



Nature & Environmental Protection

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- Nature & Environment Protection Group
- Opportunities & risks from Brexit
- Key Asks
- Current & future work

Nature & Environment Protection Group

Working together to ensure protection for nature and the environment is as strong, if not stronger, after Brexit.

Broad representation:

- RSPB
- National Trust
- Ulster Wildlife
- Butterfly Conservation
- Buglife
- NIEL
- Friends of the Earth
- NI Bat Group
- Ulster Angling Federation
- Loughs Agency
- Queens University



Brexit: risks & opportunities

- Opportunity to shape the future direction of environmental protection in NI.
- Bank EU environmental protections in UK/NI legislation.
- Build on this going forward.

Immediate Risks

- Environment not seen as a priority
- Protections lost during transition
- Governance Gap
- Loss of funding
- Regulatory divergence with ROI

Key Asks

- As a minimum, maintain existing standards of protection for nature & the environment.
- Strong, accountable & independent system of environmental governance in NI.
- Maintain & extend network of protected areas.

Key Asks

- Funding is maintained to support environment & nature projects.
- Island of Ireland recognised as single biogeographic unit & frameworks in place to ensure continued cross-border cooperation.

Current Work

- Withdrawal Bill:
 - Understanding implications for NI
 - E-action – over 25,000 participated so far
 - Proposed amendments
- Raise awareness: stakeholders, decision makers & public.

Future Direction

- Monitor amendments to NI legislation
- Identify & campaign for robust governance
- Work across border & within UK on common frameworks of environmental legislation
- Influence future Programme for Government

Prepare for the worst, expect the best

- Realistic aims – just a question of political will.
- Need to work effectively together across sectors.
- Open to ideas, suggestions for further work.