique outdoors  Coast & Lakes  Culture & Creative Vibe  Living Legends  As well as the underpinning theme ‘Naturally Northern Ireland’. | NITB |
| Toolkit published on ‘Responsible and Sustainable Outdoor Challenge Events’  Funded by SportNI | ORNI |
| **The Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation** (w/t)  In May we will publish a report highlighting the economic impact of outdoor recreation. The main report will be aimed at policymakers and will be accompanied by a more detailed evidence document and a series of case studies. | SRA |
| Information on Dog health related to Seasonal Canine Disorder and Alabama Rot | FCE |
| Ranger Role Profiles – our Ranger Champions have successfully reviewed over 110 outdoor roles reducing them to six Ranger Role Profiles from Grade 10 to 5. Being used for all new NT Ranger jobs and Line Mangers introducing it as appropriate. Helping with clarity of roles and visibility for career progression. | NT |
| Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for Northern Ireland, published May 2014. (Sport NI, NIEA, NITB and DCAL)  Assessing the Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation In Northern Ireland (expect to be published in May 2014) (Sport NI, NIEA, NITB and DCAL) | NIEA |
| **Events – public and professional** | NITB Industry Development Events  Events for Visitors to Northern Ireland | NITB |
| **Conference**  ‘Valuing Freedom and Risk in the Outdoors’  Copies of presentation online  **Event:**  **Adventureland (5th-6th April)**  56 Events offered by 27 Accredited Activity Providers. 1542 people took part  **European Singlespeeds (25th-26th April)**  220 competitors from 12 countries | ORNI |
| The **John Muir Way** coast-to-coast trail - developed by SNH - was opened formally on April 21st (John Muir Day on the anniversary of his birth, and the centenary of his death). The route is 134 miles from Helensburgh on the Clyde to Dunbar on the North Sea coast, where JM was born and bred. The JMW opening, by Scotland’s First Minister, was part of a week-long John Muir Festival of events along the route. See 5 min promo video on the website.  The John Muir Festival was also part of wider ‘Year of Homecoming 2014’ events across Scotland.  Nature and health - NHS Greenspace, the third sector and the value of outdoor spaces for patients, staff and visitors has been one focus of recent work, and is to be the subject of a forthcoming ‘Sharing Good Practice’ free conference on 28th May | SNH |
| Cairngorms Nature Festival is being held Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May 2014 A public event to showcase the unique nature of the Cairngorms National Park. | SNP |
| Launch of Concordat with Kennel Club and NRW at Crufts | FCE |
| **50 Things to do../Project Wild Thing** – we had 360 properties participating in 2013 with the events helping to restore the connection between children/families and nature. Part of the NT advertising campaign in 2014. Over 1,000 organisations are now signed up and supporting the Wild Project  **Coast 2015** – celebration of 50 years of our Neptune Programme. Many events being planned around the country with strong focus on SW and Wales. Happy to work in partnership with others | NT |
| For information on NIEA events-  <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/>  NIEA is helping to fund ‘Get Outdoors Weekend’  <http://www.getoutdoorsweekend.com/>  (last weekend in Sept TBC)  NIEA funded the ORNI Conference on Valuing Freedom and Risk in the Outdoors. | NIEA |
| **Research / Evidence gathering** | Woodland Social Enterprises in Scotland (including tourism/recreation-related) – see <http://www.sharedassets.org.uk/policy-research/> | FCS |
| Potential NI Cruise Sector Study  NI Visitor Attitude Survey (every two years)  Annual and quarterly NI tourism performance figures by key markets  This list is not exhaustive | NITB |
| Terms of reference drawn up for a study on the economic impact of mountain biking. Waiting in funding programme to open to submit application | ORNI |
| A research project is nearing completion to compile a searchable topic database of all the Local Inquiries held to examine objections over core paths plans. This will enable access to the detailed, formal considerations of many topics at Inquiries, which also crop up in everyday access casework. | SNH |
| (Research/Strategy) CNPA is currently working on a study of human impacts affecting Capercaillie populations in the NP. The finished work will identify practical management measures which could be employed to limit/reduce impacts including those arising directly from outdoor recreation. Outcomes will be used to inform internal/partner/stakeholder interests and strategy. | SNP |
| **Future projects**  With the appointment of a new economist CRT are building towards a new programme of research aimed at measuring the wider public impacts and benefits of the canal network.  CRT are about to begin a major 3 year collaboration research project with Cardiff University. The project will examine the current state-of-the-art research on measuring public benefits and identify key research areas for measurement of economic and wider benefits.  We are about to begin a project looking at the socio-demographic profile of the population within a chosen proximity of the CRT network. Using GIS software analysis we will examine Census data as well as crime, housing and business databases to provide a comprehensive picture of the populations.  **Ideas**  We are examining options for increasing the functionality and accessibility of the CRT Boat Traffic Model, This is a sophisticated mathematical model that projects boat traffic movements along the CRT network. A number of options will be appraised for investment outcomes and the opportunities for wider adoption.  **Current projects**  Currently there are two national projects which are due to be published in the coming months:   * ***A Review of the Impact Delivered by the Canal & River Trust’s Canal Restorations.***  A literature review and assessment of the contribution that canal restorations have on social, economic and environmental factors. A framework has been developed that will enable future restoration projects to explore projected impacts. * ***Measuring the Public Benefits of the Canal and River Trust Waterways*** Literature review of methodologies for measuring public benefit outcomes of the canal network and the wider work of CRT. Project will identify methodologies for monetizing benefits using existing secondary data as well as highlighting gaps. Proposed metrics may for part of National Stewardship Scores or be part of wider outcomes framework.   Other local projects that are being delivered soon include research to measure the public perception of the inner city Rochdale Canal. This project uses qualitative data from face-to-face questionnaires to explore the different perceptions of the Rochdale canal. | CRT |
| **Feedback from the Great British Walk 2013** – over 4,700 walking events at 399 properties. We now have 1,150 downloadable walks on the NT website | NT |
| Working with marinescotland (Scot Govt) and RYAS on national audit of marine tourism and recreation. Currently out to tender. Will inform national and regional marine planning in Scotland. | SS |
| NIEA funded the West Belfast Partnership to complete a mapping project and report on access in Belfast’s Urban Fringe in coordination with local partnerships, the councils, Belfast Hills Partnership and other key groups. The final report should be available shortly.  NIEA intends to undertake a regional Landscape Character Assessment. This will consider the overarching landscape character of Northern Ireland and key landscape attributes. It will provide context for the local authorities when Planning moves to them next year. | NIEA |
| We have undertaken detailed analysis of the economic spend associated with all trips to the natural environment in England using our MENE survey as the main source of information, complimented by the GB Tourism Survey to capture information on overnight stays and the International Passenger Survey for information on trips by overseas visitors. Taking account of overlap the estimated value is £32 billion per year. Our report, to be available in June, breaks down the data according to activities associated with trips to the natural environment and geographically by region and by the 38 Local Enterprise Areas.  We held a workshop with organisations with an interest in levels of participation and visitor spend associated with outdoor recreation at the end of March. This raised a number of isues about definitions and types of surveys and prompted the need for a follow up meeting between NE, SRA, Visit England, Sport England, Outdoor Industry Association and the National Trust at the end of May. | NE |
| **Policy / Strategy** | **Completed:**  an Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Mournes on behalf of SportNI and the Mourne Outdoor Recreation Forum  a Scoping Study of the tourism and recreation opportunities within Donard Forest Park on behalf of Down District Council  a Scoping Study of the tourism and recreation opportunities within the Clogher Valley Forests, on behalf of Dungannon and South Tyrone Council  a Scoping Study of the tourism and recreation opportunities within Gortin Forest Park, on behalf of Omagh District Council, under preparation  **On-going**  a Recreational Audit of Lough Neagh on behalf of DCAL (Inland Waterways)  an Outdoor Recreation Action Plan for the Causeway Coast on behalf of SportNI and the Causeway Coast Outdoor Recreation Forum | ORNI |
| (Strategy) CNPA is currently working on an updated outdoor access strategy (Active Cairngorms) for the NP. The new strategy will implement a series of targets for five years following publication (2015 – 2020). The strategy will be focussed on measures to promote participation and activity. | SNP |
| **Shifting Shores** – updated report about the impact of sea level rise and climate change on our beautiful coast. Highlighting the importance of managed retreat  **Cycling –** appointed a Project Manager to develop 12-15 family friendly cycle hubs at NT properties over the next 3 years. Lanhydrock and Plym Bridge cycle routes opened to great success. Part of 1SW project in partnership with FC and others with RDPE funding | NT |
| Working with Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland to develop national guidance on trail design and development.  Part of working group on development of National Walking Strategy. At fourth draft stage. Targetted consultation early May.  Worked with Scottish Cycling on development of facilities strategy. Now approved. | SS |
| NIEA has been working on a 'Natural Capital' /'Creating Prosperity and Well-being through Environmental and Heritage Excellence' framework document. This will provide an overview of the concept of natural capital and of what NIEA means by creating prosperity and well-being in NI through environmental excellence and heritage, and how NIEA proposes to go about doing that.  It will highlight how NIEA intends to work with industry, other public authorities, nongovernment organisations and the public to best develop how win-win situations can be achieved. NIEA will explore how government and other sectors can invest in and benefit from  the valuable natural, built and cultural assets of NI to create jobs, increase wealth and contribute to a healthier and more prosperous society. | NIEA |
| **Products / Facilities / Infrastructures** | Several Tourism Products and Facilities connected to Outdoor Activities are due to open in 2014 /15.  Highlighted Product:  Late 2014 will see the opening of The Gobbins Cliff path – a refurbished Victorian walk way consisting of over 12 bridges and walkways. Located on the famous Causeway Coastal Route. | NITB |
| **Launched:**  Ridge Trail – walking and cycling trail on Divis Mt (National Trust) property  Phase 2 Blessingbourne mtb trails, walking trails and visitor amenity block  River Blackwater Canoe trail – Copney campsite  **Completed:** Tobar Mhuire local outdoors site – 3km of multi use trails, ecotrail, pond restoration  **On-going:**  Play trail at Bunker’s Hill, Castlewellan  Play trail at Parkanaur, Dungannon  Phase 2 Castlewellan Forest Mtb trails  Castlewellan Forest walking trails – design completed  Enhancement of the Peace Maze, Castlewellan Forest Park  Regional mtb site – Garvagh Forest – design completed | ORNI |
| (Strategy) See above - Active Cairngorms will also identify opportunities for improvements to specific infrastructure/facilities in the NP acting as a key interface for outdoor access opportunity. | SNP |
| Gruffalo Birthday Party Celebration promotional Campaign  Dog activity promotional campaign to encourage dog walking in FC woods in England  Forest Art Works 2014 programme announced including: Picnic Cinema; Living Symphonies and; Environmental Photographer of the Year | FCE |
| **Divis Mountain, Belfast**. Installed over 6kms of surfaced tracks in partnership with ORNI. Funded from Agricultural and Tourist budgets in NI | NT |
| Funded ORNI for the development of the International Appalachian Trail Ireland website, which will come online in May 2014. | NIEA |
| **Funding** | NI Tourism Development Scheme – currently closed.  NI Tourism Innovation Fund – awaiting clearance to launch open call for applications.  NI Tourism Events Fund – due to open Autumn 2014 for applications to both sponsorship and revenue grant funding. | NITB |
| Preparation of new Operational Plan (2015 – 2021) on-going. Includes securing the necessary funding for staff and day to day operations | ORNI |
| Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust (part funded by CNPA) will be submitting bids to Heritage Lottery Fund for a major upland paths project (£1.5m) in the CNPA and SportScotland, Commonwealth Games 2014 legacy funding for extension of existing Speyside Way LDR. | SNP |
| £400k Grant awarded by Sport England for our Active Forests Programme to run 2014 to 2017 to promote increased use of FC forests for Everyday Sport working with Governing Bodies and Activity Providers | FCE |
| **Sport partnership**. Have secured a further £1.2m from Sport England for the NT/Sport England Partnership | NT |
| The Natural Heritage Grant Programme is open for pre applications until the 8 May 2014.  The Challenge Fund is expected to open again during 2014. This fund targets funds raised from the Carrier Bag Levy towards community environmental projects. | NIEA |
| **Organisational change and development** | **CSGN**  The newly formed Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) came into being on 27 March, as part of a programme of changes to the CSGN initiative. The new CSGNT, which has ‘inherited’ the assets of the CSFT, will devote all of its resources to driving forward delivery of the CSGN with a wide range of stakeholders including local authorities, regional partnerships, landowners, environmental groups and local communities, in order to help realise the CSGN Vision. The new CSGNT Board includes Chairperson, Keith Geddes and 11 non-executive directors from public agencies, local authorities and communities of interest e.g. development, health, sustainable transport.  Forestry Commission Scotland (James Ogilvie) Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Enterprise are the formal members of the Company. | FCS |
| NITB are currently re-structuring the organisation to align resources against their aims and objectives to develop experiential tourism in Northern Ireland. | NITB |
| CNPA is currently progressing development of an Organisational Development Strategy.  The strategy for the Authority will set out a reviewed direction for the organisation, establishing a framework under which we will focus work over the next couple of years on:   * reviewing and embedding desired changes in organisational culture and leadership, * developing people and facilities fundamental to delivery of effective and efficient organisational services; * implementing improvements to communications and knowledge systems that support authority work. | SNP |
| Raising the profile of Land, Landscape and People within the Outdoor and Nature programme. Further announcements in the summer | NT |
| I will be leaving **sport**scotland in June. New ORN rep still to be agreed but likely to come from planning team in **sport**scotland. | SS |
| NIEA has undergone organisation change. It is now composed of 4 Divisions.   * Natural Environment Division * Historic Environment Division * Innovation Strategies Division * Resource Efficiency Division   Regional Operations (which manages all NIEA properties) is likely to move to the Innovations Strategies Division. | NIEA |
| Other | **Woods for Health**  FCS gained two accolades recently from PAHA (Physical Activity and Health Alliance)[[1]](#footnote-1). Larbert woods was shortlisted for the PAHA 2014 Environment Awards, whilst Branching Out won the Physical Activity and Health Alliance NHS Scotland 2014 award. <http://www.paha.org.uk/Announcement/paha-award-winners-2014> |  |
| After a highly competitive and successful open tender process Forestry Commission England are working in partnership with three organisations to deliver its national learning strategy at nine forest locations.  SFA, a community interest company formed by Schola Foris and Archimedes will offer learning opportunities and events at 7 sites.  A Touch of the Wild will expand and develop the learning business that they have built at Haldon Forest, Devon. OASES, was successful in winning the licence for Hamsterley Forest in County Durham. | FCE |
| With all the issues from this winter’s storms we have updated the coastal report for the NT:  <http://intranet/intranet/shifting_shores_adapting_to_change.pdf> | NT |
| As a result of a Review of Public Administration, Northern Ireland local authorities will be restructured in April 2015 from 26 to 11. Shadow councils will operate from May 2015 once the Local elections have taken place and the Chief Executives for the 11 new councils have been appointed. Planning will move to the new local authorities from Department of the Environment at this stage and a new role of Community Planning will become a local authority duty. | NIEA |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)