

County Cavan Landscape Categorisation



Comhairle Contae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council

Area 1: The Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands of West Cavan



Special Area of Conservation

- Corratirrim cSAC
- Boleybrack Mountain cSAC
- Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands cSAC

Natural Heritage Areas

- Lough Macnean Upper pNHA
- Blackrocks Cross pNHA
- Mullanacre pNHA
- Annagh Lough (Ballyconnell) pNHA
- Shannon Pot pNHA
- Slieve Rushen Bog NHA

Scenic Viewing Points

- Gortahill (N16)

View west and north from N16 over Lough Macnean and western shoreline (Derrynaseer and Kiltymulty).

- **Altachullion**

Located on the Eastern Slopes of Slieve Rushen on R200-4. The drumlin lowlands of Mid Cavan provide a gently rolling backdrop to the Altachullion viewpoint; one of wooded hills, small intricate lakes and streams, and winding roads.

- **Cornagee (Local. Rd 1011)**

View north from elevated section of the Local Road 1011 over Lough Macnean The view is extensive and long-distance.

- **Dunmakeever**

Views south and west over Glangevlin and upland valleys Bellavalley Gap to North Leitrim Mountains. Extensive views. Also, north to Regional Rd. 200-3 enclosing Cuilcagh Mountains. There is a 360-degree panorama of scenic value.

- **Bellavalley Gap (R-200-3)**

View east from elevated viewing park off Regional Road 200-3 over Lough Brackley and beyond. The view is panoramic and long distance. 360-degree panorama of scenic value.

Scenic Routes

- Regional Road 200-1 Dowra to Glangevlin to Blackrocks Cross
- Local Road 1012 and 1013, Blacklion to Glangevlin
- Local Road 5010, Regional Road 206-2 and Local Road 1012 Dowra to Blacklion (Kingfisher Cycle Trail)

Walking Routes

- **Cavan Way (25 km from Dowra to Blacklion)**

The Cavan Way extends between the Ulster Way at Blacklion and the Leitrim Way at Dowra. It extends some 16 miles including sections along the Shannon, the source of the Shannon and upland areas of the Cuilcagh Mountains. The route is, in itself, of amenity value.

- **Ballyconnell Canal Walks**

A series of walks are available with their termini located in Ballyconnell Town and extending along and nearby the canal towpath. Walks extend up to 4 km.

These walks are of amenity value.

- **Cuilcagh Mountain Walks**

- **Sean Eamon Ruairi Trail, Bawnboy**

- **Swanlinbar Walk**
- **Burren Forest Looped Walks**

High Landscape Areas

- **Upland Areas West Cavan**

An extensive area of hill and mountain country west of the R-202 (Ballinamore-Enniskillen Rd.) extending to County Leitrim. This includes the upland valley of the Shannon extending from Dowra Village to Glangevlin and north to Lough Macnean on the Fermanagh border.

The Cuilcagh Mountains form the core of this upland area. The landscape character is one of open, unenclosed, treeless, upland hill country with occasional isolated farms and outbuildings sited in shallow valleys or under the lee of ridge lines. Peat cover is extensive. Sheep farming is the basic agricultural activity. The area is generally remote, inaccessible and unpopulated.

The landscape is extremely fragile and sensitive to any incompatible intrusion by unrelated or unsympathetic development. The scenic amenity value is exceptional and potentially significant in the context of hill walking and outdoor "pursuits" activities.

- **Erne-Shannon Canal Corridor**

This provides for the public use and enjoyment of the canal (Woodford River) and its numerous viewing points including Aghalane Bridge, Kiltynaskellan (Lough 3) and Coologue Bridge. This amenity includes for new and existing Canal walks

Major Lakes and Lake Environs

- Lough Macnean
- Brackley Lough

Lakes & Rivers

The following are the main lakes found in the Cuilcagh Highlands of West Cavan.

Lakes/ Loughs (L.)

L. Macnean	L. Naghloghderg	Tents L.	Naweelion L.	Tullygobban L.
Carvagh L.	Aneanvrack L.	L. Carricknacranoge	Aglaur L.	Derrylahan L.
Carricknahurro L.	Eden L.	Carrickaaddy L.	Drumhurrin L.	Corrakeeldrum L.
Moneen L.	Tullynamoyle L.	Ardlougher L.	Legnagrow L.	Dunmakeever L. North
Dunmakeever L. South	Tully L.	Altshallan L.	L. Nambrach	Knockgom L.
Munster Eolus L.	Derrynananta L.	Bartonny L.	L. Cam	L. Cratty
Brackley L.	L. Namoyle	Bunerky L.	Lakefield L.	Bellaboy L.
Templeport L.	Gortnaleck L.	Killywillin L.	Glebe L.	Camagh L.
Ballymagauran L.	Derrycassan L.	Coologe L.	Annagh L.	Cuillaghan L.
Tomkinroad L.	Killywilly L.	Long L.	Drummany L.	Holy L.

Clonainullig L.	Killynaher L.	Rud L.	Aghavoher L.	Dongummin L.
Carn L.	Togher L.	Greenville L.	Clonty L.	

Lakeside Amenity Areas

- Kiltyglass, Blacklion - Lough Macnean Carpark, changing rooms, swimming area, jetty and mooring
- Mullaghlea, Bawnboy - Brackley Lough Carpark, toilets, swimming area, slip and mooring

Rivers

- Shannon, Dowra
- Shannon-Erne Canal Corridor

Riverside Amenity Areas

- **Shannon, Dowra Riverside**
- **Erne-Shannon Canal Corridor**
- **Canal walks**
- **Woodford River (Erne-Shannon Canal Link) Towpath amenity**

Topography

The terrain consists predominantly of mountains and lakes with drumlins being found locally. The elevation ranges from 51m to 667m above sea level. This area is dominated by the Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands, Slieve Rushen and Boleybrack Mountains.

Soil

The Boleybrack, Cuilcagh-Anierin and Slieve Rushen mountains are blanket peats and peaty topsoil/lithosols/peats. The main soils in the lower areas of the region are acid soils of deep poorly drained mineral, surface or ground water gleys. However, there is a scattering of cutaway peat and some mineral alluvium throughout the region.

The following subsoil types are found in the vicinity of the towns and mountainous areas listed below:

Blacklion: Alluvium, Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian) with rock outcrops

Dowra: Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian), Blasket or Cut Peat and Alluvium

Glangevlin: Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian) and Blanket or Cut Peat

Swanlinbar: Predominantly Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian) and some Alluvium

Bawnboy: North-east of Bawnboy are Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian); Alluvium is found to the north-west and Chert and Carboniferous Sandstone Till are found to the south of the town.

Ballyconnell: Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian) and Alluvium along river

Belturbet: Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian) and Alluvium along river

Slieve Rushen: Blanket or Cut Peat and rock outcrops

Cuilcagh: Blanket or Cut Peat and rock outcrops

Benbrack: Blanket or Cut Peat and rock outcrops

Burren: Blanket or Cut Peat and rock outcrops

Subsoil

Namurian sandstone and shale till is the main sub-soil in this region with blanket peats found in the mountainous areas. There are also some cutover peat and fen peats.

Vegetation/ Habitat

There is a variety of vegetation and habitats in this region ranging from upland blanket bog, reclaimed raised bog/fen and wet grassland, to dry grassland, forest and scrub, mature forest.

Urban Areas and Road Access

The main urban areas are the towns and villages of Blacklion, Dowra, Glangevlin, Swanlinbar, Bawnboy, Ballyconnell and Belturbet.

Access to this region of the County is via the N3 national corridor from Dublin to Enniskillen and N87 route from Belturbet to Bawnboy, the R-200 to Dowra and R-207 to the Blacklion area.

Built Heritage Items

Built Heritage

There are a large number of national monuments including megalithic tombs, cairns, cahels and raths in this region though they are generally clustered in an area south-east of Bawnboy, close to Glangevlin, north of Dowra and close to Blacklion with a scattering in the Ballyconnell – Belturbet region.

Refer to List of Protected Structures (Appendix 19) and National Monuments.

County Heritage Sites

- **Burren Megalithic Cemetery, Blacklion**

The Burren complex is a place of geological, cultural, archaeological and recreational importance.

Set in a mountainous limestone landscape, the Burren contains several megalithic tombs, which may be enjoyed and accessed along the 'Cavan Way' walking route. Of the four types of megalithic tombs identified in Ireland, three are present in the Burren Megalithic Cemetery. In the Cavan Burren Park, there is a well preserved wedge tomb situated on a hilltop. The second wedge tomb is situated on the highest hill (800 meters) overlooking Lough Macnean. A portal tomb known locally as the 'Calf House' is located on the Cavan Way first forest entrance while a second portal tomb is located in a forest overlooking Lough Macnean Upper. In the townland of Legalough there is a wedge tomb and an example of a court tomb.

The Burren is an excellent example of a very fine landscape in County Cavan rich in geographical and archaeological interest which can be enjoyed as part of a way-marked long distance walking route.

The Burren Megalithic Cemetery should be valued for its educational, tourist and recreational potential.

- **Moneygashel Ringfort**

Situated a few miles south of Blacklion, Moneygashel Ringfort is a place of archaeological and historical significance. It is a fine example of a strong stone-built ringfort and probably is one of the most spectacular and best preserved in the country. It comprises a circular area 24.5m in diameter with an enclosing wall of 3.2m thick and rises to between 2.5m and 4.5m in height. Built into the wall are one external and two internal stairways. Water from higher up the hill entered the site through a water conduit at the base of the wall at the west-northwest. On the external face of the wall at the south is an entrance to a blocked souterrain.

- **The Shannon Pot**

The Shannon Pot, in the Cuilcagh Mountains, is a place of geological, archaeological and cultural importance and is generally accepted to be the source of the Shannon, Ireland's longest river, which is said to begin its 240-mile journey here. Geologists believe that a number of streams filter through the limestones into the pot. Being convenient to the 'Cavan Way' walking trail, it may be enjoyed as part of this major recreational facility.

- **Maguires Chair - Glangevlin**

A place of geological and archaeological significance, 'Maguires Chair' is a massive sandstone rock beside the Glan Gap on the Bawnboy/Glan road beside the junction of the Swanlinbar road. The rock is referred to as a glacial erratic, which was picked up by the ice during the last glaciation and deposited far from its original location. It is claimed to be the inauguration site of the Maguires where the head of the sept was recognised as leader following an elaborate ceremony.

- **Tullydermott Waterfalls**

A place of geological interest, Tullydermott Waterfalls were created by the erosive nature of water against different layers of sedimentary rock. The area is a local beauty spot, which marks the ascent from the Cuilcagh Mountains. The area offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside including the mountains and bogs.

- **Templeport Lake, St. Peter's Church and St. Mogues/Port Island**

A site rich in archaeological, cultural and historical interest. One of the finest views of Templeport Lake and Port Island can be seen from the enchanting grounds of St. Peter's Church. St. Peter's Church is a fine example of a 'First Fruits Gothic', which was built in the period of 1807-1821 with assistance from the Board of First Fruits of the established church. The design consists of a square belltower, pinnacles and battlements. Close to the opposite shore of the lake a small island can be seen with some ruins on it. Port Island is the reputed birthplace of local saint 'St. Mogue' born in the early sixth century. Templeport Lake represents an area that forms a range of dispersed but unified structures that are of significant architectural, archaeological and cultural interest. The diversity of species and habitats in the area along with trees and open space in both public and private ownership should be valued for their contribution to the character of the area.

- **The Whitefather's Caves**

Whitefather's Cave is just one of many caves found within the limestone rock of Counties Cavan and Fermanagh. The limestone formed over 340 million years ago when a shallow tropical sea covered the majority of what we now call the island of Ireland. We know this as there are fossils of sea creatures found within the rocks, similar to creatures that live today in places like the Great Barrier Reef. Limestone is a rock which dissolves in even weakly acidic water. The amount of rain, coupled with acidic water that flows down from boggy upland areas means that the limestone dissolves readily, causing cracks and crevices within the limestone to widen, eventually forming cave systems. The Whitefather's Cave is home to many creatures such as bats. Daubenton's bats live in underground caves that are close to water so that they can emerge from their shadowy home at twilight and hunt the insects that gather above the water.

Area 2: The Lakeland



General Description of Area

The 'Lakeland' area is an extensive area of inland lakes within the Erne drainage system. This area lies in West Cavan and encompasses the Belturbet to Butlersbridge area extending south to Killeshandra, Arva, Lough Gowna and Ballinagh.

Designated Sites, Scenic Routes, Scenic Viewpoints and Walking Routes

Much of this area lies within the European Designations of SAC and SPA protection including NHA.

Special Area of Conservation

- Lough Oughter & Associated Loughs cSAC

Natural Heritage Areas (proposed)

- Clonty Lough pNHA
- Drumkeen House Woodlands pNHA
- Bruse Hill pNHA (see County Heritage Site below)
- Glasshouse Lake pNHA
- Drumcor Lough pNHA
- Cordonaghy Bog pNHA
- Lough Garrow and Lough Gubdoo pNHA
- Lough Gowna pNHA

Special Protection Area

- Lough Oughter cSPA

Scenic Viewing Points

- **Annagh Lake (N3)**
View west from N3 towards Lough Annagh. This includes surrounding landscape of enclosing hills.
- **Inishmore (Local Road 1511)**
Long distance views south over Lough Oughter - elevated viewing point.
- **Rann Point (Local Rd 1509 and 1512)**
This is found in the townland of Eonish. Views are to the east and west although a 360-degree panorama is possible. Views are essentially looking over Lough Oughter to enclosing wooded shorelines and drumlin ridges.
- **Bleanacup (Local Rd 1529)**
Views north-west over Trinity Lake.
- **Inchin (Local Rd 5533)**
Views east over Lough Inchin. There is an extensive section of public road providing such views between "Three Fingers Cross" and Derryheen Bridge.
- **Derrygid (Local Rd 5533)**
Views east from elevated section of public road over Derrygid Lake, its outfall stream to Farnham Lough and to ridge opposite which is wooded and commercially timbered.

- **Drumcalpin (N3 Cavan By-pass)**

Views north towards Slieve Rushen & Cuilcagh, from sections of the by-pass. These are extensive long-distance views to the North West to minimise visual intrusion through good siting and design of any intervening development.

- **Belville Tower (N55-4)**

360-degree panorama available from this local curiosity known as "Fleming's Folly".

Walking Routes

- Killykeen Forest Park
- Killeshandra Forest Walk
- Belturbet Town Walk
- Turbot Island, Belturbet
- Castlesaunderson
- Portruan/Quivvy Country Lane Walk, Belturbet
- Cornamuckla and Aughvains Walk, Gowna
- Cavan Town Greenway

High Landscape Areas

- **Lough Oughter 'Lakeland' Area**

An extensive area of inland lakes within the Erne drainage system. It is a drowned drumlin landscape typified by long elongated serpentine loughs separated by small, rounded hills criss-crossed by a lattice of heavy hedgerows forming a distinctive repeated field pattern. It is a unique landscape in Ireland in its extent and scenic quality. It provides an important ecological habitat and is protected through National and European legislation as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation.

The area includes several island monastic sites and defensive fortifications and has a rich archaeological and historical heritage being a major early communicational system much like the Shannon.

Modern amenity developments at Belturbet and Killykeen Forest Park provide impetus for leisure cruising and outdoor recreational activities associated with a lakeland environment. The landscape is composed of lakes and rivers, shorelines, islands, and rounded hills, which combine to provide an area of immense amenity value.

Forestry Parks and Other Parks

The following are areas of forestry in the Lakelands:

- **Killykeen Forest Park Lough Oughter**

Killykeen is an area rich in geological, archaeological, and historical importance. This is a two hundred and forty acre woodland park. It was originally part of the Castlehamilton Demesne which was purchased by the state. It is a predominantly coniferous plantation with some stands of native and exotic hardwood species. The park contains a variety of wildlife and provides an ecological sanctuary.

A number of archaeological sites are found within the forest including a Crannog, a Bronze Age Pot, an Iron Age Ringfort, and a Double Court Tomb. Within on the grounds there also is a cottage built for Lady Farnham in 1885.

- **Drumkeen House Woodlands**

A valuable amenity of mature woods and wetland which requires management to ensure conservation and maintenance.

- **Con Smith Park**

Located adjoining the Cavan built-up area and is suitable for amenity purposes and has been developed as a public open space area. It is compatible with community use development.

Major Lakes and Lake Environs

- Lough Oughter
- Lough Gowna

Lakes & Rivers

The following are the main lakes found in the 'Lakelands' area of Cavan.

Lakes/ Loughs (L.)

Upper L. Erne	Anoneen L.	Drumard L.	Corraback or Teemore L.	Grime's L.
L. Tee	Edenteriff L.	Quivvy L.	Killylea L.	Derrykerrib L.
L. Naroosh	Faharlagh L.	Shancorry L.	Derreary L.	Grilly L.
Greeny L.	Tom's or Kilconny L	Holy L.	Dawson's L.	Roskeeragh L.
Putiaghan L.	Bun L.	Castle L.	Gorteehone L.	L. Sarah
Rahultan L.	L. Bane	L. Garrow	Clonandra L.	Ramulligan L.
Drumcrow L.	Keeny L.	Drumlaney L.	Derryhoo L.	Drumalee L.
Little L.	Commons L.	Parisee L.	Corrarod L.	Drumellis L.
Tullyroane L.	Annagh L.	Urney L.	Kilnaleck L.	Cloverhill L
Drumgorry L.	Killybandrick L.	Uragh L.	Derrygeeraghan L.	Black L.
Lough Gubdoo	Drummany L.	Ardan L.	Derrybrick L.	Doo L.
Drumlane L.	L. Oughter	Carrafin L.	Tully L.	Dumb L.

Deralk L.	Corglass L.	Drummary L.	Trinity Lake	Carratraw L.
Creeny L.	L. Inchin	Sallaghan L.	Swan L.	Derrygid L.
Farnham L.	Coalpit L.	Peartree L.	Drumgola L.	Drumlark L.
Swellan L.	Killymooney L.	Green L.	Tullyguide L.	Aghabane L.
Mullaghdoo L.	Patterson's L.	Derreskit L.	Derrindrehid L.	Disert L.
Town L.	Bawn L.	Pleasure L.	Deerpark L.	Mill L.
Kinkeel L.	Burnt Bog L.	Glasshouse L.	Drumergoole L.	Rockfield L.
Portlongfield L.	Derry L.	Derrylane L.	Tawlaght L.	Carr's L.
Gartinadress L.	Caseys L.	Drumhart L.	Aghnacor L.	Drumkilroosk L.
Drumbess L.	Arda L.	Dernaweel L.	Corlisbrattan L.	Farranseer L.
L. Mentis	Cornagaen L.	Clonty Lough	White L.	Portanune L.
Garty L.	Lower L.	Guinikin L.	Cordonaghy L.	Carrickdevin L.
Oghill L.	L. Islan	Drumcor L.	L. Gowna	
Bawndoora L.				

Lakeside Amenity Areas

- Cloone - Lough Gowna Carpark.
- Dernaferst Lough Gowna Carpark, jetty, moorings
- Annagh Lake Butlersbridge Carpark, toilets, changing rooms, swimming area, and amenities.
- Rann Point Lough Oughter Carparks, jetty and moorings.
- Town Lough Killeshandra Amenity Park Carpark, moorings, and amenities.

Riverside Amenity Areas

- Annalee (Butlersbridge Riverside Walk)
- Annalee (Ballyhaise Amenity Park)
- Erne (Belturbet Riverside Park)
- Woodford River (Erne-Shannon Canal Link) Towpath amenity

Geology, Soil and Topography

Geology

Dinantian Shales and Limestones, Dinantian Lower Impure Limestone, Dinantian (early) Sandstones, Shales and Limestones

Granite and other Igneous intrusive rocks in the Ballinagh Area.

Ordovician metasediment is found in the Arva and Gowna area.

There are a number of quarries in this area, which extract a variety of rocks and minerals such as chalcopryrite, limestone, anhydrite, greywacke, must, iron, quartz, molybdenum, granite, copper, sandstone, clay and shale.

The following bedrock types are found in the vicinity of the towns and areas listed below:

Belturbet: Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian) and Alluvium along river

Butlersbridge: Coronea Formation (Ordovician)

Cavan: West of Cavan Town – Calp (Carboniferous), Ballysteen Formation; East of Cavan Town – Cooldaragh Formation, Red Island Formation and Ulster Canal Formation

Crossdoney: Crossdoney Granite

Geology

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Cavan: West of Cavan Town – Calp (Carboniferous), Ballysteen Formation; East of Cavan Town – Cooldaragh Formation, Red Island Formation and Ulster Canal Formation

Crossdoney: Crossdoney Granite

Arvagh: Coronea Formation

Ballinagh: West of Ballinagh – Crossdoney Granite; East of Ballinagh – Red Island Formation

Lough Gowna: Carrickateene Formation and Red Island Formation

Killeshandra: Ordovician Coronea Formation, Cooldaragh Formation and Fearnaght Formation

Killykeen Forest Park: Ballysteen Formation

Topography

Drumlins, lakes, some high ground such as Bruse Hill (east of Arvagh), elevation ranging from 51m to 200m above sea level.

Soils

The main type of soil in this region is an acid deep poorly drained mineral – surface/ ground water gleys. The Lough Oughter system is described as having basic soils which are deep poorly drained mineral – surface/ ground water gleys. There is a scattering of mineral alluvium throughout the area although it is more significant in the Crossdoney area, there is also more occurrences of shallow peaty gleys at this location. There are some basin/blanket cutaway peat areas and there are lacustrine-type soils found near many of the lakes.

Sub Soils

Limestone till (Carboniferous) is found in the Lough Oughter area. To the south, north, and east of Lough Oughter, Namurian Shales and Sandstone till are present. In the Ballinagh area, there is Granite till and some undifferentiated alluvium and in the Killeshandra, Arva, Lough Gowna and west of Ballinagh, there are Lower Palaeozoic Sandstone and Shale tills and some cutover peat.

The following subsoil types are found in the vicinity of the towns and areas listed below:

Belturbet: Shale and Dartry Limestone

Butlersbridge: Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic), Alluvium along river, some Blanket or Cut Peat

Cavan: Predominantly Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian), some Blanket or Cut Peat and Alluvium; North-east and south-east of town - Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic)

Crossdoney: Alluvium and Granite Till

Arvagh: Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic) and some Rock Outcrop

Ballinagh: West of Ballinagh – Granite Till; East of Ballinagh – Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic)

Lough Gowna: Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic)

Killeshandra: Namurian Shales and Sandstone Till; North of town – Chert and Carboniferous Sandstone Till

Killykeen Forest Park: Limestone Till (Carboniferous)

Vegetation/ Habitat

This area is dotted with lakes, wetlands, wet grassland, forest and scrub and dry grassland with some mature forest

Urban Areas and Road Access

The main urban areas are the towns of Belturbet, Butlersbridge, Cavan, Killeshandra, Crossdoney, Arvagh, Ballinagh and Lough Gowna

Access to this region of the county is via the N3 national corridor from Dublin to Enniskillen, N55 from Cavan to Athlone, N54 from Cavan to Monaghan and Regional Roads R198, R154, and R199.

Built Heritage Items

Built Heritage

There are hundreds of national monuments including raths, crannogs, castles, burial grounds and enclosures distributed throughout this region. Refer to List of Protected Structures and National Monuments.

County Heritage Sites

- **Bloody Pass Derryvoney, River Erne (north of Belturbet)**

A place of historical interest being the site of one of the most violent episodes of the Williamite-Jacobean war in 1689-1691.

Likely mass grave sites and regulate development to maintain access from carpark to graves, shoreline and scenic landscape which is of high scenic value.

- **Turbot Island**

A place of archaeological and historical interest being the site of an early Norman fortification (13th century) at Belturbet which stands on an island in the river just to the south of the bridge in Belturbet.

The Motte and Bailey fortification is clearly visible and in fine condition. There is also evidence of a later castle constructed on the site. The Motte and Bailey is easily accessed by a path leading from the left of the far side of the bridge. This leads over a small footbridge to the island, which has been developed into a pleasant park.

- **Drumlane Abbey**

A place of archaeological importance, Drumlane is a very old religious site, which was used before the arrival of Christianity. St. Mogue founded a monastery in the sixth century, but the history of the monastery is unclear. The most striking building is the Round Tower, which shows two different building techniques. The base is constructed from well-dressed stone, and probably dates from the re-foundation of the monastery in the mid-twelfth century, while the upper portion is built of rough, jagged material and is mid-fifteenth century in origin. This probably reflects extensive rebuilding carried out at the time. Much of the surviving church nave is built from stones of similar quality. On the north side of the tower, about two and a half meters above ground level, are two late medieval carvings. The site is set overlooking Lough Oughter and the scenic value is impressive. The general area is of significant amenity value and development shall be restricted within this area to maintain the outstanding character and value of the landscape. The site is located within the Lough Oughter 'High Landscape Value' area.

- Drumlane Abbey is of historic, architectural, cultural and social importance.
- The setting of the protected structures is within an old monastic site dating from the sixth century. The existing structures are in good condition.
- Trees and open space in both private and public ownership, which contribute to the area.

- **Castle Saunderson**

A place of geographical, architectural, and historical importance, Castle Saunderson Estate owes its origin to the once prominent local political family of Saundersons. Castle Saunderson is an unusual 'turreted sham castle' built in rusticated limestone around 1840. Much of the demesne and grounds of the estate contain plantations of beech, pine, and sitka spruce. Within the estate there is an unusual gothic church with its octagonal tower and spire being similar in design to the castle. Carved headstones to the various generations of the Saunderson family are located in a small private graveyard.

- Castle Saunderson should be preserved and valued for both its educational, tourist and amenity value.
- Diversity of species and habitats to be maintained within the Demense/Estate.
- Development to be compatible with the architectural, archaeological, and natural heritage of the area.

- **Trinity Island**

One of the oldest ecclesiastical sites in Cavan, a place of immense archaeological, historical, and cultural interest. Trinity Island was most probably the scene of the first diocese established in the area in the twelfth century. It is thought that the Romanesque doorway at Kilmore Cathedral probably originated here. The west gable of the nave and parts of the nave's north and south walls are still standing. The transept or wing, possibly are also still standing but is generally accepted that they were later additions belonging to the seventeenth century.

- **Ballyhaise House**

Ballyhaise House is a site of architectural and historical importance, which was built in 1733 to a design by Richard Cassels. The house has a beautifully designed classical front piece with its mix of red brickwork and pale sandstone dressing. Within the interior there are vaulted ceilings and an oval room to the rear. William Humphries added two new wings following his purchase of the property in circa 1800. Ballyhaise House is now home to an Agricultural College and several offices. The Oval Room, the Peacock Room and the Entrance Hall still retain their original grandeur.

The house is placed opposite the narrow bridge over the Annalee River and with its Italianate Gate Lodge or Gate Sweep has a noted setting in a well-managed landscape.

- **Kilmore Motte and Bailey, Kilmore Cathedral, Kilmore Graveyard and See House**

Kilmore is associated with St. Feidhlim who is reputed to have established a church here in the sixth or seventh centuries. A mature tree-lined avenue leads to the Church of Ireland Cathedral of St. Feidhlim, a neo-gothic building dating from the 1860's. Kilmore is an area rich in architecture, history, culture and beauty. Associated with Kilmore are several sites of importance including, the Cathedral, twelfth century Hiberno-Romanesque doorway, the See-

House, the graveyard to the north of the Cathedral which contains many interesting graves and tombs including the tomb of Bishop William Bedell (1571-1642). Bedell is associated with translating the bible into Irish and an original copy of Bedell's Bible is on display in the Cathedral. Kilmore also has a huge Motte and Bailey to the west of the Cathedral, and it was built by Hugh de Lacy in 1211 and dismantled by Cathal O' Reilly in 1224-26. It is now a tree-planted mound with several modifications made to it during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries including an icehouse and a stone lined passageway built through the outer bank of the Bailey. A valued arrangement of Cathedral, Motte and Bailey, Graveyard and See House in a planned form.

- **Clough Oughter Castle**

This site is of immense archaeological, historical and cultural importance. Built in the first years of the thirteenth century by the Anglo-Normans, as part of their conquest of Breiffne, it was soon seized by Cathal O'Reilly and remained in O'Reilly hands for the remainder of the medieval period. However, in the early years of the seventeenth century the lands were confiscated by the English crown. After the rebellion of 1641 insurgents once again took it over. In 1649 it is thought that Eoghan Rua O'Neill, leader of the rebels in Ulster died there.

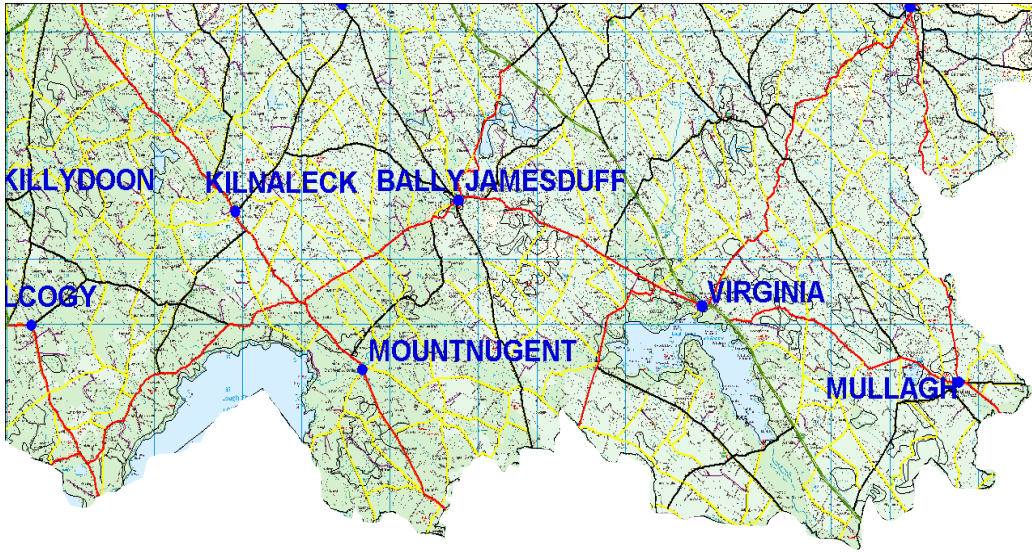
- There is public access along a tarred road and the following facilities are available - car parks, enclosed harbours, jetty and slipway moorings.
- The amenity area is located within a lakeland landscape of exceptionally high amenity scenic value.
- Clough Oughter Castle has been restored by the OPW and it is a very fine example of a defended lake island site.

- **Bruse Hill**

The road to Arvagh runs to the north of Bruse Hill (858 ft) and the name may be derived from the Irish bruach, a bank. The mountain is a natural habitat to a vast array of species of plants and wildlife and because of its status as an area with such biodiversity it falls within a Natural Heritage Area. At the summit of the hill there are three stone cairns which may date from the Neolithic Period. It is also possible on clear days to see five counties from the summit. The mountain is accessible to walkers from the quarry.

- The mountain is of archaeological, cultural, and scientific value and may be valued as a recreational area for walkers and also its potential as an educational centre due to its outstanding natural heritage.

Area 3: Lake Catchments of South East Cavan



General Description of Area

Lough Sheelin and Lough Ramor are the largest lakes in this region. These major lakes have a notable amenity value due in part to their size and location within a scenic landscape and their recreational value. They also provide valuable habitats which are of great importance and are protected Nationally as proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). Lough Sheelin is also identified as a Special Protection Area (SPA)

Designated Sites, Scenic Routes, Scenic Viewpoints and Walking Routes

There are a number of European and Nationally designated sites in this region:

Special Area of Conservation

- River Boyne and River Blackwater cSAC
- Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) cSAC

Natural Heritage Areas

- Lough Sheelin pNHA
- Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough NHA
- Lough Ramor pNHA

Special Protection Area

- Lough Sheelin SPA
- Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA

Walking Routes

’.

- Mullagh Hill Walk
- Deerpark Forest Park, Virginia (A Slí na Slainte route)

Major Lakes and Lake Environs

- Lough Sheelin
- Lough Ramor
- Lough Nadreegeel

Lakes

The following are the main lakes found in the lake catchments of South East Cavan.

Lakes/ Loughs (L.)

Cornagrown L.	Sheelin L.	Ramor L.	L. Veva	Crosserlough Lake
Bracklagh L.	Nadreegel Loughs	Greaghnagu L.	Gallon L.	Corratinner L.
Lisgrea L.	Cornaslieve L.	L. Dargan	Kilmore L	Aghnadrung L
Cuilacgh L	Lenenavaragh L.	Mullagh L	L. Kinale	Derragh L.

County Heritage Site

- **Mullagh Lake**

Mullagh is a place of archaeological, historical, and cultural significance. This area has contributed significantly to the Irish and English literature. It is the birthplace of St. Killian, patron of Mullagh and a fine heritage centre, detailing the life and eventual martyrdom of St. Killian, is located in the village. Mullagh Lake is an amenity area with a lay-by and seats and affords fine views of the surrounding countryside and the site of a Castle, built in 1485, may be seen on the right-hand side of the lake.

Lakeside Amenity Areas

- Kilnahard Lough Sheelin Carpark, jetties, moorings.
- Crover Lough Sheelin Carparks, jetties, pier, moorings.
- Tonagh Lough Sheelin Carpark, jetty, mooring and swimming area.
- Virginia Town Lough Ramor Carpark, jetties, moorings, enclosed harbour, swimming area and amenities.
- Old Quay, Corronagh Lough Ramor Carpark, pier, mooring.

Geology, Soil and Topography

Geology

The area around Lough Sheelin and stretching over to the western shoreline of Lough Ramor is made up of Carboniferous Limestone. It is estimated that this carboniferous system was formed in the Upper Palaeozoic Era (300-350 million years ago) (Geological Map of Northern Ireland, Department of Economic Development). It is described as Dinantian upper and lower impure limestones, Dinantian sandstones, shales and limestones, Dinantian pure bedded limestones. However, the majority of the catchment area north of Lough Sheelin is Silurian Metasediments and Volcanics with some areas of Ordovician metasediments. This is an area of deep marine turbidite (formed under water by powerful currents heavily laden with sediment) containing mudstone, greywacke and conglomerate.

The Lough Ramor catchment area is made up of Silurian Metasediments and Volcanics similarly an area of deep marine turbidite containing mudstone, greywacke and conglomerate.

An area south of Lough Ramor/ south-west of Maghera along the County border has Dinantian pure bedded limestones and Dinantian (early) sandstones, shales and limestones.

There are a number of quarries in this area, which extract a variety of rocks and minerals such as coal, lead, zinc, limestone, dimension stone, limestone cherty, barytes, limestone crinoidal, clay, brick, calcite, iron, gritstone, flagstone and sandstone.

Mountnugent: Ballysteen Formation and Moathill Formation, Meath Formation - Stackallan Member

Kilnaleck: Lough Avaghon Formation – Cootehill Member

Ballyjamesduff: Oghill Formation; South-east of town – Kehemaghkilly Formation; South-west of town – Castlerahan Formation

Virginia: Castlerahan Formation

Mullagh: Clontail Formation

Topography

North west/south east directional drumlins, lakes and uplands, elevations ranging from 51m to 250m above sea level. This area is dominated by the larger lakes of Lough Sheelin and Lough Ramor, which are low lying sinks for the surrounding catchment.

Soil

The majority of this region is acid soil/ acid brown earths. There is a band of deep well drained mineral – acid brown earths/ brown podzolics, shallow well drained mineral – lithosols/ regosols and some cutaway peat – basin/ blanket stretching from Finea to Ballyheelan, continuing to Mountnugent and Maghera and stretching north towards Crossreagh and Killinkere. North of these areas is deep poorly drained mineral – surface/ ground water gleys and cutaway peat – basin/ blanket. There is a scattering of mineral alluvium throughout this region. Immediately to the east and south east of Lough Sheelin and south of Mountnugent is an area of basic soils which are deep well drained mineral – Grey Brown Podzolics.

Subsoils

The subsoils in this area are predominantly Lower Palaeozoic sandstone and shale till, shale sands and gravels, cutover peat and a number of areas where the bedrock is found at the surface. The area south of Mountnugent is Carboniferous limestone till.

The following bedrock types are found in the vicinity of the towns listed below:

Mountnugent: North of village – Shales and Sandstone (Lower Palaeozoic); Alluvium found along river; Limestone Till and Blanket or Cut Peat found to the south

Kilnaleck: Predominantly Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic) and some rock outcrops

Ballyjamesduff: Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic) and Blanket or Cut Peat found along Bog Road, north of town

Virginia: Alluvium along river; Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic) found in vicinity of town and Blanket or Cut Peat found along N3 towards Cavan

Mullagh: Predominantly Shales and Sandstones (Lower Palaeozoic), some sands and gravel

Vegetation/ Habitat

There are a variety of vegetation and habitats in this region, ranging from mainly dry grasslands to wet grasslands and wetlands, some forest and scrub, mature forest and raised bog/fen (to the east of Lough Ramor).

Urban Areas and Road Access

The main urban areas are the towns and villages of Mountnugent, Kilnaleck, Ballyjamesduff, Virginia and Mullagh.

Access to this region of the County is via the N3 national transport corridor from Dublin to Enniskillen and R-194 from Virginia to Ballyjamesduff extending to Finea and R-154 to Kilnaleck.

Built Heritage items

Built Heritage

There are a large number of Protected Structures and National Monuments including enclosures, bawns, barrows, portal tombs, raths, crannogs, souterrain, churches and graveyards, court-tombs, crosses, cairns, motte and bailey, standing stones and fulacht fiadh and are scattered throughout this region. Refer to List of Protected Structures and National Monuments.

County Heritage Sites

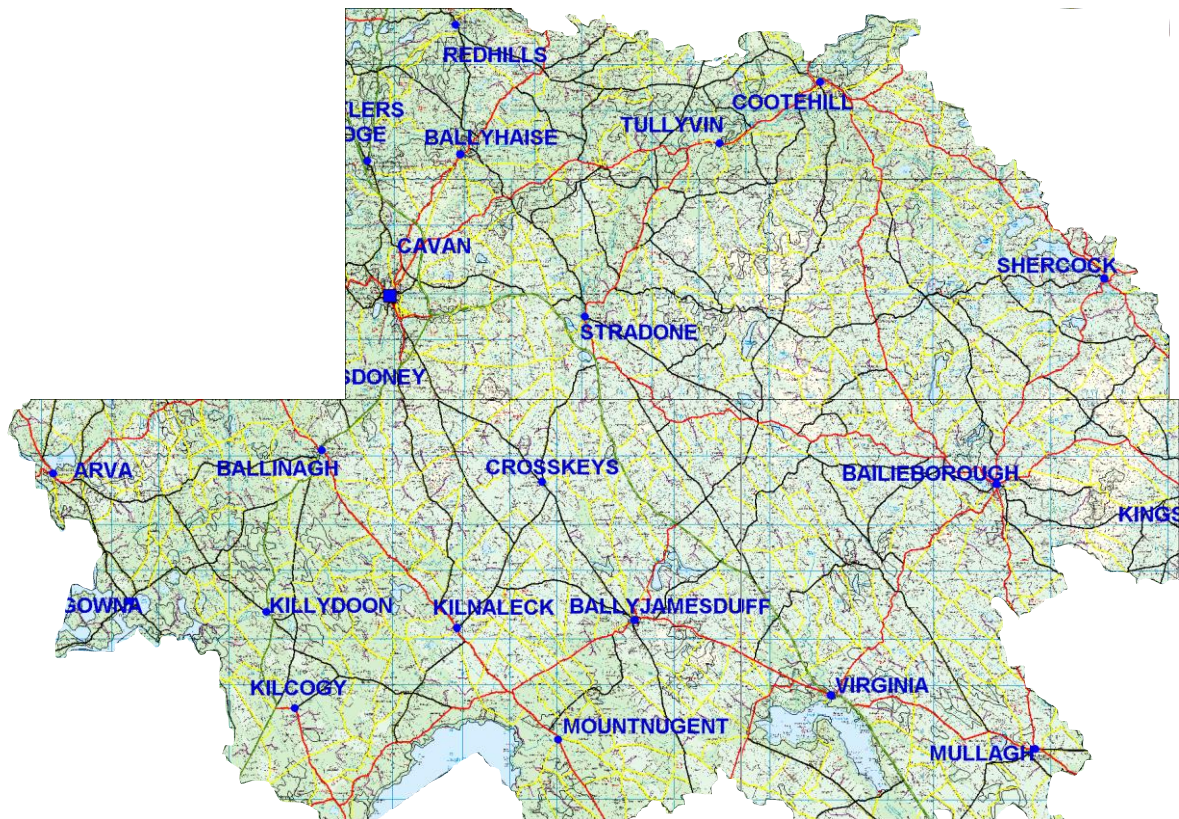
- **Cavan County Museum, Ballyjamesduff**

Once the Poor Clare's Convent, this is a place of architectural, historical and cultural significance, which was built to a design by William Hague Junior. The convent educated young girls from the area for over a hundred years and many of the nuns who spent their lives in the Convent are buried in the small graveyard at the back of the Convent. In 1996, the Convent became home to Cavan County Museum and it contains a vast amount of archaeological items from Cavan's prehistory. The museum also contains a number of unique exhibitions associated with Cavan's past.

- **Moybologue Church, south of Bailieborough**

A place of archaeological and historical significance. All that remains of the original Church at Moybologue is a ruined two-storey building with a number of windows. To the south of the nave of the Church is what is thought to be a priest's dwelling and to the north of the nave is a number of crosses which may have been gravestones and dated 1684 and 1686.

Area 4: Drumlin Belt and Uplands of East Cavan



General Description of Area

This area stretches from Redhills to Cootehill in north-east Cavan through the county taking in east of Cavan Town, Stradone and Crosskeys to Killydoon and Kilcogy in south-west Cavan. This area is typical of the Drumlin landscape with many inter-drumlin lakes distributed throughout the region.

There are a large number of national monuments scattered through this area with notably higher concentrations in the Tullyvin/Ballyhaise area. One example is Shantemon Mountain where Finn McCool's Fingers are found.

Designated Sites, Scenic Routes, Natural Heritage Areas

- Dromore Lakes pNHA
- Cootehill Church pNHA
- Maudabawn Marsh pNHA

Scenic Viewing Points

- **Drumauna (R-188)**
View north and east from elevated section of R-188 at proposed viewing park. The view is panoramic and long-distance.
- **Lisnananagh (N3)**
View east from existing lay-by off N3 (and proposed) over Lough Lisnananagh. View includes landscape of enclosing hills and woodlands.
- **Drumgarry (N54)**
View east from main road towards Drumgarry Lough. The view includes landscapes of enclosing hills and lakeshore areas.

Walking Routes

- Dartry Walk, Cootehill
- Cootehill Town Walk

River Basin District

The area lies within the Erne Catchment and North Western River Basin District.

Major Lakes and Lake Environs

Lough Sillan

Lakes & Rivers

The following are the main lakes found in the Central Drumlins and Uplands area.

Cornaseer L.	Cuttragh L.	Lisnananagh L.	Lavey L.	Beaghy L.
Corfad L.	Clifferna L.	Drumcalpin L.	L. Acanon	L. Naglane
Fartagh L.	L Asturall	Carnaman L.	Tonyduff L.	Carvagh L.
Corr L.	Graddum L.	Corglass L.	Kill L	Killydream L.
Lisnatinny L.	Omard L.	Carrickdevin L.	Oghill L.	Baraghy L.
Drumcor L.	Cornavedy L.	L. Nadarvagh	Tullyoroan L.	Derry L.

Roosky L.	Clonandra L.	Killymore or Bells L	Ramulligan L.	Laurel Hill L
Dunrora L.	Drumgarry L.	Drumeena L.	Claragh L.	Glassdrumnan L.
Annaghoash L.	Carrickmore L.	Coppony L.	Corgarve L.	Dunmurry L.
Killynenagh L.	Barragh L.	Black L.	White L.	Killycreeny L.
Drumsheil L.	Caskenduff L	Corravohy L.	Cornagall L.	Corfeehone L.
Countenan L.	Shantemon L.	Shankilly L.	Corrweelis L.	Killymooney L.
Green L.	L. Aconnid	Corrakane L.	Drumad L.	Gartnaneane L. North
Taghart L.	Cornalara L.	Island L.	Steepletons L.	Muddy L.
Shinan L.	Drumlom L.	Druminnick L.	L. Skuddal	L. Sillan
L. Tacker	Moyduff L.	Mullaghard L.	Killycloughan L.	Corraneary L.
Pound L.	Knockbride L. Upper	Kehernaghkilly L.	Drumeague L. Lower	Kitaliss L.
Cullies L.	Corraghy L.	Drumlon L.	L. Beg	Annaghierin L.
Milltown L.	Lisnansaran L.	Lisclogher L.	Coskenduff L.	Lisdonagh L.
Coragh L.	Town L.	Killyrue L.	Annaghard L.	Drumherriff L.
Wood L.	Dromore L.	Leamgeltan L.	Killyvaghan L.	Skerrig L.
Garragh L.				

Lakes and Lakeside Amenity Areas

- **Green Lough, Cavan**
- **Lavey Strand (N3) Carpark, lakeshore access and amenity.**
- **Annafarney, Shercock - Lough Sillan Carpark, jetty and mooring.**
- **Annalee (Ballyhaise Amenity Park)**
- **Annalee (Corick Bridge Amenity Park)**

Geology, Soil and Topography

Geology

This region is made up of Lower Palaeozoic Ordovician and Silurian Greywacke and Shale. This deep marine turbidite was formed under water by powerful currents heavily laden with sediment. The western part of this region from Drung to Killydoon is made up of Ordovician metasediments, while the eastern part of the region is Silurian metasediments and volcanics.

There are a number of quarries in this area, which extract a variety of rocks and minerals such as manganese, iron, galena, quartz, haematite, shale, greywacke, whinstone, lead, coal, sphalerite, pyrite,

The following bedrock types are found in the vicinity of the towns listed below:

Redhills: Coronea Formation

Ballyhaise: Red Island Formation

Tullyvin: Slieve Glah Formation

Cootehill: Lough Avaghon Formation – Cootehill Member

Cavan Town: West of Cavan Town – Calp (Carboniferous), Ballysteen Formation; East of Cavan Town – Cooldaragh Formation, Red Island Formation and Ulster Canal Formation

Stradone: Lough Avaghon Formation; North of village – Dinantian Undifferentiated

Crosskeys: Lough Avaghon Formation

Killydoon: Red Island Formation

Kilcogy: Slieve Glah Formation

Topography

Drumlins and lakes, there are high lands located in the east of this region, with an elevation ranging from 51m to 350m above sea level. This area is predominantly drumlins, though there are high areas such as the Mountainlodge area, Shantemon, Slieve Glah, Ardkill More and Ardkill Beg.

Soil

This area is predominantly deep poorly drained mineral – surface or ground water gleys with veins of mineral alluvium, found throughout the area. There are some cutaway basin/blanket peats. There are also scattered areas of shallow well drained mineral – lithosols/regosols.

Subsoil

The majority of this area is Lower Palaeozoic sandstone and shale till and veins of undifferentiated alluvium. The bedrock is exposed at surface throughout this region and areas of cutover peat especially in the Kilcogy, Ballyheelan, Bruskey and Killydoon area. There is a large area around Ballinagh which is described as having Granite till.

The following bedrock types are found in the vicinity of the towns listed below:

Redhills: Predominantly Shales and Sandstones (Lower Palaeozoic), lake sediments and rock outcrops

Ballyhaise: Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic) and Alluvium along Annalee River

Tullyvin: Blanket or Cut Peat, Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic) and rock outcrops

Cootehill: Predominantly Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic) and some Blanket or Cut Peat

Cavan Town: Predominantly Shales and Sandstone Till (Namurian), some Blanket or Cut Peat and Alluvium; North-east and south-east of town - Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic)

Stradone: Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic), some Alluvium along Stradone River and rock outcrops

Crosskeys: Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic), rock outcrops and Blanket or Cut Peat

Killydoon: Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic), rock outcrops and Blanket or Cut Peat

Kilcogy: Shales and Sandstone Till (Lower Palaeozoic) and Blanket or Cut Peat

Vegetation/ Habitat

There are a variety of vegetation and habitats in this region, though mainly dry grassland and pastures intermingled with wet grassland signified by drumlins and inter-drumlin lakes. There are areas of forest and scrub located mainly north of Cootehill.

Urban Areas and Road Access

The main urban areas are the towns and villages of Redhills, Ballyhaise, Tullyvin, Cootehill, Cavan Town, Stradone, Crosskeys, Killydoon and Killcogy.

Access to this region of the County is via the N3 national transport corridor from Dublin to Enniskillen, N54 from Cavan to Monaghan, R-188 from Cavan to Cootehill, N55 from Cavan to Athlone and R-394 (from N55) to Kilcogy and R-194 Ballinagh to Kilnaleck.

Built Heritage Items

County Heritage Sites

- **Cohaw Megalithic Tomb**

A dual court tomb of significance, which has revealed pieces of pottery during excavations. The tomb is accessible from the R192, the amenity value and the site's potential as an important visitor attraction is noted.

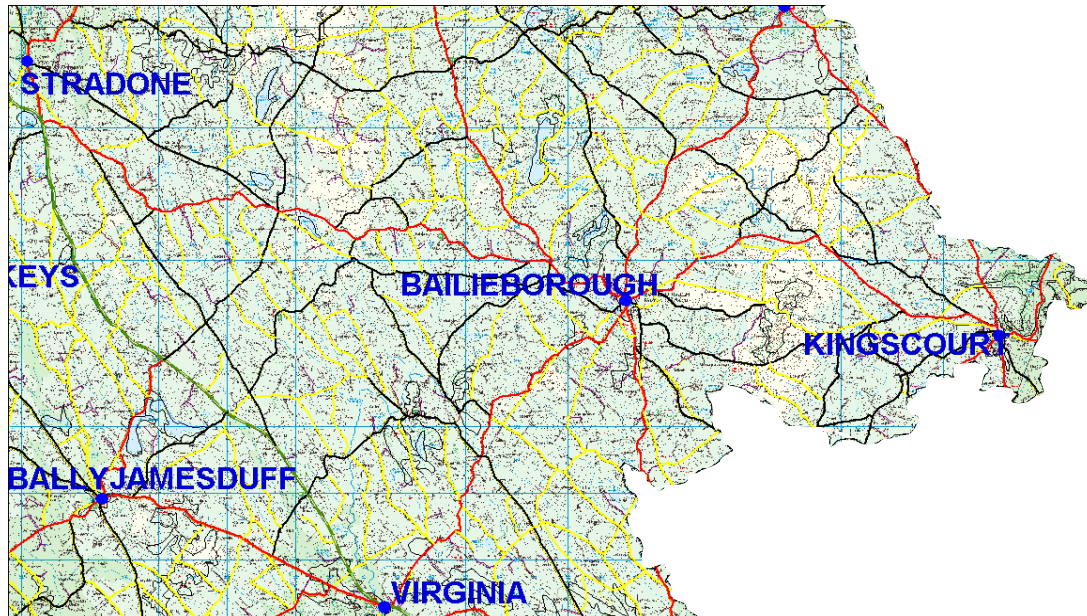
- **Bellamont Demense**

The magnificent Bellamont Demense was commissioned by Thomas Coote and built to a design by architect Sir Richard Lovett Pearce in the 1720's. Bellamont Castle is regarded as the finest example of Palladian style architecture in Ireland. The house is built of dark red brick, which was imported, from Devon in England. A Doric limestone portico gives the building a strong appearance and its overall design mirrors closely Palladio's Villa Pisani at Montagnana in Italy.

- **Shantemon Mountain**

A place of archaeological and cultural interest with good public access and an amenity value through recreational use. This archaeological complex on the top of Shantemon has been known for generations as 'Finn McCool's Fingers'. The stones most likely date from 3000 and 2000 BC and their arrangement in a row suggests some similarity with sites in Newgrange, Co. Meath and probably held a relationship with the sun, moon or stars informing their people of some important agricultural activity or religious ritual.

Area 5: Highlands of East Cavan



General Description of Area

This region consists of drumlins and highlands. Bailieborough and Kingscourt are the main towns in this region. Much of the area is made up of shales and sandstones, but immediately to the east of Kingscourt town are a Half Graben and an escarpment which dissects the high drumlin area to the lowland drumlins in a limestone area. This is a clear indication of a landscape forged by the movement of ice across the county in the last ice-age.

Lough an Lea Mountain is an area of upland hill country between Bailieborough and Kingscourt with open unenclosed landscape above approximately 240 metres and is used for hill walking recreation.

Designated Sites, Scenic Routes, Scenic Viewpoints and Walking Routes

Designated Sites

There are no European or Nationally designated sites in this area.

Scenic Viewpoint

- Lough an Lea Gap (Local Rd. 7567)

East west view from elevated summit of County Road at crest of Cornaseus. The views are panoramic and long-distance.

Walking Routes

- Lough an Lea (1km walk around the summit, signed and interpretative signage)
- Dun a Rí Forest Park
- Castle Walk, Bailieborough

High Landscape Areas

▪ Lough an Lea Mountain

An area of upland hill country between Bailieborough and Kingscourt with open unenclosed landscape above approximately 240 metres above sea level. The area is used for hill walking recreation. The landscape is fragile and sensitive.

Forestry Parks and Other Parks

- **Dun a Rí Forest Park, Kingscourt**

County Heritage Site

▪ **Dun a Rí Forest Park, Kingscourt**

This forest park contains a rich archaeological, historical, architectural and cultural heritage. Apart from its rich forestland there are many buildings of significance dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. 'Cromwell's Bridge' in the Park was built by Cromwellian forces. There are a number of features associated with the Pratt family when they resided there, including a wishing well and an icehouse, which is very well preserved. The Forest Park was established in 1959 when the Forestry and Wildlife Service acquired the lands. All of the features are accessible and are marked out on trails.

Major Lakes and Lake Environs

- Lough Skeagh

Lakes

The following are the main lakes found in the Highlands of East Cavan.

Lakes/ Loughs (L.)

Lisnaclea L.	Ervey L.	Corrawaddy L.	Muff L.	Taghart L.
Gartnaneane L. North	Gartnaneane L. South	Drumlon L.	Teevurcher L.	Ballynamona L.
Lenenavaragh L.	Coolnacla L.	Greaghnafarna L.	L. Nakirka	L. Acurry

Galloncurra L.	Parkers L.	Galbolie L.	Bog L.	Bailieborough L
Chapel L.	Castle L.	Drumkerry L.	Skeagh L. Upper	L. Mushlin
L. Asturall	Tierlahood L.	Greaghnagu L.		

Lakeside Amenities

- **Town Park Bailieborough Lake Carpark, pedestrian pathways and amenities.**

Geology, Soil and Topography

Geology

The majority of the bedrock in this area is made up of deep marine turbidite (formed under water by powerful currents heavily laden with sediment) containing mudstone, greywacke and conglomerate. These Silurian metasediments and volcanics were formed in the Palaeozoic era. There are some areas of Ordovician metasediments and volcanics which are also from the Palaeozoic era. Dinantian pure bedded limestone, Permo-Triassic sandstone, mudstone and gypsum are found in the Kingscourt area. The Kingscourt Half Graben, which dissects the area, acts as a natural boundary separating the uplands drumlins of the Silurian-Ordovician bedrock region from the lowland drumlins of the limestone region (Meehan, R.T. (1999) *Direction of ice flow during the last glaciation*). This means that there is a steep slope on the eastern side of the town which limits development in this area.

There are a number of quarries in this area, which extract a variety of rocks and minerals such as gypsum, sandstone, marl, clay, brick, whinstone, shale, greywacke, gritstone, conglomerate, dimension stone, barytes and slate.

The following bedrock types are found in the vicinity of the towns and areas listed below:

Bailieborough: West of town – Shercock Formation; East of town – Taghart Mountain Formation

Kingscourt: West of town and town – Castlerahan Formation; East – Milverton, Kingscourt Sandstone Formation and Kingscourt Gypsum Formation

Shercock: Shercock Formation

Dun a Rí: Kingscourt Sandstone Formation

Lough an Lea: Taghart Mountain Formation

Geology

The majority of the bedrock in this area is made up of deep marine turbidite (formed under water by powerful currents heavily laden with sediment) containing mudstone, greywacke and conglomerate. These Silurian metasediments and volcanics were formed in the Palaeozoic era. There are some areas of Ordovician metasediments and volcanics which are also from the Palaeozoic era. Dinantian pure bedded limestone, Permo-Triassic sandstone, mudstone and gypsum are found in the Kingscourt area.

The Kingscourt Half Graben, which dissects the area, acts as a natural boundary separating the uplands drumlins of the Silurian-Ordovician bedrock region from the lowland drumlins of the limestone region (Meehan, R.T. (1999) *Direction of ice flow during the last glaciation*). This means that there is a steep slope on the eastern side of the town which limits development in this area.

There are a number of quarries in this area, which extract a variety of rocks and minerals such as gypsum, sandstone, marl, clay, brick, whinstone, shale, greywacke, gritstone, conglomerate, dimension stone, barytes and slate.

The following bedrock types are found in the vicinity of the towns and areas listed below:

Bailieborough: West of town – Shercock Formation; East of town – Taghart Mountain Formation

Kingscourt: West of town and town – Castlerahan Formation; East – Milverton, Kingscourt Sandstone Formation and Kingscourt Gypsum Formation

Shercock: Shercock Formation

Dun a Rí: Kingscourt Sandstone Formation

Lough an Lea: Taghart Mountain Formation

Topography

Drumlins, lakes and mountains. This area contains relatively high lands, elevation ranging from 51m to 340m above sea level. Lough an Lea is the highest point in this region.

Soil

The main type of soil in this area is deep poorly drained mineral – surface/ground water gleys, with some shallow well drained mineral – Lithosols/ Regosols. There are also some scatterings of mineral alluvium, and cutaway basin/ blanket peats. There are some deep well drained mineral soils – Acid Brown Earths/ Brown Podzolics in the Shercock area.

Subsoil

The subsoil consists predominately of Lower Palaeozoic sandstone and shale till areas of cutover peat. There is some undifferentiated alluvium found in the Kingscourt area and the bedrock is exposed on higher grounds throughout this region.

The following subsoil types are found in the vicinity of the towns and areas listed below:

Bailieborough: Mostly Sandstone and Shale (Lower Palaeozoic) with some Blanket or Cut Peat, small amount of alluvium

Kingscourt: Predominantly Sandstone and Shale (Lower Palaeozoic) with some rock outcrops

Shercock: Sandstone and Shale (Lower Palaeozoic), some Blanket or Cut Peat

Dun a Rí: Sandstone and Shale (Lower Palaeozoic) and Alluvium

Lough an Lea: Rock outcrops

Vegetation/ Habitat

This area is dotted with lakes; there are both dry and wet grasslands, some limited forest and scrub

Urban Areas and Road Access

Bailieborough, Kingscourt and Shercock.

Built Heritage Items

There are a large number of national monuments found in this region, with high concentrations in the Kingscourt and Bailieborough town area.