Medieval fortifications at Dunluce, Dunseverick and Kinbane defended the coast from attack by sea.

There is scarcely a spot at the Causeway to which the guides (to suit their own purposes and enhance their own importance) have not affixed some name.

James Boyle, Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland, 1835

**DUNLUCE CASTLE**

‘Luce’ could mean ‘sea-spirit’. Legend suggests the castle has a guardian spirit, Maeve Roe McQuillan. However, the name probably means ‘strong fort’, from dún and lios. Throughout Ireland, important forts associated with kings were often called dún.

**DUNSEVERICK CASTLE**

Dún Sobhairce – ‘Sobhairce’s fort’

These ruins are several hundred years old, but the name is much older. Sobhairce is supposed to have been the great-great-grandson of Míl, a mythical ancestor of the Irish people.

After these castles fell into ruin, tourism had an effect on the naming of coastal features.

**At the Giant’s Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site, current names mostly relate to a feature’s shape, and some have been fleshed out with a story. The Giant’s Eyeglass, a rock arch rising from the sea, has disappeared due to erosion.**

**Names have also been given to places used for bathing or fishing. For example, at Portcairn there are the Blue Hole and the Parten Hole. ‘Parten’ comes from the Irish for ‘crab’**.

Near Kinbane, Gobe Feagh or Raven’s Point is also known as Norton’s Rock. Harry Norton fished there in the 1930s.