

The Causeway Coast, a special landscape

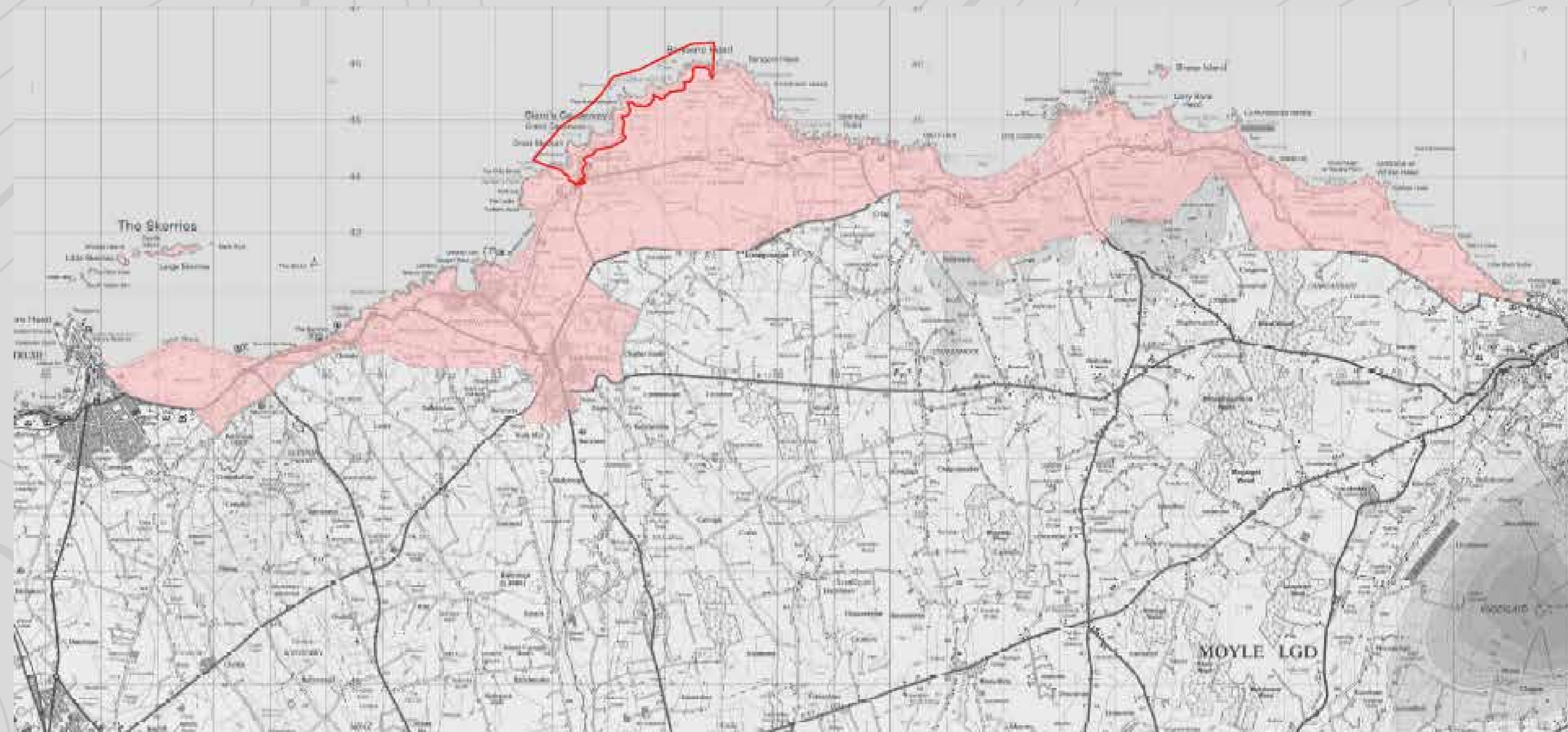
The Causeway Coast is a landscape of extraordinary beauty and a rich natural heritage. This special landscape is highly designated, and includes a World Heritage Site, National Nature Reserve, Areas of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation.

Additionally, the area is encompassed by the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The AONB extends for 30km along the coast, from the outskirts of Portrush in the west to just outside Ballycastle in the east: it includes the villages of Bushmills, Portballintrae, Lisnagunogue and Ballintoy.

WHAT ARE AONBs?

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is an exceptional landscape of special character and national significance. Such landscapes are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to take actions to safeguard their natural, built and cultural heritage via designation. AONBs in Northern Ireland are designated under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (NI) 1985. Under this legislation the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) may make proposals for:

- (a) conserving or enhancing the natural beauty or amenities of that area;
- (b) conserving wildlife, historic objects or natural phenomena within it;
- (c) promoting its enjoyment by the public;
- (d) providing or maintaining public access to it.



A map of the Causeway Coast AONB (in pink). The area highlighted in red is the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast UNESCO World Heritage Site.

'magnificent coast scenery, ruined castles, abbeys, and burial grounds, cromlechs, druidical circles, lake dwellings and underground caves, treasures from prehistoric times...'

From a traveller's account of the Causeway Coast in the later 19th century. Submitted by Roger Perrit.



GIANT'S CAUSEWAY AND CAUSEWAY COAST UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE



The Giant's Causeway is Northern Ireland's only World Heritage Site. It was inscribed in 1986 in recognition of the Site's exceptional geology, geomorphology and its importance to the history of scientific study. The Giant's Causeway demonstrates Outstanding Universal Value which means its significance is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and is of common importance for present and future generations across the world.

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS HERITAGE TRUST



'Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) is funded by DAERA and local councils to support the delivery of AONB and World Heritage Site Action Plans, delivering projects and activities that help to promote and conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage of these designations. CCGHT also act as secretariat for three AONB Management Forums and the World Heritage Site Steering Group.

