

TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION (1995-2008)
TOWARDS A NEW OUTDOOR RECREATION
STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND.

**Study undertaken by Sarah Noble on behalf of CAAN and
assisted by Eszter Ballo, CAAN's Research and Monitoring
Officer**

Study funded by SportNI and NITB

January 2009

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Project Methodology	3 - 4
3. Report of Data Collection by Sport	
3.1 Land Based Activities	
3.1.1 Adventure Racing	4 - 6
3.1.2 Caving	6 - 7
3.1.3 Fell Running	8 - 10
3.1.4 Field Archery	10 - 12
3.1.5 Kite Buggy	12 - 13
3.1.6 Mountain Biking	14 - 16
3.1.7 Mountain Boarding	16 - 18
3.1.8 Orienteering	18 - 21
3.1.9 Rock Climbing	21 - 23
3.2 Water Based Activities	
3.2.1 Canoeing	24 - 26
3.2.2 Kite Surfing	26 - 28
3.2.3 Rowing	29 - 30
3.2.4 Sailing, Power Boating and Motor Cruising	30 - 32
3.2.5 Scuba Diving	32
3.2.6 Surfing	33 - 34
3.2.7 Water skiing and Wake Boarding	35
3.3 Air Based Activities	
3.3.1 Aeromodelling	36 - 38
3.3.2 Microlight Flying	38 - 40
3.3.3 Paragliding and Hang Gliding	40 - 42
4. Summary	
4.1 Key trends in sports over the past 10 years	43
4.2 Factors affecting development	43 - 44
Appendix 1: List of Contributors	Appendix 2: Activity Venues

1. INTRODUCTION.

In August 2008, Sport NI and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board commissioned the Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN) to undertake a research project to assess the trends in 23 outdoor recreation activities during the last 13 years, with a view to informing the preparation of a new Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Northern Ireland. The study commenced in September 2008 and was completed in January 2009 by an independent consultant – Sarah Noble with assistance from CAAN’s Research Officer - Eszter Ballo

The project covered the following activities:

Land: Adventure Racing, Caving, Fell Running, Field Archery, Kite Buggy, Mountain Biking, Mountain Boarding, Orienteering and Rock Climbing

Water: Canoeing, Kite Surfing, Rowing, Sailing, Power Boating and Motor Cruising, Scuba Diving, Surfing, Water Skiing and Wake Boarding,

Air: Aeromodelling, Microlight Flying, Paragliding and Hang gliding,

The activities of walking, cycling and horse riding were not included in the research as they are going to be considered in a separate piece of research later in 2009. In addition, some of the activities that were considered in the original 1995 research study were omitted because they do not require public access to the natural environment. Angling was initially included within the scope of the project however during the course of the data collection phase it was withdrawn as it was recognised that it merited a more in-depth and detailed report, addressing the specific issues affecting angling within Northern Ireland

2. PROJECT METHODOLOGY.

The project had three key phases:

1. Data collection and collation
2. Population of data onto a Geographical Information System (GIS)
3. Drafting of formal report.

The data collection phase required the identification of all relevant stakeholders in relation to each individual sport including, but not limited to, representatives of:

- National Governing Bodies (NGB’s)
- Local Councils
- Outdoor Education Centres (including Tollymore Mountain Centre)
- Commercial outdoor activity providers
- Statutory authorities including DARD, NI Water, NIEA and
- Other stakeholders including the National Trust and Private Estates.

Appendix 1 details the list of contributors (including organization and contact name) to the project.

Data was captured via in-depth consultation with stakeholders including phone calls, email correspondence and meetings. In addition, a range of templates specifying the data required were issued to the relevant representatives for completion. The information required to be detailed within the templates included venues, facilities, events, participation, trends and factors affecting future development. Information captured during this data collection phase was collated and used in the subsequent population of a GIS database. From this, a map of activity venues was produced for each activity. See Appendix 2. Please note that the venues marked on each map combines information derived from NGBs, Outdoor Activity Providers,

District Councils and Outdoor Education Centres and in some instances differs from the information cited under the 'venues' section of each activity that follows in this report.

As with any research project, it is important to note that the veracity of the data provided and the conclusions drawn from the data, was dependent on the accuracy of the information received from the stakeholders. The data collection phase of the project highlighted significant difficulties in obtaining accurate statistical data on participation levels. In general terms, the greater the participation levels within a sport the smaller the amount of accurate data available. In particular, it was extremely difficult to obtain any accurate information regarding participation levels of disabled individuals, ethnic minorities or those from High Social Need areas. In most cases these statistics are not recorded at club or NGB level.

On occasion there was a limited response from the representatives of some sports and consequently the data made available for the GIS mapping and drafting of this report is incomplete. No information was submitted for the sport of diving or water ski-ing and wake boarding.

3. REPORT OF DATA COLLECTION BY SPORT.

3.1 LAND BASED ACTIVITIES

3.1.1 ADVENTURE RACING

a. Structure

Adventure racing in its modern sense is a multi disciplinary team event and as such is a relatively recent phenomenon in Northern Ireland. There is no recognised governing body for the sport, rather, a number of committees have become established to organise particular adventure racing events. In Northern Ireland the best known of these is Causeway Coast Adventure Racing (CCAR).

b. Venues

The nature of adventure races is such that each event may take place in a different geographical location, and within a race, competitors may be required to journey by land or water across large stretches of countryside. Consequently, despite the relatively small number of events that have taken place in Northern Ireland, the list of venues used is extensive.

c. Participation (fig. 1)

Adventure racing clubs per se do not exist in Northern Ireland. Rather, participants often come from clubs representing one or more of the disciplines within race events. These may be orienteering, running, cycling or canoeing to name a few. Many competitors have no affiliation to any club, coming instead from a keen recreational background in one or more of the disciplines. For this reason it is difficult to estimate the number of individuals participating in adventure racing in Northern Ireland, however race entry figures show upwards of 1000 competitors in 14 races since the first event in August 2006.

Female Participation

- This is estimated to be 25%.

Disabled Participation

- This is estimated to be 0%.

Tourist Participation

- This is not measured, however anecdotal evidence suggests that a significant number of competitors travel from the Republic of Ireland (ROI) to participate in two-day adventure race events.

Ethnic Minorities

- This is unknown.

TSN Participation

- This is unknown.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	25+	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	1000+	N/A	25

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 1 Participation data for adventure racing

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland since August 2006.

Local	National	International
2 (Youth events)	14	0

e. Trends

- Since its advent in Northern Ireland in 2006, adventure racing has seen steady growth in participation levels. Female involvement has seen the most marked increase and significant steps have been taken to promote youth participation with 2 exclusive young persons events taking place.
- There has been an increase in the number and frequency of adventure race events year on year.

f. Factors affecting development

- The most significant factor limiting the development and growth of adventure racing in Northern Ireland is the difficulty in securing access to the countryside for running events. It is believed that the main explanations for this are fear of litigation, and a lack of awareness regarding the nature of adventure racing on the part of landowners.
- Funding shortages are an important factor limiting development. Adventure racing's main source of income is from race fees charged for individual events. The sport receives very little sponsorship and no funding from Sport NI. In contrast, outgoings are substantial as there is considerable expense involved in organising each race. Fees must be paid to relevant bodies for each area of land and water accessed during a race. Some fees charged are considered unreasonable; CCAR now avoid planning routes through Forest Service land due to the excessive charges incurred. This expense is passed on to participants through expensive race entry fees, the cost of which may be seen as off-putting for potential participants. After covering access charges there is little money leftover to invest in new equipment for events, such as electronic punches and kayaks.
- Continued difficulties in accessing land for adventure races is gradually pushing the sport out of Northern Ireland with a trend toward hosting more CCAR events just across the border in Louth and Donegal in ROI.

3.1.2 CAVING

a. Structure

The Speleological Union of Ireland (SUI) is the official representative body for cavers in all of Ireland.

b. Venues

There are two distinct caving areas encompassing hundreds of individual caves within County Fermanagh. These are situated in the Tullybrack-Belmore Uplands and the Cuilcagh Mountain region of the County. The caves are accessed via both public and private land, however in all cases voluntary access agreements exist and access is free of charge.

c. Participation (fig. 2)

SUI has 2 affiliated clubs within Northern Ireland and 22 affiliated individuals.

Female Participation

- This is estimated to be 45%.

Disabled Participation

- This is not measured.

Tourist Participation

- This is unknown.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	2	21 *	2	407 *	22	150 *	N/A	27.5 *	45

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes: * in Ireland

Fig. 2 Participation data for caving

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
0	4	0

e. Trends

- There has been a slight but steady increase in participation over the past 10 years.

f. Factors Affecting Development

- Cavers are finding it increasingly difficult to secure reasonable insurance cover. Negotiating satisfactory cover and making this available to members has become an important role for SUI.
- SUI negotiates access to land where cave entrances are located on an individual landowner basis. In many cases agreements rely on the goodwill of landowners and can take years to negotiate. In recent years, the issue of landowner liability has often been used to preclude access to caves. The lack of agreed rights of way poses a considerable threat to the activity of caving

3.1.3 FELL RUNNING

a. Structure

Athletics Northern Ireland (Athletics NI) is the governing body for all aspects of the sport of athletics in Northern Ireland, including fell running. Affiliated to this is the Northern Ireland Mountain Running Association (NIMRA), generally recognised as the representative body for fell runners. NIMRA coordinates most aspects of competitive fell running in the region.

b. Venues

In total, 12 distinct geographical areas across Northern Ireland are used for competitive fell races. Races take place on both public and private land.

c. Participation (fig. 3)

Typically, members of athletics clubs will specialise in different aspects of the sport and only a percentage may be classified as fell runners. However records of fell race entries suggest that 25 athletics clubs across the region contain a significant number of members who participate in fell running. It is estimated that 550 individuals from Northern Ireland and a further 220 visitors compete in fell races each year. This equates to 2500 race entries in over 30 races per year. These figures relate only to competitive fell running; it is impossible to know how many recreational fell runners there are in the region.

Female Participation

- Overall this is estimated to be 20%, however females account for 15% of affiliated members.

Disabled Participation

- This is 0%.

Tourist Participation

- This is estimated to be 35%. These are concentrated in 3 annual events: the Mourne Mountain Marathon, the Home National and the Senior British Championship race.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
11	12	17	25	107	250+	100	450+	16 of club members	20

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
Very small	0	N/A	35	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 3 Participation data for fell running

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
11 annually	11	7

e. Trends

- The sport of fell running has experienced significant growth over the past 10 years. General participation levels have increased with competitive female involvement showing a significant increase.
- The number and frequency of fell running events has increased. As a consequence, there has been a very significant increase in the total number of race entries.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests an increased number of tourists visiting Northern Ireland to compete in fell racing events.
- Participation at junior level has not shown steady growth with numbers fluctuating from year to year.
- Increased participation levels have necessitated the use of ‘event centres’ to provide facilities at larger competitions. Local schools, forest parks, town halls and outdoor centres are used as such.

f. Factors affecting development

- There is increasing concern by landowners over issues relating to litigation and liability. NIMRA anticipate that this trend will add to difficulties in securing access.
- The trend towards the provision of facilities and event centres at races has significant financial implications. In particular, NIMRA cite charges by Forest Service for use

of their sites as particularly expensive and fear that further fee increases will preclude use of these sites for events.

- NIMRA highlight two areas where increased funding would encourage further growth in the sport. These include schools development work to promote youth participation and upgrading the current website.
- NIMRA report increased difficulties in recruiting volunteers to assist in the organisation of events.
- Some routes in the Mourne Mountains, used by both walkers and runners, are becoming heavily eroded. While the smaller numbers of runners probably have much less impact than walkers, any identifiable group needs to be aware of this issue. Race organisers of events with large numbers must be particularly sensitive to this problem.

3.1.4 FIELD ARCHERY

a. Structure

The Northern Ireland Archery Society (NIAS) is the governing body for archery in Northern Ireland. A Field Officer represents field archery on the Executive Committee of the Society.

b. Venues

In total, 11 venues are used for field archery events. The majority of these are located in the grounds of private estates and access to each of the venues is paid.

c. Participation (fig. 4)

Within archery clubs affiliated to the NIAS the predominant activity is target archery, however there are active field archers in at least 19 clubs and a further 8 clubs classify field archery as the predominant or exclusive activity. There are approximately 300 active participants in field archery in Northern Ireland.

Female Participation

- This is currently estimated to be 25-30%.

Disabled Participation

- This is estimated to be less than 1%. Although disabled participation is relatively high in indoor and target archery, this is not reflected in field archery as the nature of the sport is not readily accessible to disabled individuals.

Tourist Participation

- This is estimated to be 1%. NIAS has hosted several national competitions in Northern Ireland over the past 5 years with over 60% of participants travelling from ROI and Great Britain (GB). Aside from competitions, tourists do not visit Northern Ireland to participate in field archery, however tourists on holiday in the region regularly attend events if they are active participants in their home country.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is estimated to be 2%.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	11	N/A	27	N/A	300	N/A	N/A	N/A	25-30

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		% TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	<1	N/A	1	N/A	2	N/A	N/A

Fig. 4 Participation data for field archery

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
18 annually	5	0

e. Trends

- There has been a steady growth in participation levels over the past 10 years with attendance at local events doubling over this period. This growth is also reflected in participation levels amongst women and young people.
- The standard of field archery has risen significantly. In 2008, 7 Northern Irish field archers were selected for the Great Britain Field Archery Team. Five of these competed at the World Championships and 4 gained positions within the top 10 ranking in the world. The NIAS accredits this success with increased participation levels and access to superior field archery sites such as Castlewellan Forest Park.
- There has been an increase in the number of venues used to host field archery events.
- In recent years forest parks have been used to hold field archery events. This development has come about as a result of sustained efforts by NIAS to build relations with forest park authorities and simultaneously encourage a relaxation of regulation and red tape.

f. Factors affecting development

- NIAS pay for access to 100% of land used for holding field archery meets. The fee is significant but sustainable for accessing private estates, however charges for access to

Forest Service forest parks are considered prohibitive. This is unfortunate as a number of forest parks are considered to have the ideal terrain for field archery.

- Unlike target archery, field archery currently receives no financial support from Sport NI. Representatives highlight the disparity and point to the sport's record at international level, where field archery competitors outperform those from target archery. Anecdotal evidence adds to the argument for funding; it suggests that individuals who have experience in both disciplines can perform to a higher level in competitive target archery.
- Funding is necessary to allow the best Northern Irish archers to travel to GB to train at the Olympic facility and to enable them to travel to national and international events to gain experience.

3.1.5 KITE BUGGYING

a. Structure

The Irish Power Kite and Sand yacht Association (IPKSA) is the internationally recognised and affiliated association representing Kite Buggy and Sand yacht sports in Ireland. IPKSA is also on the council of the International Federation of Sand and Land yachting (FISLY), the worldwide governing body.

b. Venues

There are three venues used for kite bugging in Northern Ireland. Each is partially or fully controlled by local councils. It is generally considered that the sites currently in use are the only suitable venues for the activity within Northern Ireland.

c. Participation (fig. 5)

There are no clubs per se however IPKSA has approximately 20 members in Northern Ireland. There are a further 20 non-affiliated participants in the region.

Female Participation

- There are 4 female participants in kite bugging in Northern Ireland.

Disabled Participation

- There are no physically disabled participants in Northern Ireland however the sport is suitable for people with disabilities not affecting their lower limbs. In GB disabled individuals participate in kite bugging using tandem-rig set-ups.

Tourist Participation

- This is not measured however Northern Ireland has hosted a number of national and international events over the past 5 years. In 2005, the 7 day European Championships were held at the North Coast, attracting upwards of 35 competitors from across Europe.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	3	N/A	1	N/A	20	N/A	20	N/A	20

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		% TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 5 Participation data for kite bugging

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
30	15	1
	All events attract competitors from ROI	

e. Trends

- Kite bugging emerged in Northern Ireland in 2000. In 2004 sandiyachting members were incorporated, increasing membership. Participation peaked in 2005 and has fallen off somewhat since as the novelty factor has worn off for some participants.

f. Factors affecting development

- Venues suitable for kite bugging are scarce. These need to be pedestrian free, have suitable access for kite buggies, and permission for emergency access to the beach in 4x4 vehicles in the event of an accident. IPKSA report that it is becoming more difficult to access existing venues due to issues surrounding insurance and public liability. At Murlough Bay in County Down this issue is exacerbated by multiple ownership of the land.
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to acquire comprehensive public liability insurance to cover the activity.
- IPKSA has hosted several national and international events in Northern Ireland over the past 5 years. Competitors must travel to the island by road, towing their kite buggy. Access by ferry across the Irish Sea is comparatively expensive and it is believed that this has a detrimental effect on the attendance levels at such levels.

3.1.6 MOUNTAIN BIKING

a. Structure

Cycling Ireland is the recognised governing body of cycling in Ireland, north and south. It governs all aspects of cycling including mountain biking.

b. Venues

In total, over 60 different venues across Northern Ireland have been identified as used by mountain bikers. The majority of these are woodland and forest parks, however mountain biking also occurs on areas of open hillside and mountainside. Only one of the venues in use is an official cross-country mountain bike trail; Gortin Glen Forest Park in County Tyrone. In many instances mountain biking occurs without authorization in forest parks where the sport is prohibited.

c. Participation (fig. 6)

Within Northern Ireland there are at least 8 clubs dedicated solely to mountain biking or with a dedicated mountain biking element. However the majority of mountain bikers are not affiliated to any club and for this reason participation levels are hard to estimate. There exists much debate within mountain biking circles as to participation levels; estimates range from 5,000-10,000 trail and sport riders. Indicators of participation such as mountain bike equipment sales and mountain bike forum membership suggest an active mountain bike scene and high levels of participation.

Female Participation

- Anecdotal evidence suggests participation levels to be less than 5%.

Disabled Participation

- This is unknown however the sport is not easily accessible by individuals with physical disabilities.

Tourist Participation

- This is unknown.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is unknown.

TSN Participation

- This is unknown.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
13	60+	47 Cycling Clubs	8 Mountain biking clubs	N/A	N/A	1000+	15,000+	10	<5

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 6 Participation data for Mountain Biking

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
5+ annually	2+	1

e. Trends

- Mountain biking has experienced significant growth over the past 10 years.
- Trends within mountain biking disciplines are changing. Cross-country mountain biking continues to grow in popularity however the racing element within the discipline is in decline. Recent years have also seen increased participation in down-hilling, mountain bike endurance events, mountain bike orienteering, and mountain biking as part of adventure races.
- It is now possible to purchase a full suspension mountain bike relatively cheaply; this has made the sport more accessible at entry level.
- Mountain bike forum activity, an indicator of participation levels, has grown significantly in recent years. MTB Rider forum has 3000 active users with 70% residing in Northern Ireland. Trail Badger, a website providing information on mountain bike routes in Northern Ireland receives between 30-50 visitors per day.
- Mountain bike and mountain bike equipment sales, another indicator of participation levels, have increased dramatically over the past 10 years.
- Increasing numbers of Northern Irish mountain bikers travel to use purpose built mountain bike venues in Scotland, and more recently in ROI.
- The majority of mountain bikers do not join official clubs; more often they cycle as groups of friends or as members of unofficial clubs.
- Increasingly, mountain biking occurs on land where the sport is prohibited. This is most often on Forest Service sites. The majority of participants are aware of the

unauthorized nature of their activities. In the course of the data collection of the project it was apparent that some mountain biking participants were reluctant to disclose details of mountain biking venues.

f. Factors affecting development

- A very significant factor restricting the development of mountain biking in Northern Ireland is the lack of suitable venues where mountain biking is permitted.
- There is only one purpose built mountain biking trail in Northern Ireland. The lack of purpose built trails is a very significant factor impeding the development of the sport within the region.
- It is perceived that some statutory authorities hold misconceptions about mountain bikers and the sport of mountain biking that result in them being less likely to view mountain biking as a safe and acceptable means of recreation. Ultimately this has resulted in mountain bikers being denied access to land suitable for the activity.
- Organizers of mountain biking events in Northern Ireland regard access charges for use of suitable Forest Service sites as prohibitive. Increasingly, alternative venues are used in ROI.

3.1.7 MOUNTAIN BOARDING

a. Structure

Mountain Boarding is a relatively new sport in Northern Ireland with the first mountain boarding facility being established in 2003. The sport has no officially recognised national governing body, however the All Island Mountain Boarding Association (AIMBA) was established in 2006 to represent the interests of mountain boarders in Northern Ireland and in ROI.

b. Venues

There is only one mountain boarding venue in Ireland. Surfin'Dirt Mountain Boarding is located on private land in County Down, Northern Ireland.

c. Participation (fig. 7)

There are no mountain boarding clubs per se however AIMBA has 175 registered members in Ireland, 63% of whom reside in Northern Ireland. These figures represent regular participants in the sport. Approximately 1100 individuals take part in mountain boarding annually in Northern Ireland.

Female Participation

- This is estimated to be 20%.

Disabled Participation

- This is not measured.

Tourist Participation

- This is estimated to be 10%. A further 8% visit on day trips from ROI.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A	175	N/A	950	N/A	20

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 7 Participation data for Mountain Boarding

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
10	5	0

e. Trends

- Since the advent of mountain boarding in Northern Ireland 5 years ago there has been a steady increase in participation levels. An increase in female participation was most apparent in the years 2006-2007. Notably, one female has qualified as a Mountain Boarding Instructor, a nationally recognised qualification.
- The average age of participants has increased. Originally the majority of participants were in their early teenage years. Now most participants in the sport are in their late teenage years or are adults.
- Tourist participation levels are increasing year on year. In particular, there has been good uptake of packages created by teaming up with other local businesses.

f. Factors affecting development

- The development of mountain boarding is restricted by the lack of mountain boarding facilities and venues across Northern Ireland. Funding is required to develop new

sites and for the expansion, development and upgrade of facilities at the existing mountain boarding location.

- Forest parks offer good potential for running mountain boarding events. To date, 2 AIMBA events have been held at Tollymore Forest Park. AIMBA feel that there is scope for further large scale events at the Forest Park subject to access being granted.
- The existing mountain boarding facility is outdoors and fully exposed to the weather. Very bad weather, or prolonged periods of very wet weather, can force temporary closure of the facility.

3.1.8 ORIENTEERING

a. Structure

The Northern Ireland Orienteering Association (NIOA) is a regional association within the British Orienteering Federation and is the governing body for orienteering in Northern Ireland. NIOA employ a part-time Development Officer.

b. Venues

In total, 74 venues across Northern Ireland are mapped for orienteering and 24 of these have Permanent Orienteering Courses (POC). The venues fall into two main categories; town parks on local council land and forest parks, primarily those run by Forest Service. Other venues include land owned by the Ministry of Defence, NI Water, the National Trust and private landowners. Sixteen town parks also have Ecotrails; environmental orienteering courses developed by CAAN in partnership with NIOA.

c. Participation (fig. 8)

There are four NIOA affiliated orienteering clubs in Northern Ireland with a membership of approximately 232. Three of these clubs are strategically located across Northern Ireland; Lagan Valley Orienteers, Fermanagh Orienteers and North West Orienteering Club covering the east, west and north respectively. Queen's University Belfast Orienteering Club operates from the university and is open to its students and staff only. Membership is not required to enter orienteering events and total participation levels are in the region of 2900 race entries per year. This figure is estimated to represent approximately 1600 individuals.

Female Participation

- It is estimated that one third of all participants are female.

Disabled Participation

- This is not measured however there have been 4 wheelchair accessible 'Trail O' events in the past 5 years and NIOA has identified suitable sites for the development of permanent Trail O courses in the future. The Irish Trail O Championships are due to be held at Castleward in April 2009.

Tourist Participation

- This is not measured however there is evidence that tourists on holiday in Northern Ireland participate in NIOA summer Wednesday Evening Event (WEE) series of orienteering competitions held around the main population centres. These tourists are generally involved in the sport in their home country. In 2008, Germans, Fins, Poles and British visitors took part.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured however anecdotal evidence suggests the participation of Eastern Europeans in NIOA summer WEE Series of orienteering competitions, specifically those held in the greater Belfast area. At least one family from Slovakia belongs to a local orienteering club.

TSN Participation

This is not measured however a number of schools lying within TSN areas have had their grounds mapped for orienteering. It is difficult to tell to what extent these are used. NIOA is currently working with the Outreach Officer in Belfast to develop orienteering in the Falls and Woodvale areas.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	74	3	4	280	232	20	1400	31.4 of club members	33.3

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 8 Participation data for orienteering

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
209	7	0

e. Trends

- Numbers participating in orienteering have increased over the past 10 years mainly due to the inclusion of schools competitions and summer series events. This has not been reflected in club membership levels as there has been little movement of these

occasional orienteers into the clubs. As a result, club membership levels have remained stable at around 200.

- Two of the clubs are ‘ageing’ with few new members in the last 5 years.
- There is a distinct gap in club membership amongst those aged 21-35 years.
- More schools are delivering orienteering as part of the GCSE syllabus. This has been reflected in an increase in specialized orienteering courses run specifically for students in Education and Library Board Centres. Students attend special assessment events organized by NIOA but do not generally get involved in club activity.
- There have been a number of Trail O events in the last 5 years. These include the Irish Championships held at Magilligan. NIOA hope to develop this type of orienteering with some permanent courses possibly on National Trust properties.
- There has been some growth in commercial providers delivering orienteering as part of their activity programme.
- Sixteen environmental orienteering ‘Ecotrails’ have been developed by CAAN in partnership with NIOA. These are mainly sited in council parks.
- The number of venues used for orienteering has increased.

f. Factors affecting development

- There is a shortage of accessible forested areas in Northern Ireland. This limits the potential number of venues suitable for orienteering. NIOA have adapted by mapping un-forested areas of land such as open hillside.
- The current style of forest management is not conducive to orienteering. Limiting factors include: trees too densely planted with no firebreaks, poorly maintained firebreaks, felled areas left un-cleared prohibiting access to features, large blocks of trees felled without notice posing difficulties for competition mapping. Major changes to a mapped forest render the map useless, leading to either an expensive re-map or loss of the area.
- Private activity providers deliver orienteering as part of their programme, however in most cases it is a filler activity and may not be delivered particularly well as qualifications are often out-of-date or non-existent. This can lead to a poor experience for many participants and may discourage them from taking the sport further. Few commercial providers are interested in referring clients to local clubs.
- The absence of basic facilities at orienteering venues is problematic. These include a lack of toilet facilities in the forest areas used and the absence of any covered area for coaching or shelter.
- Events are often held in remote forest parks. Limited public transport provision requires participants to have their own means of transport to get to the activity venue.
- NIOA has explored the use of private estates for holding events. In most cases this has not gone ahead as the fee requested for access was considered too expensive, often doubling the cost of entry.

- Certain venues are not being used to their full potential at present. These include school grounds, POCs and Ecotrails. This is generally due to lack of expertise within the organizations owning the maps.

3.1.9 ROCK CLIMBING

a. Structure

The Mountaineering Council Of Ireland (MCI) is the national governing body for the sport of mountaineering in Ireland. This covers the whole spectrum of mountaineering including rock climbing. Currently the MCI employs a full time Youth Development Officer in Northern Ireland.

b. Venues

There are two major rock climbing venues in Northern Ireland and a further 8 minor climbing locations.

c. Participation (fig. 9)

Typically, members of mountaineering clubs may specialize in different aspects of the sport and only a percentage will be dedicated climbers. Despite this, 6 MCI affiliated clubs and one non-affiliated club can be classified as predominantly climber-based. It is difficult to gauge overall participation levels in outdoor climbing in Northern Ireland however this is estimated to be 600.

Female Participation

- This is not measured however anecdotal evidence suggests a very significant increase in female participation levels in the past 10 years.

Disabled Participation

- This is not measured.

Tourist Participation Levels

- This is not measured however anecdotal evidence suggests an increase in tourists traveling from GB specifically to Fair Head for climbing.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured however anecdotal evidence suggests a significant increase in participation of eastern European climbers.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
4	10	N/A	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	600	N/A	Increased

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	N/A	N/A	Increased	N/A	Increased	N/A	N/A

Fig. 9 Participation data for rock climbing

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
6	2	0

e. Trends

- Participation levels have increased generally with the most significant growth amongst female climbers.
- Participation levels of young people are increasing primarily as a result of MCI Youth Development initiatives and the appointment of a full time Youth Development Officer. Their activities are mainly confined to indoor climbing at present.
- Recent years have seen an increase in ethnic minority participation, largely amongst eastern Europeans. These are often experienced climbers in their home countries and their involvement in local climbing has had a positive influence on climbing standards in Northern Ireland.
- The profile of Northern Irish climbing has risen with some of the top climbing performances in the UK having taken place in the region over the past few years. A local climber has also established new routes in the Mourne and Fair Head at E8 standard, a significant achievement in UK terms.

f. Factors affecting development

- Indoor climbing walls are an important facility for introducing novices to the sport of climbing. They are also a crucial resource for many climbers; guaranteeing the opportunity for continued training in bad weather and out of season. The lack of quality climbing walls with good access to the public is cited as the most significant factor in limiting the growth of participation, and in curtailing the development of top performers. This problem is further compounded by a shortage of access to coaching and high quality instruction at climbing walls.

- The Northern Irish climate and the relative shortage of easily accessed rock climbing act as natural limitations to growth of the sport in Northern Ireland.
- Altnadue Quarry outside Castlewellan is a popular venue for introductory rock climbing sessions. Outdoor centres, commercial outdoor activity providers and Banbridge District Council have all reported access problems to the quarry. Issues include inadequate parking, difficult access to the rock face due to rock debris on the quarry floor, and concerns over the security of the rock in specific areas of the quarry.

3.2 WATER BASED ACTIVITIES

3.2.1 CANOEING

a. Structure

The Canoe Association of Northern Ireland (CANI) is the Northern Ireland division of the British Canoe Union (BCU) and is the governing body for canoeing in Northern Ireland. CANI employs a full time Coaching Development Officer and an Administrator.

b. Venues

There are over 50 known locations across Northern Ireland used for different disciplines within canoeing. These are located on lakes, rivers, and around the coastline. Anecdotal evidence suggests that many more canoeing venues exist however the details of such are unknown.

c. Participation (fig. 10)

There are 22 canoe clubs affiliated to CANI. The organisation has approximately 500 full members and a further 250 affiliated members. In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of non-affiliated participants in the sport of canoeing in Northern Ireland; this is currently estimated to be in excess of 2000 individuals.

Female Participation

- This is not measured.

Disabled Participation

- This is not measured.

Tourist Participation.

- This is unknown however anecdotal evidence suggests an increase in tourist participation levels particularly in recent years and partly in response to the development of 5 new Canoe Trails in partnership with CAAN.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	50+	22	22	772	600	N/A	2000+	23.3 of club members	N/A

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 10 Participation data for canoeing

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
24	11	0

e. Trends

- Participation levels in paddle sports as a whole have increased. This is also reflected in female and young person involvement.
- Increased participation is greatest amongst recreational paddlers with no affiliation to CANI or membership of canoe clubs.
- CANI membership levels have decreased slightly over the past 10 years. The number of CANI affiliated canoe clubs is unchanged.
- CANI run several youth initiatives promoting the involvement of young people in slalom, surf and polo disciplines. This has led to increased participation levels of young people in these disciplines.
- Standards of paddling have improved in some disciplines with Northern Irish competitors achieving British, European and World Champion status in kayak surfing.
- The advent of relatively inexpensive sit-on-top canoes has made canoeing significantly more accessible at entry level. This has contributed to a decline in the number of individuals joining clubs as beginners as they no longer need to borrow club equipment.
- There have been significant changes in participation levels within certain disciplines of canoeing in Northern Ireland. Sea kayaking and surf kayaking have experienced significant growth whereas white water paddling is in decline. The unpredictable nature of river levels arising from the unusual weather patterns experienced in recent

years is understood to be one of the major factors contributing to the decline of white water paddling.

- Public awareness of canoeing has increased. The development of canoe trails has added to this, raising the profile of canoeing within Northern Ireland.
- The development of canoe trails has raised the profile of Northern Irish canoeing around the UK and resulted in an increased number of tourists visiting to explore the trails.
- Numbers participating in instructed skills and performance courses have increased.

f. Factors Affecting Development

- Difficulties surrounding the fulfillment of Child Protection legislation have led to some clubs denying membership to individuals under 18 years old.
- Swimming pools are important training facilities for beginner canoeists. Fewer leisure centres are allowing use of their swimming pools for canoeing sessions because of concerns over litigation, thus restricting learning opportunities.
- Northern Ireland lacks a purpose built water sports centre suitable for training in the competitive disciplines of canoeing.
- Banbridge District Council report access issues on the River Bann at Tullylish, a very popular venue for canoeists. These centre around the actions of canoeists on land owned by and adjacent to the church. The Council's Tourist Officer has been unsuccessful in securing an agreement to provide steps at Tullylish to help alleviate the problem.

3.2.2 KITE SURFING

a. Structure

There is no officially recognised national governing body for kite surfing in the UK however the two generally recognised representative bodies for kite surfers in Northern Ireland are the Irish Kite surfing Association (IKSA) established in 2005, and the British Kite surfing Association (BKSA) established in 1999.

b. Venues

In general terms, easy access to an extensive and varied coastline make Northern Ireland a favorable venue for kite surfing. In total, 16 stretches of shoreline around the north and east coasts of Northern Ireland are used for kite surfing. The majority of these are council owned beaches, reflecting the fact that beaches provide the most convenient access for kite surfers to launch and land. The National Trust also permits kite surfing on one of its coastal sites.

c. Participation (fig. 11)

There are no kite surfing clubs per se in Northern Ireland however the Northern Ireland Kite Forum is a website forum with contributions from approximately 50 members who are active in the sport.

Female Participation

- It is estimated that 12% of active participants are female. In addition, approximately 12 females per year take part in introductory level courses.

Disabled Participation

- This is not measured however anecdotal evidence suggests that there are no physically disabled participants in Northern Ireland. This reflects the fact that the sport is not readily accessible to people with physical disabilities.

Tourist Participation

- This is not measured however anecdotal evidence suggests that kite surfers visit venues in Northern Ireland as part of a kite surfing holiday to the whole island. In addition, Northern Ireland hosts one leg of the annual IKSA Ireland Tour, a national competition attracting approximately 30 competitors from Northern Ireland and ROI. Occasionally competitors will travel from across Europe, however there is no data available as to how many.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is estimated to be in the region of 10%.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	16	N/A	1	N/A	50 BKSA & IKSA members	N/A	N/A	N/A	6

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	N/A	N/A

Fig. 11 Participation data for kite surfing

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
1 annually	5	0

e. Trends

- Since its emergence in Northern Ireland in 1998, kite surfing has grown in popularity and there are now approximately 50 active participants in the region. The majority of participants are aged between 20-40 years old.
- Participants entering the sport are most often from surfing, windsurfing, waterskiing or wakeboarding backgrounds.
- Youth participation is growing and ISKA have recently appointed a voluntary Youth Development Officer to promote this.
- The annual IKSA Ireland Tour has been established with Northern Ireland hosting a 2-day leg of the round Ireland tour, attracting approximately 30 competitors.
- Public awareness of kite surfing has increased as a result of the general public observing the activity on beaches in Northern Ireland and abroad.

f. Factors Affecting Development

- Many venues lack basic facilities such as toilets. Where these facilities exist they are often closed to the public out of season.
- Some venues have been zoned for recreational use however this is not always successfully enforced. Bathers can inadvertently cross into kite surfing zones through ignorance. This carries a high risk to bathers and as such is a serious concern for kite surfers.
- Kite surfing is deemed a high-risk activity and 'riders' are strongly encouraged to hold third party liability insurance. This cannot be enforced. At present, kite surfers enjoy good access to beaches around the coastline, however in the event of an incident involving a rider without insurance IKSA are concerned that any litigation against a local authority may result in the activity being banned at the particular venue, or a blanket ban being issued on all sites.
- The availability of lessons with qualified instructors is crucial in ensuring the dissemination of good practice in a high-risk sport. Currently there are 3 qualified kite surfing instructors in Northern Ireland with only one of these offering lessons on a commercial basis. The shortage of instructors is a concern for safety and is also an important factor in preventing the sport's development in the region. IKSA have gone some way to address the concerns over safety by running regular 'Sandy Burger' events where novices can go kite surfing with the support and supervision of more experienced riders.
- IKSA is currently reliant on BKSA to run qualification courses for instructors. This is inconvenient and compounds the instructor shortage problem.
- All IKSA staff are volunteers and the Association generates its income through membership fees and sponsorship. This income is not significant and ISKA representatives believe that increased funding would go some way in promoting the development of the sport in Northern Ireland.

3.2.3 ROWING

a. Structure

The Irish Amateur Rowing Union (IARU) is the governing body for rowing in Ireland. The Ulster Branch of IARU represents all affiliated rowing clubs in Ulster.

b. Venues

There are 7 rowing venues in regular use across Northern Ireland. Access is free of charge to all but one.

c. Participation (fig. 12)

There are 14 rowing clubs with an estimated total of 500 members. Clubs are based at schools, universities or are independent. Non-affiliated participation is unknown.

Female Participation

- This is estimated to be 40%.

Disabled Participation

- This is not measured.

Tourist Participation

- This is unknown however most regattas are two days in duration and include competing teams from ROI.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
3	7	35 In Ireland	14	1500 In Ireland	500	200	N/A	47 of club members in Ireland	40

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 12 Participation data for rowing

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
0	10	0

e. Trends

- Participation levels are increasing. This increase is most significant at Junior level (12-14 years) and at Master level (27 years upwards).
- There has been an increase in the number of venues used for rowing.

f. Factors Affecting Development

- There are no purpose built or natural rowing venues suitable for 2000m racing in Northern Ireland.

3.2.4 SAILING, POWER BOATING AND MOTOR CRUSINING

a. Structure

The Royal Yachting Association Northern Ireland (RYANI) is the Northern Irish division of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), the national governing body representing recreational boat owners in the UK. RYANI employs a full-time Performance Manager, a part-time Development and Training Manager and a full-time Business Manager.

b. Venues

Within clubs, Recognised Training Centres (RTCs) and marinas, sailing takes place at approximately 40 venues, power boating takes place at approximately 25 venues and motor cruising takes place at approximately 25 venues.

c. Participation (fig. 13)

There are 37 clubs and 28 separate RTCs affiliated to the RYA in Northern Ireland. Total participation levels in the sport are not known however this is estimated to be well in excess of 12,000 individuals.

Female Participation

- This is not measured.

Disabled Participation

- This is not measured however there has been a significant increase in disabled participation levels over the past 10 years due to the introduction of the Sailibility scheme to Northern Ireland in 2001. As a result, it is estimated that over 1100 disabled individuals participate in sailing annually.

Tourist Participation

- This is unknown.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
50	65+	37	37	9900	12,000+	3 clubs	N/A	31 of club members	N/A

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 13 Participation data for Sailing, Power boating, Motor cruising

d. Events

The exact number of sailing, power boating and motor cruising events that have taken place in Northern Ireland over the past 5 years is unknown, however there are estimated to be hundreds of local and national events annually, and one international event every 3-4 years.

e. Trends

- The introduction of the Sailability scheme has resulted in increased levels of disabled participation and improved provision for disabled sailors.
- Participation levels have increased for all types of powerboats including Personal Water Craft (PWC), speedboats, RIBS and motor cruisers.
- Greater numbers of young people are competing to higher levels within the sport of sailing. This is largely attributed to the appointment of a full-time RYA Performance Manager.
- Numbers of RTCs have increased. This has made all types of sailing and power boating more accessible to the general public.
- There has been a marked increase and improvement in marina facilities around the Northern Irish coastline. This is a very positive development for local sailors and visiting yachtsmen.
- In 2005 the first RYA affiliated PWC club was formed in Northern Ireland.

f. Factors affecting development

- There is a shortage of training centres and qualified staff able to run RYA courses at the highest level in Northern Ireland. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the demand for high-level courses is never met in the region.
- Powerboat sales have declined in very recent years. In part, this is attributed to the sustained period of rising fuel prices.
- PWC use is restricted in many areas and poor relations often exist between PWC users and other water users. A number of council have reported PWC users non-compliance with zoning regulations and unauthorised PWC activity in areas where the sport is banned.
- Although many young people experience sailing at outdoor centres and as part of summer schemes, continued involvement is limited and youth participation levels remain low

3.2.5 SCUBA DIVING

No other information was supplied for this research study on scuba diving.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
7	7	30	30	N/A	Data not supplied	5	Data not supplied	N/A	Data not supplied

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
Number 1995	Number 2008	Number 1995	Number 2008	Number 1995	Number 2008	Number 1995	Number 2008
1	Data not supplied	N/A	Data not supplied	N/A	Data not supplied	N/A	Data not supplied

Fig. 14 Participation data on scuba diving

3.2.6 SURFING

a. Structure

The Irish Surfing Association is the national governing body for the sport of surfing in Ireland.

b. Venues

Ten beaches across the north coast of Northern Ireland are regularly used for surfing. The majority are owned by local councils and are accessed free of charge.

c. Participation (fig. 15)

There are 5 surfing clubs in Northern Ireland. The largest of these is the Causeway Coast Surf Club with a membership of approximately 80. It is estimated that as many as 7,500-10,000 individuals participate to some degree in recreational surfing in Northern Ireland. Over 1,200 individuals take surfing lessons annually.

Female Participation

It is estimated that 60% of individuals taking lessons and 25% of recreational surfers are female.

Disabled Participation

This is estimated to be 0%.

Tourist Participation

This is estimated to be 20%. Anecdotal evidence indicates a significant increase in tourist participation levels, particularly in the past couple of years.

Ethnic Minority Participation

This is estimated to be 10%.

TSN Participation

This is unknown.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	10	N/A	5	N/A	80+	N/A	7,500+	N/A	25

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
N/A	0	N/A	20	N/A	10	N/A	N/A

Fig. 15 Participation data for surfing

d. Events

The table over details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
11	7	0

e. Trends

- There has been a very significant increase in participation levels in surfing over the past 10 years. This has been reflected in a dramatic increase in numbers purchasing introductory lessons at surf schools, and a growth in the number of surfing related services; there are now 3 surf schools and 4 surf shops servicing the North Coast area.
- Greater numbers of surfers from other areas of the UK are visiting to surf in Northern Ireland. The advent of low cost airlines has encouraged this trend. Anecdotal evidence also suggests an increased number of surfers travelling from ROI, especially Dublin, for weekend surfing trips. This particular increase is attributed to the improved road network between north and south.
- Surfing equipment has become more affordable making the sport more accessible to the general public. This has been cited as the single biggest factor contributing to the growth of the sport.
- Public awareness of surfing has increased.
- The mild weather of recent winters, combined with improved wetsuit technology, has resulted in year-round surfing with many participants continuing to surf throughout the winter.

f. Factors affecting development

- The recent provision of a dedicated water sports facility at East Strand Portrush was enthusiastically received, however surfers would welcome the provision of similar facilities elsewhere, keeping apace with the sport's development.
- Water quality has improved across the main surfing venues. This has come about largely as a result of the new sewage and water treatment facilities in the area, providing secondary level water treatment. Surfers would like this process taken further by the provision of facilities to allow tertiary level water treatment using UV light. This would further improve water quality

3.2.7 WATER SKI ING AND WAKE BOARDING

No other information was supplied for this research study on scuba diving.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
8	Data not supplied	7	5	500	Data not supplied	2000 - 5000	Data not supplied	20 of club members	Data not supplied

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
1	Data not supplied	N/A	Data not supplied	N/A	Data not supplied	N/A	Data not supplied

Fig. 16 Participation data for water skiing and wake boarding

3.3 AIR BASED ACTIVITIES

3.3.1 AEROMODELLING

a. Structure

The Northern Ireland Association of Aeromodellers (NIAA) is an affiliated area of the British Model Flying Association (BMFA) and is the recognised governing body for aeromodelling in Northern Ireland.

b. Venues

There are currently 35 flying sites in use across Northern Ireland with a further 4 sites falling out of use in recent years. NIAA Clubs do not own any flying sites; the majority of venues are leased privately from farmers, with some provided by District Councils.

c. Participation (fig. 17)

There are 22 aeromodelling clubs situated across the region with upwards of 463 members. Another 94 people have BMFA affiliation but do not hold club membership.

Female Participation

- Participation is very small but notably successful.

Disabled Participation

- This is estimated to be no more than 2%. Aeromodelling is an activity with great potential for those with physical disabilities and the NIAA has run initiatives to encourage disabled participation.

Tourist Participation

- This is not measured however tourists do visit Northern Ireland to attend aeromodelling events. NIAA host national events annually. In 2007 the World Jetmasters, an international event, was hosted at St. Angelo in Enniskillen, attracting tourists from around the world and providing an estimated 7300 tourist bed nights.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured however BMFA has an Education Programme which could be developed to the benefit of such activities.

Venues	Clubs	Members	Non Members	% Women
--------	-------	---------	-------------	---------

1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
20	35	16	22	382	463+	N/A	94	0.3 of club members	N/A

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
2	<2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 17 Participation data for aeromodelling

d. Events

The table below details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
60	6	1

e. Trends

- In general terms the sport has grown over the past 10 years with more flying sites, more clubs and more participants. Female and disabled participation is welcome but levels have remained relatively low.
- Aeromodelling has diversified and there has been an increase in the number of flying disciplines within the sport. This has contributed to an increase in the number of annual events hosted as each discipline holds its own competitions.
- The outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease forced many clubs to operate indoors for the duration of the epidemic. When outdoor restrictions were lifted many participants continued to fly indoors, giving rise to a number of new indoor aeromodelling venues.
- There has been a very significant trend towards electric powered models. This has made aeromodelling more accessible to the general public because of the advent of ready-to-fly aircraft, and the elimination of any noise problem.
- The quality of flying has improved as evidenced by the increased number of local competitors gaining high rankings in national competitions. Small numbers have also competed as finances permit at European and World Championship level over many years.

f. Factors affecting development

- The main limitation on the development of clubs and growth of participation is the need for flying sites. The general requirement is a fairly large flat area with an open area around, far enough from dwellings to avoid causing a nuisance. Suitable areas are often in demand for more lucrative activities.
- NIAA want more secure tenure on flying sites. At present, flying sites are rented and this reduces the incentive to develop club facilities on the land. Moreover, rates are charged on any temporary structure erected, reducing the incentive to develop further.
- NIAA has not received financial support from Sport NI for several years. Although renewed funding would be appreciated, NIAA feel more keenly the lack of official recognition implied by its withdrawal. Sport NI's backing provided official confirmation of the standards being achieved by the top fliers. As a minority sport they would appreciate recognition of the limitations on their time to pursue other defined minorities.

3.3.2 MICROLOGHT FLYING

a. Structure

The British Microlight Aircraft Association (BMAA) is the representative body for Microlight flying in the UK, including Northern Ireland.

b. Venues

There are 3 microlight flying schools each encompassing 3 microlight flying clubs In Northern Ireland. These fly from 4 different airfields across the region.

c. Participation (fig. 18)

In total there are an estimated 250 individuals who participate in microlight flying in Northern Ireland. Of these, over 190 are members of 3 flying clubs in the region. The Ulster Flying Club, based at Newtownards, has a membership of approximately 100. It is the largest flying club in Ireland, and one of the largest clubs in the UK. BMAA membership in Northern Ireland is 127. The majority of participants are aged between 40-50 years.

Female Participation

- This is estimated to be less than 2%.

Disabled Participation

- This is estimated to be 0%.

Tourist Participation

- This is estimated to be 5%.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is not measured.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues	Clubs	Members	Non Members	% Women
--------	-------	---------	-------------	---------

1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
8	4	4	3	101	190+ members of clubs	200	60+	1 of club members	<2
					127 members of BMAA				

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
0	0	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Fig. 18 Participation data for Microlight flying

d. Events

The table over details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
N/A	0	0

e. Trends

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that while affiliated participation levels have increased, there has been a decline in non-affiliated participation. Female participation levels have remained very low.
- Innovations in microlight design have made them more reliable to fly but also more expensive.
- Enrollment levels on flying courses have increased.
- The majority of students enrolled on flying courses are from ROI.
- The sport of microlight flying is becoming more accessible as new regulations have relaxed rules for single seat microlights, negating the need for a permit. This also reduces overheads. Ultimately it is hopeful that this will lead to increased participation levels, and a reduction in the average age of fliers.

f. Factors Affecting Development

- There are a shortage of airfields and airfield facilities in Northern Ireland. It is difficult to acquire planning permission for new airfields and to erect facilities on existing airfields.
- Despite greater numbers of students enrolling to learn how to fly the dropout rate remains high. This is largely a result of the unreliable weather conditions in Northern Ireland, causing lessons to be repeatedly rescheduled and elongating the learning process. Students lose motivation to complete the qualification.
- There is a shortage of qualified microlight instructors in Northern Ireland. If there were more instructors, courses could be more flexible to take account of the weather and the dropout rate may be reduced.
- Fliers are concerned about the introduction of new legislation restricting flying. Recent legislation extending the airway between the north and south of Ireland may restrict airspace.
- Legislation originating in Europe is seen as adding to bureaucracy and increasing the financial burden on fliers. One such law requiring the fitting of transponders to microlights costs £1,500 per aircraft

3.3.3 PARAGLIDING AND HANG GLIDING

a. Structure

The British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) is the official representative body for hang gliding and paragliding in the UK. The Ulster Hang gliding and Paragliding Club (UHPC) is the only hang gliding and paragliding club in Northern Ireland and is affiliated to the BHPA.

b. Venues

There are 3 main areas within Northern Ireland used by paragliders and hang gliders. These are the Sperrin mountains, the Mourne mountains and the Antrim hills. Specific hills within each range may be launched from depending on weather conditions. All sites are privately owned and access is by agreement between the landowner and the UHPC.

c. Participation (fig. 19)

There are approximately 50 members of the UHPC. It is not known how many non-affiliated individuals participate in the sport. The average age of participants is early forties.

Female Participation

- This is 2%.

Disabled Participation

- This is not measured however anecdotal evidence suggests that there are several members with hearing and sight disabilities.

Tourist Participation

- Approximately 5 visiting paragliders participate in the sport whilst on holiday in Northern Ireland each year.

Ethnic Minority Participation

- This is estimated to be 4%, all of eastern European origin.

TSN Participation

- This is not measured.

Venues		Clubs		Members		Non Members		% Women	
1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008	1995	2008
20+	20+	1	1	61	50+	N/A	N/A	3.3 of club members	2

% Disabled		% Tourist		% Ethnic Minority		%TSN	
1995	2008	1995	2008	r 1995	2008	1995	2008
<5	N/A	N/A	9	N/A	4	N/A	N/A

Fig. 19 Participation for paragliding and hang gliding

d. Events

The table over details the approximate number of events hosted in Northern Ireland in the past 5 years.

Local	National	International
1 annually	0	0

e. Trends

- There has been little significant change in paragliding and hang gliding over the past 10 years. UHPC membership figures show a slight decrease in participation however this may be a consequence of slow membership renewal in 2008.
- Recent years have seen increased interest in cross-country and competition flying. More Northern Irish participants are regularly flying in competitions across Europe and farther afield.

f. Factors affecting development

- The UHPC has held initiatives to encourage new participants into the sport however these have been largely unsuccessful.
- Opportunities for learning to fly are restricted in Northern Ireland as there are only 2 part-time schools training pilots in the region. This limits numbers entering the sport. The unreliable weather conditions further compound this problem by elongating the learning process, thus making it more difficult for students to complete their flying course.
- Banbridge District Council have reported access problems in relation to a flying venue at Slieve Croob summit. Recurrent vandalism within the take-off area has lead to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) imposing very restricted access, preventing paragliders and hang gliders from gaining motorised access to the site.

4. SUMMARAY

4.1 KEY TRENDS IN SPORTS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS.

- Most sports under consideration in the study have experienced growth in participation levels.
- In the majority of cases growth in participation has been greatest amongst those not affiliated to clubs or NGB's.
- In all sports female participation is significantly lower that that of males.
- The availability of cheaper sports equipment has had a positive impact on participation levels in a number of sports including canoeing, surfing and mountain biking.
- Where statistics allow comparison, it is apparent that the number of venues used by almost every sport has increased.
- Where funding has been secured for particular staff roles or initiatives, such as youth development, performance management or disabled participation, these have largely been successful in meeting objectives.
- A number of sports reported increased numbers of participants travelling to GB, Europe and farther afield in order to participate and compete in their chosen field.
- Northern Irish participants in paragliding, canoeing, aeromodelling, fell running, field archery and rock climbing have all gained significant achievements at British, European or worldwide level.
- There has been an increase in the number of private estates that encourage use of their land for recreational activities. The incentive is usually commercial and in many cases the established activities are more traditional countryside pursuits (e.g. horse-riding, shooting, etc.), plus some limited team-building activities for corporate groups. However, in recent years a small number of private estates have welcomed more contemporary activities including mountain biking and adventure racing. More than half of the current field archery venues are located on private estates.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of commercial outdoor activity providers operating in Northern Ireland over the past 10 years. These are concentrated in County Down.

4.2 FACTORS AFFECTING DEVELOPMENT

- Issues surrounding litigation and public liability are leading to increasing difficulties in securing access for a large number of outdoor sports. Fear of litigation is often used as an excuse to preclude access to land. This is true in the cases of those sports taking place on both public and private land. Another by-product of the litigation issue is the growth of 'clubs' in all but name. Groups of sports enthusiasts choose not to be recognised as a club in order to avoid the financial burden of insurance costs. They are free to organise 'events' without paying public liability insurance.
- The financial cost of securing access to both public and private land is a major concern for a significant number of sports within the study. In particular, Forest Service has been identified by 4 different sports as charging excessively high fees for granting access and activity permits. Additionally, it is apparent that there are great

disparities in both the fees charged to different sports, and in the application procedure for sports organisations hoping to use the forests.

- The data collection phase of the project highlighted significant difficulties in obtaining accurate statistical data on participation levels. In general terms, the greater the participation levels within a sport the smaller the amount of accurate data available. In particular, it was extremely difficult to obtain any accurate information regarding participation levels of disabled individuals, ethnic minorities or those from TSN areas. In most cases these statistics are not recorded at club or NGB level. NGBs recognize that the lack of such information limits the usefulness of development plans and may be detrimental to funding applications.
- Representatives from councils, clubs, NGBs and outdoor centres all cite issues surrounding the fulfillment of Child Protection legislation as having a negative impact on participation levels of young people within outdoor sports. This is particularly evident at club level where volunteers are reluctant to commit the time and finances necessary to meet the Child Protection legislation requirements.
- Most sports specify lack of funding as a factor impeding their development. New facilities, improvements to existing facilities, assistance with travel expenses to elite training facilities or competitions, subsidy of instructor qualification fees, funding for staff, and financial backing for hosting events are all areas where funding is sought.
- A considerable number of sports cite a shortage of sport-specific facilities as a significant factor impeding development. Other sports representatives expressed disappointment concerning the lack of basic facilities at venues on public land. Frustration exists where public facilities are provided but remain closed outside of peak season.
- A shortage of qualified instructors is cited to be an important factor impeding development within the sports of sailing, microlight flying, paragliding and hang gliding.
- In Northern Ireland, the highest concentration of outdoor activity centres and commercial outdoor activity providers is around the Mourne Mountain area of County Down. Within the vicinity, all parties consulted reported problems of overcrowding at popular activity venues. This was particularly in relation to 2 venues in the Castlewellan area, Altnadue Quarry and the lake in Castlewellan Forest Park.

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

A. SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Adventure Racing

Causeway Coast Adventure Racing – Ivan Parkes (Chairman)
Detail (Events) Ltd – David Powell (Director)
Adventure Ireland – Greg Clarke

Aeromodelling

Northern Ireland Aeromodellers Association - Maurice Doyle (Secretary)

Canoeing

Canoe Association of Northern Ireland – Ashley Hunter (Coaching Development Officer)
Countryside Access and Activities Network – Kathryn Callaghan (Water Based Development Officer)
Sport NI – Mike McClure (Countryside Recreation Development Officer)

Caving

Speological Union of Ireland – Owen Williams (outgoing Chairperson), Colin Bunce incoming (Chairperson)
Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre – Raymond Finlay (Warden)
Ropes Access Specialists Ltd. – Tim Fogg (Director)

Fell Running

Northern Ireland Mountain Running Association – Ian Taylor (Secretary)

Field Archery

Northern Ireland Archery Association – Frank Mulligan (Field Officer, Executive Committee), Trudi Moore (Secretary), Audrey Needham (NI Field Archery Team), Robin Brown (NI Field Archery Team)
Sport NI – Norma Bowman (Performance Consultant)

Kite Buggying

Irish Power kite and Sandyacht Association – Alan Watson (Chairperson), Kevin Copeland (Treasurer)

Kite surfing

Irish Kite Surfing Association - Eddie Hawkins (President)

Microlight Flying

British Microlight Aircraft Association – Joanne Pickles (Membership Secretary)
Ulster Flying School – Gerry Snodden (Instructor), Ken Crompton (Instructor)
Kernan Aviation – Raphael O' Carroll (Instructor)
Fly NI - Victor Carmichael (Instructor)

Mountain Biking

Countryside Access and Activities Network - Clare Wright (Strategic Access Manager)
Trail Badger - Rick McKee
Not The Sunday Run – Didi Baxter
Dromara Cycling Club – Martin Grimley (Assistant Secretary)
MTB Rider - Andy Beavis
Real Cycles, MTB Rider Forum - Steve Baskerville (Manager)

Mountain Boarding

Surfin'Dirt - Gary Parr (Manager)

Orienteering

Northern Ireland Orienteering Association – Helen Baxter (Development Officer)

Paragliding and Hang Gliding

Ulster Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club - Andrew Jess (Chairperson)

First Flight Paragliding - Bertie Kennedy (Instructor)

Rock Climbing

Mountaineering Council of Ireland - Angela Carlin (Youth Development Officer)

Tollymore Mountain Centre – Trevor Fisher (Manager)

Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre – Stephen Ferris (Instructor)

Rowing

Ulster Branch Irish Amateur Rowing Union – Brenda Ewing (Secretary)

Sailing

Royal Yachting Association Northern Ireland (RYANI) – Lisa Waugh (Business Manager), Richard Honeyford (Performance Manager), Eamon Masterson (Development and Training Manager).

RYA affiliated bodies - Coleraine Yacht Club, Portrush Yacht Club, Bangor Marina Berth Holders Association, Carrickfergus Marina Berth Holders Association, County Antrim Yacht Club Whitehead, Ardglass Marina Berth Holders Association, International Yachtmaster Academy.

Sailability Northern Ireland – Bob Harper (Area Coordinator), Kelly Rushton (Instructor)

Killyleagh Outdoor Education Centre – Kevin Balmer (Warden)

Scuba Diving

British Sub Aqua Club – Julie Williams (Membership Services)

Surfing

Troggs Surf Shop and Surf School - Andrew Hill (Manager)

Water Skiing and Wakeboarding

Irish Waterski federation - Andrew McDonald (Northern Ireland Chairman)

B. COUNCILS

Antrim Borough Council – Elaine Upton (Countryside Officer)

Ards Borough Council – Judith Hammond (Tourist Information Centre)

Armagh City and District Council – Greg Ferson (Countryside Officer)

Ballymena Borough Council – Lindsay Dunlop (Countryside Officer)

Ballymena Borough Council – Sonya Crawford (Countryside Officer)

Banbridge District Council – Nuala Hamilton (Countryside Officer)

Belfast City Council – Anne Reid (Countryside Officer)

Carrickfergus Borough Council – Stephen Dayes (Parks and Countryside Development Officer)

Castlereagh Borough Council – Alana Quinn (Countryside Officer)

Coleraine Borough Council – Mark Strong (Countryside Officer)

Cookstown District Council – Liam Glavin (Leisure Services Manager)

Craigavon Borough Council – Tara Love (Countryside Officer)

Derry City Council – Dr Willie Burke (Countryside Officer)

Down District Council – Heather Wilson (Countryside Officer)

Dungannon and South Tyrone – Colin McKenna (Parks Project Manager)

Larne Borough Council – Lynda Foy (Countryside Officer)

Limavady Borough Council – Richard Gillen (Countryside Officer)

Lisburn City Council – Stephen Toal (Countryside Officer)

Newry and Mourne District Council – Adele Knox

Newtownabbey Borough Council – Neil Luney (Rural Projects Officer)

North Down Borough Council – Jennifer Ingram (Countryside Officer)

Regeneration of South Armagh – Ron Murray (Countryside Officer)

Strabane District Council – Martin Bradley (Countryside Officer)

C: OUTDOOR CENTRES AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PROVIDERS

Ardnabannon Outdoor Education Centre – Stephen Ferris (Instructor)

Bushmills Outdoor Education Centre – Alan Parkes (Warden)

Craigavon Watersports Centre – Roger Hamilton (Instructor)

Delamont Outdoor Education Centre – Greg McCann (Instructor)

East Coast Adventure Centre – Ian Cummings (Director)

Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre – Raymond Finlay (Warden)

Killowen Outdoor education Centre – Peter Wells (Warden)

Lagan Watersports Centre – Liz Quinn (Manager)

Outdoor Concepts – Craig McCullough (Director)

Share Holiday Village – Rory Martin (Marketing Officer)

Tollymore Mountain Centre – Trevor Fisher (Warden)

Xplore Outdoors – Steve Hodge (Director), Gareth Moore (Director)

D. STATUTORY AUTHROTIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Northern Ireland Water - Valerie Crozier (Environmental Manager)

Northern Ireland Forest Service – Stephen McCartney (North District), Basil Lenaghan (West District), Mark Parker (East District)

The National Trust Northern Ireland– Jill Montgomery (Access and Recreation Officer)

Causeway and Glens Heritage Trust – Maxime Sizaret (Natural Heritage Officer)

E. PRIVATE ESTATES

Whyte’s Estate – Dr Jean Whyte

Gilford Castle Estate – Krystine Wright

Ballywalter Estate – Sharon Graham (Secretary)

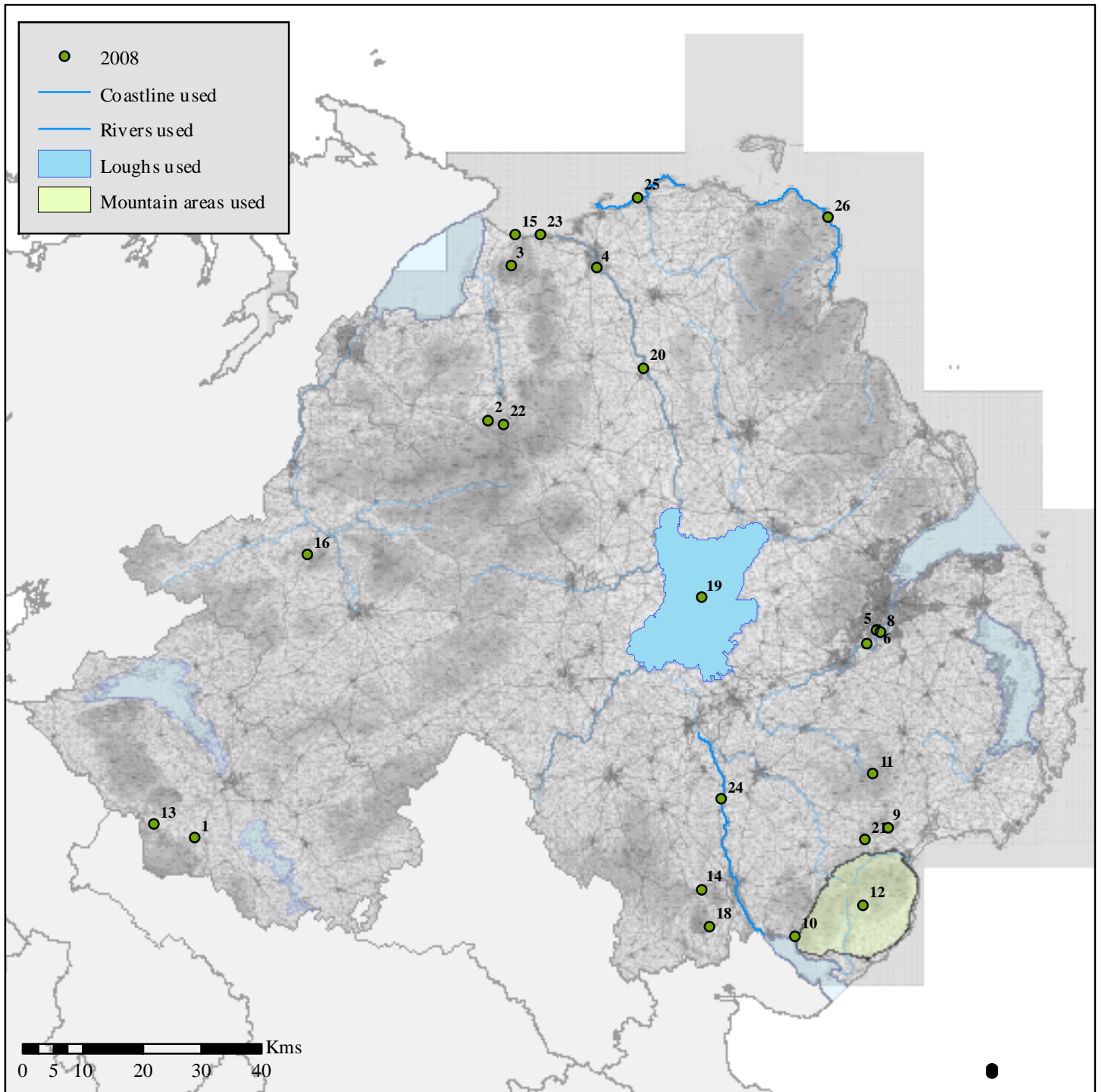
Greyabbey Estate – Amanda Blackmore

Blessingborne Estate – Colleen Lowry

Clandeboye Estate – David Corr

APPENDIX 2: VENUE LOCATIONS

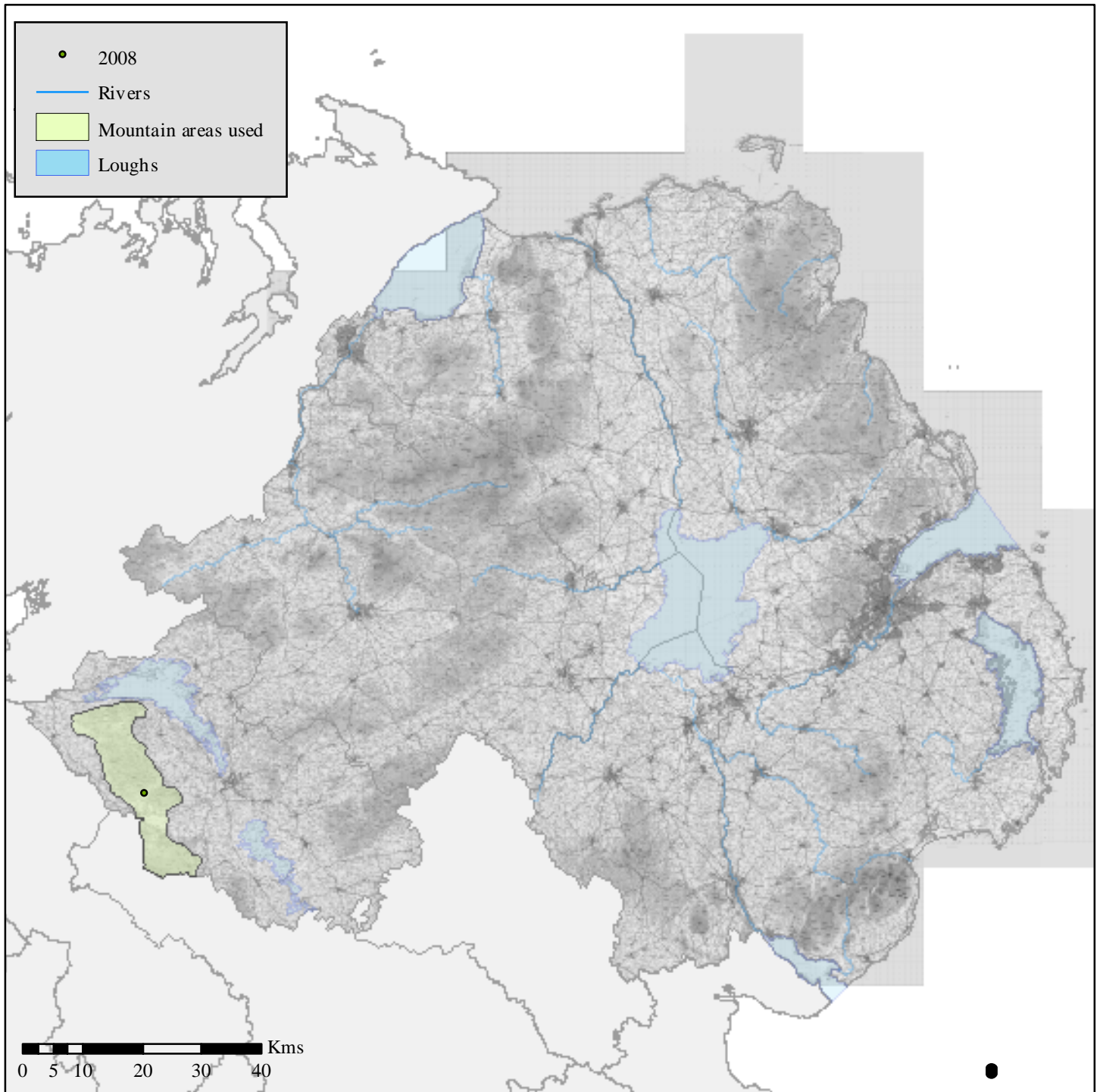
Adventure Racing Venues



- VENUE
- 1 Florencecourt
 - 2 Banagher Forest
 - 3 Binevenagh
 - 4 Somerset Forest Park
 - 5 Barnett's Demesne
 - 6 Clement Wilson Park
 - 7 Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park
 - 8 Belvoir Forest
 - 9 Castlewellan Forest Park
 - 10 Rostrevor Forest
 - 11 Slieve Croob
 - 12 Mourne
 - 13 Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre

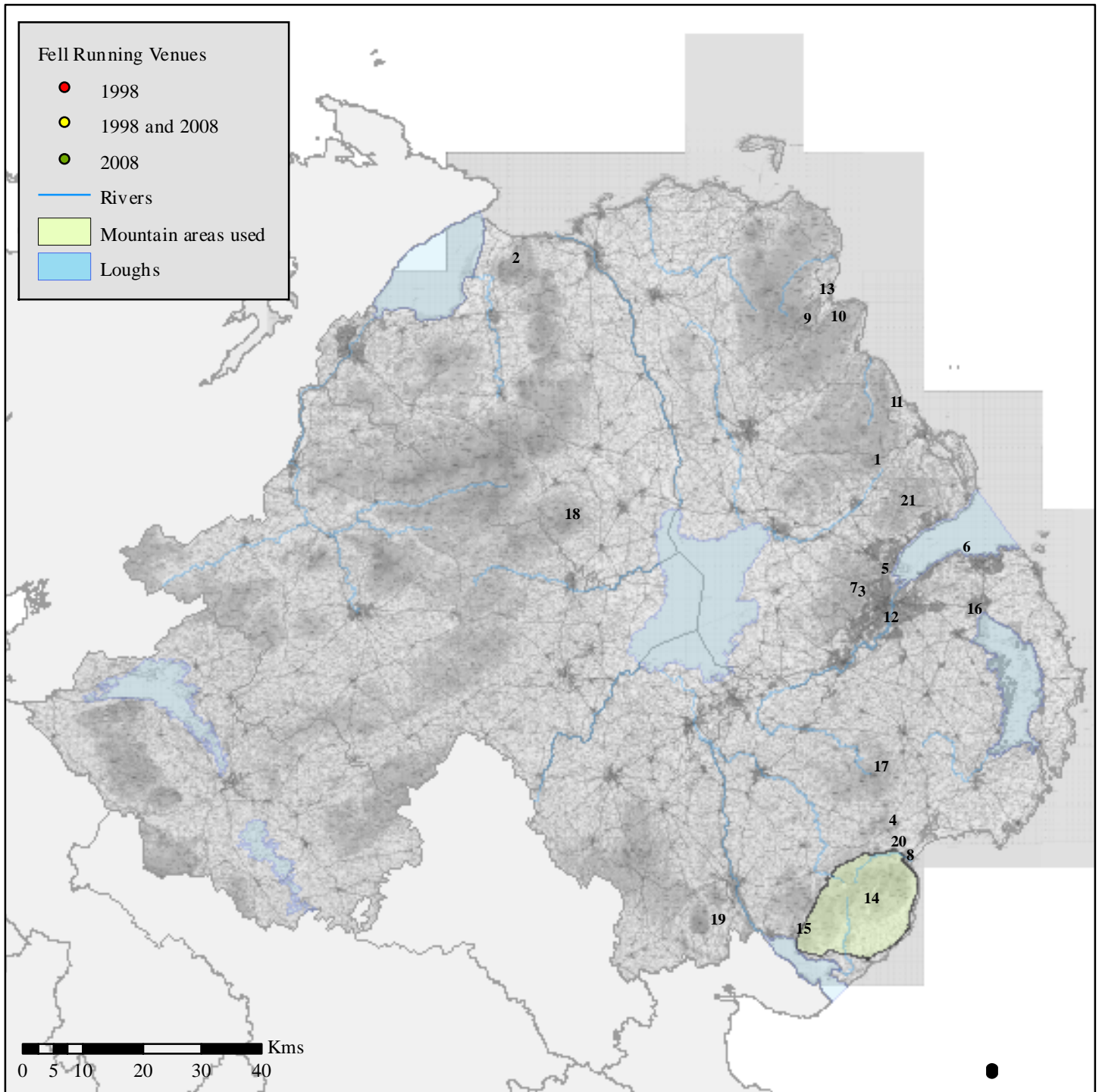
- VENUE
- 14 Camlough Lake
 - 15 Benone Beach
 - 16 Baronscourt
 - 17 Lagan Valley Regional Park
 - 18 Slieve Gullion Forest Park
 - 19 Lough Neagh
 - 20 Lower Bann
 - 21 Lough Island Reevy Reservoir
 - 22 Altnaheglis Reservoir
 - 23 Mussenden Temple
 - 24 Newry Canal
 - 25 Portrush to Dunseverick
 - 26 Ballycastle to Cushendall

Caving



VENUE
1 Fermanagh

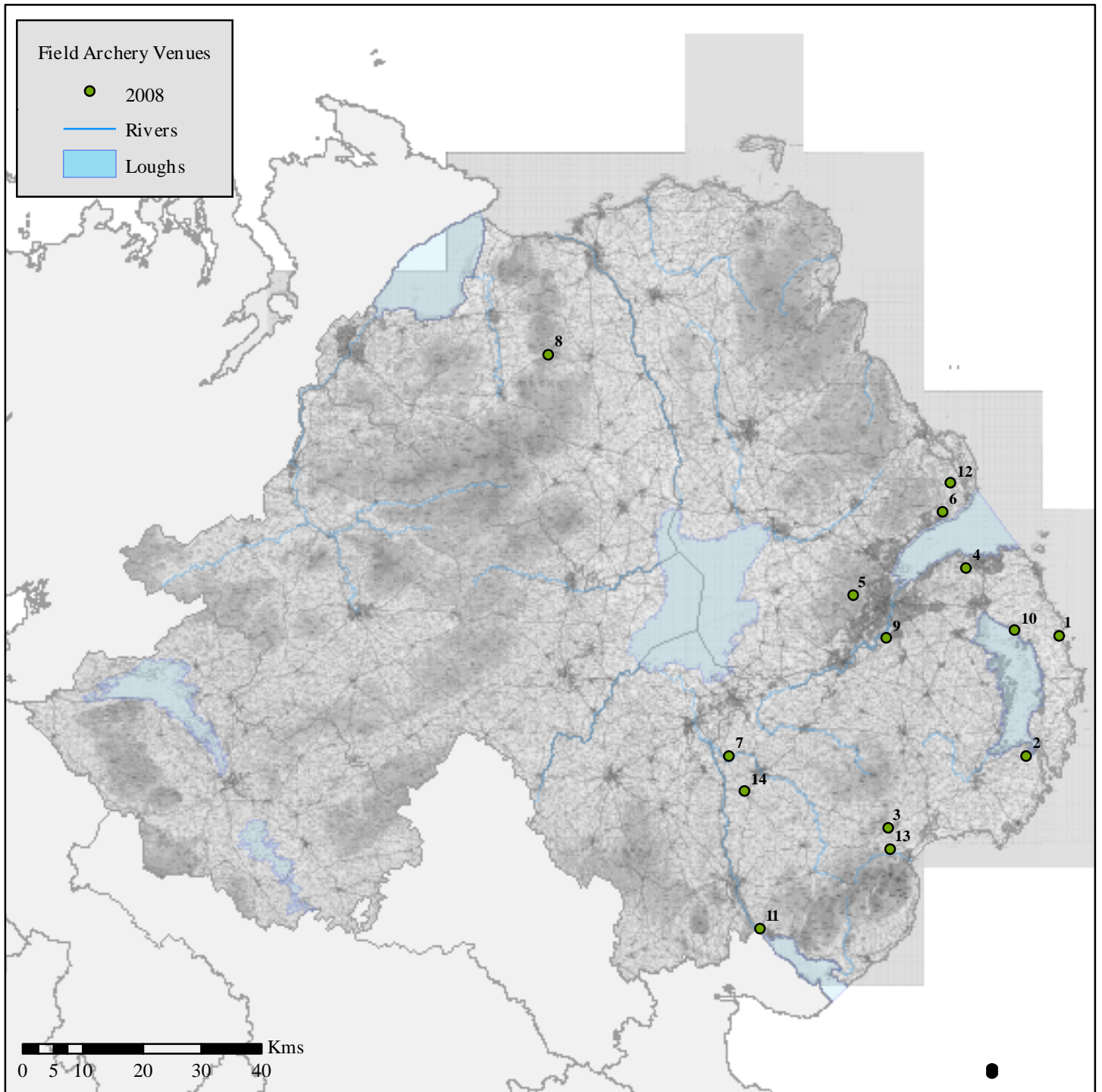
Fell Running Venues



- VENUE
- 1 Ballyboley Forest
 - 2 Binevenagh
 - 3 Black Mountain
 - 4 Castlewellan Forest Park
 - 5 Cave Hill Country Park
 - 6 Crawfordsburn Country Park
 - 7 Divis
 - 8 Donard Wood
 - 9 Glengariff Forest Park
 - 10 Glengariff Mountains
 - 11 Knock Dhu

- VENUE
- 12 Lagan Meadows
 - 13 Lurigethan
 - 14 Mourne
 - 15 Rostrevor Forest
 - 16 Scrabo
 - 17 Slieve Croob
 - 18 Slieve Gallion
 - 19 Slieve Gullion Forest Park
 - 20 Tollymore Forest Park
 - 21 Woodburn Forest

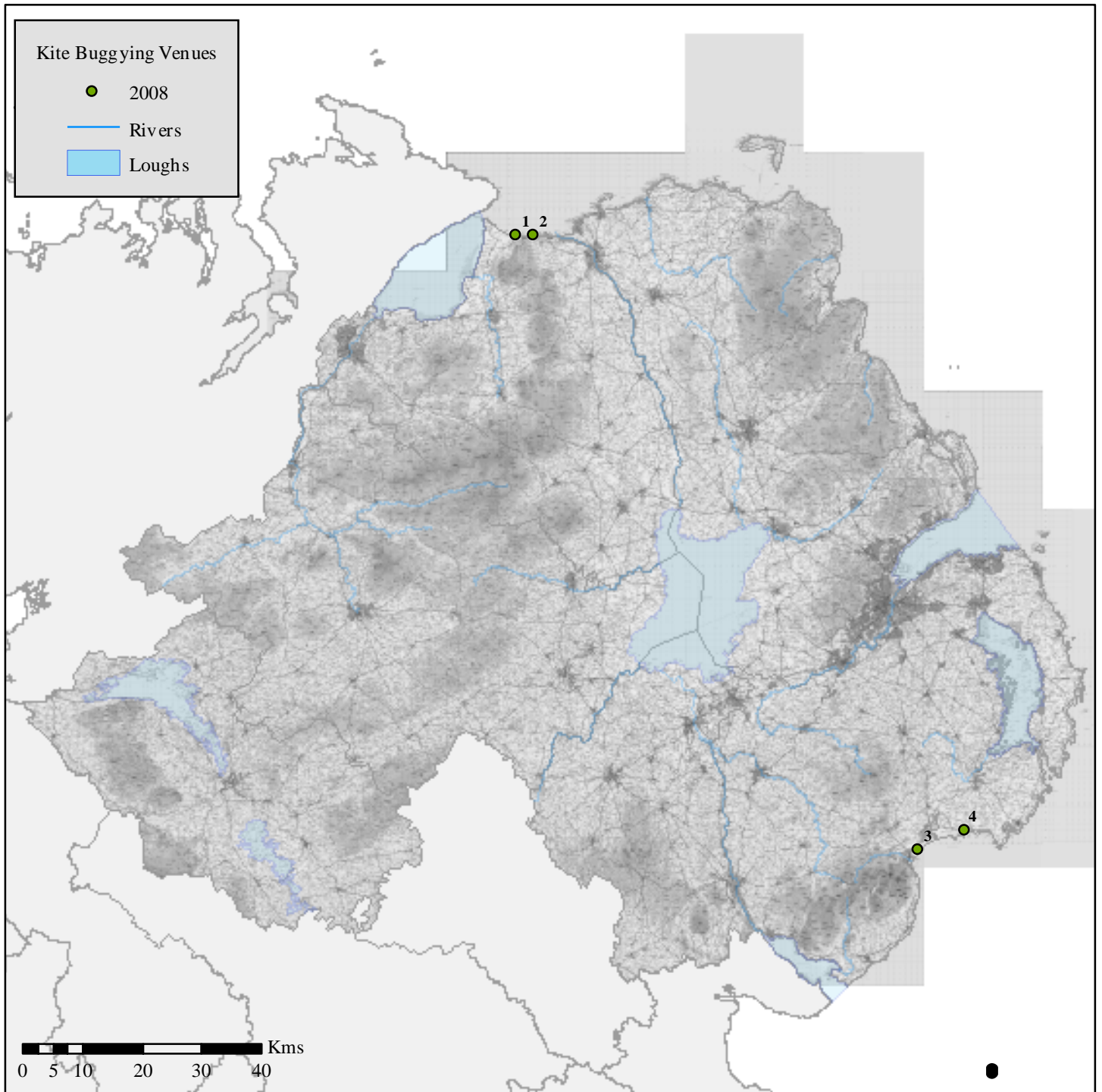
Field Archery Venues



- VENUE
- 1 Ballywalter Park and Country Estate
 - 2 Castleward
 - 3 Castlewellan Forest Park
 - 4 Clandyboye Estate
 - 5 Divis
 - 6 Eden Playing Fields
 - 7 Gilford Castle Estate

- VENUE
- 8 Gortnamoyagh Forest
 - 9 Hydebank Wood
 - 10 Mount Stewart Estate
 - 11 Narrow Water Castle Estate
 - 12 Redhall Estate
 - 13 Tollymore Forest Park
 - 14 Whyte Estate

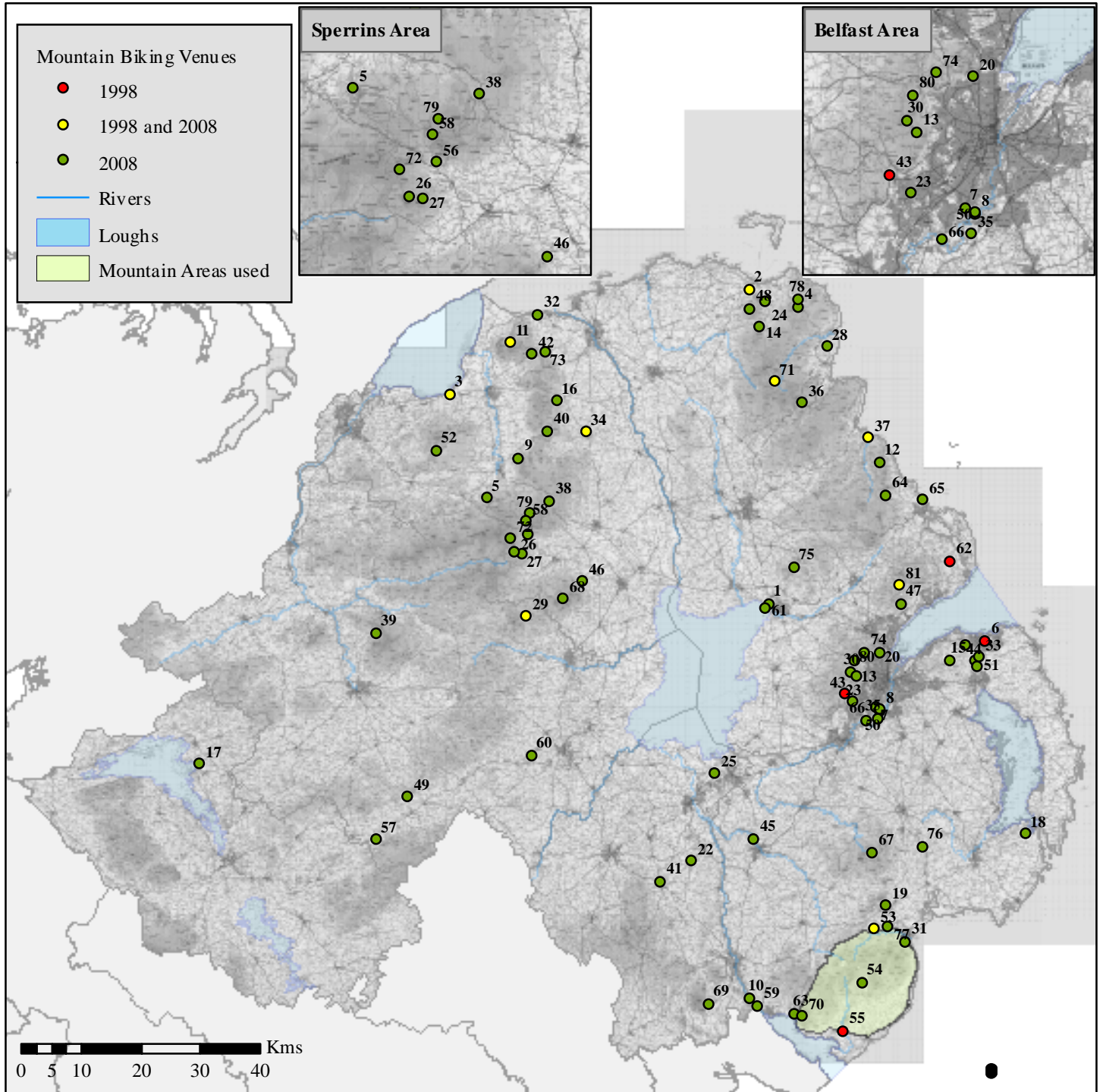
Kite Buggy Venues



VENUE

- 1 Benone Beach
- 2 Downhill Strand
- 3 Murlough Beach
- 4 Tyrella Beach

Mountain Biking Venues



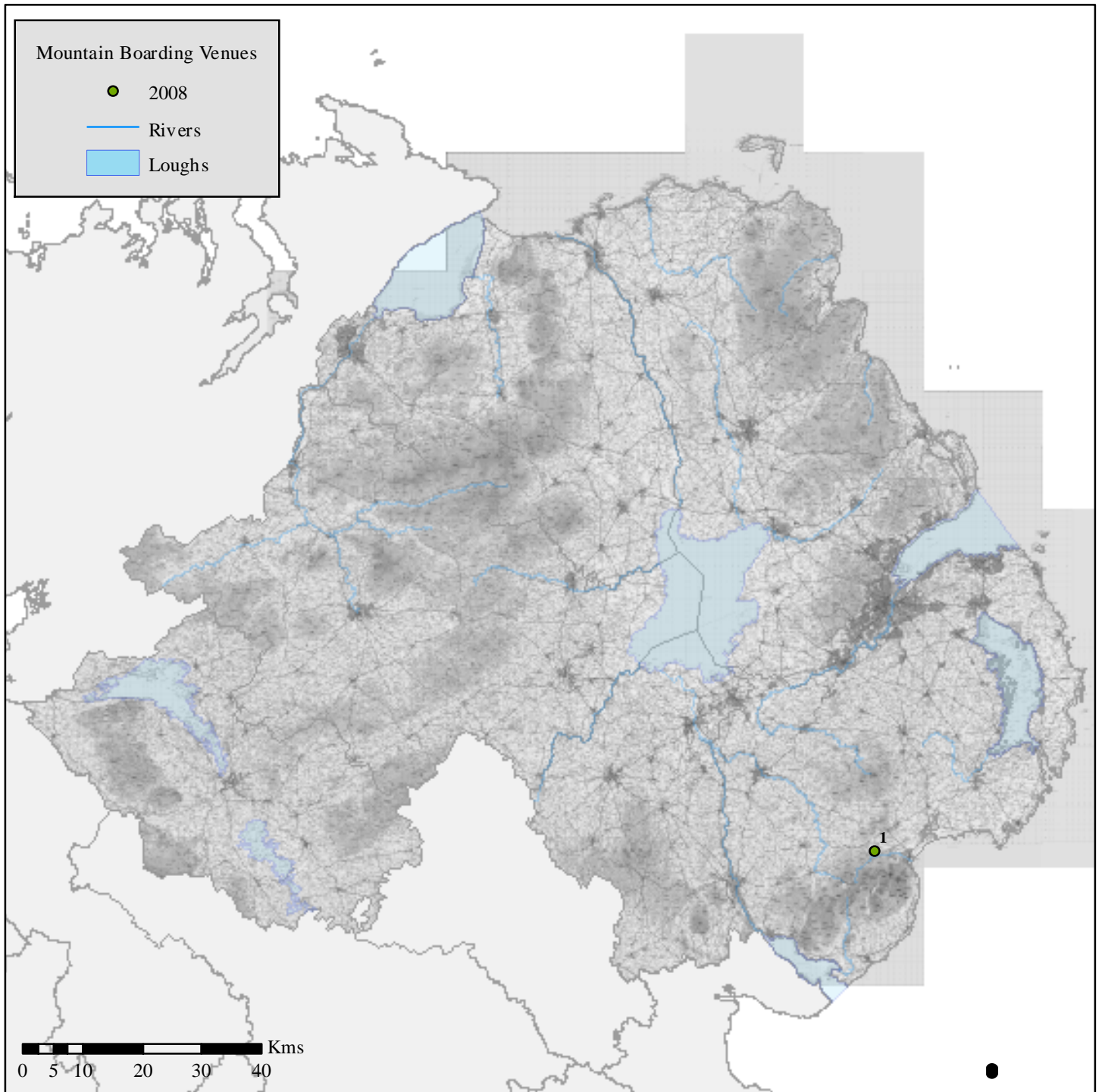
- VENUE
- 1 Antrim Castle Gardens
 - 2 Ballycastle Forest
 - 3 Ballykelly Forest
 - 4 Ballypatrick Forest
 - 5 Banagher Forest
 - 6 Bangor Castle
 - 7 Barnett's Demesne
 - 8 Belvoir Forest
 - 9 Benbradagh
 - 10 Big Wood
 - 11 Binevenagh
 - 12 Black Hill
 - 13 Black Mountain
 - 14 Breen Wood
 - 15 Cairn Wood
 - 16 Cam Forest
 - 17 Castle Archdale
 - 18 Castleteward
 - 19 Castlewellan Forest Park
 - 20 Cave Hill Country Park
 - 21 Clandyboye Estate

- VENUE
- 22 Clare Glen
 - 23 Colin Glen Forest Park
 - 24 Coolaveeley Wood
 - 25 Craigavon Lakes
 - 26 Crockbrack
 - 27 Crockmore
 - 28 Cross Slieve
 - 29 Davagh Forest
 - 30 Divis
 - 31 Donard Wood
 - 32 Downhill Forest
 - 33 Dufferin Trail
 - 34 Garvagh Forest
 - 35 Giant's Ring
 - 36 Glenariff Forest Park
 - 37 Glenarm Forest
 - 38 Glenshaane Forest
 - 39 Gortin Glen Forest Park
 - 40 Gortnamoyagh Forest
 - 41 Gosford Forest Park

- VENUE
- 42 Grange Park
 - 43 Hannahstown Hill
 - 44 Helen's Tower
 - 45 Huntly wood
 - 46 Iniscarn Forest
 - 47 Knockagh
 - 48 Knocklayde
 - 49 Knockmany Forest
 - 50 Lagan Valley Regional Park
 - 51 Lead Mines
 - 52 Loughermore Forest
 - 53 Moneyscalp Wood
 - 54 Mourne
 - 55 Mourne Park
 - 56 Moydamlaght Forest
 - 57 Mullaghfad Forest
 - 58 Mullaghmore
 - 59 Narrow Water Castle Estate
 - 60 Parkanaur Forest Park
 - 61 Rea's Wood

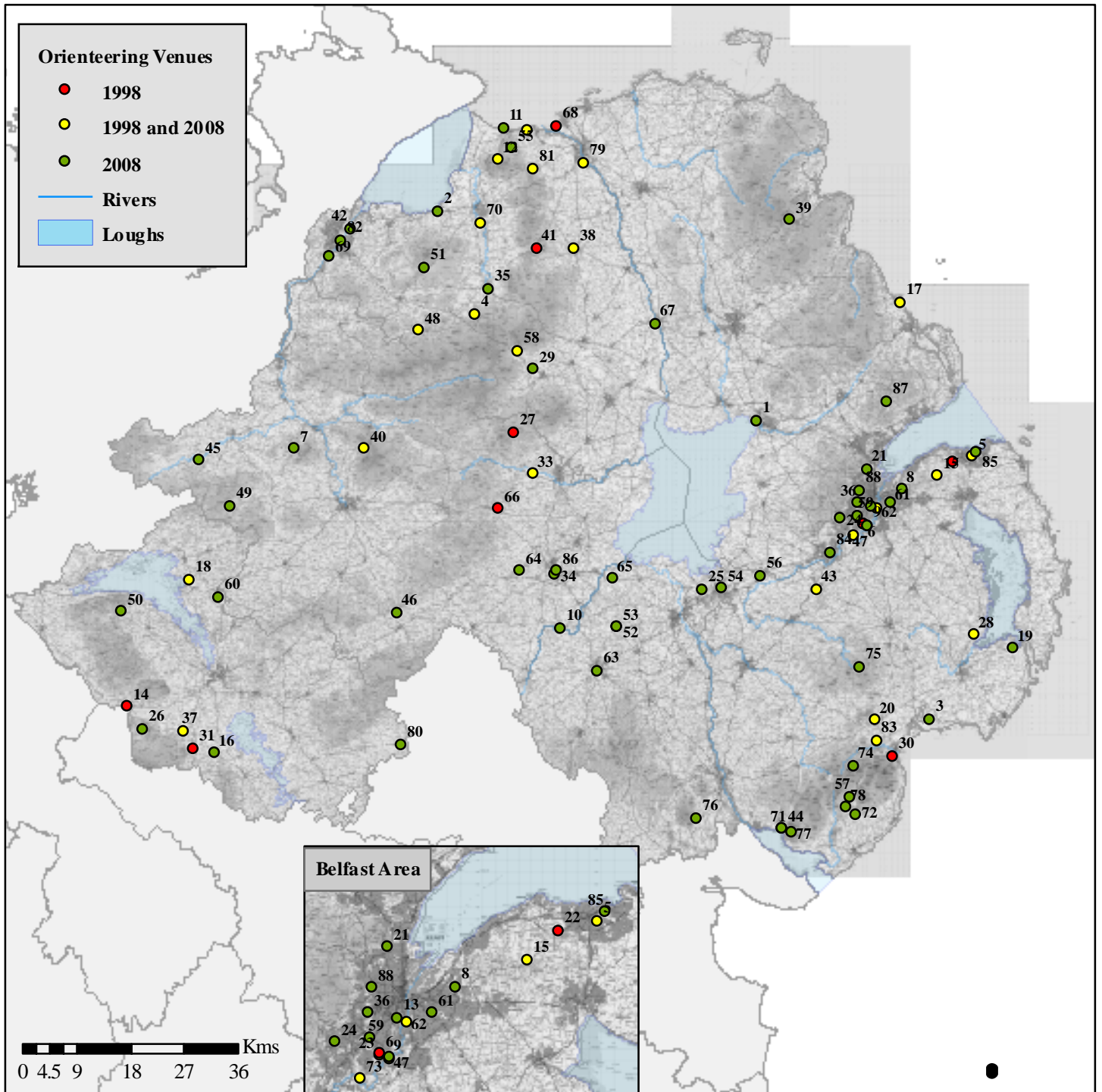
- VENUE
- 62 Redhall Estate
 - 63 Rostrevor Forest
 - 64 Sallagh Braes
 - 65 Seacourt
 - 66 Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park
 - 67 Slieve Croob
 - 68 Slieve Gallion
 - 69 Slieve Gullion Forest Park
 - 70 Slieve Martin
 - 71 Slieveanorra Forest
 - 72 Spelhoagh
 - 73 Springwell Forest
 - 74 Squires Hill
 - 75 Tardree Forest
 - 76 Tievendarragh Wood
 - 77 Tollymore Forest Park
 - 78 Watertop Open Farm
 - 79 White Mountain
 - 80 Wolf Hill
 - 81 Woodburn Forest

Mountain Boarding Venues



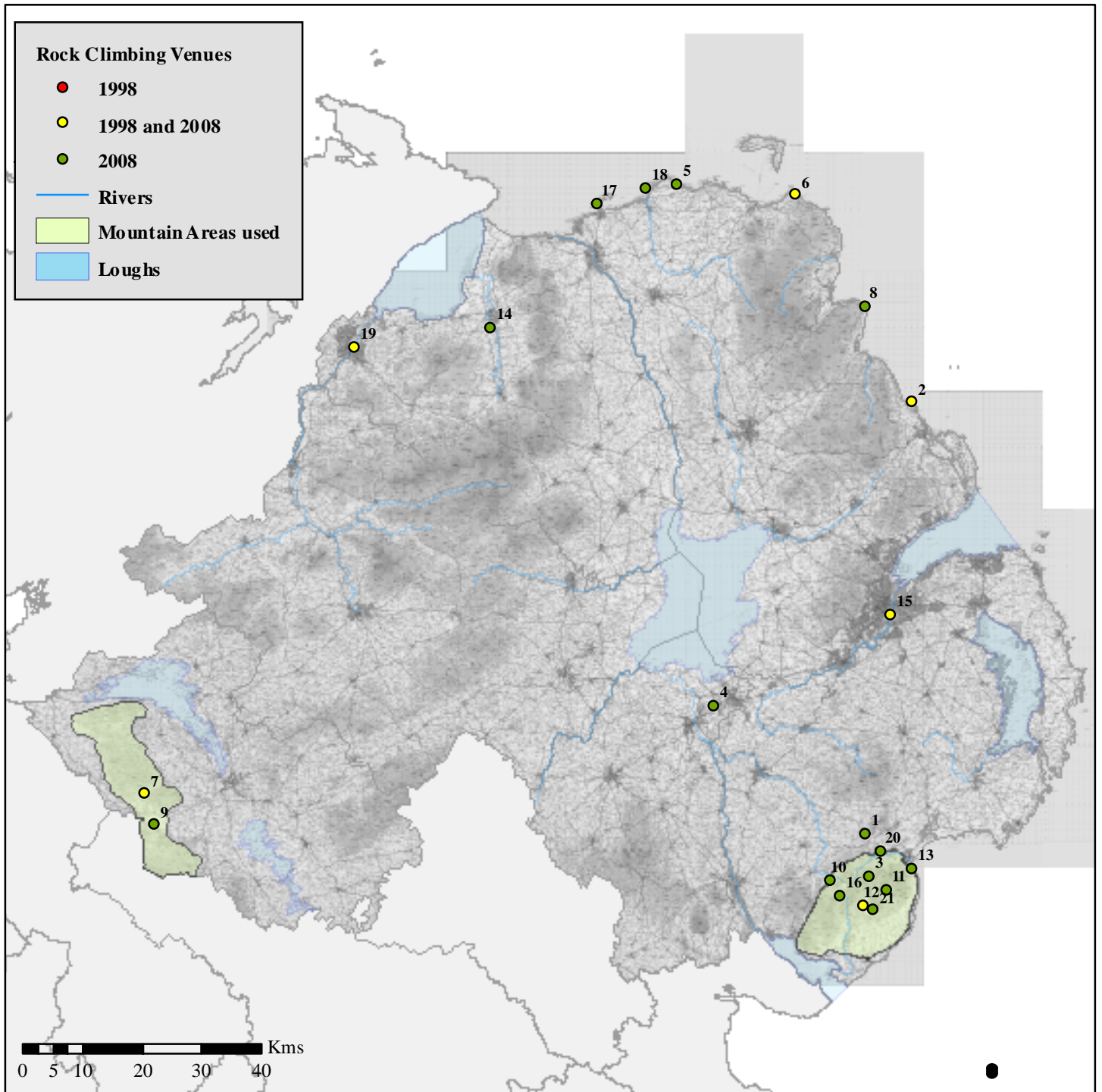
VENUE
1 Bryansford

Orienteering Venues



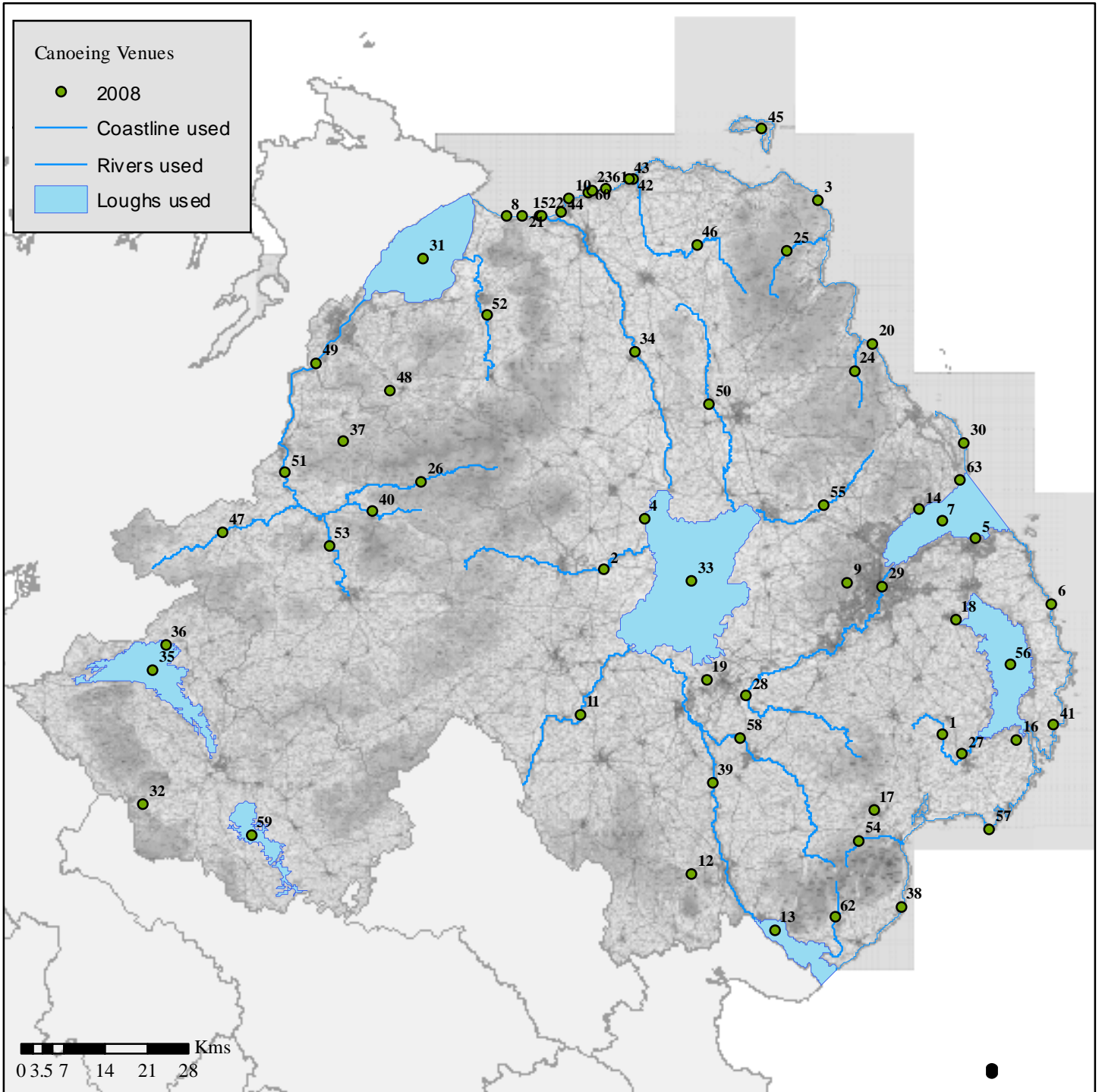
- | VENUE | VENUE | VENUE | VENUE |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Antrim Castle Gardens | 23 Clement Wilson Park | 45 Killeter | 67 Portgleneone Forest |
| 2 Ballykelly Forest | 24 Colin Glen Forest Park | 46 Knockmany Forest | 68 Portstewart sand dunes |
| 3 Ballykinler | 25 Craigavon Lakes | 47 Lagan Valley Regional Park | 69 Prehen Wood |
| 4 Banagher Forest | 26 Crossmurin | 48 Learnmount Wood | 70 Roe Valley Country Park |
| 5 Bangor Castle | 27 Davagh Forest | 49 Lough Bradan Forest | 71 Rostrevor Forest |
| 6 Barnett's Demesne | 28 Delamont Country Park | 50 Lough Navar Forest | 72 Silent Valley |
| 7 Baronscourt | 29 Derrynoyd Wood | 51 Loughermore Forest | 73 Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park |
| 8 Belmont Park | 30 Donard Wood | 52 Loughgall Country Park | 74 Slieve Meelmore |
| 9 Belvoir Forest | 31 Doohatty Glebe | 53 Loughgall Country Park | 75 Slieve Croob |
| 10 Benburb | 32 Downhill Forest | 54 Lurgan Park | 76 Slieve Gullion Forest Park |
| 11 Benone Beach | 33 Drum Manor Forest | 55 Magilligan | 77 Slieve Martin |
| 12 Binevenagh | 34 Dungannon Park | 56 Moira Demesne | 78 Slievenagore |
| 13 Botanic Park | 35 Dungiven Castle | 57 Mourne | 79 Somerset Forest Park |
| 14 Burren | 36 Falls Park | 58 Moydamlaght Forest | 80 Spring Grove |
| 15 Cairn Wood | 37 Florencecourt | 59 Musgrave Park | 81 Springwell Forest |
| 16 Callow Hill | 38 Garvagh Forest | 60 Necarne Forest | 82 St Columb's Park |
| 17 Carnfunnock Country Park | 39 Glenariff Forest Park | 61 Orangefield&Greenville Park | 83 Tollymore Forest Park |
| 18 Castle Archdale | 40 Gortin Glen Forest Park | 62 Ormeau Park | 84 Wallace Park |
| 19 Castleward | 41 Gortnamoyagh Forest | 63 Palace Demesne | 85 Ward Park |
| 20 Castlewellaan Forest Park | 42 Gransha | 64 Parkanaur Forest Park | 86 Windmill Park |
| 21 Cave Hill Country Park | 43 Hillsborough Forest Park | 65 Peatlands Countrypark | 87 Woodburn Forest |
| 22 Clandyboye Estate | 44 Kilbroney Park | 66 Pomeroy Forest | 88 Woodvale Park |

Rock Climbing Venues



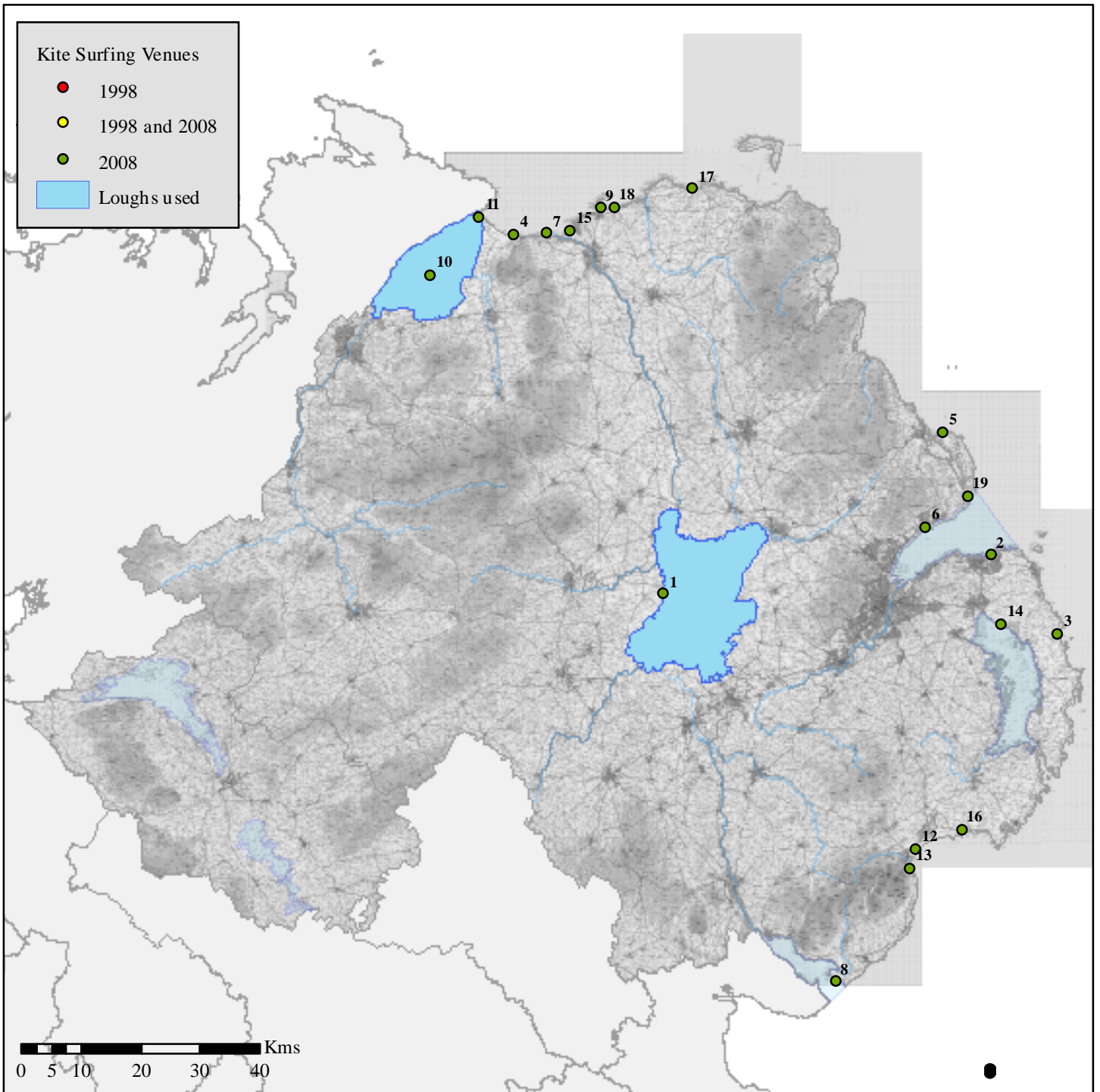
- | VENUE | VENUE |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Altnadue Quarry | 12 Mourne |
| 2 Ballygally Head | 13 Newcastle Beach |
| 3 Bearnagh Slabs | 14 O'Cahans Rock |
| 4 Craigavon Watersport Centre | 15 Ormeau Park |
| 5 Dunseverick | 16 Pigeon Rock |
| 6 Fairhead | 17 Ramore Head |
| 7 Fermanagh | 18 Runkerry Point |
| 8 Garron Point | 19 St Columb's Park |
| 9 Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre | 20 Tollymore Mountain Centre |
| 10 Hen Mountain | 21 Wee Binnian |
| 11 Lower Cove | |

Canoeing Venues



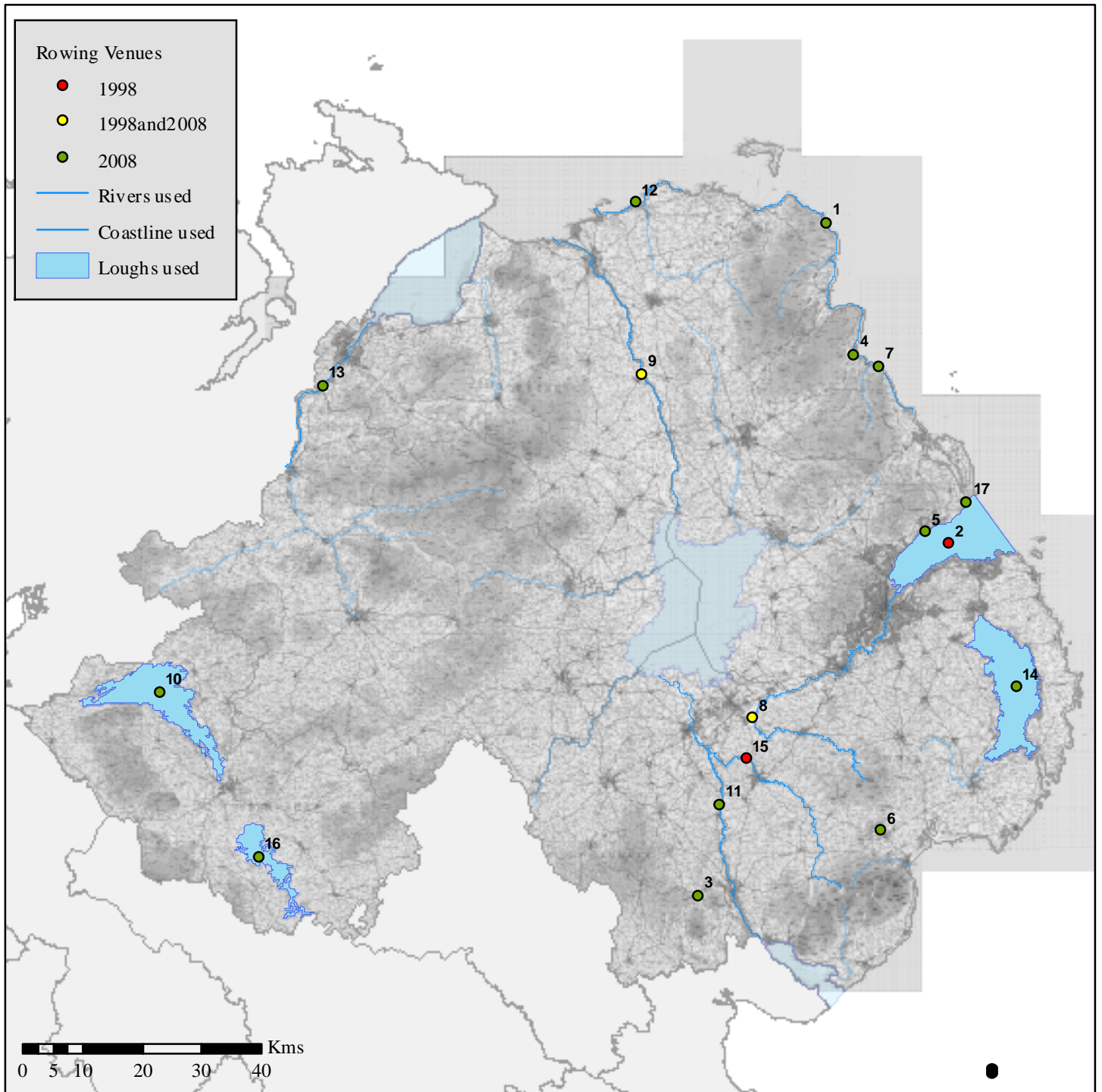
- | VENUE | VENUE | VENUE |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Annacloy River | 22 Downhill to Portrush | 43 Portrush to Dunseverick |
| 2 Ballinderry River | 23 East Strand Portrush | 44 Portstewart Strand |
| 3 Ballycastle to Cushendall | 24 Glenarm River | 45 Rathlin |
| 4 Ballyronan Marina | 25 Glendun River | 46 River Bush |
| 5 Bangor Marina | 26 Glenelley River | 47 River Derg |
| 6 Bangor to Portavogie | 27 Jane's Shore, Quoile River | 48 River Faughan |
| 7 Belfast Lough | 28 Lagan | 49 River Foyle |
| 8 Benone Beach | 29 Lagan Watersport Centre | 50 River Main |
| 9 Black Mountain | 30 Larne to Whitehead | 51 River Mourne |
| 10 Black Rock | 31 Lough Foyle | 52 River Roe |
| 11 Blackwater River | 32 Lough Macnean (Lower&Upper) | 53 River Strule |
| 12 Camlough Lake | 33 Lough Neagh | 54 Shimna River |
| 13 Carlingford Lough | 34 Lower Bann | 55 Six Mile Water |
| 14 Carrickfergus Marina | 35 Lower Lough Erne | 56 Strangford Lough |
| 15 Castlerock Strand | 36 Lusty Beg Island Activity Centre | 57 Strangford to Newcastle |
| 16 Castleward | 37 Moor Lough | 58 Upper Bann |
| 17 Castlewellan Lake | 38 Newcastle to Kilkeel | 59 Upper Lough Erne |
| 18 Comber River | 39 Newry Canal | 60 West Strand Portrush |
| 19 Craigavon Lakes | 40 Owenkillew River | 61 White Rocks Portrush |
| 20 Cushendall to Larne | 41 Portavogie to Portaferry | 62 White Water River |
| 21 Downhill Strand | 42 Portballintrae | 63 Whitehead Harbour |

Kite Surfing Venues



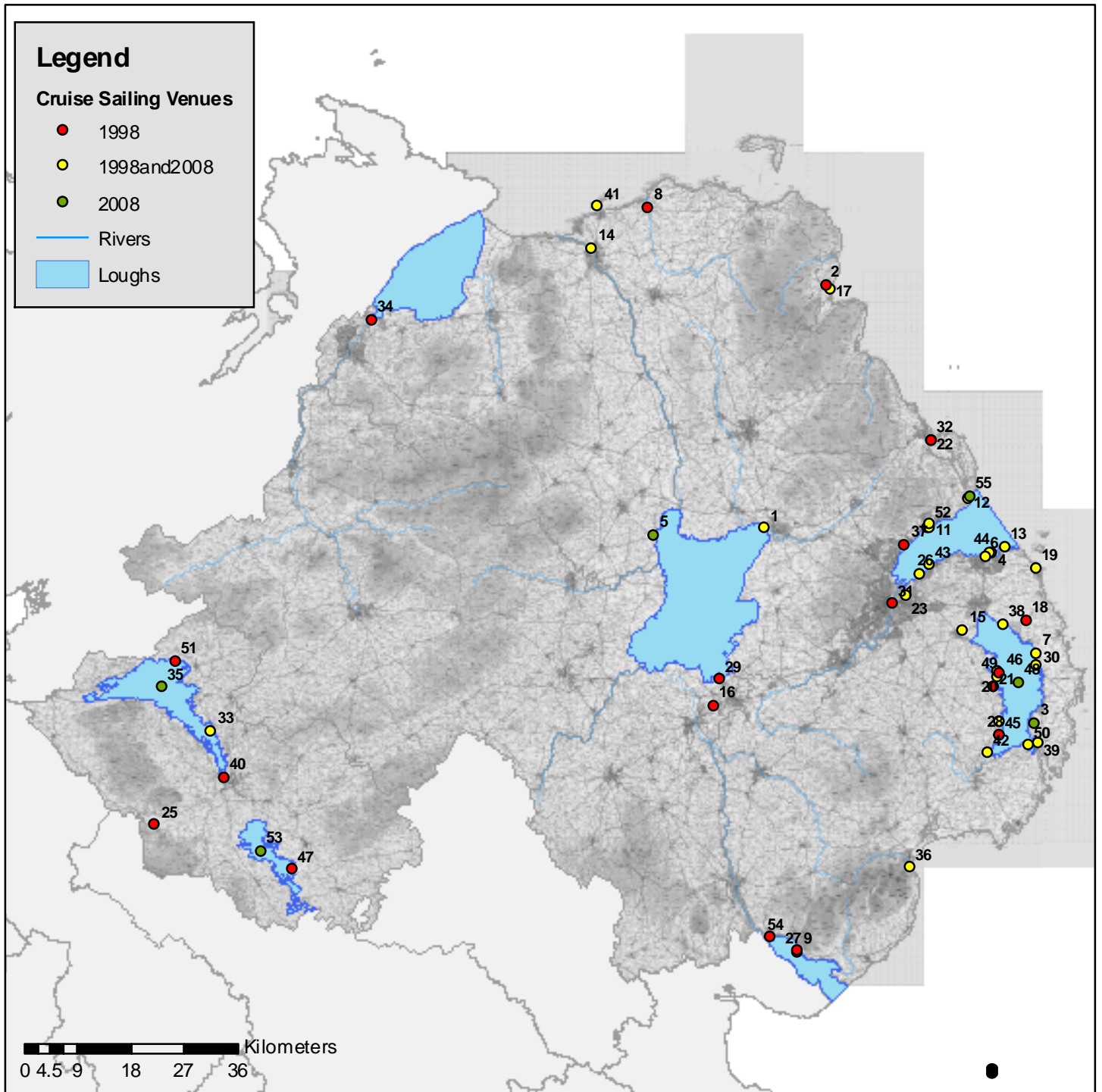
- | VENUE | VENUE |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Ardboe | 11 Magilligan Point |
| 2 Ballyholme Bay | 12 Murlough Beach |
| 3 Ballywalter | 13 Newcastle Beach |
| 4 Benone Beach | 14 Newtownards Sailing Club |
| 5 Brown's Bay | 15 Portstewart Strand |
| 6 Carrickfergus Marina | 16 Tyrella Beach |
| 7 Castlerock Strand | 17 White Park Bay |
| 8 Cranfield | 18 White Rocks Portrush |
| 9 East Strand Portrush | 19 Whitehead Harbour |
| 10 Lough Foyle | |

Rowing Venues



- | VENUE | VENUE |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Ballycastle to Cushendall* | 11 Newry Canal |
| 2 Belfast Lough | 12 Portrush to Dunseverick* |
| 3 Camlough Lake | 13 River Foyle |
| 4 Carnlough | 14 Strangford Lough |
| 5 Carrickfergus Marina | 15 Upper Bann |
| 6 Castlewellan Lake | 16 Upper Lough Erne |
| 7 Cushendall to Larne* | 17 Whitehead Harbour |
| 8 Lagan | |
| 9 Lower Bann | |
| 10 Lower Lough Erne | |
- * Traditional Rowing

Cruise Sailing



NUMBER VENUE NAME

- 1 Antrim Boat Club
- 2 Ardclynis Outdoor Adventure Centre*
- 3 Ballyhenry Boat Club
- 4 Ballyholme Yacht Club*
- 5 Ballyronan Marina
- 6 Bangor Marina
- 7 Bangor Sea School*
- 8 Bushmills Outdoor Education Centre*
- 9 Carlingford Lough Yacht Club*
- 10 Carrickfergus Marina
- 11 Carrickfergus Sailing Club*
- 12 Co Antrim Yacht Club
- 13 Cockle Island Boat Club
- 14 Coleraine Yacht Club/Marina
- 15 Comber Cruising Club
- 16 Craigavon Watersport Centre*
- 17 Cushendall Sailing Club
- 18 D and V Diving*
- 19 Donaghadee Sailing Club*
- 20 Down Cruising Club

NUMBER VENUE NAME

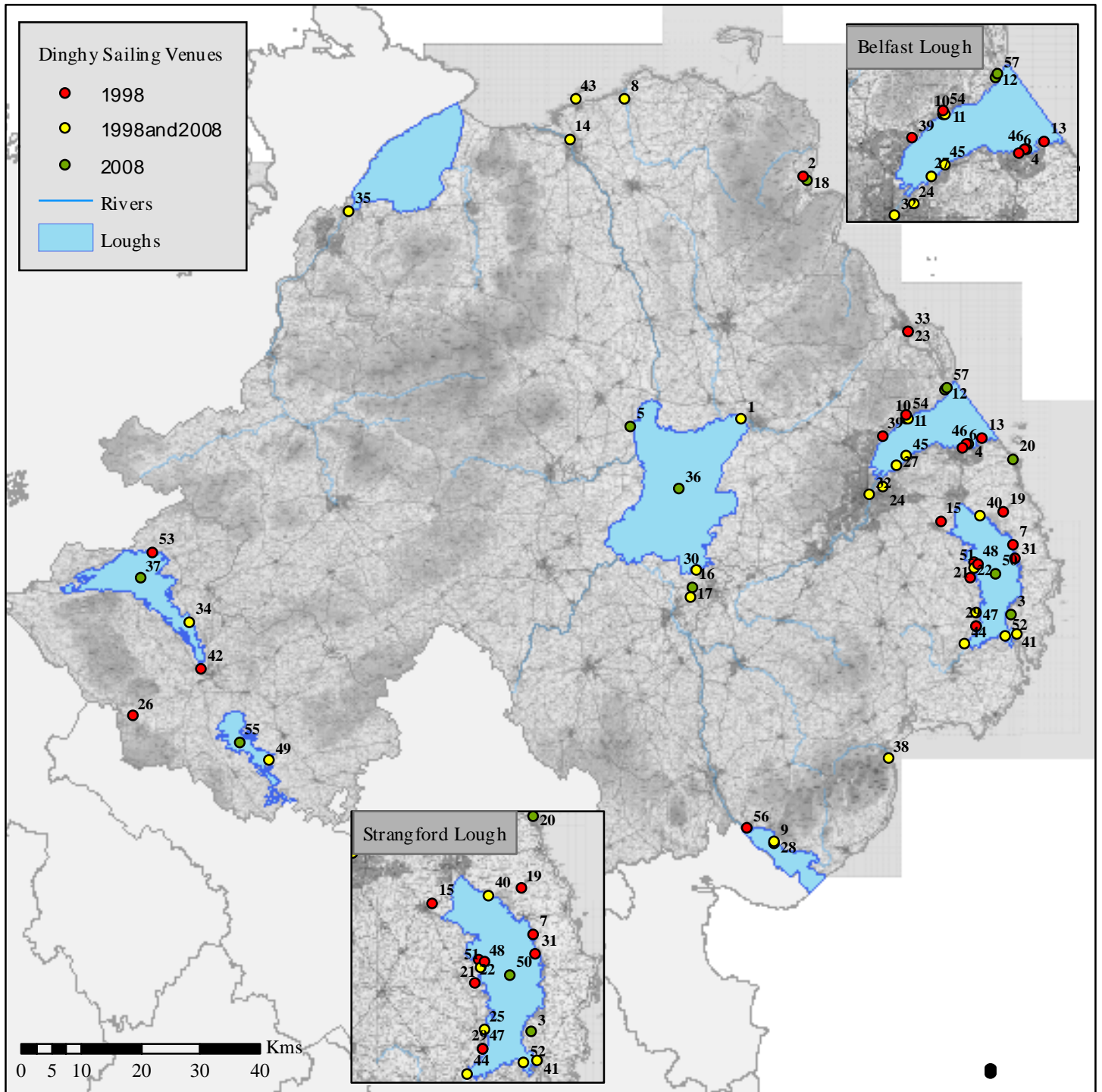
- 21 Down Yachts
- 22 East Antrim Boat Club*
- 23 East Belfast Yacht Club
- 24 East Down Yacht Club
- 25 Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre
- 26 Hollywood Yacht Club*
- 27 Killowen Outdoor Education Centre*
- 28 Killyleagh Yacht Club
- 29 Kinnego Marina*
- 30 Kircubbin Sailing Club
- 31 Lagan Watersport Centre*
- 32 Larne Rowing and Sailing Club
- 33 Lough Erne Yacht Club*
- 34 Lough Foyle Yacht Club
- 35 Lower Lough Erne
- 36 Newcastle Yacht Club
- 37 Newtownabbey Boat Club
- 38 Newtownards Sailing Club*
- 39 Portaferry Sailing Club
- 40 Portora Royal School Sailing Club

NUMBER VENUE NAME

- 41 Portrush Yacht Club*
- 42 Quoile Yacht Club
- 43 Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club*
- 44 Royal Ulster Yacht Club
- 45 Seaboard Sailing Centre
- 46 Setrick Marine Centre
- 47 Share Centre*
- 48 Strangford Lough
- 49 Strangford Lough Yacht Club*
- 50 Strangford Sailing Club
- 51 Tudor Farm
- 52 Ulster Cruising School
- 53 Upper Lough Erne
- 54 Warrenpoint Boat Club
- 55 Whitehead Harbour

* Recognised Training Centre (RTC)

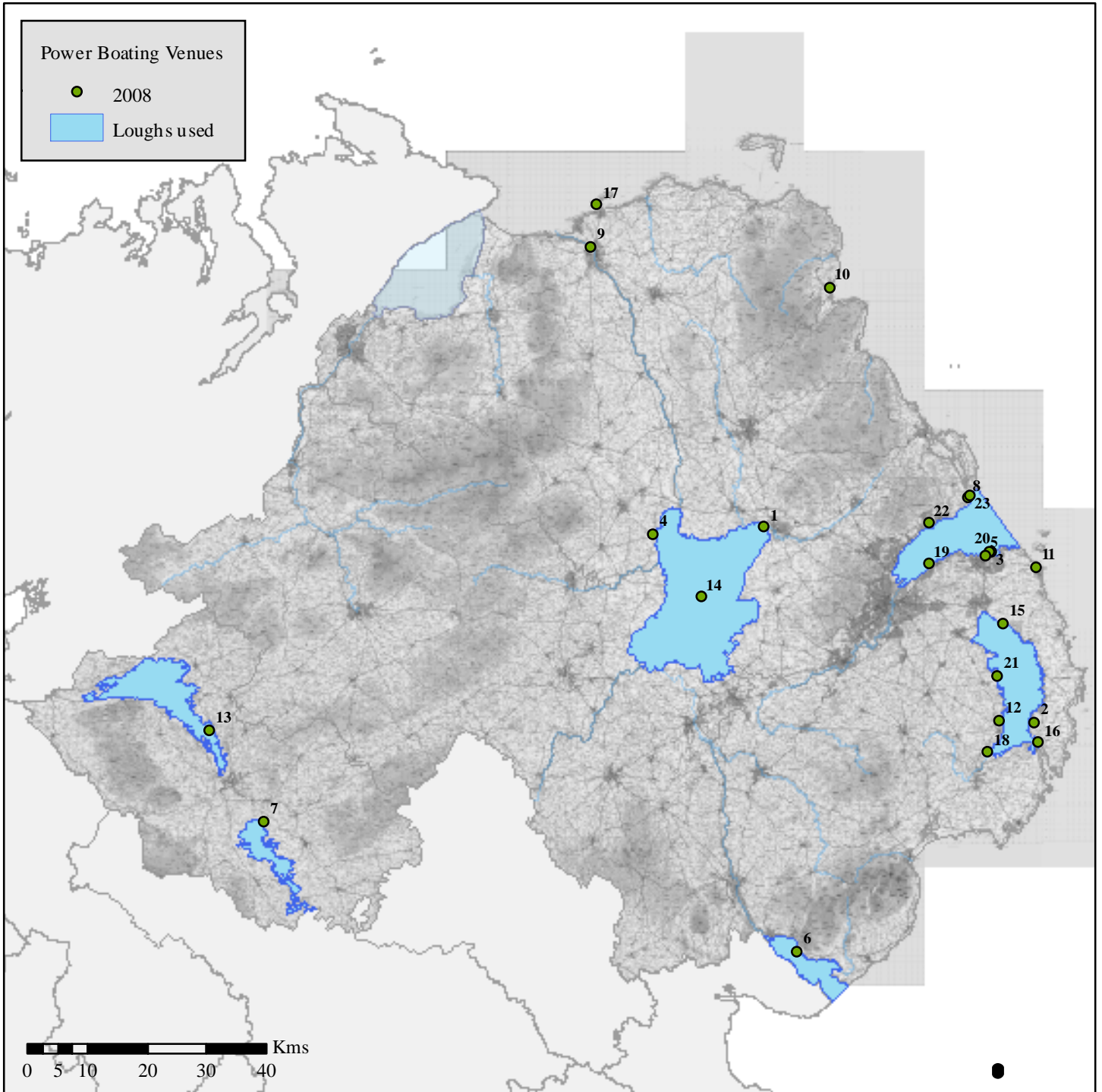
Dinghy Sailing



- | VENUE | VENUE | VENUE |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Antrim Boat Club | 21 Down Cruising Club | 41 Portaferry Sailing Club |
| 2 Ardclinis Outdoor Adventure Centre* | 22 Down Yachts | 42 Portora Royal School Sailing Club |
| 3 Ballyhenry Boat Club | 23 East Antrim Boat Club* | 43 Portrush Yacht Club* |
| 4 Ballyholme Yacht Club* | 24 East Belfast Yacht Club | 44 Quoile Yacht Club* |
| 5 Ballyronan Marina | 25 East Down Yacht Club | 45 Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club* |
| 6 Bangor Marina | 26 Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre | 46 Royal Ulster Yacht Club |
| 7 Bangor Sea School* | 27 Holywood Yacht Club* | 47 Seaboard Sailing Centre |
| 8 Bushmills Outdoor Education Centre* | 28 Killowen Outdoor Education Centre* | 48 Setrick Marine Centre |
| 9 Carlingford Lough Yacht Club* | 29 Killyleagh Yacht Club | 49 Share Centre* |
| 10 Carrickfergus Marina | 30 Kinnego Marina* | 50 Strangford Lough |
| 11 Carrickfergus Sailing Club* | 31 Kircubbin Sailing Club | 51 Strangford Lough Yacht Club* |
| 12 Co Antrim Yacht Club* | 32 Lagan Watersport Centre* | 52 Strangford Sailing Club* |
| 13 Cogle Island Boat Club | 33 Larne Rowing and Sailing Club | 53 Tudor Farm |
| 14 Coleraine Yacht Club/Marina* | 34 Lough Erne Yacht Club* | 54 Ulster Cruising School* |
| 15 Comber Cruising Club | 35 Lough Foyle Yacht Club | 55 Upper Lough Erne |
| 16 Craigavon Lakes | 36 Lough Neagh | 56 Warrenpoint Boat Club |
| 17 Craigavon Watersport Centre* | 37 Lower Lough Erne | 57 Whitehead Harbour |
| 18 Cushendall Sailing Club* | 38 Newcastle Yacht Club | |
| 19 D and V Diving* | 39 Newtownabbey Boat Club | |
| 20 Donaghadee Sailing Club* | 40 Newtownards Sailing Club* | |

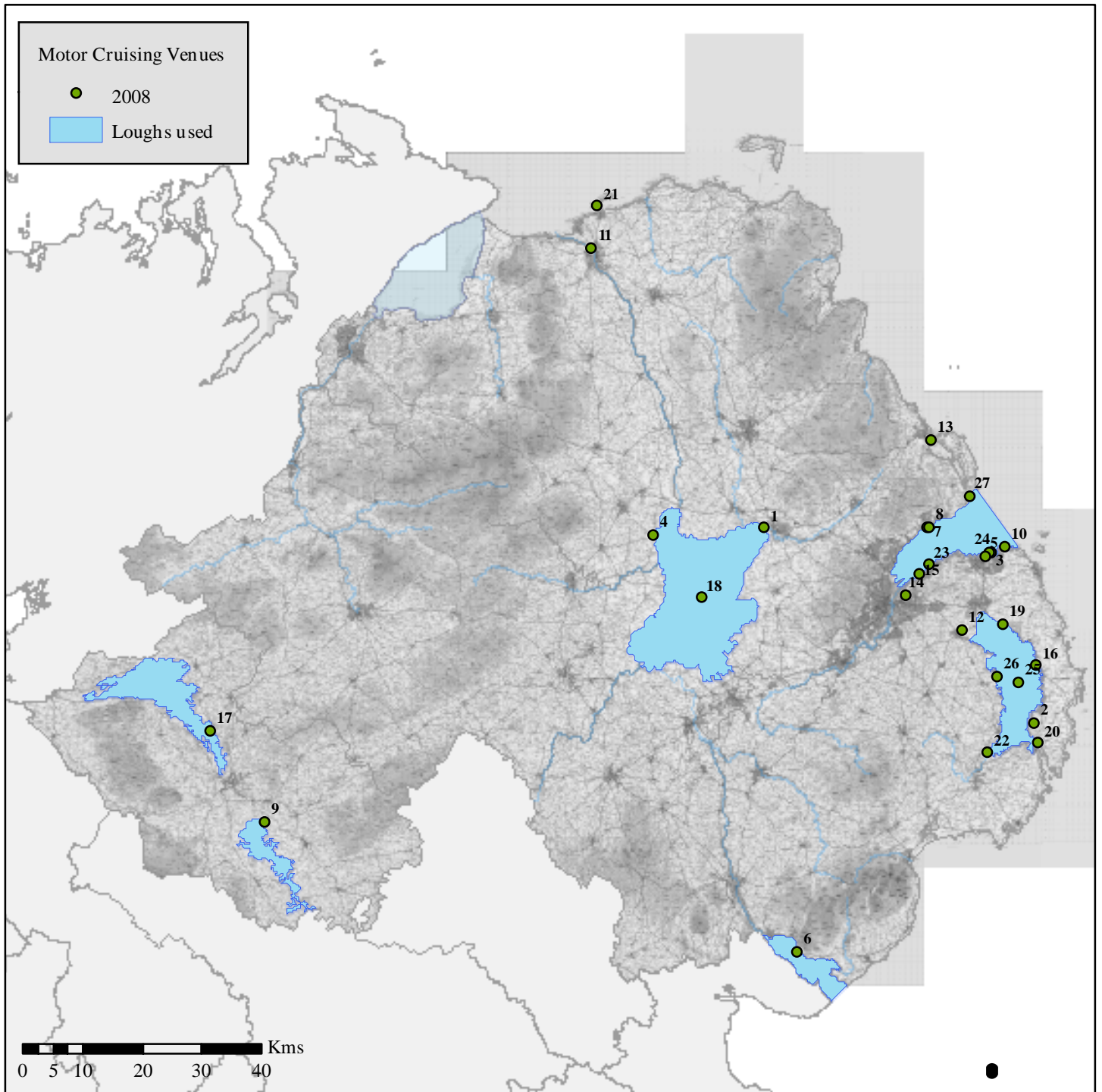
* Recognised Training Centre (RTC)

Power Boating Venues



- | VENUE | VENUE |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Antrim Boat Club | 13 Lough Erne Yacht Club |
| 2 Ballyhenry Boat Club | 14 Lough Neagh |
| 3 Ballyholme Yacht Club | 15 Newtownards Sailing Club |
| 4 Ballyronan Marina | 16 Portaferry Sailing Club |
| 5 Bangor Marina | 17 Portrush Yacht Club |
| 6 Carlingford Lough Yacht Club | 18 Quoile Yacht Club |
| 7 Carry Bridge | 19 Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club |
| 8 Co Antrim Yacht Club | 20 Royal Ulster Yacht Club |
| 9 Coleraine Yacht Club/Marina | 21 Strangford Lough Yacht Club |
| 10 Cushendall Sailing Club | 22 Ulster Cruising School |
| 11 Donaghadee Sailing Club | 23 Whitehead Harbour |
| 12 East Down Yacht Club | |

Motor Cruising Venues

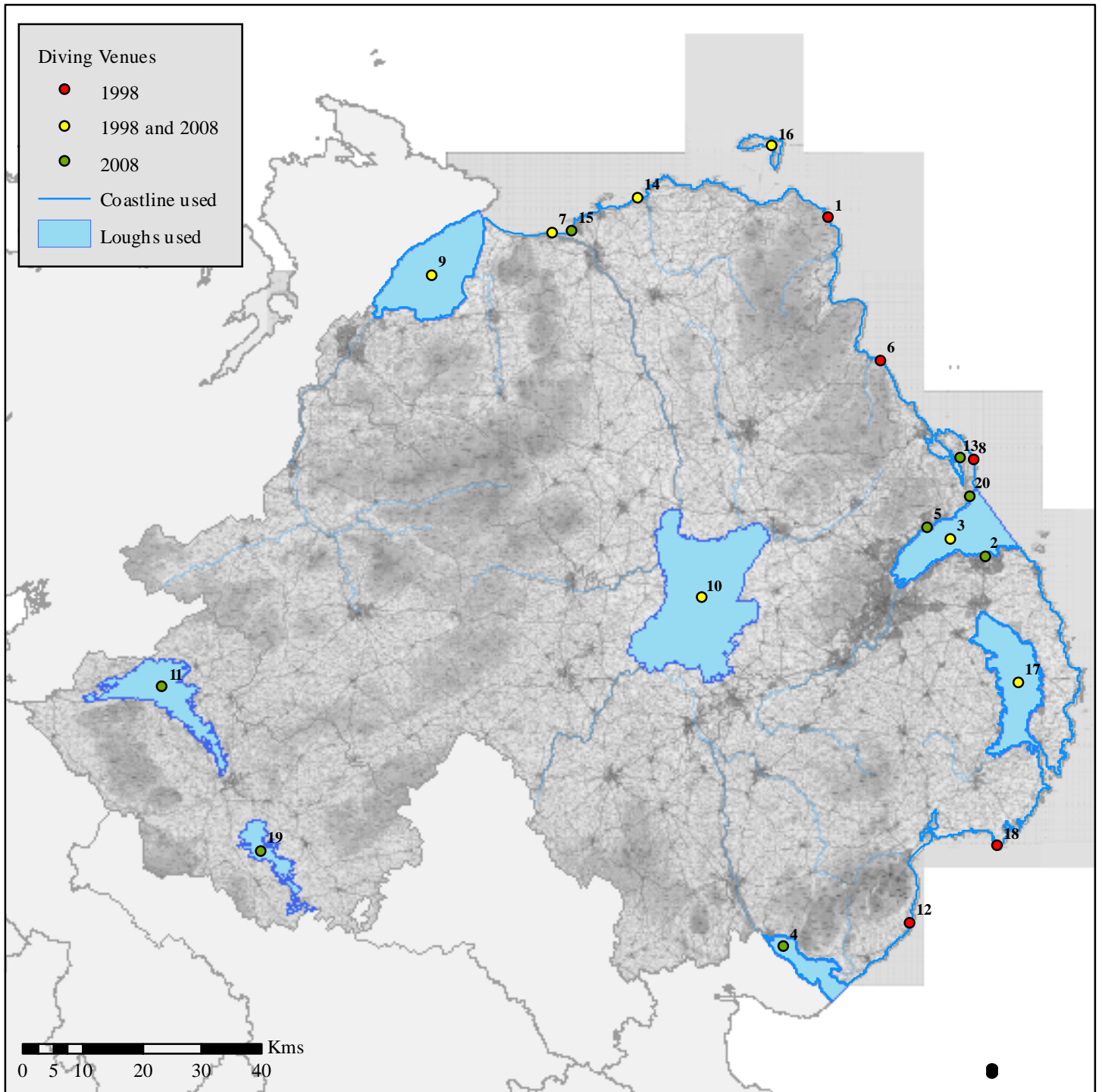


- VENUE
- 1 Antrim Boat Club
 - 2 Ballyhenry Boat Club
 - 3 Ballyholme Yacht Club
 - 4 Ballyronan Marina
 - 5 Bangor Marina
 - 6 Carlingford Lough Yacht Club
 - 7 Carrickfergus Marina
 - 8 Carrickfergus Sailing Club
 - 9 Carry Bridge
 - 10 Cockle Island Boat Club

- VENUE
- 11 Coleraine Yacht Club/Marina
 - 12 Comber Cruising Club
 - 13 East Antrim Boat Club
 - 14 East Belfast Yacht Club
 - 15 Holywood Yacht Club
 - 16 Kircubbin Sailing Club
 - 17 Lough Erne Yacht Club
 - 18 Lough Neagh
 - 19 Newtownards Sailing Club
 - 20 Portaferry Sailing Club

- VENUE
- 21 Portrush Yacht Club
 - 22 Quoile Yacht Club
 - 23 Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club
 - 24 Royal Ulster Yacht Club
 - 25 Strangford Lough
 - 26 Strangford Lough Yacht Club
 - 27 Whitehead Harbour

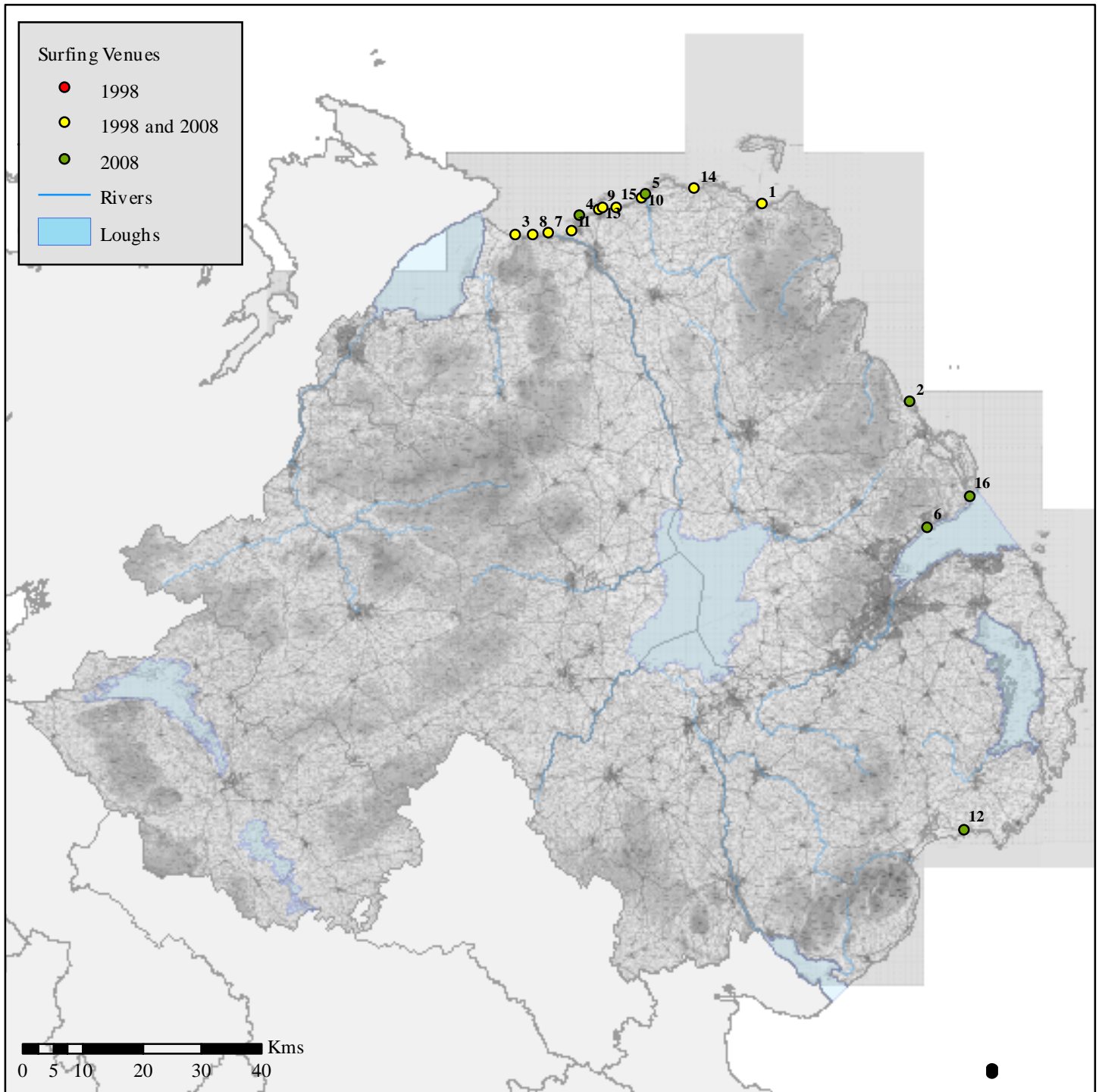
Scuba Diving Venues



- VENUE
- 1 Ballycastle to Cushendall
 - 2 Bangor Marina
 - 3 Belfast Lough
 - 4 Carlingford Lough
 - 5 Carrickfergus Marina
 - 6 Cushendall to Larne
 - 7 Downhill to Portrush
 - 8 Larne to Whitehead
 - 9 Lough Foyle
 - 10 Lough Neagh

- VENUE
- 11 Lower Lough Erne
 - 12 Newcastle to Kilkeel
 - 13 North Irish Lodge
 - 14 Portrush to Dunseverick
 - 15 Portstewart Strand
 - 16 Rathlin
 - 17 Strangford Lough
 - 18 Strangford to Newcastle
 - 19 Upper Lough Erne
 - 20 Whitehead Harbour

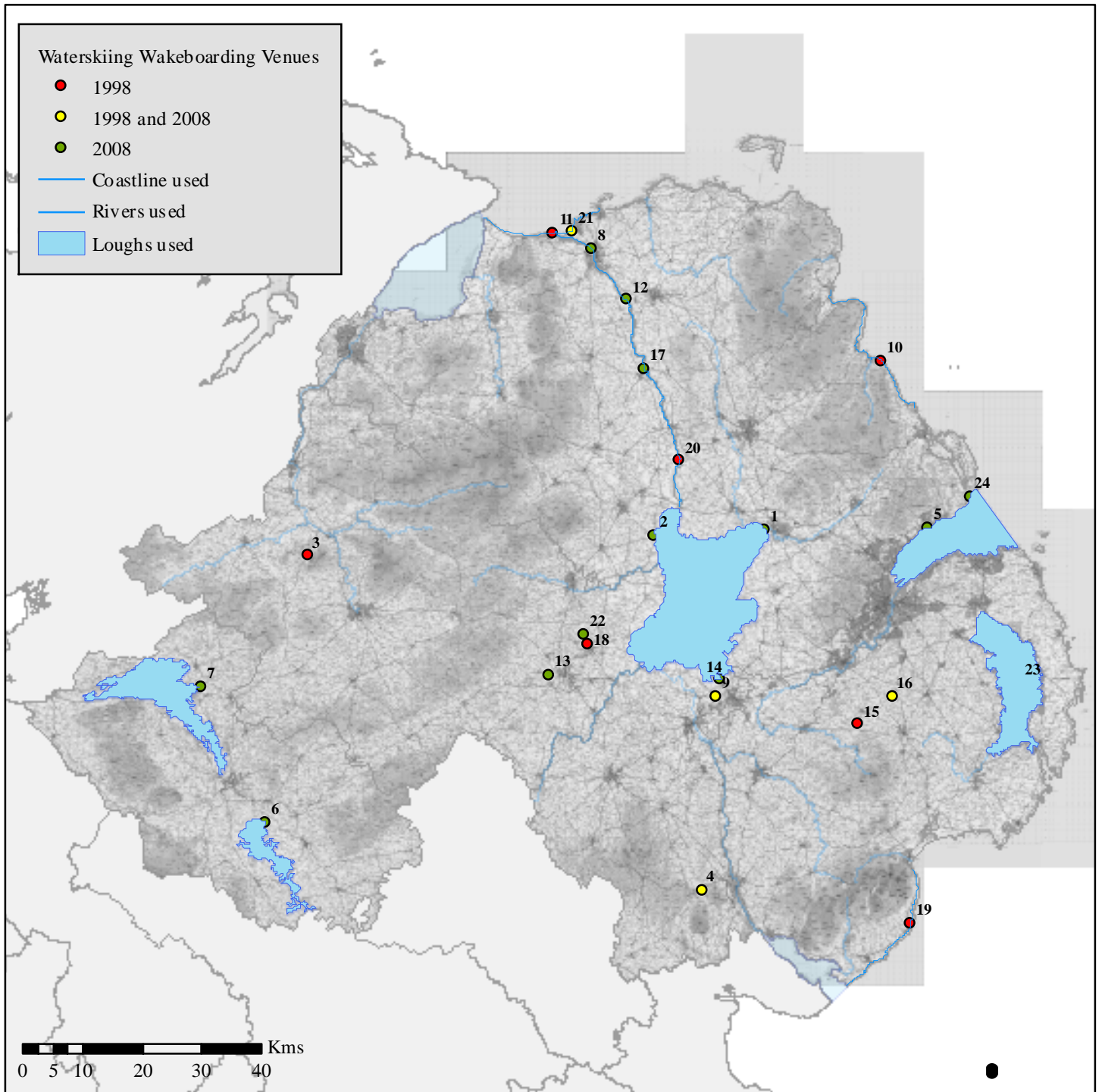
Surfing Venues



- VENUE
- 1 Ballycastle Beach
 - 2 Ballygally Beach
 - 3 Benone Beach
 - 4 Black Rock
 - 5 Bushfoot
 - 6 Carrickfergus Marina
 - 7 Castlerock Strand
 - 8 Downhill Strand

- VENUE
- 9 East Strand Portrush
 - 10 Portballintrae
 - 11 Portstewart Strand
 - 12 Tyrella Beach
 - 13 West Strand Portrush
 - 14 White Park Bay
 - 15 White Rocks Portrush
 - 16 Whitehead Harbour

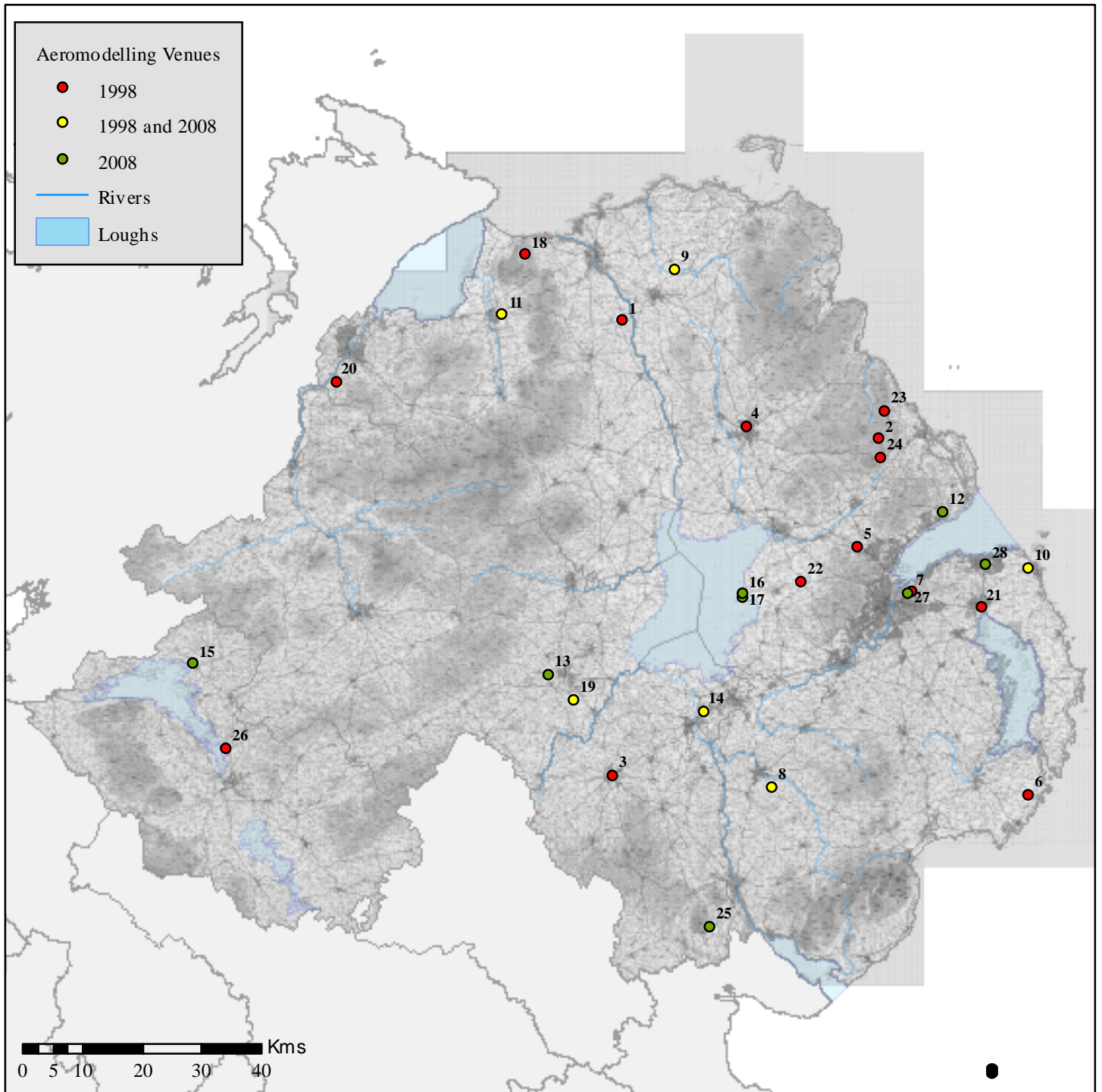
Waterskiing Wakeboarding Venues



- VENUE
- 1 Antrim Lough Shore Park
 - 2 Ballyronan Marina
 - 3 Baronscourt
 - 4 Camlough Lake
 - 5 Carrickfergus Marina
 - 6 Carry Bridge
 - 7 Castle Archdale
 - 8 Coleraine Yacht Club/Marina
 - 9 Craigavon Lakes
 - 10 Cushendall to Larne
 - 11 Downhill to Portrush
 - 12 Drumaghelis

- VENUE
- 13 Eskragh Lough
 - 14 Kinnego Marina
 - 15 Lough Aghery
 - 16 Lough Henney, Boardmills
 - 17 Lower Bann
 - 18 Mid Ulster
 - 19 Newcastle to Kilkeel
 - 20 Newferry
 - 21 Portstewart Strand
 - 22 Roughan Lough
 - 23 Strangford Lough
 - 24 Whitehead Harbour

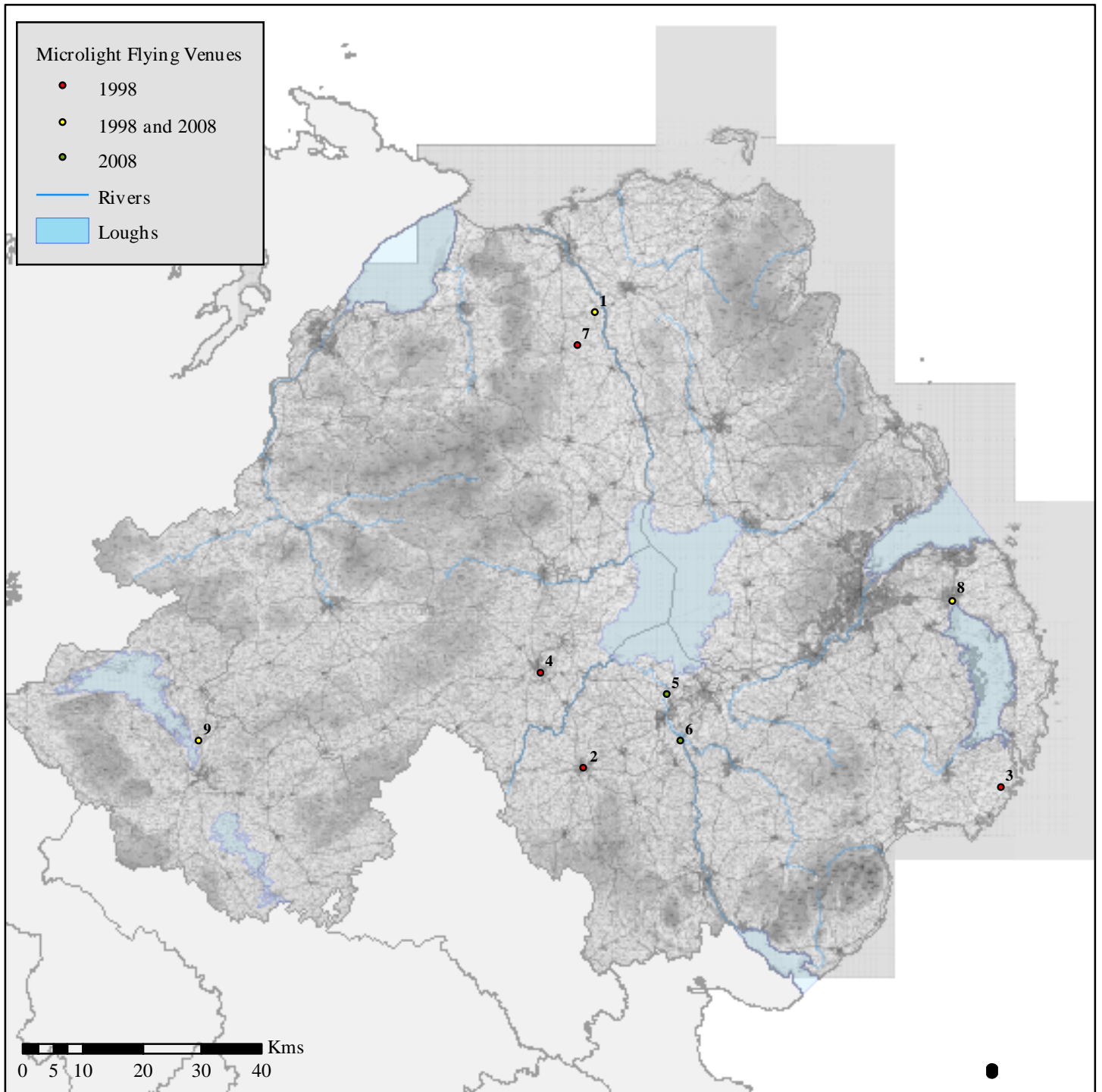
Aeromodelling Venues



- VENUE
- 1 Aghadowey Airstrip
 - 2 Agnew's Hill
 - 3 Armagh
 - 4 Ballymena
 - 5 Belfast Playing Fields
 - 6 Bishopscourt Airfield
 - 7 Blanchflower Park
 - 8 Derrylough Hill
 - 9 Dervock
 - 10 Donaghadee
 - 11 Drummond Football Grounds
 - 12 Eden Playing Fields
 - 13 Eskragh Lough
 - 14 Kernan Playing Field

- VENUE
- 15 Kestrels
 - 16 Langford Heli
 - 17 Langford Lodge
 - 18 Magilligan
 - 19 Moygashel
 - 20 New Buildings
 - 21 Newtownards Airport
 - 22 Nutt's Corner
 - 23 Robin Young's Hill
 - 24 Shane's Hill
 - 25 Slieve Gullion Forest Park
 - 26 St Angelo Airport
 - 27 Tommy Patton Park
 - 28 Valentine Playing Fields

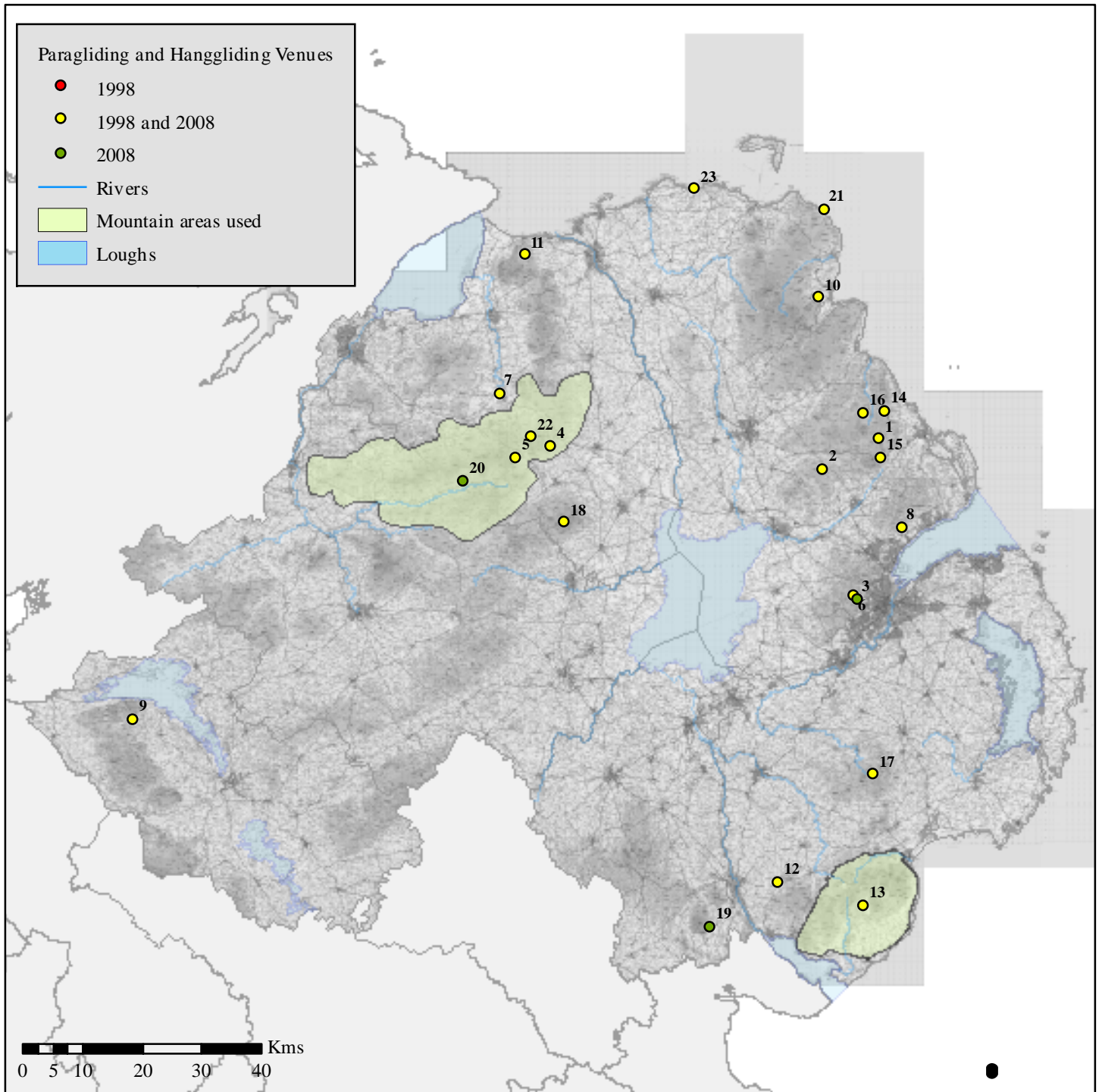
Microlight Flying Venues



VENUE

- 1 Aghadowey Airstrip
- 2 Armagh
- 3 Bishopscourt Airfield
- 4 Dungannon Park
- 5 Fly NI, Airfield, Tarsan Lane,
- 6 Kernan Aviation
- 7 Movenis Airfield
- 8 Newtownards Airport
- 9 St Angelo Airport

Paragliding and Hanggliding Venues



- | VENUE | VENUE |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Agnew's Hill | 13 Mourne |
| 2 Big Collin | 14 Robin Young's Hill |
| 3 Black Mountain | 15 Shane's Hill |
| 4 Collnasillagh | 16 Skeagh |
| 5 Craigagh Hill | 17 Slieve Croob |
| 6 Divis | 18 Slieve Gallion |
| 7 Dunginven | 19 Slieve Gullion Forest Park |
| 8 Knockagh | 20 Sperrins |
| 9 Lough Navar Forest | 21 Torr Head |
| 10 Lurigethan | 22 White Mountain |
| 11 Magilligan | 23 White Park Bay |
| 12 Mayobridge | |