

How you can help

Divis and the Black Mountain are just one of the many properties cared for by the National Trust in the Belfast area. Other sites include nearby Collin Glen, Minnowburn, Cregagh Glen, The Crown Bar and Patterson's Spade Mill.



The National Trust is Northern Ireland's largest conservation charity, looking after special places - for ever, for everyone. To continue to protect and maintain greenspace areas, industrial heritage properties and grand mansions, the Trust relies on the support of individuals through membership subscriptions, donations and the immense contribution of volunteers. At Divis and the Black Mountain, our wardens are supported by volunteers, from local communities and further afield. We need even more help to ensure local people and visitors can continue to enjoy safe access to this special area.

If you are interested in getting involved in tasks ranging from path building to site surveys or historical research, please contact:

Divis Warden

Tel: 028 9082 5434
divis@nationaltrust.org.uk

Minnowburn Warden

Tel: 028 9064 7787
minnowburn@nationaltrust.org.uk

Alternative formats: **Tel: 028 9082 5434**
or email **divis@nationaltrust.org.uk**

Essential Information

- Divis and the Black Mountain are open all year round
- Access is free
- Car parking is available opposite the entrance to the property
- Please wear suitable footwear and clothing for walking in the area - this is a mountain environment and weather conditions can change rapidly
- Please stick to recommended routes
- Please do not cross fences onto private land
- Please note that this is a working farm; cattle and horses roam freely across the mountains. Please do not interfere with the animals
- Please keep dogs under close control at all times
- Please take your litter home

How to get there

Bus: Ulsterbus no 106 between Belfast & Crumlin via Hannahstown, alight Upper Springfield Road.

Car: Leave M1 motorway at Junction 2 (Stockman's Lane). Take the A55 (Outer Ring), signed Falls. Go straight across first two roundabouts. From dual carriageway, turn left on to Upper Springfield Road. Continue for 2.5 miles, and a short distance past the national speed limit, turn right on to Divis Road. Car park is on the left hand side opposite entrance to mountain.

From Belfast City Centre:

Travel up the Grosvenor Road towards the Royal Victoria Hospital. At traffic lights go straight across Falls Road, on to Springfield Road. Continue along the Springfield Road until you come to a bend at the top of the Monagh bypass. Turn right on to the Upper Springfield Road. Continue for 2.5 miles, and just past national speed limit sign, turn right on to Divis Road. Car park is on left hand side opposite entrance to mountain.

Please note:

Access to Divis and the Black Mountain is only from Divis Road.

For further information on Divis and the Black Mountain, contact:

Divis Warden Tel: 028 9082 5434
The Long Barn Email: divis@nationaltrust.org.uk
12 Divis Road Web: www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Belfast BT17 0NG



Northern Ireland's largest conservation charity. Looking after special places - for ever, for everyone. The National Trust is a registered charity no. 205846

Divis and the Black Mountain



Welcome

Welcome to Divis and the Black Mountain. The mountains rest in the heart of the Belfast Hills which provide the backdrop to the city's skyline.

They offer spectacular views across Northern Ireland, stretching beyond the city itself to the Mourne Mountains, Strangford Lough, the Castlereagh and Holywood Hills and the Sperrin Mountains.

The area contains the peaks of Divis Mountain at 478 metres (1562 ft), Black Mountain at 390 metres (1,275 ft), Mount Gilbert and Armstrong's Hill within its 2,000 acre boundary. Also the head waters of the Clady Water, Forth River, Ballygomartin River, Collin River and the Crumlin River.

Background

Divis and the Black Mountain came into the care of the National Trust, Europe's leading conservation charity in November 2004 and opened to the public in June 2005. The magnificent area of upland heath and blanket bog were previously owned by the Ministry of Defence, which bought the land in the mid 1980's from private landowners. This unique landscape is now accessible by a wide range of users, providing the opportunity for the people of Belfast and beyond to enjoy access to a mountain landscape that was in private ownership for decades.

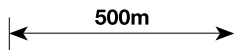
There are walking trails along a variety of terrain - through heath, on stone tracks, along boardwalk and road surface, including the start of the new 10km Divis Mountain to Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park Nature Trail.



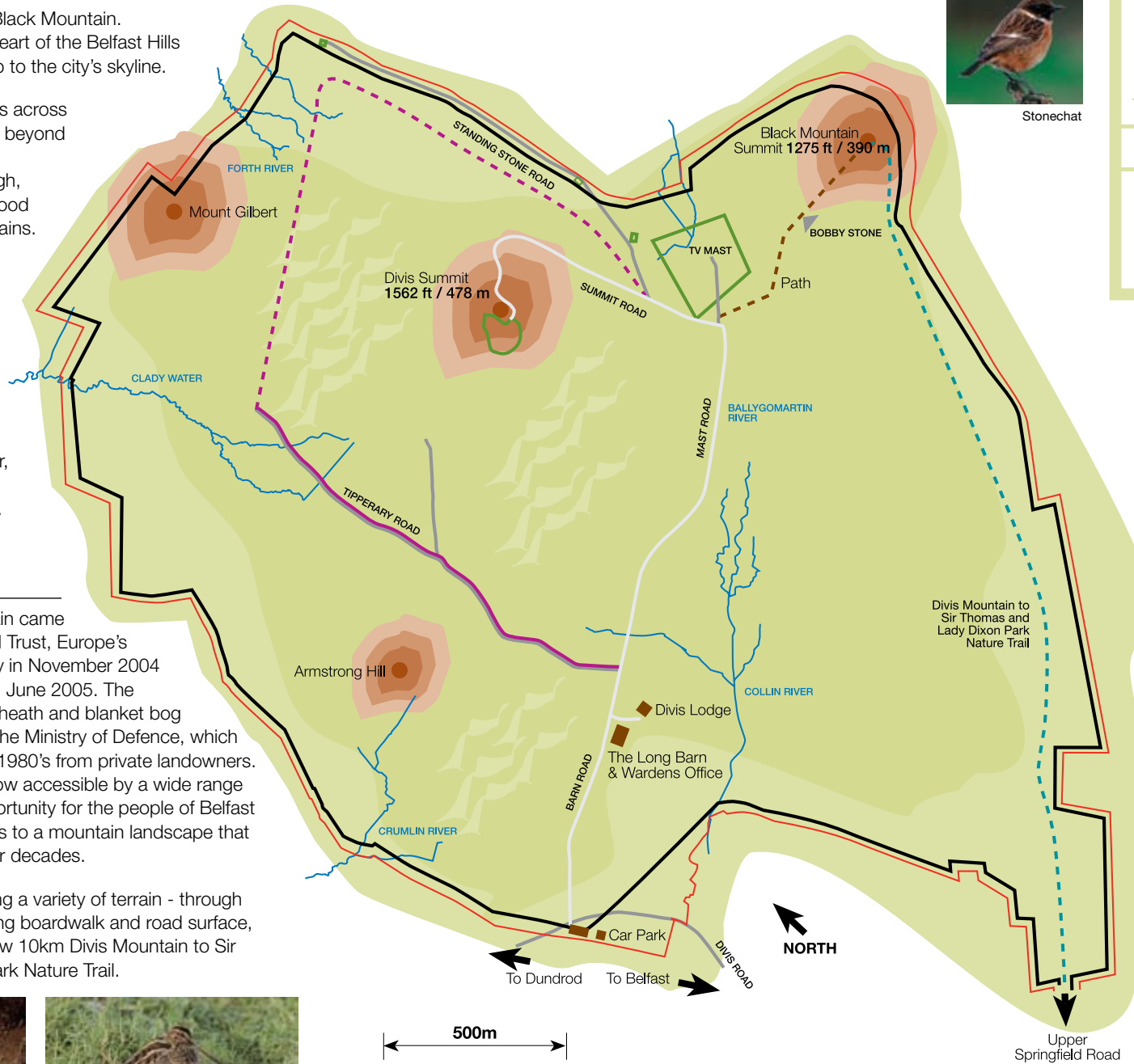
Badger



Snipe



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Stonechat

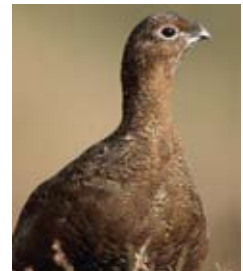
	Higher Ground		Property Boundary
	Private Property		Rivers
	Mountain Areas		Path
Suggested Walks:			Divis Mountain
			Moderate 2hrs return
	Tipperary Road		Property Boundary
	Moderate 3hrs return		Difficult 6hrs return
	Divis/Dixon		Black Mountain
	Difficult 5hrs		Moderate 2hrs return

Habitats and Wildlife

The mountains comprise a mosaic of grassland heath and bog and are home to a host of wildlife and archaeological remains. The site is significant for biodiversity with red grouse, stonechats, skylark, snipe and other upland breeding birds, while peregrine falcons and ravens feed in the area.

There are several occupied badger setts and hares can often be seen. Thirteen species of waxcap fungi have already been identified on the site; one of them is a new record for Northern Ireland.

A rich and varied archaeological landscape reveals evidence for life and death rituals on the mountain particularly in prehistory. At least four Bronze Age burial cairns are now known along with the site of an earlier megalithic tomb. Prehistoric hut sites survive along with two curious stone walled enclosures, one of which may be early Christian period in date.



Red Grouse