

BLACKLION

Revitalising Cavan's Towns and Villages



History

The original name of the village was Largay meaning a hillside and was changed to Blacklion in honour of a famous inn in the village. A stone cairn, a burial cist and two stone cashels are all within the townland, giving evidence of early habitation. Blacklions urban growth was hampered until the mid-19th century by the nearby village of Red Lion. During The Troubles Blacklion as a main border crossing was home to a joint Irish Army/Garda Síochana checkpoint.

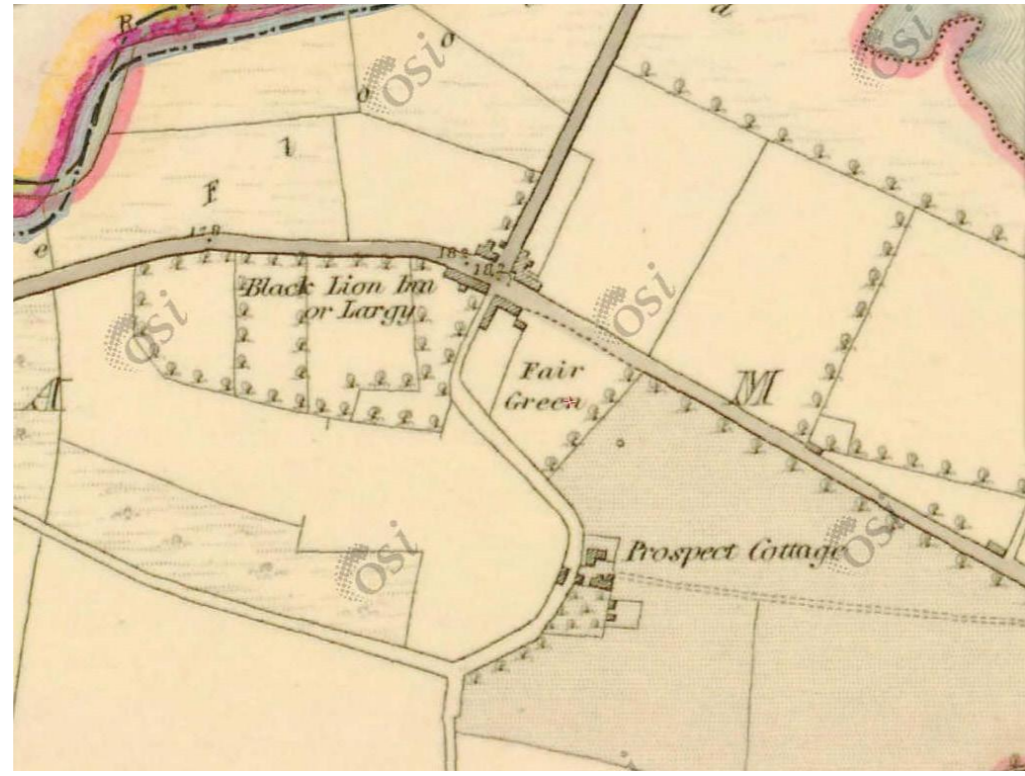
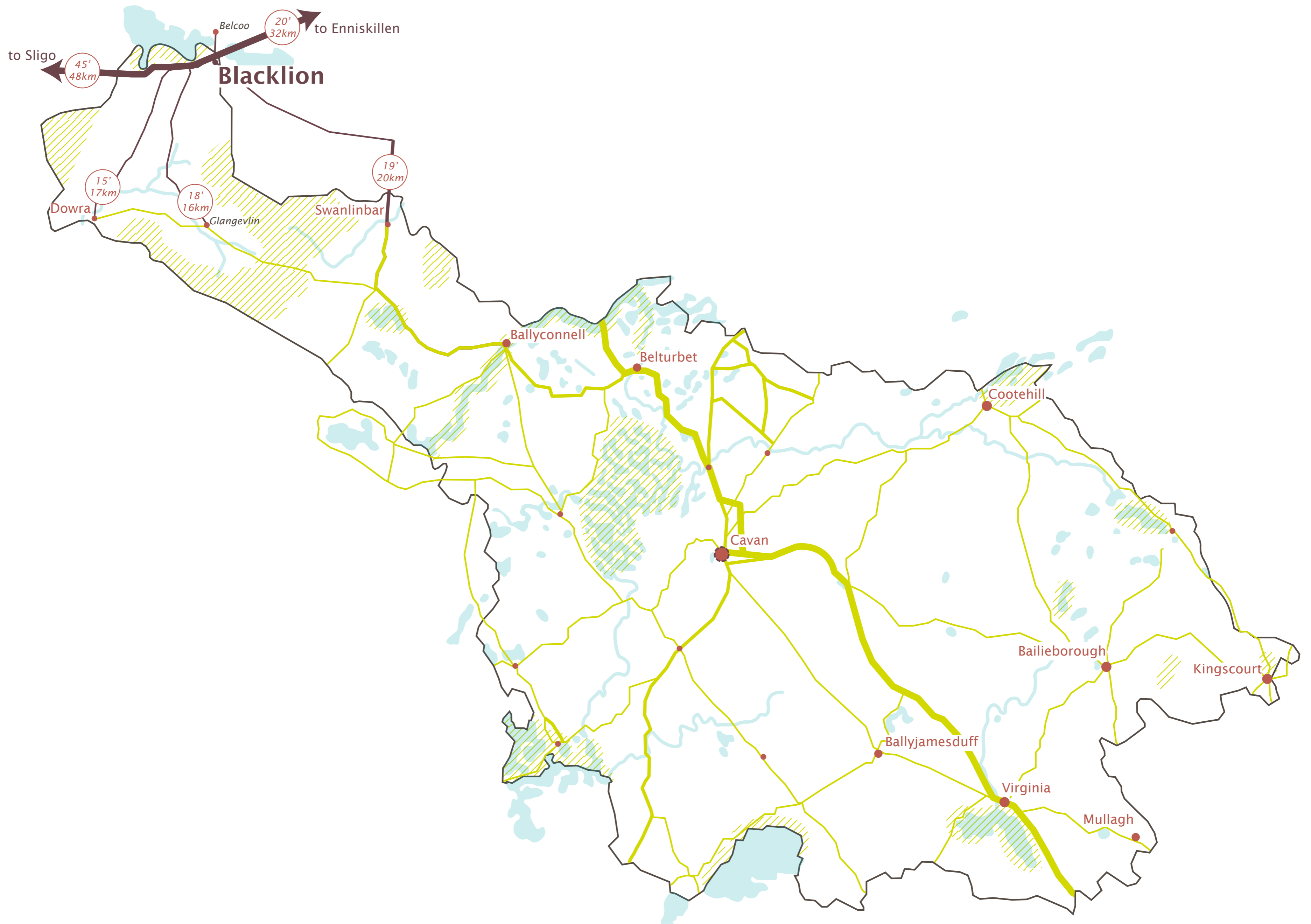


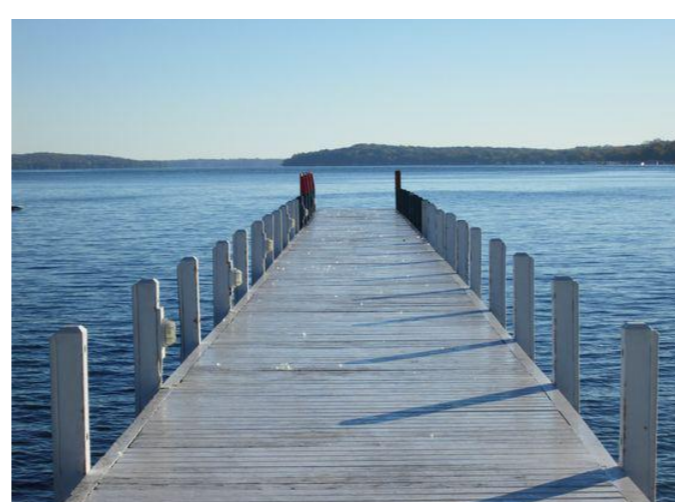
Figure 20.1.3 - Blacklion in 1800, 1900 and 2017



Precedents



Opportunity to retrofit the railway into a greenway



Opportunity to create a jetty on Lough MacNeen



Opportunity to use landscape to strengthen the local character of the town



Opportunity to upgrade the footpath linking the town to the Lough, notably with interpretation materials

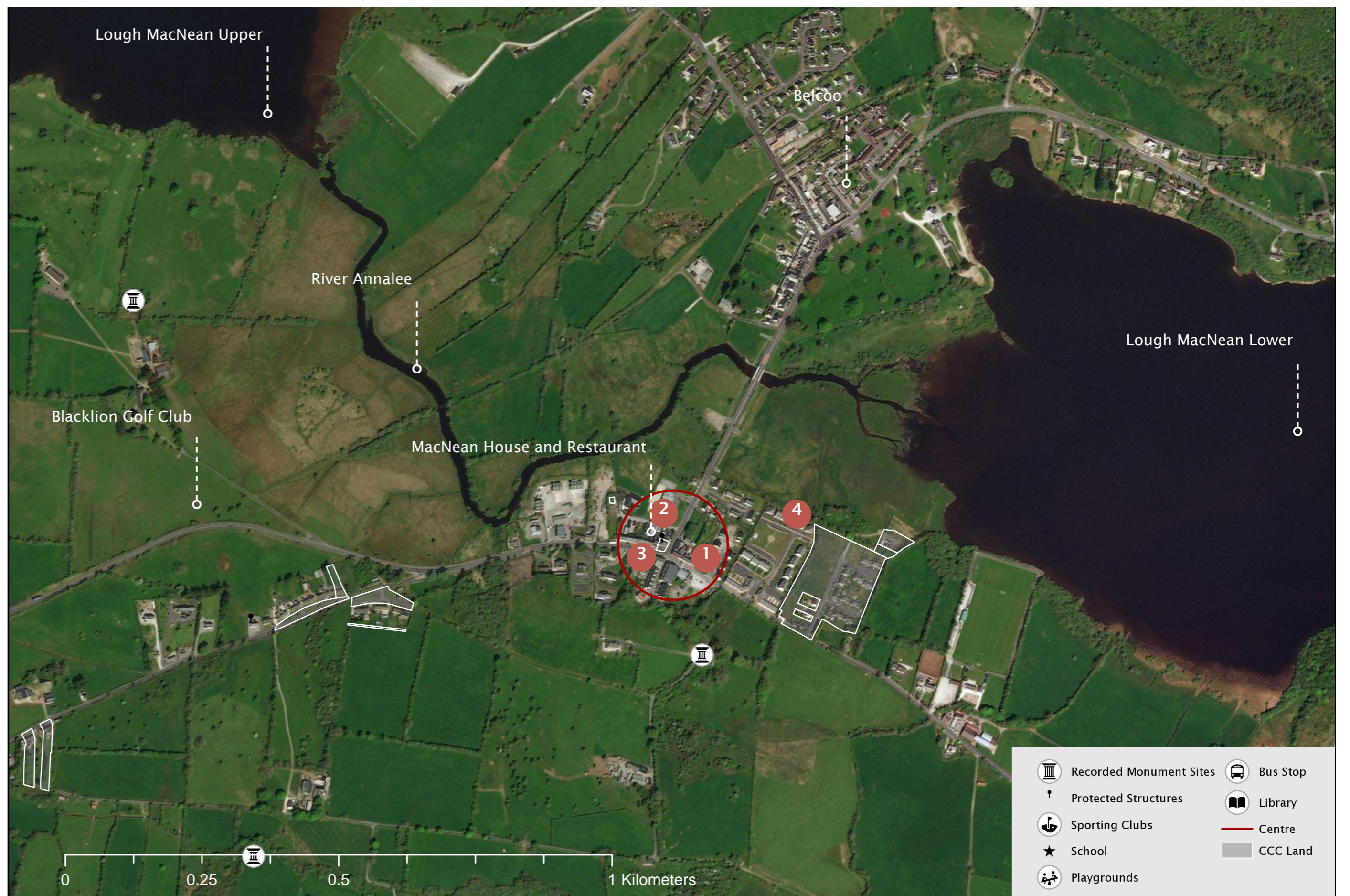
Constraints

Weaknesses

- 1** // Invasive on-street parking
- // Heavy traffic on the main road as Blacklion is located at the main crossing point to the border
- 2** // Numerous abandoned properties and shops after the recent development boom and decline in population
- // Some buildings are in need of refreshment or repainting
- 3**

Threats / Challenges

- 4** // Recent development threatening the historical character of the village
- // Uncontrolled increase in tourism could threaten the identity of the village
- // Decline in population



Invasive on-street parking



An abandoned shop in Blacklion



Some buildings are in need of refreshment throughout the village



Unsympathetic new residential development

Opportunities

Strengths

- // Area of unspoilt countryside, close to special and vulnerable natural spaces: Corratirim, Lough MacNea, Cuilcagh.
- 1** // Developed tourism offer related to food (award winning restaurant 'MacNea House' and cookery school), natural spaces, geology, history (Burren Megalithic Cemetery, Moneygashel Cashel), walking and fishing
- 2** // The tourism offer is supported by the Market House visitor information point and by a seasonal Tourist Office
- // Very compact settlement form helping the village to nicely integrate within the landscape
- 3** // The village retains a strong historical character with buildings and shopfronts rendered and painted with traditional detailing.
- // Fitzpatrick's and the Market House are key landmarks in the village and are nicely maintained
- // Features several protected structures: Thatched House, Blacklion Methodist Church
- 4** // Public realm and landscaped areas are well maintained with numerous flower planters, native hedgerows, and Yorkstone paving

Opportunities

- // The old railway tracks could be retrofitted into a greenway
- // Being on a crossing point road it could attract more visitors
- // Opportunity to create a jetty to the lake and to upgrade the footpath linking the town to the lake



Lough MacNea



The Market House



Some buildings have recently been refreshed and maintain their traditional character



Blacklion features pleasant landscape areas with an emphasis on native species character