



## Digital Inspection System

Sport Ireland Outdoors introduced the Digital Inspection System for trail inspections in 2021. This new system has standardised the way we communicate with Trail Management Groups and increased the efficiency in which inspection reports can be produced.

Prior to its development, the process of inspecting trails and producing the subsequent report involved the trail inspector taking notes in the field, then processing them at home and writing a multi-page report based on their memory of the trail. This meant that trail managers would not know if their trail had passed or failed the inspection until the report was finished and sent out to them. Furthermore, feedback from recipients of the inspection reports suggested that the inspection scoring system was overly complex, making them unsure of what actions would be required to bring their trail up to standard.

The new Digital Trail Inspection System incorporates the use of GIS Software and a GPS device to capture accurate locations and images of trail issues in the field. In addition to this, trail infrastructure such as trailhead locations and information boards are also captured. Upon submitting the report, the data is automatically compiled into a standard report template which can be downloaded and sent out, greatly reducing the laborious task of writing a report.

As part of the system, information is made available to trail managers about their trail inspection via an interactive dashboard. This dashboard displays trail issues geographically and allows users to report them as resolved and include photo evidence in their submission. Once their submission has been verified, the trail inspection score is automatically updated and displayed on their interactive dashboard, providing a clear indication that the trail meets the required standards.

As a result of the data captured during the Digital Inspection System, it is now possible to quickly communicate with Trail Managers much more effectively. In addition to this, the GIS software can be used to perform a range of geographic analysis, such determining the most common issues and their severity within a given location, or nationwide. This information could then be used to highlight possible training opportunities for trail managers and report on the overall condition of trails within a specified locality.