

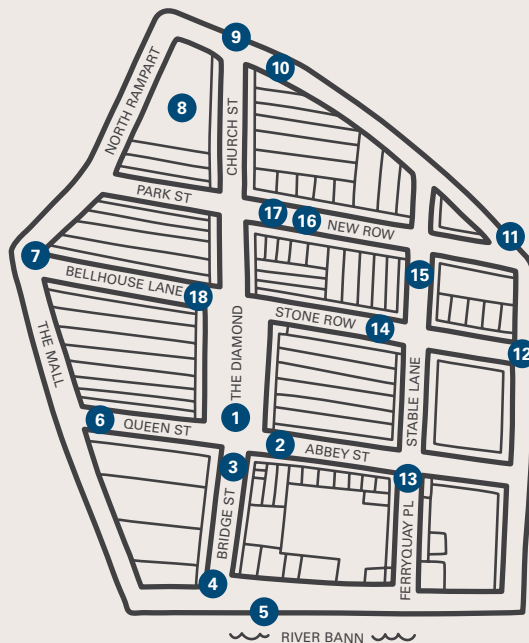
## COLERAINE 1613

For centuries Coleraine has held a crucial place in Irish history. In the early 17th century Coleraine was key to the Plantation and a fortified town was built on this ancient site on the River Bann. Coleraine was connected, through its port, with Britain, Europe and America.

James I issued Coleraine its town charter on 28 June 1613. This gave the town the right to hold markets and send representatives to Parliament.

Four hundred years later in 2013, the Coleraine 400 Heritage Trail supports exploration of the historic town centre, this significant period in Ireland's past and the rich history of English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish people here.

- 1 The Diamond
- 2 Abbey Street
- 3 Bridge Street
- 4 Customs House
- 5 River Bann
- 6 Fortified Coleraine
- 7 The North Rampart
- 8 St Patrick's Church
- 9 Kingsgate
- 10 'The Ramparts'
- 11 Outside the walls
- 12 Blindgate
- 13 Ferry Quay
- 14 Stone Row
- 15 Jail Street
- 16 New Row Presbyterian Church
- 17 New Row
- 18 Bellhouse Lane



Coleraine Borough Council gratefully acknowledges the generosity of:

This Project is supported by the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG) Ulster-Scots Academy



Department of  
**Culture, Arts  
and Leisure**  
[www.dcalhi.gov.uk](http://www.dcalhi.gov.uk)



**COLERAINE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

# COLERAINE 400

## EXPLORING THE HISTORIC TOWN CENTRE



**COLERAINE 400**  
1613-2013  
Celebrating 400 years of Coleraine's town charter

## 17th-CENTURY PLANTATION



01

Plantation brought settlers in to open up new markets and control trade. Here in Ulster, 'Plantation' meant English, Scottish and Welsh settlers, new laws, landowners and towns.

In the early 17th century, under a unique scheme, 55 London merchant companies, known as guilds or livery companies, were obliged to invest in County Coleraine, renaming it County Londonderry. In 1613 King James I granted a Royal Charter to The Honourable The Irish Society, the governing body of the Londonderry Plantation. The Church and some Irish were also granted land.

Ownership in the early 17th century of the valuable River Bann salmon fishing rights was often disputed. Local clans, English and Scottish 'entrepreneurs' and the Church all made claims. The grant of the fishing rights in 1613 to The Honourable The Irish Society did not end the arguments.

Coleraine was key to the Plantation and a fortified town was built on this ancient site. In 1613 King James I granted Coleraine its town charter.



02

*Coleraine was believed by 1637 to have been the 'port of the greatest consequence in the kingdom for coast business.*

Report of the Surveyor General of Customs in Ireland 1637.



03

**01** Coleraine town and its fortifications were built over the existing medieval settlement. Formal street patterns introduced then still remain to be explored today. The houses were built of timber frames from logs floated down the River Bann. The earthen ramparts that surrounded the town quickly fell into disrepair however, the town and those who took shelter there survived the 1642 siege. Outside the walls were mills, animal pounds and lime kilns.  
*Illustration by Philip Armstrong.*

**02** Queen Anne mace of 1702 presented to the Coleraine Town Commissioners by The Honourable The Irish Society as compensation for lands.

**03** The 1613-1913 stained-glass window presented to Coleraine by The Honourable The Irish Society.

**04** The legacy of civic administration and connections with the City of London introduced in the Plantation period continues today through the use of this spectacular 1928 version of the mayor's chain with its historic crests and symbols.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



The River Bann was the gateway to the world. In 1613, British and European imports into Coleraine included tools, tobacco, coal, French wine, seeds, silks, lace, spices, dried fruit, white sugar and more.

Exports to as far away as Spain included salmon, timber, animal hides, cattle and grain.



04

## COLERAINE 400 'INSIDE AND OUT'

### 1 THE DIAMOND

In the 17th century this was a busy hub as the town market. The Market House was built in 1743 by The Honourable The Irish Society, and replaced by Coleraine Town Hall in 1859.

### 2 ABBEY STREET

Named after the Dominican Abbey built in 1244, activity in this area dates back thousands of years with Mesolithic material being discovered by archaeologists.

The Presbyterian faith was brought to Coleraine by Scottish settlers. It was being practised in the 1640s and a building near the current 1st Presbyterian Church on Abbey Street was used to worship in from the 1660s.

### 3 BRIDGE STREET

The barracks of the garrison were located in Bridge Street in the 17th century.

Wooden bridges across the Bann had existed in previous times but had been destroyed. William Jackson erected a bridge across in 1673. The current bridge was built in 1844.

▼ Illustration of Bridge Street, Book of Coleraine, 1816. Coleraine Museum Collection



### 4 CUSTOMS HOUSE

Coleraine's importance as a port in the 17th century brought trade with Britain and Europe. A customs house was opened to control and tax what was coming in and going out. The Customs House was initially located in the middle of the town but had been built here by the 1660s.

### 5 RIVER BANN

It was only in 1835 that plans were drawn up for Hanover Gardens. Before this the river edge ran along the Abbey lands. A citadel was built on Abbey lands between 1625 and 1630 but was demolished around 1670.

Across the river, land was held by the Church and the Clothworkers' livery company. There has been a Church in Killowen since the 11th century. During the rule of King James I, it came under the Church of Ireland.

▼ Illustration of Hanover Place, Book of Coleraine, 1816. Coleraine Museum Collection



### 6 FORTIFIED COLERAINE

The MacDonnells owned a substantial part of County Antrim. Two thousand acres of land, to be known as the Liberties of Coleraine, were negotiated from Sir Randal MacDonnell for the Londonderry Plantation. He built a town at Dunluce similar in size to, and designed to compete with, Coleraine.

### 7 THE NORTH RAMPART

Using the natural landscape here for the fortified town, the Liberties of Coleraine with their rich agricultural lands stretched out to the north and west. The mill with its dam was located outside the ramparts.

### 8 ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Legend tells that St Patrick founded the church in Coleraine in the 5th century. Archaeologists uncovered the foundations of a medieval church, which can be seen inside the church today. Memorials and tombstones reveal the stories of the people who lived in and around Coleraine in the 17th century.

### 9 KINGSGATE

The street is named after one of only two gates in the ramparts which controlled access in and out of the fortified town. Here the road led to Dunluce, Bushmills and Ballycastle. It is likely that the burial pits for 2000 victims of the plague in 1642 are not far from the gate.

### 10 'THE RAMPARTS'

Walking along Society Street allows you to follow the line of the ramparts as they were in the 17th century. Some local people will still refer to this street as 'the Ramparts'.

### 11 OUTSIDE THE WALLS

A lime kiln was thought to be found at Fair Hill, outside the walls. As well as the kiln and mill being outside the walls, there was an animal pound for cattle in the Long Commons area of Coleraine.

### 12 BLINDGATE

One of only two gates in the ramparts which controlled access in and out of fortified Coleraine. The road led to Ballymoney and beyond. An excavation at the Baptist Church revealed medieval artefacts and gardens that extended beyond the fortified town boundary.

### 13 FERRY QUAY

There was no bridge across the River Bann for most of the 17th century; instead ferries were used to transport people across. This provided income and a further way of controlling who was coming into the town.

▼ Illustration of St Patrick's Church, from the Book of Coleraine, 1816. Coleraine Museum Collection



### 14 STONE ROW

Named after the row of stone houses that stood here in the 17th century. Local tradition holds that the stones used to build the houses were taken from the Cutts further up the River Bann.

### 15 JAIL STREET

The town jail was located in this street. You had to be a freeman to practise your trade inside the town walls. People found within the walls of the town who were not freemen could be placed in the town jail.

### 16 NEW ROW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Scottish settlers introduced the Presbyterian faith to Coleraine. The 1st Presbyterian Church was located near the present Church on Abbey Street. The New Row Presbyterian Church building dates from 1832 but it has been fundamental to the witness and worship of the Presbyterian faith since the 1720s.

### 17 NEW ROW

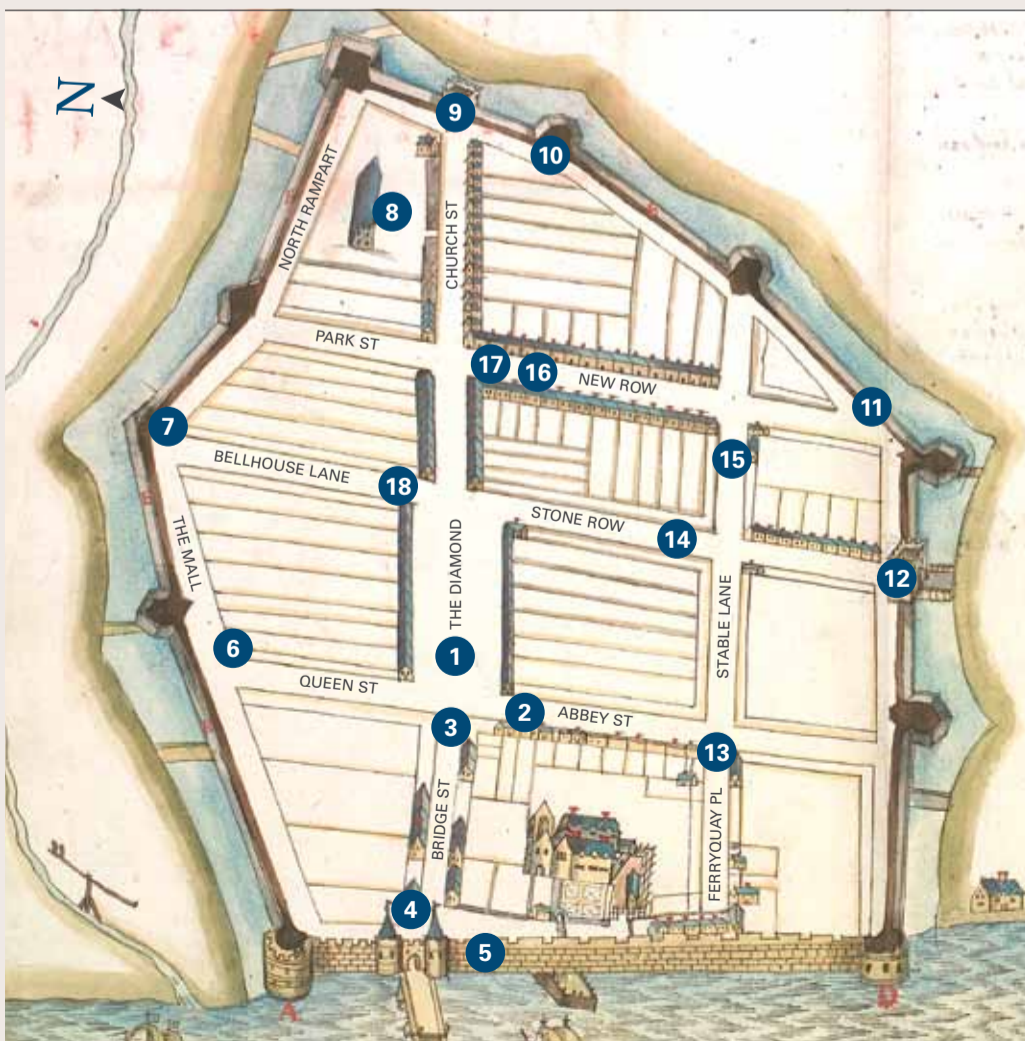
The first row of English-style houses was built on this street. The frames of the houses, constructed from local timber, were made on the ground before being hauled up into place.

▼ Illustration of New Row, from the Book of Coleraine, 1816. Coleraine Museum Collection



### 18 BELLHOUSE LANE

The curfew bell would have hung in the Corporation Hall and Courthouse on the corner. This bell was rung as a signal to anyone who should not be inside the town walls to leave and as a call to arms at turbulent times.



▲ Demolition in Church Street in 1985 revealed the 17th-century timber structure buried in more recent brickwork. Image courtesy of NIEA



▲ Excavations at the Abbey site in 1999 revealed the scale of the medieval St Mary's Priory.

◀ Map of Coleraine in 1622 by Thomas Raven, showing the street layout which still remains today. Courtesy of Lambeth Palace Archives

◀ A surviving 1611 timber which was part of a shop front removed from Moores, Church Street, Coleraine in 1985. Image courtesy of NIEA



▲ Excavations in 1983 at New Row revealed imported goods such as this chamber pot from Stoke-on-Trent and, below, the remains of a leather shoe. Images courtesy of NIEA

