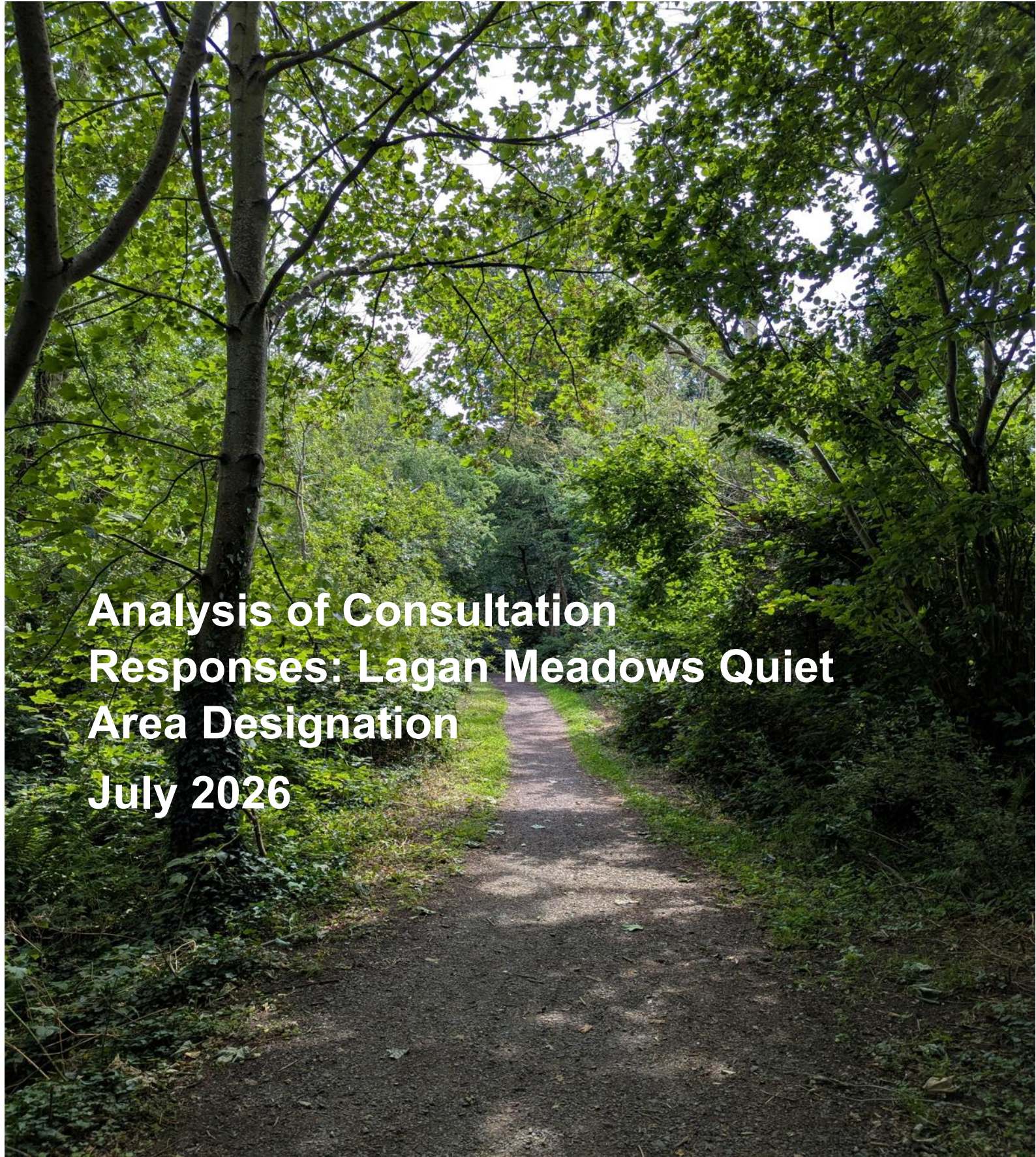




Analysis of Consultation Responses: Lagan Meadows Quiet Area Designation July 2026

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Formats and Contact Details

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Executive Summary

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs launched an eight-week consultation on 1 June 2026 seeking the views of stakeholders and the public on the proposed designation of Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area pursuant to the Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.

As a Quiet Area is not one that is silent, but rather one that is undisturbed by unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities, the designation would not seek to reduce current noise levels but rather protect Lagan Meadows from any further increase in noise.

Consultation Format

The consultation posed four questions using Citizen Space as its primary response mechanism. The questions sought the following from respondents:

- Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?
- If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please state what type of organisation it is.
- Do you agree that Lagan Meadows should be designated as a Quiet Area for the purpose of the Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006?
- Please provide information on any matters that would affect the designation of Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area.

Responses

At the end of the consultation period 49 responses were received. Of the 49 responses received 45 used Citizen Space to respond and four responses were received via an email submission. The breakdown of the responses is as follows:

Respondent type	Number
Individual	45
Non-Government Organisation (NGO)	3
Government Organisation	1

Following the closure of the consultation, all responses were collated and categorised by themes raised. No personal information was gathered during the consultation, with each consultation response referred to by a unique response ID.

How to use this Report

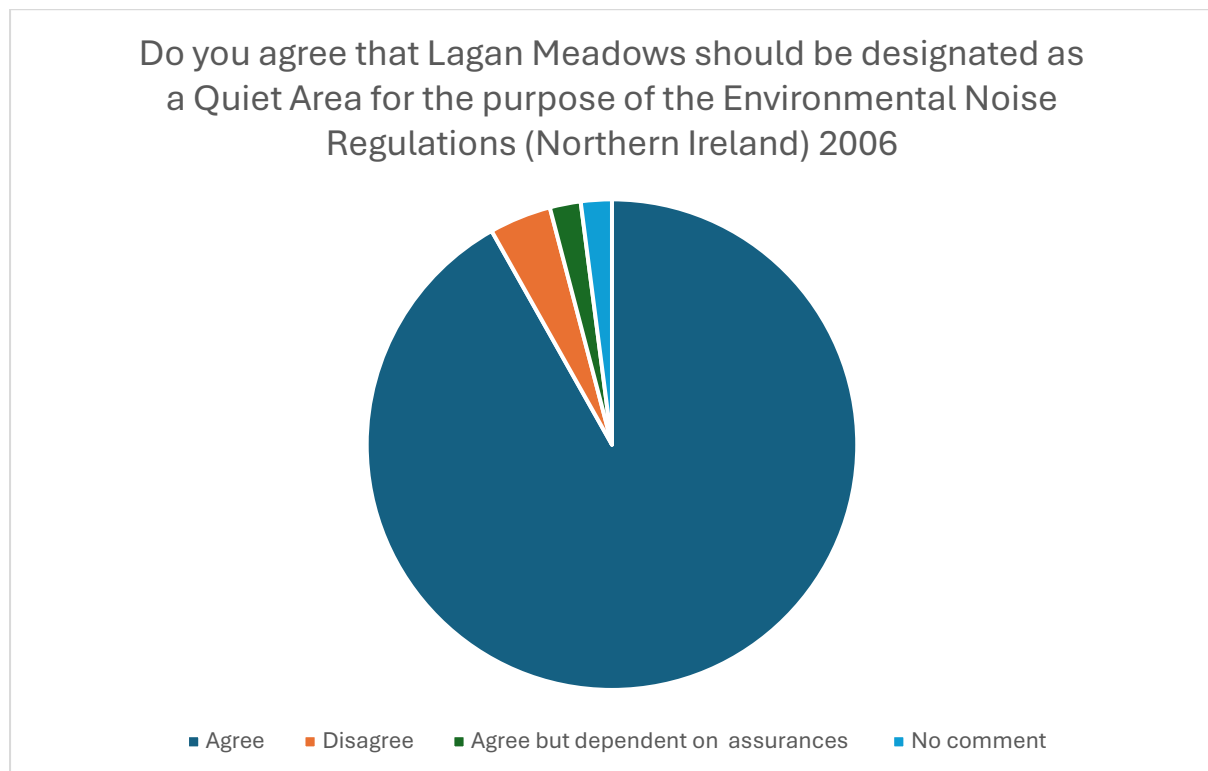
This summary is intended to help stakeholders understand the views submitted during the consultation in response to the questions asked. Responses provided policy makers with an invaluable insight into the public's view on the proposed designation of Lagan Meadows as well as further information on their experiences when visiting Lagan Meadows.

Stakeholder Engagement

Prior to the launch of the consultation DAERA engaged with local district councils, which helped to shape the choice of site for the consultation. The consultation was also directly emailed to Section 75 stakeholders and other stakeholders with an interest in environmental noise.

Key Findings

The consultation responses showed that 94% of respondents supported the designation of Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area and considered the designation beneficial. A further breakdown of stakeholders' views is shown below.



Analysis of Respondents Comments

Many respondents view the area as a valuable urban green space which should be protected for future generations. Themes arising from respondents in support of designation were biodiversity protection, wellbeing benefits and preservation of tranquility.

Responses to the Proposed Designation

- **Fully content with the proposal:** 94% of respondents support the designation and over half of the respondents were content with the proposal and did not identify any issues which would affect the designation of the region as a Quiet Area.
- **Improved protection of Biodiversity and Wildlife:** 16% of respondents recognised the importance of the area for its biodiversity and saw tangible

benefits in protecting it by the proposed designation. They cited benefits for birds, wildlife and biodiversity. There was positive support for extending Quiet Area designation to other Belfast parks.

- **Improved Health and Wellbeing:** A small number of respondents recognised the benefits of the designation for both physical and mental health, especially against the lack of peaceful places within the city.

Other Comments

- **Wider Environmental Management:** A small number of respondents mentioned airport flight paths and potential increases in air traffic movements, noise from adjacent leisure facilities, the impact of designation on land use and construction noise. Some non-noise related issues were also raised including littering, invasive species, local fires and park maintenance, however, a number of these points are outside the scope of this consultation and this legislative regime.
- **Opportunities for collaboration:** Some respondents were interested in issues relating to monitoring, enforcement and noise from specific sources, while others highlighted the importance of cross-organisational working to manage a number of environmental issues. It was suggested that the designation could deter antisocial behaviour.

Once designated, any noise issues experienced will be managed by the local district council under their current legislative regimes.

Conclusion and DAERA position

DAERA has reviewed the responses to the consultation and summarised the feedback. The consultation demonstrates overwhelming support from 94% of respondents for the designation of Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area. Respondents largely view the site as an important environmental and community asset with key themes such as benefits for mental health and the environment being reported.

Lagan Meadows meets the criteria for identifying Quiet Areas in Northern Ireland, and the consultation has demonstrated overwhelming public support for designation. The Department has designated Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area and will keep this under review.

A certified copy of the map outlining the site will now be prepared and published on the DAERA website.