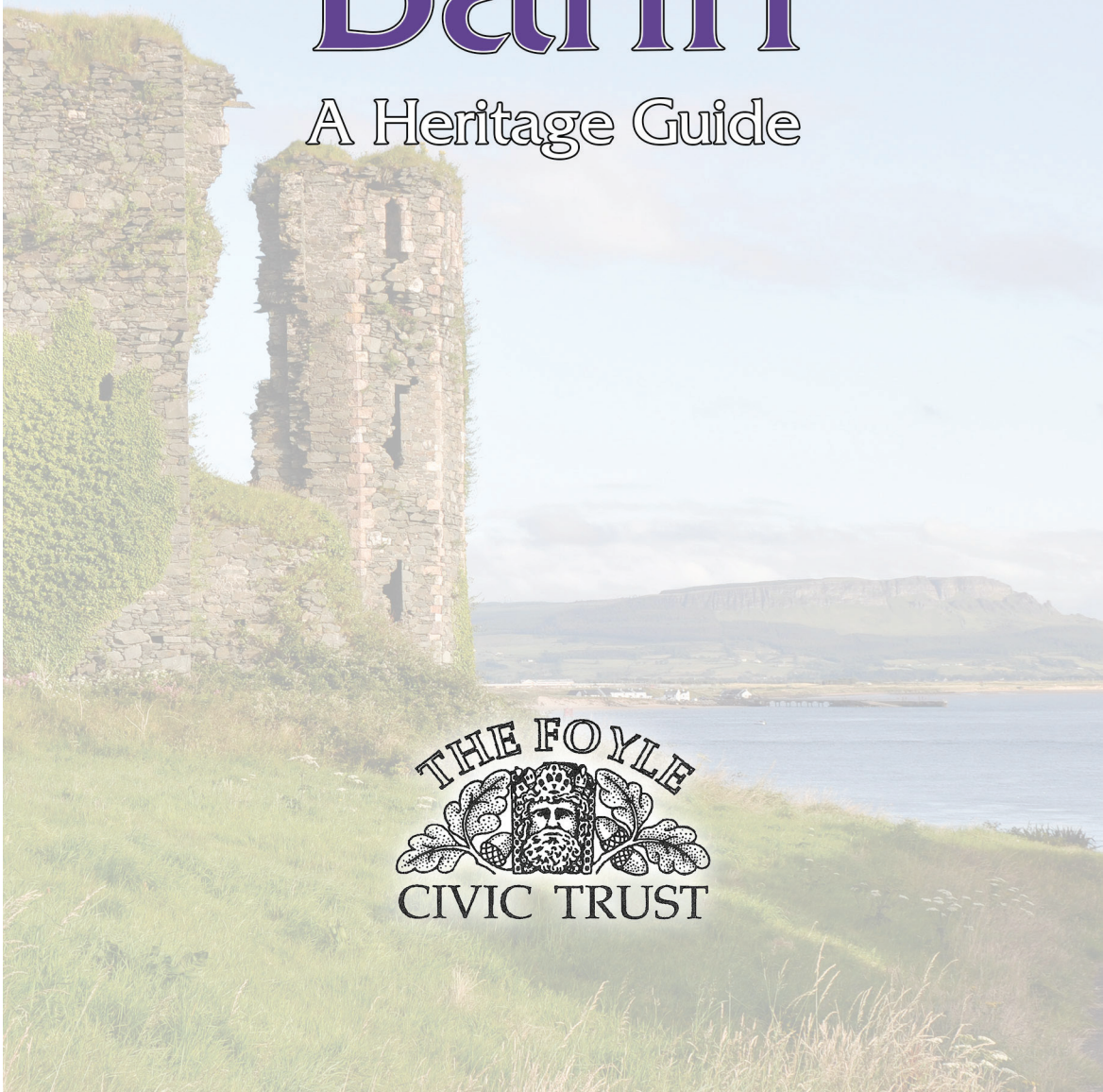
'TWIXT Foyle & Bann

A Heritage Guide



THE FOYLE CIVIC TRUST

A Heritage Guide by Dr Liam Campbell, Project Officer
of the Foyle Civic Trust's City of Culture 2013 project,
Derry-Londonderry Goes Global.

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BACKGROUND

Global Derry~Londonderry – 'Twixt Foyle and Bann

This heritage guide is formed by two great river systems, the Foyle and the Bann, and the Sperrin Mountains that lie between them. Water is one of the great connectors of peoples throughout the world. The Foyle and Bann rivers have brought many peoples to our shores and have also carried many away. Indeed the city that lies on a beautiful bend in the Foyle owes its very existence to the ancient waterway.

We know that the earliest human colonists of this land, the hunter-gatherers of the Mesolithic Period (c.7000BC to c.4000BC) travelled into the interior of the island on these waterways. The earliest evidence of this is at Mountsandel on the Bann at Coleraine.

Waves of settlement and colonisation were sometimes followed by conflict but often by assimilation. In medieval and early modern times the Foyle served as a water highway into the heartlands of Gaelic Ulster and was one of the avenues by which this territory was eventually conquered by the English during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

The location of the port of Derry~Londonderry so far to the west was of immense importance to its growth as a point of embarkation and destination, especially for transatlantic trading and emigration ships of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Foyle and Bann catchments' influence has travelled far and near, and not just across the Atlantic but right across the globe. The name Londonderry has now spread to the four corners of the Earth and can be found in the most unlikely of places.

The city has been variously known as Daire Calgach, Doire Cholmcille, Londonderry and Derry, as well as a number of other variations of these names. The common element linking them is an Irish word, Daire or Doire (anglicised as Derry), referring to an ancient oak grove on the hillside overlooking the Foyle. Oak trees probably arrived in Derry about 5,000 years ago as part of the ongoing changes following the Ice Age.

Indeed one of our first emigrants, Colmcille (also known as Columba), whom folklore credits with founding the Early Christian monastery, has a strong folk connection with the oak. Speaking from his monastery on the island of Iona in the Scottish Hebrides, Colmcille is supposed to have said:

Though truly I'm afraid
Of death itself and Hell
I'm frankly more afraid
Of an axe-sound, back in Derry.

Many places can claim to be historic but Derry~Londonderry can truly claim to be, given the sheer length of its history and of people coming and going from its riverbank. Derry~Londonderry has been a frontier place throughout its long history, always locat-

ed on the edge of the territory of one population group or another. This frontier characteristic and spirit of the city and surrounding area has always gone with the people who left its shores. Sometimes that transition was not an easy one or even a positive one as evidenced by the trade in human beings and displacement of the indigenous population.

People follow resources – good agricultural land, timber, the potato, flax and linen, coal and even gold itself are all part of this diaspora story. People in turn bring their own resources with them – culture, skills, history and heritage – but the greatest resource is the people themselves.

Derry~Londonderry can rightly say that it has achieved global status in name and in spirit.

Rather than providing a strict travel route these five heritage areas are the basis for an exploration of the 'picturesque planted place' between the Foyle, the Bann and the Sperrins.

THE HERITAGE AREAS

General landscape description between the Foyle to the west, the Bann to the east, the Sperrins to the south and the Atlantic to the north.

When land was being parcelled out at the time of the Ulster Plantation, the Foyle river must have seemed a convenient boundary to the west, as were the Lower Bann to the east and the Sperrin range of high hills to the south. The Foyle opens out into the wide sea lough of the same name about four miles downstream from Derry City and its southern shore, much of it reclaimed and protected by dykes, forms the county's northern boundary. The land curves north to the shale and sandy Magilligan Point as if trying to become an inland lake, the distance from the Martello Tower on the Derry side to Inishowen being less than a mile.

The strand at Magilligan rounds the point, runs east of it under the sheer basalt cliff at Benone, reappears at Castlerock and, leaping the Bann at the bar mouth, becomes the equally impressive Portstewart Strand. There is nearly ten miles of beach between the mouth of the Roe and the county boundary just short of the County Antrim resort of Portrush. The Roe rising in Glenshane flows through Dungiven and then north to Limavady entering Lough Foyle at Bellarena.

The Lower Bann from Toomebridge, through Lough Beg to the sea forty miles away at the bar mouth, reaches the Sea of Moyle between Castlerock and Portstewart strands. Its early flow is sedate past Portglenone and Kilrea but from there to Coleraine it forces its way through a basaltic ridge in waterfalls and weirs. The eastern boundary of the county is rich too in fish especially salmon, with a famous eel fishery at its southern

end. This river was indeed the most appropriate place for the earliest settlers into this land to settle along.

The county to the west of the river contains Derry's only drumlins, a relic of a glacial drift that cut off southern Ulster from the rest of the country. Another legacy of the melting ice was the grey 'Bann clay' (diatomite) which is high in silica and mined as an insulating material. East of the drumlin belt from south of Benbradagh east of Limavady is a basalt ridge associated with the rock structure of most of County Antrim reaching the north coast in a cliff that drops sheer to Downhill Strand at Benone.

When the layman looks at the map of the county he may be forgiven for assuming that this ridge is a continuum of the Sperrin range which acts as a natural barrier between Derry and Tyrone (in older times between the O'Neills and O'Cahans). These hills were created at the same time and for the same reasons as the Highlands of Scotland and have the highest peaks in the county with Sawel (683m) and Mullaghclogher (635m) and Mullaghaneany (631m) topped by crystalline limestone. The only low-lying parts of this are the rich river valleys of the Foyle to the west, the Roe to the centre and the Bann to the east. The hills can be seen at greater or lesser distances from anywhere in the county.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

'Twixt Foyle and Bann

Derry takes its name from the Irish word 'Doire' meaning 'place of the oaks'. The city was founded in the 6th century by Saint Columba, also known as St Columb or Columbcille, who built a monastery here. By the Middle Ages Derry had grown into a substantial settlement and became a stronghold for the O'Doherty clan from Donegal. In the 16th century Elizabeth I dispatched forces to subdue Ulster. Sir Henry Dowcra was sent to fortify Derry against the native Irish chieftains. He took the city without opposition. In the 17th century the government decided to colonise six of the nine counties of Ulster with settlers or 'Planters' from England and Scotland. Sir Arthur Chichester suggested to the king that the city and county of Derry should be offered to the merchants of the City of London, and Sir Thomas Phillips was given the job of preparing a report. He described the potential rewards of investing in the North of Ireland as follows:

> 'There may be bred in the woods 20,000 swine for brawn and pork. The profit may be worth £3,000 or £4,000 per annum. Beef at a reasonable rate, viz 20 shillings a beef. Hide and tallow commonly worth between 8 shillings and 9 shillings. Butter and cheese may be made in great abundance and yield great profit.'

Planning for the Plantation of Ulster was stimulated by the Flight of the Earls in 1607 and the fear of their return with a foreign army. The initial survey of confiscated lands in 1608 was undertaken, after which the King had to secure adequate funding for such a

large project, with plans to colonise six of the counties of Ulster. With Donnell O'Cahan under arrest, his lands were seized by the Crown.

To ensure this, substantial private funding was invested in an early version of a private-public partnership. A large tract of land consisting mainly of what was known as 'O'Cahan's country' was set aside to lure investment by a syndicate of 12 London Companies which later became known as 'The Honourable The Irish Society'.

'O'Cahan's country' was chosen because of its abundant natural resources, raw hides, tallow, beef and iron ore. The fishing stocks of the Bann and the Foyle were an additional allurement, offering vast quantities of eel and salmon. Just as enticing for the London Companies, however, were the region's vast forests, at a time when the production of pipe staves was critically important to the economic development of England as a maritime nation. Despite the enticement of prospective riches, it was by no means certain that the London Companies would jump at the opportunity offered. Lingering fears that the Earl of Tyrone would return from the continent and overthrow the Plantation were widespread.

To the great relief of James I, the London Companies were persuaded to become involved. At the outset, considerable initial investment in buildings and equipment was required. At first, rapid progress was made. Sir John Davies, an eyewitness, memorably drew a classical allusion having observed building work at Coleraine during the summer of 1610. Commenting on the 'ferment of activity', Davies compared the scene to the building of Carthage in Virgil's ancient classic, *The Aeneid*.

The London Companies funded several building projects, notably St Columb's Cathedral in Derry and the Model Farm at Church Hill in Ballykelly. They also planned many of the towns and villages, including Eglinton, Ballykelly, Dungiven and Limavady. In 1613 the London Guilds formed The Honourable The Irish Society and entrusted it with the task of redevelopment. The city and county were renamed Londonderry in recognition of the close links between the two places, and the county was divided up among the 12 London Companies.

The agreement reached with the crown required the London Companies to build a town of 60 houses at Derry and one of 40 at Coleraine. The grant of lands to the London Companies was the whole of the county of Coleraine, with the barony of Loughinsolin, containing the great woods of Glenconkeyne and Killetragh, and areas west of the Foyle near Derry and east of the Bann near Coleraine, thus creating the present county of Londonderry. The lands allocated to the Vintners, Drapers and Salters lay in South Derry, with present-day towns having such names has Draperstown and Saltersland. The lands of the Grocers and Goldsmiths lay to the east of the city of Derry. The Haberdashers' estates had its centre in the northern part of Derry where a castle was built at Ballycastle and occupied by Sir Robert McClelland. Across the River Roe in the direction of Derry City were the fishmongers, whose centre was at Ballykelly. The Skinners had a

large estate of which the main centre was Dungiven, where the former Castle of the O'Cahans was occupied by a Mr Dodington. The lands of Magilligan were occupied by the Clothworkers stretching into Killowen. Next to this came the estates of the Merchant Tailors, whose centre was at Macosquin. Farther south still were the Ironmongers whose estates were in the Aghadowey and Garvagh districts.

When the ancient guilds came over they quickly established themselves over the whole county of Londonderry. For example, the Grocers Company was granted a manor of 15,000 acres along the south shore of Lough Foyle. They established the village of Muff and built a church there in what is now called Eglinton. The Clothworkers Company was established further along the coast where Castlerock is now, and the Skinners Company set up in Dungiven. The Worshipful Companies of Mercers, Masons, Cooks and Broaders (embroiderers) were in Kilrea, and the Fishmongers Company settled in Ballykelly. The Salters Company built Magherafelt, and the Drapers Company was set up in Ballyinascreen, which was re-named Draperstown.

On 16th August 1611, agents for the City of London allocated 13 freeholds to the Irish natives, five major freeholds and eight smaller ones. Up to Plantation times the O'Cahan clan had dominated most of the northern part of the county. Donal O'Cahan's 'twelve castles for twelve sons' was spread across the county, from Limavady in the east to Dungiven in the south and Enagh in the west. The last chieftain of the clan was Donnell Ballagh O'Cahan, who was inaugurated in 1598. Allied with O'Neill he fought the English but lost and had to forfeit most of his land. After a temporary reinstatement he ended his life as an untried prisoner in the Tower of London. His estates were claimed by the London Companies and the O'Cahan clan were pushed onto the infertile lands.

This resentment eventually exploded into violence and many of the invading planters' settlements were destroyed in fighting which took place in the unsuccessful rebellion of 1641.

The ordinary Gaelic Irish of the former O'Cahan lands had, in most cases, simply changed their landlords, but this did not bring any comfort. With no security of tenure, their burdensome rents set by informal arrangements from year to year, and their status severely reduced to the level of serfs, the native O'Cahans yearned for a return of the old order. The change was felt most severely by the former O'Cahan Gaelic elite, especially those not classed as 'deserving', namely poets, musicians, hereditary 'ollavs' and erenaghs. These O'Cahan Gaelic Irish were confronted by alien Planters adhering to Protestantism and loyalty to the English Crown, far distant from their own beliefs and Clan loyalty. The greatest threat to the new order was the smouldering resentment of the native Irish who worked and farmed with the settlers. In 1628 Sir Thomas Phillips of Limavady warned the Crown that 'it is fered that they will Rise upon a sudden and cutt the throts of the poor dispersed British'.

The blundering policies of the English Crown were to see this prophecy come true and once again the ancient call of arms of the O'Cahan Clan to gather for battle.

During the Glorious Revolution in 1688, King James II was overthrown in favour of his Protestant daughter Mary and her husband William. The Irish were asked to come in aid of their Catholic king, and many Protestants, in fear of their lives, fled to the walled city of Derry. The Siege of Derry which took place in 1689 lasted 105 days and heralded the death by famine or disease of over 10,000 of the inhabitants.

The 18th century was a period of relative peace. The city was largely rebuilt, but in the surrounding countryside, villages and towns fell into disrepair. Their reconstruction was delayed until the early 19th century, when the London Companies regained control of land formerly sub-leased to tenants. Many of the finest buildings in the county date from this time.

In 1845 tunnels were blasted through the cliffs in Downhill, the sloblands bordering Lough Foyle were drained, a sea wall built and the railway from Londonderry to Coleraine was completed. An industrial revolution transformed the region. New manufacturing processes expanded rapidly: flax growing; linen weaving; shirtmaking and distilling. Northern Ireland's first hydro-electric power station was built in the Roe Valley.

A hundred years later these industries are almost extinct and only a remnant of a modern automated clothing industry survives as new, computer-related activities have taken their place. The area is now characterised by its fertile, carefully tended farmland, commercial forest plantations and small businesses.

The past has left its mark: standing stones, stones from pre-history; ruined churches of the early Christians; fortified bawns and whole settlement patterns from the Plantation period.

The following suggested areas are not intended as strict routes but rather as a means to discover the heritage 'twixt the Foyle and the Bann.

THE FIVE HERITAGE AREAS

Area 1 – The area along the east bank of Lough Foyle northwards from Derry to Magilligan and Downhill comprising the Magilligan Lowlands, the Roe Basin, Binevenagh and the Foyle Alluvial Plain.

Area 2 – The area south of Derry to Newtownstewart covering both sides of the River Foyle and Mourne/Strule including the areas of Buengibbagh and Drumahoe, the Foyle valley; St Johnston to Lifford; Carrigans to St Johnston and the Derry Slopes.

Area 3 – Derry City northwards along the West bank of Lough Foyle as far as Inishowen Head covering the areas from Quigley's Point to Burnfoot and Inishowen Head to Quigley's Point.

Area 4 – Central Sperrins: a circuit route covering the Sperrin foothills and mountains, Glenshane Slopes and the Glenelly Valley.

Area 5 – Lower Bann**:** a linear route covering the area from Lough Beg to the Bann estuary at Castlerock including the Bann floodplain and the Coleraine farmlands.

Foyle Civic Trust Background

Foyle Civic Trust was inaugurated on 27th April 1989 at the Guildhall, Derry~Londonderry. The Trust was established for the following purposes in the area comprising the District Councils of Derry, Limavady and Strabane in Northern Ireland and the Inishowen Peninsula in the Republic of Ireland: to promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area; to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area and to secure the preservations, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area.

NOTE: Please note that not all locations are open to the public and if they are, the times of opening may vary. Entry fees may be applicable.


N
Malin Head
Fanad Head
Lough Swilly
Malin
Carndonagh
Kinnego Bay
Inishowen Head
Stroove
Greencastle
Moville
Magilligan
Downhill
Portsalon
COUNTY DONEGAL
Redcastle
Buncrana
Quigley's Point
Lough Foyle
Rathmullan
Fahan
Crindle
Bolea
Inch
Burnfoot
Muff
Culmore Point
LIMAVADY
Ballykelly
Rathmelton
Burt
Bridge End
Greysteel
Eglinton
Roe Valley Country Park
Grianan of Aileach
Newtown Cunningham
DERRY~ LONDONDERRY
Drumsurn
Prehen
LETTERKENNY
Church Town
Ulster-Scots Centre
New Buildings
COUNTY LONDON
Manorcunningham
Magheramason
Ness Woods
Dungiven
St Johnston
Killaloo
River Foyle
Bready
Claudy
Beltony Stone Circle
Feeny
Raphoe
Dunnamanagh
Banagher Forest
Convoy
Silverbrook Mill
Park
Banagher Old Church
Cavanacor
Ballynamallagh
LIFFORD
STRABANE
Sperrin Mountains
River Finn
Sion Mills
River Mourne
Clady
Plumbridge
Badoney Church
Victoria Bridge
Douglas Bridge
River Derg
COUNTY TYRONE
Ardstraw
Newtownstewart
Castlederg
The Ulster American Folk Park
Fairy Water
River Strule
OMAGH
1
2
3
4


NORTH
ATLANTIC
North
Channel
THE FIVE AREAS
AREA 1 – East bank of Lough Foyle
AREA 2 – Foyle Valley
AREA 3 – West bank of Lough Foyle
AREA 4 – Central Sperrins
AREA 5 – Lower Bann Valley
COUNTY
ANTRIM
Portrush
Bushmills
Portstewart
Castlerock
Articlave
COLERAINE
Mount Sandal
Macosquin
Ballymoney
River Bann
Aghadowney
Garvagh
ONDERRY
Kilrea
Tamlaght
O'Crilly
Upperlands
Clady
Portglenone
BALLYMENA
agher
Church
Maghera
5
Tobermore
Bellaghy
Lough
Beg
Draperstown
Desertmartin
Magherafelt
ANTRIM
Lough
Neagh
COOKSTOWN
BELFAST

AREA 1

East bank of Lough Foyle

Gransha Woods

Mixed woodland with easily accessible walks and home to the red squirrel.

Enagh Lough, Templetown Crannog and Graveyard – Enagh, Maydown

An impressive crannog and ancient graveyard in the middle of a pair of lakes on the outskirts of Derry.

Eglinton Plantation Village

The delightful Plantation village of Eglinton was originally known as Muff, and alternatively as Moigh, Mough or Moyegh (all anglicised from Irish: Magh/an Mhagh meaning 'the plain'). These were the names of the townland on the site of the original settlement. The village was founded in 1619 by the Grocers Company of London. As part of the Plantation of Ulster, James I had granted a large area (15,900 acres) of Faughanvale parish to the Grocers in 1609. The Grocers did not farm it themselves but leased this area to Edward Rone of Essex in 1615 with the stipulation that he build a bawn and 12 houses by 1619, the yearly rent being £116-13s-4d. Unfortunately Rone died in 1618 but his brother-in-law Robert Harrington took over and by 1619 a castle and bawn and eight houses were erected in the townland of Muff (now Eglinton) and by 1622 the stipulated building was completed.

The castle (really a castellated house and bawn with four flanker towers) was besieged in 1641 during the English Civil War by the insurgents under Colonel McDonnell and defended by the garrison during the winter of that year. It was relieved the following summer by troops from Derry but it afterwards fell into the hands of the Parliamentarians by whom it was dismantled. During the Siege of Derry the castle was briefly occupied by troops of King James while they were foraging for supplies.

Peace Bridge, Londonderry.

Although little remains here of the 17th century above the ground except for the ruined church, a 1622 picture map shows the village at the time consisted of a number of elements including a walled bawn. Today the old courthouse remains, built by the Grocers Company in 1823–25 to the design of Michael Angelo Nicholson son of the well-known early 19th century architectural writer, Peter Nicholson. In the early 19th century they rebuilt the village, laying out a commodious tree-lined main street and authorising construction of the elegant, well-spaced stone buildings which characterise Eglinton to this day.

There were several other places called *Muff* at the time, especially one nearby in Donegal which created much confusion. The residents of the village resolved to afford of the opportunity to change the name. Therefore, on 19th August 1858, the village of Muff became Eglinton in honour of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the 13th Earl of Eglinton who was visiting the nearby Templemoyle Agricultural School at the time. This was both a compliment to the Viceroy and a practical exercise, as mail was regularly being sent by mistake to Muff Village in County Donegal.

A school was opened in 1826 aimed at teaching new agricultural methods but eventually closed in 1865. The building remained disused for many years before being converted into a nursing home in the 1990s. In the nearby Foyle Park House, a Literary School was built in 1813 by the last tenant farmer, David Babington. The ruins were standing and occupied until 1823 when the present Rectory was built on the site, the only remains of the castle today being the cellars under the rectory.

The Church of Ireland was represented within the village by the Parish Church of Faughanvale which was designed by John Bowden and built in 1821. It comprises a small Georgian Gothic hall with a tower at one end. The transepts were added in 1853. Nearby, in the churchyard, the east gable of the original 17th-century Plantation church built in 1626 is still visible.

The Presbyterian Church was represented in the village with the building of the first church in 1730. Prior to this, the congregation formed part of the Glendermott Congregation in the city of Derry. The original church was built in the townland of Tullanee just east of the village. The existing much larger Faughanvale Presbyterian Church was built in 1894 with the help of donations from fellow citizens of the congregation who had some time earlier emigrated to the United States. Nothing remains of the original church which stood in what is now the Presbyterian Church graveyard immediately to the rear of the new church.

Thomas Gallagher (1840–1927), the miller's son of Templemoyle, was the founder of the famous tobacco firm of Gallaghers, now renamed the Gallaher Group. His relatives lived in The Glen House in the centre of Eglinton Village until the 1950s.

One of the oldest buildings today is the Erasmus Smith schoolhouse erected in 1812 beside the old national school of 1886 – both now private residences. The Grocers did not resume active management of the estate until 1823 when they rebuilt the village. Among the buildings erected by the company in 1823–25 were the Rectory, a courthouse or market house (an unusually well-designed building by Nicholson which included a dispensary (the wall plaques outside the former courthouse are the Grocers and David Babington's coat of arms)), a manor house for the Grocers' agent and the Glen house, all of which are still to be seen today. They also built a row of cottages for local widows which was known until quite recently as Widows' Row (now renamed Cottage Row) and tradesmen's houses along Main Street. The Miller's house opposite the Happy Landing public house became the old RIC barracks until the present police station was built. The Grocers sold the village in 1874 to Mr James Davidson from Brechin, Scotland. His descendants still reside in the manor house to this day.

The court or market house, built between 1823 and 1827, was designed by Michael Angelo Nicholson. Now a bank, it originally had open arcades on the ground floor for the market. Two coats of arms decorate the low walls next to the building: on the left those of the Babington family and on the right those of the Grocers Company.

Manannán Mac Lír

According to legend, the Foyle is named after Feabhail, son of Lodain, who belonged to the mythical Tuatha Dé Danann (Meyer, 1895, 1994). Indeed Ó hÓgain contends that it is one of the very few rivers named after a male deity (Ó hÓgain, 2006). It is also the legendary burial place of the Celtic sea god Manannán Mac Lír (McKay, 2007), in early Irish mythology the chief god associated with the sea, an Irish (not necessarily Celtic) equivalent of the Roman Neptune and the Greek Poseidon. Manannán was a Dé Danann prince who was killed when fighting the invading Milesians. He then became a water creature reincarnated as Manannán Mac Lír – son of Lear – the sea. Known as the chief pagan Irish god of the underworld, of water and of crops, he is supposed to have possessed a huge cauldron (Lough Foyle?) (Green, 1986). Manannán is said to be buried in the Tonn Banks at the entrance to Lough Foyle off the coast of Inishowen Head. Shipwrecks have occurred here and the spirit of Manannán is supposed to ride at intervals on the storm. Darcy Magee describes him in a poem: 'Their ocean-god was Manannán Mac Lír / Whose angry lips / In their white foam full often would inter / Whole fleets of ships'.

Ballykelly

Ballykelly was built on lands granted in 1613 by King James I to the London Company of Fishmongers. Largely rebuilt in the early 19th century, to the designs of Richard Suitor which gives it an exotic air to this day. Ballykelly contains some of the most interesting buildings erected in Ulster by the Plantation companies, being largely developed by the London Company of Fishmongers through the 18th and 19th centuries. It features Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church, built by Earl Frederick Hervey, 18th-century Bishop of Derry, amongst many traditional buildings. The Presbyterian Church, Drummond Hotel and what is now the North West Independent Hospital, were all built by the London Company of Fishmongers.

The development of the nearby World War II airfield greatly enhanced the size and significance of the village. RAF Ballykelly opened in 1941 as a base for RAF Coastal Command. During World War II an RAF bomber on a training run clipped a telephone line behind a church in Ballykelly and crashed, claiming the lives of the crew. The aircraft was carrying out a trial mission involving low-level parachuting, when a parachute became entangled with the tailplane, putting the aircraft out of control. A unique feature of the airfield was that one of the runways crossed a railway line, requiring a direct line from flying control to a local signal box. Also unique is an aircraft hangar, built in the mid-1960s to provide shelter for aircraft inspection, servicing and repair. Its innovative cantilever design was to provide a large uninterrupted space into which aircraft could taxi under their own power. In terms of modern aircraft, it would be capable of housing four Hercules transport aircraft simultaneously. With the

development of longer-range Nimrods the base became obsolete. The last plane to fly from Ballykelly was a Shackleton in 1971, when the station transferred to the army. The army left Shackleton Barracks in early 2008.

Large numbers of American, Canadian and British forces were stationed at airfields at Limavady and Ballykelly to defend the north coast from German U-boats. Army forces received pre-invasion training on Magilligan Strand in preparation for D-Day. Some of the pill boxes built along the strand can still be seen.

Ballykelly enjoys views across Lough Foyle to Inishowen in County Donegal and is bordered by Ballykelly Forest which was the first State Forest in Northern Ireland. The land was purchased in 1910 and it was planted with11 acres of Douglas fir. It now has walking trails and was also known as the Camman Wood and was a popular haunt for highwaymen terrorising the coach road from Coleraine to Derry.

Between Limavady and Ballykelly is Rough Fort, one of the best-preserved earthworks in the province. It covers approximately one acre and was one of the first properties to be acquired by the National Trust in Northern Ireland. Nearby is Sampson's Tower, a fortified structure built by public subscription in memory of Arthur Sampson who for 40 years was an agent of the London Worshipful Company of Fishmongers.

Longfield Point and Embankment

An Atlantic inlet between the counties of Donegal and Londonderry, Lough Foyle is 15 miles long and up to 10 miles wide, narrowing to less than a mile at the entrance. There are at least two legends associated with the lough.

According to the story written down in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, 'Foyle' is an anglicised form of the 'Feabhail-mic-Lodain' which means 'Fawel (or Foyle) son of Londain'. Feabhail was a Tuatha Dé Danaan, one of the early inhabitants of Ireland described by Bourke as 'god-like men of skill'. Tragically, Feabhail drowned in the river, but when his body was washed ashore the waves rolled a large stone over it as a sepulchral monument.

Lough Foyle, an ornithological paradise, is of international importance for wetland birds such as the Whooper swan and Brent geese and also for the Atlantic salmon.

The Lough Foyle Ramsar site (wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention) is 2204.36 hectares in area. It was designated a Ramsar site on 2nd February 1999. The site consists of a large shallow sea lough which includes the estuaries of the rivers Foyle, Faughan and Roe. It contains extensive inter-tidal areas of mudflats and sandflats, salt marsh and associated brackish ditches. The site qualified under Criterion 1 because it is a particularly good representative example of a wetland complex which plays a substantial hydrological, biological and ecological system role in the natural functioning of a major river basin located in a trans-border position. It also qualified under criterion 2 as it supports an appreciable number of rare, vulnerable

or endangered species of plant and animal. A range of notable fish species have been recorded for the Lough Foyle Estuary and the lower reaches of some of its tributary rivers. These include Allis Shad, Twait Shad, smelt and Sea Lamprey, all of which are Irish Red Data Book species. Important populations of Atlantic salmon migrate through the system to and from their spawning grounds. The site also qualified under criterion 3 as it supports a large numbers of wintering waterfowl including internationally important populations of Whooper swan, light-bellied Brent goose and bar-tailed godwit, as well as wildfowl species which are nationally important in an all-Ireland context, including red-throated diver, great-crested grebe, mute swan, Bewick's swan, greylag goose, shelduck, common teal, mallard, Eurasian wigeon, common eider, and red-breasted merganser. Nationally important wader species include Eurasian oystercatcher, Eurasian golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, red knot, dunlin, Eurasian curlew, common redshank and greenshank.

Of particular importance is the population of Atlantic salmon, which is one of the largest in Europe. Research has indicated that each sub-catchment within the system supports genetically distinct populations.

Londonderry and Coleraine Railway Line (best viewed anywhere from Downhill to Magilligan)

In 1855 the railway between Coleraine and Londonderry was built which runs along the Atlantic and then the Foyle and gave rise to a wealth of vernacular cottages. Voted one of the 'most scenic railway journeys in the world'. Construction began on a railway

Railway tunnel, Downhill.

line between Derry and Coleraine in 1845. Some 22,000 acres of sloblands along the southern shore of Lough Foyle were reclaimed to lay the tracks, and tunnels were blasted through the cliffs between Downhill and Castlerock. The route remains the most scenic railway journey in Northern Ireland. There were 10 stations along the line at Castlerock, Downhill, Magilligan, Bellarena, Limavady Junction, Ballykelly, Carrichue, Eglinton, Culmore, and Lisahally. Only Bellarena and Castlerock remain operational. The Coleraine/Derry line was connected by a four-mile spur line to Limavady Station. The first train steamed into Newtownlimavady – as it was then called – in 1852. Unfortunately, the station platform was several inches higher than the bottom of the carriage doors, so the dignitaries on board had to dismount from the opposite side of the train onto the track. Passenger services to Limavady Station ended in 1950, though goods transport continued until 1955.

Limavady

Limavady (Léim an Mhadaidh meaning 'Leap of the Dog') is the largest town in the Limavady Borough with a population of over 13,000. This largely 18th-century town was the leading linen town of Londonderry. Cheap imports led to the decline of the industry, but many of the town's buildings have been restored including several fine Georgian houses. One bears a plaque to Jane Ross (1810–79), who first published the music for the *Londonderry Air*, often rendered as *Danny Boy*, after hearing it played by a 19th-century travelling fiddler.

Limavady Airfield opened on 1st December 1940. Three runways were constructed but there were no hangars, so aircraft had to be parked and serviced in the open. For administrative and residential purposes, a number of nearby premises were requisitioned, including Gorteen House, Drenagh House and Greystones Hall. Station Headquarters was Red Pillar House on Main Street. The airfield acted as an important deterrent to German U-boats during the Battle of the Atlantic. It was used by Lockheed Hudson and Hurricane fighter planes, as well as Blenheim bombers and Whitley bombers equipped with the new top-secret Air to Surface Vessel Mark II radar. In the first year, aircraft operating from Limavady accumulated a record 25,591 hours on patrol. There were also forces stationed at Dungiven, who set up firing ranges in the Benedy Glen. Nissen huts were built for local military personnel at Roe Valley Hospital, formerly Limavady Workhouse, some of which are still standing. The impact of World War II on the Limavady area is still in evidence in the local landscape today. By 1942 Coastal Command training facilities had been established at Limavady. High ground on three sides of the airfield, flights over water in bad weather and inexperienced trainee crews resulted in a high accident rate. Drumachose Parish and RC graveyards contain many military personnel and parts of wreckage could still be found on the slopes of Binevenagh years after the war. Limavady Airfield closed in 1945, when the Coastal

Command Anti-U-boat Devices School was disbanded. The dome used for training flight bombers and gunners still survives and is unique in Northern Ireland, with only three or four surviving in the UK as a whole. Some of the hangars, the control tower and a fortified underground bunker still survive.

Drumsurn

The Roe Valley was an important linen-manufacturing centre and there were at one time seven flax-scutching mills around Drumsurn. Scutching is the process whereby the woody stalk of the flax plant is broken away from the long linen fibres. Loughery's Mill, close to Drumagavenney Burn, was one of these water-powered scutching mills which fell into disuse after World War II. Although the roof has collapsed, the water wheel and some of the original machinery remains, as well as the mill dam. Cottages for the scutchers were built at the foot of Long's Lane. They were closely arranged around a square clearing and had their own gardens and orchards. Scutchers were allowed to keep the flax stalks, known as 'shouse', to light their fires. Around 1900 the thatched roof of one house caught fire during the night. The fire spread quickly and all five houses were burnt to the ground.

Roe Valley Country Park

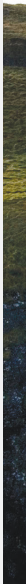
The woodland around the River Roe, which flows through cliffs and winding gorges, has been developed as a country park with a visitor centre. Before the English arrived

Roe Valley Country Park

in the 17th century the area was ruled by the O'Cahan clan and the remains of their castle can be seen deep in the woods. Their exploits are remembered in place names such as Dogleap Rock, where when the castle was under siege: a faithful hound leapt across the raging river and brought allies to the rescue. O'Cahan's Rock celebrates the legend of an O'Cahan horseman who escaped from pursuers by jumping his horse from the 80ft cliff to the other side of the Roe. There is also a power-house museum in the park, the site of Ulster's oldest hydro-electric station, built in 1896 and in operation until 1963. Downstream of Dogleap the River Roe falls 30m in 3km. This substantial drop has been used since early times to power waterwheels and mills. There have been cornmills there, a distillery, and in the 18th and 19th centuries a bustling linen industry with water-powered scutching mills, looms and beetling engines. In 1893, John Ritter experimented using the mill's waterwheel to power a generator and power lighting for his home at Roe Park House.

Broighter

The Broighter Hoard is Ireland's most impressive example of Early Iron Age goldwork. The hoard includes an exquisite model boat complete with benches for a crew of eight, oars and mast, a richly ornamented neck torc, a bowl, two bar torcs and two twisted necklaces. A most unusual court case was heard in London in 1903 over who might rightfully own the fabulous Broighter gold hoard. Among the experts was the noted Irish naturalist Robert Lloyd Praeger who was called to give evidence about changing sea levels in Ireland over the past 5,000 years. The hoard, thought to date from about 100BC, was found by two men, Tom Nicholl and James Morrow, ploughing a field at Broighter near the Roe estuary. The find passed on to the men's employer, who sold it to a collector who sold it to the British Museum in 1893 for £600. However, the Royal Irish Academy demanded the hoard should be declared treasure trove and returned to Ireland. After a high-profile and lengthy court case, the hoard was given to the National Museum in Dublin, where it is now on display. The court case centred on whether the find was considered to have been voluntarily abandoned, in which case 'finders keepers', or else to be treasure trove, accidently lost, or hidden with a view to later recovery, in which case if the rightful owner is not found, the Crown or State can claim it. The Royal Irish Academy and the British Museum went to court but the Academy won, with the court declaring it treasure trove and Crown property, and the British Museum had to hand it over. The Academy eventually gave it to the National Museum of Ireland. Most archaeologists now agree that large hoards found at coastal locations were votive offerings to the sea-god Manannán Mac Lír but how did it end up in a field – was the area where it was found once covered by the sea? Local tradition holds that the gold ornaments were presented to a monastery at Broighter after the Convention of Drumceatt in return for rescuing St Colmcille and his retinue from shipwreck at the mouth of the Foyle.



Drumceatt

Mullagh Hill, a low mound on the banks of the River Roe, was the site of the historic Convention of Drumceatt held in 590AD. The Convention was summoned by Aedh, High King of Ireland, in order to deal with two problems of national importance. The first was the relationship between the High King of Ireland and the Scottish Kingdom of Dal Riada. The second was the growing power and influence of the bards – the musicians, historians, poets and storytellers of ancient Ireland. St Colmcille was invited to the Convention by the bards to act as their advocate. He travelled from Iona to present an eloquent and appealing speech that convinced King Aedh not to abolish the bards. He was asked to devise a set of laws that would reduce the bards' numbers and powers. He also drafted a treaty of friendship that settled local disputes.

Magilligan Spit/Benone Strand

Magilligan is a triangular promontory of extensive sandy dunes and beaches of scientific importance at the entrance to Lough Foyle. Benone Strand at seven miles is one of the longest beaches in Europe. The best-studied sand dunes in Ireland are at Magilligan, a vast triangle of sand 32 sq km in area. The dunes formed in three phases 4,000-6,000 years ago. Occasionally a layer of peat occurs in the sand, marking an interlude when the climate changed, the sand stopped accumulating and vegetation grew for a while. These peat layers can be carbon dated, providing approximate dates when the dunes were formed and by this method we know that the most recent dunes began forming 1,000 years ago. Throughout its history Magilligan has grown outwards, closing off Lough Foyle and changing the area from open sea to a more lough-like estuary. The flat

Magilligan from Binevenagh.

expanse was ideal for the first Ordnance Survey baseline – measured there in 1827–28 and for the first Irish flight. In 1909, Harry Ferguson became the first person in Ireland to fly when he flew his home-made aeroplane at Magilligan, managing a distance of 40 metres at a height of 3 metres.

Rabbits have characterised Magilligan since they were introduced as food by the Normans in the 13th century. Later they became a pest. In the 18th and 19th centuries the area was a commercial rabbit warren 'harvesting' up to 40,000 pelts a year. A rare, long-haired variety from Holland was introduced specially to supply the hatters of Dublin in the 19th century. Some of these may still be seen running wild today. Rabbits even feature in a prayer known as the 'Magilligan Grace':

For rabbits hot and rabbits cold/For rabbits young and rabbits old/For rabbits tender and rabbits tough/We thank the Lord we've had enough.

Magilligan Ordnance Survey

Magilligan is the site of the original base line for the Ordnance Survey mapping of the whole of Ireland. Indeed the area is known locally as the levels. Lt Col Thomas Colby completed the world's first large-scale mapping of an entire country by 1846. The accuracy achieved is still marvelled at today. The maps were based on a framework of triangulated points. The first leg of the first triangle, known as the baseline, was drawn along the flat eastern shore of Lough Foyle in 1824. The baseline was the longest of its kind, almost eight miles, and was measured by standards of accuracy never before achieved. In 1960 it was re-measured using electronic equipment – the new measurement only differed by one inch. The survey was carried out with the help of tools especially developed for the project, most notably an iron and brass compensation bar, a strong limelight and a heliostat reflector for daylight observations, all developed by Lt Thomas Drummond, a leading mathematician and inventor.

The first 6in maps provided the basis for Sir Richard Griffith to complete an accurate survey of property occupiers between 1848 and 1864 and provide uniform valuations in order to levy government taxes. To preserve the baseline, the government acquired three base towers that can still be seen today. A fourth base tower was situated at Mountsandy, but has since been claimed by the sea.

The North Base Tower at Ballymulholland and Minearney Base Tower are surrounded by private land and are not readily accessible to the public. The South Base Tower is situated at the rear of the King's Lane Estate in Ballykelly and can be visited.

A crow's foot is one type of benchmark used during the first Ordnance Survey. It is three short lines carved into a rock converging upwards into a point and was used to establish height levels. The crow's foot carved into a large boulder on the highest point on Benbradagh Mountain is just one of several in the Limavady area, including one on the front of Limavady Town Hall.

Martello Tower

The Martello Tower was built in 1812 to protect Lough Foyle against the invasion by the French during the Napoleonic Wars. This tower is one of 74 planned for the island of Ireland in anticipation of a Napoleonic invasion, of which around 40 survive. There is another on the opposite side of Lough Foyle at Greencastle. Its elliptical design makes it difficult for cannon shot to make a direct impact. It stands 11m high, with 2½m thick walls built from sandstone and lime. The entrance door was 3m from the ground, originally accessed with a wooden ladder. Above the door is a large overhanging machicolation, from which stones or boiling liquids could be dropped on attackers. The gun platform on top held a 24-pounder cannon that was able to pilot and shoot through some 360 degrees. The middle floor provided living quarters for an officer and 12 men. The ground floor contains a well and two rooms to store gunpowder and food. Around 1872, Gunner Bernard McStay was stationed there with his wife and family; local records show that four of their children were born in the tower. During World War II it was used as a lookout point and a number of concrete bunkers still exist in the area.

Tamlaght Church Ruins and St Aidan's Church

Around the foothills of Binevenagh there are several important churches including St Aidan's, Aghanloo, Dunboe and Tamlaghtard. Two ancient ecclesiastical sites at St Aidan's and Tamlaghtard are within close proximity. The first is said to contain the grave, in the form of a mortuary house, of St Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, who retired to the monastery at Duncrum founded in 584 by St Columba. The earliest remains of a church here date to the 13th century, but an ancient holy well indicates that this has been a spiritual site since pre-Christian times. The church is said to have been founded by St Patrick, and is named after St Aidan, a follower of St Colmcille. The remains of the medieval church can still be seen in the graveyard; it was last used by the Church of Ireland community until 1772. The modern Roman Catholic Church was built in 1826, at a time when the Penal Laws against practising the Catholic faith had begun to relax. To the east of the medieval ruins lies St Aidan's grave. For hundreds of years people have reached into a curious hole in the ground at the corner of the grave to bring out a handful of sand which is said to hold healing powers. Buried close by is the renowned blind harper, Dennis O'Hampsey, known as 'The Last of the Irish Bards'. He was born in 1695 near Garvagh and died at Magilligan in 1807.

Binevenagh Mountain – Magilligan via Duncrun Road

Binevenagh or **Benevenagh** (from Irish: *Binn Fhoibhne* meaning 'Foibhne's peak') marks the western extent of the Antrim Plateau formed around 60 million years ago by molten lava. The plateau and steep cliffs extend for over six miles across the peninsula of Magilligan and dominate the skyline over the villages of Bellarena, Downhill, Castlerock and Benone Beach. The area has been classified as both an Area of Special Scientific Interest and as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).The total area of the AONB is 138km². Binevenagh Nature Reserve is an example of glacial and volcanic activity and home to rare sub-arctic and alpine plants with marvellous views over Lough Foyle to Inishowen and the isles of Jura and Islay in Scotland.

Downhill Estate and Mussenden Temple

Northeast of the craggy 1,260ft mountain of Binevenagh stands the ruin of Downhill Castle. It was built in the 18th century for Frederick Hervey (1730–1803), 4th Earl of Bristol, who became Bishop of Derry in 1768. His two titles earned him the name of Earl Bishop. Hervey appears to have enjoyed somewhat ungodly pleasures, indicated by a pair of duelling pistols displayed in the chapter house of St Columb's Cathedral. His tastes seem to have been inherited, since he came from a family reputed for eccentricity; it was said that when God created the world he made men, women and Herveys. The Earl Bishop's passions included travelling abroad – the many Hotel Bristols throughout Europe are named after him – and building of fine houses, one of which was Downhill Castle, constructed about 1780 and built by the architect Michael Shanahan, although it has been suggested that James Wyatt or Charles Cameron may also have been involved in the early stages of design. The construction of the house and the nearby Mussenden Temple cost an estimated £80,000. The original principal entrance to the estate was the Lion's Gate, which was actually guarded by two heraldic ounces (snow leopards),

Downhill Castle ruins.

the supporters of the Hervey coat of arms. In 1784, this entrance was replaced by the Bishop's Gate. The interior of the house was decorated with frescoes and statues and hung with works by several well-known artists.

Downhill was recorded to have escaped serious damage during the Night of the Big Wind in 1839, but in 1851 a fire damaged a significant part of the house and destroyed the library. Frederick Hervey had amassed a large collection of art, which was kept at Downhill and another residence he built at Ballyscullion. The fire destroyed works by Correggio, Dürer, Murillo, Rubens and Tintoretto, although it was reported that most of the paintings had been saved. The restoration of the house began in 1870 and continued until 1874 under John Lanyon, the son of architect Charles Lanyon, who maintained many of the original features, although some of the original layout was altered and additions made to the floor plan and decor.

After Hervey's death in 1803, the estate passed to his cousin, the Rev Henry Bruce, who had acted as steward of the estate during the Earl Bishop's absences. Bruce's sister was Frideswide Mussenden, for whom Mussenden Temple was dedicated. This was built in 1785 as a summer library and is a copy of the Temple of Vesta at Tivoli, which no doubt the Earl Bishop had seen on his travels. The bishop constructed the temple in honour of his married cousin, Frideswide Mussenden, with whom it was said he was infatuated. However, dying at the age of 22, Frideswide Mussenden never lived to see

Mussenden Temple, Downhill.

the temple completed. Underneath the building is a room that was used by Catholic priests to say Mass. An opening in the floor is concealed by a trapdoor. The pillared and domed rotunda bears a frieze with an inscription written by Lucretius but translated by Dryden. 'Tis pleasant safely to behold from shore, The rolling ship and hear the tempest roar.' In the 200 years since its completion, the coast at Downhill has eroded by about 30ft and in 1996 engineers declared that the building was in real danger of falling into the sea and being lost forever! It was decided that strengthening work should be carried out and several reinforced iron rods were inserted into the cliff to prevent further deterioration.

Both the temple and the surrounding views are among the most photographed scenes in Ireland. The temple is also available for wedding ceremonies through arrangement with the National Trust. The surrounding grounds are open from dawn to dusk all year.

During World War II, the house was used to billet RAF servicemen and women. The Bruce family continued to own the house until 1946; by 1950, it had been dismantled and the surrounding land sold. After the war, with few financial resources in the area, the building fell into disrepair and today it remains a spooky shell of a former great house with only the walls remaining. The house was acquired by the National Trust in 1980; the temple had become a Trust property in the 1940s.

Downhill Forest, with a walk planted with rare trees by the Earl Bishop for residents of the castle, is a beautiful spot with waterfalls and a prehistoric mound, Dungannon Hill.

The Demesne also includes a dovecote, walled gardens, a belvedere, or summer house, built for Hervey's daughter and a mausoleum dedicated to his brother George Hervey, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland holds over 1,000 documents relating to the Hervey-Bruce family dating from the mid-18th century to the early 20th century, including detailed information about Downhill.

Downhill marks the start of several miles of golden sandy beach and leads to Magilligan Strand, which includes Benone Beach and eventually links to Magilligan Point and Lough Foyle. Sandwiched between the sea and a line of imposing high basalt cliffs, the northern flank of Binevenagh Mountain, Downhill is an excellent spot for bathing, surfing and walking where one can enjoy a wonderful vista of moorland, forest and coast.

Bishop's Road – Downhill

It took 200 men to build this road for the Earl Bishop of Derry, Frederick Hervey, in the late 1700s along the top of the 220m cliffs that overlook the Magilligan Plain and Lough Foyle. Gortmore Picnic Site, 900ft above sea level, offers a breathtaking panorama from Binevenagh, across Lough Foyle to Donegal's Inishowen Peninsula, the Scottish islands and to the east the great cliff bastions of the Causeway Coast follow the steeply inclined Bishop's Road from Downhill to reach Gortmore.

AREA 2

Foyle Valley

Beech Hill House

Beech Hill House was a major base for US marines during the Second World War and now comprises a museum dedicated to the period, an archive and a woodland trail. It is a complex set of buildings dating from 1729 at its SE end where three old Georgian sash windows and a side door have convincing early 18th-century proportions. From this, which must have been the regular and simple front of the Skipton family house, projects a massive late 19th-century porte-cochere, the continuation of the 18th-century house front with bigger windows dating from 1851 with a still later picturesque Italianate addition behind. The house was bought in 1875 by Edward Nicholson and altered by his son Thomas in 1898 to the designs of RE Buchanan of Derry. Inside the library of 1851 is a gargantuan classical hall arcaded down each side with heavy Doric pilasters and a monster frieze filled with very lifelike and large ox-heads taken no doubt from Stuart and Revett.

Ashbrook House

Ashbrook is a unique historic house that has been lived in by the same family since before the Plantation. It is generally reputed to be built, however, in 1686 by John Ash. Alistair Rowan, in his work *North West Ulster*, says that no old work can be seen behind the robust front of perhaps 1760 that turned the house into an irregular double-pile plan, with a strongly projecting semicircular bow in the middle of the front.

Beech Hill House.

Loughs Agency
Home to the cross-border agency with responsibility for the Foyle and Riverwatch which houses an aquarium that represents eight different habitats in the Foyle catchment and reflects the fishing culture of the area.

Prehen House

Ancestral home of the Knox family dating from the 1640s, intimately linked with the history of Derry and the famous story of Half-Hanged McNaughten. The abode belonged to Andrew Knox, MP for Donegal, and it was at Prehen in 1757 that 15-year-old Mary Ann Knox, the daughter of the family, met the dashing and debonair John McNaughten. He was heavily in debt due to gambling and tradition holds that he wanted to marry Mary Ann for her dowry. Other versions say they were deeply in love and wanted to marry in secret. Andrew Knox on becoming aware of his daughter's relationship banned McNaughten from Prehen. In response in 1761 he lay in wait for the Knox coach on his way to Dublin, hoping to snatch Mary Ann. The poor girl was mortally wounded in the resulting fracas and McNaughten was sent to Lifford Jail and sentenced to death. He was actually hanged twice, as the rope broke on the first attempt and he is known to this day as Half-Hanged McNaughten. On the edge of Prehen is a wonderful ancient woodland.

Prehen House.

Dunnalong Fort Site

Site of an ancient Gaelic Tower House and Plantation Fort at an historic crossing point and landing on the Foyle. This was the site of major geophysical and archaeological works in the summer of 2012.

Gribben Ice House and Salmon Fishery

Restored ice house that reflects the former salmon-fishing industry of the Foyle system.

Grangefoyle

Grange Graveyard is a small and overcrowded burial ground close to the village of Bready, about six miles north of Strabane. It is located in the townland of Grangefoyle.

Artist's impression of the Dunnalong site as it might have appeared at the time.

Adjacent to the graveyard is Grange House, a private dwelling in the Georgian style, and a range of mainly dilapidated outbuildings. The River Foyle flows in a northerly direction a few hundred metres to the west of the graveyard. Much of the land between the river and the graveyard was reclaimed in the nineteenth century.

This was the site of a medieval Augustinian abbey. It is not known when precisely the abbey at Grange finally closed, but it was almost certainly before the end of the sixteenth century. In the nineteenth century the name of the townland was changed from Grange to Grangefoyle. In the middle of the nineteenth century a new wall and arched gateway were constructed, probably using the last of the stone from the old monastery on the site. The square keystone of the arch is inscribed as follows: 'This wall and gate | rebuilt by the | owners of ground | within | AD 1865'. It is not clear who these 'owners' actually were. Perhaps they were people who had burial rights in the graveyard.

As a burial site Grange probably dates back over a thousand years. While there is a local tradition of monks' graves in the graveyard or its immediate vicinity none can now be identified. The oldest surviving gravestone in Grange Graveyard commemorates Robert Granger who died in 1630. In 1617 a Robert Granger of the manor of Dunnalong was granted denizenship. This allowed him to carry out legal transactions and pass on property to an heir through a will. In a document of 20th September 1626 a Robert Granger who lived at Cloghboy in the manor of Dunnalong is mentioned. It is likely that we are dealing with the same man here. The stone features a heraldic shield bearing three stag heads indicating the status of the deceased. Three stones in Grange bear mortality symbols. These include a skull and crossed bones together with a bell, hourglass, coffin and spades. The three gravestones have the appearance of being the work of the one mason. On two of the stones the inscriptions have completely disappeared. On the third the date 1741 can be read and with some difficulty and a little imagination the name Hamilton is faintly discernible. A few gravestones in Grange bear the exhortation: *Memento mori hora fugit*, which loosely translated from the Latin means, 'Remember you must die; time flies'. This expressed in words what mortality symbolism communicated visually.

Clady Bridge

Close to the village is a handsome bridge of seven arches over the River Finn connecting Clady with County Donegal. Before the erection of this bridge, there was an important ford here, which was contested with great slaughter by the partisans of William and James on 15th April 1689; and at the time of the Siege of Derry it was a strong post under Colonel Skeffington, who was driven from it by the Duke of Berwick a short time before King James II crossed the Finn at this place.

The village is among one of the oldest in the district and was at one time an important bridging point across the Finn when access further down river across the great expanse

of the River Foyle was largely dependent on ferry travel. Clady was also an important ecclesiastical centre, being the location for the first Roman Catholic seminary to be established in the Diocese of Derry.

STRABANE – Gray's Printers and the Wilson Homestead

Tucked in among other buildings, near the main bridge from the south, is the curved Georgian façade of Gray's Printers, the only surviving reminder of Strabane's importance in the 18th and 19th centuries as a printing centre. Once there were ten printing businesses in the town.

John Dunlap was born in Meeting House Street in Strabane in 1747. Dunlap emigrated to Philadelphia at the age of 10 and began working with his uncle, who was one of the leading printers there at that time. The young apprentice was to eventually take over the business transforming it into a publishing company. His newspaper the *Pennsylvania Packet* or *General Advertiser* was to become the first daily newspaper in the United States.

Dunlap also played an important role in the American Revolution. He was one of the leading founders of the First City Troop of Philadelphia City Calvary and as captain he went to Trenton and Princeton as bodyguard to George Washington. (It was in this capacity that he would have witnessed the negotiations for the surrender of New York by fellow Strabane man Guy Carleton.) Moreover, he provided generous financial support to the general war effort. His chief claim to fame is that he became the official printer to the United States Congress and the state of Pennsylvania and as such printed the American Declaration of Independence. On 4th July 1776 Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock submitted the first drafts of the declaration to Dunlap who proofread the original copy at his Philadelphia works. Dunlap died on 27th November 1812 and was buried with full military honours at Christ Church, Philadelphia.

Among the most significant other emigrants are the following:

James Wilson, grandfather of Woodrow Wilson, President of the USA from 1913 to 1921, is said to have served his apprenticeship in Gray's before emigrating to America in 1807. The Wilson family home, now a museum, stands on the slopes of the Sperrins at Dergalt on the Plumbridge road. It is a low, whitewashed farmhouse with a flax thatching covering an under-thatch of sods supported by oak timbers. Members of the Wilson family still work the farm to this day.

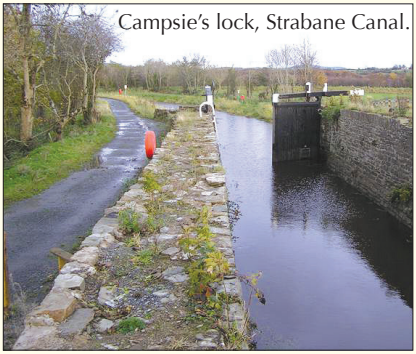
Sir Guy Carleton: Born in Strabane in 1724, Carleton became Military Governor of Quebec and was instrumental in successfully challenging an invasion of Canada by

the rebel forces of the American Colonies in1776. Ironically his opposite number was Donegal man Richard Montgomery.

In 1778 Carleton resigned the governorship only to be brought out of retirement in 1782 to act as Commander in Chief of British Forces in North America. In this capacity he oversaw the surrender of New York to George Washington (among whose personal bodyguard was Captain John Dunlap) and the evacuation of British troops from North America.

Carleton was created Baron Dorchester in 1786 and appointed Governor in Chief of British North America. His firm but fair administration at that time (especially in regard to recognising the status of the French Canadians) was responsible for the successful inauguration of the respective institutions which became the foundations of modern Canada. At the time of his death in 1808 he was recognised as one of the most decisive figures of the 18th century.

Strabane Canal


Campsie's lock, Strabane Canal.

In 1792 the 6.4km Strabane Canal was constructed from the tidal waters of Lough Foyle at Leck, some 16km upstream from Derry, to Strabane. The Strabane Canal was conceived by the Marquess of Abercorn as a way of encouraging industrial and commercial development in Strabane and its immediate surroundings, most of which was within his estates. An Act of Parliament was obtained to authorise the construction of the 6.4km canal, although the land required for the canal was bought by the Marquess's agents by agreement with the owners, and the project, which cost £11,858, was privately funded by the Marquess, assisted by a loan of £3,703 from the Irish Parliament. It left the Foyle just above its junction with the Burn Dennet River, to enter Campsie's Lock.

The locks were designed to accommodate sea-going schooners, capable of carrying 300 tons of cargo. Devlin's lock was 108ft by 23ft (33m by 7m), with 7ft (2.1m) of water over the cill, while Campsie's Lock was 117ft by 24ft (36m by 7.3m), with a depth of 6.5ft (2m). Tolls were collected by the Marquess's agents at a flat rate of two shillings (10p) per ton. Lighters were towed by a steam tug to the entrance of the canal, while horses provided the power for the journey up to Strabane.

From 1820, a group of local people leased the canal from the Marquess and continued to run it successfully. Five hundred and eighty-three lighters made the journey between Strabane and Derry in 1836, carrying a total of 10,535 tons, most of which

was grain. A number of warehouses, grain stores and wharves were built along the banks at Strabane. The canal brought considerable prosperity to Strabane and Lifford in the first quarter of the nineteenth century and the towns became flourishing markets for agricultural produce. However, in 1847 a railway opened from Derry to Strabane, which was extended to Omagh in 1852, and a network of connecting railways soon developed. The effect on the canal was dramatic and it was soon in financial difficulties. Traffic did not recover and ceased in the early 1930s. Attempts were made to abandon the canal from 1944, and the section between Strabane and the swing bridge at Dysert was finally abandoned in 1962. The rest officially remained open. The two sets of locks have been fully restored and work will now be carried out on the clearing of the canal channel and the restoration of water into the channel.

Sion Mills Village

A pleasant tree-lined village on the River Mourne that is especially rich in the architectural heritage of linen mills – founded in 1835 as a model community by the Herdman brothers – the furthest west in Europe of the Industrial Revolution as it has often been said.

Deriving its name from the *Sidhean*, meaning fairy mound, Sion Mills owes its development to the Herdman Family who established a thriving flax-spinning industry there in 1835 (unfortunately the main mill was burned in 2012), built the village and founded a model community with all the facilities necessary for the welfare of their workers. Today this pleasant tree-lined village is a place rich in architectural heritage, and is officially recognised as such, being designated a conservation area in 1977.

Herdman Mill prior the fire of 2012.

Mourneside Walk: The plentiful water resource which once sustained the village's flax industry now provides an idyllic riverside haven and excellent angling facilities. The Mourneside Walk, an excellent riverside amenity, features the popular Bearney Footbridge known locally as the 'Swinging Bridge' as well as The Weir – an attractive fall which salmon cross on the way upstream to the Strule, Derg, Owenkillew and Glenelly Rivers.

Conservation Area: Collectively the simple, single- and two-storey Gothic cottages built to house the mill workers contribute greatly to the architectural and historical significance of the village. Their presence alongside that of the old flax-spinning mill, founded in 1835, gives a wonderful sense of the industrial heritage which once dominated the national landscape. The Mill was a large complex of buildings sited on the River Mourne (architecturally the most important of which is the main 5-storey stone building with yellow brick extensions designed by William Lynn in 1853), with an impressive chimney and huge water-power system which, until after the First World War, produced the highest water horse power in the British Isles. Including the Mill complex as one, there are 41 listed buildings in Sion Mills.

The Church of the Good Shepherd: One of several structures in Sion Mills identified as being of special architectural interest. Dedicated on 15th May 1909, the Church of the Good Shepherd was designed by Mr WF Unsworth (who also designed the first Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon) – a son-in-law of Mr James Herdman. He chose a church near Pistoia, near Florence, as a model and the design is in elaborate Italian renaissance. This particular style of architecture, for a church, is unique in Ireland and it is believed there is only one other church in this style in Great Britain.

St Theresa's Church: By contrast the Roman Catholic Church in Sion Mills is contemporary in nature. Designed by Patrick Haughey this structure is the subject of widespread attention and has secured an international architectural award. Although modern (1968) St Theresa's Church is an example of a building constructed in sympathy with

its surroundings and integrating into the landscape. The front is dominated by a slate mural of the Last Supper by Oisin Kelly with designs and patterns reminiscent of the Romanesque Period.

Sion House: Again under the supervision of WF Unsworth, Sion House, originally built in 1845, was remodelled in 1884 into a half-timbered mock-Tudor building with a red-tiled roof and intricately patterned chimneys. A gate lodge and stables with clock tower were built at the same time and in similar style and are being restored to their original glory.

Newtownstewart Castle

Overlooked by the picturesque hills of Bessy Bell and Mary Gray, Newtownstewart is the setting for the majestic ruins of the Gaelic stronghold of Harry Avery O'Neill as well as those of the Plantation castle of the Stewart family.

The power of the O'Neill chieftains in Tyrone came to an end in 1607. Defeated in battle by English forces and fearful for their future, Hugh O'Neill and his allies fled Ireland in what has become known as the Flight of the Earls. Their lands were declared forfeit to the Crown and were in turn granted to English and Scottish gentry as part of the Plantation of Ulster. The lands around Newtownstewart were granted to a James Clapham but were soon sold to Sir Robert Newcomen. Under the Plantation scheme new landowners were required to build a castle on their estate. Newcomen began work in 1615 and by 1622 the castle was described as '… a castle of lime and stone, 4 stories high'. Around it is a bawn of lime and stone. In 1629 the lands and castle were sold to Sir William Stewart, of Newtown Stewart in Galloway, Scotland, who renamed the town after his family and birthplace.

Today only its southwest and northwest walls and a little of the southeast return survive. The most distinctive feature is the triple gables to the street, with the tall chimney stack over the smaller centre gable. The stepped gables are a Scottish feature while the 8-pointed, star-shaped brick chimney stack is derived from England. The archways in the interior remain from its use as the town market place in the 19th century. The castle was burned by Sir Phelim O'Neill in 1641 and again by King James in 1689 on his retreat from Londonderry. Newtownstewart Castle has also the distinction of being the site of a significant Bronze Age discovery: an intact double-cist grave and capstone.

Harry Avery's Castle / Newtownstewart

Thought to have been built around 1320 by a local chieftain of the O'Neill clan, but named after Harry Avery (Henry Aimbreidh) O'Neill, a local chief who died in 1392, this structure is considered unusual in that Irish chieftains of the time rarely built in stone. Its design is also unusual. Its two towers look like a gatehouse, similar to that of Carrickfergus Castle, but in reality it served a similar function to a medieval towerhouse. Getting to the courtyard behind would thus have involved climbing a flight of stairs.

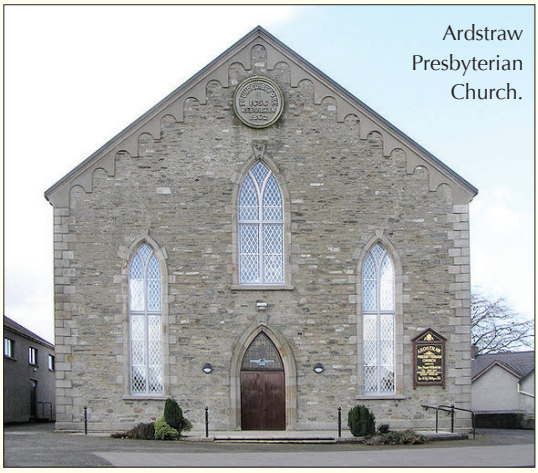
Behind the towers a large mound forms the courtyard. This was surrounded by a curtain wall, of which only the foundations remain today. Other surviving structures include: a drawbar slot for the main door and a latrine chute. There would have been many wooden buildings such as kitchens and stables in the courtyard but no evidence of these survives.

Baronscourt – Abercorn Estate

Baronscourt is described by the architectural historian Alistair Rowan as one of the grandest neo-classical houses in Ireland, with four great classicists contributing to its appearance. The house was built new by James Hamilton between 1779 and 1781 (the 8th Earl of Abercorn) to the design of George Stuart. The Earl's nephew John James became the 1st Marquess of Abercorn in 1790 and employed John Soane to turn the house back to front and make it a good deal grander. But the house burned down in 1796 and was only partly repaired. In 1818 the 1st Marquess was succeeded by his grandson James who in 1831 employed William Virtuvius Morrison to remodel it again. It was further tidied over in 1947 by Sir Albert Richardson. The surrounding park has three artificial lakes bearing the names Lough Mary, Lough Fanny and Lough Catherine in keeping with the local tradition of giving landmarks women's names such as Bessy Bell and Mary Grey.

Ardstraw

In earliest times, the district was the territory of one of the tribes of the Province of Aileach, the Ui Fiachrach Ard Scratha. It was the battleground between the warring clans, and in later years it fell under the power of the O'Neills. Time after time we read of its burning and sacking, for example in 1069, 1099, 1198 and 1395. In 1574, in heartening contrast, we read of O'Donnell and O'Neill making peace on the Ardstraw Bridge.



Ardstraw Presbyterian Church.

Christianity first came to Ireland in the fifth century, and much of its spread is attributed to Saint Patrick. Ardstraw's celebrated position in the history of the island of Ireland was largely due to its church. Saint Eoghan, who is supposed to have died in 617, was its founder. His father was Cainnech from Leinster and his mother was Muindech from Ulster. He is said to have been carried off by pirates who raided Ireland at that time. After

some time, he got his freedom and he studied abroad before returning to Ireland and to a monastic cell in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains. He eventually presided over the monastic settlement in Ardstraw. Other accounts make him out to be a disciple of Saint Patrick, who died in 493. We do know that he died on 23rd October and that he is buried in the graveyard in Ardstraw. In those days, the church building and the buildings that made up the religious community would have been constructed of clay-and-wattle walls and a thatched roof. Ardstraw Church was perched on the height overlooking the River Derg. Saint Eugene or Eoghan had founded the religious settlement around Ardstraw in the 6th century and two hundred years later it would have been commonplace to see the monks labouring in the fields, educating children and providing hospitality and accommodation to travellers. The monastery at Ardstraw was plundered and destroyed by John de Courcey in 1198 and several times destroyed by fire. It was described at the time as a 'monastery' and 'cathedral'. There are few remains of the monastery today, but tradition says that Eugene, the founder, was buried there in 619.

In the early thirteenth century, when the Celtic Church had to conform to Roman Church ways of working, Ardstraw was the head of a diocese which took in North Tyrone and Derry, and as far as the limits of Connor. Later, it was united with Derry, with Derry the head of the diocese. It was then that the influence and status of Ardstraw was reduced to being a country church.

All that remains of the enormous influence of the former years of Ardstraw is the ancient burial ground, divided right in the middle to make way for a road to the bridge. The great stone church building, with its fine architecture, which must have existed in the past, has gone. It is said that the graveyard wall is built from stones taken from the monastery. The burial places of powerful bishops, of Turlough O'Neill, of Saint Eoghan himself are forgotten, but their dust is still mingled with what has emerged from those times. The famous warrior Turlough Luineach O'Neill was killed at Strabane and was buried in Ardstraw graveyard in 1595.

Ulster American Folk Park

Voted Northern Ireland's top Visitor Attraction for many years – a museum of emigration and folk life. It tells the story of the floods of emigrants who left these shores in the 18th and 19th centuries. The park explores the historical link between Ulster and America, focusing particularly on the lifestyle and experiences of those emigrants who sailed from Ulster to America in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Contained within the park are around thirty buildings – some re-creations, some painstakingly restored originals. There are agricultural displays and animals on site, and visitors are offered samples of various local foods such as smoked salmon and bread, freshly cooked in the cottages that line the route of park tours.

The park includes Mellon House, the birthplace of Irish-American banker and lawyer

Thomas Mellon. The house and outbuildings remain in their original location.

The museum is themed, with volunteers dressed in period costume, often demonstrating techniques used in day-to-day tasks and occupational skills such as bread making, cooking, arts and crafts, embroidery, spinning, printing and so on. Events are marked which cover the culture of both the New World and the Old World, such as US Independence Day and Halloween. Festivals often take place including Saint Patrick's Day, Appalachian, Bluegrass, Irish folk music and dancing demonstrations. The *Ulster-American* theme is highlighted by the layout and the information relayed, such as the fact that over two million people left Ulster for North America between the years 1700 and 1900.

The entrance section includes accommodation for up to 46 people, a restaurant, a visitors' information centre and the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS). The CMS has an attached library and offers, in conjunction with the University of Ulster and Queen's University of Belfast, postgraduate and undergraduate courses, as well as tailored and shorter courses; all of the courses concern the study of Irish migration from 1600 to the present day. The specialist research library contains some 10,000 volumes, over 50 periodicals, maps, audio-visual material, and a collection of primary-source documents (the Irish Emigration Database) which is searchable online.

Mellon House, Ulster American Folk Park.

Lifford Town and Courthouse

Lifford Town, initially an O'Neill stronghold, was taken and further extended by Docwra at the beginning of the 17th century. The town was heavily fortified to protect the main river-crossing point above Derry. It is a significant example of a Plantation town. Established initially as a military settlement during the Plantation period the town was established with the 'Diamond' at its centre with generous house plots supplemented with burage plots and grazing on the periphery of the town, Town Parks and Lifford Common. The town was also provided with a courthouse and a gaol. The courthouse was also the place where the Grand Jury sat. It was a precursor to the County Council and made up of a selection of local landlords, who were the local authority in relation to roads, policing and taxation.

Richard Bartlett's map of 1603 shows the river islands in the Foyle, the river Deele and the bastioned outline of 'Liffer'. With a salmon fishery clearly marked, this nursery historically had the best fishing due to the shallow depth of the water and the combined salmon population of the Deele, Finn and Mourne river complexes migrating past this point.

There is a handsome Michael Priestly building dating from 1746 that is now, with the adjacent county gaol, a museum. It housed some notable prisoners such as John McNaughten who killed his young sweetheart Mary Ann Knox of Prehen House. He lives on in folklore as Half-Hanged McNaughten, being so called since the rope broke during the first attempt to hang him at the gallows. Michael Priestly was responsible for four of the great houses along the Foyle (Port Hall, Prehen, Dunmore and Boom Hall) with a distinctive Georgian style and his use of sandstone in the windows, doors and corners. This is known as Gibbsian rusticated stonework and comes from the pattern books of Scottish architect James Gibbs

Cavanacor House

One of the earliest Plantation Houses in Donegal, it has been in continuous occupation since the 17th century, where James II dined under a sycamore tree in 1689 during the Siege of Derry. Another story is that James was smitten with a cold in the very wet weather and had fits of sneezing – thus the nick-name Sneezing Hill for one of the nearby slopes. It is now an art gallery.

Raphoe and Surrounds

The small cathedral town is built around the triangular 'Diamond' market square often found in 17th-century Irish Plantation towns and has a good collection of Georgian houses at its centre.

Beltany Stone Circle

The rich agricultural land around Raphoe has been inhabited and cultivated for thousands of years and evidence of this can be seen through a widespread distribution of prehistoric artefacts and monuments.

Two miles south of Raphoe on the summit of Tops Hill is the location of one of the most impressive sites in Ireland, the 'Beltany Stone Circle', one of the finest stone circles in Ireland. Reputedly older than Stonehenge, it consists of 64 standing stones out of an original 80. The stones range in height from 4ft to 9ft (1.2 to 2.7m) while the diameter of the circle is 145ft (44.2m). To the southeast of the circle is a standing stone 6ft (2m) high. Beltany is a corruption of Baal tine, the fire of Baal; this suggests that the inhabitants of this area worshipped Baal, the sun-god, and ruler of nature. Tradition tells us that the principal ceremonies were performed at the summer solstice; a sacred fire was lit in the centre of the circle of stones, which represented the stars and fire of the sun-god Baal.

The ring's name derives from the ancient Celtic festival of fertility, Beltaine (after the Irish, Bealtaine meaning bright fire) held at the beginning of May to celebrate the rebirth of summer. The site is believed to date to around 2000BC, and to be originally an enclosed cairn.

Around 550AD Columba (also known as Colmcille), one of the three patron saints of Ireland, founded a monastic settlement in the area. This site was further developed by his kinsman Eunan, who gives his name to the town's cathedral and is patron saint of the Diocese of Raphoe.

Beltany Stone Circle.

The town lends its name to both the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland dioceses, which cover most of Donegal, with the exception of Inishowen. Raphoe's status has declined significantly in recent centuries, however, with the Anglican diocese being merged with Derry, while the Roman Catholic bishop now has his see in the larger town of Letterkenny.

In 1198, John de Courcy, a Norman knight who had invaded Ulster in 1177, returned to County Donegal to devastate Inishowen and on his way destroyed churches at Ardstraw, County Tyrone and Raphoe.

Raphoe Castle

Built in the 1630s, the castle, which is now nothing more than a shell, was laid siege to during the Irish Rebellion of 1641, captured by Cromwell's troops in 1650 and was damaged by supporters of King James II in 1689. Although still awaiting restoration, Raphoe Castle is probably the most impressive castle in Donegal. In 1633, John Leslie was transferred from the Scottish See of the Isles to become the Bishop of Raphoe. Marrying at the age of 67, absorbing the Bishopric of Clogher at the age of 90, Leslie dominated the area until his death, aged 100, in 1671. Feeling threatened in his new location, he built himself a new palace on a hill overlooking the town using stone from an ancient Round Tower in 1637. This proved fortuitous when rebellion broke out in 1641 and the bishop was forced to shelter in the 'castle', as it has come to be known, until relieved by the Lagganeer Army. Eight years later, Leslie, a Royalist, was besieged by Cromwellian troops. This time, he was forced to surrender but unlike virtually every other bishop in Ireland, Leslie survived and was returned to his See at the Restoration in 1660. A leading figure in the Established Church, Bishop Leslie was no friend of either Catholic or Non-conformist. In 1664, he ordered four dissenting Presbyterian ministers to appear before his court, and when they failed to appear, had them arrested and imprisoned in Lifford Gaol. A century later, in 1798, the castle was attacked again, this time by the United Irishmen, three of whom were killed. The castle was destroyed in an accidental fire in 1838.

Raphoe Cathedral

A 6th century monastery was raised to cathedral status in the 9th century. The monastery is associated with St Colmcille and said to have been founded by Adomnán, who wrote the *Life of Columba* in the late 7th century. The Gothic-style cathedral dates from the early 18th century; its tower, 24ft square, was built in 1738. Inside the porch is a 12th century stone sculpture depicting the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The inner porch, now a baptistery, houses the delightful furnishings of the old consistory court, where wills were probated and marriage licences issued until well into the 19th century. The judge's bench is still furnished with a quill pen and candle.

St Columcille and St Eunan, ninth Abbot of Iona, had churches at Raphoe in the 5th and 6th centuries. Several 9th-century blocks of stone can be found in the porch and in the north wall of the present cathedral. The southeast corner dates from the 12th century. The latest building dates from the 1730s. The communion plate is also noteworthy. Notable bishops include Bishop George Montgomery, first Protestant bishop 1605–10, a Scot, who was mainly involved in re-claiming church lands, and Bishop Andrew Knox 1611–33, who set about repairing and rebuilding the cathedral. A stone inscribed 'And. Knox II. Epi. Cura', set in the porch, commemorates him. Bishop John Leslie had formerly been a soldier and had his own private army which he led into battle. Bishop Twysden, 1747–53, spent little time in Raphoe but squandered the family fortune in London. Subsequently he was shot in the act of robbing a stagecoach. Sandy Montgomery, a kinsman of Bishop Montgomery lies within the churchyard. His inscription reads, 'Here lyeth the Body of Alexander Montgomery Esq., who departed this Life 29th September 1800, aged 78. He Represented this once Independent Country, 32 years.'

Convoy

Convoy is a pretty little village by the river Deele with four churches and the impressive Convoy Woolen Company factory. This battlemented stucco factory with an Italianate tower was built in 1883 from local brick

Like many other towns in the vicinity, it has its origins in the Ulster Plantation.

Raphoe Cathedral.

Convoy Woollen Mill: Convoy once had a woollen mill located on the banks of the River Deele, but this closed in the early 1980s with the resultant loss of many local jobs. Most people who lived in Convoy worked in these and what economy there was managed to sustain a couple of shops and the Post Office. If one did not work in the mill or manage to get casual labouring jobs in one of the farms outside the village, one had little choice but to emigrate, to either building work in England or Scotland or to the promise of something better in America. The woollen mill is now host to a business area that has been promoted and assisted by the state development body FÁS.

Convoy House: The Montgomery family of Convoy is descended from Alexander Montgomery, Prebendary of Doe, who died about 1658. He was brought over from Scotland by his kinsman George Montgomery who became first Protestant Bishop of Raphoe in 1604. Alexander Montgomery of Croaghan, near Lifford, bought the Convoy estate from the Nesbitt family in 1719. Boyton House was first occupied in November 1807 by the family of Robert Montgomery of Brandrim who had inherited the estate form his cousin Sandy Montgomery of Convoy. Sandy represented Donegal in Grattan's Parliament for 32 years. He spent part of his youth in America and was noted for his duelling. His brothers were John of Lisbon and Richard, a general in Washington's army, who fell at the Siege of Quebec in 1775. Sandy was a friend of Lord Edward Fitzgerald and a secret supporter of the United Irishmen. He voted against the Act of Union in 1800. Boyton House used to contain the letter which Washington wrote to the family on Richard's death and receipts for meat bought by the hundred-weight in Raphoe by the Montgomery family for free distribution in Convoy during the Famine of 1847. The house passed through marriage to the Boyton family in the nineteenth century.

Taughboyne Ecclesiastical site – Churchtown, St Johnston
Site of the monastery of St Baithin, a cousin of St Columba, in the heart of the Laggan Valley and church dating from 1627.

Monreagh Manse and Church (Ulster-Scots Heritage Centre)
Established in 1645, this is the oldest of the Presbyterian churches in Donegal and the manse is now a heritage centre dedicated to the links between the Ulster Scots and America.

Located in the former manse, in the heart of the Laggan district of County Donegal, the Ulster-Scots Heritage Centre celebrates the history and the heritage of the people of Ulster in general and of Donegal in particular. This is a shared history and heritage which has become interwoven with that of every other community on the island of Ireland. The centre aims to bring to life some of the most engaging aspects of the Ulster-Scots and Scots-Irish traditions.

Newtown Cunningham

Sometimes spelled Newtowncunningham or abbreviated to Newton (Irish: *An Baile Nua*), it is a village in the Laggan district in the east of County Donegal, Ireland. Like nearby Manorcunningham, the village takes its name from John Cunningham, originally from Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, in Scotland, who was among the settlers granted lands in County Donegal during the Plantation of Ulster. The village's architecture includes stately Anglo-Irish 'big houses', now known as the Manse and the Castle, which reflect the village's colonial and Presbyterian history.

Mongevlin

About seven miles upstream from Derry near St Johnston lies the ruins of a rectangular castle built about 1619 by Sir John Stewart. It was occupied until the mid-19th century. It was once the home of Ineen Dubh, mother of the famous Red Hugh O'Donnell, Chief of Tirconaill. When Ineen Dubh came to Ireland to marry Aodh Mac Maghnusa Ó Domhnaill (Anglicised: Sir Hugh O'Donnell), she brought a force of 100 of the biggest men she could find in Scotland. These soldiers were her bodyguards; 80 of these were of the name Crawford. When the O'Donnells eventually abandoned Mongevlin the Crawfords settled and married in the locality. Many of their descendants can still be found in the area to this day.

The castle is now in ruins with only a small proportion of it left standing.

Trees

The glens along the Foyle and Mourne are as good a place as any to explore the mythology of trees in our landscape. In ancient Ireland the importance of trees meant that they were classified into various categories, with a series of laws governing their use and fines for damaging or cutting trees without the landowners' permission. These laws are found in what is often generically called the Brehon Laws. These laws are found in the 8th-century legal tract *Breatha Comaithchesa* or the Laws of the Neighbourhood, but they may ultimately derive from an earlier, and now lost law tract *Fidbratha* or Tree Judgements.

It divided trees into four classes according to their usefulness and symbolism, and there was a special fine connected to each tree. Each class consists of seven different species of tree or bush and each species owes its position to its perceived economic worth. This in general depends on the value of the tree's timber, so the classes are usually related to the size of the tree when fully grown. There are exceptions to this, of course, like apple and hazel, which owe their position in the top class to the importance of their fruit as food.

The most important trees were the 'chieftains': oak, with its acorns and phallic symbolism; hazel, with its branches that formed magicians' wands; holly, with its red berries symbolising the food of the gods; yew, associated with death and rebirth;

ash, symbolising health; pine with its phallic-shaped cones; and apple, whose drink provided the drink of the gods.

The 'peasant' trees were the alder; willow; hawthorn, associated with spring fertility rites; rowan; birch, symbolising the coming of spring and summer; and elm, associated with fairies or the 'little people' and the passage from death to life.

The 'shrub' trees were blackthorn, which heralds spring and guards autumn; elder, which provides bounty and health; aspen, symbolising the wind; juniper, offering purification; and reed, which was considered a tree because of its usefulness.

The 'bramble' trees were dog-rose, bramble, fern and spindle among others.

The druids, the priests or wise men of ancient times, believed trees to be sources of sacred wisdom. To them, sacred trees were no longer just trees; they became the embodiment of spirit.

The yew was one of the five magical trees, at its most powerful in midwinter, symbolising the passage of the sun through the darkest time of the year with its evergreen leaves emphasising the fact that life would continue, hence their frequency in graveyards.

The hazel was the tree of knowledge, having magical qualities and used for dowsing, or finding water underground. Nine hazel trees grew around a sacred pool at river sources. The trees dropped nuts into the river and these were eaten by salmon, which thereby absorbed the nuts' wisdom. Druids revered the salmon and the number of bright spots was said to show how many nuts it had eaten.

The salmon is closely associated with the Foyle and the Bann as the oak is associated with Derry~Londonderry and from which its name comes. The oak provides strong and excellent timber and a plentiful crop of acorns which provides food for many animals. This, together with its stately bearing and long life, make it a symbol of strength, fertility, kingship and endurance. The oak has associations with magic and the Otherworld. In Scotland a Highlander would draw a circle around himself with an oak sapling to protect himself from the fairies. In Brittany a piece of oak wood is used as a talisman. In the Táin, Cúchulainn writes a piece of Ogham on an oak sapling while adopting a magical posture and twists it around a standing stone in order to hinder the armies of Maedbh. He later lays a great oak tree in a gap and writes Ogham on it for the same purpose.

Nevertheless, the oak was a very important tree to the Celts, and its lore is rich and complex. In Ireland several well-known Christian sites are associated with oak graves which were probably chosen for their pre-Christian significance. Among them are Daire Calgach or Derry founded by St Colmcille and the monastic school at Maigh Daireach (Oak Plain) or Durrow. So great was his regard for his oakwood at Derry that Colmcille declared he was more fearful of the sound of axes in it than he was of death! Another site was Cill Dara (the Church of the Oak) or Kildare, founded by St Brigid. The high oak tree there was considered blessed by her and remained for many years the source of miracles.

In early Irish law the oak was classified as one of the seven Airig Fedo or Nobles of the Wood. Oak timber was used for numerous purposes from constructing buildings and ships to barrels and furniture. In addition, the bark of oak was used for tanning leather and for making a black dye.

There is no doubt that our relationship with trees is deeply rooted in our spiritual and psychological make-up.

AREA 3

West Bank of Lough Foyle

Burt Castle

A castle dating from the 16th century, this imposing structure stands guard over the southwestern approach to Inishowen.

Originally part of a defence network that included Inch and Carrickabraghy, this castle was in the control of the O'Dohertys. At that time it would have been surrounded on three sides by water, much of the present farmland being reclaimed in more recent times.

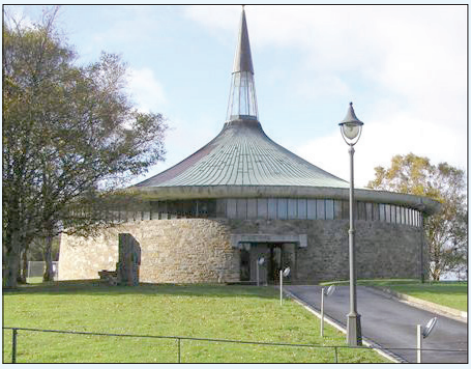
First referred to in a grant of lands to the O'Dohertys in 1587, the English forces occupied it in 1601–02 but when peace was re-established it was granted to the self-styled Sir Cahir O'Doherty who made it his main residence.

Following the revolt of the O'Dohertys the castle was captured in 1608 and occupied by Thomas Chichester who rebuilt the castle, adding another stone building and two houses of timber all within the bawn. Subsequently it was granted to Charles Chichester and was inhabited until as late as 1690.

The present castle is well worth a visit as the towers are still partially intact with musket holes and loops. Stone chambers still remain and there is still one window in good condition. Also, due to its strategic significance, it commands an impressive view through its evocative stone edifices.

St Aengus' Church – Speenogue, Burt

This beautiful church, dedicated to St Aengus was designed by the eminent Donegal architect Liam McCormick (1964–67) and has won many awards. The shape of this circular church is in part a reflection of the form of the ancient stone fort at the top of the hill. McCormick's distinct ability to read a site and produce remarkable buildings sets him apart from any of his Irish church architect peers.



The building, as most will know, takes its inspiration from Grianan of Aileach, the Bronze Age fortification that dominates the landscape above Burt. The area around St Aengus' church is steeped in religious tradition, both Christian and Pagan. There has

been some form of religious temple in the immediate area since the Bronze Age and McCormick has more than lived up to the task of facilitating an era of rich tradition.

The building is circular in plan, but it cleverly has a second internal circular wall, which is placed tangentially to the exterior, which means that the church is both circular outside and inside, while the crescent shape between houses the associated facilities of the church. The statuesque copper roof sweeps upwards in a gentle turning motion while the exterior walls are built with a barrel-like squared stone wall finish which are topped with a continuous window which sweeps the whole way around the building.

McCormick was a great believer in incorporating art within buildings and this patronage is notably present at Burt, which includes artwork by the distinguished Oisin Kelly and other prominent Irish artists. St Aengus' church when built attracted Liam phenomenal acclaim and eventual international recognition. St Aengus' church was deservedly awarded the RIAI Triennial Gold Medal in 1971 and was awarded title of 'Building of the Century' by a national poll just before the end of the millennium. Photographs and text may give people some idea of the church's superb and ingenious design, but a visit to the church to see it in its context would be needed to appreciate not only the church but also the grandeur of the Donegal landscape.

Grianan of Aileach, Burt

Grianan of Aileach is probably the best-known monument in Inishowen. Situated on a hill top 800ft above sea level the stone fort was probably built on an earthen rath. This Early Iron Age stone fort at the summit of Grianan, 808ft above Lough Swilly and Lough Foyle, is one of the most impressive ancient monuments in the whole of Ireland.

The view from Aileach is breathtaking. The glistening waters of Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly are clear as is the form of the entire peninsula. A windy and exposed place, Grianan has been a silent witness to the history of Ireland.

Noted in the mythologies of Ireland, it seems the fort was first constructed around 1700BC (probably with earthen walls) by the Tuatha Dé Danann. It has been ascertained that it was the Palace of the Northern Princes from a period long before Christianity (400AD) up until the 14th century. The Princes of Aileach play an important role in Irish history often becoming Ard Righ (or High King).

It was at Aileach that Prince Eoghan (Owen) was converted by St Patrick to Christianity. Patrick consecrated a coronation stone there as a testament and mark of goodwill to Eoghan.

Grianan of Aileach.

View of Inch from Grianan.

Many struggles for power have taken place at Aileach. In 1101, O'Brian marched and attacked Aileach. He demolished the fort and his men carried off stones as proof of their success.

Again, however, it was rebuilt as always seems to be the case. After lying in ruins it was restored between 1874 and 1879 by Dr Walter Bernard of Derry. Legend states that the giants of Inishowen (Princes of Aileach) are lying sleeping but when the sacred sword is removed they will spring to life reclaiming their ancient lands.

Inch Lake

Inch Lake is an internationally significant destination and staging ground for migrating birds from three continents. This global importance is recognised by the area's designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EU Birds Directive. The combination within this site of extensive feeding areas and safe resting and roosting sites makes this site one of the most important wetlands in the northwest of the country for wintering waterfowl. Inch Lake is a man-made freshwater lake formed when dykes and embankments were constructed to drain the flat marshland between Inch Island and Bridgend. It is an important link in the overall Lough Swilly wetland system, which includes Blanket Nook and Big Isle to the south. Inch Lough was created from the estuarine mud of Lough Swilly in the late 19th century when two embankments were built to link Inch Island to the mainland on behalf of the Derry & Lough Swilly Railway. A railway embankment was then built dividing the area, the inner part (Inch Levels) being further drained to create polders or sloblands for agricultural use, while the outer part (Inch Lough) acted as a holding reservoir or lake for drainage water. A sluice gate in

one of the original embankments allows drainage to the sea at low tide. There is some seepage of seawater back, creating brackish 'lagoonal' conditions within the lake. This large-scale engineering project transformed the area and has provided a resting stop for many travelling wildfowl, and is now an excellent place to spend your day bird watching. The lake is surrounded by marsh and swamp vegetation. The extensive sloblands to the east and south of the lake, Inch Levels, are included in the site. These lands are farmed intensively for grass, winter cereals and root crops and provide important feeding areas for wintering waterfowl, especially geese and swans.

These two lakes and the surrounding land support a large population of water birds. The most visible of these are swans. Mute, whooper and Bewick's can be seen. The mute swan is the most common that can be found in city parks but the other two species are winter visitors from Iceland (whooper) and Siberia (Bewick's) but for some years past a few whoopers have been staying throughout the summer.

Six species of wild geese are present in winter and they are white front, greylag, barnacle, brent, pink footed, which breed in the Arctic, mainly Greenland and Iceland, and Canada geese which are not visitors from Canada but naturalised birds originally escapees from parkland.

Great crested grebes are usually easily seen from the lakeside road into Inch, as well as little grebe, tufted duck and coot. On the top of the bank on the other side of the road many different waders can be seen feeding on the mudflats at low tide. Amongst them are curlew, bar-tailed godwit and redshank. There are two places near the lake where herons nest in trees in groups (known as heronries). There is a small islet in the lake with a colony of nesting common tern, Arctic tern and sandwich tern which depart for the coast of Africa in the autumn.

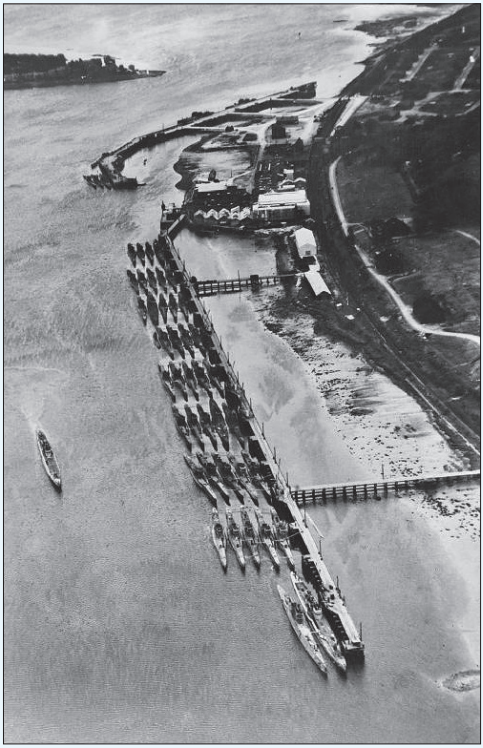
Some of the smaller birds present around the lake are sedge warbler, grasshopper warbler and reed bunting. The kingfisher is sometimes seen at the lock gates at Blanket Nook. Greylag geese numbers fluctuate depending on the weather (2008 numbers peaked at 3,000+). Considerably higher numbers of whooper swan (peak of 6,000+) have been recorded, especially early in the season, as this is the area where the swans make their Irish landfall in autumn on their return from breeding grounds in Iceland. Among the animals found here are otters which venture into the salt water as well as the lake.

Culmore Point – O'Doherty Tower and viewpoint for Lisahally WWII Site

About four miles from Derry is Culmore Fort, an early 19th-century towerhouse whose walls are probably those of the artillery fort built here about 1610 to command the channel leading up to Derry. It was the great outpost of Derry and the principal fortress of Lough Foyle, but as a military station it has ceased to be used for the last 160 years. It was preserved from total dilapidation by Mr Abraham McCausland in 1785, and in 1824

General Hart repaired it in a permanent manner. The walls are more than 6ft thick, and the tower consists of three storeys. The fortalice was built sometime in the 16th century and is frequently mentioned in connection with the troubles in the North. In 1608, upon the breaking out of Sir Cahir O'Doherty's rebellion, it was surprised and treacherously taken by him.

Vantage point for Lisahally Jetty – site of the surrender of a large part of the German U-boat fleet in 1945



So crucial a role did Derry play in the Battle of the Atlantic that at the conclusion of the war the quayside at Lisahally was designated for the surrender of some of the German U-boats. The surrender of the first group of eight submarines was taken on 14th May 1945 by Admiral Sir Maxwell Horton, Commander-in-Chief of the Western Approaches, and Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Sir Basil Brooke, attended the ceremony.

During the following winter, 28 of these U-boats were towed out into the Atlantic off Malin Head and scuttled.

Whatever the local problems and conflicts, the outbreak of the Second World War brought about a temporary truce in Anglo-Irish relations. It was the only time in modern history when there was full employment in the city. The influx of a vast number of foreign military personnel into the city, especially the glamorous Americans, lifted the city out of the depressing dullness and insularity of the 1930s.

A secret agreement which had been signed between the British and the Americans in 1941, before America had entered the war, provided the setting up of a United States naval base in Derry. On 30th June 1941, 362 'civilian technicians' arrived. That number was doubled before Christmas of the same year. By the time of the attack on Pearl Harbour on 7th December 1941, after which the Americans did enter the war, a huge network of US facilities had been built in Derry. These included storage depots, radio installations, a ship-repair base, a new quayside at Lisahally, as well as domestic

accommodation and administration offices. Later, other facilities would also be added.

The reason for such a high degree of military and naval activity was self-evident: Derry was the United Kingdom's westernmost port; indeed, the city was the westernmost Allied port in Europe. Thus, Derry was a crucial jumping-off point, together with Glasgow and Liverpool, for the shipping convoys that ran between Europe and North America. The large numbers of military personnel in Derry substantially altered the character of the city, bringing in some outside colour to the local area, as well as some cosmopolitan and economic buoyancy during these years.

The US Naval Operating Base, Londonderry, was officially commissioned on 5th February 1942. Derry was the first US navy establishment in Europe and became the terminal for US convoys bound for Britain. The base continued in operation until July 1944 when the installation was handed over to the British, leaving only a US radio station behind; this was not closed until 1977.

Ships from the Royal Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy and other Allied navies were stationed in the city and the United States military established a base with over 20,000 Royal Navy, 10,000 Royal Canadian Navy and 6,000 American Navy personnel.

Eskaheen Church and graveyard

The site of a monastery founded by St Colmcille and supposed burial site of Eogahn, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, who was buried here in 465AD and from whom Inishowen derives its name.

Lough Foyle – Fishing, navigation and emigration

The Foyle is one of the last remaining native oyster fisheries in Europe and the oyster boats can be seen all the way along Lough Foyle from Muff to Greencastle.

At Quigley's Point, small boats moored which are designed to fish in the lough for shellfish and salmon and have a shallow enough draft that they are able to stray outside the navigation lane. The 'Foyle Punt' is a distinctive boat type, primarily built at Culmore or Moville and used throughout the Foyle basin for salmon fishing.

Larger craft are located at Greencastle and Moville, such as the Drontheim/ Greencastle yawl (open-deck wooden clinker-built boats, pointed at both ends) still used today for either sport or later adapted 'half-decker' boats used for fishing. Whilst originating from traditional Scandinavian boat designs and used elsewhere along the north coast, these boats are closely associated with the area around the mouth of the Foyle and are an example of vernacular designs closely tailored to the conditions of the local marine landscape.

The navigation channel towards Derry was defended in the medieval period by fortified houses at Redcastle (no remains) and Whitecastle (possible remains incorporated into Whitecastle House). Navigation aids are also a significant feature of the entrance to the Foyle at Inishowen Head where there are two significant lighthouse

structures, constructed in 1837 and operated by the Irish Lights Commission. These lights and a foghorn which has been decommissioned assisted ships avoiding the Tunns sandbank adjacent to and immediately outside the mouth of the Foyle. Inside Lough Foyle, navigation lights are maintained by the Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners and mark the navigation route to Derry. Several of these lights and markers are highly unusual; the most notable of these is the 'Metal Man' at White Strand, the Warren Lighthouse at Greencastle Golf Links and the Moville Lighthouse. The last is a rare Mitchell screw-pile structure, one of only three in Ireland and an icon of Moville. This side of the lough, because of its access to the navigation, is the focus of fishing in the lough.

The location on Lough Foyle of Moville, as well as being a military entry point, is also characterised as a significant port of emigration, perhaps starting with St Columba's departure to Iona from Port Kill at Inishowen Head, to the very significant numbers who emigrated during the 19th century from the famine period onwards. The location is therefore very significant to the Irish diaspora, not only to those originating from the local area, but also to those families who passed through from a wider region.

The accent here, like much of the north coast, is almost Scots to the ear. From most of the peninsula there are views to Rathlin Island, Mull of Kintyre and Islay; the distance to Islay is less than the distance to Letterkenny. Up until the 1960s the Scotch boat boosted tourism between Moville and Scotland.

Cooley Graveyard and Cross – Cooley, Moville

The site of a monastery founded by St Patrick, remarkable for its unusual 10ft monolithic cross and skull house – a large tomb-shrine about 9ft high. It is reputed to be the burial site of St Cooley, situated on good land on a steep hill that overlooks Lough Foyle and Moville, and is the site of a monastery founded by St Finian in Patrician times.

At what would have been the gates of the old monastery is an unusual monolithic High Cross. Uncarved, the cross contains a pierced ring and a hole, suggesting it may originally have been a more ancient hole stone. It was not unusual for St Patrick or his contemporaries to consecrate pagan shrines to ease the trauma of conversion, so possibly this cross pre-dates the ecclesiastical foundation.

The site contains the ruins of an old church and, more unusually, a small rectangular building covered with a stone roof containing human remains, commonly known as 'the Skull House'. Although the graveyard is of fairly recent origin the Skull House and the cross (which has been retained in its original location) are the survivors of an earlier tradition and of many attacks including the Vikings.

Moville Regency Coastal Walk

The town enjoys a scenic location on the western shore of Lough Foyle, some 30km from Derry and is located in Northern Ireland. Its most attractive feature is its handsome

Cross in Cooley Graveyard.

Green, a large seaside park in the Victorian style which features bandstands, walking trails, playgrounds, a coastal footpath and sweeping views east across the waters of the lough to Northern Ireland. As a result of this pleasant location and the proximity of several marvellous beaches, Moville receives many visitors and day-trippers in the summer months.

In the second half of the 19th century, Moville was a significant point of embarkation. Although the town receives little maritime traffic now, it still retains its small fishing harbour, even though the important commercial fishing port at Greencastle lies only a few miles away.

The industrial heritage of Moville is also of interest, with a number of historic mill remains along the Bredagh river at Moville. In particular around Gulladuff house is a medieval, possibly 10th-century bridge and what appears to be the remains of a stone-lined mill race. Upstream is the substantial building known locally as Gulladuff or McCaulay's Mill. The former flour and grain mill was constructed in 1810 and extended in the 20th century. The building complex includes a brick-built chimney from the drying kiln and a turbine installed by the Moville Electric Supply Company which supplied electricity for the whole town until electrification in the 1950s.

The market at Moville served all of east Inishowen and was housed in a neo-classical market house opening onto the Market Square. The building is still well preserved and is now a public house.

The Montgomerys of New Park were a landed family of the town, and ancestors of Field-Marshal Montgomery. When flying over the town in 1947 he commented: 'It looks just the same. My dear old Irish home.' His grandfather Robert had built Montgomery Terrace in 1884.

As Moville developed as a bathing resort in the 19th century, with public seaweed baths located at the Bath Green, the established house was supplemented by significant examples of smaller Regency-period bathing villas and houses in landscaped grounds for wealthy merchants and clergy who might have owned townhouses in Derry or elsewhere. The houses include Carrigcnoc House, Porta Villa, Brooklyn House, Portchapel House, Drumaweer House, Glenburnie, Gortgowan, Ravenscliff, St Columb's, Rosebank, Gullladoo House, Carrownaff House, Carrownaff Lodge and Foyle View. Houses at Gortgowan and Foyleview in particular are examples of 'cottage ornee' designed by the world-famous engraver James Malton, a further vernacular building type, present in this area similar to the traditional house but roofed with canvas painted with tar.

Only a few of these structures survive. These follow the pattern of vernacular architecture where readily available materials already used in farming and fishing were adapted for use in the construction of these buildings. A further development of this type can be seen at Moville and Greencastle, where these materials, at the turn of the 20th century, in conjunction with timber-truss Belfast roofs were use to cover boat sheds and other large-span buildings. There is also a unique example of cottages, known locally as the 'onion baskets' roofed this way.

An annual regatta is held at Moville every year in August and has done so since early 19th century. In older times the one-man punt was popular, whereas nowadays the race of the home-made rafts brings visitors and competitors from many counties.

Salmon, Eels, Plantation and the Foyle and Bann Fisheries

Ecologists have long recognised that some species, by virtue of the key roles that they play in the overall structure and functioning of an ecosystem, are essential to its integrity. Similarly in our culture there are animals and plants that underpin that culture and without them society would be completely different. None more so than the Atlantic salmon (salmo salar) and the eel (Anguilla anguilla) of the Foyle and Neagh/Bann river systems of Ulster. These river routes led deep into the interior of Ulster. The earliest settlers to Ireland known to archaeology were the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers whose encampments were found beside these rivers, the most notable being Mountsandel on the River Bann, excavated by Peter Woodman. Preservation and storage of food was not easy. However, large salmon in the peak of condition entered the Foyle soon after mid-winter and made their way upstream to spawn. The salmon run continued until at least the month of May and so enabled the communities of these river valleys to survive. It may be no coincidence that the greatest sites of Neolithic civilisation known to Ireland were at the Boyne and the Bann. Easy access to a source of food such as the salmon would have been a major factor in the situation of a fort. The river valley's diet would have been well known to those in less-favoured regions. What applied to the Boyne and the Bann would have also applied the Foyle.

The significance of Edmund Spenser's 'fruitful fishy Bann' is that it remains to this

day the most productive source of eels in the country. Moody records that: 'The salmon fishing of the Bann and Foyle, particularly the former was far famed. It was estimated in1609 that these rivers yielded 120 tons of salmon annually and in 1635, at Coleraine alone 62 tons were taken in one day.'

In 1609, the wealthy companies of the City of London were approached about undertaking the 'planting' of this difficult stretch of country. A form of prospectus, dealing with the advantages and profits likely to be derived from the proposed plantation, was prepared and submitted to the City of London. The prospectus was entitled *Motives and Reasons to induce the City of London to undertake the Plantation in the North of Ireland*, and it is interesting to note, that it proposed the Londoners should be granted the rights of salmon fishing on the Foyle and the Bann which at that time were estimated to be worth between £800 and £1,000. Initially, the London merchants were not enthusiastic, but they were eventually persuaded to view the prospective territory. On 22nd August in the summer of 1609, when the countryside is seen at its best, a small deputation of four inspectors from London arrived at Carrickfergus. They travelled to Coleraine and then on to Limavady, Lifford, Derry and Toome and down the Bann back to Coleraine. They took care to avoid the bleak Sperrins for fear of showing some of the more marginal lands. Salmon, among other items were sold to members of the 'viewing' delegation from the City of London's Common Council, at a low price, no doubt in an endeavour to convince the members of the delegation of the quality and nature of the many products available in Ulster and thus induce the City of London to go ahead with the scheme. They were impressed by the land and the rivers and a deal was clinched. Articles were signed between the City of London and the Crown and the Plantation began.

The run of salmon and eels was important and continued until the month of May enabling the communities living by the Foyle and Bann to have adequate food when others had great difficulty. The diet of salmon in the Bann and Foyle valleys would have been known far and near and associated with a fountain of knowledge. The absence from Ireland of purely freshwater fish was recorded as early as the 12th century by Giraldus Cambrensis in his *Topographia Hiberniae*. Pike is first mentioned by Spenser in the late 16th century. The salmon and the eel were popular, being readily obtainable without the trouble or expense of going to sea or even sitting on a lake. But unlike other fish salmon would keep its flavour for some days after death and eels could be transported alive. They were a shippable and sellable commodity. In the past, human agents went out from their communities to gather needed resources to sustain their population at a very local level. This new world view was to change all this. English colonial theory had taken hold and nature was to become a resource to be exploited.

Thus began a long relationship between the colonial undertakers and the rivers that continues in some of them to this day.

Prior to the Plantation of Ulster the fishing rights on the river would have been owned by the O'Neills and the O'Donnells, the chieftains of Tyrone and Donegal respectively.

By virtue of the Royal Charter of 1613, the Honourable The Irish Society was formally granted all the fishing rights of the rivers Bann and Foyle system except those belonging to the Bishop and Dean of Derry. In the mid-1600s Charles I granted the bed and soil of Lough Neagh and the eel fishery to the Earl of Donegal, from whom it devolved to the Chichester family and currently to the Shaftsbury Estate. The eel fishery is now the only commercial one remaining in Europe.

Lough Neagh, the Bann and Foyle rivers have been the subjects of much legal proceedings ever since that could fill many tomes. In 1944 an action for trespass was taken by the Society against a fisherman from Porthall whom they deemed to be fishing illegally. The case was heard by Mr Justice George Gavan Duffy in the High Court in Dublin during 1947/48. The case was dismissed against the man. The Society then appealed the decision and also appealed to both Northern and Southern governments at losing the case. Both governments agreed to buy the fishing rights for the sum of £110,280 on condition that they drop the appeal. This led to establishment of a commission to oversee the fishing on the river and on Lough Foyle. The body set up was called the Foyle Fisheries Commission and was established by a Bill passed simultaneously by the governments of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland on 25th March 1952. Although the environment (and water management in particular) is one area identified for North-South co-operation under the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, we have in fact been managing our shared waters since well before either the Agreement or European legislation. The Foyle Fisheries Commission's role was to conserve and harvest the salmon of the Foyle and in the words of McCreery, Minister of Commerce, when introducing the Foyle Fisheries Bill at Stormont, 'to exercise international jurisdiction over a single area which was formerly the cockpit of two rival jurisdictions'. There was a recognition that in this trans-boundary water that the fish did not know the political border. Nature has its own way. The Northern Ireland Attorney General, Mr Warnock, was to say on 27th February 1952:

> 'I think we are making history here today, and I think we are making good history because it is a great experiment in co-operation which has evoked a very considerable measure of good will.'

The Foyle Fisheries Commission became the Loughs Agency in 1999, an organisation with aims of conservation, protection and management of the fisheries of the Foyle and Carlingford river systems.

Greencastle and Greencastle Old Coastguard Station

Greencastle (Irish: *An Caisleán Nua*) is a commercial fishing port located in the north of the scenic Inishowen Peninsula. Nowadays, given the decline in the fishing industry, it resembles more closely a 'typical' Donegal holiday village. It is located a few miles north of Moville and is about 20 miles from Derry. Greencastle's name comes from the castle in the area and may have derived its name from the green freestone with

which it was built. The castle, originally built by the Anglo-Normans, is also known as Newburgh Castle.

The first proper pier was built in 1813 and has been added to several times since. Today, as well as being a berth for trawlers and salmon boats and the home of the Greencastle Fishermen's Co-Op, the Foyle Fishermen's Co-Op and Fresco Seafoods, the pier also has a very different 'catch'. Visitors disembark from the Magilligan-Greencastle ferry which was inaugurated in 2002. The official website advertises the fact that this saves 78km (49 miles) of driving, which would be through Derry. The Lough Foyle Ferry Company has also recently (2004) begun a Lough Swilly ferry service that runs between Buncrana and Rathmullan seasonally. The pier also contains a newly built pilot office to replace the decommissioned pilot office at Carrickarory Pier.

Greencastle is also one of the disembarkation ports for cruise ships visiting Derry. Due to the tidal nature of the Foyle Estuary, it is too shallow for larger cruise ships to make their way to Lisahally docks in Derry. Stopping at Greencastle also saves five hours sailing round trip. However, passengers are required to disembark using tenders as, unlike Lisahally docks, the Greencastle pier lacks docking facilities.

Greencastle.

The Greencastle area also has a high number of thatched cottages, and although there are still a number of commercial thatchers in the area, their numbers are dwindling.

The 1850 coastguard station is home to Inishowen Maritime Museum that reflects the heritage of the Foyle and Atlantic as well as a state-of-the-art Planetarium. The museum has an extensive collection of artefacts, photographs and memorabilia of all things maritime.

Northburgh Castle and Martello Tower – Greencastle

A fine Norman castle overlooking the Foyle and built in 1305 by Richard de Burgh, the Red Earl of Ulster, and is situated beside a Martello Tower built in 1810. The castle at Greencastle has been linked with the castle in the background of the Derry crest and is rightfully described as 'the greatest castle building enterprise in Donegal'.

Greencastle Harbour.

Lough Foyle ferry.

Built on a prominent rock close to the shore, this awesome building utilised the advanced construction techniques of the Normans and the remarkable use of the natural rock to build a fortress intended to prevent attacks from Scotland and to act as a staging post for the final assault on the heartlands of Gaelic Ulster.

Although devastated by the ravages of war and decay of time, this castle in terms of scale and construction compares with the greatest Edwardian castles of Wales; it has even been suggested that it was built by an expert who was involved in the erection of Harlech and Caernarfon castles. It was captured by the Scots in 1316 during the invasion of Ireland by Edward Bruce.

On the defeat of Bruce it reverted to the Red Earl. His grandson William, who succeeded to the earldom in 1328 was at once in conflict with a distant cousin, Walter de Burgh from Connaught. He had Walter arrested and brought to Northburgh where he was slowly starved to death. The savagery of this act prompted the Mandeville family, at the instigation of Walter's sister, to murder William in 1333. His skeleton is now on the Derry City coat of arms.

As there was no-one other than a young daughter named Elizabeth to take up the earldom (and she fled to England along with her mother), Anglo-Norman power in Ulster was brought to a temporary end. The O'Dohertys (dependants of the O'Donnells) took control of the castle.

However, fighting within the O'Donnell clan resulted in a conflict during which help was procured from the Scots and the castle was badly damaged by cannon in the ensuing war. It then fell into the hands of Chichester during the Plantation but eventually fell into disuse.

The castle itself should be viewed up close, especially at the shore-side, where the scale can be appreciated. The rock outcrop upon which part of the walls and towers were constructed offers an unrivalled view of Magilligan Strand on the other side of the Foyle.

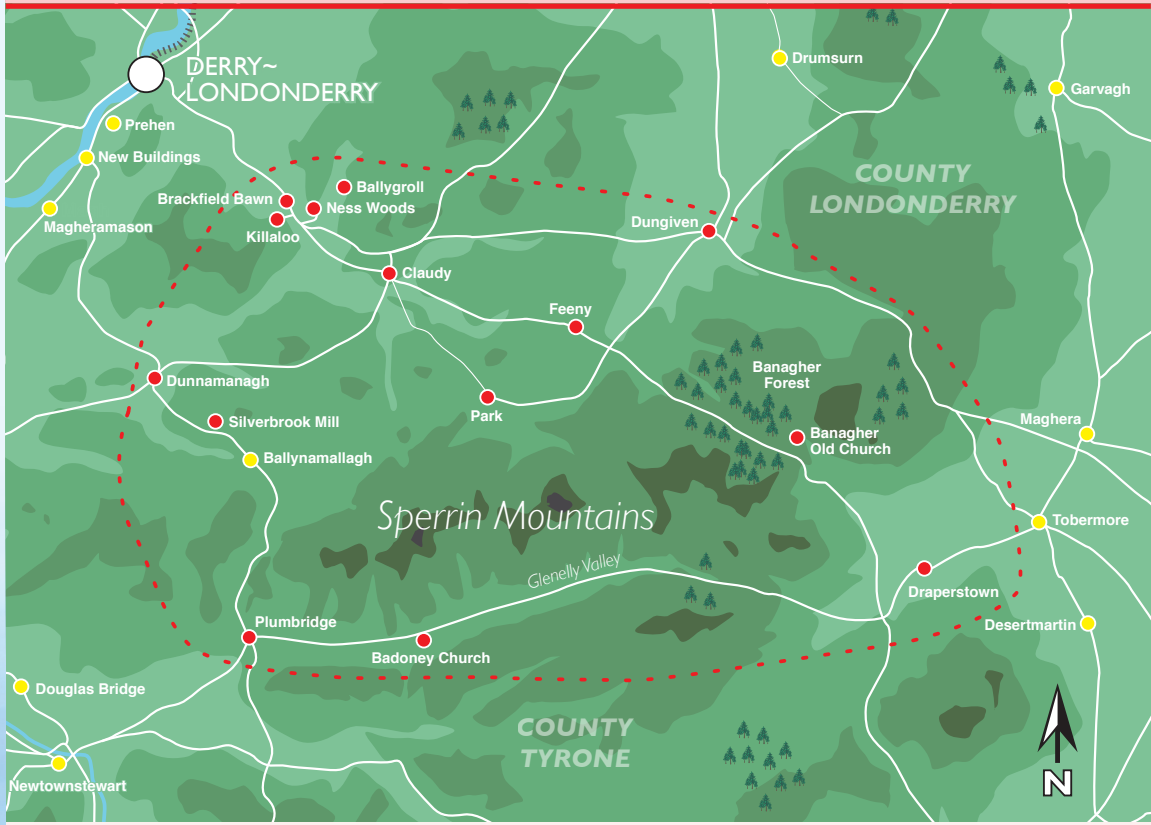
Inishowen Lighthouse – Shroove (Stroove)
A twin-towers complex of lighthouses designed by George Halpin and opened in 1837 to oversee the huge increase in sea traffic up and down the Foyle – overlooking the infamous Tunns bank.

Kinnego Bay – Glenagivney, Moville
A beautiful horseshoe bay at the bottom of Glenagivney and final resting place of the Spanish Armada wreck *La Trinidad Valencera* which sank in 1588 and was discovered in 1971. Many of the recovered artefacts can be viewed in the Tower Museum, Derry.

Inishowen Lighthouse.

AREA 4

Central Sperrins



Ness Wood

Ness Wood is the remnant of extensive natural oakwoods and lies in a steep, wooded glen of Burntollet Valley, southeast of Derry City. It is made up of 55 hectares of mixed woodland with 7km of walks. For over 2,000 years great oakwoods dominated the Irish landscape until the climate became wetter, bogs started developing and farming began. Yet Ireland was still heavily wooded even in the 1500s, witnessed by the fact that there are over 1,600 place names in Ireland containing the word Derry, an anglicised form of the Irish for oak. The oak woods of Derry were finally felled during the Plantation of Ulster, when various London Guilds were granted land in the country – Ness Wood for example, was allotted to the Grocers Company of London. The woods were cleared to provide timber for shipbuilding and barrel staves, and for charcoal to fuel the many furnaces over the country. The steep-sided valley at Ness, however, made felling and

planting difficult. The natural wood had a chance to regenerate and today boasts a fine mix of oak, holly, birch and rowan, all descended from Derry's ancient wild woods. The main feature of the park is a spectacular waterfall (the highest in Northern Ireland) from which the park derives its name, based on the Irish (an Ias or Ness meaning waterfall).

Ballygroll

A remarkable concentration of prehistoric monuments, ranging in date from 4000 to 1000BC, survives on Slievegore Hill. They include a court tomb, two wedge tombs, a round cairn, a barrow and two stone circles set within the remains of a pre-bog field system. Only the tops of the ancient field walls appear out of the bog. The latter appears to have been sealed in an earlier landscape sometime around 100BC.

Brackfield

This site is among the best preserved of the early 17th-century Plantation bawns in Northern Ireland. As a requirement of the Plantation in the newly created county of Londonderry, the 12 London companies had to build bawns on the lands that had been granted by King James I. The buildings at Brackfield were built soon after 1611 on lands granted to the Skinners Company. A survey of the site in 1619 stated that a village of 12 houses and a church stood nearby.

Feeny, Park and Claudy

These villages in the foothills of the Sperrin Mountains are surrounded by picturesque scenery. Nearby the road passes Drumcovitt House typical of the handsome country estates which were developed in the 18th century. Feeny, which means 'the wooded place' was built by the Fishmongers Company and is characterised by its winding main street, flanked by cottages which in olden days would have had thatched roofs and whitewashed walls.

Half a mile to the west of Feeny the main road to Claudy crosses the General's Bridge, where Shane Crossagh ambushed General Napier. By pretending he had accomplices hiding in the bushes and fixing lumps of turf and sticks to resemble armed men on the bridge, Shane tricked the general and his military escort into a humiliating surrender.

Outside Park Village, southwest of Feeny, is Learmount Castle, now sadly derelict. The Elizabethan-style mansion was built in 1830 for the Beresford family. The estate is now a Forest Park with public footpaths, a riverside walk and picnic sites.

Built around a market square on the banks of the River Faughan, Claudy which means 'miry place' has its own 22-acre Country Park in the grounds of Cumber House. The original owner of this house was William Ross, who had to sell it in 1785 after losing all his money in the American War of Independence. Cumber is now the regional headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Banagher Forest at 400 acres is the largest in the country and has some fine walks especially those through the ancient wooded glen to the splendid Altnaheglish Reservoir which supplies a lot of Derry City with its water. Banagher Nature Reserve holds some of the last fragments of what were once extensive woods covering much of the North West. The steep sides of the glens are clothed by mature trees, mostly oak and ash, with an understory of rowan, hazel, hawthorn and holly. Ferns and mosses thrive in the damp shady nooks along the riverbanks.

Drifts of primroses, bluebells, wood sorrel and wood anemone brighten the woodland floor in spring. In early summer, the woods are filled with the sound of birdsong while on warm days in mid-summer, watch out for the fast-flying silver-washed fritillary butterflies and dragonflies. Autumn frosts bring shades of russet and yellow to the glen. On most days you can see buzzards circling overhead or sparrowhawks darting through the tree-tops and patience may be rewarded by the sight of a stoat or red squirrel. Legend says that when Saint Patrick was driving all the snakes out of Ireland and into the sea, he first drove them into the rivers. One local serpent was too large to move from its pool in the Glenedra Water so Patrick imprisoned it there where it still lives to this day!

Banagher Forest and Dam.

Banagher Church is a well-preserved ruin dating from the late 11th or early 12th century when it was founded by St Muiredach O Heney, though local tradition has it founded by St Patrick in the 5th century. The church was first mentioned in 1121 when 'the king of Clannacht was killed by his own kinsmen in the cemetery'. Though roofless, the walls remain, and the 13th-century chancel has some elegantly carved windows. A large tomb or mortuary house where the remains of the saint are said to be buried is built in the shape of a church and has the carved figure of an abbot on the gable end. Sand scraped from under the tomb is reputed to bring good luck – but only if your name is O Heney.

Dungiven Priory and Bawn

The market town of Dungiven (meaning Given's Fort) lies nine miles south of Limavady near the foot of Benbradagh Mountain. Originally the seat of the O'Cahan Clan, Dungiven Castle has been restored and refurbished and provides a four-star guest house and restaurant in the town. Dungiven Priory, overlooking a 200ft precipice on the River Roe, was founded in 1100AD and contains the tomb of Cooey-na-Gall, an ancient chieftain of the O'Cahan Clan.

Dungiven is a busy town on a main thoroughfare between Derry and Belfast situated where the rivers Roe, Owengigh and Owenbeg meet at the northern approach to the Glenshane Pass. Dungiven Priory and Bawn, a complex series of ruined buildings, both

Dungiven Priory.

ecclesiastical and secular, extending in date from the 12th to the 17th centuries (before the establishment of Dungiven Town founded by the Skinners Company who built the bawn there in 1604–11) are to be found on the site. The church buildings are among the earliest ecclesiastical structures in stone and mortar to have survived in Ulster. There is believed to have been a monastery here whose 7th-century church is traditionally associated with St Nechtán from Scotland who died in 679. In the 12th century an Augustinian priory was set up which survived until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the mid-16th century. A very fine effigial tomb said to be the burial place of Cooey na Gall O Cahan (died 1385) was built in the 15th century.

Part of the 17th-century manor house and bawn built by Sir Edward Doddington was uncovered by excavation in 1982.

Nearby is Bovevagh Church and Mortuary House whose name is derived from *Both Meadbh*, the house or church of Meave. Locally it is linked to St Ringan, but connections have also been claimed with Patrick, Columba, Adamnan and Aidan, son of Fintan. The present ruin was a parish church in medieval times.

Draperstown

In 1613, 12 City of London livery companies agreed to develop this part of Ulster, settling it with English families in return for land. Anciently Cross, until 1818, when the Drapers Company who owned the place decided to take an interest in it, changed the name, and drew up plans to rebuild it around a triangular green. The present layout is by the company's surveyor, WJ Booth. His plan dates from 1827 and was carried out about three years later. It is in the ancient parish of Ballinascreen and is renowned for having the only regular open-air sheep market in Ireland.

Historically the village is a union of two settlements. In the late 1500s the crossroads that was later to become Draperstown heralded a toll gate and a duckpond adjoining an earthen fort. At the onset of the Plantation of Ulster, land annexed or expropriated from its Irish Catholic owners was distributed between the Protestant Established Church (the Church of Ireland) and the 12 London livery companies that had been commissioned by the English Crown to form the new county of Londonderry. The Ballinascreen area was divided between the Drapers and the Skinners companies, and the crossroads formed the boundary between the two. The area west of the crossroads which included Straw, Sixtowns and Moneyneena was part of the Skinners' portion. East of the crossroads belonged to the Drapers. The area was largely forgotten by the two companies until the turn of the 19th century, the land and properties being leased out to others.

The present town was founded in 1798 by Laughlin McNamee, who had a public house in Moneyneena, 3.5km northwest of the crossroads. When he realised that his business was going to suffer when the local fair was to be moved, he transferred his premises to the crossroads and built a number of houses alongside. McNamee is

buried in the front graveyard of the Catholic parish church, St Columba's, Straw (1.5 km southwest of Draperstown). The new settlement was referred to by different names: the Cross of Ballinascreen, Moyheeland, and Burboy. The Drapers Company referred to it as Draperstown and this was the name subsequently recognised by the Post Office. The properties within the area in the present day which still belong to the original Drapers Company include the 'Fair Hill' area and the 'Gate House' on Magherafelt (Gortnaskey) Road.

Badoney

The present St Patrick's Church of Ireland parish church at Bodoney (known locally as Badoney), built in 1784, is thought to occupy the site of an early Christian monastery. The 'doney' element of the name indicates a very early foundation, certainly during the first phase of Christianity in Ireland. It may be the Both-Domhnach, one of the St Patrick's seven foundations in the area of the Moyola River.

There are no early buildings visible on the site to show its use over 1,500 years as a place of worship. A roughly shaped stone cross with a wheel motif expanded to indicate the arms of a cross is likely to feature from the early period. This and three plain crosses from the graveyard are now kept in the church for safe keeping. Towards the back of the graveyard can be found St Patrick's Stone – a flat stone with shallow depressions. A bronze bell from Bodoney Lower was found in 1856. Now in the Hunt Museum in Limerick, this underlines further early ecclesiastical activity in the area.

Local legend has it that the name Glenelly, the name of the 20-mile valley in which Bodoney Church is located, came about as a result of St Patrick visiting the area. On crossing the hill and seeing the glen he is reputed to have exclaimed, 'Gleann eile (another glen)!' Another local legend has it that St Patrick's cook St Athghin set up Bodoney Church.

Townlands

There are around 63,000 of these townland units in Ireland. These medieval landscape assessment systems which emerged as an expression of landholding may seem like a quantitative evaluation, and in a sense they are, but they have an underlying environmental logic that is rare in contemporary resource assessment. In this system the more extensive territories occurred on poorer lands i.e. the larger townlands were usually in the poorer uplands. The 17th-century historian Geoffrey Keating outlined a native land-holding system based on the *triocha céad* or 'thirty hundreds'; each divided Ulster into about 28 *báile biadhtaigh* or *ballybetaghs* (lands of a food provider) and about 463 *seisrigh* or *seisreachs* (six-horse plough-teams). Keating's smallest unit, the *seisreach*, a division of the *ballybetagh*, is given as 120 acres. The size of the *seisreach* seems to have been approximately that of a modern townland. Another division is that of the *baile bó* (land providing one cow as rent), which was usually a twelfth of the

ballybetagh. In most of Ulster the ballyboe and its subdivisions are the precursors of the modern townland. In the Foyle system the river sources in the Bluestacks and the Sperrins have the larger townlands and in the more fertile floodplains of the Laggan Valley you find smaller townlands. The folk knew their land and what it could 'hold' in an ecologically friendly way. This was measurement not for commercial exploitation but for future survival and a deep affinity with the natural world of which humanity is one part. The differences are not perhaps so great. The land may have been measured but the interaction with the land is not directed by wholly material concern and also reflects the spiritual, intellectual and emotional concerns of a community. As O'Connor (2001:4) has said: '[t]o know the townlands of Ireland is to know the country by heart'.

Parishes were mapped out at the Synod of Rathbreasail in the year 1111. Here we see the transition from a medieval system of church based on monasteries to one based on a diocesan structure in which rivers were to play a major part. Bioregionalism can and does function at this level and rivers are central to this. The boundaries of the early Irish Church were defined largely by what we could term river-basin districts and all dioceses had an 'exit' to the sea, even if they were inland. The parishes were originally co-extensive with the *tuath*, the territory controlled and farmed by a clan or extended family, just as dioceses corresponded to larger political units. The parish is made up of a number of different townlands of various sizes depending on the 'quality' of the land. These would have been farming units most often bounded by some form of water. Over time the parish boundaries changed as the size of the population changed and political and social arrangements were to change. The old 'civil' parishes are frozen in time on the Ordnance Survey Maps first published in 1833. They were to map some 63,000 townlands in Ireland from 1833 to 1846.

Plumbridge

A small crossroads village standing on the banks of the Glenelly river offers a choice of five roads into the Sperrins and its hinterland and is officially designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is the gateway to the Glenelly Valley once described as one of the best motoring routes in these islands – a route of some 21 miles from Plumbridge to Draperstown. Not far from the village is Corrick Glen where the rivers of the Owenkillew and Glenelly meet. The remains of Corrick Abbey built

Owenkillew River, Plumbridge.

on a promontory there were founded by the Franciscans of the Third Order in 1465 and continued until 1603 when it was granted to Sir Henry Piers.

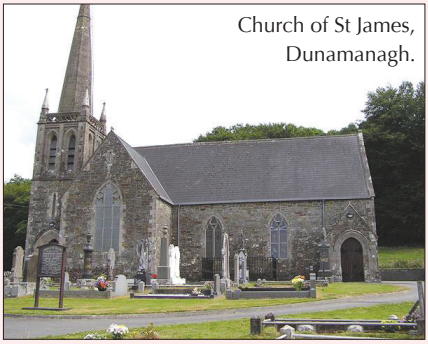
Glenelly Valley Landscape

The Glenelly Valley is often regarded as one of the most idyllic in Northern Ireland. The Glenelly River flows westwards through a long linear glen to the south of Sawel Mountain, following one of the principal fault-lines in the Sperrins. The verdant valley landscape contrasts with the expansive, windswept moorland above and has a hidden, secretive character. The valley is relatively narrow and enclosed by steep ridges. The slopes are gently undulating and divided into pastures and oak woodlands by stone walls and hedgerows. Tree cover increases towards the valley floor, where the Glenelly River meanders across a complex, undulating floodplain of alluvium and glacial moraine.

The channel has often carved deep ridges within these soft deposits, creating steep, irregular mounds and pockets of peaty marsh on the valley floor. The pastures, woodlands and copses form a varied, diverse patchwork, with small, oddly shaped fields and larger woodlands on steeper slopes. Much of the grassland is of poor quality, with wet flushes and gullies indicated by patches of rushes and scrub. Earthbanks, hedgerows and stone walls form an interconnected network, with the walls becoming increasingly common on the upper slopes, where they often follow the ancient townland boundaries. There are a few small conifer plantations. Settlements are typically small; buildings are clustered in traditional 'clachans' and in more scattered farmsteads. Traditional buildings seem an established part of the landscape and are an attractive element in most views. They nestle in sheltered locations and are connected by steep, narrow roads which follow the contours, with sudden sharp bends and small stone bridges where they cross the narrow valleys and gullies on the side of the slopes. The Glenelly Valley has a wealth of archaeological sites which are prominent on the valley slopes.

Dunamanagh

A small market town nestles in the foothills of the Sperrins. Sir John Drummond was granted 1,000 acres of land here in 1619 and founded the village by building 10 houses, a watermill for grinding corn and a house for himself. Some 20 years later he decided to build a castle, the building of which was started but never completed. He intended to get married and bring his wife here to live but she was drowned and the building work stopped and was never



Church of St James, Dunamanagh.

finished. The ruins are now known as Earl's Gift Castle. Nearby is Altnachree Castle built by CWL Ogilby, a scion of the family of Ardnargle and Pellipar House in Dungiven. The gaunt ruin of the enormous late-Victorian castle now resembles more of a folly. Dunamanagh, like many villages, especially those associated with mills, has beautifully situated cricket grounds set along the River Dennett.

Silverbrook Mill

A fine example of a multi-use mill on the River Dennett that processed timber, flax and corn until the 1950s.

Clachans and Rundale

A clachan (or baile or village) was a nucleated group of farmhouses, where landholding was conducted communally, on a townland basis, and often with considerable ties of kinship between co-operating families. Although the misleading word 'village' was used to describe them, these clusters of farmhouses were not classic villages, lacking the service functions of church, pub, school or shop. While the house may have individual gardens (garraí), they were surrounded by a permanently cultivated infield. Located on the best available land, this was a large open field, without enclosures, where a multiplicity of 'strips' (separated by sods or stones) were used to grow oats or potatoes. Each family worked a variety of periodically redistributed strips to ensure a fair division of all types of soil – deep, shallow, sandy, boggy and dry. The outfield, generally separated from the infield by a sturdy wall, comprised poorer, marginal hill or bog, where an occasional reclamation might be made to grow more potatoes. The rest of the townland was treated as commonage. Grazing was allocated communally, using the old Gaelic qualitative measure (the 'collop' or 'sum') to determine the amount of cattle carried on the pasture so as not to overstock it. Occasionally, if the outfield extended into high mountain pastures, cattle might be moved there in the summer, attended by young boys or girls who lived in temporary huts – the buaile. This grazing system was important for butter making.

The annual allocation of strips in the infield guaranteed an environmental egalitarianism. This system was called 'rundale' (based on a Scottish word) and it was universal in the poorer lands of the west and north of Ireland in the pre-Famine period. Rundale systems were not the degraded relics of an archaic settlement form, practising primitive agriculture in 'refuge' area. They were a sophisticated response to specific ecological conditions and maximised the carrying capacity of a fragile environment in an expanding population. It was co-operative management, agreed land use and pooled labour.

AREA 5

Lower Bann Valley

Lower Bann Floodplain Landscape

The Lower Bann River (Irish: *an Bhanna*, likely from *an bhan-abha*, meaning 'the white river') drains 38% (4,500 sq kms) of the catchment of Northern Ireland and part of the Republic of Ireland. At approximately 60m wide for most of its 60km length, it is considered to be a large river in the context of Ireland. It is a canalised waterway with five navigation locks at Toome, Portna, Movanagher, Carnroe and Castleroe. The overall gradient of the river is modest – it drops from 12.55m above sea level from Lough Neagh to its mouth.

The Bann River Valley is a settlement area for some of the first human arrivals in Ireland after the most recent glacial retreat. The river has played an important part in the industrialisation of the north of Ireland, especially in the linen industry. Today salmon and eel fisheries are the most important economic features of the river. The river is often used as a dividing line between the eastern and western areas of Northern Ireland, often labelled the 'Bann divide'.

The Lower Bann River leaves Lough Neagh at Toome, widens at Lough Beg and in the estuary before it enters the Atlantic to the north between Portstewart and Castlerock.

As well as being vital for drainage, the Lower Bann River and hinterland are important in terms of the natural and built heritage and local economy and for amenity value. The river corridor is rich in wildlife, with Lough Beg and the estuary being particularly important for breeding and passage birds. The Lower Bann River itself provides a conduit for migrating eels and salmon and a habitat for coarse fish species. The river is navigable from the sea to Lough Neagh with various water-based activities, such as cruising, canoeing, water skiing etc taking place along its length. The Lower Bann also provides a focus for land-based recreational activity including walking and cycling. The water level on the Lower Bann is controlled by the Rivers Agency using gates situated at Portna (near Kilrea) and The Cutts at Coleraine and a barrage at Toome.

The current drainage scheme was engineered by Major Percy Shepherd and was enabled by the Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Drainage and Navigation Act (Northern Ireland) 1955. The levels are regulated between 12.45m to 12.6m above Ordnance Datum – as defined in the Lough Neagh (Levels) Scheme 1955 (as amended).

Lower Bann – History & Archaeology

The Lower Bann and its banks reveal a particularly interesting story of early man in Ireland and some of its buildings dating from Plantation times are of particular interest.

Mountsandel at Coleraine is the site of the oldest human settlement so far recorded


Portrush
Bushmills
Portstewart
Downhill
Castlerock
COUNTY ANTRIM
Articlave
COLERAINE
Mountsandel
Macosquin
Ballymoney
Aghadowey
Drumsurn
Garvagh
Kilrea
River Bann
COUNTY LONDONDERRY
Tamlaght O'Crilly
Upperlands
Clady
Portglenone
BALLYMENA
Banagher Forest
Banagher Old Church
Maghera
Bellaghy
Church Island
Tobermore
Lough Beg
Draperstown
Desertmartin
Magherafelt

in Ireland. These Mesolithic people lived as hunter-gatherers 9,000 years ago and were drawn to the Lower Bann as a prolific source of salmon and eels. People exploited other sites along the Lower Bann for salmon and eels in later Mesolithic times as well. Along the Bann stone and flint artefacts have been found and the Newferry/Culbane area is recognised as one of the richest areas for stone artefacts in the British Isles. Evidence of human activity was frequently associated with the diatomite deposits laid down 5,000 to 7,500 years ago. Many swords, some of them richly decorated and dating from the late Bronze Age, have been found in the Lower Bann. Church Island at Lough Beg probably had religious significance even before the arrival of Christianity when it became, for a time, a monastic site. It is known to have been raided by Vikings who must have travelled upstream. There are a number of significant Plantation buildings along the Lower Bann; for example Bellaghy Bawn and Movanagher Bawn.

The industrial archaeology of diatomite working along the Lower Bann is especially notable. For over a century diatomite was extracted, made into bricks locally or exported for other uses such as making insulation bricks, abrasives (car polish, toothpaste, etc) and filters (cider, beer production). The first diatomite factories were built at Newferry in 1906 and Portglenone in 1912. During the Second World War large quantities of diatomite were exported to English munitions factories to act as an absorbent for explosives (nitroglycerine). Commercial extraction virtually ceased in the 1960s and finally ended in the mid-1990s.

A snapshot on the state of lands of the O'Cahans was provided in October 1608. An English Government report on the Plantation of the County of Coleraine mentioned that the chief septs that inhabit the county are the O'Cahans and under them the O'Mullans, the Magilligans and the McCloskeys. The report names the principal places to be cared for as a castle of Limavady, Enagh, Coleraine and Dungiven, and mentions that most of them are ruinous and out of repair.

Lough Beg and Church Island

Lough Beg is essentially a widening of the Lower Bann, 3km downstream from Toomebridge. It has an area of approximately 5 sq km and apart from the deeper navigation channel the lake is generally about 2m deep. Drainage schemes on the Lower Bann have inadvertently benefited the Lough Beg marginal habitats in that lowered water levels have helped to create an area of wet grassland on the former lake bed 1,000 acres in extent on the west shore. The wetlands which are known locally as *The Strand* cover over 300 acres (the second largest wetlands in the United Kingdom) and have become a haven for all kinds of birds, both resident and migratory. In 1965 they were designated part of the Lough Beg National Nature Reserve and an Area of Special Scientific Interest for their diversity of plant and animal life.

This land is grazed but has not otherwise been agriculturally improved. The wet

grassland is largely flooded in winter providing habitat for wintering wildfowl and as the winter floods recede it supports large numbers of breeding waders (redshank, lapwing, curlew, snipe and occasionally dunlin).

In spring and autumn Lough Beg is an important staging post for migrating birds to rest and feed on their way through. The Strand is rich in plant species including a remarkable number of rarities most notably Irish Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*), Northern reed grass (*Calamagrostis stricta*) and Penny Royal (*Mentha pulegium*). All of Lough Beg with its marginal habitats is protected as an Area of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Protection Area and a Ramsar Site.

'The Strand' on the west shore of Lough Beg is a large expanse of wet grassland that is flooded each winter and which has never been agriculturally improved. The nature reserve, with Church Island as its focal point, comprises 300 acres of this habitat.

Lough Beg and Church Island.

Church Island

Church Island, formerly known as Inish Taoide, was the site of a pre-Viking monastery. The island has an 18th century spire, a ruined medieval church and an old graveyard.

Church Island is a small island on Lough Beg 1.5 miles from Bellaghy. It is thought that the ruins of the church date back to the time of St Patrick who used the River Bann to navigate to 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. The Bullaun Stone is most likely associated with the first monastic settlement. However, local anecdote has it that the hole in the stone was made by St Patrick as he knelt to pray. 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.

That stone has a hollow that holds water and today remains an object of reverence.

What is better established is that a man called Thaddeus came to the island where he founded a church and monastic settlement; the traditional name for both the island and the church is *Inish Taoide*, being Irish for Thaddeus (Thaddeus is said to be buried against the inner wall of the church). Since the Vikings sailed up the Bann on their raids of Irish settlements, it is unlikely that Inish Taoide escaped their predations. However, it survived and is mentioned in the *Annals of Inis Fallon* in 1112 and in the *Annals of Ulster* in 1129. In later years the monks were of the Dominican religious order. Traces of herbs and rare mints grown by the monks for cures are still found there today. The church on the island acted as the parish church until it was burned down during the Plantation of Ulster; by 1603 the church was nearly in ruins. In the year 1642 the church, already close to ruin, was taken over by the military and a regiment of soldiers was billeted there.

Despite its ruined state, the church continued to play a role in the religious life of the local Catholic community. Mass was often celebrated within the roofless walls of the ancient church. Close by the Bullaun Stone is a tree on which pilgrims, having prayed or made a wish, would hang a piece of cloth or other memento. Moreover Catholic burials continued there until the 1930s and gravestones are still extant. During the 1798 Rebellion, many women and children were forced to take shelter on the island. The feast day of St Thaddeus falls on 7th September and an annual pilgrimage to the island in honour of the saint still takes place on the first Sunday in September.

In the later 1780s the eccentric Earl of Bristol, Bishop of Derry (also known as Bishop Hervey), constructed a mansion in Ballyscullion on the County Derry side of Lough Beg. To improve his view of Church Island and Lough Beg, in 1788 he commissioned builder Michael Keenan to add a spire to the church ruins. The spire was built for the bishop who wanted a view of a spire from his dwelling in Bellaghy. This spire, known locally as Hervey's Folly, still stands and has become an iconic part of the Lough Beg landscape. During World War II an American aircraft based at the nearby Creagh air-base put a

pronounced kink in the steeple when it hit it with its wing tip. It has since been partially straightened by the Department of the Environment.

The walls of the roofless medieval church still stand though they are in need of conservation. The building is oriented east/west and measures 52ft by 21ft with a door on the south side and windows at both ends and at the sides. The walls, built from local stone, are about 3ft thick. The church lies in the middle of a graveyard with about 50 known graves and a number of gravestones on both the north and south sides of the church (the gravestone inscriptions have been recorded). The graves include that of Michael Keenan, the builder of the steeple.

Church Island consists of seven acres of land much of which is wooded. While it was an island in the old days, the dredging of the River Bann in the 1940s created a marshy wetland between the island and the west or County Derry side of Lough Beg. This low-lying wetland can be crossed by foot except when a swollen River Bann floods the marsh and water completely surrounds the island. Pilgrims can, however, walk to the island from the County Derry side as Church Island is not an 'island' as such insofar as only three of its sides are surrounded by water. With the passing of time and in particular after the dredging of the River Bann in the 1930s, the water on the west side of the island has receded although in bad weather the swollen River Bann again completely surrounds the island.

Bellaghy

Irish: *Baile Eachaidh,* meaning 'Haughey's Townland, is a village in County Londonderry, Northern Ireland. It lies northwest of Lough Neagh and about five miles north of Magherafelt. At the centre of the village lies the junction of three main roads leading to Magherafelt, Portglenone and Toome.

Although there were Gaelic settlements in the area beforehand, Bellaghy was one of the first planned towns in Ireland. The village dates back to the 17th century when it was one of many towns settled and built under the authority of the Vintners Company of London as part of the Plantation of Ulster. In 1622, according to a manuscript of a Captain Thomas Ash, it seems that Bellaghy consisted of a church, a castle, a corn mill and 12 houses.

The 17th-century bawn at Bellaghy is the best restored example to be found anywhere in Northern Ireland. Recent excavations have revealed that the bawn was constructed on the site of a Gaelic rath or ringfort. The bawn was attacked, but remained intact, in the 1641 rebellion when many of the houses were burnt to the ground. Locally it is still referred to as 'the castle' and it is located in Castle Street. Bellaghy Bawn was opened to the public in 1996 and features exhibitions on local natural history, the history of the Ulster Plantation and the poetry of local Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney, who was born and grew up nearby and it's where he called 'home'.

Bellaghy Bawn.

Built around 1619 by Sir Baptist Jones, Bellaghy Bawn is a fortified house and bawn (the defensive wall surrounding an Irish tower house). What exists today is a mix of various building styles from different periods with the main house lived in until 1987.

Upperlands and Linen

Ireland's oldest linen factory William Clark and Sons Ltd was established at Upperlands in 1726 by Jackson Clark and flourished under eight generations of his descendants. It was still working until 20 years ago producing one million square yards of fine damask linen every year. The firm's beetling engines may well be the oldest in the world. The factory drew its power from the Clady River.

Another Upperlands linen-making family produced one of America's Founding Fathers: Charles Thomson, the Philadelphia revolutionary who became Secretary of the first congress of the USA, was born near here in 1729. Other local success stories include a pioneer of the Canadian Pacific Railway and a surgeon who tended to Napoleon on his death-bed.

Linen is the aristocrat of textiles. Strong as steel, but no less delicate than silk, its appearance is as varied and attractive as the Irish landscape. It takes devotion and skill to weave, finish and dye, but no fabric holds colour so well. Warm in winter, and gloriously cool in summer, it has wonderful properties of absorption and durability.

Linen was prized in ancient Egypt and biblical times; and today, when furniture and

fashion designers can choose from a bewildering array of synthetic materials, there are many who still insist on the ancient, natural luxury of linen.

An abundance of running water is essential for finishing linen. Water is needed for almost every stage of the finishing process – washing, bleaching, dyeing, starching. It has also been used to drive machinery, first water-wheels and later turbines. The first machines driven by water power were beetling engines, used to soften cloth by pounding it with wooden blocks. In the 19th century, Upperlands saw a rapid increase in the number of beetling engines and the addition of mangles for dyeing and starching, and stenter frames which held the cloth to a fixed width as it dried. The first turbine was installed in 1896, and the last water-wheel was removed in 1930.

At the height of the Upperlands water system – described by an inspector in 1929 as 'the best-developed small hydro scheme in the world' – it produced 500 horse power from a two-mile stretch of river, on a series of small falls totalling about 150 feet. Manageable rivers like Knockoneill-Clady, with a fall of say 10 feet every 200 yards, were one of the blessings of the Irish linen industry – and the envy of its rivals in the flat lands of Holland or northern France. But small Irish rivers can dry up quickly when rainfall is short, so it is essential to build dams to store water. The first small dam in the Upperlands area was built by seal-master Alex Clark in 1760.

In 1815, a larger area, which was called the Green Dam, was dug out. By that time there were five wheels on the river. As well as beetling, they were used for dyeing cloth, scutching flax and grinding corn. The dams were again enlarged in 1857 and 16 new beetling engines were installed in a building called the Lower House. The problem of 'balancing the load' at each of the six stations became tricky. If enough water was released from the dams for the beetling engines on the lower stretch of the river, it would be too much for the starching and dyeing machines near the top. So an extra four beetling engines were added at the top of the system. There seemed to be no end to its expansion.

This century, turbines have proved far more efficient than the old water-wheels, but the fundamental principles are the same. The use of water power has fallen off since the 1960s, but there is hope to reverse that trend – with renewed interest in hydropower and renewable energy.

Kilrea

Kilrea – either *Cill Reidh,* the church on the plain or, more likely, *Coill Reidh*, the wooded plain – became a 17th-century Plantation town within the Mercers Company estate, and a charmingly picturesque one, its busy life circulating around the elegant and flower-bedded market square, The Diamond. Two important buildings in The Diamond are The Mercer's Arms, built in 1765, and The Town Hall, built in 1836.

Situated beside the Bann as the river enters the borough and on one of its most idyllic stretches, it is not just a major Irish centre for river and lake angling. It is also the base

for the Portna Eel Fishery whose hatchery is one of the largest and most technologically advanced in Europe, keeping Lough Neagh stocked with a delicacy much in demand across Europe.

Worth a visit in Kilrea is the Claragh Heritage Centre, set in 3.5 acres of gardens.

A revered focal point for the cultural and community life of the town is a little walled enclosure beside the Presbyterian church graveyard where for 200 years a fairy thorn tree grew. Although the venerable tree, the centre-piece of the town's annual summer folk festival, fell victim to a great storm in the closing days of the 20th century, its site has not lost its popularity as a meeting place and generations to come will still be able to gather around its successor – grown from a seed of the original!

Garvagh

A pleasant market town, Garvagh lies 12 miles south of Coleraine and stands close to the rivers Bann and Agivey making Garvagh the ideal spot for game and coarse angling. There are many ancient and historic churches in the area, which also abounds in dolmens, burial chambers and standing stones.

Garvagh – *Garbhachadh*, meaning *the rough field* – in the southern reaches of the borough is a busy market town serving a hinterland of thriving agriculture and rural pursuits such as shooting and fishing.

Garvagh was important from very early times but was destroyed by fire during the Battle of Garvagh and rebuilt as a Plantation town as its broad main street and neatly planned buildings evidence. It was founded in the early 17th century by George Canning from Warwickshire, agent for the Ironmongers Company of London, and it later grew into a middling-size market town. A striking feature of the town is the stone clock tower with an attractive clock and castellations, which dominates the main route through the town and also serves as the district cenotaph.

The 19th-century British Prime Minister George Canning was born in the family home of Garvagh House, the extensive grounds of which have now been developed to create a forest park with gardens, nature trails and scenic routes. The rich rural tradition of the area is superbly celebrated in the Museum and Heritage Centre, created within the walled garden of the mansion, a treasure house of farming memorabilia and old farm machinery. Experiencing a real-life farm is possible at Arkhill Open Farm, where home-baked bread and pastries can be sampled as well as petting and feeding the animals.

Dolmens and other burial chambers, standing stones and ring forts testify to Garvagh's long history of human habitation. Most dramatic are the Craclery Cairn at Ballydullaghan and the Tamnyrankin Cairn, the largest in County Londonderry. The Slaghteaverty Dolmen is reputedly the grave of Abharach, the Celtic dwarf magician, and the stone circles at Knockonerth are linked to the 10th-century High King of Ireland Niall Glundubh.

Aghadowey

Aghadowey Presbyterian Church was built in 1832 to replace an earlier church located in the townland of Carnallagh. That congregation's claim to fame was a migration of some one hundred people to New Hampshire from this area in 1718. This exodus was led by Rev James McGregor, who established one of the first Presbyterian churches in New England, founded two towns (Derry and Londonderry), introduced the potato to North America and helped establish the linen industry in New Hampshire.

The Linen Watchman's House at Ballydevitt Road indicates the importance of the linen industry in this area. For centuries linen was spread out on the grass to bleach, but leaving the new webs of cloth exposed in this way was a temptation to thieves to steal the valuable fabric. Until 1810, the penalty for the theft of linen was death. Despite these harsh laws, it was found necessary to hire guards or watchmen to act as a deterrent to thieves. The Watchman's House was built by Adams and Co in the middle of the 19th century; it was big enough for a man to stand up in, but not for him to lie down in.

Derry and Londonderry New Hampshire – the Aghadowey Connection

Small numbers of Ulster Presbyterians had emigrated to America in the late 17th century, mainly from the Laggan in northeast Donegal, but it was not until 1718 that the exodus began in earnest. In that year 11 Presbyterian ministers and nearly 300 members of their congregations petitioned the Governor of New England, Samuel Shute, for a grant of land. In March 1718, the Rev William Boyd of Macosquin was sent to America to find out what encouragement would be given to a settlement in New England. Shute gave every encouragement and in the summer of the same year five ships left Derry Quay for Boston. In the spring of 1718 a group of 16 families left Aghadowey in County Londonderry to settle in British North America. They were led by their pastor, Rev James McGregor, whom the Encyclopaedia of Irish History called 'the Moses of the Scotch-Irish in America'. They left the Old World to find economic, political cultural and religious freedom in the New World. Their tradition of hard work and frugality on the neat farms that were their pride gave them an independence of mind that would eventually find an outlet. The members of McGregor's congregation were mainly weaver/farmers. From 1714 through 1718 there was a series of very bad harvests. Those years also saw a decline in the price of linen. After the siege of 1689, the British Government had given the yeoman farmers very cheap rents in the Ulster Plantation. After 1710, there was a fear that the leaseholders would see their rents doubled, or worse. It was time to leave. But to where?

The prospect of a better life, which had driven their forebears to Ulster in the first place, turned their minds to emigration. Most, but not all, of the 18th-century emigrants came from the Ulster Presbyterian community. They would become known in America as the Ulster-Scots. Paradoxically, they brought with them a tradition of 'republicanism'. They were to play an extremely important role in the struggle

for American independence and provided the new republic with many of its early presidents, as well as other leaders.

Historians still debate whether it was essentially religious discrimination or economic depression which caused them to leave – no doubt it was a mixture of both.

Generally, the records reveal that emigration was confined mostly to the northern districts of the county and within these two areas: the Bann Valley north of Garvagh and Kilrea, comprising the parishes of Agahadowey, Macosquin, Kilrea, Dunboe and Ballywillin, which were the main feeders of the first wave; and to a lesser degree the Foyle Valley, the Donegal and Tyrone sides north of Lifford and Strabane supplying as many emigrants as the part lying in County Derry. Research suggests that two separate streams of emigration were maintained in New England, the Bann company making for the frontiers of Maine and New Hampshire, the Foyle folk swelling the remote settlements of the Massachusetts colony. Between 1718 and 1775 saw the departure of almost a quarter of a million migrants from our northern shores.

On the day before the Aghadowey pioneers left, Rev McGregor called together his flock and preached a sermon. His text was from *Exodus 33:12*, in which Moses prays in the wilderness: 'If thy presence goes not with me, carry us not hence.'

He told his flock, 'We must say farewell to friends, relations and our native land.' He elaborated by giving four reasons for leaving: '1. To avoid oppressive and cruel bondage; 2. To shun persecution and designed ruin; 3. To withdraw from the communion of idolaters and 4. To have the opportunity of worshipping God according to the dictates of conscience and the rules of his inspired Word.'

They travelled on the British brigantine, the *Robert*. There were 16 families. No-one knows how long it took them to reach Boston, but six weeks is a good guess. The *Robert* arrived on 4th August 1718. Nor do we know the number of Agahdowey pioneers who were on this voyage. The 16 families would probably translate into fewer than a 100 individuals.

For a year they stayed together in Massachusetts before they were given a grant of 117 square miles far inland and away from interference from the British who controlled the coastal regions. The grant of land was on the frontier north of the Merrimac River in what is now New Hampshire. Nutfield had been named by earlier pioneers in New Hampshire. There were huge long meadows that extended for miles through the forests. The grasslands were created by beavers damming streams to make ponds. In time they filled in and became grasslands. Settlers in the coastal towns would come to these meadows to cut the grass to feed the livestock. They decided to settle at a place called Nutfield, so called because of its abundance of chestnut, butternut and walnut, beech and the famous oak trees. The settlement began on 11th April 1719 which McGregor named Londonderry in honour, he said, of Ulster Protestants' 'finest hour'.

The following day, under a large oak tree, Rev McGregor preached to the settlers from *Isaiah 32 verse 2*. 'And a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a shelter from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place; as shadow of a great rock in a weary land.'

By 1721 the population of Nutfield had grown to 360 people. In 1722 the Royal Governor incorporated the town with the name Londonderry after their former home and the city that gave them refuge in Ireland.

The rapid occupation of the province in the next half-century owed much to the Londonderry colony from which, after its foundation in 1719, groups of families continually hived off to take advantage of the opportunities speculators were providing in the territory west of the Merrimac. In fact, within 25 years of their occupation of the Nutfield colony they were settling 30 miles beyond the Merrimac, in townships with familiar Ulster names like Antrim and Hillsborough.

Three towns

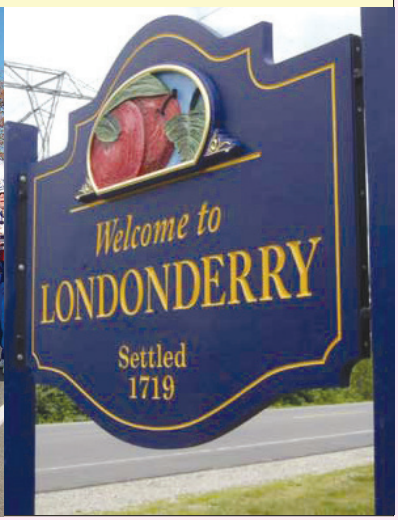
In time the town split into separate towns; Windham in 1742; by 1740 only the town of Portsmouth, the capital of New Hampshire, had a larger population than that of Londonderry; in 1767 Londonderry's population had risen to 2,389 and Derry and Londonderry divided in 1827. The original town centre in 1719 was in the area now called Derry. Derry itself is divided into three villages, East Derry, the oldest part of town, Derry Village and Derry.

McGregor and family

It has been claimed that Rev James McGregor of Aghadowey, when a boy, discharged from the tower of the cathedral in Derry the large gun which announced the approach of the vessels that brought relief.

Rev McGregor played an important part in the early settlement not only as a minister, but also as a leader in the legal and secular affairs of the township.

Rev McGregor possessed a robust constitution and enjoyed uninterrupted health in the years during which his exertions had helped to establish the settlement. Then



suddenly, at the age of 52, he contracted his first and last illness, an attack of fever. He survived only a few days, died on Wednesday 5th March 1729 and was buried the following Saturday in the burying ground at Londonderry, NH. Five of the men who had been his comrades at the Siege of Derry carried his body from his church to nearby Forest Hill Cemetery. He would have been comforted to know that in time his wife would marry the Rev Matthew Clark, his replacement pastor in Derry. Rev Clark was also a veteran of the siege and his temple proudly bore a battle wound that never healed.

He left a widow and seven surviving children.

He is described as a tall, erect man, his complexion rather dark and his countenance expressive. He was strictly evangelical and experimental in his preaching. The Rev EL Parker in his history of 1851 says of him:

> 'He lived to see the vine, which he had brought from his native land into the wilderness, taking firm root and beginning to extend its tender branches. His name and memory were most tenderly cherished by his bereaved flock, and succeeding generations, and the effects of his labours among them were long and widely felt.'

Even though McGregor died in 1729 his family continued to play an important part in the history of the settlement and further afield. His son, the Rev David McGregor, was the first minister of the West Parish when this second congregation was formed. The Rev David's son, Colonel Robert McGregor, joined the revolutionary forces in the War of Independence and was ADC to General John Stark, a native of Londonderry NH, and described as the most distinguished Scots-Irishman in New England. Practically everyone in Londonderry NH took the American side in the War of Independence against Britain. In turn Colonel Robert McGregor's daughter Mary Ann married the Rev John R Adams, who was ordained in the West Parish in 1831 carrying on the tradition.

No doubt there are thousands of McGregor's descendants in America today. James McGregor's great-great-great-great-great-great-grandson is Senator John Kerry who ran for president in 2004 and is now Secretary of State.

In 1718, when the Rev James McGregor sailed to the British Province of New Hampshire, he brought with him a sack of seed potatoes. These he planted in 1719 in the common field of colonial Derry. This, most believe, was the genesis of the massive potato industry in America. The Nutfield colony survived the first season on eels and these snakelike animals were sometimes called Derryfield beef. An Ulster History Circle Blue Plaque in honour of Rev McGregor is located on the wall of Aghadowey Presbyterian Church.

Many more Derrys and Londonderrys exist throughout the world from Canada to Chile and from Australia to the Caribbean. Derry-Londonderry can rightly say that is has achieved global status in name and in spirit.

Coleraine

In a sense there are two distinct Coleraines, built on the east and west banks of the Bann just before the river takes its last turn into the broad reach that flows out of the mouth of Lough Foyle. The west bank parish of Killowen has an older history of settlement. A monastery was founded here by St Patrick of which Carbreus was bishop in 540AD. The earliest visible remains in Coleraine are now of the 17th century. At the Jacobean Plantation Coleraine was, like Derry, granted to a group of London merchants who, as the Irish Society, had collective responsibility for founding and fortifying the town.

The *Tripartite Life of Saint Patrick* records how the town got its name. When Patrick arrived in the neighbourhood, he was received with great honour and hospitality by the local chieftain, Nadslua, who offered him a piece of ground on which to build a church. The spot was next to the River Bann and was overgrown with ferns, which were being burned by some boys to amuse themselves. This incident led to the area being called *Cúil Raithin* ('nook of ferns'), which was later anglicised as *Colrain*, *Colerain* and *Coleraine*. It was translated by Colgan into Latin as *Secessus Filicis*.

Unlike the town, governmentally there was not a preceding administrative area called County Derry. English control of the territory remained nominal. Following the Flight of the Earls (1607) the Crown confiscated almost the entire county from its Irish aristocratic feudal owners. In 1609 the territory was given to the City of London Corporation and its livery companies, who received instructions to undertake its plantation.

The area for planting included: the entirety of County Coleraine, the barony of Loughinsholin which comprised the then north of County Tyrone and the environs of Coleraine in County Antrim, together called O'Cahan's Country and a small area of County Donegal around Lough Foyle.

In 1613, this larger area became incorporated into the newly founded County Londonderry, with its county town in the new walled city of Derry (also founded in 1613) on the west bank of the Foyle, opposite the destroyed town of Derry.

The Liberties of Coleraine and Londonderry were requested by the Irish Society so that they could control both banks of the mouths of the River Foyle and the River Bann, and Loughinsholin to have access to sufficient wood for construction.

The slightly skewed street pattern of Coleraine's town centre is legacy of that early exercise in town planning, along with traces of the lines of the ramparts that provided the Plantation town with its defences.

As a result of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, the city of Derry~Londonderry was detached from the county for administrative purposes, becoming a separate county borough from 1899. The county town of County Londonderry, and seat of the Londonderry County Council until its abolition in 1973, was therefore moved to the town of Coleraine.

With some industrialisation, the expansion of the river port and the development of

Coleraine town centre.

the railway, the town expanded significantly throughout the 19th century and into the early part of the 20th century. Coleraine steadily expanded after the Second World War. The population doubled due to major industrial development on extensive suburban sites, the decision to site the New University of Ulster (now known as the University of Ulster) in the town, the expansion of commerce and the development of sporting and recreational facilities.

Coleraine boasts one of the most important and historic sets of civic regalia in Ireland, including a two-handed sword presented in 1616 and a mace of 1702, a fine example of Queen Anne period craftsmanship.

Architecturally Coleraine reflects many ages, including the time when the Bann lowlands were one of the most important linen-producing areas in Britain. Its Town Hall, built in 1743, demolished and then rebuilt in 1859, presides over The Diamond, the central shopping piazza. From the Hall's lofty classical tower the curfew bell was nightly rung until relatively recently and its refurbished interior contains a stained-glass window commemorating in 1914 the positive role of the London companies in the town's development. The Town Hall was badly damaged in a bomb attack in November 1992 and consequently refurbished and reopened in August 1995. Today, it also features a new stained-glass window, commemorating Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002.

A very short distance away beside the First Trust Bank is Bellhouse Lane, or at least what is left of it. The name is derived from the fact that the town's Curfew Bell was situated here on a building used as a courthouse. The bell was rung to call to arms at times of political unrest and to denote curfew time. Later it was used to inform townsfolk of local court sittings and the hour of the day. The original bell was replaced and relocated to hang over the entrance to the Market Yard in Lime Market Street where it hangs to this day.

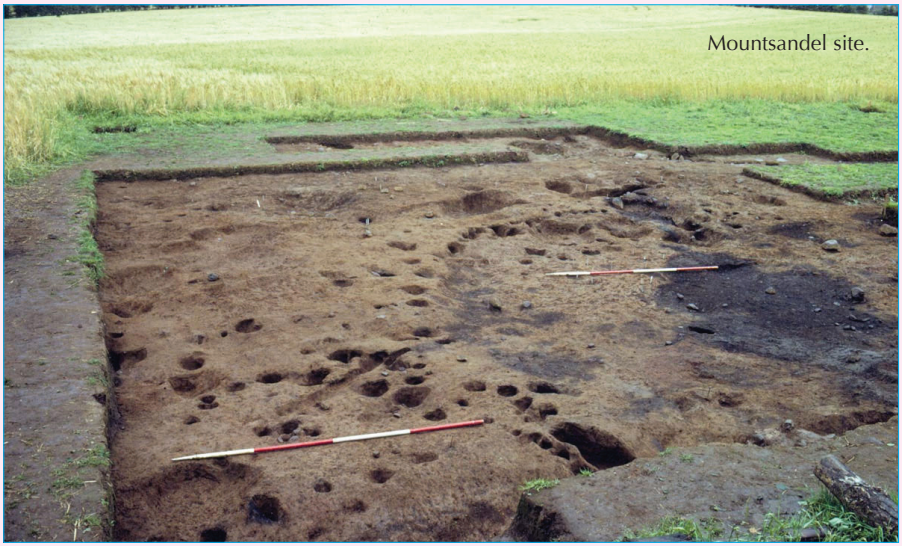
Other buildings of historical architectural interest in Coleraine are the neo-Greek Courthouse, the railway station by Charles Lanyon, the Market Yard, the former Irish Society School, built in rustic cottage style and the Clothworkers Building. The town's first Methodist and Presbyterian churches still stand and on the west side of the river the stately Gothic Church of Ireland remains, along with the Roman Catholic church, both dedicated to Saint John.

Mountsandel

Less than a mile south, at Mountsandel, are the remains of the earliest-known settlement in Ireland, dating from before 7000BC (before the Iron Age). Mountsandel is a 200ft-high grassy mound, hollowed at the centre. In the 12th century it became an Anglo-Norman fortification of John de Courcy and was used until the 1600s, since it had such good views up and down the river. Close by, excavations have revealed the hearths of wooden houses that stood here 9,000 years ago. Archaeologists during the 1970s discovered

Mountsandel and realised it to be one of the most important historical sites on the island of Ireland. Artefacts from between 9,500 and 10,000 years old were unearthed and the excavations uncovered evidence that the people who lived at Mountsandel at around 7000BC had a rich diet of salmon (sourced from the adjacent River Bann), pig, duck and pigeon.

The forest walk at Mountsandel goes from the high point at the fort to the banks of the Bann and passes close to the weir at the Cutts.



Mountsandel site.

Castlerock and Hezlett House

Two jagged rocks on the shore, like the turrets of a castle, gave the name to this Victorian resort. It is a railway halt on this wonderful bit of coastline just west of the mouth of the Bann where the famous railway line runs into a tunnel. Castlerock is situated just a kilometre from where the River Bann meets the sea – The Bar Mouth. Castlerock was a backwater hamlet until a Victorian railway company built a station and then in order to generate passenger traffic 'designed' a town and offered virtually give-away sites for the building of houses. Problems of land title, however, delayed full development until the early 1950s and since then the town has blossomed, not just with housing, but with high-quality holiday-park facilities. The Bar Mouth, itself protected by the National Trust, is one of the most fruitful bird-watching sites in the north of Ireland, being on the migratory route of many winter visitors and with important populations of nesting and wading birds.

The town boasts a wonderful terrace of early Victorian black basalt houses known as the 'Twelve Apostles'. Basalt is a very common building material in this area as

Hezlett House.

evidenced by Christ Church, Church of Ireland. Castlerock railway station dates from 1853 and was designed by Charles Lanyon.

At the crossroads above the town stands Hezlett house, a 17th-century thatched farmhouse now owned by the National Trust. Its construction, unusual in Ireland, consists of wooden ribs, called cruck trusses, arched at regular intervals between the load-bearing gable ends. The house was extended in 1823 and this extension is now furnished in Victorian style, from the low, windowless servants' quarters in the loft to the fully equipped kitchen with its peat fire. The thatch roof has a thickness of some 6ft weighing almost 40 tons – a tribute to the house's sturdy construction.

Castlerock has an interesting history linked to the development of the Londonderry and Coleraine Railway Company who offered 10 years first-class travel to anyone willing to build a villa in the town. These 'villa' tickets proved popular and many of the older buildings such as 'Seawell House', 'Craiglea', or 'Atlantic Lodge' date from this period.

Bann Estuary

From the Cutts Weir to the sea for a distance of 11km the Lower Bann is tidal. The outer estuary is not large (it has a maximum width of 0.5km). The Coleraine urban section of the estuary supports some reedswamp and woodland fringe but, as the channel further widens in the middle part of the estuary, larger reedswamps appear. There are areas of mudflat and marsh and sand-dune systems on both the Castlerock and Portstewart sides

with older dunes at Grangemore, near Articlave. Coleraine Harbour is less commercially active than it once was but a dredged channel for boats entering and leaving the harbour is still maintained between the breakwaters at the Barmouth. The estuary is used by commercial boats, for angling, watersports, walking, etc.

The Bann Estuary is important for birds especially wintering waders and wildfowl that mostly feed on the mudflats and roost on the shore. The estuary usually supports about 4,000 birds each winter. Its local importance is highlighted by the success of the birdwatching hide at the railway crossing but it is clearly important in a wider context as it is part of a Lower Bann migration flyway. Each spring and autumn large numbers of birds on their way to and from countries further north pass through the Lower Bann corridor linking to either Lough Neagh or wetlands and coastal areas further south in Ireland or even mainland Europe.

The sand dunes at Portstewart and Grangemouth are managed as National Trust nature reserves. The National Trust also leases the shooting rights from The Honourable The Irish Society over the mudflats to manage these as a no-shooting wildfowl refuge. The North Derry Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty extends to the west side of the Bann Estuary. The Bann Estuary is an Area of Special Scientific Interest and proposed Special Area of Conservation.