

If undelivered please return to:-

IRISH TOURIST ASSOCIATION (INC.)

15 UPR. O'CONNELL ST.

DUBLIN.

Photos.

Blessington psh.



Blessington Parish

Ancient
Cross - Blessington
Graveyard
D. Pattison



Blessington Parish

~~Surgage Cross~~

St. Mark's Cross, Burgage, Blessington

(Note: This rendering has yet
to be confirmed by refce. Pattison
to surveyor's list.)
A. 06.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.BARONY OF Talbotstown LowerTOWN OR VILLAGE Blessington PARISH Blessington COUNTY Wicklow

TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

The parish of Blessington starts about 15 miles south of Dublin on the Dublin Daltinglass road. It is the most westerly parish of Co Wicklow west of the great range of mountains which divide the county almost into equal parts.

Being to the mountainous nature of the terrain and the population being small, the parish covers a very large area.

The parish is roughly an oblong running east to west. Starting on the hills which divide Wicklow and Kildare it runs right **GEOLOGY** into the heart of the big mountains to the east.

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

Similar conditions apply ~~and~~ as in the rest of West Wicklow. The range of high bare granite mountains is just as pronounced, if not more so, here. High in these mountains the river Liffey is born and flows through the whole parish. No extraordinary geological features are noted.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

The only imposing house in this parish is Keltbride Manor. It is not very large but is of that peculiar style of high pointed gables and tall chimneys which cluster together. According to the owners the design is not noteworthy nor is there any history attached to it being comparatively modern. Pleasant gardens surround the house, which unfortunately has nothing in the way of library or art gallery, and the place is not open for inspection. The present owner is Col. Moore.

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rafts, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

This is another parish singularly devoid of interesting antiquities. The only one of any note is the Castle of "Three Castles" which is located about four miles north of Blessington, just in the centre of the northern shore of the Great Lake.

What remains of the castle is the few stone walls forming a high rectangular building which appears to have been three stories high. On the outside of the western gable there appears to have been an addition but this has been removed. Inside the building the plan of the rooms etc. is easily discernible but it does not offer any unusual features apart from a mullioned window on the east and an arched doorway on the west side. Regarding its history it appears that originally there were three castles here, that is fairly well clustered together, and only this one remains. Apparently they were part of the "Pale" fortified and were erected to deal with the many incursions and raids to which this portion of the county was subject by the great Gaelic chieftains Hugh O'Spaine and the O'Leahys. It is estimated that it was erected around the 15 or 16th century. It is quite well preserved and is now in the care of the Electricity Supply Board on whose territory it rests. No actual right of way to it but as it is only nine or ten yards inside a wire fence it is easily examined.

On the roadside on the top of Ballysmuttan hill about six miles north east of Blessington is a stone about 4 1/2 ft high 2 ft wide and about 1 ft thick. On the front of this practically the full length a narrow cross is carved. The origin of this is not known locally but the general opinion is that when the road was being constructed it was dug up and erected there. Right of way and not in any person's care.

At Athdown is found the only moat. This is a circular earthen structure situated on a shelf overlooking the Liffey. The artificial portion would be only ten or twelve feet high but pitched as it is the southern slope would be sixty or seventy feet almost sheer above the river. The diameter on the summit would be somewhere around 30 feet. At the moment it is considerably overgrown with bracken etc. On the land of a Mr. Keragh who lives in the adjoining house there is no difficulty about visiting it. Athdown is on the road from Man or Kilbride to the "Bally Gap" and four miles or so from the former.

(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

Topography continued

In width it is not more than six or seven miles but its length must be almost three times that amount. The surrounding parishes are: - to the west Sallymore Eustace, to the south Beystown, the north while the eastern boundary is lost in the mountain fastnesses.

Here again the influence of the Liffey scheme was felt and part of the forests submerged in the construction of the lakes, but the additional beauty lent to the area was sufficient compensation.

Scenery

In this parish are found, probably, the two most perfect views in the whole county. Only a few yards separate the viewpoints and both are most easily accessible. Taking the turn to the left in the middle of Blessington Street and going a very short distance, the Slipway to the water's edge is seen. Just here to the right a well wooded promontory projects into the lake at right angles and forms with the mainland, also well foliaged, a quiet corner and takes the appearance of a lovely sheltered pool reminiscent of the famous 'Pol Coons' of Glengariff.

From this promontory which rises some hundred feet above the level of the water one can best view the picture-like scene. Here the lake is over a quarter of a mile wide and lies straight ahead, varying in width, for over three miles.

Slightly on the left lies the pool below, backed by the heavy foliage of the mainland which restricts the view on that side and constitutes the western framework of the picture. To the right over the water the view is unrestricted and the lake edge with its tiny inlets and headlands can be traced to where the lake ends near the foot of Seefin mountain.

Straight across from where one stands are the Old Court hills, green and luscious, sweeping like straight down into the mirror like water. As these hills recede towards the north they give place to further hills the most prominent of which, red and brown ~~is~~ ringed towards its base by dark pine foliage, is most colourful.

Directly beyond the furthest shore of the lake rise a series of low, dark green pine clad hills
(over.)

which are the footnote to the reddish brown, grey crowned "Seefing" which exposes its broad triangular flank as if placed there purposely to form a most perfect background. Behind its crest can be seen the summit of "Seefing" and the enveloping peaks sloping down on either side. Most fitting, and the highlight of the picture, is the graceful concrete bridge, glistening white in the sunshine, which spans the lake. Its eight evenly spaced arches break up the long expanse of water and add a modern note to the scene. Naturally the picture is enhanced by autumn tints but it is extremely beautiful always and here undoubtedly is a peep into nature's treasure chest which will ever hold a thrill for the lover of natural beauty.

By traversing the main road a couple of hundred yards the second view is seen. Through an opening in the trees on the right the full splendour of the scene breaks unexpectedly. From here the view is to the south east and again far below, this time on the right, lies the lovely placid pool enclosed by its tree clad embankments. The promontory which forms the southern edge projects far into the lake forming with the opposite shore a narrow neck of water which soon widens out and stretches to where the bulk of Burgage peninsula divides the lake into two great arms. Viewed from this point the eastern arm of the lake is the one whose course is more easily seen and stretches like a great silver serpent between tree clad shores. It is these stately trees which add that touch of life and richness which so beautifully contrasts with the still waters beneath.

From this angle the Old Court hills are to the left and roll away eastward to link up with the great peaks of Moanbare and its neighbours in the distance. The promontory in front partly obscures the view to the right but just allows a glimpse of the bridge at Burgage, looking so thin and fragile as it attaches to itself to the peninsula which towers high above it. Not much of this lake arm can be seen but just sufficient to determine its course. Taking the scene altogether, the placid pool below, the steep tree-crested promontory, the winding

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covered by a plantation of young Pines, and finally the river itself twisting and turning, splashing and tumbling over rock and ledge like a living thing; its brown water here and there forming foam crested pools and miniature waterfalls. To the right the valley disappears as it swings behind the brow of the hill, while behind, the great bulk of Sorrell hill overlooks all.

As one travels on from Sallymattan towards the heart of the mountains, having crossed the brow of the hill, the road drops sharply down to a lovely peaceful valley watered by the ever more youthful Liffey. Enclosed on either side by high tranquil peaks, the flat bed of the valley is the uniform brown of bogland, slashed occasionally by the jet black of a turf stack. The river twists and turns like a great serpent as it flows noisily on. A little past the centre of the vale, a circle of tall, dark green pines stands out most prominently as if to relieve any suggestion of monotony.

The arrangement of hill and mountain at the eastern end of the valley is so designed as to make a perfect setting. Right in the centre, between ever closing mountains, is a smooth round hill some seven or eight hundred feet high, which creates on either side a narrow defile with the adjoining mountain. The one formed by the southern slope is heavily wooded and appears so rich and warm, ^{when} compared with its surroundings.

The hill is predominantly bracken-brown but quite a good portion is verdantly green and here and there small clusters of Pines, their stateliness visible from afar, lend colour and life to the scene. Far behind, tower gaunt craggy mountains, their dark grey rocky sides in such sharp contrast. Through the northern defile the Liffey wanders and here again verdant trees clothe the hillside to adequately balance the delightful picture.

Following the course of the Liffey the road rises via Athdown and leaves the river lying far below. A mile or so further the road swings round a sharp bend, and here the steep embankments down to the river are heavily tree shaded; and just where it turns at right angles a grand miniature waterfall tumbles and tosses down to the river giving the most pleasing effect. Further along the road again takes an upward trend and runs past Col. Darley's estate where great trees on both sides greatly restrict the view. Beyond this descent the outline of a great sloping valley is born. On the right can be seen the river with pine trees guarding the further bank but the bed of the valley clears quickly and the black turf stacks and cuttings are soon seen

shining lake enframed with foliage and away in the distance the lofty peaks. It certainly makes a picture one can justly enthuse about and which the appreciative will find hard to leave.

That these particular views will become immensely popular when better known is a foregone conclusion because surely can nature have been so enhanced by the hand of man.

Another viewpoint certainly worth visiting is the top of the hills at Red Bog. Turning to the right at Crossway Chapel about 2½ miles north of Blessington one follows the slow easy ascent until the crest of the hill is reached.

Here the new-comer to West Wicklow will first encounter the tremendously spectacular panorama of the "plain Country" stretching from the Blackstairs mountains in Wexford via the Slieve Bloom mountains to the far distant Mourne range some seventy miles to the north. Such an expanse of flat table-like country is almost unbelievable. Definitely this is a view that will be long remembered by those privileged to see it.

The reverse view though not so spectacular is very noteworthy, embracing as it does the north Wicklow mountains, tumbling one after another, rolling ever eastwards; while stretched at their feet can be seen the great lake in its entirety, sheltered and cradled by its granite overlords.

Leaving the lake country and travelling into the hills, the first view encountered, worthy of note, is that from the top of Ballysmuttan hill some six or seven miles north east of Blessington. Looking to the north the dark grey crown of Seefin gradually becomes red brown on the lower portions of the slope, and merges into soft green ere it forms the northern bank of the "Liffey". This smooth slope resembles a huge triangle, behind which can be seen "Seefin" a twin peak, but its shape is not completely discernable. To the left of these peaks others less lofty gradually slope away to the west where they are cut at right angles by rolling hills which divide Wicklow & Kildare.

In the left foreground, below the brow of Seefin, a ridge of high ground runs westward overshadowing the river.

From the place where one stands the ground declines sharply right down to the river hundreds of feet below. A little to the left the lower reaches of this slope are completely ^(over)

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noticeable for this is renowned turf country. Over the
tree tops to the right can just be seen the tips of the great peaks
which form the southern boundary of the glen. As the river
is traced to its source the trees diminish in number and
before long but a thin line of them accompany it.
To the left the ground is well above road level and
continues to rise till it reaches the foot of Kippure mountain
which constitutes the ^{western} wall of the valley. Here again is
bogland wild and desolate and only the occasional cry
of the curlew reminds one that life exists here.

Continuing towards the famous "Sally Gap" the
woodland now gives way to complete wild moorland
entirely incased by mountains. The road can be faintly
traced like a ~~winding~~ brown ribbon winding slowly
over the opposing hill. Reaching "Sally Gap" the reverse
view is remarkably fine. Directly underfoot the valley
slopes down and broadens out attaining great dimensions.

On the left the mountains swing in a semicircle as far as
the eye can see, just as on the right the ground brown
and ~~marshy~~ marshy resembles a great brown sea around the
base of Kippure mountain, one of Wicklow's highest peaks.

From almost half way down the valley, to where it fades
from view, a veritable cloak of woodland enfolds it, while
bisecting the intervening bogland the river rushes quickly
down. To the right and left ~~nothing~~ of the "Gap"
nothing can be seen but mountain and bog the great
features of Wicklow's wild heritage.

Antiquities continued

Two rather small mounds are found on the hills which are on the western side of the parish. One is located on the hills above the village of Manor Kilbride the other is on the summit of Red Bog Hill. Neither are of any particular note. The former is a circular earthen structure five or six feet high and the perimeter would be a couple of feet wide and the diameter about 30 feet. The latter almost resembles a mound, as again it is an earthen structure six or seven feet high with the centre more or less hollowed out. It would not be more than 20 feet in diameter. The one thing about it is, that it is so placed that it commands the great panorama of the plains described earlier. Located exactly on the top of the hill above the chapel it is easily seen from the road which runs past it. On the land of a Mr Sargent there is free access.

SCURLOG

Apparently St Scurlog was closely associated with this parish as both a townland and graveyard are named after him. ^{SCURLOCK'S} "Scurlock's" leap is a sharp drop in the hillside beyond Kilbride school on the way to the Sally Gap. It is easily recognised by a mountain stream enclosed by pine trees. Here according to tradition the Saint made a great leap but I think this is mostly flight of imagination.

The graveyard dedicated to him is located near the edge of the lake in the townland of Scurlocks about a couple of miles north east of Blessington. The graveyard is now in disrepair and there is absolutely nothing of interest in it. The actual area inside the walls would not be more than a couple of hundred feet each way. On the land of a Mr Keaveney there is no difficulty about visiting it.

The tall circle of pines which stand out so clearly in the valley below Athdown is also reputed to be the sight of another graveyard. It also appears to have been something like a path but the only indication that it might have been a graveyard is one stone standing upright on the western edge. This stone is about 3 feet high and made of granite. It is almost circular and has a diameter of about 1 foot. There is no means of knowing whether it was a headstone or not but it looks quite like one. The site is on the property of a Mr Keegan and there is free access to those wishing to visit it.

Antiquities continued

There is another graveyard in Manor Kildrude just opposite
the Catholic church and though there are a number of rather
nice headstones there are none of particular note. Free
access

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location. Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

HISTORIC HOUSES ; BURIAL PLACES

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities.

none

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public? Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.

none

CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e. grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or mirth-provoking. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

none

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

Brief account of old customs, traditional cures, etc., still practised in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns.

none,



(Signed)

J. A. Pallas

Surveyor.

DATE *1st Nov '43.*

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF *Kilbatorn Lower*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Kilbride*

PARISH *Blessington*

COUNTY *Wicklow*

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE *Liffey* Nearest point to town (distance) *1/2 mile from village*

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

Brown trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout *up to 3lb + 1/2 comed*

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout *June to September*

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout *The usual pattern such as Wicklow, Keller, Gutter, Wickham's fancy, Key brown etc.*

State if angling is—"entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

Sally ward Bridge to almost Kilbride School by Blessington Fishing Club. Above that point as far as the north side park extend to preserved by the Kilbride Fishing Club

note:- Both Blessington and Kilbride Fishing Clubs are Dublin Clubs and not local

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Blessington

Local Angling Club Membership Fee

Secretary

DATE *28th Dec '43*

(Signed) *J. P. O'Connell*

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Salheta town Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE Blessington PARISH Blessington COUNTY Wicklow

ANGLING (Fresh water)

If there is only one river or lake in the parish this form (B) will suffice. For additional waters Form Ba to be used.

RIVER OR LAKE Great lake of Liffey scheme Nearest point to town (distance) just at back of village

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Brown trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout..... 3lbs note the figure is correct.

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout..... April to mid June
~~June to Sept for lake.~~

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout Butecher Salmon Brown Large Orange Grouse and

State if angling is— "entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Entirely preserved by Electricity Supply Board.

Note:- Spinning baits This lake provides the best fishing in Ireland with spinning baits A great deal of this type of fishing can be done from the banks. The "Newman" runway is very good as is spoon bait for very large trout.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

Electricity Supply Board. 7/6 per day 4/0 after 4 p.m.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Blessington

Local Angling Club * No Membership Fee.....

Secretary (and Address).....

Note:- The Blessington Angling Club is a Dublin Fishing Club
as is also the Killybegs Angling Club.

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Kinds of fish to be caught :

.....
.....

Owners of boats, type of boats, and charges per day :

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Bait available locally ? Fishing tackle ?

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn.

.....

GOLFING

Name of Club.....⁴⁵..... No. of holes.....

Situation and brief description of course :

.....
.....
.....
.....

Name of Professional.....

Is there a clubhouse on course ? Licensed ?

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day..... Per week.....

RACING

(Including " Point-to-Point " and " Flapper " meetings)

No. of meetings normally held during the year.....

Under which rules?..... *none*

Situation of course.....

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds

Harriers..... *none*

Beagles

COURSING

Name of Club..... *none* Meeting held annually?.....

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company..... *none*

Races on (nights).....

SHOOTING

Brief notes on shooting areas, stating kinds of wild fowl or game, and if free shooting is available :

To all intents and purposes the whole area is preserved.

no

If preserved, give names of landowners or lessees and addresses :

The chief owners are Ed Board Col Darley Mans Kelbride Upper Mount St Sibley.

On Station "The Land" near Blessington

Shooting Club..... *no* Secy.....

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club..... *no* Competitions held?.....

ROWING AND SAILING

Rowing or yacht clubs, with address of club-house.

no

.....

.....

GAMES AND RECREATIONS

Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following :
 (In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

- Gaelic Football..... *U. Blessington S.F.C. Ground near new road at Buncage.*
- Hurling..... *no*
- Handball..... Handball alley? *Yes but in disuse.*
- Soccer..... *no*
- Rugby..... *no*
- Cricket..... *no*
- Hockey..... *no*
- Bowls..... *no*
- Bowling (on public roads)..... *no*
- Lawn Tennis..... *no* Kinds of courts.....
- Croquet..... *no*
- Billiards..... *no*
- Badminton..... *Protestant Badminton Club who play in schoolhouse.*
- Table Tennis..... *no*
- Bridge Club..... *no*
- Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing).....
- *no*
-

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club..... *no* Events held under rules of.....
 do.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Give list of annual events held in the town or parish, naming promoters (Clubs, etc.)
 in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

..... *none.* Promoters.....

DATE..... *28th Oct '43.* (Signed) *J. Hannon* Surveyor.

Copy sent to the Fitzpatrick for inclusion in
New Edition of Dublin Guide.

(See Bimore-Eustace psh.
for further account of Poulaphuca & lake)

H. J. O'Kelly 10/1/44.

WATER	REMARKS ON LETTINGS, PROSPECTS, FACILITIES etc.	ANGLING CENTRE	NEAREST STATION
Poulaphuca Reservoir	<p>This is the new lake formed in connection with the Liffey hydro-electric scheme. The water is controlled by the E.S.B., who issue daily tickets at 3/- and season tickets at 50/-. Members of either the Dublin Trout Anglers' Association or the Blessington Fishing Club can obtain these tickets at 2/6 and 40/- respectively. Boats are not provided, but permits for private boats are obtainable at 20/- per season. Tickets and permits available from Hely's Ltd., Dame St., & Garnett & Son Parliament St.</p> <p>Brown trout extremely numerous and large, averaging 3 lbs. Open season runs from March 1st to September 30th. Best period is March - June and best month is April. Large size flies are best - Fiery Brown, butcher and large Orange Grouse. Spinning baits have given such big catches that this form of fishing may soon be prohibited. Night fishing may also be prohibited for same reason.</p> <p>Feeding conditions for the fish are to be studied with a view to improving the sport still further, and it is hoped that a means may be provided whereby salmon could enter the lake from the Liffey, as well as a method of returning the fry to the river again. The lake at present provides some of the best trout fishing in the country.</p>	Blessington or Ballymore Eustace	<p>Dublin - B'more Eustace. Bus route passes by head of lake.</p> <p>Dublin - Blessington 'bus entails some miles of cycling from Blessington to lake.</p>
<p><u>Note:</u> Prices of various tickets etc., are those charged in 1943. Final information is not yet available for '44, but E.S.B. informs me that there is no likelihood of any serious change.</p> <p>H. J. O'Kelly 10/1/44.</p>			

BOARD SOLÁTAIR AN LEICTREACÁIS

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD

60-62 SRÁIO UACHTARAC AN MÓTA

60-62 UPPER MOUNT STREET

Daire Léta Cliaí, m 18

DUBLIN, C. 18.

Do ÚAS
YOUR REF.

RO'B/AFB

Ár ÚAS
OUR REF.

Telefón: Daire Léta Cliaí 61971

Telephone: DUBLIN 61971.

Telegráma: Elecsupply Daire Léta Cliaí

Telegrams: ELECSUPPLY, DUBLIN

Public Relations Department,
43, Merrion Square,
DUBLIN

7th. February, 1946

Mr. R. O'Brudair,
Irish Tourist Association,
O'Connell Street, DUBLIN, C. 8

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in enclosing herewith answers to your
Questionnaire regarding fishing on Pollaphouca Lakes.

If I can be of any further assistance to you on the
matter, kindly let me know.

Yours very truly,

S. J. Suttle

S. J. SUTTLE
PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

H. M. Kelly

MN. (1 encl.)

Electricity Supply Board, 62, Upper Mount Street, Dublin.

H. J. O'Kelly

10/1/44.

de Pollaphuca Lakes.

Nearest point (distance) to :

(a) Blessington

half mile
approx

(b) Ballymore Eustace

approx
1 1/2 miles

Average weight of brown trout :

Data not available as lake has

Best season(s) for " " :

been recently formed & angling

conditions are not yet fully

Suitable flies for " " :

known - angling still in

experimental stage.

Does the E.S.B. hold the fishing rights of both lakes ?

Yes

In August 1944, our surveyor stated that fishing in the lakes was then prohibited, because of fish-poisoning.

Has the poisoning since been eliminated ?

Fishing is again to be permitted this 1946 season

Are there boats for hire on the lakes ? If so, please state names of owners and charges per day.

For hire from E.S.B. tickets obtainable through local hotels

& from water keepers 7/6 per day: 4/- after 4 p.m.

with not more than 2 anglers per boat.

Charges for angling: 3/- per day or season ticket £2.10.0

Fishing permits may be had from :—

Powers Hotel

Balfes Sea rooms } Blessington

Glenheat Hotel }

Wells, Dame Street, Dublin

Garnett's, 31, Parliament Street, Dublin

Electricity Supply Board, 62, Up. Mount Street, Dublin.

H. J. O'Kell

10/1/44.

Angling, Pollaphuca Reservoir

Extract

~~Copy~~ of information received from E.S.B. Feby. 1946, in reply to questionnaire (attached):

Nearest point to Blessington $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Data re weights, best seasons & flies not available, as lake only recently formed & angling conditions not yet fully known. Angling still in experimental stage. Fishing was prohibited in 1944 because of fish-poisoning, but is being again permitted this (1946) season.

Boats for hire from E.S.B. Tickets obtainable through local hotels & from water-keepers. 7/6 per day, 4/- after 4 pm. (with not more than two anglers in each boat).

Charges for angling: 3/- per day; season ticket £2.10.0.

Fishing permits may be had from:-

Power's Hotel, Blessington

Glenhest Hotel, do.

Balf's Tearooms, do.

Hely's, Dame St., Dublin

Garnett's, 31, Parliament St., Dublin

Electricity Supply Board, 62, Upr. Mount St., Dublin.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF *Talbotstown Lower*TOWN OR VILLAGE *Blessington* PARISH *Blessington* COUNTY *Wicklow*Location and brief description. Population *400 approx*

The little village of Blessington is located about twenty miles south of Dublin on the Dublin Ballinglass route. It consists of one long wide street, tree lined and quite attractive. Actually the village is somewhere in the nature of 1000ft above sea level, and adjoins the beautiful new lake of the Liffey Hydro Electric scheme.

Is there a Town Hall? *no* Location *—*

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

none

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Water and sewerage laid throughout the village and quite well available of

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station *Kinninstown* Distance *6 1/2 miles* Bus? *Yes*Public lighting by—Electricity? *Yes* Gas? *no*

DANCING

Dance hall *main St* Proprietor *Local Committee, of whom no more Paraps Prof is one.*

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas *no* Pictures shown (nights)Theatre *no* Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries..... *no*

Private Lending Libraries..... *Mr McKernan The Medical Hall Kilmalee*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church *R.C. Church (Cross Chapel)* Services (Sundays) *8.30 - 11 am*

R.C. " Kilmalee *8.30 - 11 am*

Church of Ireland Blessington

" " Kilmalee

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office..... *Main Street*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone)..... *all*

BANKING

Banks..... *Ulster Bank*

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers

Photographic Stores..... *McKernans Medical Hall*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... *The Lake* Location..... *at back of village.*

Public Baths?..... *no* Location..... *—*

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs *no*

Cultural Societies *no*

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries *Agriculture*

Handcrafts or Cottage Industries (Give names of craftsmen, employer, &c.):

no

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

Only public monument is in main street erected for the coming of age of the Earl of Hillsboro had is a large stone pedestal (which incorporates a pump) about 12 feet high and 6 broad. The top is a spire-like structure carved out of granite. Plaques bearing inscriptions are found on the sides of the pedestal. (Inscription included)

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

none

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Local National School Catholic and Protestant also at Kilbride

HOSPITALS

Dublin nearest

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets 13th of each month

Weekly market day - Half-holiday Wednesday

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Mr Moores Garage Main St
Mr Kelly do " "

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis Mr Moores Garage
Mr Kelly do
Mr Hamilton Main St

Motors (Touring) as above

Boats (State type) Rowing boats E.S.B. owned
tickets available at Balfe's Restaurant & Powers Hotel

Bicycles no

Caravans no

Horses

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location no particular sites Landowner -

Local Improvements Committee no

Secretary

DATE 28th Oct '43 (Signed) J. Patton

Surveyor.
Juverna Press, Ltd., Dublin.

ACCOMMODATION

PARISH *Blennyngton*

BARONY *Tillettstown Lower*

COUNTY *Wicklow*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Blennyngton*

W.H.

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFES
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
<i>MS</i> <i>Rena State Blearyton</i>	<i>3 (4)</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1 in Pub</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Blenn well furnished but Blenn has informed that cooking food etc is very poor.</i>	
<i>MS</i> <i>Stew Heale State Manor Yelluce</i>	<i>10 (11)</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6 in Pub</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Beautifully furnished clean and reputedly good food etc.</i>	
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							
<i>MS</i> <i>14000 Bole Mann St. Blearyton</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1 in Pub 1 in Pub</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Seems, not bad, well furnished but food reputedly good.</i>	
<i>MS</i> <i>14000 Bolephay Mann St.</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1 day out</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Partly furnished and not well kept badly furnished and very dirty.</i>	
<i>MS</i> <i>14000 Tyrell Mann D.</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1 day out 1 day out</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>No</i>		

DATE *28th Dec '43*

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)

(Signed) *M. Ballin*
Surveyor.