

# corrymeela



In partnership with  
**Belfast City Council**



**Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council**

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Queen's University  
Belfast



Ulster  
University



**WILLIAM & MARY**  
CHARTERED 1692

## ***Heritage as Reconciliation***

A winter school exploring heritage practice in contested societies.

Monday 15 January -Friday 19 January, 2018.

Corrymeela Centre, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland.

### **Interactive Site Visits**

Participants will visit 3 sites across the North East Ulster landscape. Whilst the area boasts a large portfolio of interesting and significant heritage, we will focus on areas which formed a core part of Corrymeela and partners' community outreach project, 'Contact, Culture and Conflict around the Causeway'. This initiative focused on the heritage of the last medieval period, looking in particular at the Ulster Plantations. Colin Breen and Audrey Horning will guide the tours, having both been involved in excavation and promotion of the sites.

#### **Dunluce Castle and Town**



The iconic ruin of Dunluce Castle bears witness to a long and tumultuous history. First built on the dramatic coastal cliffs of north County Antrim by the MacQuillan family around 1500, the earliest written record of the castle was in 1513. It was seized by the ambitious MacDonnell clan in the 1550's, who set about stamping their mark on the castle under the leadership of the famous warrior chieftain Sorely Boy MacDonnell during an era of violence, intrigue and rebellion. In the 17th century Dunluce was the seat of the earls of County Antrim and saw the establishment of a small town in 1608.

Visitors can explore the findings of archaeological digs within the cobbled streets and stone merchants' houses of the long-abandoned Dunluce Town.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade

Community Relations Council



## Dungiven Priory & O'Cahan's Tomb

Standing on a promontory overlooking the River Roe, this ecclesiastical site is traditionally associated with the Scottish saint Nechtán (died c.679). The earliest surviving building is the mid 12th-century nave, probably built as a single-cell church of the Augustinian priory founded by the O'Cahans. The chancel was added a century later. In 1397, Archbishop John Colton reconsecrated the site, 'which had been polluted by the spilling of blood'. A fine effigy tomb was erected in the chancel in the late 15th century. By the late 16th century a (secular) tower-house had been built by the O'Cahans at the W. end of the nave. Dungiven was garrisoned by English forces in 1602 after Donal Ballach O'Cahan's submission to the Crown, ending the centuries-long O'Cahan association.



## Coleraine Town

Coleraine is an ancient ecclesiastical site reputedly founded by St Patrick, though the earliest reference to a church here dates to 725. Aspects of the medieval town have occasionally been glimpsed through archaeological investigation, most notably the remains of the Dominican friary, founded in 1244, which was uncovered prior to the construction of the Diamond Centre.

A Royal Charter issued by King James I in 1613 established The Honourable The Irish Society (The Irish Society) through the City of London and granted to it the newly-created County Londonderry. Coleraine was chosen as one of two principle sites for urban settlement, the other being Derry/Londonderry. Key to the terms of the grant was ownership of the fishing rights to the River Bann; valuable salmon and eel were exported as far away as Spain. The River Bann was also an important route into Lough Neagh and the wider hinterland at a time when roads were poor or non-existent.

This meant that Coleraine was key to the economic success of the Irish Society's estates; in 1637 it was described as the 'port of the greatest consequence in the kingdom for coast business'.



Coleraine's gridded street plan with a central market place reflects early 17th-century town planning ideals and has largely survived modern development. Only a small section of the earthen ramparts that surrounded the town survive to the rear of St Patrick's Church, though the original town boundary is reflected by street patterns.