

Castleblayney

Baile na Lorgan

The town on the hill



Follow the route and **Tick the box**

Route 1 — 2km
Follow 1 - 18

FEELING COMPETITIVE?

Start time

Finish time

- MAP LEGEND
- Purple Trail
 - Trail number
 - Playground
 - Picnic Area
 - Parking
 - Doctor on call
 - Iontas Arts & Community Centre
 - Library



Monaghan County Crest

The Monaghan county crest is inspired by its early history. The four quadrants of the shield symbolise the four ancient kingdoms that made up the region – Úi Meith, Dartraige, Mugdorn and Fermag.

What do you think the motto "Dúthracht agus Dicheall" means?
Diligence and Best Endeavour.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
There is no planet B

The Story of Castleblayney



Nearby archeological sites such as Mullyash Cairn and the famous Black Pig's Dyke indicate that this region has been inhabited since prehistoric times. The Black Pig's Dyke is a series of earthworks (banks with ditches on either side) that stretches across the county. It is assumed that they were part of a defensive fortification, but one popular tale suggests that they were torn into the ground by the tusks of a huge boar.

The town sits on the shore of Lough Muckno ("the place where pigs swim") which perhaps takes its name from a tale concerning St. Maeldoid in the 7th century. Legend tells us that Maeldoid first began to build a monastery on the southern bank of the lake, but his work was destroyed by the devil. In a vision he saw a pig swimming across the lake to the northern bank. Taking this as a sign from God, Maeldoid built his monastery at that site instead.

The development of modern Castleblayney originates with the Plantation of Ulster. Edward Blayney, whose family gave the town its name, was granted the territory of Muckno by King James I. Following the construction of a castle, a village grew up around it, originally called Ballynalurgan ("the town on the hill").

Today, Castleblayney is known not only for its scenic surroundings, but also for its rich cultural heritage and as the birthplace of world famous musicians, GAA stars, and athletes.

Don't forget to **Tick the box**

1 Nest Sculpture

This fascinating sculpture is known as the Nest Sculpture and is located at the entrance to Hope Castle and Estate. A project facilitator worked with locals in designing a piece that best expressed their sense of community. The final piece was then created by Compass North Glass and Ballinliss Forge Works. It compares Castleblayney to a bird's nest, symbolizing a place where life begins and grows. *Why do you think the artist might have chosen to include music notes on this piece?*

If time allows, why not spend a few minutes at Wilbert's Enchanted Garden Play Park before moving to the next clue?



2 The Annex Coach House and Stables

This large stable complex was built in 1865 near the walled garden, now a carpark, and the orchard, where the trees still bear apples. The buildings here also housed the workers' quarters and the kitchens. The food cooked in these kitchens was delivered to the house through a nearby basement level entrance.

Can you imagine a time when this stable yard was bustling with both horses and workers?



3 Hope Castle

Even in its current state, the architecture and the embellishments of Hope Castle can still be appreciated. Imagine the scenic views visitors to the castle had from those upper floor windows.

Take time here to enjoy the view of Monaghan's largest lake, Lough Muckno. Come back another day and wander the many walking trails found here in Lough Muckno Park or access the Black Island Forest and walks via the wooden bridge. For a different perspective, bring a kayak and enjoy Muckno Estate from the water.

4 Barney's Green

Can you find any white stones in the walls of Barney's Green? These stones guided workers in and out of the estate when it was dark.

The estate farmyard buildings, including the dairy and food stores, are found within Barney's Green. Also within Barney's Green is an ice house, a building used to store ice and preserve food before the invention of modern refrigerators.

5 1916 Memorial

In 2016, to commemorate the 1916 Rising, a Community Garden of Remembrance was created within Barney's Green. This fascinating sculpture was designed by Yoram Drori, and it almost seems to animate the leaders of the Rising. *Can you identify the leaders pictured here?*

6 Church Street

This gate forms the Church Street entrance to Hope Castle. The Gatekeeper's lodge has a side entrance and the local Sexton's House can be found on the other side. When the castle was still inhabited, this gate would have seen constant traffic with workers and visitors passing through. The row of red brick cottages ahead were built in 1877 in order to house the estate's workers. *Why do you think this street was named Church Street?*

7 St. Maeldoid's Church of Ireland

Monument inscriptions in cemeteries can offer a close insight into local history not found anywhere else. The Blayney family vaults are situated in the grounds of St. Maeldoid's Church of Ireland. Andrew Thomas, the most famous Blayney, is credited as the true founder of modern Castleblayney. Under his lordship, it grew from a village into a market town with a prosperous linen market. *Can you find where Andrew Thomas, who died in 1834, is buried?*



8 St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church

This is the bell of St. Mary's, a Catholic church which houses stained-glass windows designed by Franz Mayer of Munich, a world-famous German company. Andrew Thomas Blayney granted a lease for the construction of a Catholic church in Castleblayney on the condition that no spire ever be built.

In addition to the churches on Church Street, Castleblayney also has a Presbyterian Church that was constructed in 1787 on Keady Street.

9 Alms Houses

These Alms Houses were constructed following the death of the last Lord Blayney, Cadwalladar. He bequeathed funds to provide housing for elderly locals and there is a memorial on these grounds dedicated to his memory. Notice the fascinating brick frame on the walls that is inscribed '18B79'.

10 Victorian Post Box

Post boxes dating from when Ireland was under British rule usually feature a crown symbol with letters such as ER, GR, or VR, signifying who was monarch at the time. This post box, however, features the letters P&T. *Can you guess what these letters might stand for?*

11 Dr. John J. Clarke Mural

This eye-catching mural celebrates the work of famous photographer Dr. John J. Clarke. His collection is considered one of the best examples of street photography in Ireland as his candid photographs provide a window into the lives of ordinary people across early 20th century Ireland, both urban and rural. *Imagine you are one of the young girls in this mural, growing up in Castleblayney over one hundred years ago. How much do you think the town has changed since then?*



12 Eugene 'Nudie' Hughes Mural

This mural recognises the achievements of GAA star Eugene 'Nudie' Hughes. *Count how many medals Nudie won as a member of Castleblayney Faughs.* Nudie brought his club and county to multiple victories, collecting three All-Stars over the course of his career.

Nudie is just one of Castleblayney's many sporting heroes. Another famous athlete is John 'The Runner' McGough, who won silver in the 1500-metre race at the Intercalated Olympic Games in 1906. *How many Irish Olympians can you name?*

13 Music Wall of Fame

Castleblayney is often referred to as the 'Nashville of Ireland' and the Wall of Fame celebrates the town's most famous stars. It showcases the legacy of locals such as Paddy Cole who had a profound impact on music all across the globe. Scan the QR codes on the wall and take a moment to listen to some of the music which made Castleblayney famous. *Why do you think the showbands of the 50s and 60s shown here were so popular?*



14 Allied Irish Bank Building

Banks such as this AIB building are often the most impressive structures in Irish towns. They serve as important examples of Ireland's rich architectural heritage and reminders of our early history. *What different features help this building stand out on Main Street?*

Take a self-guided tour & explore Castleblayney

Be the local, the historian, the artist, and become the EZexplorer...

Easy Peezy Leisurely Stroll...

- Keep it simple, find the picture clue locations and enjoy learning about Castleblayney.



Ready Steady Go!

- Feeling competitive?
- Note your start and finish times and see can you beat families and friends in completing a route against the clock.
- Share your time on social media with #ezexploring and challenge like-minded ezplorers to compete!



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15 A Fracture of Time Sculpture

The establishment of the border, the closure of the Great Northern Railway, and the Troubles deeply impacted twentieth-century Castleblayney.

In 1976, a car bomb outside The Three Star Inn claimed the life of Patrick Mone and injured 17 others. This came as a tragic shock to the people of Castleblayney and a beautiful memorial commemorating the victims was designed by Remco de Fouw. *Look closely at the colours and the design of this memorial. Why do you think it was named "A Fracture of Time"?*

16 Masonic Lodge

Next to the former Bank of Ireland is Castleblayney's Masonic Lodge. The Freemasons have a long history in Castleblayney, and many of the Blayney family were members of this organisation.

The Freemasons are an ancient organisation established by stonemasons and cathedral builders during medieval times.

17 Market House

This striking building served as a market house from 1801 and was extensively renovated in 1856, becoming the local Courthouse. The differences between the upper level, which appears Victorian, and the lower level, indicate that the Courthouse was constructed on top of the original Market house.



It also previously housed a library. In the past, politicians such as Charles Stewart Parnell and Countess Markievicz were photographed on the steps of the Courthouse during election campaigns.

18 Big Tom Memorial

This sculpture by Mark Richards celebrates one of the most famous men to hail from Castleblayney, music legend Big Tom McBride. Big Tom and the Mainliners and later Big Tom and the Travellers saw success all across the world. In 2016 he was the first person to be inducted into the Irish Country Music Hall of Fame.

The artist chose to represent Big Tom looking towards his pub The Old Log Cabin and the Oram road where he grew up. Further down this road a mural of the saxophonist Paddy Cole can be found.

Why do you think he chose to show Big Tom sitting in this way, and not performing?

Castleblayney

Baile na Lorgan

easily explore
Find the clues
and tell the tales...



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Hope Castle and the Hope Diamond

The first castle at this site was built by Edward Blayney. It was captured in 1641 by Hugh MacDubb MacMahon but the Blayney family successfully won it back. Towards the end of the 18th century the 11th Lord Blayney, Andrew Thomas, commissioned a new, smaller, Georgian-style house at the site that was designed by Robert Woodgate. Woodgate also designed Clondeboyne in County Down.

As you walk through Castleblayney, keep an eye out for the Blayney family crest.

Its present name is derived from Henry Thomas Hope, who purchased and renovated the castle in 1853. The Hope family are best remembered for their connection to one of history's most famous jewels, the Hope Diamond. This famous diamond was brought to France from India in the 17th century but disappeared during the French Revolution. Henry Thomas Hope's uncle acquired the diamond in 1839 and it was eventually passed to his nephew. However, the Hope Diamond is famed for bringing bad luck to its owners and his grandson sold it in 1901. It is now in the Museum of Natural History in the Smithsonian Institute, Washington.

The Hope family left the Castle in 1916 and it was used as a barracks until 1921. Since then it has served as a temporary hospital, a home for refugees, a guest house of the Franciscan Sisters, and a hotel. It was badly damaged during an arson attack in 2010. The grounds of the former estate now form Lough Muckno Leisure Park, which offers excellent walking trails, fishing, and water sports.