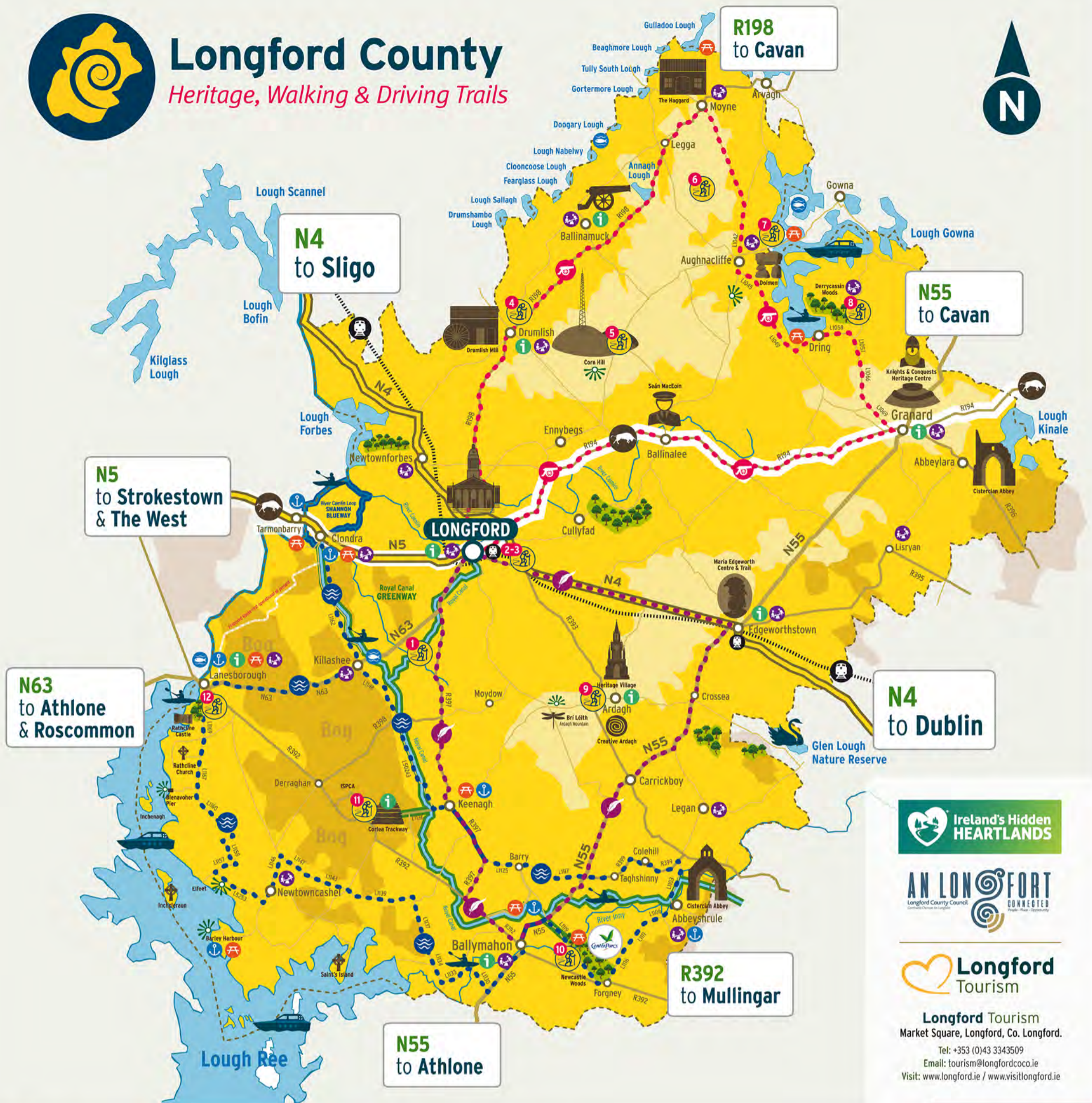




# Longford County

## Heritage, Walking & Driving Trails



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## County Heritage

For more information on our county heritage...  
 Please visit: [www.longford.ie](http://www.longford.ie) / [www.visitlongford.ie](http://www.visitlongford.ie)

### St. Mel's Cathedral—Longford

19th Century cathedral church of the Diocese of Ardagh & Clonmacnoise—dedicated to Saint Mel (died 488). Destroyed by a fire in 2009, the restored cathedral re-opened in December 2014.

### Táin Trail—Clonra to Granard

Longford section of the 365 mile cattle raid trail of Queen Maeve—from Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon to the Cooley Peninsula in Louth.

### Drumlish Mill

200-year-old corn mill was powered by a stream from Corn Hill. No longer in use, it has been preserved as an example of local building skill.

### Ballinacree Visitor Centre

Built in 1846, this former RIC barracks houses an exhibition detailing the famous Battle of Ballinacree against the British in 1798.

### Portal Tombs/Dolmens

The Aughnacree Dolmen is one of four tombs in the county, along with nearby Cleenrath, Birrinagh (Moyné) and Melkagh (Drumlish).

### Knights & Conquests—Granard

Visitor Centre situated beside Ireland's tallest Norman Motte at 544 feet high, built in 1199 by Richard de Tuite. The birth place of Kitty Kiernan. Granard has strong ties to Michael Collins.

### Gen. Séan MacEoin—Ballinacree

The Blacksmith's Forge preserves the memory of Longford's most celebrated military hero of the Irish War of Independence.

### Maria Edgeworth—Edgeworthstown

The town is named after the Georgian feminist and writer of 'Castle Rackrent'. For an insight into her life visit the Maria Edgeworth Centre and Edgeworth Heritage & Literary Trail.

### Ardagh Heritage Village

Features Ardagh House built in the 1700s. Ardagh Heritage & Creativity Centre is home to Creative Ardagh facilitating workshops and showcasing local history, myths and legends.

### Corlea Trackway—Keenagh

The Visitor Centre interprets the significance of an Iron Age bog road dated to the year 148c, the largest prehistoric road found in Europe.

### Early Christian Sites

The county is host to early Christian sites: St. Diarmuid's on Iniscleraun and St. Ciarán's on Saint's Island, both circa 540AD. There are early medieval sites dotted across the county—Saint's Island, Rathcline Church (Lanesboro), Ardagh, Abbeyshrule, Abbeylara, Abbeyderg, Ballinakill (Killashee) and Old Clonbroney near Ballinacree.



## Walking Trails

Longford has a number of local amenity walks, situated to showcase the diversity of the landscape—hill, bog, lake and woodland. Most walks are short but surfaces vary.

### 1 Royal Canal Greenway

Clonra—Abbeyshrule: **Multi-access** canal-side walk, free from traffic, ideal for runs or family walk/cycle. Parking available. **Distance:** Clonra to Abbeyshrule 35km; Longford Branch: 8.4km • **Duration:** 7hr total.

### 2 Longford Town Walking Trail

Longford Town: **Multi-access** town walk, highlighting history and heritage of the town. Parking available. **Distance:** 2km • **Duration:** 30min.

### 3 Mail Walk—Albert Reynolds Peace Park

Longford Town: **Multi-access** Slí na Sláinte park looped trail on gravel paths, with 2 playgrounds, ideal for walk or run. Parking available. **Distance:** 2.6km • **Duration:** 30min approx.

### 4 Barraghbeg/O'Higgins Heritage Trail

Drumlish: **Moderate** walk passing through farmland which might be wet in winter months. **Distance:** 6km • **Duration:** 1.5 to 2.5hr.

### 5 Corn Hill Walking Trail

Dernacross: **Moderate** hill walk, short but steep in places with rough stone, remote and offering spectacular views of the county. Parking available. **Distance:** 3km out & back • **Duration:** 30min to 1hr.

### 6 Edenmore Bog Walk

Longford: **Moderate** in wet weather, looped natural bogland walk. Parking available. **Distance:** 4.5km • **Duration:** 1hr approx.

### 7 Leebeen Park Walking Trail

Aughnacree: **Multi-access** short looped walk alongside playground with boardwalk along and over lake. Parking available. **Distance:** 1.2km • **Duration:** Up to 30min.

### 8 Derrycassin Woodland Trail

Dring: **Easy/Moderate** looped woodland walk, choice of 3 routes. Parking available. **Distance:** 1.5km—3km • **Duration:** 30min to 1hr.

### 9 Brí Leith Walk

Ardagh: **Moderate** hill walk on a resurfaced old walkway on Brí Leith or Ardagh Mountain, associated with the legend of Midir & Etain. Parking available. **Distance:** 1.5km—4.5km • **Duration:** 30min to 1hr.

### 10 Newcastle Woodland Trail

Near Ballymahon: **Easy** and accessible woodland walk, choice of routes. Parking available. **Distance:** 0.5km—10km • **Duration:** 15min to 2hr.

### 11 Corlea Bog Amenity Walk

Corlea Centre: **Multi-access** short walk with a choice of 2 trails. Parking available. **Distance:** 1.5km—3km • **Duration:** 30min to 1hr.

### 12 Commons Woodland Trail

Lanesborough: **Easy/Moderate** looped woodland walk, paths are narrow in parts and not all surfaced. Parking available. **Distance:** 4.5km • **Duration:** 1hr approx.



## Driving Trails

Longford has a rich, but often hidden history. Exploring the country through three themed drives will offer a glimpse of its ancient, early Christian, military and literary heritage.

### Longford Rebel Trail

Identifying the important locations of rebellions from the Normans to the War of Independence. You can join the trail at any of towns located on the trail. **Distance:** 71km • **Duration:** 70mins non-stop.

### Longford Literary Trail

Celebrating Longford's literary roots: Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774), Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849), Padraic Colum (1881-1972) and John Keegan Casey (1846-1870). **Distance:** 73km • **Duration:** 80mins non-stop.

### Mid Shannon Trail

Explore the south of the county, taking in the Royal Canal, the Shannon and beautiful views of Lough Ree from Saints Island and Barley Harbour, and visit Corlea Trackway. **Distance:** 98km • **Duration:** 110mins non-stop.

## National Trails Office

### Walking Trail Classification

**Multi-access:** Flat smooth trails, suitable for all users including those with reduced mobility, wheelchairs, vision impairment, using crutches, with a buggy, with small children and older people. Normal outdoor footwear suitable.

**Easy:** Generally flat trails with a smooth surface and some gentle slopes or shallow steps. Suitable for family groups including children and the elderly. Normal outdoor footwear suitable.

**Moderate:** Trails with some climbs and some uneven surface where the going is rough underfoot or obstacles such as protruding roots, rocks etc. Appropriate for a moderate level of fitness and some walking experience. Specific outdoor footwear and clothing recommended.

**Strenuous:** Physically demanding trails, with some sections having steep climbs for long periods and the going underfoot can be extremely rough including many obstacles. Suitable for users accustomed to walking on rough ground and with a high level of fitness. Specific walking footwear and clothing required.

**Very Difficult:** Mainly in remote upland areas, with steep slopes, very variable and rough underfoot on indistinct trails. Use of a map and navigational skills will be required. Suitable for experienced, fit and competent mountain walkers. Specific walking footwear and clothing required.