

Feasibility study investigating the opportunity for a LEADER Co-operation project between the respective LAGs of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and County Waterford.

Introduction:

The study will analyse the possibility of developing a full Cooperation investment project based on the rich and diverse Industrial Heritage of Mid and East Antrim and Co. Waterford. The purpose of the investment is to improve the village and rural environment and create visitor attractions which will contribute to the economic wellbeing of the villages. Participating villages/operators will share knowledge, jointly promote attractions and develop linkages to European, national and regional tourism brands. M&EA commissioned Quarto to carry out an audit of industrial heritage assets and identify two suitable development projects that support the M&EA LAG strategy and have commonalities with industrial heritage of County Waterford. Waterford Leader Partnership CLG would undertake a parallel analysis and identify two projects in County Waterford.

Background:

European Route of Industrial Heritage

The European Commission has declared 2018 as the European Year of Cultural heritage. It will celebrate both: our common cultural roots and the cultural diversity of the continent, and both come together in the European Industrial heritage, the specific cultural heritage of a Europe of Regions.

Industrial history is a crucial part of Europe's past since nothing has left its mark as clearly as the two centuries following the beginning of the Industrial Revolution on landscape, architecture and people. The ERIC Network supports promotion of Industrial Heritage as a tourism brand. ERIH is the European Route of Industrial Heritage, a network of the most important industrial heritage sites in Europe. It is the common link between them all. From disused production plants to industrial landscape parks and inter-active technology museums. The route has 1,633 sites, in 47 European countries. 35 of the documented sites are in the Republic of Ireland and 4 in Northern Ireland. Industrial Heritage as a successful tourism product, in Ireland, is well established with Guinness Storehouse, Dublin, Ireland's largest tourism attraction and Titanic Belfast in Belfast, the major attraction in Northern Ireland. Examples away from the largest cities are also well known such as the Smithwick's Experience in Kilkenny, the House of Waterford Crystal in Waterford city, and Bushmill's Distillery, Co. Antrim. The industrial heritage product is also bringing tourists and economic benefit to rural areas such as Copper Coast UNESCO Geopark, Co. Waterford, Arigna Mining Experience, Co. Roscommon, Irish Agricultural Museum at Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford, The Steam Museum at Straffan, Co. Kildare, The Irish Linen Centre at Lisburn, Co. Antrim, The Gas works Museum, Carrigfergus, Co. Antrim. the Ulster folk and Transport Museum, Cultra, Co. Down.

The Institute of Historical Research(IHR) data base lists 263 sites of which 96 are industrial in Mid and East Antrim Borough area and 138 sites were identified in the SURVEY OF PRE-1923 COUNTY WATERFORD INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE published in 2008.

The sites are can be categorised as :

Extractive – e.g. mining activities and infrastructure

Agricultural – e.g. corn mills, creameries, breweries, and distilleries

Communications – e.g. roads, bridges, railways, canals

Manufacturing -- e.g. brick works, flax mills, bleach works
Utility -- e.g. water, ice houses electricity and gas infrastructure
Residence – those dwellings that could be connected to one of the above

Identification of potential projects:

Desktop survey, fieldwork and consultation identified two villages, in each LAG area, with a significant cluster of well-preserved industrial heritage remains as well as local aspirations to maximize the economic, social and cultural potential of that heritage.
Each village/project has the ability to introduce partner projects to operating industrial heritage sites in their LAG (exa. Copper Coast Geopark, The Gas Works Museum) who will assist in knowledge sharing and joint promotions.

Mid and East Antrim Borough

Broughshane Mills

To enhance and develop a looped walking route from Raceview Mill to Houston's Mill, returning along the village main street, which will:
increase access to and appreciation for the milling heritage of Broughshane
improve access to walking routes and green spaces for residents
attract new visitors to the area
increase potential customer footfall for local business enterprises.

Anticipated budget: £35,800 (€42,000)

Cargan Mines

Preferred option:

To create a looped walking route from the village centre to the Drum which will:

- improve public access and awareness of the significant mining and railway heritage of the area
- support the development of other countryside access initiatives currently in development
- encourage further environmental improvements and tourism enterprises in the village

Anticipated budget: £38,500 (€45,000)

Alternative option:

To promote the mining heritage of the Glenravel area through;

- interpretive signage on M&EABC owned land in Cargan village
- linked mobile app interpretive resources for visitors/walkers
- knowledge building programme for tour guides and tourism providers

Anticipated budget: £35,500, (€41,000)

County Waterford

Clashmore and Kinsalebeg Distillery/Mill complex

To conserve the Distillery mill chimney structure which will:

- secure the chimney
- establish safe access from village
- provide interpretative area in adjoining yard to communicate the workings of the Distillery and mill

Anticipated budget :€100,000

Portlaw Industrial Heritage Centre

To renovate the Portlaw Heritage Centre to transform it into a multi sensory experience which will:

- be family accessible
- tell the story of the industrial complex
- the use of water as a power source-
- Portlaw the industrial village
- The Portlaw Diaspora

Anticipated budget: €130,000

Each project will additionally incur costs relating to Cooperation and maximising the economic benefit of the capital investments.

- cross community visit
- Knowledge sharing
- Integrating sites into local , regional, national heritage tourism campaigns

Anticipated budget : €10,000 (4* €2,500)

Co-operation project structure

- Mid &East Antrim LAG and Waterford LAG are agreed that Waterford Leader Partnership shall be the lead implementer of this co-operation project
- Partnership agreement will be signed prior to commencing implementation
- A steering committee independent of the project operators will be established
- A business case for each project will be developed and submitted to relevant LAG for approval under local LEADER rules.
- Approved capital projects within this cooperation project will be managed independently within the LEADER rules applying in their jurisdiction.

Appendix 1

The villages:

Broughshane & District Community Association has been actively involved, and remarkably

successful, in preserving and promoting local heritage. Broughshane House, houses a well-managed volunteer-run museum that includes a remarkably diverse range of material related to industrial heritage. A large amount of related material is stored off-site by the lead volunteer, Tony Redmond. The group was also responsible for restoring Houston's Mill as a community resource centre, which is due to be redeveloped into a high-quality restaurant.

Raceview Mill was saved from demolition through the enterprising vision of a local artist and businessman, Roy McKeown, and stands as a best practice exemplar to the sensitive re-use and redevelopment of an industrial heritage asset for sustainable economic development and tourism. Since 2013 Raceview Mill has created approximately 80 jobs in a fusion of small enterprises that include arts and crafts workshops, coffee shops, creative professionals, beauty and health related businesses and even a conference centre and wedding venue. Bedrooms are currently under construction to enhance the offer as a tourism asset. Mr McKeown is also committed to continuing to preserve and enhance the surviving industrial features of the site, and hopes to install a 280-year-old mill wheel he recently managed to save from a corn mill close to Antrim designated for demolition.



Raceview Mill – from TL clockwise: re-purposed warehouse and residence; post-1890 factory sheds; function room in the wool tower; exposed vaulted ceiling in the wool tower.

Houston's and Raceview Mills are linked via a riverside path. Part of this path is the official 'Buttermilk Walk', which runs from Houston's Mill by the millrace and the sites of other mills formerly serving the town to Knockan Bridge . From this location, a less formal path ('Butterfly Walk') leads along the River Braid to Raceview Mill. Both Raceview and Houston's Mills are close by and accessible to the main street, providing an opportunity to visit other sites of historic interest in the village, including the museum.

Broughshane beat off stiff competition to become this year's winner of the UK-wide 'Village of the Year' competition, broadcast by Channel 4. The competition judges praised both the extraordinary volunteer effort committed to improving village life and an innovative, creative entrepreneurial spirit that has attracted sustainable, small-scale businesses to the area. Both Raceview Mill and the Buttermilk Walk were highlighted as significant economic and cultural assets to the village (follow this link to the Raceview Mill website to see relevant clips from the programme --- <http://www.raceviewmill.com/video.html>).

An opportunity presents itself to work with Broughshane Community Association and Roy McKeown to create a looped industrial heritage trail taking visitors from Raceview Mill, along the Butterfly Walk, across Knockan Bridge and along the Buttermilk Walk, past the site of another flax mill to Houston's Mill, and back along the main street, with the possibility of visiting Broughshane House Museum. The walk will improve public awareness and appreciation of the industrial heritage of Broughshane, improve access to walking routes and green spaces for residents, attract new visitors to the area, and increase potential customer footfall for local business enterprises.

Caragan

Although the survival rates of industrial monuments within the bounds of the village is relatively limited, Caragan does act as a focal point for a landscape dotted with further sites associated with mining in the district . Local people are very knowledgeable about this industrial heritage and are keen to identify opportunities to improve access and interpretation of it. In partnership with Glenravel Historical Society, the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (HGLPS) are installing an interpretive panel in the centre of the village that highlights the industrial heritage of the area and identifies the location of a large number of sites nearby. However, at present, the majority of those sites are on private land and inaccessible to the public.

The need to improve walking routes around the village, to improve access to green spaces for



residents and visitors, and to improve access and interpretation of industrial heritage assets in order to enhance tourism and business opportunities are all clearly identified in the Glenravel Area Plan (2017, pp12-15). HGLP have also produced a discussion paper advocating the creation of safe walking routes to improve tourism opportunities and the health and wellbeing of the local community. The paper identifies a number of potential routes, including walkways that would incorporate parts of the old narrow-gauge railway line, The Drum and remains of iron ore mines close to the Dungonnell Way (Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme 2017). *Drum Brae embankment with windlass structure. To the left is the remains of a two-roomed cottage possibly connected to the industrial activity, and beyond it a sculpture commemorating mining in the area.*

Local residents attest that The Dungonnell Way is already a popular walking route with tourists to the area and that there is significant potential to enhance and diversify that attraction through complementary walking routes and local stopping points for picnics or catered refreshments. In conjunction, officers from M&EABC are currently pursuing potential to create a greenway from Ballymena to Glenariff that would, where possible, follow the route of the old railway and connect the area to existing tourism destinations. The project is at an early stage of development; it will require major financial investment as well as statutory agency support and agreement from a large number of private landowners.

Field survey and public consultation have demonstrated that there is significant potential in Cargan to develop a network of short and longer walking routes, which will enhance opportunities to develop tourism, increase accessibility to the unique industrial heritage of the village and its hinterland and improve the health and well-being of local residents. While long term planning and development of a Ballymena Greenway continues, consultation with Glenravel Historical Society and HGLPS has clearly identified an opportunity in the shorter term for LAG investment to create a circular walk connecting the village centre to Drum Wood and The Drum.

Access to Drum Wood has been temporarily closed due to fly tipping and anti-social behavior and the existing pathways have become very wet, almost impassable at certain times of the year. The Woodland Trust has already committed substantial funds to improve pathways and interpretation within Drum Wood, improvements due to be implemented later this year. The Woodland Trust would be interested in expanding their property at Drum Wood to include the land where the Drum is situated. Initial meetings between HGLPS and relevant local landowners indicate the potential to re-introduce access from Cargan village by an alternative route. The raised embankment of the railway siding leading from the site of the old Cargan railway station to below the Drum is largely extant, including the supporting buttresses for the railway bridge over the Binvore Burn (Fig. 13). It is recommended that the walking route follow this line as closely as possible.

Both the Woodland Trust and HGLPS are keen to partner with M&EABC and the local community to help eradicate fly-tipping and other antisocial behavior and look at improving access to Drum Wood, including re-introducing access from Cargan village. Combined with the available resources of the Woodland Trust and HGLP and the support of M&EABG and the local community, investment from MEA LAG could create a sustainable, safe and accessible walking

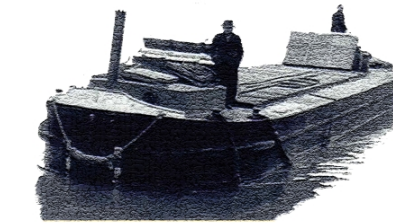
route that would enhance and extend the existing walkway at Drum Wood to include the Drum monument. The walk would improve access from the village to the monument, and at the same time promote awareness, through appropriate interpretation, of other significant industrial heritage sites visible from this area. It would also increase access to safe green spaces for local residents and encourage further environmental improvements and tourism enterprises in the village in the longer term.

Clashmore and Kinsalebeg

A Heritage Group was formed in 2017 to preserve and promote the local heritage within the parish. The first event was held at the beginning of September at Clashmore Heritage Centre with an introduction to our "Clashmore Village Streetscape: 1850 - 2000" project, an interactive map of which can now be viewed on the 'Heritage' page of the website. The heritage group plan to hold more events as time goes on and welcome any ideas relating to local heritage. Clashmore's industrial heritage derives from its rich agricultural hinterland and direct access to the River Blackwater. The parish has a number of notable industrial artefacts. There are at least two ice houses in the parish with the most substantial ones being in the town land of Kilmaloo about two miles southeast of Clashmore Village.

Raheen Quay, otherwise known as Ballyheeney Quay, was a dock for cargo-carrying lighters on the River Greagh up to at least the 1940's when road transport became more mainstream. Coal, timber and barley amongst other goods were transported here from the port of Youghal to stock the general stores of the village and barrels of whiskey were brought in the opposite direction from Clashmore Distillery. Not a stones throw away, on the opposite bank, there is another disused quay which served as a private one for the Clashmore House estate, in

particular the Earl of Huntingdon latterly used it for his own mooring and those of visitors to the estate hill and a few hundred yards beyond the GAA Club grounds, a fine example of a Lime Kiln is to be seen on the left-hand side. Limestone was quarried locally and burned in this kiln to produce quicklime for spreading on farm land to reduce soil acidity and increase fertility. Sand and dried mud from the bed of the River Blackwater (which is high in minerals and phosphates) was also spread on the land to increase fertility.



Distillery Chimney, Clashmore by Eamon Bulger

Distillery/Mill

Clashmore Distillery was established in 1825 by Lawrence Dennehy and Robert Power Ronayne, who were both well known businessmen of the area. The building is unique in this country as it is the only distillery/mill chimney which actually spans the river which propelled it. At its peak the distillery produced up to 20,000 gallons of whiskey annually, from malt and raw grain. The distillery had an adjoining house which had a secret cellar where illicit whiskey was stored to avoid excise duty, but it was constantly raided by excise officers, which on one occasion, as the story goes, led to the workers releasing 1,000's of gallons of whiskey into the river and rumour has it that the cattle that drank from the river later that day were all drunk! After this time the distillery was leased to several different tenants, but ultimately the distillery ceased operating around 1840 and was used later as part of the large Flour Mill adjacent to it, which in turn ceased to operate c. 1897.

Conservation of the Whiskey distillery chimney and the associated mill yards ensures this focal point of the villages agri-industrial heritage will be the centre point of walking trails linking all of the sites mentioned above demonstrating Clashmore and Kinsalebeg's role in European commerce of the 19th century.

Portlaw:

Malcolmsons are called the makers of Portlaw. They built a factory, which with hindsight is perceived as being in the nineteenth century, a hundred years ahead of its time. They also constructed a model village in which they housed their workers, and these houses were comfortable and practical, never ostentatious. They still did, however, serve the needs of their inhabitants, and were certainly appealing to the eye in structure and shape. Portlaw was built for the betterment of the workers and it was shaped by the characters of its originators. The main purpose of its layout was to serve the outpourings of the people from the factory. Therefore the village layout was admirably suited to the particular needs of the community. The roads of the streets were 40 feet wide and the pavement 12 feet wide. At the height of the factory's prosperity, it was employing well over 1,000 people. (T.Foran, Portlaw A Nineteenth Century Industrial Village)



Portlaw village -Waterford museum.ie

Portlaw Heritage Committee was founded in 2005 with the aim to establish an archive of the industrial, social and cultural history of Portlaw. The Heritage Centre located in the old dispensary building is the repository of the archive. The Committee have the strategic objective to make the

archive available to the community and tourists in an a modern accessible manner. They have leased additional space within the old dispensary on a long term basis from the local authority in which to house visitor attraction/industrial museum.

Acknowledgements

- Industrial Heritage feasibility Study-Mid and East Antrim Local Action Group March 2018 , quarto
- Clashmore and Kinsalabeg Heritage committee
- Portlaw Heritage committee