



BLUEWAY ACCREDITATION CRITERIA CHECKLIST &
RECOMMENDED PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING
BLUEWAYS IN IRELAND

Prepared by Outdoor Recreation NI on behalf of the Blueway Partnership

EXPERIENCE		✓
Engaging Landscape / Culture and Heritage	Offers an opportunity to appreciate and explore an attractive landscape and engage with the unique heritage and culture of the area	
Multi-activity	Offers a combination of water and land based trail (with connectivity to water) options	
Capacity Building	A programme is in place to develop 'Eat / Stay / Go' and 'Activity / Experience' opportunities	
Eat / Stay / Go	Bars, Cafés, restaurants and attractions are easily accessible from trail heads and / or trails	
Activity/Experience Providers	Guided activity experiences appropriate for 'novice' are available and can be booked in advance	
Length of Time	Offers a minimum experience duration of between half a day to one day	
Visitor Information	The visitor can access information to allow them plan and enjoy their Blueway experience	

TECHNICAL		✓
Walking Trails	Walking Trails are compliant with the Sport Ireland – Management Standards for Recreational Trails	
Cycling Trails	Cycle Trails are compliant with the Sport Ireland – Management Standards for Recreational Trails	
Shared Used Trails	Shared Use Trails are compliant with the Sport Ireland – Management Standards for Recreational Trails	
Snorkel Trails	Snorkel Trails follow the guidelines of the Irish Underwater Council	
Paddling Trails	Paddling Trails follow the Blueway Paddling Trail Guidelines	
Sailing & Windsurfing Sites	Sailing & Windsurfing Activities will be compliant with Irish Sailing and/or RYANI Accreditation standards	

Signage	All signage follows with Blueway Signage Guidelines	
Trailhead Facilities	Trail heads are clearly identified and offer adequate parking Toilet and changing facilities are available within close proximity of water based trail heads	
Managing User Conflict	Consideration and identification of steps to mitigate against potential conflict with waterway / trail users has been undertaken	
Accessibility/ Inclusivity	Reasonable steps have been undertaken to provide disabled access	

ACCESS		✓
Landowner / Authority Agreement	Access is permitted by all landowners and relevant authorities – public and private for a minimum period of 10 years	
Insurance	Public liability insurance is in place providing indemnity for all infrastructure, land-based trails and water trails' access and egress points	

SAFETY		✓
Suitability	The experience is suitable for the 'novice' with little to no skills or prior experience in undertaking adventure activities	
Responsibility	Visitors are not exposed to hidden dangers Visitors should be aware of the risks they will face and that safety is a shared responsibility between the visitor and the Blueway Developer/ Responsible Authority	
Activity Providers / Experiences	A programme is in place for activity providers to demonstrate their safety credentials	

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT		✓
Statutory Approval	Evidence of consultation and approval with appropriate statutory bodies can be demonstrated	
Biosecurity & Invasive Species	Proactive measures are in place to stop the spread of invasive species and harmful pathogens	
Environmental Education	The Leave No Trace Ireland Principles have been incorporated	
Litter	The Blueway is free from litter and fly-tipped waste	

SUSTAINABILITY		✓
Management Group	A Blueway Management Group is in place – led by a Local Authority or State Agency	
Management Plan	A Blueway Management Plan is in place	
Visitor Feedback	A formal process is in place to monitor visitor feedback	

The recommended process for successfully planning and developing Blueways in Ireland:

