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1. Summary

During August 2014 a Historic Area Assessment (HAA) was undertaken to inform the development of a new Village Plan for Killough, Co. Down.

The area of investigation encompasses 3071 hectares of land in the Barony of Lecale, on the Irish Sea coast of East Down. The study area is defined by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency’s Killough Super Output Area 1 with a population of 1781 (2011).

The majority of the study area is rural, agricultural land with a rugged coastal landscape to the south and east. The village of Killough and the hamlet of Rossglass are the largest settlements in the study area and both are located along the coast.

Killough developed as a busy port and industrial centre by exporting the crops produced in the surrounding fields. The village grew from a ‘place of no consequence’ (Magee, 1991: 72) in the 17th century, to an industrial centre within a few decades. Enabled by its advantageous geographical location and productive landscape, the people of Killough manufactured linen, bricks, lime and salt. The area exported cattle, imported coal and saw considerable activity within the fishing industry. For nearly 200 years the area thrived. Following decline in the 19th and 20th centuries, Killough is no longer engaged in such extensive industrial activities and has become a dormitory village for workers in larger employment areas such as Downpatrick and Belfast.

The industrial and agricultural heritage of the area can be seen throughout and has remained largely intact despite some neglect. The harbour and pier within the village remain the most prominent reminder of the past, the latter of which continues to be widely used by the local community for recreation. Remnants of the windmills and grain stores, which once drove the local economy can also be observed, although some have struggled to find new uses. The dwellings that once housed the workers and merchants of Killough have survived with the most integrity and help to inform the unique character of the village.

Killough and the surrounding area has several statutory designations to assist with the protection of its built and natural assets. The village has a Conservation Area covering its historic core to preserve and enhance its character and appearance. Killough Bay is a Special Protection Area (SPA), a European designation that recognises the international importance of the wintering flock of Light-bellied Brent Geese. Both the Bay and adjoining Strand Lough are included within a wider Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). Strand Lough is considered to be Northern Ireland’s most important brackish lagoon. A second European designation recognises the importance of Ballycam fen situated between Killough and Rossglass, which is one of the Lecale Fens with Special Area of Conservation (SAC) status.

What emerges from the Historic Area Assessment is that Killough is a village with a unique character and a significant industrial heritage set within a productive and beautiful landscape. The historic environment could be further nurtured to improve what the village can offer.
2. Purpose of Study

2.1 Project Background and Aims
The development of a Village Plan for Killough necessitated the production of an Historic Area Assessment to provide a comprehensive account of the existing historic fabric and its contribution to the current character of the area. As well as increasing understanding of the development of Killough and its historical significance, it has allowed the exploration of areas of heritage opportunity and makes recommendations on how new developments can integrate and enhance existing heritage. It is hoped that by highlighting significant, sensitive and designated areas, future schemes will take note, ensuring the survival of the special character of the area.

2.2 Approach + Methods
This assessment follows the rapid assessment method from the English Heritage document ‘Understanding Place’ and consists of three main phases of work: historical research, fieldwork and report preparation.

2.2.1 Historical Research
An overview of the area, its development and the historic structures which exist or previously existed within the village was gained through research focused on NIEA's listed building, scheduled monument and industrial heritage information, early maps, photographs, published histories and some unpublished sources.

2.2.2 Fieldwork
Fieldwork was used to further explore sites identified through historical research and to identify additional ones. Through this it was possible to establish the integrity of a site or building and information could be gathered about the character and present day context. A general visual assessment of the village was carried out looking at the impact of modern developments and alterations, important views were identified as well as spaces valued by the local community.

2.2.3 Community Involvement
In order to gain an insight into the heritage assets that the local community value and would like to see developed, various events were held throughout the summer. These events aimed to get both young and old involved and included a community mapping morning and a youth summer scheme.

2.3 Report Structure
Following this introductory section the HAA is structured as followed:

Section 3
Super Output Area Analysis – Exploration of the context, significance and history of the Super Output Area.

Section 4
Character Area Analysis – Introduction to each character area, historical development of the area, current features, designations and areas or buildings of significance.

Section 5
Area Wide Opportunities - Summary of heritage assets in the Super Output Area that should be protected or considered for reuse.

Section 6
Conclusion
2.4 Introduction to principles of English Heritage Historic Area Assessment

Historic Area Assessment (HAA) is a tool for developing an understanding of the historic environment and evaluating how the past has influenced a landscape’s present form (English Heritage, 2010: 2). It encourages the identification of significant historic buildings, structures and character areas. The evidence it provides can form the basis of plans at both local and strategic levels and draws attention to areas where regeneration may be appropriate, identifying significant elements of the historic landscape to guide and inform the management of change (English Heritage, 2010: 4).

A rapid assessment has been carried out to inform this report and will:

- Narrate the origins and evolution of the area, identifying the main drivers of change.
- Identify the range of landscape and building types, their dates and forms and relate them to the wider evolution of the area.
- Offer a summation of the historic environment.
- Distinguish, where appropriate, a series of character areas and describe and explain the origins of their distinctive characteristics.
- Identify areas, if any, that merit more detailed assessment.

(English Heritage, 2010: 17)
3. Area Wide Analysis

3.1 Study area
Super Output Study Area
3.2 Geographical Setting

The study area within this HAA is located in County Down between Downpatrick to the north and the Irish Sea coast to the south. Much of the study area is extensively farmed fertile land where oats, wheat and barley are grown. To the south-east lies the largest settlement in the Super Output Area – Killough – which is classified as a small village or hamlet by NISRA (2011). The village is located five miles south-east of the administrative centre of Downpatrick, in the Parish of Bright. Killough sits on the Irish Sea coast across the bay from the hamlet of Coney Island, a collection of houses with a pier built at the same time as Killough’s, to enclose the harbour. The combination of quality farmland, the sea and the connections it affords would become the main source of wealth for the village in the 18th and 19th centuries. The hamlet of Rossglass on the southwest coast of the study area is the second largest settlement of note. Located overlooking Dundrum Bay, residents of Rossglass throughout history have engaged in farming. Remnants of this tradition can be seen along the shoreline where abandoned pig crews remain in a state of decay. Killough village is the main service centre in the area for the surrounding rural hamlets. To the south sits the rocky headland of St John’s Point with its lighthouse ensuring seafaring trade could safely reach the harbour. Two miles around the coast to the north of Killough village sits the now larger harbour town of Ardglass.
3.3 Significance of Area

3.3.1 Historical Significance
The location of the village of Killough, with the coast to the east and productive agricultural land to the west, resulted in a wide range of industrial activities being conducted in a relatively small area and the rapid expansion of the village in a short space of time. The merchants of the village traded within Ireland, to the UK, to Europe and Scandinavia. Crops were exported to Comber for processing into flour and salt was imported and refined before being traded to Belfast, Lisburn, Lurgan, Dromore and Dundalk (The Palatine Trust, 2000).

Killough was thought of as a ‘safe harbour’ (Madill, Manley, McCormick + Walsh, 2000: 12) for boats in the 17th century due to its location within a protected estuary. The village would continue to be a sanctuary throughout its history. In 1709, Killough prepared itself to welcome refugees from the Palatinate Province of Germany who were escaping religious persecution. Palatine Square was named in their honour (Madill, Manley, McCormick + Walsh, 2000: 28), though in the end they never arrived.

During World War II, evacuees from Belfast were offered a temporary home in Killough. The agricultural nature of the area ensured rationing and food shortages were avoided. More recent history has seen a further influx of Belfast residents finding a home in Killough as they escaped the disruption of ‘the Troubles’. The Kinder House on Castle Street was founded with the purpose of giving children affected by the Troubles respite away from the city.

3.3.2 Present Day Significance
The current significance of the area comes from the variety of industrial and agricultural heritage that still exists. Two windmill stumps remain, as do a number of grain stores, pig crews, the harbour, pier, scutch mill and numerous Georgian country houses belonging to the landowning class. The houses built for fishermen, industrial workers and merchants have largely remained intact and the village has retained much of its historic urban fabric, sometimes through long periods of neglect. Within Killough the mechanisms and infrastructure of a 19th century industrial village are still visible and have the potential to be reimagined to continue to serve the community. In 1981 the historic core of the village was designated a Conservation Area in recognition of its special architectural and historical interest (DOE, 1981: Part 1 Pg. 1).

With the decline of the fishing industry in the area, Killough Bay has become a haven for wildlife and a notable habitat consisting of tidal rivers, mud flats, sandy beaches, rocky shores and sand flats.

Killough and the surrounding area has several statutory designations to assist with the protection of its built and natural assets. The Conservation Area covering its historic core, the Special Protection Area (SPA), the Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and Special Area of Conservation status (SAC) are critical to preserving and enhancing the character and biodiversity of the area.

This variety of habitats attracts many species of fresh water and estuary birds, including Light-bellied Brent Geese (DOE, 2010). Killough Bay and Strand Lough are designated Areas of Special Scientific Interest, as is part of the Brickworks site.

To the north-east of the village of Killough lies the Lecale Fens, a habitat designated as a Special Area of Conservation. This wetland area supports diverse and rare vegetation, such as Juncus subnodulosus mire.

Maps illustrating these designations are overleaf.
3.4 Statutory Designations

Statutory Designations
The biodiversity and natural and built environment of Killough and the surrounding hinterland is protected by a number of statutory designations.

1. Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
2. Killough Bay Ramsar Site and Special Protection Area
3. Lecale Fens Special Area of Conservation
4. Killough Bay and Strand Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest
5. St John’s Point Area of Special Scientific Interest
6. Killough Conservation Area
7. Listed buildings and scheduled monuments
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3.5 Historical Summary

The undulating, drumlin topography of Lecale was formed by the disintegration of ice sheets around 10–20 thousand years ago. In 1177 John de Courcy, a Norman Knight, seized Lecale creating a number of manors that were granted to his supporters. During the Norman period the manor of Killough was owned by the Russell family. Following the Irish Rebellion of 1641 their land was confiscated and it was passed to the Duke of York. Bernard Ward had acquired Castle Ward in the 1500s. His son Sir Robert Ward took advantage of the invasion and Act of Settlement to purchase three townlands in the Strangford area extending the estate of Castle Ward and providing it with a harbour at Killough.

Michael Ward acquired Killough in 1671 to develop as the estate village and port for Castle Ward. The name of the village was changed for a time to Port St Anne in tribute to his wife Anne Hamilton. The village developed as a fishing port and by the late 17th century Killough had established a pier and market.

The 18th century saw rapid expansion for trade and agriculture in Killough. The village became an important exporter of grain which led to expansion and development of grain stores, mills and workers’ houses. In the early part of the 18th century, the pier was extended and a salt works established to refine imported salt and sell it on to Belfast. A lime kiln was also built on the pier and a malt house was developed to produce beer. A scutch mill was established on the shorefront to produce linen and an old windmill to the south of the village rebuilt to process local grain into flour.

By 1828 Killough had a population of approximately 1200 people and had developed nine grain stores and two windmills, becoming the largest village and port in Lecale. The population was engaged in the exportation of grain and cattle, importation of coal, fishing and the manufacture of salt. The increased working population necessitated the building of new community facilities. The Wesleyan Methodist Church and St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church were both built in the 1820s. Between 1821–24 a new pier was built under the direction of Scottish engineer Alexander Nimmo. It was hoped that this would help the village retain its competitive edge over a rapidly developing Ardglass which was building its own deep water harbour, but this was not realised. During the 1830s and 1840s a fall in grain prices led to significant unemployment in Killough. Many workers left to seek work in Belfast and by 1851 the population had fallen to approximately 950 people. The repeal of Corn Laws, allowing increased imports from North America largely ended Killough’s grain export industry. The import industry remained strong due to the arrival of the County Down Railway in 1892 which opened up transport connections to Downpatrick, and onwards to Belfast.

The last coal boat left Killough harbour in 1943. The village of Killough is now mainly residential in character with the working population commuting to larger hubs of employment. The surrounding land continues to be cultivated to produce grain although many of the smaller farms have been amalgamated to create more economically viable businesses.

A number of positive community led activities have been delivered in recent years. The conversion of the former Viscount Bangor school to the Youth & Community Hall in 2000 provides a valuable facility for the village and wider hinterland. The restoration and improvement works to the Ropewalk and Lime Kiln in 2004, and subsequent extension in 2014 enhance the village...
character and provide local residents and visitors with a unique walking and cycling route.

In 2013 a locally owned restaurant opened at Castle Street and Duffy’s shop has extended. Important services such as the post office, credit union and pharmacy remain within the village centre, but the local doctor’s surgery is due for closure. St Joseph’s Primary School continues to operate, alongside a nursery facility, Sure Start scheme and an Irish language nursery at the Millfield.
3.6 Timeline of Development

6000 BC
Lecale first settled by ‘hunter – fisher types’ (Donnelly + Donnelly, 1980: 7).

4000-2500 BC
Life in Lecale based on farming following the removal of mixed oak forests from the land.

1177
Norman invasion of Ireland. Sir John de Courcy conquers Lecale creating a series of manors around the coast. These manors are distributed to de Courcy’s principal followers. The Russell family was granted Killough. Native Irish become tenants of the new Norman landowners. (Donnelly + Donnelly, 1980: 16)

1570
Bernard Ward acquires Castle Ward as his family estate.

1671
Michael Ward acquires Killough with the aim of creating a village for the Castle Ward estate and a thriving port and harbour.

1716
St Anne’s Church built.

1724
Salt works opened. Rock salt was imported and refined using sea water from the harbour.

1733
Charter School opened, surrounded by 12 acres of land. The Charter School provided by Michael Ward, aimed to train 20 orphaned children in ‘useful labour’ (Harris, 1744: 17) for linen manufacture, farming and fishing and in the Protestant religion.

1737
Pier rebuilt, moved from nearby site.

1745
Bright Church built.

1760
Castleward House built as the family moved from their fortified tower house on the shores of Strangford Lough.

c.1795
22 Castle Street (subsequently the Parochial House) constructed for the Lascelles family.

1821
Salt works closed.

1823
Windmill at Millfield built to grind grain produced in the surrounding fields.

1824
New harbour and extended pier built by Alexander Nimmo completed.

1826
Wesleyan Methodist Church built.

1828
St Joseph’s Catholic Church built.

1839
Great wind blows spire from St Anne’s church and sails blown from windmill (Madill, Manley, McCormick + Walsh, 2000: 29).

1844
Establishment of St John’s Point Lighthouse. Alteration of St Joseph’s Church.

1850
1886
Shiels Institute built following merchant Charles Shiels’ death.

1875
Lighthouse converted from oil to coal gas, produced by a gas plant within the grounds.

1892
Railway line opened by the Belfast and County Down Railway to connect Downpatrick to Killough and Ardglass.

1893
Lighthouse raised to its present level of 120ft and painted yellow and black.

1900
Cycle track built on Castle Park by Lord Bangor and area also used for cricket and football.

1910
Lighthouse fuelled by incandescent paraffin power.

1913
Brickworks opened.

1943
Last coal boat sailed into and out of Killough harbour.

1950
Railway line closed.

1969
St Joseph’s School built on Main Street.

1970
Down District Council took harbour into public ownership.

1980
Lighthouse electrified.

1981
Village declared a Conservation Area. Lighthouse becomes fully automatic.
4. Character Area Assessment

4.1 Character Area Introduction
The map shows the study area broken down into the four identified character areas. The areas are distinguished from each other through a number of factors that include, period of development, layout, landscape features, urban fabric, building type, materiality and land uses (English Heritage, 2010: 11).

The four character areas identified in the Super Output Area are:

1. St John’s Point Lighthouse & Surroundings
2. Rossglass & Surroundings
3. Northern Agriculture Area
4. Killough Village

The Killough village character area will be explored in more detail in order to inform the Village Plan.

4.2 Character Area Assessments
Each character assessment will begin with a brief introduction to the area and what defines its character. An investigation into the main features of the area will follow. This will analyse the many layers that make up the area and the features that have remained consistent throughout its development, along with more recent additions. The following elements will be explored:

- Land Use
- Built Form
- Materiality and Design
- Green Elements
- Vacant Buildings
- Characteristic Landscapes

4.3 Identifying Significance
Following the initial analysis of each character area, buildings or features of significance will be explored. These include designated buildings but are not limited to those already protected or recognised as being of value. Buildings valued by the local community and / or associated with important historic events may be considered significant. Critical views are also deemed significant and will be defined as positive heritage assets.
4.4 Character Areas
4.5 St John’s Point Lighthouse & Surroundings

4.5.1 Description
Extending from the edge of the village of Killough in the north to St John’s Point in the south, the character of this area is informed by its long stretch of unspoilt rocky coastline and connection to the sea along its eastern and southern boundary. To the west, this character area is made up of agricultural land, with crops grown to the very edge of where the land meets the sea. The area takes its name from St John, son of Cairland. Although little is known about this saint, it has been suggested he may be buried in the area (Ireland’s Holy Wells, 2012). The earliest surviving development in this area is the remains of a 10th century stone church, named after St John.

Key buildings in this character area are associated with the area’s maritime connections in the 18th and 19th centuries. The rocky coastline, with its hidden reefs, was treacherous for boats trying to reach the harbours of Killough and Ardglass and was the scene of many fatal shipwrecks. St John’s Lighthouse, the coastguard station and the lifeboat house all sit within this area, although with the decline in Killough’s sea trade they are not all used for their original purpose.

Today this area is rural and sparsely populated. Historically the northern end, adjacent to the coastguard station was a recreation ground for the people of Killough village and therefore much more integrated than it is today. Castle Park was a green space with a cycle track overlooking the sea where games of football and cricket took place (Madill, Manley, McCormick + Walsh, 2000: 20). This area is now used to grow barley. During WWII the population of St John’s Point also increased as American and English troops were stationed there with their anti-aircraft guns and German prisoners of war.

4.5.2 Significance in Character Area:

Critical View
Below is an example of one of a number of critical views identified within this character area.
Designations:

1. St John’s Well

Listed
Located outside the walls of the ruins of St John’s Church, also known as a ballaun or holy well. The water from this well was thought to have healing properties and consists of a stone edged well, cap stone and small steps. A ballaun stone sits in the grass beside the well and is thought to have been used as a mortar for medicines and dyes (Ireland’s Holy Wells, 2012).

2. St John’s Church

Scheduled
Located on the road to St John’s Lighthouse beside the holy well are the ruins of St John’s Church, built in the 10th or 11th century.

3. Pig Crews, Kilbride

Listed
Stone corbelled pig crews of this type are only found in Lecale and are thought to date from the 1700s. They were used for sows to give birth and to raise piglets and were often a communal facility. They have a square plan with a low door to one side connecting to small outdoor yard.

4. Coastguard Station

Listed
Built in 1872 the whitewashed Killough coastguard station sits on a prominent location overlooking the village to the north and the Irish Sea. The seven bay, two storey, blackstone building with square tower turret is built to the same Board of Works design as many other coastguard stations throughout Ireland (Brett, 1973). The building is no longer used for its original purpose and is now three houses.

5. St John’s Lighthouse

Listed
Located two miles south of Killough, St John’s Lighthouse was built in 1844 by the Dublin Ballast Board following a succession of major losses in the area. Prior to the erection of the lighthouse mariners used the spire of St Anne’s Church to navigate. St John’s Lighthouse was built to 62ft, later extended to 120ft, with a light that can be seen in the Isle of Man and a foghorn (Colmer, 1993: 51). It is now maintained by the Commissioners for Irish Lights and is fully automated.
Positive Heritage Assets:
Structures and/or buildings which do not currently have statutory protection. (i.e they are not listed buildings or scheduled monuments)

1. Former Lifeboat House, Shore Road

A small rubble stone building, with arched doors and brick surrounds sits on the side of the road connecting Killough with the coastguard station. Historically this building housed Killough’s lifeboat. Today is used for processing oysters grown in the bay.
4.6 Rossglass and Surroundings

4.6.1 Description
Rossglass is located on the coast of Dundrum bay between St John’s Point to the south and Tyrella Strand to the north. Views to the west, across the bay, are of the Mourne Mountains. The dominance of the mountain views and the presence of the sea give Rossglass its unique character. Like much of Lecale, the land around Rossglass was extensively farmed. The groups of families who lived in clachans would also communally cultivate their land. Records show that Rossglass once supported both a lifeboat station and school (Davis, 2001). Today, land around Rossglass continues to be farmed, although many of small farms have been merged.

Built Form:
Individual isolated vernacular buildings and associated structures set within farmland. New build housing has followed the pattern of individual buildings. Clachan structure can still be seen along the Rossglass Road South although in a diluted form, this forms the central ‘street’ of settlement in the area.

Land Use:
Traditionally an agricultural area, some modern individual residential properties. The Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church is located on the Rossglass Road South.

Materiality:
Majority of traditional buildings built of rubble stonework with small windows. As with surrounding areas, stonework at farm buildings is left exposed while houses are generally single storey / two storey with pitched slated roofs.

Characteristic Landscape:

View from Rossglass Road.

4.6.2 Significance in Character Area:

Critical View:
Below is an example of one of a number of critical views identified within this character area.

View from Rossglass Road.
Designations:

1. St John’s House, 62 Point Road

Listed
Georgian country house built in the early 19th century to house a local landowning family.

2. Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Church, Rossglass Road South

Listed
Built in 1780 this church replaced an early 1745 building and is the earliest church in the parish of Bright. In 1804 it was remodeled into a T shape with the ability to seat 400 people.

3. Corbelled Pig Crews, Rossglass Road South

Scheduled Monument
Pair of pig crews on the edge of Rossglass beach in a state of dereliction.

Positive Heritage Assets:

1. Vernacular buildings

2. Former Lifeboat House, Rossglass Road
4.7 Northern Agriculture Area

4.7.1 Description
This character area, stretching from Kilough and Rossglass in the south to the outskirts of Downpatrick in the north, can be defined by its natural landscape, expanse of agricultural land and food production. At the end of the ice age, as the ice sheets melted the drumlins, fens and wetlands unique to this area were left behind (Donnelly + Donnelly, 1980: 6). Many of the oldest earthworks and buildings within the study area are also located in this rural landscape, including a number of circular fortified raths dating from 600 – 900AD and the remains of a Norman tower house at Bright. From the earliest human settlements this area of Lecale has been farmed due to its, ‘well drained, light, loamy soils ideal for growing grain’ (Hoare). Initially the land was collectively worked and could be cultivated by anyone from the local community.

Historically the sea had come inland as far as Ballyviggis, and a corn mill and kiln were built to process the local crops for market. Following the decline in sea trade at Kilough this mill closed. In 1913 industry was returned to the area in the form of a brickworks on the Downpatrick Road. Due to major clay deposits, the Brickworks and associated buildings was one of the leading producers of bricks, pipes and tiles in Northern Ireland until the Second World War, and provided much needed employment for the local community. Throughout the later 20th century it opened intermittently and is now closed. There is current use on the site with McNabbs waste disposal / skip hire.

Within the area there are a number of protected natural heritage sites including Strand Lough which is designated an Area of Special Scientific Interest and the Lecale Fens which are designated a Special Area of Conservation.

Built Form:
Development in this area is scattered reflecting agricultural usage. There is a selection of large Georgian country houses mixed with small rural vernacular houses and modern family homes.

Land Use:
Traditionally an agricultural area with many farm buildings. Other significant buildings include Bright Parish Church, the Parish Hall and Golf Club building.

Materiality:
Majority of traditional buildings built of rubble stonework with small windows. As with surrounding areas stonework at farm buildings is left exposed while houses are rendered.

Characteristic Landscape:

View from Strand Lough Bridge

Mixed agriculture with natural and built field boundaries looking west from Ballymote House.

4.7.2 Significance in Character Area
Critical View:
Below is an example of one of a number of critical views identified within this character area.
4.7.2 Significance in Character Area:

Designations:

1. Marlborough House, 64 Killough Road
   Listed 1750

2. Ballywarren House
   Listed 1752

3. Ballymote House
   Listed

4. Grangewalls House
   Listed

5. Pig Crew, Bright
   Listed

6. The Grange Bawn + Farm Complex, Killough Road
   Listed

7. Bright Parish Church
   Listed

8. Motte + Bailey, Coniamstown
   Scheduled Monument

9. Bright Castle, Tower House
   Scheduled

10. Corbelled Pig Crew
    Scheduled

11. Raised Rath, Lisoid
    Scheduled

Positive Heritage Assets:

1. Vernacular buildings

2. Mill Complex, Ballyviggis Land, Downpatrick Road, Killough
   Former corn mill and kiln used to process local grain..

3. Brickwork Ponds & Associated Buildings
   A large site, known as the Brickworks, comprising working buildings (with new use as recycling sheds) and an abandoned pump house / station, owned by NI Water along with two reservoirs, facing the Downpatrick Road. Behind these two reservoirs is an area of water where clay was removed. This is shown to be owned by the National Trust on Ordnance Survey maps. This entire area is a positive heritage asset.
4.8 Killough Village

4.8.1 Description
The character of Killough is dominated by the connection of the village to its coastal border to the east and agricultural border to the west. The need to provide accommodation for workers and storage for goods, necessitated by the growth of fishing and trade, continues to inform the layout and appearance of the village to the present day. Throughout the study area, built reminders of the past can be identified, from former livestock sheds, to grain stores, windmills, fishermen’s cottages and, most prominently, the pier and harbour. In 1981, the historic core of the village was designated a Conservation Area to secure its architectural and historic interest (DOE, 1981: Part 1:1).

Physical Development
The village name Killough comes from the Irish Cill Locha or the ‘Church on the Lough’ (Madill, Manley, McCormick + Walsh, 2000: 9). The name was temporarily changed to Port St Anne, by Michael Ward who developed the area in the late 1600s. Before Ward’s intervention the village was of ‘little or no consequence’ (Magee, 1991: 72), but Ward wished to establish an estate village for Castle Ward and endeavoured to create a thriving fishing port and harbour.

A straight road connected the village to the Castle Ward estate. Judge Ward developed a road from Castleward to Killough and the Bridge of Killough around 1710 (Talk of the Ten Towns, by Francis Chambers).

With an increase in crop production, exportation, and industry in the late 18th century, the village rapidly expanded to meet the needs of its growing population. A linear plan, following the curve of the coastline, developed in the early 19th century and the village assumed the form that has survived to the present day. 20th and 21st century development in Killough has been focused on the provision of housing, a trend that can be seen throughout the study area. New estates have been built to the west of the village on former agricultural land and to the rear of the main streets.
By the 1820s the village of Killough had substantially developed and acquired its present, recognisable form. A central square, broad main street and two wings of cottages facing the sea going north and south. The village was at the peak of its industrial success. Industrial buildings and grain stores interspersed the continuous terrace of housing and a lime kiln had been built on the pier.
By the 1830s Killough had 2 windmills and 9 grain stores, the pier had just been extended and improved by Alexander Nimmo.
1922
The Brickworks opened in 1913. The coal boats left Killough by the mid 1900s and the railway closed in 1950.
1965

By the 1960s Killough was becoming a dormitory village for Downpatrick and Belfast, therefore development in the town focused on the provision of housing. This development occurred in the backland area off School Road. It did not follow the traditional terrace form of early development.
Present day
Killough village is no longer a place of industry or trade. Some former industrial buildings have been converted to alternative uses. Duffys, the main shop in the village was a former grain store. Others, such as the former grain store at Quay Lane, have fallen into disrepair. There has been further westward expansion of the village with new housing developments.
Building use
Predominantly residential in nature with a varied selection of community facilities including a primary school, pre-school nursery, clinic, youth and community hall and two churches.
Key Outdoor Spaces

- Green space
- Beach
**Built form**

The tight linear terrace form of Killough's historic centre, running north/south, contrasts sharply with the more recent westward housing estate developments which have opted for detached or semi detached forms.

The Killough Conservation Area handbook, March 1981, draws specific attention to the plan form of the village, in Part 3 Brief for Developers, stating ‘the plan of Killough is that of a broad main street Castle Street flanked on both sides with two wings of cottages stretching along the coast.’ It goes on to say that ‘Generally, new development should respect the principle of near continuous street frontage abutting the pavement.’

In terms of scale, the buildings along Castle Street are mostly two storey with some of three storeys. Along Main Street and Fishermans Row the cottages are mostly single storey. In ‘House Plans in four Villages in County Down’, by John Hendry he notes that the plan form of the single storey ‘one room wide’ houses in Main Street are a typology that is significant in Killough, occurring less frequently in other villages studied.

**Materiality + Design**

Within the character area the range of materials used is limited to rubble stone walls with some brick detailing. It is in the external treatment of the stonework that different building types can be distinguished. The walls of houses are lime or cement rendered. The stonework of grain and potato stores and agricultural buildings used for housing of animals was left exposed. Within the village small windows can be seen on both industrial buildings and on the earliest houses. As industry and trade brought large numbers of workers to the village cottages were built facing the sea along Main Street and Fisherman’s Row. These cottages would traditionally have been single story simple dwellings. Over time, many of these cottages were extended to create a second floor and dormers added. In contrast to the simple worker’s cottages, merchants built larger two or three story Georgian homes with symmetrical frontages.
Characteristic Landscapes
Within the village of Killough there are a variety of different landscape types such as the rocky shore of the harbour, sandy beaches and the urban centre.

Killough’s beach adjacent to the pier.

View of inner Ropewalk from Killough’s pier.

View south along Main Street towards Palatine Square.
Green Elements
Within the village of Killough green elements are successfully integrated with hard built form to create a picturesque environment. Sycamore trees were planted along Castle Street, Palatine Square and Church Avenue in 1850 and this is a unique aspect of the village. The Killough Conservation Area handbook March 1981 states ‘Even in its decline, Bassett in 1886 was sufficiently impressed to remark on the tree lined street and to call Killough ‘The Garden of Ireland’. In fact much of the charm he describes remains today and is the basis of the area for conservation.’
Vacancy Opportunities

Within this area there are a number of opportunities sites. The car park at the junction with Castle Street and Quay Lane is the most prominent. There are also a number of vacant buildings / structures located centrally within the village that have been identified as opportunities.
Critical Views

Significant views within the village and from outside should be protected from intrusive developments which would diminish the natural and built heritage of the town.
1. View from Station Road towards village

2. View from green space to St Anne’s Church spire

3. View of Sycamore lined Castle Street and Palatine Square

4. View down Quay Lane towards pier

5. View of windmill stump

6. View from Coney Island
Heritage Designations

- Killough Bay & Strand Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest
- St John's Point Area of Special Scientific Interest
- Lecale Fens Special Area of Conservation
- Ardglass
Scheduled Monument
Killough Pier, Harbour, Lime Kiln and Ropewalk

The harbour and pier at Killough were developed in the early years of Michael Ward’s ownership. They were extended and improved by Alexander Nimmo in 1821-29. The 600ft Killough pier is constructed of granite and blackstone with red ayrshire sandstone copings. A 100ft pier was also constructed by Nimmo on the Coney Island side of the bay. Rope walks are common to many harbour villages and were a straight area used to form and stretch ropes. Today the rope walk at Killough allows pedestrians to walk from one end of the village to the other along the waters edge to the back of Castle Street.

Listed Buildings
1. St Anne’s Church (Including Gates)

Grade B
St Anne’s, Church of Ireland was rebuilt in 1716 in the form that is seen today. It was however rebuilt again in 1812 and again in 1838 following the destruction of the ‘great wind’. During Killough’s period as a fishing hub the church was used as a navigation tool by sailors. It is accessed from Palatine Square by the tree lined Church Avenue.

2. St Joseph’s Church

Grade B
St Joseph’s Catholic Church was built in 1828 but altered in the 1880s to create a ‘beautiful church’ (Brett, 1973). This church was built to cope with an increasing working population in the village. Prior to its construction the chapel in Rossglass was used by the village inhabitants.
3. Killough Clinic, Former Wesleyan Methodist Meeting

Listed
Built in 1825 in a Gothic style with 28 seats it is the first building on the coastal side of the village as you enter from the north. This building is now used as a health clinic.

4. Shiels Institute Almshouses

Listed
Charles Shiel’s was born in Killough and became a wealthy merchant working in Liverpool. Following his death his fortune was used to build almshouses for the poor throughout Ireland. Designed by Lanyon, Lynn and Lanyon, the Killough almshouses opened in 1868.

5. Windmill Cottage

Listed
Unusual Regency style cottage with a pyramidal roof and overhanging eaves carried by timber supports (Brett, 1973). Important historical link to windmill stump.

6. Windmill Stump, Rossglass Road

Listed
Dating from around 1823 this windmill was used to grind grain produced in the fields surrounding the village. The windmill sits on a octagonal base that was originally used for storage and unique of its type in Ireland.

7. Parochial House 22 Castle Street

Listed
Georgian 2 storey house built c. 1795. Later additions include servants quarters and hall which were connected to the basement kitchen by a tunnel. The parochial hall used to sit in the priest’s field to the rear of the house.

8. No. 5 The Square

Listed
Georgian former rectory built in 1818. Porch added in 1900.
9. Nos. 6 - 7 The Square

Listed
Georgian houses built in 1806. Originally one single house occupied by the Agent for the Castle Ward Estate.

10. Nos. 10, 12, 14 & 16 Castle Street

Listed
Worker’s cottages.

11. Anchor Bar, 49 - 51 Castle Street

Listed
Former hotel. Has not changed its name throughout its history.

12. No. 47 Castle Street

Listed

13. Point View, 45 Castle Street

Listed

14. Nos. 1, 3 & 5 Quay Lane

Listed
Merchant and ship owner housing.

15. Nos. 29, 31, 33, 35 & 39 Castle Street
Listed
Positive Heritage Assets

Positive Heritage Assets are non-listed buildings or spaces that play a significant part in informing the character of an area and may be considered to need further designation.

1. Former livestock Buildings

Historically those who farmed the land surrounding Killough lived within the village and kept livestock within the grounds of their house. Derelict pig sheds and stables are an important connection to how people lived and farmed within an urban area.

2. Former Railway Station Goods Store

The Belfast and County Down Railway opened a station in Killough in 1892 on a line connecting Downpatrick and Ardglass. With improvements in roads infrastructure it closed in 1950. Remains an important symbol of the transport infrastructure that once connected the town.

3. Windmill Stump to South of Village

This second and older windmill stump sits above the village acting as a visual end point. With the increased production of grain in the early 1800s this windmill was rebuilt from an earlier base.

4. Grain Store + Former Saltworks Quay Lane

The remains of a large grain store sit at the bottom of Quay Lane facing the pier. Prior to being used as a grain store this site contained the village’s saltworks. Only one floor of the store remains although red brick detailing and timber lintel details have survived.

5. The Priest’s Field

The Priest’s Field to the rear of the parochial house and bordering the rope walk was once used as playing fields and the location for community gatherings. A parochial hall was located at the north end of the field, a number of walls still stand. Horses are currently grazed in this field.
5. Area Wide Opportunities

1. Priest’s Field
Area previously used as playing fields and as a space for community events. Could be developed to enhance existing community facilities such as a community garden or allotments.

2. Windmill Stump
This windmill stump sits within a well used area of the village, surrounded by modern housing developments, a nursery school, playground and sports pitch. Derelict and unprotected it could be reimagined to compliment the facilities already provided in the area.

3. Grain Store - Quay Lane
The grain store and former salt works at the bottom of Quay Lane, overlooking the pier is in a prime location for redevelopment. Despite its state of dereliction this building could be redeveloped.

4. Car park at Quay Lane
Previously used as a grain store owned by Patrick Russell and National School in 1850. The redevelopment of this currently vacant site should take into account the critical view it affords to the pier and harbour. Insensitive development may damage the visual connection between the end of Castle Street and the water.

5. AOH Hall and adjacent cottage
Restoration of the Ancient Order of Hibernian Hall would complete the existing terrace.

6. Vacant and derelict properties
Vacant and derelict homes within existing fabric should be restored and brought back into use in favour of new development.

7. Corbelled Pig Crews
A unique part of Lecale’s agricultural history and important to preserve.

8. Brickworks
What is commonly referred to as the Brickworks is a larger site. There are currently working buildings (with new use as recycling sheds) and an abandoned pump house/ station, owned by NI Water along with two reservoirs, facing the Downpatrick Road. Behind these two reservoirs is an area of water where clay was removed. This is shown to be owned by the National Trust on Ordnance Survey maps. This entire area is a positive heritage asset.

9. Rural vernacular buildings
There are a number of buildings throughout the study area that are significant in terms of the rural vernacular. They may not all be listed or scheduled. A selection of these have been highlighted in this document. However, to provide a comprehensive list of all of these buildings will require further investigation beyond the scope of this study. It is recommended that this further study is undertaken to highlight and document these in detail.
6. Conclusion

The character and physical form of Killough and its surrounding areas have been heavily influenced by both its natural assets and associated industry and trade. The high quality soil, connections to the sea and natural harbour helped create a productive and prosperous community during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Although the industry of the past has now faded, it continues to inform the present through the natural and built heritage that remains. Future development in the area will need to appreciate, harness, and integrate the underlying historic and architectural features in order to preserve the unique heritage of the area.

The HAA has identified a number of buildings and spaces, that are in poor condition, vacant, or derelict, and highlights that there is an urgent need to address the neglect of the rural vernacular. Inappropriate development, current and future, will negatively impact the Conservation Area and the wider character of the area. However, there is an opportunity to use the assets identified for increased future use in terms of local employment, housing or community use. There is an opportunity to encourage domestic tourism and visitors from further afield, to the benefit of the local economy and to help ensure the future vitality of the area.

It should be reiterated that Killough and the surrounding area has several statutory designations to assist with the protection of its built and natural assets. The Conservation Area covering its historic core, the Special Protection Area (SPA), the Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and Special Area of Conservation status (SAC) are critical to preserving and enhancing the character and biodiversity of the area. The HAA highlights a number of additional assets, both built form and landscape, that would benefit from extended/wider designation and the HAA would recommend further investigation/study of these in order to make further recommendations.

The HAA should be read in conjunction with the Killough Village Plan, which was produced in parallel with this document. The Village Plan sets out a number of possible projects that can be delivered over the next 5 years and these projects have been informed directly by the HAA. It is intended that both documents continue to inform and influence each other over time.

Recommendations

It is recommended that a Conservation Area Appraisal is prepared to address the specific needs of Killough’s Conservation Area. The Appraisal will explain the rationale behind the designation and summarise its key characteristics and significance. It will draw on field observation, incorporate sections of this Historic Area Assessment and will involve the canvassing of local views.

A Conservation Management Plan, or equivalent, should be prepared for the Super Output Area. This plan will become a vital tool for understanding, planning and managing the area.
7. Bibliography

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Websites


Development Plans

Statutory Documents

Guidance Notes


Pamphlet