

NMDDC Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2030

Danielle Begley
Biodiversity Officer

Ag freastal ar an Dún agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down and South Armagh



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



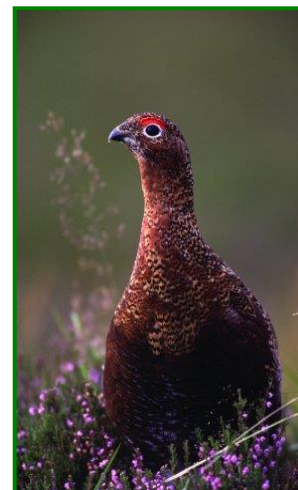


Biodiversity in Newry, Mourne and Down





Biodiversity in Newry, Mourne and Down





Biodiversity in Newry, Mourne and Down





Biodiversity in Newry, Mourne and Down





Biodiversity in Newry, Mourne and Down





Biodiversity in Newry, Mourne and Down

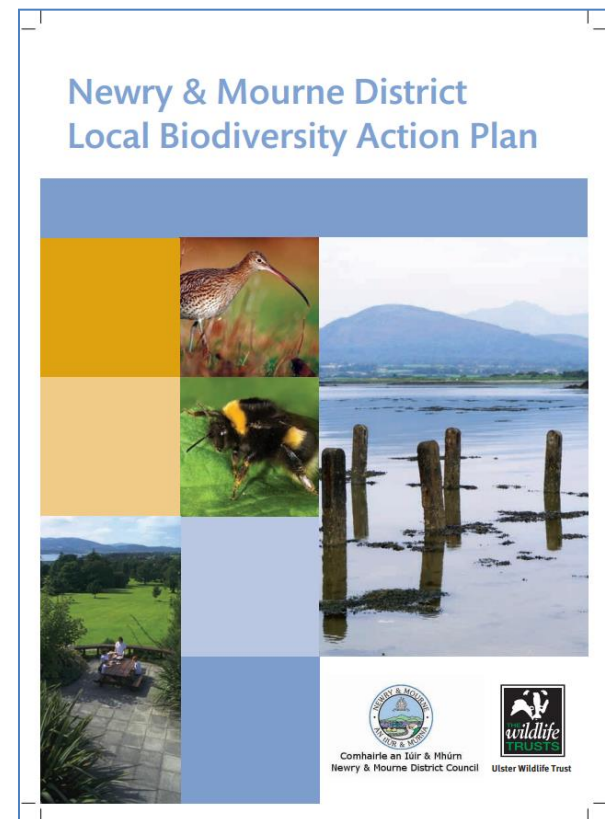
Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark





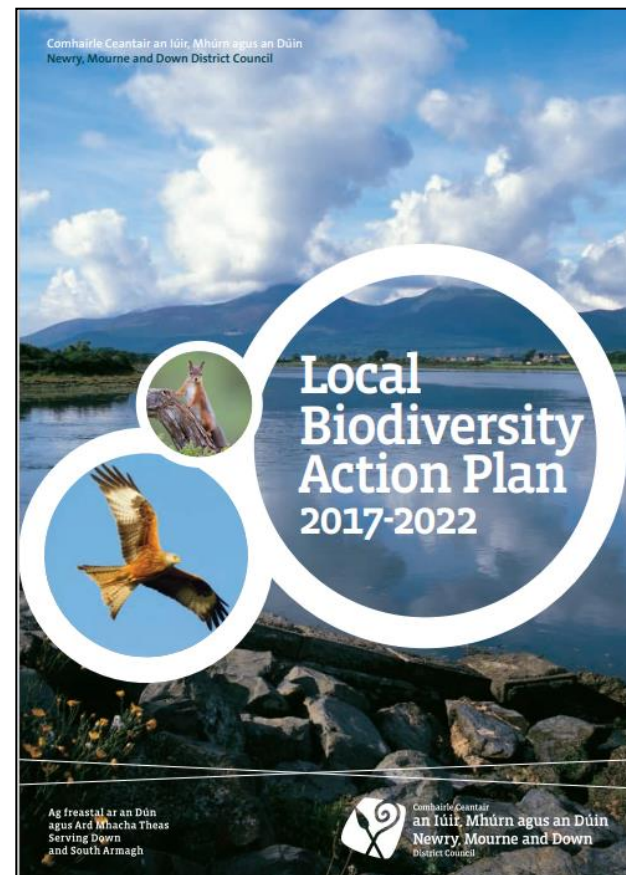
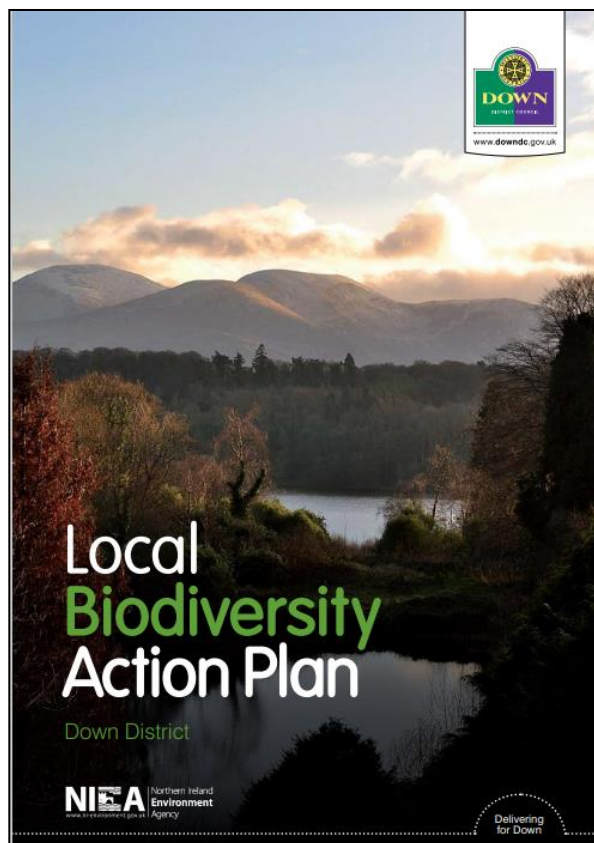
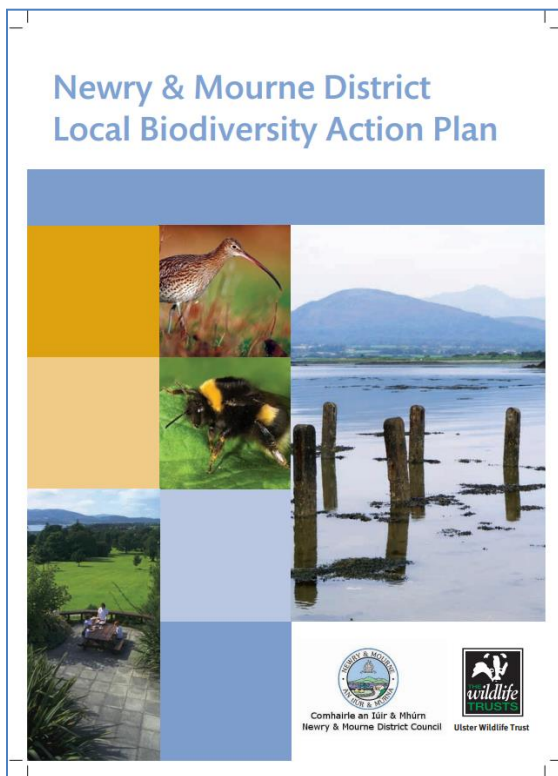
Biodiversity Action in Newry, Mourne and Down

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) process began in Newry and Mourne District Council in April 2007.





Biodiversity Action in Newry, Mourne and Down






Biodiversity Action in Newry, Mourne and Down

The LBAPs focussed on priority Habitats and Species chosen by the Steering Group based on a number of qualifying factors for example;

- Conservation status
- Rarity
- Importance to local people
- Project potential

newry & mourne district local biodiversity action plan | page 5



Our Local Priority Habitats and Species

The first step in the LBAP process was to complete a comprehensive audit of the important habitats and species that occur in Newry and Mourne, including Northern Ireland Priority Habitats, Northern Ireland Priority Species and Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC).

For further information on any habitat or species listed, please visit www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org/biodiversity or contact the Newry and Mourne Biodiversity Officer.

The information from the audit enabled each habitat and species to be evaluated in terms of national and regional priority, conservation status, extent, rarity, importance to local people and most importantly, project potential. As a result, the habitats and species below were selected by the Newry and Mourne Steering Group for initial priority action and will be included in the first round of HAPs and SAPs for the district. This list is not exhaustive and will be updated throughout the course of the LBAP.

Habitats selected for priority action in Newry and Mourne:

- Woodland** - Mixed ashwoods, Oakwoods, Parkland and Species rich hedgerows.
- Wetlands** - Lakes, Rivers, Fens and Reedbeds.
- Peatlands** - Lowland raised bog, European dry heath and Montane heath.
- Coastal** - Maritime cliffs and slopes, and Coastal vegetated shingle.
- Marine** - Mudflats and Mud habitats in deep water.
- Grassland** - Lowland meadows.
- Urban habitats and gardens**

Species selected for priority action in Newry and Mourne:

- Red squirrel
- Irish damselfly
- Otter
- Brown trout/Salmon
- Curlew
- Juniper
- Harbour porpoise
- Yellowhammer
- House sparrow

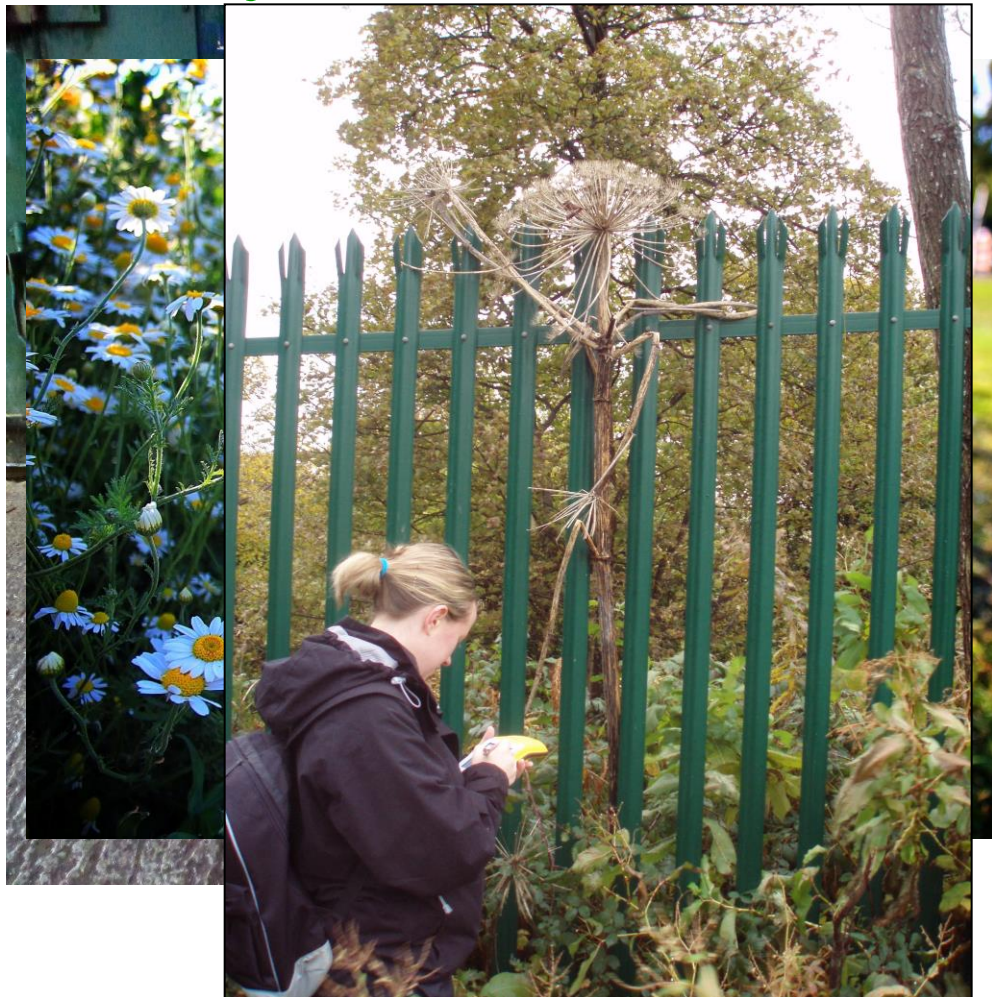
The many diverse habitats and species found in Newry and Mourne will now be summarised. Each broad habitat category details the priority habitats in the district, where they occur locally, what key species they support and examples of the objectives and actions required to conserve them.

Wildlife Trust of Northern Ireland



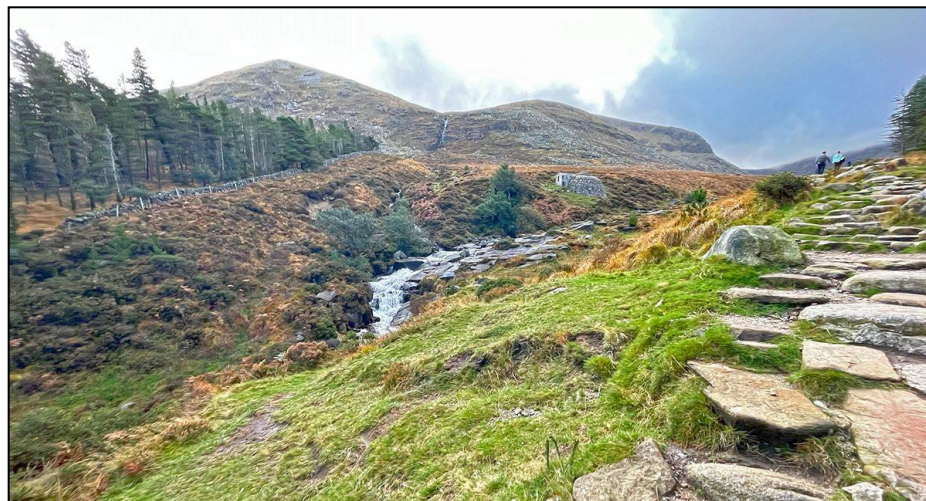
Biodiversity Action in Newry, Mourne and Down

action for 
biodiversity
Animals . Plants . People .





Biodiversity Action in Newry, Mourne and Down



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014–2020

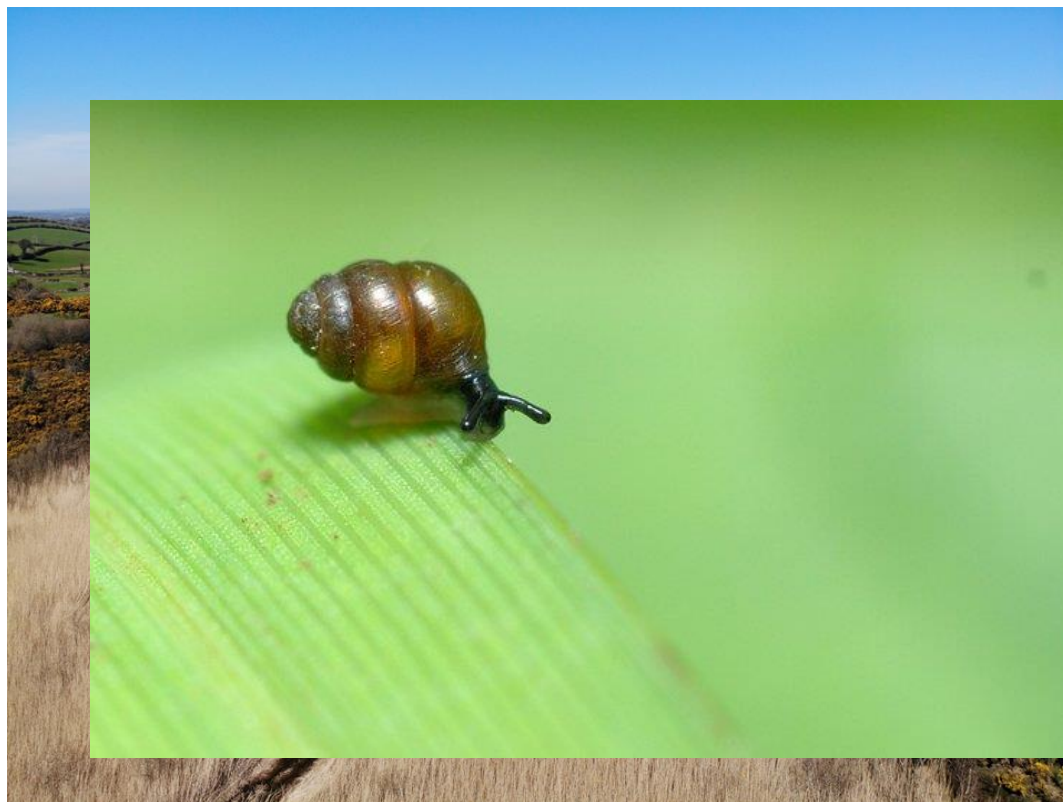


EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund



Biodiversity Action in Newry, Mourne and Down





Biodiversity Action in Newry, Mourne and Down



LOTTERY FUNDED



Biodiversity Action in Newry, Mourne and Down

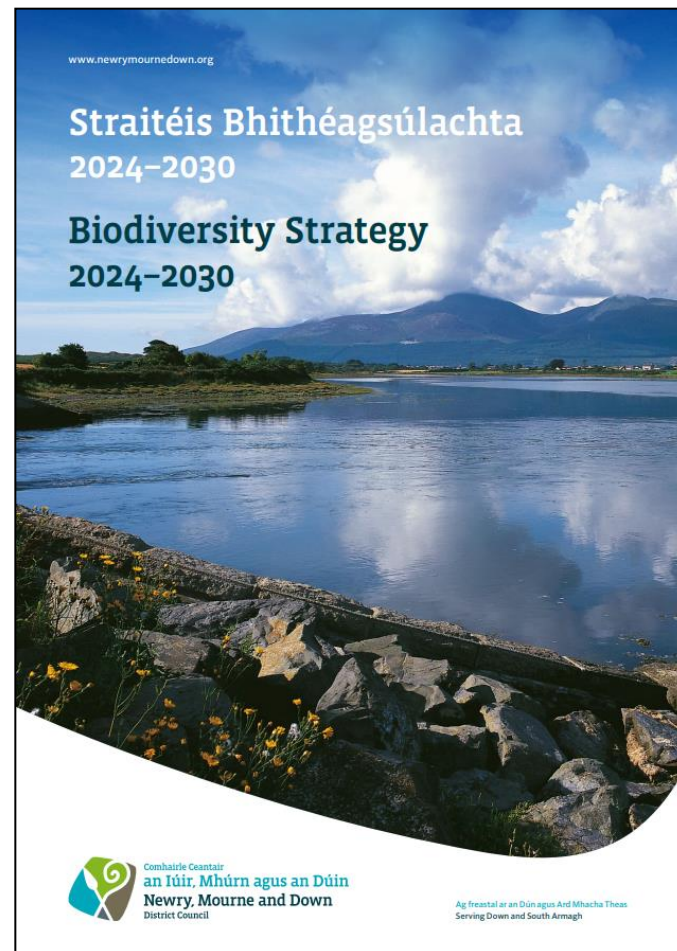




Biodiversity Strategy 2024 – 2030

Newry, Mourne and Down

Our new Council Biodiversity Strategy has now been published.





Biodiversity Strategy 2024 – 2030

Newry, Mourne and Down

To ensure Council meets our biodiversity commitments and delivers on the biodiversity duty, we will focus action on 5 key themes.

These over-arching themes will allow for biodiversity management options to be implemented across a range of habitat types. The themes will be:

THEME 1	Protecting our Priority Habitats & Species
THEME 2	Trees and Woodland
THEME 3	Pollinators
THEME 4	Invasive Species
THEME 5	Raising Awareness and Education



Fulfilling our duty for Biodiversity

All relevant sections within the Council will have an 'Action Plan' as part of the new Biodiversity Strategy to ensure staff consider Biodiversity as part of their everyday functions.





Theme 1: Protecting our Priority Habitats and Species

Action

- Continue to deliver the Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale AONB Management Plans





Theme 1: Protecting our Priority Habitats and Species

Action

- Access EU funding streams to deliver biodiversity and conservation action across the District.

Peat+ - Peace Plus 5.1





Theme 1: Protecting our Priority Habitats and Species

Action

- Access EU funding streams to deliver biodiversity and conservation action across the District.

CMAP – Peace Plus 5.2





Theme 1: Protecting our Priority Habitats and Species

Action

- Ensure all capital projects taking place on/near protected habitats or species are appropriately assessed.
- Carry out mitigation when required





Theme 2: Trees and Woodland

Action

- Finalise NMDDC Tree Action Plan, which includes increasing tree cover across the district in line with the 13% by 2030 target





Theme 2: Trees and Woodland

Action

- Development of a tree nursery in Castlewellan Forest Park, growing local provenance species.





Theme 2: Trees and Woodland

Action

- Continue with removal of invasive species from Council owned/managed woodlands to allow regeneration of native woodland flora and fauna.





Theme 3: Pollinators

Action

- Continue as an official Pollinator Plan (AIPP) by promoting Council owned green spaces

Don't mow
Let it grow

Support biodiversity and conservation in our district
newrymournedown.org





Theme 3: Pollinators

Action

- Reduce the frequency of amenity grassland cutting per year at selected sites, particularly during No Mow May (Use signage to raise awareness that area is being managed for pollinators).

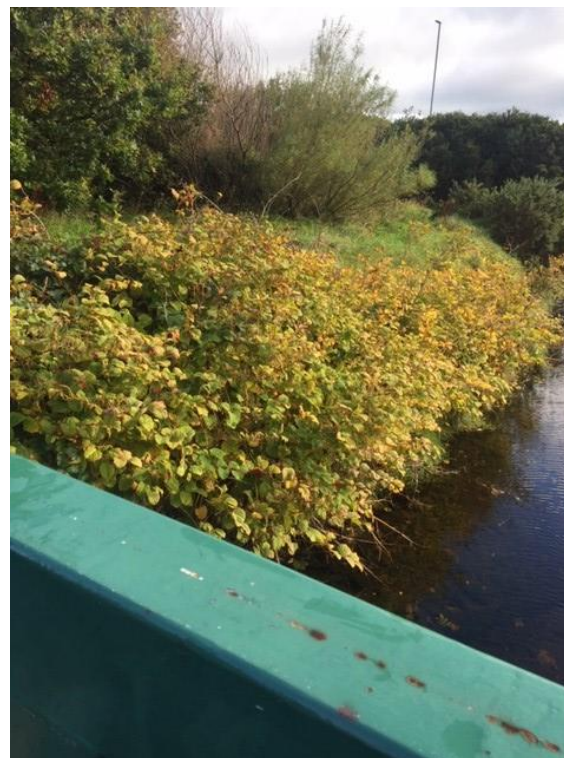




Theme 4: Invasive Species

Action

- Continue with removal of known invasive plant species from Council owned/managed sites.





Theme 4: Invasive Species

Action

- Ensure Council fulfil their requirements under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order NI 2019 e.g. control of grey squirrels and reporting to NIEA.





Theme 5: Raising Awareness and Education

Action

- Organise an annual programme of Council led Biodiversity related events.





Theme 5: Raising Awareness

Action

- Educate the public and raise awareness of disturbance through use of training workshops e.g.



Welcome to Minerstown Beach

This is a **PROTECTED AREA**

We hope you enjoy this special place and its wildlife.

Minerstown and Tyrrells are part of the Murlough Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and are protected as an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI).

Minerstown is an important site for Honeycomb Worm Reefs, found on the middle shore; and Harbour Seals, which use the rocky outcrops just off shore as resting (haul-out) and pupping sites.

Please do not carry out any activity that will cause damage to the beach or disturb the wildlife.

You can help to protect this beach and its wildlife!

Give wildlife space! When on water and on land stay away from wildlife resting/nesting/feeding sites. Let the animals decide how close is acceptable to them.

Do not remove beach materials!

Do not bring vehicles onto the beach!

Do not chase, touch or feed seals!

Take your litter home!

Keep dogs under control! Do not allow them to chase birds or seals!

Watch out for Wildlife Crime – Seals are fully protected by law from intentional or recklessness disturbance and the penalty for these offences can be up to £5,000 or up to six months imprisonment, or both.

Harbour Seal

Common Dolphin

Porpoise/Burbot

Shagwren

If you see anyone intentionally or recklessly injuring, disturbing or harassing marine wildlife, the incident should be reported. Information should be passed immediately to the PSNI on 101. Describe your call as a wildlife crime report and give as much detail as you can.

You can also report a marine wildlife crime to Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs www.dera-ni.gov.uk. Email MarineWildlife@dera-ni.gov.uk Telephone 028 905 69421

Strangford and Lecale AONB
General enquiries
0330 137 4045
www.strangfordlough.org

Strangford Lough & Lecale Partnership
Ards and North Down Borough Council
NIEA
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



Theme 5: Raising Awareness and Education

Action

- Continue to provide biodiversity educational visits/workshops to schools on request as part of their Eco-schools programme





NMDDC Committment to Biodiversity

Local Biodiversity Enhancement Fund





Thank you for listening 😊

Any Questions?