

THE BIG POINTLESS PLASTIC PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

THE TOP TEN



**LIVE
HERE
LOVE
HERE**



DAERA
Department of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

#TacklingPlasticNI

**KEEP
NORTHERN
IRELAND
BEAUTIFUL**

THE BIG POINTLESS PLASTIC PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

What Was It?

The Big Pointless Plastic Photography Competition, which ran for its first year in 2022, was about discovering hugely powerful photographs from all over Northern Ireland that illustrate how pestilent plastics are polluting our towns, the countryside, and our rivers. The competition generated some very striking images in our top 10, which are featured in the following pages, including the three winners!



Adopt A Spot - we all have a part to play!

Plastic pollution is a real problem in Northern Ireland. You don't have to look too far to find items like plastic bags, coffee cups, drinks bottles and most food packaging littered across the environment. Unfortunately, plastic can be found everywhere.

But what can be done?

To tackle this problem, Live Here Love Here has come up with our Adopt a Spot programme, which enables individuals and community groups to adopt an area and look after it for as long as they want and as often as they want. This could be a mile of your favourite beach that is always full of litter, a local park or forest, or even the street you live on.

Not sure where to start? How about showing some love to one of the locations in our top 10 photos from the Big Pointless Plastic Photography Competition?

[Find out more about Adopt A Spot](#)



Adopt[®] A Spot

THE BIG POINTLESS PLASTIC PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

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1ST
PRIZE



DANIEL CLARKE

Photo © Daniel Clarke

Little Grebe makes nest for chicks with single use plastic bags, crisp packets and polystyrene.



River Lagan
near Hillhall,
Lisburn

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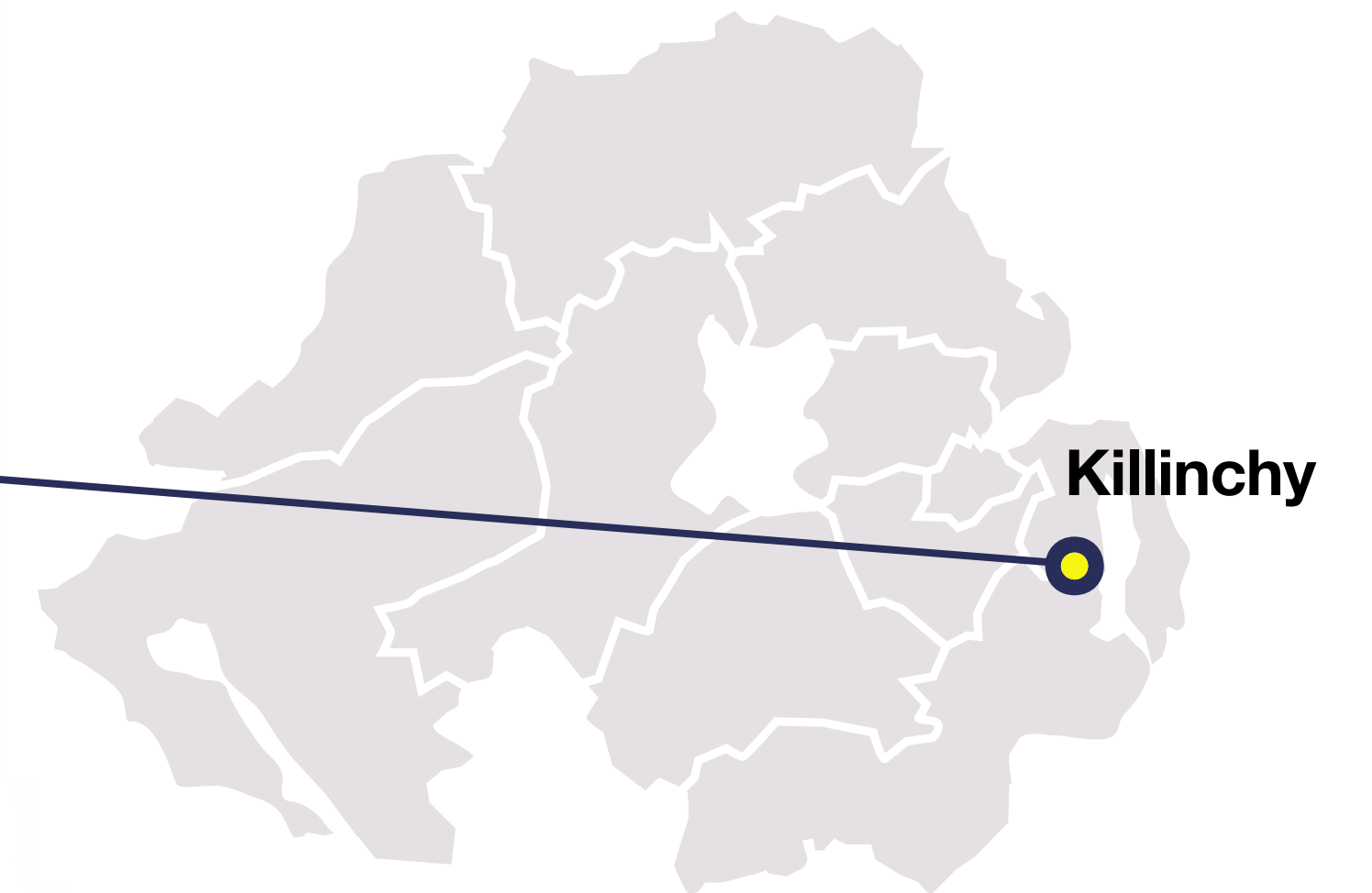
2ND
PRIZE



ERNIE PATTERSON

Photo © Ernie Patterson

Balloons can travel for many miles before bursting and descending to earth where they are a potential hazard to livestock. Balloons are likely to be found several times during the course of the year.



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3RD
PRIZE



JONATHAN CLARK

Photo © Jonathan Clark

Photo of a common blue butterfly
on a plastic bottle wrapper.



RSPB Window On
Wildlife reserve
on Airport Road,
West Belfast

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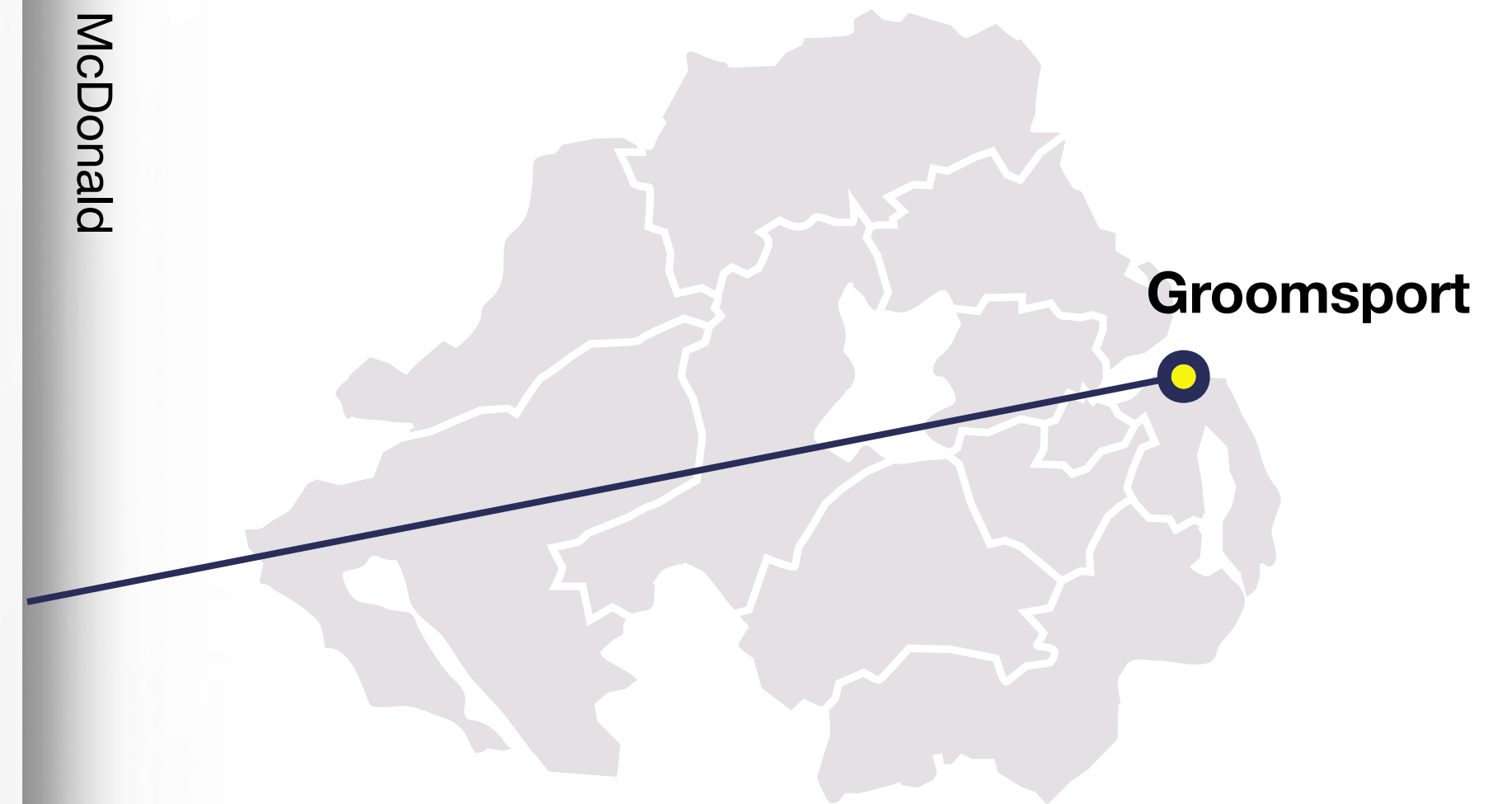
**BEST
OF THE
REST**

**ROSS
McDONALD**



Photo © Ross McDonald

This is a single-use face mask which has become ensnared in the seaweed in the pool.



**Adopt[®]
A Spot**

THE BIG POINTLESS PLASTIC PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

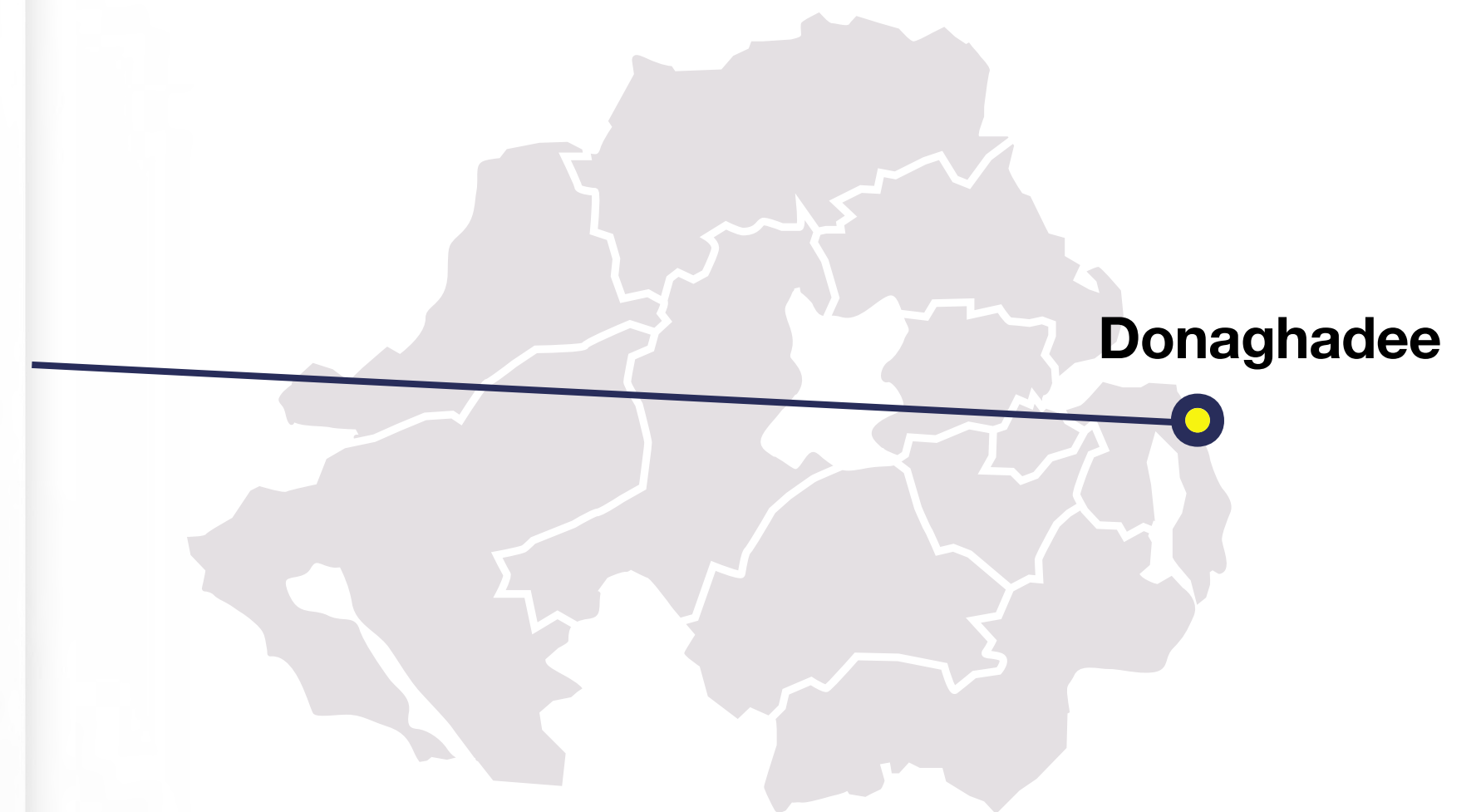
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**BEST
OF THE
REST**



Photo © Olivia Rose

Plastic pollution washed up by the sea on to the stone beach, some plastic is dropped by passers-by.



Donaghadee

OLIVIA ROSE

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**BEST
OF THE
REST**



MALACHY CONNOLLY

Photo © Malachy Connolly

Obstacle course for ducks.



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OF THE
REST**

**AILEEN
McCLENAGHAN**



Photo © Aileen McClenaghan

A holdfast of kelp which would usually be attached to a rock, or the seabed. However, this particular holdfast has attached to a plastic milk carton and has grown with the plastic as it's anchor.



Ballyholme Beach
Groomsport

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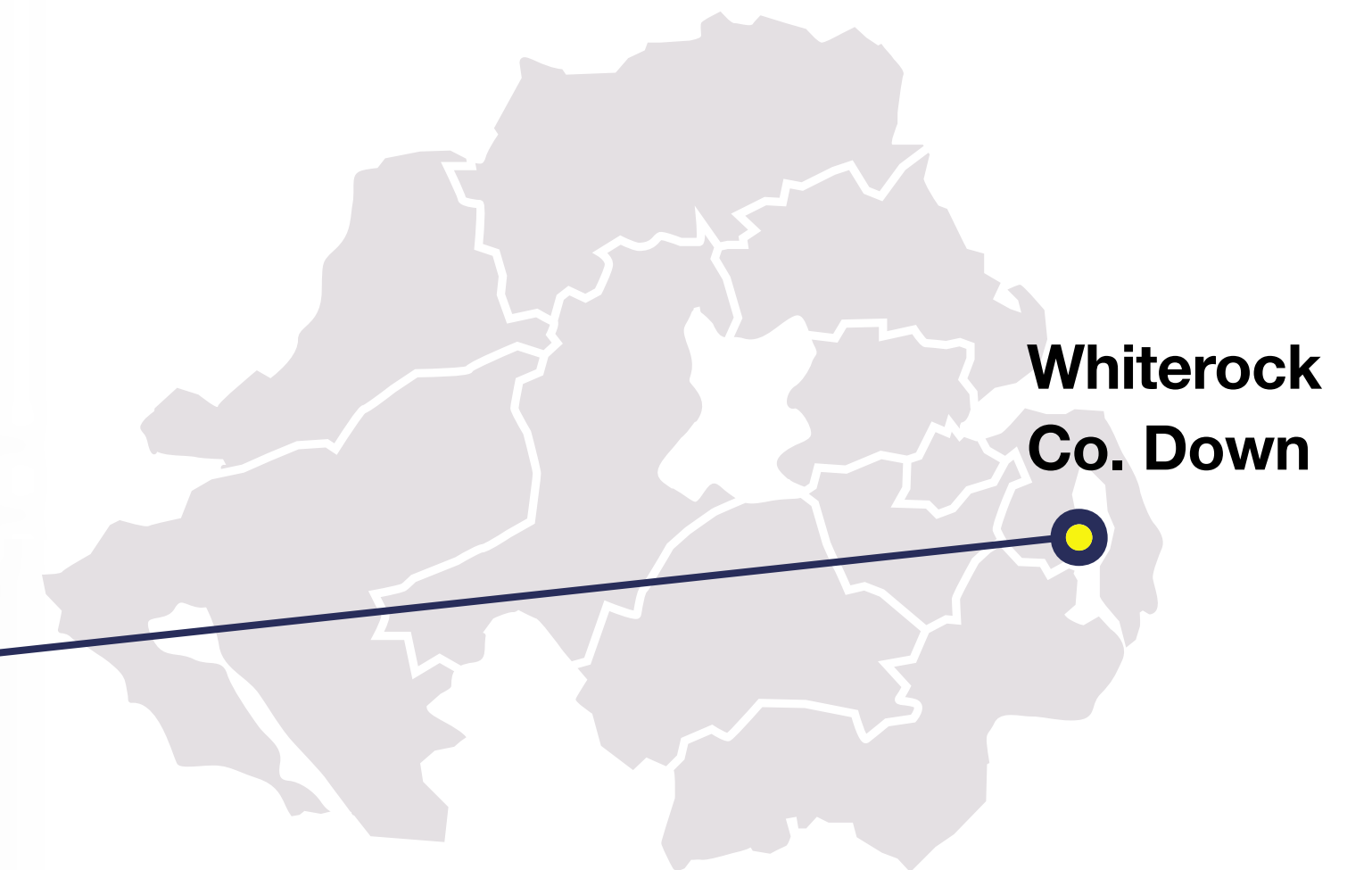
**BEST
OF THE
REST**

**AMY
LYONS**



Photo © Amy Lyons

Quite often when I go for a walk
I see plastic pollution at Whiterock
which I then place into my bin
at home.



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**BEST
OF THE
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**FIONA
MACINTYRE**



Photo © Fiona MacIntyre

Found during beach clean
at Hazelbank Beach.



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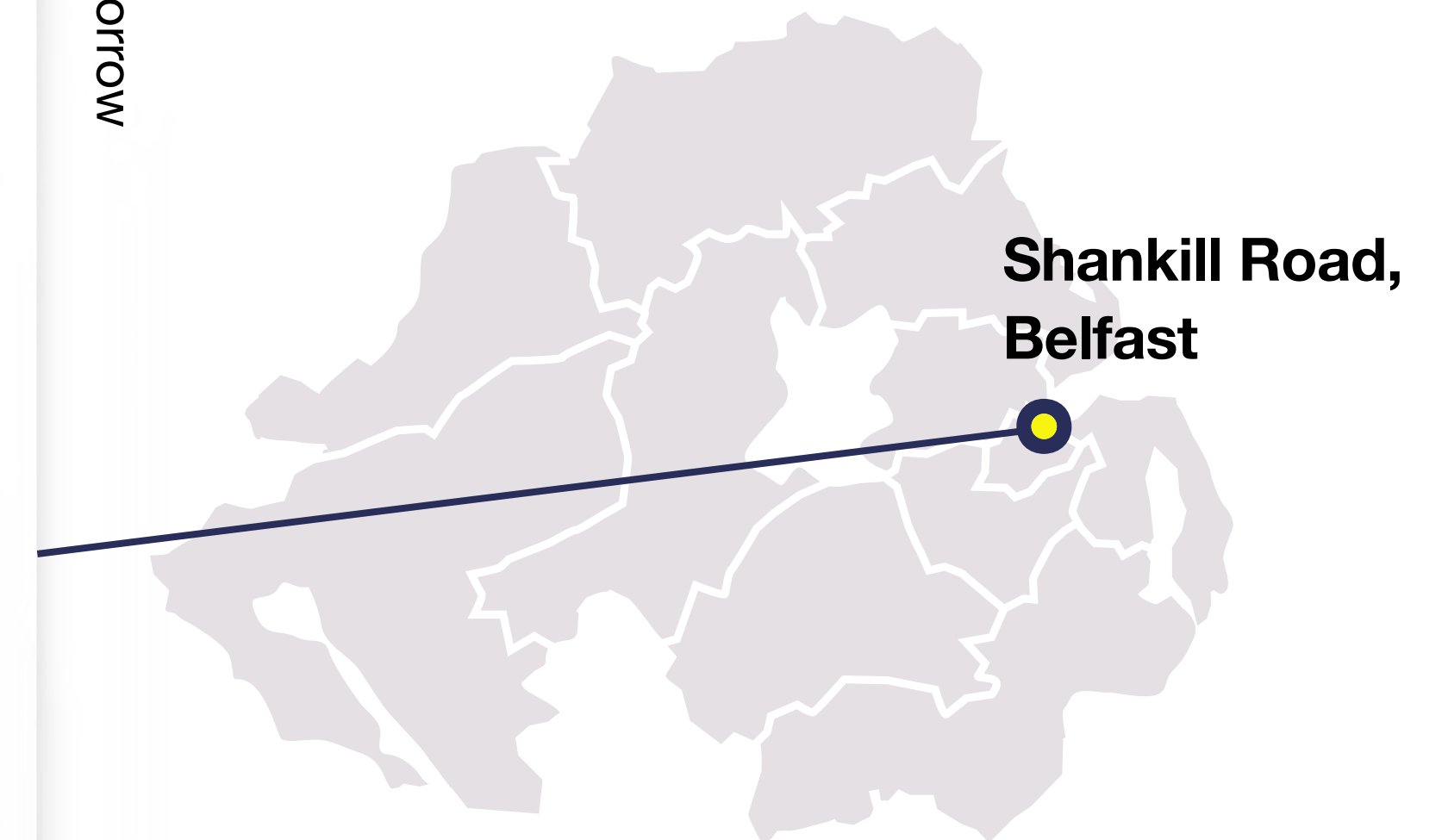
**BEST
OF THE
REST**

**PAIGE
MORROW**



Photo © Paige Morrow

**Waste land full of litter
everywhere even in the streets
of the Shankill Road.**



**Adopt[®]
A Spot**