

CORROFIN

Geopark Heritage Trail

Location Map



Map Legend

- Heritage Trail Route
- Trail Shortcut
- National Roadway
- Regional Roadway
- Other Roadway
- Buildings

Loop Overview

Distance: 2.27km
Access: Easy
Elevation: 1.07m
Notes: Minor roads, urban pathways and farm tracks
Useful: Walking shoes, map, first aid kit, mobile phone

1 St Catherine's Church & Museum

This church was built by Catherine Veigley, wife of Lucas O'Brien, between 1713 and 1730. In 1800, the ceiling and tower were added and stained glass windows inserted. Fire-damaged in a church until 1874, the building was later adapted to accommodate the Clare Heritage Centre, where exhibits depicting life in 18th Century Ireland and a 17th century Tax or Tithing case from nearby Doughan Hill can be viewed.



11 The Workhouse

In 1847, the Great Famine provided major changes took place in the operation of the Irish welfare service provided under the 1838 Poor Law Act. Four additional Poor Law Unions were created in Co. Clare at Ballyvaughan, Corrofin, Tulla and Midleton. Corrofin Union, comprising 1,388 inhabited houses and a population of 3,912 persons, was declared in February 1852. A workhouse to cater for 400 of the destitute poor was completed here in Corrofin village in August 1852. Only the admission block remains today.



10 Lough Ateadun (the lake of the bread)

Over centuries, stretches of below a regular grassy field. It is a very important waterway for wildfowl and game fishing. Seasonal changes in the lake water level due to damage through the various breaches of the dyke, mean that Lough Ateadun Storage (through its dam) to high surface water levels are induced by the lake's flow on Lough Ateadun. The dam was built in 1840 and is still in use today. The lake is a very important waterway for wildfowl and game fishing. Seasonal changes in the lake water level due to damage through the various breaches of the dyke, mean that Lough Ateadun Storage (through its dam) to high surface water levels are induced by the lake's flow on Lough Ateadun. The dam was built in 1840 and is still in use today.



9 Kilvooydan Graveyard

Associated with St. Blaise's a medieval church that once stood here on the shore of Lough Ateadun. There is a circular enclosure, possibly dating to the early medieval period, some 400 yards in the fields, when the first Ordnance Survey map was completed in the early 1840s. Today a 'holy well' and the scattered base of a cross survive to the south-east of the walled graveyard. When a pattern of prayers is undertaken over three days, the well water is said to cure warts.



2 St Brigid's Church

was commenced as a relief scheme by Sir John Mulvey during the famine of 1832 on a site donated by Sir Edward O'Brien, MP, Dromoland. Plans were prepared free of charge by the noted architect, the Irish Brothers, who were then redesigning Dromoland Castle. Completed around 1825, St. Brigid's was one of the first churches in the county to be built to an architect's plan. The front doorway was taken from a late medieval church in nearby Kilvooydan (see item 10). The mixed lead at the front was taken from the old ironwork church at Kesh [see 11] on the Sperrin O'Connell Heritage Trail.



3 Market House

built by the O'Briens in the 17th century the market house has been the location for many enterprises. In 1788 wooden goods were spun and washed on the upper floor. In 1812 Rev. Frederick Stone, the local vicar, received a donation of fifty pounds from Sir Edward O'Brien to establish a school for the poor in the upper room, based on the model developed by the English educationalist, Joseph Lancaster. Other uses included corn and woolen markets, a Wax House, an infirmary and police barracks, a cinema and most recently a residential development.



4 The Bridge

This three-arched cast-iron bridge spanning the River Fergus, built circa 1790, is a protected structure. The River Fergus flows under the bridge, taking Lough-lickipin with Lough Ateadun. The waterway is a designated Special Protection Area. Due to the great variety of resident and migrating wildfowl it supports and a Special Area of Conservation as it contains several important habitats.



5 Richmond House

was built by Richard Stone of Prospect House, Tullymore, probably around the time of his marriage in 1796 to Miss Adams of Ballymore, Corrofin (passed by the lake through the mid 1820s), the house served as a presbytery for the RC clergy until a new presbytery was built at Loughmoyne in 1840. An outbuilding adapted for use as a school in 1825 served as the first national school in the parish until the 1860s. Among the teachers were Michael Quane, an founder of the Gaelic Athletic Association and Bernard Mac Curtain, the well-styled 'fair hand of Plummer'.



6 Michod's Lane

This walled lane connected St. Brigid's Corrofin house on the bank of the River Fergus. Home of St. Brigid O'Brien after her return from Cassinagh Castle. It later passed to her grandson, Lucas, and his wife, Catherine Veigley who lived there between 1796 and 1717. Catherine was a cousin through marriage of Queen Mary and Queen Anne of England. By 1840 the house was in ruins and a distillery had been built close by.



4 Heritage, Genealogy and Interpretation

The Clare Genealogical Research Centre, founded in 1982 by the late Dr. Ignatius (Barnet) Cleary and the Burren National Park Information Centre are both located in this building. The Research Centre provides a genealogy service while the information point provides interpretation on the formation, management and flora and fauna of the Burren in an interactive and educational manner. Free guided walks, talks and activities are organised on a regular basis.

