



Protect Nature

Caring for Our National Park Together



Páirceanna Náisiúnta
National Parks

Protect Nature

Protecting nature is the main aim of a National Park. Conservation work goes hand in hand with responsible outdoor recreation. You can help play your part by using this booklet and following these useful tips to make sure your visit is a meaningful one.

Do your bit for the environment and pass this booklet on to a friend or another visitor to reuse.





A place to learn

National Parks are leaders in Conservation Education. Our aim is to inspire all our visitors to get to know, care for and protect our landscape and its biodiversity. We believe that by offering learning and education programmes, people of all ages can leave the National Park better informed of the wonder and value of the natural world. Watch out for nature events and information during your visit and talk to our Guides along our trails.





Ask us how we protect nature

Everything we do in the National Park is based on the principle that nature comes first. Protecting and restoring habitats and engaging children, teenagers and adults in learning about our environment are core pieces of our work.

All our staff provide a safe, welcoming and enjoyable place for you to explore and enjoy. They preserve the heritage of the castle and gardens and wider landscape, forever guided by the “protect nature” ethos. Talk to our staff on your visit; we love to share our knowledge and stories about our work.





Appreciate Wildlife

Keep your distance from the Red Deer in Glenveagh. Allow wild animals to roam free and avoid getting too close to take photos. Never encourage wild animals with human food.

Lough Veagh is a protected habitat and a home to rare fish and birdlife. Enjoy the spectacular views and take only photos, drawings and videos, but do not enter the water. We encourage you to keep dogs on leads at all times. The hills and quiet grassy areas can be places where nesting birds lay their young so avoid disturbance as you pass by.





Let everyone's visit be special

National Parks are often places where people come to find peace and tranquillity. Think about when you plan to visit Glenveagh, avoiding busy times can help reduce impacts on the environment and also make your visit more enjoyable.

The sounds of nature are a valuable part of mental health and wellbeing – be mindful of other people on the trails or sitting on benches, as you pass by.

Give way to others who need that little bit of extra space or time. Not everyone who comes here is travelling fast or far.





Hike and Bike on established trails

Our paths are here for a reason – to direct you in the best possible way and make sure your visit is safe, enjoyable and causes minimal impact on nature.

Our plant and animal life here is fragile so if you do step off and leave the trails, remember to do so with care. With more people visiting than ever before we want to protect our landscape from erosion and damage.





Think about your waste

Before you come to Glenveagh, think about what you really need and limit anything that could end up as litter.

Use our designated bin and recycling points and where possible take your litter home.

Plan your walk and travels allowing for time to use toilet facilities. Human waste in the outdoors is damaging to sensitive soils, waterways, plants and animal life.





RESSLITE



Something you might not think of

Be aware of Invasive species plants. The *Rhododendron ponticum* plant poses the most threat to our landscape both here in Glenveagh and in other parts of Ireland too. Avoid picking it and be aware of carrying its seeds elsewhere on your footwear.





Protecting nature also means recording it

Having records of what nature we have and how it is changing is more important than ever. This work is done by the National Biodiversity Data Centre along with National Parks & Wildlife Service. Did you know anyone can help by being a 'Citizen Scientist'? You can record the plants and animals you see during your visit to the National Park by visiting www.biodiversityireland.ie for more information and help take records for your local area and community.

Talk to our Rangers or Education staff if you want to learn more about this work.





Keep this bookmark as a memory of your day
in Glenveagh National Park.

This the Green Veined White Butterfly. Did
you know there are 25 resident species of
butterflies recorded in County Donegal.

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in Glenveagh National Park.

Did you know Glenveagh is the second largest
National Park in Ireland.

