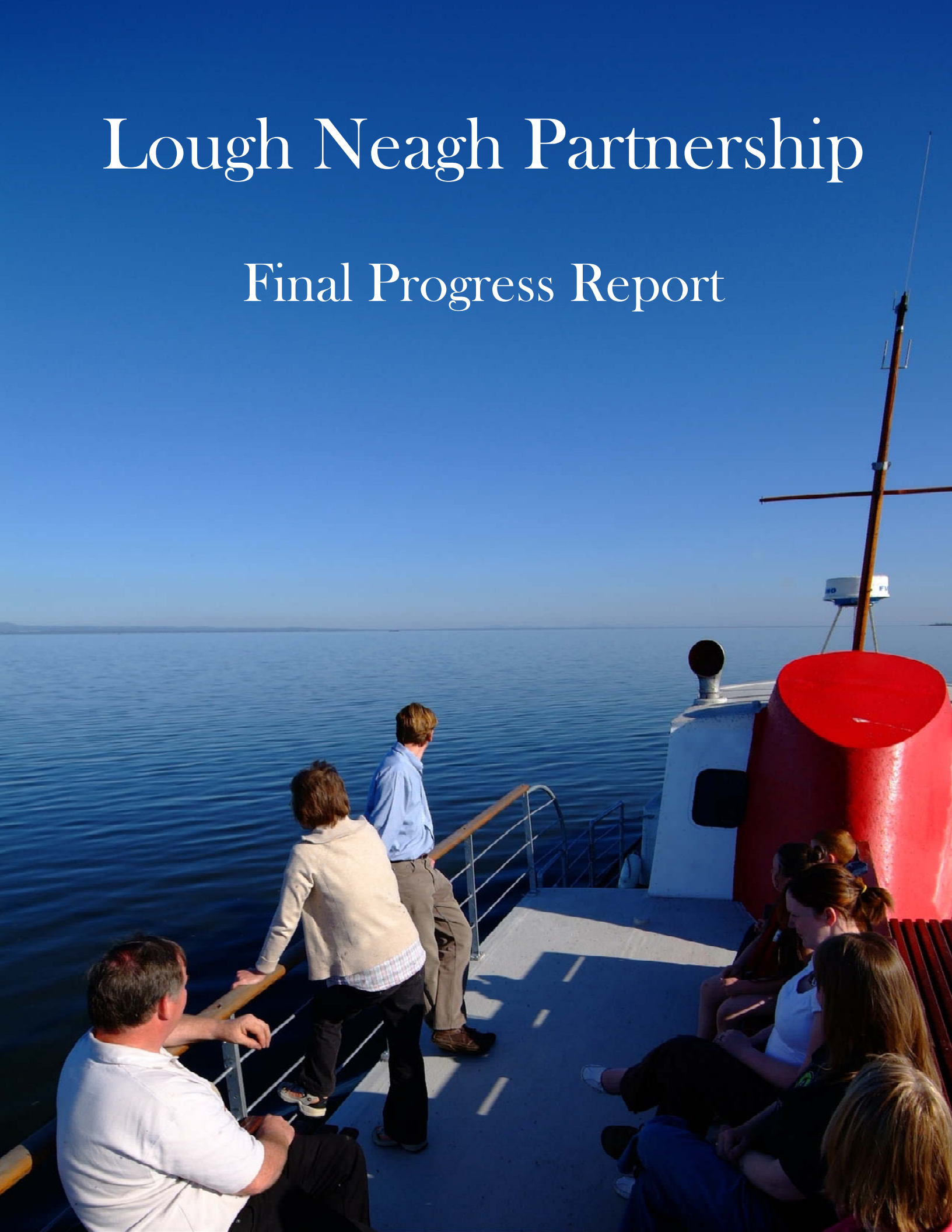


Lough Neagh Partnership

Final Progress Report



Lough Neagh

Discover it for yourself!

IT'S A WILD, WILD WORLD
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
ACCOMMODATION
ANCIENT TREASURES
FAMILY FUN
WATERSPORTS
BOAT TRIPS



Lough Neagh

Discover it for yourself!

Lough Neagh Partnership's track record

<u>Strategic Impact</u>	<u>Targeted Outputs</u>
Integrated sustainable development of the whole of Lough Neagh.	Ram's Island developed and opened to public.
Successful delivery of £ 3.8 million programme.	New Lough Neagh website.
Effective coordination & management of funds.	Designated Lough Neagh Biodiversity & Marketing Officers.
Cross community acceptance & partnership building.	First ever whole Lough Neagh canoe trail.
Fair distribution of benefit around the Lough.	150 new berths.
Attraction of additional £ 6.4 million into Lough Neagh area.	4 fishing projects supported.
Provision of comprehensive tourist & recreational infrastructure.	3 new passenger boats on Lough
Tangible job and business creation.	12 built & cultural heritage projects.
Marketing & promotion of Lough Neagh & tourism development.	3 sculpture trails.
Quality festivals & events development.	20 businesses developed.
Lough Neagh Biodiversity Action Plan developed.	2 new Lough Neagh Rescue lifeboats.
Conservation and protection of Lough's unique environment.	5 new local nature reserves.
Loughshore Trail managed and promoted.	17 tourism recreation and signage projects.
Lough Neagh baseline and recreational framework in place.	5 access development projects.
Protection of built, cultural heritage through practical project development.	11 marinas & water based infrastructure developments.
	7 education & training projects.
	24 environmental projects.
	4 new interpretation and visitor centres.
	10 landmark buildings restored.
	8 Lough Neagh publications produced.



Background

The Lough Neagh Partnership, a non-profit company made up of community, statutory and private sector stakeholders is the body responsible for coordinated and sustainable development on and around Lough Neagh.

The Partnership has been working with statutory bodies, local councils, environmental and special interest groups as well as private businesses to develop the Lough Neagh Wetlands and the surrounding area sustainably since 2003.

Having opened up the Lough Neagh Strategic Fund in March 2004, the Partnership has engaged with stakeholders around the Lough and has assessed over 300 grant requests from a variety of applicants, ranging from local community and environmental groups, district councils and local entrepreneurs.

These projects have made a real impact on the Lough and the surrounding areas, offering new developments and opportunities for locals, the environment and visitors.

The focus of this report is on showcasing the effective use of European funds but it is important to note that the Partnership remit is much broader, and we are now implementing a long term marketing & management strategy.

To date over 140 projects have been approved for funding and more than £ 3.8 million of grant aid has been offered. The allocation of grant aid from the Partnership has been instrumental in drawing in the prospect of an additional £ 6.4 million of further support for the Lough Neagh area.

The success of the first 5 years has resulted in the Lough Neagh Partnership becoming established as the development body on Lough Neagh and as a major player in the utilisation of future rural development and other funding streams.

Lough Neagh is fast developing into a well managed and important asset to Northern Ireland. This report highlights the balanced approach of the Lough Neagh Partnership in ensuring sustainable development with a strong ethos of environmental protection.

The document gives a feel for the type of work the Lough Neagh Partnership has been engaged in and the time and commitment that the statutory bodies, councils, communities and private individuals have provided to help shape the future development of the Lough.



Jim Canning
Chairman, Lough
Neagh Partnership

Lough Neagh Partnership grants:	£ 3.8 million
Match funding leverage offered:	£ 6.4 million
Number of projects:	140+

Total investment potential for the Lough Neagh Wetlands:	£ 10.2 million
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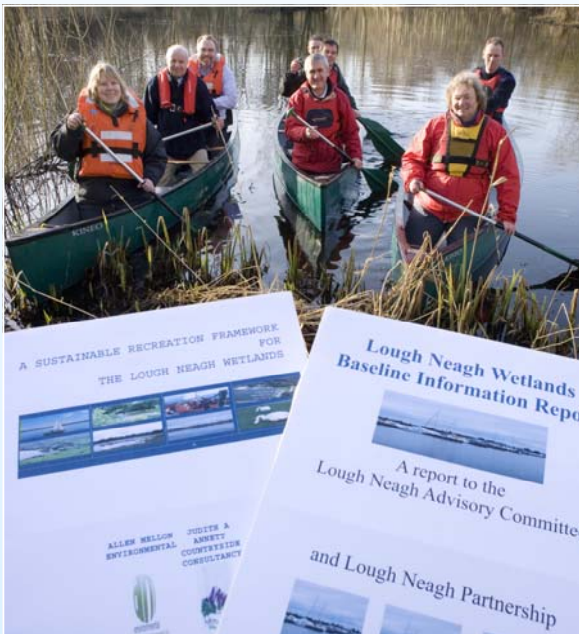
Lough Neagh
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Strategic Management of Lough Neagh

The Lough Neagh Partnership is the integrated sustainable development body for Lough Neagh. It works alongside community and statutory stakeholders ensuring that the development and management of the Lough Neagh wetlands is carried out in a strategic manner. To help facilitate this, the Partnership has been involved in a number of strategic management projects.

Baseline Information and Recreational Management

The first ever comprehensive baseline assessment looking at environmental, economic and social information relating to Lough Neagh is now complete. The project which included a Water Recreation Framework for Lough Neagh. This baseline document has also proved essential for the planning, management and evaluation of changes in the Lough Neagh wetlands.



Partners: Lough Neagh Advisory Committee, Environment and Heritage Service, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Baseline information on social, economic and environmental status of Lough Neagh.

Beneficiaries: Project promoters, planners, environmental and statutory bodies, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Total project cost: £ 35,000
(LNSF £35,000)

Strategic Marketing Project

A marketing strategy for Lough Neagh is now in place and the Partnership's Marketing Officer has been busy implementing the Lough Neagh marketing strategy to encourage visitors to the Lough and help local service providers improve their recreation businesses. This project has produced the extremely successful Lough Neagh visitors guide as well as walking, angling and cycling brochures for the Lough. A major marketing campaign including prime time TV ads and outdoor advertising is planned

Partners: Lough Neagh Partnership, Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

Impact: Marketing, tourism, economic.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, businesses.

Total project costs: £ 303,947
(LNSF £303,947)



Lough Neagh Angling Study

The Lough Neagh Partnership has undertaken a two year angling study on Lough Neagh. The resulting report has highlighted the potential for recreational coarse and game fishing from the shore and from boats.



Partners: Lough Neagh Partnership, Paul Robinson Associates, DCAL, Antrim Borough Council, Cookstown District Council, Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Eel Cooperative.

Impact: Tourism, angling, environment, economic.

Beneficiaries: Local community, statutory bodies, anglers, researchers, businesses.

Total project costs: £ 16,000
(LNSF £10,000, Leverage £ 6,000)

Lough Neagh Website

The Partnership has set up a Lough Neagh website to provide internet access to information and tourism resources for the wetlands. The site covers activities and information and allows visitors to find accommodation and activities on-line. Links to the many activity providers and places to visit on Lough Neagh are provided.

Partners: Lough Neagh Partnership, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, activity providers.

Impact: Marketing, tourism, economic.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, businesses.

Total project costs: £ 17,250 (LNSF £17,250)



Loughshore Trail Management

The Lough Neagh Partnership manages and promotes the Loughshore Trail, a 128 mile long cycle route along which cyclists can visit the attractions the wetlands have to offer. A part time Marketing Officer is responsible for the promotion of this important asset, and a revamped website is planned for 2009.



Partners: Lough Neagh Partnership, Craigavon, Cookstown, Ballymena & Antrim Borough Council.

Impact: Marketing, tourism, countryside access, healthy living.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourism providers, tourists, cyclists.

Total project costs: £ 89,875
(LNSF £ 47,875, Leverage £ 46,406)



Lough Neagh
Discover it for yourself!

Strategic Management of Lough Neagh

Brand Development and Promotion

The Partnership has allocated funding for the development of a Lough Neagh brand and the project will aim to promote the positive aspects of Lough Neagh. The new logo will offer visitors a recognisable Lough Neagh brand and a new public relations plan is in place. It is time to start telling people about the good news coming from Lough Neagh!



Partners: Lough Neagh Partnership, Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

Impact: Marketing, tourism, economic.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourism caterers, businesses, food producers.

Total project costs: £ 40,500
(LNSF £40,500)

Wetlands Environmental Management Programme

Working with communities in the south of the Lough and with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, the Lough Neagh Partnership is enhancing the work done by the Department of Agriculture on nutrient management. Working proactively with farmers and landowners at community level, this project has resulted in the establishment of a drainage and habitat corridor for Irish Damselfly in the south Lough Neagh wetlands.

Partners: Lough Neagh Partnership, South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, Department of Agriculture.

Impact: Environment, water quality, farming, biodiversity.

Beneficiaries: Local community, landowners, local rivers and wildlife.



Total project costs: £ 47,000 (LNSF £35,250, Leverage £11,750)

Lough Neagh is a world renowned Natura 2000 site assisted by the Ramsar Convention, with the whole of the Lough being designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Partnership's work is integral to the strategic management of this natural asset and assists important environmental projects throughout the Lough Neagh area. We are keen to develop local community based environmental projects and promote the concept of local management and ownership.

Water Quality Pilot Project

Sperrins Integrated College undertook a pilot project with the Lough Neagh Partnership to look at the possibility of improving the quality of water running into Lough Neagh using constructed wetlands to filter out harmful substances before they reach the Lough. The success of this project will hopefully allow for the development of a broader river catchment programme.



Partners: Sperrins Integrated College, EHS, Moyola Angling Association, Rivers Authority, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Environment, social, education.

Beneficiaries: Local community, environment, researchers, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 40,161 (LNSF £30,120, Leverage £ 10,041)

RSPB Portmore Lough Programme

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds carried out major habitat creation work on its Portmore Lough wetland bird sanctuary. The Lough Neagh Partnership funded improvements to the wet meadow for nesting and migratory birdlife. Part of the grant was also to help purchase a low impact groundworks machine.

Partners: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Environment and Heritage Service, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Habitat development, improvement of biodiversity, visitor attraction, educational.

Beneficiaries: Wildlife, visitors, schools, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 176,646
(LNSF £30,930, Leverage £ 145,716)





Environment & Biodiversity

Lough Neagh

Discover it for yourself!

Lough Neagh Wetlands Biodiversity Officer

An environmental professional has been recruited to work with the Lough Neagh Partnership and the Lough Neagh Advisory Committee to develop biodiversity action plans, target project promoters and put environmental projects on the ground in the Lough Neagh wetlands area.

Partners: LNAC, Magherafelt District Council, Environment and Heritage Service, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Biodiversity action plans, environmental projects, improved environment, protected species.

Beneficiaries: Project promoters, the environment, visitors, local population.

Total project cost: £ 99,800
(LNSF £30,300, Leverage £ 69,500)



Ram's Island Biodiversity Project

Environmental work has been undertaken to improve the condition and biodiversity of Ram's Island, to restore native habitat and increase the number of nesting birds.



Partners: River Bann and Lough Neagh Association, Lough Neagh Partnership, Ulster Garden Villages, Antrim Borough Council.

Impact: Biodiversity, environment, visitor site, recreation.

Beneficiaries: Tourism, boating, local community, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 26,866
(LNSF £13,433, Leverage £ 13,433)

Kinnego Reedbed Creation

A reed bed has been put in place in the woodland at Kinnego harbour to create a new wetland habitat and act as a biological water filter and educational resource.

Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Important habitat creation, visitor attraction, educational.

Beneficiaries: Wildlife, visitors, school groups.

Total project costs: £ 7,990
(LNSF £3,995, Leverage £ 3,995)



Portmore Lough Wetlands Restoration

The RSPB received funding to create an extensive amount of new reedbed. This is one of the most significant biodiversity projects assisted by the Partnership. It involves the removal of over 8 hectares of scrub, to allow the previous reedbed cover to re-establish itself, offering much needed habitat for wetland birds such as the bittern.



Partners: RSPB, Landfill Tax, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Visitor site, land based recreation, tourism, education, biodiversity.

Beneficiaries: Local community, schools, visitors, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 96,250 (LNSF £40,090, Leverage £56,160)

Lough Neagh Tree Sparrow Project

The Lough Neagh Biodiversity Officer worked with all the councils around Lough Neagh to improve conditions for tree sparrows. This was an important strategic biodiversity project targeting a declining species.

Partners: LNAC, EHS, RSPB, 7 Councils, Ulster Wildlife Trust, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Biodiversity, education, research.

Beneficiaries: Local community, researchers, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 91,692
(LNSF £19,270, Leverage £72,422)



Readymix Habitat Creation

The sand traders of Toomebridge have created a strip of woodland trees along the roadside embankments to create habitat and reduce sand blowing onto the roads.



Partners: Readymix Ltd., Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Habitat creation, health and safety, best practice.

Beneficiaries: Environment, road users.

Total project costs: £ 7,000
(LNSF £3,424, Leverage £ 3,576)



Environment & Biodiversity

Lough Neagh
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Six Mile Water River Enhancement

The Antrim & District Angling Association has installed a fish pass at Dunadry weir on the Six Mile Water to aid the passage of fish upstream which has improved access to spawning beds. The Association has also improved numerous tributaries of the Six Mile Water, opening up old waterways for fish.



Partners: Antrim & District Angling Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Enhancement, education, recreation.

Beneficiaries: Fish stocks, anglers, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 56,466
(LNSF £42,349, Leverage £14,117)

Discovering Wetlands with the Ulster Wildlife Trust

The Partnership wishes to promote the involvement of local schools and has worked with the Ulster Wildlife Trust to undertake a series of environmental events at Ballyronan Marina for school groups.

Partners: Ulster Wildlife Trust, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Education, environment.

Beneficiaries: Local community, schools.

Total project costs: £ 8,400
(LNSF £7,080, Leverage £1,320)



Ballyronan Marina Educational Garden

The TABBDA community group has received grant aid for the development and enhancement of an innovative educational play area with a wetland environment theme. This has resulted in local children learning about the importance of the Lough Neagh environment.



Partners: TABBDA, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Education, environment.

Beneficiaries: Local community, children.

Total project costs: £ 38,850
(LNSF £29,138, Leverage £9,712)

Moyola River Enhancement

The Moyola Angling Association is being grant aided to improve the Moloya River in the Castledawson area. This project involves creating a simple riverbank pathway for walkers and anglers as well as improving and renovating the spawning beds and nursery areas in the river to increase fish numbers.



Partners: Moyola Angling Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Enhancement, education, conservation, recreation.

Beneficiaries: Fish stocks, anglers, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 20,008
(LNSF £15,006, Leverage £5,002)

Washing Bay Sustainable Energy Project

To showcase and educate on sustainable sources of energy, the Muintir Na Mointeach community group have been grant aided to install renewable energy technologies to heat and power the healthy living centre at Washing Bay.

Partners: Muintir Na Mointeach, Dungannon & S. Tyrone Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Education, environmental, sustainability, economy.

Beneficiaries: Healthy living centre, visitors, environment.

Total project costs: £ 35,347
(LNSF £17,673, Leverage £17,674)



Tradd Wildfowlers Conservation Project

Tradd Gun Club received funding to improve facilities at their cottage at Tradd Point to allow for educational workshops to be held and bird boxes to be built. An area of bird cover was also planted.



Partners: Tradd Gun Club, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Environment, education.

Beneficiaries: Local people, environment, school groups.

Total project costs: £ 25,527
(LNSF £11,900, Leverage £ 13,627)



Lough Neagh
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Environment & Biodiversity

Wetlands Wildlife Recording Project

The Biodiversity Officer for Lough Neagh is working with the Partnership to engage local people as volunteers to monitor, observe and record wildlife within the Lough Neagh Wetlands.

Partners: Lough Neagh Advisory Committee, Ulster Wildlife Trust, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Environment, education.

Beneficiaries: Wildlife, researchers.



Total project costs: £ 4,000 (LNSF £1,702, Leverage £ 2,298)

Ram's Island Chainsaw Training

In a drive for sustainability, members of the River Bann & Lough Neagh Association were offered a grant to pay for training in the safe use of chainsaws for the management of Ram's Island. This has assisted with the removal of non-native sycamore from the island and the regeneration of important native tree species such as oak and alder.



Partners: River Bann & Lough Neagh Association, Ulster Garden Villages, Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Environment, education.

Beneficiaries: Local people, environment, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 6,987
(LNSF £5,240, Leverage £ 1,747)

Washing Bay Reedbed Filtration Pilot Project

A reed bed effluent treatment bed has been created to provide wetland habitat and biologically cleanse effluent from the Washing Bay Healthy Living Centre. This will be used as a best practice educational facility to assist other community groups to develop similar systems.



Partners: Dungannon & S. Tyrone Borough Council, ENTRUST, Muintir Na Mointeach, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Habitat creation, visitor attraction, best practice, educational.

Beneficiaries: Wildlife, visitors, school groups, environment.

Total project costs: £ 52,000
(LNSF £39,000, Leverage £ 13,000)

Carlisle Primary School Environmental Education Project

As part of the aim to encourage interest in the environment from an early age, Carlisle Primary School received funding to create a wetland habitat in the school grounds and to develop a whooper swan research project.

Partners: Carlisle Primary School, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Habitat creation, educational, research.

Beneficiaries: Wildlife, schoolchildren, environment.

Total project costs: £ 2,000
(LNP £1,000, Leverage £ 1,000)



Tern Breeding Programme

The Partnership helped the Ballymena Bird Watcher's Club undertake a tern breeding programme. This project involved the erection of a number of tern breeding platforms on suitable water bodies in the area.



Partners: Ballymena Bird Watcher's Club, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Conservation, environmental education, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Terns, visitors, schools, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 12,790
(LNSF £9,592, Leverage £ 3,198)



Lough Neagh
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Environment & Biodiversity

Ram's Island Education Centre

The River Bann and Lough Neagh Association have restored an old barge into an interpretive centre providing disabled access toilets, bad weather shelter, exhibition space



Partners: River Bann and Lough Neagh Association, Better Belfast, Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Industrial heritage, tourism, education.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, schools, disabled persons.

Total project costs: £ 59,925
(LNSF £44,944, Leverage £ 9,981)

Scaddy Island Biodiversity Programme

The Strangford Lough Wildfowlers Association has purchased Scaddy Island on Lough Neagh and is interested in the sustainable management of the habitat. The Partnership has provided grant aid to the group to develop and implement a biodiversity action plan for the island. This will include common tern habitat creation with conservation and best practice environmental management techniques being implemented.

Partners: Strangford Lough Wildfowlers Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Habitat creation, educational, biodiversity.

Beneficiaries: Wildlife, wildfowlers, environment.

Total project costs: £ 10,986
(LNP £ 6,989, Leverage £ 3,997)



Ballinderry River Enhancement Project

The Ballinderry Bridge Angling Club received assistance to improve the Ballinderry River, home to the rare freshwater crayfish and pearl mussels. Improvements to the spawning beds were carried out, as well as repairs to stiles and footbridges used by anglers.



Partners: Ballinderry Bridge Angling Club, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Habitat creation, biodiversity, river management.

Beneficiaries: Spawning fish, anglers, environment.

Total project costs: £ 15,886
(LNP £ 11,914, Leverage £ 3,972)

Ram's Island Biodiversity Restoration

The beauty of having an island to work with is that it makes it much easier to restore a native species habitat. This project will aim to re-establish native species on Ram's Island by removing invasive species and implementing a biodiversity management plan to include interpretation, bird boxes, native species planting and educational signage.



Partners: River Bann & Lough Neagh Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Conservation, environmental education, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Visitors, schools, native species, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 10,656
(LNSF £7,991, Leverage £ 2,665)

Brookend Farm Environmental Project

This Biodiversity project improved water quality through the planting of reed beds and improved habitat for native birds, mammals, insects and fish by planting native trees and flowers and the installation of bird boxes.

Partners: Brookend Farm, Lough Neagh

Impact: Conservation, habitat creation, environmental education.

Beneficiaries: Local wildlife, visitors, anglers.

Total project costs: £ 11,992
(LNSF £5,102, Leverage £ 6,890)



Biodiversity Arts Trail

The Biodiversity Arts Trail was an innovative project being developed through collaboration between conservation staff at the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre and a number of artists on a two year Environmental Arts Residency. The Biodiversity Arts Trail is comprised of 10 biodiversity related sculptures set in the grounds of Oxford Island Nature



Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Arts development, tourism, environmental education.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, schools, artists.

Total project costs: £ 66,435
(LNSF £28,270, Leverage £ 38,165)



The Lough Neagh Partnership encouraged local authorities to work with their residents to create more local nature reserves. For this project, Craigavon Borough Council developed the Tarsan Lane park area as a recreational and environmental resource for the local community and visitors. The work included the setting up of a management committee involving local residents and woodland management and the extension of areas of wet woodlands.



Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Biodiversity, environmental education, local community.

Beneficiaries: Visitors, schools, local residents, wildlife.

Total project costs: £ 30,225
(LNSF £12,861, Leverage £ 17,346)

Ballinderry River White-Clawed Crayfish Conservation

The Ballinderry White-clawed Crayfish breeding and re-introduction programme aims to establish sustainable populations of crayfish in the Ballinderry River and other sites in Northern Ireland. The Ballinderry Fish Hatchery has already successfully bred this native and endangered crayfish at its facilities outside Cookstown and a local sand extraction company has provided a grow out pond.

Partners: Ballinderry Fish Hatchery , Ballinderry River Enhancement Association, Acheson & Glover, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Conservation, habitat creation, environmental education.

Beneficiaries: Native crayfish, conservationists, visitors, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 77,070
(LNSF £49,193, Leverage £ 27,877)





Environment & Biodiversity

Whooper Swan Conservation

The project will promote the conservation of the migratory whooper swans that winter around Lough Neagh through awareness raising, monitoring, education and direct conservation support for landowners. One component of the project was to attach satellite trackers to some swans and monitor their migratory movements, with this information being broadcast on a purpose built website.

Partners: Irish Whooper Swan Study Group, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Conservation, education, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Whooper swans, local people, visitors, schools, researchers.



Total project costs:
£ 83,400 (LNSF £47,737, Leverage £ 39,663)

Craigavon Lakes Local Nature Reserve

The Lough Neagh Partnership has provided funding to help enhance, protect and enable public access to the Craigavon Lakes, a wildlife rich site which will be designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The area hosts a selection of habitats and species identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan.



Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Environment & Heritage Service, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Conservation, education, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Local people, environment, visitors, school groups.

Total project costs: £ 25,592
(LNSF £10,890, Leverage £ 14,702)



Lough Neagh
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Marinas & Visitor Attractions

The development of marinas and visitor attractions is one of the Lough Neagh Partnership's top priorities. Old quays were refurbished and new marina and visitor centre developments were carried out at strategic points around the Lough. These modernised facilities are already bringing more visitors to the Lough, with economic and social benefits for all.

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre

The major visitor attraction on the Lough Neagh shoreline, the Discovery Centre in Craigavon has undergone a major refurbishment to modernise and meet the demands of its public. A significant grant from the Lough Neagh Strategic Fund was provided.



Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Improved visitor attraction, educational, corporate facilities,

Beneficiaries: International tourism, schools, business, local visitors.

Total project costs: £ 934,500 (LNSF £172,500, Leverage £ 762,000)

Kinnego Marina Visitor Centre

The long awaited centre at Kinnego harbour is now complete with grant assistance from the Partnership. Conference and public amenities have been built along with the new coastguard and training facilities. This is a new important strategic facility for the Lough and will significantly contribute to the Lough's future development.

Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Improved visitor attraction, corporate venue, recreation, social.

Beneficiaries: Tourism, businesses, visitors, boating.

Total project costs: £ 433,000
(LNSF £80,000, Leverage £ 353,000)



Antrim Marina Development

A major new marina development proposal in Antrim, with a 70 berth mooring facility as well as improvements to the infrastructure of the site was offered funding by the Partnership. This exciting new development has been put on hold and will hopefully begin construction in 2010/11.

Partners: Antrim Borough Council, DCAL, Lough Neagh Partnership, Antrim Boat Club.

Impact: Improved visitor & boating infrastructure, recreation, social, economic, Antrim town shoreline regeneration.

Beneficiaries: Tourism, businesses, visitors, boating.



Coalisland Canal Project

Dungannon Council is working with the IWAI Coalisland Canal branch to develop the Point at the start of the Coalisland Canal, providing access to the water and improving facilities.

This will link with the long term proposals for the re-opening of the Ulster Canal.



Partners: Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council, IWAI Coalisland Branch, DCAL, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Improved access, water based recreation, tourism, built heritage.

Beneficiaries: Local community, boating, tourism.

Total project costs: £ 214,500
(LNSF £91,277, Leverage £123,223)

Battery Harbour Refurbishment

The facilities at the Battery used by fishermen, visitors, boaters and Lough Neagh Rescue were improved to include a new slipway, fishermen's cabins, lifeboat equipment, security gates and improved access. This will link into and improve the existing restaurant and bar facilities at the site.

Partners: Cookstown District Council, Battery Harbour Management Company, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Improved infrastructure, water based recreation, social, economic, safety.

Beneficiaries: Fishermen, visitors, Lough Neagh Rescue.

Total project costs: £ 124,449
(LNSF £62,224, Leverage £ 62,225)





Lough Neagh

Discover it for yourself!

Marinas & Visitor Attractions

Ballyronan Marina Upgrade

As part of the strategy for boating development, the marina centre at Ballyronan was upgraded through two major phases providing additional berthing facilities, children's playground, improvements to the caravan site and facilities

Partners: Cookstown District Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Infrastructure, water and land based recreation, social, economic.

Beneficiaries: Tourism, local businesses, visitors, boating.

Total project costs: £ 674,565
(LNSF £293,699, Leverage £ 380,866)



Washing Bay Wetlands Park

Dungannon Council created a children's play area and developed a Nature Reserve with access to include eco-trail interpretive materials at Washing Bay Wetlands Park, where the Holy River flows into Lough Neagh.



Partners: Dungannon & S. Tyrone Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Environment, tourism, education.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, children.

Total project costs: £ 70,485
(LNSF £29,993, Leverage £ 40,492)

Newferry Developments

Ballymena Borough Council worked with the Newferry Waterski Club to improve the facilities at Newferry to include a slip-way, jetty, car park, picnic area and public toilets. This is an important project linking the Lough with the Lower Bann.

Partners: Ballymena Borough Council, Newferry Waterski Club, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Access, water based recreation, tourism, socioeconomic.

Beneficiaries: Local community, water users, tourism.

Total project costs: £ 307,356
(LNSF £78,092, Leverage £229,264)



Cranfield and Loughshore Jetties Refurbishments



A grant has been given to fund the refurbishment of the Loughshore jetty at Antrim and the public jetty at Cranfield. This has provided significant new mooring facilities at the historical ruins in Cranfield and refurbished the public mooring at the Antrim Loughshore caravan park.

Partners: Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Improved facilities, tourism, boating.

Beneficiaries: Boat users, local community, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 85,130
(LNSF £36,225, Leverage £ 48,905)

Sandy Bay Marina Project

The owners of Sandy Bay Marina are developing their site to improve access, increase the number of berths and improve facilities at the site for visitors as well as boaters. This will be an important new facility to link into the development of Ram's Island.

Partners: Sandy Bay Marina Lough Neagh Ltd., Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Increased berthing facilities, tourism, recreation, improved infrastructure.

Beneficiaries: Local community, boaters, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 222,071
(LNSF £65,594, Leverage £ 156,477)





Lough Neagh
Discover it for yourself!

Marinas & Visitor Attractions

Ram's Island Project

The biggest island on the Lough is finally being opened up for visitors through a development programme with a number of projects including the building of a new jetty, paths and picnic areas. The Partnership would view the island as one of the Lough's greatest assets and would wish to develop it as one of the Lough's top destinations for day visits.

Partners: River Bann and Lough Neagh Association, Antrim Borough Council, Ulster Garden Villages, Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure, Landfill Tax, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Access to Ram's Island, tourism, recreation, biodiversity.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, boaters.



Total project costs: £ 157,525 (LNSF £78,763, Leverage £ 78,762)

Toome Marina Study

The TIDAL community group based in Toome received grant aid to help them hire a consultant to look at the feasibility of developing a marina at Toome.



Partners: TIDAL, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Water based recreation, tourism, infrastructure.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourists, boaters, economy.

Total project costs: £ 15,000
(LNSF £ 5,000, Leverage £ 10,000)

Lough Neagh is substantially underused as a recreational resource. This is a priority area the Partnership is addressing by providing grant aid for recreation, both for infrastructure and to encourage recreation businesses.

Kayak Touring

The Craigavon Watersports Centre has been funded to buy kayaks to improve their facilities and develop linkages to the Discovery Centre and Kinnego harbour on Lough Neagh.



Partners: Craigavon Watersports Centre, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, water based recreation, training, improved access, healthy living.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourists, schools.

Total project costs: £ 31,180
(LNSF £11,950, Leverage £ 19,230)

Cycle Touring

The Craigavon Watersports Centre received funding to purchase a number of bicycles including cycles for the disabled to improve their land based recreation facilities. Links between the Lough and Craigavon town centre will be put in place.

Partners: Craigavon Watersports Centre, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, land based recreation, training,

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourists, schools, disabled persons.

Total project costs: £ 29,961
(LNSF £13,230, Leverage £ 16,731)



Murlock Angling Centre

As part of a farm diversification project, a site near Aghalee was developed into a put-and-take fishing pond, with associated landscaping, training programmes and amenities.



Partners: Murlock Angling Centre, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Recreation, visitor attraction, tourism, fishing.

Beneficiaries: Tourists, school groups, visitors, locals.

Total project costs: £ 221,155
(LNSF £29,950, Leverage £ 191,205)



Lough Neagh

Discover it for yourself!

Tourism & Recreation

Canoe Infrastructure for Craigavon

The Lough Neagh Partnership worked with Craigavon Borough Council to develop 3 canoe steps on the Cusher River to improve access for water based recreational activities.

Beneficiaries: School groups, visitors, water recreation.

Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Recreation, visitor attraction, social.

Total project costs: £ 20,000
(LNSF £10,000, Leverage £ 10,000)



Ram's Island Ferry Service

As part of the Ram's Island development, the Partnership has helped to finance a new ferry service to carry visitors to Ram's Island. This project will encourage people to get on the water and experience the beauty of Lough Neagh.



Partners: River Bann and Lough Neagh Association, Antrim Borough Council, Ulster Garden Villages, Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, water based recreation, business.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourists, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 47,000 (LNSF £23,500, Leverage £ 23,500)

Gort Moss Peatland Walk

Essential maintenance and signage at the Gort Moss walk, an area of environmental importance has been funded by the Partnership. This is a small but popular walk used extensively by local people.

Partners: Muintirevlin Historical Society, Cookstown Borough Council. Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, land based recreation, educational, local walkers.

Beneficiaries: Local community, schools, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 2,231
(LNSF £ 1,826, Leverage £ 405)



Washing Bay Water Recreation Project

The Partnership helped a community group to establish a water based recreation business at Washing Bay. The project will include a floating jetty and facilities for rowing and windsurfing to encourage people to get out on the Lough.

Partners: Muintir Na Mointeach, Dungannon and S. Tyrone Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, water based recreation, educational.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, boaters.

Total project costs: £ 30,856
(LNSF £ 15,428, Leverage £ 15,428)



Riverside Ride along the Six Mile Water

Antrim Borough Council was grant aided for the Riverside Ride project which created a section of shared use cycle pathway along the Six Mile Water.



Partners: Antrim Borough Council, Environment and Heritage Service, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, land based recreation, social.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourists, cyclists, local walkers.

Total project costs: £ 50,000
(LNSF £ 25,000, Leverage £ 25,000)

Historical Barge Museum

This project proposes to turn a historical Lough Neagh barge into an exhibit and exhibition area at Waterside House near Kinnego Marina where the new Inland Waterways Museum will be located.

Partners: Craigavon Museum Services, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, land based recreation, social, industrial heritage.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourists, researchers.

Total project costs: £ 86,425
(LNSF £ 14,710, Leverage £ 71,715)





Lough Neagh
Discover it for yourself!

Tourism & Recreation

Youth Sailing School

The Loughshore Youth Forum in association with the Ballyronan Boat Club was funded to develop a youth sailing training facility including the purchase of new training boats and equipment.



Partners: Loughshore Youth Forum, Ballyronan Boat Club, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Training, water based recreation, youth activities.

Beneficiaries: Local community, youth,

Total project costs: £ 80,469
(LNSF £ 60,350, Leverage £ 20,119)

Foymore Lodge Shooting School

A brand new outdoor pursuits centre was set up with the help of Partnership money. The Foymore Lodge Shooting School, offers a range of shotgun, archery and 4x4 activities including training in clay pigeon shooting.

Partners: Foymore Lodge Shooting School, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, land based recreation.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourists, wild-fowlers, shooters.

Total project costs: £ 83,645
(LNSF £ 35,593, Leverage £ 48,052)





Tourism & Recreation

Lough Neagh Canoe Trail

The Partnership worked with the Countryside Access & Activities Network to develop a whole Lough canoe trail. This links into canoe trails being developed down the Blackwater River and the River Bann. Once all three trails are connected this will be by far the longest canoe trail in Northern Ireland.



Partners: Countryside Access & Activities Network, Lough Neagh Partnership, Councils.

Impact: Water based recreation, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, canoeists.

Total project costs: £ 31,965 (LNSF £ 15,500, Leverage £ 16,465)

Ballyronan Watersports Complex

Cookstown District Council have developed a series of events and activities centred around the upgraded marina at Ballyronan. This project includes sporting and water sports events, a new boat for the harbour master and summer schemes. This project links in well with the sailing training being offered at the site.

Partners: Cookstown District Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Water based recreation, tourism, land based recreation, festivals, healthy living.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, youth.

Total project costs: £ 57,500
(LNSF £ 24,468, Leverage £ 33,032)



Coney Island Ferry

Craigavon Borough Council have been given a grant to help replace the ferry for Coney Island with a newer, safer and higher capacity service. This will allow more visitors to see the heritage and natural treasures of Coney.



Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Water based recreation, tourism, culture.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, tourists.

Total project costs: £ 67,562
(LNSF £ 28,750, Leverage £ 38,812)



Lough Neagh

Discover it for yourself!

Tourism & Recreation

Springvale Farm Put & Take Fishery

In the spirit of developing viable means of farm diversification, an ex-dairy farmer received funding to improve a 2 acre put & take trout fishery on his farm. This project has also helped to upgrade the access and parking facilities on the site and improve disabled access.

Partners: Springvale Farm, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Water based recreation, tourism, farm diversification.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, fishermen.

Total project costs: £ 9,753
(LNSF £ 4,150, Leverage £ 5,603)



Canoe Infrastructure on the Six Mile Water

In an addition to the general development of canoeing in and around Lough Neagh, the Partnership worked with Antrim Borough Council to install canoe steps, advisory signage and life rings at various points along the Six Mile Water River.



Partners: Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Water based recreation, tourism, safety, healthy living.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, canoeists.

Total project costs: £ 31,263
(LNSF £ 13,303, Leverage £ 17,960)

Antrim Sailing Club

The Antrim Boat Club was grant aided a replacement for their work and committee boat to help organize events, provide safety support and undertake maintenance of marker buoys. The new boat has enabled the club to hold more events including open days to encourage greater membership and to show non-sailors the variety of water sports activities available on Lough Neagh.

Partners: Antrim Boat Club, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Water based recreation, tourism, safety.

Beneficiaries: Club members, local community, visitors, boaters.

Total project costs: £ 40,300
(LNSF £ 30,225, Leverage £ 10,075)



Disabled Sailing Training

To offer more facilities for disabled people to get involved in sailing, the Lough Neagh Partnership offered Kinnego marina grant aid for the purchase of a sailing boat specially fitted out to train disabled people how to sail. This boat complements the disabled friendly facilities newly built at (also with LNSF grant aid) at Kinnego.



Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Water based recreation, tourism, disabled training facilities.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, disabled, youth, boaters.

Total project costs: £ 9,400
(LNSF £ 4,000, Leverage £ 5,400)

Lough Neagh Rescue Lifeboats

Safety first! In a move to help improve the volunteer lifeboat service (Lough Neagh Rescue) and to increase general safety on Lough Neagh: the Partnership has provided grants to replace 2 of the older rescue boats which no longer met MCA regulations. The money has been used to purchase 2 brand new, purpose made, high specification lifeboats for Lough Neagh Rescue. This will help address safety issues for the increasing number of boats and people coming onto the Lough.

Partners: Lough Neagh Rescue, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Emergency services, water based recreation, tourism, safety, boating.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, commercial fishermen, water users, anglers.



Total project costs: £ 266,744 (LNSF £ 200,058, Leverage £ 66,686)



Lough Neagh
Discover it for yourself!

Tourism & Recreation

Maid of Antrim

The historical Maid of Antrim had been lovingly restored but still needed a number of safety features installed before her first paying guests could climb on board. The Lough Neagh Partnership came to her aid with a grant for bilge pumps, safety equipment and training for her skipper and crew. With a new skipper in Con Law, the Maid is now plying her trade as a passenger vessel, sailing from Ballyronan for tours of Lough Neagh.

Partners: Con Law, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, water based recreation, safety, boating, business.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, corporate users.



Total project costs: £ 27,191 (LNSF £ 13,595, Leverage £ 13,596)

Lough Neagh Sailing Club

The Lough Neagh Sailing Club has been offered a grant from the Partnership to purchase a small committee boat for organizing events and maintenance. This boat allowed the club to offer greater safety to participants and hold open day events to encourage more people to take up sailing and other water sports.



Partners: Lough Neagh Sailing Club, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Water based recreation, tourism, safety, boating.

Beneficiaries: Club members, local community, visitors, boaters.

Total project costs: £ 14,784
(LNSF £ 11,088, Leverage £ 3,660)

The Partnership has been involved in providing funding for the production of educational materials and signage relating to Lough Neagh. These tend to be aimed at visitors and schools and offer information on sites and wildlife and other topics relating to the Wetlands.

Educational Materials for the Discovery Centre

A new set of educational materials and signage for the Lough Neagh wetlands has been produced for use by visitors and schools at the Discovery Centre in Craigavon.



Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Improved visitor attraction, educational, corporate venue.

Beneficiaries: Tourism, schools, business.

Total project costs: £ 6,640
(LNSF £3,707, Leverage £ 2,933)

Antrim Ecotrail

An educational pack for schools to be used on an Ecotrail from Clotworthy House has been developed with the Countryside Recreation Forum and Antrim Borough Council.

Partners: Countryside Recreation Forum, Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, land based recreation, educational.

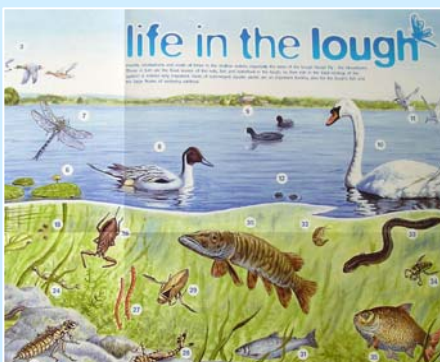
Beneficiaries: Local community, schools, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 9,130
(LNSF £ 6,848, Leverage £ 2,282)



Oxford Island Biodiversity Signage

The Discovery Centre received grant aid to provide interpretation panels for the priority species and habitats at the Oxford Island National Nature Reserve and the proposed Local Nature Reserve at Craigavon.



Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Education, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Local community, schools, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 17,876
(LNSF £7,606, Leverage £10,270)



Lough Neagh
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Signage and education

Wetlands GIS System

As part of the overall Wetlands Biodiversity Action Plan, the Partnership grant aided the development of a designated Lough Neagh Wetlands Geographical information System which will be used to hold background data on the natural and built heritage of the area. This will be overseen by the Lough Neagh Advisory Committee.



Partners: Lough Neagh Advisory Committee, Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Biodiversity action plans, environmental projects, planning.

Beneficiaries: Local community, planners, researchers, conservation.

Total project costs: £ 24,000
(LNSF £10,212 Leverage £13,788)

Mill Race Trail Signage

The Lough Neagh Partnership has helped tourism development in the Antrim area by offering grant aid to Antrim Borough Council to design and install directional signage to the Mill Race Trail along the Six Mile Water at selected entrance and egress points.

Partners: Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism development, educational.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, anglers, walkers.

Total project costs: £ 6,255
(LNSF £2,661, Leverage £3,594)



Loughshore Bird Signage

Antrim Borough Council has received grant aid for three interpretation panels on the shore of the Lough at Antrim Marina. The interpretation panels illustrate wetland bird species that use the Lough Neagh Wetlands as their habitat.



Partners: Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Education, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Local community, schools, visitors, bird watchers.

Total project costs: £ 7,800
(LNSF £3,518 Leverage £4,282)

The Partnership was involved in developing and aiding the production of a variety of publications relating to Lough Neagh. These ranged from educational leaflets and tourism pamphlets to books on specialist subjects such as history or navigation.

Biodiversity Action Plan Promotional Material

A booklet was produced to inform people of and promote the Lough Neagh Wetlands Local Biodiversity Action Plan. It will outline the plan and offer insights into the issues and solutions being implemented in the region to improve biodiversity, create habitat and implement sustainable environmental management policies.



Partners: Lough Neagh Advisory Committee, Lough Neagh Partnership, Environment and Heritage Service, District and Borough Councils.

Impact: Habitat management, conservation, education.

Beneficiaries: Local community, schools, landowners, environment.

Total project costs: £ 5,534
(LNSF £2,354, Leverage £3,180)

River Walk Promotional Leaflets

The Partnership has helped Antrim Borough Council to produce updated route cards and leaflets for the Six Mile Water Riverside Revival Scheme.

Partners: Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Environment, education, tourism.

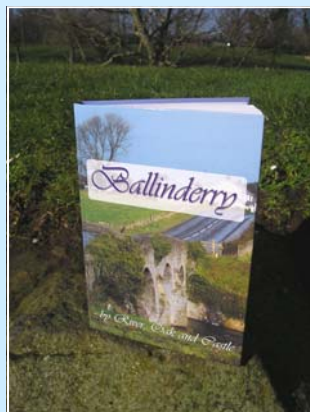
Beneficiaries: Local people, visitors, school groups.

Total project costs: £ 2,665 (LNSF £1,332, Leverage £ 1,333)



Ballinderry History Book

The Partnership helped out the Ballinderry Historical Society to produce a book on the history of the Parish of Ballinderry. It has been rapturously welcomed by the public and all copies sold out within a week of publishing! Another print run is being financed from book sales.



Partners: Ballinderry Historical Society, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Local interest, educational, visitor information.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, historians.

Total project costs: £ 7,484 (LNSF £5,510 Leverage £1,970)



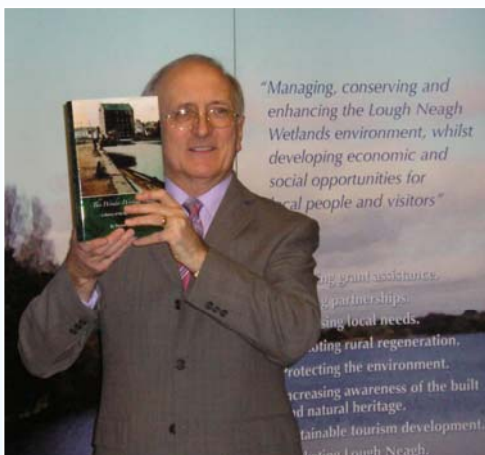
Lough Neagh

Discover it for yourself!

Publications

Coalisland Canal Book

The IWAI Coalisland Canal Branch has helped Thomas McIlvenna to produce a book on the history and heritage of the Coalisland Canal thanks to Lough Neagh Partnership funding. This book provides an important record of the Coalisland Canal's industrial heritage and history.



Partners: IWAI Coalisland Canal Branch, Thomas McIlvenna, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Local interest, tourism, water based recreation, educational.

Beneficiaries: Local community, water users, researchers, tourists.

Total project costs: £ 16,200
(LNSF £10,801, Leverage £5,399)

Ram's Island Heritage Book

The River Bann and Lough Neagh Association are being funded to produce an Island Heritage Guidebook for visitors to Lough Neagh.

Partners: River Bann and Lough Neagh Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Educational, visitor information.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, schools.

Total project costs: £ 7,600
(LNSF £3,561, Leverage £ 4,039)



Discover Lough Neagh Brochures

As part of the marketing for Lough Neagh, a number of high quality brochures have been produced. These highlight the recreational activities available in the wetlands, including fishing, camping, wildlife, cycling and walking.



Partners: Lough Neagh Partnership, recreation providers.

Impact: Tourism, recreation providers, marketing.

Beneficiaries: Local community, cyclists, visitors, tourists.

Total project costs: £ 36,000
(LNSF £ 36,000)

Lip an Lagan Photograph Album and Exhibition

This was a successful project which captured a visual record of the built and natural environment of the wetlands of south Lough Neagh. A professional photographer and writer was commissioned to unearth unusual and significant aspects of the area and produce a tabletop publication and hold a photographic exhibition.



Partners: South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

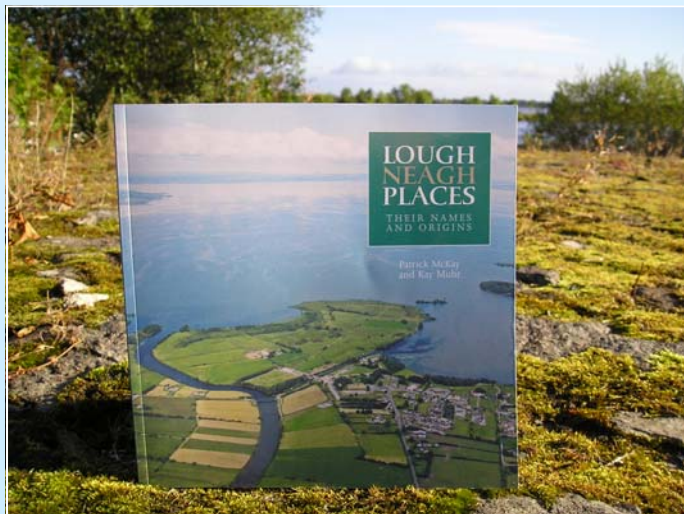
Impact: Local interest, educational, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, historians.

Total project costs: £ 9,905 (LNSF £7,428 Leverage £2,477)

Place Names of Lough Neagh Book

The Ulster Place Name Society of Queen's University was funded to produce a book on the history of the place names of Lough Neagh. This publication provides a unique reference text on the historical nomenclature of the villages of the Lough Neagh Wetlands.



Partners: Ulster Place Name Society, Queen's University Belfast, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Educational, visitor information.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, schools.

Total project costs: £ 10,000 (LNSF £7,125, Leverage £ 2,875)



Lough Neagh
Discover it for yourself!

Publications

Lough Neagh Pilot Book Update

The one and only navigation and boating guide to Lough Neagh is sold out. The Partnership offered grant aid to the original author of the book to allow for an updated version of this essential guide to be produced.

It is an eagerly anticipated and essential document for all boaters on Lough Neagh.

Partners: Michael Savage, River Bann & Lough Neagh Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Water safety, navigation, local interest, boating, tourism.

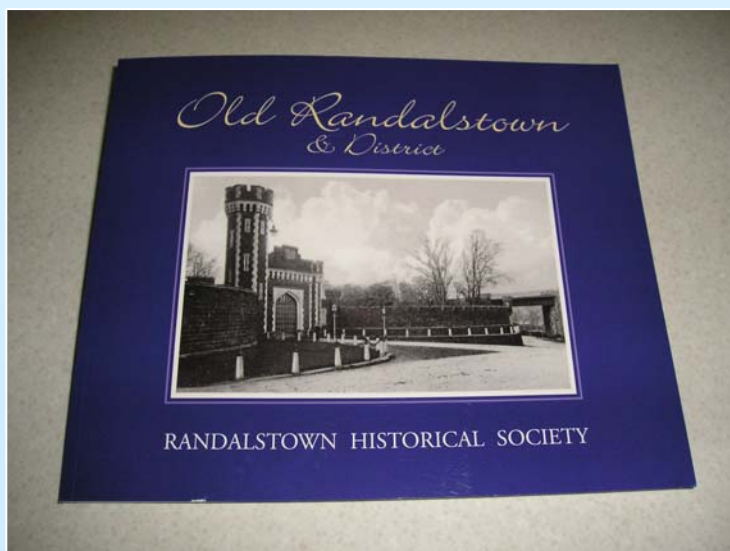
Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, boaters, fishermen.

Total project costs: £ 14,000
(LNSF £ 7,280, Leverage £ 6,720)



Old Randalstown Booklet

Following on from the very successful series of old postcards, the Randalstown Historical Society was helped to publish a photographic book of the history of Randalstown. Each photo was enhanced with an historical description.



Partners: Randalstown Historical Society, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Local interest, educational, visitor information.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, historians.

Total project costs: £ 3,080 (LNSF £2,310, Leverage £1,970)

The Partnership has offered support to festivals of all sizes that celebrate the culture, heritage and environment of Lough Neagh. For the first time a comprehensive festival for Lough Neagh was organised and promoted by the Lough Neagh Partnership. The development of festivals and events will provide visitor attractions and create social & economic benefits to local people.

Festival of Lough Neagh

The Countryside Festival in Antrim received funding for the highly successful and well attended Lough Neagh Festival in 2006. The Partnership and various projects were represented as well as a range of local businesses and interests groups.

Partners: Countrysports and Country Life, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, social, commercial, heritage, countryside activities.

Beneficiaries: Local community, businesses, visitors, project promoters.

Total project costs: £ 17,500
(LNSF £4,250, Leverage £ 13,250)



Feila na Locha

The Muintir Na Mointeach community group undertook a series of festivals to celebrate social, health, historical and wetland aspects of life in Lough Neagh with funding from the Lough Neagh Partnership.



Partners: Muintir Na Mointeach, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Social, health, heritage, educational.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, schools.

Total project costs: £ 6,000 (LNSF £2,250, Leverage £ 3,750)



Lough Neagh
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Festivals & Events

Coyle's Cottage Festival

The Muintirevlin Historical Society received funding for equipment to improve their annual festival held at Coyle's cottage. This will assist the long term sustainability of the festival and improve facilities.



Partners: Muintirevlin Historical Society, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Social, built heritage, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 1,558
(LNSF £789, Leverage £ 769)

Lough Neagh Triathlon

The Hi-Elbow Triathlon Club held a number of triathlon races every year,. All races are held at the Ballyronan Marina and this project will cement Lough Neagh as an international ranking venue for this sport.

Partners: Hi-Elbow Triathlon Club, Northern Ireland Events Company, Lough Neagh Partnership, Cookstown District Council.

Impact: Sports, tourism, social.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, competitors.

Total project costs: £ 49,567
(LNSF £5,111, Leverage £ 44,456)



Lough Neagh Wildlife Festival

The Partnership helped to bring back the yearly Wildlife Festival run by the Discovery Centre. This is a weekend of celebration of the wildlife, heritage and countryside around Lough Neagh.



Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Education, culture, heritage.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors,

Total project costs: £ 15,800
(LNSF £4,170, Leverage £11,630)

Big Lough Festival

The South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association has organized the resurrection of the Big Lough Festival at Maghery. The festival celebrates fishing, boating and local culture. The festival focuses on the boating heritage of the Lough and includes traditional boating events.

Partners: South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Culture, tourism, education, social.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, exhibitors.

Total project costs: £ 12,969
(LNSF £8,433, Leverage £4,536)



Ballyronan Food Festivals

Thanks to a grant from the Partnership, the Tradd, Ballyronan and Ballinderry Development Association have begun holding annual food festivals celebrating local food produce from the Lough and around its shores at Ballyronan Marina.



Partners: Tradd, Ballinderry and Ballyronan Development Association, local food producers, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Culture, tourism, education, social.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, food producers.

Total project costs: £ 25,500
(LNSF £19,125, Leverage £6,375)

Festivals Marquee

Craigavon Borough Council has been funded to purchase a marquee, which is used by local festivals and events to encourage more community led activities.

Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, sustainability, social, economic.

Beneficiaries: Local communities, exhibitors, Craigavon Borough Council.

Total project costs: £ 10,700
(LNSF £4,468, Leverage £6,232)





Lough Neagh

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Festivals & Events

Loughshore Bagpipe Revival

This project aims to re-establish the Derrytrasna Pipe Band through a series of workshops and training sessions backed up by the purchase of some essential equipment. It is hoped that by providing traditional music training to local youth, this local cultural tradition will be preserved.



Partners: South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Musical traditions, local culture, youth development.

Beneficiaries: Local community, youth, visitors, tourism.

Total project costs: £ 7,660
(LNSF £4,317, Leverage £3,343)

Lough Neagh Fest

The first 2 Lough Neagh Fest's were a roaring success, with local groups, councils and tourism providers from around the Lough coming together for a celebration of the Lough's history, culture, environment and recreational facilities. Lough Neagh Fest is now a part of the calendar—10 days every year of activities on the Lough, celebrations, learning, exhibitions, eating, drinking and being merry.

Partners: Over 20 council, statutory, business and community stakeholders, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Increase visitors, cultural awareness, skills development, recreation.

Beneficiaries: Local community, youth, visitors, business, tourism.

Total project costs: £ 15,000
(LNSF £15,000)



O'Neill Summer School

The O'Neill Summer School is a yearly event celebrating the heritage and history of Lough Neagh and the O'Neill clan. Its first year proved very successful and in 2007 it celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Flight of the Earls.



Partners: O'Neill Summer School, Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Education, culture, heritage, economic.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, researchers, schools.

Total project costs: £ 67,000
(LNSF £9,000, Leverage £58,000)

The Partnership has worked on the restoration of heritage buildings in the Lough Neagh Wetlands. Important buildings and heritage sites around the Lough have been given a new lease of life with an injection of grant aid. Apart from the heritage value of keeping these historical buildings in good working condition, all these projects also have strong social and economic benefits, as well as enhancing the appearance of villages and settlements around the Lough.

Coyle's Cottage

The Muntirevlin Historical Society was funded for small refurbishment work to Coyle's cottage, a 300 year old traditional thatched fisherman's dwelling.



Partners: Muntirevlin Historical Society, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Tourism, social, built heritage.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourists, historians.

Total project costs: £ 1,550 (LNSF £1,016, Leverage £ 534)

St. Coleman's Church

St. Coleman's parish church in Ardboe has been refurbished with some financial assistance from the Lough Neagh Partnership to keep this heritage building within the Lough Neagh landscape.

Partners: St. Coleman's Parish Church, Lough Neagh Partnership, Heritage Lottery.

Impact: Built and cultural heritage, tourism, social.

Beneficiaries: Local community, tourists, historians.

Total project costs: £ 42,671
(LNSF £ 12,435, Leverage £ 30,236)





Lough Neagh
Discover it for yourself!

Historical Sites & Buildings

Christian Heritage Trail

Craigavon Borough Council has developed a Christian Heritage Trail of important sites around Lough Neagh. The Partnership has helped with funding for signage, website development and developments on Coney Island.

Partners: Craigavon Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Social, built and cultural heritage, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 58,813
(LNSF £31,318, Leverage £ 60,031)



Maghery Village Hall

Maghery's village hall, which has stood empty for a number of years, has been refurbished with money from the Strategic Fund for the benefit of the local community. This will provide an important social facility for Maghery and the surrounding area and contribute to the physical regeneration of the village.



Partners: Maghery District Hall Committee, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Social, built heritage, village enhancement, youth activities.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 83,652
(LNSF £62,739, Leverage £ 20,913)

Moylinny Bank Mill & Waterwheel

Antrim Council has been grant aided to protect and consolidate the Moylinny Bank Mill and Waterwheel. This linked into the development of the Six Mile Water Trail.

Partners: Antrim Borough Council, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Built heritage, tourism, access.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors.

Total project costs: £ 3,900
(LNSF £1,021, Leverage £ 2,879)



Glenavy Youth Club

A local group has used grant aid to refurbish an historic church building in Glenavy into a much needed youth centre. This development provides an important social facility for the village as well as bringing life back into an historic building. Additional environmental works were carried out in 2008



Partners: Glenavy Youth Project, Lisburn Borough Council, Police Service Northern Ireland, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Social, built heritage, youth activities.

Beneficiaries: Local community, built heritage, village enhancement.

Total project costs: £ 84,449
(LNSF £ 63,336, Leverage £ 21,113)





Lough Neagh
Discover it for yourself!

Historical Sites & Buildings

Ballyronan Memorial Hall

The Ballyronan Orange Cultural Group has been funded to spruce up the T. Forsythe Memorial Hall which is located in the centre of Ballyronan village. This has significantly contributed to the physical regeneration of Ballyronan village and provides an important social facility.



Partners: Ballyronan Orange Cultural Group, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Built heritage, village enhancement.



Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, built heritage.

Total project costs:
£ 43,173
(LNSF £32,379,
Leverage £ 10,794)

Kingsmill's Cottages

The owner of the thatched cottage at Kingsmill was funded to renovate important listed Georgian outbuildings to provide 3 self-catering holiday homes in the area. This will provide much needed tourism accommodation on the western side of the Lough.

Partners: Kingsmill Cottages, Environment & Heritage Service, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Built heritage, tourism accommodation.

Beneficiaries: Local community, visitors, heritage.

Total project costs: £ 148,814
(LNSF £49,999, Leverage £ 98,815)



The Lough Neagh Partnership allocated some of the Strategic Fund to be used for promoting traditional arts and crafts, adding value to local produce and assisting traditional industries on the Lough. The aim was to promote social activities, keep unique traditions alive and help local craft businesses.

Traditional Willow Weaving Classes

Five primary schools in the south Lough Neagh area have developed a traditional craft training programme. Pupils at the schools are being taught the ancient osier craft of willow weaving thanks to a Partnership grant.

Partners: St. Patrick's, Derrymacash, Ardmore Primary, St. Mary's, Derrytrasna, Birches Primary, St. Mary's, Maghera, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Educational, heritage, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Local community, primary schoolchildren, artists.

Total project costs: £ 9,024
(LNSF £ 6,430, Leverage £ 2,594)



Maghera Traditional Music Workshops

The Maghera Traditions Group was funded to develop music workshops to train young people and other participants in traditional musical instruments. This will encourage the development of traditional music in the area.



Partners: Maghera Traditions Group, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Social, musical heritage, educational.

Beneficiaries: Local community, musicians, youth.

Total project costs: £ 15,700
(LNSF £3,525, Leverage £ 12,175)



Arts, Crafts & Traditions

Lough Neagh Woodland Sculptures on Ram's Island

Discover it for yourself!

The River Bann and Lough Neagh Association have hired an artist to create sculptures from the wood left over from the tree surgery on Ram's Island. These are now exhibited on the island and reflect the history and nature of the area.



Partners: River Bann and Lough Neagh Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Arts & crafts, visitors, tourism development.

Beneficiaries: Visitors, schools, artists, locals.

Total project costs: £ 17,433 (LNSF £13,074, Leverage £4,359)

Lough Neagh Heritage Boats

This was a very innovative project which preserved traditional boating skills and promoted local boating heritage. Only 2 local men were left with the skills for building these boats before this project started! The Lough Neagh Heritage Boating Association successfully trained over 15 people and restored 2 traditional Lough Neagh boats. A second phase of funding was provided for more equipment and materials.

Partners: Lough Neagh Heritage Boating Association, Awards for All, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Arts and crafts development, built heritage, preservation of local tradition.

Beneficiaries: Visitors, locals, water based recreation, boat builders.

Total project costs: £ 39,843
(LNSF £28,807, Leverage £11,036)



Diane McCormick Ceramics

A local artist who works with and teaches pottery was grant aided to purchase a pugmill which now allows her to recycle unused clay and make use of local clay found on her land. She has also being helped to produce an information booklet and develop a website to showcase local design.



Partners: Diane McCormick Ceramics, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Arts and crafts, local traditions, business development.

Beneficiaries: Visitors, schools, locals.

Total project costs: £ 7,062 (LNSF £3,531, Leverage £3,531)

Arts in the Wetlands

The South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association received funding for a major arts sculpture trail along the Lough Neagh Cycleway. This involved local people and contributed to the development of local townlands and the Loughshore Trail. It will actively encourage local people to understand and interpret their local landscape through art.

Partners: South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association, ACNI Lottery, Craigavon Borough Council Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Arts and crafts development, walking, cycling, tourism.

Beneficiaries: Visitors, locals, artists, community..

Total project costs: £ 257,167
(LNSF £50,000, Leverage £207,167)





Fisheries Support

Lough Neagh
Discover it for yourself!

The Lough Neagh Partnership worked with the commercial fishing industry on Lough Neagh to try to support safe and sustainable use of this valuable natural bounty as well as to try and look at adding value to local produce.

Commercial Fishermen Safety Project

The Lough Neagh Fishermens Association was assisted with the purchase of 20 sets of radar and radar reflectors to improve safety for eel fishermen on the Lough.

Partners: Lough Neagh Fishermens Association, Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Improved safety for fishermen.

Beneficiaries: Local community, water users, fishing industry, sand traders.

Total project costs: £ 19,274
(LNSF £14,455, Leverage £4,819)



Curran Quay Improvements



This fishing quay was upgraded with improvements to the access road and security for the benefit of the fishing industry and other users of the site.

Partners: Curran Quay Company Ltd., Lough Neagh Partnership.

Impact: Improved access, fishing industry.

Beneficiaries: Local community, water users, fishermen.

Total project costs: £ 24,208 (LNSF £14,978, Leverage £9,230)



Ram's Island





The Lough Neagh Partnership's Future

The Partnership has now allocated all of its funding to projects around the Lough and is now focussing on the promotion and marketing of these projects and the whole of the Lough Neagh wetlands area.

Additionally the Partnership has been cementing its ties with the statutory sector and local government to become more involved in the long-term management and development of the Lough Neagh area, tapping into new sources of funding and developing a long term strategy. In particular it intends to develop a co operation project for the Lough, as part of the new Rural Development programme.

After a long consultation period the Partnership has drawn up an extensive new sustainable development strategy for the Lough and has highlighted a number of new priorities.

Areas the Partnership wishes to focus on in the future include:

- The provision of a warden and dredging services on the Lough
- The improvement of navigation markers and safety facilities on the Lough
- The development of a major heritage programme
- The continued protection of the Lough's environment.
- The marketing & promotion of the Lough

The Partnership will continue to ensure that the interests of the people, visitors and environment are at the forefront of the decision making process.

You can see that the investment in the Lough has been very successful in creating tangible impacts and real benefits to people.

There is still plenty of work to do and the Lough Neagh Partnership intends to continue striving to achieve its vision of:

"Managing, conserving and enhancing the Lough Neagh Wetlands environment whilst developing economic and social opportunities for local people and visitors."

If you wish to contact the Lough Neagh Partnership, want to talk about a project or wish to discuss the sustainable development and future of the Lough Neagh Wetlands; please contact Gerry or Ben on **028 79417941** and have a look at the information on our website:

www.discoverloughneagh.com

Lough Neagh Partnership

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