

HERITAGE ASSET AUDIT

BELLAGHY AREA

MARIANNE O'KANE BOAL



Commissioned by the
Department for

Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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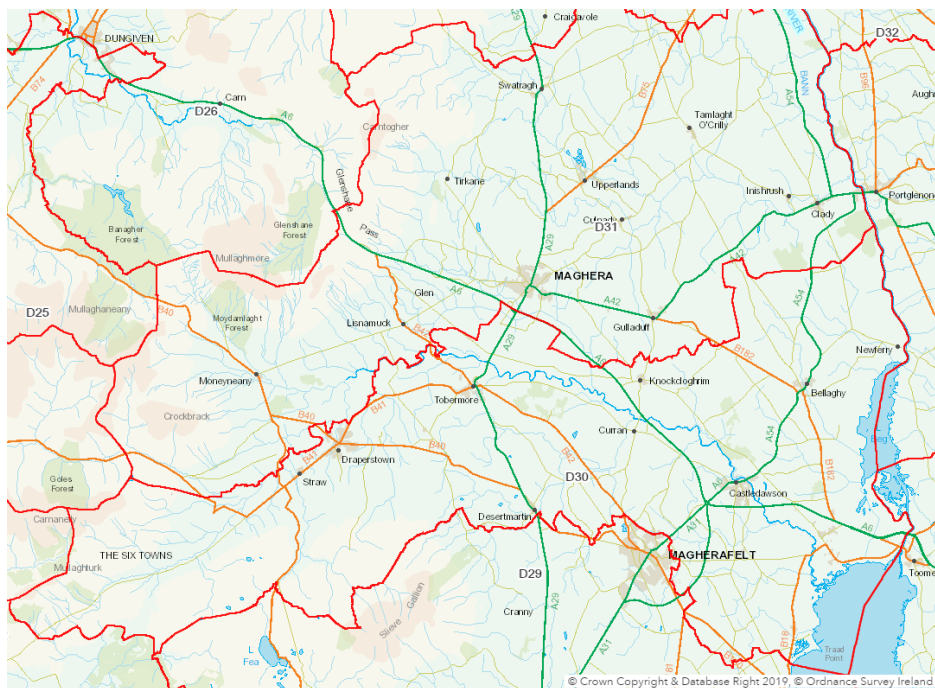
Heritage Asset Report

Bellaghy

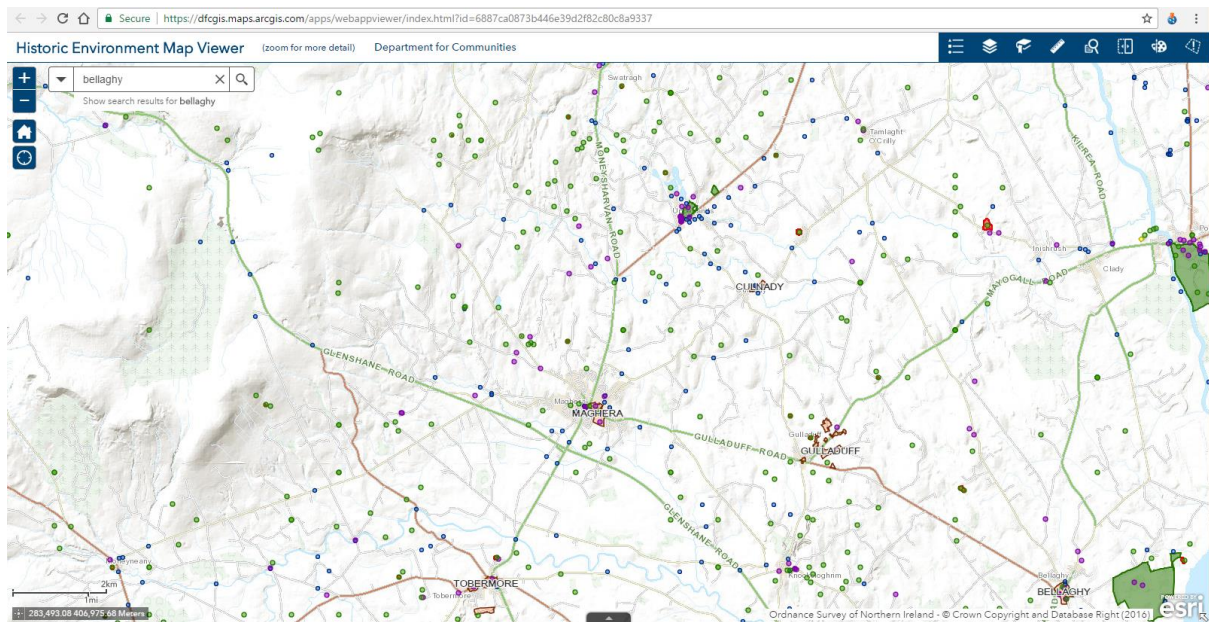


L-R Bellaghy Bawn, Knockoneill Court Tomb, Upperlands Historic Terrace and Industrial Heritage. Photographs by Marianne O'Kane Boal

The three introductory images endeavour to provide a preliminary feel for the audit area. In this case the Bellaghy area is distinguished for its unique archaeological heritage and hence Knockoneill Court Tomb is a prime example. Bellaghy Bawn is an important heritage asset in state care and the ward and village of Upperlands is important for its historic terrace and industrial heritage that includes the oldest active linen mill in Ireland (currently producing linen, cotton, home furnishings, upholstery, aviation and technical fabric www.wmclark.co.uk).



Map 1 - 'Draft Heritage Audit Areas' as compiled by Historic Environment Division. Audit areas at D30 and D31 are relevant. A long list was produced for the D30/D31 area with the final area for detailed discussion centred on D31 including Bellaghy and Lough Beg



Map 2 - Historic Environment Map Viewer showing the seven wards of the selected audit area; Bellaghy, Gulladuff, Lower Glenshane, Maghera, Swatragh, Upperlands & Valley

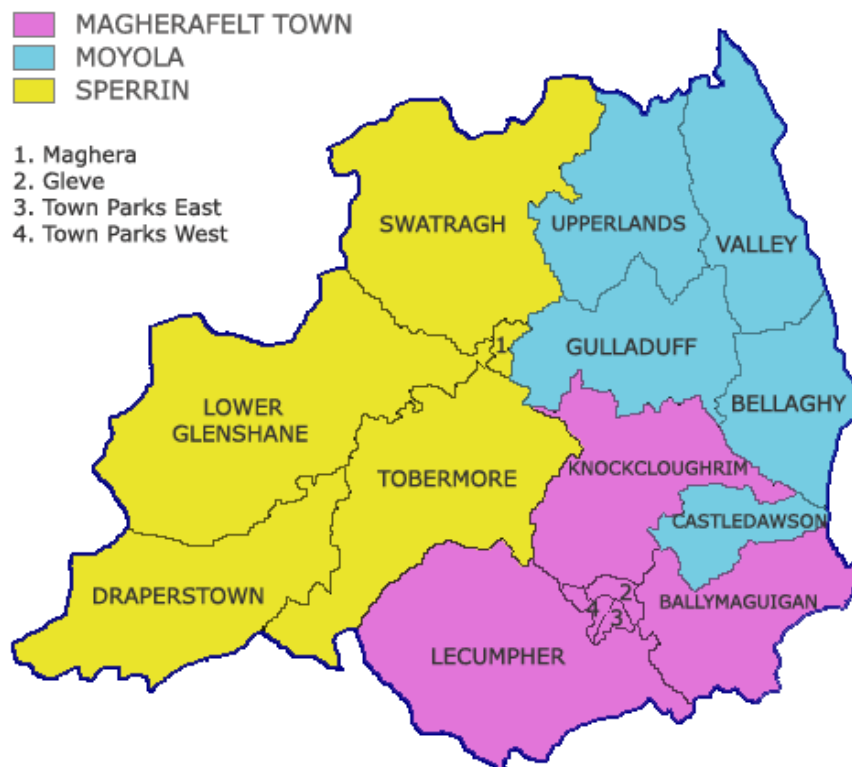
Methodology

This audit is part of a series which aims to gradually build up a picture right across Northern Ireland. Historic Environment Division (HED) have created a map of potential audit areas, and this Bellaghy audit refers to Map Areas D30 and D31. The audit areas follow electoral areas, and over 60% of the audit areas have approximately 480 (+/- 80) heritage assets in each. This map (see Map 1) was taken as a starting point with a long list of assets drawn up, before focusing in on the Bellaghy area, as this constituted a rich and varied heritage landscape where there were lesser known but important assets, particularly the industrial archaeology assets at Upperlands and the key archaeological assets around Maghera.

The audit area of Bellaghy and environs saw a relatively comprehensive methodology applied. Seven wards were selected for study and audit purposes in the Bellaghy region. These reflect a concentrated area in and around Bellaghy and are namely; Bellaghy, Gulladuff, Lower Glenshane, Maghera, Swatragh, Upperlands & Valley. These areas are shown in the Historic Environment Map Viewer image (Map 2). Although desktop survey was a crucial and informative method of research, it was quickly identified that desktop survey in isolation would yield a limited perspective the area. The consultant combined field survey and site visits with desktop survey from the outset and this element of primary research began in February 2019 with site visits and these continued into March and April 2019. It was felt that site visits to the ward areas of the audit were the fundamental core of the project and the best indication of the current state of potential assets. It also gave the consultant first-hand information and knowledge of the area so that observations and strategic recommendations could be asserted with increased authority in the final audit report. Site visits were conducted in Bellaghy and all of the aforementioned wards.

Desktop survey and site visits were recorded by the consultant through taking an extensive range of photographs within the wards of the audit area. Over the period of 3 months a broad catalogue of photographs has been acquired which are an important primary resource in themselves. It was decided at the outset with NIEL and HED that the best way of recording the heritage assets within the audit area was through a range of predetermined wards. Seven wards were selected for the audit area. The majority of research carried out centres on these wards. There is, however, some discussion, when

appropriate of assets and heritage opportunities outside the selected ward areas. These asset examples are kept to a minimum and only cited when of importance to the audit areas or as examples of best practice that cannot be ignored.



Electoral map that features the seven selected wards in yellow and blue in the upper portion of the map, namely; Lower Glenshane, Swatragh, Maghera, Upperlands, Gulladuff, Valley and Bellaghy

There is an interesting observation to be made by the consultant on the shared assets between the Bellaghy and Hillsborough areas. In both of these audit areas there were various layers of strategic building on former archaeological sites. Bellaghy Bawn was built on the site of an Early Christian rath. Hillsborough Fort was also built on the site of an Early Christian rath. Dunglady Fort, an Early Christian rath also had numerous iterations. The site was used in the 17th century when 3 houses were built during the Plantation and in the 18th and 19th centuries it was used as a Quaker graveyard. Duneight Motte and Bailey north of Hillsborough were also built upon the site of an Early Christian rath. This is not uncommon practice for settlers to build on formerly strategic locations but it is interesting to note the commonalities that were found in the Bellaghy (Mid Ulster Council) and Hillsborough (Lisburn and Castlereagh Council) areas.

Another important element of the methodology was consultation. This aspect was conducted through a range of methods (surveys, phone calls and discussions) including via NIEL through its online survey of organisations and individuals in the area. This consultation would also indicate a sense of opportunities and challenges on the ground locally from a variety of perspectives. Consultation and feedback proved fascinating in the Bellaghy audit area with representatives from local history organisations such as Bellaghy Historical Society and MHS Heritage and Culture Ltd providing key insights and knowledge. Other organisations that gave feedback included Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy Bawn and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (Northern Ireland Branch).

Without this crucial feedback from organisations and individuals the audit report would lose richness and grounded purpose.

The D30 Audit Area

An initial long list was drafted of the D30 audit area and this is included below. Towns and villages in the audit area are: Newferry, Bellaghy, Castledawson, Desertmartin, The Six Towns, Straw, Draperstown, Tobermore, Curran, and Knockcloghrim

- ***Listed Buildings***

High Street buildings, various, Draperstown, mainly B1

Court House, High Street, Draperstown, B

Desertmartin Rectory and outbuildings, HB08/08/008, B1

Worker's Cottages (3) at Hillhead Rd, Knockcloghrim, B1

Houses and shops, various, Main Street, Castledawson, mainly B and B1

Park House at 32 Moyola Rd, Castledawson, HB08/10/021, B1

Thatch Bar 1820 - 1839 at Castledawson, HB08/13/001, B1

- ***Sites and Monuments***

Bellaghy Bawn, 17th century fortified, state care

Scheduled Zone, Church, graveyard and bullaun: Church Island LDY 042:014

Crannog and Rath at Ballymacpeake Upper at H9310098670

Bivallate Rath reused as Quaker Graveyard at Broagh above Curran at H8942095730

Early Christian, Mediaeval and Post-medieval church and graveyard, Ballynascreen Church, State Care, at Moneyconey at H7299090670

Tullybrick Sweat House, Substantial Remains, below the Six Towns at H7142089200

Doon Rath, Scheduled, W of Draperstown at H7616094000

Counterscarp Rath, Fortwilliam, Tobermore, Scheduled at H8333097200

Teardrop Shaped enclosure and Large enclosure at Tamnieran at H9404092840

- ***Industrial***

Windmill 19thC, Scheduled, at Cabragh, Knockcloghrim at H8951796936

BNCR Branch Line, Draperstown Station, Engine House, Goods House, Turntable, Cattle Pens at H78449484

Wind pump at Moyheeland, Draperstown at H78669452

Kiln at Tamnyaskey east of Draperstown at H81859466

Desertmartin Station, at Stranagard, BNCR Branch Line at H85259228

Sawmill at Cabragh, Knockcloghrim, at H89489718

Creamery at Derganagh at H89019705

BNCR Branch Line - Bridge, Station, Goods Store & Milepost (also Signal House) at Derganagh (Knockcloghrim) at H88479694

Flax and Corn Mills – Corn Mills Site at Tobermore at H83339660

Flax Mill Site and Wind pump at Moneyshanere at H82219766

Wooden Bridge at Moneyconey / Tullybrick, Ballynascreen Church at H72979061

Pump 1880 – 1899 at 16 Main St, Castledawson, B1

Linen Works, Beetling & Bleach Green site on the Moyola River at Castledawson at Tamniaran H93329330

- ***Parks and Gardens***

Moyola Park, L-016, Register

Ballyscullion Park and House, L-026, Register

- ***Defence***

Observation Post, east of Castledawson DHP No. 275.00

Control Tower, east of Toome, DHP No. 0.00

Airfield, east of Toome, DHP No. 85.00

- ***Battle sites***

Battle of Desertmartin fought on 24 October 1641, side A Garrison (defending) English/Scots, Side B Cormac O'Hagan, Victory for side B. Grid Ref H854921 Main Ref Young, RM, Historical Notices of Old Belfast, 1896, p203 'Friar O'Mellans Narrative of the wars of 1641' Brantry Friary

Battle of Loughinsholin fought in 1643, side A Irish (defending), Side B English, Victory for side A at grid ref H84759262. Main Ref O'Sullivan, A (1998), The archaeology of lake settlement in Ireland

Skirmish at Moyola Bridge in October 1641, Side A Mr Waring: English refugees, Side B Insurgents Irish, Victory for Side A at H93219330 Main ref Maitland, W.H. (1916) History of Magherafelt, p5

Heritage: Economic and Community Value

Patrick Shaffrey (2003) writing on Irish Towns commented that; ‘Northern Ireland is one of the fastest growing regions in Europe. The regional population growth is twice the current United Kingdom rate and exceeds that of the Republic of Ireland. The population of Northern Ireland is expected to continue to grow and reach 1.835 million by 2025. This may generate a regional need for up to 250,000 additional dwellings by 2025’. Indeed this forecasted statistic in population growth by Shaffrey has already been surpassed. The population reached 1.871 million in 2017. This population scale has implications for the regions’ villages, towns and cities and it is more important than ever that architecture is sensitively designed and adaptive reuse is promoted where possible in terms of developments.

‘Future Places: Using Heritage to Build Resilient Communities’ was a symposium that was held in November 2016 and a report on the symposium was subsequently produced. The initiative was important as it was collaboratively hosted by three key councils – Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC), Historic Buildings Council (HBC) and Historic Monuments Council (HMC). This symposium demonstrated the centrality of heritage and the importance of local community in relation to promoting, safeguarding and connecting with this heritage.

In the ‘Local Development Plan 2030’, the wealth of heritage in Mid Ulster is described; ‘Mid Ulster has a unique social, economic and cultural history, the impacts of which are reflected in our distinctive historic landscape, archaeological sites, scheduled monuments and listed buildings. From our High Crosses of Ardboe and Donaghmore to the ancient O’Neill’s of Ulster at Tullaghogue Fort and Hill of the O’Neill; our plantation villages of Draperstown and Moneymore; our industrial heritage of coal mining, lime kilns, flax mills and linen production of Coalisland and Upperlands; our infrastructural remnants of mill races, bridges, railway lines and the Ulster Canal; our large estates of Springhill and Lissan House; we have an extended variety of heritage assets reflecting the indigenous social and economic history of our people. The historic environment is relevant to and is a vibrant part of our local cultural and economic identity’ (173). Although this is a discussion of the broader historic environment of Mid Ulster, there is a micro wealth of heritage assets in the audit area.

It is important to outline some strands of the economic and community value of heritage for the purposes of this audit and the context of the Bellaghy Audit Area. MAG: The Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment issued a paper in 2017 entitled ‘Regeneration – The Value of our Built Heritage’. This was in line with the fact that ‘Heritage’ is one of MAG’s three guiding principles. Within the paper it was highlighted that heritage is not only an inheritance of the past but primarily a legacy for the future. The paper set out the potential economic value of heritage. Part of this is the reuse and adaptive use of buildings to add vibrancy to towns and cities.

At the MAG Seminar ‘Talking Places – Heritage: Attracting Investment’ Derry, April 2018, Paul Mullan, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund in Northern Ireland outlined his key views on heritage in its broadest sense. These views also related directly to the work of Heritage Lottery Fund in conjunction with the Department for Communities. Mullan talked of the centrality of local communities to understanding the power of heritage; ‘The key element of heritage is people – without this connection to people, we miss the point of our built environment and heritage beyond. It is crucial we make this connection continually between people and place, buildings and landscape. Community is essential.

Experts are important, but they are there to point out the assets around us so that we can all be part of unlocking their potential”. Mullan also noted that in terms of investment and regeneration, the Heritage Enterprise Model appears to be largely hotels in Northern Ireland. Elsewhere, however, this might be arts centres, enterprise hubs and education centres. The Seamus Heaney HomePlace centre demonstrates the adaptation and reuse of a former RUC barracks site for cultural use and regeneration. Another recent event is the MAG Symposium on 27 March 2019 entitled ‘Loving Places: Local Distinctiveness in Making Great Places’, and this again acknowledges the local knowledge and expertise that contributes to making great places and this is certainly evident in the Bellaghy audit area.

Collections of Interest – NMNI

The National Museums of Northern Ireland (NMNI) have a collection of artefacts connected with the Bellaghy audit area. This includes archaeological remains such as a Plano Convex knife made of flint from the Neolithic/Bronze Age, a semi-perforated stone from Prehistoric times, a flint pointed implement from Mesolithic Age, a flint javelin head from the Neolithic Age, all discovered in Maghera. It also includes a range of polished axes found in Maghera and Swatragh from the Neolithic Age. Other types of remains include; a flint scraper from the Neolithic Age and an arrowhead: petit tranchet derivative, both discovered at Glenshane Pass. Also included is a flint javelin head from the Neolithic Age discovered at Gulladuff.

There are good quantities of recorded species such as moss and vascular plants that have been found in Glenshane Pass, Granaghan Hill, Maghera, Upperlands from the mid nineteenth century onwards. There are a range of single items in the collection; a fossil, a mammal recorded as species *lutra lutra*, a male otter’s skull and four interbasaltic rocks. There is a child’s dress attributed to makers at the Moravian settlement, a chair from Bellaghy, and a bedcover of unknown origin. There are a number of photographic prints, photographic film negatives, photographic lantern slides and postcards. These feature scenes and buildings from the Bellaghy area. There are sound recordings that feature a series of Living Linen interviews. Also included is a range of responses with cures for various ailments including sore throat, croup, ringworm, swelling, bronchitis, erysipelas, whooping cough and eye ulcers. In all, the collection provides a diverse range of artefacts, documents, recordings and photographs that provide interesting historical information on Bellaghy and the greater surrounding area.

Distinguishing Attributes of Assets and the Audit Area

- Bellaghy is one of the first planned villages/towns of Ireland.
- Bellaghy Bawn is the best restored example to be found anywhere in Northern Ireland.
- Bellaghy is the home place of Seamus Heaney, reputed to be the most important poet after William Butler Yeats and the area contains a range of important heritage assets connected with the poet.
- Tirkane Sweathouse is well preserved and one of only a few such well-preserved sweathouses in Northern Ireland.
- In the village of Upperlands is the oldest linen mill in Ireland, the William Clark & Sons company founded in 1736, which continues production today.
- One of the finest examples of Romanesque carving in Ireland is featured in St Lurach’s Church, Maghera and it is also one of the earliest surviving representations of the crucifixion in Ireland.
- The Crucifixion scene is the most complex to survive in Ireland from the 12thc. The inclusion of elements such as the Scourging of Christ and the apparent inclusion of the Two Thieves have no parallels in Irish art.

- The audit area is rich in unique archaeological remains and there are a diverse range of types of remains that include multivallate raths, forts, court tombs, dolmens, standing stones, cairns, passage graves, and wedge tombs.
- Dunlady Fort is considered one of Ulster's finest earthworks. It was one of relatively few earthworks to be protected under the 1926 ancient monuments act; rescheduled in 1974.
- A History Trail with guide and map that is connected to two sites and community centres is Carntogher History Trail that connects to An Carn Centre and Drumlamph Nature Reserve.
- The River Bann is the longest river in Ulster and has played an important part in the industrialisation of the north of Ireland, especially in the linen industry with mills such as Wm Clark Mill in Upperlands remaining.
- Carn / Glenshane Pass is a special area of conservation and it has an area of largely intact blanket bog, estimated to be just over 1650 ha. It is one of the few remaining examples of good quality blanket bog within this region of Northern Ireland, is of European Priority Interest and is considered to be one of the best areas of Blanket Bogs in the United Kingdom. While not specifically related to heritage assets, this is a unique attribute and thus relevant.
- There are observations of rich archaeological remains at Glenshane. These include megalithic tombs, enclosures, standing stones, raths, a Bronze Age urn burial, a souterrain, and a holy well. There are also unlocated remains that have been referenced including a megalithic tomb and an enclosure.
- Town land of Ballyscullion has had more people with the surname 'Scullion' living in it than any other town land in Ireland. Elwyn Soutter has noted that there were 40 people named Scullion living in Ballyscullion west (ie the Derry side of the Bann) in the 1901 census. <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Londonderry/Bellaghy/Ballyscullion>
- Church Island in Lough Beg is an important site. It has huge potential but is benefitted by restricted access. It is a place to be viewed from the shoreline primarily and not visited due to the unique flora, fauna and bird species. The built and natural heritage of the island cannot be separated. Church Island was to Seamus Heaney what Innisfree was to William Butler Yeats – a picturesque location to be viewed or pondered.
- In the town land of Dreenan near Maghera stands an ancient yew tree which according to the Tree Register of Ireland is one of the oldest trees in the country. The tree was used as a secret religious site during Penal Times of the 17th- 19th centuries. There is a mass rock at its base. The Ordnance Survey Memoirs state that a priest was hung from its branches. According to the Memoirs this hollowed out yew was already considered ancient in the 1830s.

Overview of the Audit Area of Bellaghy & surrounding wards

The Planning Service's 'Magherafelt Area Plan Draft Plan 2004 – Countryside Assessment' notes that the built heritage in the audit area includes archaeological sites and monuments, listed buildings, and features of industrial heritage and historic parks, gardens and demesnes. There are no conservation areas in the audit area (Draperstown is outside the audit area) but there are two Areas of Townscape Character; Maghera and Upperlands. Upperlands may become a conservation area as the area plan states; 'The Department will give due consideration to the merits of designating Upperlands as a further conservation area when resources permit. The justification for this is contained in the settlement appraisal relating to Upperlands (Section 5) of the Countryside Assessment' (14). Site based facilities include Church Island (Church Island, formerly known as Inish Toide, was the site of a pre- Viking monastery. The island has an eighteenth century spire, a ruined medieval church and an old graveyard), Maghera Old Church (also known as St Lurach's Church), Tirkane Sweat House, Bellaghy Bawn and Wm. Clark and Sons Beetling Mill, Upperlands.

In The Mid Ulster Council 'Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan and Strategy', published February 2019, the council outline their prioritisation of the built environment and respecting the integrity of towns and villages. The local development plan acts as the spatial representation of the community plan and is thus tied to and focused on community needs. Part of the vision includes; 'Mid

Ulster will have...well designed and affordable places to live. The Plan will assist us in protecting our rich heritage, our natural environment and our most sensitive landscape settings for future generations also making our District an appealing place to visit' (30). In relation to the historic environment of Mid Ulster; 'Our strategy is to provide policy protection for archaeology; listed buildings; historic parks, gardens and demesnes; and registered industrial heritage, all of which have been identified working with the appropriate Central Government Departmental body...Furthermore, our strategy recognises that there are a number of non-designated heritage assets such as vernacular buildings and industrial heritage, much of which has not been not identified. Our strategy provides appropriate protection for these in preparing the Local Policies Plan; we may bring forward a list of historic buildings of local heritage importance' (175).

Within the plan and under the area's settlement hierarchy, the audit areas of investigation are identified as a local town – Maghera and villages – Bellaghy, Gulladuff, Swatragh, Upperlands. The remaining wards of Glenshane Lower and Valley do not have a distinct settlement area. In the plan's SPF 3 and SPF 4 it is stated that development of local towns such as Maghera and villages such as Bellaghy, Gulladuff, Swatragh, Upperlands will be sensitively maintained and consolidated 'in keeping with the scale and character of individual settlements' (40). Also functioning in tandem with the Local Development Plan are a number of related documents including; 'Tourism opportunity zones and Tourism conservation zones', which includes a discussion of the protection of sites of tourism potential such as Carntogher History Trail and Seamus Heaney HomePlace.

The Bellaghy audit area is rich in heritage, particularly archaeological heritage. There is a limited quantity of buildings at risk (13 in the audit area) but interestingly the area's vernacular heritage has seen some improvement in recent times. This includes a thatched cottage sited opposite to Bellaghy Bawn that was on the 'at risk' register until relatively recently. It has been extensively renovated with a DfC grant and now stands as an excellent example of vernacular heritage. Similarly a thatched cottage near Maghera 'Rosie's Cottage' has been renovated and is available to rent for self-catering which demonstrates the tourism potential of a given heritage asset.

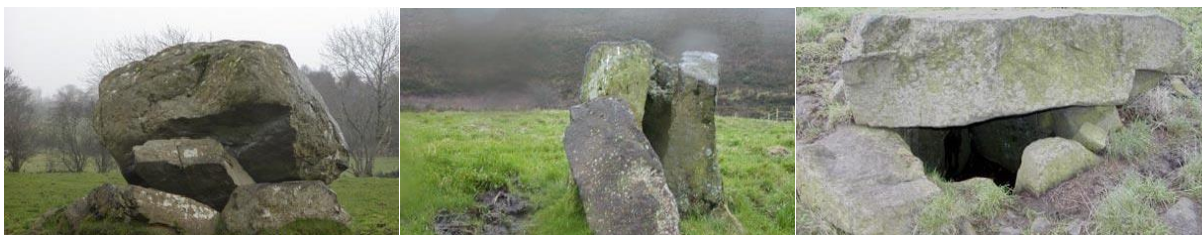
Archaeology and Landscape

The promotion and preservation of archaeological remains in the audit area is impressive. There is a range of extant visible remains of diverse types and these are relatively straightforward to locate. Many are signposted on the roads and marked at the sites themselves. This signage is also complemented by maps and trail guides that help way-finding of sites as part of a history trail, Carntogher for example. The diversity of remains makes for a compelling visit to the area and the interpretative signage allows self-guided understanding of individual sites. -



Tirnoney Dolmen, Photograph by Kenneth Allen, Geograph

One mile north of Maghera stands Tirnoney Dolmen, a prehistoric tomb approximately 4,000 – 6,000 years old. Dolmens are tomb structures with standing stones and a horizontal capstone, found in a number of places in Ireland. In it our ancestors would have placed the cremated remains of their dead. At one time it would have been covered by a cairn of small stones. In the small field to the south there is rumoured to be a souterrain or artificial cave. It would have been constructed as a bolt hole in times of danger sometime between the 5th and 12th Century. In www.irishmegaliths.org.uk the description is as follows; ‘this charming dolmen is remarkable for the free-standing orthostat, 1.8 metres high, which is beside one of the portal-stones. This suggests a derivation from the much longer court-tombs. The picturesque capstone has slipped a little, and behind it is a well-defined square chamber’.



Crevelea Portal Tomb C8470 2335, Cornacleary Court Tomb and Moneydig Passage Tomb C8893 1651, Photos Megalithomania.



Knockoneill Court Tomb. Photographs by Marianne O’Kane Boal

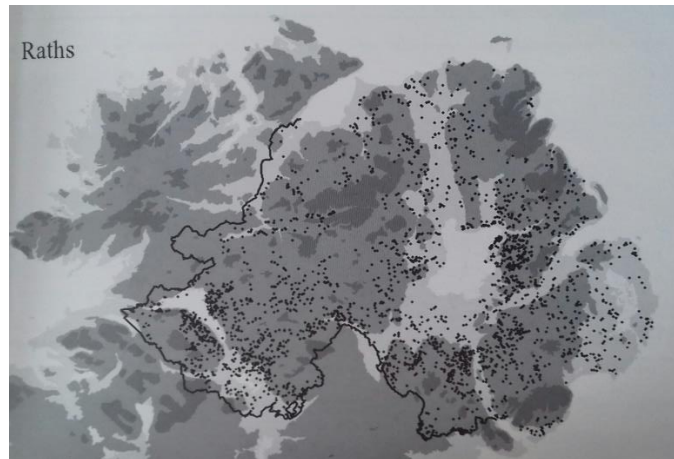
Knockoneill Court Tomb – There are seven court tombs located in Co. Derry including Knockoneill and Tamnyrankin located close to one another. This megalithic tomb dates to the Neolithic Stone Age (2000-4000 BC). The court tomb gets its name from the semi-circular forecourt of upright stones leading to a gallery. In most cases a number of individuals would be cremated together and their remains placed in the gallery with food and belongings to be taken to the afterlife. This gallery consists of two chambers. The tomb is known as ‘Giant’s Grave’ which is a common term for burial sites of this scale. This is an unusual court tomb as it has a subsidiary chamber at the back of gallery that is accessed via a passage in the side of tomb. It is also peculiar that the back stone of the main gallery is used as a side stone of the subsidiary chamber. The tomb was used in the Bronze Age (2000-250 BC) for burial. Excavations at Knockoneill took place in 1948, 1977 and 1984; the latter date produced a find of charred bones and an urn dating to the Bronze Age, located to the South of the tomb and the forecourt respectively.



Tamnyrankin Court Tomb Photograph from www.irishmegaliths.org.uk dating to Dec 2002 where threshold or sill stone is missing that was there in seventies

2.4 km NE of Knockoneill, in **Tamnyrankin Court Tomb** (C 834 102 - now immediately accessible via an asphalted track) is an even better-preserved tomb than Knockoneill whose 12-metre long cairn survives to a height of 2.4 metres. Behind the 2-chambered gallery a subsidiary chamber stretches across the width of the cairn. It is divided in two by a sill-stone. Some of the corbels of the gallery are still in place.

Raths in Bellaghy Area



Computer generated distribution map of Raths in Northern Ireland (Michael Avery) reproduced from 'Living Places' by Colm J Donnelly

Raths were relatively prevalent in the Irish landscape and significant examples exist in Ireland north and south. According to Colm Donnelly, a rath would have formed part of the farming landscape of field systems and enclosures in the Early Christian period. He has discussed Rough Fort in risk near Moira as a comparative example for the rath at Bellaghy Bawn. There is a Rath at Tamnybrack C82040892 sited close to Knockoneill Court Tomb. There is also an important rath at Dunlady Fort, discussed later in this report and in the asset assessment forms.



Rough Fort in Risk near Moira, aerial view showing the Rath surrounded by modern housing. Reproduced from 'Living Places' by Colm J Donnelly. Bellaghy Bawn location of the Early Christian Rath (edge below tree) that was excavated in the late 80s. Photograph by Marianne O'Kane Boal



One of the substantial banks within Dunlady Fort, looking south. One of the ditches within Dunlady Fort, looking west.

Example of Best Practice – State Care Monument of Tirkane Sweathouse



Tirkane Sweathouse context. Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal

Tirkane Sweathouse is a heritage asset located in a magical and secluded setting, 2.5 miles north-west of Maghera near Lough Bran on the ruins of Killelagh Church. A sweathouse was a type of early sauna used in Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Sweathouses are a primitive forerunner for the modern Turkish bath, which are known in Germany as Irish Baths. There are only a few Sweathouses remaining in Northern Ireland. There is a sense of adventure when visiting. On arrival the blue sign signalling state care monument status greets the visitor. Access is through a green swing gate and a designated path. After two sets of steps the visitor arrives in a moss covered area that includes the sweathouse, its information plaque and a glade of trees surrounding which conjures up a sense of retreat and adventure.



Views of Tirkane Sweathouse and approach. Photographs by Marianne O’Kane Boal

Example of Best Practice - Carntogher History Trail



Image taken from the Carntogher History Trail guide and map

It has been proven that linkages between local community and heritage assets strengthen the maintenance, promotion and pride invested in these assets. It also engenders a sense of collective ownership, shared knowledge and expertise in the locality. A History Trail with guide and map that is connected to two sites/community centres is Carntogher History Trail. It connects to An Carn Centre and Drumlamph Nature Reserve. On this history trail are a variety of historic sites, important landscapes and archaeological remains; standing stones, dolmens, court cairns, portal tombs, forts, raths, mass rocks and holy wells. It is a trail of remarkable richness where the majority of individual sites/assets are well signposted and others can be located with the aid of the fold out map/guide. Staff at An Carn Centre have local knowledge and an interest in the trail and sites and they encourage visitors to ensure they include a broad range of trail elements in their day of exploration.



L-R Carntogher History Trail is linked with the community resource of An Carn featured here. It is also an Irish language centre. Photographs by Marianne O'Kane Boal

Signage for State care monuments, archaeological remains and history trails



Carntogether History Trail sign at An Carn centre. Photograph by Marianne O'Kane Boal



Signage for Knockoneill Court Tomb. Photographs by Marianne O'Kane Boal



Views of Tirkane Sweathouse signage and access. Photographs by Marianne O'Kane Boal

Industrial Archaeology/Heritage



Moyola River, Old disused railway bridge. Photograph by Nigel Ready

There is a significant amount of industrial archaeology/heritage in the audit area. In Bellaghy itself, there is a rich range of former industrial heritage sites. These include a shirt factory at 9 Main Street, Bellaghy, grid ref. H95329664 in the townland of Mullaghboy. Nearby, also in Mullaghboy at H95329671 is a Flax Mill site. On the opposite side of Main Street and set further back in Old Town Deer Park at grid ref. H95429648 is a Corn and Flax Mill site. Further down from this beyond Bellaghy Bawn and on the opposite side of the road in Drumanee Lower is the site of a Flax Mill – Saw Mill at grid ref. H95669610. There is also railway heritage remains featured in the old disused railway bridge over the Moyola River and the old railway line to Castledawson. The Forge, adjacent to 181 Hillhead Road, Tamniarn (constructed 1840 to 1859), referenced in Seamus Heaney’s poem ‘Into the Dark’ is a well preserved and important piece of industrial heritage. The highest concentration of industrial heritage is however in Upperlands, and this is discussed in detail in the Upperlands section of this report.



Old Railway Line to Castledawson Photograph by Nigel Ready. Bridge near Knockoneill Court Tomb. Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal

The Audit Area - The Selected Wards

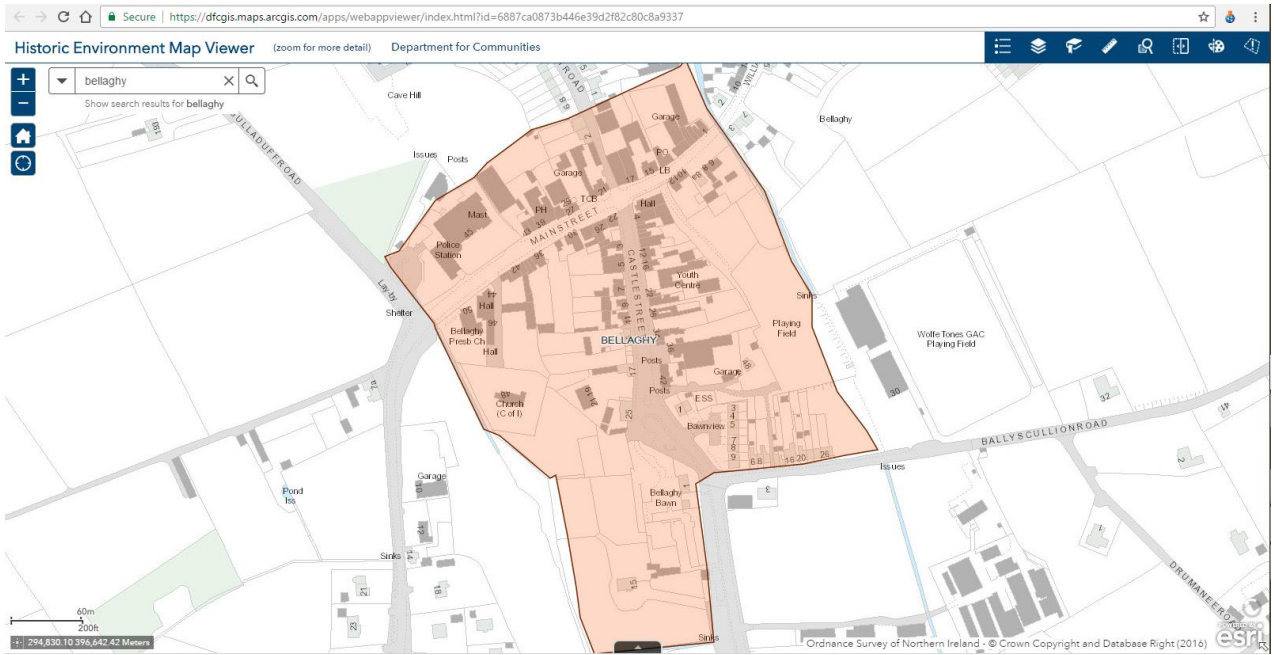
Bellaghy - McKay (1999) has written that the name Bellaghy is from ‘Baile Eachaidh’ or ‘Eochaidh’s townland’. It is also interpreted as ‘Balleaghe’ meaning ‘mouth of the marsh’ or ‘wet place. This comes from the Irish tradition of ‘dinnseanchas’ meaning ‘topography’. This is a class of onomastic text in early Irish literature, recounting the origins of place-names and traditions. Many related legends concern the stories of mythic and legendary characters and thus dinnseanchas is an important source for the study of Irish mythology. Seamus Heaney made reference to this tradition in his poetry.



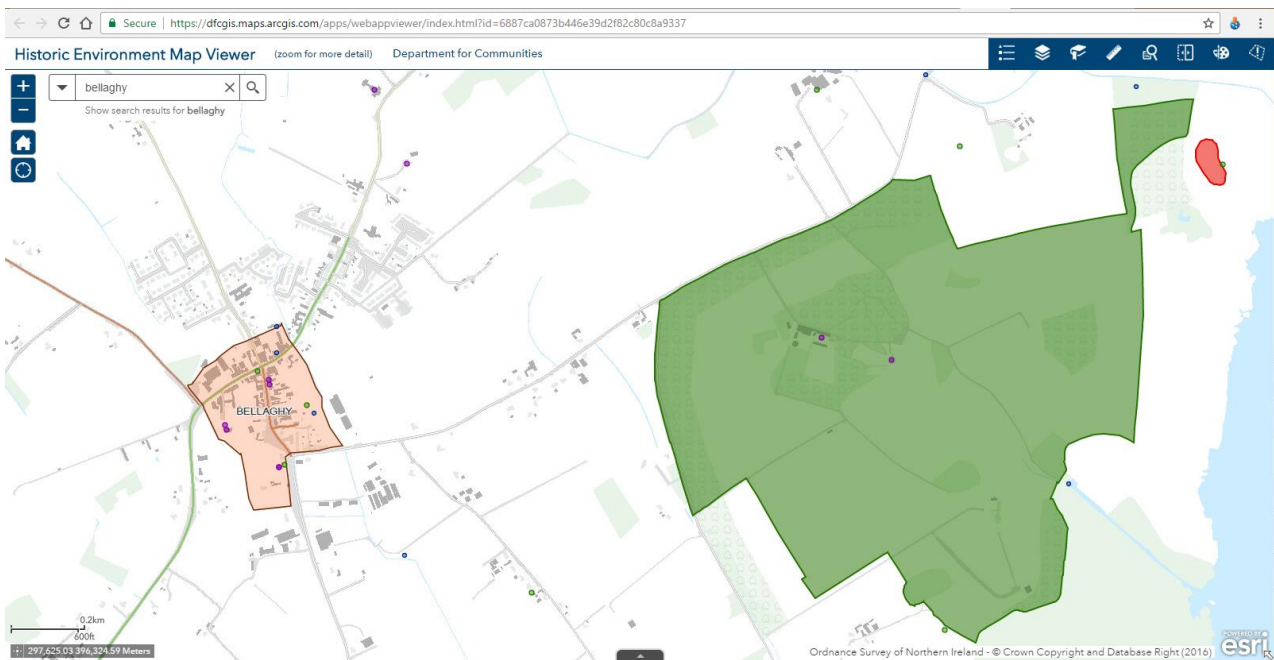
L-R Restored cottage near Bellaghy Bawn formerly on at risk register and renovated with a DfC grant and streetscape view adjacent to the Bawn. Photographs by Marianne O’Kane Boal

‘The village of Bellaghy was founded by the Londoners’ Guild of Vintners in the early 17th century and was sometimes referred to as Vintners Town at that period [Boile Eachaidh c. 1645]’ (22). According to Samuel Lewis, 1837; ‘Bellaghy, a village and post-town, in the parish of Ballyscullion, barony of Loughinsholin, county of Londonderry, and province of Ulster... This place became the head of a district granted in the reign of James I to the Vintners’ Company of London, who, in 1619, founded the village and erected a strong and spacious castle, the custody of which was entrusted to Baptist Jones, Est., who had a well-armed garrison of 76 men for its defence. In the war of 1641 the castle was besieged and taken by a party of insurgents under the command of one of the MacDonnells, and in the following year burned to the ground... The village is situated on the situated on the western shore of Lough Beg... it consists of one long street intersected at right angles by two shorter streets; the houses are generally small, but well built; and the environs are remarkably pleasant’ (201). Prior to the planning of Bellaghy as a town it was a very heavily wooded and boggy place when the plantation settlers arrived in 1610. The settlers attempted to rename the town ‘Vintnerstown’ but the name was never fully adopted and has remained known as Bellaghy.

Bellaghy Village was one of the first planned towns in Ireland. Bellaghy Bawn is a fortified house and bawn (the defensive wall surrounding an Irish tower house). This 17th Century Bawn is the best restored example to be found anywhere in Northern Ireland. The Original Bawn was virtually destroyed in the 1641 rebellion when the greater part of Bellaghy was burnt to the ground. The Vintners Company fortified house and bawn was occupied until 1987. It was opened to the public in 1996. Inside there are exhibitions on local history and on poetry by local Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney, described as “the most important Irish poet since Yeats” who grew up in Bellaghy and much of his work reflects life there.



Historic Environment Map Viewer showing Bellaghy Village



Historic Environment Map Viewer showing Bellaghy Village and Ballyscullion House and grounds in the green area to the right

Key Assets in and around Bellaghy

Seamus Heaney HomePlace

Church Island

Ballyscullion Estate

Bellaghy Bawn

Seamus Heaney Heritage

There is an existing trail HomeGround (currently being further developed) promoted for Seamus Heaney that includes HomePlace, various sites from his childhood and poetry including the late Barney Devlin's Forge at Hillhead Road, which although a well-preserved example of a former working forge with all heritage implements contained, it is not currently listed. St. Marys Church, Bellaghy, the final resting place of Seamus Heaney also features in the trail and is important on this basis and as an attractive listed building. Church Island in Lough Beg is also a part of the HomeGround trail but does not involve physically visiting the island within the trail, instead trail participants view from a strategic point as Heaney would have done. The HomeGround Trail is the literary equivalent of the Carrntogher History Trail and both celebrate important heritage assets in the vicinity from a specific themed perspective.



*The Forge, adjacent to 181 Hillhead Road, Tamniarn - date of construction 1840 to 1859, private, not listed.
Photograph by Nigel Ready*



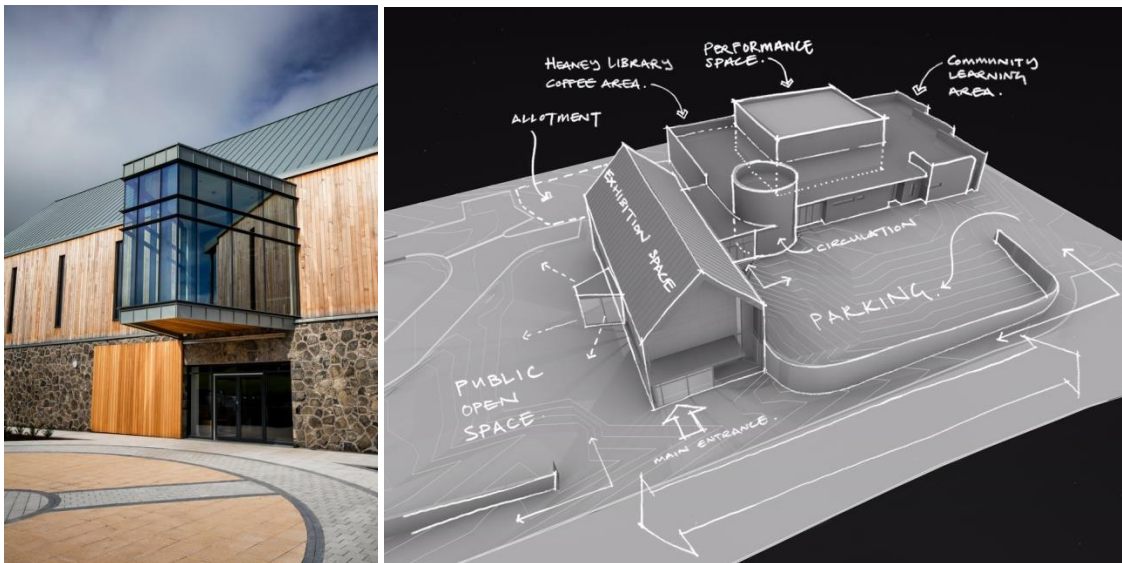
St. Mary's Church, Bellaghy Photograph by Kenneth Allen, Geograph

Seamus Heaney HomePlace



Building Massing. Render courtesy of W&M Given Architects

The Seamus Heaney HomePlace is intended by the architects to reflect the vernacular architecture of the Bellaghy area. When I asked the architects about determining factors for the massing and architectural vocabulary of HomePlace, they stated ‘The design draws on the built heritage of the area, giving the site a direct relationship with the village street front and public open space. The composition of the building forms are a contemporary response to farm settlement clusters common throughout the South Derry area. Elements that make up the traditional homestead such as the barn, the house, the sheds, the silo- their relationship to each other and orientation. The building is essentially in four parts- the exhibition, the performance space, the concourse and the education resource areas’. Philip Hutchinson, Project Architect, W & M Given Architects.



L-R Image of HomePlace with viewing point over landscape and area that inspired Heaney's poetry. Image courtesy of W&M Given Architects and Building Layout. Render courtesy of W&M Given Architects

In the ‘Local Development Plan 2030’ related document entitled ‘Tourism opportunity zones and Tourism conservation zones’, the centre is contextualised in terms of potential; ‘Seamus Heaney, HomePlace: This is one of our key signature tourism designation projects. The internationally established heritage project is the base for a programme of events, activities, tours and trails related to the life and literature of renowned laureate Seamus Heaney. HomePlace is located within the village of Bellaghy, which has many other important heritage assets, such as the Bellaghy Bawn, all of which have sustainable tourism potential if well maintained, managed and monitored incorporating an approach of heritage led tourism and regeneration of the village and surrounding environment. For

example, Ballyscullion House Demesne, used as a location for the hit series ‘Game of Thrones’, could be developed further as a local tourism asset if the principle for sensitive and appropriate sustainable tourism was deemed acceptable at that location. The wide and variety landscape that incorporates Heaney’s Legacy is not subject to particularly restrictive planning policy, namely, Special Countryside Area (SCA) or Area of Constraint (AoC) and therefore does need to be formally designated as a Tourism Opportunity Zone’.



Church Island, Lough Beg

Church Island

Church Island was anciently associated with St Tida and ‘it is now a peninsula attached by sodden fields to the mainland’. It is thought that the ruins of the church date back to the time of St. Patrick who used the River Bann to navigate the island to meet with Taoide to found an early Christian settlement. On the island is a stone known as the Bullaun Stone featuring a hole that holds water. Alistair Rowan writes that ‘the ruins of a rectangular pre-17th century church are here built of shore boulders, in a little yew-planted graveyard. The church has a plain nave with side walls and gables almost entire, a door and a window on the s, an opening where the E window was, and a N window’.

Ballyscullion Estate

Ballyscullion Estate is firmly connected with Church Island in Lough Beg. In the graveyard at the church on Church Island one of the graves is that of Master Builder Michael Keenan, commissioned in 1788 by the Earl Bristol, Bishop of Derry to add a spire to improve the view from his mansion at Ballyscullion. Plans for this house, resembling those for Downhill, which he also built, show a crescent shaped house with 365 windows. Spending most of his time abroad, the Bishop never lived in the house and when he died in Italy, his heir Sir Henry Hervey Bruce found the financial upkeep impossible because of the Window Tax and demolished the building whose portico now fronts St George’s Church in Belfast. The ruins of that original building are in the grounds of the present country house built to replace it.

Ballyscullion Park – Privately owned but available for weddings and as a film location



Ballyscullion Park, wedding venue and film location



Demesne grounds and gardens including Courtyard Cottages through air b and b and the original Ballyscullion House in ruins and overgrown, that was never finished.



Bellaghy Bawn – An Asset of Rich Potential



L-R Bellaghy Bawn Interior door and fanlight, sign for 17th century house footprint and view of Bawn. Photographs by Marianne O’Kane Boal

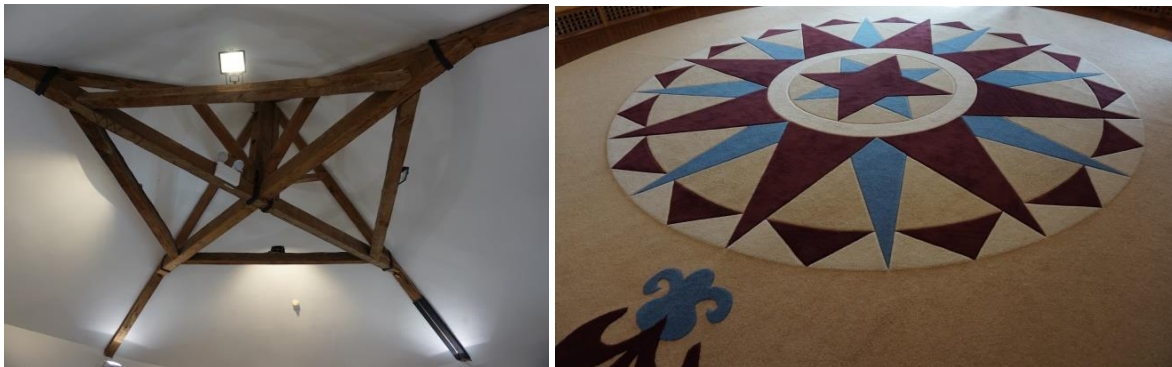
Bellaghy Bawn or Bellaghy Castle is located on a rich multi-period site. The plantation castle and bawn is a fortification from 1619 that was built upon the site of an Early Christian rath in the townland of Old Town Deer Park at H9534096340. The bawn is a state care monument and it features the companion associated building, gates and walling, bawn wall and towers that are all B1 listed. It also features a three-storey house at 1 Deerpark Road that is B listed. The overall site is located on a hilltop at the southern end of Bellaghy Main Street and within walking distance of Seamus Heaney HomePlace. The word ‘Bawn’ is derived from two Irish words, ‘Ba’ for cow (or cattle) and ‘Dhun’, meaning ‘fort’. This is roughly translated as ‘cow fort’ or ‘cattle-fort’. So the anglicised form of ‘badhun’ was ‘Bawn’. A bawn is a defensive wall surrounding the Irish tower house and its origin comes from the ring-forts that were built to protect cattle from attack.



Bellaghy Bawn Courtyard, note the broad range of window shapes and sizes. Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal



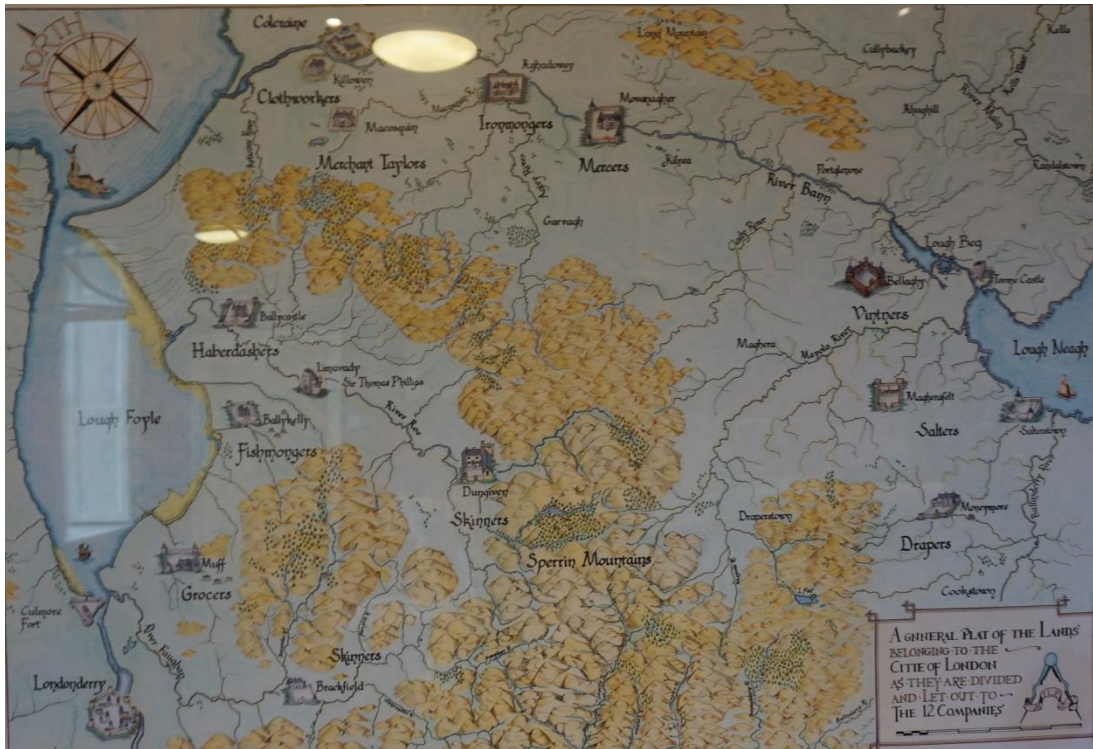
Remaining 17th century Flanker Tower and Courtyard featuring Round Tower. Photographs by Marianne O’Kane Boal



Central Beams in Tower Room ceiling of Bellaghy Bawn and bespoke carpet on floor of Tower Room. Photographs by Marianne O’Kane Boal



Images of the former Seamus Heaney Reference Library. This space has the potential to be reused as either a local studies reference library or could be an element of living history and a recreation of the Dispensary that was in the Bawn. Photographs by Marianne O’Kane Boal



Map in reception area of Bellaghy Bawn showing the 12 London companies and their settlements; the largest being at Coleraïne and Derry City. Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal



Interpretive exhibition designed in 1990s for Bellaghy Bawn reflecting the history of the area. Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal



Photograph from Bellaghy Bawn house towards the village and showing the location of the Early Christian Rath (edge below tree) that was excavated in the late 80s. Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal



Preserved elements in stables in courtyard. Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal

A unique piece of the Bawn's history - Bellaghy Dispensary



Royal College of Surgeons Postgraduate Class June 1908, George M Thompson is featured at the back on the far right. Address and Presentation for George Matthew Thompson Esq. M.D., on the occasion of his retirement as Medical Officer of Health for the Dispensary District of Bellaghy. Photographs by Marianne O'Kane Boal.

It is not common knowledge beyond Bellaghy that there was once a Dispensary at the Bawn and this is a unique piece of the Bawn's history. The dispensary was established in 1832 by the Vintners Company. By 1836 there is a reference to one dispensary doctor and one surgeon working at the time. The dispensary doctor was paid £45 per annum, and £51 for medicines and expenses. The other doctor described as a 'surgeon' must have practiced privately. The dispensary was set up because of the 'prevalence of fever'. The doctor mentioned is a Dr. Robert Hunter Gordon and his tenure was from 1839 until 1857, at the same time a Dr. John York was recorded. From 1858 to 1880 there were a number of doctors that held a position at Bellaghy. Dr. George Thompson was a native of Coagh in Co. Tyrone and held it until 1925. He was a skilled surgeon and clinician, and did minor surgery such as removing tonsils and cauterization, sometimes with very little anaesthetic. In 1912 he acquired the first car to come to Bellaghy and it is said that he travelled around covered in blankets and with petrol cans full of hot water round him to keep warm on his house calls. The main duties of the dispensary doctor were coping with the prevalent diseases such as typhus, dysentery, diphtheria, tuberculosis, scarlet fever and trench fever which occurred mainly at the time of the Great War 1914-18. He also conducted complicated midwifery.

Drugs were supplied at the dispensary and advice on sanitation, water supply and sewage. Births and deaths were also recorded and preventative medicine in the form of small pox vaccinations was administered. In 1925 the dispensary was taken over by Dr. Frances Thompson who was the daughter of Dr. Thompson. Up until 1948, the patient had the choice between the dispensary doctor and a private one. From 1948 the Health Service started.

One potential dimension of reinvigorating Bellaghy Bawn is to establish a living history element. This would be recreating a room in the Bawn to represent the dispensary where people could view the types of medicines available and some of the historical artefacts from this time. Less controversial than plantation history elements to the local community, the dispensary could make a nice example of shared history in human memory. Hills Chemist in the Ulster American Folk Park, featured as a case study here, can provide an exemplar of best practice to guide this route of development.

Example of Best Practice – Hills Chemist at the Ulster American Folk Park



Hills Chemist at the Folk Park

Hills Chemist was established in Strabane between 1870 and 1885. The building operated as a chemist shop until the later 1980s. The shop front, fittings and furnishings have been preserved at the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh. It was originally located on Castle Street, Strabane and the black and white photo below dating from c1925 shows the previous setting of the chemist.

It is very fortunate that this traditional building has been preserved in all its former glory and is a time capsule of an old fashioned dispensary. This gives an excellent indication of best practice for the conservation and preservation of this heritage asset and provides an indication of what the dispensary dimension of Bellaghy Bawn could be revitalised as.



Hills Chemist interior at the Folk Park and Looking Northeast along Castle Street, Strabane, Hills Chemist on the left, Northern Bank on the right c1925.

The other selected wards beyond Bellaghy

Gulladuff

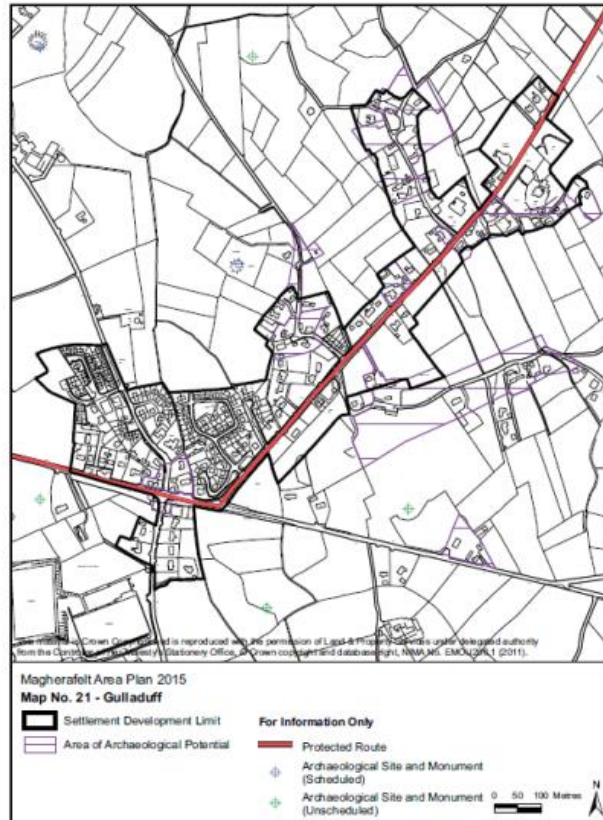
The centre of Gulladuff village is located at a crossroads where the Gulladuff Road meets Gulladuff hill and Quarry Road. In this area is the local shop and public house with bus shelter facilities opposite. The Gulladuff road leads to the nearest local town, Maghera, where a good range of services exist. The name comes from the Irish ‘Guala Dhubh’ meaning ‘black shoulders’. It is a small village and townland in the Mid Ulster District and in the 2001 census it had a population of 405 people. In the Magherafelt Area Plan 2015, Gulladuff has been designated as an area of archaeological potential. It has two scheduled archaeological sites and monuments and two unscheduled archaeological sites and monuments. The Magherafelt Area Plan 2015 in reference to Gulladuff observes; ‘the settlement development limit is designated to consolidate existing development, include existing commitments, and prevent ribboning and urban sprawl encroaching into the surrounding countryside’.



L-R St. Mary's RC Church, 1873, Gulladuff, image from Stonedatabase, Counterscarp Rath, Gulladuff, scheduled, Image from NISMR

Gulladuff/Termoneeny Village Plan May 2016 references some key aspects of heritage in Gulladuff; ‘The Mass Rock in Ballymacpeake is a notable landmark and was created in memory of the celebration of Mass in the Penal days in the 19th century when Mass was prohibited. In the townland of Dreenan stands an ancient yew tree which according to the Tree Register of Ireland is one of the oldest trees in the country. The tree stands in an area of natural woodland beside a small stream and not far from the main road between Maghera and Ballymena. An area nearby is still called Doire an Iúir (oakwood of the Yew). There are many native sessile oaks on the rocky slopes above the tree. The tree itself was used as a secret religious site during anti Catholic persecution through the Penal Times of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. There is a "mass rock" at its base and the Ordnance Survey Memoirs state that a priest was hung from its branches. According to these Memoirs this hollowed out yew was already considered ancient in the 1830's.

The recently rediscovered late 17th /early 18th century satirical folk tale, Eachtra Ghrugach na Creige is na Cruite is an Tiompáin, is for the most part situated in the Parish of Lavey. The action revolves around the activities of an un-named harper, The grugach of the Rock, his visit to the house of the Ó Brolcháin family in Crewe townland and his dream foretelling the destruction of a family of ‘grey foxes’ at the hands of Maiorius Gurrumrus, the local landlord Major Montgomery of Knocknakielt’ (25).



Lower Glenshane



From NISMR – 'Three Stone Circles and a Cist'

Glenshane or 'Gleann Sheáin' means 'John's Glen'. Referenced in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) are a collection of stone circles; 'On a levelish area in otherwise steeply sloping upland. The site is described in PSAMNI (1940) as 3 stone circles with a cist - "An oval setting 60ft x 45ft contains three small circles of little stones, 8, 9 & 10ft in diam. To E is a group of large stones, second now fallen". The site remains much as described above, but more ruinous.

Two circles & part of the third can be seen and the stones of the cist have gone, its position marked only now by a hole’.

There are observations of rich archaeological remains at Glenshane. These include megalithic tombs, enclosures, standing stones, raths, a Bronze Age urn burial, a souterrain, and a holy well. There are also unlocated remains that have been referenced including a megalithic tomb and an enclosure. Coolnasillagh has further located sites of a megalithic tomb at C7825000620 and the remains of a second megalithic tomb at C7855000390. Glenshane includes a megalithic tomb: Cloghbane at Fallylea C7997002780, an unlocated enclosure referenced in the O. S. Memoirs at Ballynock C8000003000, a standing stone at Ballynock C8166002910, a holy well at Ballynock C8240002710, a Bronze Age urn burial at Tirkane C8266002500, another located enclosure at Ballynock C8276001750, a rath at Fallagloon, C8195000010, an enclosure at Bracaghreilly, H8125099880, a second enclosure at Bracaghreilly C8119000060 and an unlocated megalithic tomb at Fallagloon referenced in the O. S. memoirs C8100000000. Nearby there is a souterrain and enclosure both at Bracaghreilly C8000000000, both unlocated and both referenced in the O. S. memoirs.

Maghera

‘Maghera comes from ‘Machaire Rátha’, meaning ‘plain of the fort’. An earlier name for the parish of Maghera was ‘Ráth Lúraigh’ ‘Lurach’s Fort’. Lúrach was the son of Cuanu a sixth century saint who was patron of the parish. St Lúrach is said to be buried in the graveyard of the medieval parish church, the ruins of which stand in the townland of Largentogher in the middle of the town’ (McKay, 1999: 103).



Maghera Old Church and Ulster Bank 1866 (architect Thomas Jackson) Images Stonedatabase.

In Samuel Lewis’ *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* 1937, the following account appears signalling the early importance of Maghera; ‘Maghera, a market-town and post-town, and a parish, in the barony of Loughlinsholin, county of Londonderry, containing 14,091 inhabitants, of which number, 1154 are in the town. This place is evidently of great antiquity, and though there is no precise account of the original foundation of an abbey for Canons Regular, said to have been established here at a very early period, yet it is certain that the ancient see of Ardstra or Ardsrath was removed, in 597, to this town, which continued to be the seat of the diocese till 1158, when it was united to the see of Derry, and the cathedral church established in that city. The town appears to have declined rapidly in importance after that period, and few events of historical interest occur, except occasional depredations during the insurrections of the O’Nials, to whom the surrounding territory belonged, and in the war of 1641, during which it was burned by the insurgents under Macdonnell. In 1688, the town, which had scarcely recovered from its former devastation, was assaulted by the Irish adherents of Jas. II., and the inhabitants were compelled to abandon their houses and seek refuge in the city of Derry.



L-R Maghera ecclesiastical heritage – Maghera Old Church (12th century), Maghera Presbyterian Church and St. Lurach's Church of Ireland. Photographs Kenneth Allen, Geograph.

During the disturbances of 1798 it enjoyed comparative tranquillity, and has since been gradually increasing in extent and importance. It consists of one long and spacious street, from which several smaller streets branch off, and contains 210 houses, most of which are modern buildings of stone, roofed with slate and of handsome appearance; it is a great thoroughfare, and is amply supplied with excellent water. The inhabitants are principally employed in agriculture and in the linen manufacture, which is extensively carried on in the parish; and at Upperlands is a bleach-green, in which about 8000 pieces are annually finished for the English and American markets; there are also numerous corn and flax-mills on the different streams, of which the Moyola forms part of the southern boundary of the parish. The market, on Tuesday, is amply supplied with all kinds of provisions; a market is also held on Friday, chiefly for grain; and there are fairs on the last Tuesday in every month for cattle, sheep, pigs, and pedlery. The market-house, the property of A. Clarke, Esq., of Upperland, is a large neat building, erected in 1833 on a rising ground in the centre of the town'.

Within the 'Local Development Plan 2030', Maghera is identified as a local town that can provide a link corridor with Mid and East Antrim and a key transport corridor with both Causeway Coast and Glens and Antrim and Newtownabbey councils. These links are illustrated on the Mid Ulster Growth Strategy Map (34).



Rosie's Cottage, near Maghera, recently restored and available for self-catering.

Swatragh

Swatragh 'An Suaitreach' 'the (billeted) soldier'. The name is an abbreviated form of Baile and tSuaitrigh 'Town of the (billeted) soldier'. The circumstances in which the name was coined are

unknown (McKay, 1999: 138). Alistair Rowan described Swatragh as ‘a cluster of buildings on a curving road with four churches in the vicinity’.



L-R Killelagh Church, 1852 Swatragh, Photographs by Marianne O’Kane Boal

In North West Ulster Killelagh Parish Church (c of I) by Joseph Welland is described as ‘a nice design that Welland also used at Derryvullan, with nave, long chancel, and S porch with an offset miniature spire beside it. The details the usual E. E. with diagonal buttresses. Paid for by the Mercers’ Company’ (498).



L-R Friels Bar & Restaurant Swatragh with refurbished farm machinery outside

Mound at Swatragh – From NISMR; this site, referenced in The Friels Bar and Restaurant asset assessment form, is a prominent local landmark, with excellent views all round. It consists of a mound 45m x 30m across, the lower limits of which are defined by a rough field wall or kerb of weathered rocks standing 1m high. The mound itself stands 2.5-3m high and appears to be set on a slight local eminence which emphasises its height. It is difficult to say what this site is. Massive stones, some up to 1 cubic metre in size, protrude from different parts of the mound. Some areas of trample/ slippage on the sides of the mound have exposed massive stones interspersed with smaller ones and soil matrix.

There is also reference to a Cairn and Cist Burial at the site in the O.S. Memoirs although there are now no visible remains - This site is referred to in the OS memoirs as "...there was found in 1816 beneath a cairn of stones a grave 6ft long & 2ft wide, enclosed with flat stones & roofed with the same. It contained an earthen urn filled with black ashes". A 2nd reference describes the destruction of the same site. There is now no local tradition of the site. The final archaeological find at this site is of a burial place – ‘this site is described in the OS memoirs as "In making a line of by-road in 1833, there was found c.3ft beneath the surface the skeleton of a human body & beside it a small Danish pot. The skeleton was again buried on the site where found, but the pot was corrupted by rust." There are now no local traditions or knowledge of this find’.

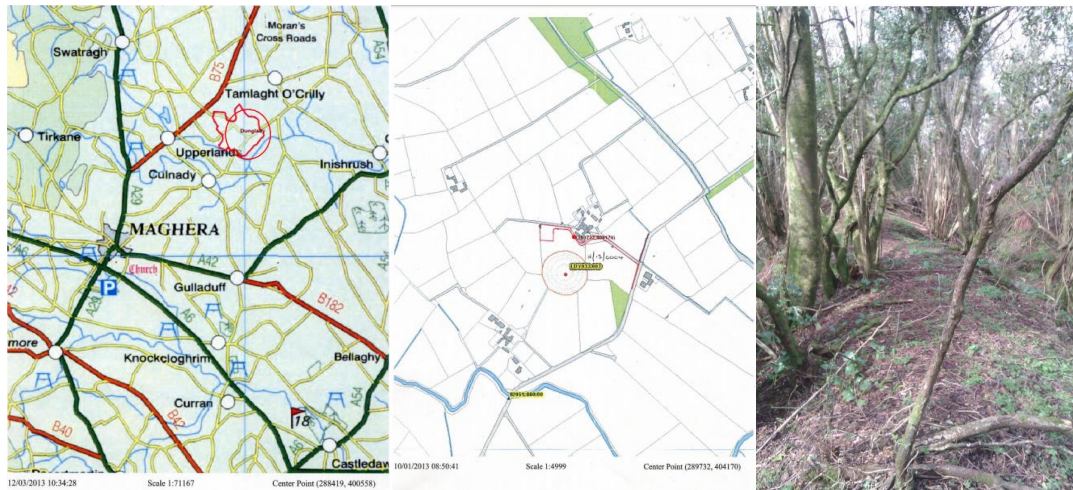
As part of the Magherafelt Area Plan 2015 Public and Community Consultation that was conducted, a number of natural and archaeological heritage sites were suggested as being worthy of protection at Swatragh; these included Granaghan Rocks, Hazelwood, Granaghan Old Chapel, Mass Rock, St Patrick's Well and Kearney's Glen.

Granaghan is a townland between Maghera and Swatragh. The Modern church (since mid 1800's) and graveyard is located on the main Maghera to Coleraine road, just before Swatragh. An older church (ruins) is located approx 2 miles south of Swatragh off the Moneysharven Road and it has a graveyard. The site is accessed over open farmland. Mass is still held at the mass rock annually. Granaghan Old Chapel, Mass Rock and St. Patrick's Well access by owner's permission This now ruined church was the first Catholic chapel to be built in the district after the relaxation of the penal laws, during which time the Catholic religion was banned in the 1770's. It consisted of a long narrow thatched building with a dry stone altar placed along a side wall. Doiminic Ó Brollacháin, 1673-1746, 'An Bráthair Bán' or 'the Friar Ban', is closely associated with this site. His epithet Ban denotes fair hair and many stories were told of his exploits during these dark times. It is said that eleven priests were ordained by a Bishop Bradley during the penal times, at a location 200 metres up the small glen to the rear of the chapel, on Sun Dial Hill. Here, at the base of a small cliff, there is an impressive altar made from a single slab of rock supported by two dry stone pillars. Mass was said here before the construction of Granaghan chapel and it continued to be used even after this because of the poor condition of the chapel. Five hundred metres north of the chapel, at the foot of a rocky outcrop, is located a small spring known as St. Patrick's Well. Above it stands a rag tree and immediately beside it there is a bullaun stone in which coins are placed as offerings by those seeking cures. The spring water is said to be especially effective as a remedy for poor eyesight.



Location of Granaghan Penal Chapel, Graveyard, Mass Rock and St Patrick's well from 'Old Burial Grounds' prepared by Property Services, Mid Ulster Council

Dunglady Fort – Located one mile from Culnady and between Upperlands and Tamlaght O'Crilly is Dunglady Fort and Quaker Burial Ground. This multivallate rath consists of a central, oval area, enclosed by 3 ditches between 4 banks, with a total diameter of 110 yards. The entrance at S is a passage through the defences straight to the centre, which has a closed well. The interior & the banks are very much overgrown with woodland & scrub. The site was used in the C17th, when 3 houses were built during the Plantation, c.1622 & in the C18th & C19th, it was a Quaker graveyard. According to PSAMNI, there is 90ft between the innermost bank & the 2nd one & 60ft between the 2nd & 3rd and 3rd & 4th banks. The intervening ditches are very deep - up to 15ft deep in places - & waterlogged. Protection: Scheduled. Details from NISMR.



Images: location of Dunglady Fort/Rath, map showing location of Rath circled in red and Photograph showing view along one of the inner banks of Dunglady Fort, looking west. All images from Naomi Carver, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 260, 2013

Upperlands

In Samuel Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837*, it is observed that; 'The inhabitants [of Maghera] are principally employed in agriculture and in the linen manufacture, which is extensively carried on in the parish; and at Upperlands is a bleach-green, in which about 8000 pieces are annually finished for the English and American markets'. Lewis thus demonstrates the scale of linen production in Upperlands in the early nineteenth century. The name Upperlands is a peculiar Anglicisation of 'Áth an Phoirt Leathain' 'ford of the broad (river) bank'. The ford in question was probably over the Knockoneill River which forms the southern boundary of the townland. The village is partly in the neighbouring townland of Tirgarvil (McKay, 1999:144).



William Clark & Sons 1740 Linen Mill at Upperlands. Photographs by Marianne O'Kane Boal

The village has been proposed as an Area of Townscape Character. 'Within the Local Development Plan 2030', it is observed that; 'We have also recognised the special character of some of our areas through protection of Conservation Areas and designations of Areas of Townscape Character (ATC's) and Areas of Village Character (AVC's). ATC's and AVC's will be identified taking into account their unique character particularly in relation to building frontages, rhythm of window and door openings, roof pitches and plot sizes. The Local Policies Plan may also supplement this through the identification of non-designated heritage assets worthy of preservation such as unlisted vernacular buildings or historic buildings of local importance. The Local Policies Plan will bring forward where appropriate bespoke policies for LLPA's, ATC's/AVC's and non-designated heritage assets' (46).



L-R Bridge beside Clark Mill, Upperlands sign, Industrial artefacts grouping in front of Boyne Row Terrace, built originally to house mill workers. Photographs by Marianne O’Kane Boal

There is also a scheduled monument in the Upperlands area – a rath. It is located at grid reference C86890533 and on a small rise at the S end of a long N-S ridge overlooking a valley to E. This is a well preserved rath with a substantial bank & ditch, with an entrance & causeway at E. The interior is 36m in diam. & is level. The bank is 6.5m wide, 1.5m high internally & 2.75-3m above the ditch, which is 5.2m wide, 1m deep & waterlogged E-S-W. The entrance at E is 4m wide, with the causeway over the ditch 8.1m wide. There are mature trees growing on the bank, ditch & interior (NISMR database).

In the Village Plan for Upperlands 2016, there has been substantial consideration paid to the village. The Magherafelt Area Plan 2015 is referenced and the following section reflects the analysis of the historic environment as included in that plan (16-18).

‘Upperlands The settlement development limit has been designated to include committed development, prevent urban sprawl and ribbon development into the surrounding countryside, and provide limited small-scale development opportunities reflecting the settlements existing scale and role. The limit will also protect visually and historically important local landscapes and contain the settlement’s historic form.

Part of the character of the ATC is its sense of place, which is enhanced by the integration of built form within the mature and manmade landscape. The settlement owes its existence to the linen industry, and specifically to the Clark family who established the first linen mill there in 1736. Subsequent development of the linen industry and of substantial residences and small groups of workers homes, shaped the form and character of what is today Upperlands. The ATC encompasses the core of the settlement with its terraces of workers houses and mill buildings, which represent the legacy of the linen industry and its patrons. Within the area a sense of completeness pervades and minimal potential exists for new development. Where new development is considered appropriate, it should be in keeping with the overall historic built form of the settlement in terms of layout, scale, massing and materials. The sense of place that is Upperlands can only be protected by conserving the close relationship between the built and natural environment, which is the essence of its character and appearance.

Those features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of the area are listed below: Extensive industrial complex, Clark’s Mill, with associated dams, races, and buildings (including a listed 1736 thatched beetling mill and water wheel) in a designed landscape which complements those of associated large houses;

- A series of substantial residences in designed inter-related landscape settings are associated with the owners and managers of the local industry. Ampertaine House (listed building) adjoins the main mill building complex. It with its gate-lodge (listed building), within a designed landscape setting which

includes the river corridor, dominates the Kilrea road through the settlement. This landscape combines with a series of locally significant buildings – Ardtara (listed building), Rockwood, Gorteade, Carnbane and Upperlands Houses, and their designed settings, to define the north- eastern approaches to the settlement. The extensive landscaped grounds of Benbradagh House, a locally significant building, define the south-eastern limits of the settlement and enhance the approach from Culnady;

- Boyne Row (listed buildings), and its riverside setting, represents workers housing, provided by the mill-owners;
- The extensive woodland, including estate planting and parkland, which is such an impressive part of the landscape is also of value for nature conservation.

Key Features of the area which will be taken into account when assessing development proposals are as follows:

- The late Victorian/early Edwardian Boyne Row - red brick and black stone built terraces with pitched slate roofs, which retain their original form and proportions, and much original detailing;
- The visually prominent setting of Boyne Row on high ground overlooking the river and the surrounding area of the settlement;
- The long front gardens to Boyne Row emphasise and enhance the form of the terrace, and their physical and visual link to the industrial complex on the Kilrea Road;
- Boyne Row has an historical and physical relationship with the Knockoneill River, Kilrea Road beetling mill buildings, Ampertaine House Gate Lodge and the former railway yard;
- The designed open space between Boyne Row and the river is critical for maintaining the elements of industrial heritage and townscape;
- The beetling mill building on the Kilrea Road, a solid Victorian stone-built industrial building, and the adjacent mill race and weir represent the history of industrial use;
- Ampertaine House Gate Lodge on the Kilrea Road, a late 18th Century single storey hipped roof building with canted bay windows, and the entrance to the Clark's estate and Ampertaine House; walls, gates, pillars and surrounding vegetation.'

Upperlands Assets are listed as;

Clarks Linen Mill and Boyne Row: Upperlands owes its existence to the linen industry and the Clark family who established the first linen mill there in 1736. Subsequent development of the industry led to the construction of substantial residences and small groups of workers homes, and shaped the form and character of Upperlands. Boyne Row (a group of listed buildings), in its riverside setting, represents workers housing, built by the mill-owners. There are four-man-made lakes or "dams" in Upperlands. These used to serve the linen mills. They are Craig's dam, Island dam, Green dam and Lapping-room dam. There is a scenic walk around the dams and they are kept stocked with fish for the benefit of anglers.

The Flax Visitor & Interpretation Centre (opened in September 2016): A former working beetling mill- 'Road Engines Beetling House' the visitor centre is itself a physical reminder of Upperlands community's heritage. Fusing local history with the present day, visitors can enjoy an immersive learning experience on the area's history, witness a commercially active Beetling machine and enjoy handmade refreshments in the Flax coffee shop while taking in the spectacular surrounding landscape.

<https://www.midulstermail.co.uk/news/first-minister-opens-new-flax-visitor-centre-at-upperlands-1-7571050> and <https://www.facebook.com/Flaxvisitorcentre/> for opening hours for the centre and coffee shop.

Charles Thompson/Gortead Cottage Gortead Cottage is an 18th century private house, located in beautiful grounds, which is open to groups and charitable events. The Cottage was the boyhood home of one of the American founding fathers, Charles Thomson. His father was a linen- bleacher and probably a flax-grower, so the family also has a place in the story of the world's oldest linen village, Upperlands

Ardara Country House Hotel in Derry is a charming and substantial 19th century house, located in the little village of Upperlands in South Londonderry. Ardara was built as a family home by Harry Jackson Clark during the reign of Queen Victoria and now accommodates visitors in the comfort and style of a bygone era – with all the modern conveniences (29).'



Carntogher 'Paynes House' with coach house attached. The small building attached to the house is the "Coach House" Owned by the Clark family. Used to store their coach, when they came to stay in the summer house, a short distance from Paynes. The summer house was burnt down in the nineteen twenties. Photograph by Michael Murtagh, Geograph.

Example of Best Practice outside the Audit Area – Sion Mills



Around Sion Mills Conservation Area photographs Marianne O’Kane Boal

Sion Mills is a Conservation area. It has one of the largest concentrations of listed buildings in the North West. With the decline of the linen industry in the twentieth century Herdman’s Mills underwent a period of retrenchment and eventual closure. Many of the larger houses which were associated with the Mill industry began to fall into disrepair at this time.

Sion Stables is a B+ listed building which had fallen into severe disrepair, leading to it being vested in 2008 by the Department of the Environment to ensure its survival. Hearth partnered with the Sion Mills Buildings Preservation Trust, and together they have developed Sion Stables as a museum, heritage education centre, craft shop and tearooms. The belfry has been fully restored and its historic bells mark the time. A Heritage Trail App takes visitors on an immersive tour through the village tells the history of Sion Mills during the last 170 years.

Sion Stables is an example of Best Practice in restoration of a building which was almost beyond rescue. It also demonstrates the potential of involvement of local community with support organisations and funding agencies to preserve an important building which is a cornerstone catalyst for local heritage. Sion Stables has the potential to be a key element in a “Linen Trail” which joins with Strabane, Dungannon, Lisburn and Belfast. It gives another example of preservation of linen industry and history to Upperlands and perhaps suggests Upperlands might also seek Conservation Area status additional to ATC status.



Sion Stables photo Marianne O’Kane Boal. Sion Stables before restoration. Photo copyright © NIFHA 2012

Listed Buildings in the Area

There is not a high concentration of architecture or listed buildings in the audit area but there are some interesting examples.

Gate Lodges

There are few examples of gate lodges left in the area. A number of former gate lodges are now demolished. These include two at Ampertaine House both pre 1832. The two lodges were probably built when Alexander Clarke transformed his ‘small thatched cottage’ and ‘Third rate seat’ from Upperlands House into the present large Regency dwelling. One of the lodges gave way to that opposite the main gate (Gate Lodges of Ulster, 111). There was also a gate lodge at Bellaghy Castle/Bellaghy Bawn that was constructed in c.1800. This was constructed as a porter’s lodge. It has since been demolished. It was essentially a square format, single storeyed two roomed dwelling with a pyramidal roof rising to a slender chimney stack. The final gate lodges in the area belonged to Cloverhill House in Maghera that was rebuilt in 1806 by Anthony Forrester. There were two gate lodges at the property erected by Robert Forrester both pre 1858 and both since demolished. The only remaining gate lodge in the area is that Ballyscullion House also known as Ballyscullion Park and the gate lodge dates to c1880. It is single storey, gabled as is the porch with canted bay windows. It is considered an unnoteworthy building for Colonel H S B Bruce (Gate Lodges of Ulster, 111-3).



Buildings at risk in Ballaghy/Maghera area, L-R Ballyscullion Rectory B1 on market in 2016 and since sold, pair of single storey cottages at Tirkane Rd, Maghera, at risk since 2007, and a nineteenth century vernacular building at 139 Tirkane Rd currently at critical risk.

Information collated from the RSA Heritage Index 2016

RSA Heritage Index 2016 Table Adapted from Material in RSA Heritage Index		
Category	Mid Ulster Council	
		At Risk
Grade A Listed Buildings	22	0
Grade B+ Listed Buildings	94	6
Grade B Listed Buildings	801	45
Scheduled Monuments	203	

Sites & Monuments	1,527		
Industrial Heritage	988		
Country/Forest Parks	9		
Historic Parks & Gardens	2035		
Special Areas of Conservation	3,034		
Blue Plaques	4		
Conservation Areas	4		

CONSULTATION

List of Consultees for Heritage Asset Audit – Bellaghy Area

Completed online surveys

Seamus Heaney HomePlace
 Bellaghy Historical Society
 MHS Heritage & Culture Ltd
 Institute of Historic Building Conservation NI Branch
 Joseph McCoy, historian
 Richard Keenan, interest in local history
 Two surveys completed anonymously

Discussions– Telephone &
 in person

James Armour, Maghera Historical Society
 Sarah McNamee, Conservation Officer, MUDC
 Dr Liam Campbell, Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership
 Bellaghy Bawn HED – Stefanie McMullen, Gina Baban,
 Bronagh Ramsden
 An Carn Visitor Centre

Consultation

Three months of consultation in the Bellaghy audit area informed the project. An online survey was created by NIEL to consult within the audit areas. This survey contained 25 questions and was found to be completion-friendly to organisations. Individuals from the audit area completed a shorter 6 question survey compiled by Marianne O’Kane Boal based on the original survey for organisations. A range of other methods of consultation were employed, where telephone discussions, face to face discussions were conducted with a range of organisations and individuals. This helped to augment the information gathered from the online surveys. It was clear that different people were comfortable with discussing their experience in a variety of ways and the consultant employed this range of methods to maximise on comprehensive responses.

Quotes

‘Local people are proud of their heritage, their story, their connection to the landscape regionally. The historic environment is much more than bricks and mortar, it is the sum of its parts, and it is the landscape, agriculture, industry and social history which has shaped the land’.

Local individual consultee

‘A protect, conserve and enhance approach needs robust, sound up-to-date data and information that is easily accessible and understandable by all interested parties - focus must always be on the public interest’.

Local individual consultee

‘Complete the Listed Buildings 2nd Survey as an **urgent** priority - seek additional financial funding from DfI to get this key data resource completed - outsource a contract if necessary and train all existing HED staff on how to complete the survey’.

Institute Historic Building Conservation NI Branch

‘The vision for Church Island centres on the fact that you cannot separate the built from the natural environment at the asset. It is a very important habitat for birds and rare plant species. Anyone going out will have an impact on these habitats. The place is exactly as it should be; viewed from a distance as aesthetic landscape. Currently the restricted access and the island as a pilgrimage site for once or twice annually are recommended’.

Dr Liam Campbell, Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership

‘DfC /HED should facilitate Heritage Education and Training for each of the 11 local councils - hold a half day training session at the council offices of each local council and invite all planning committee members, chief executives, directors, heads of service - focus on ICOMOS Heritage Values and Conservation Principles’.

Institute Historic Building Conservation NI Branch

See Appendix for learning from the online surveys for organisations and individuals.

Asset Assessment Categories

The categories chosen for the Heritage Asset Audit and the assets chosen were as follows –

- **Listed Buildings**

Boyne Row, Terrace, Upperlands
Killelagh Parish Church, Swatragh
Friels Bar and Restaurant, Swatragh
Seamus Heaney HomePlace (not listed but best category)

- **Sites and Monuments**

Knockoneill Court Tomb
Tirkane Sweathouse
St. Lurach's Old Church, Maghera
Bellaghy Bawn
Church Island, Lough Beg
Dunglady Fort and Quaker Graveyard

- **Industrial**

Upperlands Village (featured in main audit report)
William Clark and Sons Beetling Mill, 1740

- **Parks and Gardens**

Ampertaine House, Upperlands
Ballyscullion Park, Bellaghy
Walled Garden, Maghera

- **Defence**


Plaque to air crash victims WWII
Observation Post

- **Battle sites**

Green Lough, 1566
Ulster Rebellion, 1641


Asset Assessment Forms

Asset name/number	Bellaghy Bawn
Heritage type	State Care Historic Monuments
Location	Old Town Deer Park H9534 9634
Protection status	State Care
Condition/ Sensitivity	Good
Ownership	State Care
Brief description	The Bawn at Bellaghy was begun around 1614 by John Rowley on part of the lands granted to the Vintners Company of London. The original bawn was square in plan; its south eastern corner fortified by a stout round flanker tower showing an early use of local red brick, placed above a stone footing. Excavation has recovered traces of a similar tower at the diagonally opposite corner and the south end of the west wall was protected by a square tower. The original bawn was virtually destroyed in the 1641 rebellion. The bawn was subsequently rebuilt in 1643 by Sir John Clotworthy. A completely new house has built in the place of the former around 1791 with the one remaining flanker tower.
Context	Bellaghy Bawn is a 17 th century plantation site. it incorporates remains of the original Vintners buildings, the agents house, the Bawn (enclosed yard) and rampart. On site is also an eighteenth century country house and Redcoats barracks. The site has been in continuous use for almost 400 years. The 17 th century Bawn at Bellaghy is the best restored example to be found anywhere in Northern Ireland.
Site appraisal	This is a diverse site rich with a variety of heritage assets of varying types (as outlined in context above). There is also an Early Christian rath associated with the site that has been excavated.
Benefits/potential	Centrally located asset with extensive elements and aspects of interest. This asset has potential to be furthered developed as a key community resource as well as historically and culturally. There is ongoing community interest in the asset and specialists (archaeology, history, culture) have expressed their interest in the asset's potential being realised. There are a number of avenues to realising potential that are explored in the recommendations below.
Audience	Local, national and international, as well as the local community and residents
Partnerships	HED, local council, local community, HomePlace, Bellaghy Historical Society.
Learning	The 17 th century Bawn at Bellaghy is the best restored example to be found anywhere in

	Northern Ireland. It is of interest to a range of communities and currently houses an exhibition that tells the story of the wider area over thousands of years.
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	HED have worked in the last 5 years with a range of community groups. Through TBUC partnership, they have trialled pilates/yoga and art classes. A range of other opportunities have been identified for community use and partnerships including; murder mystery, talks, music lessons, choir practice, storytelling, drama workshops, book and/or film club, among others.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	There is a necessity for some investment once the way forward is identified but the asset is not investment heavy. The existing exhibition display remains fit for purpose. There are some living history elements to potentially develop in rooms of the Bawn itself and in the courtyard. Staffing is potentially the biggest investment in that the Bawn would need to be open 5-6 days per week by day (at least) to realise its potential as an asset.
Viability/constraints	Lack of opening hours (currently open one day per week – Sunday) is a constraint. It is important to realise potential in conjunction with HomePlace as a high visibility sister asset in close proximity. HomePlace has expressed an intention and wish to partner with Bellaghy Bawn and would like to see the Bawn realise its full potential. HomePlace would like to work closely with Bellaghy Bawn to realise its ambitions of partnership and that it supports and promotes the Bawn as a fully accessible visitor attraction (during daytime hours).
Reference Picture <i>Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal</i>	
General recommendation	This is a unique heritage asset. Recommend some or all of the following; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote Bellaghy Bawn as a fully operational visitor attraction on a par with HomePlace with full daytime opening hours, but without major changes/developments at the Bawn 2. Create a living history dimension – Bellaghy Dispensary recreated in a room. Living history in the displays in Bawn


	<p>courtyard.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Create a local studies archive in the former Heaney library space at the bawn for studying history of area. Encourage donations of books, maps, letters etc. 4. To coincide with the HomePlace Heaney Heritage Trail the Bawn should be the first site to visit and undertake the HomeGround tour of Heaney assets. 5. The Bawn exhibition can function perfectly as a companion attraction with the interactive exhibition at HomePlace. It does not need changing or updating as it shows a broader history and one that provides contextual material for Heaney's work and the HomePlace exhibition.
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Asset name/number	Seamus Heaney HomePlace
Heritage type	Cultural Centre
Location	Bellaghy village
Protection status	NA
Condition/ Sensitivity	Excellent. Newly purpose built facility
Ownership	Mid Ulster District Council
Brief description	<p>Seamus Heaney HomePlace was opened in October 2016 and is dedicated to celebrating the life and literature of one of Ireland's, and indeed the world's, most celebrated writers. HomePlace and was developed with the support and involvement of the Heaney family. Their input and donations - photographs, artefacts and hundreds of books from the poet's own collection - have resulted in a remarkably personal insight into the man, his life and family, as well as his inspirations and imaginations, providing visitors with a unique and authentic experience. HomePlace has received a number of awards including; Best Northern Ireland Attraction 2017 Mid Ulster Business – Excellence In Tourism 2017 Tourism NI 2017 - Northern Ireland best Local Authority Initiative 2017 RTPI – Excellence in Planning 2017 The William Keown Trust – Prestige Access award 2017 World Host recognition for Excellent Customer Service</p>
Context	<p>HomePlace is located at the heart of the rural area where Seamus Heaney was born, spent his formative years and to where he returned both physically and through his work, throughout his life. The building also reflects Seamus Heaney's lifelong expression of the value of community.</p>


Site appraisal	Centrally located purpose built facility in Bellaghy Village on ground of former RUC station. Allotment garden spaces are located behind the building.
Benefits/potential	HomePlace has stated that the main opportunity for heritage in their area is that Bellaghy Bawn should be developed to its full potential to allow it to become a key partner for HomePlace to work with.
Audience	Local, national and international, as well as the local community and residents
Partnerships	ACNI, Tourism NI, Other literary Centres, local businesses, Tourism Ireland. Also HED and Bellaghy Historical Society.
Learning	<p>As well as the permanent exhibition, an extensive arts and education programmes is intended to contribute to Seamus Heaney's legacy and to ensure that his work continues to inspire.</p> <p>HomePlace sees the following sites and organisations as the most important in the area; Bellaghy Bawn, Church Island, Key Heaney Sites, for example - The Forge, Eel Fishery...Bellaghy Historical Society, Businesses, Women's Group, Theatre Group and Community Groups</p>
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	There is major community impact of HomePlace in a variety of ways including particularly the coverage of Heaney's work, life and contribution. A key literary centre nationally and internationally.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	Can be discussed with HomePlace depending on routes forward for partnership particularly with Bellaghy Bawn.
Viability/constraints	Vision for heritage in the area for HomePlace is; to develop the village of Bellaghy and surrounding area to realise fully the potential provided by Seamus Heaney and his works deep routed connection with this area.
Reference Picture <i>Photograph by Marianne O'Kane Boal</i>	

General recommendation	<p>HomePlace has expressed an intention and wish to partner with Bellaghy Bawn and would like to see the Bawn realise its full potential.</p> <p>Recommend that HomePlace works closely with Bellaghy Bawn to realise its ambitions of partnership and that it supports and promotes the Bawn as a fully accessible visitor attraction (during daytime hours), with a living history dimension and that the Bawn is the first asset and starting point of the HomeGround Seamus Heaney trail.</p>
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Asset name/number	Knockoneill Court Tomb
Heritage type	Monument
Location	Tamnybrack C81960875
Protection status	Scheduled
Condition/ Sensitivity	Excellent – well preserved
Ownership	State Care
Brief description	<p>A megalithic tomb, dating to the Neolithic or New Stone Age (2000-4000 BC), is found in Knockoneill. It gets its name from the semi-circular forecourt of upright stones that lead to a gallery. In most cases the dead would have been cremated and their remains placed in the gallery together with some belongings and food for their journey to the after-life. This gallery consists of two chambers. It is known locally as the "Giant's Grave", a common name applied to such monuments.</p>
Context	<p>Also includes a Rath at Tamnybrack C82040892. Excavations at the site in 1948, 1977 and more recently in 1984 produced charred bones and an urn dating to the Bronze Age located to the south of the tomb and in the forecourt respectively. The majority of court tombs are found in the north of the island of Ireland with the majority of those with subsidiary chambers found in mid Ulster and north Connacht. Seven court tombs are located in County Derry.</p>
Site appraisal	<p>From irishmegaliths.org.uk - To the N of a by-road, signposted across a field, 4 km WNW of Swatragh, this well-preserved tomb has a forecourt 7 metres in diameter, leading into a 2-chambered gallery with a small antechamber formed by doubling the entrance-orthostats (door-jambs). The backstone of the gallery is also a wall-stone of a small subsidiary chamber which is entered from the SE kerb via a passage almost 1 metre wide. The forecourt is closed by a line of orthostats opposite the entrance, giving it the appearance of a full-court tomb. But excavation showed these to be a later feature, for the forecourt was used for Bronze Age burials, and the whole tomb was re-covered with a circular Bronze Age round</p>


	cairn.
Benefits/potential	An important and key site/monument on the Carntogher History Trail. Knockoneill is interesting and aesthetically appealing. It is relatively unique and one of a limited range of examples of court tombs There are seven court tombs located in County Derry.
Audience	Visitors to the area, schools, students, historians, archaeologists, public.
Partnerships	DfC/HED, An Carn Visitor Centre promote this site as part of the Carntogher History Trail which has significant map signage at the centre and where a trail map/guide is available FOC at the centre. It is also promoted as part of Bellaghy Historical Society's 'Hidden Gems Forgotten People Series'
Learning	Significant learning opportunity in this site in and of itself and also as part of Carntogher History Trail. It lies alongside a Rath at Tamnybrack C82040892
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	Already well connected with An Carn Visitor Centre and representatives there. Of interest to history groups, archaeologists and historians in the area. There is potential in terms of community impact but this should be managed so that the site is not overvisited.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	Well maintained and an important part of Carntogher History Trail. Cleaning of existing signage is required and no further investment requirements are identified.
Viability/constraints	A viable heritage asset that is well utilised to date. Accessible from main road with space for parking. The court tomb and rath are accessed via walking approx. 200 yards across an uphill field. Nice short walk but best accessed in drier weather.
Reference Picture <i>Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal</i>	
General recommendation	This state care monument is located on an elevated site and accessed on foot following a short walk. It is very interesting and a pleasure to visit. Recommend it continues to be promoted as part of the Carntogher History Trail as this is an excellent method of promotion and the map aids navigation of the series of historical sites.

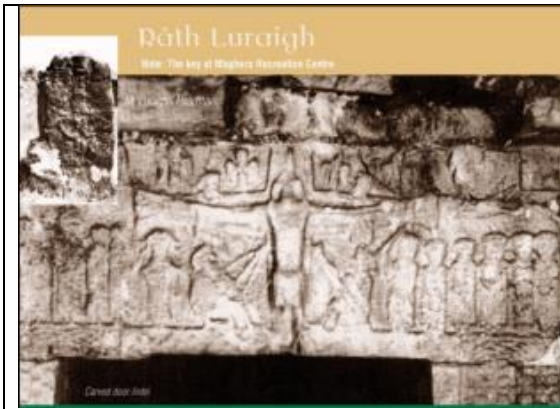
Asset name/number	Tirkane Sweathouse
Heritage type	Historic Monument
Location	Tirkane C8265 0274
Protection status	State Care
Condition/ Sensitivity	Excellent
Ownership	State Care
Brief description	A Sweathouse was a type of early sauna used in Ireland in 18th and 19th Centuries, but its origins may date back much further. Tirkane Sweathouse is a well-preserved rectangular structure built against the side of a hill with a roof made of flat stones with a small chimney hole in one corner. The floor is paved with stone.
Context	Tirkane Sweathouse is in a secluded area located 2.5 miles north-west of Maghera near Lough Bran on the ruins of Killelagh Church.
Site appraisal	According to Ancient Monuments of Ireland, Vol.2, these Sweat Houses are the primitive fore runner for the modern Turkish Bath, which are known in Germany as Irish Baths. There are only a few such Sweathouses remaining in Northern Ireland.
Benefits/potential	An important and key site/monument on the Carntogher History Trail. Tirkane is interesting and aesthetically appealing. It is relatively unique and one of a limited range of examples of such sweathouses in Northern Ireland.
Audience	Visitors to the area, schools, students, historians, archaeologists, botanists and public.
Partnerships	DfC/HED, An Carn Visitor Centre promote this site as part of the Carntogher History Trail which has significant map signage at the centre and where a trail map/guide is available FOC at the centre.
Learning	Significant learning opportunity in this site in and of itself and also as part of Carntogher History Trail.
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	Already well connected with An Carn Visitor Centre and representatives there. Of interest to history groups, archaeologists and historians in the area and loved by local residents. There is potential in terms of community impact but this should be managed so that the site is not overvisited.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	Well maintained and an important part of Carntogher History Trail. Beyond new signage and cleaning of existing signage no further investment requirements are identified.
Viability/constraints	A viable heritage asset that is well utilised to date. Accessible from main road with space for parking. Full access (disability) not possible due to sets of steps. Constraints of site itself – should not be overvisited.

<p>Reference Picture</p> <p><i>Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal</i></p>	
<p>General recommendation</p>	<p>Part of the enduring appeal of this state care monument is its location and secluded site that is accessed on foot following a short walk down a path and steps from the main road. It is recommended that signage be cleaned at the sweathouse itself and the missing sign at the upper level on approach to be replaced. Further recommend that continuing approach of promoting the site by An Carn is maintained as the best route of promotion. This is an important site but it is crucial that it is not over visited or has major footfall that could damage the carpet of moss that surrounds the sweathouse.</p>

Asset name/number	St Luragh’s Old Church, Maghera
Heritage type	Historic Monuments
Location	Largantogher, Maghera, C8548 0025
Protection status	State Care
Condition/ Sensitivity	In a ruinous state but stable and safe condition. Access is by arrangement and the asset and site is generally locked until access is requested.
Ownership	State Care
Brief description	<p>From the Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland.</p> <p>https://www.crsbi.ac.uk/site/2300/ S. McNabb has written - In structural terms the W doorway at Maghera is closely paralleled by the W doors at Banagher (Derry) and Aghowle (Wicklow), although neither has the elaborate sculpture found at Maghera. The Crucifixion scene is the most complex to survive in Ireland from the 12thc. The inclusion of elements such as the Scourging of Christ and the apparent inclusion of the Two Thieves have no parallels in Irish art. However, the figure style, particularly that of the representations of Stephaton and Longinus is deeply rooted in Irish tradition, finding close parallels in the Tynan group of crucifixion plaques (Hamlin and Haworth, 1982). The closest parallels for interlace and geometric ornament are found on the Soisceal Molaise, a book shrine, originally from Devenish in Co. Fermanagh.</p>

	<p>From the Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland - The crucified Christ occupies the centre of the composition, flanked by Longinus and Stephaton. Five further figures stand to the left, and another six to the right. There are two angels, one on each side of the vertical shaft of the cross, above the upper projections. A small, long projection above Christ's head may represent a bird or Manus Dei. Christ is shown against a plain cross, the arms of which are very long, extending for 0.91 m. Christ's arms in turn are disproportionately long (about 0.71 m) and are extended almost straight with a slight sag at the elbow. The head is badly damaged and no facial features remain, but two long strands of hair fall over the shoulders. The chest is naked and slightly modelled. He wears a perizoneum, which appears to have been short, although much of the carving below the knees has been obliterated. The legs presumably would have stretched down beyond the lower edge of the composition into the frame (as at Raphoe). Blood flows in two streams from Christ's side as the lance pierces it.</p> <p>Visible between Christ's wrists and the arms of the cross are two small figures, their heads in profile facing Christ, their bodies hidden behind Christ's arms. McNab has suggested that these represent the Two Thieves. They appear to stand on the heads of Stephaton and Longinus. Longinus and Stephaton are both shown in profile, each kneeling on one knee, with the other leg bent upward and the thigh horizontal. Their feet rest flat on the ground. The hair of both is swept back into a curl at the nape of the neck. To Longinus' left is a small, squat figure wearing a long robe, with an almost triangular torso. McNab suggests that this figure may represent Mary, or Mary Magdalene. Further to the L are four figures arranged in two pairs. The first two are quite small, and arranged close together. The second pair is larger and hold a staff between them. Above this group is an inserted block with two raised, square panels and a swooping angel. This could be an unfinished carving. To the right of Stephaton is a figure, with knees slightly bent, facing Christ, holding a staff (or whip) over his head. Further to the right is a row of five figures facing outward, one holding what could be a book, another wearing a hat. Above this group is an inserted block with raised square panels and a swooping angel. The lower edge of the lintel is framed by a band broken into five panels of interlace. Only the detail of the outer two panels is now readable.</p>
Context	Samuel Lewis 'A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland' has observed; The ruins of the old church

	<p>are highly interesting, and some portions bear marks of very remote antiquity; over the west entrance is a representation of the Crucifixion, rudely sculptured in high relief, with ten of the apostles; and in the churchyard are the tomb and pillar of Leuri, the patron saint, whose grave was opened some years since, when a silver crucifix was found in it, which was carefully replaced.</p>
<p>Site appraisal</p>	<p>From the Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland - The lintel is constructed from three separate pieces of sandstone. A rebate on the underside of the lintel shows the original width of the door head to have been 0.86 m. The lintel is carved on the face only with an elaborate Crucifixion scene. The depth of the carving on average is 0.015 m except for the central figure of Christ which is 0.05 m deep.</p>
<p>Benefits/potential</p>	<p>A beautiful carving of the crucifixion adorns the stone doorway, dating back to the 10th century AD, making it one of the oldest in Ireland. The details of the sculpture can still be seen today.</p>
<p>Audience</p>	<p>Historians, artists, architects, scholars, and students.</p>
<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Recommend that partnerships might potentially be explored with a university such as Trinity College Dublin or University College Dublin and the History of Art Departments therein to explore the best methods of continued preservation of this Romanesque sculpted treasure.</p>
<p>Learning</p>	<p>It has been described as the most important single Romanesque monument in Ulster. This is a unique and highly important piece of architecture and Irish Art. Its significance cannot be overstated. It is imperative that this sculpture is preserved and kept from deteriorating unnecessarily. It is essentially a treasure in art and architecture terms and has been recognised nationally and internationally as unique in its representation, subject and one of the earliest depictions of the crucifixion.</p>
<p>Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering</p>	<p>Unidentified, access to the asset needs to be restricted.</p>
<p>Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements</p>	<p>None identified at present.</p>
<p>Viability/constraints</p>	<p>The sculpture and asset generally is only viewable on request. This access restriction is essential to the preservation and longevity of the sculpture featured in the lintel of national and international importance.</p>
<p>Reference Picture</p>	




From Carnogher History Trail Guide




<p>General recommendation</p>	<p>Recommend that access to the asset continues to be restricted (the church is locked) and viewing is on request to continue longevity of the building, site and precious unique Romanesque sculpture.</p>
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<p>Asset name/number</p>	<p>Church Island</p>
<p>Heritage type</p>	<p>Church, graveyard and Bullaun : Church Island.</p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>TD Intake, Grid Ref H9752 9464 Situating in Lough Beg – 1.5 miles from Bellaghy</p>
<p>Protection status</p>	<p>B for steeple and tower</p>
<p>Condition/ Sensitivity</p>	<p>Good condition but a very sensitive site in terms of birds, flowers, herbs.</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>State care</p>
<p>Brief description</p>	<p>It is thought that the ruins of the church date back to the time of St. Patrick who used the River Bann to navigate the island to meet with Taoide to found an early Christian settlement. On the island is a stone known as the Bullaun Stone featuring a hole that holds water. Alistair Rowan writes that ‘the ruins of a rectangular pre-17th century church are here built of shore boulders, in a little yew-planted graveyard. The church has a plain nave with side walls and gables almost entire, a door and a window on the s, an opening where the E window was, and a N window’.</p>
<p>Context</p>	<p>This church (Iris Toide) was a monastic settlement mentioned as far back as the Annals of Inis Fallon in 1112. Dominican and Augustinian religious orders were associated with the island. People rowed out to them to worship and for cures. Traces of herbs and rare mints grown by the monks for cures are still found today.</p>
<p>Site appraisal</p>	<p>In the graveyard at the church (now simply a shell) one of the graves is that of Master Builder Michael Keenan, commissioned in 1788 by the Earl Bristol, Bishop of Derry to add a spire to improve the view</p>


	<p>from his mansion at Ballyscullion. Plans for this house, resembling those for Downhill, which he also built, show a crescent shaped house with 3b5 windows. Spending most of his time abroad, the Bishop never lived in the house and when he died in Italy, his heir Sir Henry Hervey Bruce found the financial upkeep impossible because of the Window Tax and demolished the building whose portico now fronts St George's Church in Belfast. The ruins of that original building are in the grounds of the present country house built to replace it.</p>
Benefits/potential	<p>The fields surrounding Church Island are famous Wetlands where many species of geese, ducks and swans are to be found. Botanists from all over the world also come to see the rare orchid 'My Lady's Tresses', which blooms there in August.</p>
Audience	<p>Audience for this site is an important factor but it needs to be restricted in terms of any footfall on the island itself as there are important natural habitats for birds and plant life. RSPB are currently developing a viewing point from Ballyscullion and this is perhaps the best way to enjoy the asset of Church Island; from a distance as picturesque landscape.</p>
Partnerships	<p>HED, Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership have been working with RSPB on Church Island site. Promoted by Bellaghy Historical Society as part of their 'Hidden Gems and Forgotten People Series'. Partnership with HomePlace as part of the Seamus Heaney HomeGround trail (not physically visiting the island within trail, instead viewing from a strategic point as Heaney would have done).</p>
Learning	<p>A broad range of learning is available in terms of natural and built heritage from multiple historic periods. Architecture, graveyard, bullaun stone, and habitats all provide excellent learning opportunities but physical access to the island is/and should be restricted.</p>
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	<p>Legend says St Patrick visited the island leaving in imprint of his foot on a stone. Close to this is a tree on which pilgrims, having prayed or made a wish, hang a piece of cloth. For Catholics, the Church was a focal point of worship in its early days and some continued to bury their dead there until the middle of the last century. A pilgrimage to the island takes place annually in September.</p>
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	<p>There have been a number of careful investments on the island to date. Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership, supported by HED was involved with conservation work on the church structure (not the spire). There will be further conservation works. There is a plan to undertake a volunteer project on stonewalling of the outer wall.</p>
Viability/constraints	<p>The viability and constraints of this asset are a</p>

	<p>crucial consideration. It has to be carefully managed and restricted access must be maintained. According to Liam Campbell; ‘Church Island and the landscape surrounding is very heavily engineered. Buildings originally on the lough shore are now 200 metres away. What we see today is not what it was even in the 1950s’</p>
Reference Picture	
General recommendation	<p>As Liam Campbell has noted, At Church Island you cannot separate the built from the natural environment. It is a very important habitat for birds and rare plant species. Anyone going out will have an impact on these habitats. The place is exactly as it should be; viewed from a distance as aesthetic landscape. Currently the restricted access and the island as a pilgrimage site for once or twice annually are recommended.</p>

Asset name/number	HB08/02/006 B - HB08/02/006 V Boyne Row Terrace (2-22)
Heritage type	Listed Buildings
Location	Upperlands
Protection status	B2
Condition/ Sensitivity	Generally Good
Ownership	Private
Brief description	<p>The late Victorian/early Edwardian Boyne Row - red brick and black stone built terraces with pitched slate roofs, which retain their original form and proportions, and much original detailing. The visually prominent setting of Boyne Row on high ground overlooking the river and the surrounding area of the settlement. The long front gardens to Boyne Row emphasise and enhance the form of the terrace, and their physical and visual link to the industrial complex on the Kilrea Road.</p>
Context	<p>By 1905, (two years after Clarks had bought the freehold from the Mercers’ Company), the south of the green a sprawling mass of</p>

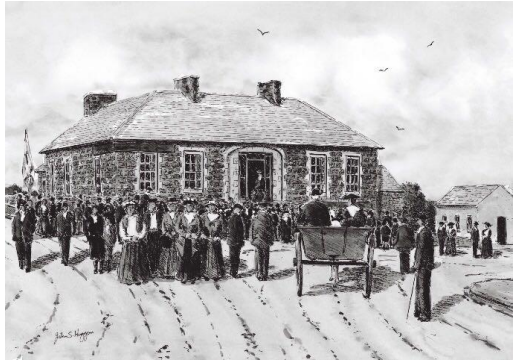

	<p>buildings had spread organically around the site of the old Clark house, which itself appears to have been converted to an office after 1871. The works now employed 220 people some of whom occupied Boyne Row, a terrace of eight houses built by Clarks to the south of the works in 1898, and increased to 22 houses ten years later. Other employees dwelt in smaller groupings such as Posy Row, Puddle Row and Reilly's Row, but unlike other mill villages such as Millford and Bessbrook in Co Armagh or Sion Mills in Co Tyrone, Upperlands did not develop to any formal plan.</p>
Site appraisal	<p>Boyne Row has an historical and physical relationship with the Knockoneill River, Kilrea Road beetling mill buildings, Ampertaine House Gate Lodge and the former railway yard. The designed open space between Boyne Row and the river is critical for maintaining the elements of industrial heritage and townscape</p>
Benefits/potential	<p>A central architectural feature of Upperlands village and also important in elevated location, landscaping and prominence. Important part of Mid Ulster's industrial heritage.</p>
Audience	<p>Local, national and beyond.</p>
Partnerships	<p>None currently identified.</p>
Learning	<p>Excellent example of late Victorian/early Edwardian red brick and black stone built terrace. Important architecturally and historically.</p>
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	<p>A key element of Upperlands and the wider area's industrial heritage.</p>
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	<p>To be explored in conjunction with owners or village representatives.</p>
Viability/constraints	<p>Series of houses in private ownership.</p>
<p>Reference Picture</p> <p><i>Photograph by Marianne O'Kane Boal</i></p>	
General recommendation	<p>Recommend that the terrace is celebrated as a unique piece of industrial archaeology and history in the context of its setting and association with the Clark family and linen industry. Is there potential to open one of the 22 houses annually for EHODs in conjunction with the owners?</p>

Asset name/number	HB08/01/002 Killelagh Parish Church, Swatragh
Heritage type	Listed Building
Location	Drumbane Lane, Swatragh
Protection status	B
Condition/ Sensitivity	Very Good
Ownership	Killelagh Parish
Brief description	Alistair Rowan described Swatragh as ‘a cluster of buildings on a curving road with four churches in the vicinity’. In North West Ulster Killelagh Parish Church (c of I) by Joseph Welland is described as ‘a nice design that Welland also used at Derryvullan, with nave, long chancel, and S porch with an offset miniature spire beside it. The details include the usual E. E. with diagonal buttresses. It was paid for by the Mercers’ Company’.
Context	Overlooking Swatragh village on an elevated site with graveyard to the front. Mature trees surround the church.
Site appraisal	Elevated site. Well maintained church and grounds.
Benefits/potential	There is an interesting ecclesiastical history in and around Swatragh that includes the Granaghan Penal Church, graveyard, mass rock and St. Patricks Well. Killelagh Parish Church and its interesting architectural form is another part of this ecclesiastical heritage.
Audience	Local and regional. Those interested in ecclesiastical heritage, architecture and the archaeology and heritage of the wider Swatragh area.
Partnerships	None identified. Friels Bar and Restaurant promote the history of the area via their website and Granaghan is referenced there. May be potential for partnership with Killelagh also if of interest to the parish.
Learning	Well maintained piece of church architecture
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	None identified
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	None identified
Viability/constraints	Working parish church

<p>Reference Picture</p> <p><i>Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal</i></p>	
<p>General recommendation</p>	<p>Recommend that Killelagh Parish Church might be promoted as part of an historical ecclesiastical trail if of interest to the parish.</p>


<p>Asset name/number</p>	<p>HB08/01/001 The Rafters Bar, Friels Bar and Restaurant, Swatragh</p>
<p>Heritage type</p>	<p>Listed Building</p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>2-4 Kilrea Rd</p>
<p>Protection status</p>	<p>B1</p>
<p>Condition/ Sensitivity</p>	<p>Excellent</p>
<p>Ownership</p>	<p>Private – run as a public house and restaurant.</p>
<p>Brief description</p>	<p>The premises was bought at public auction by John Friel on 26th September 1903 the deeds are displayed in the Public Bar, with the original wooden bar and ceiling intact.</p>
<p>Context</p>	<p>Friels Bar and Restaurant was established in 1846. In its early days was used as a soup kitchen in the Great Famine of the 1840s. It had various owners throughout the late 1800s, where its main use was a Hotel and an Inn with a Post Office. It also was used by ‘Dr Mooney’ who had his surgery here.</p>
<p>Site appraisal</p>	<p>Described as a 5th generation pub with historic soup kitchen. The original famine pot has been retained. The bar was established in 1837.</p>
<p>Benefits/potential</p>	<p>Historic listed building with an interesting</p>

	<p>history through famine times and as a hotel and post office. The bar and restaurant have been maintained in the old style and the history of the place and the Friel family is promoted and illustrated through the asset.</p>
Audience	<p>Local, regional and beyond. An interesting part of Swatragh's history and that of the wider area. An important centrally located asset in the village.</p>
Partnerships	<p>Owner is interested in promoting the asset for its historic value locally and regionally and would like to develop a relationship with HED and further promote the mound in the field behind the bar. Has already had Declan Devlin out from Mid Ulster Council to investigate the site.</p>
<p>Learning</p> 	<p>Beyond the historic interest of the building itself and its history, there is also a mound in the field behind Friel's Bar in the ownership of current owner Dermot Friel. There is a local poet directly connected with the asset. Known as the Bard of Moneysharvin, Mick McAtamey was a well-known poet locally. He grew up at Macknagh halfway between Swatragh and Maghera in post-famine Ireland where the ravages of enforced emigration cast a long shadow over the land. He attended Killyleagh School and worked on local farms. In 1885 he went to America. He visited 31 states and was fondest of the forests and lakes of Minnesota and Michigan. He left America and returned home to south Derry in 1932 where he set up home in Moneysharvin. His poem 'Donnelly's Mill'; <i>'The smiddys hammer said it upon the anvil clear, And Quintins Pat relayed it and sent it in the air; McQuillan took his hammer, he smiled "I think" says he If they want some anvil grammar let them harken here to me.'</i> McAtamey came home from America his only possession was his hand-carved stick which is hanging up behind Friels Bar. This stick was left for Jonny's Friels wife as she always admired it when he frequented the bar.</p>
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	<p>Owner would like to further develop the historic aspects of his asset and the surrounding landscape. The archaeological mound in the field behind the bar and restaurant is important. An inauguration site has been referenced. There is a stone wall around the mound. Carn and the standing stone at Bellaghy are visible from the site. The owner, Dermot Friel, would like to tidy up the site sensitively to prepare for public access. He wishes to have the mound accessible and in conjunction with HED and local council is prepared to lead groups to the site. He can</p>


	insure access to the site under his current public liability insurance.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	The owner would like to express an interest in seeking financial support from HED/local council to make the mound accessible.
Viability/constraints	Most of this asset is already viable and of interest. Aspects of industrial heritage and farming machinery are on display outside the bar. The historic mound adjacent to the premises has potential and development can be explored in conjunction with HED/local council.
Reference Picture From Friels business website	  <p><i>Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal</i></p>
General recommendation	The asset as the owner currently promotes it is in keeping with its heritage and history. Recommend investigating potential of providing public access to the adjacent historic mound at Swatragh in conjunction with HED/local council.

Asset name/number	HB08/02/001 William Clark & Sons Beetling Mill, Upperlands 1740 – 1759
Heritage type	Listed Building – Industrial Heritage
Location	Upperlands
Protection status	B1 (Q) –Extent of listing: Mill building, steps, race and sluice gate
Condition/ Sensitivity	Good now being used as a gallery/museum and coffee shop.
Ownership	Private – commercial
Brief description	The two-storey beetling mill of whitened stone construction is partly built into the hillside and is fully exposed only on the north-west and on the south-west sides. The roof is thatched with reed between parapets finished with plaster on top of concrete. The eaves are square cut and there are three rows of scollops on either side of the ridge. Entrance on the south-east side is by means of a


	<p>timber sheeted door under a voussoired stone lintel. Otherwise this elevation is blank. The north-east side has two openings each filled with timber louvre boards seven in number. There are no sills and the lintels are of timber. The openings are surmounted by a board inscribed “Original Beetling House 1740” The north-west elevation has two blocked openings at the upper level with brick dressings and rough concrete lintels. There are no sills. At the lower level there are a pair of timber sheeted doors with brick dressings and a concrete lintel. To the left of this entrance there is a blocked window opening with brick dressings and concrete lintel. At the upper level on the south-west side there are two openings filled with timber louveres eight boards to each. Lintels are of timber. A stone built wheel pit on the south-west side contains an iron-framed timber wheel with a timber channel above. The present wheel was obtained from a mill at Swatragh. From this side the upper entrance level is accessed by means of a flight of rough stone steps that curve around the south-east corner. From https://apps.communities-ni.gov.uk/Buildings/buildMain.aspx?Accept</p>
Context	<p>In 1680 John Clark from Abbots Salford in Warwickshire acquired some farmland near Maghera. When a prohibitive tax was placed on Irish wool entering England in 1698 Irish linen was admitted free of duty and soon after 1700 John Clark began to bleach cloth produced by weavers around Upperlands. The firm he founded survives today as the oldest family linen business in the world and spans nine generations. When John died in 1707 his son Jackson started to mechanise the business. He built the old mill in 1740. Up until about 1960 damp linen was beetled and given an even shine on the ground floor and carried up the steps to dry in the upper loft. References _ Primary Sources 1. OS map, 1st edition 1831-2, Co. Londonderry sheet 32 Secondary Sources Clark, Wallace, Linen on the Green, An Irish Mill Village 1730 – 1982. Lewis, Samuel, A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837, page 330. McCutcheon, W A, The Industrial Archaeology of Northern Ireland, 1980, pp., 251, 253, 267 and 323 note 61. Plates 59.3 and 76.1. From https://apps.communities-ni.gov.uk/Buildings/buildMain.aspx?Accept</p>
Site appraisal	<p>The entrance elevation of the building that faces south-east is positioned alongside and slightly below the main access driveway to the factory complex. On the opposite (south-west) side a lade from the river and the mill race lead to the head race and flume that fed a fourteen foot breast wheel. The wheel powers a beetling engine</p>

	housed in the lower floor of the mill. The building is sited on the south-west side of the driveway about 150 yards to the north of the main entrance that occurs about a mile and a half from the intersection of the Maghera/Garvagh road travelling north-eastwards towards Kilrea.
Benefits/potential	Upperlands has a rich industrial heritage and archaeology of which this Mill is the and mill complex buildings are the centrepiece that have given rise to all mill related properties in the village including Boyne Terrace, Ampertaine House, Ardtara and Gorteade Cottage.
Audience	The audience for this building and associated industrial archaeology of the village includes historians, archaeologists, students, schools, local community and the public.
Partnerships	Partnerships should be developed in terms of this site with the local community, MUDC and further afield. Bruce Clark, the owner, has done much to promote and develop the asset and continues the industry of linen production today on a smaller scale.
Learning	This is the oldest linen mill in Ireland and a unique piece of industrial heritage. It tells a complete story in itself and the surrounding village and is enhanced by the continuing production and interpretive elements of the gallery/museum. Comment from Bruce Clark - Separately from the mill itself there is a coffee shop and visitor centre ...in a handsome old stone building which is directly opposite the premises where linen-beetling (a 300-year-old process) still goes on ...
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	Extensive potential here, can be explored more fully with the owner.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	Unknown, can be explored with the owner.
Viability/constraints	This is a viable asset, one that has a functioning production facet and also an interpretive arm. It demonstrates the best of both aspects.
Reference Picture <i>Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal</i>	
General recommendation	Recommend the continuing promotion of this asset, the surrounding environs, built environment and industrial heritage and that any available community, local council support is lent in furthering this.


Asset name/number	HB08/02/002 Ampertaine House
Heritage type	Parks and Gardens
Location	Kilrea Road, Upperlands
Protection status	B1
Condition/ Sensitivity	Good
Ownership	Private – currently for sale
Brief description	From historic parks gardens - Located on Kilrea Road, Upperlands, this early to mid-19th century house, which replaced an earlier more modest house, (HB 8/2/2) has the benefit of surrounding mature trees. Lawns and dark shrubs surround the house. A Victorian conservatory that was attached to the east front has been demolished. The gardens became neglected and overgrown. In the 1990s clearance began in the Victorian ornamental sunken garden, where herbaceous borders, ponds, rockeries and a Summer House have been revealed. The walled kitchen garden can be viewed through decorative iron railings on top of the west wall. There is a possibility that if this garden is restored it might become one of considerable interest.
Context	At the time of survey by Parks and Gardens the garden was described as totally overgrown with the path system survives and also a number of fruit trees. However the house has been renovated in recent years by its late owners (currently the house is on the market) and the gardens may have been restored also. The gate lodge circa. 1870 replaced two earlier lodges. It lies across the road from the main entrance. Private.
Site appraisal	Also includes HB08/02/003 Gate Lodge of Ampertaine B Gates/ Screens/ Lodges and the gardens. Description of the main house by Timothy Belmont - Ampertaine is the most notable of a number of country houses in the vicinity built by various members of the Clark family. It is a plain, late-Georgian house, built sometime after 1821 by Alexander Clark. It comprises two storeys over a high basement; a five-bay front; shallow projecting porch, with a fan light doorway set in an arched recess. The roof is eaved, on a bracket cornice. The front was prolonged by a two storey, three-bay wing, set back, added in 1915. At the other end there was a Victorian conservatory on a high plinth.
Benefits/potential	A variety of garden elements are represented at this property which would be of interest to the public and visitors. It is recommended that potential to open the garden once or twice annually is investigated with the new owners once the sale of the house is completed.

Audience	This asset would be of interest to gardeners and enthusiasts, also students of horticulture and landscape design.
Partnerships	Potential partnerships could be investigated with new owners and this garden could potentially link with the grounds of Ballyscullion (if of interest to both sets of owners) as part of a garden trail in the region.
Learning	These gardens at Ampertaine and Ballyscullion are the only gardens from this area represented in the Register of Parks, Gardens and Demesnes and both have significant history.
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	None identified to date.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	Recent photographic evidence suggests that investment in the house and gardens has been made in recent years but further investment might be needed for the grounds. A survey would determine this and any further work would be a matter for the owners as this is in private ownership.
Viability/constraints	Private ownership and the asset is constrained in terms of access in this regard.
Reference Pictures  	 
General recommendation	Recommend a potential visit to the house and gardens for another survey once the house is in new ownership as it is suspected that the garden is no longer in the overgrown state it was when assessed for the Parks and Gardens Register. Investigate potential for this to be part of a garden trail.

Asset name/number	HB08/09/011 A Ballyscullion Park, Bellaghy
Heritage type	Listed Building
Location	61 Ballyscullion Road, Bellaghy
Protection status	B+
Condition/ Sensitivity	Excellent
Ownership	Private
Brief description	<p>The listing also includes the stables and courtyard. Details following from historic parks gardens - This part walled demesne, situated on Ballyscullion Road to the east of Bellaghy, was established for a house of 1787, which was never completed and is now denoted by a heap of rubble in woodland near the present mid-19th century house (HB8/9/11). This was designed by Lanyon in the 1840s. The house overlooks Lough Beg and distant mountains beyond, affording fine views and incorporating the spire of a church on an island in the lough. The Earl Bishop of Derry chose the spot for his late 18th century building as he considered it not to be inferior to any Italian scenery.* The foreground to the lough is in the manner of parkland with stands of trees. There are effective shelter belts in what is flat exposed land. The part walled garden is cultivated as an ornamental and productive garden for present-day family use. SMR LDY 37:25 crannog & 37:37 enclosure, 42:14 church on Church Island. Private. * Ordnance Survey Memoirs 1836</p>
Context	<p>This is an important example of a heritage asset under the parks, gardens and demesnes designation. It also includes listed buildings with the country house itself acting as an interesting example of work by the renowned architect Charles Lanyon. It is set in rolling parkland with views over Lough Beg.</p>
Site appraisal	<p>This is a country house that is well maintained by its current owner. It has extensive grounds and is the most prominent property in the audit area in terms of its' importance as an example of the parks, gardens and demesnes register. It is a family home but it also open to group visits where a talk is delivered and tea or lunch is served. It is available for wedding hire and features accommodation in the Coach House. It is also regularly used as a film location for Game of Thrones.</p>
Benefits/potential	<p>This property has significant potential for tourism and much of this potential is currently being met. Any further elements of development could be explored in a manner suitable to the owners' interests.</p>
Audience	<p>Local community, public and tourists, nationally and internationally in a limited way that</p>


	maintains owners' privacy.
Partnerships	Seamus Heaney HomePlace and Mid Ulster Council have developed partnerships with Ballyscullion Park. It features in literary trails connected with Heaney. It is also opened to groups.
Learning	Provides potential learning for historians, groups and the public
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	The house is featured in the Mid Ulster Visitor Guide and is open to groups
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	Unknown – could be explored with the owners if partnership opportunities arose.
Viability/constraints	Private ownership – access by appointment for groups and weddings.
Reference Picture <i>Image from https://theirishaesthete.com</i> 61 Ballyscullion Road, Bellaghy Co Londonderry BT45 8NA T: (028) 7938 6235 E: richardmullholland@hotmail.co.uk www.ballyscullionpark.com	
General recommendation	Recommend investigation of potential in conjunction with the owners. Recommend use as a location for outdoor theatre productions if it hasn't been used in this way already. It is currently used for film locations. Is this part of garden trails in Northern Ireland? If not, investigate this potential also.

Asset name/number	Walled Garden, Maghera
Heritage type	Heritage Garden
Location	Adjacent to St. Lurach's Church, Maghera
Protection status	In care of local council & community
Condition/ Sensitivity	Excellent condition recently restored.
Ownership	Local council
Brief description	Maghera Walled Garden, a restored Victorian Garden on the grounds of a medieval 4th Century royal dwelling and ancient Monastery. This secret garden had lain undiscovered for decades as an open field, until a cross-community project led by the Council saw the restoration and recreation of the Victorian Walled Garden which previously flourished on the spot.


Context	The garden lies within an impressive stone wall. The south facing wall is brick lined with an attached 25 metre glasshouse, and contains many varied herbaceous borders, fruit trees, a herb garden, vegetable beds and a wild flower meadow. The gardener responsible for most of the planting schemes cites the Irish gardener and author William Robinson (1838-1935) as one of her main influences when it comes to garden design and choice of plants.
Site appraisal	This is an easily accessible site via a gate. It is a large and attractive community space with impressive planting.
Benefits/potential	Currently used for community events and festivals. An excellent resource and central gathering space for the town of Maghera. This is a perfect space for Easter Egg Hunts, outdoor theatre presentations etc.
Audience	Visitors, local residents, public. Community and council led regeneration.
Partnerships	Local community and Mid Ulster Council.
Learning	There is significant learning that is available from this site as a Victorian Walled Garden. The fact that the garden remained secret for many years furthers its status as the proverbial garden from Hodgson Burnett's 'The Secret Garden'.
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	Community involvement in the recreation of the garden and further potential for involvement of the community in maintenance and cultivation of the garden.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	Currently in excellent condition and in use for council and community events. It is important that this continues.
Viability/constraints	This is a viable and well maintained asset.
Reference Picture Maghera Walled Garden in August 2015, image courtesy of Mid Ulster Council	
General recommendation	Mid Ulster Council uses the Walled Garden regularly for healthy outdoors family events, that includes 'Enchanted Garden', 'Easter Bunny', 'Peter Rabbit' and 'Fairy walks' Recommend continued use of the asset in this way as it is seen as central in community events and a beautiful location for same. Recommend use as a location


	for outdoor theatre productions if it hasn't been used in this way already. Is this part of garden trails in Northern Ireland? If not, investigate this potential also.
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Asset name/number	Dunglady Fort, Rath and Quaker Graveyard SMR Number - LDY 033:003
Heritage type	Sites and Monuments
Location	C8971004070 Dunglady, Maghera
Protection status	Scheduled
Condition/ Sensitivity	Well preserved
Ownership	State
Brief description	Multivallate rath from Early Christian period and graveyard from Modern period. From NISMR - This multivallate rath consists of a central, oval area, enclosed by 3 ditches between 4 banks, with a total diameter of 110 yards. The entrance at S is a passage through the defences straight to the centre, which has a closed well. The interior & the banks are very much overgrown with woodland & scrub. The site was used in the C17th, when 3 houses were built during the Plantation, c.1622 & in the C18th & C19th, it was a Quaker graveyard. According to PSAMNI, there is 90ft between the innermost bank & the 2nd one & 60ft between the 2nd & 3rd and 3rd & 4th banks. The intervening ditches are very deep - up to 15ft deep in places - & waterlogged.
Context	According to Samuel Lewis, 1837, 'About three miles from the town [of Maghera] is Doon Glady, a very large and perfect rath, which gives name to one of the town lands; it is encompassed with treble walls and a trench. There are also several other raths and forts in the parish. Numerous Celts, swords, spear heads, and ornaments of bronze and brass, have been found in the parish and vicinity, and are in the possession of the Rev. Spencer Knox, the rector'. 'The rath is well-preserved and consists of an oval area enclosed by at least three ditches and four banks. The total diameter of the monument is approximately 100m. There is an entrance passage to the south which allows access through to the centre of the monument. The monument is now overgrown with trees but it is possible to see the substantial banks and ditches'. Naomi Carver, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork Evaluation/Monitoring Report No. 260, 2013.
Site appraisal	Culnady (from Irish Cuil Cnadaidhe, meaning 'nook of the sluggard') is a town land lying within the civil parish of Maghera. It lies in the north-east of the parish and is bounded in the north-east by the Grillagh river. It is also bounded by the town lands

	<p>of Ballymacilcurr, Crew, Curragh, Drummuck, Tirgarvil, and Tirnageeragh. It was apportioned to the Vintners company and Crown freeholds.</p> <p>Dunlady fort - an ancient fort, or homestead, is located less than a mile from the village of Culnady. The fort was built by the Celtic Kings, and is the earliest known instance of resistance in the Culnady area.</p>
Benefits/potential	This state care monument is in good condition. It has appeal for the visitor in its picturesque location and it is surrounded by trees/woodland. The site is seen as locally important and also in a wider context due to its history from multiple periods – early Christian, plantation, Quaker. Access is relatively difficult to the site.
Audience	Visitors, local community, schools, students, universities and local history societies
Partnerships	Unidentified. HED with others.
Learning	Important rath/fort of multiple periods in history and in a relatively well preserved state although much overgrown.
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	It would be helpful if this site’s profile and access could be developed through a combination of HED, local community, local council, and local societies’ involvement. There are excellent opportunities for interest in the area and volunteering. This site could be considered as potentially a suite of sites in the area of a cross-section of time periods.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	Investment is needed to address access if landowners are in agreement.
Viability/constraints	Lands surrounding in private ownership.
<p>Reference Picture</p> <p><i>Image from NISMR</i></p>	<p>Referenced in O.S. FIELD REPORT NO.247, PSAMNI 1940, 207-8, PL.49</p> 
General recommendation	Recommend investigating potential of this asset in terms of access and profile. Can it be part of a greater trail? What are the limitations? Is private ownership of surrounding lands an issue?

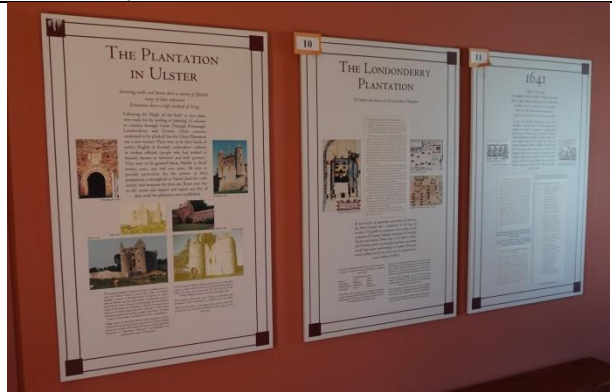
Asset name/number	Plaque for persons killed in World War Two air crash
Heritage type	Defence
Location	Carntogher: Maghera - The plaque is located at the side of the "Old Coach Road" (original road from Maghera to Belfast) at map ref. C80287 05185.
Protection status	NA
Condition/ Sensitivity	Good
Ownership	NA
Brief description	The three were on a flight to London, to attend a top level meeting with General Eisenhower. David Grimes (Age 47) the only civilian on the flight was an early radio pioneer and deeply involved in the development of radar. He worked closely with the US Military and a high level meeting was scheduled to take place just months before the D-day landings. His background was: Established his own radio manufacturing company in 1922, the radio was known as "The Baby Grand" Moved to Philco in 1934, became chief engineer 1941 and became Vice-President in charge of engineering in 1942.
Context	The plaque is located at the side of the "Old Coach Road" (original road from Maghera to Belfast) at map ref. C80287 05185. Access to this road is at the "Black Gate" map ref. C81200 04991
Site appraisal	The plaque commemorates Commodore James A. Logan, Commander in US Navy, David Grimes, Vice President Philco Radio Co. and Captain Loren Lee Miles, 8th USA Airforce, who died here on 4th September 1943 when Cessna UC. 78 crashed during inclement weather. This stone was placed here by the Logan family on the 60th anniversary 4th September 2003.
Benefits/potential	Interesting reminder of David Grimes and his work in radio systems and communications - While at the University of Minnesota David Grimes enlisted as a private in WWI. He served as chief radio officer at Kelly Field, Texas. By the end of the war, he was a signal officer attached to the British Air Forces at Aldershot and Littlehampton, England. After the war he returned to Minneapolis where he graduated in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1919. He then moved to New York and began working for AT&T as a research engineer in telephony. In 1922 he established the Grimes Engineering Company to do research work on a consulting basis for a number of different companies. It was during this period that he developed the famous "Grimes Inverse Duplex" circuit. Don Patterson's article "David Grimes"

	<p>(<i>Radio Age</i>, Vol. 11, No. 4, April 1985) notes that, "Subsequently, [Grimes] was issued patents 1,515,057 and 1,527,058. At the outset, it was determined that only twelve licenses would be available. The first was issued to Sleeper Radio Corporation and the second to Mercury Radio Products of Little Falls, New Jersey. When the Grimes Company approached the Bristol Company of Waterbury, Connecticut, they bought all the remaining licenses. With this understanding, David Grimes became chief engineer for Sleeper Radio Corporation and consulting engineer for the Bristol Company."</p>  <p>David Grimes Inverse Duplex 7, serial #538 from the Joe Pavek Collection http://www.pavekmuseum.org/Grimes7.html</p>
Audience	Local and regional visitors to the area, historians, those interested in radio communications and the public.
Partnerships	The Defence Heritage Project at HED would be the main method of promotion. It may already be featured as part of the project but if not potential could be explored. The main expert on WWII heritage in the area is Dr Jim O Neil (based at University College Cork) who is both an historian and archaeologist and he could also advise on potential.
Learning	This site and asset provides an interesting reminder of David Grimes and his work in radio systems and communications. It is also an unusual piece of WWII defence heritage.
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	Could be explored in conjunction with An Carn Visitor Centre which is nearby.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	None identified
Viability/constraints	None identified

Reference Picture	
General recommendation	<p>Explore potential of plaque and related history as part of the Defence Heritage Project at HED. Discuss potential with main expert on WWII heritage in the area is Dr Jim O Neil, historian and archaeologist (based at University College Cork). John McCann working at St Mary's Grammar School is another contact for WWII heritage in the Bellaghy and Castledawson area.</p>

Asset name/number	1641 Rebellion (in Bellaghy)
Heritage type	Battle site
Location	Bellaghy Bawn and Bellaghy village
Protection status	NA
Condition/ Sensitivity	Remains of Bawn and Bellaghy village – mostly burned to the ground at this time.
Ownership	State
Brief description	<p>On October 23, 1641, the Ulster Catholics staged a rebellion; in Bellaghy all the dwellings were lost and the town burnt to the ground in the space of one night. The mobilized natives turned on the British colonists, massacring about 4000 and expelling 8000 more. It wasn't until 1653 that violence stopped and the colonization was complete under the leadership of Oliver Cromwell.</p> <p>Henry Conway, who leased the Bawn from 1625, surrenders the Bawn to Sir Phelim O'Neill and 1600 men, the site was destroyed. Henry Conway was the agent who succeeded Baptist Jones and both were appointed by the Vintners Company. The original bawn was virtually destroyed in the rebellion when much of Bellaghy village was also burned. During the siege Henry Conway brought all his local paying settlers/residents of the Bellaghy village inside the Bawn walls to protect them from the Irish who were attacking. A local division of Irish troops led by Peter O'Hagan arrived at the gates to take the Bawn by force. Conway went outside to negotiate with the trips</p>

	and instead made a personal deal with O'Hagan, ensuring a safe escape for himself and his family. He was never seen again. The local residents were left by Conway to their own devices against the Irish onslaught. The Bawn was subsequently rebuilt in 1643 by Sir John Clotworthy who took over Henry Conway's interests in the Vintner's lands. A new house was built in its place around 1791 with the one remaining flanker tower.
Context	This is the site of Bellaghy Bawn, an Early Christian rath, various buildings and a courtyard
Site appraisal	The evidence of the 1641 rebellion is largely seen in what has gone as opposed to what remains as much as was virtually erased. The elevated site of Bellaghy Bawn and the form in which it is rebuilt stands as testimony to what came after the rebellion in terms of rebuilding. Pynnar's survey and a report by Sir Thomas Phillips in 1622 give written descriptions of the buildings in the Bawn and a picture map of the Bawn and village by Thomas Raven accompanied the 1622 survey. The Bawn of the time was square in plan and had two circular towers at diagonally opposite corners. Two two-storey stone houses stood in the Bawn, one on the south side and the other along the west wall, each attached to one of the circular towers. The north wall of the Bawn, including the gateway into the enclosure, was demolished long ago, but the other three walls are of 17 th century date.
Benefits/potential	The Plantation of Ulster is a very controversial period in Irish history. It was a hostile and embittered era where the native Irish hugely resented their treatment. There are a range of scholars and experts in the field and it is important to acknowledge this piece of Ulster's history.
Audience	Historians, scholars, students, schools, visitors to the area and general public.
Partnerships	HED in partnership with the local community and interested history groups.
Learning	The Plantation history of Bellaghy village and Bellaghy Bawn has been told as one part of the interpretive exhibition displays housed in Bellaghy Bawn.
Community impact (involving communities)/regeneration/volunteering	This is part of the overall story and exhibitions in Bellaghy Bawn that have been available to view. HED have investigated communities and groups of interest generally and would be aware of those with a plantation interest.
Financial Implications – potential income opportunities and investment requirements	There is some investment required in realising the potential of Bellaghy Bawn and its constituent historical features and periods. Once investment is made there will be a number of potential income streams.
Viability/constraints	The viability of presenting the battle site as a

	heritage asset has been considerably explored already through the presentation at the Bawn of the plantation room of history. Constraints are in the controversial nature of the plantation historically.
Reference Picture <i>Exhibition showing Plantation Room. Photograph by Marianne O’Kane Boal</i>	
General recommendation	Recommend continued representation of the battle and battle site in the current interpretive exhibition room as it is established and works successfully.

Asset name/number	Green Lough
Heritage type	Battle site
Location	Town land Inishrush C93680421
Protection status	NA
Condition/ Sensitivity	No traces
Ownership	Private
Brief description	Battle site of Green Lough 1566. Side A Brian Carragh O’Neill (Irish) defended against Side B Allister McDonnell (Scots). Outcome victory to side B.
Context	There is also a Crannog at the same location of Inishrush C9368004210 which is scheduled and in state care.
Site appraisal	There are no traces of this battle so site appraisal is undetermined.
Benefits/potential	If further details of this battle could be researched or determined it could contribute to knowledge of the area’s history.
General recommendation	Recommend that this battle site is researched if of interest

SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS

Strong heritage resources across a range of heritage types

Superb range of heritage sites and assets, many in very good condition

Bellaghy is one of the first planned villages/towns of Ireland. Bellaghy Bawn is the best restored example to be found anywhere in Northern Ireland

Bellaghy is the home place of Seamus Heaney, one of Ireland's most important and well-known poets, and the area contains a range of important heritage assets connected with him.

Tirkane Sweathouse is well preserved and one of only a few sweathouses in Northern Ireland.

In the village of Upperlands is the oldest linen mill in Ireland, the William Clark & Sons company founded in 1736, which continues production today.

One of the finest examples of Romanesque carving in Ireland is featured in St Lurach's Church, Maghera and it is also one of the earliest surviving representations of the crucifixion in Ireland. The Crucifixion scene is the most complex to survive in Ireland from the 12thc. The inclusion of elements such as the Scourging of Christ and the apparent inclusion of the Two Thieves have no parallels in Irish art.

Excellent range of rich archaeology across a range of wards and town lands including; Maghera, Bellaghy, Upperlands, Lower Glenshane, Gulladuff, Ballyscullion.

Presence of heritage experts and mentors in the locality. There are some that represent heritage types; archaeological, landscape, historical, WWII and some that represent local history in specific wards connected with assets for example, industrial heritage in Upperlands.

Strong local history organisations in Bellaghy and Maghera, invaluable resource – frequent talks, promotion, partnerships with local organisations and schools, annual events and projects that extend the heritage offer beyond society membership

A number of heritage assets and sites are tied to local centres (community cultural centres). This includes Carntogher History Trail linked to An Carn, St Lurach's Church, town buildings and walled garden linked to Maghera Heritage and Cultural Centre and Church Island linked to Bellaghy Bawn. This strengthens the importance and preservation of these key sites/assets.

There is a good track record in the audit area in the development of themed trails and these are seen as a key delivery route of the heritage offer for the public, for example, Carntogher History Trail and the Seamus Heaney HomeGround trail. It is essential that these trails are connected to a centre responsible for their promotion however. It is not simply a matter of distributing maps and hoping people will find their way.

Consultation has found that local people are proud of their heritage. In the Bellaghy area they are very aware of their historical roots in terms of culture, art, traditions which are reflected in the built fabric of the village, and links to the rural countryside, River Bann, country estates, agricultural and construction practices - social unrest - the physical man-made structures tell

the tale of local life - social, industrial, cultural and economic changes since the settlement began.

Consultation also found that there is an existing strong local heritage community base from which to start an educational programme for all councillors, elected members, directors, heads of service and authorised officers.

WEAKNESSES

Heritage is not a high priority in terms of public expenditure and funding. A dedicated Heritage Officer in all eleven council areas would help to represent heritage needs.

A relatively limited range of listed buildings in the audit area and some of these are at risk that should be preserved.

In consultation it was agreed that heritage is appreciated locally but not regionally or nationally (beyond Heaney). Why is this and can the audit begin to redress this through highlighting key assets?

Public need to be educated more on what heritage is in the area, the importance of preservation of buildings and sites.

Difficulty obtaining financial assistance and guidance to improve existing sites and facilities.

Lack of heritage education for young people

Lack of awareness of the employment creation potential of heritage

OPPORTUNITIES

The devolved responsibility of planning to local authorities should have allowed local input to increase interest in heritage sites that they have knowledge of. Has this happened so far? If not, can this opportunity be channelled?

Networks can be established through these heritage audits. People from different communities can share their experiences and successes with each other.

Examples of best practice in the area can be highlighted in order to show the wider community what can be achieved.

Bellaghy is one of the first planned villages/towns of Ireland. The conservation of Bellaghy's built environment and streetscape should be made an immediate priority through village renewal, sensitive landscaping, and careful reuse of vacant buildings. All these elements will contribute to Bellaghy being a destination as a village and not only to see HomePlace and Bellaghy Bawn.

Bellaghy Bawn could be promoted as a venue for key heritage events and festivals.

Dunlady Fort is considered one of Ulster's finest earthworks. It was one of relatively few earthworks to be protected under the 1926 ancient monuments act; rescheduled in 1974. How might this key asset be promoted and celebrated in a sustainable manner?

A History Trail with guide and map that is connected to two sites and community centres is Carntogher History Trail that connects to An Carn Centre and Drumlamph Nature Reserve. There are observations of rich archaeological remains at Glenshane. These include megalithic tombs, enclosures, standing stones, raths, a Bronze Age urn burial, a souterrain, and a holy well. There are also unlocated remains that have been referenced including a megalithic tomb and an enclosure. Could a similar history trail be developed for Glenshane and might it also be connected to An Carn?

Church Island in Lough Beg is an important site. It has huge potential but is benefitted by restricted access. Church Island was to Seamus Heaney what Innisfree was to William Butler Yeats – a picturesque location to be viewed or pondered. The viewing of this asset should be promoted further to enable this facet to be realised.

A structured heritage mentoring system would enable local community associations to avail of this support as their programs require and could be promoted through local council once they have the expertise and knowledge to deliver this.

Engagement with a younger audience through Facebook and social media.

Partnerships potential throughout the Bellaghy audit area to be explored – joined up thinking in conjunction with local towns, villages, history societies and council.

Consultation demonstrated that there is the opportunity to set up agreed protocols between existing council services - for operational working, co-operation and co-ordination - particularly Building Control, Planning Enforcement, Regeneration, Community Planning and local voluntary and community groups.

Consultation also suggested use of NIEL Asset Audit Report to begin a conversation about Bellaghy area - meeting at HomePlace for all council staff officers involved - all directorates to attend, presentation from NIEL and DfC/HED link directly to Corporate Economic Plan, Tourism Strategy, Community Plan and draft Plan Strategy - a focused interdisciplinary team is needed.

THREATS

A number of sites would be damaged/harmed by over access and any promotion or development must be mindful of this. These sites/assets include; St. Lurach's Church, particularly its Romanesque sculpted lintel of the Crucifixion, Church Island, and Tirkane Sweathouse.

Consultation has identified some key threats such as the opinion that heritage assets are not open enough to the general public to realise tourism potential. There is also the threat of vandalism. It was also felt that assets suffer from neglect and lack of investment in preserving our ancient built heritage

There were challenges in political and local council terms also identified through consultation; there was some issues raised with Councillors understanding and support of

local heritage; also some points around communications with the Council and around the technical legislation around Planning, Habitats and Biodiversity Legislation;

On this theme consultation also showed that there were; issues with resources - council staff time, education and training; issue with resources - financial - lack of clear, transparent, research, sound and robust outcomes for a project with clearly thought out links to what is already being achieved on the ground at community level; lack of protection for heritage; need for education, training and specific focused themed CPD needed for all Councillors and Directors - from DfC, HED to locally elected members.

Lack of up keep and preservation of sites and promoting the rich heritage in the area

General Findings

- Bellaghy village as a destination deserves attention and sensitive conservation, renewal and revitalisation to further enhance the streetscape.
- Bellaghy Bawn is a state care monument and a heritage asset of rich, yet unrealised potential. It is seen by some as unfortunate that HomePlace was not sited at the Bawn and although this is an argument it is also clear that the Bawn's proximity to HomePlace offers a significant linking opportunity.
- There is a remarkable range of archaeology and historic sites in the Bellaghy and audit area. These include raths, enclosures, forts, crannogs, holy wells, ballun stones, plantation architecture, industrial heritage and a sweathouse.
- Carntogher History Trail maximises historic and archaeological assets but it needs the support of local infrastructure – the community centre of An Carn. Each supports and promotes the other, ensuring an on-going audience that feeds tourism. Other assets can learn from this link and accessibility. It is particularly important for trails that lead from sites such as HomePlace and potentially Bellaghy Bawn.
- Maghera is another area that sees assets and sites as interconnected entities and these are promoted by Maghera Historical Society and Maghera Heritage and Cultural Centre located in the village. Again the connection of sites and assets with a dedicated staffed centre ensures longevity and on-going promotion.
- Bellaghy Bawn has a completely different setting, ambience and offer from HomePlace but it is in close proximity, making its potential realisable in conjunction with HED, the local community and HomePlace – where there is an appetite for collaboration and cooperation.
- Church Island in Lough Beg is an important site. It has huge potential but needs carefully controlled access.
- The village of Upperlands has the oldest linen mill in Ireland, the William Clark & Sons company founded in 1736, which continues production today.
- One of the finest examples of Romanesque carving in Ireland is featured in St Lurach's Church, Maghera and it is also one of the earliest surviving representations of the crucifixion in Ireland. The Crucifixion scene is the most complex to survive in Ireland from the 12thc.
- Bellaghy is the home place of Seamus Heaney, one of Ireland's most important poets and the area contains a range of important heritage assets connected with him, currently being promoted as part of the HomeGround trail.
- The second Ballyscullion House was built near the remains of the first house in 1840 by Sir Charles Lanyon for Admiral Sir Henry William Bruce, a younger son of the Rev. Sir Henry Hervey Aston Bruce, 1st Baronet. The admiral had fought at the Battle of Trafalgar as boy aged 13, and went on to be Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Station from 1854 to 1857, and Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth from 1860 to 1863.
- During WWII Ballyscullion estate was renamed Camp Ballyscullion as a military camp was built on the estate. It was prepared by the 202nd Engineering Combat Battalion for US soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division before D-Day.

Recommendations

- Consideration should be given to development of Bellaghy Bawn as the first site and centre of operations for the Seamus Heaney HomeGround trail that is currently being developed. If Bellaghy Bawn is staffed and has the same daytime opening hours as HomePlace it can become the sister location of HomePlace and the first site to be on the trail map and visited as part of the HomeGround trail.
- Bellaghy Dispensary could be developed as an aspect of living history in one room of Bellaghy Bawn with associated artefacts and imagery. The dispensary could be recreated to tell its story similar to Hills Chemist in Ulster American Folk Park.
- Potential for a local studies archive to be created in the former Heaney library at Bellaghy Bawn where the history and genealogy of the local area might be researched. This can be developed in conjunction with Maghera and Magherafelt libraries and with local history societies. It could also include donations of books, maps, and letters from locally based residents.
- Potential of directly linking Bellaghy and Maghera as historic destinations and promoted in tandem with each other through the history societies, and the local key assets; HomePlace, Bellaghy Bawn and Maghera Heritage and Cultural Centre.
- Recommend exploring potential of a WWII heritage trail in the audit area. Explore this in conjunction with main expert on WWII heritage in the area is Dr Jim O Neil, historian and archaeologist (based at University College Cork) and John McCann, author of 'Passing Through' WWII heritage book.
- Potential for innovative, off-site access (ie digital) to Church Island; conservation needs mean that physical access must be limited. Promote asset to be viewed from a distance as aesthetic landscape.
- Three key gardens/demesnes in the audit area; Ballyscullion Park, Ampertaine House and Maghera Walled Garden. Recommend potential development of a garden trail if possible to be promoted as an annual event.
- Mid Ulster Council uses the Walled Garden regularly for healthy outdoors events. Recommend continued use of the asset in this way as it is seen as central in the community. Recommend use as a location for outdoor theatre productions if it hasn't been used in this way already. For example as Chapterhouse Productions use Enniskillen Castle Yard as an outdoor location. Ballyscullion Park might also be used for theatre productions.
- Recommend the continuing promotion of Clark Linen Mill, museum/gallery and coffee shop the surrounding environs, built environment and industrial heritage and that any available community, local council support is lent in furthering this.
- Killelagh Parish Church might be promoted as part of an historical ecclesiastical trail if of interest to the parish.
- Boyne Terrace should be celebrated as a unique piece of industrial archaeology and history in the context of its setting and association with the Clark family and linen industry. Explore potential to open one of the 22 houses annually for EHDs in conjunction with the owners
- Potential for innovative digital access to St Lurach's Church, Maghera. Physical access must be restricted to continue longevity of the building, site and precious unique Romanesque sculpture.

Report Authored by Marianne O'Kane Boal, 2019

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Appendix 1 - Questionnaires

26 question online questionnaire sent out initially to organisations

Q1 Organisation Details

Q2 Organisation Details – Location

Q3 Did you participate in NIEL's "Investing in Northern Ireland's Heritage" programme?

Q4 What sort of organisation are you? (Tick all that apply)

Q5 How many staff do you employ?

Q6 How many volunteers do you have?

Q7 Tell us about the kind of heritage that you are involved with

Q8 Tell us what your main aims are

Q9 Can you summarise your biggest achievements (please include dates)

Q10 Tell us about the kinds of activities that you undertake (please tick all that apply)

Q11 What kind of facilities do you provide? (please tick all that apply)

Q12 Do you require financial resources to run your organisation?

Q13 If you answered "Yes" to the above, what are the main sources of your income?

Q14 Are your main sources of income increasing or decreasing?

Q15 How much financial reserve do you have? Is it enough for...

Q16 What kind of fundraising capacity do you have in your organisation?

Q17 What are the main obstacles to fulfilling your ambitions?

Q18 What kinds of support would help you to achieve your targets?

Q19 What sort of partnerships do you have? Who are your key partners?

Q20 What are the main opportunities for heritage in your area?

Q21 How would you define your geographic area of work or influence?

Q22 What do you consider to be the most important historical sites and organisations in your area?

Q23 What do you think are the biggest issues facing heritage in your area?

Q24 What do you think should be the vision for heritage in your area?

Q25 Would you be willing to share your experiences as a case study for others to learn from?

6 question online questionnaire sent out subsequently to individuals

Q1 Which area are you responding on?

Q2 What do you consider to be the most important historical buildings/sites in your area?

Q3 What do you think are the biggest issues facing heritage in your area?

Q4 What are the main opportunities for heritage in your area?

Q5 Do you feel the area's heritage is appreciated locally and regionally? Please explain your answer.

Q6 Can we put your name down as a consultee for this project?

Appendix 2 – Learning from online surveys from organisations and individuals

Learning from Online Surveys from Organisations

Most important Historical Sites & Organisations

Sites – Church Island, Bellaghy Castle/ Bellaghy Bawn, Lough Golagh, Crannog Site in Tamnaran, the Wall Around Ballyscullion Park, and Key Heaney Sites e.g. The Forge, Eel Fishery etc. The most important sites in the Maghera area are the Knockoneil Court Tomb, Tamneyrankin Fort, Dunglady Fort, Tirnoney Dolmen, Tirkane Sweathouse, St Lurach's old Graveyard, Old Mullagh Graveyard, Church of Ireland Rectory, The Ulster Bank and the Old Courthouse.

Organisations - Ulster Architectural Heritage; Northern Ireland Environmental Link; Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division; Local Planning Authorities Conservation Planners / Heritage Managers; Heritage Trust Network NI; Historic Buildings Council; Historic Monuments Council; Follies Trust / Irish Georgian Society; Architectural Heritage Fund NI; Historic Houses Association; Caledon Regeneration Partnership; Moneymore Heritage Trust; Ballyinscreen Historical Society; Dungannon Historical Society; Donaghmore Historical Society; Mid Ulster National Trust NI (facebook site), Bellaghy Historical Society, Businesses, Women's Group, Theatre Group, Community Groups.

Main Opportunities for Heritage in the Area

Some of the main opportunities for heritage in the area are listed as; the protection and maintenance of Church Island, Lough Goala Crannog in Leitrim, maintenance of Bellaghy Castle/Bawn, retention of the Bellaghy street character and protection of the Baulaun Stone on Church Island. It was felt by one organisation that the opportunities to display and market heritage in our area is very limited. Seamus Heaney HomePlace felt that the main opportunity for the area is for Bellaghy Bawn to be developed to its full potential.

Biggest Issues Facing Heritage

The biggest issues facing heritage according to organisation are;

- (a) Apathy and ignorance of the value of the heritage
- (b) Being lost or mutilated beyond recognition, built heritage being replaced by modern day structures.
- (c) Lack of ambition for heritage assets and limited resources
- (d) Lack of Heritage Education and Training for elected members, senior council staff Head of Service level and above, planning committees, development committees, all local council directorates not just local planning authorities; Lack of understanding of the social, economic and environmental values of Heritage and direct link with sustainable management of development and change i.e. ICOMOS Conservation Principles; Lack of clear specific communication within local councils and Department for Communities; Archaeological Reforms to existing Legislation (the Way Forward for Archaeology Project)

Vision for Heritage in the Area

IHBC NI (Institute Historic Building Conservation Northern Ireland Branch) has provided an excellent six point vision for heritage in the area

1. Heritage Protection Plan for NI (Strategic Framework) to include the Heritage at Risk NI data sets - DfC /HED -led including public consultation to comply with the Planning Act (NI) 2011 requirements;
2. Specific focused training for local planning authority council officers on Heritage Protection, specifically planning enforcement teams, building control officers, environmental health officers, regeneration council officers, community development council officers (not just local planning authority staff; Historic Environment crosses all directorates);
3. An up-to-date Structural Condition Report for all known listed buildings, scheduled and unscheduled monuments, designated conservation areas i.e. unlisted structures within the designated areas;
4. Complete the Listed Buildings 2nd Survey as an URGENT priority - seek additional financial funding from DfI to get this key data resource completed - outsource a contract if necessary and train all existing HED staff on how to complete the survey (in-house training for all HED staff)
5. Co-operation, co-ordination and communication between Community Planning and Local Planning Authorities Local Development Plan council staff - share data to facilitate deliverable outcomes for the Historic Environment.
6. DfC /HED should facilitate Heritage Education and Training for each of the 11 local councils - hold a half day training session at the council offices of each local council and invite all planning committee members, chief executives, directors, heads of service - focus on ICOMOS Heritage Values and Conservation Principles i.e. focus on sustainable management of development and change to Heritage Assets and how this can link with local council corporate objectives such as health and wellbeing of constituents; Heritage-Led Tourism; Heritage-Led Regeneration; Heritage-Led Community Planning; Heritage Protection Plans - Heritage as an Economic Driver for Growth

James Armour, MHS Heritage & Culture Ltd believes the vision can be delivered through a dedicated staff member in local council; 'Our local Mid Ulster District Council must appoint a full time Heritage Officer who would be responsible for the well-being of our historical assets, looking after their up-keep and liaising with local Historical and Heritage Groups who would have a point of contact with the state body ensuring that heritage and historical sites are preserved and protected. Each council throughout Northern Ireland should have a full time dedicated Heritage Officer'.

Dr Liam Campbell, Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership has offered a vision for Church Island in Lough Beg; 'The vision for Church Island centres on the fact that you cannot separate the built from the natural environment at the asset. It is a very important habitat for birds and rare plant species. Anyone going out will have an impact on these habitats. The place is exactly as it should be; viewed from a distance as aesthetic landscape. Currently the restricted access and the island as a pilgrimage site for once or twice annually are recommended'.

Brian McCormick, Manager of Seamus Heaney HomePlace feels the vision for heritage should be; 'To develop the village of Bellaghy and surrounding area to realise fully the potential provided by Seamus Heaney and his works that have a deep rooted connection with this area'.

Learning from Online Surveys from Individuals

Most important Historical Sites & Assets

1. St Lurach's old church, Mullagh old church, Tirkane sweathouse, Tirnoney dolmen, Tullyheron fort and Knockoneil court tomb
2. Bellaghy Bawn, the Chapel and C.of I. churches, but also the setting of the village, the historical layout, form, massing - the scale of the original buildings and villagescape - the importance of rural links and the need to maintain the villages historic character and appearance and not demolish original historic buildings / structures and fabric which could be repaired, renovated and re-used.
3. Too many to list. For Early Medieval sites; Dunglady fort and Maghera Romanesque sculptured crucifixion scene are of national importance. There are many other sites of prehistoric and post medieval importance.
4. Irish Tadia or Church Island In Lough Beg with its 12th century church and ancient burial ground

Main Opportunities for Heritage in the Area

1. The Maghera Historical Society, funding and tourism
2. Promotion of The Cultural Heritage
3. Not sure what is meant by this. Surely the question should be what are the main needs of heritage in your area.
4. (a) Existing strong local heritage community base from which to start an educational programme for all councillors, elected members, directors, heads of service and authorised officers.
(b) Opportunity to set up agreed protocols between existing staff officers - for operational working, co-operation and co-ordination - particularly Building Control Officers, Planning Enforcement Officers, Regeneration Officers, Community Planning Officers and local voluntary and community groups.
(c) A meet and greet session for local council staff - e.g. by area covered, for example, Dungannon Town Regeneration Officer, Community Development Officer, Economic Officers, Tourism Officer, Planning Officers - all the council officers that cover Dungannon in a venue within Dungannon - Lead by Director and Heads of Service - i.e. clearly set out each other's remit, roles, responsibilities and identify areas of work that interact / cross over with regard to historic environment but also historic landscapes, biodiversity, ecological systems and financial implications.
(d) Use NIEL Asset Audit Report to begin a conversation about Bellaghy area - meeting at Homeplace for all council staff officers involved - all directorates to attend, presentation from NIEL and DfC/HED link directly to Corporate Economic Plan, Tourism Strategy, Community Plan and draft Plan Strategy - a focused interdisciplinary team is needed.

Biggest Issues Facing Heritage

1. Heritage assets are not open enough to the general public to realise tourism potential. There is also the threat of vandalism.
2. Neglect and lack of investment in preserving our ancient built heritage
3. (a) Lack of councillors understanding, education and training on the social, economic and environmental values of the local Historic Environment, in terms of heritage values, ICOMOS conservation principles.
(b) Lack of constructive communication between MUDC's Directorates - at senior level i.e. Directors, Heads of Service and lack of pre-application consultation with the Planning Department on proposed capital projects, including lack of understanding of the implications of Planning Legislation, Habitats and Biodiversity Legislation and no joint up thinking in terms of identifying what Heritage and Environmental Reports will be required prior to

submitting a formal planning application - before going to the Capital Projects Team to implement

(c) Lack of understanding, lack of internal communication at the beginning, under estimating timescales, no SMART Outcomes - needs more internal consultations - the right people at the right time - more effective use of in-house staff and training existing staff.

(d) Resources - council staff time, education, qualifications, training, CPD not making the most of what resources are available internally because not aware of what each directorate's remit and responsibilities and not aware that Heritage, Culture and Community cross all of the Directorates.

(e) Resources - financial - lack of clear, transparent, research, sound and robust outcomes for a project with clearly thought out links to what is already being achieved on the ground at community level.

(f) Outcomes which have not been tested in terms of SMARTER - not deliverable on the ground in the timescales given. No / lack of communication - need for Heritage and Biodiversity input at the earliest stages not as an afterthought.

(g) Read the Committee minutes and provide feedback - needs to be mandatory requirement to share and discuss all committee meeting minutes at the Senior Management Team meetings - and feedback to all heads of service and authorised officers. Secretariat should share all agreed minutes with all staff on a monthly basis. (h) At central government level no Heritage Protection Plan for each local government district.

(i) Education, training and specific focused themed CPD needed for all Councillors and Directors - from DfC, HED to locally elected members. Training should commence immediately after elections 2019.

Is the heritage of your area appreciated locally and regionally?

1. Locally yes, regionally not yet as afore mentioned as it is not advertised in terms of tourism potential enough.
2. The Local Heritage is not widely known or promoted
3. Yes but needs a more targeted flow of easily reached information.
4. Locally - yes the local people of mid ulster and more specifically Bellaghy area are very aware of their historical roots in terms of culture, art, traditions which are reflected in the built fabric of the village, and links to the rural countryside, River Bann, country estates, agricultural and construction practices - social unrest - the physical man-made structures tell the tale of local life - social, industrial, cultural and economic changes since the settlement began. Local people are proud of their heritage, their story, their connection to the landscape. Regionally: At a NI level there is appreciation when it suits - when it is politically popular to be in favour with protecting and conserving and sustainable approaches to the environment and lifestyles. The historic environment is much more than bricks and mortar, it is the sum of its parts, it is the landscape, agricultural and social history which has shaped the land - urban or rural - impact of industry to local people - impact of new technologies on lifestyle, movement, accessibility, travel, relationships with the land has changed as social and economic practices have changed - more education and training is needed at national level - more robust evidence is needed and new legislation to replace out-of-date piecemeal Acts, Orders and Regulations are needed. A protect, conserve and enhance approach needs robust, sound up-to-date data and information that is easily accessible and understandable by all interested parties - focus must always be on the public interest.

Appendix 3 – Case Study on Seamus Heaney HomePlace by Marianne O’Kane Boal

FEATURE CASE STUDY

Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy

THE TEAM

Client
Seamus Heaney Centre 77777
Architect • CDM W&H Given Architects
Interpretive Design Consultants
Rolling Mouse
Structural & Civil Structures 2000 Ltd
Mechanical & Electrical
Mullion H&C Services Ltd

Lighting Supplier Niccolò Ltd
Exhibition Fit-out Contractor
Marcon Fit-Out
Main Contractor
Sheldon Loughran & Sons Ltd
Photography 7777777777777

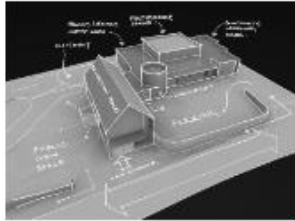


FEATURE CASE STUDY

The 12 acres of an RUC police station in Bellaghy has been completely transformed to create the €4.25m Seamus Heaney HomePlace, an arts and literary centre exploring the life, literature and inspirations of the Nobel prize-winning poet. The project has been driven and mainly funded by Mo-Ulster Council, Bellaghy in Co. Derry was one of the first planned towns in Ireland, built on land owned by Vitens, a London company. It is home to the seventeenth century Bellaghy Gaen which was the previous site of an exhibition on Seamus Heaney. The name of the centre 'HomePlace' might seem to suggest the poet's actual homestead itself but this title is part of something larger. The intention is to make the centre the nucleus of a trail exploring important places in Heaney's life and poetry. It will, for instance, make Heaney's grave a 'literary landmark

like Drumcliffe churchyard. It always surprises me when I go to Bellaghy that it's so real, because the names and places he wrote about have reverberated so far beyond. The achievement of Heaney is that he has changed what that place means and what it stands for, and he's done it forever. It may have been magical to local people, but Heaney's gift was to make it magical to the rest of the world.' (Prof Fran Sheehy, Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's University in Belfast, The Irish Times, 18 Dec. 2015). This centre is a landmark, the first of its kind in the country. As Pól Ó Conghaile notes, 'HomePlace is a quality project with no obvious precedent in Ireland - museums and exhibitions devoted to Yeats in Dublin and Sligo, Kavanagh in Inniskeen, or Joyce and Shaw in the capital, do not enjoy purpose-built spaces. (Irish Independent, 30 September 2015).





The *FloraFace* building makes a strong statement in the small rural village. It provides a different experience for the visitor depending on the approach. When entering Delaghy from Collicavanon, the eye is caught by the two storey form, conceived along the lines of the vernacular barn. Conversely when approaching from Bulegny village itself there are a series of single storey massed forms that directly connect with the scale and vocabulary of the main street of the village. There is a Presbyterian Church directly opposite the new Centre and the low lying vocabulary of this form is echoed somewhat in the housing. Coleraine-based W & H Green Architects, established in 1980, were responsible for the building. As Project Architect Philip Hutchinson explains, 'The design draws on the built heritage of the area, giving the site a direct relationship with the village street front and public open space. The composition of the building forms is a contemporary response to farm settlement clusters common throughout the South Derry area. It is composed of shapes that make up the traditional homestead such as the barn, the house, the sheds, the silo. The building is essentially in four parts - the exhibition, the performance space, the concourse and the education resource area.'

In terms of materials, there is a range employed, particularly on the two-storey exhibition space, Philip Hutchinson comments on the material selection. 'We looked to primarily retain and incorporate the existing random rubble stone wall into the external finish as far as possible to symbolically show how a site which was once a fortress in the community was now giving back the barriers and inviting the public in'. This has provided a very open and accessible landscaped space which has been embraced by the local community in terms of the two levels. 'The split level site offered us the opportunity to wrap the old stonework around the lower half of the exhibition space. Originally we wanted to explore materials which had evolving characteristics such as western red cedar and initial proposals were to clad the entire exhibition structure in copper. This was rejected by planning authority despite our best efforts and a more 'sympathetic' palette comprising western red cedar and zinc cladding was agreed upon.'

The internal configuration of the building is consciously arranged around the central circulation device of the stairs. Conceived in the externally expressed site form the generous spiral staircase acts as a narrative device to allow the Heaney exhibition to gently unfold on two levels. The permanent exhibition entitled 'Man & Boy' is



based on a simple but effective premise, an exploration of the life of the poet, his love of literature and reading and his inspiration. Anyone who knows the work of Heaney will be familiar with aspects of the exhibition and this awareness increases the pleasure of viewing. It is a timeless exhibition in its composition, one can listen to poems on an audio wand, read by Heaney himself and explore different elements of the exhibition on repeated visits. This is a very important aspect of the centre that it gives the visitor a desire to return and view the exhibition again. This welcome dimension is not often achieved in permanent exhibitions, where frequently a single visit might be seen to suffice. It is due to the human scale, the design by Tandem and also to the interactive elements. An enthusiast would never tire of listening to Heaney read his poems. Beyond the interpretive tablets that can be explored throughout, there are also timeless interactive games such as small square pictures located at various points in the exhibition where children (and adults) can create rubbings of familiar imagery from Heaney's work for example, backbones and the poet's school desk.

Heaney's *Atto Study* is reproduced in the first floor of the interpretive galleries. Heaney wrote about the beauty of natural light in this space of his poem 'The Skylight'. 'You were the one for skylights, when the slates came off, extravagant sky entered and held surprise wide open'. One wonders why in this first floor space, where the internal roof scape and services are exposed, the architects did not include skylights in the design to illuminate the



exposed space. Heaney was all about light and nature and these spaces, particularly the excellent 'Creative Corner' and the reader response area would greatly have benefited from more natural light. The architects intended, however that natural light be 'subordinate to the function of the spaces... Audio visual was still a priority for this area at early design stage and a requirement of the interpretive designers. We wanted the impact of the natural light to be as effective as possible when moving from the first floor exhibition to the landscape viewing area (glass projection) almost like the curtains have been drawn back for the first time in the morning'. Indeed this device works well, akin to a contemporary bay window where visitors can look out on the landscape that inspired Heaney in his poetry.

In terms of building area, the Seanus Heaney Homeplace is 2251 sqm and the Youth Centre Annex Building Area is 250 sqm. It is remarkable when considering the success of the final product that the build cost including all site works was £7420 per sqm which is a typical community centre budget. Hed Under Council, the architects and all involved are to be commended on this important centre of legacy in Delaghy. As the poet Michael Longley has predicted it will be a living resource for the area and 'will become an echo chamber for the poet's beautiful lines.'¹

Marlene O'Keefe BSc



Appendix 4 – Buildings at Risk – Bellaghy Area – Former Council Area of Magherafelt

ID	HB Num	Council ID	Ward ID	Address	Type
532	HB08/01/012	Magherafelt	Swatragh	139 TIRKANE ROAD TIRKANE MAGHERA CO.LONDONDERRY	
838	HB08/01/020	Magherafelt	Swatragh	15 Tamnymullan Lane Moneysharvan Road Maghera Co. Londonderry BT46 5HS	House
941	HB08/01/021	Magherafelt	Swatragh	14 Gortinure Road Maghera Co. Londonderry BT46 5RB	House
792	HB08/02/001 A	Magherafelt	Upperlands	Old Mill William Clark and Sons Ltd Upperlands Co Londonderry BT46 5UP	Gallery/ Museum
533	HB08/02/006 F	Magherafelt	Upperlands	6 BOYNE ROW UPPERLANDS Maghera CO.LONDONDERRY	
534	HB08/02/006 G	Magherafelt	Upperlands	7 BOYNE ROW UPPERLANDS Maghera CO.LONDONDERRY	
535	HB08/02/006 H	Magherafelt	Upperlands	8 BOYNE ROW UPPERLANDS Maghera CO.LONDONDERRY	
536	HB08/02/006 L	Magherafelt	Upperlands	12 BOYNE ROW UPPERLANDS Maghera CO.LONDONDERRY	
537	HB08/02/006 V	Magherafelt	Upperlands	22 BOYNE ROW UPPERLANDS Maghera CO.LONDONDERRY	
752	HB08/04/017	Magherafelt	Lower Glenshane	89 Tirkane Road Tullyheran Maghera Co. Londonderry BT46 5NE	House
751	HB08/04/019	Magherafelt	Lower	19 Ranaghan Road Maghera Co.	House

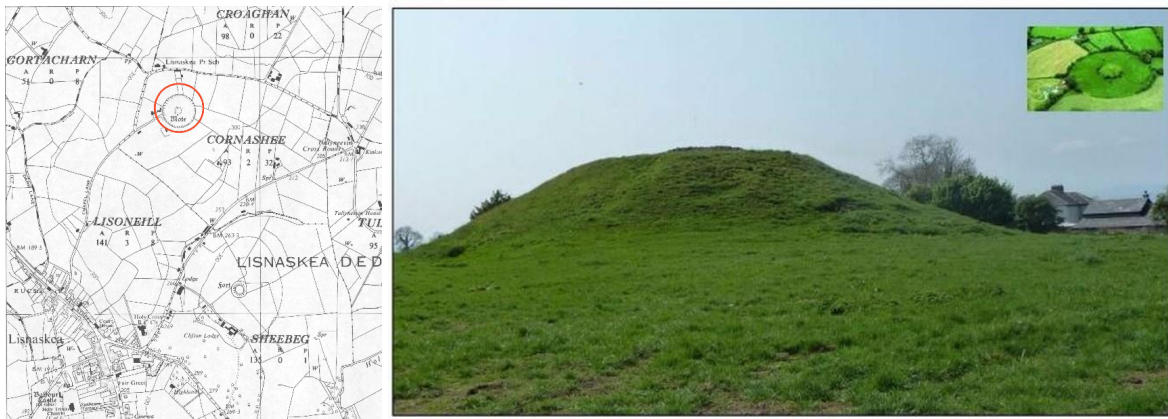
		Glenshane	Londonderry BT46 5ND		
538	HB08/08/025	Magherafelt	Knockcloghrim	ROWAN'S GIFT 18 DRUMLAMPH LANE DRUMLAMPH CASTLEDAWSON CO.LONDONDERRY	
917	HB08/09/010	Magherafelt	Bellaghy	28 Deerpark Road Old Town Deerpark Bellaghy Magherafelt Co. Londonderry BT45 8LB	House
979	HB08/09/015	Magherafelt	Bellaghy	RECTORY, 8 BALLYNEASE ROAD BELLAGHY / Magherafelt CO.LONDONDERRY	
539	HB08/12/005	Magherafelt	Lecumpher	ST. PATRICK'S R C CHURCH INISCARN ROAD LONGFIELD Magherafelt CO.LONDONDERRY	
540	HB08/12/007	Magherafelt	Lecumpher	CRANNY PRIMARY SCHOOL 15 Iniscarn Road MONEYMORE CO.LONDONDERRY	

Appendix 5 – Items from NMNI Collection

OBJECT NAME	Title	Site
Knife : Plano Convex		
Semi-perforated stone		
Axe, polished		
Javelin Head		
Axe : socketed		
Scraper		Glenshane Pass
Axe, polished		
Axe, polished		
Axe, polished		
Pointed implement		
Javelin Head		
axe : polished		
Arrowhead : Petit Tranchet Derivative		
species : <i>Sphagnum recurvum</i> P. de Beauvar.	MOSS	Glenshane Pass
species : <i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> var. <i>auriculatum</i> (Schimp.) Lindb.	MOSS	Glenshane Pass
species : <i>Dicranella rufescens</i> (With.) Schimp.	MOSS	Glenshane Pass
species : <i>Acrocladium giganteum</i> (Schimp.) Kindb.	MOSS	Granaghan Hill
species : <i>Cladonia portentosa</i> (Dufour) Coem.	LICHEN	
species : <i>Artemisia</i> cf. <i>vulgaris</i> L. (cf. also <i>verlotiorum</i>)	VASCULAR PLANT	left side of main road from Maghera to Coleraine, two miles from Maghera
species : <i>Saxifraga cymbalaria</i> L.	VASCULAR PLANT	
species : <i>Cornus</i> cf <i>alba</i>	VASCULAR PLANT	1 mile from Maghera on road to Garvagh (A29)
species : <i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i> L.	VASCULAR PLANT	Upperlands D Dam
species : <i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i> L.	VASCULAR PLANT	Upperlands D Dam
species : <i>Potamogeton pusillus</i> L.	VASCULAR PLANT	Upperlands Reservoir B.
species : <i>Salix caprea</i> L.	VASCULAR PLANT;	Goat Willow
species : <i>Salix viminalis</i>	VASCULAR PLANT	
species : <i>Salix cinerea</i> x <i>viminalis</i> (<i>S. x smithiana</i>) Willd.	VASCULAR PLANT;	Silky-leaved Osier
		interbasaltic rock
FOSSIL; species : <i>Bos</i> sp	FOSSIL	
MAMMAL; species : <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Linne, 1758)	MAMMAL	Glenshane Pass
species : <i>Lutra lutra</i>	Otter Skull	Glenshane Pass

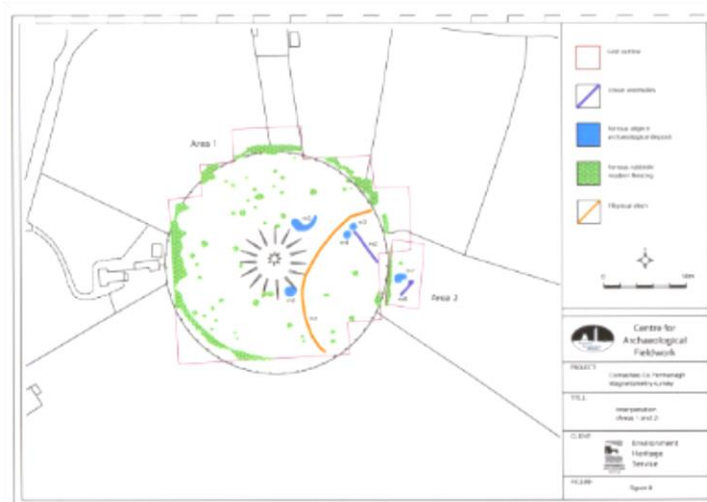
Child's dress	probably done at Moravian Settlement Glendinning and McLeish Embroidery School
PHOTOGRAPH; Lantern Slide	Maghera Old Church
PHOTOGRAPH; Lantern slide	Maghera Round Tower
Photographic negative	Glenshane Pass
Photographic Print	Glenshane (Carruda Bridge)
Photographic film negative : Photographic print	Glenshane (Quarry)
Photographic film negative : Photographic print	Ballyscullion House
Photographic print	Glenshane Pass (Dungiven side)
Photographic print	Village
Photographic print	Old Church
Photographic print	St. Lurach's Church
Photographic negative	Glenshane Pass
Photograph: B&W/ Print	Londonderry (Maghera) Thatched house
Photograph: B&W/ Print	Londonderry (Maghera) Thatched house
Photograph: B&W/ Print	Londonderry (Maghera)
Photograph: B&W/ Print	L'Derry (Maghera)
Photograph: B&W/ Print	L'Derry (Maghera)
Sound Recording : Magnetic Tape, Reel	Living Linen Interview LL2_R99/10 1 of 2
Sound Recording : Magnetic Tape, Reel	Living Linen Interview LL2_R99/10 2 of 2
Respondent's data	Cure for whooping cough
Respondent's data	Cure for eye ulcers
Photograph; glass plate negative	BELLAGHY, CO. DERRY
Photograph; glass plate negative	CHURCH STREET, BELLAGHY
Photograph; glass plate negative	BILLY STREET, BELLAGHY
Photograph; glass plate negative	THE DIAMOND, BELLAGHY
Photograph; glass plate negative	CASTLE ST. BELLAGHY
Photograph; glass plate negative	BELLAGHY FROM THE SHIELING HILL BELLAGHY
Photograph; glass plate negative	CASTLE
Photograph; glass plate negative	BILLY STREET, BELLAGHY
Photograph; glass plate negative	CHURCH ST. BELLAGHY
Photograph; glass plate negative	JEAN BELL'S WELL, BELLAGHY
Photograph; glass plate negative	THE CHURCHES, BELLAGHY
Photograph; glass plate negative	BELLAGHY CASTLE FROM THE SHIELING HILL
Photograph; glass plate negative	PASS OF GLENSHANE, CO. LONDONDERRY
Bedcover	

Appendix 6 - Case Study of Best Practice – community events & local historical society - The Moate, Cornashee



The Moate, Cornashee

There are a proliferation of archaeological remains including; raths, crannogs, enclosures, forts, and round towers in the Upper Lough Erne area and County Fermanagh generally. Indeed the county has the highest concentration of archaeological remains in Northern Ireland. There are some key aspects of archaeology, scheduled monuments and remains in the Upper Lough Erne area. Some of these are on private land such as The Moate, Cornashee, Lisnaskea. This site is well integrated in the community. It is used by the local school, Moat Primary School, as part of its learning programme. Currently there is annual use of the site for Maguire inauguration celebration. Lisnaskea Historical Society features the site in their promotional material and they are involved in an annual Maguire Inauguration celebration. The site has rich archaeological significance and has the potential to be an important heritage attraction for Lisnaskea. This is a site located on private land where access is arranged with prior notice. There would be potential to arrange similar access and community and school events annually or more regularly with the owner’s permission and indeed involvement at The Mound and associated burial sites in Swatragh.



Cornashee, Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork Interpretation, from Geophysical Survey Report, No. 13, by Dr. Steven Trick, 2007

Appendix 7- From the Belfast and Ulster Towns Directory for 1910 courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

www.libraryireland.com

Bellaghy, County Derry

This online resource provides a snapshot of the area just over a century ago which clearly demonstrates a remarkable degree of change and development. For example on census day 27 March 2011 the population of Bellaghy was 1,115 (NISRA statistic). In 1910 the population was 381. Therefore in the intervening century the population has grown by almost times in scale.

In 1910 Bellaghy held a fair day on the first Monday of each month. The area of the village is described as 34 acres.

Listed public institutions include a number of schools; No. 1 Male and Female (R.C.), Bellaghy Senior, Bellaghy Infant, Glenvale Male and Female (Pres), Ballynease and Creagh Male (R.C.).

Other public institutions include; Dispensary Medical Officer and Registrar of Births and Deaths – George M. Thompson (based at the Dispensary in Bellaghy Bawn), Royal Irish Constabulary and Bellaghy Estate Office.

Of the listed inhabitants of 1910, the following occupations are represented; delf and china dealer, mason, sexton, cattle dealer, weaver, publican, draper, auctioneer, poulterer, letter carrier, laundress, seamstress, nurseryman, postmistress, corn and flax mill owner, shirtmaker, postman, baker, labourer, tinsmith, sawmill owner, ex-sergeant, farmer, sub-agent, bailiff, teacher, chemist, grocer, milliner, restaurateur, lodging house keeper, butter and egg merchant, carpenter, dressmaker, tailor and gardener.

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