

Drumlin Farmlands

Extent

2350km² (17.4%)

LOCATION

Primarily a south-eastern distribution with a small area in min-Fermanagh. Main areas include the Strangford lowlands and an irregular belt of lowland countryside in County Armagh.

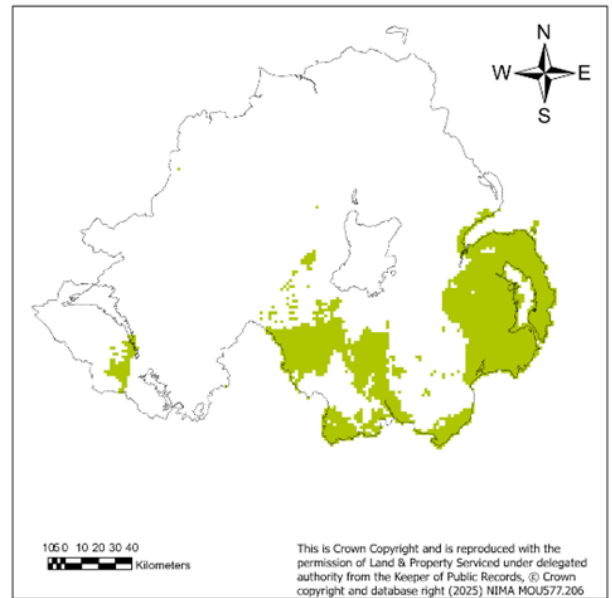
PHYSICAL CHARACTER

Lowland: 0-150m, with a varied undulating topography of small, rounded hills and valley bottoms, underlain by Palaeozoic shales and greywackes. A mild climate and fertile, free-draining soils give rise to productive farmland with only remnants of semi-natural vegetation cover.

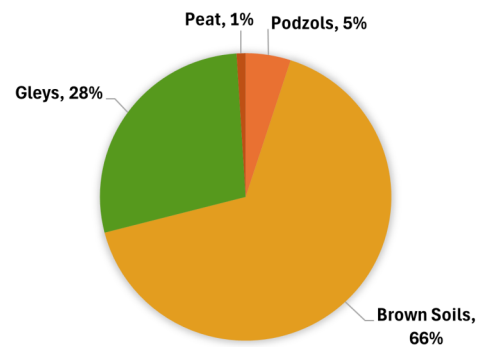
HUMAN INFLUENCES

Densely settled, in places urbanised, countryside with a well-developed road network. Fields mainly enclosed by thorn hedges on low banks, with dry stone walls a characteristic feature in places.

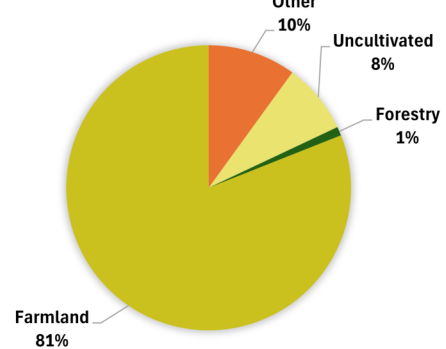
Land Classes 1, 2, 3, 4



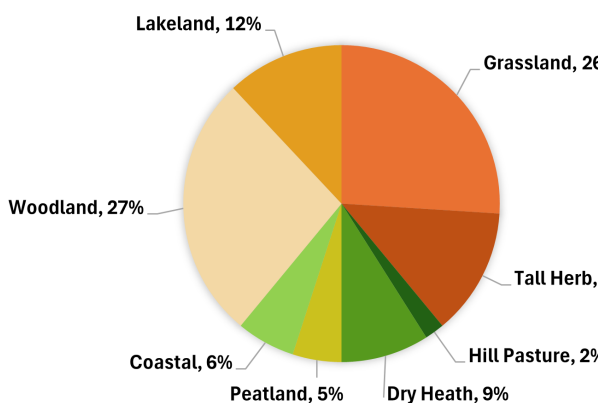
SOILS



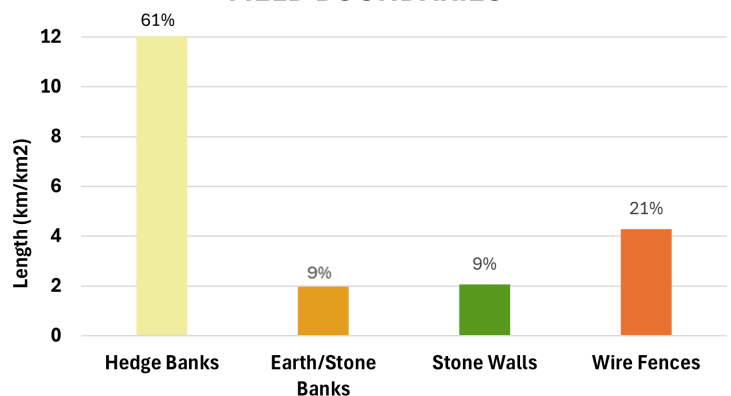
LAND USE



SEMI-NATURAL VEGETATION



FIELD BOUNDARIES



LAKELANDS

EXTENT

589 km² (4.4%)

LOCATION

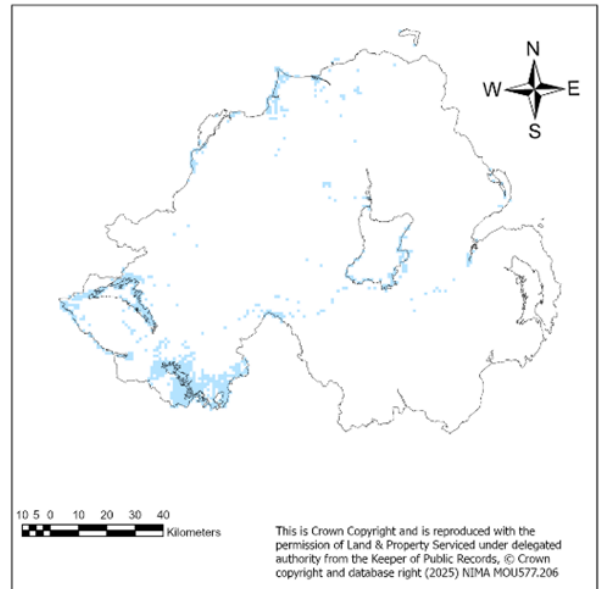
The smallest land class group, with a predominantly south-western distribution centered on the Fermanagh Lakelands, but also occurring around the edge of Lough Neagh and the Foyle estuary.

PHYSICAL CHARACTER

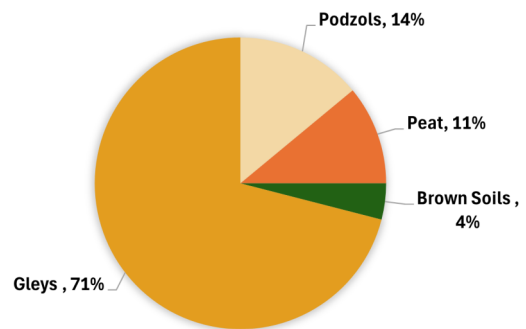
Lowland: 0-60m, with a relatively flat, low-lying topography closely associated with the fringes of freshwater loughs. Heavy, poorly draining soils are widespread, giving rise to a mainly pastoral landscape characterized by wetland, woodland and species-rich grass-land habitats.

HUMAN INFLUENCES

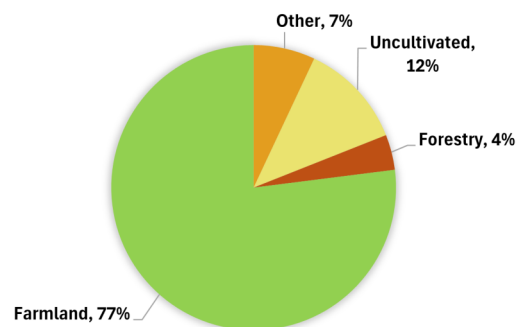
Relatively sparsely populated pastoral countryside, with few large settlements and mostly minor roads. Small fields are a common feature, typically bounded by tall/overgrown hedge banks.



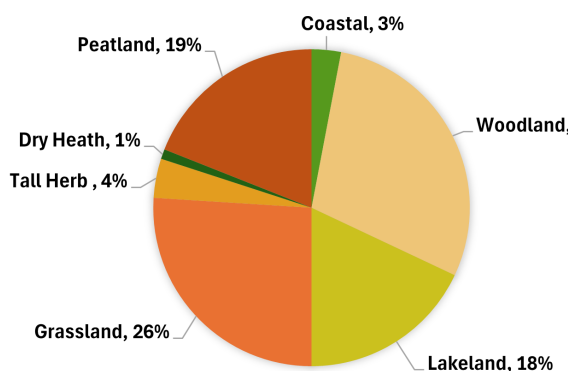
SOILS



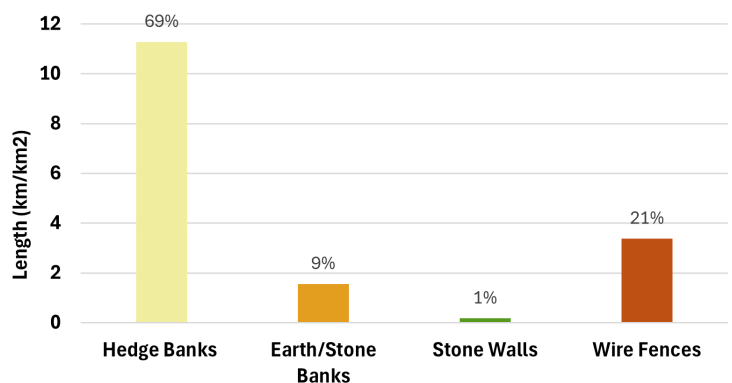
LAND USE



SEMI-NATURAL VEGETATION



FIELD BOUNDARIES



MARGINAL LOWLANDS

EXTENT

1591 km² (11.8%)

LOCATION

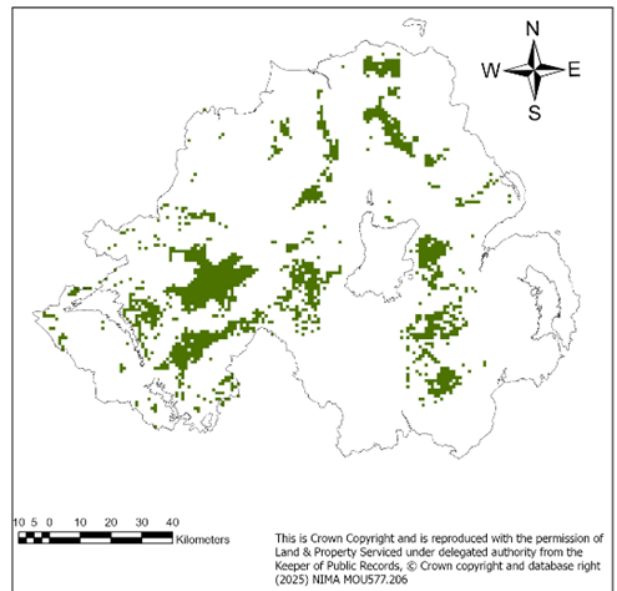
Scattered distribution adjacent to upland areas throughout Northern Ireland, particularly in South Tyrone, North-East Fermanagh, Mid-Down and along the western fringe of the Antrim Hills.

PHYSICAL CHARACTER

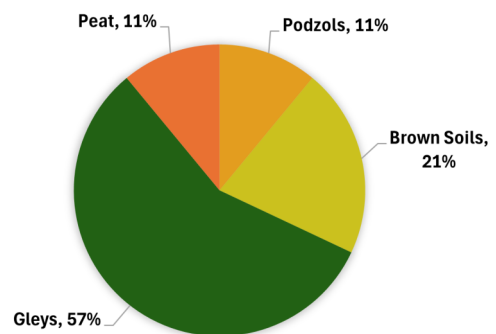
Marginal lowland: 60-150m, with a gently rolling topography, mildly dissected by small rivers and streams. Heavy, poor-draining soils give rise to a predominantly pastoral landscape with scattered remnants of cut-over bog.

HUMAN INFLUENCES

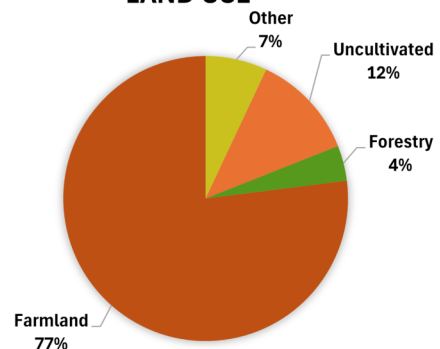
Variable settlement density characterised by small rural towns connected by a well-developed network of much forked and in places unfenced roads. Mainly enclosed farmland with hedged fields, but earth banks also frequent in places.



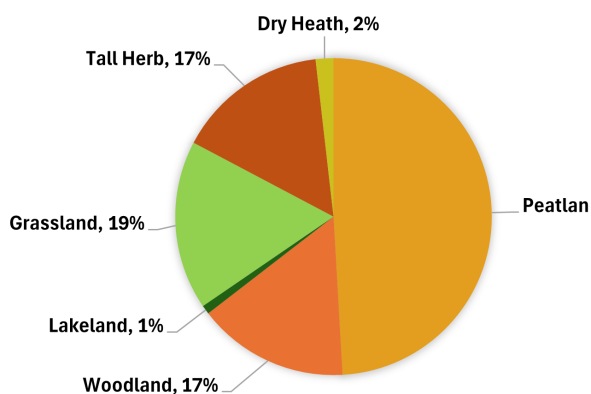
SOILS



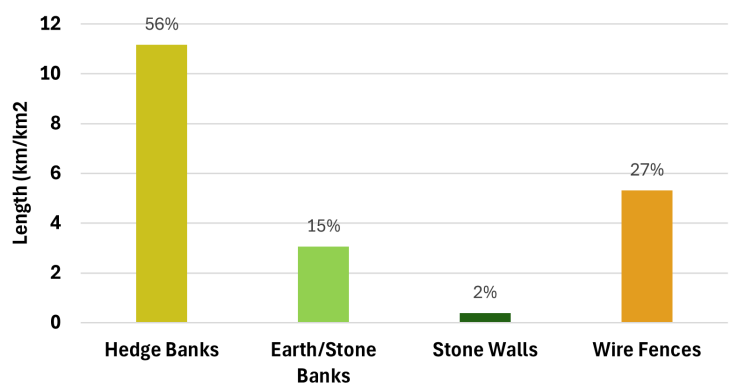
LAND USE



SEMI-NATURAL VEGETATION



FIELD BOUNDARIES



CENTRAL LOWLANDS

EXTENT

2080 km² (15.4%)

LOCATION

Primarily associated with the Lough Neagh basin and its surrounding river valleys, in particular those of the Bann, Main and Blackwater.

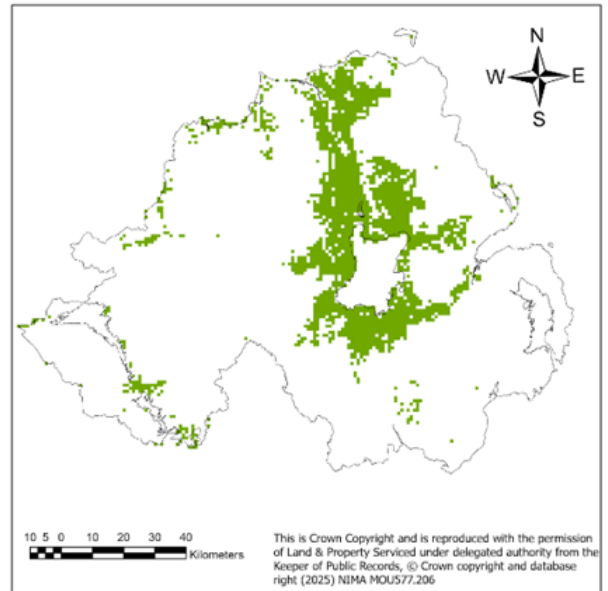
PHYSICAL CHARACTER

Lowland: 0-150m, with a large scale, gently rolling topography characterised by broad river valleys. The deep, mainly free-draining soils derived from the underlying basalt till, give rise to productive farmland, interspersed by areas of poorer land, often retaining remnants of cut-over bog and woodland.

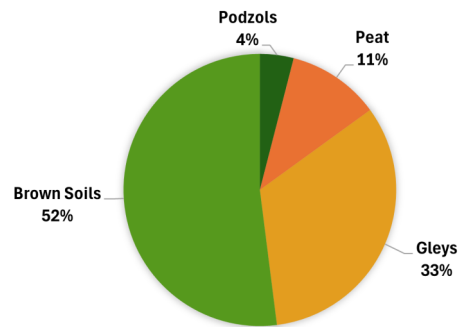
HUMAN INFLUENCES

Densely settled and intensively farmed countryside, characterised by larger towns connected by a well developed road network. Fields mainly enclosed by thorn hedges on low banks.

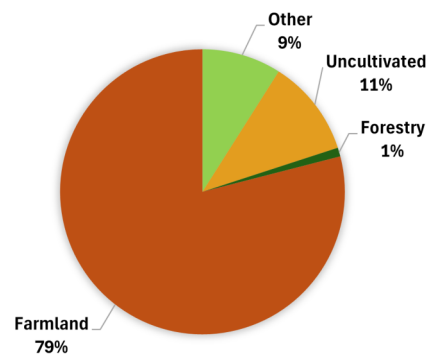
Land Classes 9, 10, 11, 12



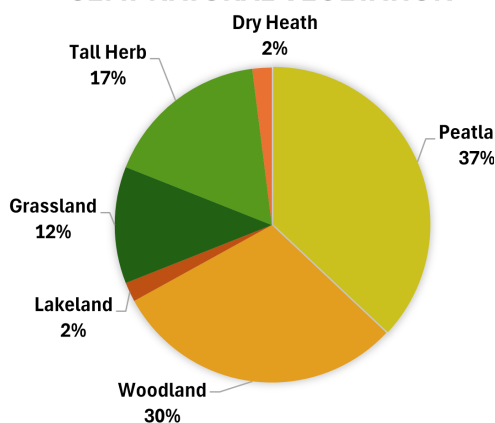
SOILS



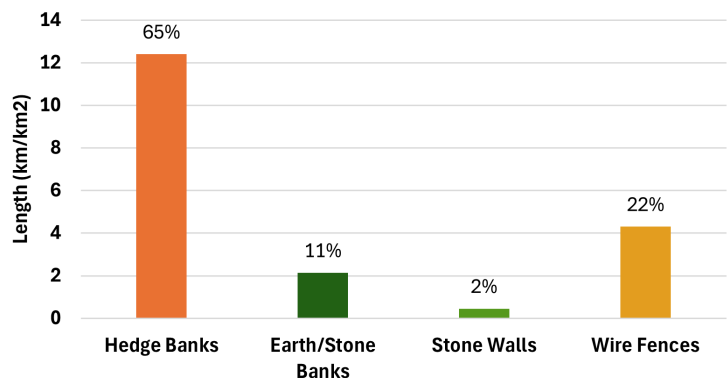
LAND USE



SEMI-NATURAL VEGETATION



FIELD BOUNDARIES



MARGINAL UPLANDS

EXTENT

2462 km (18.2%)

LOCATION

The largest and most widely distributed land class group, occurring mainly in West Tyrone/ Fermanagh and elsewhere around the fringes of the Sperrins, the Antrim Hills, Slieve Croob and the north-east coast.

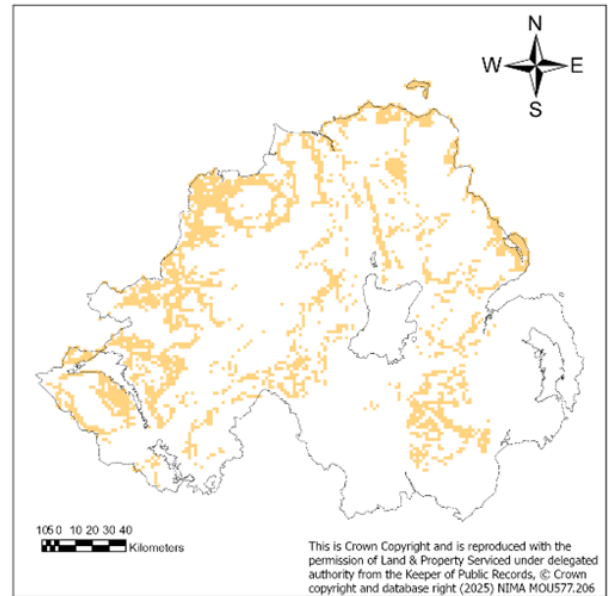
PHYSICAL CHARACTER

Upland fringe: 60-150 m, with a varied, often steeply sloping topography. Poorly-draining soils characterised by permanent pasture and remnants of cut-over bog are prevalent in the west, while free-draining soils, often with patches of species-rich grassland and scrubby woodland predominate in the east.

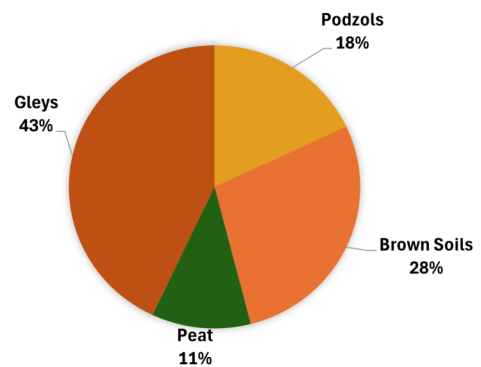
HUMAN INFLUENCES

Variable settlement density but typically characterised by/ rural/ coastal towns linked by a well-developed road network. Small hedged fields are a common feature, but earth banks are also frequent.

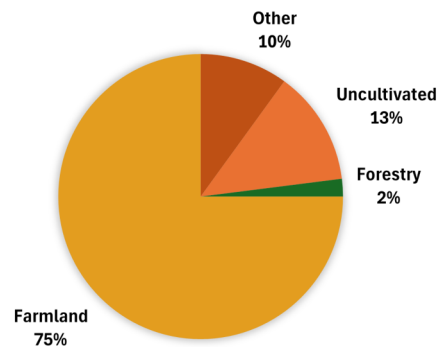
Land Classes 13, 14, 15, 16



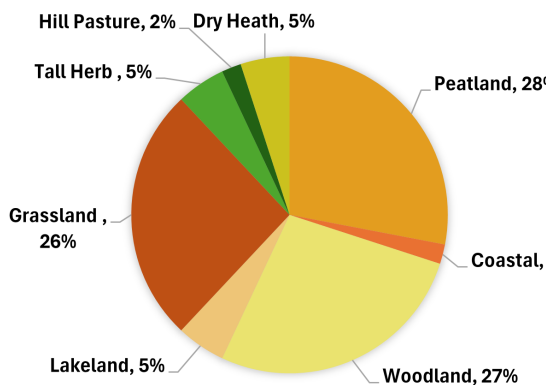
SOILS



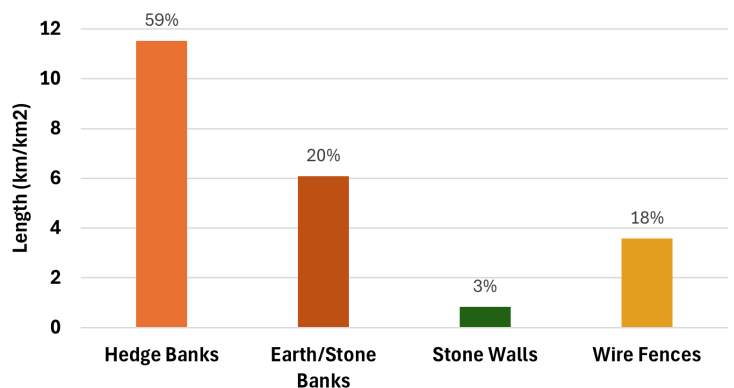
LAND USE



SEMI-NATURAL VEGETATION



FIELD BOUNDARIES



SETTLED UPLANDS

EXTENT

1891 Km²

LOCATION

Particularly common in Mid-Tyrone, South Armagh and in the vicinity of the Mourne/Slieve Croob but also widely distributed around the fringes of the Sperrins and Antrim Hills.

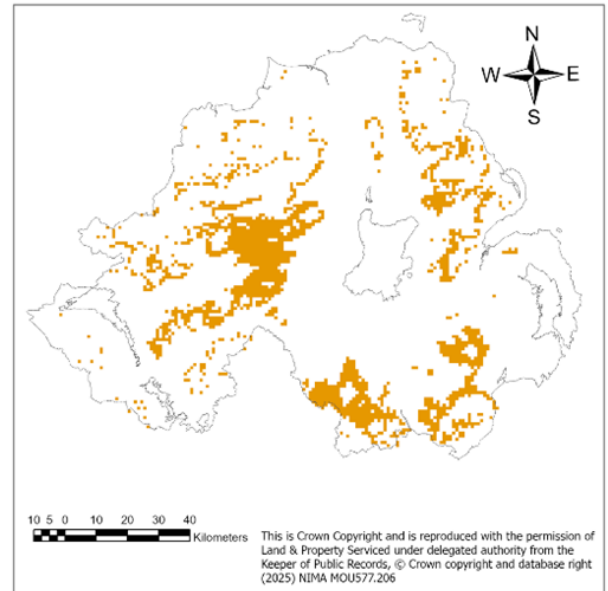
PHYSICAL CHARACTER

Upland: 150-250 m, with a varied, often steeply sloping topography. almost everywhere backed by rising ground or hill summits. Differences in the underlying geology (granite, basalt and sandstone) are reflected in the wide range of soils and associated vegetation types that distinguish the main mountain blocks.

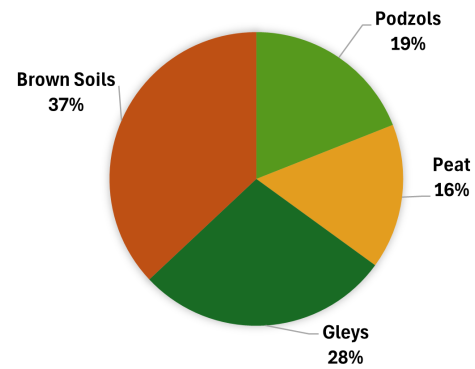
HUMAN INFLUENCE

Variable. in places sparsely settled countryside with a network mostly minor and often unfenced roads. This is a marginal agricultural landscape of small fields enclosed by hedges, earth banks and dry stone walls.

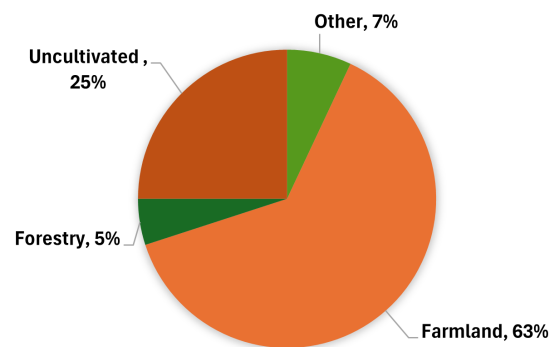
Land Classes 17, 18, 19



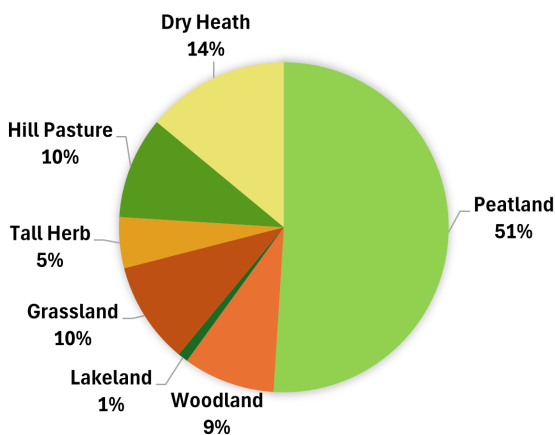
SOILS



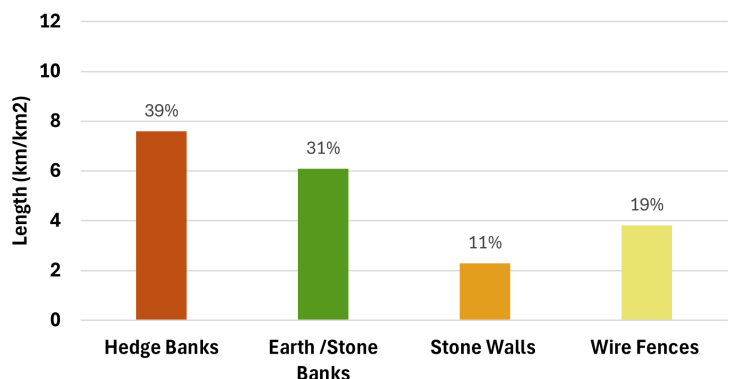
LAND USE



SEMI-NATURAL VEGETATION



FIELD BOUNDARIES



HIGH UPLANDS

EXTENT

1454 Km² (10.7%)

LOCATION

Widely distributed in the north and west, particularly in the Antrim Hills, the North Derry Hills, West Tyrone, Slieve Beagh and other upland areas in County Fermanagh.

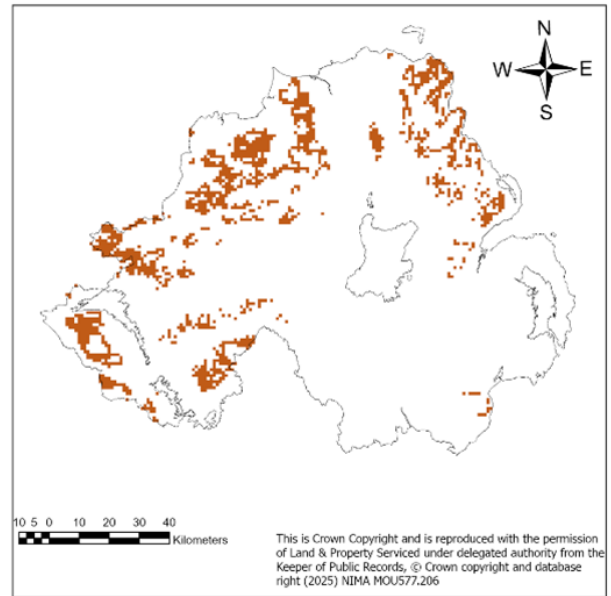
PHYSICAL CHARACTER

Upland: 150-300 m, with a varied undulating, often steeply sloping topography, frequently backed by hill tops and mountain summits. Peaty and poorly draining mineral soils predominate, giving rise to extensive tracts of blanket bog.

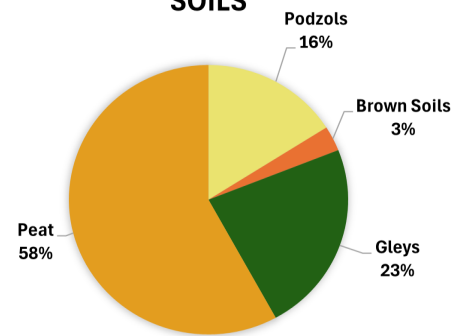
HUMAN INFLUENCES

Sparsely settled, marginal agricultural landscape, with much rough grazing land and few, mostly minor roads. Isolated farmsteads, stone walls and conifer plantations are common features, reflecting the predominance of hill farming and forestry.

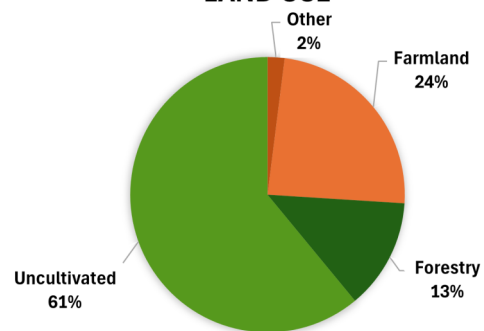
Land Classes 20,21



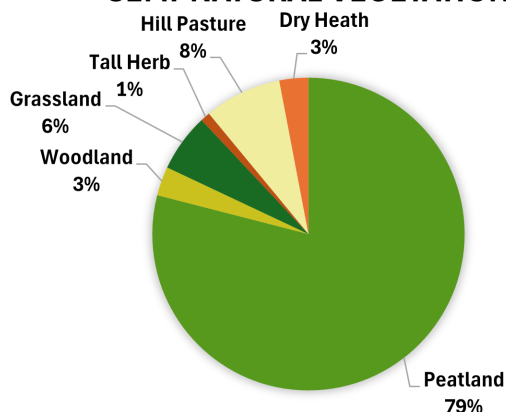
SOILS



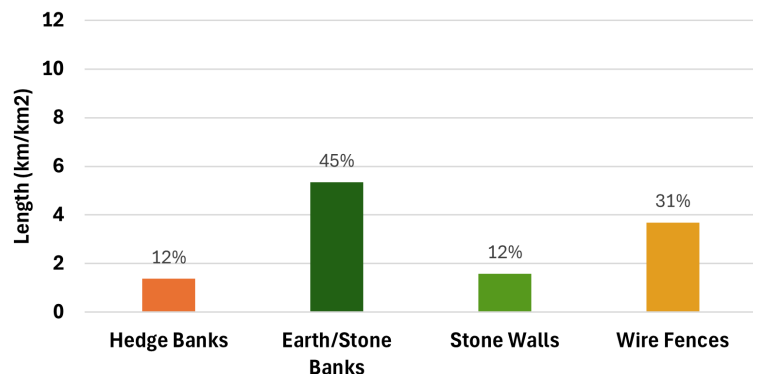
LAND USE



SEMI-NATURAL VEGETATION



FIELD BOUNDARIES



MOUNTAINS

EXTENT

1127 km² (8.3%)

LOCATION

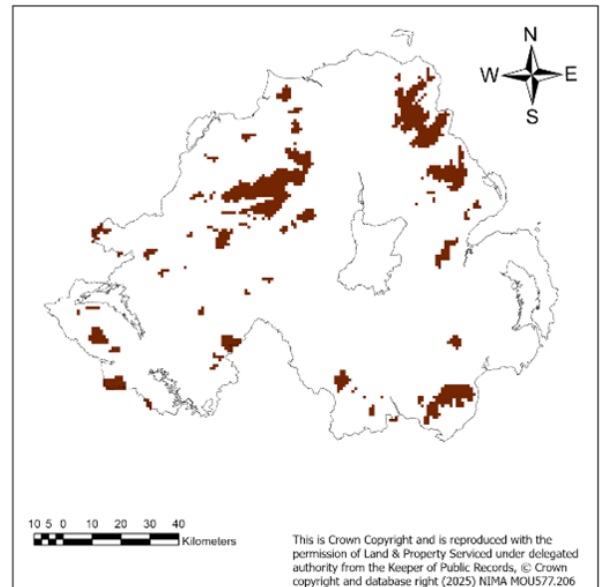
Mountain areas throughout Northern Ireland, including the Mourne, Antrim Hills, Sperrins and limestone/sandstone summits in County Fermanagh.

PHYSICAL CHARACTER

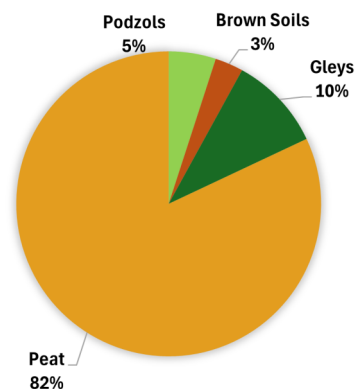
Mountain: more than 250 m, with a steeply undulating, in places rocky, terrain characterised by high elevation plateaux and mountain summits. Peat is the predominant soil type, giving rise to extensive tracts of blanket bog, with associated areas of hill pasture and dry heath in the Mourne.

HUMAN INFLUENCES

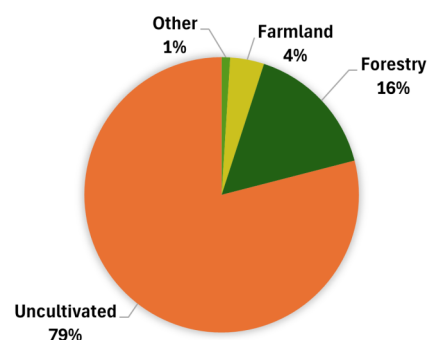
Unenclosed rough grazing land with occasional unfenced minor roads, but otherwise few signs of habitation. Forestry plantations are a prominent feature in certain areas.



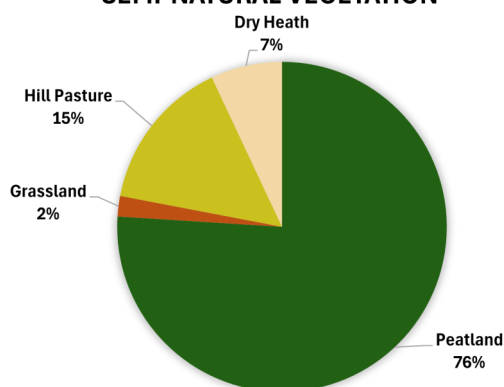
SOILS



LAND USE



SEMI-NATURAL VEGETATION



FIELD BOUNDARIES

