Causeway Coast and Glens Accessible Heritage Guide







RNIB Northern Ireland





A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

Background

Understanding Our Area – People and Places was a cross-community project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme. It set out to increase the understanding and expression of our culture and history, our people and places, through museum collections, historic sites and cultural heritage using interpretation, arts and multimedia to create a peace building legacy. The initiative was part of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's PEACE IV Local Area Action Plan, funded by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, which provided £3.8 million for community projects across the borough.

Between 2017 and 2019, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services supported a range of community-led projects, along with a range of events, showcases and resources exploring the history of the Causeway area.

The Accessible Heritage Projects

This Accessible Heritage Guide is one of the results of two separate projects run through PEACE IV Understanding Our Area – People and Places.

In partnership with RNIB Coleraine, Museum Services led one aspect of the project designed to allow people with sight loss to gain hands-on access to different aspects of the borough's past, and highlight how they experience history in these places. The second aspect was led by Glenshane Care Association, a group of adults with physical and/or learning disabilities based in Dungiven.



After visiting heritage sites across the borough, the groups jointly contributed feedback from their visits to produce this 'warts and all' heritage guide.

$\star\star\star\star\star$

The star ratings are based on the experiences of the RNIB group visits.



The emoji symbols are based on the experiences of the Glenshane Care Association participants.

The aim of this guide is to allow people with additional needs and young families to make informed decisions about their visits to heritage sites across the Causeway Coast and Glens.

The Accessible Heritage Guide is free. Hardcopies are available from Visitor Information Centres across the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough, from RNIB Coleraine, Glenshane Care Association Dungiven, or by contacting Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services.

The guide has been made available in audio format thanks to Coleraine Talking News. Audio copies are available through RNIB Coleraine and Museum Services.

Digital copies of the Accessible Heritage Guide are also available online:

Booklet: www.niarchive.org/accessibleheritage

Audio files: www.niarchive.org/audioheritage

CCGBC Museum Services

Services Ballymoney Museum, 1 Townhead Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6BE (028) 2766 0230 RNIB Coleraine

37 Abbey St, Coleraine, BT52 1EX (028) 9032 9373

Glenshane Care Association

Unit 4, Glenshane Business Park, 50 Legavallon Road, Dungiven, BT47 4QL (028) 7774 2948

We would like to thank the following people for participating in the visits across the borough:

Christopher Averill Sinead Begley Joyce Bunting Peter Cullinan John Cunning Paddy FitzPatrick John Joe Fleming Suzanne Grieve Robert Hazlett Bernadette Heaney Jacqueline Higgins

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We would also like the thank all the staff - and especially the volunteers - who supported the groups for each of their site visits, and Maureen MacLean, Kenneth Parkes, Barry Williamson and Sharman Wilson from Coleraine Talking News for creating the guide in an audio format.







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- More information about the sites listed in this guide can be found by looking for the Accessible Heritage project at https://niarchive.org/projects
- Information on other visitor attractions across the borough can be found on the Tourism NI website, https://tourismni.com
- For public transport links to, and between sites, there is a free journey planner available from Translink at https://journeyplanner.translink.co.uk

Antrim GardensGetting Around $\star \star \star \star \star \star$ Onsite Information $\star \star \star \star \star \star$



Situated on Ramore Head, Antrim Gardens is an open grassy area crossed by paths with views eastwards along the coast. Beneath the surface, however, archaeologists have found evidence of humans at the site dating back almost 10,000 years, from the Early Mesolithic period through to the 20th century. Most significantly, in 2005, archaeologists discovered Medieval kitchens on the site along with evidence of local pottery and fishing industries.

Other features include a tower-like brick sculpture representing the maritime history of Portrush, a covered well which may date back to the Medieval period, and a small walled garden.

OPEN: Always open

ADMISSION: Free entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels

MANAGED BY: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

TELEPHONE: 028 7034 7034 **EMAIL:** info@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk



Getting there

Antrim Gardens, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8AR

Antrim Gardens is located on Ramore Head, in the heart of Portrush. There is parking available on Ramore Avenue.

Access into, and around, Antrim Gardens is good, with wellmaintained paths suitable for wheelchairs. One half of the site is level, the other half slopes gently towards the sea. There are a small number of steps around the sculpture in the centre of the gardens, but these can be avoided by taking a meandering path down the slope.

Although there are information panels on the site, they are not presented in an accessible format. Portrush Heritage Group have also produced a free downloadable App, Discover Portrush Heritage Experience, which can provide information on Antrim Gardens in an audio format.

The nearest Changing Places (0.5 miles away) are located at the Dunluce Avenue Amenity Toilet Facility, Dunluce Avenue, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DW; and Barry's Amusements, 16 Eglinton Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DX.

"Its very level, you can walk around without having to negotiate the steps."

"The site is very accessible but there is limited information on site."



مر مر Stairs

Free Parking

Ballycastle Museum

 $\mathbf{f}_{\mathsf{Getting}} \operatorname{Around} \\ \mathbf{\star}_{\mathsf{F}} \mathbf{\star}_{\mathsf{F}} \overset{\bullet}{\overset{\bullet}} \overset{\bullet}{\overset{\bullet}$

Onsite Information







Ballycastle Museum is housed in the listed 18th century courthouse and market building in the town centre. Visitors to the museum can explore the permanent display of the fascinating history of the Irish Home Industries Workshop, its role in the 1904 St Louis World Fair and the Arts and Crafts Revival in Ireland. Highlights also include Bronze Age archaeology, Boyd's 18th century Ballycastle and the magnificent Taise Banner from the first Feis na nGleann in 1904.

From Easter until the end of June, and in September, the museum is opened thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Ballycastle Museum who volunteer their time.

OPEN EASTER WEEKEND: Easter Saturday 10am–5pm; Easter Sunday & Monday 2pm-5pm. **April–June:** Friday & Saturday 10am–5pm; Sundays 2pm–5pm. **July–August:** Monday–Saturday 10am–6pm; Sunday 2pm–6pm. **September:** Friday & Saturday 10am–5pm; Sundays 2pm–5pm. **October–December:** Closed for winter

ADMISSION: Free entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels, staff available, large print catalogue

MANAGED BY: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services

TELEPHONE: 028 2766 0230 **EMAIL:** cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk



Getting there

59 Castle Street, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, BT54 6AS

Ballycastle Museum is located on the A44, Castle Street, close to the town Diamond. There is limited on-street parking outside the museum.

Outside Ballycastle Museum, Castle Street is on a noticeable slope. Access into the building is via a single step into a short but narrow passage way which turns sharply to the right.

Inside, the floors are smooth. The front half of the museum is level, but the rear vaulted area slopes away slightly. There is enough space between the exhibits for wheelchair users, although access might be harder for large groups.

There are some objects which may be handled, but most of the exhibits are within glass cases. The lighting varies around the galleries. In some places it is quite low and information panels can be challenging to read. Facilitated visits are available if booked in advance.

The nearest Changing Places facility (12.4 miles away) is located at the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, 44 Causeway Rd, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8SU.

"Access wouldn't be great for big groups – there was a step up and then the rest was ramped."

"A lot more information would be very helpful."









Ballymoney Museum is part of Ballymoney Town Hall and offers visitors the opportunity to explore the vibrant history of the area with a particular focus on local motorcycle road racing heroes. The permanent accredited museum also explores the story of the area since early times through its Victorian Collection, and houses the enigmatic Derrykeighan Stone from which the museum takes its logo. Visitors can also research local and family histories in the resource area.

OPEN: Monday–Thursday & Saturday 9am–5pm, Friday 9am–4.30pm

ADMISSION: Free entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Information panels, staff available, limited audio visual displays

MANAGED BY: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services

TELEPHONE: 028 2766 0230 EMAIL: cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk



Getting There

1 Townhead Street, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, BT53 6BE

Ballymoney Museum is located inside Ballymoney Town Hall. There is a free car park opposite the museum entrance on Townhead Street.

Ballymoney Museum consists of a permanent gallery, a gallery for temporary exhibitions, and an upstairs gallery. There are stairs with hand rails and a wheelchair lift to get between the levels. All floors are level.

Information panels in the permanent gallery are within cases which can make them more difficult to read for visually impaired visitors. Facilitated visits are available if booked in advance.

The town hall also houses a Visitor Information Centre.

The nearest Changing Places (12.9 miles away) are located at the Dunluce Avenue Amenity Toilet Facility, Dunluce Avenue, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DW; and Barry's Amusements, 16 Eglinton Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DX.

"Getting around the museum was easy and there are lifts if you need them."

"There's nothing tactile, it is all behind glass."













Built as a Franciscan friary at the foot of the Margy River around 1485 by Rory McQuillan, Bonamargy passed to the McDonnells around 1558. The famous chieftain Sorley Boy MacDonnell and several of his descendants – the later Earls of Antrim – are buried in the family vault built onto the side of the church.

Bonamargy's most famous resident was the reclusive prophetess, Julia McQuillan, known as the Black Nun. She sought shelter here in the 17th century and her ghost is commonly said to haunt the site.

The gatehouse, church, friary dormitory and McDonnell burial vaults are still well preserved, as are many historic gravestones, several Commonwealth war graves and a monument for the unconsecrated burials in a cillín. The body of Julia McQuillan is said to be buried under the small Celtic cross at the entrance to the church.

OPEN: Always open ADMISSION: Free entry ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels MANAGED BY: Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division TELEPHONE: 028 9082 3207 EMAIL: scmenquiries@doeni.gov.uk



Getting there

Cushendall Road, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, BT54 6QP

Bonamargy is signposted on the A2 Cushendall Road, less than 1 mile from Ballycastle.

Bonamargy has a small off-road parking area with space for three cars. The site can be accessed via a short lane with a slight gradient.

Although there is a well-maintained, smooth path around the remains of the friary, wheelchair users may require additional assistance. In some places there is a slight difference in height between the edge of the path and the grass on either side. In two locations there is a sharp drop of more than 30cm to one side between the path and the building.

Off the path, the ground can be soft, and is often uneven – especially around some of the older graves. Parts of the friary dormitory can be accessed via a low step but this area is poorly lit with slightly uneven footing.

There are two information panels on the site, but they are not presented in an accessible format.

The nearest Changing Places facility (14.3 miles away) is located at the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, 44 Causeway Rd, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8SU.

"Do a little research before you go."

"One part of the path is quite narrow, but most was good for two people."







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Step

Bushfoot (Lissanduff) Earthworks

Getting Around $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$

Onsite Information





Located in Portballintrae at the mouth of the River Bush, the mysterious earthworks consist of two adjacent large circular earth banks measuring up to 52 metres in diameter, with a smaller circular bank inside each one.

The earthworks are probably prehistoric, and likely date from the Iron Age (300 BC – AD 450), but archaeologists have been unable to determine an exact date. The purpose of the earthworks is also unclear. The smaller of the two rings is dry, but the other seems to have been built over a natural spring and is always water-logged. It may have served a ritual purpose similar to other ritual pools at Navan Fort and Gortatray, Co. Tyrone.

OPEN: Always open ADMISSION: Free entry ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels MANAGED BY: Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division TELEPHONE: 028 9082 3207 EMAIL: scmenquiries@doeni.gov.uk



Getting there

Beach Road, Portballintrae, Co. Antrim, BT57 8US

Bushfoot Earthworks are accessible from the public car park at the end of Beach Road. A small sign directs visitors 125 metres up a grass slope to the site.

The grass slope from the carpark up to the dry earthwork can be quite steep and there is no formal path so the ground is uneven and can be slippery in wet conditions. It is not suitable for users of wheelchairs or walking aids.

The dry earthwork can be accessed on two sides by sets of steel stairs. These are open-backed but have railings. Inside the dry earthwork, the ground is firm but uneven.

Beyond the dry earthwork, a third set of steel stairs allows access into the wet earthwork. The ground surface inside is always waterlogged and can be flooded so anyone wishing to explore it is advised to proceed with caution.

The nearest Changing Place facility (3.6 miles away) is located at the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, 44 Causeway Rd, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8SU.

"They are impressive earthworks, but if looking for buildings, you are going to be disappointed."

"Take care on and near the watery ditch!"







P Free Parking





Coleraine Town Hall, built in 1859, is Coleraine Museum's accredited exhibition venue. Coleraine Museum at Coleraine Town Hall is open for over 6 months of the year. Here, visitors can begin to explore 'Irish History Starts Here' with its story of nearby Mountsandel – Ireland's earliest known settlement – and the history of Coleraine as the first planted town of the Londonderry plantation. With an extensive collection supporting a rich and important history, different themes from the collection are explored through a range of temporary exhibitions. In the absence of a permanent museum venue for visitors, an appointment can be made with Museum Services to explore other parts of the collection.

OPEN: Tuesday–Saturday 11am–4pm during temporary exhibitions. The collection is accessible by appointment

ADMISSION: Free entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels

MANAGED BY: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services

TELEPHONE: 028 2766 0230 **EMAIL:** cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk



Getting there

The Diamond, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, BT52 1DE

Coleraine Town Hall is in the pedestrian zone in the town Diamond. There are numerous sign-posted parking areas nearby.

Coleraine Museum uses the large main hall as its exhibition space. There is a lift from the main entry of the building up to the main hall and the associated accessible toilet. Access from the side door of the building involves stairs. Facilitated visits are available if booked in advance.

The town hall also houses a Visitor Information Centre.

The nearest Changing Places (6.9 miles away) are located at the Dunluce Avenue Amenity Toilet Facility, Dunluce Avenue, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DW; and Barry's Amusements, 16 Eglinton Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DX.







"We knew there was a Town Hall but didn't know there was an exhibition space there, and had never visited it before."



Dooey's Cairn





Ballymacaldrack court tomb, better known as Dooey's Cairn, is the best preserved court tomb in the Causeway area. Dating to the Neolithic period (3800-2500 BC), the tomb contained a cremation pit and the remains of at least five adults, as well as polished stone axeheads, flint arrowheads, and pottery.

The construction of large stone (megalithic) communal tombs like Dooey's Cairn coincided with a dramatic change in lifestyle as new populations arrived in Ireland bringing agriculture. Building megalithic structures anchored people to a newly managed landscape as trees were cut down to create fields and pastures.

OPEN: Always open ADMISSION: Free entry ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels MANAGED BY: Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division TELEPHONE: 028 9082 3207 EMAIL: scmenquiries@doeni.gov.uk



Getting there

12-16 Presbytery Lane, Dunloy, Co. Antrim, BT44 9DZ

Presbytery Lane is off the Bellaghy Road, 0.7 miles south of Dunloy.

There is no designated parking area for Dooey's Cairn. Access to the grounds is down a short narrow gravel path directly off Presbytery Lane. The gravel path is relatively level, but made uneven by grass clumps.

The small enclosed area of the site is grassed and the ground underfoot can be both soft and uneven with slight changes in gradient which may present difficulties for wheelchair users. The stones that make up the monument vary in height from approximately 5cm – 150cm above the ground surface. Some of the lower stones are covered by grass.

There are two information panels on the site, but they are not presented in an accessible format.

The nearest changing place (12.3 miles away) is located at the Braid Valley Care Complex, 86 Cushendall Road, Ballymena, County Antrim, BT43 6HB.

"It's a doable, educational place to visit."

"It was good to be able to see the shape of the site. It was very clear."

"The information panels were interesting although the writing was not as accessible as it could be."







The demesne at Downhill was owned by the Earl of Bristol and Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry, Frederick Hervey (1730-1803). The estate was developed throughout the 1770s and 1780s, with the house itself completed around 1776. The house was requisitioned and occupied by the R.A.F. from 1941-1945 after which it fell into disrepair and the roof was removed in 1949.

The iconic folly known as Mussenden Temple was built in 1783 in honour of the Earl Bishop's beautiful niece Frideswide Mussenden. Used as a library and a retreat, it is said that Hervey allowed Roman Catholic masses to be held in the crypt below it. Other features of the demesne include a walled garden, dovecote and ice house, a summerhouse and a mausoleum.

OPEN: Dawn until dusk

ADMISSION: Paid admission March-September (weekends September-October). Free admission November-February (no access to Mussenden Temple)

ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels

MANAGED BY: National Trust

TELEPHONE: 028 7084 8728 **EMAIL:** downhilldemesne@nationaltrust.org.uk **WEB:** www.nationaltrust.org.uk/downhill-demesne-and-hezlett-house



Getting there

Mussenden Road, Castlerock, Co. Londonderry, BT51 4RP

Downhill Desmene is signposted on the A2 Mussenden Road, between Castlerock and Downhill.

The best parking facilities, as well as toilets and a coffee stand are located at the Lion's gate entrance.

Downhill House is at the top of a moderate slope. Access to the house from the Lion's Gate is via a well maintained, but uneven gravel path. Most paths across the site are grassed, may be slippery when wet, and may not be suitable for wheelchairs. Dog users should be aware that sheep sometimes graze the area.

In exceptional circumstances, special permission can be sought to drive up to the remains of Downhill House.

The house is entered at the top of a small flight of steps. Inside the house, the ground is uneven throughout and rain water can collect in wide puddles in some areas.

There are fourteen steps leading up to the entrance of Mussenden Temple. The folly is open to the public during the summer, but there is no access during the winter months.

The nearest Changing Places (11.8 miles away) are located at the Dunluce Avenue Amenity Toilet Facility, Dunluce Avenue, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DW; and Barry's Amusements,16 Eglinton Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DX.

"A lot more information would be very helpful."

"Be prepared for a lot of walking, some of it over awkward ground."











Coffee Stand





A monastery was said to have been founded at Dungiven in the 7th century by St Neachtain. In the early twelfth century, the present Augustinian priory was built on or near the same spot. The chancel, added to the priory church in the 13th century, houses the restored tomb of an O'Cahan chief dating to the late 1400s.

The site was taken over by Sir Edward Doddington in 1611 who built a bawn – a fortified manor house – next to the church. Although the church was refurbished for Protestant worship, the O'Cahan tomb was left in place. Doddington's house became derelict and was burned down towards the end of the 17th century.

The grounds of Dungiven Priory also include a rag tree and wart well, both still in use.

OPEN: Always open

ADMISSION: Free entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels

MANAGED BY: Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division

TELEPHONE: 028 9082 3207 **EMAIL:** scmenquiries@doeni.gov.uk



Getting there

Priory Lane, Dungiven, Co. Londonderry BT47 4PF

Priory Lane is off the A5 Chapel Road, immediately east of Dungiven town. Parking is possible in Priory Lane. The site is approximately 400 metres down a gravel and concrete path at the end of the lane.

The path from Priory Lane is on a slight slope. It is overgrown in many areas posing numerous trip hazards. Inside the priory grounds, the narrow tarmac path sits at the bottom of an uneven grassed slope. The rag tree and wart well are located to the right, below some low overhanging branches.

The nave of the church is entered via two steps and a low doorway. Within the church, horizontal grave slabs rise a few inches above the gravel ground surface. The chancel of the church is kept locked. Access into the chancel is possible by contacting the site managers.

There are remains of several low walls around the bawn. Off the path, the ground is generally uneven – especially around some of the older graves. Although there are information panels on the site, they are not presented in an accessible format.

The nearest Changing Places (19.3 miles away) are located at Glen Caring Domiciliary Care Office, 62 Ebrington Square, Derry/ Londonderry, Co. Londonderry, BT47 6FA; and Foyle Arena, 2 Limavady Road, Derry/Londonderry, Co. Londonderry, BT47 6JY.

"The information at the site was limited and inaccessible."

"You could feel the grave stones, which was very good."













Perched on a sea stack above the wild Atlantic, Dunluce Castle was built by the MacQuillans around 1500 and taken over by the McDonnells around 50 years later. The castle was the centre of power for the Gaelic lordship known as 'The Route', which extended between the Rivers Bann and Bush. The small town supporting the castle was attacked and destroyed in 1641, and the castle gradually fell to ruin.

The ruins at the site consist of outer and inner castle wards joined by a wooden bridge. Dunluce was the inspiration for C.S. Lewis' Cair Paravel, the capital of Narnia, and formed the basis of Castle Greyjoy in the HBO series Game of Thrones.

OPEN: 10am-5pm daily (last entry 4.30pm)

ADMISSION: Paid entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Information panels, interpretation centre with video, guided tours available if booked

MANAGED BY: Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division

TELEPHONE: 028 2073 1938 EMAIL: scmenquiries@doeni.gov.uk



Getting there

87 Dunluce Road, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8UY

Dunluce Castle is signposted on the A2 Dunluce Road. It is 3.5 miles from Portrush or 2.8 miles from Bushmills village.

The carpark is quite small and can get very busy – especially in the summer months. There is a moderate slope leading down from the carpark to the castle entrance which continues throughout the outer ward.

Throughout the castle, the ground surfaces change between bitumen paths, well maintained grass, pavestones, and cobbles.

The inner ward is entirely cobbled. There are a number of single steps up to and within buildings. Some doorways have projecting stones and low lintels. The north-east tower has a narrow spiral stairway leading to the first floor with low headroom and a trip step.

There is a lot of signage throughout, however, the text is quite small. Guided tours are available if booked.

The nearest Changing Places (3.5 miles away) are located at the Dunluce Avenue Amenity Toilet Facility, Dunluce Avenue, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DW; and Barry's Amusements, 16 Eglinton Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DX.

"It can be awkward walking – cobbled stone underfoot – uneven steps."

"It was very good – it has a really interesting history."













Step

Garvagh Museum





Garvagh Museum, nestled on the edge of Garvagh forest, is the only accredited community museum in the region and the largest permanently displayed museum collection in the borough. A treasure trove of objects and images from a bygone age. Exhibits range from the Neolithic to the 20th century with a focus on farming and rural life. A truly unique and unforgettable museum experience. Garvagh Museum is run by volunteers and supported by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

OPEN: Open all year round for group visits
ADMISSION: Free admission
ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels, staff available
MANAGED BY: Friends of Garvagh Museum
TELEPHONE: 028 2955 8544 EMAIL: info@garvaghmuseum.com



Getting there

142a Main Street, Garvagh, Co. Londonderry, BT51 5AE

Garvagh Museum is situated on Main Street, 130 metres south of the junction with Limavady Road.

The pathway from the parking area is gravel which may prove difficult for people with wheelchairs or walking aids.

The museum extends over three levels. From the main floor, there is a ramp down to the lower area, and a set of steps with a chairlift leading to the upper floor.

On the main floor, the aisles between displays are wide enough for wheelchair users but there are occasional low objects which may act as trip hazards.

Many of the information labels are within cases with poor lighting making the text hard to access for partially sighted visitors Guided tours, when offered, greatly enhance the experience.

The nearest Changing Places (18 miles away) are located at the Dunluce Avenue Amenity Toilet Facility, Dunluce Avenue, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DW; and Barry's Amusements, 16 Eglinton Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DX.

"Good selection of items but limitations on how much you can actually access."

"It brought back some good memories, but you would certainly need a sighted companion."











Formed by volcanic eruptions over 50 million years ago, the basalt pillars of the Giant's Causeway are one of the premier visitor attractions in Northern Ireland.

The hexagonal stones have caught the imagination of people from the earliest times and a number of legends have grown around them. The most famous story explains how the site was formed and stars the Ulster giant, Fionn MacCumhaill (Finn McCool), his clever wife Oona, and the Scottish giant Benandonner. Many of the rock formations are named after events in the legends, such as the Giant's Boot, the Giant's Granny and the Giant's Organ.

OPEN: 9am – dusk daily

ADMISSION: Access to the stones is free, but paid admission is required to access the visitor centre and on-site parking

ONSITE INFORMATION: Information panels and audio and video displays available in the visitor centre. Audio guides for the stones are also available at the visitor centre

MANAGED BY: National Trust

TELEPHONE: 028 2073 1855 **EMAIL:** giantscausewaytic@nationaltrust.org.uk **WEB:** www.nationaltrust.org.uk/giants-causeway



Getting there

Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, 44 Causeway Rd, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8SU

Between March and October, a regular park and ride service is available from Dunderave Road, Bushmills.

The visitor centre has a range of interactives with tactile, audio and/ or video aspects and there is enough space around the displays to allow wheelchair users to access all areas easily.

Audio guides for the stones themselves are available from a kiosk as you leave the visitor centre. There is a pickup point for a minibus immediately outside for those who do not wish to walk the 0.7 miles to the stones. The bus may also be caught back up to the visitor centre from the stones. The bus must be paid for separately, but SmartPass users can ride for free.

The paths are well maintained around the site and suitable for wheelchairs and mobility aids. Off the paths, the ground is uneven and the rocks may be slippery when wet. There are National Trust wardens posted at the rocks if further assistance is required.

There is a Changing Places facility located in the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre.

"Looking at the formations, it seems impossible that they formed naturally. It really is a wonder!"

"The lighting in the interpretive centre wasn't great – especially on the walls."









Changing Place







Located within the beautiful surroundings of Roe Valley Country Park, Green Lane Museum gives visitors the opportunity to explore 19th and 20th century history relating to rural life in the Roe Valley including farming, local trades and the linen industry.

Various temporary exhibitions are displayed throughout the season and craft demonstrations take place at selected times.

OPEN: Easter weekend: 1pm–4.45pm. **April–May:** Saturday & Sunday 1pm–4.45pm. **June–August:** Daily 1pm–4.45pm. **September:** Saturday & Sunday 1pm–4.45pm. **October–December:** Closed for winter

ADMISSION: Free entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels, staff available

MANAGED BY: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services

TELEPHONE: 028 2766 0230 **EMAIL:** cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk



Getting there

41 Dogleap Road, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 9NN

Roe Valley Country Park is less than 5 miles by road from Limavady. The main car park is situated between the Visitor Centre and Green Lane Museum on the west side of the river and is accessed from Dogleap Road.

Green Lane Museum is approached up a prolonged gradient which may prove difficult for wheelchair users and those with walking aids. A ramp provides entry into the building; there are no stairs.

It can be quite dark inside with little accessible signage. A museum attendant is always on site and it may be possible to touch some of the exhibits if permission is sought.

The nearest Changing Places (21.7 miles away) are located at Glen Caring Domiciliary Care Office, 62 Ebrington Square, Derry/ Londonderry, Co. Londonderry, BT47 6FA; and Foyle Arena, 2 Limavady Road, Derry/Londonderry, Co. Londonderry, BT47 6JY.



Free Parking

"It was interesting and it's on your doorstep."

"The museum was poorly lit and largely inaccessible – it would have been problematic without a sighted guide."



Hezlett HouseGetting Around
 $\star \star \div \div \div$ Onsite Information
 $\star \star \star \star \div \div$



Originally built around 1690, this traditional thatched cottage is one of the oldest traditionally built structures in Ulster. It was home to the Hezlett family for 200 years from 1766, and its history is told through their personal stories.

Hezlett House also houses the remains of Greek and Roman marble statues which were recovered from the ruins of Downhill House.

OPEN: March: Saturday-Sunday 10am – 5pm. **April – mid-September:** daily 10am – 5pm. **Late September:** Saturday-Sunday 10am – 5pm. Open Bank Holiday Mondays and other public holidays in Northern Ireland

ADMISSION: Paid admission

ONSITE INFORMATION: Guided tours available, paper guides available

MANAGED BY: National Trust

TELEPHONE: 028 7084 8728 **EMAIL:** downhilldemesne@nationaltrust.org.uk **WEB:** www.nationaltrust.org.uk/downhill-demesne-and-hezlett-house



Getting there

107 Sea Road, Castlerock, Co. Londonderry, BT51 4TW

Hezlett House is on the corner of Sea Road and the A2 Mussenden Road in Castlerock. The carpark is accessed off Mussenden Road and is well signposted.

Access into Hezlett House was via a narrow path, just wide enough for one wheelchair. However, the house itself is accessed via a step which is not wheelchair friendly.

Given the nature and age of the house some of the rooms are quite small and therefore large groups may have to be split up. Upstairs, the roof is very low.

The stairs in the house are very narrow and dark and some lack backs and handrails. Participants with limited mobility and/or visual impairments may struggle with this aspect should they wish to access the upstairs area.

There was some signage outdoors to indicate the use of the various out buildings.

The nearest Changing Places (15.2 miles away) are located at the Dunluce Avenue Amenity Toilet Facility, Dunluce Avenue, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DW; and Barry's Amusements, 16 Eglinton Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DX.

"Hezlett House provides a snapshot back in time. It's very interesting."

"Beware of the historical ergonomics – low ceilings and difficult stairs."









Available





The Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre is home to Limavady Museum where visitors can explore different aspects of the history of Limavady and the local area through a programme of temporary exhibitions. An appointment can be made with Museum Services to explore other parts of the accredited collection.

OPEN: Monday – Saturday: 9.30am-5pm

ADMISSION: Free entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Information panels, staff available

MANAGED BY: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services

TELEPHONE: 028 7776 0650 EMAIL: cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk



Getting there

Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre Ionad Ealaíon agus Cultúir Ghleann na Ró 24 Main Street, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 0FJ

There is limited on street parking in front of the RVACC. Paid parking is available at the Connell Street Carpark 250 metres away.

Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre has been built with accessibility in mind. All floors are level with ramp access from outside. Doors between major areas are wide and automatic. There are accessible toilets and a lift to the upper floor.

Limavady Museum exhibitions are found in the Ritter Gallery. Facilitated visits are available if booked in advance.

The nearest Changing Places (16.1 miles away) are located at Glen Caring Domiciliary Care Office, 62 Ebrington Square, Derry/ Londonderry, Co. Londonderry, BT47 6FA; and Foyle Arena, 2 Limavady Road, Derry/Londonderry, Co. Londonderry, BT47 6JY.







Stairs



"This is great!"

"Very good accessibility."





Keeping watch over the mouth of Lough Foyle, the Martello tower at Magilligan was built between 1812 and 1817, originally as part of the Ireland's coastal defences against invasion from Napoleonic France.

Based on a Corsican design, the circular sandstone tower has walls nine feet thick and originally housed a single 24 pounder gun on a rotating carriage, enabling it to fire in all directions. Within the tower were rooms and stores for a garrison of around 12 men.

OPEN: Only open on select days each year, including European Heritage Open Days

ADMISSION: Free entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels, guided tours when open

MANAGED BY: Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division

TELEPHONE: 028 9082 3207 **EMAIL:** scmenquiries@doeni.gov.uk



Getting there

Magilligan Point, Point Road, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 0LP

Continue along Point Road past the Greencastle ferry terminal. The road narrows and passes the Martello tower before terminating in a grassed area for parking. The site is 16.2 miles from Coleraine, and 11.9 miles from Limavady.
The grass surface of the parking area is uneven, and the path to the tower and around it's base is uneven, with multiple dips, large embedded stones, concrete pads and grass tufts.

Access into the tower is via a narrow set of stairs which have a railing on both sides. Lighting inside is generally poor with little contrast between floors and walls. Floors are slightly uneven, with occasional raised ledges and metal grates.

A set of spiral stairs links the main accommodation room to the other accessible areas. There are 14 steps down to the store room and magazine, or 20 steps up to the guard room and battlements. The ceiling in the stairs, and when leaving the guard room has a low clearance.

Up on the battlements, there is a shallow gutter running around the perimeter, and remains of occasional metal fixtures poking through the floor.

The nearest Changing Places (23.8 miles away) are located at the Dunluce Avenue Amenity Toilet Facility, Dunluce Avenue, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DW; and Barry's Amusements, 16 Eglinton Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DX.



"Encourage people to go to the top of the tower. The spiral stairs are worth the effort – it's part of the experience."





Uneven Surfaces

Free Parking

Mountsandel Getting Around ★★★☆☆ Onsite Information ★☆☆☆☆



Mountsandel, above the east bank of the River Bann, is the site of the earliest known settlement in Ireland, dating back nearly 10,000 years to the Mesolithic period (Middle Stone Age, 7,800 BC).

Between the Mesolithic site and the river rises the large mound or mount which gives the site its name. The mount was used as a fort from the Late Bronze Age (900-300 BC) if not earlier. It was converted into a motte by the Normans in the 13th century and re-used as an artillery emplacement during the 1641 rebellion.

OPEN: Always open ADMISSION: Free entry ONSITE INFORMATION: Limited information panels MANAGED BY: Department for Communities: Historic Environment Division TELEPHONE: 028 9082 3207 EMAIL: scmenquiries@doeni.gov.uk



Getting there

Mountsandel Wood, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, BT52 1TW

There are two signposted entrances to Mountsandel Wood from Mountsandel Road. The historic sites are located halfway between the entrances (approximately a 0.5 mile walk), accessed along the upper path. The sites can also be accessed directly from the cul-de-sac of Mountfield Drive.

The Mesolithic site lies in the corner of a privately owned field between Mountfield Drive and the woods. There is a well-used public access path across the field although it can become overgrown at times and the grass can be slippery when wet.

The mound or motte has steep, grassy sides. There are concrete steps built into two sides of the motte, although these do not have hand rails. The top of the motte is an uneven grass surface with almost sheer drops around the sides and a large depression in the centre.

The woods around the motte have well maintained gravel paths with occasional overhanging branches. Although there are very limited information panels on the site, they are not presented in an accessible format.

The nearest Changing Places (7.1 miles away) are located at the Dunluce Avenue Amenity Toilet Facility, Dunluce Avenue, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DW; and Barry's Amusements, 16 Eglinton Street, Portrush, Co. Antrim, BT56 8DX.

"Be informed about the site before visiting. Be prepared for uneven ground."

"It was hard to get to – it was steep and slippery trying to walk to the top but the view was great."











The sprawling Old Bushmills Distillery complex dates its origins back to 1608 when King James I granted the original licence to Sir Thomas Phillips to distil whiskey in the area. The Old Bushmills Distillery was built on the present site in 1784 and has been in continuous operation since 1885.

The Old Bushmills Distillery is a 'grain to glass' distillery where the whiskey is handcrafted in small batches on one site, rather than in different locations. A distinguishing feature of all whiskeys produced in the Old Bushmills Distillery is the incorporation of water drawn from Saint Columb's Rill, a tributary of the River Bush which drains the peaty uplands to the south of the village.

OPEN: Summer times: Monday-Saturday 9.15am–4.45pm, Sunday 12.00pm–4.45pm. **Winter times:** Monday-Saturday 10.00am– 4.45pm, Sunday 12.00pm–4.45pm

ADMISSION: Paid Entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Guided tour

MANAGED BY: Jose Cuervo/Proximo Spirits

TELEPHONE: 028 2073 3218 **EMAIL:** visitors.bushmills@bushmills.com **WEB:** www.bushmills.com/distillery



Getting there

2 Distillery Rd, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8XH

The Old Bushmills Distillery is on the main street in Bushmills.

Access to the working distillery is only available as a guided tour lasting about an hour. The tour is not suitable for children under 8 years old.

There is plentiful parking only a very short walk from the distillery's visitor entrance. The visitor centre at the start of the tour is quite dark and contains a number of low contrast features.

Light levels vary dramatically across the different areas of the site during the tour. There are approximately 127 steps and, while these all have hand railings, the railings are generally low contrast. The tour route repeatedly passes through narrow access points, and there are metal gratings in the flooring around the solid path at multiple points which may be a concern for guide dog users. The tour is not suitable for wheelchairs.

Noise levels in several areas, especially the bottling plant, can be very loud. This can make it difficult to hear the tour guide in some locations and can be both distracting and disorientating.

As a working factory, it was quite hot in some areas and some visitors might find it a little claustrophobic at times.

The nearest Changing Places facility (2.4 miles away) is located at the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, 44 Causeway Rd, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8SU.

"Getting around the site was easy, even with sight loss."



P Free Parking





W Cafe



Stairs



Loud Noise



Ireland's only upside-down lighthouse, Rathlin Island's West Light was built between 1912 and 1917; lighthouse keepers lived at the site until it was automated in 1983. The situation of the light, at the bottom of the house, but still 180 feet above sea level, is said to put it above the height of sea fog, but below the level of the low cloud which can gather at the cliff top.

The lighthouse is now part of Northern Ireland's largest seabird colony and is a great place to view guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes, fulmars and puffins, as well as dolphins, seals and hares.

OPEN: March, April, September: Daily 11am – 4pm. **May – August:** Daily 10am – 5pm

ADMISSION: Paid entry, free to RSPB members.

ONSITE INFORMATION: Interpretation centre with video, staff and volunteers available to assist with seabird viewing and lighthouse information.

MANAGED BY: RSPB

TELEPHONE: 028 2076 0062 **EMAIL:** hazel.watson@rspb.org.uk **WEB:** www.rspb.org.uk/rathlinisland



Getting there

RSPB, Rathlin Island West Light, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, BT54 6SB

Ferries to Rathlin depart regularly from Ballycastle Marina. The express ferry takes 25 minutes to make the crossing, the larger ferry takes 45 minutes. Contact Rathlin Island ferries (028 2076 9299) for booking information.

Private mini-buses meet passengers coming off the ferry on Rathlin and will take them the 4 miles up to the West Light. The bus trip takes around 20 minutes each way. The buses are not wheelchair accessible.

The entrance to the West Light is at the top of a cliff and includes an enclosed seating area, accessible toilets and vending machines for refreshments.

From the top of the cliff, the top of the lighthouse and the main viewing platform of the Seabird Centre is accessed by 98 steps down the cliff side. A further 64 steps lead to the bottom floor of the lighthouse. Except for two flights of 36 steps each, all stairways have frequent landings, and all have handrails.

Within the lighthouse, there are some narrow approaches to doorways, and frequent small lips along the base of doors.

The nearest Changing Places facility (13.2 miles away) is located at the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, 44 Causeway Rd, Bushmills, Co. Antrim, BT57 8SU.

"The volunteers were very helpful with information about wildlife and history."

"Be prepared for the weather!"

"Worth going but difficult due to mass amount of steps."















From the site of the medieval O'Cahan castle, to the 18th and 19th century linen mill, the country park combines the natural and industrial heritage of the Roe Valley. Well maintained public paths take visitors along the river through mature woodland, emphasising the wildlife of the park. There is a disabled angler's jetty by the river and a short, specially designed, sensory trail by the Dogleap visitor's centre.

OPEN: The Country Park is always open. **Dogleap Visitor Centre: April-September:** Daily 10am-4pm. **October-March:** Sundays only 1pm-4pm. **Toilets:** April–May, Daily 9am-7pm. **June – Mid-September:** daily 9am-9pm. **Late September–March:** daily 9am-4.30pm

ADMISSION: Free entry

ONSITE INFORMATION: Visitor centre with staff available, limited information panels

MANAGED BY: Roe Valley Country park is managed by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

TELEPHONE: 028 7772 1925 EMAIL: nieainfo@daera-ni.gov.uk



Getting there

41 Dogleap Road, Limavady, Co. Londonderry, BT49 9NN

Roe Valley Country Park is less than 5 miles by road from Limavady. There are four car parks, all of which are free. The main car park is situated between the Visitor Centre and Green Lane Museum on the west side of the river and is accessed from Dogleap Road.

From the main carpark, the Dogleap Visitor Centre, walking trails, and Green Lane Museum are all well signposted.

The country park runs for approximately 3.5 miles either side of the River Roe. Walking tracks around the park are graded easy, moderate and difficult, and grading is indicated on the visitor information/map leaflet which is freely available from the Dogleap Visitor Centre.

The easy routes consist of well maintained, relatively flat, tarmac paths wide enough for wheelchairs and additional traffic. A sensory trail – designed with visually impaired visitors in mind – takes a loop around a hay meadow near the Dogleap Visitor Centre. There are usually cattle, goats or other livestock in the meadow.

Paths marked as moderate routes are surfaced with gravel. They can be slightly overgrown around edges and feature broad steps to cope with variable inclines. The difficult paths are often unsurfaced and consist principally of uneven steps and steep, winding paths with numerous trip hazards.

The nearest Changing Places (21.7 miles away) are located at Glen Caring Domiciliary Care Office, 62 Ebrington Square, Derry/ Londonderry, Co. Londonderry, BT47 6FA; and Foyle Arena, 2 Limavady Road, Derry/Londonderry, Co. Londonderry, BT47 6JY.

"Outside was a pleasant area to walk around – the information panels could have been more accessible."



Cafe



Staff Available

Accessible Toilets

Map of Sites



Rathlin West Light

Rathlin Island





Digital copies of the Accessible Heritage Guide are also available online:

Booklet: www.niarchive.org/accessibleheritage Audio files: www.niarchive.org/audioheritage

CCGBC Museum Services

Ballymoney Museum, 1 Townhead Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6BE (028) 2766 0230

RNIB Coleraine

37 Abbey St, Coleraine, BT52 1EX (028) 9032 9373

Glenshane Care Association

Unit 4, Glenshane Business Park, 50 Legavallon Road, Dungiven, BT47 4QL (028) 7774 2948