

HOW CAN I HELP?

If you or your community group would like carry out works or projects at any of these sites please contact your local Community Forum for advice and funding information: North Roscommon Community Forum, Dún Maeve, Strokestown, 071 9634757 South Roscommon Community Forum, Abbeytown, Roscommon, 090 6637923.

Before carrying out work at any of these sites, please contact the Heritage Office, Roscommon County Council, Courthouse, Roscommon, phone 090 6637100, email: heritage@roscommoncoco.ie for heritage advice and best practice guidelines on how to improve access to sites.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 'A Heritage Access Audit of County Roscommon' survey report and database, upon which this leaflet is based, is an action of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2004-2008.

Project assisted by The Heritage Council & Roscommon County Council.

Access Audit carried out by DARE Ltd. Leaflet produced by Co. Roscommon Heritage Forum.

Thanks to all who contributed information to this project.

Information correct at time of survey but subject to change.

Cover Photographs: Knockranny Wood Amenity, Elphin Windmill, Roscommon Castle.



The 'Big House'

Sites, which have public access include:
King House, Boyle
Strokestown Park House, Strokestown
Frybrook House, Boyle
Clonalis House, Castlerea
Castlecoote House, Castlecoote

Urban Buildings

Sites, which have public access include:
Harrison Hall (Bank of Ireland), Roscommon
The Old Gaol (Stonecourt Shopping Centre), Roscommon
County Library Building, Roscommon
County Museum & Tourist Office, Roscommon

Military Fortifications

Sites, which have public access include:
Shannonbridge Fortifications (The Old Fort Restaurant)

Industrial Archaeology

Sites, which include public access include:
Elphin Windmill, Elphin
Lobinroe Windmill, Four Roads
Claypipe Museum & Workshop, Knockcroghery
Arigna Mining Experience, Arigna
Derryglad Folk Museum, Curraghboy
Hells Kitchen Rail Bar & Museum, Castlerea

Famous Personalities

Birthplace of Percy French, Clooneyquin, Tulsk
Dr. Douglas Hyde Interpretative Centre, Portahard, Frenchpark
Seán Ó'Neachtáin Birthplace, Clonellan, Drum
County Roscommon Heritage & Genealogy Centre, Strokestown
Keadue Heritage Park, Keadue

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

Full details of each of these sites can be accessed on the Heritage Office section of www.roscommoncoco.ie under the heading 'Access to Heritage Sites in Roscommon'. Copies of the survey report can be viewed in all branches of the County Library Service. CD's containing the survey report can be obtained from the Heritage Office of Roscommon County Council.

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

Based on the findings of the audit, heritage information panels highlighting local built, natural & cultural heritage will be erected at 3 sites around the county Tarmonbarry Amenity Area, Kilglass Lakes Amenity Area & Kiltveevan Graveyard. Why not go along and have a look at them?

TOURING ROUTES

4 suggested touring routes, containing many of the accessible sites listed here can be accessed at www.visitroscommon.ie. The routes are Arigna Scenic Drive, Mid - Roscommon Drive, Roscommon - Roosky Eastern Drive and South Roscommon Drive.

PUBLIC ACCESS KEY ISSUES

Public liability insurance and public & private rights of way are issues of concern when accessing heritage sites. Comhairle na Tuaithe, the government advisory body on access & recreation has been, established to develop strategies to improve the management of recreation in the countryside.

GENERAL INFORMATION

There are many other useful websites:
www.visitroscommon.ie - tourist information for Co. Roscommon
www.environ.ie - government heritage service information
www.heritageofireland.ie - details of state owned monuments
www.buildingsofireland.ie - National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
www.walkireland.ie - details of Suck Valley Way Walking route
www.heritagecouncil.ie - heritage information & guidance
www.pobail.ie - information on new countryside recreation strategy



Heritage in Co. Roscommon



Where to go?
What to see?



WHAT IS HERITAGE?

Monuments
Archaeological objects
Heritage Objects
Architectural Heritage
Flora
Fauna
Wildlife Habitats
Landscapes
Seascapes
Wrecks
Geology
Heritage Gardens and Parks
Inland Waterways

INTRODUCTION

Access to heritage sites was a major issue raised at public consultation meetings during the preparation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2004-2008.

This leaflet highlights where public access is possible to heritage sites around the county.

Based on Action 2.2.1 of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan - 'Carry out an audit of heritage sites in the county, to identify those that have public access, including special needs access', this audit was carried out on behalf of Co. Roscommon Heritage Forum by DARE Ltd.

The 'A Heritage Access Audit of Co. Roscommon' survey report and database contain details of 82 heritage sites around Co. Roscommon. Each site is described under headings of grid reference, 'Discovery Series' map number, site description, access details, disabled access details, signage, on-site interpretation, parking & facilities present, and ownership.

Not all sites included in the audit have public access. Improvements could be made at some of the sites. Full details of 'A Heritage Access Audit of County Roscommon' are available on the Heritage Office section of www.roscommoncoco.ie

NATURAL HERITAGE SITES

Co. Roscommon is dominated by wetland habitats. The county is bordered to the west by the River Suck and to the east by the River Shannon, which regularly spread out over the adjacent callows during the winter months. Lakes are abundant especially in the northern half of the county. Seasonal lakes or Turloughs are regular features of the landscape. Lakeshore and riverside amenity areas provide public access to watercourses.

Lakes

Lakes, which have public access, include:
Lough Ree @ Hudson Bay Amenity Area, Portrunny Amenity Area, Galey Bay & Ballyleague
Lough O'Flynn @ Lakeside Amenity Area, Ballinlough
Kilglass Lakes @ Lakeside Amenity Area, Rooaun
Lough Key @ Tawnytaskin Amenity Area & Lough Key Forest Park
Lough Meelagh @ Knockranny Wood Amenity Area & Kilronan Castle entrance Amenity Area
Cavetown Lake @ Lakeside Amenity Area
Lough Allen @ Scrabbragan Amenity Area
Cootehall Lough @ Lakeside Amenity Area



Cavetown Lake

Rivers

Rivers, which have public access include:
Suck River @ Suck Valley Way Walking Route
Shannon River @ Tarmonbarry
Boyle River @ Mocmoyne Amenity Area, Pleasure Grounds Amenity Area & Knockvicar Tow Path



Boyle River, Knockvicar

Canals

Canals, which have public access include:
Lecarrow Canal
Boyle Canal & Jamestown Canal

Turloughs

Turloughs, which have public access include:
Loughnaneane Park, Roscommon



Lecarrow Canal

Bogs

Public access to bogs is not recommended. However the 'Suck Valley Way' provides access for walkers across the raised bog of Cooliskea/Trien/Cloonfelliv, while the 'Miners Way' provide access for walkers across the blanket bog of Kilronan & Corrie Mountains.

Woodlands

Woodlands, which have public access include:
Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle
Mote Park Forest, Roscommon

CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES

Cultural Heritage can be defined as human interaction with the natural world. People have been influencing the natural landscape of County Roscommon for over 6,000 years and the results of this interaction is a diverse collection of burial tombs, settlement sites, artefacts, buildings, industries, art, music, folklore and traditions.

A representative sample of cultural heritage sites from different periods of human history in Roscommon, were surveyed as part of the Audit and have been grouped under diverse headings.

Prehistoric & Early Historic Sites

Sites, which have public access include:
Knockranny Court Tomb, accessible from Knockranny Amenity Area @ Lough Meelagh
Castlestrange Stone, accessible via the 'Suck Valley Way' walking route
Cruachan Aí Visitor Centre, Tulsk

Ecclesiastical Sites

Sites, which have public access include:
Oran Round Tower, Medieval Church & Holy Well
Kilronan Church & Graveyard
St. Lasairs Holy Well
Ogulla Holy Well
Kilteevan Medieval Church & Graveyard
Rahara Church & Graveyard
Kilbarry Church, Graveyard & Holy Well
Fuerty Abbey & Graveyard
Tisrara Medieval Church & Pilgrims Rest House
Ardcarn Medieval Church
Drum Monastic Site
Nure Wake House
St. Coman's Church of Ireland, Roscommon
Sacred Heart Church, Roscommon
Cistercian Abbey, Boyle
Dominican Friary, Roscommon
Dominican Friary, Tulsk
St. Lasairs Holy Well, Kilronan
Ogulla Holy Well, Tulsk

Castles

Sites, which have public access include:
Roscommon Castle
Donamon Castle