



FAIR FA' YE TAE

THA KINGDOM O'MOURNE

An Ulster-Scots Heritage & Cultural Trail



Hae a Bonnie Time in tha Kingdom O'Mourne!

WE HOPE YOU HAVE A 'BONNIE' TIME DURING YOUR VISIT TO THE KINGDOM O'MOURNE!

If you would like any further information on any of these places of Ulster-Scots interest, or would like to arrange a group visit for an Ulster-Scots Guided Tour, please get in contact with the Schomberg Society.

"Haste Ye Back!"

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INTRODUCTION

Tha Kingdom O' Mourne...An Ulster-Scots Hairtland

The Kingdom of Mourne is a place known the world over as an area of outstanding natural beauty.



The Kingdom extends from the Bloody Bridge, on the south side of Newcastle to the Cassy Water River, just east of Rostrevor and is bounded by the peaks of the Mourne Mountains. The history of Mourne however is much more than just that of a scenic traveller resort and centre of farming and fishing commerce. Over the centuries, this place apart has welcomed many waves of settlers, including the Celts, Vikings and Normans who have all added to the character of Mourne.

However, it was the arrival of huge waves of Scottish settlers in the 17th and early 18th centuries that has given Mourne its unique Scottish flavour and made it what it is today... 'A Hairtland O' Ulster-Scots'

This Ulster-Scots Heritage & Cultural Trail produced by the Schomberg Society will hopefully give you a better insight into the people and places across the Mournes which have strong Ulster-Scots connections. For further information regarding accessibility of the various places on this heritage trail, please get in contact with the Schomberg Society or Kilkeel Tourist Information Centre. We hope you enjoy finding out more about our Ulster-Scots history and heritage and 'Hae a Blythesome Time in Tha Kingdom O' Mourne!'



GREENCastle

Greencastle...An Historic Settlement

The village of Greencastle is located five miles south of Kilkeel on the shores of Carlingford Lough and is the most southern settlement in Northern Ireland.



The village is dominated by its 13th century Norman Castle, which is strategically located on a raft overlooking the area and was built to secure the mouth of the Lough from seaward attack. The village and castle have had a turbulent history and at times, played a significant role in the story of the Ulster-Scots O' Mourne.

In the 14th century, Greencastle was at the centre of one of the most important examples of Ulster-Scottish history, when in 1315, Robert Bruce sent a huge invading Scottish army led by his brother Edward Bruce with the intention of seizing the kingship of Ireland and installing Edward as King. During this unsuccessful campaign, Greencastle was captured and occupied by Bruce's Scottish troops.

The castle was once again at the centre of the Ulster-Scots story during the 17th century when Oliver Cromwell ordered the castle's destruction in 1649 to prevent it falling into Royalist hands. In the winter of 1689, the Duke of Schomberg billeted his troops in the village to guard the entrance of the Lough and protect the important town of Newry from attack. It is thought that some of both Cromwell's and Schomberg's troops settled in the area and their descendents are still in the Mournes today!



REIVERS HOUSE

Reivers House...An Ulster-Scots Hub

The Schomberg Society's Reivers House located on Newcastle Street stands opposite the old historical Church in Kilkeel town centre and is an Ulster-Scots Cultural Centre which promotes the rich Ulster-Scots traditions and identity of the Mournes!



Reivers House takes its name from the Border Reivers of lowland Scotland, who settled in large numbers in the Mournes during the 17th and 18th centuries. The Schomberg Society strives to build a strong and dynamic Ulster-Scots community across Mourne and beyond through empowerment and educational outreach. The core activities which take place in this busy hub are designed to promote and preserve the best of Ulster-Scots music and dance and explore the history, heritage and language of its people!

Reivers House is open to visitors who can take an opportunity to view the historical murals, memorabilia and exhibitions on display in the centre. The Schomberg Society can also organise for groups, guided tours of the hub, including a showcase of Ulster-Scots music and dance and a presentation on the history and heritage of the Ulster-Scots of Mourne.

For further information or to organise a visit to Reivers House or an Ulster-Scots guided tour, please contact the Schomberg Society on 028 4176 9678 / 07753222553.

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THE OLD CHURCH & KILKEEL HARBOUR

Kilkeel...Formally Known as 'Kirkiel'

The Old Church

Kilkeel meaning 'Church of the Narrows' is the Capital of Mourne and takes its name from the 14th Century Church ruin which overlooks the town.

However, for a period of time following the arrival of Scottish settlers, Kilkeel was known by its Scots name 'Kirkiel', which was recorded on various maps and documents dating as far back as 1692! The church ruin on Newcastle Street, which stands on a rath or small hill dates back to the 14th Century, and it is thought likely that in this church, many of the first Scots in Mourne would have met for worship until a Presbyterian Meeting House was established in Kilkeel.



In among the old headstones in the cemetery are to be found many Scots names, which are still prevalent in the Mournes today!

Kilkeel Harbour

Kilkeel boasts the largest fishing fleet in Northern Ireland and its harbour and marina are built at the mouth of the Kilkeel River. Overlooking the harbour is the Nautilus Centre with its Tourist Information office and visitor attractions.



The Scots who came and settled in Mourne during the 17th & 18th centuries are thought to have brought with them new techniques and methods of fishing to the area, helping to develop nets, boats and technology. There is a long tradition of Ulster-Scots families being associated with the fishing industry in Kilkeel and over the years, they and others have built what is now the principal fishing port in Ulster.

MOURNE & KILKEEL PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSES

Presbyterian Meeting Houses

Kilkeel town is known across the province as a centre of Presbyterianism, which is the form of worship the Scots brought with them to Ulster over four hundred years ago during and following the time of the Plantation.

Mourne Presbyterian Meeting House

Mourne Presbyterian Meeting House is one of the largest Presbyterian congregations in Ireland and is known as 'The Big Meeting'. It was first established at Ballymageough, outside Kilkeel in 1696. It was not until 1720 when more Presbyterians settled in Mourne, that it was agreed to build a more central Presbyterian Meeting House on Greencastle Street, in Kilkeel town centre. In 1923, the church unveiled its majestic cenotaph, commemorating those from the congregation who served during The Great War. There is a commemorative blue plaque on the Church Hall in remembrance of Royal Red Cross Winner, Nurse Margaret Anderson, who was a member of Mourne Presbyterian congregation.



Kilkeel Presbyterian Meeting House

Kilkeel Presbyterian Meeting House or 'The Wee Meeting' was initially formed in 1822 as a Presbyterian Seceder Church. The original Meeting House was established on the site of the current Kilkeel Presbyterian Graveyard before the current Meeting House was built on Newcastle Street and opened in 1897. On the front of the Meeting House, you will also find a commemorative blue plaque in remembrance of Victoria Cross Winner Robert Hill Hanna who attended the church before emigrating to Canada.



HANNA'S CLOSE

Hanna's Close...A Unique Scottish Clachan

Hanna's Close is a unique Scottish styled clachan or cluster of cottages located in the townland of Aughnaheery, just over a mile to the north west of Kilkeel.



Established in the 1640s, the Close takes its name from the Hanna family who originated in the parish of Sorbie in South-West Scotland and are thought to be some of the first Scots to have settled in Mourne. A Scottish Presbyterian farming family, the Hannas had found conditions very tough in Galloway due to famine, adverse weather, land shortages and religious persecution and had fled here with the hope of a better life.

Today, Hanna's Close has been restored to its former glory and the cottages are used for self catering accommodation. The Schomberg Society host an annual



'Ulster-Scots Gathering' at the Close in July as part of the Reivers Festival, which is a fantastic showcase of Ulster-Scots music and dance, attracting hundreds of spectators!

At the Close today, you will find a Memorial Stone and Information Board erected by the Schomberg Society in memory of the most famous Hanna connected to the Close, Victoria Cross Winner, Robert Hill Hanna.

For more information on opening hours or booking accommodation, please contact Hanna's close on 028 4176 5999.

BALLYMARTIN & BALLYVEA

Ballymartin on the Brae

Ballymartin is a small village midway between Annalong and Kilkeel and sits on a brae that is the highest point anywhere on the Mourne coastline. Although a small village, Ballymartin has much Ulster-Scots history! Just outside of the village, across from Ballymartin Orange Hall, you can see the ruins of the old Presbyterian Meeting House, which was established by Presbyterian settlers around 1700. The present Meeting House was erected in 1813 on Meeting House Lane, which takes you to the shore at the 'Black Rock'. Unfortunately the church building fell into serious decay and was closed around 1936.



Ballyvea Museum...A Victorian Farmhouse

Ballyvea Museum is a 19th century privately owned Victorian farmhouse situated at the foot of the Mournes in the townland of Ballyvea, two miles from Annalong. The farmhouse was built in the 1850s just after the Great Famine. The Irvines occupied the family home until 1956 when it became uninhabited. The family had fled from Scotland in the 1600s and settled in Mourne. In 1882, William Irvine emigrated to America, where he became a large rancher and bank owner in Wyoming. His prosperity encouraged many of his relatives to follow in his footsteps and as a result of this, there are now more of these Irvines living in America than in their homeland of Ballyvea!



The Old Victorian Farmhouse has recently been restored by the family and with the help of Kilkeel High School, brought to its former Victorian glory and is privately owned by a descendant of the Irvine family! The museum is strictly private and limited to private bookings only. Contact Reivers House for further information.

ANNALONG

Annalong...Formally known as 'Islealong'

Annalong is the second largest settlement in the Kingdom of Mourne, its name meaning 'Ford of the Ships'. The village of Annalong is steeped in Ulster-Scots culture and in the past, Annalong, like Kilkeel was also known by its Scots sounding name 'Islealong'.



Annalong Presbyterian congregation was formed in 1839 with its earliest services being held in Annalong Corn Mill, beside the Harbour. The present Meeting House on the Kilkeel Road is a fine example of built Mourne Granite. The tower which was added to the side of the church in 1963 was named in memory of one of the most notable ministers to serve the congregation, the Rev. Edwin Pyper, who took leave from the church in 1916 to serve in France as a Voluntary Chaplain to the Forces.



Annalong for a time boasted the biggest fishing port in South Down. The charming village has a long history of fishing dating back to the early 1700s and as in Kilkeel, there are strong Ulster-Scots family traditions associated with the industry. The present harbour was built in the early 1800s and catered for the export of granite blocks, crib and cobble stones to Belfast and other major industrial towns across the world. Beside the Harbour, you can also visit Annalong Corn Mill, which was in operation until the 1960s and is now restored as a visitor's attraction.

THE MOURNES & THE SILENT VALLEY

The Mournes and the Silent Valley Mountain Park

The Kingdom of Mourne during the 17th century seen many waves of Scottish settlers, whose arrival made a huge impact on the local area. These new settlers in Mourne worked the land as they had in Scotland, clearing the ground and using the granite stones and boulders to march the fields with the renowned Mourne stone ditches.



One of the best examples of Mourne's stone ditches is the Mourne Wall, which is 22 miles long, crosses over 15 Mountain peaks and was built between 1904 and 1922 to enclose the catchment for the Silent Valley Reservoir. This granite stone wall, along with many others, which you will see all across the Mourne countryside, were built by local Mourne men, many of whom were the descendents of Scottish settlers who had arrived some 300 years earlier.



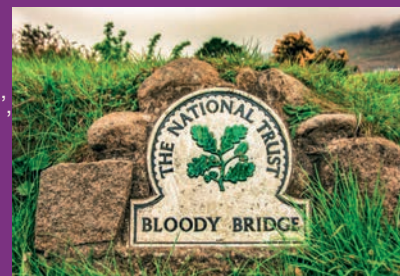
In order to provide the city of Belfast with water, a 9,000 acre area was purchased in the heart of the Mournes and work began on both the Silent Valley and Ben Crom Dam. In 1923, Sir Edward Carson cut the first sod of what was to become the largest man made reservoir in the country.

Located at the Silent Valley Mountain Park is a visitor's centre with a museum, cafe and many nature trails. The park is open most days and there is also a fine example of the Mourne Wall on site to view, whilst a shuttle bus is provided to transport visitors to the upper Ben Crom Dam.

THE BLOODY BRIDGE

The Bloody Bridge...The River that ran Red

There was much tragedy during the 1641 Rebellion at the 'Bloody Bridge', which is located 5 miles north of Annalong on the coast road to Newcastle. It was at this picturesque river that a number of English and Scottish prisoners were put to death by insurgents.



As the prisoners were coming through Newcastle, it is said that the insurgents got word that they had been double-crossed. They immediately turned the procession back the way they had come and on reaching the Bloody Bridge, the English and Scottish prisoners were ruthlessly killed. It is said that the cries of the prisoners pierced the air as they fell to their captor's blades and the river ran red for three days, giving rise to the name, 'The Bloody Bridge'.

Nowadays, this peaceful neuk of Mourne is very popular with visitors and walkers. The beautiful river is now just known as the Bloody Bridge River and there is a path running alongside it which leads down towards the shore beside some large tilted slabs of rock, passing William's Harbour, said to be where Williamite troops landed in 1689.



Whilst visiting the Bloody Bridge, you will find an information board in memory of those English and Scottish Prisoners who were brutally slaughtered during the 1641 Rebellion. From here, visitors can also access the 'Brandy Pad', which was used for many years by smugglers to transport brandy, tobacco and tea through the mountains inland.

THE REIVERS FESTIVAL

Since its formation in 1998, the Schomberg Society has organised and overseen what has grown to become one of the largest and most successful Ulster-Scots Festivals in Northern Ireland taking place during the month of July. 'The Reivers Festival' annually attracts thousands of spectators and visitors to the Mourne area and showcases the best of home grown Ulster-Scots talent and acts.

Over a two week period, the Festival promotes all facets of Ulster-Scots culture and includes exhibitions, workshops, concerts, Ulster-Scots Gatherings and of course culminates on the 11th July with a huge day and evening of celebrations!

The 11th Night has been transformed in Kilkeel and is now seen as a major tourist event in the Council area, and we certainly would encourage you to come along to our 11th July Celebrations, which features an Afternoon Concert and a Traditional 11th Night Pageant of floats, vehicles, bands, living history re-enactors and much more in Kilkeel town centre! Following the Pageant, there is a major outdoor concert which also includes living history re-enactments, children's entertainment, singers, dancers, highland games demonstrations, bonfire, fireworks extravaganza and many other attractions!

We guarantee you its a day and night not to miss!

If you would like to come along to the Schomberg Society's Reivers Festival, you will be made very welcome! Please make sure to get in contact with the Society before the Festival to find out more details about any upcoming Festival events!

"The Reivers Festival...Proudly Promoting and Preserving our Rich Ulster-Scots Culture in the Kingdom of Mourne!"



Photo © DfMcC

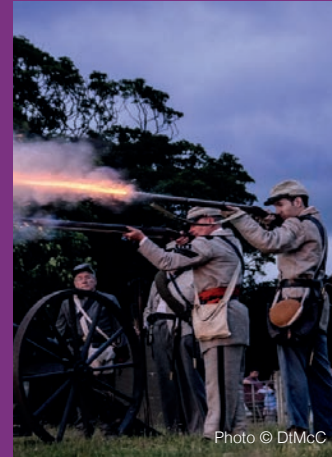


Photo © DfMcC



KILKEEL ORANGE HALL

Opened in 2015 on Greencastle Street, Kilkeel, to replace the original hall, Kilkeel Orange Hall is one of the finest and most modern Orange Halls to be found anywhere in Ulster. The new hall with its fantastic architecture and Corinthian facade at the front entrance is a must see for visitors! As part of the Schomberg Society's Ulster-Scots Guided Tours of Mourne, we can arrange a group visit to see some of the history and heritage on display inside the Hall!



BRAES, KNOWES & LOANINS

Over the centuries, the Scots who settled in Mourne and their descendants, the Ulster-Scots, have named many parts of the landscape, some according to physical features such as rivers, stones, loughs and bogs, some to recall a person or family who lived there and some even to remember an historical event.



Whilst many of these may not specifically be places to visit, they do give the Kingdom of Mourne its unique Ulster-Scots identity and show that the legacy of those first Scots settlers is still very much alive and evident today!

Find the letter on the map to show you where these Ulster-Scots placenames can be found! Please note, most of these places are not signed!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| a) Anderson's Holmes, Ballinran | o) Kennedy's Brae, Kilkeel |
| b) Baird's Brae, Head Road | p) Linden Brae, Annalong |
| c) Billy's Brae, Ballinran | q) Manus' Loanin, Kilkeel |
| d) Blaeberry Mountain, Mourne Mountains | r) Meeting House Lane, Kilkeel |
| e) Brandy Pad, Mourne Mountains | s) Meeting House Lane, Ballymartin |
| f) Brown Knowe, Mourne Mountains | t) Quay Brae, Kilkeel Harbour |
| g) Chesney's Brae, Ballyardle | u) Sabbath Hill Road, Ballyvea |
| h) Close Loanin, Hanna's Close | v) Spence's Mountain, Mourne Mountains |
| i) Crawtree Stone, Kilkeel | w) The Hallow, Kilkeel |
| j) Glen Loanin, Ballymartin | x) Wee Binnian, Mourne Mountains |
| k) Hanna's Close, Aughnahoor | y) Whinland, Annalong |
| l) Hanna's Glen, Ballinran | z) Wrack Road, Ballymartin |
| m) Haw Bog, Ballymartin | |
| n) Kellys Brae, Annalong | |

Here is the English meaning of these Ulster-Scots placenames!

Blaeberry - Blueberry/Bilberry
Brae - A slope
Close - A courtyard
Craw - A crow
Glen - Valley
Hallow - Flat area between two hills
Haw - A bush or thorn
Holm - Flat area of land beside a river
Knowe - A Small Hill

Loanin - Lane
Meeting House - Church
Pad - Path
Sabbath - Sunday
Spence - Scottish surname
Wee - Small
Whin - Gorse
Wrack - In blown seaweed

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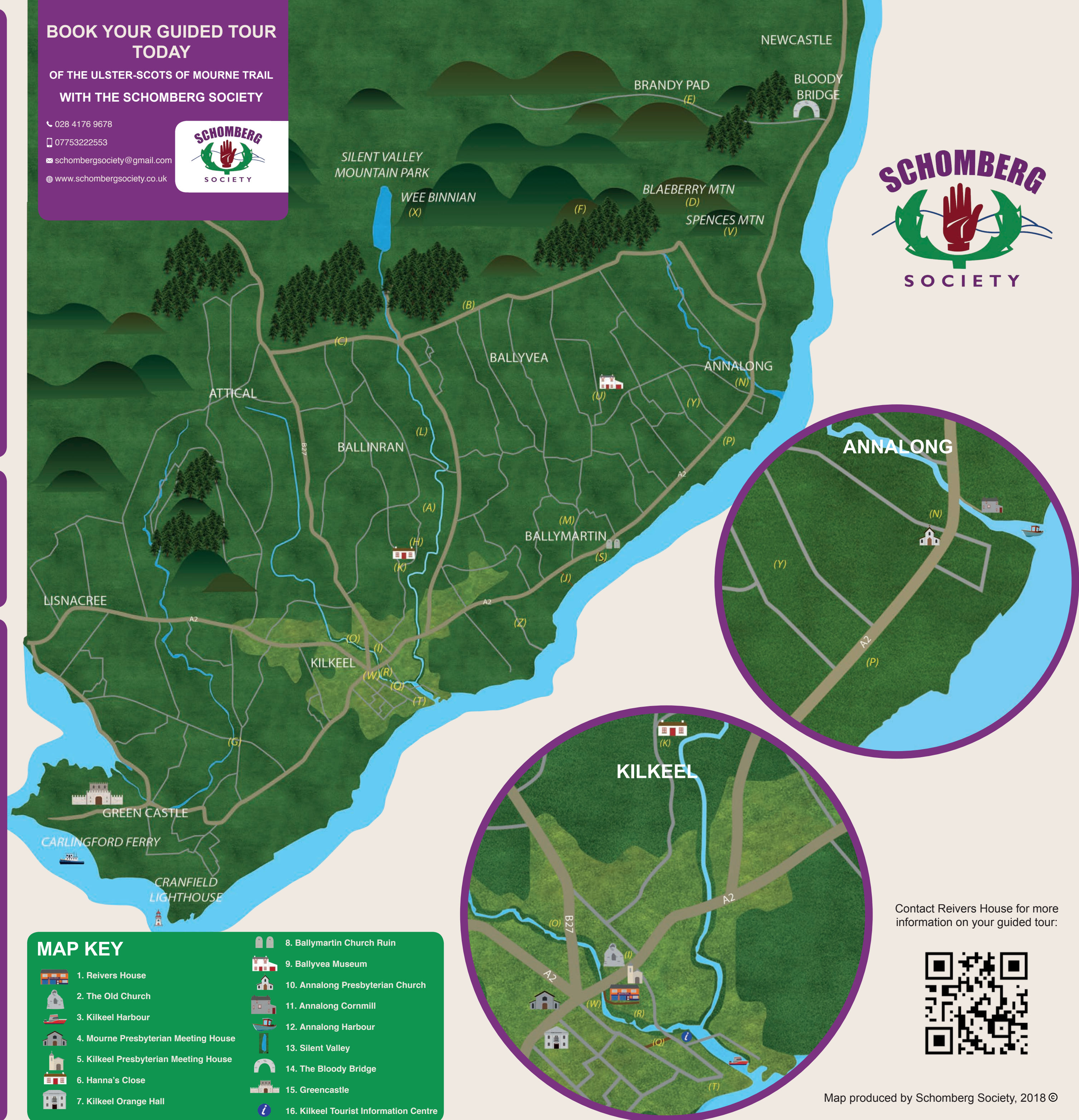
OF THE ULSTER-SCOTS OF MOURNE TRAIL
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Contact Reivers House for more information on your guided tour:



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