

Introduction



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This 'Loughnaneane Park, Primary Schools Education Pack' has been prepared to fulfil Action 1.3.2 of County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2004-2008 *'Identify Opportunities for Improving Heritage Awareness in the Education System'*.

This pack aims to promote Loughnaneane Park as an education resource site, to be used by primary schools in the county for field studies relating to natural, built & cultural heritage.

Loughnaneane Park is a free amenity provided by Roscommon County Council, available to all. When your school has reason to visit Roscommon town, whether for swimming, sports or any other reason, why not take an hour to explore the park and enjoy what it has to offer?

- Parkland
- Trees
- Pond, ducks and associated wildlife
- Roscommon Castle
- Playground

How to use this Education Pack

This pack is divided into three chapters.

Chapter One - Flora & Fauna

Chapter Two - Roscommon Castle - Junior Level

Chapter Three - Roscommon Castle - Senior Level

Each chapter contains:

1. Teacher support sheets [code colour = red]
2. Information sheets [code colour = blue]
3. Activity sheets [code colour = green]
4. Evaluation forms [code colour = black]

1. Teacher Support pages are designed to assist teachers in organising their classes for visits to the park and include:

- The intended **Aims and Objectives** of the chapter.
- An outline of some **preparatory work** that can be done with students before they visit the park.

2. Information Sheets provide the basic information that students will need to complete the activity sheets and are include identification charts or keys. These sheets are also useful for teachers in assisting their students to participate in the activities outlined in the pack. These have been designed to:

- (a) Suit the ability level of primary school students and are
- (b) Compatible with the SESE curriculum for primary schools.

3. Activity Sheets:

The Activity Sheets relate to the information sheets listed above as well as utilising the information boards in the park itself.

4. Evaluation:

An optional evaluation sheet for both teachers and their pupils has been included. The evaluation sheet was designed so as to encourage feed back that can then be used to make any necessary improvements to the pack.

Preparing for your visit to the Park

Using the Park as an Educational Resource:

A small amount of preparatory work in the classroom will help to ensure that students will be safe and gain optimum value from their visit to the park such as:

Safety First: The park is a relatively safe area for use by school groups but as with any school outing, students need to be made aware of safety precautions in advance of their visit to Loughnaneane park. Care should be taken when carrying out the activities outlined in this pack, particularly in relation to the following:

School and Youth Groups - each member of the group should be suitably dressed for the outdoors and teachers/supervisors should ensure that the groups stay together and under their instruction.

Decked areas: take care on decked areas as they may become slippery in damp conditions.

Turlough: The turlough can be hazardous due to the higher water levels that can prevail during the wetter months of the year, and thus should only be explored at a distance from the adjacent viewing area, at that time.

Caring for the park: Students could be assisted to:

1. Discuss issues relating to how they can help to care for the animals and plants in the park during their visit and
2. Draw up their own code of behaviour for their visit to the park based on the "Leave no Trace" guidelines such as:
 - ✓ Leave living things in their habitat
 - ✓ Treat the plants, animals and the facilities of the park with respect
 - ✓ Do not litter

Map work: Students could develop their map reading skills by using the information provided in the pack to:

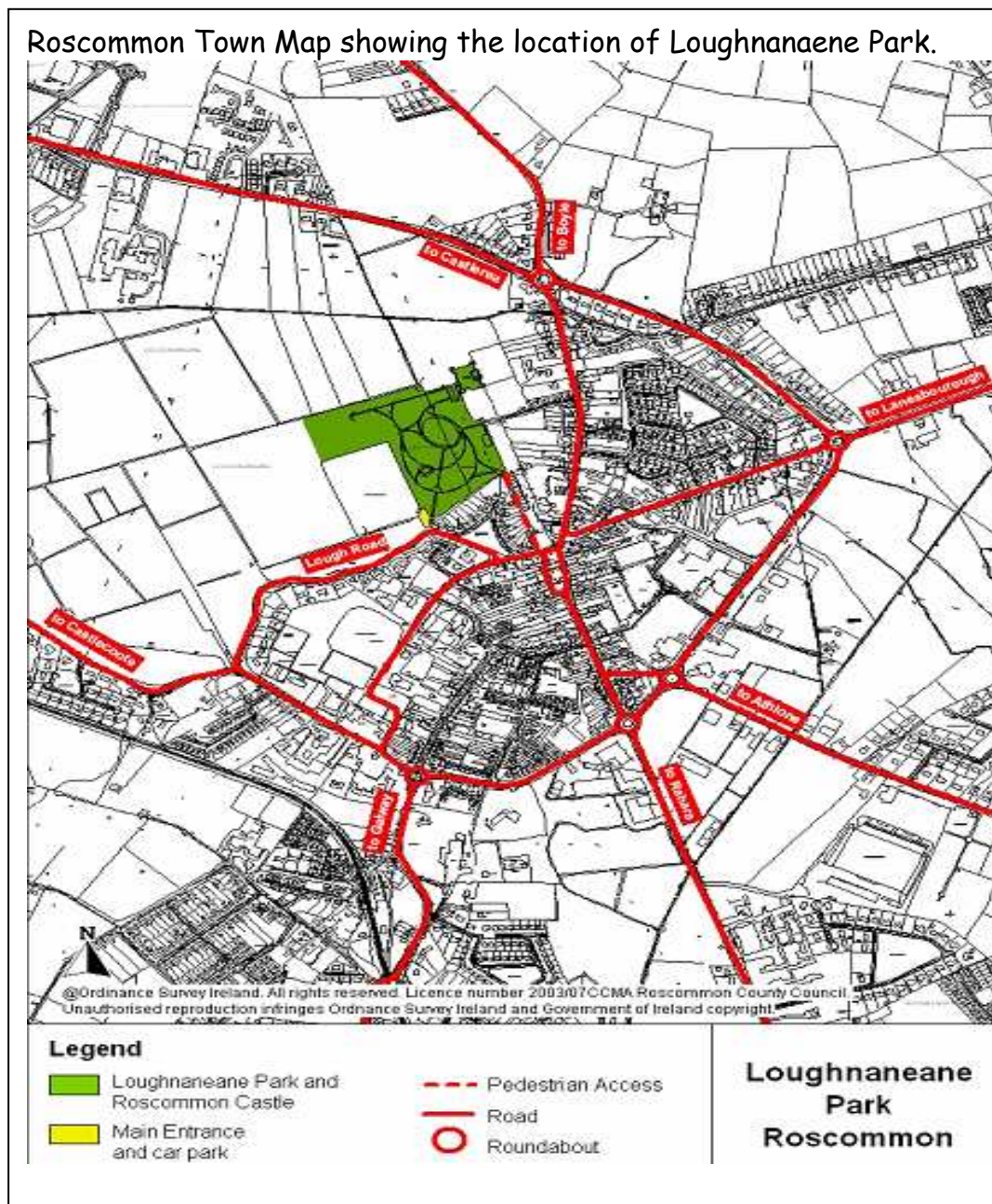
1. Locate where Loughnaneane Park is situated in Roscommon town and
2. Examine the Park Map to identify the relative locations of each of the features / facilities within the park. (Students could be issued with some copies of the park map with or without the surrounding labels that they could use during their visit).
3. Use colouring pencils to colour code the different areas of the park such as the paths, turlough, Wildflower meadow, grassland areas, castle, etc.

Identification of Plants and Animals Living in the Park and Different Parts of the Castle: The Information Sheets, Identification Charts and Keys in this pack could be used to help students to gain some basic knowledge about what they may see in the Park in advance of their visit.

Introduction to Loughnaneane Park

Description

Loughnaneane Park is located in the townlands of Loughnaneane and Cloonbrackna, only half a kilometre from the centre of Roscommon town. The close proximity of the park to Roscommon town centre enables easy access to sites of immense interest in both historical and ecological terms. The main entrance to the park is from the corner of St. Ciaran's Park residential area. A car park is located here.



Loughnaneane Park Map

