Flora and Fauna
Covering a relatively short distance from coast to open moorland (through coniferous forest and mature woodland, over mountain streams and rivers) the Granite Trail offers widely differing natural habitat and gives the opportunity to see a broad range of bird, plant and animal life. The ubiquitous wrens and robins populate the shrubs and trees, while fallow deer may occasionally be encountered hiding in the bracken.

How to Get to Newcastle
Newcastle is located only 40 minutes by car to the south of Belfast and approximately 2 hours from Dublin. For information on Ulsterbus timetables contact Translink on Tel: (028) 90 666630 or www.translink.co.uk

Use the Country Code
• Respect the people who live and work in the countryside.
• Know where you are allowed to go.
• Keep to paths.
• Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
• Leave gates as you find them.
• Do not interfere with machinery, livestock and crops.
• Keep dogs under control.
• Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
• Keep all water sources clean.
• Take your litter home.
• Guard against all risk of fire.
• Make no unnecessary noise.
• Respect other recreational users.

Acknowledgements
Down District Council would like to thank the following for making this project happen:

Newcastle Harbour Area Community Association
The Annesley Estate
The National Trust
Forest Service
Mourne Heritage Trust

Down District Council has entered into agreements with the Annesley Estate and the National Trust on a permission only basis. Please treat the Trail with care.

The Trail may close from time to time to facilitate forestry and other essential operations such as quarrying at Thomas’s Mountain.
The Granite Trail

In 1824 John Lynn opened a quarry on Millstone Mountain and laid a mineral railway line to King Street. By 1859 the railway was diverted to the then more productive quarry on Thomas’s Mountain. The Granite Trail follows the route of this funicular railway known locally as the Bogie Line.

At its busiest in the late 1800’s tens of thousands of tonnes of granite were produced here every year. By the time of the Second World War, however the line had fallen into disuse and was dismantled. All the metal including the trucks (bogies) used to transport the granite were taken to Belfast for the war effort.

Along the route of the Trail there are stunning views out over Newcastle Town and harbour and the Trail offers a diversity of natural habitats over a relatively short distance. Additionally there are artefacts relating to the quarrying of granite in Newcastle and information panels explaining more about the route. To maximise the experience you should proceed to the end of the North Quay, though the gates may occasionally be closed for safety reasons.

The Granite Trail to Thomas’s Mountain is just over 1100 metres long but because of the steep rise you should allow approximately one and a half hours to complete this stage. An optional return route of approximately 4 kilometres via Donard Wood and Glen River Track is available and will take between 2-3 hours. Please ensure that you wear appropriate footwear and clothing when using the path.

We hope that you enjoy ‘The Granite Trail’ experience!