

# **Comber Greenway**

A Cycle Highway as an Attractive Mobility Product

Gordon Clarke  
National Director for Northern Ireland  
and the Republic of Ireland

# DEFINITIONS

## CYCLING SUPERHIGHWAY- TfL

Cycling Superhighways are cycle routes running from outer London into and across central London. They give you safer, faster and more direct journeys into the city and could be your best and quickest way to get to work.

## CYCLE HIGHWAY

“A Cycle Highway is a mobility product that provides a high quality functional cycling connection. As a backbone of a cycle network, it connects cities and or suburbs, residential areas and major (work)places and it satisfies its potential users.”

## QUIETWAYS - TfL

Will be a network of radial & orbital cycle routes throughout London. Linking key destinations they will follow backstreet routes through parks along waterways or tree-lined streets.

The routes will overcome barriers to cycling, targeting cyclists who want to use quieter low-traffic routes providing an environment for those cyclists who want to travel at a more gentle pace.

## GREENWAYS – Department for Infrastructure

Greenways are traffic-free routes connecting communities to all kinds of destinations for commuting, everyday journeys or leisure & recreation.

**Comber Greenway – more than a cycling highway?**

**Cycling – more than a journey to work?**



# COMBER GREENWAY QUESTIONNAIRE

## A Cycle Highway as an Attractive Mobility Product

### "My Journey to Work" – What is important

<b>PRACTICAL</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
It is attractive			I enjoy the landscape/townscape		
It is safe			I can smell the flowers		
It is easy to follow			I can hear the birds		
It saves me money			It is fun		
It is good for my health			I feel the sun, the wind & the rain		
It is good for the environment			I speak to others		
It is direct and fast			I have time to think		
<b>Please place in order of importance 1-7</b>			<b>Please place in order of importance 1-7</b>		

**Column A before the discussion. Column B after the discussion.**

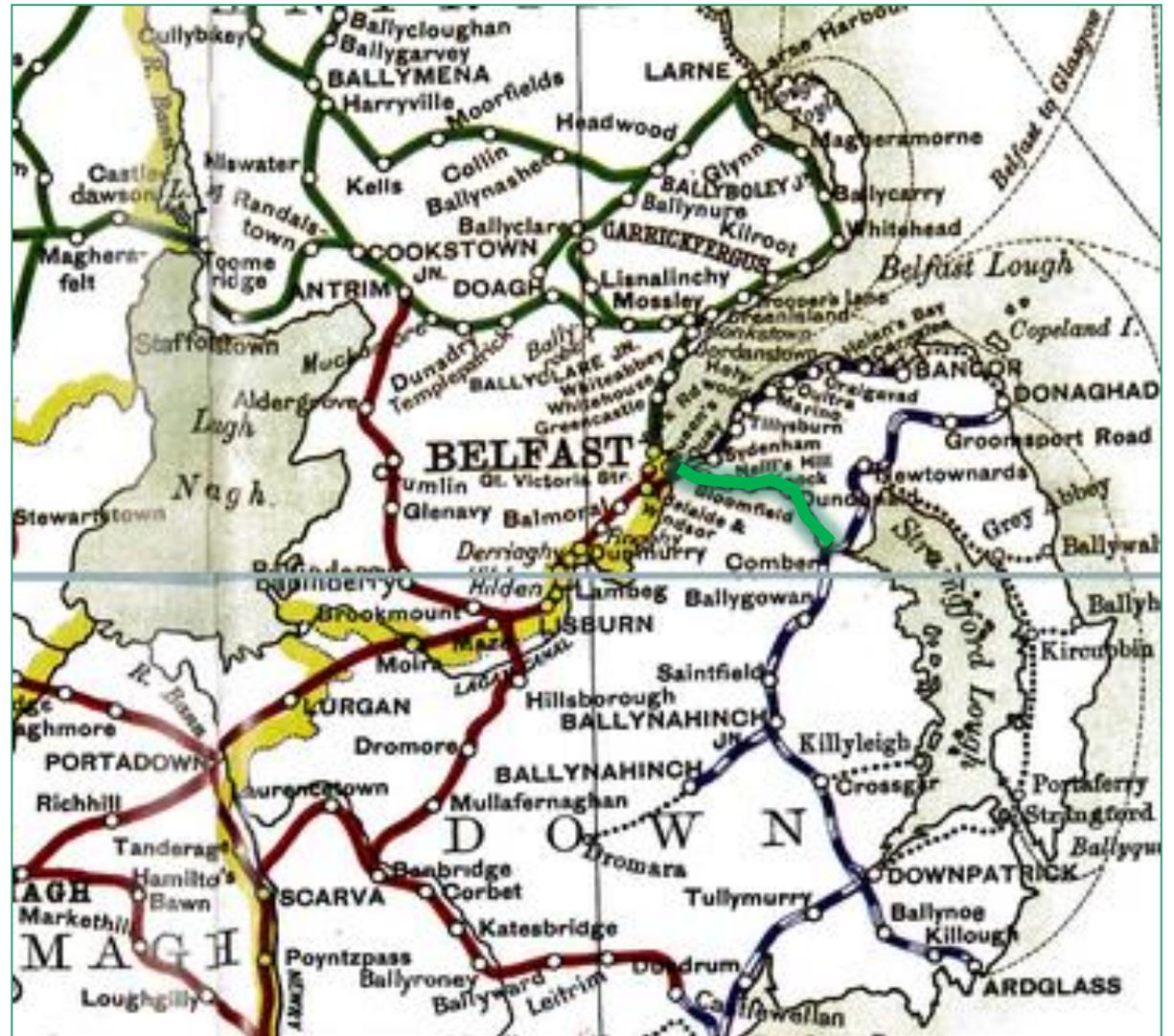
Which group is more important to you - practical or experience? Tick the relevant box.

Practical   
Experience

After discussion review your choice and tick the relevant box.

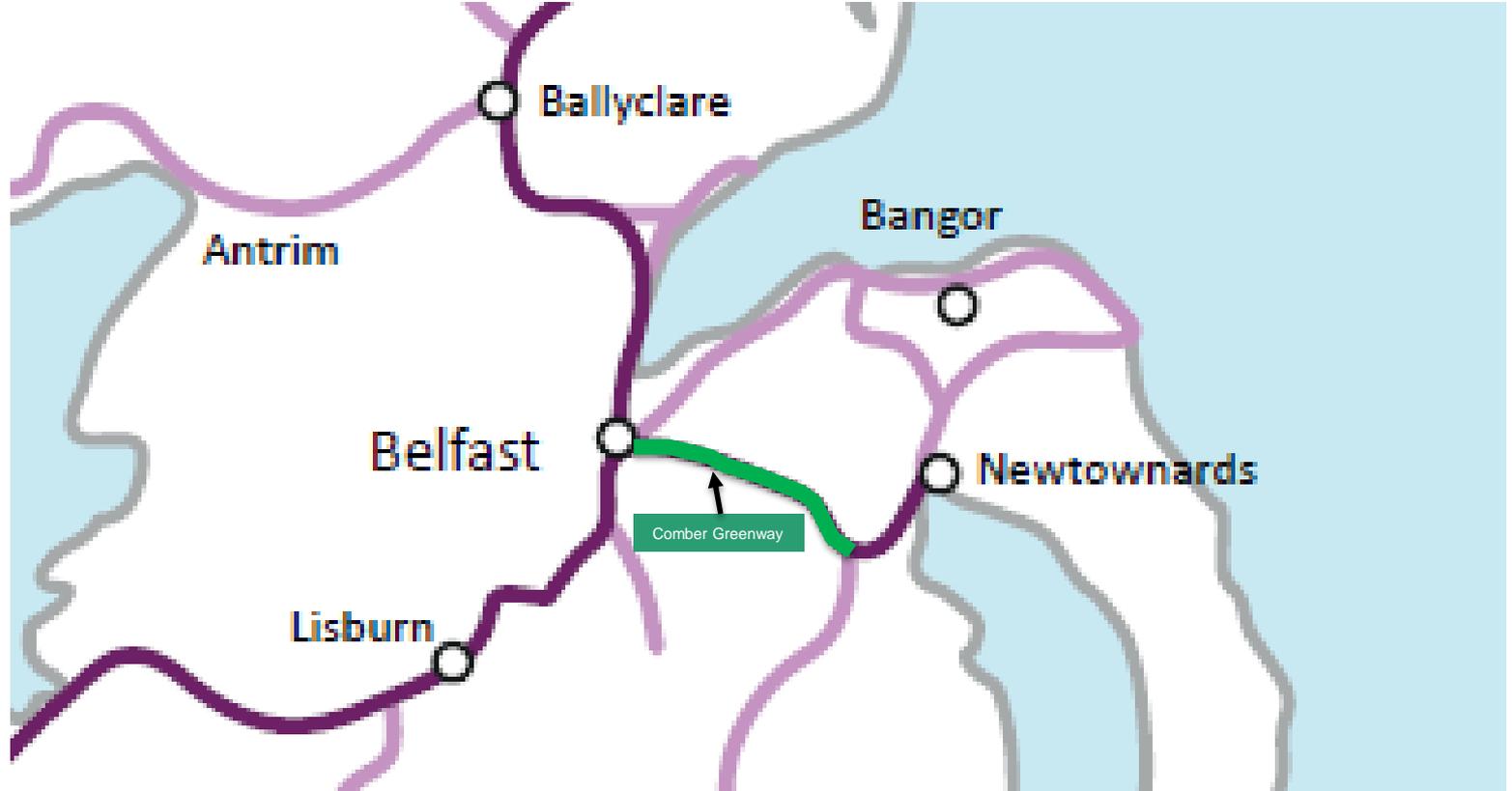
Practical   
Experience

# Map of Former Railway Network



# A Strategic Plan for a Greenway Network

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# Comber Greenway

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# THE NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK – USER GROUPS

62% Male

11% 65+,

53% Leisure

33% Commuting

Commuter



Local Leisure



Sports Cyclists



Walkers and others



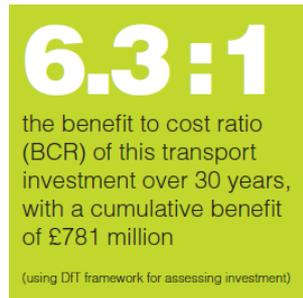
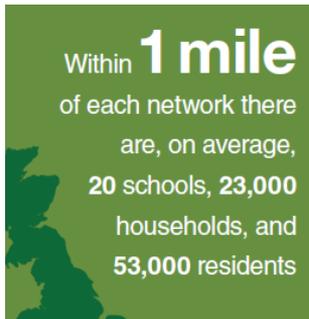
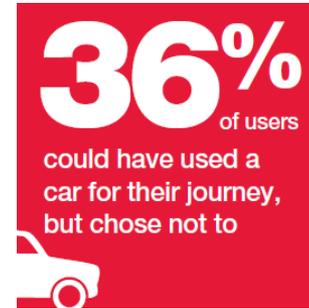
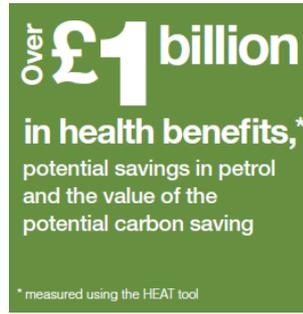
Cycling Tourists



Tourists that cycle

54% CYCLING – 46% WALKING

# National Cycle Network Key Findings



# The Comber Greenway



7 miles of traffic free tranquillity

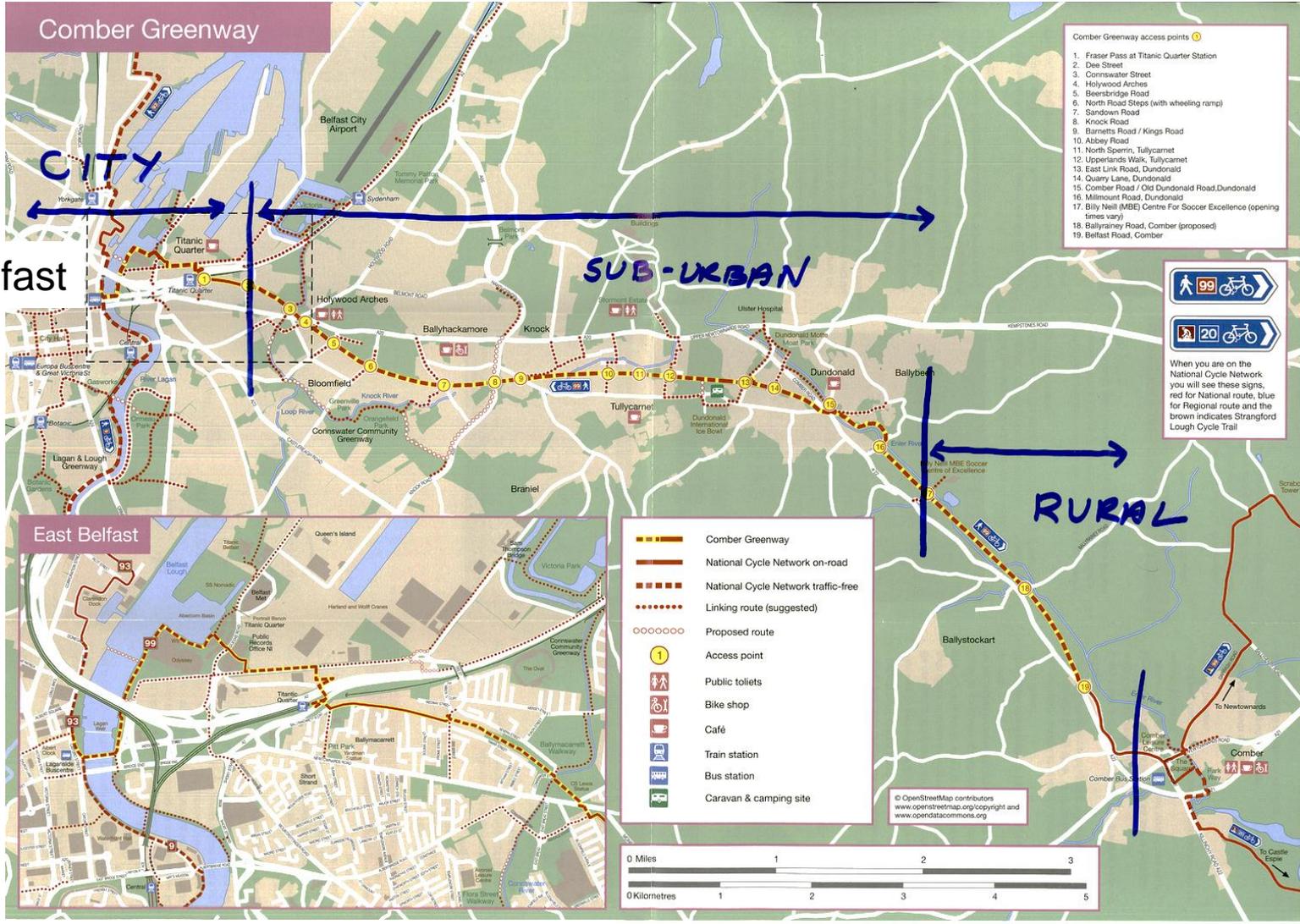
Belfast ► Dundonald ► Comber

Download a route map [www.combergreenway.org.uk](http://www.combergreenway.org.uk)



# Comber Greenway

Belfast



- Comber Greenway access points
1. Fraser Press at Titanic Quarter Station
  2. Dee Street
  3. Connswater Street
  4. Hollywood Arches
  5. Beerbridge Road
  6. North Road Steps (with wheeling ramp)
  7. Sandown Road
  8. Knock Road
  9. Barnetts Road / Kings Road
  10. Abbey Road
  11. North Sparrin, Tullycarnet
  12. Upperlands Walk, Tullycarnet
  13. East Link Road, Dundonald
  14. Quarry Lane, Dundonald
  15. Comber Road / Old Dundonald Road, Dundonald
  16. Milmount Road, Dundonald
  17. Billy Neill (MBE) Centre For Soccer Excellence (opening times vary)
  18. Ballyrainey Road, Comber (proposed)
  19. Belfast Road, Comber

When you are on the National Cycle Network you will see these signs, red for National route, blue for Regional route and the brown indicates Strangford Lough Cycle Trail

## East Belfast

- Comber Greenway
- National Cycle Network on-road
- National Cycle Network traffic-free
- Linking route (suggested)
- Proposed route
- Access point
- Public toilets
- Bike shop
- Café
- Train station
- Bus station
- Caravan & camping site

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# Comber Greenway – Rural Section



RURAL



# RURAL



# Comber Greenway – Suburban Section



**SUBURBAN**



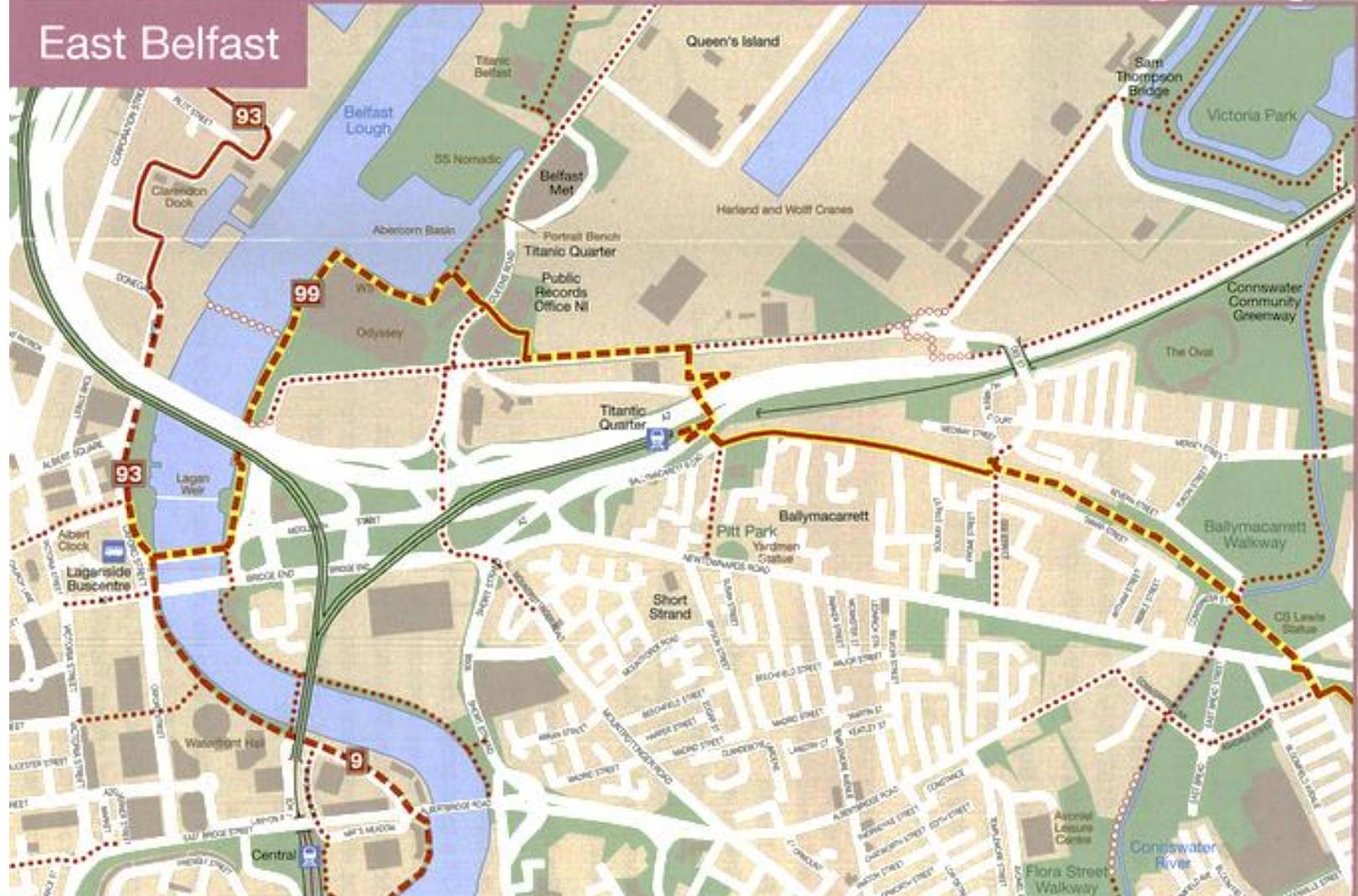
# SUBURBAN



**SUBURBAN**



# East Belfast



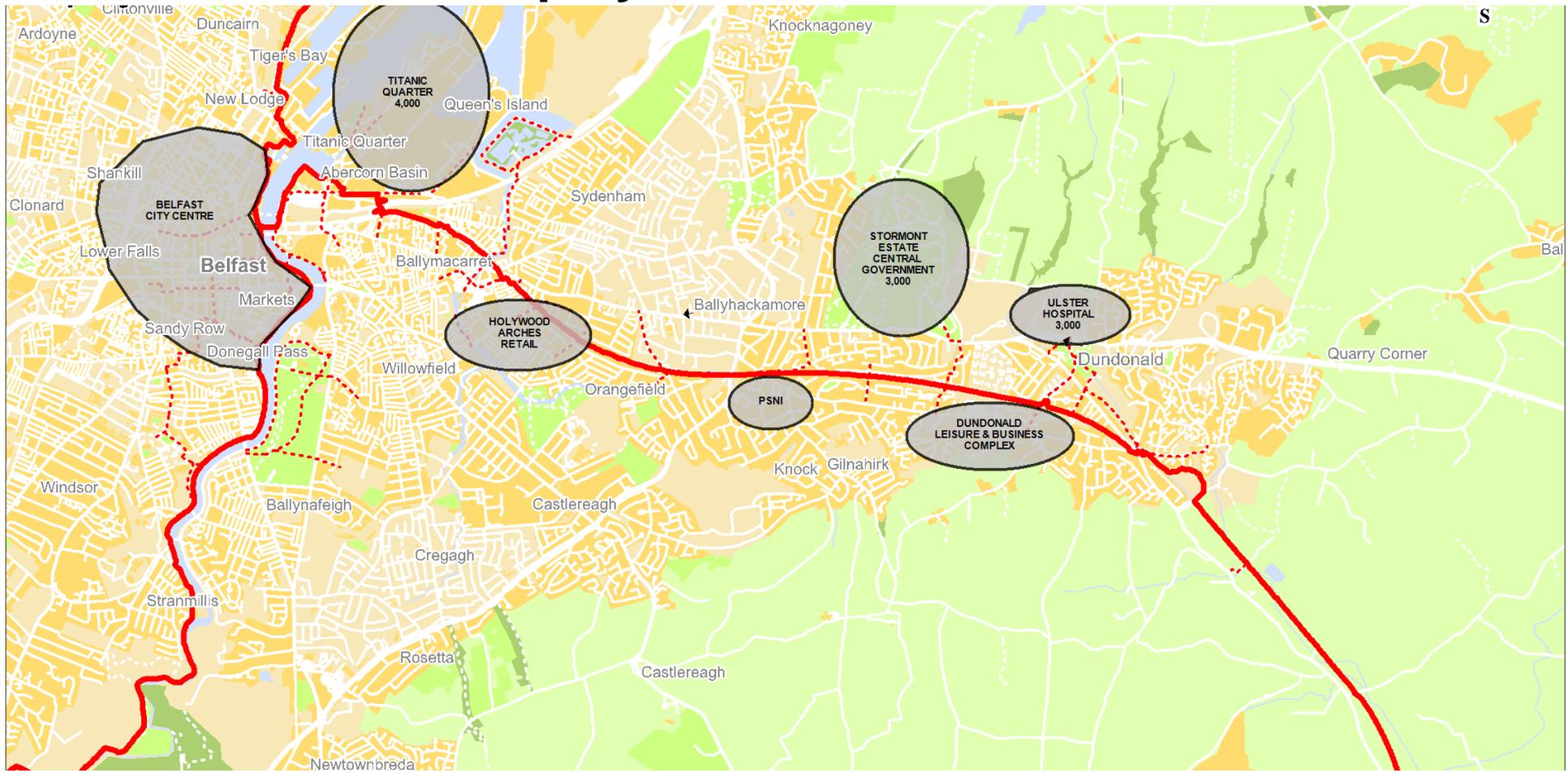
URBAN



# URBAN



# Employment Destinations



# MAJOR VISITOR DESTINATIONS



# ORIENTATION



# ORIENTATION - PUBLIC ART



# ACTIVITIES



# POINTS OF INTEREST



# VOLUNTEERING



# PICCOLO FONDO



# FLORA & FAUNA



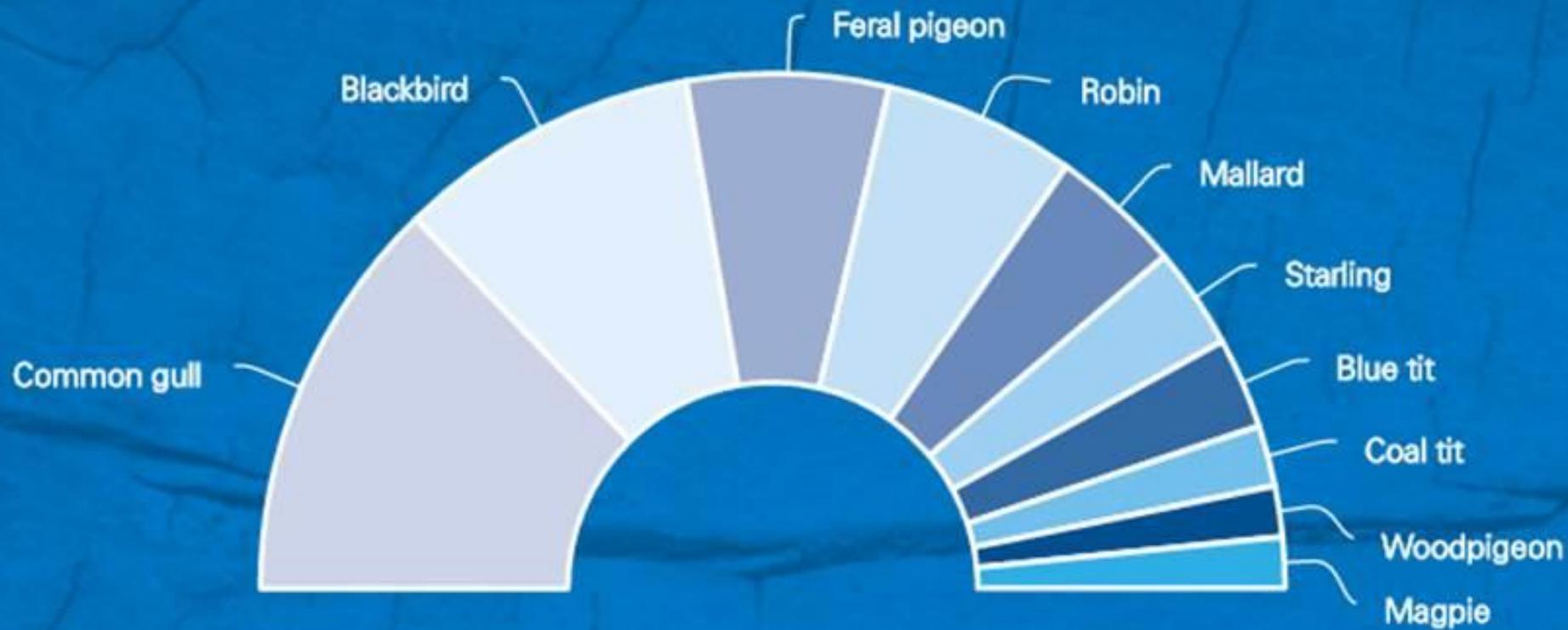
# FLORA & FAUNA



**FLORA & FAWNA**



# Your top 10 birds:

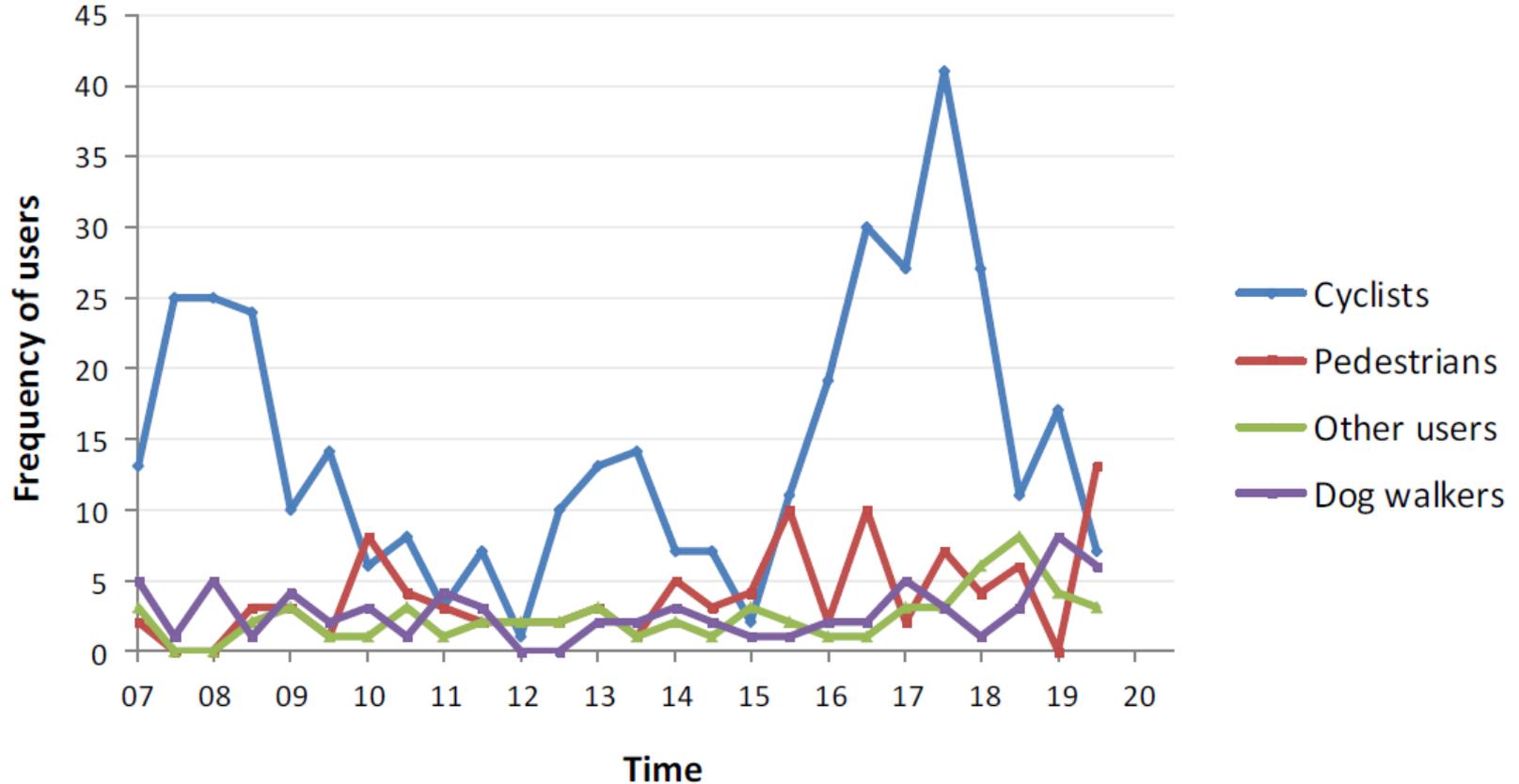


# USERS



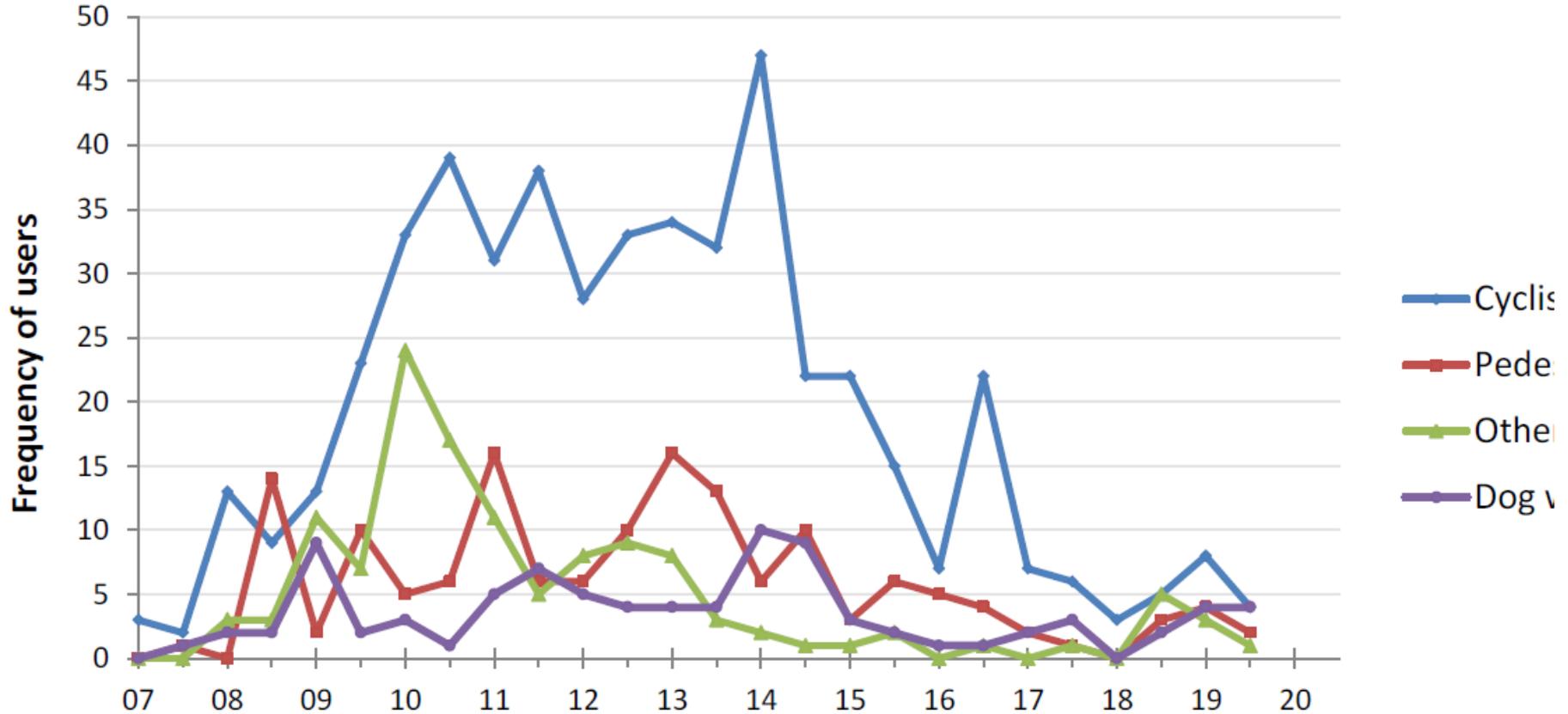
# HOW IS THE COMBER GREENWAY USED

Weekday usage (09/09/2015)

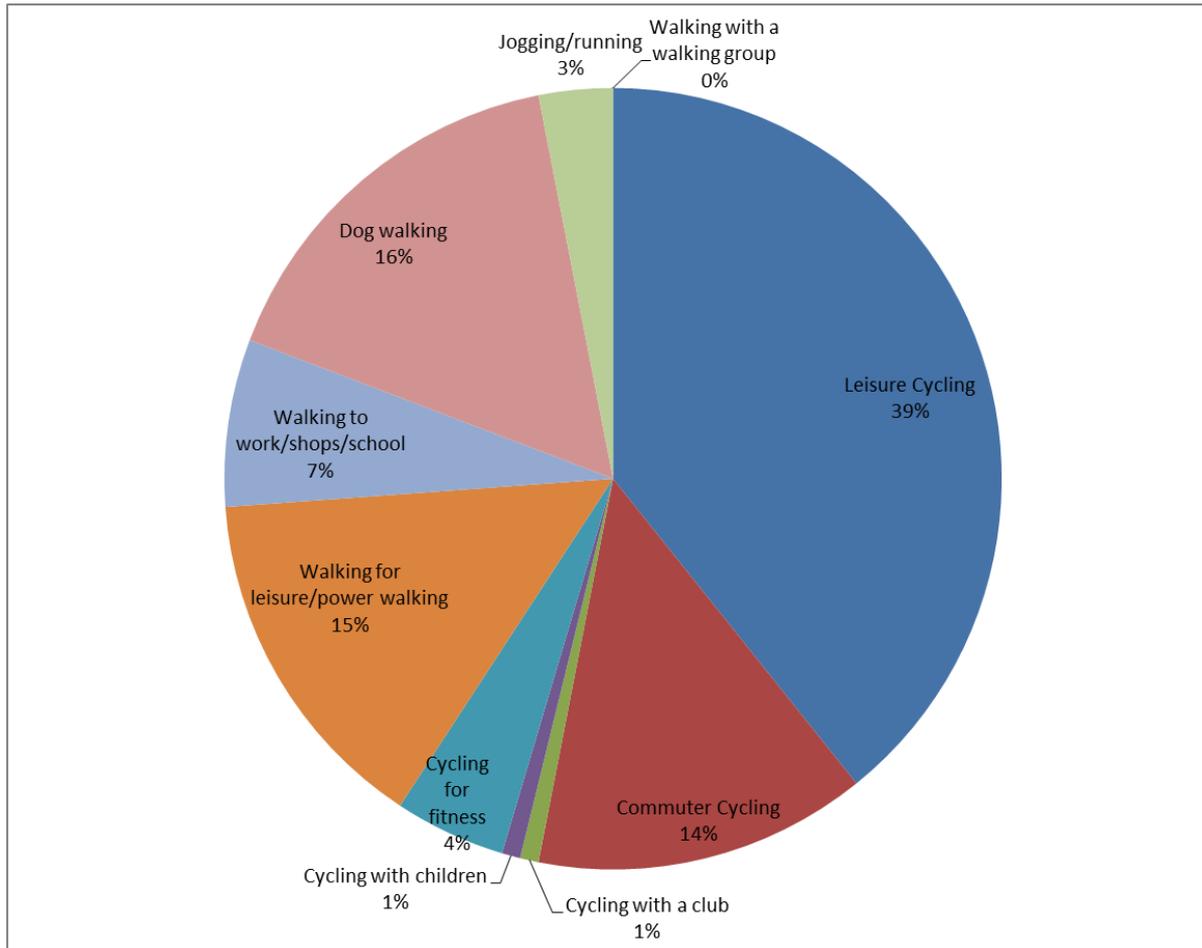


# HOW IS THE COMBER GREENWAY USED

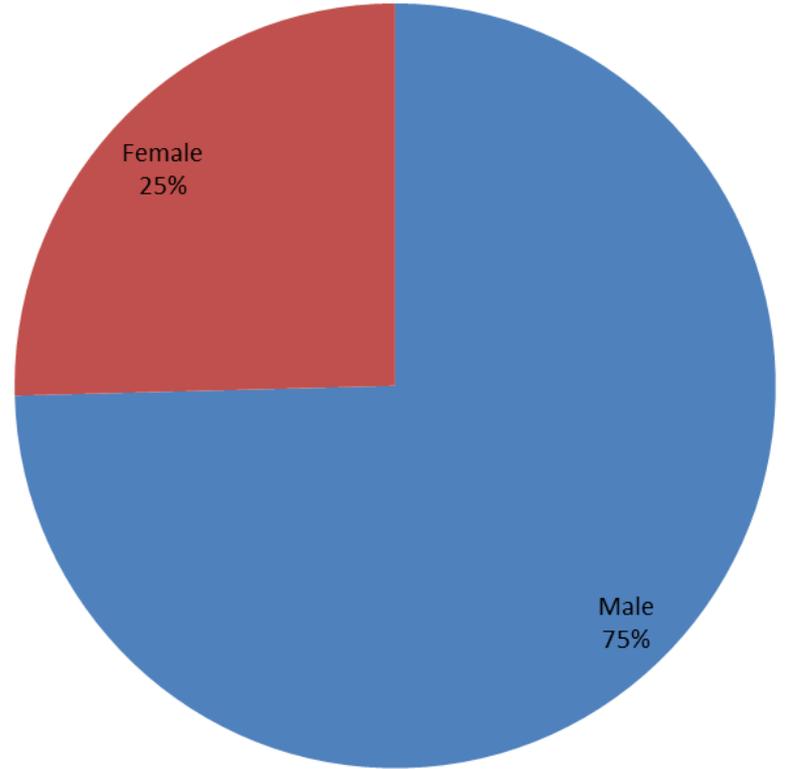
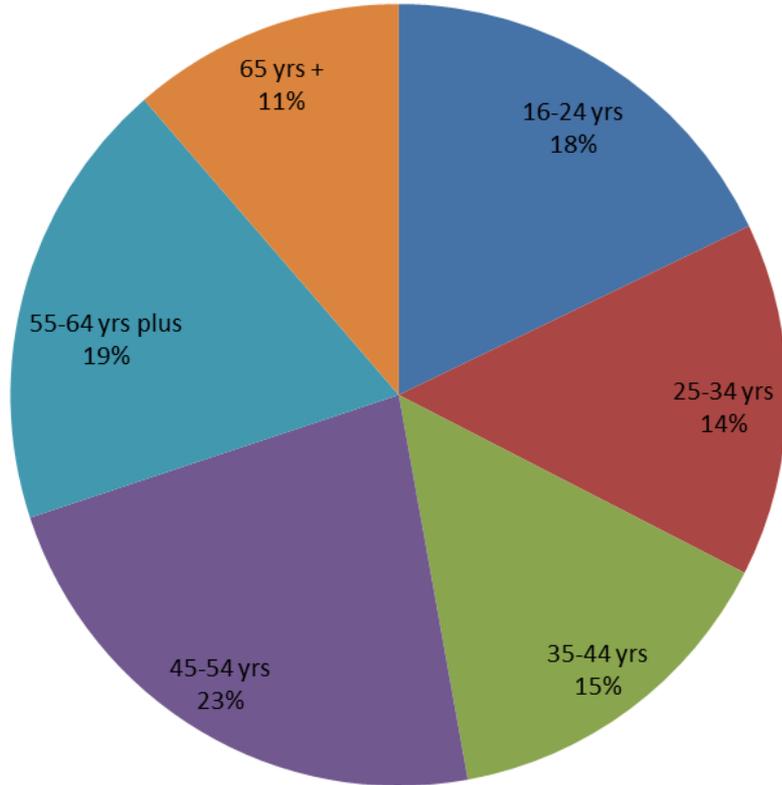
Weekend usage (13/09/2015)



# PURPOSE OF JOURNEY



# USER PROFILE



# ISSUE

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If the Comber Greenway was for the exclusive use of cyclists and not as a shared-use path it would only be used:-

$$\underline{4 \text{ hours/day} \times 5 = 20 \text{ hours}}$$

Potential use:-

$$\underline{10 \text{ hours/day} \times 7 = 70 \text{ hours}}$$

# ISSUE

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**Encouraging shared-use has the potential to create conflicts between different groups.**

What is the answer?

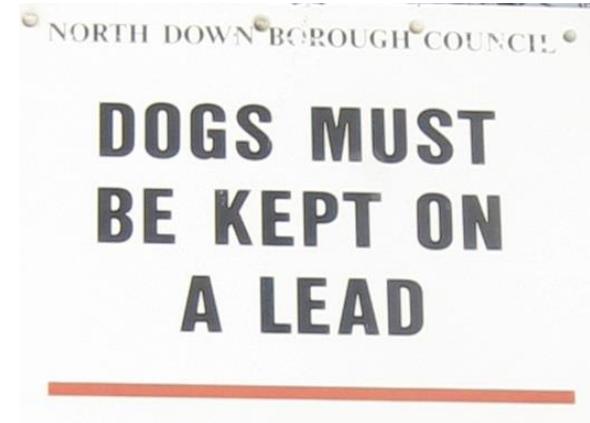
# Conflicts



# Solving the problem?



- By-laws
- Segregation
- Codes of Conduct
- Physical Barriers



# ONE PATH INITIATIVE

## - Behavioural Change Response

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**SHARE**  
**RESPECT**  
**ENJOY**



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News

#20 • SEPTEMBER 2016



**PICTURED**

Left to right: Andrew Grove, Head of Cycling Unit, Dept for Infrastructure; Bill Kenny, Deputy Mayor Aids and North Down Council; Brian Kingston, Belfast Lord Mayor; Tim Morris, from Lectures and Community Development Chairman at Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Rachael Ludlow-Williams, Sustrans. Photo credit: Brian Morris



The seven-mile traffic-free route from the heart of Belfast to Comber has been rising in popularity in recent years. There are now over a thousand miles of National Cycle Network (NCN) in Northern Ireland which are enjoyed by many different users. From cyclists and joggers to dog walkers and families. There are times, however, when the greenway is busier than others and the limited space means it can be difficult to share which can lead to complaints from different users. In order to improve everyone's experience of the Comber Greenway, the three Councils through which the route traverses – Aids and North Down, Belfast City, and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Councils – have joined forces with the, longstanding, the Department for Infrastructure to fund a pilot project. The One Path initiative is being delivered by Sustrans, the walking and cycling charity, to encourage better relations between path users. A series of focus groups have been held through June and July to examine the issues. The next step is

a series of nine engagement activities across the three Council areas to engage with various path users about being considerate of others and take on board the 'Share, Respect, Enjoy' message.

**ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:**

- **'Changing places' – a led ride for those who don't usually cycle.**
- **Artwork events on the path**
- **Compervan of Dreams**
- **Refreshments and entertainment**
- **Bot-spotting on nature trail walk**

Issues about conflict on greenways occur across the UK and have led to some councils painting lines on the path or erecting signage which has had little effect. Rachael Ludlow-Williams, from Sustrans explained: "The principle behind the initiative is to create a positive culture for everyone to 'share,

respect and enjoy' the path. We have learned to be thorough giving people a forum to discuss the issues such as speeding cyclists and dogs off lead. We know the vast majority of people want to share the path and that's what we want to encourage." Andrew Grove, Head of the Cycling Unit in the Department for Infrastructure said: "The One Path Initiative emphasises the shared responsibility of everyone who uses our greenways to do so with care, courtesy and consideration for each other. It fits in with the Department's Bicycle Strategy and will increase the enjoyment of the greenway for everyone." Belfast Lord Mayor, Brian Kingston said: "It is about respect for others and working together to ensure everyone is a little more considerate of the environment around us – the path is for us all to enjoy because the Greenway is a wonderful asset."

To find out more contact Rachael at Sustrans on 028 90434569 or see [sustrans.org.uk/northern-ireland](http://sustrans.org.uk/northern-ireland)

Page

Messages

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Sustrans NI updated their profile picture.

Published by Rachael Ludlow-Williams (?) - October 1, 2016

At #ComberGreenway4All event promoting Share Respect Enjoy for all with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council



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@SustransNI

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**'SHARE, RESPECT, ENJOY'**

Call For The Comber Greenway

SEPTEMBER 2016 | One path for all

The Comber Greenway was recently listed by the Daily Telegraph as one of the best cycling routes in the UK

# ONE PATH OUTCOMES



# ISSUE

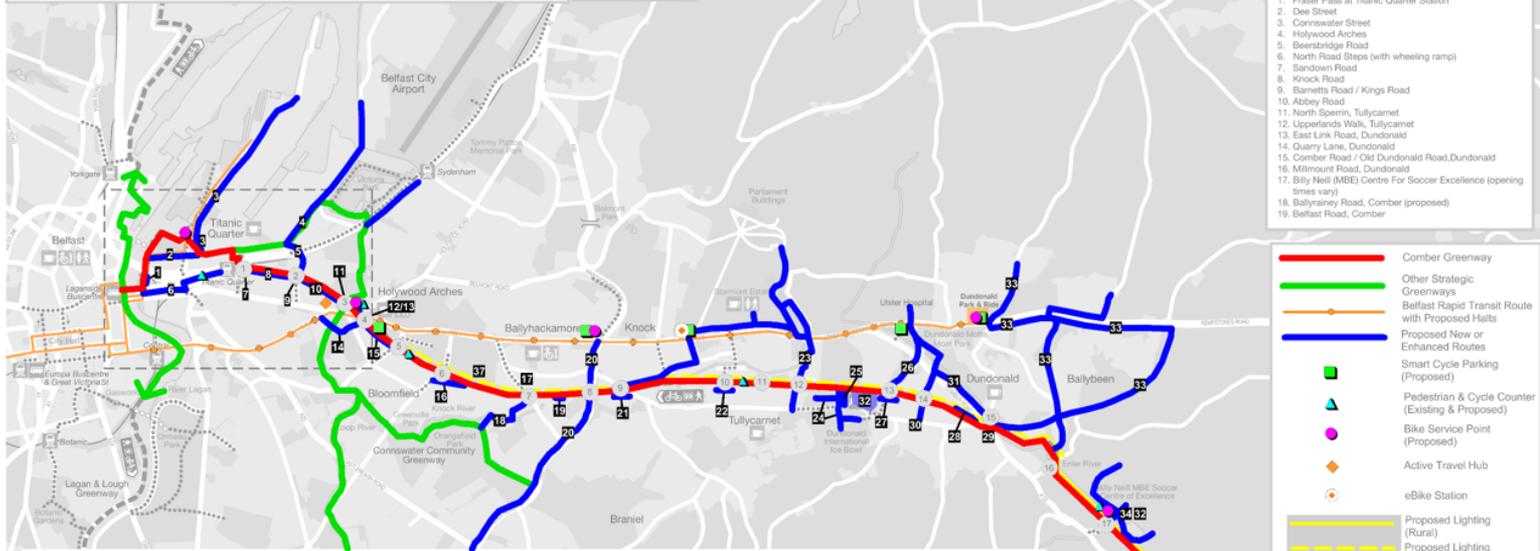
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**Improvements to the path demanded by existing users and providing for increasing use without destroying its character**

- Lighting
- Path Widening
- Junction / Road Crossing Improvements
- New Linkages
- Directional Signage
- Seating
- Toilets

# Comber Greenway Corridor Enhancements

27/6/2017



- Comber Greenway access points 1
1. Friser Pass at Titanic Quarter Station
  2. Dee Street
  3. Connewater Street
  4. Hollywood Arches
  5. Beersbridge Road
  6. North Road Steps (with wheeling ramp)
  7. Sandown Road
  8. Knock Road
  9. Barnetts Road / Kings Road
  10. Abbey Road
  11. North Sperrin, Tullycarnet
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  17. Bily Nait (MBE) Centre For Soccer Excellence (opening times vary)
  18. Ballyrainey Road, Comber (proposed)
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- Comber Greenway
- Other Strategic Greenways
- Belfast Rapid Transit Route with Proposed Halts
- Proposed New or Enhanced Routes
- Smart Cycle Parking (Proposed)
- ▲ Pedestrian & Cycle Counter (Existing & Proposed)
- Bike Service Point (Proposed)
- ◆ Active Travel Hub
- eBike Station
- Proposed Lighting (Rural)
- Proposed Lighting (Urban)

Location	Description of enhancement	LEAO	AGREFD
1 Queens Quay	Rethinking the concrete here previously sited		
2 Ouseway	Direct route along Systemham Road in front of Ouseway		
3 Titanic Quarter	Cycle route on Queens Road linking to Systemham Road and Abercorn Basin		
4 Systemham Road Path	Systemham Road roundabout into Victoria Park and on to Holywood		
5 Dee Street bridge to Greenway	Dee Street bridge to Greenway		
6 Midcappah Street	New cycle track Midcappah Street		
7 Titanic	Widen 100m of path beside R2 slip at Titanic		
8 Island Street	Transform Island Street to safe, attractive cycling and walking street		
9 Dee Street entrance	Create welcoming entrance along wall and redesign T-junction/Dee Street entrance		
10 Ballyrainey Walkway	Resurface and improve existing Ballyrainey Walkway and improve links to Greenway		
11 Connewater Street	New tarmac crossing		
12 Hollywood Arches	Resign cycle route at junction to improve gradient and avoid sub-standard route on ramp		
13 Hollywood Arches	Resign to diagonal crossing to relief cycle line		
14 Hollywood Arches	Improve links to Connewater Greenway and Albert Bridge Road		
15 Bloomfield Walkway	Widen urban path and improve existing shared green space		
16 North Road access	New structure ramp to improve access to bikes, prams etc		
17 Sandown Road entrance	Identify path entrance to align with buslan		
18 Clewwood	Link Connewater and Comber Greenways at Clewwood		
19 PCH fence	Resign PCH fence to create clear sightlines		
20 Add oulring	Improve path to Add Newbarns Road and Strane		
21 Abbey at Kings Road	Insert ramps type subways to avoid gradients		
22 Abbey at Abbey Road	Insert ramps type subways to avoid gradients		

Location	Description of enhancement	LEAO	AGREFD
23 Link to Tullycarnet and Stormont Station	Link to Stormont Station through Ardara with path upgrade and signage		
24 New bridge at Tullycarnet	New bridge and path linking greenway to the A68, Sandport and castle site		
25 Holywood Business Centre	Linking path along castle line		
26 Beekins Road	Resurface cycle track improved crossing to hospital and Comber Road		
27 Beekins bridge	New bridge interim amendments to east side gradient		
28 Comber Road	Resign greenway west of junction to improve gradient and avoid sub-standard route on ramp		
29 Grahamebridge Road	New T-junction crossing linking Comber Greenway, Ballybeen and Millmount to Mill Park		
30 Link at Quarry Road	Upgrade surface		
31 Mill Park Upgrade	Widen paths, install lighting along reverse path between Grahamebridge Road and hospital		
32 Belfast Site	Car park with cycle bays for park-and-ride - Sandport and Bily Hill		
33 Ballybeen Community Greenway	Link greenway, Ballybeen housing and the industrial estate to BRT Park & Ride		
34 Bily Hill	Network of paths for leisure use, bike service station and park & bike location		
35 Ballyrainey road ramp	Restable ramp beside bridge		
36 Link to Comber	Roadside route to and through Comber		
37 Lighting the Greenway	New lighting Beersbridge Road to Millmount (Urban)		
38 Lighting the Greenway	New lighting Millmount to Comber (Rural)		
39 Entrance Greenway	Greenway to have high profile interpretation and signage promoting the greenway		

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# ISSUE

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**What might be learnt from the Comber Greenway experience that could be applied to cycle highway planning and design**

- Reveal and enhance the landscape / townscape along the route
- Incorporate soft landscape intervention – biodiversity (flora & fauna)
- Incorporate other visual interest – public art
- Design as a destination and not just as a route
- Design and provide for a range of user groups and individuals

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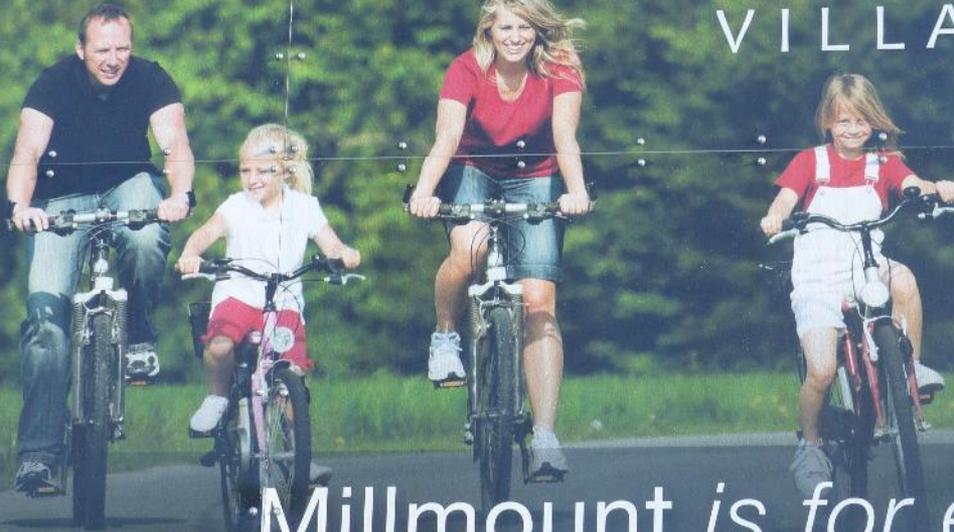
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**What might be learnt from the Comber Greenway in terms of management**

- Behavioural Programmes
- Events – Activities – Festivals
- Volunteering



# MILLMOUNT VILLAGE



*Millmount is for everyone*



# COMBER GREENWAY QUESTIONNAIRE

## A Cycle Highway as an Attractive Mobility Product

### "My Journey to Work" – What is important

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Practical   
Experience

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