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## Guide to Coarse Angling in The Erne & South Donegal

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## Introduction

The coarse angler visiting the North Western River Basin District (NWRBD) will find a rich variety of waters which offer unlimited opportunities to pursue a wide range of coarse fish species.

The River Erne, the upper reaches of which flow between the angling centres of Kilnaleck and Gowna emerges from Lough Gowna and flows north to the intricate lake system of Lough Oughter lying in the Cavan/Belturbet/Killeshandra angling triangle. Here it is joined by the waters of the Annalee flowing in from the east where the angling centres of Cootehill, Ballybay and Shercock are located.

The Cullies River system on which the well known angling towns of Carrigallen and Arva are to be found also joins it here west of Killashandra. The main river exits Lough Oughter and continues in a northerly direction to Belturbet and on to Upper Lough Erne on the Cavan/Fermanagh border and via Lower Lough Erne to the sea at Ballyshannon.

The Shannon Erne Waterway on which the angling centres of Ballyconnell/Bawnboy, Ballinamore and Keshcarrigan are located joins Upper Lough Erne on its western shore.

Joining the eastern side of the catchment where it meets Co. Fermanagh is the River Finn on which is located the long established angling centre of Clones. Nearby Redhills is also in the Finn catchment.

Between the villages of Kiltyclogher in north Leitrim and Blacklion in west Cavan are the waters of Lough McNeen Upper which flow to Lough Erne via the Arney River.

Most of these waters contain the common coarse species i.e. Bream, Roach, Roach Bream Hybrids, Rudd Bream Hybrids, Perch & Eels. The presence of Tench, Rudd and Carp will be noted in the text, where appropriate. Rudd once abundant in the Erne are now much scarcer due to competition from and hybridisation with Roach but are still to be found in some waters where roach have not colonised.

Tench once only present in a small number of waters are now widespread throughout the main system including the River Erne, R. Annalee & Dromore, Upper L. Erne, L. Oughter and the Shannon Erne Waterway. Surveys by IFI have revealed the presence of large numbers in areas hitherto not suspected to contain tench. Anglers are now regularly reporting captures from new locations, however due to the preference of tench for certain types of habitat, on some waters they are not always within easy reach of the angler. The use of a boat and a willingness to explore could bring rich rewards.

Carp have been introduced to a small number of fisheries but with one or two exceptions their present status in these waters is unknown.

Most also contain good stocks of pike (see our companion publication, Guide to Pike Angling Waters in the Erne and South Donegal).





There is a water here to suit all tastes. The angler seeking large open waters with the promise of outstanding bags of Bream and Roach can choose from the wider stretches of the River Erne or large lakes such as Gowna, Oughter, Garadice, Sillan, Upper Lough Erne, Lough McNeen or Assaroe Lake.

Those in search of somewhere more intimate and secluded will find many smaller lakes and stretches of rivers which have plenty of fish to keep them occupied. Typical of these are lakes in the Pettigo area of south Donegal which during recent surveys were found to contain plentiful stocks of coarse fish.

Specimen hunters in search of large Tench and Bream will find many waters where their efforts will be rewarded. This is an unexplored aspect of coarse angling in the Upper Erne and surveys have revealed waters with specimen fish that are never hooked.

The specialist match angler is offered many opportunities to participate in the numerous three and four day angling festivals organised by the local angling and tourist associations and the major international events such as the World Pairs.

Details of all the principal events are published in the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (N.C.F.F.I.) Calendar of Events.

It is worth noting that the Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) is now present in many fisheries in the NWRBD. These filter feeding organisms have had the effect of making many waters much clearer than they had previously been. This is most noticeable on many of the larger waters that have been heavily colonized. Increased water clarity has led to changes in fish behaviour and many coarse anglers report that fishing on some waters is most productive during the morning and evening periods when light levels are lower.

Anglers should also be aware of the seasonal movements of coarse fish influenced by spawning or water temperatures. One example is the influx of roach to certain tributaries during the May - June period because of their preference to spawn in flowing waters. For a short period, sometimes less than a week anglers fishing at these locations can have outstanding catches that are not possible at other times of the year. The roach shoals are frequently accompanied by hybrids and sometimes bream. Another example is the concentrations of fish that can sometimes be found in flowing channels connecting individual basins of our larger waters e.g. L. Oughter. This normally coincides with low summer levels and higher water temperatures.



## Conservation and Regulation

Angling in Ireland is subject to certain restrictions. Summaries of the laws governing angling are listed below.

### COARSE FISH (BYE-LAW NO. 806, 2006)

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The coarse fish bye law provides for the following conservation measures:

- a bag limit of 4 coarse fish in any one day,
- prohibits the killing of any coarse fish greater than 25 cm in length,
- prohibits the sale of any coarse fish in Ireland (excluding NI), this provision will not apply to fishing tackle dealers and fish bait suppliers who have been granted an exemption from Inland Fisheries Ireland.

### GENERAL FRESHWATER

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- The only legal method to catch freshwater fish is by rod and line (Bye-law No.595).
- A person may fish with not more than two rods at any time (Bye-law No.595).
- It is illegal to have or to use live fish as bait (Bye-law No.592).
- It is illegal to transfer live roach from one water to any other waters (Bye-law No.561).

### CONSERVATION OF EELS BYE LAW

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Eel fishing is closed until 2012. The prospect of re-opening the eel fishery will be considered at that time, following a review of the data collated as a result of scientific sampling provided for in the draft plan.

- Bye-law No C.S. 303, 2009 prohibits fishing for eel, or possessing or selling eel caught in a Fishery District in the State until June 2012.
- Bye-Law No 858, 2009 prohibits the issue of eel fishing licences in any Fishery District.

### PIKE CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATION

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Conservation is vital to protect the quality of Ireland's pike fishing. Ireland now has the best conservation measures for the protection of pike in Europe. The pike bye law no. 809 (2006) provides for the following conservation measures:

- a bag limit of 1 pike in any one day,
- prohibits the killing of any pike greater than 50 cm in length,
- prohibits the possession by any person of more than 1 whole pike less than 50 cm or more than 0.75 kg of pike flesh, this provision does not apply to a person storing pike or pike parts subject to conditions,
- prohibits the possession by any person of more than 12 coarse fish for use as bait subject to conditions.

Legislation may change over time and the onus is on the angler to ensure they are up to date with the latest regulations. These regulations are available in multiple languages on the IFI website at:

[www.fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm](http://www.fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm)

## Access and Safety

### SAFETY

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Some Irish inland waters are very large and become dangerous in high winds; they may have reefs or rocky shoals which can be hazardous even on a calm day. When intending to use a boat, anglers should notify someone about where they are fishing and what time they are due to return.

It is essential to be familiar with such waters and their hazards before going afloat unaided; a ghillie or guide should be hired for the first few days of the trip. A lifejacket must now be worn by every angler in the boat by law. Anglers should wear suitable protective waterproof clothing whether fishing from boat or shore.

### WEATHER FORECASTS

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Weather forecasts are broadcast daily on RTÉ Radio, television and at [www.rte.ie](http://www.rte.ie). Check programme guides in the daily newspapers for times. They are also available on Aertel at [www.rte.ie/aertel/page161.htm](http://www.rte.ie/aertel/page161.htm). Telephone weather forecasts are available from the Irish Meteorological Service - Met Éireann at [www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie). Wind speeds for the whole day should be carefully checked before going afloat on a large lake. Strong gale force winds can increase as the fishing day goes on.

### ACCESS AND COUNTRY CODE

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Irish waters are usually reached by passing through farmland and anglers are generally allowed this access by courtesy of local farmers. If in doubt please ask the farmer for permission to enter on his land to fish the water. They will give a warm welcome but please respect their property; light no fires or leave no litter and close all gates. Cars should be parked in designated parking areas where available and should always be parked so that they do not cause obstruction.

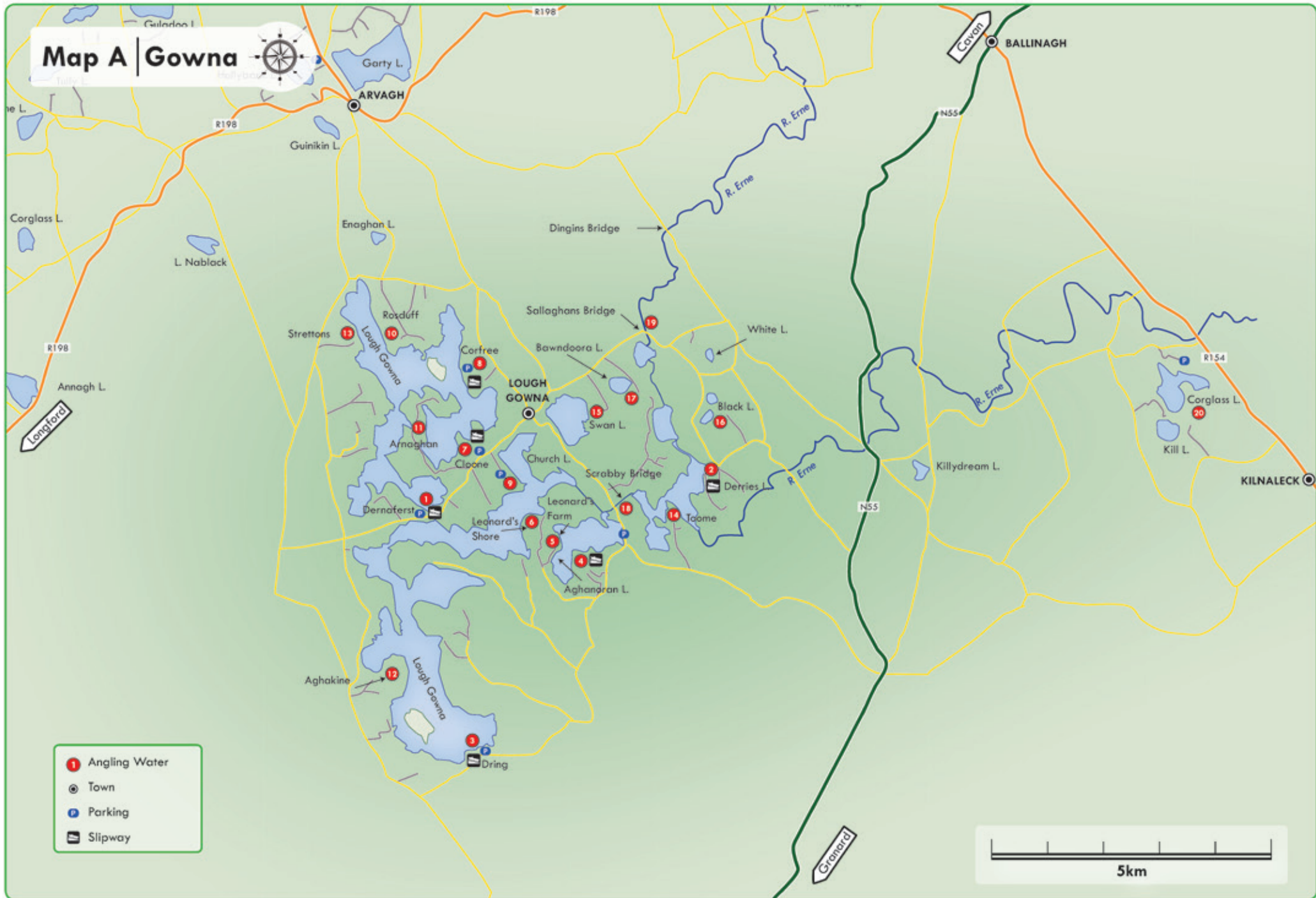
### ERRORS OR INACCURACIES

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While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in the guide is accurate, no responsibility will be accepted by Inland Fisheries Ireland for any errors or inaccuracies therein.



# Map A | Gowna



- 1 Angling Water
- ⊙ Town
- P Parking
- Slipway



## A. Gowna Angling Centre

Located near the Longford border and just south of its neighbouring centre of Arvagh, Gowna is a very attractive crossroads village and was the 2007 winner in the county in Ireland's Tidiest Town competition. It has long been associated with angling tourism and is a good base from which to explore the complex waters of Lough Gowna.

### MAIN WATERS IN THE GOWNA AREA

**Lough Gowna** consists of a number of large basins connected by short river stretches and channels. It is the principal water in the upper reaches of the Erne system covering approximately 1,178 hectares. It is fed by the River Erne which rises 20km upstream of the lake entering and exiting that part of L. Gowna known as Lisanny or Derries on the eastern shores of the Lough. There are good stocks of the common species in this lake system and some tench notably in the Lisanny Derries area.

Lough Gowna has excellent access and facilities and there are many stretches which provide good bank fishing. Much of the bank fishing is accessible from public access points and is generally on clean fishable shores. The use of a boat to reach some of the island swims and swims on shores not reachable by road has proven to be very productive especially for bream. Boats can be easily launched at Dernaferst, Lisanny and Dring. It is also possible to launch boats at Cloone, Aghanoran and Corfree.

Lough Gowna is quite a shallow lake with depths averaging between 2-8m but greater depths up to 15m are to be found at the southern part of the lake near Dring.

Lough Gowna produces coarse fish all year round but the most productive periods for bream are the summer months, May to September but during mild winters good catches are possible well into the autumn. Roach fishing on certain stretches can be very good throughout the winter months. However, fishing may be affected by water temperatures and weather conditions.

**1. Dernaferst** is located approximately 3km south west of Gowna village. The car park is located between the north and south lakes and there is a public amenity area. Boats can be launched from the north and south shores. The north and south basins are connected by a narrow shallow channel which is navigable in all but the lowest summer water levels. The boat launch here also facilitates access to the well known Church Lake stretch.

There are 30 pegs available on the north shore to the left of the channel and another 30 split between both sides of the channel on the south shore. Depths vary quite a lot but are mostly in excess of 1.5m. Some of the shoreline here is public property and may be freely used. Access to the private areas of the shores is also freely available for pleasure anglers but organisers of matches should as a matter of courtesy check with landowners. There is new gate access available on both the northern and southern shores at Dernaferst, improving accessibility. All coarse angling methods can be effective in these areas.

**2. Lisanny/Derries** is located 3.5km from Gowna village and is accessed off the road towards Ballinagh by turning right after Sallaghan Bridge. The car park and boat

launching area is located on the right hand side approximately 2km from this turn. The lake is one of the smaller basins of the Lough Gowna system and differs in character from the other basins on the lake by having a greater amount of emergent vegetation such as reeds and rushes.

Lisanny is popular with coarse anglers and the best bank fishing is accessed from the road to the right of the crossroads. There is good open bank here with depths to 3m. Good bream fishing is one of the main attractions and it is possible to accommodate up to 20 anglers here in match conditions. From a secondary car park at the end of this shore foot access is available to another productive area but a considerable walk is involved. This is one area of L. Gowna where tench are regularly encountered.

**3. Dring**, at the southern extremity of the lake, is located off the Granard road approximately 7km from Gowna village. There is a large slipway for launching boats and a spacious car park. Dring gives access to the entirety of the southern basin of Lough Gowna and some of the deepest water located off the eastern shore of Inchmore (Church) Island. It is a departure point for anglers accessing the island swims by boat. On occasion very large catches of bream are taken from these swims. Noted fish holding areas include the Woodville or "Rhododendron Shore" located on the eastern shore that is accessible from a cul-de-sac road terminating at the forest entrance. Good quality bream and roach are regularly caught here.

**4. Aghanoran**, on the eastern shore of the lake, is located off the Granard road approximately 3km from Gowna village. Boats can be launched from the public car park and access can be gained to the Lisanny - Derries, Church Lake and Dernaferst areas through interconnecting river channels. This area is characterised by its extensive patches of shallow interspersed with small islands. The shoreline to the right of the parking area, known locally as Fitzpatrick's shore is a popular destination for pleasure anglers in pursuit of roach and bream.

Opposite to this location and accessed off the main Granard road via cul-de-sac roads are two locations known as **Leonard's Farm (5)** and **Leonard's Shore (6)**. Leonard's Farm in the Aghanoran basin is accessed through a farmyard and regularly produces good bags of bream roach and hybrids. There are approximately 12 pegs available here depending on water levels.

Past the entrance to Leonard's Farm and continuing to the end of another cul-de-sac Leonard's Shore in the main body of the lake has approximately 25 pegs. It is deeper than the "farm" shore with depths in excess of 4m. Good bags of bream roach and hybrids are taken here and both shores are regularly used for match fishing events. All coarse angling methods work here with feeder and pole being most popular.

Anglers should note that there is a small daily charge payable to the landowner for use of these venues and that parking at the "shore" location is very restricted.

**7. Cloone Lake** is located to the west of Gowna village on an offshoot of the road to Dernaferst. Boats can be launched here giving access to the entirety of the northern basin of Lough Gowna. This area is generally shallow with sparse marginal vegetation in the



bays and other features such as small islands. The area off the point of the peninsula to the left of the car park has some deeper water that generally holds good shoals of bream and roach. Pedestrian access is difficult and the use of a boat is advised.

**8. Corfree**, is located on an offshoot of the road heading north from the centre of Gowna village in the direction of Arvagh. Boats can be launched from the car park on the lake shore. This gives access to Enaghan and Rosduff in the most northerly part of the lake. Corfree has good access to bank fishing to both right and left of the car park and is noted for good catches of skimmer bream, roach and hybrids with the bank to the right being the most popular. Depending on water levels 25 to 30 pegs can be accommodated here.

**9. Church Lake**, is located to the west of Gowna village on an offshoot of the road to Dernaferst. There is a lakeside road giving easy access to the first swims and the remainder including the deeper water where bream are present are within a reasonable walking distance from the car park. Up to 30 pegs can be accommodated here and the fishing for roach bream and hybrids is generally good. This is one of the most popular winter venues on L. Gowna.

**10. Rosduff (Enaghan Shore)** is one of the most popular shores on the lake and is a special favourite of match anglers. Up to 60 pegs can be accommodated here in optimum conditions but higher water levels can severely restrict this.

It is reached by a side road leading from the Arvagh-Aughnaclyffe road (See map). There are two access points the first through a farmyard where permission should be sought and the second through another farm entrance. In this instance a number of gates are involved and anglers must ensure that they are closed at all times. Fishing is from clean gravelly shores into depths of up to 5m. The two ends of the shore are shallower with the deeper water occurring in the middle where the shore is at the bottom of a steep slope. Good catches of roach hybrids and skimmer bream can be expected. Larger bream have been scarcer in recent years but can still be caught at certain pegs. Most swims here can be effectively fished with the pole and in matches it is the most commonly used method.

**11. Arnaghan** is reached from the road leading from the village towards Dernaferst. There is limited bank fishing and parking should be done in a manner that does not obstruct farm traffic using the narrow access road.

**12. Aghakine** is located off the Aughnaclyffe road Aghakine is in the southern basin of the lake and has excellent fishing for good bream roach and hybrids. No access is available by road to this productive shore but it may be accessed by boat. Permission should be sought before attempting to fish. The landowner does not allow camping on the shore.

**13. Stretton's Shore** is a very productive shore on the western side of the lake opposite to Rosduff. ***The landowner does not allow access to the shore with vehicles but it can still be reached by boat. Permission should be sought before attempting to fish.***

**14. Toome** is located west of Lisanny and this little known location with limited access is one of the most productive areas of the lake pre & post spawning. It is noted for good bags of bream & hybrids and probably produces more tench than any other part of L. Gowna. It is reached from an offshoot of the Gowna-Granard road. (See map). Swims can be limited here. ***Anglers should ensure that the entry gate is kept closed at all times.***

#### **OTHER WATERS IN THE GOWNA AREA**

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**15. Swan Lake**, is a medium sized lake covering approximately 46 hectares. It is located adjacent to the village of Gowna on the Granard road and has good bank fishing. The best access is from the south western shore that is close to the road. The water was previously thought to be a roach only venue but in recent years good numbers of sizeable bream have begun to appear.

**16. Black Lake and White Lakes** are located to the left of the road leading to Lisanny and have limited access and bank space. They are difficult to access but hold stocks of bream and roach. They have a combined area of 7 hectares.

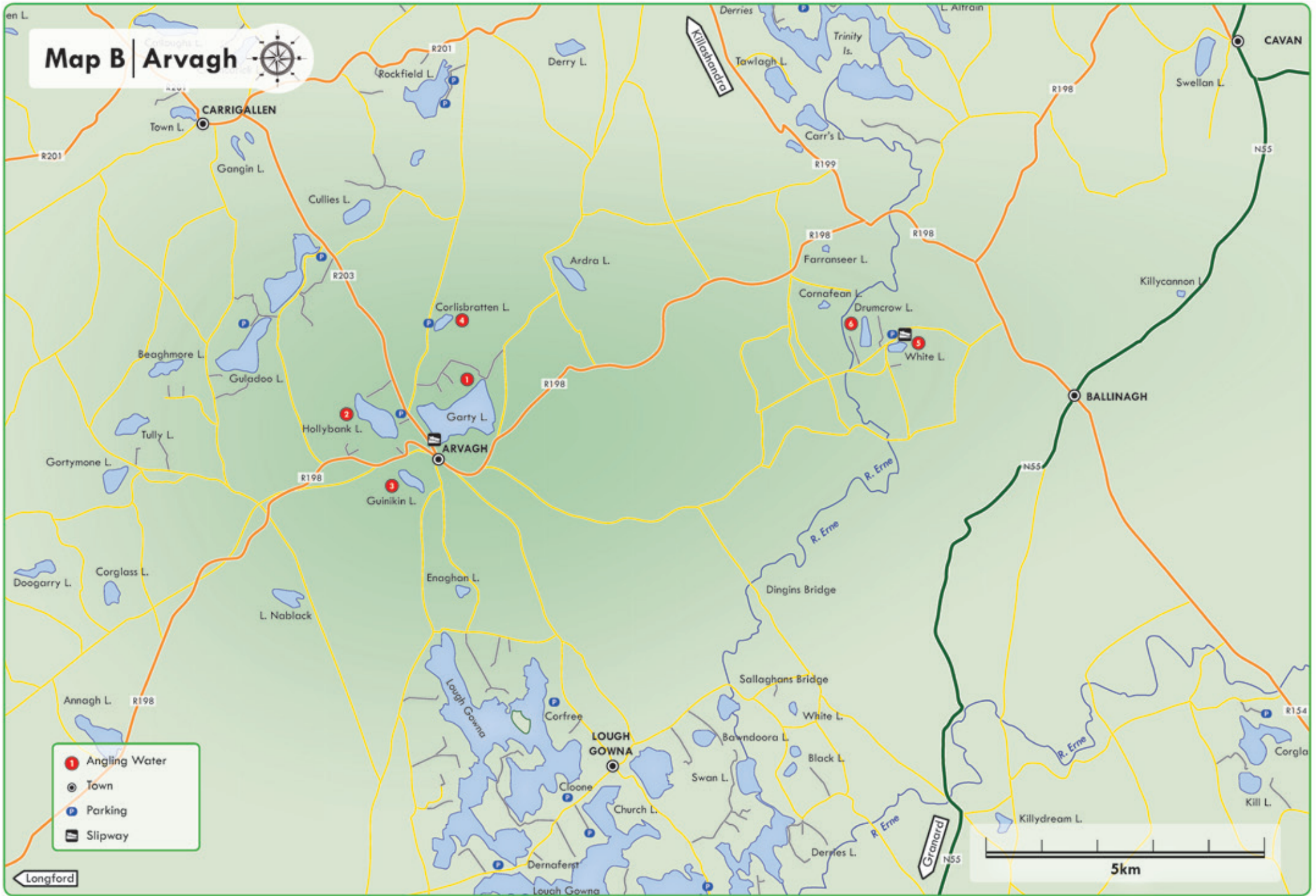
**17. Bawndoora Lake** is a small lake of 9 hectares located east of Gowna village to the right of the road leading to Ballinagh. Access to the lake is easy but there is limited car parking. Bawndoora holds stocks of bream and roach and is one of the noted tench waters in the area.

#### **RIVER ERNE**

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Upstream of L. Gowna the river is mainly shallow and fast flowing and holds little to interest the coarse angler. Downstream of the lake offers better opportunities and among the more accessible stretches are **Scrabby Bridge (18)** on the Granard road and **Sallaghan Bridge (19)** downstream from Lissany. There is a short stretch upstream of Sallaghan Bridge that has good roach and some bream. Some 200m downstream of the bridge there is a deep pool that holds roach and bream. Access to this location may be difficult. Parts of the river channels that connect the various basins of L. Gowna can provide good roach fishing at certain times of the year. To reach remoter parts of these channels the use of a boat is advised. Ease of access to these channels can be dependent on water levels.

**20. Corglass and Kill Lakes** are located 8km east of Gowna angling centre close to the village of Kilnaleck. These lakes have a combined area of 47 hectares, are connected by a short channel and there is pedestrian access to all shorelines. There are good shorelines here suitable for the coarse angler and the most accessible is at Corglass Lake where a new access road and car park gives access to approximately 25 pegs. (See map) These are rich waters and they contain good stocks of bream roach and hybrids. Kill has depths up to 6m with the deeper water being located towards the eastern shore.



**Map B | Arvagh**



- 1 Angling Water
- T Town
- P Parking
- S Slipway





## B. Arvagh Angling Centre

The town of Arvagh nestles in an area where the three counties Cavan, Longford and Leitrim meet and is famous for its leisure activities and hospitality. There are experienced operators here in the provision of accommodation and services for visiting anglers.

### MAIN WATERS IN THE ARVAGH AREA

**1. Garty Lough (Town Lake)** covers an area of approximately 83 hectares and is located at the end of the main street in Arvagh, Co. Cavan. This is a reasonably shallow lake with the deeper areas located off the eastern shoreline. The northern and western shorelines are reed fringed and the southern and eastern shores are open and rocky. This water is noted for catches of good quality roach. Bream are present in very small numbers but if one is caught it is likely to be over 7 Lbs. There is a slipway for launching boats at the end of the town but car parking is limited in this area. Cars should be parked so that they do not cause obstruction and ample parking is available on the main street of the town.

**2. Hollybank Lake (Lower Lough)** covers an area of approximately 30 hectares. It is located northwest of Arvagh off the R203 heading towards Carrigallen. This lake contains good bream, roach and hybrids with some tench. There is an access road and car park to the northeast shore most of which is fishable from the bank with noted bream swims at the end of an inflowing stream and across the second stile to the right of the car park. The remaining shores are reed fringed and a boat is required to fish these successfully. There are no public boat launching facilities at this venue and anglers wishing to fish from a boat should make enquiries locally to secure the necessary permission to launch their boat.

### OTHER WATERS IN THE ARVAGH AREA

**3. Guinikin Lake** is located upstream of Hollybank Lake and is accessed from the Aughnaclyffe road. It contains good stocks of roach and bream and tench are regularly caught. Fishing is from stands which can be accessed from the car park at the southern end of the lake via the footpath.

**4. Corlisbratten Lough** is a small 5 hectare mixed fishery located directly north of Arvagh. It contains good stocks of adult and skimmer bream along with roach and hybrids. It is easily accessible from the road and stiles and stands are provided on this water. Fishing is generally confined to the stands but there is some limited bank space around the lake.

**5. White Lough (Cornafean)**, a small 4 hectare water, is located 8km east of Arvagh and has easy access from a lakeside car park. Fishing is from stands located on the northern part of the lake and there is also some limited bank space on the southern shore. The lake is reed fringed and has a wooded island at its eastern end. Roach are the main species but good catches of bream and tench are taken occasionally.

**6. Druncrow Lough**, is 8 hectares in area and is located 8km east of Arvagh. It is reached by a cul-de-sac laneway opposite the car parking area at White Lough. Access to the lakeshore is through a farmyard and permission should be sought. Bank fishing is possible from the eastern shore where roach and bream can be expected.







## C. Carrigallen Angling Centre

Situated on the R201 between Mohill and Killashandra, Carrigallen is an attractive town surrounded by some of the most productive waters in south Leitrim.

### MAIN WATERS IN THE CARRIGALLEN AREA

**1. Gulladoo Lough**, with an area of 78 hectares is a medium sized lake and is located 4km south east of Carrigallen on the R203. This is a long narrow lake with extensive marginal vegetation on the western shores. The eastern shoreline is generally open and provides for comfortable bank fishing. The upper lake is generally shallow but has depths to 8m. The lower lake has similar depths with an area of deeper water being located off the “steps”.

Access to the western shore of the upper lake is via a gravel roadway which extends for 200m and gives access to approximately 20 pegs where good stocks of bream roach and hybrids are present with tench regularly caught. A boat may be launched from this point depending on water levels. Access to the upper lake is also available from the Leitrim County Council amenity area located between the upper and lower Loughs.

There is access to the lower lake at the northern shore where the river exits and boats may be launched at this location. There is also a facility at this location for anglers who are wheelchair users. Tench are regularly caught from this area. Roadside parking is available at **The “Steps” (2)** where fishing is possible from a clean bank and depending on water levels up to 25 pegs may be available.

Commencing 500m south west of Gulladoo are **Beaghamore (3), Tully (4), and Gortermone (5)** Loughs all of which are connected by the Cullies river system. Access to Tully Lake is via a short roadway which leads to a small car park at the lake shore. Pedestrian access only to Gortermone and Beaghamore with car parking on the public roadway. There is access to all lakes via the river depending on water levels. All contain the common species and some tench.

**6. Cullies Lake** is located downstream and north east of Gulladoo Lake. Fishing for roach, bream and hybrids is from bank side swims which are located on the southern shoreline where a small car park is provided. Some tench may also be present.

**7. Rockfield Lough**, 38 hectares, is medium sized water located approximately 4km east of Carrigallen off the R201. There is good access from the lakeside road to the swims. Rockfield contains good stocks of bream, roach and hybrids. Tench are also present but are rarely caught from the roadside swims as they are normally resident in the secluded bays at the northern and western extremities of the lake where the use of a boat will put them within reach. The deeper water is located at the southern end of the lake with depths in excess of 7m being recorded. This water is reed fringed on the western shore and access is difficult. Boats can be launched from the lakeside car park. The proximity of roadside access to the water’s edge means that this venue is suitable for anglers with reduced mobility. There are 30 pegs here but the optimum number for match events is circa 25.

**8. Glasshouse Lake** is a medium to large lake covering 54 hectares located approximately 7km north east of Carrigallen. This lake is largely reed fringed with the exception of the roadside shoreline and small sections of the eastern and western shores. The roadside shoreline is generally shallow but areas of deeper water occur off the eastern and western shores. There is good access via a lakeside road to bank fishing from swims in a “Coillte” forest. Bream, roach, hybrids and some tench can be expected. The proximity of roadside access to the waters edge means that this venue is suitable for anglers with reduced mobility. Anglers should be aware that wading at this location can be hazardous due to the unstable nature of the lake bed and should be avoided. It is possible to launch a boat from the roadside before the entrance to the forest.

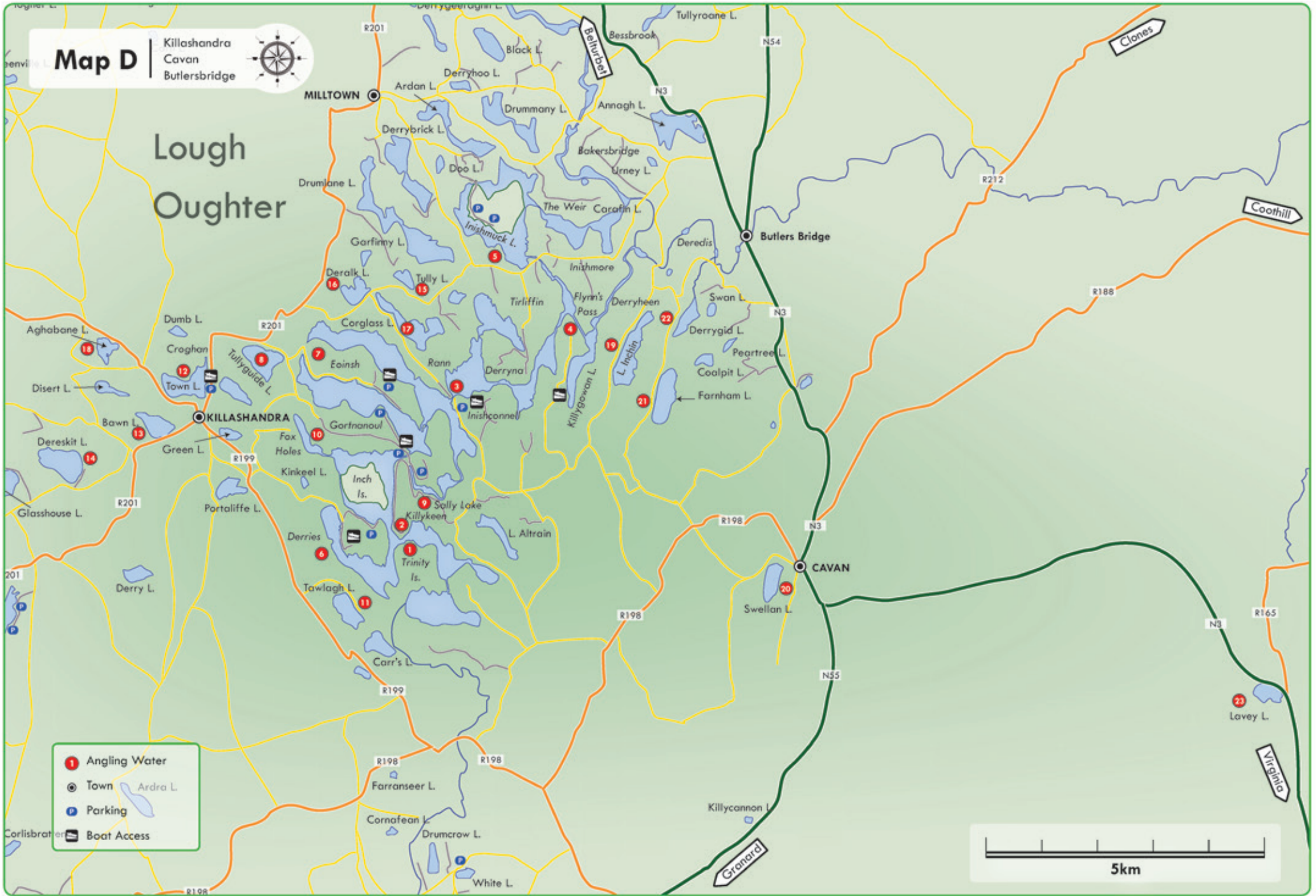
### OTHER WATERS IN THE CARRIGALLEN AREA

**9. Town Lake** is located in the village of Carrigallen and is easily accessible. This lake contains stocks of bream that are bigger than average for the area along with roach and hybrids. Tench are regularly caught. All angling stands and walkways have recently been replaced at Town Lake and the car park has been enlarged improving accessibility for anglers.

**10. Gangin and Mosey** Lakes are two small waters located on the outskirts of the village that have limited bank fishing opportunities contain the common species and some tench.

**11. Clooncorrick Lake** is located a short distance north east of Carrigallen and has good stocks of bream, roach, hybrids and a sizeable stock of tench. At time of writing access to this water is very restricted. Anglers should enquire locally.







## D. Killashandra, Cavan/Butlersbridge Angling Centres

### LOUGH OUGHTER

Lough Oughter is the principal coarse angling resource for the above angling centres and covers an area of 844 hectares. Roach, bream and hybrids are plentiful and tench are regularly caught from a number of areas. This lake offers very good coarse angling opportunities for the pleasure and match angler. In recent years specimen hunters have taken bream well in excess of the current specimen weight of 7.5lbs. (3.402kg.) from the main lake and waters associated with it. There is a huge network of lakes offering excellent bank and boat fishing and there are a number of well established coarse angling locations on this water including Trinity and Killykeen, Inishconnell (Rann), Killygowan and Flynn's Pass, Inishmuck, The Derries, Eonish and Tullyguide.

**1. Trinity** and Killykeen shores are located approximately 7km west of Cavan town. Trinity is the least known and least fished of these two venues and is generally overlooked by anglers heading to the famous Killykeen stretch. It is located at the inflow of the River Erne. It is generally shallow but offers good coarse angling opportunities during the spring and summer.

**2. Killykeen** has approximately 1km of open shoreline which is easily fished by the bank fisherman. Up to 60 match pegs can be accommodated here. Depths at this location are generally in the region of 4-5m with a maximum of 9m but rarely exceed 2m south of the boathouse. Good parking is available within easy walking distance of the lake shore. At low summer levels the short river stretch which connects the Killykeen and Eonish basins can be very productive for roach and hybrids and regularly produces catches in excess of 40 Lbs mainly to float fishing methods. There is pedestrian access to the Killashandra side by way of a footbridge. Anglers must liaise with Coillte to obtain vehicle access to the match angling pegs.

**3. Inishconnell and Rann** shorelines are located 7km east of Cavan town and 2km north of Killykeen Forest Park. These shores are popular coarse fishing locations. Inishconnell to the south has good roadside access to extensive areas of open shoreline. This location holds good stocks of the common species with bream mainly coming from the shore to the right of the car park. The water is not as deep as at Killykeen with depths generally in the 2 to 3m range interspersed by some deeper areas. Boats can be launched from either of the two slipways located on this stretch. This gives access to the opposite bank at Rann and the entirety of the Lough Oughter system. The Rann shoreline to the north can be accessed by road from Killashandra but provides limited bank fishing space.

**4. Killygowan Lake and Flynn's Pass** are located approximately 3km north east of Inishconnell and are accessed by a roadway on the western shore of Killygowan Lake. Flynn's Pass is the channel connecting the basins of Killygowan and Inishmore and has good access for the bank fisherman. Consent from the landowner must be obtained to gain access to Flynn's Pass. These locations offer good coarse fishing and the opportunity to explore some of the more secluded parts of Lough Oughter. Killygowan is notable for the frequency of tench in catches especially from swims to the right of the entrance gate.

A boat may be launched near the southern end of Killygowan but permission should be sought from the local landowner in advance.

**5. Inishmuck** is the large basin located 4.5km north of Killykeen Forest Park. It is connected to the main body of Lough Oughter by a narrow river channel which enters the basin in the south east. Downstream of Carratraw Bridge this channel holds good stocks of roach and bream at its confluence with the lake and in the summer months roach and hybrids frequent the shallows near the bridge. There is access here to extensive stretches of open shoreline at the southern end of the lake. Car parking is available close to this bridge. Access to the northern part of the basin is via Inishmuck Island which is reached from the mainland by a causeway leading to a lakeshore road with good car parking provided. This gives access to a long stretch of clean open shoreline. Depths in this area range from 3 to 5m and good catches of bream are possible where swims are pre baited. The landowner's permission must be obtained to access the northern basin.

**6. The Derries** are located 5km south east of Killashandra off the R199 Killashandra to Cavan road. Access is from a lakeside road with car parking available at several locations along the roadway. It is possible to launch a boat at this location with permission from the householder opposite the slipway. This stretch is generally shallow with depths of 1 to 3m being the norm. Deeper water up to 4m is located at the point opposite the car park. Circa 25 match pegs are available. Along with the common species tench are regularly caught here.

**7. Eonish** basin and **Tullyguide Lake (8)** are located 4km north east of Killashandra and share a common access point off the Killashandra to Milltown road. These waters hold good stocks of bream roach and hybrids with the possibility of tench. The northern shore of the Eonish basin is generally 3 to 5m in depth but is much shallower at the western and eastern extremities. The southern shoreline (Gartnanoul) is also shallow but has deeper water west of the sandy point along the wooded shoreline. Anglers must liaise with Coillte to obtain vehicle access to this section. Depending on water levels up to 60 match pegs can be accommodated. Boats can be launched from a number of locations in this area including, the roadside slipway on the northern shore, the sandy point on the southern shore and at the mouth of the river on the Killashandra side.

Tullyguide is a small water connected to the main Oughter complex by the Castle River and can provide good sport for skimmer bream roach and hybrids with occasional tench. Fishing is from a clean bank within easy reach of roadside access. Pegs are limited here with a maximum of 10 possible under match conditions. The lake can be reached by boat via the Castle River.

**9. Sally Lake** located within the Killykeen Forest Park is circa 19 hectares in area. There is roadside parking close to the water at various points along the main access road to the park on the Cavan side. It was once connected to the main body of L. Oughter but is now isolated by a causeway at its eastern end. This is one of the few waters in the NWRBD where carp are present in reasonable numbers. They have also grown since the original stockings and the largest authenticated fish caught in recent years was 22 Lbs. Fishing is from stands along the southern shore into depths of up to 3m but the water is generally

shallow and has heavy weed growth in summer. Sizeable tench along with bream, roach and hybrids are also present.

**10. Foxholes** is the area west of Killykeen on the Killashandra bank. This area can be reached via forest roads and is very productive during the summer months for bream, roach hybrids and tench. Anglers must liaise with Coillte to obtain vehicle access to this section.

**11. Tawlaght & Carrs Lakes** are both situated 5 km south east of Killashandra. These two waters with a combined area of 33 hectares have excellent stocks of bream and are also among the most productive tench waters in the area. The larger of the two, Tawlaght, has a road running close to the eastern shore giving access to comfortable swims and limited but adequate parking. Carrs is reachable on foot from the end of this road.

**12. Town Lake** is located north of Killashandra. This small water covers an area of 31 hectares and has depths to 10m. A popular coarse angling venue it contains a good head of bream that are regularly caught from the rocky shore to the right of the slipway but occasionally are present in the shallows to the left. This is a water that responds well to prebaiting. There is easy access to a clean shore from a car park off the Killashandra to Milltown Road. A facility for anglers who are wheelchair users and a boat slipway are provided at this location. Other shores on this water are private and permission should be sought before attempting to fish.

**13. Bawn Lake** is located a short distance south of Killashandra on the R201 Killashandra to Carrigallen road. This small lake contains good stocks of coarse fish with bream of above average size. Fishing is from the clean shoreline on the northern bank. Limited parking is available.

**14. Derreskit Lake** is located on the Cullies River system 2km west of Killashandra. There is limited bank fishing space and permission for access and parking must be obtained from the landowner (enquire locally). There are good stocks of bream and roach.

**Tully (15) Deralk (16) and Corglass (17) Loughs** are located north east of Killashandra and provide limited bank space but have good quality bream, hybrids and some tench. Tully, the smallest of the three at 7 hectares has fishing from stands close to the nearby road. The slightly larger Deralk, 14 hectares, has swims to the left of the inflowing stream reached by going through a small wooded area. Corglass the largest at 34 hectares has bank fishing reached by walking a considerable distance from the nearby road. *(Permission should be sought before fishing Corglass)*

**18. Aghabane Lough** located approximately 2 km north west of Killashandra close to the R199. It is 10 hectares in area, contains good stocks of bigger than average bream and has limited bank space. Prebaiting brings best results from this water. Care must be exercised if parking alongside the road.

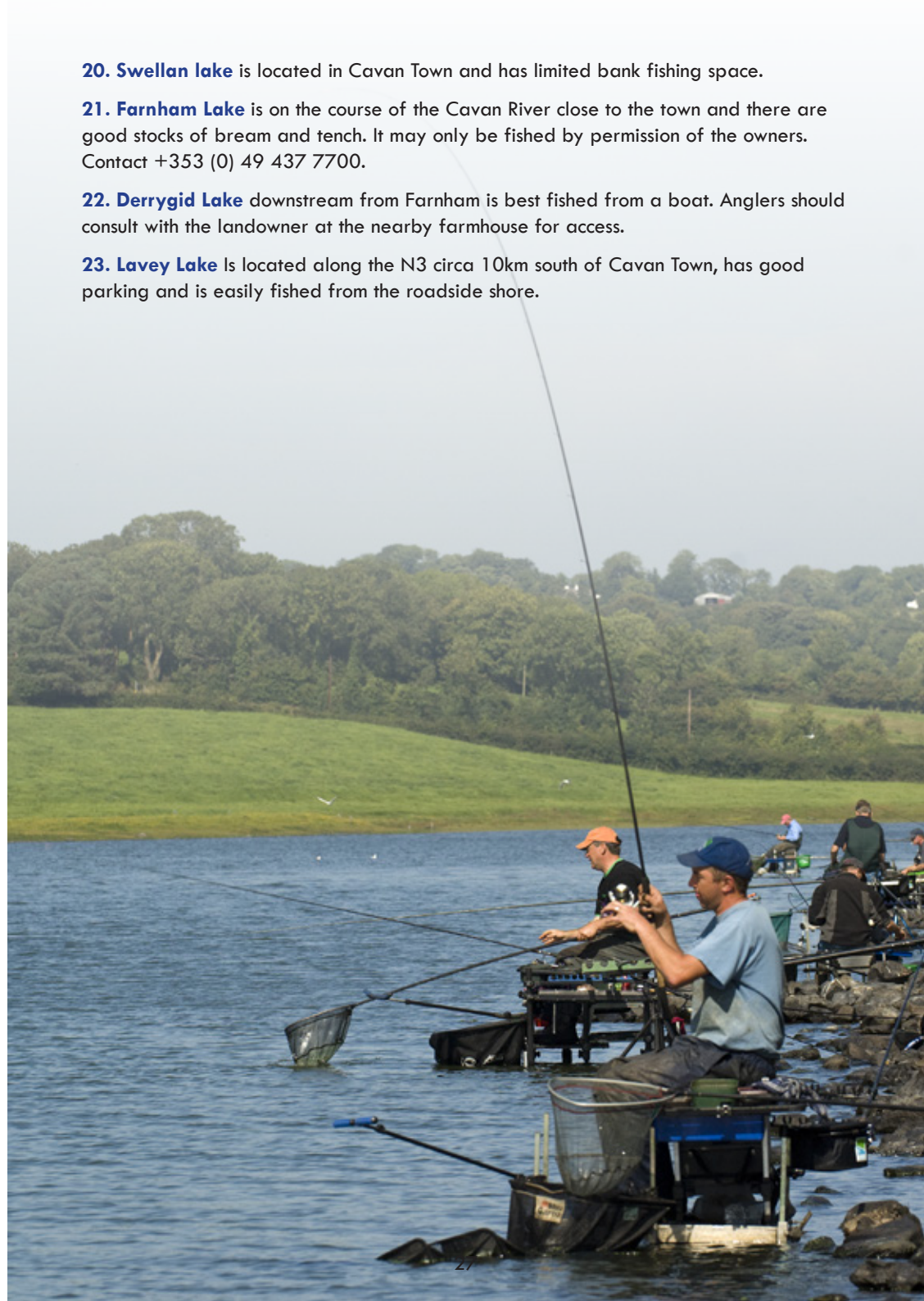
**19. Lough Inchin** is located 5km north west of Cavan town. This small shallow lake of 35 hectares contains good stocks of bream and tench. The lake is best fished from a boat owing to the limited availability of bank space. Access is from the lakeside road which has limited parking. Anglers should liaise with the landowner regarding access.

**20. Swellan lake** is located in Cavan Town and has limited bank fishing space.

**21. Farnham Lake** is on the course of the Cavan River close to the town and there are good stocks of bream and tench. It may only be fished by permission of the owners. Contact +353 (0) 49 437 7700.

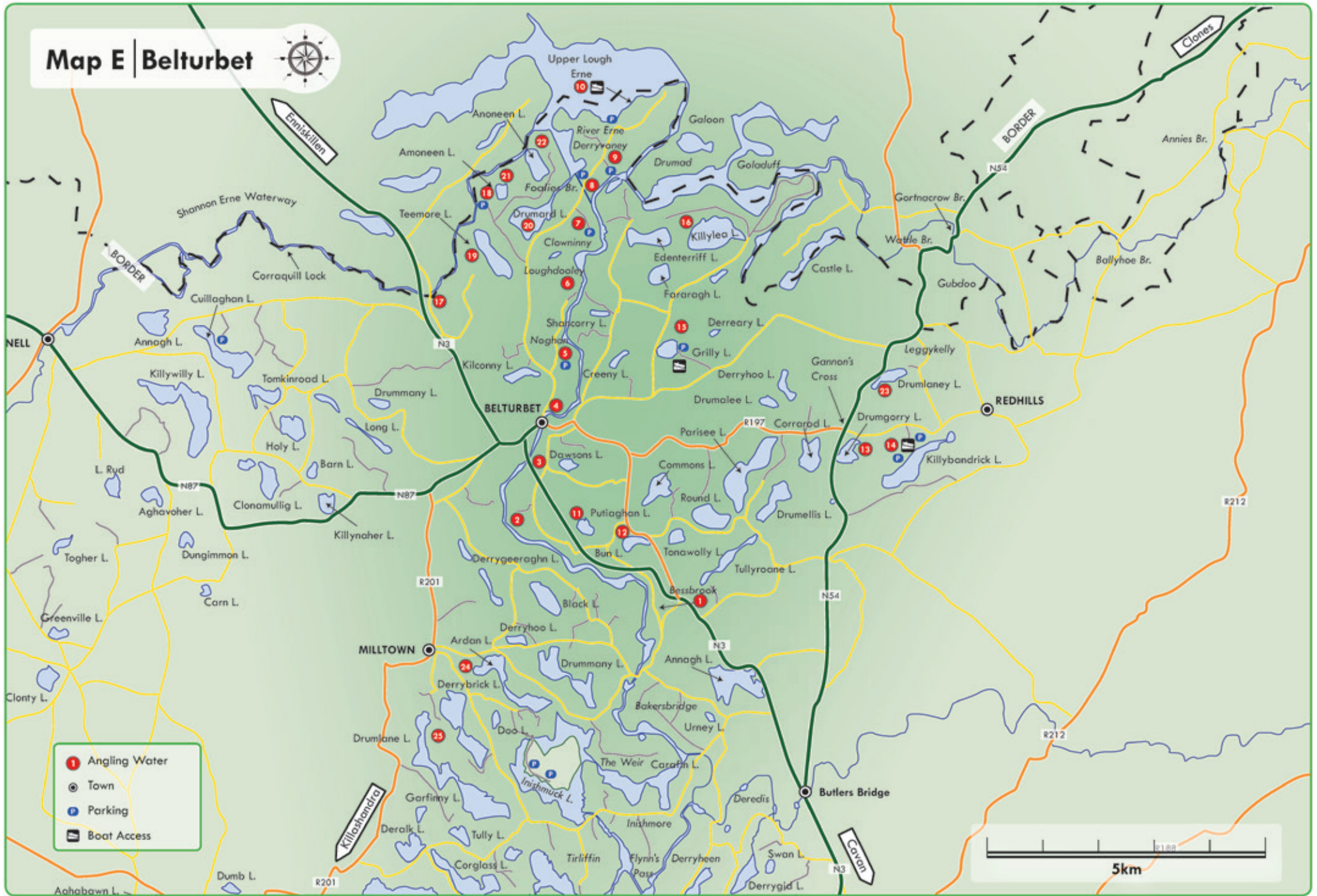
**22. Derrygid Lake** downstream from Farnham is best fished from a boat. Anglers should consult with the landowner at the nearby farmhouse for access.

**23. Lavey Lake** Is located along the N3 circa 10km south of Cavan Town, has good parking and is easily fished from the roadside shore.





# Map E | Belturbet



## E. Belturbet Angling Centre

At the upstream limit of the Erne navigation, the historic town of Belturbet has a long track record in angling tourism and continues to provide an excellent base for the visiting coarse angler.

The angling centre at Belturbet draws mainly on the resources of Lough Oughter, the River Erne and Upper Lough Erne. There are still many bays and backwaters to be explored on these fantastic systems and anglers of all levels will find a great variety of waters to meet all of their expectations and aspirations.

### UPPER LOUGH ERNE

Upper Lough Erne is one of the principal coarse angling resources for the above angling centre and covers an area of circa 1,552 hectares. This lake offers very good coarse angling for bream, roach and hybrids with tench also present in certain areas. There is limited access to bank space on the Republic of Ireland side of the lake and the use of a boat to reach other fishable areas is advised. Many anglers visit accessible stretches in nearby Co. Fermanagh. This is joint jurisdictional water which straddles the border with Northern Ireland. Visiting anglers should acquaint themselves with the legislative requirements for fishing in Northern Ireland.

The stretches of the **River Erne** located north and south of Belturbet each have different characteristics. The 7km stretch located upstream of Belturbet to Bakers Bridge comprises a series of deep pools linked by smooth shallow glides. The 8km downstream stretch below Belturbet is part of the Erne navigation and is generally deep and slow flowing. Some wider sections are to be found along its course.

The river produces good catches of bream, roach and hybrids with tench being present in many areas. Access is available at various points between Bakers' Bridge and Belturbet namely at **Bessbrook (1) and Putiaghan (2)**. Good roadside parking is also available. Access is also available on the downstream side of the new N3 bridge over the Erne at **Straheglin (3)** by walking down the bank to the river.

From Belturbet to Upper Lough Erne access is available at **"The Lawn" (4)** (also known as the 'Ducking Stool') in the town where parking and a boat slipway are also provided.

Fishing is available from the various public jetties in the town. Anglers should be aware that the primary purpose of these jetties is to facilitate the mooring of cruisers and pleasure craft. Access is available at various points between Belturbet and Upper Lough Erne namely at **Naghan (5), Loughdooley (6), Clowninny (7), Foalies (8)** and **Derryvoney, River Erne (9)**. Recent building development has restricted access at these sites. There is a lake-side car park on the Upper Lough Erne at **Derryvoney (10)**. The southern shore at Derryvoney is generally shallow but deep water up to 7m exists close to the shore to right of the car park where good bream fishing is available.

### OTHER WATERS IN THE BELTURBET AREA

**11. Putiaghan Lake** is located 2km south of Belturbet. This small 6 hectare lake with depths to 3.5m is noted for good catches of tench with fish to over 6 Lbs. There are bream, roach and hybrids and rudd are still present in reasonable numbers. Fishing is from the stands on the southern shoreline and some anglers have obtained very good results by use of a boat to reach more remote swims. The abundance of water lilies provides excellent habitat for tench in this water. A car park is located at the top of the steep hill overlooking the lake from the south, with pedestrian access to the lake. There is also a car park at the northern end of the lake off the new N3 road.

**12. Bun Lough**, (6 hectares), is situated off the old Belturbet Road 2.5km south of the town. New angling stands have been constructed on the southern shore of the lake and access is via a road-side car park. Care must be exercised when entering and exiting the car park.

**13. Drumgorry Lough** is located 5km east of Belturbet and is accessed from the Cavan Clones road (N54). This reed fringed lake covers an area of 11 hectares. Limited bank fishing from stands at this venue. This small lake has depths to 3m and contains reasonable stocks bream, roach and hybrids. Access is by permission of riparian owners.

**14. Killybandrick Lough** is located 6km east of Belturbet and covers an area of 28 hectares with depths to 6m. The deepest areas are located in the middle of the lake off the western shore. This lake is accessed from the Gannon's Cross to Redhills road. On the north-west shore there are two lakeside car parks close to 25 modern angling stands where boats can also be launched. There are good quality bream, roach and hybrids and the lake fishes best in spring and autumn.

**15. Grilly Lough** is a small productive lake covering 9 hectares located 3km north east of Belturbet. Access is from a minor road on the western shoreline where a car park is located. The water holds roach, bream, hybrids and perch. The shoreline is reed fringed but small boats can be launched from the car park.

**16. Killylea Lough** is located 5km north east of Belturbet and is connected to the River Finn system by way of a small shallow channel which may be accessed by boat. This 43 hectare lake has extensive areas of fishable shoreline and is generally shallow in nature with maximum depths to 4m occurring near the eastern shoreline. This water produces good fishing for bream roach and hybrids and tench are known to be present. Because of its generally shallow nature it fishes best in windy conditions. There is limited parking close to the bridge.



## SHANNON ERNE WATERWAY

This is the restored navigational link between the Shannon and Erne rivers and offers many opportunities for the coarse angler.

In the Belturbet area there is access to clean banks at **Aghalane Old Bridge (17)** where cars may be parked on the cul-de-sac road. Fishing here for bream and roach. Further downstream at **McCabe's Farm (18)** there is access via a waterside car park where up to 20 pegs are available. During the summer months there is considerable cruiser traffic on the waterway but this does not greatly affect the fishing. Anglers with access to a boat will find many attractive stretches are open to them. There is also road access from Co. Fermanagh to Lock 1 at Corraquill where bank fishing is available both in the main channel and the weir pool. From a short distance downstream of Ballyconnell to its confluence with Upper L. Erne the waterway forms the border with Northern Ireland. Visiting anglers should acquaint themselves with the legislative requirements for fishing in Northern Ireland.

**19. Teemore Lough** is located 5km north west of Belturbet and is connected to the Shannon Erne Waterway by way of a shallow channel. Due to poor surrounding terrain and heavily reeded shoreline this channel is the only means of access to the water for angling purposes. The lake covers an area of 10 hectares with depths to 2m and gets heavily weeded in summer. The lake is known to contain substantial stocks of tench along with the other common species but is rarely fished by coarse anglers as the use of a boat is essential. The inflowing Rag River can also be well worth exploring and is noted for sizeable perch in the stretch immediately upstream of the lake.

**20. Drumard Lough** is located 7km north of Belturbet and covers an area of 13 hectares. It is linked to Upper Lough Erne by a short river channel which provides good access for angling boats. The shoreline is 90% reed fringed with a small area of open bank on the north-west side. Depths rarely exceed 4m with the deepest area located off the western shore. There are good stocks of the common species and tench have been occasionally caught.

**21. Amoneen Lough** is located 4km north of Belturbet. This 5 hectare water is connected to the Shannon Erne Waterway via a short non navigable channel. This water reached via a forest track from the nearby road has limited bank fishing space. The lake is generally shallow with depths to 3m. Good stocks of bream, roach and hybrids are present. In common with other lakes associated with the navigation reports of tench being caught are becoming more frequent.

**22. Anoneen Lough** is located 5km north of Belturbet. This 14 hectare water is extremely shallow with summer depths rarely exceeding 1.5m. It gets heavily weeded and similarly to Teemore further upstream contains good stocks of tench. It is accessed from the Shannon Erne Waterway and can only be fished from a boat.

**23. Drumlaney Lough** is located approximately 6km east of Belturbet and can be accessed off the Cavan Clones road (N54). Covering an area of 9 hectares and with depths rarely exceeding 3m, Drumlaney has good stocks of the common species. There

is a small section of open shore on the eastern side which can be accessed from a minor road.

**24. Ardan Lake** is 29 hectares in area and with depths to 3m is situated 1.5km south east of the village of Milltown. This well known coarse angling venue contains good bream and roach with tench regularly caught from certain swims. There is limited roadside parking and fishing is from a clean gravel shoreline.

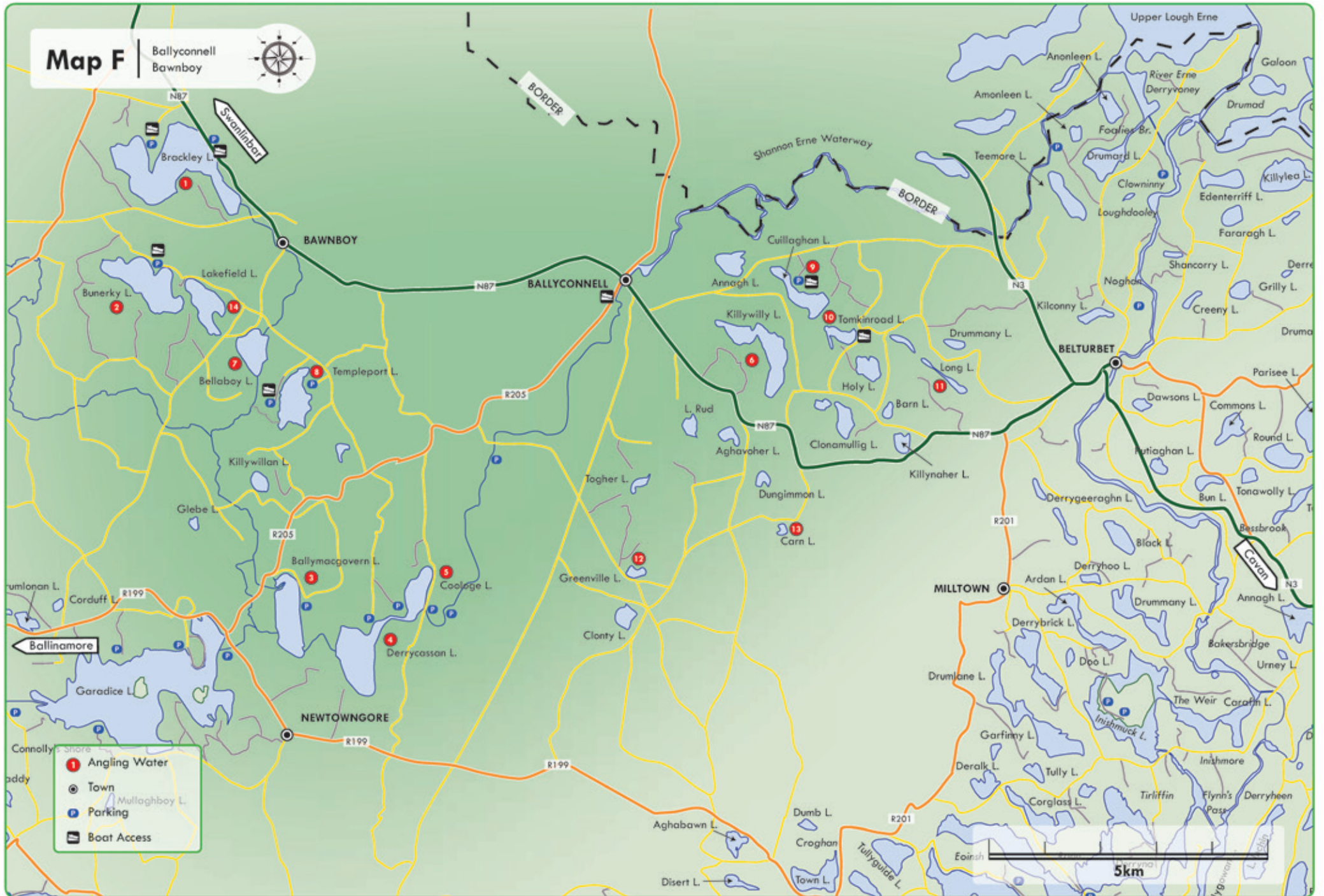
**25. Drumlane & Derrybrick Lakes** are productive waters situated 2km south east of the village of Milltown and are noted for their stocks of bigger than average bream some to specimen size. Derrybrick also has tench to at least 6 lbs. They can be difficult waters and pre baiting is normally required to achieve the best results. They fish best when water temperatures have risen to summer levels. Drumlane covering an area of 69 hectares and with depths to 5m is accessed via a cul -de -sac road along its western shore. Enquire locally about obtaining permission to fish here. Access to the 36 hectare Derrybrick is over farmland to swims on the western shore opposite the island (permission should be sought) and also from a small car park on the eastern shore where a stile leads to swims on a clean bank. Depths here are to 5m.





# Map F

Ballyconnell  
Bawnboy





## F. Ballyconnell and Bawnboy Angling Centres

Ballyconnell, the first town on the Shannon Erne Waterway upstream of Lough Erne along with the neighbouring village of Bawnboy are the main focus for coarse anglers visiting west Cavan.

### MAIN COARSE ANGLING WATERS IN THE BALLYCONNELL AND BAWNBOY AREA

**1. Brackley Lake** is located 3km west of Bawnboy and covers an area of 167 hectares. The amenity area on the north east shoreline provides good access to this lake where parking and a boat slipway are provided. Good bank fishing is available at the promontory known locally as Prospect Point on the northern shore where circa 20 pegs are available. Car parking is provided and boats can also be launched at this location. This lake contains good stocks of bream, roach and hybrids.

**2. Bunerky Lake** is located 3km south west of Bawnboy and covers an area of 75 hectares. Access to the northern shore is from roadside car parking to a clean fishable bank where circa 18 pegs are available. There is also a wheelchair accessible angling stand at this lake. Although there is no dedicated slipway it is possible to launch a boat at this point. Depths to 11m have been recorded in this lake which is known to produce good quality bream and roach. In recent years skimmer bream have begun to appear more frequently.

**(3) Ballymacgovern, (4) Derrycassan, and (5) Coologe** Lakes are located 10km south of Ballyconnell and comprise part of the Shannon Erne Waterway. These three lakes have a combined area of 162 hectares, are connected by short river channels and all possess different characteristics. All these lakes contain good stocks of bream roach and hybrids.

**Ballymacgovern** to the west is extremely shallow. Due to the shallow nature of the water (< 1m) and luxuriant weed growth fishing can be difficult. However it is worth noting that during the roach spawning period May - June large concentrations of fish may be present in the vicinity of Ballymacgovern Bridge spanning the inflowing Blackwater River. Parking is available near the bridge and stiles give access to the riverbank.

**Derrycassan**, the middle lake has depths to 4m mainly in the navigation channel. Good bank fishing is available off the northern shore. Parking is located at the end of the cul-de-sac roads on the northern bank of the channel connecting Derrycassan and Coologe.

**Coologe** to the east has depths to 3m. There is good bank access on the eastern shore and car parking is available at Burren Bridge where the waterway exits the lake. This lake is prone to heavy weed growth during the summer months.

The connecting channel between Derrycassan and Coologe can be very productive at times. There is a resident bream shoal towards the downstream end. Access is from a nearby car park. Anglers should note that chest waders are advisable when attempting to fish the downstream swims.

**6. Killywilly Lake** is located 4km south east of Ballyconnell and covers an area of 56 hectares. Access is from a minor roadway close to the eastern shore. Boats can be launched here with the permission of the riparian owners. This lake is generally shallow

with depths to a maximum of 4m. This water produces good catches of bream, roach and hybrids.

**7. Bellaboy Lake** is located 2km south of Bawnboy and covers an area of 31 hectares. This lake with depths of up to 8m contains good stocks of bream, roach and hybrids. The best of the bank fishing is located on the eastern and western shores. Access is limited but pedestrian access is possible from the minor roads to the east and west of the lake.

**8. Templeport Lake** is located 3km south of Bawnboy and covers an area of 43 hectares. This lake is best fished from a boat. Access and a slipway are located on the western shoreline. There is limited bank fishing on the shoreline beside Templeport Church and anglers should use the track to the left of the churchyard for access. The water is noted for bream of above average size.

**9. Cuillaghan Lake** is located 4km east of Ballyconnell and covers an area of 29 hectares. Access is located on the northern shore where a car park and a 3 peg stand are provided for anglers who are wheelchair users and anglers with reduced mobility. There are a number of other stands here that are suitable for use by the able bodied. Boats may be launched from this shore by arrangement with the landowner. Good quality bream and roach can be expected and in recent years tench have begun to feature regularly in catches.

**10. Tomkinroad Lake** is located 5km east of Ballyconnell and covers an area of 12 hectares. Bank fishing is available on the eastern shore where it is also possible to launch small boats. This reed fringed lake has depths to 6m and produces catches of bream and roach.

**11. Long Lough** is located 6km east of Ballyconnell and covers an area of 7 hectares. Access is from the minor road located on the western end of the lake. This narrow reed fringed lake varies in width from 50m to 100m and is mainly shallow but has depths up to 5m. There are good stocks of bream and roach. This water responds well to pre baiting. Limited bank fishing is available on the southern shore.

**12. Greenville Lake** is situated 5km south of Ballyconnell near the village of Ardlougher. It is a lake of 5 hectares that is generally very shallow with depths not exceeding 2m. It is sheltered and very well suited to float fishing from the comfortable stands for the sizeable tench. There are also roach and rudd here with some bream.

**13. Carn Lake** is situated 3km east of Greenville. This small, 3 hectare water is again mainly a tench fishery. Access is over private lands and permission should be sought before attempting to fish.

**14. Lakefield Lake** is situated 2km south west of Bawnboy and this water produces bream to specimen size along with good roach and hybrids. There are swims accessible from the county road running along the northern shore of the lake and depths vary from 2 to 5m. Care should be taken when parking along this narrow road. Anglers should liaise with the landowner regarding access.





## G. Ballinamore and Keshcarrigan Angling Centres

Ballinamore is located in the middle reaches of the Shannon Erne Waterway and along with Keshcarrigan near the summit level, are ideal locations from which to explore the great variety of waters waiting to be discovered here.

### MAIN COARSE ANGLING WATERS IN THE BALLINAMORE & KESHCARRIGAN AREA

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#### Garadice Lake

Garadice is located 8km east of Ballinamore and covers an area of 389 hectares. Much of the lake is in the region of 5m in depth but there are some deeper areas up to 20m. The deepest part of the lake consists of a large basin located south west of Church Island where depths of 10-20m have been recorded. Most of the lake can be fished from the bank and has developed road access at **Haughton's Shore (1)**, **Garadice Park (2)** and **Church Shore (3)**. A boat slipway is provided in the harbour at Haughton's shore and boats can also be launched from the shore at Garadice Park. Car parking is provided close to **Connolly's Shore (4)** on the southern side of the lake. This lake has the capability to accommodate match angling events of significant size with a total of circa 130 pegs being available mainly on shores with public access. There are other areas that may be pegged with the permission of landowners bringing the total number of pegs available to the region of 200. The water is noted for good catches of bream, roach and hybrids and pre baiting is often the key to success. A little known fact about Garadice is that it contains substantial stocks of tench that reside in the shallow bays towards Newtowngore. These fish rarely venture outside this area and anglers wishing to target them will require the use of a boat.

The pool downstream of Ballincur bridge on the outflow from Garadice Lake, known locally as **Little Garadice (5)** provides a comfortable sheltered alternative to the main lake during times of high winds. There are reasonable stocks of bream and roach with the occasional tench and the angler can expect to get bites at any season of the year.

**6. St. Johns and Kiltybardan Loughs** are located 4km west of Ballinamore and cover a combined area of 146 hectares. They are connected by a short river channel and form part of the Shannon Erne navigation. Both Loughs are shallow in nature with depths rarely exceeding 5m. These popular coarse fishing venues contain good stocks of bream (mainly skimmers), roach and hybrids. There is good bank fishing available at the car parking areas on both waters and up to 30 match pegs are available. A boat slip is provided upstream of lock seven on the Shannon Erne Waterway which is located a short distance downstream from St. Johns Lough. Boats can also be launched from the car park at Kiltybardan. Car parking is provided at Kiltybardan on the R208 Ballinamore to Carrick on Shannon road and also at the bridge crossing the channel connecting the two lakes.

#### Lough Scur

This lake is located 1km northwest of the village of Keshcarrigan and is the summit level of the Shannon Erne navigation. It covers an area of 114 hectares, is shallow in nature with depths to 5m. This popular coarse fishing venue contains a good stock of bream

roach and hybrids. It is a popular match fishing venue with up to 35 pegs available. All methods work well but the pole can be very effective during the warmer months when fish are present in the shallows. There are extensive areas of fishable bank on the **Keshcarrigan (7) and Driney (8)** shores and car parking is provided in both areas. A car park and boat slipway are located at **Drumcong (9)** along the main Ballinamore to Carrick on Shannon road (R208) and boats can also be launched at the Waterways Ireland mooring in the village of Keshcarrigan.

### SHANNON ERNE WATERWAY

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From where it exits L. Scur to its entry to Garadice the waterway is characteristic of a narrow canalised river connecting a series of lakes. Some sections are impounded between locks and access to the banks over much of this section is difficult except where road bridges occur or where roads run parallel to the channel. One such section is immediately upstream of Ballinamore where the **Golf Course Road (10)** runs alongside the waterway for approximately 4km. There are some angling opportunities here for bream and roach but big catches should not be expected. There are simple platforms cut into the banks that provide comfortable fishing but the recent installation of a crash barrier has made access difficult to some.

Downstream of Ballinamore at **Carrickmakeegan Bridge (11)** there is car parking and access to the section immediately upstream of Garadice Lake where larger catches can be made especially in late spring/early summer.

**Bolganard, (12) Corgar, (13) Drumlonan (14) and Corduff (15)** are a cluster of small lakes located 3km east of Ballinamore close to the main Ballinamore/Killashandra road (R199). They range in size from 2 to 13 hectares with depths to 7m having been recorded in Corgar Lough. These lakes which are almost entirely reed fringed contain good stocks of bream and tench to specimen size, hybrids and roach. Some rudd are also present and shore fishing is from stands. There are no dedicated boat launching facilities on these lakes. Car parking facilities are provided for anglers at or close to the main road. Pedestrian access to Bolganard, Corgar and Corduff is easy but Drumlonan is more difficult involving a significant walk to reach the best tench swims.

**16. Drumcoura Lake** has good stocks of bream but has limited access. Anglers should enquire at the nearby Drumcoura Equestrian Centre.

**17. Keenheen Lough** covers an area of 34 hectares and is located 5km southeast of Ballinamore close to the main Ballinamore to Carrigallen road (R204). Access is via the minor road which runs along the entire length of the northern shore. Car parking is available at several points along this roadway. Almost all of the water can be fished from the gravel shoreline surrounding this lake which contains good stocks of coarse fish and is noted for roach bream hybrids to specimen size. Boats can be launched from the northern shoreline.

**18. Drumlea Lake** is near to Keenheen and has limited swims for good quality hybrids, bream and roach.

**19. Lough Awaddy** is located 3.5km south east of Ballinamore not far from the Shannon Erne Waterway, covering 4 hectares is a shallow soft bottomed lake. Contains small bream with roach, rudd, hybrids and perch. Access is from the end of a cul de sac lane with limited car parking.

**20. Drumlaheen Lough** covers an area of 103 hectares and is located 6km southwest of Ballinamore close to the R209. This water consists of two basins connected by a short channel which only allows access from one basin to the other during high water conditions. The western basin has depths to 5m whilst the eastern basin (known locally as Greagh Lake) is much deeper, with depths in excess of 18m having been recorded. Access to shore fishing on the western basin is located on the northern shore where a car park is also provided. Access to the best shore fishing on the eastern basin is difficult and entails a 500m walk across farmland. Good stocks of coarse fish are present and bream to specimen size have been recorded from the Drumlaheen basin. The **Greagh (22)** basin is noted for perch of above average size.

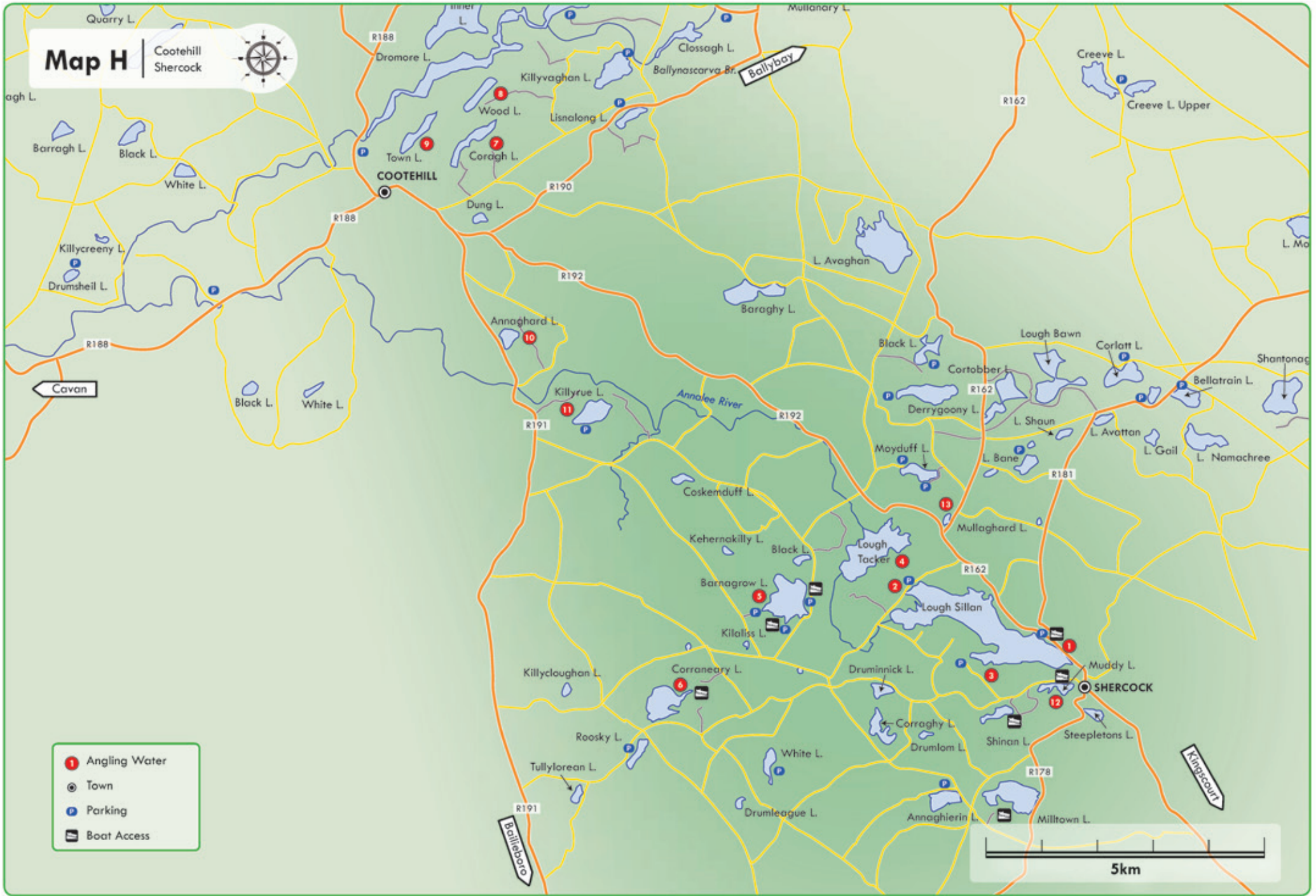
**21. Keshcarrigan and (24) Castlefore** are located close to the village of Keshcarrigan. Keshcarrigan, the larger of the two lakes covers 39 hectares with depths to 4m. It has bank fishing from concrete stands on the northern shore. Two of these stands provide access for

wheelchairs and anglers with reduced mobility. Boats can be launched from the lakeshore car park. Castlefore, which covers an area of 21 hectares, with depths to 6m has limited bank fishing from stands. It is possible to launch a small boat at the inlet located at the eastern end of the lake close to the (R209). These popular venues contain good stocks of bream, roach and hybrids.

**22. Carrickport Lough** is located at Drumcong village on the Ballinamore to Carrick-on-Shannon road (R208). The lake covers an area of 46 hectares and has depths to 7m. Car parking is available at the village opposite the eastern shore of the lake. This lake is mostly reed fringed and is best fished from a boat but bank fishing is possible from the eastern shore. There are no dedicated boat launching facilities at this venue but arrangements may be made locally to launch boats from other parts of the shore with permission of the riparian landowners. There are good stocks of bream and roach with roach x bream hybrids to specimen size.







## H. Cootehill and Shercock Angling Centres

The market town of Cootehill founded in the late 17th century by the Cooté family who built Bellamont House (a fine example of Palladian architecture), along with Shercock its near neighbour are the main destinations for anglers seeking to exploit the many coarse angling opportunities to be found in this part of east Cavan and nearby Monaghan.

### MAIN COARSE ANGLING WATERS IN THE COOTEHILL AND SHERCOCK AREA

**Lough Sillan** is located on the outskirts of the village of Shercock. This lake covers an area of 162 hectares and has depths to 10m. There is access to good shore fishing at the amenity area and caravan park close to the village (1), at **Annaghfarney** (2) and there is also a limited amount at **Darkley** (3) on the southern shore. Other bank fishing is available around the lake but this is only accessible by boat. Car parking is available at the village amenity area and at Annaghfarney at the western end of the lake. This water holds good stocks of above average sized bream, roach and hybrids with the better bream areas located at the western end. There are approximately 30 match pegs available here but event organisers must consult with landowners. Boat access is available at the car park at Annaghfarney

**4. Lough Tacker** is located 3km northwest of Shercock and covers an area of 57 hectares. This shallow lake has recorded depths to 3m. The lake can be easily fished from the surrounding shoreline and contains good bream, roach and hybrids. Access to the lake and car parking is located on the north western shore.

**5. Barnagrow Lake** is located approximately 3km northwest of Shercock and covers an area of 39 hectares with depths to 15m. The deeper areas are located at the northern end of the lake. This water contains stocks of bream, roach and hybrids approaching specimen size. Access can be obtained via the car parks at the south-eastern end of the lake and from the roadway leading to the pump house at the northern end. Shore angling is available at both of these locations and it is possible to launch a boat from the shoreline at one of the car parks. Circa 30 match pegs are available but event organisers must consult with landowners.

**6. Corraneary Lake** is located 5km west of Shercock and covers an area of 26 hectares with depths to 11m. This popular competition venue where up to 30 pegs are available has good stocks of bream, roach and hybrids. There are two main access points to this water one located near the church on the eastern shore and the other via a stile from a roadway on the western shore. Most of the lake is fishable from the shore. Boats may be launched with the permission of the riparian owners. **Dromore Lake** (See Dromore & Drumlona, Ballybay)

### OTHER WATERS IN THE COOTEHILL AND SHERCOCK AREA

**(7) Coragh, (8) Wood and (9) Town Lakes** are located on the periphery of Cootehill within the grounds of the Bellamont estate. These generally shallow lakes cover a combined area of 35 hectares. They contain good stocks of bream roach and hybrids. With the exception of Coragh which is only fishable by boat there is a limited amount of

bank fishing on these waters and there is generally no access for boats. As these waters are mostly bordered by Bellamont Estate property anglers should enquire locally before attempting to fish. Car parking is available in Cootehill.

**(10) Annaghard and (11) Killyrue** lakes are located 4.5km south east of Cootehill and cover an area of 8 hectares and 18 hectares respectively. Annaghard lake has depths in excess of 7m. Both lakes have small stocks of bream along with roach hybrids and perch. A limited amount of bank fishing is available on both waters and there is generally no access for boats.

**(12) Muddy Lake** is located 2km west of Shercock and covers an area of 7 hectares with depths to 4m. This generally shallow lake contains good stocks of bream, roach and hybrids with some tench. Access to shore fishing on Muddy Lake is from stands which are located on the northern shore.

**(13) Mullaghard Lake** is located 4km north west of Shercock. This 2 hectare water offers comfortable fishing from stands located close to the R162. Main species are roach and good quality perch. Bream are not thought to be present.







## I. Ballybay and Lough Egish Angling Centres

Ballybay is a market town located on the shores of Lough Major. It is a haven for the coarse angler with the challenging Dromore river system right on its door-step. Nine kilometres south east of Ballybay lies the large water known as Lough Egish, a venue that contains large stocks of coarse species especially good quality roach.

### MAIN COARSE ANGLING WATERS IN THE BALLYBAY AND LOUGH EGISH AREA

**1.** Lough Major is a 23 hectare lake situated on the eastern edge of the town of Ballybay at the headwaters of the Dromore River. With depths up to 5m the lake has excellent access from lakeside roads and the adjoining town park where a boat slipway is located. Fishing is from clear shorelines and stands. There are stands at the town park suitable for wheelchair users. This water, much frequented by competition anglers has up to 30 pegs. It has good stocks of roach, bream and hybrids along with some tench.

**Dromore River Lakes: (2) Convent (Corries) Lake, (3) Rectory Lake, (4) Wilson's (Coolderry) Lake, (5) McCabes (Aiken's) Lake:** These are a series of reed fringed lakes on the Dromore River a short distance downstream from Ballybay beside the R183 Clones road. With a combined area of 15 hectares, they are generally shallow with depths not exceeding 3m and are best accessed by boat via the connecting river channels. Limited bank space is available and there are four modern fishing stands on Rectory. These waters have good stocks of roach, bream and hybrids. Tench occur in greater numbers than in L. Major and Rectory is one of the better venues for the species.

It should be noted that Rectory and Wilson's lakes and part of the Dromore River downstream are bordered by lands attached to the Derryvalley Farm Wetlands Centre. During the autumn/winter period, when important flocks of migratory waterfowl may be present, anglers are requested to avoid disturbance to these birds.

**(6) White Lake – Baird's Shore, (7) Lisgillen and (8) Anny:** White Lake covers an area of 54 hectares, is 5km south west of Ballybay and is approached off the R183 for Baird's Shore & Lisgillen and off the R190 for Anny. There are clear banks at Baird's Shore and Anny with limited bank space at Lisgillen. There are also fishing stands located at Lisgillen and Anny. Car parking is available at all three locations and boats may be launched at Baird's Shore and Anny. The water is generally shallow with maximum depths to 6m. These waters are frequently used as match venues and a combined total of circa 40 pegs are available. The waters have good stocks of roach, bream and hybrids. Tench are a regular feature in catches here especially from the first pegs at Baird's Shore. Anglers who have used a boat to access the reedy areas at Anny have also enjoyed very good catches of the species. Anglers fishing at Lisgillen must ensure that they close all gates and fences.

**(9) Balladian, (10) Ballycoghill and (11) Ballynascarva Bridges:** These three bridges are on the Dromore River in succession going downstream from Ballybay to Cootehill and have all got adjacent fishing areas. Access is possible at all bridges and bank fishing is available.

**12. Mullanary Lake** is a 35 hectare lake 3km from Ballybay on the R190. There are 30 roadside swims and a dedicated stand for anglers using wheelchairs. Car parking is available at the roadside along the lake shore and it is possible to launch a small boat. The lake contains fair stocks roach, some bream and occasional tench.

**13. Lisnalong Lake** is located 9km south west of Ballybay alongside the R190. This 8 hectare reed fringed lake has car parking, stands and swims. Depths are up to 5m and the lake has good stocks of bream and roach with considerable numbers of tench. A boat may be launched here by arrangement with the owner of the public house located at the eastern end of the lake.

**14. Annamakerrig Lake** is a 35 hectare lake situated 3.5km south east of Newbliss in a scenic forest setting. Access to a lakeside road is off the R189. Anglers fishing this water should note that access is along a private road and that cars should be parked with care to avoid disruption to traffic accessing the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, an artists retreat. Depths are up to 10m but are generally 4 to 5m and the lake is reasonably uniform in depth with the marginal shallows quickly dropping off to deeper water. The water has good stocks of bream, good quality roach and hybrids. It is also used as a match venue and up to 25 pegs are available.

**Note:** Organisers of matches here are required to consult with the management of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre regarding access and parking arrangements.

**Individual anglers or small groups should seek information from C.J's. tackle shop in Cootehill, +353 87 9882836 or their accommodation provider regarding access arrangements.**

**15. Coravoo Lake** is situated 7km south west of Ballybay. This 8 hectare lake can be accessed from the R190 Ballybay to Cootehill road by turning onto the R193 towards Rockcorry and over Ballycoghill Bridge to the lake on the left. There is an access road and car parking. The banks are mostly reed and rush fringed and are fishable during low water and there are some new angling platforms near the car park. At other times the use of a boat will be advantageous for fishing. Boat launching is possible at the first car parking area on approach to the lake. Depths are up to 3m and there are good stocks of bream and roach with some tench.

**16. Drumlona Lake** is situated 9km south west of Ballybay. Covering an area of 51 hectares Drumlona is part of the Dromore River catchment. Access to Drumlona is over a long narrow road to a car-park and a short footpath leads from the car park to the lake shore. The lake is generally shallow with depths to 5m and apart from approximately 350m of clear shoreline on the southern side there is limited pedestrian access to the shore of this reed fringed water. Up to 20 pegs are available here depending on water levels and good quality bream, roach and hybrids can be expected. Tench are also regularly caught here. As these waters are bordered by estate property anglers should enquire locally before attempting to fish.

**17. Dromore River (Abbotts)** has bank fishing available from the fishing stands located at the downstream end of the river outflow from Dromore Lake. These stands are located



a short walk upstream from the New Bridge on the Cootehill - Rockorry road (R188) Parking is available at the forest entrance gatehouse. There are good stocks of roach and bream along with some tench. There are also some older stands on the Monaghan bank here that can be accessed from this roadway but there is limited parking.

**18. Killyvaghan Lake** is situated 7km south west of Ballybay and covers an area of approximately 20 hectares. Car-parking is possible at Ballynascarva Bridge and there is a long walk to the eastern shore where bank fishing is available. Limited roadside car parking is available at the eastern edge of the lake and it is possible to launch small boats from here. Depths are up to 4m and the water contains good stocks of bream and roach. Some of the heaviest bream bags caught in the area in recent years have come from this water.

**19. Lough Egish** is located 9km south east of Ballybay and covers an area of 117 hectares. This island studded lake is dominated by a large headland jutting out from the northern shore giving an observer looking from the western end a misleading impression of its true size. Road access is from the R181 where a boat may be launched near the village. Depths vary from 2m to a maximum of 10m but there are many areas of submerged rock close to the surface and anglers using boats should proceed with care. This water that has been largely ignored by coarse anglers has in recent times produced outstanding catches of roach up to 2lbs.

**20. Drumsaul Lake** is located 2km north west of Rockorry village of can be accessed at the County Council pump house. Fishing is from stands to the right. This 5 hectare water has good stocks of bream, roach and hybrids.

**21. Drumate Lake** lies north of the Ballybay to Newbliss road (R183) approximately 4km east of Newbliss village. Covering 11 hectares, the lake is very accessible with a lakeside road and car parking. This is shallow productive water with depths not exceeding 4m. There is comfortable shore fishing with circa 20 pegs. Bream to above average size along with good quality roach and hybrids can be expected.

**22. Lough Bawn** and associated waters within the boundary of the Lough Bawn Estate are private.

**23. Derrygoony (White) Lough** is approx 23 hectares. It can be approached from a stile near Cortubber post office, over 3 fields, or from the Billy Fox Memorial Park. There are some good banks at this lake. The lake had long been regarded as mainly a roach venue but in recent years good catches of bream have been taken.

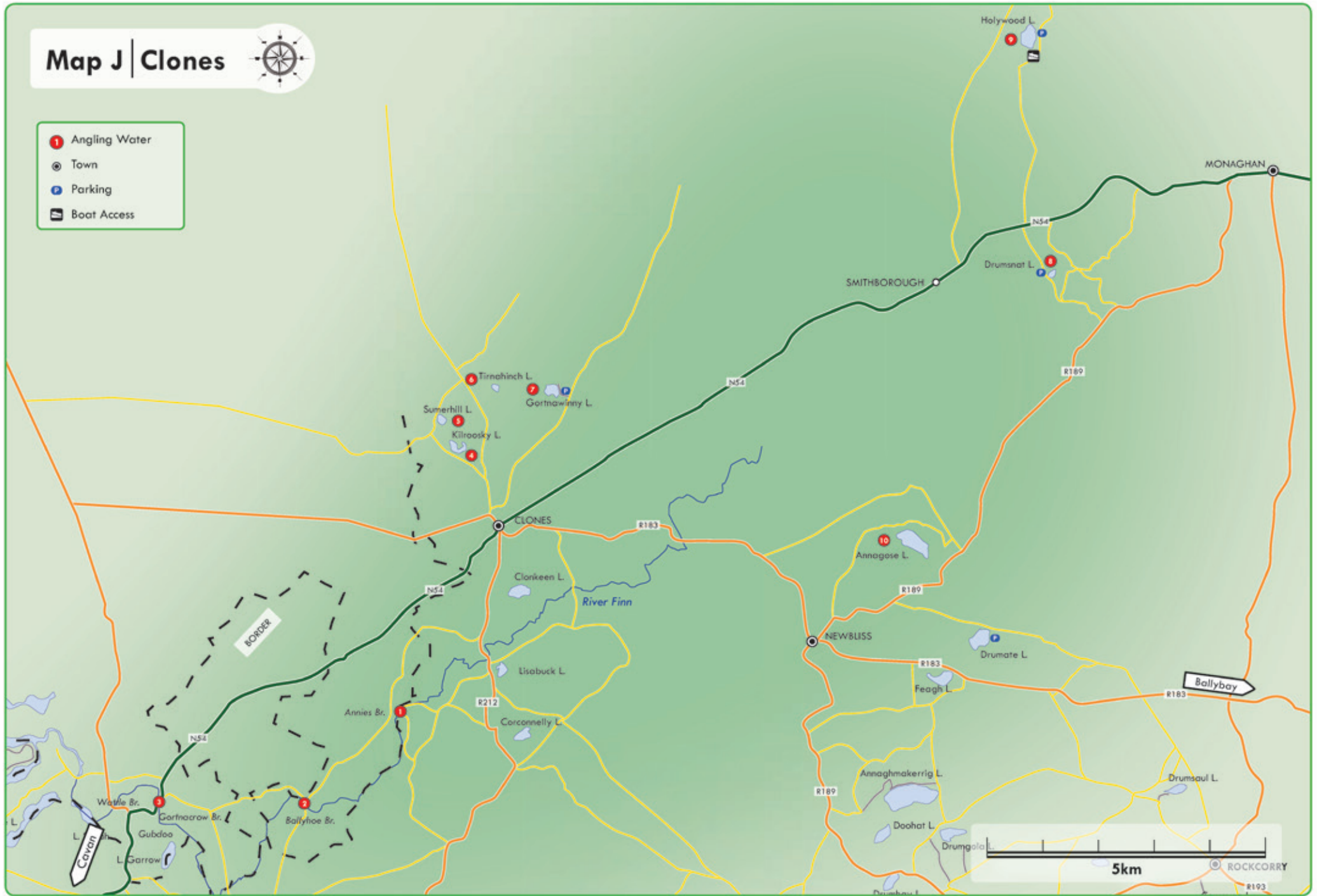
**(24) Corlatt Lake and (25) Shantonagh Lake** drain into the Knappagh and Annalee rivers. The majority of these waters contain most of the coarse fish species with the exception of bream and tench. Ballytrain Upper, Sreenty, and Avattan are also noted local fisheries in this area.



# Map J | Clones



- Angling Water
- Town
- Parking
- Boat Access





## J. Clones Angling Centre

Located beside the River Finn and its myriad of lakes, Clones in north west Monaghan is the ideal starting point for the coarse angler looking for a variety of smaller more secluded waters. Many of the waters here are lightly fished or some hardly at all and may provide pleasant surprises. The fishery comprises of the River Finn and many small lakes none in excess of 20 hectares.

### THE RIVER FINN

The River Finn enters the Erne 9km south west of Clones and the maze of interconnected lakes that make up the Erne system are only a short drive away. The River Finn is recognised as an excellent coarse fishery with good quality bream and roach. Access is possible at a number of locations as detailed below.

**1. Annie's Bridge** is one of the most popular stretches at this location is 4.5km south of Clones with access from the Clones/Scotshouse road (R212) and also from the A3 if travelling from NI. There are deep sluggish reaches with clean banks and this section of the river is a popular match section with capacity for 50 anglers. Car parking is available near the bridge and along the road that runs parallel to the river.

**2. Ballyhoe Bridge** is the next bridge downstream from Annie's Bridge and has some good pools. However, it is accessible to only the most determined anglers and so is rarely fished.

**3. Gortnacarrow Bridge**, further downstream and not far from the confluence with the Erne this location is reachable via the N54 Cavan road, approximately 6.5km from Clones. It has clean banks and deep holes with a good head of fish including good bream. In this area the river widens into two fishable loughs, Garrow and Sarah.

**NOTE: The River Finn and connected lakes in the area interweave with the Northern Ireland border. Visiting anglers should acquaint themselves with the legislative requirements for fishing in Northern Ireland. Most of the river downstream of Clones forms the border with Northern Ireland.**

**4. Horseshoe (Kilroosky) Lake** (4 hectares) is located 1.5km to the north of Clones at Lisnaroe. The lake is bisected by the border with fishing stands on the southern side. There is limited car parking along the narrow road but care must be taken not to block gateways. Contains bream, roach and hybrids.

**5. Summerhill Lake** (2 hectares) is 1km north of Horseshoe Lake. It is bisected by the border with fishing from stands on the south shore. Contains stocks of bream, roach and hybrids.

**6. Tirnahinch Lake**, a 2 hectare water is 2.5km north of Clones on the Carraghveetra road. Access is over fields and there are areas of fishable bank. Contains stocks of bream, roach and hybrids.

**7. Gortnawinny Lake**, at 5 hectares one of the bigger waters in the area, Gortnawinny is 3km to the north east of Clones to the left of the road leading to Roslea in Co.

Fermanagh. The lake is suitable for anglers with restricted mobility, with waterside parking, and a recently installed floating platform adapted for use by wheelchair users. A rich water where bream of above average size are present along with roach and hybrids.

**8. Drumsnat Lake** is located 12km east of Clones just off the N54 Clones/Monaghan road 2km past the village of Smithborough. This 2 hectare water is on the course of the old Ulster Canal and has angling platforms and roadside car parking. In addition to the platforms, parts of the shoreline are fishable. Contains sizeable bream and tench along with roach and hybrids.

**9. Hollywood Lake** (11 hectares) is located near Scotstown village approximately 14km north east of Clones. Access is via the well developed amenity area where there is good car parking. Fishing is from stands and from some clear shoreline at the amenity area. This water is almost unique in the Erne system as roach are not present. Species are rudd and perch and this rich water with luxuriant weed growth is unexplored.

**10. Annagose Lough** is one of the larger but least fished lakes in the area, Annagose is a 17 hectare water located 8km east of Clones and 3km north east of the village of Newbliss. The banks are open and the lake is fishable around most of its perimeter.

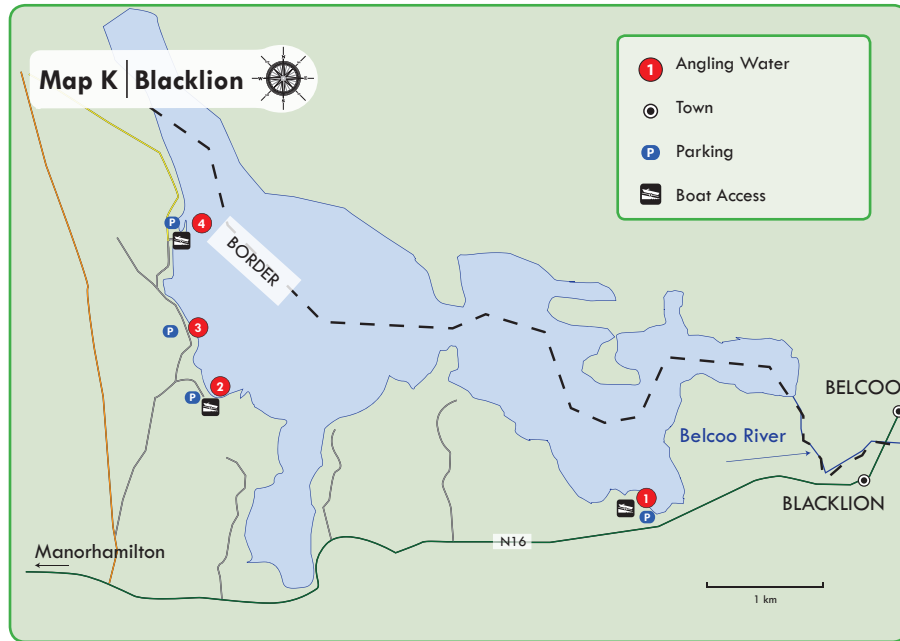
### Other lakes in the Clones area

Munilly (Cloncallig), Lake Dummy's Lake, Corconnolly Lake & Burdautien (McCabes)



## K. Blacklion Angling Centre

This unique little village is on the Belcoo River joining Upper & Lower Lough MacNean in the north west of County Cavan adjacent to nearby Co. Fermanagh.



Upper Lough McNean - Blacklion Angling Centre

### LOUGH MACNEAN UPPER

Between the villages of Kiltyclogher in north Leitrim and Blacklion in west Cavan lies Lough McNean Upper. This 644 hectare lake is bordered by Co. Fermanagh on its northern shore and joined to its sister lake Lough McNean Lower by the Belcoo or Toam River and the waters from both are then discharged to Upper Lough Erne via the Arney River. Apart from a short stretch of shoreline in Co. Cavan (c.200m) the remainder of the lower lake is in Co. Fermanagh.

The upper lake is divided by the border and the village of Blacklion is just across the bridge from its neighbouring village of Belcoo in Co. Fermanagh. Fishing on the Cavan and Leitrim side is mainly on the upper lake along the Blacklion to Manorhamilton road (N16) and there are several access points to good bank fishing on this big water. There is a car parking and boat launch facility 2km west of Blacklion (1) along this road. Further along through Glenfarne Forest and towards Kiltyclogher (2,3,4) there are parking and boat launch facilities and a number of fishing stands.

The lake is characterised by numerous islands and promontories and there are extensive areas with depths varying between 2 and 5m with some deeper water at mid lake.

There is an abundance of coarse fish in this lightly fished water including good quality bream; more hybrids than are found in many other Erne lakes and good catches of roach are regularly taken. Tench are not known to be present. There are extensive areas of shoreline that may be fished from the bank and up to 20 pegs are available for match angling. For the more adventurous wanting to reach distant swims a boat will be a big advantage.

This is joint jurisdictional water which straddles the border with Northern Ireland. Visiting anglers should acquaint themselves with the legislative requirements for fishing in Northern Ireland.



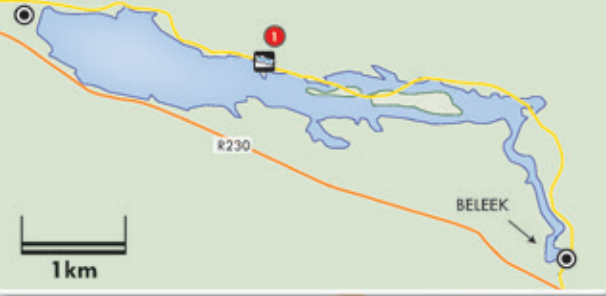


# Map L | Donegal



## ASSAROE LAKE

BALLYSHANNON



- 1 Angling Water
- ⊙ Town
- P Parking
- ⚓ Boat Access

## L. Donegal Coarse Fishing Venues

### ASSAROE LAKE

Assaroe Lake is a 234 hectare artificial lake created by the Cathleen Falls and Cliff Hydro schemes and is located just east of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. The depth varies throughout the lake and there are extensive shallow areas. The deepest areas (over 12 metres) are to be found in the old river course. The shores are rocky in the main and all fishable with little weed growth. The lake is controlled by the ESB and shore angling is only allowed from the northern shore and around the Lakeside Centre on the southern shore. The E.S.B. have carried out bank development at Cliff and installed fishing stands on the back lough to facilitate angling. The northern shore is accessed via the Knader Road out of Ballyshannon. The Lakeside Centre is located just outside Ballyshannon to the left on the Belleek Road (R230). Boat angling is allowed although anglers should exercise caution since the lake can be dangerous to navigate in areas due to rocks and the remnants of tree stumps. Boat anglers are not allowed to fish close to the dams for safety reasons and may not pass the floating barriers.

Pike angling is usually carried out with spinners, plugs and dead bait. The lake is only lightly fished when compared to the more southerly loughs. Fly fishing for the pike is becoming more popular each season. Assaroe is home to large shoals of big bream, perch and roach and contains some very big pike. The pike range in size from small jacks to fish well in excess of 40lb!

**One of the following ESB permits is required to fish Assaroe:**

Weekly Permits: Adult €20, OAP €10.

Season Permits: Adult €50, OAP €25.

**These are available from:**

ESB Generating Station, Cathleen's Fall's, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

Tel: +353 (0) 71 9851200.

O'Neill's Newsagents, Bridgend, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

Tel: +353 (0) 71 9851159.

Boats can be hired from Patsy Quinn, Knader Road, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

Tel: +353 (0) 71 9851963.

**To launch a boat on Assaroe you will require a Season Boat Permit. These cost €60 and are only available from the ESB Station in Ballyshannon**

### PETTIGO LOUGHS

There are numerous loughs surrounding the Pettigo area that contain mostly small rudd and perch that the adventurous angler may want to explore but the main fisheries of interest are given below.

**2. Drumgun Lough** is situated 2 kilometres west of Pettigo and is 14.8 hectares in size. The lough holds good stocks of bream, hybrids, roach, rudd and perch and there are also brown trout present (fly fishing only). It is a well established coarse fishery and regularly hosts angling competitions accommodating some 40 plus pegs. Access to this lough has been improved with the construction of a car park. Access to the car park is to the north of the R232 Pettigo to Laghy road with the car park situated along the south eastern shore of the lough. There is deep water close in to the southern shore to the east of the car park.

**3. Bannus Lake** is located 2.5 kilometres WSW of Pettigo and is 14.5 hectares in size. It is a well established fishery that holds good stocks of bream, roach, rudd, perch, and brown trout (fly fishing only). Access to the lake has been improved with the construction of a car park. Access to the car park is off the R232 Pettigo to Laghy road.

**A permit is required to fish the Pettigo Loughs. These are available from:**

James Gallagher, Post Office, Main Street, Pettigo, Co. Donegal.

Tel: +353 (0) 71 9861511.

Trina Britton, Britton's Bar, Main Street, Pettigo, Co. Donegal.

Tel: +353 (0) 71 9861519.



