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Guide to Pike Angling in The Erne & South Donegal

Including Counties Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim, Longford & Donegal

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FOREWORD

The Erne system & south Donegal contain some of the very best pike angling available anywhere in Ireland. Pike anglers are spoilt for choice with seemingly endless angling opportunities ranging from north of Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan on the Shannon Erne Waterway to the lower reaches of the River Erne, near Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.

This guide aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the many venues available to pike anglers visiting in the region and to assist those who are seeking new and undiscovered waters. Undoubtedly, many of the smaller bays and backwaters hold rich rewards for those anglers who are prepared to explore a little further.

The flooded drumlin terrain of the upper Erne provides a multitude of small lakes of a few acres to the larger expanses of water such as Loughs Oughter, Gowna and Garadice. Pike anglers who prefer river fishing are well catered for on the Rivers Erne, Dromore, and Annalee and along the Shannon-Erne waterway. So whether you want to fish from bank, boat or float tube, all anglers will find venues to suit their requirements.

The angling centres outlined in this guide are well serviced by specialist angling accommodation providers and boat hire and guide services are also available. I would strongly recommend the use of an angling guide when tackling the larger waters if you are unfamiliar with the area. There is also a network of tackle shops who would be delighted to assist you during your visit. Fly angling for pike is also becoming increasingly popular on all our waters.

Pike angling in the area is free. However, many of the waters included in the guide are cross-border fisheries between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Anglers are requested to acquaint themselves with the relevant regulations for pike fishing in both jurisdictions. A list of websites is provided at the end of the brochure to assist you in this regard.

We appeal to all pike anglers to conserve this valuable sport fish by abiding by the conservation measures contained in the statutory regulations. Please handle and release your catch with care and respect the countryside and environment in which you enjoy your sport.

In addition to angling there is a host of different activities available in the area for your enjoyment including hill walking, cycling, cruising and golf. Details are available from the Tourism Ireland website and local tourist offices.

Milton Matthews, Ph.D.

Director, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Ballyshannon

ACCESS AND SAFETY

SAFETY

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

Weather forecasts are broadcast daily on RTÉ Radio, television and at 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. Telephone weather forecasts are available from the Irish Meteorological Service - Met Éireann at 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

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

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.

CONSERVATION AND REGULATION

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

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:

<http://www.fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm>

PLAYING AND HANDLING

When deadbait fishing, a take should be struck sooner rather than later to avoid deep hooking the fish. The pike should then be played firmly and brought as quickly as possible to the landing net to avoid over tiring the fish. A suitable large landing net should be used particularly from a boat. When landed, the fish should be laid flat preferably on a protective mat and the hooks removed with a suitable tool such as long handled artery forceps or a long nosed pliers. Anglers may find it useful to wear protective gloves. Sometimes it can be easier to release the hooks by working very carefully through the gill covers. Pike sacks can be used for the short term retention of fish, thus enabling them to recover prior to weighing or photography. When weighing and photographing fish, the pike should be cradled and supported properly to avoid injuring the fish. A pike sized weigh sling should always be used if the fish is to be weighed. When being released, the pike should be held carefully in the water to promote recovery until it is ready to swim away. At all times, the pike should be returned to the water in the shortest possible time.

PIKE CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATION

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.

One aspect of the 2006 bye law is that a pike over the specimen weight of 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) for a river fish and 30 lbs. (13.608 Kg.) for a lake fish are now protected

and cannot be killed as in the previous bye law. There is no prohibition on the number of frozen sea baits a pike angler can have for the day's sport.

A full and up to date copy of the bye law 809 protecting pike in Ireland can be accessed on the IFI website at: www.fishinginireland.info/pike/pconserve.htm

Copies of the pike conservation bye laws in different languages can be accessed on the IFI website at: www.fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm

Other legislation for the pike angler to be aware of are:

COARSE FISH

CONSERVATION OF AND PROHIBITION ON SALE OF COARSE FISH BYE-LAW NO. 806, 2006

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 by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

GENERAL FRESHWATER

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).

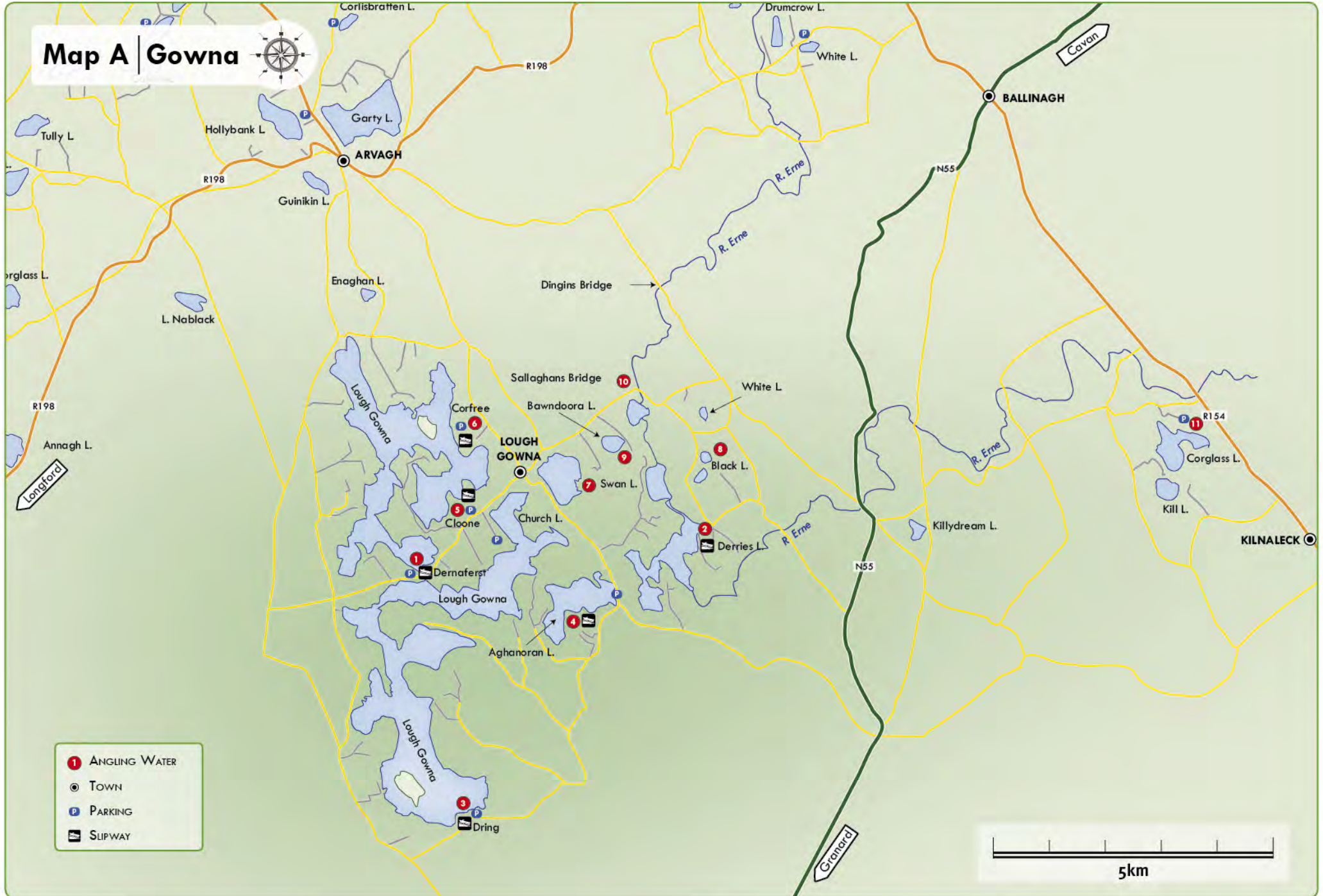
It is illegal to transfer live roach from one water to any other waters (Bye-law No.561).

CONSERVATION OF EELS BYE LAW

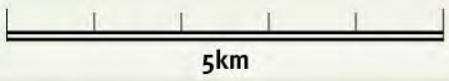
Eel fishing is completely closed.

Conservation of Eel Fishing Bye-Law No. C.S. 319, 2015 prohibits the taking, or attempting to take, fishing for or attempting to fish for, aiding or assisting the taking of or fishing for, eel in any fishery district in the State. It also prohibits being in possession of, selling or offering for sale or reward, or purchasing eel caught or taken by any means in any fishery district in the State.

Map A | Gowna



- 1 ANGLING WATER
- TOWN
- P PARKING
- S 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 PIKE WATERS IN THE GOWNA AREA

LOUGH GOWNA

Lough Gowna consists of a number of large basins connected by short river stretches and channels. It is the principal pike fishing 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 and Derries on the eastern shores of the Lough. There are good stocks of pike in this lake system and excellent stocks of fodder fish. Pike up to 30 lbs. (13.60 kg.) are recorded annually at this venue.

Lough Gowna provides very good pike fishing with excellent access and facilities and there are many stretches which provide good bank fishing. Most of the shore fishing is accessible from public access points and is generally on clean fishable shores. The main areas of the lake are best fished from a boat. 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 pike all year round but the most productive periods tend to be early in the season from March to May and toward the end of the year from September to November. 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. These areas adjacent to the car park are generally shallow with clear gravelly shores. As these shores are favoured destinations for coarse anglers from spring to autumn shoals of fodder fish such as roach and skimmers gather to feed and attract pike to these swims. All 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 also popular with coarse anglers and pike are regularly in evidence at this location. Pike also congregate on occasions around the inflow and outflow of the River Erne attracted by seasonal movements of shoals of fodder fish. These generally shallow areas are best accessed from a boat and sink and draw dead baiting can be particularly effective.

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. Noted fish holding areas including the Woodville or "Rhododendron Shore" located on the eastern shore and the bays at Aghakine on the western shore of the lake regularly produce good pike fishing. On occasion pike can be seen feeding on fry in the shallow margins and using smaller baits simulating fry during these periods can be particularly effective.

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 on this basin 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 areas of shallow interspersed with small islands. These shallows can be very productive during the post pike spawning period in the springtime. This area regularly produces pike in excess of 20lbs.

5: 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. Pike angling pressure in this area is low and many bays yet remain to be explored. The area off the point of the peninsula to the left of the car park has some deeper water that generally holds shoals of fodder fish and pike are usually present. Bank fishing is limited in this area and the use of a boat is advised.

6: 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 Rossduff in the most northerly part of the lake. There is good access to bank fishing at these locations which are regularly used by recreational and competition coarse anglers. Many of these bays are lightly fished and warrant further attention from pike anglers.

SATELLITE PIKE WATERS IN THE GOWNA AREA

7: 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 for pike. The best access is from the south and south western shores and advice should be sought locally prior to fishing.

8: Black Lake and White Lake, are located to the left of the road leading to Lisanny and have limited access and bank space. They hold stocks of small to medium sized pike and are generally of limited interest to pike anglers but present the opportunity to fish for pike off the beaten track. They have a combined area of 7 hectares.

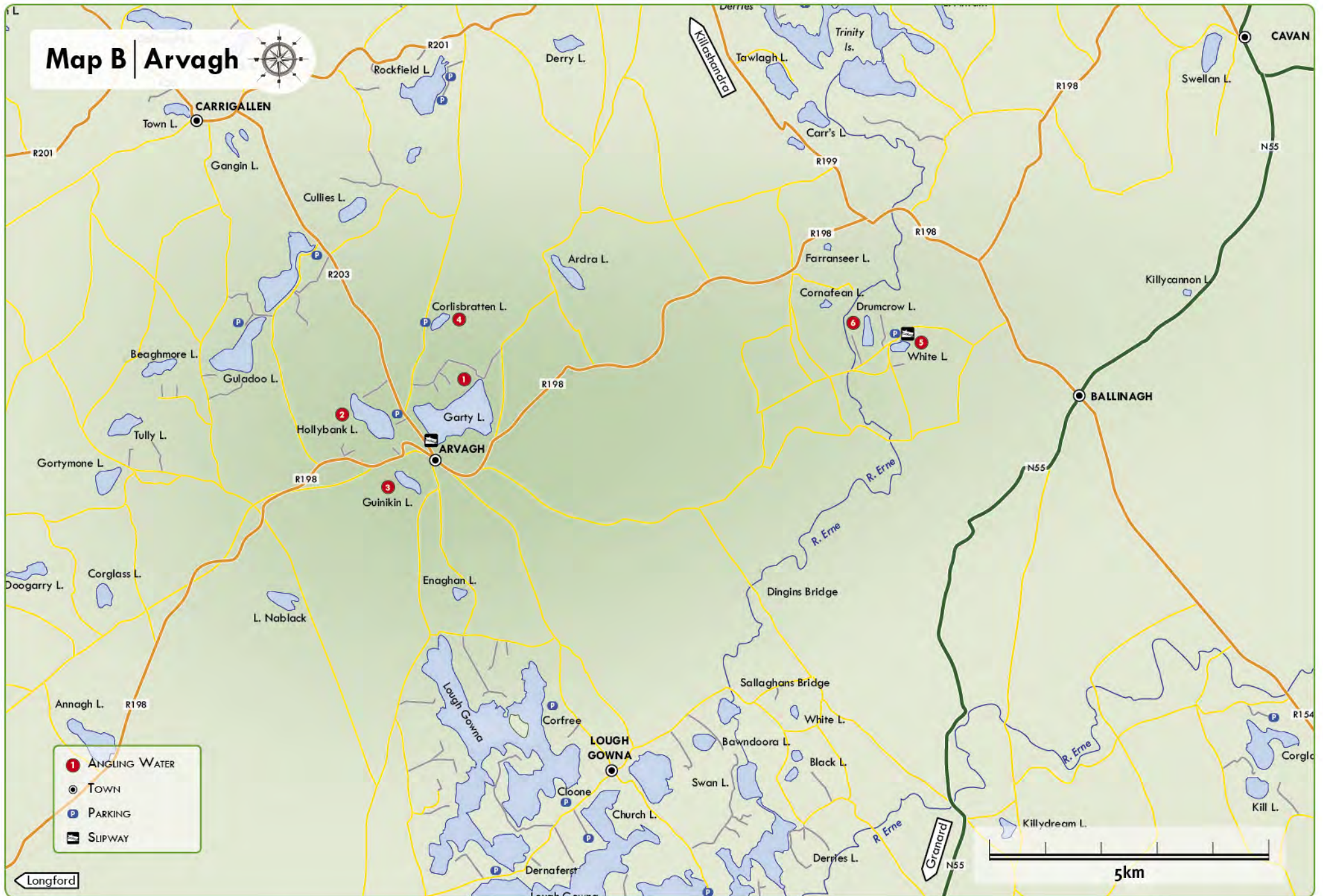
9: Bawndoora, is located east of Gowna village to the right of the road leading to Ballinagh. Access to the lake is easy but there is limited car parking. Bawndoora holds stocks of small to medium sized pike and is generally of limited interest to pike anglers and would be seldom fished.

10: River Erne. Pike congregate on occasions around the inflow and outflows of the River Erne attracted by seasonal movements of shoals of fodder fish. These generally shallow areas are best accessed from a boat and sink and draw dead baiting can be particularly effective. The river stretches above and below the inflow and outflows are well worth exploring and can be accessed by boat and in places from the bank. Ease of access to these channels can be dependent on water levels.

11 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 and are connected by a short channel and there is pedestrian access to all shorelines. There are extensive stretches of open shoreline and both waters which contain stocks of small to medium sized pike. These are rich waters and because they contain a good head of fodder fish have the potential to produce larger specimens of pike. Kill has depths up to 6m with the deeper water being located towards the eastern shore. There is a new access road and car park at Corglass Lake which gives access to approximately 25 pegs.



Map B | Arvagh



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 PIKE 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. Pike in excess of 20lbs have been recorded from this water and fish in excess of 10lbs are taken regularly. All legitimate methods work on this water with lures and trolled dead baits on the oar being effective. 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. Hollybank Lake (Lower Lough) is located northwest of Arvagh off the R203 heading towards Carrigallen. This lake contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike and is also noted for its catches of roach and bream. Most of the northeast shore is fishable from the bank but the remaining shores are reed fringed and a boat is required to fish these successfully. There are no 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.

SATELLITE PIKE WATERS IN THE ARVAGH AREA

3. Guinikin Lake, is located upstream of Hollybank Lake and is accessed from the Aughnacliffe road. It contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike and is also noted for its catches of roach and bream. Bank fishing is from stands which can be accessed from the car park at the southern end of the lake via the footpath. Boat fishing is difficult but this manageable water could be easily accessed by float tube.

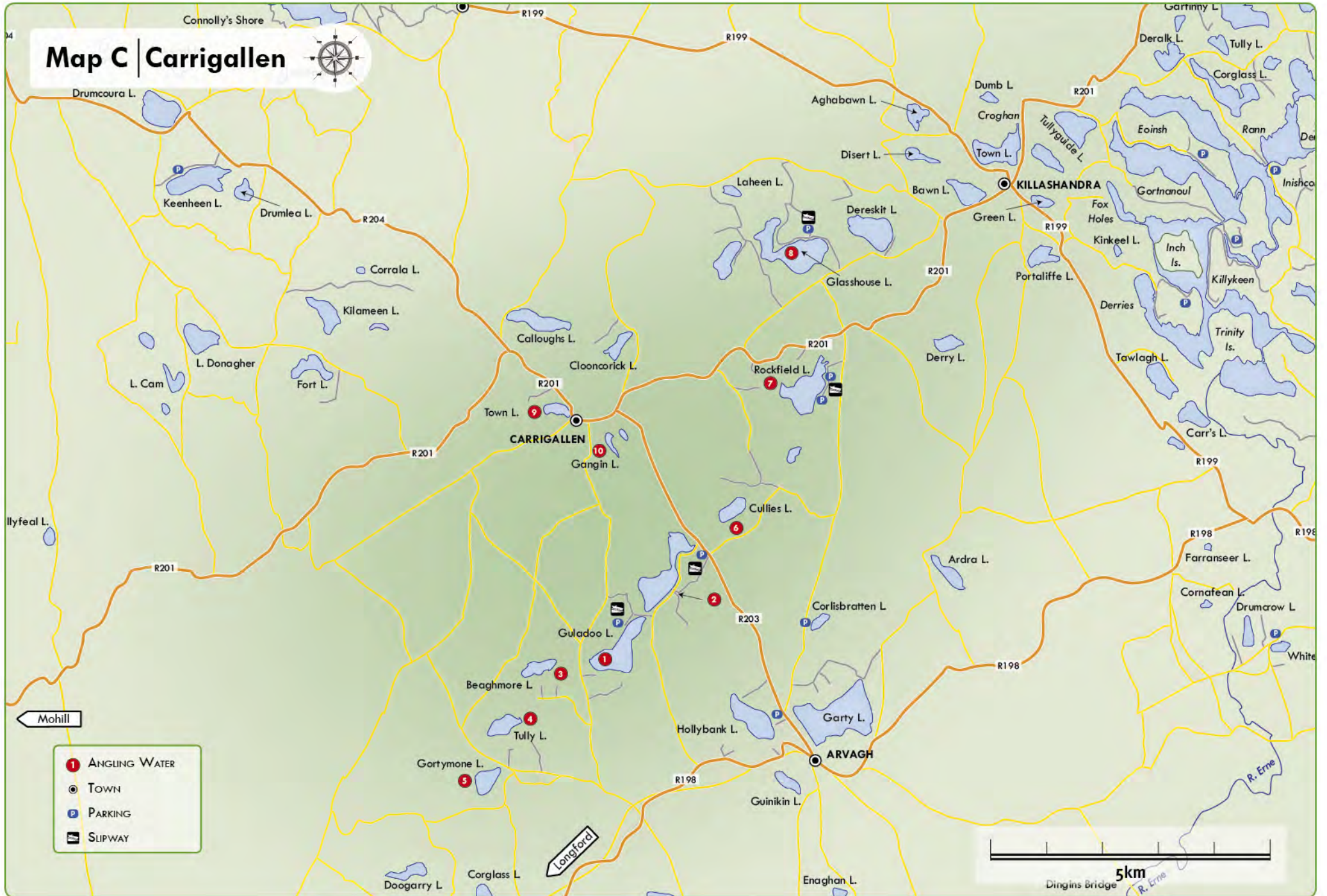
4. Corlisbratten Lough, is a small 5 hectare mixed fishery located directly north of Arvagh. It contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike and is also noted for its catches of adult and skimmer bream. It is easily accessible from the road and stiles and stands are provided on this water. Bank fishing is generally confined to the stands but there is some limited bank space around the lake. Boat fishing is not recommended but this water could be easily accessed by float tube.

5. White Lough (Cornafean), is a small 4 hectare water located 8km east of Arvagh and has easy access from a lakeside car park. The lake is noted for good catches of small to medium sized pike and is popular with many continental visitors. Bank 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. Launching a small boat from the car park is possible but a float tube would be equally effective.

6. Drumcrow Lough, is an 8 hectare water located 8km east of Arvagh and 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 but launching a boat is not possible. The water produces catches of small to medium sized pike and is lightly fished.



Map C | Carrigallen



- 1 ANGLING WATER
- TOWN
- P PARKING
- ☒ SLIPWAY



C. CARRIGALLEN ANGLING CENTRE

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

MAIN PIKE WATERS IN THE CARRIGALLEN AREA

7. Gulladoo and Satellite Lakes: 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 lake contains good stocks of medium sized pike up to 10lbs but larger pike in excess of 20lbs are recorded annually. 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 good fishing and car parking. 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. Roadside parking is available at the “steps” (2) where fishing is possible from a clean bank. Depending on water levels it may be possible to take a boat through the connecting channel under the bridge at the amenity area however extreme caution should be exercised when carrying out this manoeuvre.

Commencing 500m south west of Gulladoo are **Beaghmore (3), Tully (4), and Gortermone (5)** Loughs all of which are connected by the Cullies river system. All lakes in this chain have good stocks of small to medium sized pike and Gortermone produces fish up to 20lbs on occasion. 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 Beaghmore with car parking on the public roadway. Access to all lakes via the river depending on water levels.

Cullies Lake (6) is located downstream and north east of Gulladoo Lake. Fishing for small to medium sized pike is from bank side swims which are located on the southern shoreline where a small car park is provided.

7. Rockfield Lough, 38 hectares, is a medium sized water located approximately 4km east of Carrigallen off the R201. There is good access from the lakeside road to waterside swims. Rockfield contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike but larger fish are known to be present. The secluded bays at the northern and western extremities of the lake provide excellent angling opportunities pre and post spawning. 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. The best access is from the eastern shoreline and 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.

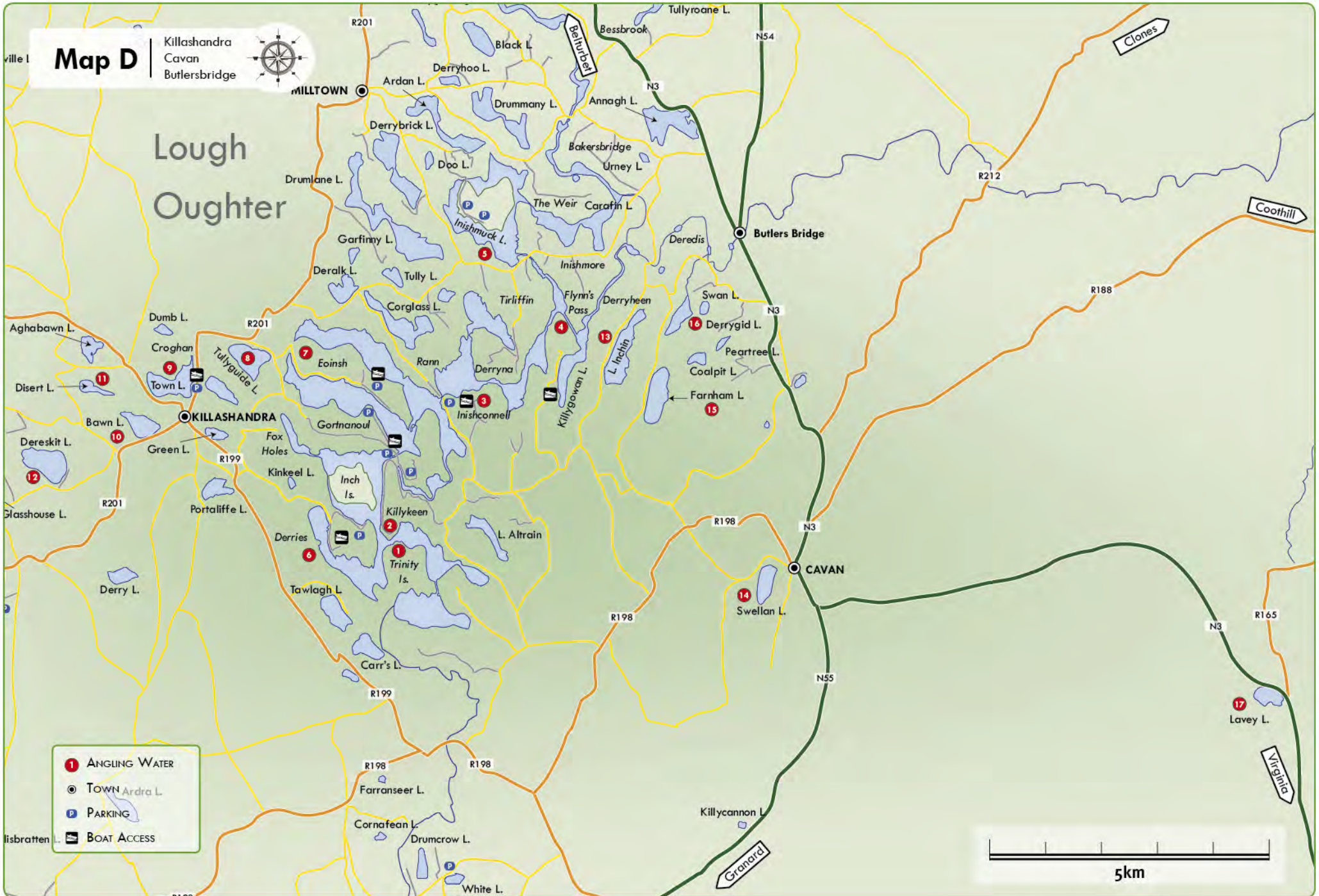
8. Glasshouse Lake, is a medium to large lake covering 54 hectares located approximately 7km north east of Carrigallen. This lake is largely reed fringed with the exception of the roadside shoreline and small sections of the eastern and western shores. The roadside shoreline is generally shallow but areas of deeper water occur off the eastern and western shores. The lake contains reasonable stocks of small to medium sized pike but larger fish are known to be present. There is good access via a lakeside road to bank fishing from swims in a “Coillte” forest. 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.

SATELLITE PIKE WATERS IN THE CARRIGALLEN AREA

9. Town Lake, is located in the village of Carrigallen and is easily accessible. This lake contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike and is also a popular coarse fishing venue. Fishing is generally from purpose built stands on the southern shore where a small car park is also located.

10. Gangin and Mosey Lakes, are small waters located on the outskirts of the village that have limited bank fishing opportunities but are ideal for a small boat or a float tube.





D. KILLASHANDRA, CAVAN/BUTLERSBRIDGE ANGLING CENTRES

The thriving county town of Cavan, its industrious neighbour Killashandra to the west and Butlersbridge on the Annalee are located in the middle Erne, an area long recognised as a prime pike angling destination. The area has recently been designated an 'Anglers Welcome' hub by Fáilte Ireland



Fáilte Ireland – The National Tourism Development Authority are introducing an initiative called 'Anglers Welcome'. The aim of the initiative is to raise the standard of service anglers can expect from their angling holiday in Ireland. Responding to the needs of anglers a series of 'Anglers Welcome' charters have been developed. These charters cover; Angling Guides, Accommodation, Pubs & Dining, Visitor

Attractions, Retail Premises and Charter Skippers. Each charter contains a series of 'service promises' and a commitment to offering you, the angler, a pleasant and enjoyable 'Anglers Welcome' experience. So look out for the 'Anglers Welcome' logo as you travel around Ireland and be assured of a warm welcome with information aplenty and of course, good fishing!

LOUGH OUGHTER

Lough Oughter is the principal pike angling resource for the above angling centres and covers an area of circa 844 hectares. This lake offers very good pike fishing with many pike over 30lbs recorded annually. There is a huge network of lakes offering excellent bank and boat fishing and there are a number of well established pike angling locations on this water including Trinity and Killykeen, Inishconnell (Rann), Killygoan and Flynn's Pass, Inismuck, 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 and offers good pike angling opportunities at certain times of the year.

2. Killykeen has approximately 1km of open shoreline which is easily fished by the bank fisherman. 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. One of the best pike areas is off the "green bank" which is located immediately above the footbridge upstream of the short river stretch which connects the Killykeen and Eonish basins. This area holds a good stock of small to medium sized pike but good numbers of fish in excess of 20lbs are recorded annually from this location. The area has also produced pike in excess of 30lbs. There is pedestrian access to the Killashandra stretch by way of a footbridge.

3. Inishconnell and Rann shorelines are located 7km east of Cavan town and 2km north of Killykeen Forest Park. These shores are popular pike fishing locations. Inishconnell to the south has good roadside access to extensive areas of open shoreline. This location holds good stocks of small to medium sized pike but good numbers of fish in excess of 20lbs are recorded annually. 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. Killygoan Lake and Flynn's Pass are located approximately 3km north east of Inishconnell and are accessed by a roadway on the western shore of Killygoan Lake. Flynn's Pass is the channel connecting the basins of Killygoan and Inishmore and has good access for the bank fisherman. These locations offer good pike fishing and the opportunity to explore some of the more secluded parts of Lough Oughter. Good numbers of pike from 10 to 20lbs are recorded annually. A boat may be launched near the southern end of Killygoan but permission should be sought from the local landowner in advance.

5. Inismuck 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. This location holds good stocks of small to medium sized pike but good numbers of larger fish are recorded annually. Access to extensive stretches of open shoreline at the southern end of the lake is available from Carratraw Bridge. Car parking is also available close to this bridge. Access to the northern part of the basin is via Inismuck Island which is reached from the mainland by a causeway leading to a lakeshore road. This gives access to a long stretch of clean open shoreline. Depths in this area range from 3 to 5m. Boat launching facilities are private or with landowner's permission only.

6. The Derries are located 5km south east of Killashandra off the R199 Killashandra to Cavan road. This location holds good stocks of small to medium sized pike with numbers of 10 to 15lbs fish recorded annually. 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.

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. Collectively these waters hold good stocks of small to medium sized pike with numbers of larger fish recorded annually. 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. Boats can be launched from a number of locations in this

area including, the roadside slipway on the northern shore and the sandy point on the southern shore. Anglers must liaise with Coillte to obtain vehicle access to the Sandy Point.

Tullyguide is a small water connected to the main Oughter complex by the Castle River and can provide good sport for small to medium sized pike. Fishing is from a clean bank within easy reach of roadside access. The lake can be reached by boat via the Castle River.

SATELLITE PIKE WATERS IN THE CAVAN AND KILLASHANDRA AREA

9. Town Lake is located north of Killashandra Town. This small water covers an area of 31 hectares, has depths to 10m and regularly produces good catches of small to medium sized pike. A popular coarse angling venue it contains a good head of fodder fish. 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 venue.

11. 10. Bawn Lake is located a short distance south of Killashandra on the R201 Killashandra to Carrigallen road. This small lake contains stocks of small to medium sized pike and has been developed for pike and coarse angling. Fishing is from the clean shoreline on the northern bank. Limited parking is available.

11. Disert and Derreskit (12) Lakes are located on the Cullies River system 2km west of Killashandra. Disert is only fishable by boat and is accessed from the town lake via the river. Derreskit lake has limited bank fishing space and permission must be obtained from the local landowner (enquire locally). These lakes produce good catches of small to medium sized pike but fish in excess of 20lbs have been recorded from Derreskit. Access and parking at Derreskit by permission.

13. Lough Inchin is located 5km north west of Cavan town. This small shallow lake, 35 hectares, contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike from 10 to 15 lbs with larger fish being taken occasionally. This 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 consult with the landowner regarding access to the lake.

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

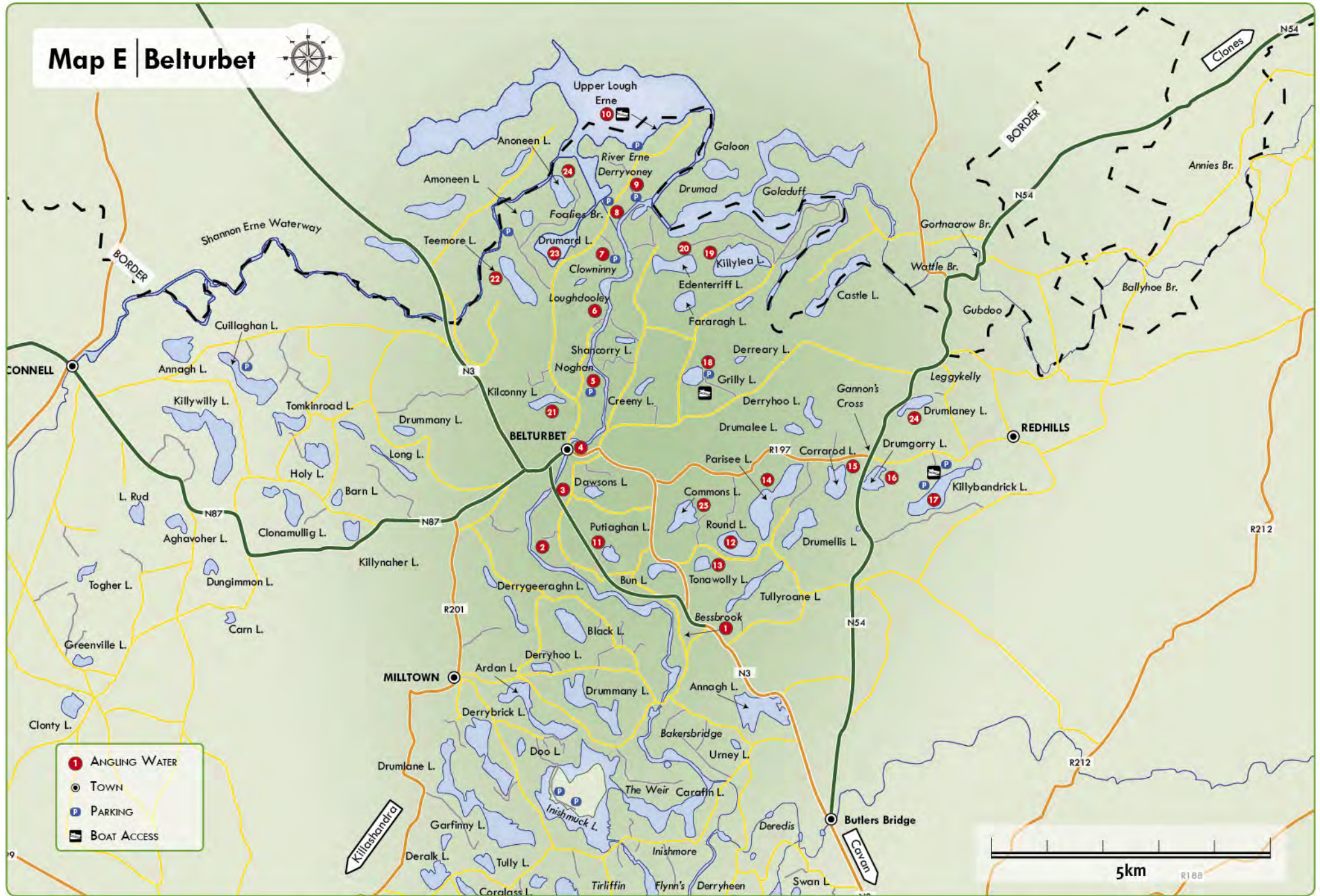
15. Farnham Lake is on the course of the Cavan River close to the town and may only be fished by permission of the owners. Contact +353 (0) 49 437 7700

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

17. Lavey Lake located alongside the N3 10km south of Cavan town has lakeside 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 pike angler. The angling centre at Belturbet draws mainly on the resources of Lough Oughter and Upper Lough Erne. There are still many bays and backwaters to be explored on these fantastic systems and pike 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 pike angling resources for the above angling centre and covers an area of circa 1,552 hectares. This lake offers very good pike fishing with many pike over 30lbs recorded annually. There is a large network of lakes offering excellent bank and boat fishing and there are a number of well established pike waters including the River Erne, Upper Lough Erne and satellite lakes. 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 pike including fish to over 20lbs to all methods. Pike are well dispersed throughout the system but can be concentrated in certain areas especially prior to spawning. The seasonal movements of fodder fish also influence the numbers of pike present at certain times of the year. On the stretch above the town bank fishing is the norm whilst boat fishing is more widely practiced below the town. 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 Hole'), 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 **Noghan (5), Loughdooley (6), Clowninny (7), Fualies (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)**, where there is also a slipway for launching boats. 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.

SATELLITE PIKE WATERS IN THE BELTURBET AREA

11. Putiaghan Lake is located 2km south of Belturbet. This small 6 hectare lake with depths to 3.5m produces good catches of small pike with occasional fish to 10lbs. Best results can be obtained from a boat as bank fishing is only available from the stands on the southern shoreline. The abundance of water lilies provides excellent habitat for pike in this water which also contains good stocks of coarse fish. 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 by-pass.

12. The Round Lough is located 3km south east of Belturbet and is best fished from a boat. The shoreline is completely reed fringed and there is no access to fishing on the shore. This small lake has depths to 5m and contains stocks of small to medium sized pike. Access is across a stile from the road but parking is limited.

13. Tonawolly Lake is located 3km south east of Belturbet and south of the Round Lough. The shoreline is completely reed fringed and there is no access to fishing on the shore. This small lake has depths to 3m and contains good stocks of small pike. Pedestrian access only and parking is very limited. The nearby **Tullyroane Lough** has very similar characteristics.

14. Parisee Lough is located 3.5km east of Belturbet and covers an area of 47 hectares. This lake contains a good stock of small to medium sized pike with an occasional larger pike being taken. The deeper water (up to 5m) is located at the southern end of the lake whilst the shallower northern end has depths to 2m and has an undulating bed. The shoreline is heavily reed fringed and can only be fished from a boat.

15. Corrarod Lough is located 4km east of Belturbet and covers an area of 16 hectares. This lake is best fished from by boat or float tube as the shoreline is completely reed fringed. Fishing from the shore is not recommended at this venue. This small lake has depths to 6m and contains reasonable stocks of small pike. Access is by permission of riparian owners.

16. 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 and is best fished by boat or float tube. Bank fishing is not recommended at this venue. This small lake has depths to 3m and contains reasonable stocks of small pike. Access is by permission of riparian owners.

17. 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 Gannons 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. This lake contains fair stocks of small

to medium sized pike but also produces occasional fish approaching specimen size (30lbs).

18. 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 shoreline is reed fringed but small boats can be launched from the car park. This venue is also suitable for float tubes. Fishing is generally for small to medium sized pike.

19. 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 but the use of a boat for pike angling is strongly recommended. This water produces good numbers of small to medium sized pike with occasional fish in excess of 20lbs taken annually. This water is generally shallow in nature with maximum depths to 4m occurring near the eastern shoreline. There is limited parking close to the bridge.

20. Edenterriff Lough is located 4km north of Belturbet and covers an area of 18 hectares. This lake is entirely reed fringed with poor shore access and is best fished from a boat. Access is by permission of the riparian landowner. This little fished water has produced reasonable catches of small to medium sized pike. Limited car parking by permission.

21. Kilconny Lough is located 2km north west of Belturbet and covers an area of 9 hectares. Suitable for boat and float tubes this water has no bank fishing available. This lake has depths to 4m and produces good catches of small to medium sized pike. Limited roadside parking is available.

22. 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. Best pike fishing is to be had in the spring and autumn. The lake contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike but occasional fish in excess of 20lbs have been recorded. The inflowing Rag River can also be well worth exploring in springtime.

23. 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. Fishing is generally for small to medium sized pike.

24. Anoneen Lough is located 5km north of Belturbet. This 14 hectare water is extremely shallow with summer depths rarely exceeding 1.5m. This lake, which gets heavily weeded in summer contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike. It is

accessed from the Shannon Erne Waterway and can only be fished from a boat. The best pike fishing is to be had during the spring and autumn.

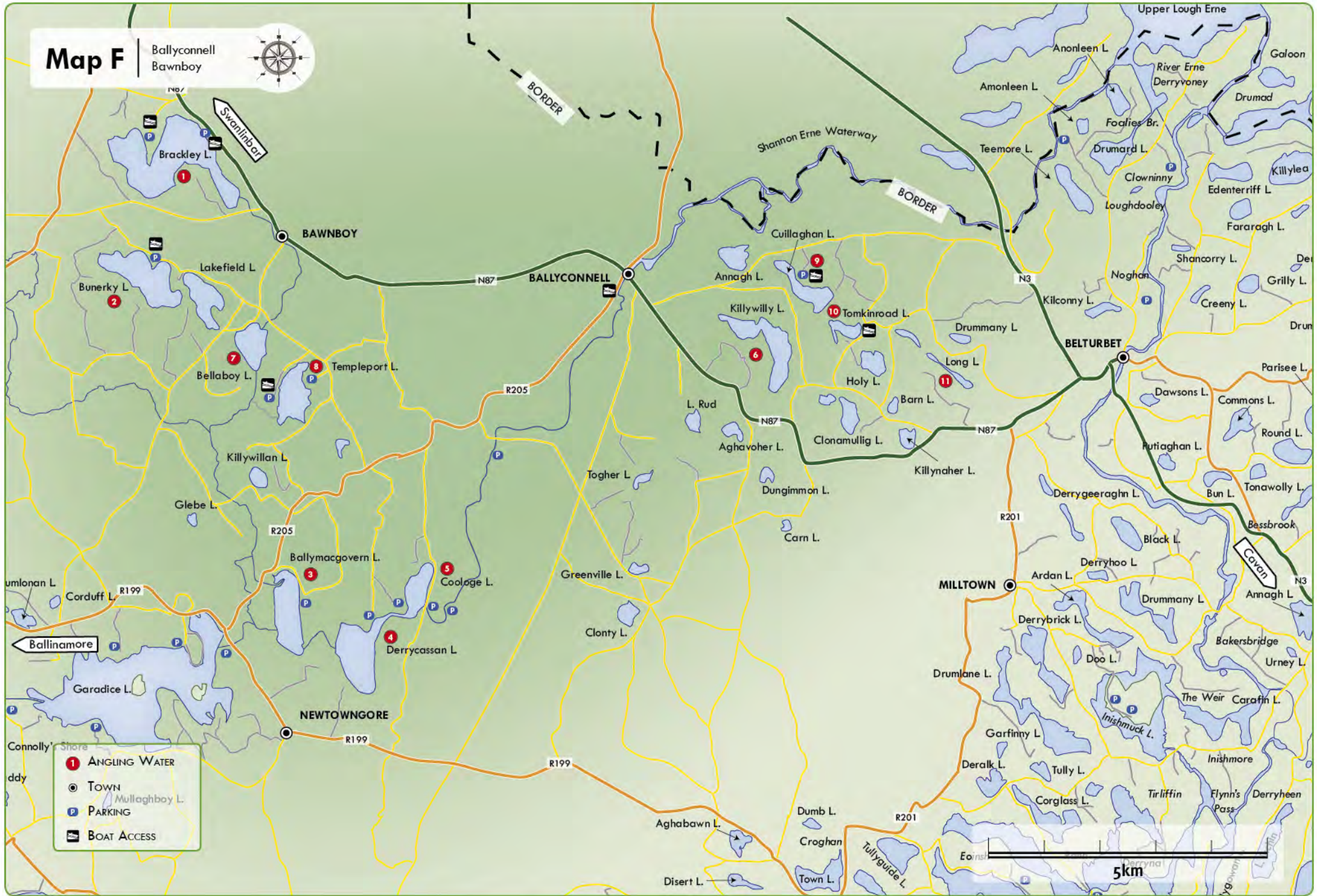
25. Drumlaney Lough is located approximately 6km east of Belturbet and can be accessed off the Cavan Clones road (N54). Covering an area of 9 hectares Drumlaney is best fished from a boat. Small boats may be launched with the permission of the riparian owners. There is a small section of open shore on the eastern side which can be accessed from a minor road. Depths rarely exceed 3m and fishing is generally for small to medium sized pike.

26. The Commons Lough is located 2km south east of Belturbet and covers an area of 15 hectares. Suitable for boat and float tubes this water has no bank fishing available. Local advice should be sought prior to fishing this water. Fishing is generally for small to medium sized pike. Parking at this venue is very limited.



Map F

Ballyconnell
Bawnboy



- 1 ANGLING WATER
- TOWN
- P PARKING
- ⚓ BOAT ACCESS

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 pike anglers visiting west Cavan.

MAIN PIKE 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. Car parking is provided and boats can also be launched at this location. This lake contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike but fish in excess of 20lbs have been recorded from the western arm of the lake off Prospect Point where depths are in excess of 4m.

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. 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 numbers of small to medium sized pike. Double figured fish are recorded regularly at this popular venue and best results are achieved by fishing from a boat. There is also a wheelchair accessible angling stand at this lake.

(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 lakes contain good stocks of small to medium sized pike.

Ballymacgovern to the west is extremely shallow. With the exception of where it joins with the navigation it is of limited appeal to pike anglers. Due to the shallow nature of the water (< 1m) and luxuriant weed growth during the summer pike fishing is not recommended on the main body of this lake.

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 cul de sacs 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.

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. To achieve best results it is strongly recommended to use a boat when fishing this venue. 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 numbers of double figure fish annually.

SATELLITE PIKE WATERS IN THE BALLYCONNELL AND BAWNBOY AREA

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 small to medium sized pike and is best fished from a boat. 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 can only be fished from a boat. Access and a slipway are located on the western shoreline. The channels around St. Mogue's island are worth exploring. This water is relatively underutilised but it is known to contain stocks of small to medium sized pike.

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. Boats may be launched from this shore by arrangement with the landowner. Small to medium sized pike are regularly taken at this venue but fish of 20lb are a real possibility.

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 small to medium sized pike on a regular basis.

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. This is a popular pike fishing venue which is best fished from a boat. Limited bank fishing is available on the southern shore. This lake contains fair stocks of small to medium sized pike.

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 pike waters waiting to be discovered here.

MAIN PIKE ANGLING WATERS IN THE BALLINAMORE AND KESHCARRIGAN AREA

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 Haughtons 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 produces good numbers of small to medium sized pike but fish in excess of 20lbs are recorded regularly. The deep water off Church Island in the middle of the lake can be productive and the shallow bays towards Newtowngore produce good numbers of fish in the springtime.

5. St. Johns and, 6 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 a good head of fodder fish and produce good catches of small to medium sized pike on a regular basis. There is good bank fishing available at the car parking areas on both waters but use of a boat will give access to areas not accessible from the shore. 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.

7. Lough Scur, is located 1 km 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 skimmer bream and produces good catches of small to medium sized pike on a regular basis. Pike in excess of 20lbs have also been recorded from this water.

There are extensive areas of fishable bank on the Keshcarrigan and Driney shores and car parking is provided in both areas. A car park and boat slipway are located at



Drumcong 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.

SATELLITE PIKE WATERS IN THE BALLINAMORE AND KESHCARRIGAN AREA

(8) Bolganard, (9) Corgar, (10) Drumlonan and (11) Corduff Loughs 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. Bolganard currently holds the Irish bream record of 12lbs 3ozs. These lakes which are almost entirely reed fringed contain reasonable stocks of small to medium sized pike and shore fishing is from stands. There are no dedicated boat launching facilities on these lakes but the use of a small boat or float tube will give access to areas that are not fishable from the shore. Car parking facilities are provided for anglers at or close to the main road.

12. 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 small to medium sized pike. Because this water produces roach bream hybrids to specimen size there is also the possibility of larger pike being present. Boats can also be launched from the northern shoreline.

13. 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. This lake is best fished from a boat and it is possible to launch a small boat from the car park. Good stocks of small to medium sized pike are present in this lightly fished water. However, as this lough has bream to specimen size the possibility of catching much larger pike exists.

14. Keshcarrigan and 15, Castlefore, are located close to the village of Keshcarrigan. The larger of the two lakes Keshcarrigan covering 39 hectares with depths to 4m 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

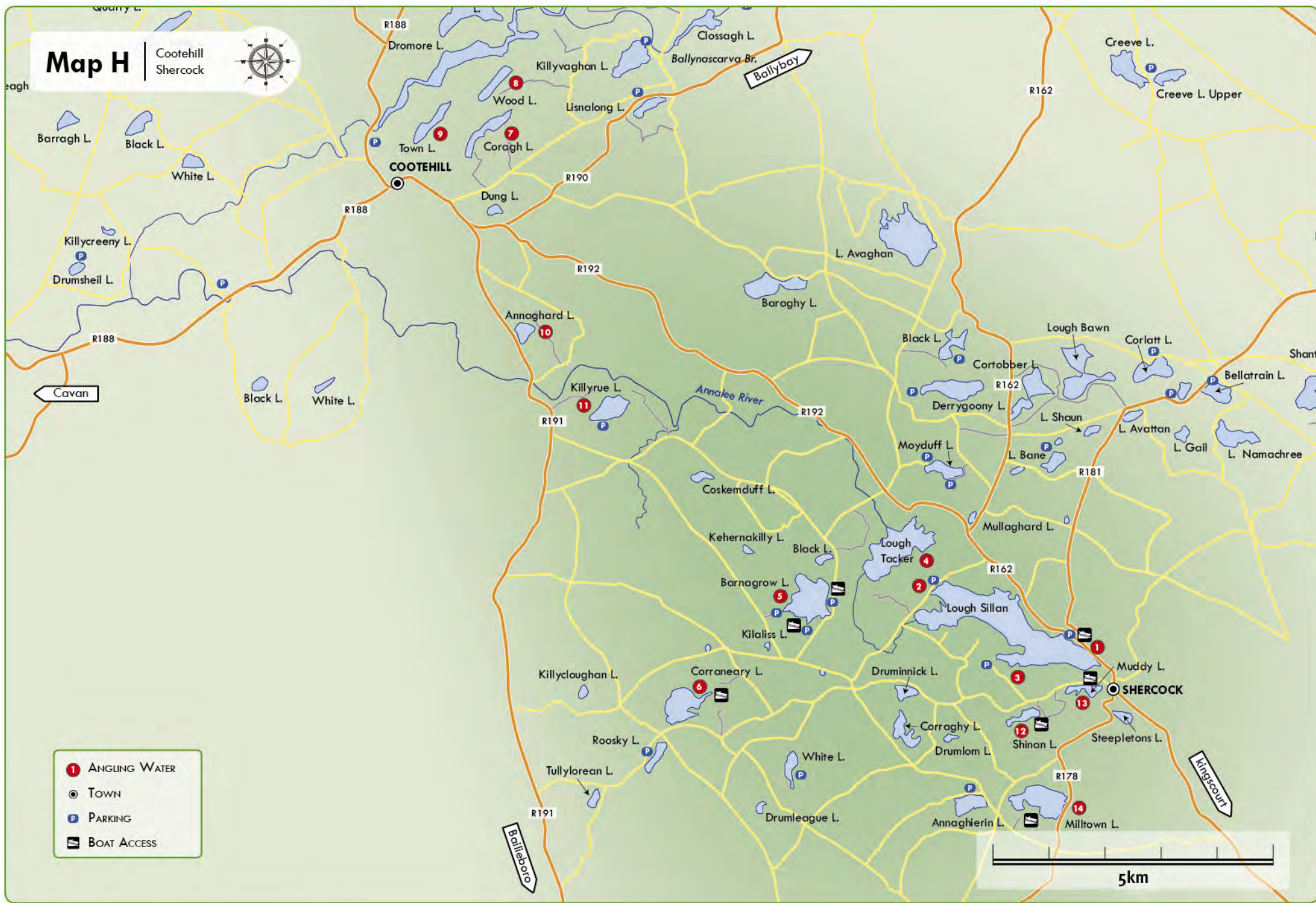
at the inlet located at the eastern end of the lake close to the (R209). These popular venues contain reasonable stocks of pike in the 8 to 10lb bracket.

16. Carrickport Lough, is located at Drumcong village on 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. This lightly fished lake has good stocks of pike up to 10lbs.



Map H

Cootehill
Shercock



- 1 ANGLING WATER
- TOWN
- P PARKING
- 🚤 BOAT ACCESS

H. COOTEHILL AND SHERCOCK ANGLING CENTRES

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

MAIN PIKE 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. Generally, Lough Sillan is best fished from a boat and boats can only be launched at the amenity area close to the village. 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 small to medium sized pike and produces good numbers of fish in excess of 20lbs each season. 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 and contains good stocks of pike ranging from 5 to 10lbs. The lake can be easily fished from the surrounding shoreline but using a small boat would be an advantage although it must be noted that there is no dedicated boat slipway at this location. 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 lightly fished water contains stocks of small to medium sized pike and produces double figure fish annually. 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. Fishing from a boat produces the best results.

6. Corraneary Lake is located 5km west of Shercock and covers an area of 26 hectares with depths to 11m. This popular competition venue contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike but fish in excess of 20lbs are recorded annually. There are two main access points to this lake and these are located at the church on the eastern shore and via a stile from a roadway on 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)

SATELLITE PIKE 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 small to medium sized pike. A limited amount of bank fishing is available on all of these waters and there is generally no access for boats. As these waters are mostly bordered by 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 contain good stocks of small to medium sized pike. A limited amount of bank fishing is available on both waters and there is generally no access for boats.

(12) Shinan and (13) Muddy lakes are located 2km west of Shercock and each cover an area of 7 hectares with depths to 4m. These generally shallow lakes contain good stocks of small to medium sized pike. Shinan may only be accessed by boat. Access to shore fishing on Muddy Lake is from stands which are located on the northern shore. Roadside car parking is available on Lough Shinan only.

14. Milltown Lake is located 3km south of Shercock off the (R178) and covers an area of 32 hectares with depths to 6m. This popular pike fishing venue contains good stocks of small to medium sized pike. Access is from a roadway at the southern end of the lake where boats may also be launched with the residents' permission only. Bank fishing is possible around most of the lake. Roadside car parking is available.





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 pike 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, long recognised as a pike rich venue.

MAIN PIKE ANGLING WATERS IN THE BALLYBAY AND LOUGH EGISH AREA

1. Lough Major, at the headwaters of the Dromore River, is a 23 hectare lake situated on the eastern edge of the town of Ballybay. 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 coarse and competition anglers, has fair stocks of small to medium sized pike.

DROMORE RIVER LAKES

(2) Convent (Corries) Lake, (3) Rectory Lake, (4) Wilsons (Coolderry) Lake, (5) Mc Cabes (Aikens) Lake 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 fair stocks of small to medium sized pike.

It should be noted that Rectory and Wilsons 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. For pike fishing here the use of a boat is recommended. The water has good stocks of small to medium sized pike but fish in excess of 20lbs are recorded annually.

(9) Balladian, (10) Ballycoghill and (11) Ballynascarva 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 of small to medium sized pike.

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 fair stocks of small to medium sized pike. 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 forestry area. 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. 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 small to medium sized pike but as there is a good stock of fodder fish larger specimens are a distinct possibility.

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 the use of a boat will be advantageous for pike 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 small to medium sized pike.

(16) Drumlona and (17) Dromore Lakes, covering a combined area of 112 hectares are situated 9km south west of Ballybay. They are part of the Dromore River catchment and the river outflow from Dromore Lake comes to within 2km of Cootehill. 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 lakes are generally shallow with depths to 5m and apart from approximately 350m of clear shoreline on the southern side of Drumlona there is limited pedestrian access to the shores of these reed fringed waters. Bank fishing is also available from the fishing stands located at the downstream end of the river outflow from Dromore Lake. These waters are best fished from a boat. Boats can be launched at Anny on the White Lake some distance upstream. These popular venues

contain good stocks of small to medium sized pike with fish in excess of 20lbs being recorded annually. Specimen weight pike (30lbs) are also a possibility from this system. As these waters are bordered by estate property anglers should enquire locally before attempting to fish.

18. Killyvaghan Lake, situated 7km south west of Ballybay 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 small to medium sized pike with larger specimens always possible.

19. Lough Egish, located 9km south east of Ballybay, Lough Egish 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. Small to medium sized pike are plentiful but this water has produced fish in excess of 30lbs.

20. Drumsaul Lake, can be accessed at the County Council pump house. Fishing is from stands to the right.

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 a shallow productive water with depths not exceeding 4m. There is comfortable shore fishing with circa 20 pegs. The remainder of the lake is reed fringed and is best fished from a boat. Launching a small boat is possible from the parking areas. There is a good supply of fodder fish some to speci-

men size and a stock of small to medium sized pike with larger specimens occasionally caught.

22. Lough Avaghan, lies 8km out of Ballybay off the R162 to Shercock (signposted right). Access for coaches and cars is off the R190 Ballybay-Cootehill road. It is a scenic lake of some 54 hectares with parking at the lakeside. There are many areas of clear bank with deep water.

23. Lough Bawn, and associated waters within the boundary of the Lough Bawn Estate are private.

24. 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.

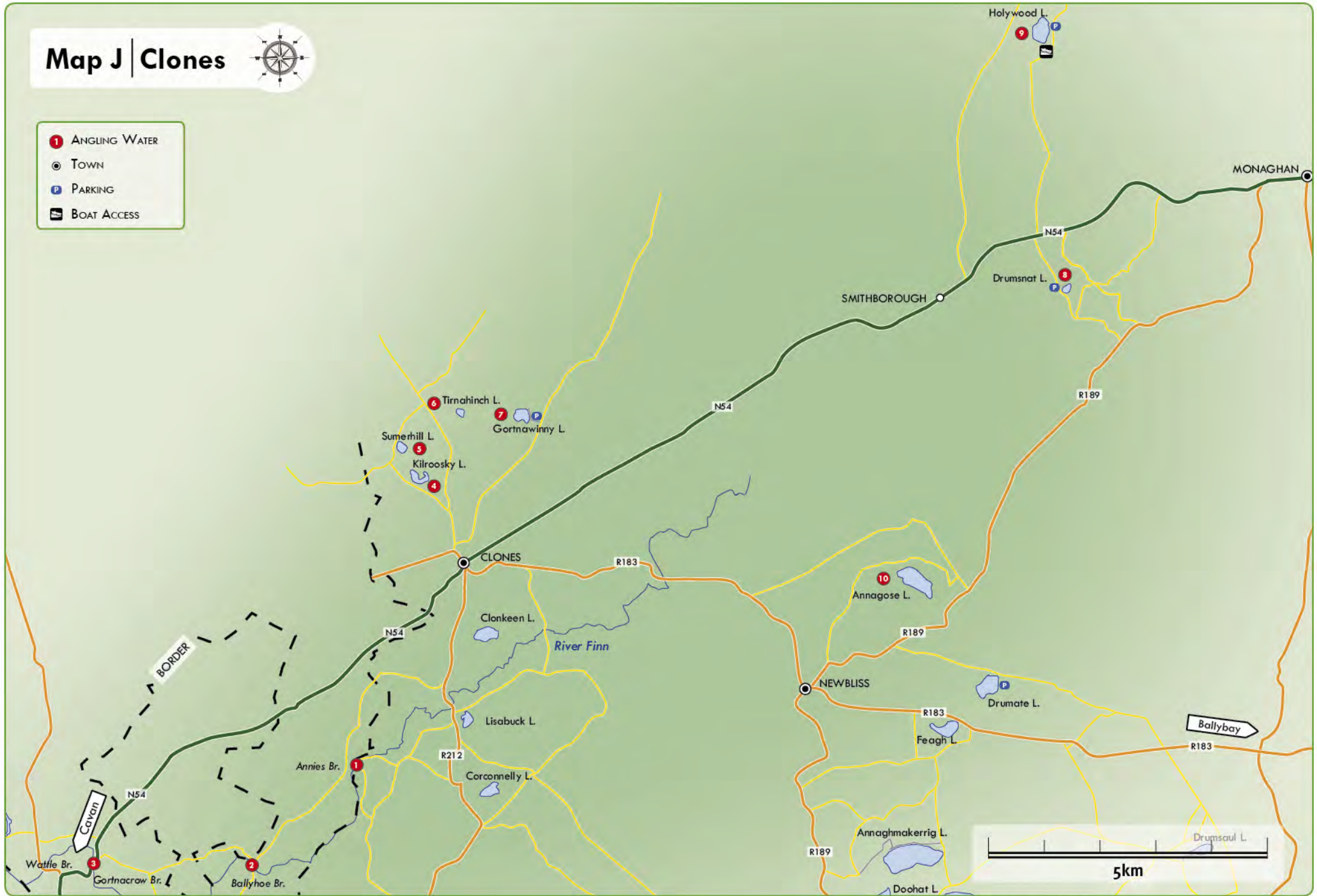
(25) Corlatt Lake and (26) Shantonagh Lake: This series of lakes drains into the Knappagh and Annalee rivers. It must be noted that the majority of these waters contain most of the coarse fish species with the exception of bream and tench but are regarded as very good pike fisheries. Ballytrain Upper, 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 pike angler willing to venture into as yet unexplored territory. 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 and is ideal territory for the angler with a small portable boat or a float tube.

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. Pike in excess of 20 lbs are recorded annually. Access is possible at a number of locations as detailed below.

1. Annie's Bridge: One of the most popular stretches 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: This 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 big pike. 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: This 4 hectare lake is located 1.5km to the north of Clones at Lisnaroe. The lake is bisected by the border with fishing stands on the south-

ern side. There is limited car parking along the narrow road but care must be taken not to block gateways. Contains stocks of small to medium pike.

5. Summerhill Lake: Smaller than its neighbour at 2 hectares Summerhill is 1km north of Horseshoe Lake. It is bisected by the border with fishing from stands on the south shore. Contains stocks of small to medium pike.

6. Tirnahinch Lake: Tirnahinch 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. Small to medium sized pike can be expected.

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 pike to double figures are present.

8. Drumsnat Lake: 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 and pike to double figures are present.

9. Hollywood Lake: This 11 hectare water 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 pike, rudd and perch and this rich water with luxuriant weed growth is unexplored and may have pike well into double figures.

10. Annagose Lough: 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

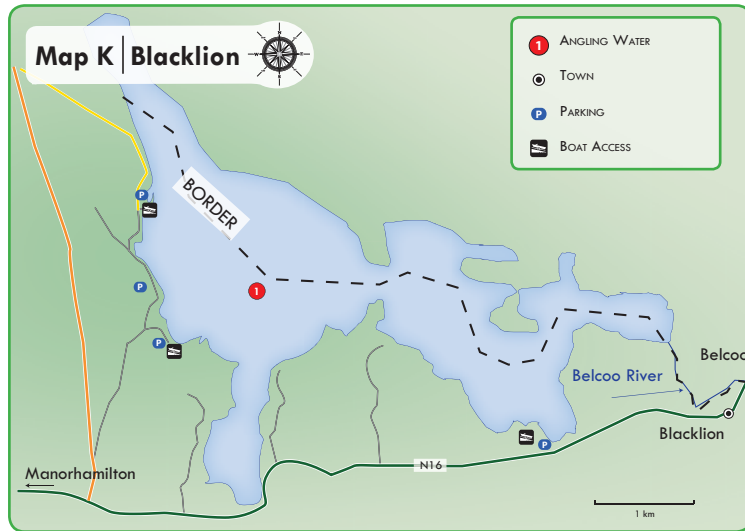
Dummy's Lake

Corconnolly Lake

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.

1. Lough MacNean Upper



Upper Lough McNean - Blacklion Angling Centre

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.200 metres) 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 along this road. Further along through Glenfarne Forest and towards Kiltyclogher 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 5 metres with some deeper water at mid lake.

There are good stocks of medium sized pike and larger fish in excess of 20 lbs are recorded annually. The pike stock is supported by an abundance of coarse fish and

some brown trout. There are extensive areas of shoreline that may be fished from the bank but as with all large waters the use of a boat will provide the best results.

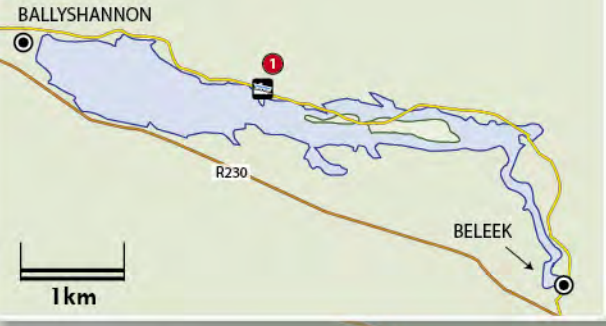
This is joint jurisdictional water which straddles the border with Northern Ireland. Visiting anglers should acquaint themselves with the legislative requirements for fishing in Northern Ireland.



Map L | Donegal



ASSAROE LAKE



- 1 ANGLING WATER
- TOWN
- P PARKING
- BOAT ACCESS

L. DONEGAL

1. 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, Juvenile €10.

Season Permits: Adult €50 or Juvenile €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 PIKE LOUGHS, CO. DONEGAL.

Permits: A permit may be required to fish some of these Loughs. Check please locally.

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.

2. Lough Ultan is some 6.5 kilometres west-northwest of Pettigo north of the main Pettigo to Donegal Town road (R232). It is 14 hectares in size and has numerous shallow areas with deep holes in places. The lough contains numerous tree stumps and has reed beds which offer good cover for pike. The lough contains good pike with fish attaining over 20lb weight. Access is difficult and is via a rough track running to the south of the lough. For this reason the lough is little fished and the pike may well be bigger than stated.

3. Lough Laghtowen is located 8 kilometres west of Pettigo, south of the main Pettigo to Donegal Town road (R232). It is 16 hectares in size and has some shallow shores with reedy bays that are ideal for fishing and deeper shores which shelve off to very deep water toward the centre of the lough. This lough contains some very big pike with fish over 30lb recorded. Access is fairly good via a rough track from the road to the north.

4. Lough Kip is a small lough of 4 hectares 0.5 kilometres to the northwest of Lough Laghtowen. Access is good and the banks fairly easy to walk. The lough is mainly shallow with reedy areas. The pike are known to grow to 10lb plus. In this little fished water however, larger pike are a distinct possibility.

5. Lough Namnamurive is the 15 hectare lough 0.5 kilometres to the east of Lough Laghtowen. It is reasonably shallow and access is fair with a short walk from the R232 road to the north of the lough. This lake contains pike well into double figures.

6. Lough Avehy is located 10 kilometres west of Pettigo. It is 35 hectares in size and has deep areas and shallow shores with reed beds. Access is good with the lough being close to the road and a car park. For this reason, there is more angling pressure than on other lakes and the fishing can be more difficult. The lough contains good pike to 20lb, with bigger fish being recorded on occasion.

7. Lough Rushen is 22 hectares in size and lies some 11 kilometres west of Pettigo to the south of the Pettigo to Ballintra road. It straddles the border between Northern and Southern Ireland with the greater expanse of water in Northern Ireland. You will require a Northern Ireland Licence to fish the Northern Irish areas, which paradoxically are on the southern shores. Access is fair with a short walk required from the minor road which runs to the north of the lough. It is mostly shallow with reedy areas and contains stocks of pike into double figures.

8. Lough Shinvagh. The lower lough of these two is located some 13 kilometres west of Pettigo adjoining the Pettigo to Ballintra road and is 15 hectares in size. Despite

access being very good it is little fished. The lough is fairly shallow and the pike can grow up to double figures.

9. Lough Alowney is located 0.5km to the northeast of Lough Shinnagh and is 15 hectares in size. Access is reasonable with a bit of walking required. The lough is mainly shallow and it is little fished. The pike are known to grow to double figures.

10. Dunragh Lough is located 9 kilometres northwest of Pettigo (3 kilometres west of Lough Derg) and is 26 hectares in size. This is a lovely lough set among wilderness and access is fair via a forestry road on the eastern side. The lough contains shallow areas with weedy bays and numerous islands. The pike grow to in excess of 20lb.

11. Dunragh Middle Lough is located 0.25 kilometres northeast of Dunragh Lough and is 17 hectares in size. It is a fairly shallow lough with reedy margins. Access is poor and hence it is little fished though the pike are known to run well into double figures.

12. Lough Golagh (East of Lough Derg) is located 11 kilometres northwest of Pettigo (3 kilometres west of Lough Derg) and is 33 hectares in size. The lough is shallow with deeper holes in places and numerous bays, some reedy. Access is difficult and involves a good walk from any direction, hence it is little fished and peace is assured. The lough is known to contain pike well into double figures.

13. Lough Haderg is located 10 kilometres northwest of Pettigo (2 kilometres west of Lough Derg) and is 16 hectares in size. Access to this lough is difficult and involves a good walk and as such it is little fished though it is known to contain pike into double figures.

14. Lough Fad is located 7 kilometres northwest of Pettigo (2 kilometres southwest of Lough Derg) and is 7 hectares in size. It is mainly shallow with reedy areas and access is difficult involving a fair walk from a forestry road from the north or west. The pike are known to grow into double figures.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Additional Fishing Information

www.fishinginireland.info

List of Fishing Guides

www.fishinginireland.info/guides/index.htm

List of Tackle Dealers

www.fishinginireland.info/tackleshops/index.htm

Travel, Accommodation & Tourism Information

www.discoverireland.com