



# Blessington Lakeside Heritage Trail

For more about Our Wicklow Heritage visit [www.countywicklowheritage.org](http://www.countywicklowheritage.org)

The Lakeside Heritage Project was co-ordinated by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council in association with the local community of the Blessington Lakeside Area. It was carried out as an action of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan in 2015 and funded by the Heritage Council and Wicklow Council.

**Published by:**  
The Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council in association with the Lakeside Heritage Group, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.  
Email: [wicklowheritage@gmail.com](mailto:wicklowheritage@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.countywicklowheritage.org](http://www.countywicklowheritage.org) / [www.visitwicklow.ie](http://www.visitwicklow.ie)  
Produced by Active Me Tourism & Heritage Services  
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The Lakeside Heritage Project is supported by Wicklow County Council and The Heritage Council as an action of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan and as part of the Wicklow Commemorates 1916 programme.

The buildings in the picturesque village of Lacken are made of the local granite with spectacular views across the lake. The Tipper family worked as blacksmiths at the now deserted forge for many generations. Lacken Schoolhouse was built by Elisabeth Smith of Baltyboys House in the 1880s.

## Lacken (An Leacain)



The historic landscape of Ballynultagh includes cairns, a ballau stone, an old bog road and a deserted village. The inhabitants of the now deserted village survived without electricity and endured the hardships of living in an isolated area, up until the early 2000 when the last resident died.

## Ballynultagh (Baile an Uiligh)



**Blessington (Baile Coimín)**  
This historic town is the ideal start and end point for a loop tour around Blessington Lakes. Some of the historic monuments in the town include the Credit Union House, Downshire Monument, Saint Mary's Church of Ireland, Tyrrells House, Tram Marker, Toll House and the Horseshoe Arch.



**Boystown (Bailte Bhuí)**  
In Boystown (Bailte Bhuí), a restored Quaker Graveyard is located at the entrance of Blessington Lakes Golf Course. Originally based in Dublin, there were Quakers in this area from the seventeenth century and they worked mainly in the wool industry. Local tradition has it that they were buried upright.



**Ballyknockan Quarry**  
Stonecutting has been practiced in the Ballyknockan area since 1824, providing granite for many of Dublin's most famous buildings. The granite was transported by pony and cart to the city. Wicklow Granite was used to rebuild and renovate many of the buildings in Dublin destroyed during the 1916 Rising. The McEvoy family have been quarrying granite at Ballyknockan since 1865.



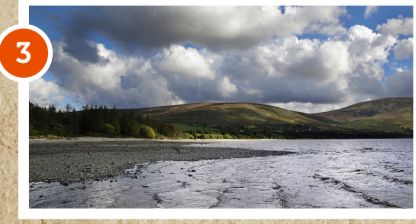
**Russborough House & Parklands**  
Russborough House & Parklands is a Palladian mansion built from local granite in the 1740's for the First Earl of Milltown to designs by Richard Castle. Today, wonderful guided house tours are available from expert local guides, a self-guided exhibition featuring 100 years at Russborough from 1916-2016, parkland walks, and a Maze & playground for the family.



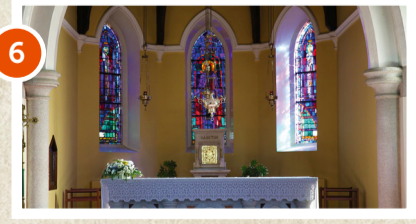
**Vallemount Bridge**  
Vallemount Bridge was constructed following the flooding of the valley in 1940. This was part of the Pollaphuca Reservoir Scheme, designed to alleviate water shortages in Dublin. As a result, the village of Ballinahown, 80 homesteads, 300 farms and over 5,500 acres of land was permanently submerged by water. The land was generally arable, good quality land, where families and communities had lived generations.



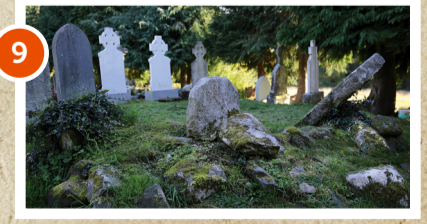
**Ballyknockan (Bhuaile an Chnocáin)**  
The cottages and houses in this pretty village are made from local granite, with some unique buildings such as the barn cinema and the House in a Day. There are breathtaking views of Blessington lakes from the village. The annual Ballyknockan Musical Festival event takes place here each summer.



**Baltyboys (Bhailte Bhuí)**  
The privately owned Baltyboys House was the home of Elisabeth Smith, author of one of the most complete contemporary accounts of daily life including household, local, national and international events during the famine years. Elisabeth was the great grandmother of Ninette de Valois, founder of the London Royal Ballet.



**Vallemount (An Chrois)**  
This small pretty village contains an old schoolhouse, a forge, a sweatshop and a distinctive church. Vallemount Church was built in 1803 in a Mexican style designed either by a former priest inspired by churches he saw on a visit to Malta or by parishioners who had visited or worked in New Mexico. The church contains beautiful distinctive Harry Clarke stained glass windows.



**Templeboden (Teampall Buadáin)**  
This townland is named after Bishop Boden whose grave and the remains of his small church are located in Templeboden graveyard. The location of a cillin, the burial place for unbaptised children from the locality has been recovered and a plaque placed to mark the area.

# Lakeside Heritage Trail

## Blessington Lakes, Co. Wicklow

The Blessington Lakes are nestled in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains. The waters of this man-made reservoir form the centrepiece in the landscape around which a very rich and unique local history and heritage can be explored.

Whether you are cycling, driving or walking, there are a wealth of stories and folklore to be discovered in the local landmarks, giving glimpses of Neolithic settlements and flooded villages; granite stone cutting traditions and the rebuilding of Dublin after the 1916 Rising.

The lakes and surrounding area are popular with outdoor enthusiasts and host a wonderful natural environment, recognised as a Special Area of Conservation for the internationally important population of Greylag Goose and a host of overwintering birds. Look out for these and other wildlife as you explore this very special part of Wild Wicklow.

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Legend	
	Lakeside Heritage Trail
	St. Kevin's Way
	Blessington Greenway
	Blessington Greenway Alternative Route
	Russborough Parkland Walks
	Common Hill Walking Routes
	Old Road beneath the Lake
	Cairn
	Standing Stone
	Stone Circle
	Tomb
	Heritage Trail Place of Interest
	Walking
	Cycling
	Birdwatching
	Fishing
	Golf
	Mountain Peak
	Picnic Area
	Parks & Forest
	Viewing Point
	Parking
	Dam
	Bus Stop
	No swimming

