

Belfast Countryside - Access statement

Introduction

The Belfast countryside is made up of a range of woodland, coastal and hillside properties. The walking routes are mainly gravel and grass paths with undulating terrain.

The Belfast Countryside sites are as follows;

- [Divis & the Black Mountain](#)
- [Minnowburn](#)
- [Lisnabreeny & Cregagh Glen](#)
- [Islandmagee](#)
- [Glenoe Waterfall](#)

Arrival and Parking Facilities

Divis & the Black Mountain

How to get here:

- **Address:** Divis Road, Hannahstown, near Belfast, County Antrim, BT17 ONG
- **By road:** Minor road off the B38 Upper Springfield Road, off the A55 Outer Ring
- **By bus:** Ulsterbus 106 (Crumlin) from Europa Bus Station. Alight at Divis Road.
- **By train:** Great Victoria Street Railway Station, opposite the National Trust Crown Bar in Belfast City Centre. Bus connection at railway station (Europa Bus Centre); connect to Ulsterbus no. 106, between Belfast and Crumlin. For more information visit the Translink website <https://www.translink.co.uk/>
- **On foot:** A continuous walking trail links the Lagan Valley Regional Park in South Belfast to the summits of Divis and the Black Mountain
- Cycle information can be found here <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network/>

Parking:

- Free parking. We have limited spaces, so if the car park is full please come back another time. Please respect residents and do not park outside approved areas.
- Mobility parking spaces available. Wheelchair-accessible kissing gates to mountain.
- The Divis Road leads to the two parking areas. Parking spaces are gravel.
- Please be aware of oncoming traffic.

Minnowburn:

- **Address:** Edenderry Road, Belfast, County Down, BT8 8LE
- **By cycle:** From National Cycle Network Route 9, cross over to the south side of the river at Shaw's Bridge or the Gilchrist Bridge and look for the National Trust signs.
[Cycle route information](#)

- **On foot:** From Shaw's Bridge or the Lagan towpath, cross over to the south side of the river and look for the National Trust signs.
- **By train:** 2 miles from Balmoral Station. Follow Musgrave Park Court to the A55 (Stockman's Lane) and turn right. Follow the A55 (Stockman's Lane and Balmoral Avenue) for about 1 mile to the Malone Road and turn right. Walk along the Malone Road for about 1 mile, taking the left branch of the roundabout (A55) to Shaw's Bridge. Turn right onto the Ballylesson Road, then right onto the Edenderry Road.
- **By road:** From North/Belfast: From A55 Malone/Milltown Road, in south Belfast, at Shaw's Bridge, follow the brown signs, turning off onto the Ballylesson Road, then right onto the Edenderry Road. The car park is just over the bridge. From South/Lisburn: On the B23 Hillhall/Ballylesson Road, take the first left fork signposted 'Giant's Ring', then straight on, turning left onto the Edenderry Road after about 1 mile. The car park is just over the bridge.
- **SatNav:** Edenderry Road is Sat Nav postcode BT8 8LD
- **By bus:** From the Europa Buscentre in the centre of Belfast, take either routes 13D or 513 and stop on the Malone/Milltown Road near Shaw's Bridge. Follow the path under Shaw's bridge on the south of the river Lagan.

Parking

- Parking is free. You don't need to book but parking space is limited. Car parking spaces are tarmac

Lisnabreeny & Cregagh Glen

How to get here:

- **Address:** Manse Road, Belfast, County Down, BT8 6SA
- **By road:** From Belfast/East: From the A55 Upper Knockbreda Road, take the A23 Ballygown Road. After 3/4 mile, turn right onto the Manse Road. After 1/2 mile, turn left onto the Lisnabreeny Road. The car park is at the top of the hill on the right. The Manse Road entrance is beside Lagan College. From Belfast/South/West: From the A55 Upper Knockbreda Road, take the Glencregagh Road past Forster Green Hospital and at the end, turn left on to the Manse Road.
- **SatNav:** Sat Nav postcode for Manse Road is BT8 6SA.
- **By bus:** Metro services 6A, 30, 31 stop near Cregagh Glen entrance on A55. 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 76, 79 to Four Winds terminal.
- **By cycle:** About 4 miles from Sustrans route 99. Follow the A55 Upper Knockbreda Road.
- **On foot:** Accessible through Cregagh Glen from the A55 at the top of the Cregagh Road. Entrance on the Manse Road is a 1/2 mile walk from the bus terminal at Four Winds.

Parking:

- Our small car park on Lisnabreeny Road. We have limited spaces, so if the car park is full please come back another time. No parking on Manse Road or at Cregagh Glen entrance on A55.
- Parking spaces are gravel.

Islandmagee

How to get here:

- **Address:** Portmuck Road, Islandmagee, County Antrim, BT40 3TP
- **By ferry:** Monday-Friday 7:45 to 9am and 4pm to 5pm if requested. Telephone (028) 2827 3785 or (028) 2827 4085. £2 per person, each way
- **By road:** Take the A2 from Larne to Whitehead, then turn left at the B90 to Islandmagee

Parking:

- There is public parking at Brown's Bay and Portmuck Harbour. The parking spaces are tarmac. Although we look after these special places, these car parks are not owned by the National Trust.

Glenoe Waterfall

How to get here:

- **Address:** Waterfall Road, Gleno, County Antrim, BT40 3LE
- **By cycle:** Proposed [National Cycle Network Route 93](#) will pass through Glenoe village
- **On foot:** The waterfall is about a 330 feet (100m) walk from the main street in Glenoe village
- **By train:** Nearest train station is Glynn, approximately 3 miles north of Glenoe village
- **By road:** Entrances to the car parks are on Waterfall Road, B99, 5 miles south of Larne off the A2 Causeway Coastal Route
- **By bus:** Ulsterbus routes 162B and 170B pass through Glenoe village

Parking:

- Two small car parks accessible from B99
- Parking spaces are gravel

Food & Beverage

The Café Barn at Divis & the Black Mountain

The Café Barn is situated beside the upper carpark. There is a long walk along a gravel path from the lower car park. Visitors are advised to use this path and avoid walking up the road as vehicles have access to this area.

There is two points of public access to the Barn café. For wheelchair access, enter through the door on the road facing side of the barn. This door is 110cm wide with a paved area leading to it for access. Both doors will be propped open during opening hours.



There is a large step into the barn on the car park facing side. Please watch your head when entering as the door is quite low. The door is 88cm wide. There is no wheelchair access to the public areas on this side of the barn.

The connecting door between the café and seating area is 92cm wide. There is enough space to turn a wheelchair in both areas.



The café counter height is 90cm. There is a lowered counter level of 70cm to assist wheelchair users. Staff will also assist visitors as required.

There is circulation space between tables ranging from 95cm to 155cm. There is enough space to turn a wheelchair.

Menu boards are written in large print.

Minnowburn

Refreshments available from Piccolo Mondo coffee and pizza van in Minnowburn Car Park from 8.30 to 15.00 from Tuesday to Friday and 8.30 to 16.00 on Saturday and Sunday.

This is an external vendor.

This is no food and beverage offer at the remaining Belfast Countryside sites.

WC

There are 2 WCs in the Barn Café on Divis & the Black Mountain. The doors are 92cm wide and open outwards. They are both fitted with emergency pull chords.

Both toilets are fitted with electric hand dryers.

There are baby changing facilities in one of the WCs.

There are no WCs at the remaining Belfast Countryside sites.

[There are toilet facilities at Brown's Bay and Portmuck Harbour. They are not maintained by the National Trust]

Terrain & Pathways

Things to consider:

The surfaces at the Belfast Countryside places are largely made up of uneven ground in places, various surfaces, mainly gravel, grass or woodbark. Please be aware there are steps and steep slopes which will not be suitable for wheelchair users.

The following examples are site specific:

Divis & the Black Mountain

The paths are a mixture of gravel, road, grass and boardwalk. We advise keeping to the path network. Much of the mountain is bog and can present unseen hazards such as deep depressions, loose ground and marshy areas.



The area has wheelchair-accessible kissing gates to mountain. There are very steep inclines on all trails to be aware of.

Pathways are assessed for health and safety regularly and routine maintenance is conducted where necessary.

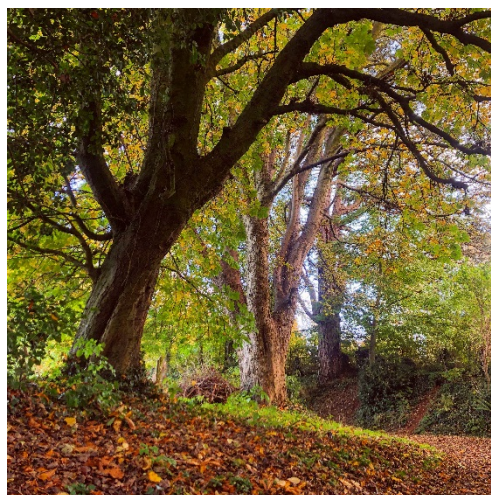
Minnowburn

Pathways are made up of various surfaces, mainly gravel, grass or woodbark.

There are steep steps in places most notably from the car park leading to Terrace Hill Garden. For visitors with mobility issues recommend taking the Terrace Hill Trail to avoid the steps, however, be aware there are steep inclines in places. The paths are mainly gravel with undulating terrain. Please be aware there is a small pond on this route and parts of the path follow the river. The trail is 1.4km



There is also access to Terrace Hill Garden via the Ballynahatty Road. This is the most suitable access point for wheelchair users. There is a pedestrian access gate facing the Sandpit field. The path is gravel with a gentle slope.



Terrace Hill Garden is mainly grass surface with paved areas. There are seating areas for rest.

The Riverside trail is a mix of gravel and tarmac paths. The trail is 2.5km long with a few shallow gradients. Please be aware, the path follows the river so may at times be slippery. Exercise caution when close to the banks. This route is wheelchair accessible.



Suggested routes are marked on the map in the car park.

In autumn fallen leaves may make pathways slippery.

Pathways are assessed for health and safety regularly and routine maintenance is conducted where necessary.

Lisnabreeny & Cregagh Glen

This is a linear route, 1.5 miles in length which returns by way of the same path. Care should be taken if crossing the Upper Knockbreda Road – this is a busy dual carriageway.

The paths may not be hard and firm in all weathers with occasional tree roots and loose stones. The paths are very steep for most of the walk. There is a mixture of gravel paths, board walk and steep wooden steps. The paths can be slippery so exercise caution. There are steep steps throughout Cregagh Glen.



The path follows the Glen River. Exercise caution on the water's edge. At certain points you can choose to follow the main path which is steeper or smaller paths that hug the river itself. The paths are at least 80cm in width for the trail's entire length. Watch out for loose gravel and hidden obstacles, especially after inclement weather.

To enter Lisnabreeny, you can choose to go under the Manse Road via a wide tunnel or cross the Manse Road itself. Please exercise caution when crossing this busy road. Traffic lights are available. They are visible from the exit to Cregagh Glen.

The paths in Lisnabreeny are mainly gravel or unsurfaced. These paths can be slippery at times so exercise caution. While the wooded area is not as steep as Cregagh Glen the paths may still prove channels for visitors with mobility issues.



Leading to the rath you will follow a very steep gravel path through several gates. This part of the walk can be challenging. There is an area for rest overlooking Belfast after a steep climb. The gravel path then continues to the rath.



As this site is predominately steep with undulating terrain, it is not recommended for users with mobility issues.

Pathways are assessed for health and safety regularly and routine maintenance is conducted where necessary.

Islandmagee

Brown's Bay is a 600m wide horseshoe shaped bay. Access to the beach is via a set of steps at one end and a gentle ramp for wheelchair access at the other. The terrain is a mixture of loose sand, stones and pebbles. There is also a wide grassy area that is suitable for a wheelchair to sit.



A gravel path to the right of the car park (looking out to sea) leads to Skernaghan point. This path is uneven and steep in places and may not be suitable for visitors with mobility issues. You will come across a gate which follows the path into a large grassy field overlooking the bay. The ground here can be uneven and is not always firm underfoot.



Skernaghan Point is made up of rocky and uneven surfaces. The terrain undulates and can be very steep at times. Exercise caution when crossing the rocks. Be aware of unexpected waves when close to the water's edge. Be aware of slippery, wet surfaces, rock pools and seaweed. This area is not recommended for visitors with mobility issues.

Portmuck is situated 5km from Brown's Bay. It is reached via a very steep 1km road from Mullaghboy which is not suitable for buses or heavy vehicles.

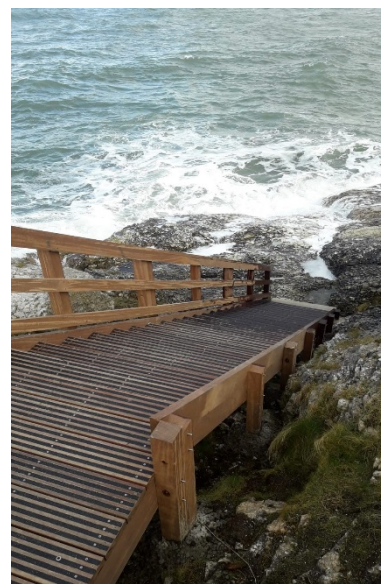
There are picnic tables available and areas for wheelchair users to be situated.

Be aware of unexpected waves when close to the waters edge. The surfaces may be wet and slippery so exercise caution whilst in the harbour.

There is a walk either side of the harbour. To the left a grassy, unsurfaced cliffside path. Access to the path is extremely steep, uneven and can be very slippery. It is not always firm underfoot. There is a fence on either side of the path upon the clifftop although exercise caution as there are sheer drops to one side. Return to the car park via the same route. Take care not to slip or trip when coming down of the cliff path. This area is not recommended for visitors with mobility issues.



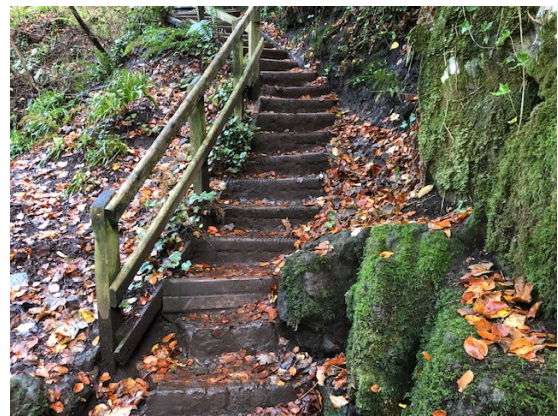
To the right, a series of steep steps lead up to views of the harbour. These steps can be slippery at time so exercise caution. The steps then lead down onto the rocks. The terrain here is uneven. Be aware of unexpected waves. This area is not recommended for visitors with mobility issues.



It is recommended you check the weather before travelling and be aware of changing tides. Information can be found on www.metoffice.gov.uk

Glenoe Waterfall

The paths are a mixture of uneven gravel paths and unsurfaced terrain. They can be very slippery at times. On both sides of the waterfall you will find very steep wooden steps that are often very slippery. Please exercise caution. This area is not recommended for visitors with mobility issues however the waterfall can be viewed from the path leading from the car park. Please be aware that turning a wheelchair may be challenging so assess your ability to do so carefully.



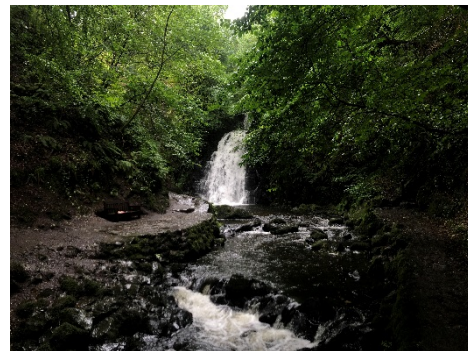
On both sides of the waterfall there is fencing along the waters edge. Please do not climb the fence and exercise caution as the path can be slippery and not firm underfoot. On the upper path, there is a sheer drop so do not lean over the fence.



Exercise caution when at the waters edge. The paths here are stone and can be extremely slippery. In autumn the path is often covered by fallen leaves. Be aware of unseen obstacles. There is a wooden bridge that crosses the glen. Do not lean over the bridge.



There is an emergency throwline available for emergencies. It is located beside the bridge on the fence.



The water is fast flowing and hides large sharp rocks under the surface. Swimming is not recommended. Do not jump into the unknown.

If arriving on foot, please exercise caution on the roads. Try to remain visible and stay off the road.

Further information

Please check the weather before travelling to the places we look after. You can do this on www.metoffice.gov.uk

In the interest of safety, children should be supervised at all times. Dogs must be kept on leads.

Please check our property websites for updates before travelling. Links can be found in the introduction.

For more information please contact us belfast@nationaltrust.org.uk