

# Buildings nestled in a landscape

An important aspect of the heritage of the Causeway Coast includes the buildings, big and small, grand and humble, that dot this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Schools, churches, shops and homes (past and present) reflect the needs, culture and histories of the communities that built them.



## HOMESTEADS

Many may have noticed the ruins of small homes from days gone by along the Causeway Coast, where families once lived and worked. Often the stories and connections for these homesteads are lost but this is not always the case.

The building pictured is what remains of the McSheffery homestead at Craginashoke, Whitepark Road. This was the home of Hugh and Jane McSheffery from 1924 to 1935. Jane was the great aunt of family history researcher Séan T. Traynor who kindly submitted this information to the Uncharted Histories project. Like many other surviving but derelict homesteads in the area, this building is now used agriculturally as a grain store.



A technical drawing of the Causeway Memorial School (exterior), Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, 1914. RIBA Collections.

## SCHOOLS

The Causeway Memorial School was built in 1915 in memory of Lord Macnaghten of Runkerry, replacing the nearby old Causeway School (now The Nook restaurant). The school building was designed by eminent architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, who is famous for building the unique village of Portmeirion, Wales. The Causeway School was closed in 1962 and later became a Museum

visited by many schoolchildren in the Causeway Coast and Glens area until 2013. In 2019 the School was transferred into the ownership of the National Trust for restoration. However, most schools in the area were not as grand. This photo shows the old school at Lochaber, Lissersluss, with the modest building now being used for agricultural purposes.



## WHITE PARK BAY COLLEGE

This little ruin is all that remains of what was once the most famous school in Ireland. In the late 1700s, gentlemen sent their sons to White Park Bay College and its most famous pupil was Robert Stewart, Lord Castlereagh, the British Foreign Secretary during the Napoleonic wars.



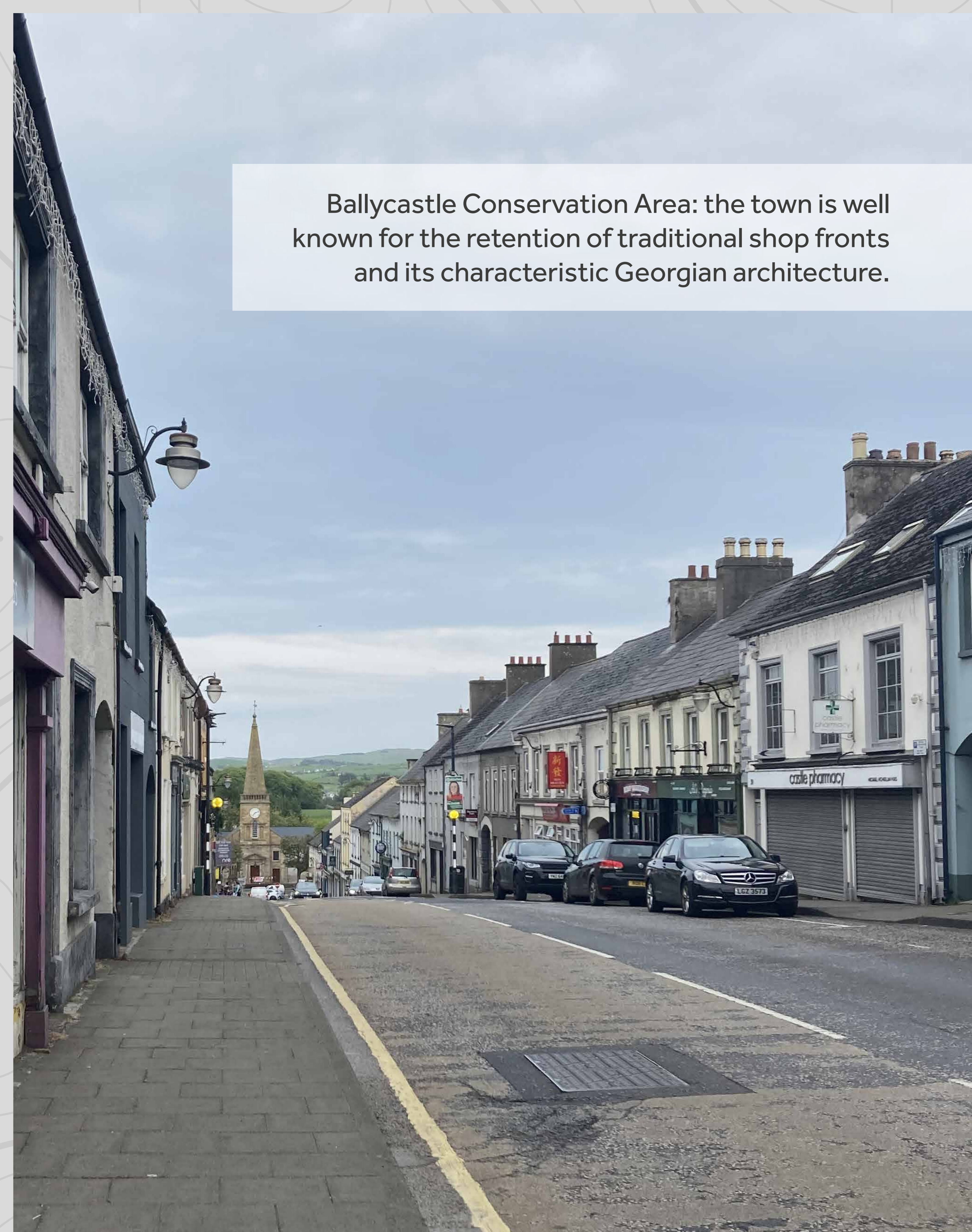
Image: Art Ward





## CONSERVATION AREAS

Conservation Areas, such as Bushmills and Ballycastle, are designated areas of special architectural or historic interest. This designation aims to preserve the character of such special areas, introducing controls on the demolition of unlisted buildings, protecting trees, original features and prohibiting inappropriate development.



## BALLINTOY PARISH CHURCH

Ballintoy Parish Church is arguably the most painted and photographed church in Northern Ireland. There has been a church on this site since the early 17th century, but the present building was erected in 1813 during the incumbency of the Rev. Robert Trill. The new church consisted of a tower (which may have formed part of the previous church building) with a slated spire made from wood and plaster, topped with a weathervane. Unfortunately, the spire was blown away, together with part of the church's roof, in a gale early on the morning of Saturday 22nd December 1894. The roof was repaired, but sadly the spire was not rebuilt. Nonetheless, the church remains an iconic landmark on the Causeway Coast.



## BALLINTOY CHURCH RESTORATION PROJECT PROTECTING BUILT HERITAGE

Restoration work has recently been completed to the church's tower (constructed c.1733), replacing sections of the roof timbers and installing new lead work. Also, sections of the exterior render were repaired to prevent water ingress. The next stage of the project will look at extending similar internal and external repairs to the remainder of the church building to improve its condition now and into the future. The project committee also hopes to develop the Sexton's house to provide a suitable area for welcoming visitors to share the heritage of the church.

Reverend Patrick Barton of Ballintoy Parish Church said 'This Restoration Project aims to preserve this iconic church and share our rich history with visitors and the wider community'.

