Bealaí Siúlóide Ballybay

Bhéal Átha na Beithe Walking Routes

Stair Bhéal Átha na Beithe

Tagraítear don chéad uair do Bhéal Átha na Beithe thiar sa 12ú haois nuair a bhí cath i mBéal Átha an Daingin idir John de Courcey agus taoisigh Oirghialla. Bhí teaghlach Mac Mathúna i gceannas ar an gceantar ach gabhadh seilbh ar a dtailte le linn Plandáil Chromaill sna 1650idí. Luaitear Béal Átha na Beithe arís sa Rolla Airgead Tinteáin 1663 a léiríonn nach raibh baile mór fós i mBéal Átha na Beithe i lár na 17ú aois mar ní raibh ach an t-aon duine amháin ag íoc cánach ann lena linn sin.

San 18ú aois bunaíodh Béal Átha na Beithe faoi scáth ceannaí línéadaigh darb ainm Hugh Jackson. Mealladh Jackson go Béal Átha na Beithe mar go raibh an ceantar, agus An Chraobh go háirithe, oiriúnach ar an iomlán ó thaobh lín agus líneadaigh de. Tugtar creidiúint do Jackson as leagan amach Plandála baile Bhéal Átha na Beithe [cearnóg agus sráideanna spréite ag sineadh uaithi] agus ba é siúd a thóg an chéad Teach Margaidh i mBéal Átha na Beithe chomh maith le mórán tithe breátha agus stóras. Chuir grinneas gnó teaghlach Jacksons go mór le forbairt Bhéal Átha na Beithe mar bhaile margaidh agus faoin mbliain 1800 bhíothas tar éis an tSráid Mhór a fhorbairt nach mór go hiomlán idir droichead Corr Uí Bhraonáin agus gabhal an dá bhóthar go Muineachán agus Baile na Lorgan. Tá rian na haimsire úd fós le feiceáil ar dhreach Bhéal Átha na Beithe inniu mar bhaile.

Ón mbliain 1825 ar aghaidh bhí meath ag teacht ar thionscal an línéadaigh i gceantair mar Bhéal Átha na Beithe de dheasca an tsníomh a bheith meicnithe, an tseoil chumhachta agus cumhacht an choire ghaile. Ina dhiaidh sin tháinig borradh ar Bhéal Átha na Beithe mar bhaile margaidh, baineadh leas as an mbonneagar a bhí ann ón dtrádáil lineadaigh. Le linn an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda bunaíodh Béal Átha na Beithe mar ionad mór um thrádáil chapall, rud a thacaigh le ceardaithe mar úmadóirí, gaibhne, crúdóirí agus tairneoirí. Bhaineadh feirmeoirí na háite leas freisin as an dtrádáil chapall mar cheannaítí féar agus tuí mar chothú is mar ábhar leapa. Buntáiste do na tábhairní, tithe bia agus lóistin leis ab ea na ceannaithe, mangairí, grásaeirí agus braigléirí a thagadh ar an mbaile.

Sa lá atá inniu ann tá taitneamh agus leas comhshaoil le baint as tírdhreach bogach an bhaile, agus leagadh amach na bealaí siúlóide seo chun go mbainfí sásamh as áilleacht na dúthaí mórthimpeall is as Loch Major.

History of Ballybay

Ballybay or Béal Átha Beithe (the ford of the birches) as it is known in Irish, first appears in history in the 12th century when a battle was fought at Ballydian between John deCourcey and the chiefs of Oriel. The area was ruled by the McMahons but their lands were all confiscated during the Cromwellian Plantations of the 1650s. Next mention of Ballybay is in the Hearth Money Roll of 1663 which indicates that Ballybay had not yet become a town by the mid 17th century as it comprised only one taxpayer at that time.

In the 18th century Ballybay proper was established under the auspices of linen merchant Hugh Jackson. Jackson had been attracted to Ballybay by the suitability of the local area and the Creeve district in particular for the production of flax and linen. The Plantation town layout of Ballybay [comprising a square and radiating streets] is credited to Jackson whose achievements included the construction of Ballybay's first Market House as well as many fine town houses and stores. The business acumen of the Jacksons contributed significantly to the development of Ballybay as a market town and by 1800 the Main Street had almost entirely been developed between Corrybrannan bridge and the junction of the Monaghan and Castleblayney roads. Much of Ballybay's character as a town today can be traced to this time

From 1825 onwards the linen industry in areas such as Ballybay had begun to decline in the context of mechanised spinning, the power loom and steam boiler power. Ballybay subsequently developed as a market town, taking advantage of the infrastructure that had previously catered for the linen trade. During the First World War Ballybay established itself as a major horse trading centre supporting related tradesmen such as saddle and harness makers, blacksmiths, farriers and nailers. Local farmers also benefited from the purchase of hay and straw for feed and bedding as did the eating, boarding and public houses which catered for the many buyers, dealers, tanglers and jobbers which came to the town.

Today, the town's wetland landscape offers recreational and environmental possibilities and these walking trails are designed to capitalise on the beauty of the local landscape and of Lough Major.

Ionad Bogach Bhéal Átha na Beithe

Ionad breá ilfheidhme i lár an chontae is ea Ionad Bogach Bhéal Atha na Beithe, é suite cúpla míle ón mbaile taobh le bóthar Chluain Eois. Tá réimse gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla mar thuiscint ar bhogaigh nádúrtha, iascaireacht agus éanadóireacht. Dóibh siud a chuireann suim mhór sa nádúr tá post breathnadóireachta óna bhfuil radharc fairsing ar na bogaigh agus pontún ar snámh mar chosán ann. Aithnítear an t-ionad bogach mar láthair thábhachtach réigúnach do na héin imirce a thagann i rith an gheimhridh mar an eala Bhalbh agus an lacha rua Sibéarach. Tá siúlóidí fiordheasa anso, chomh maith le radharc iontach ar an ngné is mó a thuilleann cáil do Mhuineachán – na cnoic droimneacha glasa agus locha ciúine giolcach ag a mbun.

Ballybay Wetlands Centre

The Ballybay Wetlands Centre, located a few miles from the town, just off the Clones road, is an impressive multi-purpose venue set in the heart of the county. It offers a variety of activities to visitors such as natural wetlands appreciation, fishing facilities and bird watching. For nature enthusiasts, there is an observation deck with panoramic views across the wetlands and a floating pontoon walkway. The wetland site is recognised as being a regionally important site for wintering migratory birdlife including Whooper swan and Siberian widgeon. There are some wonderful walks at the Centre, as well as some breath taking views of what Monaghan is famed for - rolling green hills and peaceful reed surrounded lakes.

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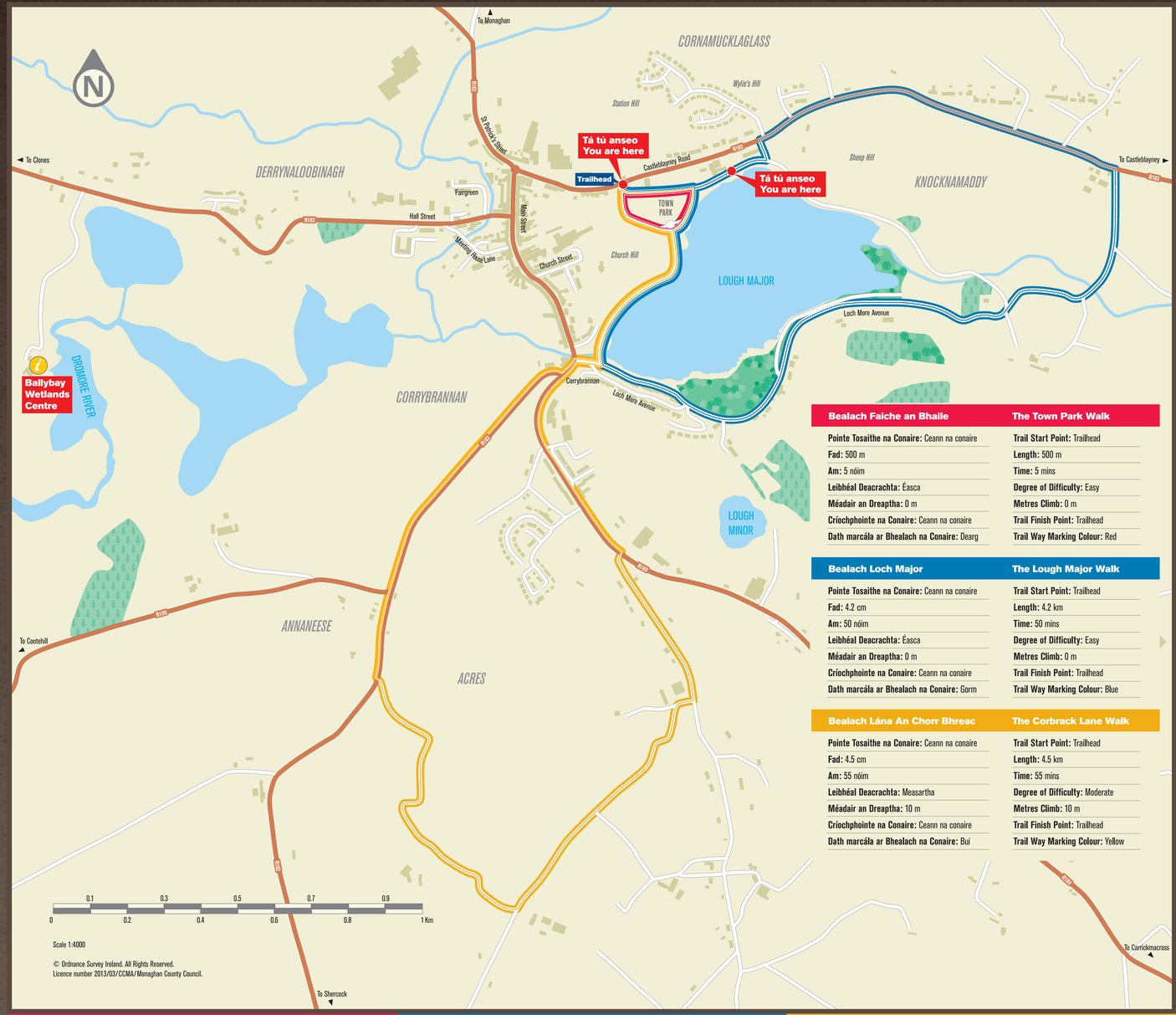

Bealach Faiche an Bhaile — The Town Park Walk

Pointe Tosaithe na Conaire: Ceann na conaire	**Trail Start Point:** Trailhead
Fad: 500 m	**Length:** 500 m
Am: 5 nóim	**Time:** 5 mins
Leibhéal Deacrachta: Éasca	**Degree of Difficulty:** Easy
Méadair an Dreaptha: 0 m	**Metres Climb:** 0 m
Críochphointe na Conaire: Ceann na conaire	**Trail Finish Point:** Trailhead
Dath marcála ar Bhealach na Conaire: Dearg	**Trail Way Marking Colour:** Red

Bealach Loch Major — The Lough Major Walk

Pointe Tosaithe na Conaire: Ceann na conaire	**Trail Start Point:** Trailhead
Fad: 4.2 cm	**Length:** 4.2 km
Am: 50 nóim	**Time:** 50 mins
Leibhéal Deacrachta: Éasca	**Degree of Difficulty:** Easy
Méadair an Dreaptha: 0 m	**Metres Climb:** 0 m
Críochphointe na Conaire: Ceann na conaire	**Trail Finish Point:** Trailhead
Dath marcála ar Bhealach na Conaire: Gorm	**Trail Way Marking Colour:** Blue

Bealach Lána An Chorr Bhreac — The Corbrack Lane Walk

Pointe Tosaithe na Conaire: Ceann na conaire	**Trail Start Point:** Trailhead
Fad: 4.5 cm	**Length:** 4.5 km
Am: 55 nóim	**Time:** 55 mins
Leibhéal Deacrachta: Measartha	**Degree of Difficulty:** Moderate
Méadair an Dreaptha: 10 m	**Metres Climb:** 10 m
Críochphointe na Conaire: Ceann na conaire	**Trail Finish Point:** Trailhead
Dath marcála ar Bhealach na Conaire: Buí	**Trail Way Marking Colour:** Yellow

Bealach Faiche an Bhaile — The Town Park Walk

Tá Faiche an Bhaile suite díreach lasmuigh de Bhéal Átha na Beithe, taobh le Bóthar Bhaile na Lorgan ar bhruach Loch Major. Ta áiseanna maithe páirceála, spás picnic, leithris phoiblí (rochtain mhíchumais), plásóg bhabhlála, clós súgartha 7rl. I lár an fhaiche tá cosán tarra soilsithe thart ar spás glas ubhchruthach mar áis inrochtana siúlóide do chách. Tá an chuid seo 0.5Cm ar fhad ach leanann droichead coise ar aghaidh ó Fhaiche an Bhaile síos go cosán cois locha, go dtí an droichead atá suite ag bun theas An tSráid Mhóir.

The Town park, located just off the Castleblayney Road out of Ballybay, is right on the shore of Lough Major. There are good parking facilities, picnic area, public toilets (with disabled access), a bowling green, playpark etc. The centrepiece of the park is an oval grassed area with a tarred and lighted path encircling it. This provides an excellent walking facility that is accessible to all. This section is 0.5km but a footbridge off the circuit extends the Town Park along a lakeside path, to the bridge at the southern end of the Main Street.

Bealach Loch Major — The Lough Major Walk

Arís tosaigh ag Faiche an Bhaile agus siúl ar an gcosán céanna atá thart ar an spás glas, ar aghaidh ansin thar an droichead coise fan gcosán go hAscal Loch Mór. Cas ar chlé agus beidh tú ar mhionbhóthar ar a bhfuil an t-uachtar go maith is é ag dul timpeall ar na 23 heactáir Loch Major. Buailtear ansiúd le príomhbhóthar Bhaile na Lorgan. Cas ar chlé agus siúl ar ais go dtí an baile mór. Tá deireadh leis an lúb ag Faiche an Bhaile arís, le féidir dul tríd an gcéad gheata (tar éis na Seastán lascaigh) nó siúl ar aghaidh go dtí an príomhgheata.

This loop starts again at the Town Park. After following the path surrounding the oval for a few hundred metres, you then branch off across the footbridge and along the footpath to Lough Mor Avenue. A left turn here brings you along a well surfaced minor road which circles the 23 hectare Lough Major. This minor road then meets the main Castleblayney road and you turn left to go back into town along the footpath. The loop ends back at the Town Park with the option of going into the first entrance to the town park (past the Fishing Stands) or walking further along the footpath to the main entrance.

Bealach Lána An Chorr Bhreac — The Corbrack Lane Walk

Arís tosaigh ag Faiche an Bhaile ach cas ar dheis agus lean an cosán cois locha go dtí an droichead ag bun theas An tSráid Mhóir. Téigh amach trí gheataí Loch Mór agus trasna an bóthar i dtreo An Mhuinchille, lean an cosán go ceann thart ar 400m agus ansin cas ar chlé ag gabhal An Muinchille/Searcóg. Tá casadh ansiúd ar chlé isteach i Lána An Chorr Bhreac, bóithrín ciúin tuaithe mar a bhfuil lúb siúlóide ag éirí i gcónaí go bhfeictear radharc álainn ar bhaile Bhéal Atha na Beithe. Amach leat ansin ar Bhóthar An Chraobh chomh fada le Bóthar Charraig Mhacaire Rois mar a bhfuil cosán ar ais go hAscal Loch Mór. Cas ar chlé thar an droichead atá díreach laistigh den gheata is ar aghaidh arís chomh fada le Faiche an Bhaile.

This route will also start out at the Town Park and you turn right to follow the lakeside path to the bridge at the southern end of Main Street. Turn right and go out through Lough Mor entrance gates and cross the road towards Cootehill following the footpath for approx. 400 metres before talking a left at the Cootehill/Shercock junction. There is a left turn into Corbrack Lane, a quiet country lane that provides a looped walk with a bit of a climb and rewards you with good views over Ballybay Town. The lane exits onto the Creeve Road and then onto the Carrickmacross road where there is a footpath back to the Lough Mor Avenue entrance. You then turn left over the bridge just inside the entrance and follow the lakeside path again back to the Town Park.