

6. Tier 4 Settlements - Small Villages



Tier 4 settlements- Small Villages

6.1 Annagry



Annagry is located in the Donegal Gaeltacht and can be identified as a coastal village within the Rosses area. Economic activity is mainly at a local enterprise level with a range of services provided to accommodate local residents. Rural housing is very evident in this particular settlement which can be seen along approach roads into the settlement and overlooking Annagry strand.



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Landscape characteristics

The settlement is located within LCA 27 Bloody Foreland Uplands & Coast located within An Gaeltacht on the northwest corner of Donegal and defined by a dramatic landscape comprising Cnoc Fola mountain in the north and Ardsmore mountain in the east looming over a landscape of excessively worked low-lying Atlantic bog interspersed with lakes, open rural landscape with isolated instances of trees or hedgerow, towards a rugged and windswept coastline.

Rivers rise in the inhospitable bog covered mountains within the east of this landscape and flow north and west along small valleys towards the sea, creating fertile riverine agricultural corridors through bog and poor quality rural lands along the coast. The N56 skirts around the east of this LCA and the three regional roads R250, R257 and R258 spur off it within the south of this area, continuing as the R257 northwards around the coast and informing the route of the 'Wild Atlantic Way' within this area.

The coastal landscape within the north west of this landscape unit consists of a distinctive and historic local field pattern of small sinuous fields bound by historic stone walls of rounded dry stone, and known colloquially as 'Bloody Foreland' owing to the colours of the landscape from the setting sun. Further south, the more populous coastal area has clusters of houses amongst copses of trees within a more undulating agricultural landscape behind a sandy and sand dune coastal edge with tidal estuaries.

Additionally it is characterised by undulating hills and open aspects fertile agricultural land. Defining feature is Annagry Strand and river which gives the settlement a distinct seascape. River provides a tranquil setting and connection with physical landscape.

This coastline has important machair and sand dunes as well as shingle banks and a host of other important habitats for sea birds. River streams and lakes are valuable fishing resources both for tourists and residents.

Townscape features



Annagry can be characterised as a quiet coastal settlement in linear urban form with low density development. Additional townscape features which give rise to this distinct coastal settlement include:

- Ornamental planting and decorative seating areas contribute to a stimulating environment, mainly located along the coastal edge of the settlement to make the most of its natural assets.
- Commercial buildings front onto the main street and traditional shop fronts resulting in a vibrant character.
- Church present within settlement provides a focus to shared social space within the area.
- Settlement rich in vegetation, mature trees and stone walls which add character to the area and enhances the visual amenity of the town.
- Streetscape enhanced by the visual links created by the strong linear feature of the stone wall.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion.
- Historical core.
- Community hall has a considerable townscape impact as a place for residents to meet.
- Property plots within settlement are generally irregular in size with some set close to the main road and the remaining few set back further.
- Presence of school, churches and shops contribute to a diversity of land uses within the settlement.

History, Culture and Heritage

Traditional Irish culture is very much evident in this Gaeltacht settlement which has informed the community's identity leaving an imprint on the landscape, and in particular the Irish language, the principle language spoken in this area.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the detail of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie .

Due to the exposed nature of Annagry Strand it is important to preserve the coastal views which have come to define the settlements landscape and have given the area a sense of place and identity.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Church spires visible from outside the town form local landmarks.
- Views channelled to open countryside and coastline including Annagry Strand and the surrounding undulating landscape.
- Mature trees located within the settlement which enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual value, damage to this element has the potential to alter the coherence of this locality.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.2 Ballintra



Identification of Settlement Type (Town of the Holm)

The village is characterised by long linear street located next to a limestone quarry which is used locally within an expansive agricultural area. Protected landmarks include Coxtown Manor and the church, and a further 20 structures are listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. There are also estate landscapes to the south of the town including Brown hall Estate to the east of Ballintra.



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Landscape characteristics

Ballintra is located within Donegal Bay Drumlins LCA Unit 37 consisting of a large distinctive drumlin belt that flow along a northeast-southwest axis from the Blue Stack Mountains and the Pettigo Plateau east towards Donegal Bay. The drumlin formation is more prominent in the north converging at the head of Donegal Bay becoming less prominent and obvious towards the south. The drumlins are draped in a patchwork of fertile agricultural fields of various sizes bound by deciduous hedgerow and trees that are interspersed with patches of woodlands and conifer plantations. Loughs are a common feature amongst the drumlins and a large number of streams and rivers rise in higher lands to the north and east and course along valleys through the drumlins towards the sea.

This LCA is framed by the Bluestack Mountains to the north, the bog covered uplands to the east, and the meandering coastal edge curled around the mouth of Donegal Bay, with Donegal Town in the centre. The good soils, coupled with ready access to fresh water and proximity to the sea have meant this area has been settled for a long period of history as evidenced by the many archaeological and historic sites throughout the landscape. Agriculture and fishing remain a dominant land use in this area, however tourism also

contributes significantly to the local and wider economy. The tourism product is based on the landscape, seascape, history and cultural qualities of the area with a focus around the coast including the 'Wild Atlantic Way' that follows the route of the N56.

Townscape features



Ballintra displays a settlement which has retained much of its original character; its geographical location within a limestone area has been important for the evolution and economy of the community. Townscape features include:

- Traditional shop fronts and vernacular buildings add character to the streetscape.
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- The River and grass verges provide a tranquil setting in contrast to busy road.
- Another distinctive feature of the streetscape is the number of arched laneways between terraced properties along the main street which may have been used for horse and carts to access the back of properties or for the delivery of goods to businesses.
- Visual and physical connection with the playground which provides adequate social space for the community.
- Town well served with both estate type development of housing and looser ribbon type of individual houses and bungalows.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Elements of mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town and take away from the busy N15 which runs in parallel to the settlement acting as a sound buffer.
- The presence of schools, churches, community centres and shops contribute to a diversity of land uses and act as important congregation points within the area.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Church spires visible from outside the town form local landmark.
- Views projecting out to the countryside which provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape contribute to a strong sense of place.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.3 Ballyliffen



Ballyliffen is a coastal settlement located in close proximity to the coastal edge of the landscape character area of Dunaff Coast. The village is identifiable as a traditional cross-road settlement, and a former railway town which has an important tourism role. Economic activity within the settlement is mainly associated with the hospitality sector with a number of hotels and holiday homes which provide a range of services for tourists and residents all year round. The settlement hosts a number of attractions including an 18-hole golf course, and the long sandy Pollan Strand.



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The historic affluence of this settlement is still evident in the present character of the village which has retained much of its historic core and surrounding areas containing Tirconaill House, RC Church and a vernacular thatched cottage. A clochan and standing stones can also be found in close proximity to the town.



Landscape characteristics

Ballyliffen is located within the draft LCA 2 Dunaff Coast is characterized by its unique and varied coastline of unspoilt golden sandy beaches, deep pebble beaches, rocky coastal edge and sea cliffs. The towns of Ballyliffen and Clonmany serve a wider rural agricultural area with a dispersed rural settlement pattern. As well as agriculture and fishing, this is an area famed for tourism and recreation, having 2 championship links at Ballyliffen Golf Club, numerous hotels, guesthouses, caravan parks, and the popular tourist attractions of Doagh Famine Village and Glenevin waterfall to name a few. There is a wealth of archaeological monuments and within this LCA as well as surviving examples of historic field patterns and historic structures including the rundale field system and clachans.

Dune systems overlay a schist bedrock on the western half of Doagh Isle and Ballyliffen, including the 2 championship links courses at Ballyliffen Golf Club. Quartzite forms the Urris Hills (and Mamore Gap) that rise within the south of this LCA. There is an extensive coastline along this LCA comprising numerous bays and rocky headlands creating coves and the sandy beaches of Leenan, Tullagh Strand and Pollan Strand.

The surrounding landscapes are picturesque, with the village being surrounded by Pollan Strand, Binion hill and Crockaughrim hill. The elevation of this landscape provides fairly open vistas overlooking the coast line and surrounding hills. There is a degree of remoteness and tranquillity associated with this particular landscape type.

Townscape features



This particular townscape is characterised by a traditional cross-road settlement which derives much of its visual character and sense of identity from its coastal location, stock of older buildings and rural setting. Can also be identifies as a quiet and peaceful residential village with a spacious character due to the relatively wide street proportion. Additional townscape features include:

- Traditional water pump still exists and is incorporated into the villages' design.
- Established residential properties along the main street.
- Settlement rich in vegetation, mature trees and stone walls which add character to the area and enhances the visual amenity of the town.
- Streetscape enhanced by the visual links created by the strong linear feature of the stone wall.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion.
- Ornamental planting and decorative seating areas contribute to a stimulating environment, located not just in the centre but along the approach road into the settlement.
- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern styles of buildings.
- 1-2 storey buildings along the main street contribute to a streetscape of human scale.

- Strong recreational use of the coast especially within the summer months with water based sports activity and fishing.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views channelled to open countryside and over the expansive lower lying coastline.
- Vistas along the streets and into the streets and the presence of vernacular buildings in their form and scale.
- The layout of the town and traditional streetscapes.

6.4 Bruckless



Identification of Settlement Type (Badger's Den)

Bruckless is a small historical coastal village; a former railway village which grew up around the old Bruckless estate. There are several historical sights including Bruckless Harbour and Round Tower, an impressive and iconic landmark structure in the landscape.



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Landscape characteristics

Bruckless is located within South Donegal Lowlands LCA 36 where the land is generally undulating and slopes down from elevated bog land to the north towards the coast which is characterised by a series of four substantial and distinctive peninsulas. This area is framed by vast mountain range to the west and as such the western landcover tends to be rugged with sparsely vegetated land and areas of scrub. There is more vegetation including farmed land bounded by hedges to the east of this area which then extends into the distinctive Donegal drumlins to the east.

The four southern peninsulas consist of the low-lying long and narrow limestone farmland peninsula of St John's Point to the extreme east and low-lying coastal limestone farmland headland at Muckros Point to the west. The two central peninsulas consist of Carntullagh Head which is a medium low-lying peninsula with ribbon development, an element of farmland, scrub and patches of forestry and Drumanoo Head which is a larger raised rugged and sparsely populated peninsula.

There are two substantial bays along the coastline consisting of McSwyne's Bay which is a sheltered deep fjord-like inlet containing the main deep water harbour of Killybegs and Fintragh Bay which is a Blue Flag Beach and has an area of dunes.

Townscape features



Located along the N56 Bruckless townscape is enhanced by the visual links created by the strong linear feature of the stone wall and the leafy character of the mature vegetation on the approach road into the settlement. Townscape features include:

- Saint Joseph and Connell Church and Round Tower within the settlement are defining features which provide an important backdrop to the settlement and give a sense of having arrived at Bruckless and are a signature feature in the town and wider landscape.
- The town is well served with both multiple residential developments and looser ribbon-type of individual houses and bungalows.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- 'Teresa's thatched cottage located next to the local school is an interesting addition to the streetscape.
- The presence of schools, churches, community centres and shops contribute to a diversity of land uses and act as important congregation points within the area.
- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern styles of buildings.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion
- Oily River and stone feature provide a boundary for the townscape on the approach road to the settlement.

Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end and in particular of the round tower.
- Views projecting out to the surrounding countryside and seascape provide a connection between the settlement, the landscape and the sea.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.5 Burnfoot



Burnfoot is a small village located in a strategic corridor between Letterkenny/Buncrana. It is a former railway settlement. The settlement is situated on the Inishowen 100 which serves the hinterland of Derry City and Letterkenny. This small village developed relatively recently as a 'crossroads' settlement around a bridge crossing over the Burnfoot River; no village is mapped on the OS series from 1837-42, yet is mapped on the subsequent OS from the early 20th century. The settlement has some local services and also a number of light industries and small business enterprises.



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Landscape characteristics

Burnfoot is located within LCA 10 South Inishowen Farmland characterized by good quality agricultural land in a pattern of medium to large sized fields separated by hedgerow and deciduous trees against the backdrop of Scalp Mountain to the north and the suburbs of Derry City (Northern Ireland) to the south-east. Inch Island is connected to the mainland by two embankments created to hold water drained from the adjoining flat agricultural reclaimed land that has, in turn, created Inch Lake. One of these causeways constitutes the only vehicular access into the island from the mainland.

The area is well connected to adjoining areas by a Regional road that cuts right through the length of the LCA and a network of county roads that provide permeability throughout the area and linkages between the settlements. This area has been settled for millennia, and there are many remaining national monuments evident in the landscape.

Scalp Mountain slopes southwards into this LCA and is covered in blanket bog, some forestry and agriculture on the lower slopes.

Townscape features



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- Close proximity to Lough Swilly's proposed Natural Heritage Area.
- There are no Recorded Monuments or protected structures within the village
- Gateway to Inch Island Nature reserve
- Natural asset including the river, the lake and the special area of conservation located to the west of the village
- Has established residential estates in the village
- Town well served with both estate type development of housing and looser ribbon type of individual houses and bungalows.
- Views of Scalp Mountain and surrounding landscape.
- Boundary treatment within settlement consists of a mixture of hedges, fences and plastered walls. Low in height to make the most of surrounding vistas to landscape setting.
- Large scale employment in the town contributes significantly to the local and wider economy.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views channelled to open countryside
- The vernacular terraces in the older part of the town have considerable visual quality.

Landscaping within the town and mature trees in the immediate surround soften the views within and outwith the town.

6.6 Burtonport



Identification of Settlement Type (Ravine of the Sickle)

Burtonport is characterised as a Gaeltacht fishing village with an active port and harbour, formerly served by the Donegal Railway, key landmarks include the Coast guard station and the busy port. The Arranmore Ferry is an important connection to the island and creates an important linkage between the town and the offshore islands. The settlement is a service, community and civic centre serving the surrounding rural hinterland and the islands. This deep water port acts as an important economic and employment centre for the marine industry in the County..



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Landscape characteristics

Burtonport is located within LCA 28 Rosses Knock & Lochan Islands & Coast a long indented shoreline and the offshore islands of: Inishfree Lower, Owey, Cruit, Inishkeeragh, Rutland, Inishfree Upper and Donegal's largest inhabited island, Arranmore. The mainland area has a distinctive 'knock and Lochan' landscape, and is known locally as 'The Rosses'. An undulating glacial landscape of bog covered hills and eroded hollows containing small lakes with distinctive rock outcrops, contained and framed by the Derryveagh Mountains to the east. This predominantly bog landscape is interrupted by isolated occurrences of more fertile landscapes dotted near lakes, along rivers and along the coastline, and also by geometric areas of planted forestry.

A low rocky coastal edge extends to sea in parts and is interspersed with soft sandy beaches and large tidal estuaries at Carrickfinn, Kincasslough, Cruit Island, Travenagh Bay and south of Lettermacaward extending into Gweebarra Bay.

There is a close visual connection to the islands with Burtonport providing a ferry access to Arranmore Island and Tory. Undulating bog and lake landscape with some ripples of higher

elevated land sloping down from the Derryveagh Mountain Range to the north. There are patches of fertile areas within the bog and to the coast together with numerous lakes which are popular for fishing. In addition a visually unique intertidal area which consists of low-lying outcrops that is almost a continuation of the mainland landcover which intermittently spread over to the islands.

The Wild Atlantic Way runs along the coast and has three discovery points at Carrickfinn, Burtonport harbour and Inishfree Upper Island.

Townscape features



- The presence of trees softens the line of buildings, act as wildlife habitats and provide scale to buildings and streets.
- Linear stretch identifiable from the pier to the derelict co-op shop and adjacent restaurant
- Harbour/fishing activity at shore and commercial properties. Local level activities along main street in form of a B&B, restaurant and bars
- Seating provided at harbour to take advantage of coastal views.
- Elements of mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town.
- Exposed rocky outcrop at the edge of the pier is a distinctive feature within this coastal settlement
- Harbour provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.
- Public realm enhanced by seating areas and lighting which act as a valuable break in built fabric.
- Stone feature commemorating the deaths of those lost at sea showing the connection between the community and the coast
- There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the detail of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie .

Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views into the and out of the Port and Harbour
- The enclosed nature of the settlement created by navigation of the natural rocky topography.
- The layout of the town, the rocky outcrops and the traditional streetscape informed by a number of historic buildings including the old coastguard station.

6.7 Carrigans



Identification of Settlement Type (Little Rock)

Carrigans is a small plantation village located on the Carrigans River, a tributary of the River Foyle, that was once part of the Dunmore Estate. Dunmore House and Demesne are located on the North of the village and the House is on the Record of Protected Structures. It is the Location of the former flour, corn and flax mills; it was once the centre of the flax and linen production industries in the east of the County and had one of the largest flax mills in Donegal. Much of the original character of the village remains and it is a valuable contributor to the visual experience within the landscape.



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Landscape characteristics

Carrigans is located within LCA 13 Foyle Valley characterised by undulating fertile agricultural lands with a regular field pattern of medium to large geometric fields, bound by deciduous trees and hedgerow. There is a dispersed scatter of rural residential development within this LCA comprising of farmsteads and one of rural dwellings along with an areas of ribbon development along the county road network; there are a number of large detached historic houses and associated grounds within this landscape, particularly along the Foyle.

This LCA has a strong visual connection to its mirror landscape on the opposite side of the River Foyle in Northern Ireland in terms of the similar landscape type and also that the Northern Ireland landscape inherently informs the views within and without of this LCA. The river Foyle is an, ecologically, strategically and historically (including the fishing economy) important feature in this landscape.

The topography of this LCA lends a wide aspect over the surrounding landscape and of particular note are the wind farms in Northern Ireland that are visually prominent within this landscape. Regular shaped medium to large, arable and pasture, fields bound in hedgerow interspersed with deciduous trees and clumps of trees are characteristic to this 'plantation landscape'.

Townscape features



- Single storey workers cottages are situated either side of the historic main street reflecting the plantation history and the flax and linen industries.
- More contemporary buildings reflect the scale of vernacular contributing to a streetscape of human scale.
- Dominated by active frontages contributing to a sense of vitality.
- Buildings frontages open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character.
- Established community with local services provided including a post office, Garda station and public house serving the immediate rural hinterland.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced 1-2 storey and closely spaced giving a sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views projecting out to the countryside towards Dooish Mountain provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.8 Carrigart



Identification of Settlement Type (Arches Rocks)

Carrigart is a small coastal Gaeltacht village that functions as a centre for the rural hinterland and also offers a tourism function, with an adjoining beach, shoreline walkway and public garden. The first edition Ordnance Survey Maps (1837-1842) show Carrickart as a small linear settlement with a church, school house and Corn Kiln, Mill and Pond; the second edition illustrates the village after 'planned improvements' by the Earl of Leinster's estate in the 1800s, including the row of cottages on the west side of the street with a village green, hotel and a Presbyterian church and manse to the south of the village, more reflective of Carrigart today.



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Landscape characteristics

Carrigart is located within LCA 22 Rosguill a distinctive rural peninsula that projects north into the Atlantic Ocean between Sheephaven Bay to the west and Mulroy Bay to the East, and is characterized by a diametric landscape consisting of mountains, plains, dunes and agricultural lands encompassed by a long and varying costal edge. Intervisibility between this LCA and the adjoining peninsulas and bays adds an exceptionally unique dimension to the character of this area with many views out; extending as far as Inishowen over Fanad from the east of this LCA and over Sheephaven bay towards Horn Head from the west. Traditionally a sparsely populated rural area sustained by farming and fishing; Downings was a significant fishing port and had a successful herring fishing fleet until the outbreak of the 1st world war traded with Russia and Germany. More recently development the area has been

linked to tourism and leisure with the expansion of Downings around the blue flag beach, and the development of one-off and small schemes of holiday homes and caravan parks.

The sheltered, fertile agricultural landscape character type in the south of this LCA contrasts significantly from the exposed more windswept north. A unique patchwork of rectilinear hedgerow bound fields on good quality agricultural arable lands are at variance to that of the rest of Rossguill. This area includes estate lands of the infamous 'Lord of Leitrim' including 'Mulroy House' (RPS) and estate, on the eastern shore at Rawross; his Donegal residence and the picturesque village of Carrigart, 'improved' and planned by the Leitrim estate in the late 1800s on an existing cluster settlement. This LCA comprises of succinctly different landscape character types but there is a cohesive character and association within this area (and parish) uniting it.

Townscape features



Carrigart is as a small linear Plantation Settlement. The Main Street area remains the retailing, service, and entertainment, cultural and social heart of the town and demonstrates vitality and vibrancy.

- Rich architectural and streetscape detailing, presence of landmarks and hierarchy of streets and spaces which ensure the environment is stimulating.
- Dominated by active frontages contributing to a sense of vitality.
- Attractive pedestrian environment with streetscape elements including street lights, bollards, formal planting and street trees which contribute to a stimulating environment adding colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved areas.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- Defining element includes the water pump located on the approach road into the settlement.
- Elements of mature trees and vegetation which enhance the visual amenity of the town.
- Variations in rooflines also contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.

- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- Open space provides a valuable break in built up townscape and enhances the retail experience for the locals and tourists
- Elevation of landscape provides fairly open vistas over the coastal edge.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion
- Coastal location provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.
- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern styles of buildings.
- The Gaeltacht language is also a defining feature of this area which maintains a rich social and cultural heritage.
- The town expresses a well defined setting and compact centre and displays an area of both urban and rural characteristics.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

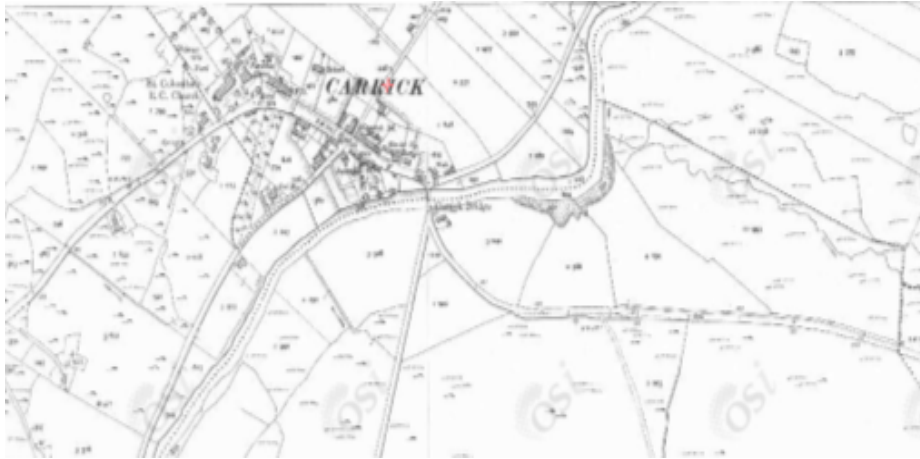
- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views projecting out to the surrounding landscape and seascape provide a connection between the settlement, the seascape and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.9 Carrick



Identification of Settlement type (ROCK)

Formerly a traditional crossroad settlement, now a small village characterised by Carrick Bridge with a river running through the settlement. It has a distinctive old village core with a protected structure, surrounded with more contemporary residential development.



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Landscape characteristics

Carrick is located in LCA 34 Tawney Bay Coastal Farmland characterized by low fertile agricultural river valleys that meander through an undulating landscape of peat and heather covered hills before meeting the Atlantic Ocean via Tawney Bay and Teelin Bay. The land is lower and the surrounding LCAs and the area is sheltered to an extent by the higher surrounding Mountains and uplands.

Agriculture is the primary land use in this area; the sheltered fertile river valleys have a mainly linear field pattern bound by hedgerow interspersed by trees, whilst the coastal agricultural land, exposed to the winds and spray coming from the Atlantic Ocean has a more open field pattern consisting of stone wall bound fields and open natural grassland.

Carrick sits within a geographically remote and rural area of considerable antiquity, particularly evident in the historic field patterns remaining in the landscape. Historical and archaeological features are dominant in localised areas particularly along the river valleys and the coast.

The Wild Atlantic Way follows the road network through the rugged seascape and landscape in this Gaeltacht area of significant cultural and historic offer. These wealth of assets contribute to the strong and vibrant tourism sector within this area. The valleys mainly

consist of fertile agricultural land with linear fields bounded by hedges which contrast with the bog and heather on the higher elevated lands and the open coastal agricultural land which is mainly bound by stone walls and open natural grassland along the coast to the south. There are areas that are remote and rural and have seen little change with historic field patterns remaining in the landscape. The River Glen is a dominant feature within the landscape setting and Slieve League Coast.

Townscape features



- The presence of schools, churches, community centres and shops contribute to a diversity of land uses and act as important congregation points within the area.
- Ample Car parking provided which lessens the impact of on street parking.
- Attractive pedestrian environment with streetscape elements including street lights, black bollards and formal planting which contribute to a stimulating environment adding colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved areas.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- Diamond square provides a valuable break in built up townscape and enhances the retail experience for the locals and tourists
- Elevation of landscape provides fairly open vistas
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion
- River Glen provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.

River Walkway provides an important space of public amenity for residents and visitors which take advantage of important vistas of surrounding countryside and Slieve League.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Church spires visible from outside the town form local landmarks.
- Views projecting out to the countryside towards Slieve League provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street overlooking the River Glen and Slieve League Mountain which provides views of landscape setting.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.10 Castlefinn



Identification of Settlement Type (Castle of the White River)

Castlefinn is a planned market town characterised by diamond at the centre of the town. The diamond is surrounded by a number of buildings on the Record of Protected Structures and also has a number of structures on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. A defining feature of the town is the historical bridge over the River Finn, an 18th Century stone and rubble bridge constructed from an earlier castle on the banks of the river. The town had an active textile industry until recently and the town retains local level retail, community and social services



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Landscape characteristics

Castlefinn is located within LCA 14 Finn Valley which is dominated by the River Finn, its tributaries and associated valleys cut from the surrounding uplands. The LCA has 3 distinct areas within that change from west to east following the meandering River Finn through this LCA. In the west of this LCA the Rivers Finn and Reelan cut through highland bog areas creating 2 step narrow river valleys that have an interesting rectilinear field pattern of strips extending from the river edge into the upland bog areas in a 'rundale' fashion. These smaller rivers converge as the River Finn close to Cloghan into a notably broader level valley of larger square agricultural fields overlooked by mountainous areas of upland bog.

The River Finn system flows through high peat covered mountains within the west of this LCA eastwards through a more rolling and then gently undulating agricultural landscape of varying quality, tying this landscape character area together. The local road network affords multiple physical linkages with the adjoining landscape in Northern Ireland.

Townscape features



The town expresses a well defined setting and compact centre, additional townscape features include:

- The Diamond provides an area of recreational open space and a focus for the centre of the town.
- Dominated by active frontages contributing to a sense of vitality.
- Buildings frontages open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character.
- Ample Car parking provided which lessens the impact of on street parking.
- Attractive pedestrian environment with streetscape elements including street lights, bollards, formal planting and street trees which contribute to a stimulating environment adding colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved areas.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Variations in rooflines also contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.
- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- The town is well served with both estate-type development of varieties of housing and looser ribbon- type of individual houses and bungalows.
- Traditional water pump still exists and is incorporated into the villages' design.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views projecting out to the surrounding countryside which provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provides glimpses of the landscape setting.
- Mature trees located in the town centre which enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual value.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.11 Clonmany



Clonmany is a small Inishowen inland village containing a market square surrounded by buildings of a traditional scale and proportion and including the recently renovated Market House. The town serves as a local service centre for an expansive rural hinterland and functions as a focus for tourism during the summer months in particular. The town is close to a number of sandy beaches and a number of marked walks attracting day-trippers and hikers



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Landscape characteristics

Clonmany is located within LCA 2 Dunaff Coast characterized by its unique and varied coastline of unspoilt golden sandy beaches, deep pebble beaches, and rocky coastal edge and sea cliffs. The towns of Ballyliffin and Clonmany serve a wider rural agricultural area with a dispersed rural settlement pattern. As well as agriculture and fishing, this is an area famed for tourism and recreation, having 2 championship links at Ballyliffin Golf Club, numerous hotels, guesthouses, caravan parks, and the popular tourist attractions of Doagh Famine Village and Glenevin waterfall to name a few. There is a wealth of archaeological monuments and within this LCA as well as surviving examples of historic field patterns and historic structures including the rundale field system and clachans.

Clonmany sits at the convergence of 2 rivers and 4 shallow valleys within a generally undulating and fertile agricultural landscape of schist bedrock.

There is a complex farmed landscape of ladder farms and sinuous and irregular-bounded small fields within the LCA, some of considerable antiquity.

- Leenankeel Townland is a surviving fragment of unenclosed common field (Rundale) and clachan settlement.

- Ballyhallan River distinctive feature which runs outside the settlement

Townscape features



The town centre displays a strong built form and high quality streetscape centred upon the historical and vibrant square area.

- Market Square is used for weekly markets and as a gathering place during the summer months and festivals.
- Buildings frontages open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character.
- Ample Car parking provided which lessens the impact of on street parking.
- Attractive pedestrian environment with streetscape elements including street lights, bollards, formal planting and street trees which contribute to a stimulating environment adding colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved areas.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Elements of mature trees and vegetation which enhance the visual amenity of the town.
- Variations in rooflines also contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.
- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- The presence of schools, churches, community centres and shops contribute to a diversity of land uses and act as important congregation points within the area.
- 1-2 storey buildings contribute to a streetscape of human scale.
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with little modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion.
- The town is well served with both estate-type development of varieties of housing and looser ribbon- type of individual houses and bungalows.

- Diffley Garden located in an ideal spot within the settlement which exploits views of mountainous back drop.
- Old petrol pump still exists along the main street which adds character to this rural settlement.
- GAA presence with Urris GAA Club.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Church spire visible from outside the town forms a local landmark.
- Views projecting out to the surrounding countryside include Bulbin and Urris Hills which providing a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.12 Culdaff



Identification of Settlement Type (Nook of the Sandhills)

Culdaff is a plantation village, set around a 'Diamond'. In the past a limestone quarry was located on the edge of the village. Today, much of the local economy is based on a strong tourism industry that hinges on the surrounding pristine landscape and beaches.

Village is centred around a village green and pump-house on the banks of the Culdaff river which is crossed by two stone bridges that mark the location of the ancient fords that gave Culdaff its name (in Gaelic, Culdaff is "Cul da Ath" meaning corner of the two fords. Tourism and local services make up bulk of commercial activity in village

History, Culture and Heritage



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The area has numerous archaeological sites dating from the Neolithic and early Bronze Age with evidence of human settlement dating back to c. 3,500 BC. Situated on private land, the most prominent are Bocan Stone Circle and the Temple of Deen. These monuments are from the Bronze Age, three of which are on the Record of Monuments and Places.

The present village was originally the site of the monastery of St Buadan who is the local patron saint. The present day St Buadan's Church of Ireland on the foundation of the old monastic church features a tower and attractive sun-dial and the ancient Ardmore graveyard was also part of the same site. A rock in the river (St Buadan's Boat) at Culdaff Bridge recalls St Buadan's voyage from Scotland to Culdaff while St Buadan's Bell from the 10th century is still preserved in the Parish. The early Christian period is represented by monastic sites at Cloncha, Carrowmore and Culdaff, with three High Crosses dating from the 10th century.



The cut stone pier at Bunagee at the North end of Culdaff Bay is overlooked by a small promontory fort. In the 19th century ships left Bunagee to trade with the Scottish island of Islay. The pier is now used extensively by local fishermen and boating and water sports activities.

Landscape characteristics

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

Culdaff is located within LCA 3 North Inishowen Farmland and Coast with main landscape features including the river, coast, beach wooded areas. It is a diverse and varied landscape area that extends west from the northeast Atlantic coast of Inishowen towards the sheltered estuary of Trawbreaga Bay.

The area stands alone within the Inishowen peninsula in part due to the expanse of fertile agricultural land containing a variety of farm types and features, historic stone bound field patterns along the coast, surviving clachans, and easily accessible and diverse coastline. There is a long history of settlement and particularly monastic settlement within this LCA and there are many important features and structures that remain in the landscape including the iconic Cloncha Church and St. Buadan's Cross.

This Landscape Character area is predominantly agricultural with isolated upland bog and peat areas and pockets of coniferous plantations. The west of this LCA contains a large sheltered intertidal area at Trawbreaga Bay whilst the north-eastern Atlantic coast has a mostly rocky coast and a large dune system and beach at Culdaff with long golden sands and clear water with views of the Inishowen coastline. The 3.4km Sli na Slainte walk follows the river estuary and shoreline

Close to North Inishowen Coast SAC: Culdaff River Estuary: it forms the mouth of the Culdaff River, which rises above Carrowmenagh at Effish Lough and passes through Gleneely before becoming the Culdaff River. It is a relatively small river and estuary by national standards but it supports a rich variety of habitats and species, many of which are of international significance.

The estuary forms part of the North Inishowen Coast Special Area of Conservation and is protected under Irish and European legislation. The most significant habitats include saltwater marsh, inter-tidal mud flats, reed beds, sandy beach and pebble shore. The field and shrub areas adjacent to the estuary provide valuable roost sites and feeding areas for birds during the day or at high tide.

Townscape features



- Attractive pedestrian environment focussed on the Diamond with streetscape elements including street lights, formal planting, seating areas and street trees contributing to a stimulating environment adding colour and vibrancy.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Existing buildings provide a mix of vernacular and domestic that complement each other.
- Existing public green space on the Diamond facilitates communal gathering.
- Curved street design reflects topographical constraints
- Built fabric contains a small number of urban vernacular dwellings which enhance the streetscape considerably creating a sense of place and identity.
- Variations in rooflines contribute to a stimulating environment add to the towns' distinctive character.
- Church provides a focal point for residents and a landmark for visitors.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion
- Pier at Bunagee at the North end of Culdaff Bay provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.
- The town is well served with both estate-type development of varieties of housing and looser ribbon- type of individual houses and bungalows.
- Defining element within the streetscape includes the Church, water pump located on the village green and enclosed character of the centre created by mature trees.

Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Church spire visible from outside of the town, in particular across the river is a unique landmark feature in the landscape and streetscape.

- Views of the coastline provide a connection with the settlement, the seascape and the landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- Mature trees located in the town centre enhance the visual amenity of the town.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.13 Doochary



Identification of Settlement Type (The Black Weir)

Doochary is a small rural Gaeltacht village on the Gweebarra River. There are six special areas of conservation within and around settlement and several historic and protected structures located within the centre of village, including a bridge which predates the village itself and one monument of the Record of Monuments and Places close to the village.



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Landscape characteristics

Doochary is located within LCA Unit 28 The Rosses Knock & Lochan Islands & Coast. This landscape character area consists of a long indented shoreline and the offshore islands of: Inishfree Lower, Owey, Cruit, Inishkeeragh, Rutland, Inishfree Upper and Donegal's largest inhabited island, Arranmore. The mainland area has a distinctive 'knock and Lochan' landscape, and is known locally as 'The Rosses'. An undulating glacial landscape of bog covered hills and eroded hollows containing small lakes with distinctive rock outcrops, contained and framed by the Derryveagh Mountains to the east. This predominantly bog landscape is interrupted by isolated occurrences of more fertile landscapes dotted near lakes, along rivers and along the coastline, and also by geometric areas of planted forestry.

A low rocky coastal edge extends to sea in parts and is interspersed with soft sandy beaches and large tidal estuaries at Carrickfinn, Kincasslough, Cruit Island, Travenagh Bay and south of Lettermacaward extending into Gweebarra Bay. Prominent feature within the landscape setting includes Gweebarra River. There is a strong visual impact from the river itself and the relationship between it and the bridge giving the area a very high quality townscape. Additional features include:

- Undulating bog and lake landscape with some ripples of higher elevated land sloping down from the Derryveagh Mountain Range to the north.
- Patches of fertile areas within the bog and to the coast together with numerous lakes which are popular for fishing.

Townscape features



The importance of the river in terms of the settlements survival can be seen at the edge of the village, on the Dungloe road, where an old Ice House sits. The Ice House was used by a landlord of the time to preserve fish caught in the Gweebarra River which runs through the village. An old fort (pictured above) also still exists at the edge of the village along with St Sarah's Well demonstrating the religious connection that exists within the landscape; a reoccurring theme among these Gaeltacht villages. Additional townscape features include:

- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- Vernacular buildings add character to the streetscape.
- Mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town
- 1-2 storey buildings contribute to a streetscape of human scale.
- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern styles of buildings.
- Curved main street mirrors the topography.
- Townscape enhanced by the visual links created by the strong linear feature of the stone wall.
- River Gweebarra provides a tranquil setting and the bridge is one of the most dominant images of the town.

Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- The scale and nature of the built fabric and it's relationship with the river.
- Views projecting out to the surrounding countryside provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.14 Downings



Identification of Settlement Type (FORTS)

Downings is a small Gaeltacht coastal village, located on the Rosguill Peninsula facing Downings Bay and beach. It was formerly a fishing village, now dependent on tourism. Many holiday homes scattered throughout and around the settlement, particularly along the route of the scenic Atlantic Drive which starts and ends in the village and loops around the Rossguill Peninsula.

Downings is a small seaside Gaeltacht village overlooking Downings Bay and near to Rosapenna Golf Club. Downings marks the beginning and end of the 'Atlantic Drive' a looped scenic route around Rossguill peninsula, its main function is tourism and there are a substantial number of mobile home and holiday home developments in the area. Downings began as a clachan settlement near an old fort to the west of the Bay, growing as a fishing port following construction of the pier at the end of the 19th Century and more recently as a tourism destination.



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Landscape characteristics

Downings is located within LCA 22 Rosguill a distinctive rural peninsula that projects north into the Atlantic Ocean between Sheephaven Bay to the west and Mulroy Bay to the East, and is characterized by a diametric landscape consisting of mountains, plains, dunes and agricultural lands encompassed by a long and varying costal edge. Intervisibility between this LCA and the adjoining peninsulas and bays adds an exceptionally unique dimension to the character of this area with many views out; extending as far as Inishowen over Fanad from the east of this LCA and over Sheephaven bay towards Horn Head from the west. Traditionally a sparsely populated rural area sustained by farming and fishing; Downings was

a significant fishing port and had a successful herring fishing fleet until the outbreak of the 1st world war traded with Russia and Germany. More recently development the area has been linked to tourism and leisure with the expansion of Downings around the blue flag beach, and the development of one-off and small schemes of holiday homes and caravan parks.

The sheltered, fertile agricultural landscape character type in the south of this LCA contrasts significantly from the exposed more windswept north. A unique patchwork of rectilinear hedgerow bound fields on good quality agricultural arable lands are at variance to that of the rest of Rossguill. This area includes estate lands of the infamous 'Lord of Leitrim' including 'Mulroy House' (RPS) and estate, on the eastern shore at Rawross; his Donegal residence and the picturesque village of Carrigart, 'improved' and planned by the Leitrim estate in the late 1800s on an existing cluster settlement. This LCA comprises of succinctly different landscape character types but there is a cohesive character and association within this area (and parish) uniting it.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

Townscape features



There is a very strong tourism and leisure industry within this settlement focused on this landscape and seascape and in particular around the Blue Flag beach at Downings. Activities in the area include golf, fishing, sea angling, mountain walks and water sports. Townscape features include:

- The meandering town streets composed of a series of varied, deflecting building facades, which together make up and contribute to the character of the town.
- Ornamental planting and decorative street lighting contribute to a stimulating environment.
- Variations in rooflines contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.

- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern styles of buildings.
- Townscape enhanced by the visual links with the coast and rural hinterland.
- Attractive pedestrian environment with streetscape elements including seating areas, formal planting and street trees which contribute to a stimulating environment adding colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved areas.
- Scarcity of vegetation a defining feature in the surrounding landscape.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion
- Harbour provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.
- A number of facilities on offer for tourists including the Beach Hotel, Downings Bay Hotel and Rosapenna Hotel and Golf Resort and camping facilities.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views into settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views projecting out to the surrounding landscape and views across Sheephaven Bay to the Ards peninsula provide a connection with the settlement, seascape and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.15 Dunkineely



Dunkineely is a small single street rural based village situated at the top of St. John's Point, an area renowned for its flora, fauna and marine life. The name of the settlement derived from the Fort of Conneely, situated within the hinterland of the village and dating back to the late Iron Age. There are several historical structures located within the village, with 3 archaeological monuments also close by.



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Landscape characteristics

Dunkineely is located within LCA 36 along the N56 within South Donegal Lowlands where the land is generally undulating and slopes down from elevated bogland to the north towards the coast which is characterised by a series of four substantial and distinctive peninsulas.

This area is framed by vast mountain range to the west and as such the western landcover tends to be rugged with sparsely vegetated land and areas of scrub. There is more vegetation including farmed land bounded by hedges to the east of this area which then extends into the distinctive Donegal drumlins to the east.

The four southern peninsulas consist of the low-lying long and narrow limestone farmland peninsula of St John's Point to the extreme east and low-lying coastal limestone farmland headland at Muckros Point to the west. The two central peninsulas consist of Carntullagh Head which is a medium low-lying peninsula with ribbon development, an element of farmland, scrub and patches of forestry and Drumanoo Head which is a larger raised rugged and sparsely populated peninsula.

There are two substantial bays along the coastline consisting of McSwyne's Bay which is a sheltered deep fjord-like inlet containing the main deep water harbour of Killybegs and Fintragh Bay which is a Blue Flag Beach and has an area of dunes. Ecologically important landscapes to the south of St John's Point and along the Muckros Head coastline which

contains SAC, SPA and pNHA as well as the important biodiversity links of the riverine corridors. The elevation of landscape provides fairly open vistas to the coastline

Townscape features



- A vernacular rhythm of development in size, scale and finishes.
- A number of individual properties along the main street which add character to the townscape.
- The Main Street area remains the retailing, service, and entertainment, cultural and social heart of the town and demonstrates the vitality and vibrancy which exists.
- Variations in rooflines also contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.
- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- Rows of terraces and semi-detached properties along the main street typically 2-3 storeys which contribute to a townscape of human scale while also giving a sense of enclosure to the street and active surveillance at night.
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views projecting out to the coastline and countryside which provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.16 Fahan



Identification of Settlement Type (Burial Place)

Fahan is a small village located in Inishowen, overlooking Lough Swilly adjacent to a large sandy bay and more recently the Foyle Marina. Name derives from the 17th Century graveyard which sits on the site of a 6th Century St Colmcille monastery. Settlement also contains two protected structures: Nazereth House Nursing Home and Fahan House as well as 20 buildings on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The Londonderry and Lough Swilly railway line ran through Fahan from 1853 until the 1950s when the line shut down, and this period saw the development of Fahan as a commuter town and as a seaside daytrip location.



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Landscape characteristics

Fahan is located within LCA 10 South Inishowen Farmland characterised by good quality agricultural land in a pattern of medium to large sized fields separated by hedgerow and deciduous trees against the backdrop of Scalp Mountain to the north and the suburbs of Derry City (Northern Ireland) to the south-east. Inch Island is connected to the mainland by 2 embankments created to hold water drained from the adjoining flat agricultural re-claimed land that has, in turn, created Inch Lake. One of these causeways constitutes the only vehicular access into the island from the mainland.

The area is well connected to adjoining areas by a Regional road that cuts right through the length of the LCA and a network of county roads that provide permeability throughout the area and linkages between the settlements. This area has been settled for millennia, and there are many remaining national monuments evident in the landscape. Scalp Mountain

slopes southwards into this LCA and is covered in blanket bog, some forestry and agriculture on the lower slopes.

Fahan village and Fahan Marina are across the bay from Inch island and connected to Burnfoot and Muff by regional roads that run west to east through a long established undulating farming landscape with a primarily schist geology.

A Columban Monastic site dating from the 6th century is in the centre of Fahan near/ on the site of the graveyard that includes St Mura's cross, a decorated cross slab of national importance, and the ruins of an early church remain.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

Townscape features



- Railway Road, Station Road and Railway Tavern show the strong association with the railway symbolising the link between it, the community and the landscape showing how it remains of local value contributing to the character of the area.
- Elevation of landscape provides open vistas over looking Lough Swilly and Inch Island.
- Marina provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.
- Mature trees and vegetation, particularly those in the grounds of the villas enhance the visual amenity of the town despite the R238 which runs through the settlement.
- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern styles of buildings adding significantly to Fahan's character.
- Rich architectural and streetscape detailing, presence of landmarks and spaces contribute to a stimulating environment.
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- Located in close proximity to North West Golf Club, restaurants, B&Bs and the Lough Swilly Marina providing a varied level of services and activities to cater for local residents and visitors to the area.
- Residential properties are screened within the settlement due to the rich vegetation and elevation of the landscape.
- Church provides a focal point as does the local Rectory.
- Fahan Marina is between the village of Fahan and Inch Island and is the home to Lough Swilly Yacht club.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the village from either end.
- Views projecting out to Lough Swilly which provide a connection with the settlement, seascape and landscape contributing to a strong sense of place and reflecting their visual connectivity.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street provide glimpses towards Lough Swilly and the surrounding rural environment.
- Mature planting enhances the visual amenity of Fahan and has an individual value and more importantly a collective value.

6.17 Fintown



Fintown is a small Gaeltacht village located on the banks of Lough Finn, a conservation site. The village contains several historical buildings and an original narrow gauge rail line, which is still operational during summer months with a three mile return trip along the shores of Loch Finn that reopened on the 3rd June 1995 as part of the Glenties railway restoration project. The Irish language is a defining feature of this area which contributes to and maintains a rich social and cultural heritage.



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Landscape characteristics

Fintown is located within LCA 29 Fintown Valley a distinctive inland LCA defined by a chain of mountains in the North West and framed by Aghla and Screig Mountains along the south east, these upland areas are separated by Lough Finn and the River Finn on the valley floor mirroring the orientation of Gweebarra Fault. The R252 through Carra Gap connects Doochary to the northwest via the R250 to Fintown on the shore of Lough Finn in the southeast of this LCA.

High bog covered mountains overlook Lough Finn creating a dramatic and emotive landscape, particularly when viewed from the R250 along the Lough and the old Fintown railway, Donegal's only operational narrow gauge railway. This sparsely populated area has isolated residential dwellings on the fringe of agricultural land and along the regional roads with most of the development contained within the village of Fintown.

The topographical features together with the Lake provide high amenity areas due to their landscape characteristics and distinctiveness and visual amenity value. The lake characterises landscape, mountainous backdrop and highland scenery. It has sensitive eco-

systems such as red grouse strongholds, golden eagle territories and fresh water pearl mussel catchments and the Cro na mBraonain Habitat & Red Grouse Sanctuary.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

Townscape Features



Fintown is characterised as a linear rural, low density dispersed settlement. The Speed limit signs are a good indicator of where the village starts and ends. Townscape features include:

- Traditional shop fronts and vernacular buildings add character to the streetscape.
- Industrial units, petrol pumps and picnic area
- Lough Finn provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.
- Mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the settlement and enhance local views of Lough Finn and surrounding hills.
- 1-2 storey buildings contribute to a streetscape of human scale.
- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern styles of buildings.
- The towns strong association with the railway and reestablishment of a section of the line contributes to the tourism value of tourism value of to enable the town allowing it to adapt and harness its economic value.
- Located within a Gaeltacht area

Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

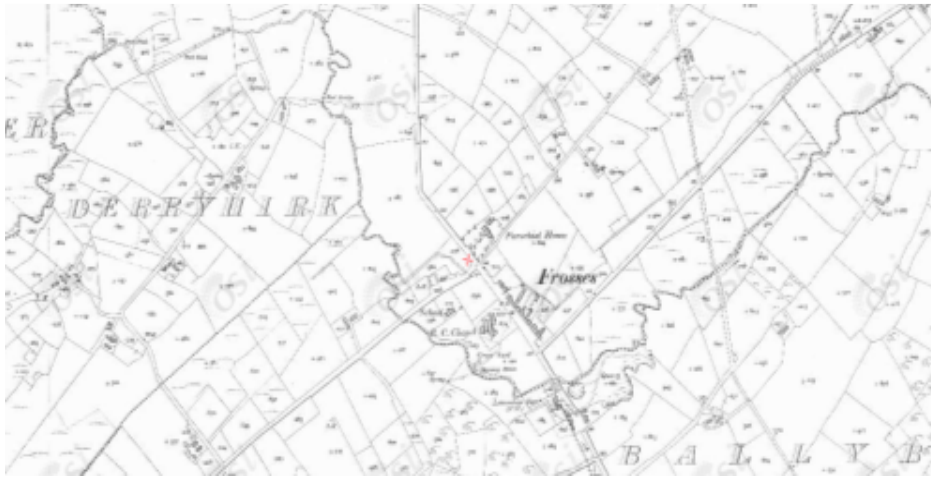
- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.

6.18 Frosses



Identification of Settlement Type (Place of the Showers)

Frosses is a small linear rural based village centred around an historical church and graveyard along the R262.



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Landscape characteristics

Frosses is located within LCA Unit 37 Donegal Bay Drumlins consisting of a large distinctive drumlin belt that flow along a northeast-southwest axis from the Blue Stack Mountains and the Pettigo Plateau east towards Donegal Bay. The drumlin formation is more prominent in the north converging at the head of Donegal Bay becoming less prominent and obvious towards the south. The drumlins are draped in a patchwork of fertile agricultural fields of various sizes bound by deciduous hedgerow and trees that are interspersed with patches of woodlands and conifer plantations. Loughs are a common feature amongst the drumlins and a large number of streams and rivers rise in higher lands to the north and east and course along valleys through the drumlins towards the sea.

This LCA is framed by the Bluestack Mountains to the north, the bog covered uplands to the east, and the meandering coastal edge curled around the mouth of Donegal Bay, with Donegal Town in the centre. The good soils, coupled with ready access to fresh water and proximity to the sea have meant this area has been settled for a long period of history as evidenced by the many archaeological and historic sites throughout the landscape. Agriculture and fishing remain a dominant land use in this area, however tourism also contributes significantly to the local and wider economy. The tourism product is based on

the landscape, seascape, history and cultural qualities of the area with a focus around the coast including the 'Wild Atlantic Way' that follows the route of the N56.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

Townscape features



The town expresses a well defined setting and compact centre. The main image units within the settlement include the historical church and grave yard. Additional townscape features include:

- 3 structures listed on the National Inventory of Agricultural Heritage.
- 1-2.5 storey residential properties
- Mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town.
- Variations in rooflines contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.
- Church provides a focal point.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a wide street proportion
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- Townscape enhanced by the visual links created by the strong linear feature of the stone wall
- Buildings frontages open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character.

Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Church spire visible from outside the town forms a local landmark.

- Views projecting out to the surrounding countryside which provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Mature trees located in the town centre which enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual value.

6.19 Glencolmille



Identification of Settlement Type (The Valley of St. Columba)

Glencolmille is an archaeologically, historically and culturally important settlement in the far west of this Landscape Character area. There is a significant cluster of archaeological monuments in and around the settlement including a number dating from the Neolithic period. The area also has strong links to Christianity being the location of a monastery of St Colmcille in the 6th century, links that have continued through history to the present day where there is still an annual turas of St Colmcille. All of this area is within the Gaeltacht, with associated strong cultural and linguistic qualities.



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Landscape characteristics

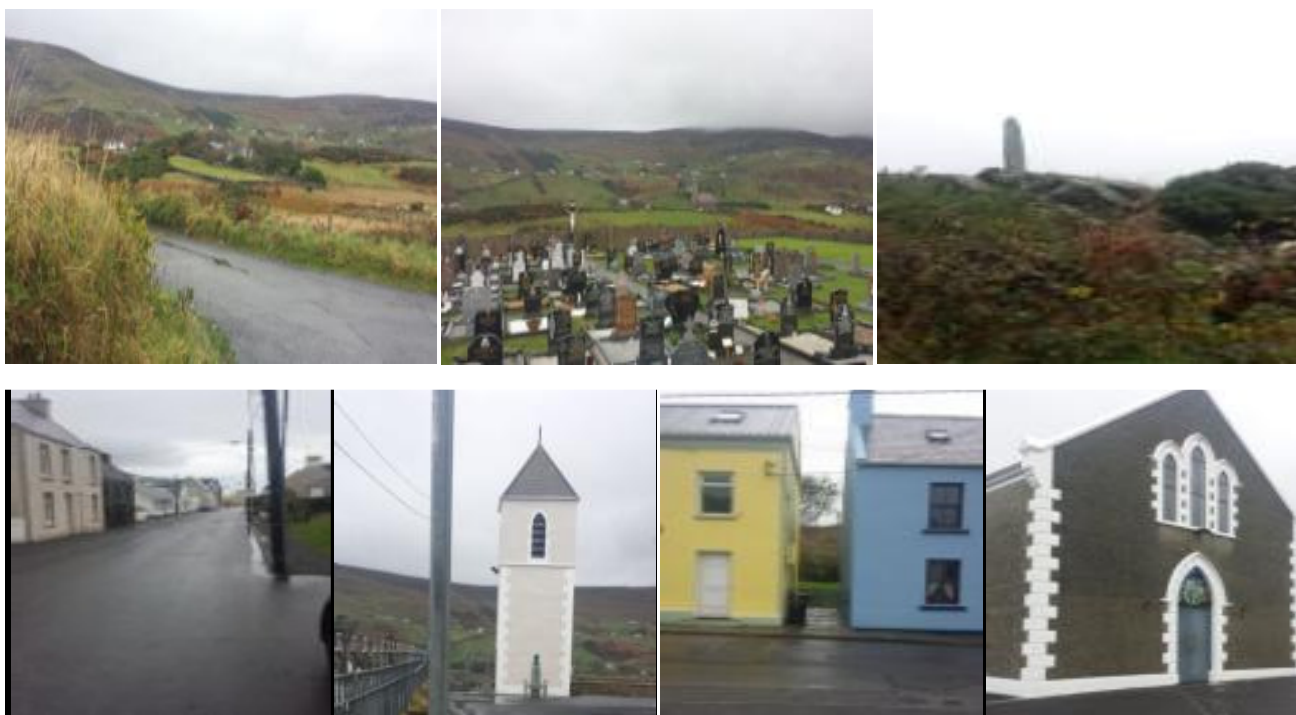
Glencolmille is located within LCA Unit 32 Glencolmille Mountains and Valleys an area of elevated upland bog with river valleys and glacial valleys including the iconic Glencolmille in the west and dramatic Glengesh in the east. This remote area has been historically isolated from the rest of the county owing in part to the physical boundary created by the mountain chain that runs from the north to south along the east of this LCA. Access to the area is via low lands along the south coast of the LCA and via Glengesh in the north.

Glencolmille is an archaeologically, historically and culturally important settlement in the far west of this Landscape Character area. There is a significant cluster of archaeological monuments in and around the settlement including a number dating from the Neolithic period. The area also has strong links to Christianity being the location of a monastery of St Colmcille in the 6th century, links that have continued through history to the present day where there is still an annual turas of St Colmcille. All of this area is within the Gaeltacht, with associated strong cultural and linguistic qualities.

Gaeltacht landscape: Complex rugged topography and sensitive environmental setting limit capacity for new development. The area is a popular destination for tourists due mainly to its dramatic landscape and its unique natural, built, cultural heritage. Area dominated by large land parcels which have mountain, moorland or bog character and rough ground which gives a degree of remoteness.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

Townscape Features



The settlement is located in a low lying area and is enclosed by the hills/mountains. The distinct dispersed village of Glencolmkille is set within a basin valley.

The town has maintained a strong historic identity which prevails throughout the settlement. Features include:

- Culture, heritage and religion have an important role in the identity and sense of place in Glencolmkille; a strong and unique attribute.
- Sensitive interventions within the landscape including seating areas and formal planting which do not detract from the visual amenity value of the surrounding landscape.
- 1-2 storey buildings contribute to a streetscape of human scale.
- The town is rich in historic remains including stone walls and turas stones.
- Scenic walking routes around the settlement and the degree of remoteness make it an attractive place to live and visit.
- The Gaeltacht language is also a defining feature of this area which maintains a rich social and cultural heritage.
- There is an important concentration of archaeological structures and sites throughout the area, including a high percentage of monuments which date between 4000 and 3000 B.C., when farming people settled in the area. There are excellently preserved examples of their court tombs which can be seen at Mainnéar na Mortlaidh and An Clochán Mór and

examples of the less-elaborate portal tombs, dating from about 2000 BC, can also be seen at Málainn Mhóir. Archaeological complex at Doon point (12.09) acres.

- Folk village located in Glencolmcille which was set up by Fr. James Mc Dyer in 1967 and is a replica of a rural village displaying how people lived in this area in the past. It holds Tapestry/craft workshops and traditional music and Irish culture events during the summer.
- This area is in the Gaeltacht and provides Irish language and cultural courses throughout the year.
- Music including fiddle playing is culturally important in this area.
- Wild Atlantic Way runs through this area with a discovery point at Glengesh.
- Various walking routes throughout the landscape and walking tours are popular with tourists. There is a hill walking centre in Glencolmcille.
- Strong tourism and leisure industry focused on the landscape, seascape and natural and historical assets and their use.



Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements from the rural surround and particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views of the coastline and surrounding landscape which provide a connection with the settlement, seascape and landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.20 Gleneely



Identification of Settlement Type

Gleneely is a small village situated in Inishowen that grew around a crossroads. The form of village has remained with a few changes to its urban form in the form of modern multiple residential developments. The village sits within an undulating rural landscape.



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Landscape characteristics

Gleneely is located within LCA 3 North Inishowen Farmland and Coast which is a diverse and varied landscape area that extends west from the northeast Atlantic coast of Inishowen towards the sheltered estuary of Trawbreaga Bay. The area stands alone within the Inishowen peninsula in part due to the expanse of fertile agricultural land containing a variety of farm types and features, historic stone bound field patterns along the coast, surviving clachans, and easily accessible and diverse coastline.

- Underlying and varied tapestry of geology comprising of schist, quartzite, limestone and shale bedrock creating a generally undulating and rolling landscape. This Landscape Character area is predominantly agricultural with isolated upland bog and peat areas and pockets of coniferous plantations.

Townscape features



A key characteristic of this particular settlement is its large farming culture which has evolved through time due to the rich fertile agricultural land which surrounds it. Farming has largely influenced the towns' development. Additional townscape features include:

- Elevation of landscape provides open vistas of surrounding agricultural landscape
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion
- The presence of trees softens the line of buildings, act as wildlife habitats and provide scale to buildings and streets.
- Existing main street mainly consists of residential properties due to the proximity to neighbouring towns Moville and Carndonagh
- Well maintained footpath, adequate street lighting and soft grass verges located on approach to settlement along existing housing development.
- Ribbon development on routes radiating out of settlement.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- Although small in scale individual private gardens within the town boundary have an effect of providing a visual interest in the area
- Presence of mature trees along main road.
- 1-2 storey buildings contribute to a streetscape of human scale.
- Open space in the town is provided by a large sports.
- In close proximity to Culdaff Beach.

Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements from strategic approaches to the settlement.
- Views of the surrounding countryside provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.
- Mature trees located in the centre enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual and collective value.

6.21 Gortahork



Identification of Settlement Type (Field of Oats)

A small coastal village and town land, situated within the Gaeltacht region of Donegal along the N56. There are two ring forts on the Record of Monuments and Structures. The Church acts as a focal point in this dispersed settlement. The settlement has a number of vernacular buildings of merit including 7 on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and the Church of Christ the King, RC Church.



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Landscape characteristics

Gortahork is located within LCA 26 Tory Sound a Gaeltacht area defined by an extensive coastline fronting the Atlantic Ocean including Horn Head peninsula and the offshore islands of Inishboffin, Inishdooley, Inishbeg and Tory to the north and the dominant Derryveagh Mountains and iconic Muckish Mountain to the south and east.

Undulating agricultural lands lie between the bog covered mountains and uplands and the coast. A number of rivers including the Gleanna River, flow through fertile valleys into Ballyness Bay contributing to the unique estuarine inlet at Falcarragh. The patchwork of hedgerow bound fields varies between different locations within this LCA, with tighter sinuous fields to the west and along rivers, ladder farms evident in areas around Falcarragh and larger geometric shaped fields around Dunfanaghy.

There is a dispersed pattern of one off residential dwellings peppered throughout the agricultural lands within this LCA and a degree of linear development along County roads. The coastal location and long sandy beaches make this area an attractive tourist destination and there are associated holiday home developments throughout this area.

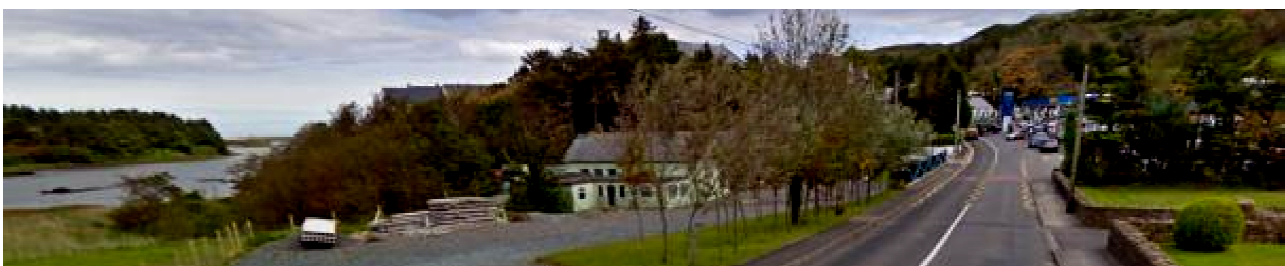
Patchwork of small to medium sized agricultural fields generally bounded by a mixture of stone walls, drainage ditches and hedges with sections of ladder farms around Gortahork and Falcarragh. The area is rich in mature vegetation which gives it a leafy character.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

Townscape features



- The Gaeltacht language is a defining feature of this area which maintains a rich social and cultural heritage.
- Mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town which straddles the N56.
- Mix of uses along the main street include residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- Church provides a focal point for the settlement..
- Occasional street lighting and a footpath line the main street.
- Statue and seating area next to school is a valuable addition to the townscape which could be enhanced by further investment in ornamental and formal planting to add colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved and car park areas.
- Ostan Loch Altan Hotel is an important local employer and economic generator in the settlement.



Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views of the surrounding countryside provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.
- Mature trees enhance the visual amenity of the town
- Views over Ballyness Bay contribute significantly to the visual quality of the settlement.

6.22 Greencastle



Greencastle is a commercial fishing port town on Lough Foyle the second busiest port in the County. Much of the area centred around maritime, National Fisheries Training College and the protected Maritime Museum. The ruins on the coast are an iconic feature of the town as is the adjoining Mortello Tower built during the Napoleonic War, reflecting the defensive maritime location of this settlement on the narrowest point of Lough Foyle. There are numerous archaeological monuments within and surrounding the town that date back to Neolithic towns; many are on the Record of Monuments and Places. The significant built heritage of the town is in the form of the shore side villas and the vernacular centre. There are a further 28 structures on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.



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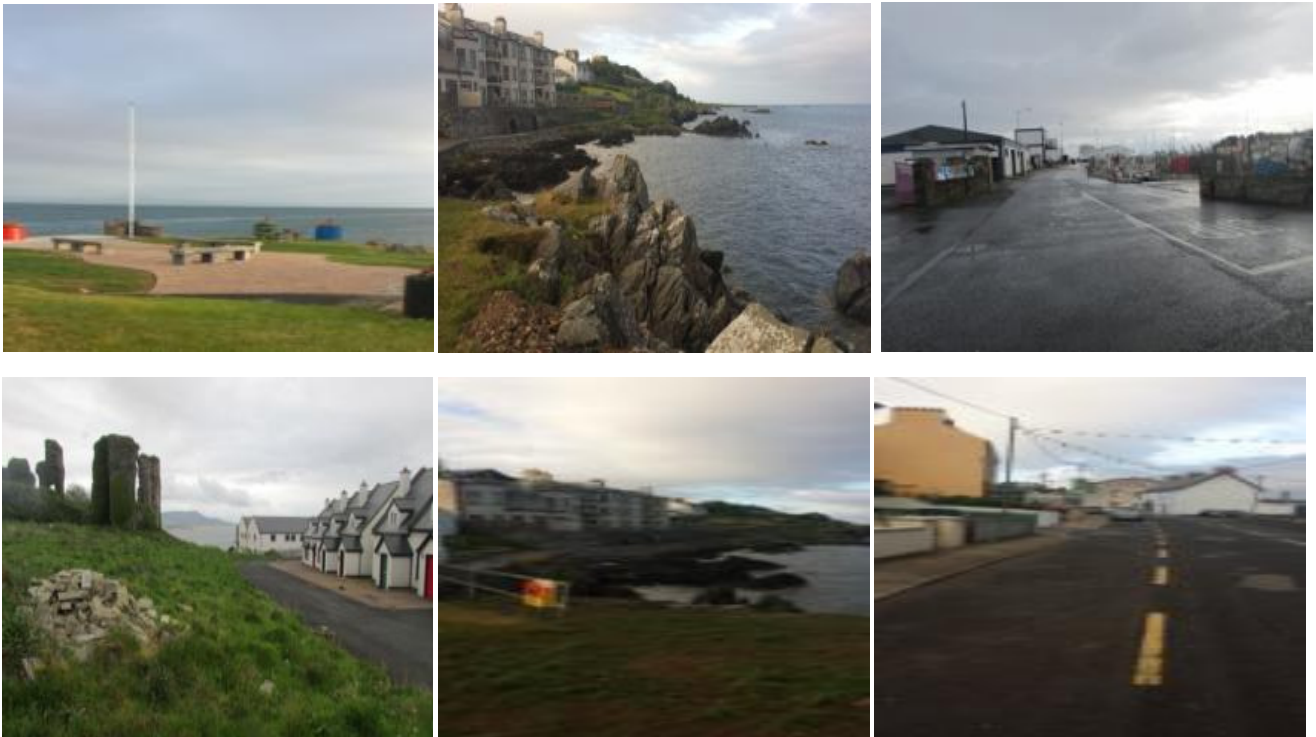
Landscape characteristics

Greencastle is located within LCA 7 characterised by rolling fertile agricultural lands trimmed in hedgerow and trees intersected by a network of minor county roads. The western edge of the landscape character area is a high mountainous area that slopes towards the western shore of Lough Foyle. There is a very strong visual and physical connection to Northern Ireland as it forms most of the view out of this area; the international boundary runs through Lough Foyle. North towards Greencastle the coast consists of exposed rock and sandy beaches including Stroove, a blue flag beach, and adjacent lighthouse. There is a very strong visual and physical connection to Northern Ireland as it forms most of the view out of this area; the international boundary runs through Lough Foyle. This area is particularly unique and an important coastal habitat of generally sloping agricultural lands that begin at the foothills of the mountains and fall gently towards a low, silty shoreline and scattered with associated residential and agricultural buildings.

The topography and landscape components in this area primarily the Lough Foyle River as well as the vast open harbour have provided the opportunity for human settlement and development of this coastal village. There are elements of mature trees and a layout which exploits the view of the river showing this area is considerably valued locally. Walkway along

the river consists of exposed rock along the edges. The Wild Atlantic Way continues along the length of this landscape character area.

Townscape features



The village green itself is surrounded by a mixture of dwellings and commercial premises and provides an immediate sense of place and having arrived. Additional townscape features include:

- Landscape elements include the iconic castle and Mortello Tower reflecting the significant historical association with the landscape.
- Strong fishing industry with commercial fishing operating from Greencastle harbour, the second busiest port in the county and the home of the National Fisheries Training College.
- Significant historic maritime culture along this international border with the United Kingdom, including a fleet of German u-boats scuttled in Lough Foyle at the end of WW2.
- High recreational use of the sea especially within the summer months with water based sports activity and fishing.
- Open character of streetscape in the centre which overlooks open space towards Lough Swilly.
- Harbour provides a tranquil setting at times and connection with the physical landscape.
- The town is well served with both estate-type development of varieties of housing and less dense one off dwellings.
- Attractive pedestrian environment with streetscape elements including street lights, bollards, formal planting, street trees and the central village shore green.
- Ferry to Magilligan is an important connection to Northern Ireland and in particular the tourist market.
- The village expresses a well defined setting and compact centre and displays an area of both coastal and rural characteristics.
- Townscape enhanced by the visual links created by the strong linear feature of the stone wall along the village green.

- Variations in rooflines also contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.
- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- The Main Street area remains the retailing, service, and entertainment, cultural and social heart of the village and demonstrates great vitality and vibrancy.
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- Small number of houses within this townscape are terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street provide active surveillance while businesses are closed.

Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlement, particularly from strategic approaches to the town by road and by sea.
- Church spire visible from outside the town form local landmarks and in particular the Church of Ireland and the higher ground in the west of the town which has visual and historical links to the 'Bishops Mausoleum' in Downhill on the opposite side of Lough Foyle in Northern Ireland.
- Views projecting out to the coastline and Lough Foyle which provide a connection with the settlement, seascape and landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.23 Kerrykeel



Identification of Settlement Type (The Narrow Quarter)

A small village located close to Mulroy Bay SAC and Carlan Isles pNHA. Began as a simple crossroads settlement, now serves a small community and has a strong tourism function based around a large holiday park and activity centre at the shore of the Bay. There are a number of archaeological monuments on the Record of Monuments and Structures within the town.



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Landscape characteristics

Kerrykeel is located within LCA Unit 18 Lough Fern which consists of predominantly low-lying gently undulating land which rises slightly in elevation to the west. The landcover consists mainly of fertile agricultural land with straight sided fields bounded by hedges with large contrasting patches of scrub and areas of forestry which are more frequent to the west as the land rises in height. There are two large Loughs within this agricultural area called Lough Fern and Lough Keel which characterise the north of the area as well as a number of smaller lakes mainly dotted on the eastern side.

There are two narrow bands of low-lying land that stretch northwards around the edges of Broad Water running up to Kerrykeel to the east and towards Cranford to the west. These sections are not as fertile and consist of a mixture of scrub trees with elements of agricultural land particularly running up to Kerrykeel. There are small islands and fish farms to the south of Broad Water which characterise this area.

Rivers form an important element of this landscape which come down from the mountains to the west and the river Leannan runs from east to west along the south of the area leading into Lough Fern. There are three main settlements of Milford, Kilmacrennan and Kerrykeel which serve this area. There are also one-off houses and a series of large farms spread throughout what is a working agricultural landscape with more dispersed development along roads to the south towards the outskirts of Letterkenny.

The land form is mainly low-lying but undulating and rises towards the west. It is predominantly a rich fertile landscape with patches of scrub and forest throughout the area and which are more frequent towards the west.

There are a series of biodiversity rich rivers which run through this area including the Salmonoid Leannan River.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

Townscape features



- The town expresses a well defined setting and compact centre displaying both urban and rural characteristics.
- The town has a vernacular quality in its buildings and a further 11 are listed on the National Inventory of Archaeological Heritage.
- Open space in the town is provided by a play park which ultimately connects the people with the landscape and provides a point where members of the community can congregate.
- Mix of uses along the main street includes residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- Buildings frontages open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character.
- Knockalla Mountain ranges provide a fine back drop to the settlement.
- Muroy Bay provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.

- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern styles of buildings.
- Established residential properties along the main street.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end and from Mulroy Bay.
- Church spires visible from outside the town form local landmarks.
- Views of the surrounding landscape provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.24 Kilcar



Identification of Settlement Type (The Church of St. Chartha)

Kilcar is a small rural based Gaeltacht village located within the wider Kilcar parish. The village is centred around an historic church and two small rivers also pass through this settlement. This settlement has a unique vernacular quality informed by the scale of design of the buildings that follow the topography of the land and create an interesting 'stepped' aspect to the landscape. A number of archaeological monuments in the vicinity of the town reflect the continual settlement of this area over time.



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Landscape characteristics

Kilcar is located within LCA 34 an area characterized by low fertile agricultural river valleys that meander through an undulating landscape of peat and heather covered hills before meeting the Atlantic Ocean via Tawney Bay and Teelin Bay. The land is lower and the surrounding LCAs and the area is sheltered to an extent by the higher surrounding Mountains and uplands.

Agriculture is the primary land use in this area; the sheltered fertile river valleys have a mainly linear field pattern bound by hedgerow interspersed by trees, whilst the coastal agricultural land, exposed to the winds and spray coming from the Atlantic Ocean has a more open field pattern consisting of stone wall bound fields and open natural grassland.

Kilcar sits within a geographically remote and rural area of considerable antiquity, particularly evident in the historic field patterns remaining in the landscape. Historical and archaeological features are dominant in localised areas particularly along the river valleys and the coast.

The Wild Atlantic Way follows the road network through the rugged seascape and landscape in this Gaeltacht area of significant cultural and historic offer. These wealth of assets contribute to the strong and vibrant tourism sector within this area.

The town boundary area lies in a deep fold in rolling topography of broad valley lowlands. This is a key feature of the villages' relationship with the landscape. The settlement is nestled in the valley landscape which gives it a certain aspect of hidden depth and uniqueness. The Glenaddragh River passes through the settlement.

Townscape features



The picturesque village of Kilcar is a centre of the Donegal hand-woven tweed industry including hand-embroidery, knitting and other cottage industries. The Kilcar Way Walk extends from the village. One loops around the western foothills of Mulnanaff, the second runs east and north-east to Kilcar Forest and the third skirts Towney. The village consists of a main street with a church at one end and two textile factories at the other end. The village has the principal tweed hand weaving facility in Donegal, with a shop selling high quality tweed products. The hills surrounding the town are rich in historic remains of stone walls which give a sense of ownership to the land and evidence of a working landscape. Additional townscape features include:

- The Main Street area remains the retailing, service, and entertainment, cultural and social heart of the town and demonstrates a vitality and vibrancy and diversify not evident elsewhere in the town.
- The town expresses a well defined setting and displaying both urban and rural characteristics.
- Elevation of landscape provides fairly open vistas
- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- Built fabric contains a small number of urban vernacular tin buildings which enhance the landscape setting creating a sense of place and identity.
- Presence of mature trees and vegetation which enhance the visual amenity of the town.

- Variations in rooflines contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.
- Dominated by active frontages that open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character and a sense of vitality.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- Old petrol pump still exists along the main adds character to this vernacular rural settlement.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion which can accommodate on street car parking.
- Little modern interventions to the streetscape including street lights, bollards, formal planting and street trees, contribute to a stimulating environment adding colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved areas.
- There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements skyline, particularly from strategic approaches to the town.
- Views projecting of surrounding countryside provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.25 Killea



Identification of Settlement Type (Fiach's Church)

Killea is a cross border commuter town located on the banks of the River Foyle, within the hinterland of the City of Derry. Historically Killea is an agricultural rural settlement with no distinguishable centre, however the last decade has seen rapid residential development including many from Derry.



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Landscape characteristics

Killea is located within LCA 13 a broad river valley extending from outside Lifford in the south of the area to the border with Northern Ireland on the outskirts of Derry City characterised by undulating fertile agricultural lands with a regular field pattern of medium to large geometric fields, bound by deciduous trees and hedgerow.

There is a dispersed scatter of rural residential development within this LCA comprising of farmsteads and one of rural dwellings along with areas of ribbon development along the county road network; there are a number of large detached historic houses and associated grounds within this landscape, particularly along the Foyle.

This LCA has a strong visual connection to its mirror landscape on the opposite side of the River Foyle in Northern Ireland in terms of the similar landscape type and also that the Northern Ireland landscape inherently informs the views within and without of this LCA. The river Foyle is an, ecologically, strategically and historically (including the fishing economy) important feature in this landscape.

Townscape features



- The town is well served with both estate-type development of varieties of housing and more scattered development of dwellings.
- Church provides a focal point for residents and a landmark for visitors locating the area.
- Although small in scale individual private gardens have an effect of providing a visual interest in the area
- Mainly residential properties along the settlements axis.
- Street lighting and footpaths present for pedestrian activity.

Views and prospects



- Views of the surrounding countryside provide a connection between the settlement and the landscape.
- Views into the settlement from approach roads.

6.26 Kilmacrennan



Identification of Settlement Type (Church of Mac Reanan)

Kilmacrennan is a village centred around a crossroads, located between the River Lennon and Lurgy. Situated within the hinterland of Letterkenny, the village has seen growth over the last few decades. The village has a well defined setting and a compact centre displaying both rural and urban characteristics, set amongst deciduous trees and woodland in an agricultural landscape. The main street straddles the N56. The village has significant historical connections with early Christianity and there are a number of monuments on the Record of Monuments and Places and around the town. There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.



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Landscape characteristics

Kilmacrennan is located within LCA Unit 18 Lough Fern which consists of predominantly low-lying gently undulating land which rises slightly in elevation to the west. The landcover consists mainly of fertile agricultural land with straight sided fields bounded by hedges with large contrasting patches of scrub and areas of forestry which are more frequent to the west as the land rises in height. There are two large loughs within this agricultural area called Lough Fern and Lough Keel which characterise the north of the area as well as a number of smaller lakes mainly dotted on the eastern side. There are two narrow bands of low-lying land that stretch northwards around the edges of Broad Water running up to Kerrykeel to the east and towards Cranford to the west. These sections are not as fertile and consist of a mixture of scrub trees with elements of agricultural land particularly running up to Kerrykeel. There are small islands and fish farms to the south of Broad Water which characterise this area. There are also one-off houses and a series of large farms spread throughout what is a

working agricultural landscape with more dispersed development along roads to the south towards the outskirts of Letterkenny.

Rivers form an important element of this landscape which come down from the mountains to the west and the river Lennan runs from east to west along the south of the area leading into Lough Fern. Predominantly cul de sac developments on periphery of village, Local services provided Lurgy River passes through at bridge, Bridge important feature, Lennan River, coillte trails, woodland.

Townscape features



The town expresses a well defined setting and compact centre. Mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town. Additional streetscape features include:

- Elevation of landscape provides open vistas to surrounding countryside.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion
- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern buildings.
- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- Although small in scale individual private gardens have an effect of providing a visual interest in the area.
- Mature trees planted along main road act as a good sound buffer for established and newly developed residential units
- Open space in the town is provided by a large sports ground which ultimately connects the people with the landscape and provides a point where residents and visitors can congregate.
- The town is well served with both estate-type development of varieties of housing and looser ribbon- type of individual houses and bungalows.
- A number of houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Dominated by active frontages contributing to a sense of vitality.
- Buildings frontages open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character.
- Thatched cottages within settlement are a valuable asset to the townscape character maintaining the cultural heritage of this area.
- Thatched cottages also add an almost rural character to the streetscape and symbolises an exit to the rural hinterland.
- Small walkway provided overlooking the River Lurgy which enables a relationship with the community and the landscape to exist.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views into and out of the settlement
- Church spires visible from outside the town form local landmarks which are important in terms of a focal point for the community to congregate and ensure the place is easy to navigate and locate
- Views projecting out to the surrounding landscape.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- Mature trees located in the town centre which enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.27 Killygordon



Identification of Settlement Type (Gordon's Wood)

Killygordon is a small village on the River Finn, with two defined centres. The urban form of the centre is located on a crossroads has seen little change since late 1800's, however, modern recent developments on the outskirts have changed the character to an extent. This historic village has many structures and buildings of note, not least Killygordon Bridge, constructed in 1782. There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.



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Landscape characteristics

Killygordon is located within LCA 14 Finn Valley which is dominated by the River Finn, its tributaries and associated valleys cut from the surrounding uplands. The LCA has 3 distinct areas within that change from west to east following the meandering River Finn through this LCA. In the west of this LCA the Rivers Finn and Reelan cut through highland bog areas creating 2 steep narrow river valleys that have an interesting rectilinear field pattern of strips extending from the river edge into the upland bog areas in a 'rundale' fashion. These smaller rivers converge as the River Finn close to Cloghan into a notably broader level valley of larger square agricultural fields overlooked by mountainous areas of upland bog.

The River Finn system flows through high peat covered mountains within the west of this LCA eastwards through a more rolling and then gently undulating agricultural landscape of varying quality, tying this landscape character area together. The local road network affords multiple physical linkages with the adjoining landscape in Northern Ireland.

Townscape features



- Stone walls, mature trees and vegetation which enhance the visual amenity of the town.
- Although small in scale individual private gardens have an effect of providing a visual interest in the area
- Attractive pedestrian environment with streetscape elements including occasional street lights, bollards, formal planting and street trees which contribute to a stimulating environment adding colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved areas.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- The town is well served with both estate-type development of varieties of housing and more dispersed type developments of individual houses and bungalows.
- Open space provided at Railway Avenue including seating areas, street lighting, speed bumps and foot paths for residents living there.
- Connection still exists between the railway and settlement with locations such as the Railway Avenue within the settlement.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views projecting out to the surrounding countryside including Killygordon Bridge which provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- Mature trees located in the town centre which enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual value,
- Views overlooking the River Finn

6.28 Laghy



Laghy can be identified as a small village, in a linear urban form that straddles what was once the main road into Donegal Town. It is dominated by an industrial working quarry located to the southern edge of the settlement. Laghy Train Station was located just west of the village along the Main Donegal to Ballyshannon line that operated from 1905 – 1960. The village retains much of the character of the original settlement, streetscape and buildings.



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Landscape characteristics

Laghy is located within Donegal Bay Drumlins LCA Unit 37 which consists of a large distinctive drumlin belt that flow along a northeast-southwest axis from the Blue Stack Mountains and the Pettigo Plateau east towards Donegal Bay. The drumlin formation is more prominent in the north converging at the head of Donegal Bay becoming less prominent and obvious towards the south. The drumlins are draped in a patchwork of fertile agricultural fields of various sizes bound by deciduous hedgerow and trees that are interspersed with patches of woodlands and conifer plantations. Loughs are a common feature amongst the drumlins and a large number of streams and rivers rise in higher lands to the north and east and course along valleys through the drumlins towards the sea.

This LCA is framed by the Bluestack Mountains to the north, the bog covered uplands to the east, and the meandering coastal edge curled around the mouth of Donegal Bay, with Donegal Town in the centre. The good soils, coupled with ready access to fresh water and proximity to the sea have meant this area has been settled for a long period of history as evidenced by the many archaeological and historic sites throughout the landscape.

Agriculture and fishing remain a dominant land use in this area, however tourism also contributes significantly to the local and wider economy. The tourism product is based on the landscape, seascape, history and cultural qualities of the area with a focus around the coast including the 'Wild Atlantic Way' that follows the route of the N56.

Townscape features



Laghy contains an old linear core of mainly residential buildings.

- Quarry located partly within settlement. Well screened to east, south and west. Clear views on northern boundary- heavy traffic
- Good quality buildings.
- Mixture of residential dwelling types.
- Railway line runs through the side of settlement from north east to south west.
- Landmarks include the church, stone bridge, high quarried cliffs which create a distinctive landmark feature.
- Elements of mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town and take away from the busy N15 which runs in parallel to the settlement acting as a sound buffer.
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- 1-2 storey buildings contribute to a streetscape of human scale.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Variations in rooflines also contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.



Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Church spire visible from within, and outside the town form local landmarks.

- Views of the surrounding landscape provide a connection between the settlement and the landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- Mature trees located in and around the town centre enhance the visual amenity of the village.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.29 Loughanure



Identification of Settlement Type (Lake of the Yew)

Loughanure is a small Gaeltacht rural based village situated on Lough Anure. Named after the native Yew trees on an island on the lake,. The dispersed settlement is characteristic of this Gaeltacht area. A distinctive feature of this settlement is that the area was a major source of limestone during mid 20th Century, kilns used during era can be found around the settlement. The area is popular with Irish language students and the area hosts a popular Irish College during the summer months.



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Landscape characteristics

Loughanure is located within landscape character area 28 The Rosses Knock & Lochan Islands & Coast along the N56 a long indented shoreline and the offshore islands of: Inishfree Lower, Owey, Cruit, Inishkeeragh, Rutland, Inishfree Upper and Donegal's largest inhabited island, Arranmore. The mainland area has a distinctive 'knock and Lochan' landscape, and is known locally as 'The Rosses'. An undulating glacial landscape of bog covered hills and eroded hollows containing small lakes with distinctive rock outcrops, contained and framed by the Derryveagh Mountains to the east. This predominantly bog landscape is interrupted by isolated occurrences of more fertile landscapes dotted near lakes, along rivers and along the coastline, and also by geometric areas of planted forestry.

A low rocky coastal edge extends to sea in parts and is interspersed with soft sandy beaches and large tidal estuaries at Carrickfinn, Kincasslough, Cruit Island, Travenagh Bay and south of Lettermacaward extending into Gweebarra Bay.

Townscape features



The Gaeltacht language is a defining feature of this area which maintains a rich social and cultural heritage. Additional townscape features include:

- Mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town.
- The hills opposite Lough Anure display a working landscape.
- Although small in scale individual private gardens have an effect of providing a visual interest in the area along the settlement boundary which has enriched the landscape at a local level.
- Footpath provided for pedestrian access to the town
- A number of detached properties along the settlement make a positive contribution to the townscape character due to their design and scale.



Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlements, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views projecting out to the Lough Anure which provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- Mature trees located in the town centre enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual and collective value.

6.30 Malin



Identification of Settlement Type (Brow of a Hill)

Malin is a planned small coastal village which dates back to late 1600's. Famous for being the most northern town in Donegal it is centred around a 'Diamond' in the centre typical of plantation towns in Donegal. It contains a triangular lawn surrounded by three terraces broken on the West by the Church of Ireland. Malin Hall and demesne are located west of the town; part of the 10,000 acre estate of George Harvey bequeathed by the English during the Plantation of Ulster and set within mature woodland and grounds. The town is accessed from the south by Malin Bridge; a 10 arch stone rubble bridge over the River Ballyboe, Trawbeaga Bay; dating from the 1760s. the bridge forms a unique and impressive approach to the town.



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Landscape characteristics

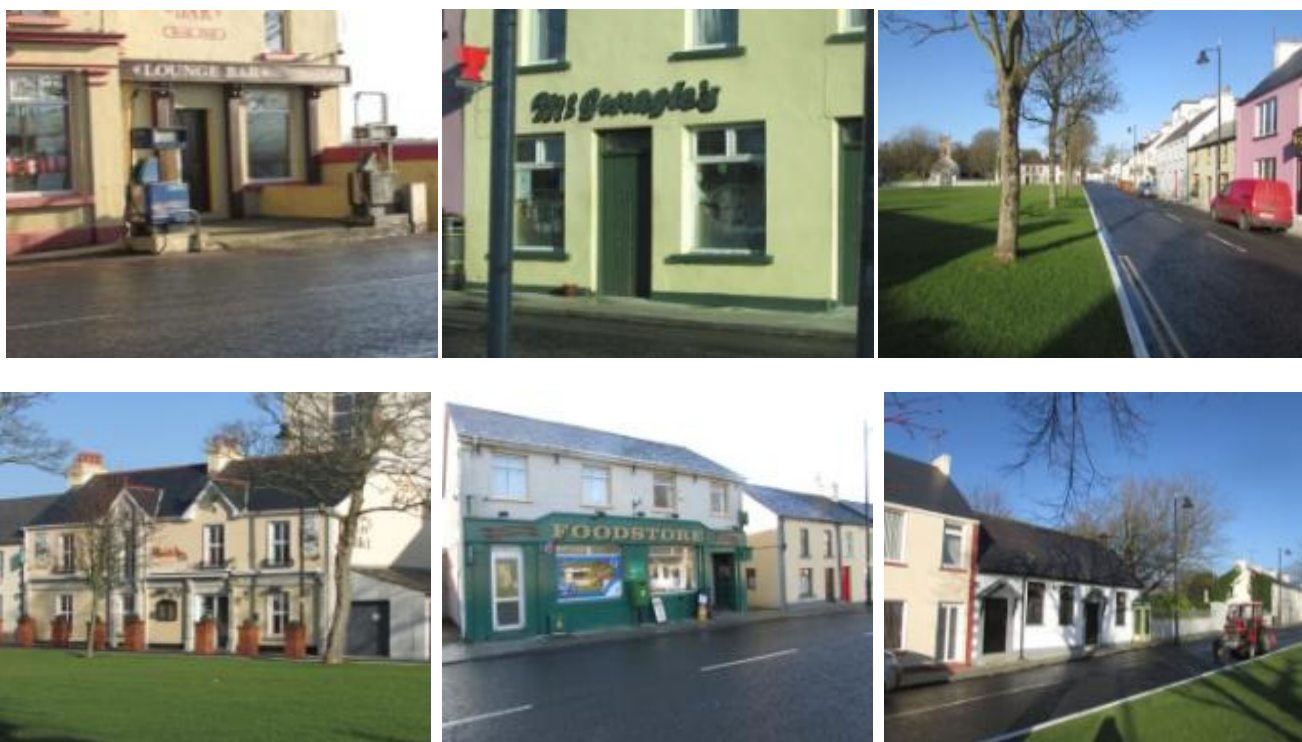
Malin is located within LCA 1 Malin Coast the most northerly location on the island of Ireland, it is peninsular with over half the area bordering the Atlantic Ocean and a large more sheltered edge bordering Trawbreaga Bay, a large tidal estuary. The area is almost completely defined by a coastal edge and Seascape Units 2, 3, 4 and 5 overlap to such an extent that only a small inland strip of the LCA does not fall within a seascape unit. The boundary with LCA 3 to the south is a band of low lying fertile agricultural land between higher bog land either side and generally following a geological fault line.

This predominantly rural area has a dispersed pattern of vernacular dwellings and clusters of dwellings, with a few surviving clachans, within this primarily agricultural landscape that are

discernible in the historic mapping for the area through to the present day and for the most part, newer more recent dwellings reflect this traditional scale and pattern of development. Inishtrahull Island falls within this LCA, geologically important as it has a unique geology, the oldest Ireland and it was inhabited up to 80 years ago and has strong cultural and social associations with this area. Wild Atlantic Way loops around this LCA taking in 'Bamba's Crown' the most northerly part on the island of Ireland.

The Lagg Sand Dunes are an unusually tall and wide dune system, one of the largest in Europe, which is interesting not only for their geology but also the striking feature they constitute within the wider landscape. Underlying geology of schist forming a peat covered mountainous ridge running northwest-southeast on the northern side of the LCA.

Townscape features



- The presence of trees adds significantly to the public realm, acts as wildlife habitats and provides scale to buildings and streets.
- The Main Street area remains the retailing, service, and entertainment, cultural and social heart of the town and demonstrates a vitality and vibrancy and diversify not evident elsewhere in the town centre.
- Dominated by active frontages contributing to a sense of vitality.
- Buildings frontages open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character.
- Attractive pedestrian environment with streetscape elements including street lights, formal planting and street trees which contribute to a stimulating environment adding colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved areas.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- Existing 'Diamond' facilitates communal gathering.
- Mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town.
- Variations in rooflines also contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.

- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- Traditional shop fronts and vernacular buildings add character to the streetscape.
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- The town expresses a well defined setting and compact centre and displays both urban and rural characteristics.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views in and around Malin Bridge.
- Views of the settlement, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views projecting out to the surrounding landscape and coastline which provide a connection with the settlement, seascape and landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Mature trees located in the town centre which enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual and collective value.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.31 Pettigo



Identification of Settlement Type

Pettigo is a small former market town that straddles both sides of the international border with Northern Ireland, the River Termon flows through the town and defines this border. The town is centred around a 'diamond' surrounded by high quality historic buildings. 6 structures in the village are protected, including the train station, Pettigo Mill and Castle McGrath and a further 35 listed on the NIAH. Pettigo was a popular destination on the Enniskillen/Bundoran line, closed in 1957 due to an end in cross border rail travel. The closure of the railway and subsequent 'troubles' in Northern Ireland negatively affected the vitality of the town.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.



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Landscape characteristics

Pettigo is located within LCA 43 characterises as a low lying rolling landscape of high quality fertile agricultural lands forming part of a wider drumlin landscape flowing westwards towards Donegal Bay and continuing eastwards through the south of Ulster and Northern Ireland. The area is wedged below the higher bog covered landscape of the Lough Derg Uplands to the North West and the Northern Ireland border than runs along the southern length of this LCA.

The border with Northern Ireland follows for the most part the river Termon which also creates an international border within the town of Pettigo. A small portion of this LCA meets Lower Lough Erne at Aghnahoo Glebe, south west of Pettigo Village, a historically important

area that once formed part of the medieval estate associated with Lough Derg and on which Termon Mc Grath castle still stands within a landscape characterized by large geometric hedge and tree bound fields, rivers, laneways and roads.

There is a dispersed scatter of rural dwellings throughout this area, integrating into the farming landscape, although in places some suburban style development ribbon development lines the county roads.

The area is dominated by drumlins, part of the wide (Ulster) Drumlin belt that stretches across south Ulster from County Down in the east of Northern Ireland towards Donegal Bay. It has primarily good quality agricultural farming land with deep soils and coniferous forestry plantations cover vast areas of higher lands within the northeast of this LCA.

Townscape features



Pettigo is a small picturesque village on the border of Co Donegal and Fermanagh. It is bisected by the Termon River. Lough Derg lies about four miles north of the village and contains Station Island, the location of an ancient Pilgrimage of international renown through history, a special sanctuary of peace. Townscape features within Pettigo include:

- Vernacular terraces, buildings and street pattern.
- Trees contribute to the character of the town, act as wildlife habitats and provide scale to buildings and streets.
- The Main Street area remains the retailing, service, and entertainment, cultural and social heart of the town and demonstrates a vitality and vibrancy and diversify not evident elsewhere in the town centre.
- Rich architectural and streetscape detailing, presence of landmarks and hierarchy of streets and spaces ensure the environment is stimulating.
- Dominated by active frontages contributing to a sense of vitality.
- Buildings frontages open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character.
- Attractive pedestrian environment with streetscape elements including street lights, bollards, formal planting and street trees which contribute to a stimulating environment adding colour and life perceptually breaking up large paved areas.

- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- Built fabric contains a small number of urban vernacular tin buildings of aesthetic and historic importance.
- Mature trees and vegetation which enhance the visual amenity of the town.
- Variations in rooflines also contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.
- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- Churches provide a focal point in the town.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion
- A variety of building materials and colours are used in more traditional and contemporary buildings.
- A walkway extends also from the sports grounds through a wooded area to the new sports complex provides a focus for the settlement and an important recreational amenity.
- Community Garden project started in 2010 as a scheme by Adopt to bring the local community together growing their own local produce for themselves; this encompassed other associated activities such as cookery training sessions using produce grown in the community garden.
- Termon complex is a cross border European funded purpose built centre for sport and entertainment within the heart of Pettigo offering a plethora of cultural and recreational as well as sporting programmes.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlement, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views of the surrounding landscape provide a connection with the settlement and the landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- Mature trees located in the town centre which enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual and collective value.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.32 Portsalon



Identification of Settlement Type (Port of the Salt)

Portsalon is a small linear seaside settlement just north of Portsalon beach that strings out along a county road with no discernible centre. The first edition Ordnance Survey maps (1837-1842) show a number of clachans in the vicinity of this area including 'Croaghross' that had a coastguard station, whilst the 2nd edition show a hotel, post office, and pier at the location of the pier today. Portsalon Golf course is located just south of the settlement boundary, a links course that has been played since the 1880s. There are a plethora of holiday home developments in the settlement and 2 mobile home parks



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Landscape characteristics

Portsalon is located within LCA 21 Fanad Coast and Lakes a horseshoe shaped peninsula on the north Donegal coast enveloped by Mulroy Bay on the West, Lough Swilly to the east and the Atlantic Ocean along the north. A diverse and complex landscape of mountains, plains, valleys, lakes and a heterogeneous coastline, yet unified by the dispersed rural community that was historically remote from the rest of Donegal as primary access into the area was via a lowland route around Kerrykeel, the only other access was over the difficult terrain of Knockalla mountain that has more recently been crossed on the east by a coastal road that hugs the cliff or by water along the long shore. Another unique attribute of this area are the multiple upland lakes, particularly in the north of the LCA from whence many streams and rivers rise and flow out to Mulroy Bay, Lough Swilly and to sea.

The long and varied coastal edge has a cliff-faced rocky edge along Lough Swilly interspersed with sandy and stony beaches including the Blue Flag Portsalon beach and a low rocky edge;

the coastal edge along the Atlantic is characterized by low and gently undulating agricultural fields that meet the shore as sandy and stony beaches, cliffs and low rock outcrops and is the home of the iconic Fanad Lighthouse.

This rural area has is steeped in history and the landscape retains many idioms of character including stone walls, evolved clachans, thatched houses and vernacular dwellings, that nestle into the landscape and contributing to the character of this landscape.

The historic strategic location of this area is evidenced by the impressive Napoleonic fort at Knockalla on Lough Swilly and the ruined castle at Moross on Broadwater. Fanad lighthouse is a unique and important historical, heritage and cultural feature.

This landscape has been relatively undeveloped in recent times and the historic pattern of Clachan and rundale farming is still evident and contributes to the uniqueness.

Lough Swilly is designated as SPA, Mulroy Bay and Broadwater are designated (in parts) as Sac, NHA and pNHA and lush fertile valleys carved out by various tributaries and streams flowing towards the Lough and Bay create important biodiversity corridors.

Townscape features



Portsalon is a small village located on Lough Swilly, mainly catered towards the tourism industry. It attracts a large number of visitors during summer months with residential units consisting of holiday homes. Centre of the village is poorly defined, however both the church and Portsalon Hotel are protected heritage buildings. A focal point of area is the Portsalon Harbour, Pier and Beach, which is a Special Area of Conservation and a Natural Heritage Area. Additional townscape features include:

- Churches provide a focal point in the town.
- Harbour provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.
- Tourism plays an important factor in the future development of the area

- There are a plethora of holiday home developments in the settlement and two mobile home parks.
- Portsalon Golf course is located just south of the settlement boundary, a links course that has been played since the 1880s.
- Strong tourism and leisure industry focused on the landscape, seascape and their use; focused in particular at Portsalon beach and Portsalon Golf Club on the Swilly coast.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlement, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views of the surrounding landscape and coastline which provide a connection with the settlement, seascape and the landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.

6.33 Quigley's Point



Identification of Settlement Type

A small linear village situated in Inishowen, overlooking the wide expanse of the River Foyle. A slightly scattered urban form within the village; the town has a vernacular pattern as a collective but no protected structures of note. Several Megalithic tombs can be found in the area, built by settlers over 6000 years ago and there are a number of archaeological monuments on the Record of Monuments and Structures in and around the town.



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Landscape characteristics

Quigleys Point is located within LCA 7 which is characterized by rolling fertile agricultural lands trimmed in hedgerow and trees intersected by a network of minor county roads. The western edge of the landscape character area is a high mountainous area that slopes towards the western shore of Lough Foyle. A Regional road follows the shoreline of Lough Foyle and runs through the bustling market town of Moville, the vibrant fishing village of Greencastle and other smaller villages huddled alongside the coastal edge.

The lower half of the landscape character area is characterized by a silty shoreline whereas north towards Greencastle the coast consists of exposed rock and sandy beaches including Stroove, a blue flag beach, and adjacent lighthouse. At Inishowen head the shoreline veers west onto the Atlantic Ocean displaying a completely different hard, treacherous and inaccessible coastline consisting of high vegetated sea cliffs that fall sharply directly into the ocean below from a high, and barren, mountainous peat covered landscape.

There is a very strong visual and physical connection to Northern Ireland as it forms most of the view out of this area; the international boundary runs through Lough Foyle.

Townscape features



Townscape features within the linear village include:

- The presence of schools, churches, community centres and shops contribute to a diversity of land uses and act as important congregation points within the area.
- The vibrant Community Centre offers facilities for activities for people of all ages and interests.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- Facilities within the settlement include Foyleside Caravan and Camping Park, post office, hair dressers, food outlet, farm shop and a service station which provides local amenities to residents.
- Churches provide a focal point for residents and a landmark for visitors locating the area.
- The town is well served with both estate-type development of varieties of housing and more scattered type of individual houses and bungalows.
- River running through settlement provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- Although small in scale individual private gardens have an effect of providing a visual interest in the area

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views over Quigleys Point towards Lough Foyle and from Quigleys Point towards Lough Foyle.
- Views of the settlement, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Views projecting out to the surrounding landscape and Lough Foyle which provide a connection between the settlement, seascape and landscape which contributing to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.

6.34 Rathmullan



Identification of Settlement Type (Fort of the Mill)

Rathmullan is a Plantation fishing village located on the back of Lough Swilly. It boasts a strong tourism industry in the summer, focussed on the large beach and pier and the history and heritage. This was the departure point in 1607 of for the Flight of the Earls and the ruins of a 1516 medieval friary are located on the edge of the settlement in addition to other monuments.

Today the town functions as a service centre for the local population and also a tourism hub; there is a seasonal ferry that operates between Rathmullan and Bunrana, a public beach and plays park as well as qualitative local accommodation including 'Rathmullan House' a country house and demesne landscape.



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Landscape characteristics

Rathmullan is located within LCA 20 South Fanad Uplands and Coast located within the Gaeltacht, in the south east of the 'Fanad Peninsula', a rural area with a long coastal edge extending north out from Lough Swilly, west along the Atlantic shore and south again where it curls in and around Mulroy Bay. This area shares geology with areas across both Mulroy Bay and Lough Swilly, and also a high degree of intervisibility from the LCA out over the surrounding landscape and seascape and also as an end view particularly from the eastern shores of Lough Swilly along the western Inishowen coast. Most of this area consists of rolling agricultural lands of predominantly pasture but also arable use made up of a patchwork of hedge and stonewall bound fields of varying shapes and sizes. In contrast, the

higher mountain areas are covered in blanket bog and have an open aspect whilst there is a heavy dispersal of deciduous and ancient woodland along the south and east.



Strategically important coastline throughout history particularly evidenced at Rathmullan through various recorded monuments including the impressive ruins of Mc Swynes Castle and the Mortello Tower at the shore dating from the Napoleonic wars. Another Mortello tower (1 of 6 along Lough Swilly), Knockalla fort, is located on steeply sloping lands in the north-east of this area, that along with the fort at Dunree on the opposite side of the Lough, guarded the entrance to the Swilly.

There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.

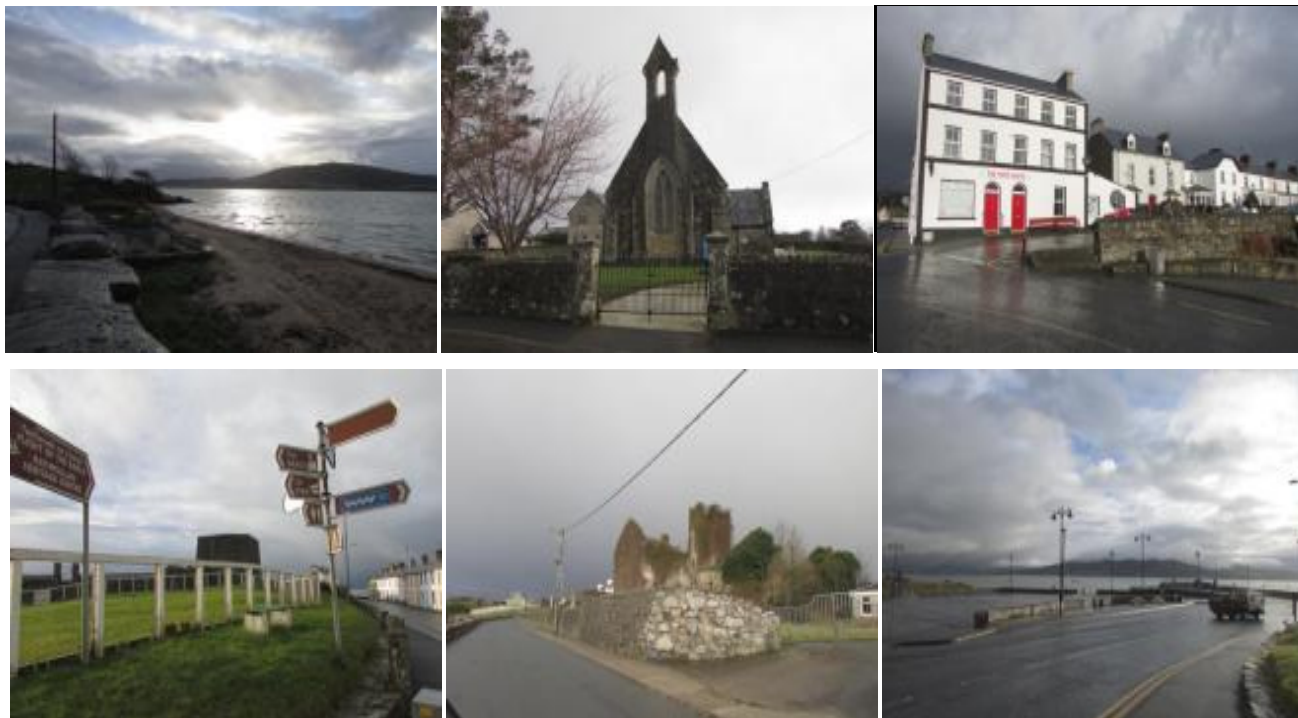
Townscape features



Rathmullan is a bustling and vibrant seaside, fishing village on the south eastern coast of this LCA adjacent to a long sandy beach and at a point on Lough Swilly where there is a deep channel. Historically this made the location strategically important and there has been a settlement here for a considerable time. The imposing ruins of Rathmullan Friary still stand in the centre of the village, built in 1508, and part of it remained in use as a church until 1814. This was also the location of the Flight of the Earls in 1607 and the town has been identified as a Historic Town for general protection (zone of archaeological potential) by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in its record of Monuments and Places. Townscape features include:

- A seasonal ferry which operates between Rathmullen and Buncrana across Lough Swilly
- The presence of trees softens the line of buildings, act as wildlife habitats and provide scale to buildings and streets.
- Rich architectural and streetscape detailing, presence of landmarks and hierarchy of streets and spaces which ensure the environment is stimulating.
- Dominated by active frontages contributing to a sense of vitality.
- Buildings frontages open directly onto the street resulting in a vibrant character.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced and closely spaced giving a high sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Existing buildings include a mixture of public/private, vernacular and domestic.
- Variations in rooflines also contribute to a stimulating environment and effectively break up the elevation adding to the towns' distinctive character.
- Mix of uses along the main street including residential, commercial and retail provide active and passive surveillance all day long contributing to sense of vitality within the settlement.
- Fishing harbour provides a recreational, social and cultural focus to the town.
- Harbour provides a tranquil setting and connection with the physical landscape.
- Traditional shop fronts and vernacular buildings add character to the streetscape.
- Narrow footpaths give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.
- 1-2 storey buildings contribute to a streetscape of human scale.
- A variety of building materials and colours are present in both older and modern styles of buildings.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views: Views of the settlement, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from road and sea.

- Views of the surrounding landscape and coastline provide a connection with the settlement, seascape and landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street which provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- The layout of the town centre and traditional streetscapes.

6.35 Rossnowlagh



Identification of Settlement Type (Heavenly Headland)

Rossnowlagh is a coastal village with a strong summer tourism industry. The expansive beach and Sand House Hotel form the village focal point. There are a number of environmental designations within and around the town; the details of which can be sourced at www.npws.ie.



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Landscape characteristics

The settlement is located within Donegal Bay Drumlins LCA Unit 37 a large distinctive drumlin belt that flow along a northeast-southwest axis from the Blue Stack Mountains and the Pettigo Plateau east towards Donegal Bay. The drumlin formation is more prominent in the north converging at the head of Donegal Bay becoming less prominent and obvious towards the south. The drumlins are draped in a patchwork of fertile agricultural fields of various sizes bound by deciduous hedgerow and trees that are interspersed with patches of woodlands and conifer plantations. Loughs are a common feature amongst the drumlins and a large number of streams and rivers rise in higher lands to the north and east and course along valleys through the drumlins towards the sea.

This LCA is framed by the Bluestack Mountains to the north, the bog covered uplands to the east, and the meandering coastal edge curled around the mouth of Donegal Bay, with Donegal Town in the centre. The good soils, coupled with ready access to fresh water and proximity to the sea have meant this area has been settled for a long period of history as evidenced by the many archaeological and historic sites throughout the landscape. Agriculture and fishing remain a dominant land use in this area, however tourism also contributes significantly to the local and wider economy. The tourism product is based on

the landscape, seascape, history and cultural qualities of the area with a focus around the coast including the 'Wild Atlantic Way' that follows the route of the N56.

Wild Atlantic Way runs along Donegal Bay with discovery points Rosstown Beach. Strong tourism and leisure industry focused on the landscape, seascape and their use. This area has a particularly high concentration of seaside resorts and caravan parks. The long strands are popular recreational facilities including three blue flag beaches at Rosstown

Townscape features



The main amenity of this settlement is the extensive beach. It is frequented by walkers, joggers, sunbathers and surfers.

- Built fabric contains a number of urban vernacular tin buildings which enhance the landscape setting creating a sense of place and identity.
- Mature trees and vegetation enhance the visual amenity of the town.

Views and prospects

The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views into the settlement and of the coast.
- Views of the surrounding landscape which provide a connection between the settlement and the landscape, seascape and landscape which contribute to a strong sense of place.

6.36 St Johnston



The town is set within an historic landscape that has a number of protected site on the Record of Monuments and Structures, including the ruins of the nearby Mongavlin Castle that dates from the 16th Century. The town is alongside a tributary of the River Foyle. There are a few mill, including a flax and corn mill upstream of the town. The settlement has retained much of its vernacular character, in particular in the rhythm and scale of finishes of the buildings along the main street. The Derry-Lifford railway line passed south of the town and St. Johnston was a stop at this line; the railway operated here from 1847-1965.



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Landscape characteristics

St Johnston is located within LCA 13 Foyle Valley characterised by undulating fertile agricultural lands with a regular field pattern of medium to large geometric fields, bound by deciduous trees and hedgerow. There is a dispersed scatter of rural residential development within this LCA comprising of farmsteads and one of rural dwellings along with a areas of ribbon development along the county road network; there are a number of large detached historic houses and associated grounds within this landscape, particularly along the Foyle.

This LCA has a strong visual connection to its mirror landscape on the opposite side of the River Foyle in Northern Ireland in terms of the similar landscape type and also that the Northern Ireland landscape inherently informs the views within and without of this LCA. The river Foyle is an, ecologically, strategically and historically (including the fishing economy) important feature in this landscape.

The topography of this LCA lends a wide aspect over the surrounding landscape and of particular note are the wind farms in Northern Ireland that are visually prominent within this landscape. Regular shaped medium to large, arable and pasture, fields bound in hedgerow

interspersed with deciduous trees and clumps of trees are characteristic to this 'plantation landscape'.

Townscape features



- Vernacular scale and rhythm of Main Street and variation in finishes to roofline contribute to an interesting and stimulating environment adding to the town's distinctive character.
- Strong established community within the town and rural hinterland use the local services provided including a post office, Garda station and public house.
- Mature trees and vegetation within and around the town enhance the visual amenity.
- Elevation of landscape provides open vistas over looking Lough Foyle.
- Spacious character of streetscape due to a relatively wide street proportion.
- There are a number of buildings of note within the town including in particular the Presbyterian Church and grounds that along with the stone boundary wall define the south east of the town.
- Houses within this townscape are typically terraced 1-2 storey and closely spaced giving a sense of enclosure to the street and provides active surveillance while businesses are closed.
- Traditional water pumps exist along the main street and are a valuable feature to the character of the streetscape.
- Two buildings identifiable as having been associated with railway are now used as residential properties.
- Route of old railway still exists with the tracks still intact at the bridge.
- Townscape enhanced by the visual links created by the strong linear feature of the stone wall surrounding the settlement along the main road.
- Narrow footpaths along the main road give a sense of rurality and distinctiveness to the streetscape with no modern interventions to disrupt the character.

Views and prospects



The following perspectives are considered to be of particular importance in terms of landscape setting and the protection of views:

- Views of the settlement, particularly from strategic approaches to the town from either end.
- Church spire visible from outside the town form local landmarks which are important in
- Views projecting out to the surrounding landscape and Lough Foyle provide a connection between the settlement, seascape and landscape contributing to a strong sense of place.
- Occasional views between buildings along the main street provide glimpses of the surrounding landscape setting.
- Mature trees located in the town centre enhance the visual amenity of the town and have a particular individual and collective value.