

THE BELFAST HILLS MAP



BELFAST HILLS
GO EXPLORE

EXPERIENCE THE BELFAST HILLS



A mosaic of rolling hills, wooded river valleys and small fields make up the unique landscape of the Belfast Hills.

The Belfast Hills Partnership runs activities for all ages throughout the year, and publishes an events programme.

Pick up a programme from various public places including libraries, tourist offices and also see www.belfasthills.org

Featuring lovely trails with stunning views, forays into native flora and fauna and fascinating wildlife, habitat and biodiversity, there's lots to do and see when out and about in the Belfast Hills.

Enjoy gorgeous wildflower fields of bluebell and orchid, look out for rabbits, foxes and badgers. Spot birds like meadow pipits and skylarks. You might see Irish hare, red grouse or curlew, which are priority species earmarked in need of conserving.

The Belfast Hills also boast many archaeological sites revealing prehistoric Belfast Hills and farming off the land. They hold a rich industrial heritage along the rivers and streams that powered their mills.

So enjoying the great outdoors in the Belfast Hills is great for your health – and fabulous, cheap fun for all the family.



REMEMBER REGULAR WALKING AND EXERCISE HELPS KEEP YOUR HEART STRONG, MANAGES YOUR WEIGHT AND REDUCES ANXIETY

WALKING CODE



THE PARTNERSHIP ACTIVELY PROMOTES RESPONSIBLE COUNTRYSIDE ENJOYMENT AND HAS PUBLISHED AN ACCESS CODE

1.

PLAN AHEAD

know where to walk, what to wear and how to minimise waste

2.

BE SAFE

pay attention to signs, weather conditions and traffic levels

3.

UNDERSTAND ACCESS

know where you are allowed to go and leave gates as you find them

4.

MINIMISE IMPACT

take litter home, extinguish matches and cigarettes carefully, don't pollute water

5.

CONTROL DOGS

Please keep dogs on a lead especially near farm animals

6.

RESPECT THE COUNTRYSIDE

don't disturb or feed wildlife

7.

CONSIDER OTHERS

don't interfere with livestock, crops or machinery. Minimise noise

WORKING FOR YOU



The Belfast Hills Partnership undertakes a wide range of work including

- **Path improvements** including completion of the Divis summit trail and a new link from Ligoniel Park to Cave Hill Country Park
- **Promotional signage**, viewpoints and interpretative panels, production of maps, recreation and heritage guides
- **Hosting a series of events** throughout the year to encourage people to care for the Belfast Hills
- **Working with landowners** across the Belfast Hills to plant trees, rebuild hedgerows, and sowing wildflower meadows to encourage biodiversity
- A series of archaeology '**Big Digs**' involving local communities and schools
- **Erecting swift towers** to encourage swifts to establish nesting sites in the Belfast Hills
- **Releasing salmon and trout** into the waterways of the Belfast Hills
- **Tree planting** with volunteers to mitigate disease and improve the slopes of the Belfast Hills
- Installation of a **junior orienteering** course at Cave Hill for families to enjoy
- **Providing training courses** including biological and GPS surveying, practical conservation skills, walking in the hills and archaeological surveying
- **Teaching the early man** section of the curriculum, based on Belfast Hills history with a 'loan box' for schools.



PUBLIC SITES IN THE BELFAST HILLS



PUBLIC TRANSPORT
SEE OVERLEAF
(back panel)

LIGONIEL DAMS

Historic mill dams with dragonflies, bats and other amazing wildlife

BY CAR. (BT14 8EG) Westlink Clifton Street exit turn left. At roundabout take second exit onto Crumlin Road. After 2 miles turn left onto Ligoniel Road then left at Mill Avenue. Continue to Wolfhill Avenue South, onto Thornberry Road. Please consider residents when parking in this area.

Owned by and managed by Ligoniel Improvement Association

DIVIS & THE BLACK MOUNTAIN

This area of grassland, bog and heath provides stunning views from highest point in Belfast

BY CAR. (BT17 ONG) Leave M1 at Junction 2. Take the A55 (outer ring) signed Falls. Go straight across the first two roundabouts. From dual carriageway, turn left onto Upper Springfield Road. Continue for 2.5 miles. Shortly after national speed limit sign, turn right onto Divis Road (signposted). Entrance is half a mile along on the right hand side. Parking available.

Owned and managed by The National Trust

COLIN GLEN FOREST PARK

A walk along Colin River through a beautiful wooded glen

BY CAR. (BT17 OHW) Leave M1 at Junction 3, right onto Blacks Road to T-junction and turn left. Colin Glen is on the right. Free car parking.

Owned by the NI Environment Agency, managed by Colin Glen Trust

SLIEVENACLOY NATURE RESERVE

A hidden retreat of species-rich grassland, famous for its beautiful orchids in summer

BY CAR. (BT28 3XT) Leave M1 at Junction 3. Turn right off slip road under M1 bridge to the end of Blacks Road. At T-junction turn left then right at traffic lights onto Suffolk Road. Travel to end of road and turn left onto Glen Road. After 2.5 miles and just before Colin Glen Road filling station, turn right onto Ballycolin Road. After a half mile turn left onto Flowbog Road. Sign and entrance on right hand side. Parking on road.

Owned and managed by Ulster Wildlife

CAVE HILL COUNTRY PARK

A diverse mix of woodland, basalt cliffs, upland heath and the iconic caves

BY CAR. Belfast Castle (BT15 5GR) and Belfast Zoo (BT36 7PN) car parks. From Westlink exit Clifton Street, turning left. Take third exit at roundabout and follow signs along Antrim Road for Belfast Castle or Belfast Zoo. Upper Hightown Road (BT14 8RR) car park. From Clifton Street take second exit at roundabout onto Crumlin Road. Continue about 4 miles around Horseshoe Bend then right onto Upper Hightown Road. Car park is on right. Free car parking at all locations.

Owned and managed by Belfast City Council

CARNMONEY HILL

A pleasant woodland path leading to a viewpoint overlooking Belfast

BY CAR. (BT36 6BE) From M2, continue to M5. Follow sign for Carrickfergus, then left (signed Glengormley) onto Station Road. At mini roundabout exit straight onto O'Neill Road (B531) and take first right after traffic lights onto Knockneagh Avenue. Free parking at Rathfern social activity centre and children's play park.

Owned by Newtownabbey Borough Council, Managed by The Woodland Trust



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GET INVOLVED

The Partnership provides a host of volunteering activities including tree and hedge-planting, wildlife surveys, dry stone walling and wildflower meadow creation.



FRIEND OF THE BELFAST HILLS

Details on becoming a Friend are on our website - you can also call or email our office.

KEEP UP TO DATE

News and events are posted on our website where you can also sign up to receive our e-newsletter and e-alerts.

FOLLOW & LIKE US

Our Belfast Hills Partnership page is on Facebook and you can follow @Belfasthills on Twitter.



Visit us at www.belfasthills.org
Email us at info@belfasthills.org
Contact us on 028 9060 3466



PUBLIC TRANSPORT



An Agency within the Department of the

Environment

www.doeni.gov.uk



Belfast Hills Partnership
9 Social Economy Village
Hannahstown Hill
Belfast BT17 0XS

CAVE HILL COUNTRY PARK

Belfast Castle and Belfast Zoo -

Metro: Any number 1 bus from Upper Queen Street to Antrim Road.

Upper Cavehill Road - Metro: 61 Carr's Glen bus from Queen Street alight Ballysillan Road and walk along Upper Cavehill Road for 320m (400 yards) to access two pedestrian entrances.

Upper Hightown Road - Metro: 11A Silverstream bus. Walk 1 mile heading north on Ballysillan Park turning right onto Crumlin Rd/A52 before car park

LIGONIEL MILL DAMS

Metro 57/57A from Chichester

Street or Royal Avenue, alighting Mill Avenue. Continue to Wolfhill Avenue South, onto Thornberry Road and Thornberry Mews.

CARNMONEY HILL

Metro from Upper Queen Street.

Routes 2C/2D/2E/2H/13/13C/14/14C, alight Whiteabbey Hospital. Walk 300m Doagh Road countrybound. Turn left into Knockenagh Avenue and walk uphill to children's play park.

DIVIS AND THE BLACK MOUNTAIN

Ulsterbus 106 between Belfast and Crumlin via Hannahstown, alight Upper Springfield Road at hairpin bend stop. Backtrack about 1km citybound along the road. You will see this junction: and the National Trust brown sign nearby. Walk 800m up Divis Road.

COLIN GLEN FOREST PARK

Metro 10C/10D/10G/10H from Queen Street, Belfast. West Belfast Taxi Association from King Street, Belfast.

*Routes correct at time of print.
Ensure you check timetables before setting out at www.translink.co.uk

Tel: 028 9060 3466
www.belfasthills.org

