

Whitestown - A Clachan

A Clachan refers to a small settlement of clustered houses with no church, and usually, no shop or school. There would normally have been ties of kinship between the families in a clachan.

Whitestown is remarkable in that it has continued to evolve slowly, with new houses being built during the 20th century, but its traditional character has survived.

The buildings are vernacular, with single storey, storey and a half or two storey dwellings with adjoining outbuildings, the roofs are slated, thatched or corrugated iron, walls are stone, natural, plastered or whitewashed. Both gables and frontages face the road creating semi-enclosed spaces. The roads are not defined by kerbs, but edged with grassed verges, or change surface gently to meet the buildings.



A GUIDE TO

WHITESTOWN Architectural Conservation Area



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CHOMHAIRLE
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THE
HERITAGE
COUNCIL

*If you have further queries regarding
ACA designation please contact:*

The Planning Section,
Louth County Council,
County Hall, Millennium Centre,
Dundalk, Co Louth

Phone: 042 935 3180

Fax: 042 932 0080

e-mail: planning@louthcoco.ie

website: www.louthcoco.ie

Designed by: Vision Design, Dundalk: 00353 42 933 0690

ACA



What is an Architectural Conservation Area/ACA?

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION AREA

Architectural Conservation Area designation will help to retain and enhance special places for future generations. This is achieved through the planning system and through works by the council in recognition of the ACA's special character. ACAs are not about preserving everything as it is at the time of designation.

Designation of ACAs is carried out during the review of the County Development Plan. Built into this process there is the opportunity for the public to make submissions. The idea is for the Council to ensure that places that have a special character should be protected from inappropriate development or demolition of structures which are of local interest.

Louth has eight ACAs outlined in the 2003-2009 County Development Plan. These are Ardee, Collon, Carlingford, Whitestown, Salterstown Newtownmonasterboice, Milltown and the monastic site of Monasterboice.

The next review of the County plan may recommend other areas, remove existing designations, or alter boundaries.



Does this mean no building work will be permitted?

Within an area designated as an ACA any work which would affect the character of the area will require planning permission. This includes development which might otherwise be exempt such as agricultural buildings or domestic extensions.



Extensions, alterations, new build, backland development and even replacement of buildings will all still be considered by the council within the ACAs subject to normal planning. Any proposed works will be carefully assessed in relation to their impact on their surroundings and to a greater extent than in areas outside ACAs. Impact on Character will be used as grounds for refusal or the attachment of conditions.