Carrickfergus

Designation CS 15 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Castle Dobbs

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA recognises the landscape and visual amenity, historical importance and nature conservation value of the Castle Dobbs demesne. The walled demesne was established in the 17th century by John Dobbs who settled in Ireland, circa 1596, on lands given to him by John Dalway on his marriage to Dalway’s daughter. It is a good example of a planned landscape surviving in its historic form.

The present house, which dates from 1730, is set within a fine landscaped park of the same era. It includes a lake fed by the Kilroot River, which flows through the park, together with bridges, weirs and cascade, pond, avenue trees, shelterbelts, formal plantations such as Planting Hill enclosed by a stone wall, parkland, semi-natural woodland and two walled gardens, only one of which remains as a cultivated plot, complete with potting sheds and a glasshouse. A family vault lies within a wooded enclosure to the south of the main house. Much of the plantation is recorded as “long established”. There is more recent planting around the lake. The 18th century house is a listed building along with a gardener’s cottage adjacent to the walled garden and one of the two remaining 19th century gate lodges. The house has fine views over Belfast Lough towards the County Down coast.

The remains of the 17th century plantation castle built by John Dobbs sit adjacent to the present house. There is also some remaining evidence of the formal gardens associated with this earlier house. The castle is a scheduled monument in recognition of its regional historic importance.

The historic significance of the demesne and the contribution it makes to the local landscape character is recognized by its inclusion in the Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes.

The LLPA includes an area of significant archaeological and historical importance at Kilroot, comprising the site of Kilroot Church, a medieval parish church, no longer visible and a graveyard now in ruins. The church occupied an earlier monastic site thought to be founded in 412 AD. The graveyard contains a Bullaun Stone, recovered from the ruined southern wall of the medieval parish church together with 19th and 20th century gravestones. A Holy Well is also recorded in the adjoining farmyard. A house and bawn were built beside the medieval church in the 17th century, enclosing part of the graveyard in its courtyard. The Bishop of Down and Connor lived here until the end of the 17th century, hence it is known as the Bishop’s House. The bawn originally had four circular bastions at each corner, but only the northern
and eastern ones remain but are in ruins. A three story structure remains at the site of the Bishop’s House and forms part of the graveyard boundary. Kilroot House, the modern graveyard and part of the surrounding bawn are scheduled archaeological sites.

The LLPA includes other planned landscape features outside the Castle Dobbs demesne, including a stand of mature trees at the junction of the Larne Road and Fort Road, an avenue of mature trees along Fort Road and the remnants of a plantation at Kilroot House. These trees are of significant landscape and visual amenity value and feature on the 1st edition maps which identifies them as long established woodland. They are of historical importance and form part of the planned landscape setting to Kilroot House which was laid out by the Brice family who subsequently took over the lands between the early 17th and the mid 19th century.

**Nature Conservation**

The LLPA includes the following Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI), recognised for their biodiversity value and nature conservation merit:

Kilroot Stream, and
Castle Dobbs.

**Heritage Interest**

The LLPA contains Castle Dobbs Historic Park, Garden and Demesne.

The LLPA includes the following listed buildings:

Castle Dobbs, Grade A,
Gardener’s Cottage, Castle Dobbs, Grade B, and
House at 73B Tongue Loanen, Grade B.

The following archaeological sites and monuments are included within the LLPA:

**Scheduled Sites:**
Castle Dobbs Castle,
Kilroot Church, Modern Church and Graveyard on site of Early Monastic Site and Medieval Parish Church and Graveyard with Bullaun and Holy Well, and Bishop’s House, 17th century House and Bawn.

**Unscheduled Sites:**
Enclosure, Planting Hill,
Bivallate Rath,
Natural Cave,
Battle Site 1199.
Enclosure, and
A.P. Site - Enclosure
Carrickfergus

Designation CS 16 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Castle Rocklands

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA includes the remnants of the planned landscape features established around several large properties dating from the early Victorian period namely; Rhanbouy House, Castle Rocklands, and Rocklands House which are of landscape and visual amenity significance and of historic interest.

The former Rhanbouy House has been replaced by a more recent, sizable dwelling on the footprint of the original house. The driveway approach and legacy of formal, mature tree belts and open lawn areas survive, along with a former gate lodge, Castle Lodge, at 24A Belfast Road.

The Castle Rocklands house and garden have been replaced by housing development, although the belt of mature tree planting to the west has remained, which contributes to the amenity of the area.

The LLPA includes the setting of Rocklands House, which is a late Georgian house and, although much modified, is a listed building in recognition of its architectural merits and historical importance.

The LLPA includes an important area of open space within the urban area at Rhanbouy Park. The open space displays the character of a formal green and enhances the setting to the surrounding dwellings, two blocks of semi-detached houses being contemporaries of Rhanbouy, Castle Rocklands and Rocklands. Rhanbouy Park provides access to the shore and the open character of the “green” allows unobstructed views towards Belfast Lough.

The features recognised by the LLPA, including the setting of Rocklands House and the planned landscape associated with the former Rhanbouy House and Castle Rocklands contribute to the special townscape character of the area which has been recognised by its inclusion within the Belfast Road Area of Townscape Character.

Nature Conservation

The mature trees are important for wildlife and of local nature conservation value.

Amenity Value
The trees and open spaces within the LLPA are important landscape and visual features of particular amenity importance within the urban area, contributing to the character of the streetscape of the Belfast Road corridor and the special landscape character of the coastline along the northern shore of Belfast Lough. They can also be viewed from the lough and the North Down coast and are a good entrance/exit feature to the town.

Heritage Interest

The LLPA includes the setting of Rocklands House, 20 Belfast Road, a Grade B1 Listed Building.
Carrickfergus

Designation CS 17 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Charles Shiels

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA is focused on the area of open space, comprising formal lawns and mature tree planting, fronting the Charles Sheils Institution, a landmark collection of listed almshouses on the Larne Road. The gates and railings at the entrance on the Larne Road are also listed.

The features of the LLPA, together with the adjacent listed buildings, contribute to the special townscape character of the area which has been recognised by its inclusion within the Larne Road Area of Townscape Character.

Nature Conservation

The mature specimen trees are important for wildlife and of local nature conservation value.

Amenity Value

The mature trees within the grounds form an attractive setting to the adjacent listed buildings and are an important landscape feature of visual significance and amenity value which contributes to the general treed character of the area and enhances the road corridor.

Heritage Interest

The LLPA contains the following listed features:

The gates and railings at the entrance on the Larne Road, Grade B1.
Carrickfergus

Designation CS 18 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Eden

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

At its most northerly point the LLPA includes a gentleman’s residence known as Belmont, a locally significant building with associated outbuildings, built in the mid 1800’s but much extended in recent years to the front. The house is set within a planned landscape setting, including shelter belt plantings, formal lawns and shrubberies, terraces and paddocks. Occupying an elevated location at the junction of Marshallstown Road and Beltoy Road, the house and its treed setting are of significant landscape and visual amenity value and form a prominent feature in the landscape and an entrance / exit feature to Carrickfergus.

The LLPA includes a stretch of the Copeland Water river corridor and associated feeder stream, its views and setting. The river and its deeply incised and wooded banks form an important landscape feature, the top slopes and associated woodland being visible from the Beltoy Road.

The LLPA extends to include Sunnybank Garden Centre established around Sunnybank House, an early 1900’s dwelling house of some architectural merit and local significance.

Nature Conservation

The river corridor and associated wooded banks, the flooded mine and the stands of mature trees within the LLPA are of nature conservation and habitat value.

Amenity Value

A large part of the LLPA is identified as an Area of Existing Open Space.

The Carrickfergus Borough Council owned Eden Playing Fields which include a football pitch, cricket pitch and pavilion, lie within the southern part of the LLPA, between the Tennant Mine and the Copeland Water and provide a visual linkage between these two landscape features. The pitches provide an important area of recreational open space for Carrickfergus and Eden.

To the south of the pitches are Eden Allotment Gardens, which with an area of five hectares, it is the largest allotment site in Ireland. They were established in April 2008, within four fields and are administered by Carrickfergus Borough Council. The gardens are very popular and further enhance the recreation and amenity value of the LLPA.
Heritage Interest

The LLPA recognises an area of industrial heritage interest and nature conservation value associated with the disused Tennant Salt Mine. The mine was originally known as Eden Shaft, believed to have been first exploited in the 1880/90’s, with mining continuing until 1958. The area around the mine collapsed in 1990 leaving a depression some 130m across. The pit is now flooded and forms an important area of wetland and pond habitat. Another unnamed salt mine lies further north.

Mature trees planted on top of the mined area form a landmark feature in an otherwise relatively open landscape.
Carrickfergus

Designation CS 19 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Oakfield Glen

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA is focused on Oakfield Glen, a wooded area within a river corridor, between Marshallstown Road and Prince Andrew Way. The river, with its weirs and wooded glen is a highly significant landscape feature of particular visual merit and forms a distinctive landscape setting within the area.

To the east of Oakfield Glen and connected to it by paths is Bashfordsland Wood, a new park comprising rough open grassland with scattered trees, shelterbelt plantings, new woodland and two wildlife ponds.

The LLPA includes Glynn Park, a Grade B1 listed, large Georgian mansion house and associated outbuildings, within a parkland setting. The views and setting of this listed building contribute to the landscape character and visual amenity of the area.

The LLPA contains a mix of native and exotic tree species. Mature specimens include redwood, yew, cypress, beech, lime, sycamore, chestnut, oak and ash with an understorey predominantly of laurel. New tree planting was carried out in 2000 in Oakfield Glen, and in 2011 in Bashfordsland Wood, and includes native trees of ash, wild cherry, rowan, hazel, oak, wych elm and Scots pine. Natural regeneration is also evident. Together this vegetation forms an attractive backdrop to the surrounding built up area as well as providing an important public amenity resource.

The western portion of the LLPA contains Oakfield Primary School and associated play areas, a community centre, Christchurch Pentecostal Church, a playground, open space areas and part of the Sullatober Water.

The LLPA provides a valuable amenity resource for the surrounding population and includes a mix of formal and informal recreational and community facilities including a number of pedestrian and cycle routes through the woodland, an orienteering course through Oakfield Glen and Bashfordsland Wood, developed in 2011, seating, picnic tables, pond, footbridges, sculpture, and open grassed areas.

Nature Conservation

The river corridor, open grassed areas, mature woodland and newly planted areas combine to provide an accessible nature conservation resource within the urban area.
The LLPA includes the following Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI), recognised for its biodiversity value and nature conservation merit:

Oakfield.

**Amenity Value**

The majority of the LLPA is identified as an Area of Existing Open Space, which underpins the amenity value of the area.

A Community Greenway, Love Lane – Marshallstown Road to the seafront at Marine Highway, runs through the LLPA along the river corridor and links through to Prince William LLPA. This further highlights the area as an important public amenity resource and green linkage from the surrounding urban area to the open countryside to the north.

Another Community Greenway, Cemetery Loanan – Marshallstown Road to Victoria Cemetery, runs along the north eastern boundary of the LLPA adjacent to the land identified for open space.

Oakfield Glen is a Community Woodland managed by the Woodland Trust since 1999. Bashfordsland Wood is a new park, opened in 2007 and managed by Carrickfergus Borough Council.

**Heritage Interest**

The LLPA contains the following listed buildings:

Glynn Park, House and Outbuildings, Grade B1.

The importance of the landscape park associated with Glynn Park and its setting has been recognised by its inclusion in the Northern Ireland Heritage Garden Inventory.

The woodland within the LLPA is also of historic interest as it contains the remnants of the Victorian landscape, planted around the former estates of Oakfield, Glenfield, Bessfield and Dunlusken.
Carrickfergus

Designation CS 20 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Prince William

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA includes the Marine Gardens, laid out in 1972. The gardens contain a sunken garden, children's equipped play area, formal lawns, the town's war memorial and a distinctive clock tower which forms a focal point when travelling along the Marine Highway.

The LLPA includes Joymount Presbyterian Church, Manse and halls. The church was built in 1856 and is listed in recognition of its architectural merit and local historical interest. The halls, formerly the school house, were built later in 1890. The current manse was built in 2000. Their setting is enhanced by their proximity to the Old Town Walls and a small formal knot garden known as Joymount Park. The knot garden is a recreation of the formal Jacobean Knot Garden designed for the home of Lord Chichester at Joymount.

Other parks within the LLPA include, Shaftesbury Park, a formal park, laid out in the early 20th century, including paths, lawns and tree planting. Carrickfergus Bowling Club, green and club house is located within the park. The railway corridor forms the northern boundary to the park with the remnants of the red bricked Joymount Orchards Wall and Old Town Wall forming distinctive boundary features on part of the perimeter.

A path under the railway embankment links Shaftesbury Park to Leisure Centre Park which contains Carrickfergus Leisure Centre building and associated tennis courts, playing pitches and equipped play area. Paths link the two parks through an area of wetland, comprising two large ponds, managed as a waterfowl sanctuary, which were formerly mill ponds and as such are of industrial heritage interest. The Sullatober Water and its wooded banks pass through the park and form a distinctive linear feature of landscape and visual amenity value.

North of Prince William Way, the LLPA includes Carrickfergus Golf Course formed in 1926 and officially opened in 1927. It contains ponds and streams with planting along the boundaries and delineating the fairways.

Together, Shaftesbury Park, Leisure Centre Park and the golf course combine to form a significant green wedge within the urban area and provide an attractive backdrop to the surrounding built up area, as well as being an important amenity resource.
The northern boundary of the golf course is defined by Love Lane and its associated mature trees which once formed the drive to Glynn Park, a large Georgian Grade B1 listed mansion house, within a parkland setting and included within Oakfield Glen LLPA. The trees are the remnants of the formal planned landscape features associated with Glynn Park.

**Nature Conservation**

The stands of trees, ponds, railway corridor, the Sullatober Water and minor watercourses are of wildlife and local nature conservation interest within a dense urban area.

**Amenity Value**

Most of the LLPA has also been identified as An Area of Existing Open Space which underpins the amenity value of the LLPA.

Love Lane – Marshallstown Road to the seafront at Marine Highway, Community Greenway passes through the LLPA which further highlights this important amenity resource and green linkage through the surrounding urban area.

**Heritage Interest**

Part of this LLPA is with Carrickfergus Conservation Area.

Part of this LLPA is within Carrickfergus Area of Archaeological Potential.

The LLPA includes the following listed building:

Joymount Presbyterian Church, Grade B.

The LLPA includes the following archaeological sites and monuments:

**State Care:**
The Old Town Walls.

**Scheduled:**
Joymount Orchards Wall, and
A Motte.

**Unscheduled:**
St. Bride’s Well, Spittal House, Fryar’s Garden and St. Bridget’s Hospital, and Enclosure.

The LLPA also includes a late Victorian cemetery complete with Mortuary Chapel. A grave stone which bears the inscription, “In memory of our dear father, lost in the Titanic disaster, April 1912” is of historical note.
Carrickfergus

Designation CS 21 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Prospect Glen

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA is focused on Prospect Glen, a steep sided, stream corridor extending from Windsor Park South, crossing Prospect Heights and terminating at Prospect Grove. The stream, with its wooded valley is an important landscape feature of visual merit, which contributes to the landscape setting of the surrounding residential area and forms a valuable green wedge.

Nature Conservation

The stream corridor, open grassed areas and mature woodland with natural regeneration, combine to provide an area of wildlife and nature conservation value.

The LLPA includes the following Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI):

South Woodburn.

Amenity Value

The LLPA is identified as an Area of Existing Open Space. This underpins the amenity value of the glen in a highly built up residential area.
Carrickfergus

Designation CS 22 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Prospect Road

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA is focused on a belt of mature trees set within a grassed amenity strip fronting Prospect Road and includes Scots pine, macrocarpa, oak and beech.

The tree belt comprises part of the planned landscape setting which was developed around the nearby Prospect House, a listed, period dwelling of some local historic value. The tree belt appears on the 1st Edition Maps (1830’s) and is therefore identified as long established woodland. Little of the planned landscape setting remains which increases the historical importance of this remaining tree feature.

Nature Conservation

The trees are of nature conservation value forming a wildlife corridor and providing habitat within the urban area.

Amenity Value

The trees within the LLPA are an important landscape and visual feature of particular amenity importance within the urban area, contributing to the character of the streetscape and forming a screen and buffer between the road and the housing development at Prospect Downs. The trees are viewed by many passing motorists and pedestrians along Prospect Road and from surrounding roads.
Carrickfergus

Designation CS 23 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Woodburn River / The Mount

Landscape Character

The LLPA straddles two Landscape Character Areas, 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline and 130 – Carrickfergus Farmed Escarpment, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA is focused mainly on the Woodburn River corridor and its tributaries, as it flows from the North Woodburn Glen area, through the countryside and into the urban area, to its mouth on the Belfast Lough shoreline. The river with its waterfalls, weirs, its wooded glen and open grassed banks is a highly significant landscape feature of particular visual merit and forms a distinctive landscape setting within the area.

The LLPA also includes a number of ponds, which along with the natural woodland forms an attractive backdrop to the surrounding built up area.

The LLPA provides a valuable amenity resource for the surrounding population and includes a mixture of informal and formal recreational facilities. These include the council maintained soccer and rugby pitches at Woodburn Playing Fields, Carrickfergus Rugby Club grounds, Woodburn Ponds an area of walkways around the ponds, with mature trees and shrubs and play equipment and a ball court at Minorca Drive.

The LLPA includes the Woodburn River corridor where it flows through housing areas and also includes a small section within the BMA Coastal Area, where the Woodburn River enters Belfast Lough.

Nature Conservation

The woodland, mature trees and other vegetation, the river, ponds and areas of open grassland within the LLPA are of wildlife and local nature conservation interest within an expanding urban area.

The LLPA includes the following Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI), recognised for their biodiversity value and nature conservation merit:

South Woodburn, and
Woodburn.

The LLPA includes North Woodburn Glen Area of Special Scientific Interest.

A small section of the LLPA, where the Woodburn River enters Belfast Lough, lies within the BMA Coastal Area is also within the following designations:
Belfast Lough (Carrickfergus Borough) Ramsar Site,
Belfast Lough (Carrickfergus Borough) Special Protection Area, and
Outer Belfast Lough (Carrickfergus Borough) Area of Special Scientific
Interest.

**Amenity Value**

Woodburn Playing Fields, Carrickfergus Rugby Club grounds, the adjacent
stretch of river and the Woodburn Ponds are identified as an Area of Existing
Open Space, which underpins the amenity value of the area.

A Community Greenway, Woodburn Road – Woodburn Glen to Wildflower
Meadow, runs through part of the LLPA, from Woodburn Playing Fields,
following the river corridor north to the settlement development limit. This
further highlights the area as an important public amenity resource and green
linkage from the surrounding urban area to the open countryside to the north.

**Heritage Interest**

The LLPA includes the following archaeological sites and monuments;

Scheduled:
The Mount, a Raised Rath.

 Unscheduled:
A Flax Dam,
Woodburn Abbey, an Ecclesitical Site of a Premonstratensian Abbey, and
A Fortification and Windmill.
Greenisland

Designation GD 07 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Upper Road

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA includes two locally significant period dwellings, Orient House and Aurdh Gurth, and their sizable grounds and associated mature plantings.

Orient House is a two storey Edwardian house with associated outbuildings, built circa 1904 and locally known as The Castle. The architectural style is an eclectic mix of Tudor details and castellations, with a semi-circular two storey bay on either side of a belvedere tower. To the rear of the property is a large walled garden which includes an elaborate garage with integral veranda. The house, garage, veranda and gate posts have been listed in recognition of their architectural merit and historic interest. The house is set within mature grounds with many specimen trees particularly within the front garden.

Aurdh Gurth is a late Victorian dwelling house with associated modern outbuildings set within extensive treed grounds. The house with its distinctive, red bricked, castellated, two storey, front bay to the north-east, is approached by a tree lined drive entered through gates at the north eastern end of the walled frontage. The property includes extensive lawn areas, boundary tree planting and a fine stand of coniferous trees which form an imposing feature across the frontage of the property. The mature tree belts are mainly contemporaneous with the construction of the house, with additional ornamental plantings taking place over intervening years to create an attractive landscape setting to the house.

A line of trees, extending north-west along Wood Grove, is also included in the LLPA.

The LLPA is also located within Greenisland Area of Townscape Character, and contributes to the historic architectural character of the area.

Nature Conservation

The LLPA and the mature trees are important for wildlife and of local nature conservation value.

Amenity Value

The vegetation surrounding the two properties and along Wood Grove forms an important landscape feature of visual significance and amenity value which contributes to the general treed character of the area.
There is a Tree Preservation Order on the trees within this LLPA.

**Heritage Interest**

The LLPA includes the following listed buildings and features:

Orient House, including the garage, veranda and gate posts, Grade B2.
Greenisland

**Designation GD 08 – Local Landscape Policy Area, West of Greenisland**

**Landscape Character**

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA is focused on the Silver Stream watercourse as it flows south from Old Carrick Road to the former railway line. The LLPA encompasses both banks of the river along with some adjoining land.

Between the Old Carrick Road and the former railway line, the river flows through a relatively open landscape. There are extensive views towards Greenisland, Newtownabbey, Belfast Lough and the North Down coast. The fields on either side are in pasture, bounded by hedgerows with mature trees.

South of the former railway line the LLPA joins the University of Ulster Local Landscape Policy Area, designated in the Newtownabbey District Proposals.

The LLPA is located within Greenisland Rural Landscape Wedge, which recognises the landscape quality of the area and helps to provide an important element in defining and protecting the setting of Greenisland and Metropolitan Newtownabbey and maintaining the rural character of the countryside.

The LLPA contributes to that part of the river corridor and associated lands which prevent the coalescence of Metropolitan Newtownabbey and Greenisland.

The Silver Stream river corridor and its associated vegetation is an important landscape feature and of visual merit.

**Nature Conservation**

The stream corridor with its associated vegetation is of wildlife and local nature conservation interest.
Greenisland

Designation GD 09 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Seapark, Greenisland

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 129 – Carrickfergus Shoreline, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA includes Seapark House and its planned landscape setting comprising, sweeping lawns, numerous paths and driveways and mature trees providing shelter and amenity. A cultivated walled garden containing remains of a glazed grotto and garden house, a collection of outbuildings, a gate lodge, and boat house are also included. Seapark House dates from 1804 and is listed as are the boat house and gate lodge, in recognition of their architectural merit and local historical interest. From the house and the lawn area there are extensive views out over Belfast Lough towards the North Down coast.

Remnants of the original shelter belt plantings, probably planted at the time of the construction of Seapark still exist and are recorded as long established woodland. The original plantings have been significantly increased over the intervening years to the extensive area of woodland now present on the site.

The LLPA abuts the north eastern end of the Shore Road Area of Townscape Character and forms an attractive approach to the area travelling in a south westerly direction along the Belfast Road.

Along its north western boundary the LLPA abuts Carrickfergus Rural Landscape Wedge.

Nature Conservation

The LLPA is important for wildlife and is of local nature conservation value.

The LLPA abuts the following designated areas:

Belfast Lough (Carrickfergus Borough) Ramsar Site,
Belfast Lough (Carrickfergus Borough) Special Protection Area, and
Outer Belfast Lough (Carrickfergus Borough) Area of Special Scientific Interest.

Amenity Value

The planting forms an attractive setting to the listed buildings and an important landscape feature of visual significance and amenity value which contributes to the general treed character of the area and enhances the road
corridor and the coastline along the northern shores of Belfast Lough. It can also be viewed from Belfast Lough and from the North Down coast.

**Heritage Interest**

The LLPA includes the following listed buildings:

Seapark House, Grade B1,
The Lodge, Grade B1, and
The Boat House, Grade B1.

The historic significance of Seapark House and the contribution it makes to the local landscape character is recognized by its inclusion as a Supplementary Site in the Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes.
Whitehead

Designation WD 06 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Whitehead

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 128 – Island Magee, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA recognises the landform of Carnbrock Hill to the north and north west and the cliffs at White Head enclosing the settlement of Whitehead to the west and south west. Carnbrock Hill is a prominent ridgeline which forms a striking backdrop to the town and contributes to its distinctive landscape setting. There are expansive views from many vantage points towards Larne Lough, the North Down coast and to the Scottish coastline.

The hills surrounding Whitehead are crossed by numerous watercourses, the largest of which is the Slaughterford Water which issues into Larne Lough. The LLPA takes in the broad valley of the Slaughterford Water which is of particular landscape and visual merit and contributes to the setting of Whitehead.

The hillsides are covered in a patchwork of small fields, divided by hedgerows and gorse. There are few buildings within this landscape, but they stand out as prominent features against the backdrop of the hill. Tree cover is largely associated with farms, with patches of woodland and scrub along stream corridors. The railway corridor between Whitehead and Larne with its associated vegetation forms a prominent feature running along the valley floor.

The LLPA includes a significant area of native woodland and scrub, known as Bentra Wood, which forms a prominent feature of landscape and visual amenity value on the steep scarp slopes of the prominent ridgeline. The present woodland is relatively young and is dominated by hazel and ash with a well developed and diverse understorey. There is a small pocket of older mixed broadleaved woodland within Bentra Wood which is all that is left of the woodland recorded on the 1st Edition Maps (1830’s) and is therefore identified as long established woodland. Streams associated with the woodland enhance the biodiversity of the area providing wetland habitat.

The headland at White Head occupies a western gateway position into the town, forming a good entrance/exit feature and contributing to the special townscape character and setting of the area which has been recognised by the inclusion of Beach Road Nature Reserve and White Head within the Whitehead Conservation Area.

On its eastern boundary, the LLPA abuts Island Magee Area of High Scenic Value.
Nature Conservation

The tidal section of the Slaughterford Water is included within the following designations:

Larne Lough Ramsar Site,
Larne Lough Special Protection Area,
Larne Lough Area of Special Scientific interest, and
Ballycarry Area of Scientific Interest.

The LLPA also includes the following Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI):

Coast North and South of Cloghan Point,
Bentra Wood, and
White Head (Geodiversity).

The LLPA includes Beach Road Nature Reserve, a publically accessible, local nature reserve established by Carrickfergus Borough Council in 2008 in a former limestone quarry at White Head. The quarry closed in 1920 and was subsequently used for landfill until 1982. Over the intervening years the site has been colonised naturally by trees, shrubs and wildflowers forming an area of significant habitat and nature conservation interest, of specific importance for breeding birds and butterflies.

Amenity Value

Beach Road Nature Reserve is also identified as an Area of Existing Open Space.

The LLPA includes Bentra Golf Course, which is a council owned, nine-hole course with club house facilities. There are fine views out towards the steep slopes of Carnbrock Hill to the west, Muldersleigh Hill to the east and Larne Lough to the north.

Heritage Interest

The LLPA contains the following archaeological sites and monuments:

Scheduled:
Barrow, located to the north of Bentra Golf Course.

Unscheduled:
Site of a Standing Stone,
Carnbrock Cairn,
Possible 17th century Battle Site at Slaughterford Bridge,and
Site of Old Kirk, Temple I, Gormangan, a Medieval Church and Graveyard.
The hills also contain numerous sites of industrial heritage including disused quarries, lime kiln sites, and reservoirs (largely silted up) associated with the former Whitehead Waterworks.
Whitehead

Designation WD 07 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Chester Avenue and Marine Parade

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 128 – Island Magee, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA identifies an area of significant archaeological and local historical interest. It includes; Castle Chichester, 34 Marine Parade (Castle Chester), a terrace of dwellings at 35-45 Chester Avenue and 35-36 Marine Parade.

Castle Chichester is a square Tower House built circa 1604, for Sir Moyses Hill, a plantation settler who was later appointed Provost-Marshall, to guard the coastline. Only the watchtower and sections of boundary walls remain of the original fortification. The castle built of basalt, is approximately 11 metres high and forms a landmark within the town. It is a scheduled monument in recognition of its regional historical and archaeological importance. An earlier settlement developed around Castle Chichester which took its name Chichester from it and forms the historic core of Whitehead. The town later developed as a Victorian railway town.

34 Marine Parade, known as Castle Chester, is a Manor House adjoining the Tower House built in the late 17th century, complete with stables and outbuildings and formal garden enclosed by a high stone wall which is rendered to the Marine Parade frontage. The house is listed in recognition of its architectural merit and local historical interest. It was lived in by the Brice family who were associated with the mail boat service to Scotland that berthed beside the castle in the 17th and 18th centuries.

35-45 Chester Avenue is a terrace of period dwellings, which are attached to Castle Chichester, with a large shared garden area to the front comprising lawns with mature trees and enclosed by a high wall. The oldest dwellings pre-date the 1st Edition Maps (pre-1830’s).

35 and 36 Marine Parade form an extension to the rear of the Manor House and are in a style in keeping with the character of the listed building. These dwellings also appear on the 1st edition maps. They front onto Marine Parade, elevated above the promenade and set back, with lawns, behind a high stone wall which has been rendered in more recent years.

Heritage Interest

The LLPA is located within Whitehead Conservation Area.

The LLPA is located within Whitehead Area of Archaeological Potential.
The LLPA includes the following listed building:

Castle Chester, 34 Marine Parade, Grade B1.

The LLPA includes the following archaeological site and monument:

Scheduled:
Castle Chichester Tower House.
Whitehead

Designation WD 08 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Beach Road

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 128 – Island Magee, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA includes Nos. 5-10 Beach Road, a terrace of six, former, Coastguard Cottages. Built in the late 19th century, these locally significant Victorian cottages are two storey with the exception of the one on the northern end of the terrace which is a distinctive three-storey, tower-like dwelling. The cottages have been listed in recognition of their architectural merit and significant local historical interest. They are set back from Beach Road on an elevated site, fronted by a lawn area and enclosed by a formal hedge. Small gardens lie to the rear of each property. The LLPA extends to include a parking area and row of garages associated with the cottages which lie within their historic setting.

The features of the LLPA form a group of landmark buildings of landscape and amenity value and historic interest, which contribute to the townscape character of the Whitehead Conservation Area.

Heritage Interest

The LLPA is located within Whitehead Conservation Area.

The LLPA includes the following listed buildings:

Nos. 5-10 Beach Road, Grade B1.
Whitehead

Designation WD 09 – Local Landscape Policy Area, Cable Road

Landscape Character

The LLPA is located within Landscape Character Area 128 – Island Magee, (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 1999).

The LLPA is centred on the Rectory of St. Patrick’s Church, at 74 Cable Road. It first appears on the 1902 map and is an example of late Victorian architecture. The house, which has two storey bays flanking the front door, is of local significance. It is located on a raised grassed terrace, elevated above the road and fronted by a stone retaining wall. It faces in an easterly direction and has extensive views over the town and towards Black Head. The mature treed setting of the house is of landscape and visual amenity value.

The rectory and its associated trees and shrubs contribute to the special townscape character of the area which has been recognised by its inclusion within the Whitehead Conservation Area. Occupying a northern gateway position into the conservation area, the rectory and its associated vegetation forms a good entrance / exit feature to the town.

Nature Conservation

The mature trees and shrubs are of some wildlife and local nature conservation value.

Heritage Interest

The LLPA is located within Whitehead Conservation Area.