

"Promoting management of the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty"



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The Causeway Coast AONB

The Causeway Coast AONB was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty under the 1985 Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order. It is one of nine scenic areas designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Northern Ireland. This designation recognises the Causeway Coast AONB as a landscape of national importance and aims to protect and enhance its landscape quality for the benefit of both those who live there and for those visitors who come to enjoy it.

It has a rich natural, cultural and built heritage. In terms of natural heritage it includes Northern Ireland's only World Heritage Site the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast, and many other designated sites of either European, national or local importance.

The area also has a rich cultural heritage associated with Viking raids, local clan rivalries and the different ways in which local people made a living from the landscape.

Built heritage is important too. Kinbane, Dunseverick and Dunluce castles all form important landmarks and the village of Bushmills is one of the most important conservation areas in the North East. The area has a rich archaeological heritage too.

Combine this with the warmth of the people and it is easy to see why the Causeway Coast AONB is so popular with visitors. It is also a great place to live and work and a landscape well worth looking after.



Chairman's View

I was recently honoured by being re-elected as Chair of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust. Part of the role of this organisation is to take the lead in the development and management of the Causeway Coast AONB and I consider it a privilege to currently occupy the Chair of the management group. The AONB is one of 9 in Northern Ireland and whilst it is one of the smallest, it has an unprecedented international reputation for the unique and beautiful features which occur within it. Arguably, it includes some of the most spectacular landscape in the British Isles.

Protection of this landscape for the benefit of future generations is clearly the main aim of AONB designation and the starting point of our vision is to ensure that the essential features of the landscape and the broader surrounding environment survive into the future, so that our children, and their children, can enjoy it as we do. In addition we have a wider responsibility to the large and increasing number of visitors to the area to maintain the quality of their visitor experience.

However these aspirations must not be achieved by enforcing such a rigorous protectionism that the lives of the people living and working in the AONB are restricted to the point where they are being forced to follow an unreasonable lifestyle. Similarly visitors and tourists should be facilitated and encouraged to stay longer in the area, bringing with them a major source of employment and prosperity.

The trick is to find a way forward that enables development within agreed guidelines whilst at the same time preventing the destruction of 'the goose that lays the golden egg'. This type of development is called sustainable development and the best definition of it I know is - 'Living off the environmental interest without touching the environmental capital'. This is what we are trying to achieve.

Living and working in this area is a great privilege but with that privilege comes responsibility. If we fail to find the balance future generations will surely find us guilty of failing in the challenge which has been set to us. We are your agents in this task but we cannot meet it alone. With your help I am convinced we can find ways forward. Please feel free to contact us through the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust at any time. If we are doing something wrong - then tell us - we do not profess to know all the answers. If we are doing something right - then also tell us about that. Give us your ideas and if possible your help and encouragement. Work with us - for the future of the Causeway Coast AONB - remember it is your AONB!



David G Erwin



Managing the Causeway Coast AONB

In 2004, Environment and Heritage Service invited the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust to help establish a management structure for the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). In due course an AONB Management Group was established including representatives from Coleraine Borough Council, Moyle District Council, North Antrim Community Network, Coleraine Rural and Urban Network, National Trust, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Ulster Farmers' Union, Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association, Causeway Coast and Glens Ltd. and Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust, and advisors from the two Councils, DoE Planning Service, DoE Environment & Heritage Service, DRD Roads Service and DARD Countryside Management Branch.

One of the main objectives of the AONB Management Group is to seek to implement recommendations within the Causeway Coast AONB Management Plan.

Whilst non statutory, the Causeway Coast AONB Management Plan is the only one of its kind in Northern Ireland. Delivery of actions within the Management Plan is the responsibility of a range of bodies including the Causeway Coast AONB Management Group. Some of the actions being taken forward by the Management Group include:

- Raising awareness initiatives
- Provision of website information on the Causeway Coast AONB (see www.ccgtht.org)
- Production of an introductory guideline to the Causeway Coast AONB
- Production of the Causeway Coast AONB Newsletter (this edition!)
- Promotion of environmental awareness within the Tourism industry.



Launching the Causeway Coast AONB Introductory Leaflet at the Bushmills Inn Hotel

It is envisaged other actions will be taken forward by the Management Group at a later date. Similarly there are other actions being taken forward by the different organisations identified as lead delivery bodies within the AONB Management Plan.

Green Tourism - Pilot Scheme

Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust has joined forces with colleagues in Mourne Heritage Trust and in South Armagh Tourism Initiative and Northern Ireland Tourist Board to promote sustainable tourism within the tourism industry as part of the Green Tourism Pilot Scheme. Under the scheme individual tourism businesses have been awarded accreditation for good environmental practice. The Pilot Scheme took place in 2004 and several businesses were awarded accreditation within the Causeway

Coast and Glens. These included two businesses from within the Causeway Coast AONB area, The Bushmills Inn Hotel and Ballyness Caravan Park. The three partnerships are now working with NITB to identify how to progress the scheme further as part of a Northern Ireland wide initiative.



Some of the award winners from the Causeway Coast and Glens area at the Green Tourism Pilot Scheme Award Ceremony



My favourite part of the Causeway Coast AONB

Wendy Austin (BBC Northern Ireland)

Standing with my frozen toes curled round the edge of the rock, the water below seems miles away. I'm ten years old, and about to dive into "The Big Pool" at Ballintoy. Its one of the big treats of summer holidays on the North Coast – on a really good day in August, when Daddy's on holiday as well as the rest of us, we all pile into the car, and head for Ballintoy for a swim in the pool, and a picnic.

If we're lucky, the wee shop might be open for an ice cream. If we're really really lucky the cross old goat will be tethered in the scary cave, and we can go and try to annoy him, while terrifying ourselves.

It was a different world in the 1960s, but while the pace of life has changed, and the goat's long gone, Ballintoy is still there. The Big Pool (which is in the rocks right over

between the harbour and the sea) now looks much smaller, and considerably less inviting! But Ballintoy still works the same magic, winding down the twisty road, past Newton Penpraze's weird, wonderful and ever changing house, to the little harbour with its scattering of cottages, a few fishing nets, couple of boats and the seabirds wheeling overhead.

The landscape now, as then, is fascinating – a huge fault ripping through the bay, and leaving different layers of basalt, chalk and sandstone exposed, so the colours of the view change as you turn round in a circle.

Its been photographed and painted countless times (I have one lovely watercolour by Leo Duff) but my favourite picture of Ballintoy, is the one in my head.

Wendy Austin



Our Heritage



Fauna - The Eider Duck

The Eider Duck is a true seaduck, feeding largely on coastal molluscs. Eiders are highly gregarious and usually stay close inshore, riding the swell in a sandy bay or strung out in long lines beyond the breaking waves. They are common along the Causeway Coast where the rocky inlets provide shelter from winter storms. Sometimes they nest in gull or tern colonies where the other birds offer protection against predators.



Flora - Thrift

Thrift or sea pink is a beautiful flower common along the seashore and cliffs of the Causeway Coast AONB. Its leaves are small and linear with vivid pink flowers which contrast beautifully with some of the other wild flowers found in the area such as white sea campion or wild thyme.



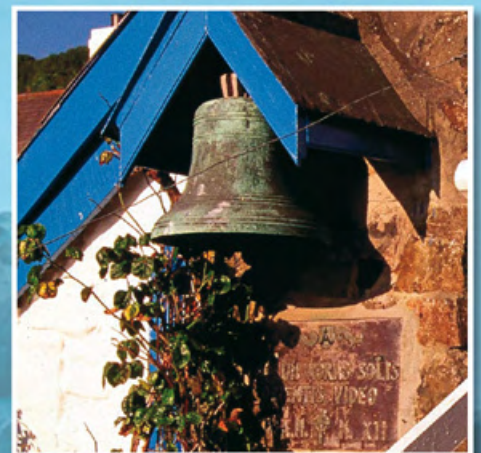
History - The Girona

The Girona was a Galleass of the Spanish Armada. In 1588 following the defeat of the Armada, the Girona sank off Lacada Point after a severe storm, close to what is now known as Port Na Spaniagh. Discovered by Robert Stenuit in 1967 the wreck of the Girona is considered to be one of the most important marine archaeological finds of modern times. Among the items salvaged were canons and canon balls, coins, navigational equipment and priceless gold jewellery all of which are kept as part of a permanent collection at the Ulster Museum in Belfast.

Quiz: Where in the Causeway Coast AONB is this bell?

Send your answer to:
Causeway Coast AONB Quiz
Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
Tilly Molloy's
18 Main Street
Armoyn Co. Antrim BT53 8RQ

The winning prize is a family ticket to Carrick-a-rede Rope Bridge for 2006 offered by the National Trust. The winning entry will be drawn from all correct entries received before the 31st December.



Kids Corner

Can you find these words hidden in the Causeway Stones?

- AONB
- BALLINTOY
- BASALT
- CAUSEWAY
- CHOUGH
- DUNLUCE
- EIDER
- GIANT
- GIRONA
- HERITAGE
- KENBANE
- LOBSTER
- MYTHS
- ORCHID
- SEA
- WHIN

