

Summits on the Air

Northern Ireland (GI)

Association Reference Manual



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1 Change Control

Date	Version	Details
13-Jul-02	1.0	First formal issue of this document

2 Association Reference Data

Association	Northern Ireland (GI)
Commencement date	13 July 2002
Regions	County Armagh (CA-xxx) Mourne Mountains (MM-xxx) Antrim Hills (AH-xxx) South West (SW-xxx) Sperrin Mountains (SM-xxx)
Association parameters ¹	
Summit operation criteria	Operation must be within 25m vertically of the summit
Band 1, score 1 point	<400m ASL
Band 2, score 2 points	>=400m ASL, <500m ASL
Band 3, score 4 points	>=500m ASL, <600m ASL
Band 4, score 6 points	>=600m ASL, <700m ASL
Band 5, score 8 points	>=700m ASL, <800m ASL
Band 6, score 10 points	>=800m
Seasonal bonus	Yes
Bonus rationale	Winter period with highest probability of sub-zero temperatures
Min. height for bonus	500m
Bonus period dates	1 December to 15 March inclusive
Association sponsored awards	None
Association Manager	Colin Williamson, GI0RQK [colin_williamson@hotmail.com]

2.1 Programme derivation

The Northern Ireland SOTA Programme is based on the Marilyns. The Marilyn programme considers the *relative* height of summits compared to their surroundings and defines a minimum of 150m climb from the surrounding cols in order to qualify. The result is 66 Summits in Northern Ireland, ranging in height from 206m to 850m.

The reference material for the Northern Ireland is taken from the book "The Hewitts and Marilyns of Ireland" compiled by E D "Clem" Clements (ISBN 0 9522680 8 6) published in 1997 by TACit Press. The series editor is Dave Hewitt and details can be found at the following web page: <http://bubl.ac.uk/org/tacit/tables/ireland.html/>.

The Marilyn list, as defined in the above references is the definitive list of valid Summits for Northern Ireland.

¹ See General Rules for parameter definitions

2.2 General information

Further information about Summits on the air (SOTA) can be found on the web page: <http://www.sota.org.uk/>

2.3 Rights of way and access issues

The following is extracted from the 'Access Report' published by DoE NI, Sports Council NI and NI Tourist Board.

Northern Ireland shares the same legal system as England based on common law, including concepts about the ownership of land and public rights of way, but it has its own courts structure, system of precedents and access legislation. Because many fewer rights of way or access issues have been dealt with, it is often necessary to assume that the NI courts would follow English precedents in applying common law principles, although they are not bound to do so. Nor is there as yet a body of case law on the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983, which relates exclusively to NI.

Common law principles relevant to countryside access include:

A public right of way

Is a highway, which any member of the public may use; not a privilege granted by the landowner.

Trespass

Occurs when a person is on land without legal entitlement, or exceeds their rights of passage on a right of way.

(Reference: <http://www.mountaineering.ie/ULMci/access.html/>.)

2.3.1 The Northern Ireland Country Code

1. Respect the people who live and work in the countryside
2. Know where you are allowed to go. Most land is private property, ask permission to use it for recreational purposes
3. Keep to paths across farmland. Do not walk across fields of crops or disturb farm animals.
4. Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
5. Leave gates as you find them. If they were open leave them open. If they were closed close them behind you.
6. Do not interfere with livestock, machinery or crops. Pay attention to warning signs.
7. Keep your dog under control at all times to avoid disturbing wildlife and animals.
8. Protect wildlife, plants and trees. Leave all natural places as you find them.
9. Keep water sources clean. Do not pollute any water in the countryside.
10. All litter is unsightly and may be dangerous. Always take your litter home.
11. Guard against all risks of fire. Accidental fires are a great hazard and may harm people and animals.
12. Make no unnecessary noise. Do not disturb the peace and quiet of the countryside.
13. Respect other recreational users otherwise you might be banned in the future.
14. Take special care when driving or walking on country roads. Always show courtesy to other road users.
15. If possible do not go out alone. Wear suitable clothing and footwear as the weather can change very quickly.

(Reference: <http://www.countrysiderecreation.com/>)

2.4 Maps and navigation

The definitive maps for hill walking in Northern Ireland are published by the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland. They are available in virtually all stationers and bookshops, or can be ordered by post. Locally, in mountainous areas, corner shops can usually be expected to carry copies of the immediate area.

OS maps come in all shapes and sizes but the most useful for general mountaineering purposes are the 1:50,000 “Discoverer” series and the 1:25,000 “Outdoor Pursuits” series.

The Discoverer series is an all-Ireland series, which replaced the One-Inch maps. The Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland is responsible for the 18 sheets covering Northern Ireland and adjoining parts of the Republic of Ireland.

The Outdoor Pursuits map series do not cover all of Northern Ireland but where coverage is available is strongly recommended for specific Expeditions. The level of detail is significantly greater than on the Discoverer series and includes extremely useful information such as walls and other significant features that are useful for navigation.

Generally, navigation in Northern Ireland’s Mountains is not particularly difficult, at least if you stick to the paths and the weather remains fine. It is, however, easy to get disoriented, especially in the mist that is an all too frequent visitor to Northern Ireland’s hills. Only the foolhardy will venture onto the Northern Ireland Mountains without a compass and the knowledge to use it. A GPS is not an adequate substitute.

2.5 Grid reference system used

The Ordnance Survey of Great Britain defines a rectangular grid system, which covers the entire landmass of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This system is used throughout this Association Reference Manual. Typically, the system provides a unique reference to 100m accuracy, though this can be varied if required. Full details of this system can be found at <http://www.ordsvy.gov.uk/>.

The Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland web page can be found at <http://www.osni.gov.uk/>.

2.6 Safety considerations

It is tempting to assume that Northern Ireland’s mountains, none of which exceeds 900m in height, are relatively trivial. Whilst they certainly do not compare with Alpine grandeur, the higher latitude, together with proximity to the south-westerly weather fronts coming across the Atlantic, means that conditions can be severe, especially in the winter.

Northern Ireland’s higher mountains may carry snow, especially on the higher summits of the Mourne Mountains, any time from late November through to April. Unfortunately, much of this snow is relatively soft and can be very slippery. At other times it just rains! Good waterproof gear is therefore essential, as is protection for radio equipment. You should **never** venture into Northern Ireland’s major mountains without walking boots, warm clothing, map and compass.

Mobile phone coverage in Northern Ireland’s mountainous regions is reasonably good on high ground. It can be non-existent in the valleys or on slopes facing away from major areas of population, roads, etc. If you have one, it is worth taking it with you.

Most areas with major Summits have mountain rescue services. These are all run on a non-paid volunteer basis and you might like to consider supporting their work by putting some cash in the mountain rescue box, usually found in pubs and other tourist traps. Think of it as a sort of insurance policy – hope you will never need to claim on it but have it anyway! The mountain rescue services operate closely with, and report into the Police. Should you need to call them out then you call the Police using 999 and ask for Mountain Rescue.

3 Summit Reference Data

3.1 Region Reference – County Armagh

Association	Northern Ireland (GI)
Region	County Armagh (CA-xxx)
Region Manager	Refer to Association Manager, Colin Williamson GI0RQK [colin_williamson@hotmail.com]
Reference (s)	The Hewitts and Marilyn's of Ireland http://bubl.ac.uk/org/tacit/tables/ireland.html/

3.1.1 Regional notes

The striking landscapes of the Ring of Gullion are a result of the unique geology of the area - a ring of igneous rocks has resulted in a distinctive range of peaks enclosing a cultural landscape of small farmsteads rich in legend with a multitude of historic monuments. Trees and small woodlands are significant landscape features. There are diverse wildlife habitats including fragments of the once extensive lowland bogland. Many of these boglands have been drained and cut over for turf. The craggy outcrops are covered with heather moorland. The range of upland and marginal habitats such as dry and wet heath lands hedgerow and rough grass creates a rich mosaic of wildlife habitat.

3.1.2 Table of summits

Ref.	Alt (m)	Alt (ft)	Name	Grid ref.	Valid from	Valid to	Score
CA-001	573	1880	Slieve Gullion	J 024203	12-Jul-02		4
CA-002	423	1388	Camlough Mountain	J 049253	12-Jul-02		2
CA-003	364	1194	Carrigatuke	H 903321	12-Jul-02		1
CA-004	308	1010	Croslieve	J 001163	12-Jul-02		1
CA-005	264	866	Tievecrom	J 023153	12-Jul-02		1

3.2 Region Reference – Mourne Mountains

Association	Northern Ireland (GI)
Region	Mourne Mountains (MM-xxx)
Region Manager	Refer to Association Manager, Colin Williamson G10RQK [colin_williamson@hotmail.com]
Reference (s)	The Hewitts and Marilyns of Ireland http://bubl.ac.uk/org/tacit/tables/ireland.html/

3.2.1 Regional notes

The Mourne Mountains are one of the most scenic districts in Northern Ireland. Situated in the south east this mountain range contains 7 summits rising above 700 meters.

The Mournes are composed of hard, acidic granite. The area is an example of a glaciated landscape.

These Heather covered, granite mountains inspired the Percy French song with the words "Where the Mountains of Mournes sweep down to the sea" ("Its always mentioned")

Most of the high summits are grouped together in an area only 7 miles wide.

At 850meters Slieve Donard is the highest mountain in the Mournes range and also the highest mountain in Northern Ireland. From the summit ("if its not raining") there are scenic views of Northern Ireland and towards England, Scotland, Isle of Man and Ireland.

The Mourne wall was built in the 1900s (1904 - 1922) to enclose the Silent Valley reservoir. It is a granite wall (22 miles long and up to 8ft high and 3ft wide) that links 15 of the main peaks in the area including Slieve Donard.

The Mourne area is used for leisure, agriculture and forestry and the provision of water for most of Northern Ireland.

3.2.2 Table of summits

Ref.	Alt (m)	Alt (ft)	Name	Grid ref.	Valid from	Valid to	Score
MM-001	850	2789	Slieve Donard	J 358276	12-Jul-02		10
MM-002	767	2516	Slieve Commedagh	J 346286	12-Jul-02		8
MM-003	747	2451	Slieve Binnian	J 320234	12-Jul-02		8
MM-004	739	2425	Slieve Bearnagh	J 313280	12-Jul-02		8
MM-005	708	2323	Slieve Meelbeg	J 300279	12-Jul-02		8
MM-006	704	2310	Slievelamagan	J 329260	12-Jul-02		8
MM-007	673	2208	Slieve Muck	J 281250	12-Jul-02		6
MM-008	638	2093	Eagle Mountain	J 244229	12-Jul-02		6
MM-009	559	1834	Slievemoughanmore	J 249240	12-Jul-02		4
MM-010	534	1752	Slieve Croob	J 318453	12-Jul-02		4
MM-011	485	1591	Slievemartin	J 201176	12-Jul-02		2
MM-012	445	1460	Slievenaglogh	J 298229	12-Jul-02		2
MM-013	382	1253	Gruggandoo	J 200255	12-Jul-02		1
MM-014	305	1001	Knockchree	J 271170	12-Jul-02		1
MM-015	280	919	Tullynasoo Mountain	J 297355	12-Jul-02		1
MM-016	237	778	Knockiveagh	J 182378	12-Jul-02		1
MM-017	214	702	Cairngaver	J 454765	12-Jul-02		1

3.3 Region Reference – Antrim Hills

Association	Northern Ireland (GI)
Region	Antrim Hills (AH-xxx)
Region Manager	Refer to Association Manager, Colin Williamson G10RQK [colin_williamson@hotmail.com]
Reference (s)	The Hewitts and Marilyns of Ireland http://bubl.ac.uk/org/tacit/tables/ireland.html/

3.3.1 Regional notes

None.

3.3.2 Table of summits

Ref.	Alt (m)	Alt (ft)	Name	Grid ref.	Valid from	Valid to	Score
AH-001	550	1804	Trostan	D 179236	12-Jul-02		4
AH-002	514	1686	Knocklayd	D 115364	12-Jul-02		4
AH-003	508	1667	Slieveanorra	D 134266	12-Jul-02		4
AH-004	478	1568	Divis	J 280754	12-Jul-02		2
AH-005	474	1555	Agnew's Hill	D 327016	12-Jul-02		2
AH-006	444	1457	Mid Hill	D 202157	12-Jul-02		2
AH-007	437	1434	Slemish	D 221054	12-Jul-02		2
AH-008	353	1158	Big Collin	J 232966	12-Jul-02		1
AH-009	319	1047	Tobernavveen Hill	J 176927	12-Jul-02		1
AH-010	310	1017	Carn Hill	J 347891	12-Jul-02		1
AH-011	206	676	Cross Slieve	D 236295	12-Jul-02		1

3.4 Region Reference – South West

Association	Northern Ireland (GI)
Region	South West (SW-xxx)
Region Manager	Refer to Association Manager, Colin Williamson GI0RQK colin_williamson@hotmail.com
Reference (s)	The Hewitts and Marilyns of Ireland http://bubl.ac.uk/org/tacit/tables/ireland.html/

3.4.1 Regional notes

None.

3.4.2 Table of summits

Ref.	Alt (m)	Alt (ft)	Name	Grid ref.	Valid from	Valid to	Score
SW-001	420	1378	Bessy Bell	H 390820	12-Jul-02		2
SW-002	398	1306	Belmore Mountain	H 138417	12-Jul-02		1
SW-003	386	1266	Reyfad	H 090458	12-Jul-02		1
SW-004	380	1247	Slieve Beagh	H 524436	12-Jul-02		1
SW-005	345	1132	Bolaght Mountain	H 259765	12-Jul-02		1
SW-006	341	1119	Dooish	H 315698	12-Jul-02		1
SW-007	316	1037	Brougher Mountain	H 349528	12-Jul-02		1
SW-008	298	978	Pollnalaght	H 370708	12-Jul-02		1
SW-009	242	794	Forster's Mountain	H 329818	12-Jul-02		1

3.5 Region Reference – Sperrin Mountains

Association	Northern Ireland (GI)
Region	Sperrin Mountains (SM-xxx)
Region Manager	Refer to Association Manager, Colin Williamson G10RQK colin_williamson@hotmail.com
Reference (s)	The Hewitts and Marilyns of Ireland http://bubl.ac.uk/org/tacit/tables/ireland.html/

3.5.1 Regional notes

The region area is covered by Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map(s):
Discovery series (1:50:000) sheet 13

3.5.2 Table of summits

Ref.	Alt (m)	Alt (ft)	Name	Grid ref.	Valid from	Valid to	Score
SM-001	678	2224	Sawel Mountain	H 618972	12-Jul-02		6
SM-002	635	2083	Mullaghclogha	H 557957	12-Jul-02		6
SM-003	627	2057	Mullaghaneany	H 685986	12-Jul-02		6
SM-004	562	1844	Carnanelly	H 675921	12-Jul-02		4
SM-005	550	1804	Mullaghmore	C 738008	12-Jul-02		4
SM-006	542	1778	Mullaghcarn	H 510809	12-Jul-02		4
SM-007	528	1732	Slieve Gallion	H 798878	12-Jul-02		4
SM-008	480	1575	Mullaghash	C 640019	12-Jul-02		2
SM-009	465	1526	Benbradagh	C 722113	12-Jul-02		2
SM-010	416	1365	Curraghchosaly Mountain	H 478839	12-Jul-02		2
SM-011	407	1336	Owenreagh Hill	H 420959	12-Jul-02		2
SM-012	403	1322	Balix Hill	H 475962	12-Jul-02		2
SM-013	399	1309	Donald's Hill	C 743173	12-Jul-02		1
SM-014	396	1299	Loughermore	C 589156	12-Jul-02		1
SM-015	385	1263	Binevenagh	C 691301	12-Jul-02		1
SM-016	382	1253	Craignamaddy	H 522894	12-Jul-02		1
SM-017	382	1253	Oughtmore	H 724837	12-Jul-02		1
SM-018	370	1214	Slievekirk	C 451082	12-Jul-02		1
SM-019	335	1099	Crocknamoghil	H 578851	12-Jul-02		1
SM-020	321	1053	Crockdooish	C 529024	12-Jul-02		1
SM-021	314	1030	Slievemore	H 593615	12-Jul-02		1

Summits on the Air – ARM for Northern Ireland (GI)

Ref.	Alt (m)	Alt (ft)	Name	Grid ref.	Valid from	Valid to	Score
SM-022	260	853	Holywell Hill	C 385171	12-Jul-02		1
SM-023	221	725	Corrody Hill	C 434127	12-Jul-02		1
SM-024	218	715	Gortmonly Hill	C 396080	12-Jul-02		1