

# Comber 5 Dams Proposed Feasibility Study

**Comber Regeneration Community  
Partnership**

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

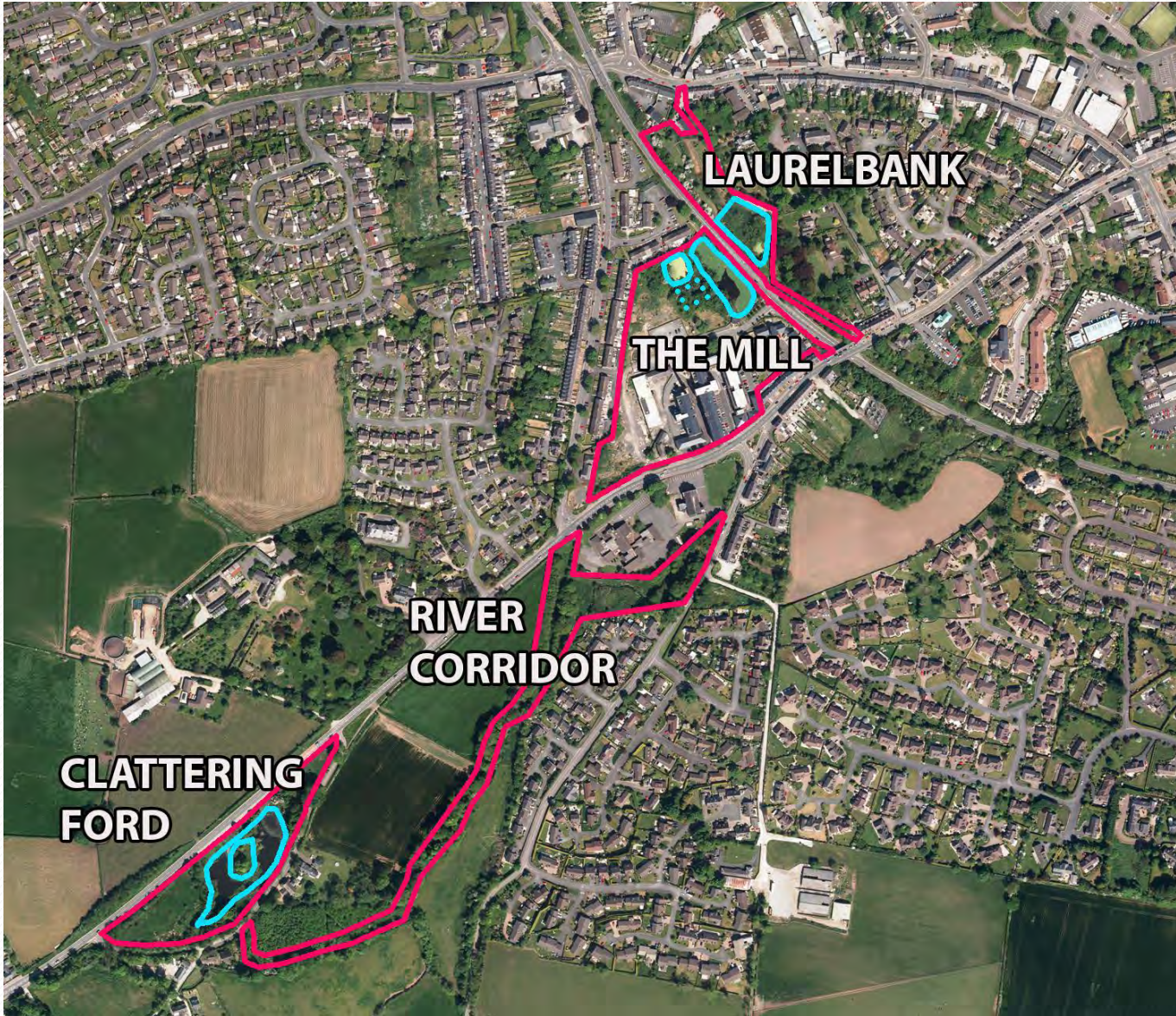


The Comber 5 Dams Proposal aims to link the 5 Historical Comber Dams providing a wildlife corridor and community walks through the centre of the town.

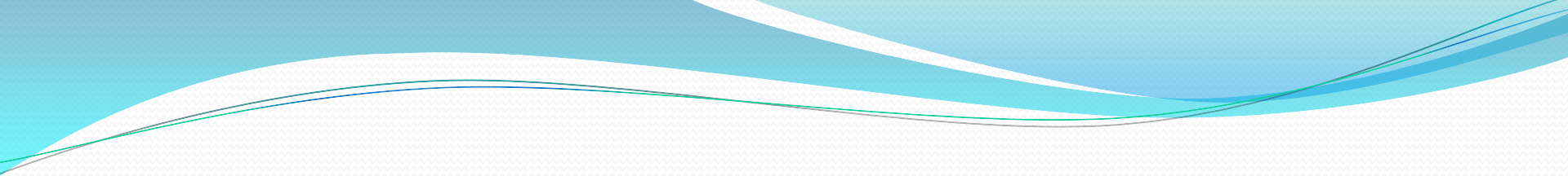
Today there are five Dams:

- Clattering Ford Dam owned by the Andrews family.
- The Andrews Mill Dams (The Hot Dam, the Cold Dam and the Mill Pond) currently in administration (KPMG)
- The Laurelbank Dam owned by the Council.
- In addition there is a wildlife river corridor that connects the Mill with Clattering Ford.

There was a pond before even the Andrews Mill. The railway line divided the Pond into the Mill Ponds and the Laurelbank Pond.







All these dams and rivers are linked and were part of the industrial heritage of the town feeding the Linen Mill, the Distillery and the Flour Mill.

They have been forgotten and are now suffering from years of lack of management.

These dams once had walkways and they were used not only for the workers but for everybody in Comber (baths in the Hot Pond, fishing, ...).

They had the potential to be magnificent again and provide walkways that link both the Comber Greenway and also the River Enler and Strangford Lough and the Comber Heritage Walking Guide / Comber Andrews Titanic Trail.

It could also bring more visitors to the town centre greatly improving the commercial opportunity with the added bonus of the Comber Public Realm.

# The Proposal

It is an idea that could radically halt the decline of the town and provide a community facility that would last generations.

We need **Feasibility Funding** from the Council Staff to work with Ulster Wildlife and CRCP to establish the scope and costs of a firm project proposal.

There are significant funds available for projects such as these including Space and Place Programme, Heritage Lottery, Landfill, Coastal Lottery and others. It would also be the intention of CRCP to bring in both Local and National Private Foundations to also help fund the project.

We see Ards Borough Council playing a pivotal role in the initiation of this project firstly in recognising and endorsing the proposal which will bring wide ranging benefits to the local and wider community; secondly by granting feasibility funding to develop this vision further; and thirdly to support the project through the involvement of key council personnel to ensure that it is managed in the interest of the community.