

ROCKCORRY VISION PLAN 2030

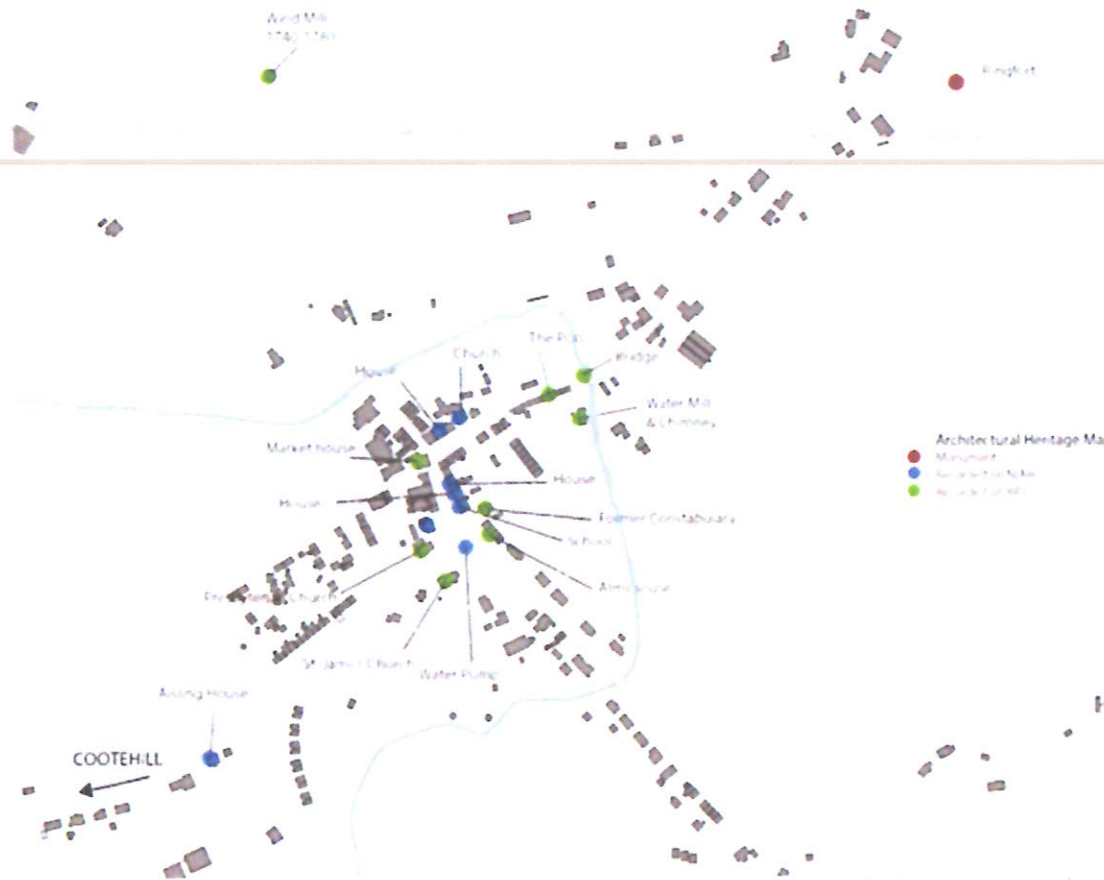


Table of Contents

1	Introduction	
2	Rockcorry in Context	SECTION A
3	Heritage and Cultural Assets	
4	Urban Form and Character	
5	Village Profile	SECTION B
6	Strategic Planning Context	
7	S.C.O.T.	SECTION C
8	Shared Vision for Rockcorry 2030	
9	Rockcorry Vision Plan Champion	
10	Vision Plan—Aims	SECTION D
11	Vision Plan—Overall Strategy and Action	
12	Vision Plan—Enabling Actions	SECTION E
	Appendix A – Funding	SECTION F

Introduction

'Rockcorry Vision Plan 2030' is a community-led integrated Social, Economic and Spatial strategic plan commissioned by Monaghan County Council and prepared in collaboration with the Rockcorry community. The plan was prepared by a multi disciplinary team led by Sheridan Woods Architects + Urban Planners Ltd, architects, conservation architects, planners and urban designers, in collaboration with Venture International Ltd, Community and Stakeholder Engagement Consultants.

The Vision Plan was developed over a number of months and involved local residents, community organisations, sports clubs and businesses in Rockcorry who put forward their views about how they would like to see their village develop to 2030 and beyond.

The plan encompasses six Development Aims that when taken together with the deliverable actions will facilitate the regeneration of the village as a sustainable village capa-

ble of meeting the needs of its existing and future residents. The plan relies on the opportunities presented by the rich and unique cultural heritage and natural landscape setting to create a high quality of life for residents and businesses, and to attract future investment in the village.

The process had the following three phases of community engagement:

Phase 1 – Review and Analysis

- Preliminary Community Workshop -
- Community Drop In Session
- Stakeholder Workshop – Monaghan CoCo

Phase 2 – Testing Emerging themes

- Collaborative Community Design Workshop

Phase 3 – Vision Plan 2030

- Draft Plan Development Aims and Actions

'The scope of the plan is to facilitate a long-term vision for Rockcorry village and its hinterlands and to identify and help prioritise projects from the development of Rockcorry to 2030 and beyond. The Plan has been prepared to support a long-term community-led village development and takes a long-term holistic overview of key opportunities and projects that will facilitate long-term socio-economic, cultural and environmental benefits for residents, communities, businesses and visitors.'



Main Street Rockcorry c1900



Main Street Rockcorry c1940's



Main Street Rockcorry 2023

Heritage and Cultural Assets

Rockcory is a picturesque rural village, developed on the old road from Cootehill to Monaghan. It was established in the 1600's as Newtowncory by Walter Corry, who also built a castle, no longer extant today. In the 1700's the family estate, named Fairfield, was located on the edge of the village. It was inherited in 1785 by Thomas Charles Steuart, who it appears to have employed the architect Benjamin Hallam in the first decade of the 1800's to create a model village around a market house and Presbyterian church.

There is still evidence of this today, comprising the neatly lined main street with two-storey houses, industry provided by the corn mill powered by the small river that skirts the village, and including Rockcory Orange Hall, former Methodist Chapel.

After the death of Corry's first wife in 1821, subsequent remarriage, and arrival of a large family, Corry became heavily indebted. The town and castle fell into a dilapidated state. Corry eventually sold much of his estate to Lord Dartrey, who absorbed it into the adjoining demesne of Dawson's Grove at Dartry, while Corry retired to Glenburn Cottage, a house he had built beside the village also no longer extant.

Under the patronage of Lord Dartrey, the Almshouses were erected in 1847 in the village centre, a model agricultural school the following year, and eventually a new church at the southern end of the village, St. James Church of Ireland.



Rockcory—Extract from Griffiths Valuation Map



Rockcory—Extract from Griffiths Valuation Map



Rockcory in context of the Dawson Estate

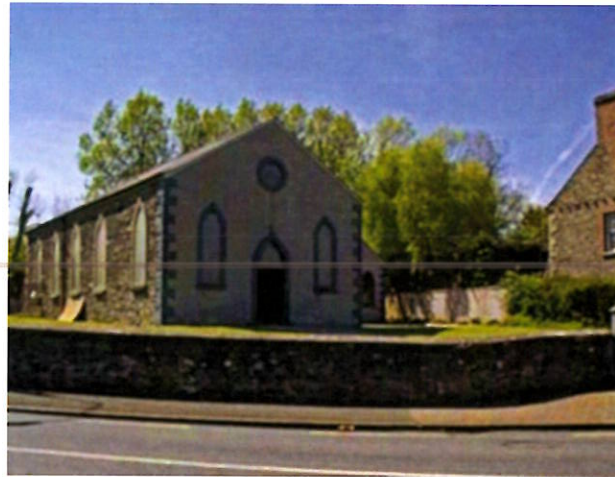
Heritage and Cultural Assets

There is significant architectural heritage in the village and the immediate surrounding, including St. James (Col) the Presbyterian Church and Manse, The Methodist Church, the Market and Session House, the Widows' Almshouses, the mill and adjoining Teapot Row, mill workers houses.

Outside the village includes Bellamont Forest, designed in c.1728 by Sir Edward Lovett Pearce for Thomas Coote and considered to be one of the finest examples of Palladian architecture in Ireland and loosely modelled on the Villa La Rotonda in Vicenza, Italy. Also, the Dawson Mausoleum, a funerary monument to Lady Anne Dawson which was designed by James Wyatt and completed in 1774. The Dawson Monument, a neo-classical column designed by James Wyatt and erected around 1808 still stands on the Cootehill/Rockcorry road in memory of Richard Dawson MP, who died in 1807.



Rockcorry—The Manse



Rockcorry—Presbyterian Church

Other famous people from Rockcorry included John Robert Gregg, a pioneer of shorthand writing who grew up in Rockcorry.

The rich heritage of Rockcorry continues to influence the growth and development of the village, with structures and buildings of considerable historical and heritage importance representing key landmarks and reference points in the village.

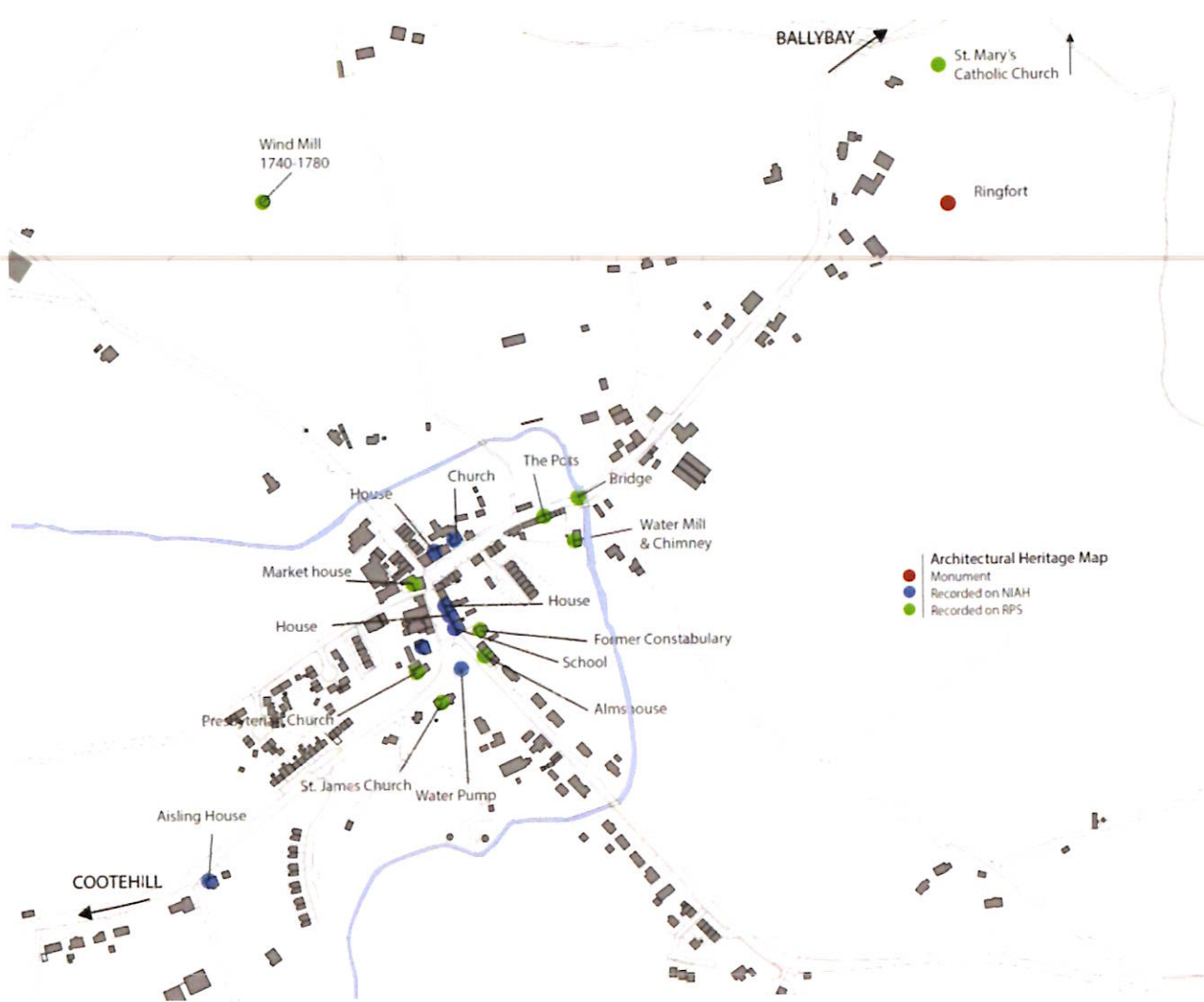
It offers many heritage attractions from its 19th century planned village buildings to its industrial heritage at Drumhalla (Windmill), and watermill in the village centre. Rockcorry's natural heritage lies in its surrounding landscape, and particularly Dartrey Forest located to the south east of the village.



Rockcorry—The Orange Hall

Heritage assets are an important aspect of any village. They offer a link to the past, create historic and unique sense of identity. The historic Windmill and water powered mill very much resonate with our ambition towards a sustainable future today. Its heritage also ensures the village is vibrant and remains true to its origin and identity through the appropriate adaption and re-use of important vacant and underutilised properties such as the Market Building, the Mill building and Teapot Row, as well as the Alms houses. Rockcorry has a particularly strong and interesting history. The community place significant value on this, which was very apparent in all of the community engagements.

Heritage and Cultural Assets



NIAH Ref/RPS	Name	Use	Date
4130600 /	Rockcorry Orange Hall	Masonic lodge/hall	1805 - 1810
4130623	House	House	1800-1840
41306002	Market house	Store	1800 - 1810
41306009	Boyher House Manse	House	1840 - 1860
41306010	Rockcorry Presbyterian Church	Church / Chapel	1825 - 1835
41306018	Saint James's Church (Ematris)	Church	1850 - 1865
41306014- 41306017	Almshouses	Almshouse / Vacant	1845 - 1850
41306008	School	School / Vacant	1845 - 1850
41306007	House	House	1840 - 1860
41306006	House	House	1800 - 1840
41306005	Mill	Vacant/ Derelict	1840 - 1860
41306004	Bridge	Bridge	1760 - 1800
41306001	Windmill	Vacant / Derelict	1740 - 1780
41306022	Aisling House - rectory/glebe/vicarage/curate's house	House	1850-1870
41306021	Community centre	Community centre	1920 - 1940
41306019	Fair Field Gate Lodge	Gatelodge	1870 - 1890
41306020	Railings	Railings	1830 - 1850

Rockcorry—Heritage and Cultural Assets

Urban Form And Character

The village centre retains a strong character and sense of place and identity with strong building lines, key landmark buildings, including the Market House that terminates the view along the main street as viewed from eastern approach route, the Presbyterian Church, and St. James Church adjoining the village green on the Coothill Road . There are also minor landmark buildings, including the Rockcorry Orange Hall (Former Methodist Church) and adjoining town houses on the main street. The village green creates a picturesque setting and also creates a strong sense of place and identity.

New housing developments were built in the village centre in the 2000s at Hill Top and interspersed in the village core. Some key services are located out of the village centre, including the main village shop and schools as well as the GAA grounds. The village centre supports a number of services including childcare, health centre, pub, churches and employment services, notably Campbells Foods located adjoining the Market House and the recently demolished Maple Ballroom.

Overall the public realm is poor, footpaths are generally narrow and the main street and carriageway is wide, giving priority to vehicles and encouraging speed through the village. This undermines pedestrian and cycle safety, and discourages people from lingering in the village centre. This also discourages pedestrian movement and encourages short car journeys all of which detract from the vibrancy and life in the village centre, and brings about a spiral decline of the village centre.

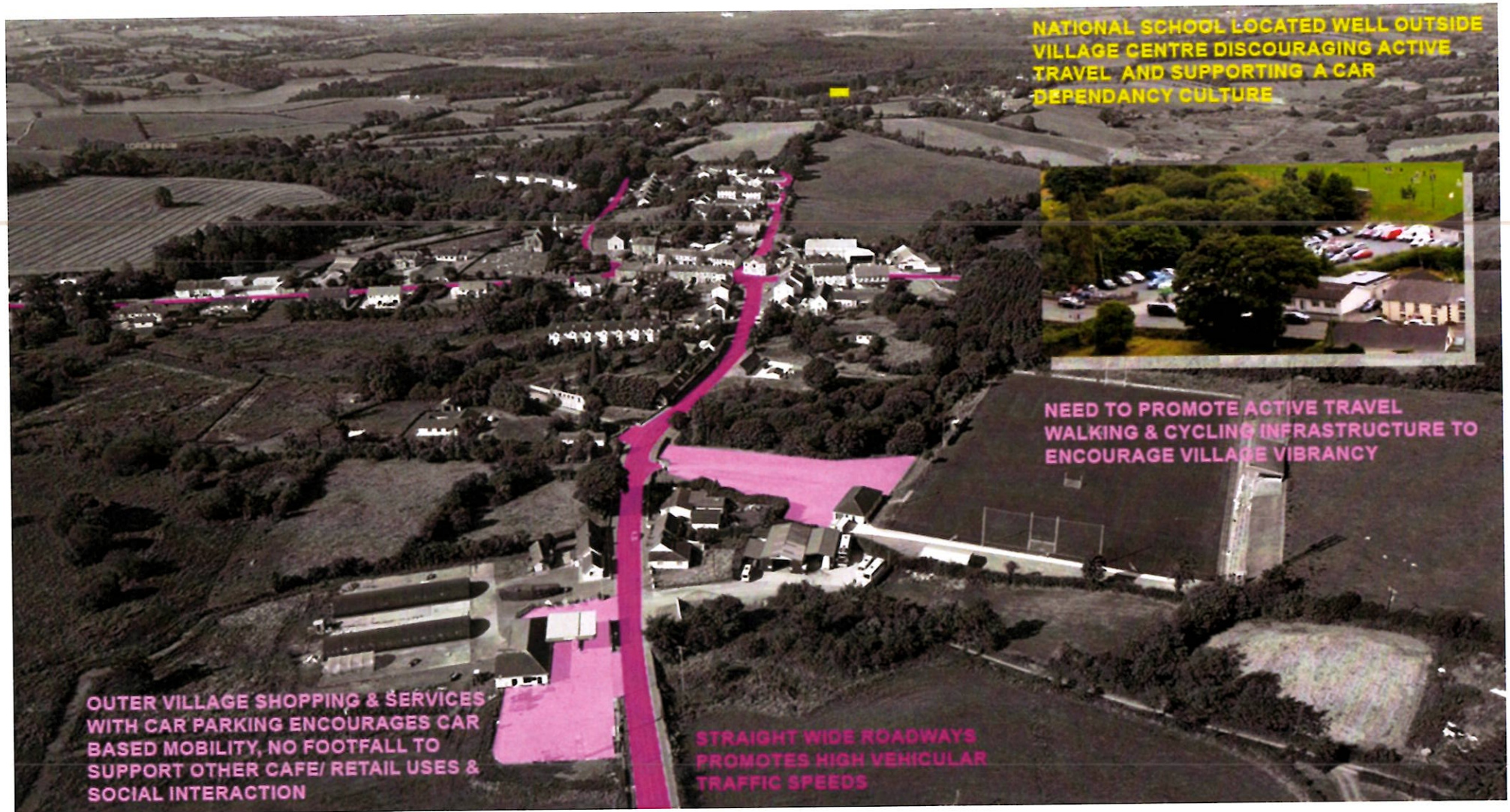


Rockcorry—Mainstreet 2023



Rockcorry—Mainstreet / Fairgreen 2023

Urban Form and Character



Rockcory—Urban Form and Character - Vibrancy of the village centre is directly impacted by the provision of outer village shopping and community uses—Wide streets promoting high vehicular traffic speeds