

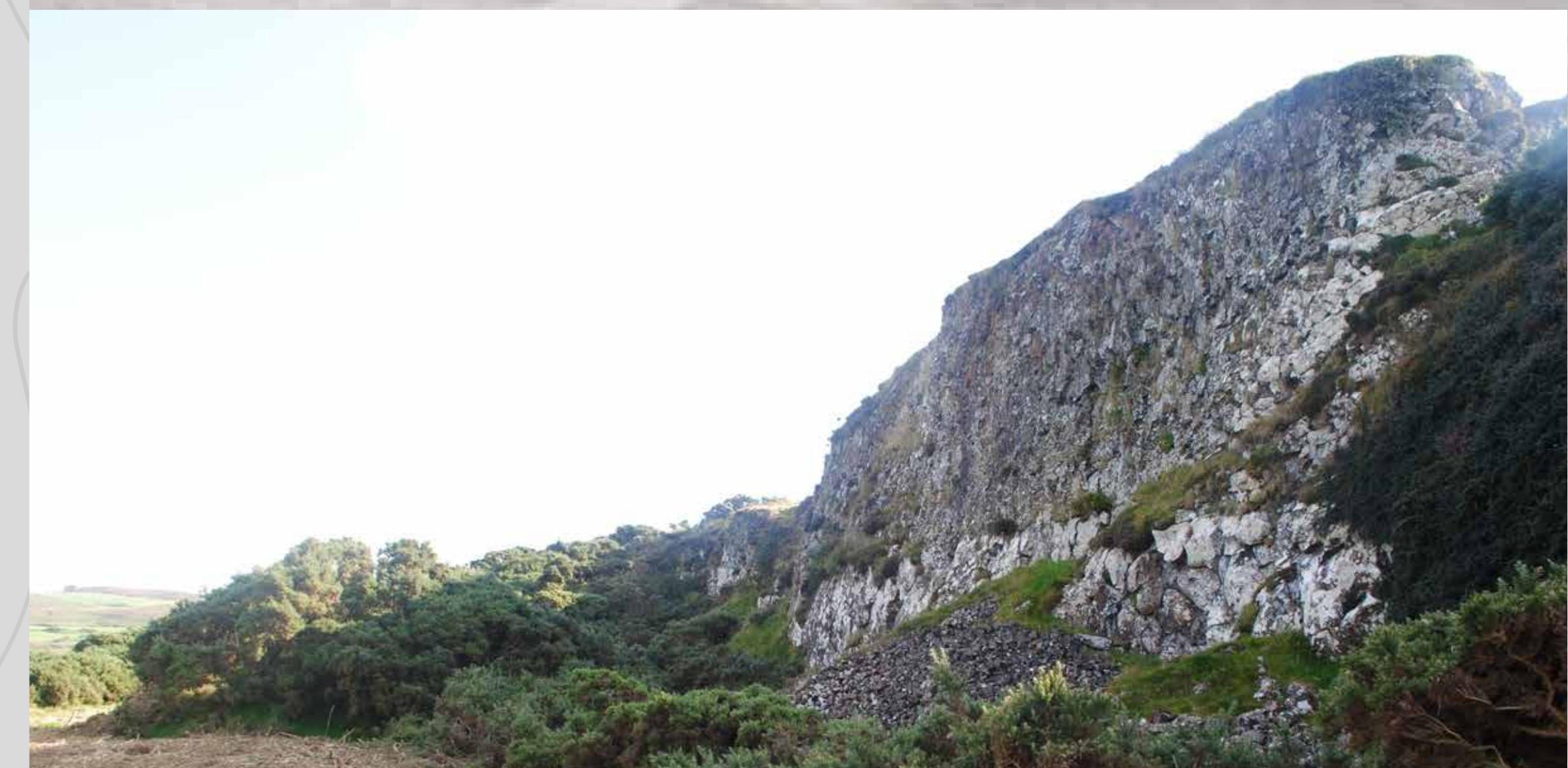
# Industries past and present

Industry has helped to shape both the landscape and the people of the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for thousands of years. How people have made their living and survived along the coast has changed over the generations, but evidence of our industrial heritage can still be seen.

## QUARRIES AND KILNS

People have used local stone for thousands of years. White limestone is a significant resource which was quarried along the coast at sites such as Larrybane. Massive Lime Kilns, like the one in Ballintoy Harbour, were used to burn the quarried limestone which was sent inland for farmers to neutralise their acidic bogland soil. The horses that transported this rock had a hard steep climb, pulling the carts of lime over 150 metres from sea level to higher ground. This burnt lime was also used in the construction of many local buildings.

Limestone was not the only stone quarried in the area. A basalt quarry at Ballintoy was worked by Welsh miners in the 19th century. It is said locally that the stone sets from this quarry were exported to Scotland and England for paving.



Top: Lime Kilns at Ballintoy Harbour  
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Bottom: Basalt quarry, Ballintoy Demesne.

## KELP KILNS

Kelp (seaweed) is found in abundance off the shores of the Causeway Coast. It was often burned in 'kelp kilns' to extract iodine which was then sold for high prices. The kelp would have been gathered and dried for a few days on the shore's edge before burning. Coal was placed in the base of a kiln with kelp laid on top; this was then burnt until all the kelp was turned to ash. Although no longer in use, the remains of kelp kilns (such as this one pictured from Dunseverick) can still be found dotted around the coast.



## BUSHMILLS DISTILLERY

Distilleries have been recorded in the Causeway Coast area since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The famous Bushmills Distillery was first granted a royal licence to distil in 1608, making it the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world. Bushmills Distillery uses water from the old Saint Columbs Rill, a tributary of the River Bush. The Distillery remains an important source of industry and employment, where family, friends and neighbours have been working side by side for generations.



Bushmills Distillery and a local cooper are pictured, early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Sam Henry Collection, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

## CROPS AND CATTLE

Agriculture has been an important industry in the Causeway Coast AONB for many years and the landscape in the area serves as a reminder of this. Lazy beds, like the ones at Lannimore Hill, Ballintoy Demesne were used in arable farming. They were made up of rigs and trenches run parallel to each other and hand dug by spades with narrow drainage trenches between them. These beds reduced labour time and gave more of a crop yield per acre whilst also remaining drier because of their raised level which also offered some protection from the frost.



Sheep Farming was first introduced to the area by local landlords during the era of improvement 1897-1970. This shepherd's bothy at Ballintoy Demesne serves as a reminder of this.