

From: Nodlaig Ní Bh
Sent: 25 August 2026 21:12
To: Planning
Cc: Save Benbradagh
Subject: Brishey Wind Farm - Investigation of Pathways
Attachments: Benbradagh Pathways Investigation .pdf

RE: Planning Application LA01/2023/0008/F

A Chairde,
please find attached a list of documentary evidence in respect of the pathways over Benbradagh mountain.

Elderly citizens of excellent standing who have lived all of their lives in Dungiven, have provided testimonials in respect of the unrestricted access to Benbradagh going back to the early 1900's (in living memory). A video testimonial has already been provided and other testimonies will be submitted by way of Affidavit by end of this week.

The Environment and Heritage Service (DAERA) published guidance in 2022 in respect of the Council's duty to assert public rights of way in the countryside. Priority should be given to routes based on the following factors:

- Length of route
- Scenic attractiveness
- Links to sites of tourist interest
- Likely levels of usage
- Inclusion within a network of paths or long-distance routes.

These factors ALL apply to Benbradagh mountain, and the Council must therefore prioritise the assertion of these pathways. Furthermore, the Council has allocated resource in developing and maintaining the pathways over decades and secured public funding from Northern State, Department of Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs and the European Union. The Council must fulfill its fiduciary duty to ensure proper management and safeguarding of public resources.

The pathways should have been asserted in line with the Council's own guidance dated 8 January 2019:

[https://causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/ITEM_6 -
_190108 LD Public Rights of Way.pdf](https://causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/ITEM_6_-_190108_LD_Public_Rights_of_Way.pdf)

Is mise,
Nodlaig Ní Bhrollaigh
Save Benbradagh

Ordinance Survey Memoirs of Ireland, Parishes of Co. Londonderry IV 1824, 1833-5

Roe Valley Upper: Dungiven

The Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast

Page 10 – New road projected from Dungiven to Garvagh passing over the steep face of Benbradagh and 'shortening' the distance nearly a mile.

Page 51 – Chalk with flints and the usual fossil shells in townlands (Brishey/ Curraghlane) is now rendered accessible by a road up the face of the mountain.

Page 53- Excerpt - A new road has been projected from Dungiven to Garvagh, passing over Benbradagh and shortening the distance by 3 miles. The most difficult part of the undertaking, namely the ascent up the mountain, has been for some years executed at the expense of Mr Ogilby to facilitate the access to the valuable deposit of white limestone there situated.

Page 65- that new line of road from Dungiven to the top of Binbradden is made partly with gravel and partly with broken stones.

Skinnners Estate Map 1853 marking:

i) road up and over the mountain

ii) pathway to the peak of Benbradagh

An Bheann Fhada (Song) Source: Dhá Chéad de Cheoltaibh Uladh

Published by Clóchuallacht Chathail Teoranta, Dublin (1st Edition 1934)

Song collected in 1834 by John O'Donovan from James Feary a great poet whose poems are still very popular in the Benedy Glen and Glenullin. (Highlights connection of communities over Benbradagh mountain.)

Ordinance Survey Map 1902

<https://maps.nls.uk/view/247942173>

Gleanings of Ulster History by Micheal Ó Ceallaigh published by the Ballinascreen Historical Society, 1994

The Foreword was written in 1950 in which he reflects on a perfect summer's day, as a teenager reclining on Benbradagh hillside with Dungiven at his feet and looking across Lough Foyle to Inishowen.

The Second Book of Dungiven published in 2002.

All editions of the Benbradagh magazine/ Winding River Roe from 1971-2000

Contains many references in relation to the importance of Benbradagh to the community and its use as a public amenity. The earlier editions over many decades are entitled "Benbradagh" and have a drawing of the mountain on the front cover. This highlights the centrality of Benbradagh to the community and our sense of identity.

<http://www.thewindingroe.com>

1977 Spring 1977 No. 7 'The View from the Top' by Gordon C. Grimm, Chief Engineer, US Navy.

An account of walking to the peak of Benbradagh over a four-year period. A detailed description of the view, peace and contentment from the peak. "The view from the top is a gift that I will carry with me forever".

1989 No.19 "I was happy at Dungiven" by Dr. James Deeny, GP in the 1930's and became Chief Medical Adviser to the Dept. of Health in Dublin.

As a young man remembers walking up the mountain and over to the peak. (page 6)

1995 No.25 “Prince of Hills” by Pádraig Kealey page 6.

1996 No. 26 “Life in Brishey in days gone” by Patsy McCloskey (Harry) page 6. Account of working in Brishey in the 1930’s and access to Benbradagh.

Dungiven Days by A.V. Bunn 1978 page 43 & page 52

Benbradagh

Use of Benbradagh by Shane Crossagh, the highway man.

Road built in 1814 to quarry limestone that was improved in 1960.

Walking the Ulster Way by Alan Warner published by the Appletree Press Ltd. (1983/1989) and maps published therein by Kilian McDaid

CC&G: Peace Plus Local Action Plan Report, November 2023

November 2023 - report

https://causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/uploads/general/231121_LD_Item_5_-_PEACE_Plus_Local_Action_Plan.pdf

May 2024 - funding secured

<https://www.explorecausewaycoastandglens.com/blog/peaceplus-partnership-secures-6-1million-to-deliver-23-projects>

February 2025 - launch

<https://www.seupb.eu/latest/news/causeway-coast-and-glens-peaceplus-local-action-plan-launches-ps61million-funding>

Project description on CC&G website

<https://causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/development-of-benbradagh>

CC&G: 10 Year Benbradagh Masterplan approved by Leisure & Development in October 2024

<https://causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/maps/BenbradaghMasterplan.pdf>

Physical markers on the landscape:

- Old American Road (tarmacked)
 - Pathway to the peak mostly tarmacked
 - All other pathways either gravel or trodden paths from use or over open mountain
 - Stiles
 - Way faring signage
 - Way Markers
 - Signage at Dungiven Sports Centre
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International Appalachian Trail (IAT)

CC&G Announcement- Appalachian Trail Improvements, 20th April 2021

<https://causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/news/mayor-welcomes-progress-on-international-appalachian-trail-improvements>

CC&G: Physical Signage with map installed by CC&G at Dungiven Sports Centre in 2023

Sperrins Partnership Project- International Appalachian Trail is identified as a “Key project” for the Sperrins AONB.

<https://sperrinspartnershipproject.com/iat/>

Sperrins Partnership Video on CC&G YouTube Channel – Mark Fielding Mayor of CC&G 3rd August 2021 speaks about the future of Benbradagh following the Sperrins Future Search Conference held in 2017 where key stakeholders came together to create an action plan, “Reaching new heights, realising our potential”.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFz_Q2o2YQw&authuser=0

International Appalachian Trail (IAT) – Online Map showing trail from Dungiven to Castlerock incorporating the North Sperrins Way over Benbradagh mountain exiting at the Legavallon Road or Gelvin (Labelled the ‘Tannyranny walk’)

As part of the trail, the pathway to the peak is marked as well as the loop trail that can be accessed from the top of the Curragh Road or Boviel Road.

<https://iatulsterireland.com/short-walks/>

WALK NI Description & Map

Description: From Dungiven the route climbs over Benbradagh and onto the American Road, which was constructed in 1967 by the US Navy to provide access to the US Naval Communication Centre on the summit of this mountain.

<https://walkni.com/walks/dungiven-to-castlerock-incorporating-the-north-sperrins-way/>

Visit Causeway Coast & Glens Website: Map & information

<https://www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com/things-to-do/the-international-appalachian-trail-iat-ulster-ireland-p834571>

The Ulster Way

The Ulster way was originally created by Wilfrid Capper MBE in 1946

WALK NI website

<https://walkni.com/short-walks/>

The Heritage Council Website: Map

<https://www.heritagemaps.ie/datasets/heritagecouncil::the-ulster-way-full-route/explore?location=54.423041%2C-6.672762%2C0.00>

The Ireland Way Website: Map & description

<https://www.theirelandway.ie/ulsterway.html>

Visit Causeway Coast & Glens Website: Map & information

<https://www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com/things-to-do/ulster-way-p834831>

NORTH SPERRINS WAY

Causeway Coast & Glens Website:

"Within the Borough there are three long distance Waymarked Ways: The Causeway Coast Way, The Moyle Way and The **North Sperrins** Way."

<https://causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/see-do/sports-activities/walking>

North Sperrins Way: Route information & Map

<https://www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com/things-to-do/north-sperrins-way-p794361>

Benbradagh is identified as a point of interest on the North Sperrins Way:

"Benbradagh standing at 465m, Benbradagh offers beautiful 360-degree views of the surrounding countryside and is the second most northerly summit of the Sperrin mountains."

Benbradagh Circular Walk

All Trails – Information & Map

"Rising sharply above the town of Dungiven, Benbradagh (from the Irish Beann Bhradach, meaning "Thievish Peak") is famous for its steep basalt escarpment and the incredible "big sky" views it offers across the Roe Valley, the Inishowen Peninsula, and even toward the Scottish coast on a clear day."

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/northern-ireland/londonderry/benbradagh-circular>

Trips.ie

<https://trips.ie/benbradagh/>

Lesser Spotted Ulster, 1998

Evidence of use by carriage over the mountain before road upgraded by US military.

<https://digitalfilmarchive.net/media/lesser-spotted-ulster-series-3-episode-7550>

PRONI Ordnance Survey Maps

<https://osni-spatialni.hub.arcgis.com/apps/3a4d3f74d60540f590df7bdfce983a27/explore>

1829- 1835

1838-1862

1916-1957

1952-1967

1957-1986
