



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST



Ulster
Wildlife

Rockpool, Snorkel and Shore Diving Guide





This publication has been produced in partnership with the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust and Ulster Wildlife.

Causeway Coast + Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT)

The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) is a charity devoted to protecting and enhancing the unique heritage of the Causeway Coast and Glens area, including (but not limited to) the Binevenagh, Causeway Coast and Antrim Coast and Glens Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site (WHS).

Ulster Wildlife

Northern Ireland's largest local nature conservation charity, Ulster Wildlife has been a wildlife champion for over 40 years.

If you love our local seas, why not join today? Your support as a member of Ulster Wildlife can help protect our breath-taking blue planet for generations to come – [**ulsterwildlife.org/membership**](http://ulsterwildlife.org/membership)



Northern Ireland's coastline is dramatic and diverse. The renowned Causeway Coastal Route boasts over 60 miles of rocky headlands and sheltered bays, which offer countless opportunities to explore the fascinating habitats and wildlife calling this thin strip, where land meets sea, home. Whether you prefer to remain onshore, or are eager to dive in and explore beneath the waves, this guide offers a detailed synopsis of some of the finest spots to rockpool, snorkel or shore dive along the Causeway Coastal Route.

Rockpooling

Rockpooling is a fantastic way to get out on our shores and explore the rich diversity of marine flora and fauna on our coast. Anyone can do it, even if you are afraid of entering the sea, and it is a really great way to introduce children to our marine wildlife. You can go rockpooling at any time of year, you just need to wear suitable clothing for the weather.

The sea life that we find on our shorelines reflects what lies beneath the adjacent seas. Often in the intertidal area (the area of shore covered at high tide but exposed at low tide), we find the eggs and young of larger marine creatures who inhabit nearby waters. The area of shoreline nearest the low tide mark contains the richest diversity of marine life because it is exposed by the tide for the shortest period. As you move further up the shore, the number of species declines, because only those species that can survive longer periods exposed by the tide can survive.

Rockpools are like natural aquariums on the seashore. They contain a mix of life similar to that found on the shore when it is covered by the sea. However, the best rockpools are still those nearest low water, as rockpools higher on the shore get too warm during the time they are exposed for many species to survive.

It is important to remember that the seashore is a habitat, a home for dozens or even hundreds of plants and animals. Whilst rockpooling you should make every effort to minimise your impact on this habitat by following the Seashore Code (see page 5 for details).

Snorkelling and Diving

Snorkelling and diving are not just the pursuits of holidaymakers visiting tropical coral reefs. Although many people do not believe it, the cooler waters off our coast abound with life and are full of colour! Dip below the surface anywhere around our coast and you will be amazed at the world awaiting you. Snorkelling and diving in Northern Ireland are best between May and September, mainly because this is when life in our coastal waters is at its richest. However, both activities can be conducted year-round.

The coastline between Ballygally and Portstewart generally enjoys good in-water visibility and a wide variety of sites that are suitable for snorkelling and shore diving. Water depths accessible from shore are generally in the 0 – 10m range. Habitat types include rocky reef, sandy bottom and rock walls and crevices. In some bays seagrass beds, rich in fish and marine invertebrates occur. There are also one or two wrecks accessible from the shore. Boat diving is also available through local operators (see page 13 for details).

*Please note where diving is stated this refers to shore-diving**





The Seashore Code

Safety

- Before going to the seashore, check the weather forecast and tides.
- Tell somebody where you are going and what time you expect to be back.
- Dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy shoes or boots.
- Stay away from the edge and base of cliffs as ground can give way and rocks can fall.
- Bring a mobile phone in case you need to call for help!

Take Only Photos...

Leave Only Footprints

- Tread carefully, rocky shores can be very slippery, look before you step and try to avoid stepping on marine creatures or in rockpools.
- Don't poke or prod soft bodied marine creatures (e.g. anemones) as it can kill them.
- If you collect shells, please make sure there's nobody still at home first!
- If you disturb a rock or seaweed, please return it carefully to the way you found it. Exposed marine life quickly dries out and dies.
- Try to observe marine life without touching. If you must take a closer look, gently collect the animal in a container of clean seawater. Return it to the exact spot you found it afterwards!
- Litter kills marine life! Take all your litter home with you.
- If you see litter on the shore try to collect it and dispose of it in a bin if it is safe to do so.

Silence is Golden!

- Hauled-out seals and nesting seabirds are easily disturbed. Do not approach closer than 200m to any nesting bird or hauled-out seal whether on shore or in a boat.
- Keep quiet when in the vicinity of nesting birds and hauled-out seals, as they are very prone to noise disturbance.
- Keep dogs on a lead and never let them run into areas where seabirds are nesting or seals are hauled-out.
- Never allow your dog to chase birds as this causes them stress and disturbs important activities such as feeding.

Beachcombers

- Watch out for unusual objects on the beach. Occasionally discarded explosives or flares may wash up, if in doubt leave it alone and inform the coastguard (dial 999 and ask for the coastguard).
- Respect historic wrecks and archaeological items. Take only pictures and report any discoveries to Department for Communities on **(028) 9056 9701**. Objects can also be reported through the Marine Antiquities Scheme <https://marinefinds.org.uk/>
- If you find a live or dead stranded whale, dolphin, porpoise, or basking shark please report it immediately to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on **(028) 7082 3600**.
- If you find a seal which is ashore and looks like it may be injured or malnourished, please do not touch it or chase it back into the sea. Observe from a distance and keep dogs and people away from it. Call Exploris Aquarium on **(028) 4272 8062** immediately for further advice and assistance.
- Dead seals or otters can be reported to DAERA by emailing marine.wildlife@daera-ni.gov.uk stating the location and details of the dead animal.





Divers Code of Conduct

Safety

- Dive within your limits and those of your buddy.
- Carry an audible and visual means of signalling for help.
- Tell someone on shore where you are going and when you expect to be back. If on a dive boat, make a traffic report to the coastguard... don't forget to inform them of your safe return!
- Be aware of other divers in the water. Boats should keep watch for bubbles and give a wide berth. Look beneath you before you descend or jump in.

Take Only Photos...

Leave only Bubbles

- Look with your eyes, not with your fingers... touching stresses and injures marine animals and damages habitats.
- Try not to cling to rocks to support yourself as you may kill marine creatures which live on the rocks.
- Photographers... A camera is not a license to move, prod, or harass marine life. Don't move marine animals from their natural habitat, substrate or shelter.
- Think twice about collecting shellfish for the pot, removal of shellfish by divers can leave our favourite diving sites devoid of the animals we dive to see!
- Don't leave litter it is unsightly and kills marine creatures. Take all your litter home with you.
- If you come across litter while diving, collect it and bring it back to shore, if it is safe to do so.
- Practice good buoyancy control and don't take trainee divers to sensitive sites with flora or fauna that are easily damaged.
- Keep at least 100m from dolphins or basking sharks and 200m from hauled out seals and nesting seabirds.

Don't Leave a Trail of Destruction

- Be dive gear aware! Secure your hoses, reels, torches and other instruments with clips.
- Be aware of where you are anchoring or dropping shot lines. Don't destroy the features you have come to enjoy. Don't anchor unless necessary and don't drag shot weights or anchors across the seabed.

Be good neighbours

- Never interfere with lobster pots or their contents and don't use fishing gear marker buoys as mooring points or shot lines.
- Be aware of sea angling boats and shore anglers, give a wide berth... the sea is big enough for all of us!
- Park with consideration at dive sites. Don't block gateways, entrances or slipways.

Silence is Golden

- Consider the neighbours and the nature of your surroundings especially in tranquil areas popular with tourists and when diving late at night or early in the morning.
- Think before you start your compressor. Locate it away from houses and areas being used by holidaymakers. If possible locate behind a wall or vehicle to shield the noise.

Respect Our Wrecks!

- If you are visiting a shipwreck site take notice of established codes of conduct such as the Respect Our Wrecks (BSAC) code of practice – see www.bsac.com



Safety

Each of the site descriptions comes with specific safety warnings for that particular site. These are, of course, variable depending on tide and weather conditions on the day. Regardless of where you get into the water, there are safety issues to consider. Your snorkelling experience will be much more enjoyable in calm weather, so avoid snorkelling in rough seas. Local marine activity providers can be contacted for local knowledge, information, instruction and equipment hire.

The main safety issues to consider are:

Rockpooling

- **Access** – stick to easily accessible shores with safe access. Avoid shores where you have to scale cliffs or dangerous rocks and avoid areas which can be quickly cut off by the tide.
- **Footwear** – wear appropriate footwear, ideally wellingtons or boots. Flip flops or bare feet should be avoided as the shoreline can contain sharp rocks, broken bits of shells and even toe-nipping crabs!
- **Tides** – Always check the tide before you leave. Ideally, aim to start rock pooling two hours before low tide, so that the tide is falling when you are on the shore. You should leave the shore as the tide changes, this will minimise your risk of being caught out by a rising tide.

Snorkelling + Diving

- **Access** – stick to shores with safe access off a beach or pier. Avoid shores where you have to scale dangerous or slippery rocks. Remember that while you are in the water, the tide may be falling, so make sure you can still get out of the water if the water level drops by a few metres.
- **Hypothermia** – Our seas are warmest from July until October, peaking in August. Average sea temperatures at this time are 14 – 16°C but in winter can fall as low as a chilly 6°C. A cold-water wetsuit with a minimum of 6mm neoprene, plus neoprene boots and hood are strongly recommended for snorkelling. For diving a 7mm two-piece wetsuit, a 7mm semi-dry, or a dry suit, plus boots, gloves and hood are required.
- **Tides and Currents** – Always check the tides, and find out about local currents, before you enter the water. Ideally dive or snorkel at slack water to minimise the chance of encountering currents. At some sites, where current is not an issue, it may be easiest and most rewarding to dive at high tide (or low tide if snorkelling).
- **Equipment** – Make sure your diving or snorkelling equipment is in good working order and dive gear is serviced annually. Make sure that you are familiar with your gear and how to use it.



- **Know your ability** – routes are graded, so stick to what you know you can handle. Do not endanger yourself or your buddy by taking on a bigger challenge than you are capable of. Before going diving, you must complete a diving course to obtain a diving certification from a recognised certification agency. Obtaining a recognised snorkelling certification will help you get the most out of your snorkelling. Training is offered by many dive clubs and by some commercial providers.
- **Personal Safety** – Always snorkel or dive in buddy pairs. When diving it is best to dive with a club or reputable dive centre, and to have dive insurance cover. Preferably, have a third person, who is not snorkelling or diving provide shore cover to keep an eye on you while you are in the water. Always let someone know where you are going and when you will be back and bring a fully charged mobile phone with you.

All Activities

- **Personal Safety** - Always let someone know where you are going and when you will be back, and bring a fully charged mobile phone with you.
- **Emergency** - Should you suffer a serious accident, find yourself in trouble, or see others who require help, then call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.
- **Weather** - Be aware of weather conditions and check the forecast before you go. Keep monitoring weather and sea conditions during your activity and be prepared to abandon your activity if conditions deteriorate. If you are not sure if conditions are suitable for your activity, contact local providers who are more than happy to offer advice, as are lifeguards if near to any staffed beaches.



1. Ballygally
2. Glenarm
3. Garron Point
4. Cushendall Boat Park
5. Dalriada Pier
6. Cushendun Caves
7. Pans Rock
8. Ballintoy Harbour



The Coastline of the Causeway Coastal Route

This stretch of Northern Ireland's coastline contains three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). These AONBs are recognised as being landscapes of national importance.

Just beyond Portstewart is the boundary of Binevenagh AONB, the coast of which largely consists of sandy beaches and is generally unsuited to rockpooling or shore diving. The East Coast sites included within this guide fall within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, which runs from Larne to Ballycastle, and includes Rathlin Island. A rich variety of marine habitats and species occur along the coastline of this AONB, with the diversity determined by factors including geology, water depth, currents, tidal range and salinity. The Causeway Coast AONB includes 30km of coastline covering some of the most beautiful and inspiring landscapes in Northern Ireland, and in particular the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site. The distinctive and rugged coastline of this AONB is characterised by beaches, coves, sand dunes, and wonderfully contrasting basalt and limestone cliffs.

Activities along the Causeway Coastal Route are not limited to rockpooling, diving and snorkelling; the coastline is a haven for birds, with several particularly notable sites along its route. Rathlin Island's western cliffs host up to 66,000 breeding seabirds including fulmars, eiders, shags, gulls, black guillemots and everyone's favourite, the puffin. Within the Causeway Coast AONB there is a great diversity of inland habitats resulting from the various natural conditions (soil type and stability, humidity and exposure). These offer a vast array of wildflowers for the enthusiastic botanist to study. Adrenaline junkies can also get their fix, whether it's through rockclimbing, bouldering, coasteering, paddleboarding, kayaking or surfing, there's something for everyone on the Causeway Coastal Route.

9. Dunseverick
Harbour

12. Ramore Head

10. Portballintrae

13. Portnahapple

11. Blue Pool, Portrush



Citizen Science

Many people, once they gain confidence and familiarity with sites, decide to use their time in the water and on the coast to help contribute to our understanding of marine species and habitats through Citizen Science. Citizen Science utilises the combined power of collaborative volunteer effort to collect potentially very large data sets which researchers would not be able to achieve by themselves.

Being involved in citizen science projects is not a big jump for those who already love to explore the shore. It usually takes some initial training in the specific survey techniques; however, this usually requires no prior knowledge or skills. Local providers, such as Ulster Wildlife, normally deliver training over one or two days. In Northern Ireland, citizen science has already proven its worth by positively influencing marine policy and conservation. The Waterfoot Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) was designated using data from extensive surveys of the seagrass bed and its associated habitats and species, by citizen scientist divers from SeaSearch Northern Ireland. These divers have been voluntarily collecting and contributing data to long-term records since 2003.

Active citizen science projects in Northern Ireland include:

- **Seasearch Northern Ireland** conduct diving surveys to record marine habitats and species in the waters around Northern Ireland. www.seasearch.org.uk
- **Irish Whale & Dolphin Group** collecting casual and effort-related sightings data for whales, dolphins, porpoises, basking sharks and turtles. www.iwdg.ie
- **Coastwatch** runs annual eco-audits of litter, water quality and biodiversity on the shoreline during September and October. www.coastwatch.org
- **Shore Search** is an intertidal biodiversity survey run by the Wildlife Trusts. www.wildlifetrusts.org
- **The Big Seaweed Search** records seaweed distribution and density and is run by the Natural History Museum in London. www.bigseaweedsearch.org
- **Seagrass Spotter** collects seagrass records from around the UK and Ireland. www.seagrassspotter.org
- **The Big Eggcase Hunt** is run by the Shark Trust and records shark and ray egg cases. They also have a great app that allows you identify your eggcase and submit the record. www.sharktrust.org



Snorkel and Dive Activity Providers and Equipment Hire

There are a small number of marine activity providers providing snorkelling, shore diving, gear rental and instruction in the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

Aquaholics PADI Dive Centre

14 Portmore Rd, Portstewart, BT55 7BE

Web: www.aquaholics.co.uk

Email: info@aquaholics.co.uk

Phone: 028 7083 2584

Diving | Snorkelling | Instruction | Equipment Hire | Bottle Fills | Equipment Sales

The COAST Office, Portballintrae

The Boat House, Portballintrae Harbour, BT57 8YU

Web: Find them on Facebook @TheCoastOfficePortballintrae

Phone: 077 5438 9641

Snorkelling | Rockpooling | Instruction | Wetsuit Hire

Red Duck Diving — Scuba Training

Castlerock, BT51 4RB

Web: www.redduckdiving.co.uk

Email: redduckdiving@gmail.com

Phone: 079 2740 0723

Diving | Snorkelling | Instruction | Equipment Hire | Bottle Fills



Using This Guide

A symbol at the top of each page shows the activity available at each site.



Diving

Facilities are displayed on the maps using the following symbols:



Snorkelling



Rockpooling

On the maps, the recommended areas for rockpooling are coloured blue.



Rockpooling

Recommended areas for snorkelling and diving are coloured by difficulty rating.



Beginner



Intermediate



Experienced

Safety warning symbols are denoted on the maps as follows:



Warning! - Strong Currents



Warning! - Boat Traffic



Danger! - Do Not Snorkel or Dive in this area



Access



Parking



Disabled Parking



Public Toilets



Wheelchair Accessible Toilet



Tourist Information



Cafe / Restaurant



Shop



Beach



Play Park



15



1 Ballygally



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE -	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Ballygally	ROUTE SHAPE -	WATER DEPTH -
CURRENT -	SITE ASPECT Moderate Sheltered	BATHING WATER Good

Thanks to its ease of access and proximity to Larne and Belfast, Ballygally shore is a great 'gateway' site to some of the more remote sites on the Causeway Coastal Route. The beach is 300m long, running adjacent to Ballygally village with two access points at this section, as shown on the map. With a northeasterly aspect, it is sheltered from prevailing winds. In front of the car park the beach is predominantly sand, although the rockpooling site itself is within the shingle and rocks at the southeast end of the beach (towards Ballygally Head). Scrabbling amongst the rocks here is great fun, with lots to search for in terms of classic intertidal critters. On this shore finding critters means turning over (and then carefully replacing) rocks... lots of rocks! The boulders and rock can be treacherously slippery, so please remember to wear sturdy footwear, and navigate slowly and with plenty of care.

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Egg Wrack; Serrated Wrack; Clawed Fork Weed; Irish Moss; Dulse; Pepper Dulse; Coral Weed. **Invertebrates** | Snakelocks Anemone; Beadlet Anemone; Chitons; Brown Crab; Shore Crab; Grey Topshell; Purple Topshell; Edible Periwinkle; Flat Periwinkle; Rough Periwinkle; Small Periwinkle; Dog Whelk; Limpets; Barnacles.

Sand

Invertebrates | Common Prawn; Sand-mason Worm, Shore Crab, Sand Hoppers.



Site Designations

Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Site Description

General: Looking out from the Ballygally shoreline, the Maidens Rocks are visible. These uninhabited islands are a haul-out site for grey and harbour seals, and are important sea bird colonies, especially for the European Shag.

Rockpooling: The 300m stretch of beach adjacent to Ballygally village is predominantly sand, but the cobbles and rock on the southern end are the goal for the eager rockpooler to explore. From high-shore lichens through numerous seaweed species, the curious explorer should find barnacles, limpets, dogwhelks, topshells, periwinkles and shore crabs in the upper and middle shore. Down at the lower shore you will find kelps, which hide elusive butterfish, shannies and edible crabs.

Facilities: The beach is backed by Ballgally Village. There is a car park and public toilets, shops, and hotels offering refreshments within easy walking distance.

Getting There

By Car: From Belfast, take the M2 northbound towards Larne. Follow the A2 (Coast Road) for a picturesque drive. Distance 28 miles (45 minute travel time).

By Public Transport: Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Larne. From Larne, bus service 162 / 162a / 252 to Ballycastle run at intervals throughout the day, stopping at Ballygally. See www.translink.co.uk for timetable information.

By Bicycle: Ballygally Beach is easily accessible by bicycle or foot from the A2 Coast Road.



Ballygally Shore

-  Rock
-  Beach
-  Rockpooling



18



NORTH



To Larne



A2
Coast Road
Causeway Coastal Route

**2**

Glenarm



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE Beginner to Experienced	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Glenarm	ROUTE SHAPE Looped or Linear	WATER DEPTH 0 – 4 metres
CURRENT No	SITE ASPECT Sheltered	BATHING WATER Not Assessed

Glenarm nestles at the foot of the first of the nine Glens of Antrim. Famed for its forest and red squirrels, those who turn their efforts to the coast will not be disappointed. Park in Glenarm car park across the river from the marina (which is home to charming black guillemots) and take your pick of any of the three activities! The rockpooling site lies at the northern end of shore, beginning just past the 'Coastguard Cottages' bus stop and stretching for 250m northwards. The north-easterly facing shore is sheltered from prevailing winds and currents and makes an excellent alternative when the North Coast sites are blown out. On a combination of rocky reef and sandy bottom, you can see seagrass, kelp park, plenty of fish and crabs, and tiny bobtail squid!

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Oarweed, Cuvie, Furbelows, Dabberlocks; Sea Oak, Serrated Wrack; Bunny-eared Beadweed; Irish Moss; Coralweed; Dulse; Red Rags; Sea Lettuce. **Invertebrates** | Bryozoans; Hydroids; Beadlet Anemone; Sandalled Anemone; Brittlestars; Barnacles; Shore Crab; Brown Crab; Boring Sponge; Edible Periwinkle; Flat Periwinkle; Dog Whelk; Grey Topshell; Painted Topshell; Common Limpet; Blue-rayed Limpet; Lightbulb Seasquirt. **Fish** | Lesser-spotted Dogfish; Plaice; Dragonet; Three-bearded rockling.

Sand

Plants | Sea grass. **Seaweeds** | Sugar Kelp. **Invertebrates** | Brown Shrimp; Velvet Swimming Crab; Hermit Crab; Bobtail Squid; King Scallop; Sea Hare; Spiny Starfish; Lugworm. **Fish** | Plaice; Short-spined Scorpion fish; Sand Goby; Dragonet.

Site Designations

Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



Site Description

General: The village of Glenarm was established around the time of the Normans. In the twelfth century it was granted a royal decree by King John, making it the oldest chartered village in Ulster. This village is bustling with character and a great base to explore the first of the Glens. For the marine wildlife enthusiast, it offers diving, snorkelling and rockpooling options.

Rockpooling: The rockpooling site lies at the north end of the beach. As with Ballygally, most of the rockpooling at this site involves exploring beneath rocks and boulders for life. Here you will find a colourful array of seaweeds, and all the barnacles, limpets, nippy crabs and slippery fish you could hope for.

Diving / Snorkelling: There are two entry options, the first is down the steps from the car park and into the sea to explore the seagrass bed that lies off the shore. The seagrass bed itself (1) starts about 100m off the beach, so it takes a bit of a snorkel to get there! The seagrass bed ranges from patchy to quite dense and contains a myriad of fish and invertebrate species including plaice, pipefish, spider crabs and stalked jellyfish. The second option is to enter the water at the north end of the beach. Enter by the rocky outcrops in order to experience the best of both sand and kelp covered reefs (2). Prepare for plaice, crabs, dogfish and cute little bobtail squid in the sand.

Facilities: There is often a mobile catering van located in the car park. Public toilets and a play-park lie between the car park and the harbour. A number of food outlets and a shop are available within the village.

Getting There

By Car: From Belfast bypass Larne and follow the Ballymullock Road via Cairncastle before joining the A2 (Coast Road). Distance 31 miles (approximately 50 minutes travel time). From Larne follow the A2 (Coast Road). Distance 12 miles (approximately 25 minutes travel time). From Ballymena, take the A42 (Carnlough Road) through Carnlough. Distance 18 miles (30 minutes travel time).

By Public Transport: Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Ballymena or Larne. From Larne, bus service 162 / 162a / 252 to Ballycastle run at intervals throughout the day, stopping at Glenarm. From Ballymena, bus service 128 operates from Ballymena Bus Centre to Broughshane, at intervals throughout the day, stopping at Glenarm. See www.translink.co.uk for timetable information.

By Bicycle: National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/Londonderry to Bangor, taking the Coast Road from Ballycastle to Larne. This route services Glenarm.



Glenarm

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|-------|
|  | Rock |  | Begin |
|  | Beach |  | Inter |
|  | Underwater Reef |  | Exp |
| | |  | Roc |

A2
Coast Road
Causeway Coastal Route

↖
To Carnlough
/ Ballymena

Straidkilly Road


Bus Stop



Beginner
Intermediate
Experienced
Rockpooling

NORTH

1



A2

To Belfast
/ Larne₂₃

**3**

Garron Point



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE -	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Carnlough	ROUTE SHAPE -	WATER DEPTH -
CURRENT -	SITE ASPECT Moderate Sheltered	BATHING WATER Not Designated

This section of coastline north of Carnlough and at the headland around the Galboly Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) is peppered with tumbled boulders of chalk, specifically known as the Ulster White Limestone Formation. Spectacular views across the Irish Sea are available from the upland Tower Road. Garron Point lies directly on the beautiful Coast Road and, although compact, this site offers all the classic intertidal rocky shore species. 200m of limestone bedrock and shingle provides the habitat for this rockpool scramble. The beach has an easterly aspect and is sheltered from prevailing winds. With parking nearby this is a great site to bring more tentative explorers, allowing them a gentle introduction to a wide variety of colourful seaweeds including fragrant pepper dulse, grey topshells, rough periwinkles and dainty porcelain crabs.

Species of Interest

Reef

Invertebrates | Shore Crab; Edible Periwinkle; Flat Periwinkle; Rough Periwinkle; Grey Topshell; Dog Whelk; Limpets; Barnacles; Breadcrumb Sponge.

Sand

Seaweeds | Oarweed; Mermaid's Tresses; Thongweed; Egg Wrack; Channelled Wrack; Serrated Wrack; Spiral Wrack; Irish Moss; False Irish Moss; Pepper Dulse; Coral Weed; Gutweed; Sea Lettuce.

Site Designations

Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



Site Description

Rockpooling: Garron Point is a somewhat overlooked spot on the well-travelled Causeway Coastal Route, and with a car park right on the shore it is the perfect place to stretch your legs and attune your eyes to the intertidal species on offer. 200 m of shingle and rock provide a great opportunity to test your rockpooling prowess and find some of your rocky shore favourites. Breadcrumb sponge, common shrimp and shore crabs can all be found amongst the colourful red and green seaweeds, especially lower on the shore amidst the wracks and kelps.

Important maerl beds lie just off Garron Point. Maerl is the 'skeleton' of free living red seaweed, with a calcified skeleton that grows unbelievably slowly; estimated at 1mm growth per year, some maerl can reach up to 6000 years old! Maerl beds provide a habitat to shellfish including cockles, and sea cucumbers. After stormy weather you might spot some old branches of maerl tossed on to the shore.

Facilities: With only a car park on site, Carnlough or Cushendall lie 10 minutes away to the south and north respectively, where parking, toilet facilities, shops and food outlets can be found.

Getting There


By Car: From Belfast bypass Larne and follow the Ballymullock Road via Cairncastle before joining the A2 (Coast Road). Distance 38 miles (60 minutes travel time). From Larne follow the A2 (Coast Road). Distance 17.5 miles (approximately 30 minutes travel time). From Ballymena, take the A42 (Carnlough Road) through Carnlough. Distance 20 miles (35 minutes travel time).

By Public Transport: Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Ballymena or Larne. From Larne, bus service 162 / 162a / 252 to Ballycastle run at intervals throughout the day, stopping at Garron Point. From Ballymena, bus service 128 operates from Ballymena bus centre to Carnlough. See www.translink.co.uk for timetable information.

By Bicycle: National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/Londonderry to Bangor, taking the Coast Road from Ballycastle to Larne. This route services Garron Point.



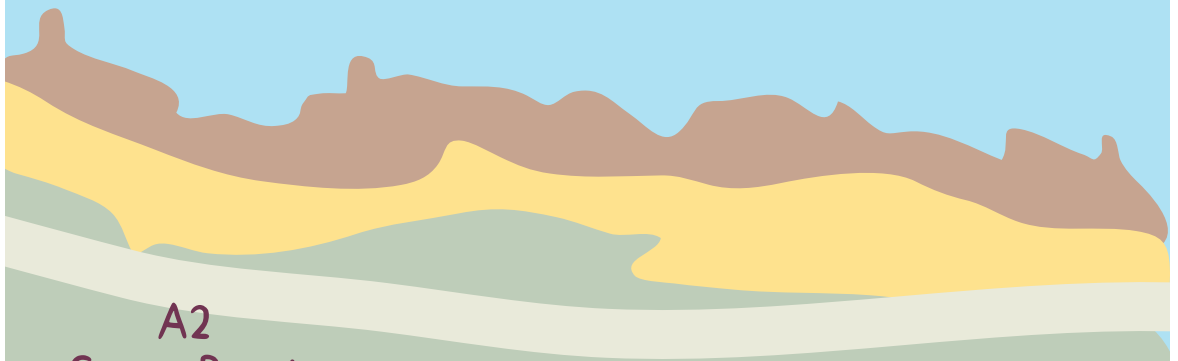
Garron Point

-  Rock
-  Beach
-  Rockpooling





NORTH
↖



A2
Coast Road
Causeway Coastal Route

↘
To Carnlough



4

Cushendall Boat Club



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE Intermediate to Experienced	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Cushendall	ROUTE SHAPE Looped	WATER DEPTH 2 – 5 metres
CURRENT None Inshore	SITE ASPECT Sheltered	BATHING WATER Sufficient

This site is a gem along the trail, offering ease of access for snorkelling and plenty of rocky shore to explore. Entering off the rocks in front of the Boat Club, there is a delightful 150m stretch of rocky outcrops with deep rockpools, gullies and channels for the Snorkeler to explore, with a sheer drop-off on the seaward side to a sandy bottom. Rockpoolers can venture a further 150m northwards along the front of Cushendall Caravan Park. In westerly or northerly swells, which could render the North Coast sites unsafe, this site should still remain sheltered and available for use thanks to its easterly aspect. The reefs are carpeted with kelp and a rich and beautiful diversity of seaweed species. A wide range of marine life lives beneath the kelp. This site is busy for cruising yachts and sailing dinghies, as well as motor boating, rowing and angling. Be aware of other water users at this site, and if unsure use a surface marker buoy even when snorkelling.

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Furbelows; Cuvie; Sugar Kelp; Dabberlocks; Mermaid's Tresses; Channelled Wrack; Spiral Wrack; Serrated Wrack; Brown Fan Weed; Sea Oak; Oyster Thief; Dulse, Bunny-eared Beadweed; Rainbow Weed; Red Rags; Coral Weed; Sea Lettuce.
Invertebrates | Beadlet Anemone; Common Prawn; Shore Crab; Velvet Swimming Crab; Stalked Jellyfish; Common Limpet; Dog Whelk; Grey Topshell; Flat Periwinkle; Barnacles. **Fish** | Tompot Blenny; Shanny; Leopard-spotted Goby; Short-spined Sea Scorpion; Pollock.

Sand

Plants | Sea Grass. **Invertebrates** | Shore Crab. **Fish** | Plaice; Sand Eel.



Site Designations

Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Site Description

Rockpooling: The rocky intertidal area to the left of the pier continues for over 200 m northwards, seaward of Cushendall Caravan Park, and is comprised entirely of bedrock with some sizeable rockpools. A wide range of intertidal seaweed and invertebrate species can be found here.

Snorkelling: The site is a 150m long rocky outcrop directly in front of the Boat Club with deep gullies and channels for the Snorkeler to explore. On the seaward side the rock drops steeply to a sandy bottom where flatfish may be spotted, and seagrass grows in patches. Due to the water depth, this site is not suitable for beginners. The submerged rocky reefs covered in kelp forest and mixed seaweeds reveal a rich abundance of marine invertebrates such as sea urchins, crabs and anemones, and fish including Ballan and Cuckoo wrasse. As there is frequent boat traffic in the area, use of a surface marker buoy for snorkelers is advised.

Facilities: The shore is backed by Cushendall Boat Park where toilets are available. The heart of Cushendall village is just over 1 km from the car park entrance, where a number of food outlets and shops are available.

Getting There

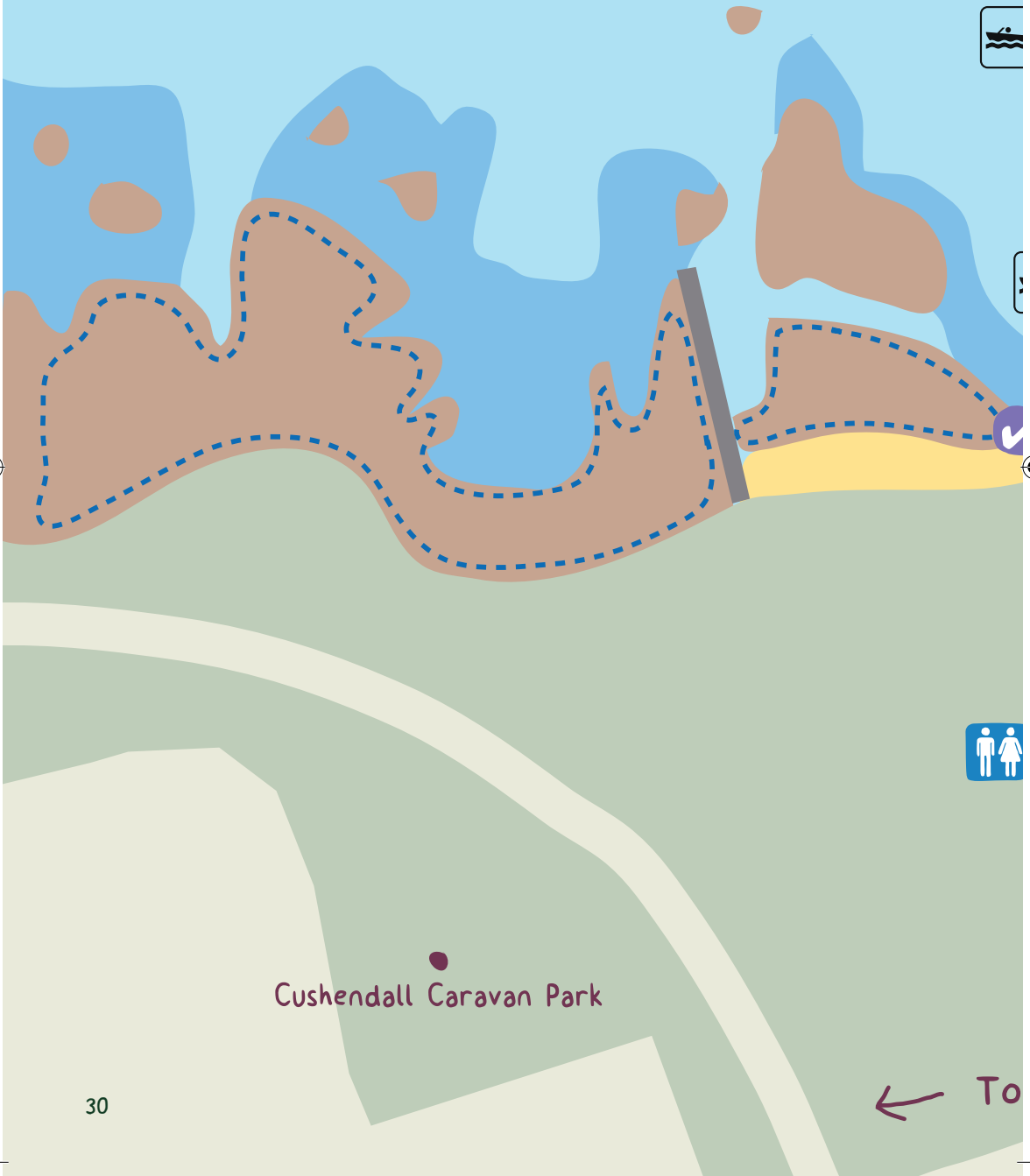
By Car: From Belfast/ Ballymena: Belfast is 48 miles from Cushendall (approximately 65 minutes travel time). Take the M2 to Ballymena, then the A43 (Cushendall Road) cross country through Martinstown and Cargan, following signposts for Cushendall.
From Larne Bus Station, take the A2 (Old Glenarm Road/ Coast Road) through Ballygally, Glenarm, Carnlough. Distance 25 miles (approximately 50 minutes travel time)

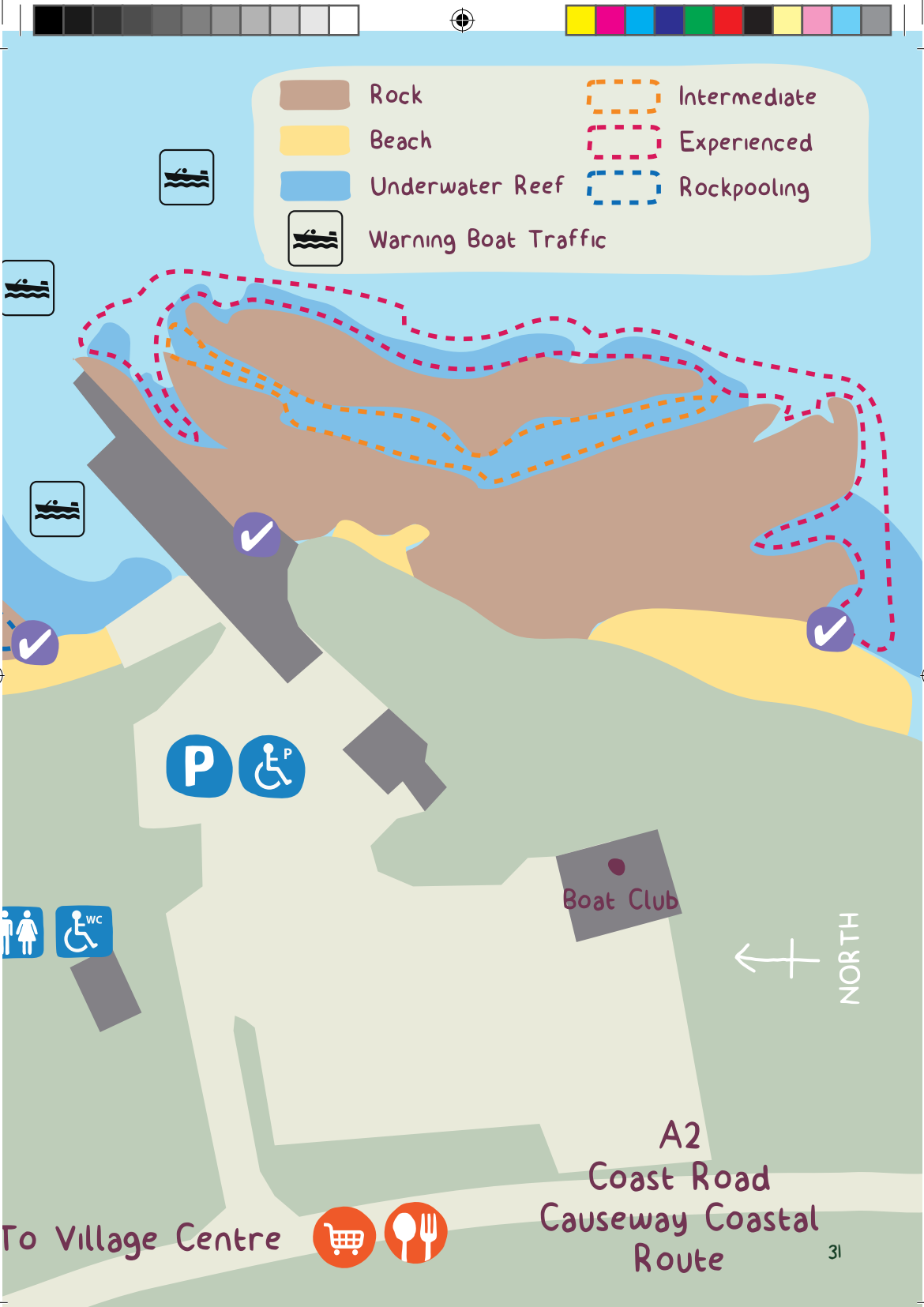
By Public Transport: Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Ballymena. From Ballymena, bus service 150 operates from Ballymena Buscentre to Cushendun, stopping at Cushendall.
See **www.translink.co.uk** for timetable information.

By Bicycle: National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/ Londonderry to Bangor, taking the Coast Road from Ballycastle to Larne. This route services Cushendall.



Cushendall Boat Club





**5**

Dalriada Pier



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE Intermediate to Experienced	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Cushendall	ROUTE SHAPE Looped	WATER DEPTH 0 – 7 metres
CURRENT Yes current to north of pier	SITE ASPECT Sheltered	BATHING WATER Sufficient

With its name harking back to the ancient history of the northern part of County Antrim, Dalriada Pier reflects little of the tumultuous past of the region. It is situated at the end of quiet Dalriada Park in Cushendall. This 300m stretch of rocky shore lies to the north of Cushendall Boat Club. This is a site for intermediate and experienced snorkelers or divers, with a sometimes strong north to south current running under certain conditions. Heading south towards the Boat Club, the combination of submerged rocky reef and sand gives visitors plenty of life to explore. Divers can head seaward to explore the rich seagrass habitat at this site. The abundance and variety of species here is amazing, with flatfish galore and a wide array of crab species. The adjacent kelp cloaked reef is home to wrasse, edible urchins and common lobsters.

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Cuvie; Oarweed; Furbellows; Brown Fan Weed; Dulse; Landlady's Wig. **Invertebrates** | Beadlet Anemone; Dahlia Anemone; Hydroids; Lightbulb Sea Squirt; Common Prawn. **Fish** | Ballan Wrasse; Blue-rayed Limpet.

Sand

Plants | Sea Grass. **Seaweeds** | Sugar Kelp; Sea Oak (Red); Sea Beech; Beautiful Eyelash Weed; Sea Lettuce. **Invertebrates** | Moon Jellyfish; Stalked Jellyfish; Brown Crab; Hermit Crab; Masked Crab; Common Spider Crab; Long-legged Spider Crab; Velvet Swimming Crab; Harbour Crab; Brown Shrimp; Sea Hare; Nudibranchs; Barleycorn Sea Snail; Grey Topshell; Razor Clam; Sandmason Worm; Lugworm. **Fish** | Pollock; Short-spined Sea Scorpion; Grey Gurnard; Plaice; Flounder; Dragonet.

Site Designations

Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



Site Description

Diving / Snorkelling:

There is a small pier with steps from which divers and snorkelers can enter. Entry to the water is easiest here at high water. Be aware of boat traffic when entering from or returning to the pier. As there may be boat traffic in the area, use of a surface marker buoy for snorkelers and divers is advised.

The rocky headland to the north, between the Pier and the beach, has strong tidal streams, and is also a popular spot for anglers so if venturing this way be aware of lines and hooks. Instead, we recommend you keep south of the pier and explore the reefs and seagrass bed between the pier and the caravan park.

This area has kelp covered rocky reef along the shore (1), with a band of sand and seagrass lying just offshore (2), and more kelp park further out again (3). Exploring below the kelp will reveal a rich abundance of marine invertebrates from vibrant dahlia anemones to red-eyed velvet swimming crabs. Look along the stalks of the kelp for beautiful painted topshells and colonies of star ascidians.

Continue out from shore to the southeast and you will encounter the seagrass bed. You won't believe the number of juvenile flatfish and sea hares to be encountered here. There are also a wide variety of crab species and seaweed species to be found.

Facilities:

There is limited roadside parking available at the pier. The nearest facilities, including places to eat and a shop are located 3 minutes' walk away in Cushendall Village. Public toilets and showers are available at Cushendall Boat Park, by the Lifeboat Station, 0.3 miles to the south.

Getting There

By Car:

From Belfast / Ballymena: Belfast is 48 miles from Cushendall (approximately 65 minutes travel time). Take the M2 to Ballymena, then the A43 (Cushendall Road) cross country through Martinstown and Cargan, following signposts for Cushendall.

From Larne Bus Station, take the A2 (Old Glenarm Road/ Coast Road) through Ballygally, Glenarm, Carnlough. Distance 25 miles (approximately 50 minutes travel time).

Take Dalriada Avenue off the Coast Road at the north of the village, leading to Dalriada Park. There is very limited parking available along Dalriada Park.

By Public Transport:

Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Ballymena. From Ballymena, bus service 150 operates from Ballymena Buscentre to Cushendun, stopping at Cushendall.
See www.translink.co.uk for timetable information.

By Bicycle:

National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/ Londonderry to Bangor, taking the Coast Road from Ballycastle to Larne. This route services Cushendall.



← To Village Centre

Dalriada Park



Cushendall
Caravan Park



Dalriada Pier



NORTH

3

2



Rock



Beach



Underwater Reef



Intermediate



Experienced



Warning Boat Traffic



Warning Strong Currents



6 Cushendun Caves



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE -	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Cushendun	ROUTE SHAPE -	WATER DEPTH -
CURRENT -	SITE ASPECT Sheltered	BATHING WATER Not Designated

Picturesque Cushendun provides the backdrop for this compact site. The 70m stretch of rocky shore and shingle offers sheltered rockpooling and, of course, the adventure of exploring the famous Cushendun Caves. The easterly aspect is sheltered from prevailing winds, and a good option to check if the North Coast is blown out. A particularly busy site for fish, rockpoolers should expect to find shannies and pipefish here. The site is a home for all manner of starfish: Common Sunstar, Spiny Starfish and Common Brittlestars call Cushendun home. At low tide Beadlet Anemones can be found covering the shore. For such a compact site, there is a lot to see!

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Cuvie, Sugar Kelp; Spiralled Wrack; Egg Wrack; Serrated Wrack; Bladder Wrack; Sea Lettuce; Gutweed; Dulse.
Invertebrates | Beadlet Anemone; Shore Crab; Edible Crab; Common Prawn; Barnacles; Dogwhelk; Edible Periwinkle; Flat Periwinkle, Grey Topshell; Common Limpet. **Fish** | Shanny; Pipefish; Eel. d Limpet.

Site Designations

Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



Site Description

General:

Clough Williams-Ellis designed Cushendun village in 1912 at the request of Ronald John McNeill, Baron Cushendun. The built heritage of Cushendun is managed by the National Trust, retaining its charming architecture and probably why arriving into the village feels like stepping back in time! The rockpooling site at Cushendun is located just at the entrance to the caves – made even more famous by their appearance in Game of Thrones. The caves are eroded into Devonian puddingstone, which was laid down by flash floods when Northern Ireland was a desert environment. They also mark the unusual entrance to Cave House, an 18th century property built in a secluded cove that lies beyond the caves.

Rockpooling:

The rockpooling site consists of boulders, rockpools and gullies, surrounding a pebble beach. There's lots of life to explore from the huge variety of seaweeds to the myriad of invertebrates to be found both in the rockpools and gullies and under the boulders – just be sure to carefully replace the boulders after inspection! There are also small fish such as shannies and pipefish to be found among the boulders, close to the waters edge.

Facilities:

A car park is situated across the river at the southern end of Cushendun beach. There is a cafe, a bar and a shop in the village, with toilet facilities within these outlets. There are public toilets and further parking at the northern end of the beach, on the Glendun/Torr Head Scenic Route.

Getting There

By Car:

From Belfast / Ballymena: Belfast is 52 miles from Cushendun (approximately 70 minutes travel time). Take the M2 to Ballymena, then the A43 (Cushendall Road) cross country through Martinstown, Cargan and Cushendall, following signposts for Cushendun. From Larne Bus Station, take the A2 (Old Glenarm Road/ Coast Road) through Ballygally, Glenarm, Carnlough and Cushendall. Distance 28 miles (approximately 52 minutes travel time).

By Public Transport:

Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Ballymena. From Ballymena, bus service 150 operates from Ballymena Buscentre to Cushendun. See www.translink.co.uk for timetable information.

By Bicycle:

National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/ Londonderry to Bangor, taking the Coast Road from Ballycastle to Larne. This route services Cushendun.



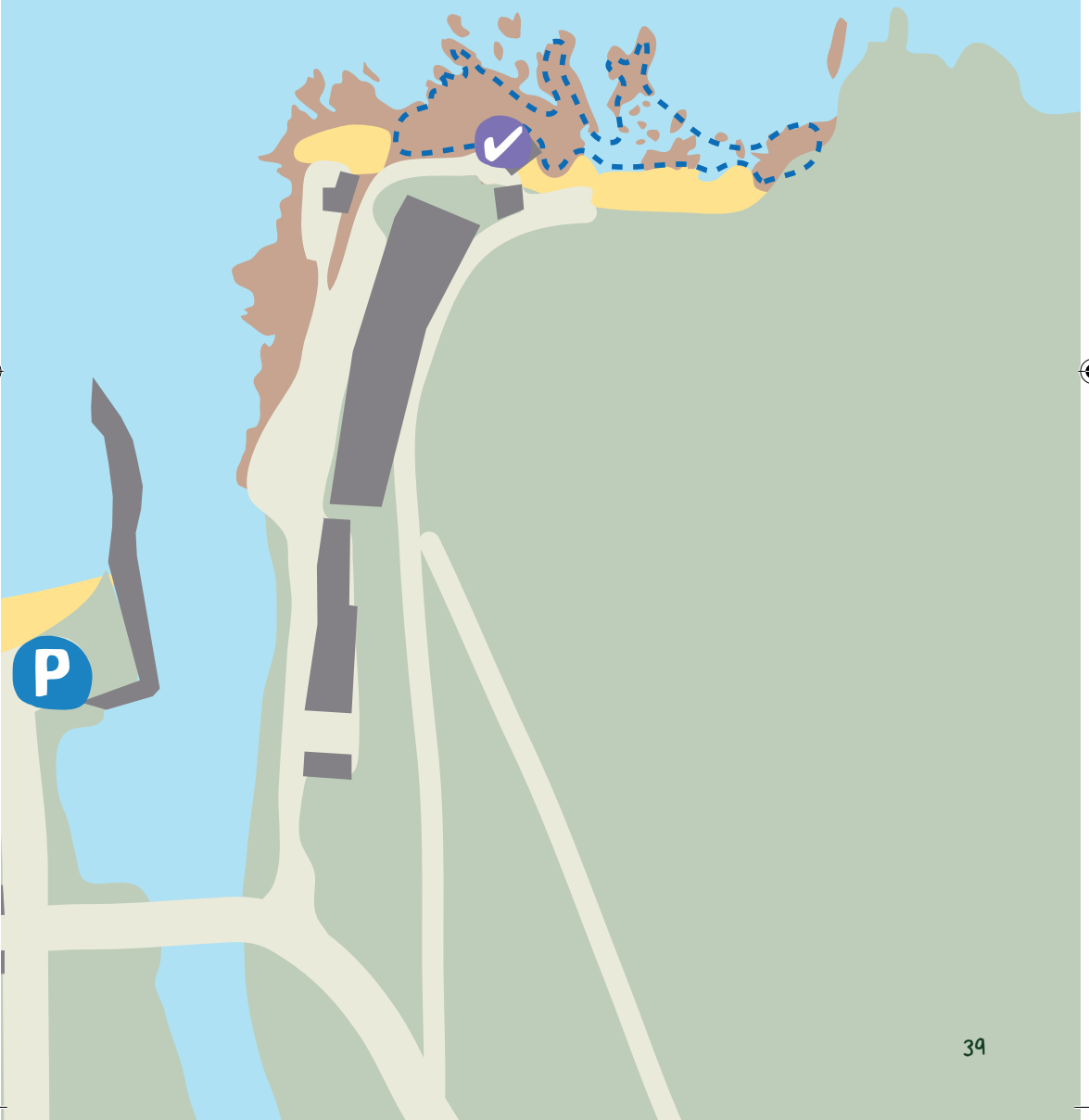
Cushendun Shore

-  Rock
-  Beach
-  Rockpooling





NORTH
↑





7 Pans Rock



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE Beginner to Experienced	LIFEGUARD Seasonal
NEAREST TOWN Ballycastle	ROUTE SHAPE Looped	WATER DEPTH 0 – 2 metres
CURRENT Strong currents at north point	SITE ASPECT Moderate Exposed	BATHING WATER Excellent

The town of Ballycastle serves as the gateway between the North and East Coast sites of this snorkel trail, and is a charming and bustling rural town. Ballycastle Beach itself is approximately 1.2km long and runs from the pier at Ballycastle Marina at the western end, to Pans Rock in the east. Pans Rock is your destination here. The beach and rocky outcrop have a northerly aspect, and both are protected from prevailing winds. Strong currents can run off the northern point of Pans Rock, especially on spring tides. There is a fascinating history associated with this site linked to salt making, with panels on site to explain more about the ancient and more recent history. The rocky reef is riddled with pools, outcrops and gullies which can be scoured on foot at low tide, or snorkelled at high tide, and offer a home to colourful seaweeds, invertebrates and fish.

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Cuvie; Dabberlocks; Furbelows; Coral-weed; Egg Wrack; Bladderwrack. **Invertebrates** | Beadlet Anemone; Dahlia Anemone; Stalked Jellyfish; Painted Topshell; Velvet Swimming Crab; Common Limpet; Blue-rayed Limpet; Barnacles.

Sand

Seaweeds | Mermaid's Tresses. **Invertebrates** | Harbour Crab, Hermit Crab, Sand-mason Worm, Burrowing Anemones; Bobtail Squid. **Fish** | Dragonets, Juvenile Flatfish, Tub Gurnard.

Site Designations

Designated Bathing Water, Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Area of Special Scientific Interest.



Site Description

General:

The most powerful tides on the Causeway Coastal Route are found around Torr Head and Fair Head, four miles east of Ballycastle. Here tides flow east and the rate increases as they are forced between Ireland and Scotland, and around Rathlin Island, at the North Channel entrance to the Irish Sea. This contributes to inshore tidal streams, especially on spring tides, off the northern point of Pans Rock.

Rockpooling:

The rocky outcrops and reefs offer a range of intertidal species for rockpooling, including beadlet anemones, coralweed, bladderwrack, eggwrack, shore crabs, shrimp and shannies. Keep your eyes peeled for the mysterious carved face in the sandstone here (1), perhaps the work of stonemasons of old who worked on the town's churches.

Snorkelling:

This is a site that should only be snorkelled in flat calm conditions. Avoid the north point itself due to strong currents; there are ample snorkelling opportunities on both sides of Pans Rock, although the east side offers the best snorkelling experience. Shore angling is popular at Ballycastle Beach so be aware of lines and hooks. This is a dangerous beach with potential for dumping waves, and shelving of the seabed leads to sudden depth. The step bridge here is built on the remains of an old working pier so keep an eye out for old bronze pins whilst snorkelling this site.

Facilities:

The beach is backed by the town of Ballycastle. The marina to the west offers additional car parking, with public toilets and the town's Tourist Information Centre. There are numerous shops, cafes, and restaurants in the town. Pans Rock car park is located off the Carrickmore Road at the eastern end of Ballycastle Beach. Otherwise parking is available off North Street, a brisk 10-minute walk from Pans Rock.

Getting There

By Car:

From Coleraine (Bus Centre), take the B67 (Ballyrashane Road and Moyarget Road) to Ballycastle, distance 19.5 miles (approximately 35 minutes travel time).

From Belfast (Central Station), follow north-bound signs for Coleraine/ Ballycastle along the M2, A26 (Lisnevenagh Road and Crankill Road) and A44 (Drones Road). Distance 56.5 miles (approximately 70 minutes travel time).

Follow the A2 (Carrickmore Road) to reach Pans Rock car park.

By Public Transport:

Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Coleraine. The Coleraine – Ballycastle Bus Service 172 and Causeway Rambler Service 402 (operating during summer only) service the town and other popular tourist destinations on the Causeway Coastal Route. There are also options from Ballymena, see **www.translink.co.uk** for timetable information.

By Bicycle:

National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/ Londonderry to Bangor and incorporates the Causeway Coast Cycle Route. It leads through Ballycastle.

Ballycastle - Pans Rock



Rock



Beach



Underwater Reef



Beginner



Intermediate



Experienced



Rockpooling

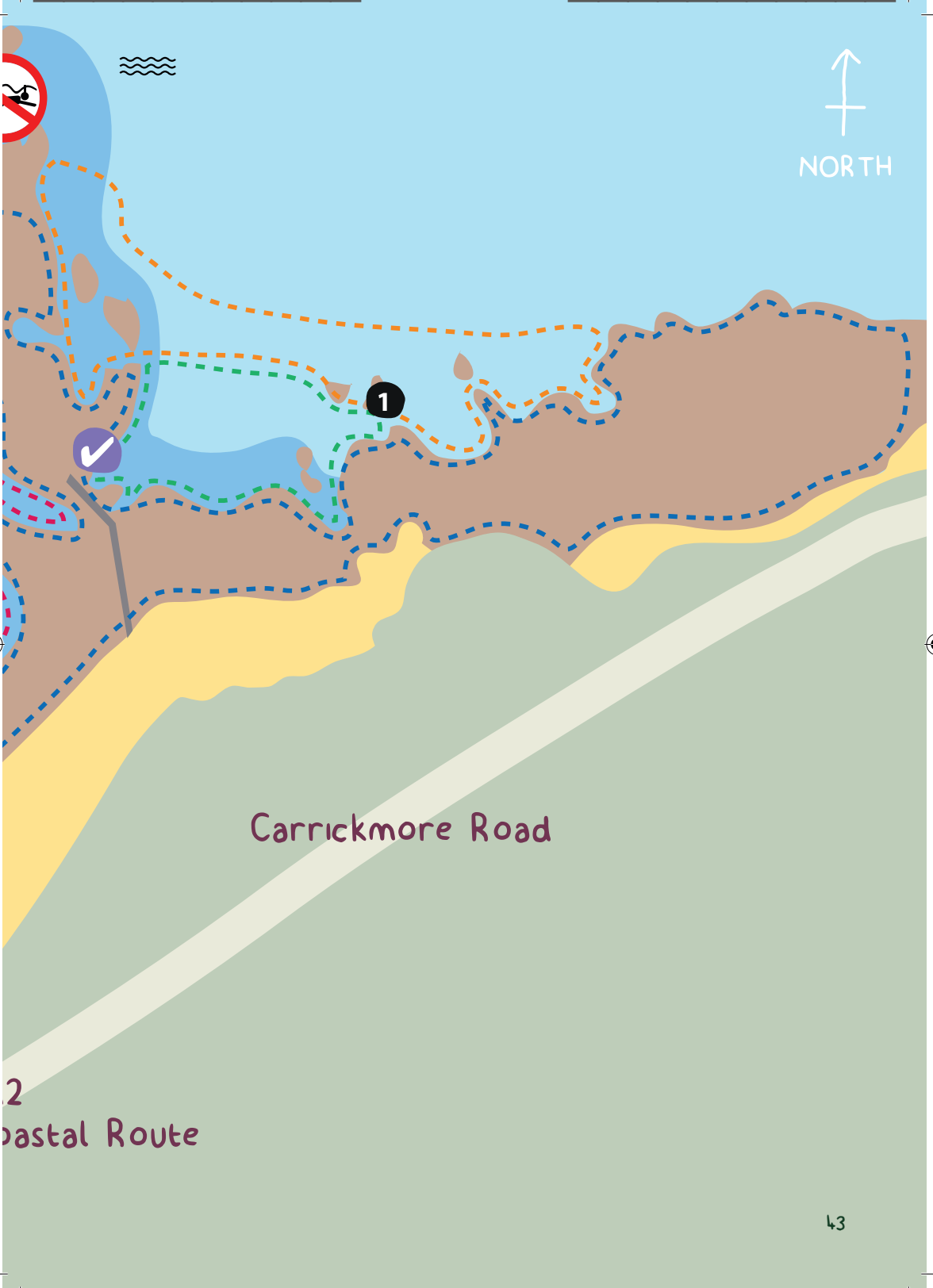


Warning Strong Currents

← Ballycastle Marina
+ Town Centre



A2
Causeway Coast





8

Ballintoy Harbour



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE Beginner to Experienced	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Ballintoy	ROUTE SHAPE Looped or Linear	WATER DEPTH 0 – 5 metres
CURRENT Strong currents around offshore rocks	SITE ASPECT Moderate Exposed	BATHING WATER Not Designated

Ballintoy Harbour is a pretty little harbour situated one mile north of the village of Ballintoy. Famous for featuring in the Game of Thrones television series, this beautiful site has a northeasterly aspect, so is protected from prevailing winds, however it can be exposed to Atlantic swells. Luckily this site offers a number of areas for diving and snorkelling, so even if one site is windy, one or more of the other areas may still be used, however the site should only be dived or snorkelled when there is no swell. The areas offer a mix of seabed types including sand, rocky outcrops and submerged rocky reefs. The sand patches are known to play host to little cuttlefish, while the reefs are carpeted with kelp. This site is particularly good for sponges, sea anemones and nudibranchs.

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Cuvie; Dabberlocks; Furbellows; Sugar Kelp; Thongweed; Sea Lettuce; Dulse; Bladder Wrack; Coralweed; Sea Beech; Red Rags. **Invertebrates** | Edible Periwinkle; Painted Topshell; Brown Crab; Shore Crab; Velvet Swimming Crab; Hermit Crab; Lobster; Common Prawn; Gem Anemone; Beadlet Anemone; Dahlia Anemone; 'Fried Egg' Anemone; 'Elephant's Hide' Sponge; Breadcrumb Sponge; Boring Sponge; Hydroids; Thorny Starfish. **Fish** | Pollock; Ballan Wrasse; Corkwing Wrasse; Shanny; 15-Spined Stickleback.

Sand

Invertebrates | Little Cuttlefish; Comb Jellies; Lion's Mane Jellyfish; Brown Crab; Shore Crab; Hermit Crab; Sea Hare; Violet Sea Snail; Sea Potato. **Fish** | Plaice.

Site Designations

Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



Site Description

General:

Ballintoy Harbour is located at the end of a very small, narrow, steep road called Harbour Road, which runs off Whitepark Road. There is a beach located each side of the harbour, and either of these can be used as a start point for a snorkel or dive.

Ballintoy is notable for its "raised beach", which is associated with changes in sea level from the last Ice Age. Further evidence of sea level change can be seen at the harbour car park, which shows a raised sea cave.

Diving / Snorkelling:

Ballintoy Harbour presents some fantastic underwater sites to explore. A secluded pool (1) in the headland between the western beach and the harbour is an excellent option for the novice Snorkeler or diver, as it is well protected and flushes out regularly. Hug the shore, as currents can pick up with distance out, especially on the furthest outcrops where boat cover is essential for divers. Setting off from either beach, a combination of sand, and kelp covered rocky outcrops present lots of marine life.

Exploring below the kelp will reveal a rich abundance of marine invertebrates from vibrant anemones to elusive shrimps, fish and comb jellies. There are plenty of nooks, crannies and gullies to explore (2) and a couple of blow holes can be found in the rocky headland at the east beach. The rocky reefs run down onto a sandy bottom (3) and here you can find crabs full of character, juvenile flatfish and tiny bob-tail squid! As there may be boat traffic in the area, use of a surface marker buoy for snorkelers and divers is advised.

Rockpooling:

Just offshore of the western beach is a large area of rockpools exposed at low tide. These are a haven for shore crab, brown crab and hermit crabs which can be found in the rockpools, beneath stones and amongst the seaweed. Beadlet anemones, grey topshells, edible periwinkles, and flat periwinkles abound. Gem anemones, sticklebacks and shannies can also be found among the rockpools.

Facilities:

A small café, car park, picnic area and access to the Causeway Coast Way; an exhilarating 33-mile route is located at the harbour itself whilst the village offers further visitor facilities.

Getting There

By Car:

Ballintoy Harbour is 17 miles east (35 minutes travel time) from Coleraine on the B17 (Cloyfin Road). If travelling from Ballycastle, it is 7 miles west (20 minutes travel time) on the A2 (Whitepark Road).

By Public Transport:

An hourly train service operates from Belfast Central Station to Coleraine. The Coleraine – Ballycastle Bus Service 172 and Causeway Rambler Bus Service 402 (operating summer only) stop at a number of popular Causeway Coastal Route sites including Ballintoy. See www.translink.co.uk for timetable information.

By Bicycle:

National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/Londonderry to Bangor and incorporates the Causeway Coast Cycle Route, which runs for 23 miles from Castlerock to the Giant's Causeway via Coleraine. Ballintoy is a short detour off this route, following the A2/B12 Whitepark Road.

Ballintoy Harbour



Rock

Beach



Underwater Reef



Beginner



Intermediate



Experienced



Rockpooling



1



3







9

Dunseverick Harbour



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE Beginner to Experienced	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Bushmills	ROUTE SHAPE Looped or Linear	WATER DEPTH 0 – 2 metres
CURRENT Yes – East side of site	SITE ASPECT Moderate Sheltered	BATHING WATER Not Designated

Dunseverick Harbour is a favoured spot on the popular Causeway Coastal Route. It lies off the beaten track, six miles from Bushmills, and is savoured for its solitude and beautiful scenery. A working harbour, it has grown in popularity as a diving, snorkelling and rockpooling site over the past few years. The 250 m stretch of shoreline is sheltered amongst islets so despite its northerly aspect and potential for exposure to northerly Atlantic swells, it is relatively sheltered under most conditions. The Causeway Coast Way from here takes you west towards the Giant's Causeway, and east to Whitepark Bay and Ballintoy. The rock and sand of the coast and rockpools here host colourful kelps and seaweed of all description, perfect shelter for all manner of invertebrates, and bare rock is home to sea squirts and sponges. A delightful, colourful site for any land- or sea-based visitor.

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Cuvie; Dabberlocks; Sugar Kelp; Mermaids Tresses; Channel Wrack; Egg Wrack; Bladder Wrack; Sea Oak; Red Rags; Sea Beech; Dulse; Coral Weed; Sea Lettuce. **Invertebrates** | Beadlet Anemone; Dahlia Anemone; Squat Lobster; Common Prawn; Edible Urchin; Bloody Henry Starfish; Hydroids; Sponges; Lightbulb Sea Squirt; Star Ascidian; Blue-rayed Limpet; Dog Whelk; Grey Topshell; Purple Topshell; Edible Periwinkle, Flat Periwinkle, Common Limpet; Barnacles. **Fish** | Lesser-spotted Dogfish; Leopard-spotted Goby; Pollock; Ballan Wrasse, Rock Cook; Conger Eel, Shanny.

Sand

Invertebrates | Shore Crab; Brown Crab; Velvet Swimming Crab; Hermit Crab, Lugworm. **Fish** | Plaice.

Site Designations

Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Area of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation.

Site Description

General:

Tides run very strongly past Bengore Head (to the West of Dunseverick; the headland separating it from the Giant's Causeway). Within the islets and rugged coastline around the



Harbour the currents are not as troublesome. Swells can impact some of the deeper gullies at times. Seals haul out on the outlying islands and should be given a wide berth (of at least 100m) to avoid disturbing them.

Rockpooling: At low tide a large swathe of rocky shore is available for exploring. Here you will find a mix of sandy patches rich in lugworm casts, and rocky reef covered in a wide variety of seaweeds. Beneath the rocks and the seaweeds are a wealth of invertebrate species including beadlet anemones, periwinkles, top shells, shore crabs, and fish such as shannies. It is best to explore this area on a falling tide.

Diving / Snorkelling: This site is best visited at high tide, to make the most of the deep pools, gullies and crevasses. Much of the area has a rocky and stony bottom with large kelp covered boulders and walls, with plenty of life beneath. There are also areas of sandy bottom. There are beginner, intermediate and experienced routes available, as shown on the map. The three deep pools on the western reef are perfect for beginners. The large gully to the west of the site is popular with divers, though should only be used when there is no swell. Always remember to plan your route especially on sites like this where a stride entry off the end of the pier is easy, getting back out may prove trickier! As there may be boat traffic in the area, use of a surface marker buoy for snorkelers and divers is advised.

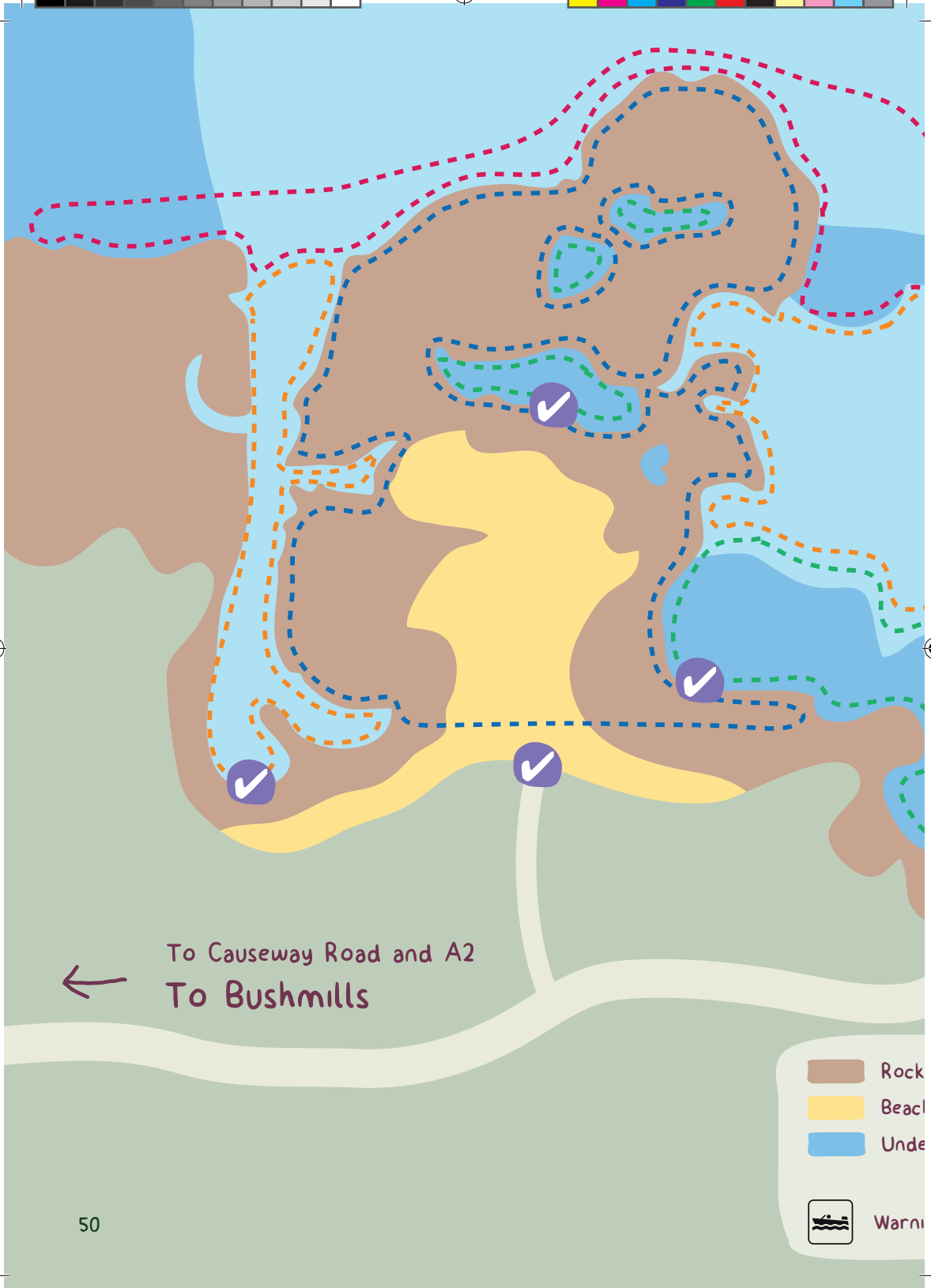
Facilities: Parking can be problematic here at busy times. This is a working harbour, so vehicles towing boats use the access road. There is also a private residence within the harbour, so please do not obstruct their entrances. There is a small car park, public toilets and showers available immediately in the Harbour. Otherwise Bushmills is the nearest residential centre for wheelchair accessible toilets, accommodation, food and shops.

Getting There

By Car: Dunseverick Harbour is 13.5 miles northeast of Coleraine (approximately 35 minutes travel time) on the B17 (Cloyfin Road). From Ballycastle, it is 10 miles west (approximately 20 minutes travel time), on the A2 (Whitepark Road). From either direction take the B147 (Causeway Road) and follow brown road-signs off this for the Harbour.

By Public Transport: Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Coleraine. The Coleraine – Ballycastle Service 172 and Causeway Rambler Service 402 (operating during summer only) stop at a number of popular Causeway Coastal Route sites including Dunseverick. See www.translink.co.uk for timetable information.

By Bicycle: National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/Londonderry to Bangor and incorporates the Causeway Coast Cycle Route, which runs for 23 miles from Castlerock to the Giant's Causeway via Coleraine. Dunseverick Harbour is a short detour off this route, following the A2/B12 Whitepark Road.



Dunseverick Harbour



Rock

Beach

Underwater Reef

Warning Boat Traffic



Beginner



Intermediate



Experienced



Rockpooling



Warning Strong Currents



51

**10**

Portballintrae



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE Beginner to Experienced	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Portballintrae	ROUTE SHAPE Looped	WATER DEPTH 0 – 5 metres
CURRENT None	SITE ASPECT Sheltered	BATHING WATER Excellent

Portballintrae is an excellent base to explore the Causeway Coastal Route, with the Causeway Coast Way leading across to neighbouring Runkerry Strand, and beyond to the Giant's Causeway. The rocky headland of Salmon Rock Beach at the east entrance to Portballintrae provides wonderful rockpooling across a 500m stretch of rocky shore. A dazzling and colourful array of seaweeds, brown crabs, porcelain crabs and cowries call this headland home. The bay's northerly aspect keeps it protected from prevailing winds, but picks up Atlantic swell in some conditions. The bay is sandy bottomed with submerged reef, offering good snorkelling options with plenty of flatfish and even conger eels known to swim freely in the bay. It can be a very busy harbour in the summer months, with boats known to enter the bay at very high speeds, so a surface marker buoy for water users is strongly advised at this site.

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Gutweed; Sea Lettuce; Oarweed; Thongweed; Spiral Wrack; Serrated Wrack; Channelled Wrack; Brown Fan Weed; Japanese Wireweed; Irish Moss; False Irish Moss; Coralweed; Bunny-eared Beadweed; Red Rags; Dulse; Pepper Dulse.
Invertebrates | Bryozoans; Hydroids; Beadlet Anemone; Gem Anemone; Shore Crab; Brown Shrimp; Sea Hare; Edible Periwinkle; Flat Periwinkle; Rough Periwinkle; Grey Topshell; Purple Topshell; Common Limpet; Barnacles. **Fish** | Pollock; Juvenile Flatfish; Sand Eel; Two-spot Goby.

Sand

Seaweeds | Mermaid's Tresses; Sugar Kelp; Oyster Thief.
Invertebrates | Brown Crab; Velvet Swimming Crab; Hermit Crab.
Fish | Sand Goby; Lugworm.

Site Designations

Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Special Area of Conservation, Area of Special Scientific Interest.



Site Description

General:

The bay is a lovely sheltered site, and as such can get very busy. Be mindful of other water users, from fishermen through to activity-providers and recreational boat-users. A surface marker buoy is essential here for both snorkelers and divers.

Diving / Snorkelling:

You are spoilt for choice at this site, there are access points at the slipway in front of the boathouse – just keep tight into shore and out of the boating channel running in front of the pier. Intermediate and advanced snorkelers can access the west side of the bay directly from the slipway at Seaport Avenue and explore the channels and outcrops at Willie's Point. As always, conditions will affect the site but generally it is a sheltered site with plenty of life to see within the confines of the bay. As there may be boat traffic in the area, use of a surface marker buoy for snorkelers is advised.

Rockpooling: Across the 300m headland from Portballintrae Boat Club to the main car park on Beach Road there is an extensive length of rocky shore to explore. The Salt Pans closer to Murrial Point offers countless overhangs and cracks within which to peek, with brown crabs particularly fond of tucking themselves away in this area and rockpools stuffed with amazing sea hares during the summer.

Facilities:

Depending on your chosen activity, there are a number of potential places to park: for snorkelling within the bay, on-street parking is available at the harbour or on Beach Road. The larger car park at the end of Beach Road offers disabled parking, public toilet facilities and a shop, as well as easier access to the sand and rocky shoreline of 'Salmon Rock Beach' and 'The Salt Pans'.

Getting There

By Car:

From Coleraine (Bus Centre), follow signs for Bushmills, taking the B17 (Cloyfin Road and Priestland Road) to Bushmills, and the B145 (Ballaghmore Road) to Portballintrae. Distance 9 miles (approximately 20 minutes travelling time).

From Ballycastle (Tourist Information Centre) follow signs for Bushmills, taking the A2 (Straid Road), before following the B145 (Ballaghmore Road) to Portballintrae. Distance 14 miles (approximately 25 minutes travelling time).

By Public Transport:

Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Coleraine. The Coleraine – Ballycastle Service 172 and Causeway Rambler Service 402 (operating during summer only) stop at a number of popular Causeway Coastal Route including Portballintrae. See **www.translink.co.uk** for timetable information.

By Bicycle:

National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/Londonderry to Bangor and incorporates the Causeway Coast Cycle Route, which runs for 23 miles from Castlerock to the Giant's Causeway via Coleraine.



Portballintrae



Rock



Beach



Underwater Reef



Warning Boat Traffic



Beginner



Intermediate



Experienced

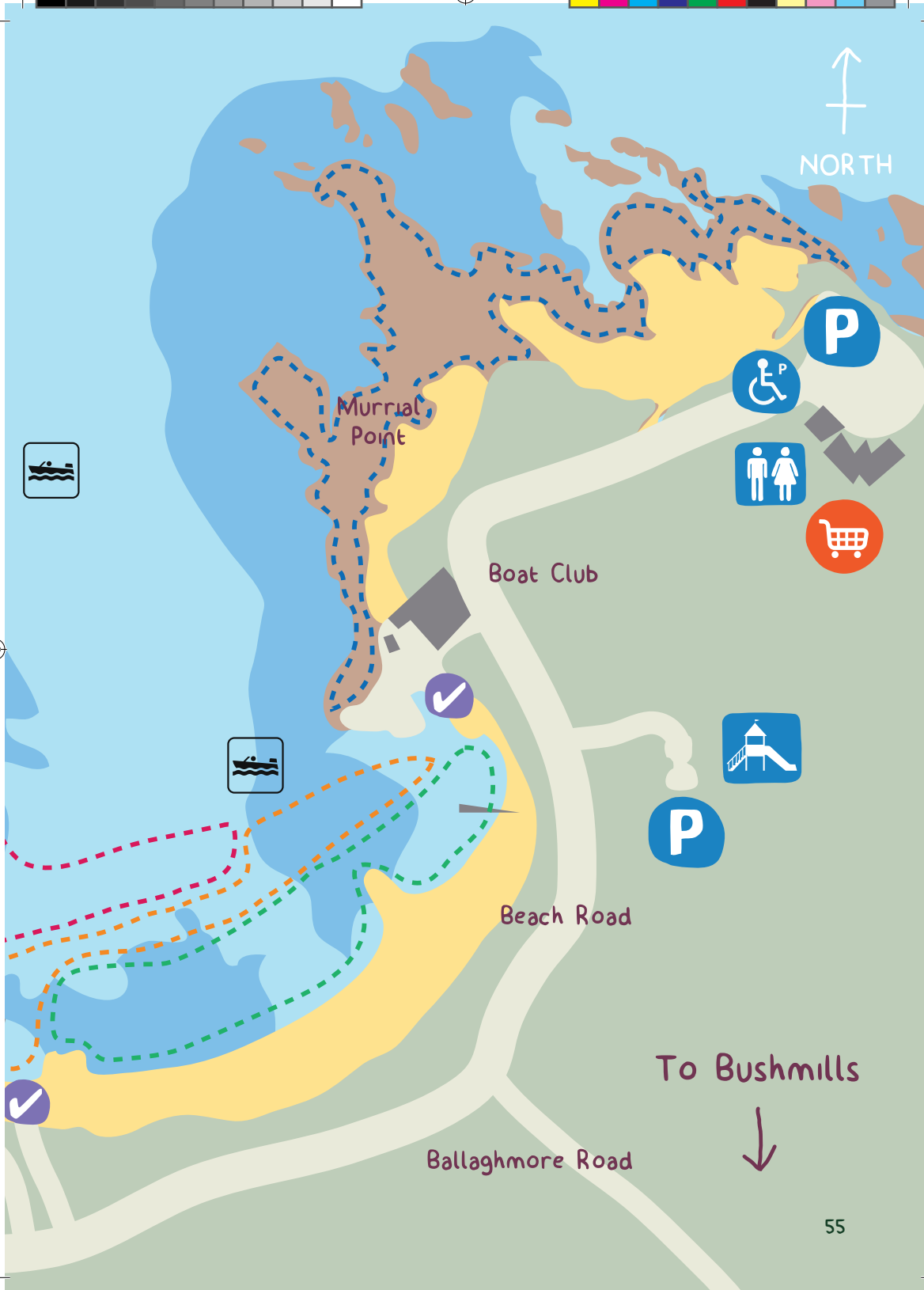


Rockpooling

Willie 's
Point

Seaport Avenue

Bayhead Road



**11**

Blue Pool, Portrush



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE Beginner to Experienced	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Portrush	ROUTE SHAPE Looped or Linear	WATER DEPTH 0 – 7 metres
CURRENT Yes – moderate current runs west to east at times	SITE ASPECT Moderate Exposed	BATHING WATER Good

The Blue Pool is one of the most convenient and best-known dive spots on the Causeway Coastal Route. Located in front of Portrush Coastal Zone, this 200m stretch of submerged rock is riddled with ridges, overhangs and gullies in which all manner of marine life can be found. Kelp forests full of fish lure foraging seals to the vicinity. However, the northwesterly aspect of the site can pick up swell, and this site should not be dived or snorkelled in anything other than flat calm conditions. Entry and exit is easiest at high tide, and be cautious if diving or snorkelling on a dropping tide as entry points may become unusable once the tide drops.

This is a particularly good site to spot larger crustaceans and fish, including lobster, common spider crabs, sea scorpions and lesser-spotted dogfish. In summer, the site can be very busy with people jumping in from the rocky ledges at the entry point and anglers fishing from the rocks.

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Oarweed; Cuvie; Mermaid's Tresses. **Invertebrates** | Sea squirts; Blue-rayed Limpet; Lobster. **Fish** | Conger Eel; Cuckoo Wrasse; Lesser-spotted Dogfish; Shanny; Tompot Blenny; Short-spined Sea Scorpion.

Sand

Invertebrates | Lugworm; Velvet Swimming Crab; Great Spider Crab, Common Spider Crab. **Fish** | Pollock; Sand Eel; Snake Pipefish; Rock Cook.

Site Designations

Area of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation, National Nature Reserve.



Site Description

General:

This site can be very busy with cliff-jumpers and shore anglers, especially during the summer. For safety, it is recommended using a surface marker buoy when diving during busy periods. This site should only be dived or snorkelled in flat calm conditions. Both divers and snorkelers should carry scissors or a dive knife due to the risk of entanglement in lost fishing line.

Diving / Snorkelling:

Snorkelers need to remain aware of surface currents as a strong north to south rip can work along this section. This area can also be affected by heavy swell and should only be snorkelled or dived in flat calm conditions.

The gullies and crevasses of the Blue Pool in Portrush are a favourite among divers on the North Coast, offering 300m of Atlantic swell-battered rock within which to explore. After entering at the Blue Pool, head southeast, keeping the wall on your right. There are many areas to explore along this stretch, including rocky crevices (1) containing conger, lobster and prawns. The cave (2) is home to prawns and crabs, with a ceiling covered in sea squirts. The gully (3) is home to lobsters and crabs, and the cove (4) with its gravel and boulder bottom, contains a rich variety of life.

Facilities:

Car parking is available on Bath Street, Bath Avenue, Ramore Avenue, and the public car park at Ramore Head. Public toilets are located at Ramore Head, and the town centre of Portrush is a short walk away, with the variety of eating-out options you would expect in a bustling seaside town: restaurants, gastro pubs, cafes and hotels.

Getting There

By Car:

From Coleraine (Bus Centre) follow the A29 (Cloyfin Road, Ring Road and Atlantic Road, signposted Portrush) for 6 miles (approximately 15 minutes travel time).

From Belfast (Central Station), follow north-bound signs for Coleraine along the M2, A26 (Lisnevenagh Road and Crankill Road) and B62 (Ballybogey Road). Follow signposts for Portrush. Distance 60 miles (75 minutes travel time).

For both, once in Portrush follow the A2 (Eglantine and Kerr Street) towards the town centre, and following signs for free parking at Lansdowne car park, and on Bath Street.

By Public Transport:

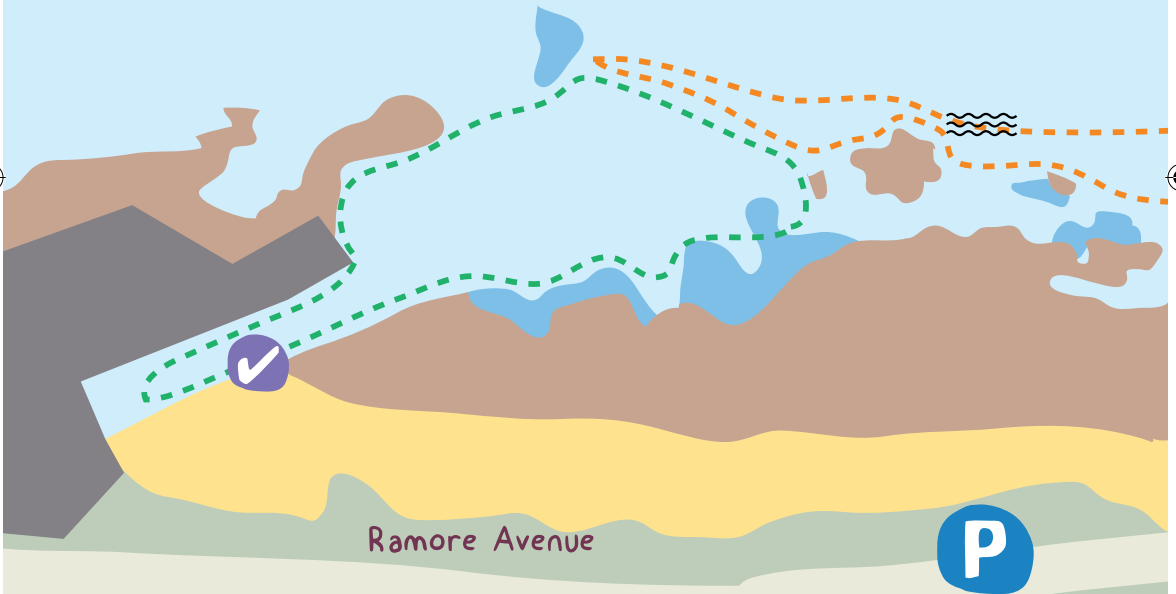
Trains operate hourly from Belfast to Coleraine. The Coleraine Triangular Service Bus 140a and 140b operates every 10 to 20 minutes between Coleraine, Portstewart and Portrush every day. See www.translink.co.uk for timetable information.

By Bicycle:

National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/Londonderry to Bangor and incorporates the Causeway Coast Cycle Route, which runs for 23 miles from Castlerock to the Giant's Causeway via Coleraine. The Blue Pool is a short detour off the route.

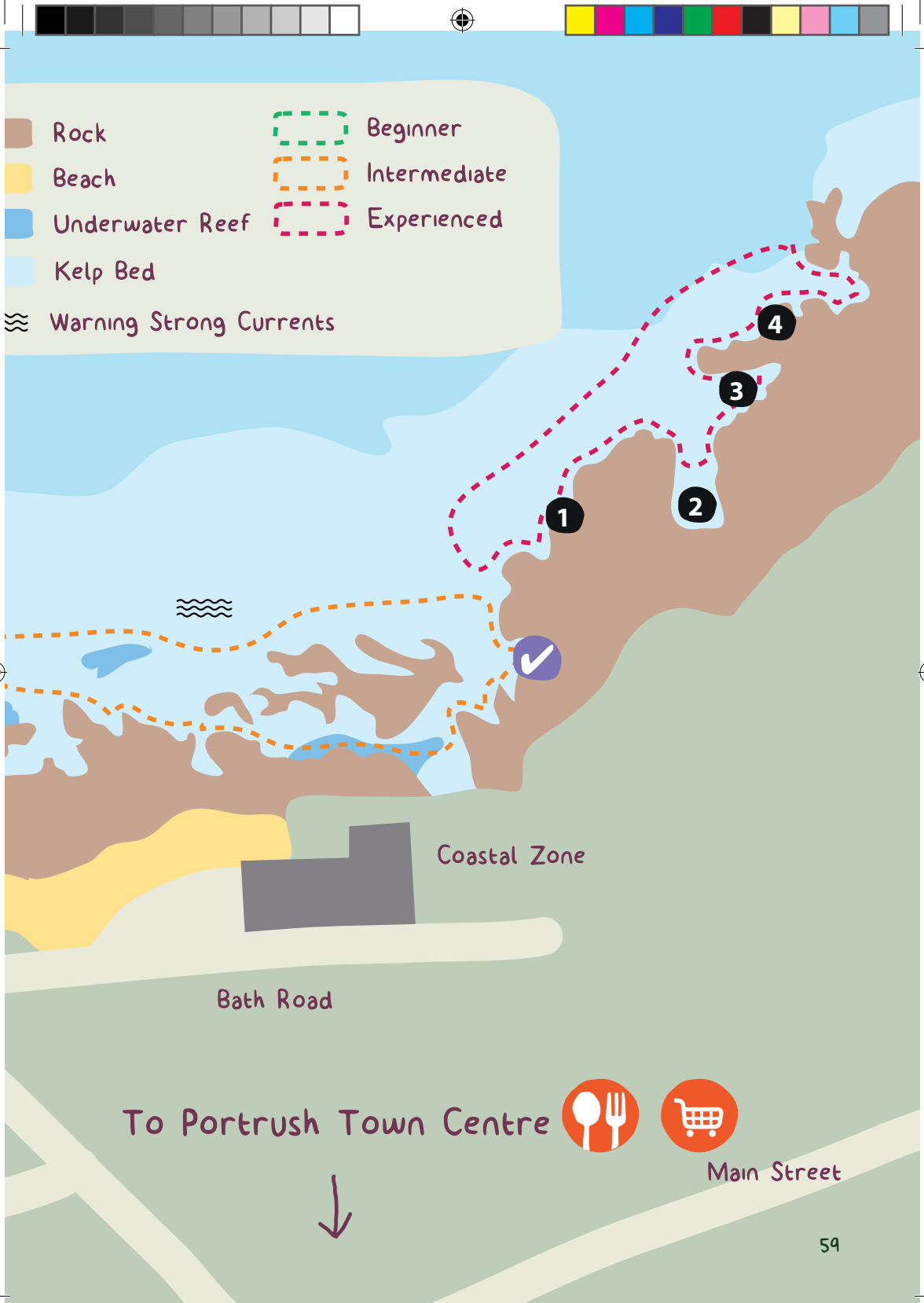


Blue Pool, Portrush



To Lansdowne Carpark





- Rock
- Beach
- Underwater Reef
- Kelp Bed
- Warning Strong Currents
- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Experienced

To Portrush Town Centre



Main Street

**12**

Ramore Head



COUNTY Antrim	GRADE -	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Portrush	ROUTE SHAPE -	WATER DEPTH -
CURRENT -	SITE ASPECT Exposed	BATHING WATER Excellent

This is one of the most convenient rockpooling sites on the Causeway Coastal Route. With the busy Port Path occupying the western promontory of Ramore Head, there is plenty of foot traffic and great ease of access for rockpooling here. While there is a renowned diving spot off Ramore Head, boat cover is essential, contact local dive centres for more information. Parking in Lansdowne Crescent, a 200m stretch of shoreline between the two promontories of Ramore Head presents ample rockpooling opportunities with views across to the Skerries Islands. Gem anemones, rare Montagu's crabs, and painted topshells are just some of the species you may encounter at this site.

Species of Interest

Reef

Invertebrates | Bryozoans; Gem Anemone; Dahlia Anemone; Beadlet Anemone; Painted Topshell; Grey Topshell; Purple Topshell; Blue-rayed Limpet; Edible Periwinkle; Flat Periwinkle; Rough Periwinkle; Common Limpet; Shore Crab; Brown Crab; Montagu's Crab; Hermit Crab; Barnacles; Breadcrumb Sponge.

Sand

Seaweeds | Mermaid's Tresses; Thongweed; Dabberlocks; Sugar Kelp; Oarweed; Channelled Wrack; Serrated Wrack; Spiral Wrack; Velvet Horn; Coral Weed; Irish Moss; False Irish Moss; Dulse.

Site Designations

Area of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation.



Site Description

General: The prominent headland of Ramore Head is composed of a hard dolerite sill, extending offshore to form the Skerries. You can find out more about the fascinating geological history of the site at the interpretation panels along the Port Path.

Rockpooling: The rocky intertidal shore of Ramore Head marked on the map is home to typical rocky shore species, as well as a few that aren't quite so common elsewhere: e.g. gem anemones, thick topshells (for the sea snail lovers), and Montagu's crab.

Bird watchers can cast an eye out to the Skerries for eiders, gulls, guillemots and razorbills, and fish and mammal lovers might get lucky spotting porpoises, dolphins or the mighty basking shark off Ramore. Portrush is a hive of exciting marine activity!

Facilities: Ramore Head is in Portrush town. There are public toilets immediately beside the parking area, with shops and restaurants a short walk away in the town centre proper, and East and West Strand beaches to either side of Ramore Head. The Coastal Zone nearby offers a closer look at the local marine life with discovery pools and tanks, as well as a viewing platform with views across to the Skerries, an important habitat to breeding seabirds, and out to sea!

Getting There

By Car: From Coleraine (Bus Centre) follow the A29 (Cloyfin Road, Ring Road and Atlantic Road, signposted Portrush) for 6 miles (approximately 15 minutes travel time).

From Belfast (Central Station), follow north-bound signs for Coleraine along the M2, A26 (Lisnevenagh Road and Crankill Road) and B62 (Ballybogey Road). Follow signposts for Portrush. Distance 60 miles (75 minutes travel time).

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By Bicycle: National Route 93 of the National Cycle Network runs from Derry/Londonderry to Bangor and incorporates the Causeway Coast Cycle Route, which runs for 23 miles from Castlerock to the Giant's Causeway via Coleraine. Ramore Head is a short detour off the route.



Ramore Head, Portrush





Ramore Avenue

**13**

Portnahapple



COUNTY Derry / Londonderry	GRADE Beginner to Experienced	LIFEGUARD None
NEAREST TOWN Portstewart	ROUTE SHAPE Looped or Linear	WATER DEPTH 0 – 5 metres
CURRENT Yes - sometimes running parallel to shore	SITE ASPECT Moderate Exposed	BATHING WATER Excellent

Portnahapple is a naturally formed swimming cove situated on the rocky shore that separates Portstewart Strand from the Promenade. This rocky shore offers good rockpooling opportunities along its entire length, but especially between Portnahapple and map reference point 3. The northwesterly aspect of the shore shelters it from prevailing winds but it is exposed to Atlantic swells and should only be visited in zero swell conditions. Hug the shore to avoid a current, which can run parallel to the shore. Sand, rocky outcrops and reef provide habitats for lots of seaweeds species, particularly kelp parks that shelter fish and crustaceans within. Overhangs and crevasses provide shelter to Conger Eel, Lesser-spotted Dogfish, Squat Lobster and Common Lobster. This site is an excellent location for a night dive.

Species of Interest

Reef

Seaweeds | Cuvie; Dabberlocks; Sugar Kelp; Sea Oak; Red Rags; Coralweed; Dulse; Sea Beech; Irish Moss; Sea Lettuce.

Invertebrates | Bryozoans; Hydroids; Snakelocks Anemone; Plumose Anemone; Dahlia Anemone; Devonshire Cup Coral; Common Starfish; Common Sun Star; Edible Urchin; Squat Lobster; Velvet Swimming Crab; Common Lobster; Common Prawn; Painted Topshell; Grey Topshell; Cowries; Sea Squirrs; Star Ascidian; Boring Sponge; Elephant's Hide Sponge. **Fish** | Pollock; Conger Eel; Lesser-spotted Dogfish; Ballan Wrasse; Bib; Ling; Butterfish; Tompot Blenny; Dragonet; Two-spotted Goby.

Sand

Invertebrates | Brown Crab; Common Spider Crab; Hermit Crab; Bobtail Squid; King Scallop; Tube Worms; Lugworm. **Fish** | Flat Fish; Short-spined Sea Scorpion; Bib.

Site Designations

None

Site Description

General:

This is an excellent site with options for beginner through to experienced divers and Snorkelers, and plenty of rocky shore for rockpoolers. Parking at the car park or along Beach Road, the three potential sites are shown on the map.



Diving / Snorkelling:

Beginner snorkelers are encouraged to enter at the sandy cove to the south (1), where flatfish abound along the sandy bottom and water visibility is exceptionally clear, parking on Beach Road and accessing the cove via the Cliff Path. At the northern end of the site beginners can also explore the inner areas of the Portnahapple gullies (2).

Intermediate and experienced snorkelers, and divers, can explore Portnahapple cove (2) and the adjacent shoreline with its many gullies, rocky overhangs and kelp forest. This site is renowned for particularly tame lesser-spotted dogfish, as well as a large conger eel that makes its home on the south side of the cove. In summertime shoals of fish actively hunt here, channelling prey into the gullies and coves, making for a thrilling spectacle. There is evidence of an old copper-lined hull wreck here too. The middle point, at the former salmon fishery, now map reference point 3, offers an old slipway and is a great spot for all levels of Snorkeler. For divers, Portnahapple is one of the best shore dives in Northern Ireland. A mixture of sandy patches, boulders, rock and overhangs with kelp parks, means there is lots of life and many fish to see. Night dives from Portnahapple are a real treat, with loads of life, and Bobtail Squid to be found over the sandy patches. For dives from Portnahapple, "west out and east in" navigation should keep you right, but contact local activity providers if you require more information.

Rockpooling:

There is an extensive shingle and rocky shoreline continuing from the car park south towards the Strand. The area around the slipway by the old salmon fishery (map reference point 3) is particularly good for rockpooling. For optimum scavenging time, rockpool on spring low tides to cover more of this extensive shore. Shore crabs, edible crabs, nudibranchs and lightbulb seasquirts are all waiting to be found here.

Facilities:

Parking at Strand Road car park, access to Portnahapple is gained from the Cliff Path. There is limited on-street parking closer to the Strand, adjacent to the golf course. Portstewart is a busy seaside town, with lots of options for restaurants and cafes a short distance from the Strand Road car park, on the Promenade. Public toilets lie beyond the Promenade, on Portmore Road.

Getting There

By Car:

From Coleraine (Bus Centre) follow the A2 (Circular Road/Portstewart Road) for 4.5 miles (approximately 12 minutes travel time). From Belfast follow signs for Coleraine (M2/ A26) and at Ballybogey take the B47 (Ballyrashane Road, signposted Coleraine). Portstewart is signposted from Coleraine onwards. Distance 60 miles (approximately 80 minutes travel time).

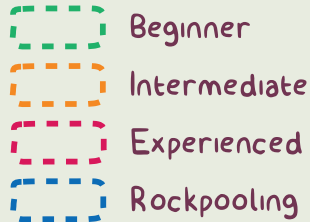
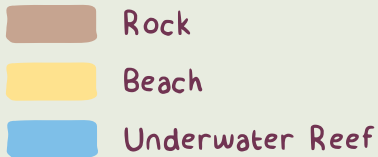
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By Bicycle:

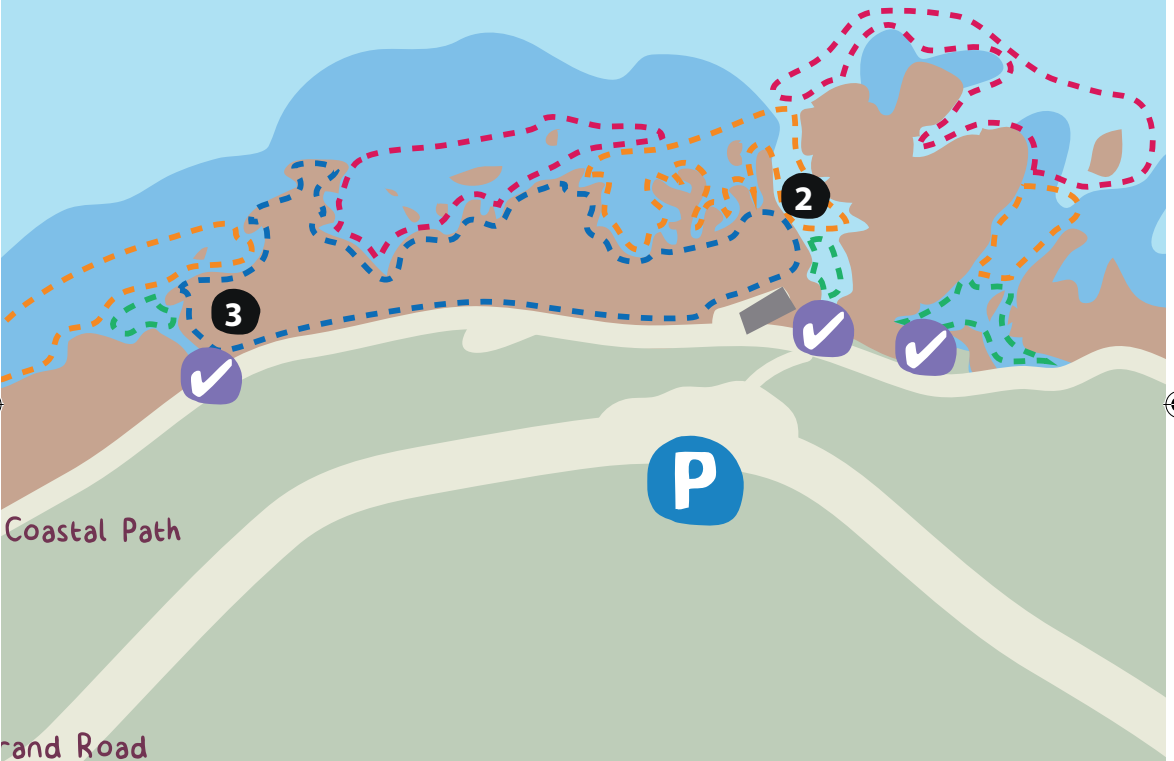
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Portnahapple, Portstewart





NORTH
↑



Coastal Path

Grand Road

To The Promenade →





Rockpooling - Species Tick List

1. Channelled Wrack



Rocky Shore ☐

2. Serrated Wrack



Rocky Shore ☐

3. Bladder Wrack



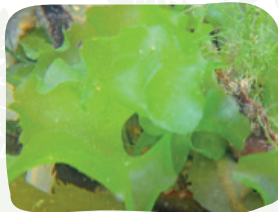
Rocky Shore ☐

7. Coral Weed



Rocky Shore ☐

8. Sea Lettuce



Rocky Shore ☐

9. Snakelocks Anemone



Rocky Shore ☐

13. Hermit Crab



Rocky Shore ☐

14. Purple Topshell



Rocky Shore ☐

15. Grey Topshell



Rocky Shore ☐

19. Dog Whelk



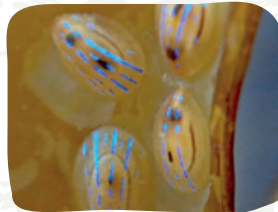
Rocky Shore ☐

20. Common Limpet



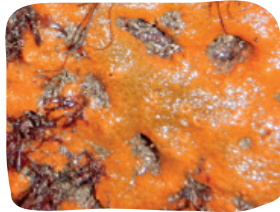
Rocky Shore ☐

21. Blue-rayed Limpet



Rocky Shore ☐

25. Breadcrumb Sponge



Rocky Shore ☐

26. Brittlestar



Rocky Shore ☐

27. Common Starfish



Rocky Shore ☐



4. Egg Wrack



Rocky Shore ☐

5. Mermaid 's Tresses



Rocky Shore ☐

6. Dulse



Rocky Shore ☐

10. Beadlet Anemone



Rocky Shore ☐

11. Shore Crab



Rocky Shore ☐

12. Brown Crab



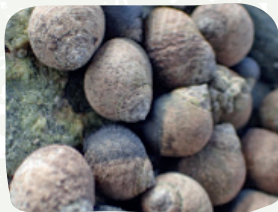
Rocky Shore ☐

16. Painted Topshell



Rocky Shore ☐

17. Edible Periwinkle



Rocky Shore ☐

18. Flat Periwinkle



Rocky Shore ☐

22. Barnacles



Rocky Shore ☐

23. Common Prawn



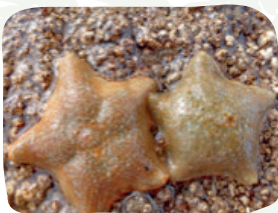
Rocky Shore ☐

24. Chiton



Rocky Shore ☐

28. Cushion Star



Rocky Shore ☐

29. Butterfish



Rocky Shore ☐

30. Shanny



Rocky Shore ☐



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dave Wall and Clare McMorrow for providing the content for this publication, Robin Ruddock, Richard Lavery, Paul Blanchard, Matt Wright, and Andy Hill for their time and enthusiasm in contributing local knowledge of the sites in their area.

Useful Websites

- **Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust:** www.ccght.org
- **Ulster Wildlife:** www.ulsterwildlife.org
- **Seasearch:** www.seasearch.org.uk
- **British Sub-Aqua Club:** www.bsac.com
- **Royal National Lifeboat Institution:** www.rnli.org
- **Tide Information:** tides.willyweather.co.uk
- **Weather Information:** www.magicseaweed.com
- **Nautical Archaeology Society:** www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org
- **Marine Antiquities Scheme:** <https://marinefinds.org.uk/>

Suggested Identification Guides

- Photographic Guide to Sea and Shore Life of Britain and North-west Europe. *Publishers: Oxford Natural History.*
- Marine Fish & Invertebrates of Northern Europe. *Publishers: AquaPress.*
- Seaweeds of Britain and Ireland. Seasearch Guide. *Publishers: Wild Nature Press.*

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this book, the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust and Ulster Wildlife wishes to emphasise that they cannot accept any liability for any errors which remain.

Photo credits: Ulster Wildlife, Ingimage and Dave Wall.



Rockpool, Snorkel and Shore Diving Guide

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Web: **ulsterwildlife.org**



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