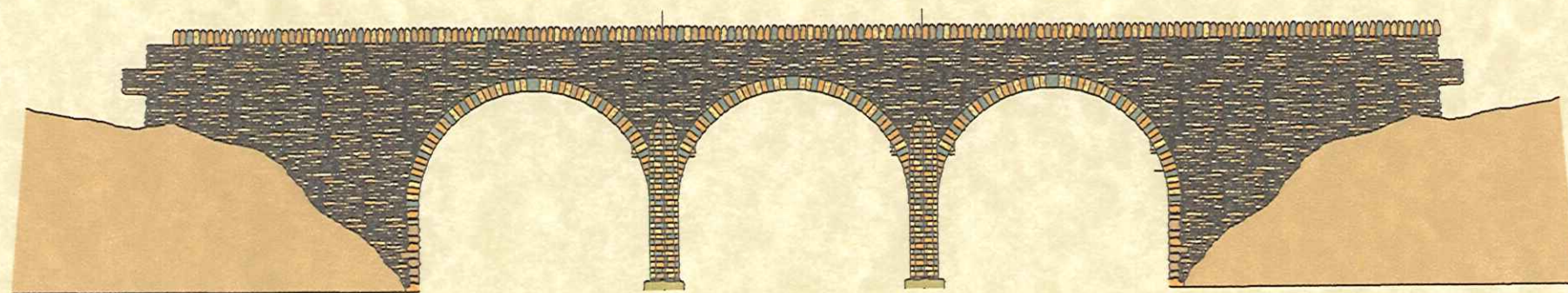


Taobhtire 2000

A STUDY OF
SIX TOWNS AND VILLAGES
FOR



ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACHTA AND
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
FUNDED BY
AN CHOMHAIRLE OIDREACHTA

Taobhtire 2000

BREANDÁN P. UA GALLCHABHAIR AILTIRE

Report on Taobhtire 2000 project

Wednesday, December 9, 1998

0. Introduction

This report is divided into 3 sections:

- 0.1. The process involved in the study
- 0.2. The findings of the study common to all the villages
- 0.3. The findings of the study that are unique to each village

The Taobhtire 2000 project was a pilot project to devise and implement a design plan appropriate for towns and villages in the Donegal Gaeltacht on behalf of a partnership between the Heritage Council, Donegal County Council, and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

The study involved six towns namely

- An Clochán Liath / Dungloe
- An Fál Carrach
- Cill Chártha
- An Charraig
- Gleann Cholmille
- Teileann

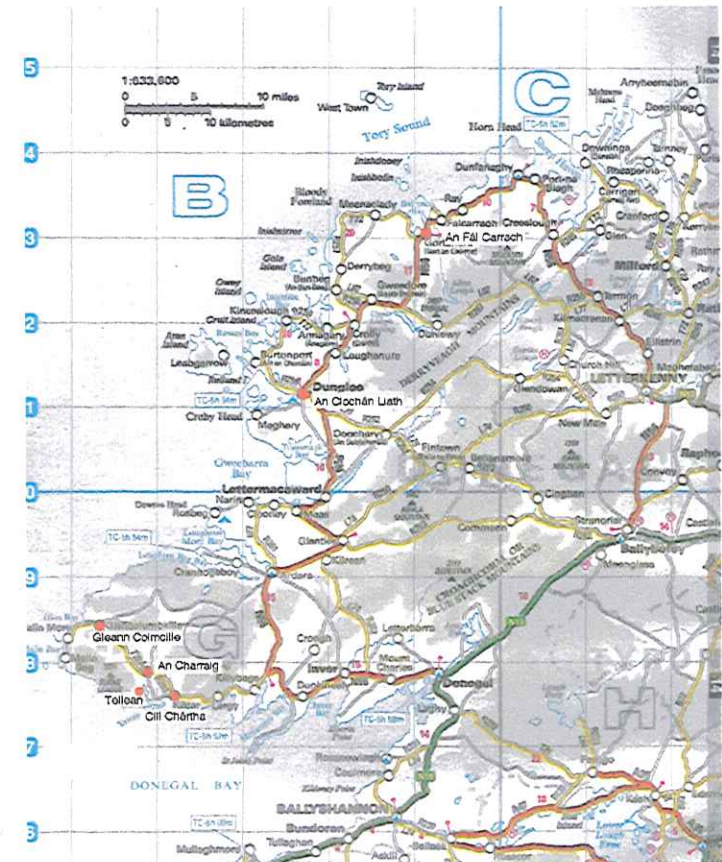
Geographically,

An Fál Carrach is in the north of Co. Donegal

An Clochán Liath is in the west of Co. Donegal

Cill Chártha, An Charraig, Gleann Cholmille and Teileann are relatively close together in south Co. Donegal

Duration of the study: The study was set to commence on 1st July 1998 and was required to be finished on 14th December 1998 allowing five and a half months.



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1. The Process involved in the study

The main bodies involved in the study were the Design Study Team and the Public Participants

The bodies involved in the design study comprised of:

1.1. The client body comprising of:

Údarás Na Gaeltachta, represented by Ms. Siobhán Nic Grianna & Mr. Donnchadha O'Baoil
The Planning Office, represented by Ms. Gaye Moynihan
Specialist Consultant to both these groups, Ms. Fidelma Mullane

1.2. The design facilitator:

Brendan Gallagher - architect
and two graduate assistants

The Public Participants were:

1.3. The representatives of the towns/villages selected for the study comprising of:

local councillors,
community representatives
and
town/village traders representatives

The main activities of the study were:

1.4. The formal participation activities - involving

- The introductory meetings with the representatives of the communities in each town
- Main consultative meetings with the representatives of the communities in each town
- Final round of meetings the representatives of the communities in each town

1.5. The preparation of drawings and documentation - involving

- Photographing and measuring up of the streets

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- Drawing up the surveys of the main streets
- preparation of drawings and documentation for meetings
- preparation of drawings and documentation for reports

1.6. The informal participation activities - involving

- Liaising with the local representatives / liaison officers
- Provision of design advice to traders/local building owners on designs of signs, shop-fronts and colour schemes
- The provision of a design advisory service to architects designing new developments to be built in the towns
- Sunday afternoon walkabout

1.7. The review meetings of the Design Study Group - involving

- The organising/setting-up of the meetings
- Preparation of reports on the study for presentation of these meetings by the design facilitator

The formal participation activities

1.8. The introductory meetings with local communities

The key variables were:

1.8.1. The organiser of the introductory meetings:

The meetings were set up by Siobhán Nic Grianna of Údarás Na Gaeltachta, the local authority for the promotion of the Irish language and culture in the areas in which the towns were involved. Údarás Na Gaeltachta had a specialist knowledge of the people actively involved and interested in improving and developing their town/village.

1.8.2. Those invited to attend were:

- The elected representatives of the local electoral area
- The elected representatives of Údarás na Gaeltachta
- Members of the local parish councils
- Representatives of local traders organisations
- Members of the local business development organisations

1.8.3. The methods used to invite the attendants to the introductory meetings

Those invited to attend were notified by post about the meetings.

1.8.4. The locations of the introductory meetings were as follows:

- An Clochán Liath / Dungloe - Ostan na Rossan, a principal hotel in the town with conference/meeting room facilities
- An Fál Carrach - Ballyconnell House, a large former estate house, close to the town, now in the proprietorship of Údarás na Gaeltachta, with conference room and meeting room facilities
- Cill Chártha, An Charraig, Gleann Cholmcille and Teileann being relatively close together in south Co. Donegal were combined into one meeting which was held in the Day Centre at An Charraig, a building with rooms suitable for meetings, used frequently by the community and close to the town.

1.8.5. The timing of the introductory meetings

Factors that influenced the timing of the first meetings were:

- The time restraints on the study, due to these, it was necessary to hold the first meetings as soon as possible after commencing the study (1/7/98).
- It was considered necessary to give about 2 weeks notice to those who would be attending the meetings, out of consideration for their usually busy work schedules.

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- The holiday period - the study was commencing in the middle of the holiday period, and it was considered that to wait until August would make it even more difficult for people to attend the meetings.
- Thus these introductory meetings were held in the 3rd and 4th weeks of July.

1.8.6. Those participating in the introductory meetings

The attendance at the first meetings was made up as follows:

- Meeting n° 1 - An Fál Carrach
 - Elected representatives of the local electoral area
 - Elected representatives of Údarás na Gaeltachta
 - Members of the local parish councils
 - Representatives of local traders organisations
 - Members of the local business development organisations
 - Individual traders
 - Interested individuals
- Meeting N°2 - An Clochán Liath
 - Elected representatives of the local electoral area
 - Elected representatives of Údarás na Gaeltachta
 - Members of the local business development organisations
 - Interested individuals
- Meeting N°3 - Cill Chártha, An Charraig, Gleann Cholmcille and Teileann
 - Elected representatives of the local electoral area - 1 serving all four towns/villages
 - Elected representatives of Údarás na Gaeltachta - 1 serving all four towns/villages
 - Members of the local parish councils - Gleann Cholmcille 4
 - Members of the local business development organisations Teileann 1, An Charraig 3,
 - Representative of local Culture and Language association - Teileann 1

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1.8.7. The objectives of the introductory meetings were

- To introduce and explain the project to those attending
- To introduce to those attending
 - the representative of the Planning office - Ms. Gaye Moynihan,
 - the representative of Údarás na Gaeltachta Ms. Siobhán Nic Grianna,
 - and
 - the design facilitator - Mr. Brendan Gallagher
- To appoint a liaison officer

1.8.8. The structure of the introductory meetings

- The meetings were organised informally with people sitting around in a circle
- The representative of Údarás na Gaeltachta Ms. Siobhán Nic Grianna, introduced herself and outlined the project from the aspect of Údarás na Gaeltachta, first in Irish and then in English.
- The representative of the Planning office - Ms. Gaye Moynihan introduced herself to the meetings both in Irish and in English and further developed the outline of the project
- The design facilitator, Brendan Gallagher introduced himself and outlined what his involvement would be in the project
- An attendance sheet was passed around and was signed by everyone - this document proved to be very valuable in preparing reports and making further contact with people later.
- The public/attendants at the meeting were given a opportunity to speak at this point, and in turn each public representative introduced himself to the design study team. Other persons then asked questions some with a view to ascertain whether or not the findings of this study would make it more difficult to obtain planning permission
- The need for a liaison officer was explained and volunteers were sought for each town/village and were agreed as follows:

An Clochán Liath / Dungloe	Ms. Irene Campbell	- Secretary Dungloe Development Association
An Fál Carrach	Mr. Manus Kelly	- Local trader
Cill Chártha	Mr. James McBreartaigh	- Comhairle Contae Dún na nGall
An Charraig	Mr. Bréanainn Ó Beirne	- Coiste Forbatha na Charraige
Gleann Cholmcille	Ms. Gearóidín NíGhongail	- Coiste Paroiste Gleann Cholmcille
Teileann	Mr. Niall Ó Ceallaigh	- Coiste Forbatha Theilinn

1.8.9. What equipment/documentation was needed

As these were the introductory meetings, no presentation documents or equipment was needed

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1.8.10. The outcome of the introductory meetings

Arising from each of the Introductory meetings the following had been achieved

Local community leaders and others who attended had been informed of the project

Local community leaders and others who attended had been introduced to the Design study team

The Design Study Team had been introduced to Local community leaders and others who attended

A liaison officer had been nominated to liase with the Design Facilitator

1.8.11. What the public said

Those who spoke at the meetings expressed how glad they were to see the project being commenced, and wished if every success.

1.9. The Main Consultative Meetings with local communities

The key variables were:

1.9.1. The organiser of the Main Consultative meetings:

The meetings were set up by Siobhán Nic Grianna of Údarás Na Gaeltachta.

1.9.2. Those invited to attend were:

- The elected representatives of the local electoral area
- The elected representatives of Údarás na Gaeltachta
- Members of the local parish councils
- Representatives of local traders organisations
- Members of the local business development organisations
- Persons interested in attending

1.9.3. The methods used to invite the attendants to the Main Consultative meetings

Local elected representatives and representatives of local parish councils and development/traders organisations were notified by post about the meetings.

Meetings were announced by the priests at mass in each town/village

Posters announcing the meeting were displayed in the local shops

1.9.4. The locations of the Main Consultative meetings

- An Clochán Liath / Dungloe - Ostan na Rossan, the same venue as was used for the introductory meeting in this town/village
- An Fál Carrach - Ballyconnell House, the same venue as was used for the introductory meeting in this town/village
- Cill Chártha - Cill Chártha National School a venue on the edge of the town with rooms suitable for holding meetings
- An Charraig, the Day Centre at An Charraig, the same venue as was used for the introductory meeting in this town/village
- Gleann Cholmcille - The Oideas Gael - the local enterprise and development centre which has a large meeting room and is close to the village
- Teileann - An Coláiste Samhradh, which is in the middle of the village and has a meeting room and seating suitable for the occasion

1.9.5. The timing of the Main Consultative meetings

Factors that influenced the timing of the first meetings were:

- The holiday period - this had come to an end and the study had moved into September
- The time restraints on the study, due to these, it was necessary to hold the Main Consultative meetings as soon as possible after holiday period
- The necessity to give about 2 weeks notice to those who would be attending the meetings, out of consideration for their busy work schedules.
- Thus these Main Consultative meetings were held in the 3rd and 4th weeks of September.

1.9.6. Those participating in the Main Consultative meetings

The attendance at the main consultative meetings was made up as follows:

- Meeting n° 1 - An Fál Carrach
 - Elected representatives of the local electoral area
 - Elected representatives of Údarás na Gaeltachta
 - Representatives of local traders organisations
 - Individual traders
 - Interested individuals

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- Meeting N°2 - An Clochán Liath
 - Elected representatives of the local electoral area
 - Elected representatives of Údarás na Gaeltachta
 - Members of the local business development organisations
 - Interested individuals
 - Individual traders

- Meeting N°3 - Cill Chártha,
 - Elected representative of the local electoral area
 - Members of the local parish council
 - Individual traders
 - Interested individuals

- Meeting N°4 - Gleann Cholmcille
 - Members of the local parish councils
 - Individual traders
 - Interested individuals

- Meeting N°5 - An Charraig
 - Members of the local parish council
 - Members of the local business development organisation

- Meeting N°6 - Teileann
 - Members of the local parish council
 - Members of the local business development organisations
 - Representative of local Culture and Language association

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1.9.7. The objectives of the Main Consultative meetings

- To involve those who were attending in the process of the study
- To explain the findings of the survey to those attending
- To encourage creative thinking in those attending
- To obtain from those attending information about the background of their buildings and their views on how they saw them developing
- To obtain from those attending any further items of information that might be added to the survey findings
- To provide for those attending an example of a catalyst building such as a bank or some other prominent building in the town/village illustrating the types of changes which could be explored within the limits of acceptable change

1.9.8. The structure of the Main Consultative meetings

- The meetings were organised semi-formally with people sitting around a semicircle to view the overhead projector and screen
- The photographs from the photographic survey of the villages were mounted on stiff card and displayed around the meeting rooms
- The Design Facilitator presented the findings of the study using a fact finding sheet and drawings projected onto the screen using the overhead projector
- Participants at the meetings were then asked to form groups around tables for the purpose of discussing the design features of the main streets of their town/villages.

Participants were given A4 size printouts of the elevations of the sheets that had been drawn up by the Design Facilitator, colour pencils and markers

Participants were asked to write down or sketch out their thoughts on their town/villages

The Design facilitator moved from table to table for the purpose of generating discussion on the town/village and helping participants to list their thoughts

Following this procedure, the meeting was reconvened around the projector and screen and the points raised or itemised by the groups were discussed

- The next step was for the Design Facilitator to provide an example of a catalyst building such as a bank or some other prominent building in the town/village illustrating the types of changes which could be explored within the limits of acceptable change
- The final item was to summarise the meeting and outline for the participants the next steps

1.9.9. What equipment/documentation was needed

- Overhead projector and screen - provided by Údarás na Gaeltachta
- A4 printouts of the elevations of the main streets of the town/village
- Overhead projector transparencies showing:

The list of items found in the town that relate generally to town/villages in the county and those that were unique to the particular town/village

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The elevations of the main street

The drawings showing the different options open to the development of the "catalyst building"

1.9.10. The outcome of the Main Consultative meetings

- Those who attended had become involved in the process of the study
- They had been informed of the findings of the survey and familiarised with design details peculiar to their own town/village
- They had become aware of features peculiar to their own town/village that they had not previously thought about
- Attendants at the meetings had been able to contribute to the meetings unique items of information about their town/village that they had inherited or learned about in the course of their living in the town/village
- Attendants had been permitted to express their views on how they saw their buildings and town/village developing
- Further information had been obtained from those attending about the background of their buildings which could be added to the survey findings
- The catalyst buildings had illustrated to those attending, the extents to which change could take place - within the limits of acceptable change

1.9.11. What the public said

After the meetings, comments from participants went as follows:

An Clochán Liath / Dungloe	People will not comment at a meeting like this in case they offend others attending or even those who might not be here but might hear about it later The attendants were pleased and impressed by the example of the 'catalyst building'. This had helped them to see how development in keeping with the nature of the town was possible
An Fál Carrach	The attendants who had previously been sceptical were pleased and impressed by the example of the 'catalyst building'. This had helped them to see how development in keeping with the nature of the town was possible
Cill Chártha	Attendants were pleased, the owner of the 'catalyst building' indicated his desire to follow the proposal prepared for the meeting
An Charraig	Attendants were impressed by the amount of features they hadn't previously noticed
Gleann Cholmcille	The attendants were very pleased with the findings of the survey

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Teileann	While the people at Teileann had worries relating to the perceived difficulty in getting planning permission and the feeling that the holiday home developers/buyers were pricing the local young people out of the market, they were very interested to see the proposal for the 'catalyst building'
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1.10. The Final Consultative Meetings with local communities

The key variables were:

1.10.1. The organiser of the Final Consultative meetings:

The meetings were set up by Siobhán Nic Grianna of Údarás Na Gaeltachta.

1.10.2. Those invited to attend were:

- The elected representatives of the local electoral area
- The elected representatives of Údarás na Gaeltachta
- Members of the local parish councils
- Representatives of local traders organisations
- Members of the local business development organisations
- Persons interested in attending

1.10.3. The methods used to invite the attendants to the Final Consultative meetings

Local elected representatives and representatives of local parish councils and development/traders organisations were notified by post about the meetings.

The priests at mass in each town/village announced meetings

Posters announcing the meeting were displayed in the local shops

1.10.4. The locations of the Final Consultative meetings

- The same as those that were used for the Main Consultative meetings in each town/village apart from Teileann which was combined with An Charraig as both these centres are in close proximity to each other
- An Clochán Liath / Dungloe - Ostan na Rossan
- An Fál Carrach - Ballyconnell House
- Cill Chártha - Cill Chártha National School
- Gleann Cholmille - The Oideas Gael
- An Charraig and Teileann - the Day Centre at An Charraig

1.10.5. The timing of the meetings

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Factors that influenced the timing of the first meetings were:

- The approaching Christmas period - this would make it more difficult to get people out to attend the meetings particularly as traders were so busy at this time of the year
- The time restraints on the study, as the study was coming to an end it was necessary to hold the final meetings as soon as possible after holiday period
- The necessity to give about 2 weeks notice to those who would be attending the meetings, out of consideration for their busy work schedules.
- Thus this final round of meetings was held in the 4th week of November and the 1st and 2nd weeks of December.

1.10.6. Those participating in the Final Consultative meetings

The attendance at the **Final consultative meetings** was made up as follows:

- Meeting n° 1 - An Fál Carrach
 - Elected representative of the local electoral area
 - Representatives of local traders organisations
- Meeting N°2 - An Clochán Liath
 - Elected representative of the local electoral area
 - Members of the local business development organisations
- Meeting N°3 - Cill Chártha,
 - Members of the local parish council
 - Individual traders
 - Interested individuals
- Meeting N°4 - Gleann Cholmcille
 - Elected representative of the local electoral area
 - Members of the local parish councils
 - Individual traders
 - Interested individuals

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- Meeting N°5 - An Charraig and Teileann
 - Members of the local parish council
 - Members of the local business development organisation
 - Representative of local Culture and Language association
 - Interested individuals

1.10.7. The objectives of the Final Consultative meetings

- To ascertain from those attending whether or not they intended to buy into the findings of the study
- To develop pointers for the next steps that would allow the findings of the study and the public participation to continue
- To ascertain from the participants how they felt about the study and the process it involved

1.10.8. The structure of the Final Consultative meetings

- The meetings were organised informally with people sitting around several tables assembled together
- A1 size colour scaled drawings, showing the elevations of the main streets in each town/village were displayed on the tables for everyone to see
- Participants were given a booklet prepared by the Design Facilitator itemising and illustrating in colour
 - entities that were unique in each town/village in such a way as to enable the participants to see how their town/village identified itself apart from the other town/villages
 - the different approaches to shop fronts and the approach found by the study to be most suitable to their town/village
 - the different approaches to signage and the approach found by the study to be most suitable to their town/village
 - the identity of the town/village as a Gaeltacht settlement
 - the immediate needs of the town/village
 - the entities of area now extinct in the town/village
 - the entities of the town/village in danger of extinction
 - the areas of the town/village that show potential for development
- The Design Facilitator presented the differences by reading through the booklet allowing for discussion as each item was addressed.
 - Participants at the meetings were then asked how they felt about the suggestions provided by the design study and did they feel they were going to take them on board.
- Participants at the meetings were asked how they felt about the process
- The final item was to summarise the meeting and outline for the participants the next steps
- Participants were eager to keep their copies of the booklet

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- Participants were asked to bear in mind the findings of the survey, and to give them consideration for further discussion at a later date

1.10.9. What equipment/documentation was needed

- A1 printouts of the elevations of the main streets of the town/village
- booklet prepared by the Design Facilitator itemising and illustrating in colour
 - entities that were unique in each town/village in such a way as to enable the participants to see how their town/village identified itself apart from the other town/villages
 - the different approaches to shop fronts and the approach found by the study to be most suitable to their town/village
 - the different approaches to signage and the approach found by the study to be most suitable to their town/village
 - the identity of the town/village as a Gaeltacht settlement
 - the immediate needs of the town/village
 - the entities of area now extinct in the town/village
 - the entities of the town/village in danger of extinction
 - the areas of the town/village that show potential for development

1.10.10. The outcome of the Final Consultative meetings

- A link/provision had been made to allow the continuance of the public participation in the process of the development of their towns/villages after the study had been completed
- Public participants had had the distinct identity of their own town/village illustrated to them
- Public participants were able to express what they now wished to see happening in their town/village as a follow on from the study
- The study team was able to verify that the findings of the study were to be taken on board by the public participants

1.10.11. What the public said

In the course of the meetings, participants expressed their feelings about the study as follows:

An Clochán Liath / Dungloe	Public participants were keen to see the continuance of the services of the Design Facilitator being made available to the town/village Participants wanted to hold an exhibition of the study in the Ionad Cúlurtha
An Fál Carrach	Public participants were keen to see the continuance of the services of the Design Facilitator being made available to the town/village Participants wanted to keep the set of A1 drawings used at the meetings Participants were keen that assistance in the choosing of colour schemes for painting of buildings should be made available

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<p>Cill Chártha</p>	<p>Participants suggested setting up a sub-committee of the Parish Council to nurture and encourage the findings of the study among the townspeople</p> <p>Participants wished to see a set of drawings prepared by the Design Facilitator illustrating how he would like to see the town/village</p> <p>Participants wished to see copies of the booklet being made available to the traders on the main street.</p> <p>Participants were keen that assistance in the choosing of colour schemes for painting of buildings should be made available</p>
<p>An Charraig & Teileann</p>	<p>Participants were keen to see the continuance of the study particularly with a view to providing assistance in the choosing of colour schemes for painting of buildings</p>
<p>Gleann Cholmcille</p>	<p>Participants felt that it should be an essential part of the study that business people in the town/village should be involved in the consultative process as a definite element of the process</p>

The preparation of drawings and documentation

1.11. Photographing and measuring up of the streets

The key variables were

1.11.1. Drawings that would be required in the course of the study

- Up-to-date ordnance survey map of each town/village or the equivalent drawn on computer
 - To provide base maps for detailing findings and proposals of the study
 - To provide base maps that could be re-scaled to any suitable scale in the production of later documents
 - To provide a reference as to the location of each building and feature of the town/village
 - To provide information on the layout of the town/village for analysis purposes
 - To provide information on the relationship of each building and its features to the buildings adjacent
- Up-to-date elevations of the main street of each town/village drawn on computer
 - To provide a basis for detailing findings and proposals of the study
 - To provide base drawings that could be re-scaled to any suitable scale in the production of later documents
 - To provide information on the relationship of each building and its features to the buildings adjacent
 - To provide information on the relationship of each building and feature to the overall context of the town/village
 - To provide information on the details of the designs of the buildings of each town/village for analysis purposes
 - To provided a basis for identifying a 'catalyst building'

1.11.2. Photographs that would be required in the course of the study

- Up-to-date photographs of the elevation of each town/village or the equivalent drawn on computer
 - To provide information on the relationship of each building and its features to the buildings adjacent
 - To provide a reference as to the location of each building and feature of the town/village
 - To provide a reference for discussion purposes at the formal public participation meetings

1.11.3. Availability of previous drawings and maps

- The availability of maps meant that the work could begin in redrawing the maps on computer

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- The lack of up-to-date information on the available maps meant that updating these maps would be necessary following the survey of each town/village
- The maps available were:
 - The Ordnance Survey maps available for the towns and villages in the study were 1:2500 maps, dating from the survey of 1905
 - Maps were provided in the Rural Villages Renewal documents; - these were hand drawn and showed features that were not yet present
- There were no previous drawings of the elevations of the streets available.

1.11.4. Timing of the photographic and measurement survey

- Both of these surveys were carried out simultaneously in each town/village, as four persons were required and this would convene the transport of the personnel to each town/village.
- The time constraints on the project - meant it was necessary to commence this work as soon as the base maps were available
- The weather conditions - it would not be possible to do this work satisfactorily in wet weather as the notes being taken would become smudged and illegible
- The completion of the base maps at a suitable degree and to a suitable scale (not less than 1:1000) for purposes of updating and making notes relating to findings on site

1.11.5. Number of people required to carry out the measurement survey

- Two persons trained in survey work were required to do the measurement work in each town/village under the supervision of the Design Facilitator
 - One to hold each end of the tape, one of whom also had to take notes while measuring the horizontal widths of the elevations of the buildings and the spaces between the buildings

1.11.6. Number of people required to carry out the photographic survey

- Two persons
 - one of whom was skilled in photography work
 - The second person was required to hold a 2 metre staff against each building being photographed so that when the buildings were being drawn up, it would be possible to assess the vertical scale of the components of each building

1.11.7. Time required to measure and photograph each village

- Both the photographic and measurement survey were taken together and one day per town/village was required

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1.11.8. The equipment needed to carry out the measurement survey

- Base copies of map of each town/village scale 1:1000
- 100m steel tape

1.11.9. The equipment needed to carry out the photographic survey

- 2 metre staff
- good quality camera

1.11.10. Drawing up the town/village maps - resources

- 3 computers with suitable CAD packages
- 2 architectural technician graduates
- Design Facilitator

1.11.11. Drawing up the town/village maps - time requirements

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| • An Clochán Liath / Dungloe | 2 weeks | 1 person (supervised) |
| • An Fál Carrach | 2 weeks | 1 person (supervised) |
| • Cill Chártha | 1.5 weeks | 1 person (supervised) |
| • Gleann Cholmcille | 2 weeks | 1 person (supervised) |
| • An Charraig | 1.5 weeks | 1 person (supervised) |
| • Teileann | 1.5 weeks | 1 person (supervised) |

1.11.12. Drawing up the surveys of the main streets - resources

- 3 computers with suitable CAD packages
- 2 architectural technician graduates
- Design Facilitator

1.11.13. Drawing up the surveys of the main streets - time requirements

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| • An Clochán Liath / Dungloe | 4 weeks | 1 person (supervised) |
| • An Fál Carrach | 4 weeks | 1 person (supervised) |
| • Cill Chártha | 3.5 weeks | 1 person (supervised) |

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- Gleann Cholmcille 2.5 weeks 1 person (supervised)
- An Charraig 2.5 weeks 1 person (supervised)
- Teileann 1.5 weeks 1 person (supervised)

1.11.14. preparation of drawings and documentation for meetings

Date	Meeting	Time	By whom
29/7/98	Design study team / project Review meeting An Fál Carrach	2 hrs	Design Facilitator
4/9/98	Design study team / project Review meeting Sligo Park Hotel	9 hrs	Design Facilitator
21/9/98	Main consultative meeting An Fál Carrach	20 hours	Design Facilitator
22/9/98	Main consultative meeting An Clochán Liath	20 hours	Design Facilitator
23/9/98	Main consultative meeting An Cill Chártha	20 hours	Design Facilitator
28/9/98	Main consultative meeting Gleann Cholmcille	20 hours	Design Facilitator
29/9/98	Main consultative meeting An Charraig	20 hours	Design Facilitator
30/9/98	Main consultative meeting Teileann	20 hours	Design Facilitator
1/10/98	Design study team / project Review meeting Letterkenny	6 hrs	Design Facilitator
19/10/98	Revision of document prepared for meeting of 1/10/98	15 hrs	Design Facilitator
5/11/98	Design study team / project Review meeting Donegal Town	48 hrs	Design Facilitator
23/11/98	Final consultative meeting An Fál Carrach	20 hours	Design Facilitator
24/11/98	Final consultative meeting An Clochán Liath	14 hours	Design Facilitator
3/12/98	Final consultative meeting An Cill Chártha	14 hours	Design Facilitator
7/12/98	Final consultative meeting Gleann Cholmcille	16 hours	Design Facilitator
8/12/98	Final consultative meeting An Charraig & Teileann	32 hours	Design Facilitator

1.11.15. preparation of drawings and documentation for reports

- the only report that had to be produced for purposes other than a meeting is this one Time required 180hrs

The informal public participation process

1.12. Liasing with local communities

The key variables were

1.12.1. The people contacted

- Representatives of local traders and business organisations
- A liaison officer appointed at the introductory public participation meetings in each town/village
- individual traders and residents of the towns/villages

1.12.2. The basis on which / reason why these contacts were nominated

- Representatives of local traders and business organisations were contacted on the instructions of Údarás na Gaeltachta.
 This instruction was issued on the 3rd day of the project some 3 - 4 weeks before a liaison officer was appointed
 Because this was the middle of the summer and the busiest period of the year for some people, it took some time to set up meetings with people
 The following people were contacted:
 An Fál Carrach Seamus McGee
 An Clochán Liath Noreen Farren
 Gleann Cholmcille Liam O'Cuinnegáin
- The liaison officer was appointed at the introductory public participation meeting with a view to
 Informing the people of the town that the design study had commenced
 Answering any queries that the Design Facilitator might have

1.12.3. The stage in the study at which local contacts were contacted

- Because the Introductory Public Participation Meetings did not take place until the 3rd and 4th weeks of the design study, contact was made with the representatives before the Introductory Public Participation Meetings.

Date	town/village	Name of contact	Type of information obtained
20/7/98	Gleann Cholmcille	Liam O'Cuinnegáin	A very detailed and accurate account of what Gleann Cholmcille was all about, incorporating information on historical, cultural and current affairs of the area. Liam produced the illustrated guide to Gleann Cholmcille, and is one of the most knowledgeable people in the area about Gleann Cholmcille

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25/7/98	An Clochán Liath	Noreen Farren	This meeting had been set up about two weeks before hand. Noreen provided me with a wide ranging amount of information about An Clochán Liath , from the aspect of the history of the development of the town. Her in-depth knowledge of the area, was wide ranging and profound.
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- It was difficult to contact liaison officers at the time of surveying the buildings because:
 - the photographic and measurement surveys of each town/village had to take place in good weather, the decision whether or not to embark on the survey had to be made on the day. Thus no forward notice could be given about the day on which the survey would take place
 - once the photographing and measuring of the buildings was started, it was important to concentrate on what one was doing, to avoid omissions and errors. Thus the time for surveying and measuring is not always a good time for discussion and ascertaining information

- Attempts were also made to contact liaison officers when surveying the other towns / villages and in some instances successfully as follows:

Date	town/village	Name of liaison officer	Type of information obtained
18/7/98 and 29/7/98	An Fál Carrach	Seamus McGee Paddy Kelly Josie Doohan	When I first called to Seamus he was busy and unable to give me much of his time. He did however introduce me to Paddy Kelly who provided me, over several meetings to follow, with a detailed and in-depth knowledge of the town. Another very informative person I met on these days was local Butcher Josie Doohan, who as a man with an immense interest in the town also provided me with a lot of information on the town.
25/7/98	Teileann	Niall O'Ceallaigh	An in-depth account of the village, its history of development, and its history before it developed to it's present state. Niall also brought me to his home where he lives with his parents in one of the original thatched cottages of Teileann, facing east over the estuary
25/7/98	An Charraig	An tAthar Eamonn O'Gallachóir	Father Gallagher was away at the time
4/8/98	An Cill Chártha	Seamus Mac Breartaigh	Seamus was away at the time

- Liaison officers were also contacted at times of trying to organise further meetings.
- Contact made with individuals in the towns and villages in the course of the survey work, were made on an ad-hoc basis, in some cases these discussions were extremely informative

It did happen that individual traders came out of their shops to discuss the project with the Design Facilitator at the time while the survey work going on.

In some instances lengthy discussions took place with these traders offering a lot of information about the town/village

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1.13. Provision of design advice to local building owners

- People who were seeking design advice on how to renovate their buildings were referred to the Design Facilitator by Údarás na Gaeltachta they were
- Josie Doohan - An Fál Carrach who wanted advice on how to refurbish his butcher shop and the adjoining premises. Josie requested advice on the following:
 - Colour schemes for his premises
 - Complete treatment of the façade of his premises
 - Designs for new sign to his premises in Irish
- Phrionséas Ní Bhoill - An Clochán Liath who wanted advice on how to treat her newly acquired fish and chip shop using Irish signage
- Both of the above were provided with drawings showing how to achieve what they were aiming for

1.14. Provision of design advice to firm of professional architects providing architectural services to Údarás na Gaeltachta

- The Design Facilitator was requested to attend a parish council meeting at Cill Chártha on the 26th October, which also involved Údarás na Gaeltachta and their architects involved in the Aislann centre. The work required was as follows
 - Design scheme for new centre logo to exterior of centre
 - Design scheme for landscaping the new centre
 - Design scheme for new façade to former boiler house
- The Design Facilitator provided drawings for these schemes and sent copies of them to Údarás na Gaeltachta and their architects

1.15. Sunday afternoon walkabouts

- At the October 1st Review Meeting, the Design Facilitator was instructed to hold two walkabouts, dates and times were set as follows
 - An Fál Carrach - October 5th
 - Cill Chártha - November 8th
- The walkabouts were to be organised by the Design Facilitator

1.15.1. Methods used to announce the walkabouts were:

- Colour A4 posters were sent to the liaison officer in Falcarragh
- Colour A4 posters were sent to the pub where the walkabout was to meet before starting

This was done because when the Design Facilitator went to check with the publican that it was o.k. to meet at their pub, the Publican undertook to organise the distribution of the posters and ask the priest to announce the walkabout at the masses

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1.15.2. Time of walkabouts:

- Both walkabouts were organised for Sunday afternoons at 2.30 p.m.

Note: while this was the best time for getting people together after their lunch, it might have posed some difficulty with the publicans on account of it being the 'Holy hour' and in both of these instances the publicans facilitated the meetings. However it was necessary to check with the publican first.

1.15.3. Venue of walkabouts:

- Both walkabouts were organised to meet at the most prominent pub in the town

1.15.4. Success or failure of walkabouts:

- The walkabout in An Fál Carrach was a success

Approximately 8 people turned out for it

Much information about the town was shared

It provided further information for the Design Facilitator

It confirmed the quality of previously gathered information

- The walkabout in An Charraig was a failure

The date and time clashed with the Junior County Football Final, indicating the need to check with local people first as to the suitability of the date before setting it.

Only two people turned out for the walkabout and it was decided not to hold it

1.16. Overall assessment and identification of the Key Variables

1.16.1. Chronologically the events of this Design study went as follows

1.16.1.1. Initial familiarisation with town/village observation and photographic study

1.16.1.2. Updating and computerisation of maps

1.16.1.2.1. Availability of existing maps

1.16.1.2.2. Number of persons involved in doing the computer aided design drawing work

1.16.1.2.3. Computers and equipment required

1.16.1.3. Making contact and researching the background of the town/village with recommended contacts

1.16.1.3.1. Who to contact

1.16.1.4. Surveying and measuring of the towns/villages

1.16.1.4.1. Drawings that would be required

1.16.1.4.2. Photographs that would be required

1.16.1.4.3. Availability of computerised maps

1.16.1.4.4. Number of people involved

1.16.1.4.5. Time involved

1.16.1.4.6. Equipment involved

1.16.1.4.7. Weather conditions

1.16.1.5. Introductory Public Participation Meetings

1.16.1.5.1. Setting up the meetings

1.16.1.5.2. Methods used to invite attendants to meetings

1.16.1.5.3. Who to invite

1.16.1.5.4. Location of meetings

1.16.1.5.5. Timing of meetings

1.16.1.5.6. Objectives of the meetings

1.16.1.5.7. Format of meetings

1.16.1.5.7.1. Appointment of Liaison Officer

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1.16.1.6. Drawing up of the surveys

1.16.1.6.1. Number of people involved

1.16.1.6.2. Time involved

1.16.1.6.3. Equipment involved

1.16.1.7. Preparation of documentation for Main Consultative Public Participation Meetings

1.16.1.7.1. Studying and analysing the photographs, maps and revisiting the towns/villages for the purpose of identifying key trends

1.16.1.7.2. Preparation of design schemes for 'catalyst buildings', further Main consultative Public Participation Meetings

1.16.1.7.3. Cost of printing

1.16.1.8. Main Consultative Public Participation Meetings

1.16.1.8.1. Setting up the meetings

1.16.1.8.2. Methods used to invite attendants to meetings

1.16.1.8.3. Who to invite

1.16.1.8.4. Location of meetings

1.16.1.8.5. Timing of meetings

1.16.1.8.6. Objectives of the meetings

1.16.1.8.7. Format of meetings

1.16.1.9. Preparation of documentation for Review Body Meetings

1.16.1.9.1. Time

1.16.1.9.2. By whom

1.16.1.9.3. Cost of printing

1.16.1.10. Collation of information

1.16.1.10.1. Time

1.16.1.10.2. By whom

1.16.1.11. Preparation of documentation for Final Consultative Public Participation Meetings

1.16.1.11.1. Time

1.16.1.11.2. By whom

1.16.1.11.3. Cost of printing

1.16.1.12. Preparation of final report

1.16.1.12.1. Time

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- 1.16.1.12.2. By whom
- 1.16.1.12.3. Collation of information
- 1.16.1.12.4. Cost of printing

1.16.2. Chronologically the events that in the opinion of the Design Facilitator might work better

Note: the parameters within the main headings of the events remain the same, apart from those for the Introductory Public Participation Meeting where the 'format' of the meeting is altered to provide for the earlier appointment and definition of the role of the liaison officer.

1.16.2.1. Introductory Public Participation Meetings

1.16.2.1.7.1. Appointment of Liaison Officer

1.16.2.1.7.1.1. Definition of role of Liaison Officer

- To inform the traders and building owners of the commencement of the project
- To introduce the Design Facilitator to a person knowledgeable in the history and development of the town/village
- To notify people about forthcoming meetings
- To identify days that would be suitable for meetings in their particular town/village

1.16.2.2. Initial familiarisation with town/village observation and photographic study

1.16.2.3. Updating and computerisation of maps

1.16.2.4. Making contact and researching the background of the town/village with recommended contacts

1.16.2.5. Surveying and measuring of the towns/villages

1.16.2.6. Drawing up of the surveys

1.16.2.7. Preparation of documentation for Main Consultative Public Participation Meetings

1.16.2.8. Main Consultative Public Participation Meetings

1.16.2.9. Preparation of documentation for Review Body Meetings

1.16.2.10. Collation of information

1.16.2.11. Preparation of documentation for Final Consultative Public Participation Meetings

CUID A DÓ

Taobhtire 2000

Lorg Na hÁite den Gaeltacht Dún na nGall

Part II

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Introduction

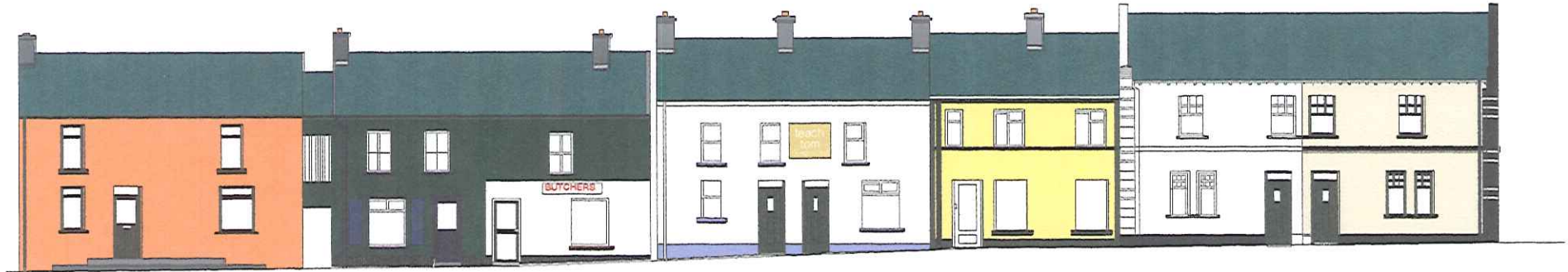
This second section of the report identifies the elements of the towns/villages that contribute to the identity of villages in the County Donegal Gaeltacht. "Lorg na hÁite" is the "imprint of the places" so as to speak. It is the sum of those elements of the towns/villages that when put together all add up to the general overall appearance of the town/village. If these elements are allowed to be eroded from the existing buildings, then so also will the "Lorg na hÁite" of the town/village gradually disappear. It is recommended that in new developments, these elements as identified in this report should be adhered to, so as to ensure that new developments within the environs of the towns/villages do not swamp the existing "Lorg na hÁite" of each town/village.

In most towns/villages the erosion of the fabric is already well underway. Sometimes elements such as the Forge / teach ceártha will have disappeared altogether. Other elements such as the colourful petrol pumps in the middle of the towns/villages are under threat due to EU directives.

Part II

Lorg Na hÁite den Gaeltacht Dún na nGall

Entities that lend to the creation of the identity of towns common to all the towns/villages in the study



Illust. 1 Part of the south elevation of Main Street - An Charraig

2.1. Massing

2.1.1. In all towns/villages, the massing of the buildings is single block building mass, where the mass/single block comes straight down to the ground. No step backs within the outline of the individual building are found either vertically, horizontally or interlocking

2.1.2. The only forward projections are found in the occasional porches, these are limited to larger buildings within the towns. The mass of these front porches comes right down to the ground



Illust. 2 Séamus O'Donnell's house - An Fál Carrach

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2.2. Height of Buildings

- 2.2.1. Varies providing the step up or down between adjacent buildings is not more than 1.5 stories
- 2.2.2. Pitched roofs at varying heights are more consistent with roofscapes of the towns than flat roofs at the same height as the pitched roof of adjacent buildings



Illust. 3 Part South Elevation An Cill Chártha

2.3. Front Walls

- 2.3.1. Maintain the building line of the street and are not set back from the street more than 300mm
- 2.3.2. Can bend freely with the line of the street
- 2.3.3. Don't recess or dog-leg but may have occasional bay windows providing they are composed of masonry and where the glass follows the guidelines for glass given below
- 2.3.4. Are clearly of block or stone construction and their structure goes directly to the ground
- 2.3.5. The traditional finish was smooth plaster or stiff brush painted cement render

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2.4. Roofs

2.4.1. Roofs finished in natural slates are the most sympathetic to the fabric of the towns and villages

2.4.2. the gables are at right angles to the line of the street

2.4.3. The roofs are simple 'A' format

2.4.4. the roofs spring directly from the front wall

2.4.5. raised horizontal parapets are not used although raking parapets are found

2.4.6. Pitches of the roofs are not less than 30 and not more than 50 degrees

2.4.7. the function of the roof is to provide a horizontal barrier against rain albeit that the barrier is made up of sloping planes

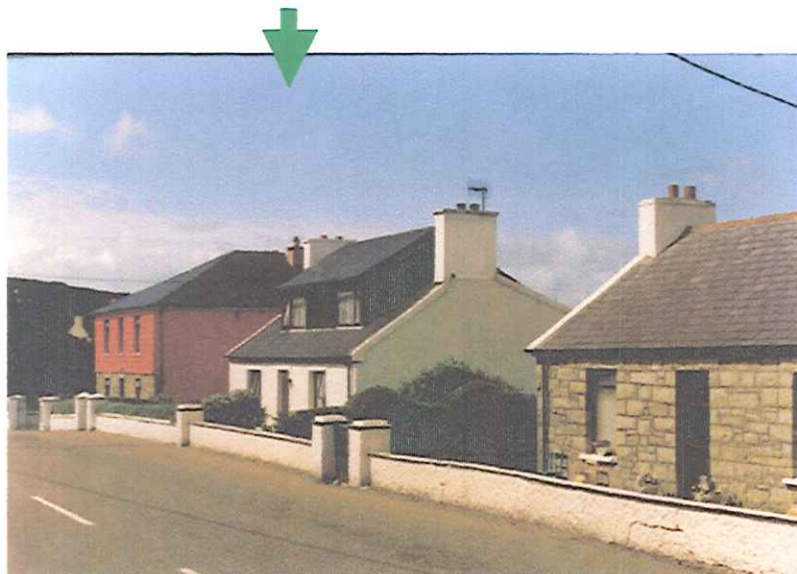
2.4.8. the function of the roof should **not** be to serve as a wall as in the case of a mansard roof



Illust. 4 - An Fál Carrach side street

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Illust. 5 - These three houses at An Clochán Liath were originally identical cottages. The first house has been refurbished extending out the back and exposing the stone. The second has developed its attic with a type of dormer that is unsympathetic to the design of houses in Gaeltacht towns. The third has put on a second story which is more sympathetic to a Gaeltacht townscape than the dormer of the middle house, it has a stronger presence and adds more character to the townscape



Illust. 6 - The dormers in Meehans at An Fál Carrach are more sympathetic to Gaeltacht towns and villages and are often found in two and three storey houses. Note how the face of the dormers is on the same plane as the face of the main front wall



Illust. 7 - These velux windows do not help the dwelling to have a clearly defined presence on the landscape



This house would have contributed more to the look and feel of Gaeltacht houses if it had been two story rather than single story with velux roof windows

2.5. Attic Developments

- 2.5.1. A trend exists to develop attics
- 2.5.2. Many people voiced their preference for complete two or three story buildings rather than attic buildings
- 2.5.3. Attic developments should be avoided in single story buildings, as they weaken the visual presence of the masonry walls

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2.6. Chimneys

- 2.6.1. These are being eroded in many instances
- 2.6.2. Where this is happening a strong and important element of the fabric of the town is being eroded
- 2.6.3. Chimneys provide a valuable source of ventilation to buildings ensuring the health and safety of the buildings and their occupants
- 2.6.4. The use of a false chimney was often found in traditional Irish dwellings for the sole purpose of balancing them up
- 2.6.5. Chimneys should be used in all building refurbishments and re-instatements either for ventilation purposes or for flue purposes



Illust. 8 - In the nicely refurbished Oifig an Phoist at An Charraig, The chimneys were covered over by the roofer. Following the 'Final Public Participatoin Consultative Meeting', the owners have said that the chimneys are still beneath the roofing slates and they will rebuild them again soon

Raking parapets

2.7. The Raking Parapets

- 2.7.1. These are also known locally as concrete **barges**. In most towns there is some presence of these entities while in An Teileann there is a strong presence

2.8. Eaves

- 2.8.1. Do not project more than 100mm over the face of the front wall

Eaves



Illust. 9 Two story dwelling at Teileann with barges

2.9. Windows

- 2.9.1. window panes are set back not less than 100mm from the face of the walls
- 2.9.2. Up and down sash windows are the window types to be preferred. These are predominantly with a vertical emphasis.
- 2.9.3. Windows with a horizontal emphasis are consistent with the traditional style where up and down sash windows have been employed
- 2.9.4. Townsfolk complain of the difficulty in getting these made. This points to a skills shortage in this area of demand



Illust. 10 - The Glen Head Tavern at GlenColmcille

2.10. Doors

- 2.10.1. Follow the trends for windows.
- 2.10.2. Only occasionally are some doors to shops are set back from the face of the wall more than 200mm.

2.11. Porches

- 2.11.1. See 2.1.2 above

The traditional shop window

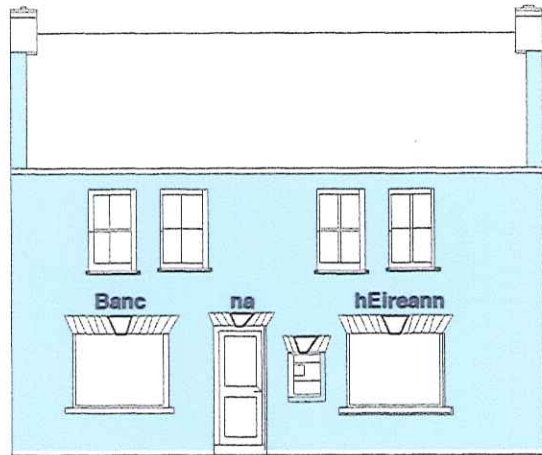
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2.12. Shop-fronts

- 2.12.1. Are either a direct result of the structural requirements of the walls overhead or they symbolically depict this
- 2.12.2. Traders are starting to fit timber shop-fronts to the shops. While these are frequently found in other towns, they are not unique to the Gaeltacht. More unique to the Gaeltacht is to use a shop window separated from the door, approximately 500mm off the ground, between 1.5m and 3.0m wide and whatever height the ceiling will bear

2.13. Shop-signs

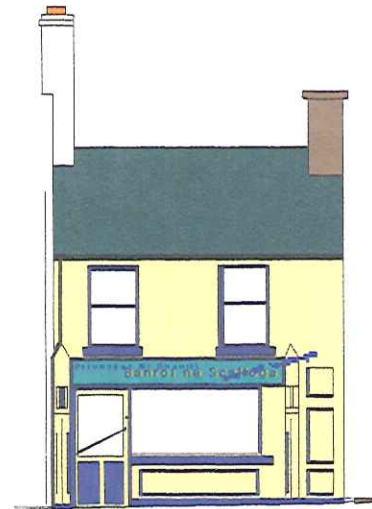
- 2.13.1. The shop sign sits over the window and/or door, is surface mounted and surrounded by a framing. It can be carried out in plaster or timber



Illust. 11b - A suggestion for the Bank of Ireland in An Fál Carach. Here the lettering is mounted onto the wall directly.



Illust. 11d - A suggestion for having the signs in Irish in An Charrraig



Illust. 11c - A suggestion for carrying out the signs to the Fish and Chip shop in Dungloe in Irish



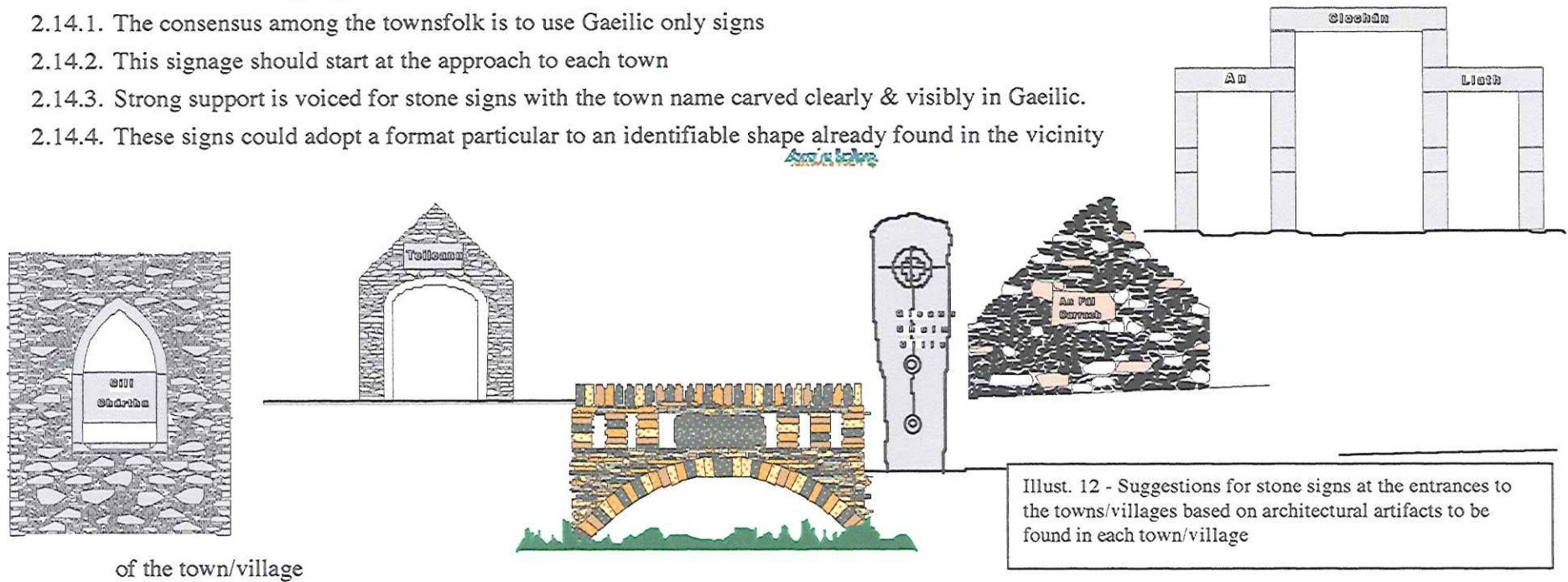
Illust. 11a - Butchers shop at An Charrraig - note the traditional shop window with the sign on a simple sign board overhead



Illust. 11e - Suggestion for restaurant at Cill Chártha - here the sign is mounted onto a traditional sign board over the windows

2.14. Traditional Signage

- 2.14.1. The consensus among the townsfolk is to use Gaelic only signs
- 2.14.2. This signage should start at the approach to each town
- 2.14.3. Strong support is voiced for stone signs with the town name carved clearly & visibly in Gaelic.
- 2.14.4. These signs could adopt a format particular to an identifiable shape already found in the vicinity



Illust. 12 - Suggestions for stone signs at the entrances to the towns/villages based on architectural artifacts to be found in each town/village

of the town/village

2.15. Footpaths

- 2.15.1. Traditionally these have been paved or gravelled. Recent urban renewal works are concreting the footpaths and eroding the fabric of the towns
- 2.15.2. They should be repaved with natural stone flags. If natural stone flags cannot be used Kilsarin paving blocks of matching colour could be used as can be seen in illustration 11.
- 2.15.3. Speckled or mixed batches of paving blocks should not be used
- 2.15.4. Brick or brick sized paviors should not be used.



Block
kerbstones

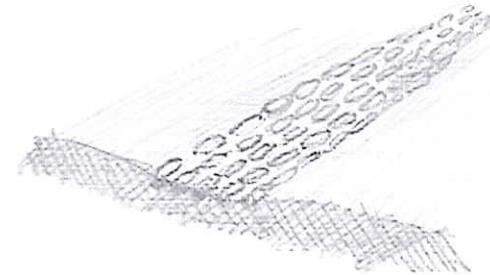
Illust. 13 - paving blocks

2.16. Kerbstones

- 2.16.1. Large pre-cast concrete kerbstones are being laid in the towns by the Roads Departments of the Local Authority. These are more suitable to industrial estates and it would be preferable to block kerbstones as illustrated above, or natural cut stone from local quarries as may have been used formerly.

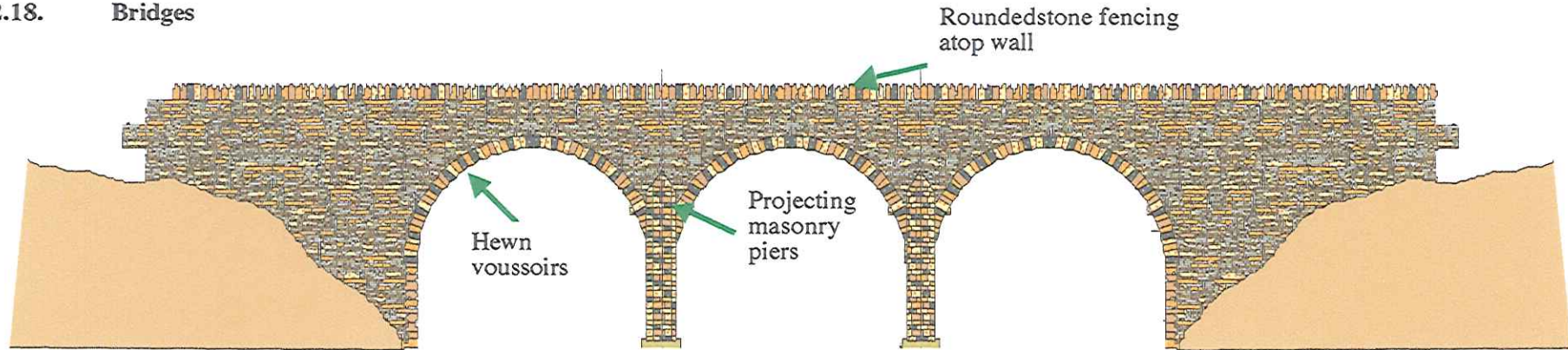
2.17. Road Gutters

- 2.17.1. Traditional rounded (sea-shore) cobblestone road gutters have been removed by Local Authorities and are being replaced with either precast concrete or cobblelock gutters. This is eroding the soft texture of the street and produces an anonymous hard appearance that could pertain to any industrial city/town e.g. Berlin
- 2.17.2. Traditional roadgutters from sea-shore cobblestones should be re-employed where possible



Illust. 14 - Traditional beach stone roadside gutter (now removed) as was to be found in An Fál Carrach

2.18. Bridges



Illust. 15 - The triple arch stone bridge at An Charraig

- 2.18.1. In all towns bridges are perceived by the Local Authority as causing a problem with larger commercial traffic. The solution being provided is to knock down the stone walls and to widen the bridges.
- 2.18.2. Concrete block walls to the bridges are blocking the view of the rivers beneath to the drivers and passengers of vehicles
- 2.18.3. Because of the proximity of towns to the sea, steel and metal railings do not last
- 2.18.4. It would be preferable for the Local Authority to devise alternative routes for large vehicles to circumvent the town rather than for them to assist the commercial traffic in eroding the fabric of the town.
- 2.18.5. Stone balustrades made from coarse stone could be constructed in lieu of solid walls to permit travellers to see the river and waterfalls below while driving by.



Illust. 16 - A coarse stone balustrade that could be used at An Charraig

2.19. Walls - generally

- 2.19.1. Few of the old walls of stone remain in the towns, but enough do remain to provide sufficient information on the different types of stone masonry that existed in each town, providing each town with the potential for a strong unique identity in this area
- 2.19.2. New walls are being built by FÁS schemes which ignore the traditional method of wall building, causing the visual identities of the towns to merge with each other



Illust. 17 - A traditionally built stone wall - An Fál Carrach

2.20. E.S.B. Meter Boxes

- 2.20.1. These are an ugly and out of context eyesore. They are being installed in An Fál Carrach along the sides of the footpaths as part of the towns and villages renewal scheme
- 2.20.2. They are galvanised metal and besides being unsightly they are dangerous to pedestrians
- 2.20.3. The E.S.B. should be instructed to replace them with a more suitable form of meter box.
- 2.20.4. There is no reason why they should be so large and prominent
- 2.20.5. It is most most likely that these should be required to have planning permission
- 2.20.6. There is no reason why these meter boxes should have to be so large and prominent



Illust. 18 - The obtrusive ESB meter boxes

2.21. Flowerbeds

- 2.21.1. Are not prominent in any of the towns
- 2.21.2. Hanging baskets, window boxes and flower troughs could be provided extensively in each of the towns
- 2.21.3. More innovative would be to plant the sides of the roadways on the approaches to the towns/villages with wild flowers such as Maumbretia, Poppies, Fuschia, Daffodils and Lillies



Illust. 19 - Wild flowers along the bank of the road at the approaches to a town/village

2.22. Tree planting

- 2.22.1. This is starting to take place in the towns, where it has occurred before, the trees were not sufficiently protected to survive the ravages of vandalism. As a result of the discussions held during this study, An Fál Carrach has already installed surveillance cameras with a marked success.
- 2.22.2. Few of the towns/villages would have the space for tree planting within the confines of the town/village and in these instances it would be better to tree plant the approaches to the towns/villages to provide the contrast the built environment within the towns/villages



Illust. 20 - The parade of Beech trees opposite the old hotel at An Charraig

Taobhtire 2000

2.23. Ancient skills/crafts

- 2.23.1. Here the An Fál Carrach the teach ceárta is concealed down a side lane. It was a very ancient building originally, however it collapsed in parts and because of lack of funds, much of it was rebuilt in modern materials.
- 2.23.2. The teach ceárta is of enormous cultural significance in any town/village. Ceárta also means gossip or centre of activity, which is what the forges were known as, resulting from the many tales that would be told there by people standing around waiting for their horses to be shod etc.
- 2.23.3. Visual evidence of ancient skills/crafts such as an teach ceárta (the forge) in An Fál Carrach are disappearing from view in the towns.
- 2.23.4. Those that are becoming dilapidated need financial assistance towards their restoration



Illust. 21 - The forge at An Fál Carrach, an teach ceárta

2.24. Car parking

- 2.24.1. This is generally off-street. Towns are congested at peak times as a result of this
- 2.24.2. Townsfolk in most towns have alternative ideas for parking areas behind the main streets



Illust. 22 - Arched entrance to potential carparking space at rear - An Fál Carrach

2.25. Scope for development

- 2.25.1. Many main street buildings have disused barns and mews buildings to their rear.
- 2.25.2. Many of these areas are accessible through arched entrances or entrances off side streets
- 2.25.3. These buildings often contain plenty of stone in the pattern unique to the particular town. Their development would enhance the identity of the town
- 2.25.4. None of the towns studied offer tax incentives to developers.
- 2.25.5. Tax incentives to redevelop the towns need to be carefully planned to prevent the main body of ownership of the town buildings from falling out of the hands of the townsfolk.
- 2.25.6. Tax incentives need to be carefully planned to prevent the cost of property in the towns from rising out of the reach of the townsfolk



Illust. 23 - An Fál Carrach

2.26. Ownership of Property

- 2.26.1. Ownership of property within the towns still resides with the people of the towns. Often these are traders who now live outside the towns/villages, causing the towns to become dormitory towns/villages. The problem with this is not just that the towns become susceptible to vandalism, but it also means that the commercial value of the buildings outweighs their residential value. This makes it difficult for young couples and single people who want to settle in the town/village to buy a town/village home when it comes up for sale.
- 2.26.2. This is not the only difficulty that confronts the ability of the town/village to regenerate itself as a community, other difficulties are:
 - 2.26.2.1. A young couple or young single person, many of whom have been away from the town/village for a few years, and have now returned with a young family, feel unable to buy a site outside the town/village, as planning permission is not being granted for dwellings outside the towns/villages, in an effort by the Planning Authority to contain ribbon development. The net result is that young couples in particular, having spent much time looking around the town/village for a property/site soon give up and resign to buying a house in a housing estate in the larger towns such as Donegal or Letterkenny. This happens despite the fact that many of the younger couples may

Taobhtire 2000

have grown up in the town/village. Hence the influx of people into the larger towns and the gradual demise of the smaller town/village as a community, despite the fact that it may have people coming to work in industries or shops in the town/village.

2.26.2.2. The perception that purchasers and developers of holiday homes are pricing young people out of the market and rendering it impossible for them to buy back into the area. This would seem to conflict with the perception that young people cannot buy a site and yet holiday home developers can. It would appear that this might be because holiday home purchasers/developers can afford to pay more for professional services that might either make more complete planning applications or more successful planning appeals.

2.26.2.3. The closure of primary level schools, which dissuades young people from living in an area that would not have the educational facilities for their children

2.26.2.4. The inequalities of the EC rural agricultural policies. These grant aid larger farmers to the same extent that they grant aid smaller farmers. This creates the situation where the larger farmer is able to pay more than the smaller farmer when parcels of land come on to the market. The result is that the small farmer eventually becomes priced out of the market, and is forced to take up working and residence in the larger towns.

2.26.2.5. With no new young families coming into a town/village the town/village dies out after about 40 years or so.



Illust. 24 - Young folk at Gleann Cholmille

2.27. Street Lamps

2.27.1. These are currently on lamp posts

2.27.2. Works are underway to put the electric wiring underground

2.27.3. The possibility of having the street lighting mounted on the walls of the street buildings could be investigated

2.27.4. This would necessitate the design of novel lighting solutions - preferably using stone mountings and reflectors/shades.



Illust. 25 - Innovative designs that link to the cultural heritage of the town/village are needed

Taobhtire 2000

2.28. Street Bollards

- 2.28.1. Cast iron bollards should be avoided cut stone bollards from local quarries would be more appropriate to the nature of the towns These are not generally found however with the current urban and village renewal programs underway perhaps an effort could be made to use these.

2.29. Litter Bins

- 2.29.1. There is a tendency to use cast aluminium antique appearance litter bins in an effort to provide a quaint appearance These don't relate to the cultural heritage of the towns/villages in any shape or form.
- 2.29.2. Stone litter bins could be designed using local stone and these could look delightful in the towns

2.30. Street Furniture - generally

- 2.30.1. Innovative designs that visually link to the cultural heritage of the towns/villages and to the often gentle and delicate nature of the towns/villages need to be created to satisfy the lighting, bollard and litter bin needs of the towns

2.31. Presence of Tractors in the Towns

- 2.31.1. This is a strong visual element of the towns, it affirms the identity of the towns/villages as being rural farming towns
- 2.31.2. Provide some means of reminding farmers that they are welcome in their town

2.32. Petrol Pump Stations

- 2.32.1. These colourful entities are under threat arising out of EU directives which stipulate that petrol pumps must be set back 4 metres from the road. In some towns/villages compliance with this isn't possible at all, whereas in others it will result in a hole being punched in the streetscape. A problem that also pertains to petrol stations in the towns/villages is the scale, colour and shape of the canopies. It would be preferable to design a canopy particularly for Gaeltacht towns that also allowed the oil companies to express their corporate image.
- 2.32.2. Seamus McGee who owns the petrol station shown here has so far resisted severe pressure from the oil company to install a standard type canopy over the petrol pumps.

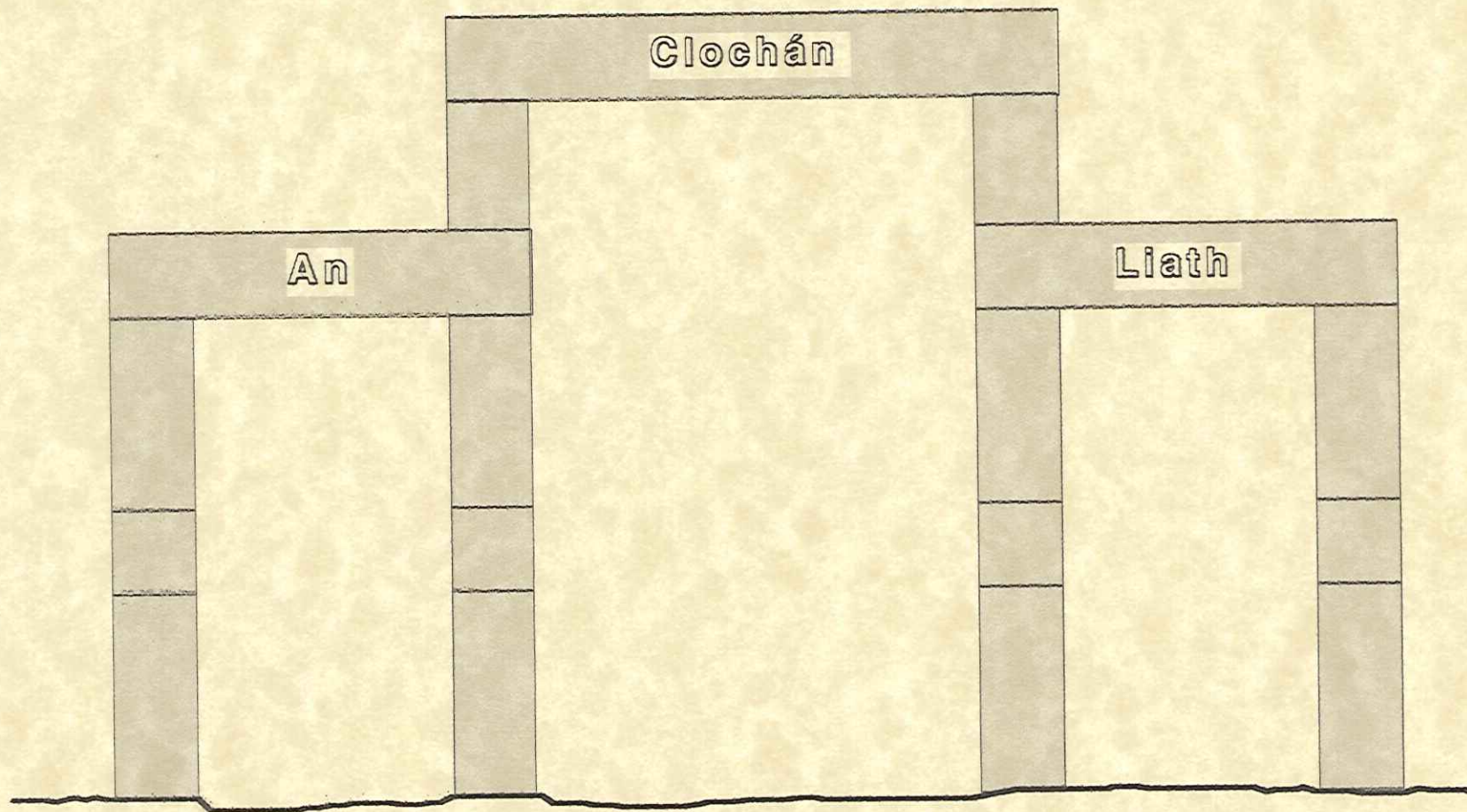


Illust. 26 - The visual presence of farm vehicles/tractors



Illust. 27 - Seamus McGee's Petrol station at An Fál Carrach

CUID A TRÍ



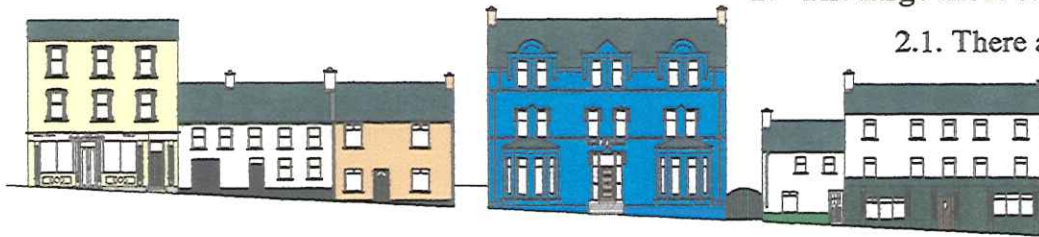
An Clochán Liath - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)



1. The steeply sloping Main Street

1.1. An Clochán Liath slopes steeply to the river at the bottom of the street

2. The large three story buildings in the main street



2.1. There are nine three story buildings in the main street of Dungloe. Their mass and height are unique to Dungloe among buildings in West Donegal.

2.2. This illustration shows just three of them, on the west side of the street opposite Sweeney's hotel which is also three story.

3. The system for building stone walls

3.1. Although not found in the town apart from at the top of the street where the old church boundary wall (obscured with white-wash) and the church walls themselves recently replastered are good examples, this example found close to Dungloe illustrates the technique very well.

3.2. Large rectangular stones are levelled up with small stones called pinniúiní. In some instances the wall is 'battered' or sloped inwards from the ground up for extra strength. When these walls are used for fencing they are capped at the top with large beach stones (rounded) used as coping stones to shed the water from the wall and thus protecting it. Here the stones shown are a mixture of grey and some yellow granite with smaller black stones used as piniúiní



An Clochán Liath - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

4. The colours of the buildings

4.1. In An Clochán Liath the colours of the buildings are strong, deep and contrasting, as can be seen in this illustration showing . Information received at the 2nd consultative meeting in Dungloe, indicated that this is a fairly recent trend, starting with the painting of the Hostel.



5. The steps up to the houses at the bottom of the street



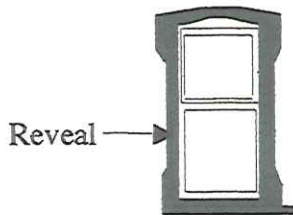
5.1. While these steps are present in only three buildings, they are a feature unique to Dungloe. They are needed because if the river goes into flood at high tide, then there will be flooding at this end of the town. Hence the steps up to the raised ground floor level of the buildings. The last time this happened was in the 80's.



6. The portico or canopy at Sweeney's hotel

6.1. Although not unique to Dungloe in the context of other towns in Ireland. This feature is unique among the towns taken in the study. Originally this would have been as canopy sheltering the steps leading up to the hall door of the hotel. A porch, partially enclosing the steps has been built, although this porch has been built for about 25 years. Originally Sweeney's had rounded steps leading up to the hall door.

7. The broad band plaster reveals around the windows



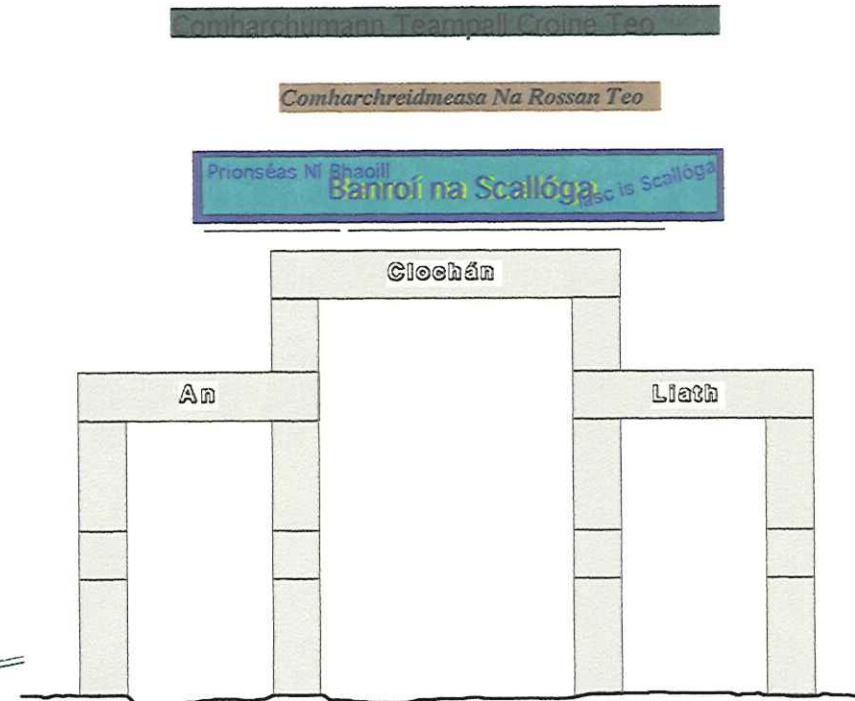
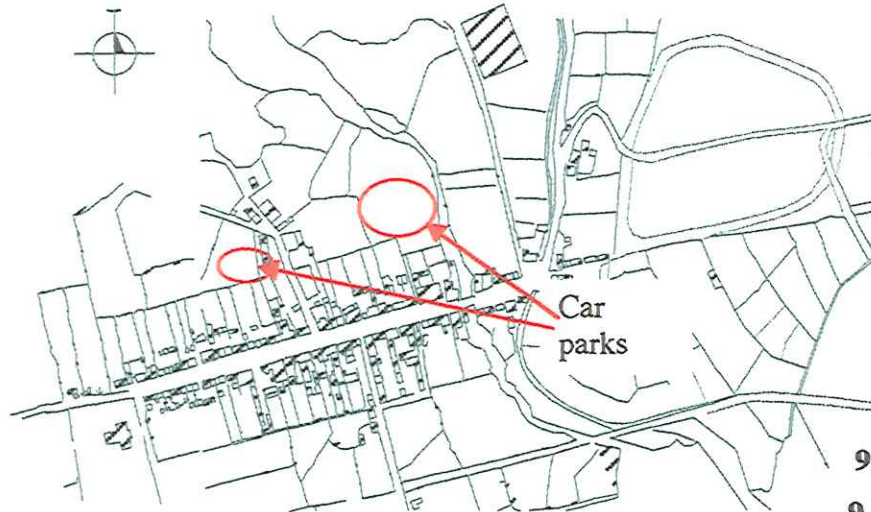
7.1. This is a strong feature to the elevations of many of the houses. Here in this example taken from the shop San Sad Fashions, the extent to which the plasterwork is also ornate is illustrated. Although not every building in Dungloe has this feature, in Dungloe more so than in any other Gaeltacht town, this feature is prominent. These will be lost in a scheme of strong colours, and it is suggested that these should also be picked out in contrasting strong colours.

An Clochán Liath - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

8. Identity as a Gaeltacht settlement

8.1. An Clochán Liath doesn't rank well in the use of an teanga for signage over shops and business'. In the main street only two business premises have signs in Irish. In former times it was the tradition in An Clochán Liath for shop signs to be painted onto the fronts of the buildings

8.2. Shown here is a suggestion for a Lorg an Baile sign that might be constructed at the entrances to the town. The sign is based on stones to be seen around the Cope warehouse as illustrated below



9. Needs

9.1. There is a need to develop the car parking facilities in the town.

Although there are good spaces for car parks in at the back of the Cope. On the other side of the street at the back of the buildings to the west side of the town in the area of the NIB, is a public car park which needs to be refurbished. This is going to be renewed under the village renewal scheme

An Clochán Liath - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

10. Almost extinct entities

10.1. The stone reveals and chimneys that are to be seen around the Cope warehouse on the road down to the beach. The chimneys are also to be seen in the old school house on the way to the beach. These are in a very strong state even at this stage many years after they were first constructed.

10.2. The natural slates on the roofs - these lend a richness to the texture of the buildings of the town

11. Endangered entities

11.1. Chimneys are not being replaced when houses are being re-roofed. The chimneys are an integral element of the fabric of the



architecture of the town. If they

disappear altogether, the visual appearance of the town will be harder and colder. It should be remembered that although chimneys might not be in use for fires, they still serve to ventilate rooms, which keeps the occupants healthy, the walls and the rooms dry and helps to reduce the danger of dry rot.

12. Potential for development

12.1. There are old buildings behind the main street. They could be developed as holiday chalets. The old buildings are excellent examples of the stonework aforementioned. Financial incentives such as support schemes, and business development schemes which will assist local people to develop their properties rather than help them to be priced out of the market by bigger developers coming into the area need to be considered.





An Fál Carrach - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

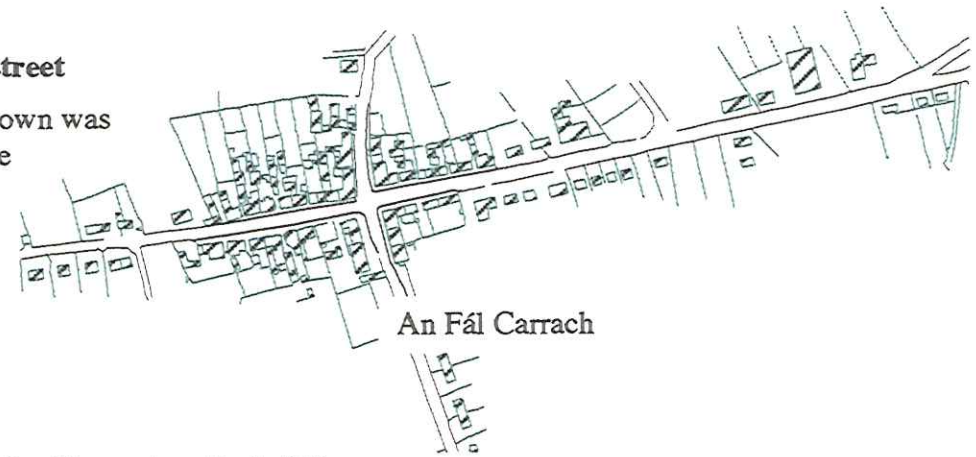


1. The almost flat Main Street

1.1. Although not entirely flat, this main street appears to slope gently up to the crossroads. The highest point of the street is west of the crossroads. Visually it appears that the highest point of the street is at the crossroads because the buildings generally increase in height and mass as they get closer to the crossroads.

2. The crossroads / major junction in the middle of the main street

2.1. These provide the focal point of the town. Originally this town was called Crois Bhealach. When the town was surveyed on the Ordinance Survey maps, it was called An Fál Carrach after the district about 1 mile from the cross roads, out along the road south to Muckish.



3. The system for building stone walls

3.1. Illustrated here is a wall still to be seen at old Falcarragh, the wall is constructed of carefully placed large and sharply contrasting small stones. The small stones are called piniúiní. They are the sharp wings cut off larger rocks. They are used to level the walls in the course of building and afterwards, to tighten up the larger stones. Note how the larger stones are almost rounded, probably having been dug out of the bog. Stones like this can be seen at the road excavations on the road to the back of Muckish near the Droichead na nDeora.

An Fál Carrach - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

4. The Colours of the buildings

4.1. In An Fál Carrach the colours of the buildings are predominantly white, greys and pale blues, creams and soft yellows. The only building to have a strong deep colour is the Gweedore Bar, which was recently refurbished.

4.2. Colour schemes that adhere to these soft light tones, will help to preserve the unique identity of this town.

5. The porches

5.1. Many of these have been eroded. In the old buildings, they were found to the front of the prominent buildings such as the hotels.

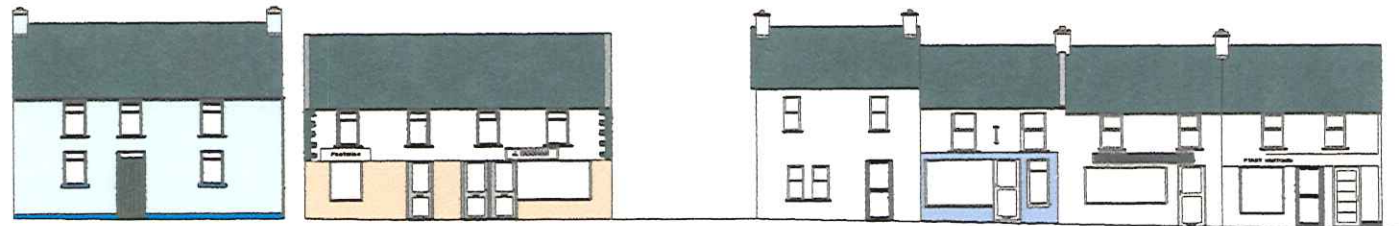
5.2. Most had balustrades of masonry construction unlike Seamus O'Donnell's house shown here, which is to be found on the road south to the back of Muckish.

5.3. The ability of building owners to incorporate these into new developments will depend on whether or not the wide footpaths are kept. If these are eroded by the development of new roads, there will not be any room to build new porches again such as these.



6. The plain reveals to the windows (the plasterwork surrounding the windows)

6.1. Although some of the recently refurbished buildings have broad band reveals, as in Seamus O'Donnell's house above, these houses show how plain reveals are more typical to the buildings that give An Fál Carrach its identity.

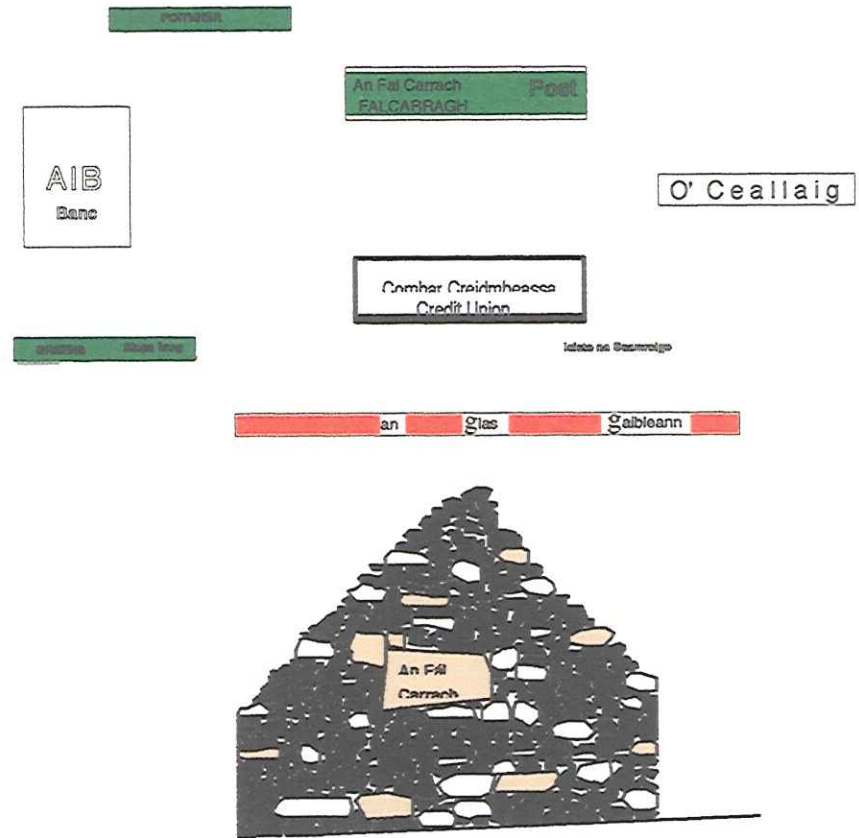


An Fál Carrach - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

7. Identity as a Gaeltacht settlement

7.1. An Fál Carrach is clearly identifiable as a Gaeltacht town by the large number of shop and business signs written in Gaelic, that are to be seen as one travels through the town. A great effort has been made here to promote the use of an teanga in these signs, and some enthusiasts have even used the old Irish script along with an séimhighe. Young people however who have not grown up with the séimhighe and the celtic script "g", don't understand the writing and to such persons, a sign like an glas gaibhleann would appear to be an Slas Saibhleann.

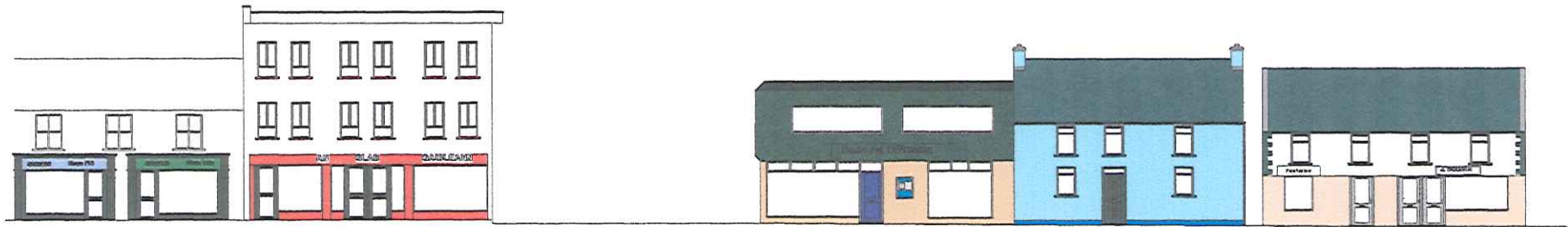
7.2. Shown here is a suggestion for a Lorg an Baile sign that might be constructed at the entrances to the town. It is a replica of the stone walling that can be seen in the older buildings in An Fál Carrach as described in 3.1 above. An Fál Carrach means 'the rugged stone wall or stone fence'.



8. Needs

8.1. The old forge is a building that still has much of the old stone-work visible in some of its walls akin to the wall shown here. An incentive needs to be provided to encourage and assist its restoration. There is tremendous interest amongst the townspeople in this entity. It is a craft that has been in the McCausland family for over three generations. It is not just a craft but a unique building that needs to be restored and a place of interest.

An Fál Carrach - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)



9. Shop Fronts

9.1. Shown above are some of the shops on the main street. The largest three story building has a flat roof and a quasi 'traditional' shop front. The Banc na hEireann has a mineral felt finish felt roof. The butchers shop to the extreme right has had its chimneys removed and has a plastic sign overhead, with aluminium shop front.

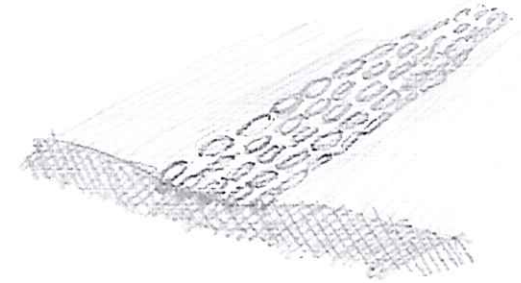
9.2. Below suggestions are made for refurbishing the shops in a manner that would reinforce the 'lorg an baile'. Pitched roofs have been added to the three story building and the bank. Chimneys have been rebuilt on the butchers shop, and all three have had windows akin to the type of window found formerly in buildings of Gaeltacht towns and An Fál Carrach also.



An Fál Carrach - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

10. Extinct entities

- 10.1. The gutters at the sides of the roads were originally made from rounded beach stones. These have all been replaced with large concrete kerbs more suitable to an industrial estate.



Beach-stone (dórníní) road gutters

11. Almost extinct entities

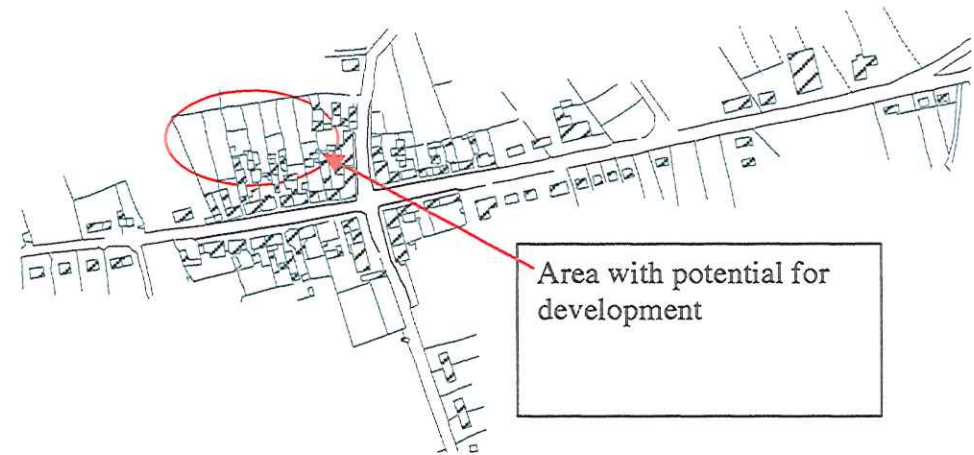
- 11.1. Residential accommodation within the town - The low floor to ceiling heights of the buildings are prohibitive when it comes to refurbishment and development. As a result the building owners have moved out of the town and the town buildings are not used for residential purposes. This is the case in the majority of the town buildings. This leads to vandalism as a result of loss of natural surveillance. Building owners need to be encouraged to raise the floor to ceiling heights of the buildings so that they can successfully redevelop them for residential purposes.

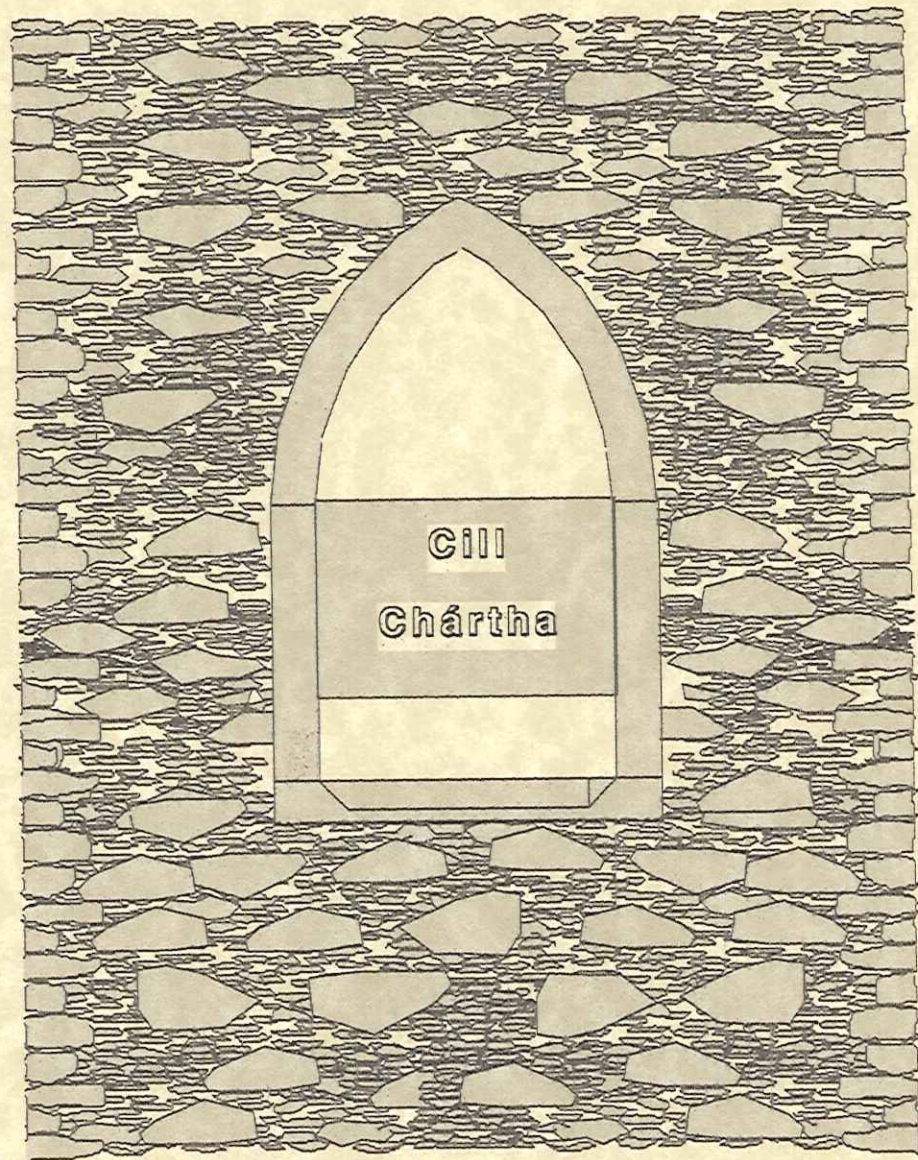
12. Endangered entities

- 12.1. Chimneys, are not being replaced when houses are being re-roofed. The chimneys are an integral element of the fabric of the architecture of the town. If they disappear altogether, the visual appearance of the town will be harder and colder. It should be remembered that although chimneys might not be in use for fires, they still serve to ventilate rooms, which keeps the occupants healthy, the walls and the rooms dry and helps to reduce the danger of dry rot.

13. Potential for development

- 13.1. There is a lot of interest in developing the old buildings behind the main street on the north side. This area also leads onto an area that would be ideal as a town car park. The old buildings are excellent examples of the stonework aforementioned. Financial incentives such as support schemes, and business development schemes which will assist local people to develop their properties rather than help them to be priced out of the market by bigger developers coming into the area need to be considered.





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An Cill Chártha - - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)



1. The gradually sloping Main Street

1.1. An Cill Chártha slopes gradually to the river at the bottom of the street



2. The two story buildings stepping down the main street

2.1. There is only one three story building in the main street of An Cill Chártha.

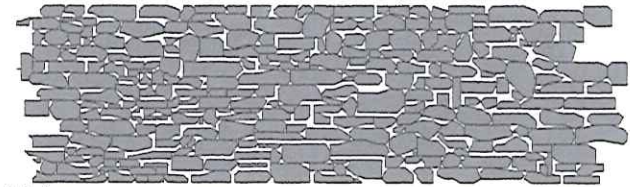
Most of the rest of the buildings on both sides of the street are two story. They step gently down the street as can be seen in this illustration of the north side of the street.

2.2. Also visible in this illustration are the two buildings with bevelled corners at the junction that leads to An Charraig, which feature is unique to An Cill Chártha

3. The system for building stone walls

3.1. Not as pronounced as in other towns, the system for building walls in An Cill Chártha uses mostly grey stones, of a flat rectangular shape. There is not such a difference in size between the smaller stones and the larger stones as shown in this illustration, but the method of packing the bigger stones in with the smaller stones is used here.

3.2. There are two visible examples of this type of wall a) At the bottom of the town at the south side of the street beside the Shell petrol station is the remnant of one of the old walls thus protecting it, and b) the old Church of Ireland Church behind the Aisleann



An An Cill Chártha- - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

4. The colours of the buildings

4.1. In An Cill Chártha the colours of the buildings are gentle hues of creams and whites.

5. The horizontal bands along the elevations between ground floor and first floor level

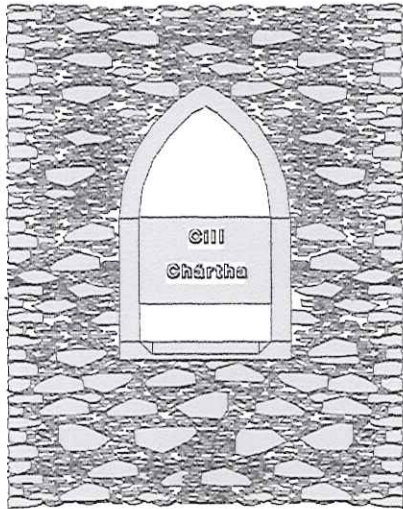
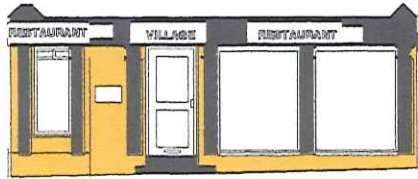
5.1. These are sculptural not graphic i.e. they are the same colour and texture as the masonry above and below them. They are distinguishable by their form only. They average between 100 and 150mm and rarely project out more than 75mm from the face of the buildings



6. The uniquely fine and detailed plasterwork to the front of the old Grand Hotel

6.1. This plasterwork was carried out by plasterers of the Doherty family. It is of very high quality and is not to be found in any of the other villages in the study.

An An Cill Chártha- - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)



7. Identity as a Gaeltacht settlement

7.1. An Cill Chártha only marginally registers as a Gaeltacht town with the bilingual signs of the Ionad Sláinte and The Pipers Rest. Down past the river, in the vicinity of the Ais lann there are two shops with their signs entirely as gaeilige.

7.2. The illustration to the right shows a suggestion for the refurbishment of 'The Village Restaurant' (see left illustration) provided by the writer. The sign is in Irish and mounted on a traditional sign board



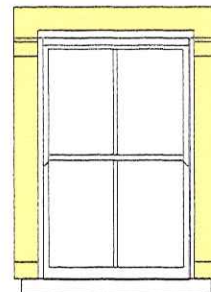
7.3. This stone wall with the pointed arch window ope has already been suggested as a sign for use in the Aislann community enterprise centre by the writer, and is suggested here again as an entry motif to be constructed at the points of entry to the town/village. It is based on the pointed arch to be found in the old church of Cill Chártha on the top of the hill at the west end of the town. As one looks through this ope, one can see along the axis of the whole town. It's shape is repeated again in St. Mathew's church behind the Aislann.

8. Needs

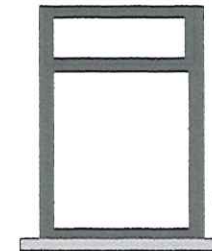
8.1. Careful attention to detail when re-paving the streets and setting in new kerbstones to ensure that the appearance of a drive through town of semi industrial appearance, rather than a place to stop and rest in, is not portrayed.

9. Endangered entities

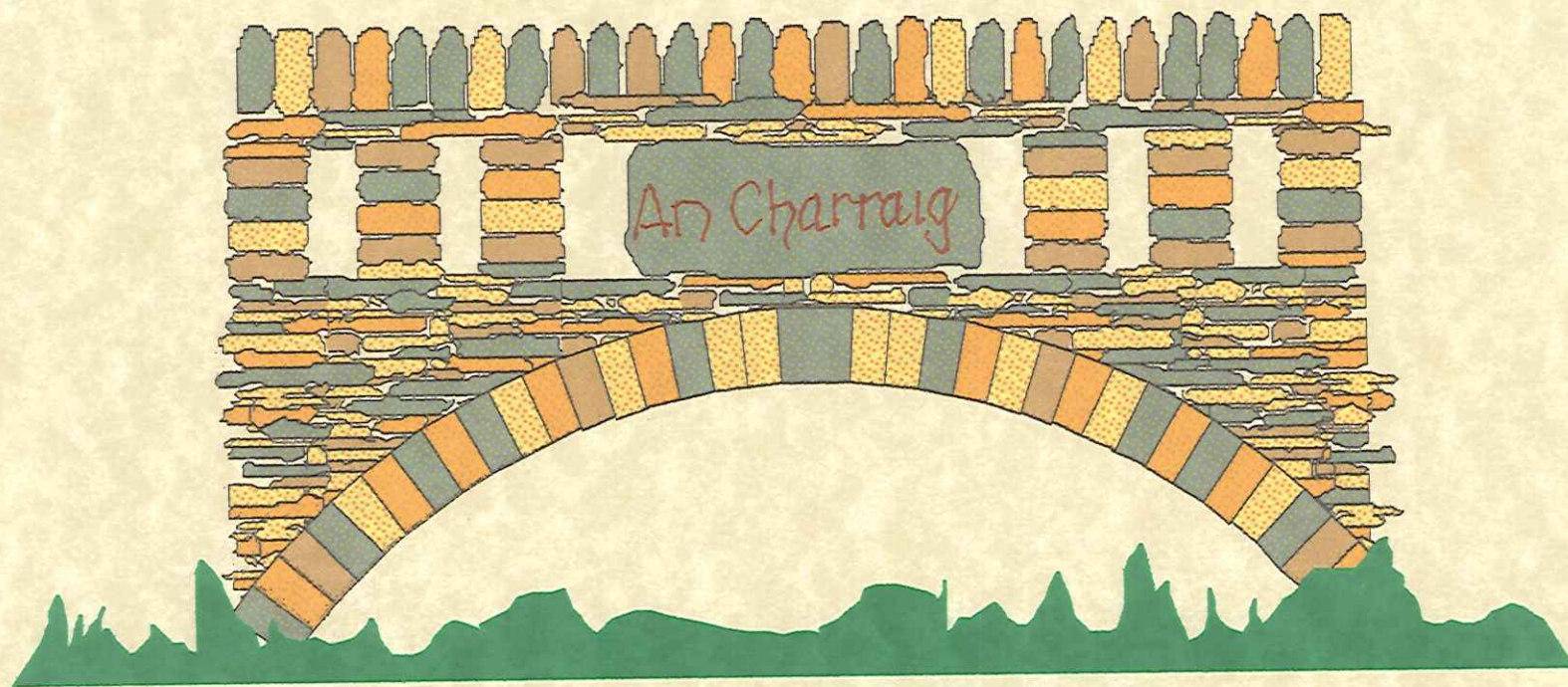
9.1. Up and down sash windows made of timber are being replaced with top hung windows.



Up and down sash window



Top hung sash window



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An Charraig - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

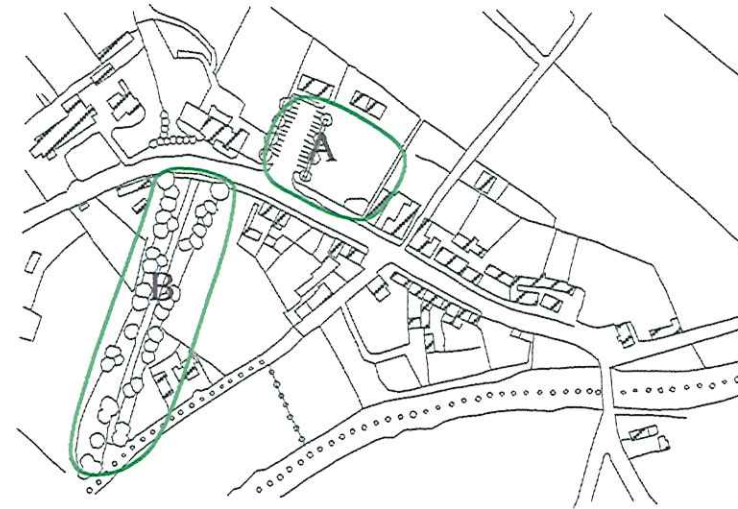
1. The gentle curve of the Main Street



1.1. Unlike other towns that have a slope on the main street, An Charraig also has a curve in the street, as the main street slopes up to the centre of the town, this gentle curve gives a sense of softness and enclosure to the street .

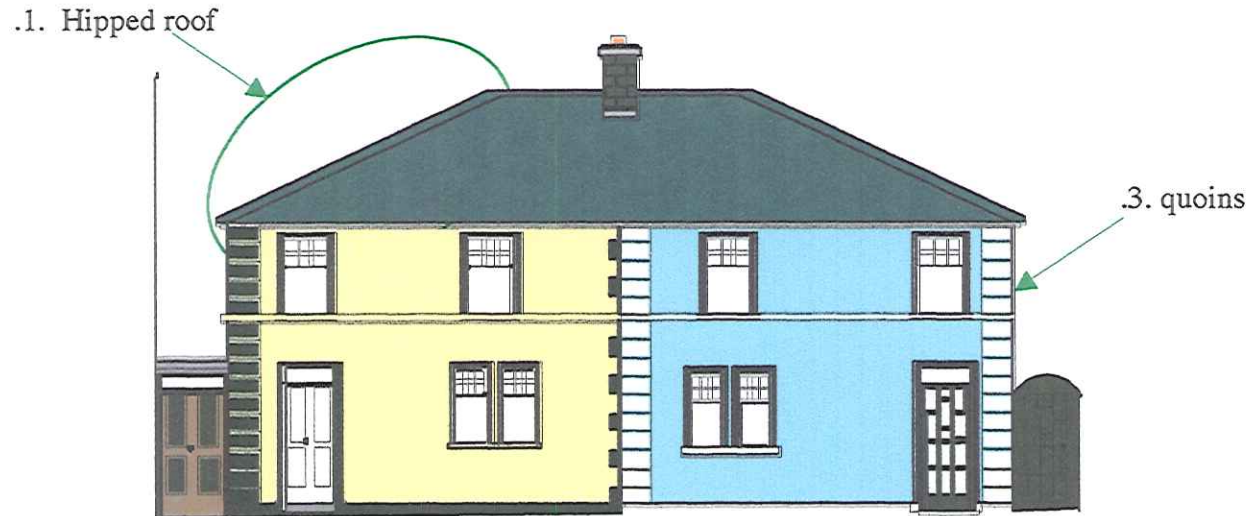
2. The green space with mature trees in the middle of the town

- 2.1. No other town surveyed has green space or square 'A' like An Charraig has adjacent to McGinley's supermarket. Along side that the carpark opening directly off the main street forms part of the openness of the street.
- 2.2. On the opposite side of the street is the avenue of Beech trees 'B' that leads down to the river from the old hotel (in ruins) beside the cellar bar.
- 2.3. Between these two entities and the trees around the edges of the town, An Charraig has the feeling of being set in a rich oasis of foliage in a landscape that has a very rugged approach.

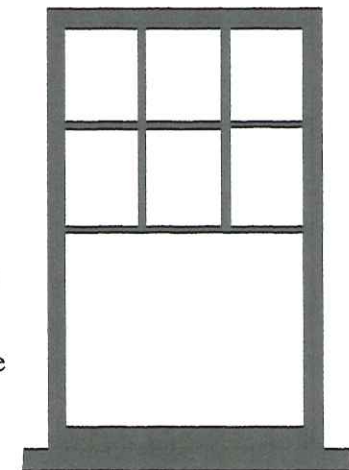


An Charraig - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

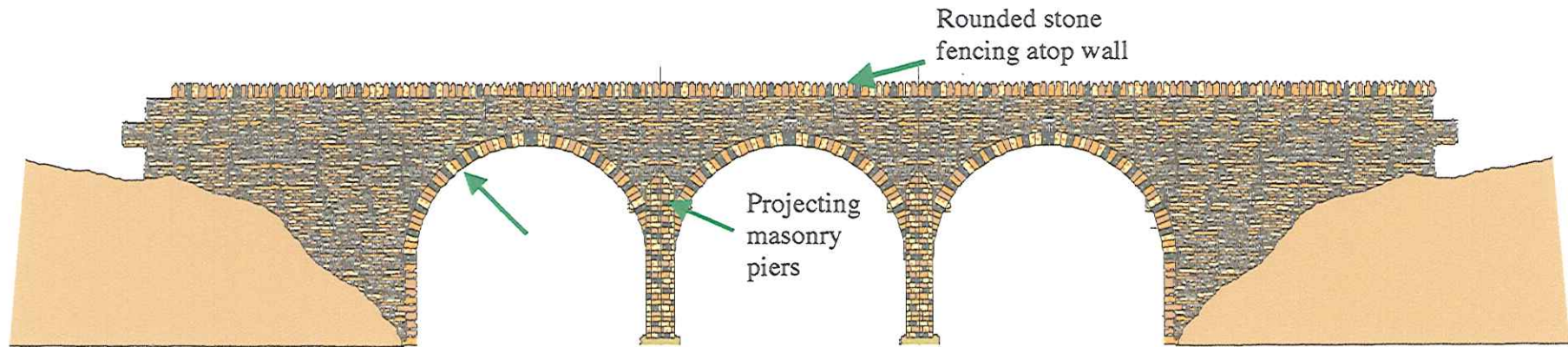
3. The hipped roof houses



- 3.1. Out of twenty seven houses on the main street, seven have hipped roofs.
- 3.2. The horizontal emphasis to the buildings. Here it can be seen how the houses are more horizontally than vertically shaped.
- 3.3. There is a strong presence of quoins in the buildings
- 3.4. Nearly all the buildings are two story, which would lead to a recommendation that future buildings in the town should also be two story
- 3.5. The pairs of windows at ground floor level. These help to increase the amount of light getting into the rooms inside without creating the feeling of large windows.
- 3.6. The unique up and down sash windows - although not now present in the above building, one of these is shown here to the right. The upper sashes are glazed with six small panes of glass while the lower sash is just a single pane of glass.



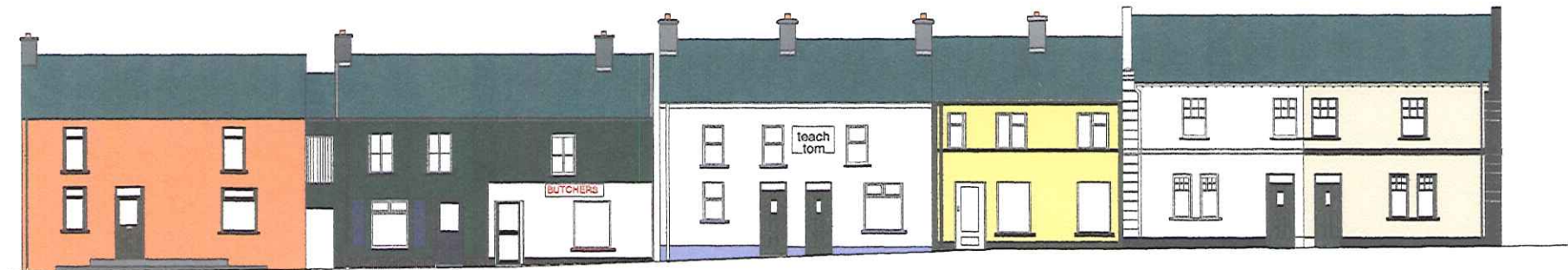
An Charraig - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)



4. The triple arch stone bridge at the bottom of the town

4.1.1. While other towns have rivers flowing through them, An Charraig is the only town with such a clearly definable structure. Shown above here, some of the bridge has been damaged, as a result of lorries and heavy traffic trying to negotiate it. It's uniquely fine nature results from the following characteristics to be found:

- 4.1.1.1. The hewn voussoirs and key stones to the arches
- 4.1.1.2. The rounded fencing stones to the tops of the bridge walls
- 4.1.1.3. The pointed projecting masonry piers supporting the arches
- 4.1.1.4. The large span of the arches at 6.1 metres
- 4.1.1.5. The brightly coloured quartzite stone use in the construction of the bridge



5. The colours of the buildings

5.1. In An Charraig the colours of the buildings are strong and warmly contrasting and these are backed up by white and creams.

An Charraig - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

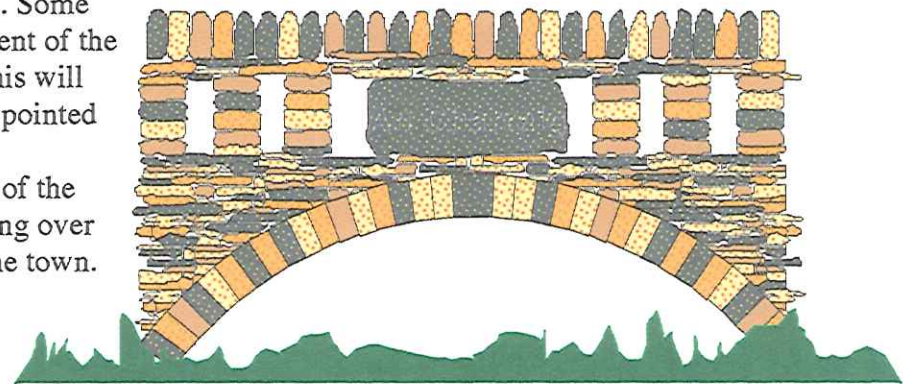
6. Identity as a Gaeltacht settlement

- 6.1. An Charraig only marginally registers as a gaeltacht town, because of the shop/pub signs in the town only three signs are as gaeilge. Teach Tom is the only sign that is singularly in Irish. An post and the Sliabh Liag are bilingual. To fully create the image of this town being a gaeltacht town, only five signs need to be changed.
- 6.2. The arched structure shown below with An Charraig in stone in the middle is suggested as an entrance to the town motif, being based on the arches and fencing of the bridge.



7. Needs

- 7.1. Great care will need to be taken with the widening of the bridge. Some work has already been done on this and it has been to the detriment of the bridge. The Local Authority has plans to widen the bridge and this will indeed be necessary but it should only be done by extending the pointed stone piers on both sides, and reconstructing the walls in stone. Consideration might be given to using a course stone balustrade of the type illustrated here to allow car occupants to see the river flowing over the rocks below. It would tempt them to stay a while longer in the town.

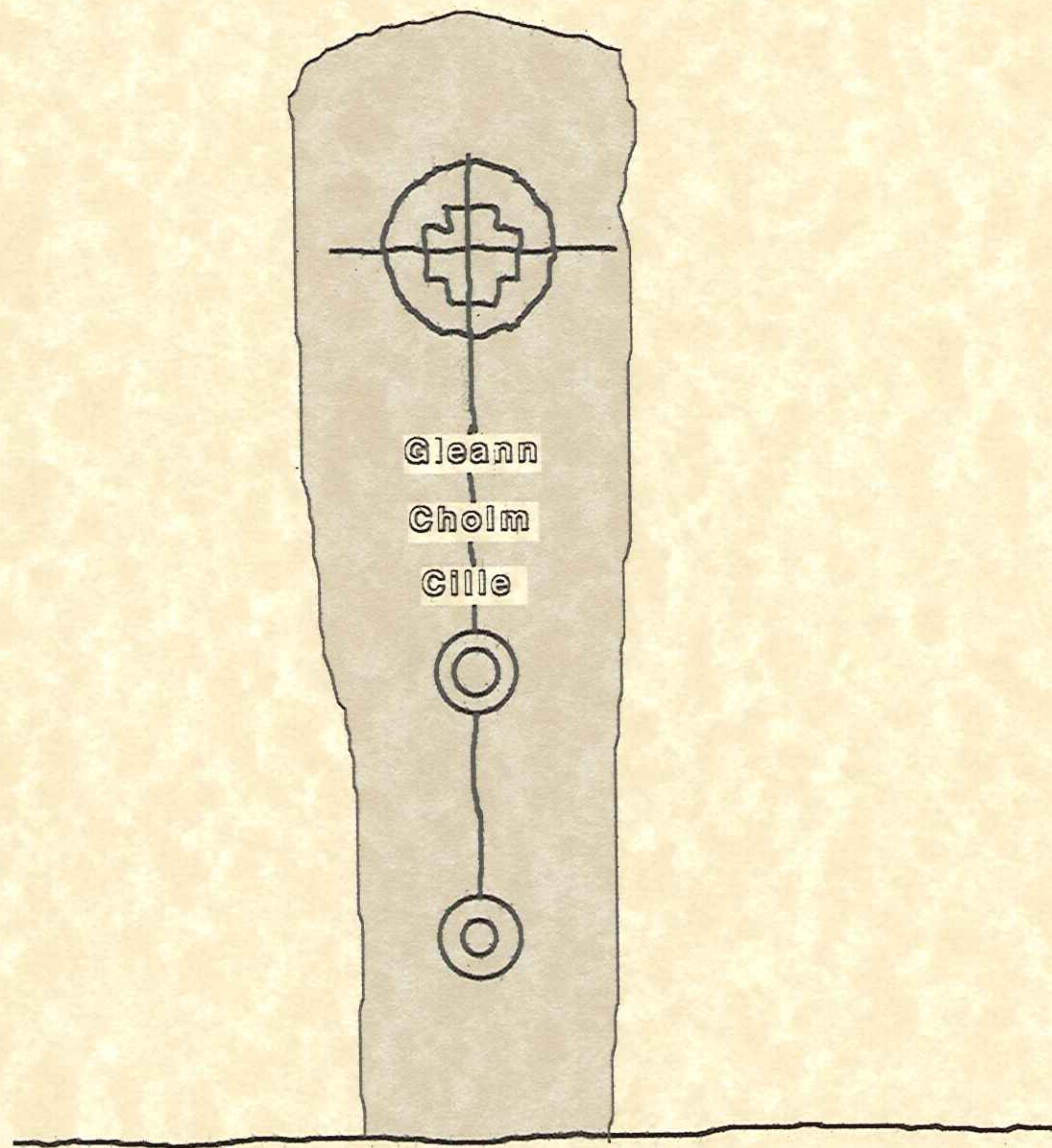


8. Extinct entities

- 8.1. Old photographs show the walls to the houses in An Charraig to be exposed stone of a very high quality and the roofs to be thatched. It is not generally understood that this form of stone wall construction is of a very strong nature, and one only has to look at the plumbness of the existing walls to see what a good condition they are in still. All walls have now been plastered and exposed stone walls are not now visible apart from in the old houses and sheds at the back of the mains street buildings roofs are all slated.

9. Almost extinct entities

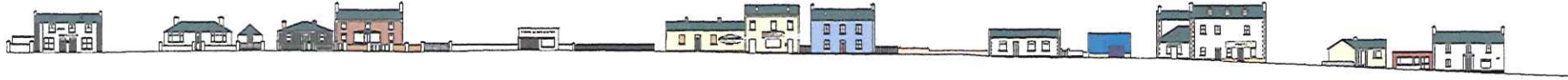
- 9.1. The up and down timber sash windows are now almost extinct as entities. Most having been replaced by top hung plastic or timber windows. Timber windows can last up to 200 years, while pvc windows have a life expectancy of 15 years.



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Glenn Cholmcille - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

1. The hill and the curve of the Main Street



- 1.1. The main street that forms the focus of Glean Colm Cille, known as An Caiseal locally, is on a hill that slopes away gently from the centre in both directions while at the same time the street curves. This main street forms the focus of a very large bowl shaped valley clearly defined by the surrounding mountains.

2. The large spaces between the buildings along the main street

- 2.1. These spaces between the buildings make it possible to see the giant bowl that surrounds the street. They act like giant murals showing off the most beautiful landscape in the world.
- 2.2. A striking feature of the landscape is the network of field boundaries that form the boundaries of the farms. These stretch right down to the street as the street traverses through the farms at an angle. Thus as one drives or walks along the street, one is actually passing through the farms.

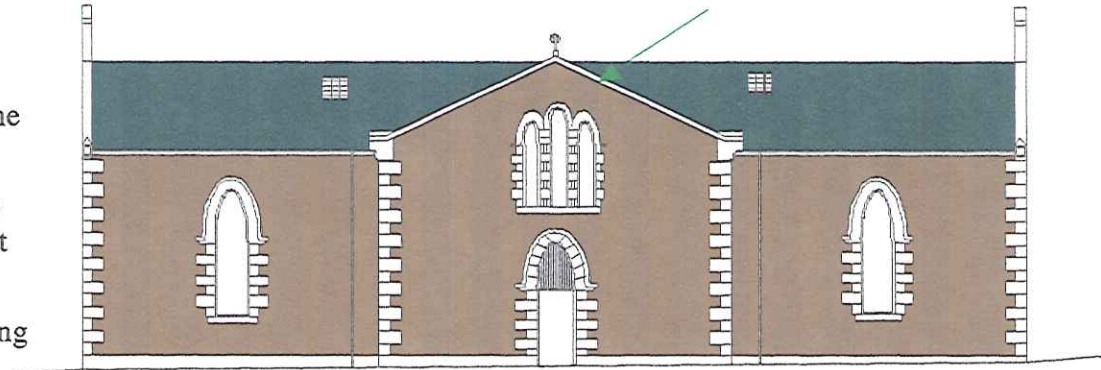


Gleann Cholmcille - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

The extension

3. The strong presence of the long low cruciform church in the middle of the town.

- 3.1. The front transept of this was an extension to the original rectangular church built in 1832.
- 3.2. The presence of the church in the middle of the main street helps to provide a focus to the street itself.
- 3.3. It also provides a feeling of the settlement having ecclesiastic roots, which ties in well with the wealth of ecclesiastical monuments around the glen.
- 3.4. The presence of the church in the main street also helps to bring passing trade to the shops.



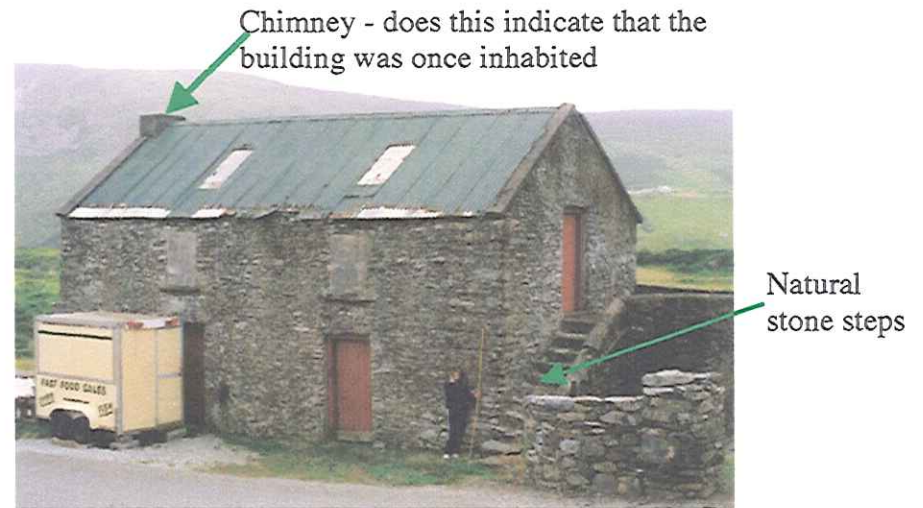
4. The grey and white colour schemes

- 4.1. While some houses are painted other colours than grey or white, there is a predominance of grey and white. This doesn't do a lot for the street, and maybe opens the door for suggestions to be made that would encourage the use of brighter more cheerful colours.
- 4.2. It is likely that the extreme weather conditions that would be experienced in the valley would deter people from painting up their premises. However if a detailed specification on how to prepare the surfaces before painting and on what type of paint to use were provided, this might help people who wanted to paint their buildings.

Gleann Cholmcille - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

5. The presence of stone in some areas of the main street, and in larger areas close to the main street.

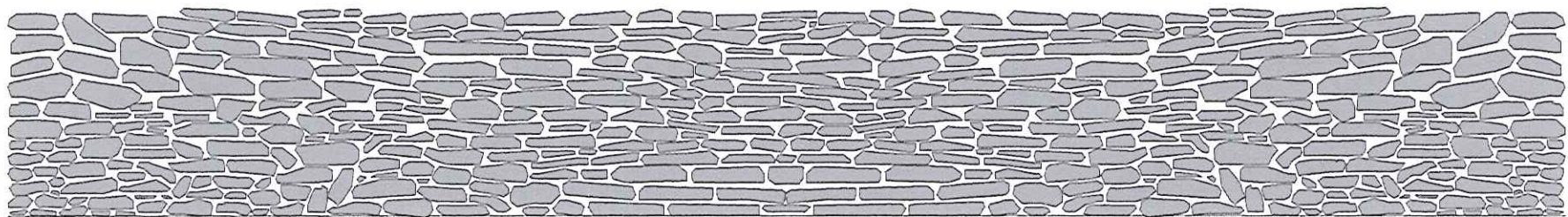
5.1.1. Although Byrne's barn shown here looks a bit dilapidated, its stone provides a rich texture to the end of the street, almost serving like a gatepost marking the end or start of the street. With very little work it could be completely restored. Note how straight the walls are after so many years of weathering, indicating the very high quality of the stonework.



6. The Ann Henderson stone wall

6.1. This is a strong and striking feature of the area. Although it is not typical of wall construction native to this area, it gives a very strong feeling of what the area is about. It's shape is symbolic of the beehive huts and ancient monasteries that must have been present here over the previous one and a half millenniums.

6.2. More native to wall construction in Glen is the wall to be found on the south side of the street at Raymond Farmers farm, illustrated below. Here we can see how the flat long black stones of fairly regular size have been laid flat over each other. They are not turned on their side as is done in the reconstruction of the mate of this wall on



the opposite side of the street.

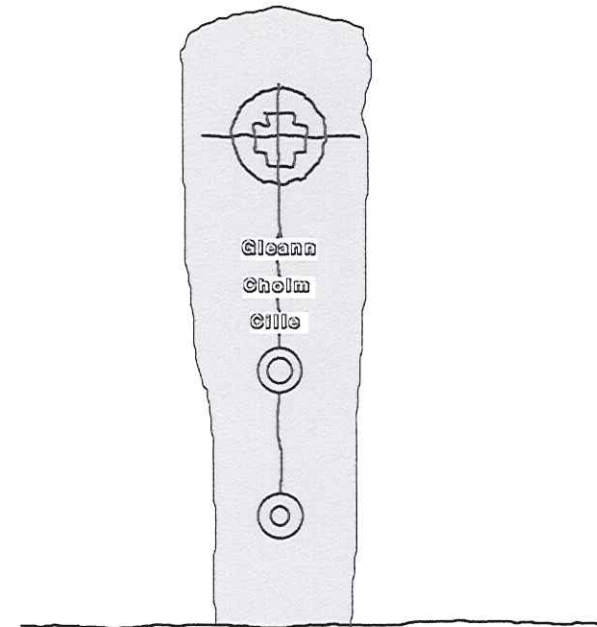
Gleann Cholmcille - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

7. Identity as a Gaeltacht settlement

- 7.1. Glen Colm Cille registers strongly as a Celtic settlement because of its winding roads, strong presence of deep green fields in every direction, and curving stone walls. Visually however, it only marginally registers as a gaeltacht town. Of the seven shop/pub signs in the town only one sign is partially as gaeilige, and none are entirely as gaeilige. Teach Alása is the only sign that is bi-lingual. To fully create the image of this town being a gaeltacht town, only six signs need to be changed.
- 7.2. There is a strong presence of inscribed standing stones throughout the area, and shown here is a 'Lorg an Sraidbhaile' entry motif that has been suggested by the writer for the entry points to the district. It's suggestion was welcomed in the final consultative meeting.

8. Needs

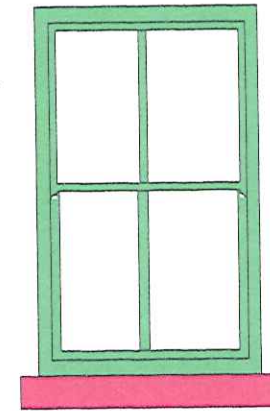
- 8.1. A strong feature of the street is the petrol filling station. This means that if it is fully developed it will be developed as a standard type of station that can be seen all around the country. This will impinge strongly on the image of the town if it happens. I would suggest that a new type of canopy design that could relate to the Gaeltacht should be investigated.
- 8.2. A plan to encourage owners of premises in the street not to replace old farm boundaries with block walls but to build up or restore the old ditches with stone walls.



Design characteristics unique to the town

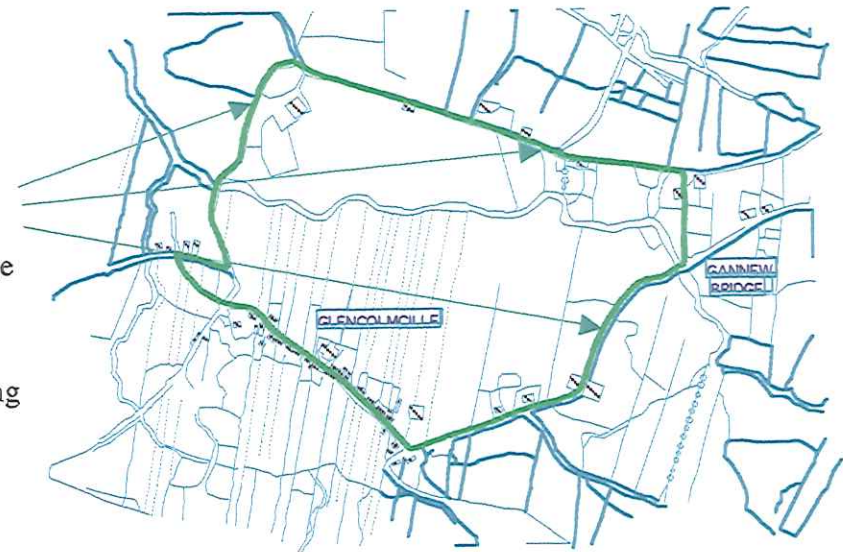
9. Almost extinct entities

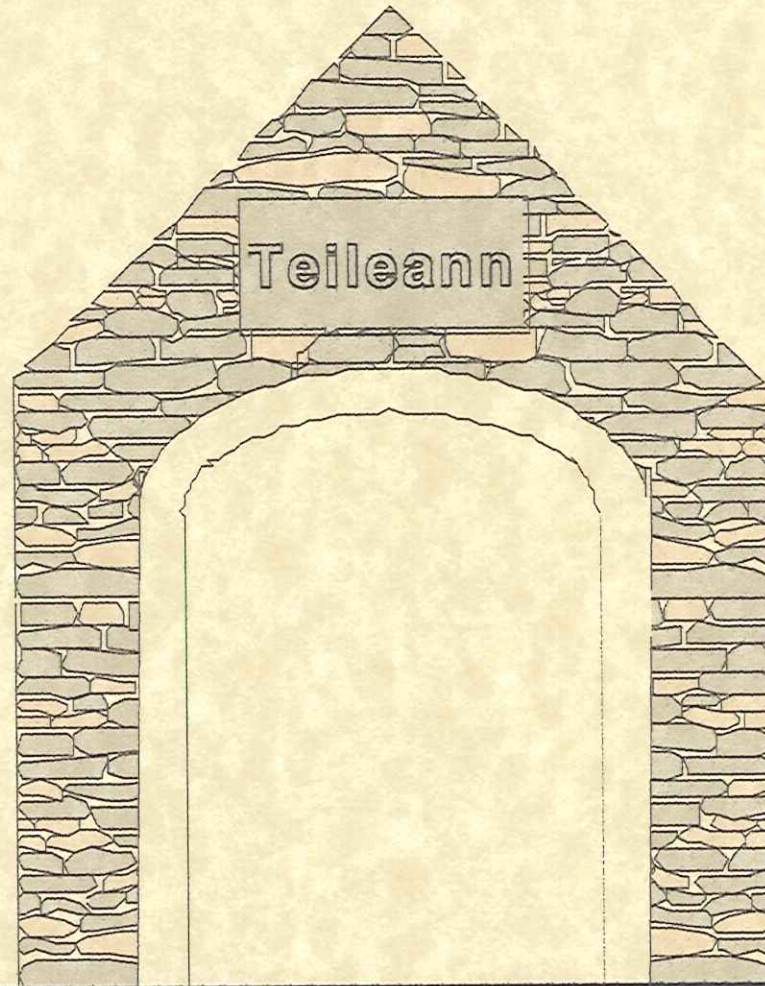
- 9.1. The up and down timber sash windows are now almost extinct as entities. Most having been replaced by top hung plastic or timber windows. Timber windows can last up to 200 years, while pvc windows have a life expectancy of 15 years.
- 9.2. Best preserved building in the town is owned by Stephen Hoffmann this building is one of the few that has retained natural slates and up and down timber sash windows.



10. Development opportunities

- 10.1. A plan that will help encourage the development of the village to follow the oval type village-scape that is already present.
- 10.2. By developing the village in this direction, the distinct monastic and cultural feeling of the area would be retained, involving the pilgrimage stations in what will then develop as a town.
- 10.3. This development plan would also permit the wide spaces between the buildings to continue, resulting in the retention of the connection between the street and the surrounding landscape

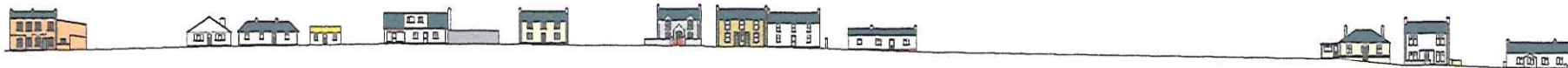




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Teileann - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

1. The long single sided Main Street



1.1. Apart from the Coláiste Samhradh and two (well spaced apart) houses, there are no other buildings on the west side of the street. These buildings on the east side turn their backs on the estuary, and face Sliabh Liag. Which is contrary to the way the houses originally faced when built first. It is said that at that time the houses had to face east with no windows to the west so that the landlord could see the lights of the houses from the other side of the estuary. In the view of the writer it is also likely that the buildings turned their backs to the wind, which can rage down this leeward side of Sliabh Liag.

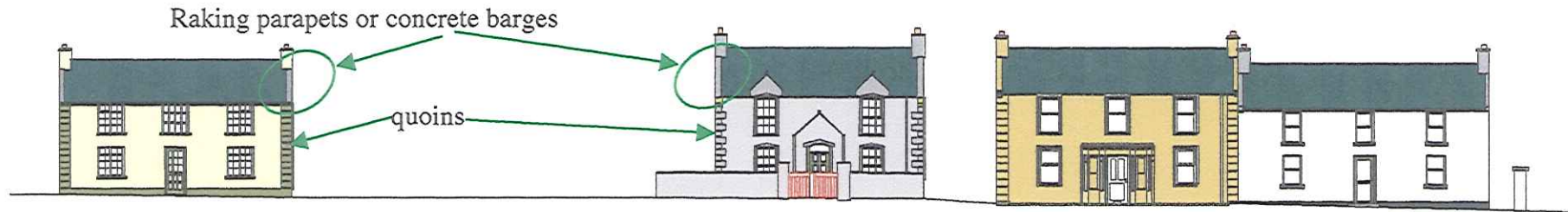
2. The irregular building line of the houses along the street.

- 2.1. This allows some houses to have front gardens along the street, which results in the village-scape having large trees.
- 2.2. The presence of the trees (many of them large Sycamores, along with Ash), the shrubs in the gardens and the fields on the west side of the street lend a softness to the street and a degree of integration with the landscape that create a visually beautiful setting
- 2.3. This setting is of a very relaxed place, a place where people would like to stop for a while.



Teileann - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

3. The concrete barges or raking parapets to the roofs



- 3.1. This is an important feature in the design of the houses with most houses having concrete barges. In February of 1982 the old school which was constructed of stone had its roof shifted 18" and the gable dragged along with it. This roof didn't have barges and it is thought by local people that if it did, the roof would have remained in-tact.
- 3.2. There is also a presence of quoins on the houses along the street.
- 3.3. The horizontal emphasis to the buildings. Here it can be seen how the houses are more horizontally than vertically shaped.
- 3.4. Although there is a strong presence of two storey buildings in the street, seven out of fifteen of the buildings are single storey.

4. The mural on the pub door

- 4.1. This is a feature unique to the town. I understand that this is a mural of a man who used to frequent this pub, but who is now dead, and before him there was a mural of another man who used to frequent this pub



Teileann - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

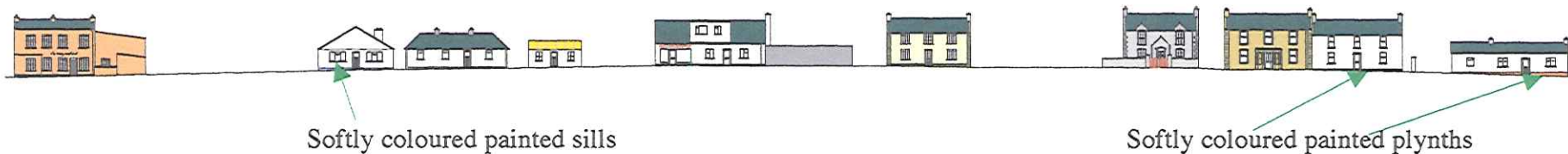
5. The arch in the gable on the top of the hill behind the old coastguard station at the harbour

5.1.1. Although this is some distance from the street of Teileann, there is a strong linear axis connecting Teileann with this harbour, and the sight of this arch in the gable standing on its own on the top of the hill is striking and memorable. It is a feature that sticks in the mind of the visitor to Teileann. It's shape is repeated in the lifeboat station at the foot of the hill. It might be worth considering it as a keystone element in the 'Lorg na hÁite of Teileann.



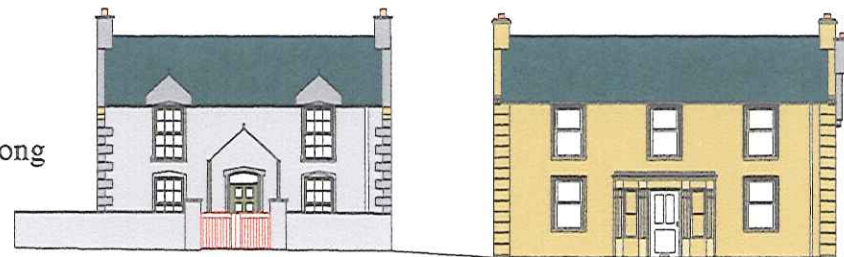
6. The colours of the buildings

6.1. While there are tones of red and brown in some of the buildings more of the buildings have softly coloured sills and plynths.



7. The porches to the fronts of the houses

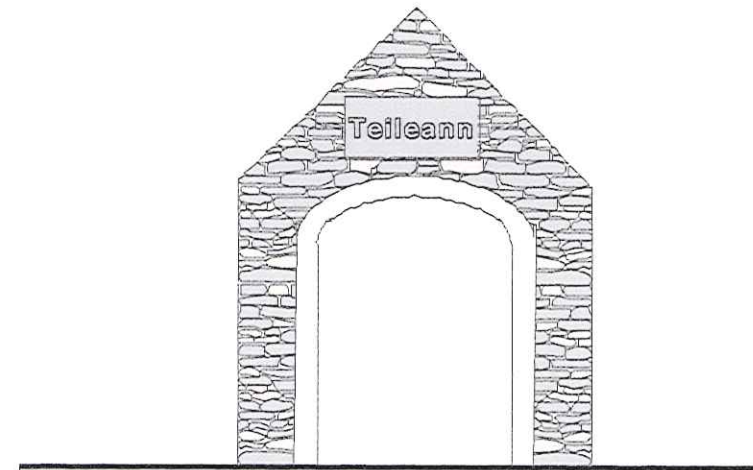
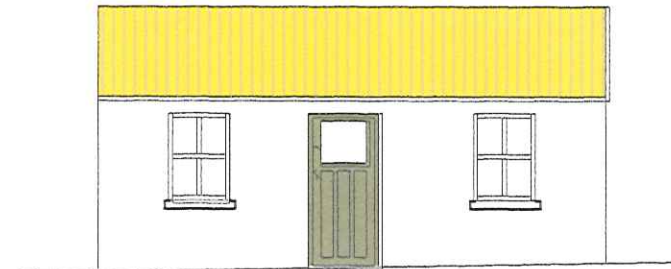
7.1. Although not present in every house, they are a relatively strong element when the small number of buildings are taken into consideration



Teileann - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

8. Identity as a Gaeltacht settlement

- 8.1. While Teileann clearly identifies itself as a place apart from other village-scapes, it doesn't identify itself as a gaeltacht town.
- 8.2. There are only two commercial premises in the town and three commercial signs. Of these only one sign the An Post sign is in Gaelic.
- 8.3. There is however a very important feature in the town that helps to identify its Irishness, and this is the now derelict thatched cottage that was formerly a shop. It is model and reminder of what the houses in Teileann once looked like. All of the houses in Teileann were originally thatched, only one such remains intact and inhabited. This is the house of Neil O'Ceallaigh. Which is deep within the Sycamore trees on the sea side of the road before one comes into the village proper.
- 8.4. The Colaiste Samhradh with its Gaelic sign has a strong presence in the town but the sign is hardly noticeable.
- 8.5. This motif shown here is based on the arch mentioned in paragraph 5 above. It is suggested that a motif such as this might be constructed at the entrances to the village to clearly define the identity of the village.



Teileann - Lorg an baile/sráidbhaile (Design characters unique to the town/village)

9. Needs

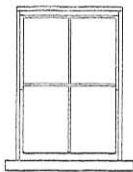
9.1. Teileann needs to develop the use of rounded stones as kerb stones to protect the spaces in front of the houses from the buses that are now starting to frequent the area carrying walkers to the Sliabh Liag cliff walks. It will also be necessary to create bus parks and restaurant / café facilities to facilitate the tourists. Public toilets will also be necessary.

10. Extinct entities

10.1. Old photographs show how all the houses of Teileann were once thatched. Within the street area as already mentioned, none of these remain in residential use.



11. Almost extinct entities



11.1. The up and down timber sash windows are now almost extinct as entities. Most having been replaced by top hung plastic or timber windows. Timber windows can last up to 200 years, while pvc windows have a life expectancy of 15 years.