

**FREE
MAP**

Welcome to Celbridge & **NORTH EAST KILDARE**



A Heritage Route Map

Only 20 km from Dublin

Céad Míle Fáilte



North East Kildare has a rich diversity of heritage including many ancient Christian sites and a wonderful legacy of great houses with remarkable stories. These restored mansions provide acres of open parklands dotted along the Liffey Valley waiting to be explored. Their designed, aesthetic landscapes offer interesting walks with attractive features from earlier times.

We hope this map will assist you in discovering the necklace of heritage in this part of Ireland.

When visiting North East Kildare you walk in the shadows of the Earls of Kildare, Jonathan Swift, Samuel Beckett, Arthur Guinness, Speaker William Conolly, Daniel O Connell and Henry Grattan, to name but a few.

The Royal and Grand Canals flow through County Kildare offering visitors an opportunity to experience miles of tranquil towpaths, while walking or cycling.

Whether your stay is long or short, we hope that your time in North East Kildare is special.

Other places of interest in this area include:

Conolly's Folly, St. Mary's Church Leixlip, Steam Museum Straffan, Donadea 9/11 Memorial, Roberstown Grand Canal Village, Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore Heritage Discovery Park and the Round Tower at Taghadee near Maynooth.



Access to North East Kildare

Train:

Trains run regularly to most towns including Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth. For train times see www.irishrail.ie

Bus:

There is a regular half-hourly bus service from Dublin City Centre see www.dublinbus.ie

Route 67 bus / Celbridge,

Route 66 bus / Maynooth and Leixlip,

Bus Éireann route 120 / Straffan and Celbridge.

Guided Walking Tours:

Guided Walking tours of North East Kildare can be arranged by contacting Breda Konstantin at 087 963 0719. Tours can also be conducted through Irish on request. These walks are led by entertaining, informative and passionate local volunteers.

See www.facebook.com/Celbridgeguidedtours.

Walks are tailored to suit the interest, age and fitness levels of all, and vary from one to three hours on relatively flat ground.

The Heritage Route Map in North East Kildare is a Celbridge Guided Tours project, supported by the Integrated Services Programme, in association with Celbridge Heritage Tourism Forum.

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North East Kildare attractions

1. Castletown 1722, Celbridge



Castletown is Ireland's first and finest 18th century Palladian style mansion, built from 1722 for Speaker William Conolly and his wife Katherine. The house was probably designed by Alessandro Galilei, the Italian architect, and Edward Lovett Pearce.

Today the great house and some of the demesne lands are in State ownership. The Office of Public Works is restoring the 18th century landscape to its former glory. Images of OPW properties are used with the kind permission of OPW. For a free guided walking tour of the parklands contact Breda, Celbridge Guided Tours 087 9630719

2. The Wonderful Barn 1743, Leixlip



The wonderful Barn was built in 1743 by Katherine Conolly as a relief work to give employment to the poor. A flight of 94 steps winds around the outside like a corkscrew. Two smaller structures of a similar design stand behind the main barn.

3. Becketts Hotel Leixlip

The great Irish novelist and playwright Samuel Beckett, the author of *Waiting for Godot* who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969, has a connection with Cooldrinagh House and demesne, now known as Becketts Hotel. Beckett's mother May (née Roe) was born here on March 1st, 1871.

4. Carton House 1739, Maynooth



Carton House was built in 1739 for the Fitzgerald family, one of the most powerful families in Irish history. The Fitzgeralds were part of Strongbow's army who arrived in Ireland in the 12th century. Lord Edward Fitzgerald, leader of the 1798 Rebellion, was born at

Carton House to Emily and James Fitzgerald.

Carton House demesne offers designated walking routes with wonderful views. It has a very attractive man-made lake, a boathouse and a fabulous shell cottage. The estate has over 1,100 acres of parklands, and walking maps are available at reception.

5. St. Patrick's College 1795 & Maynooth Castle 1200

St. Patrick's College in Maynooth is the national Catholic seminary and was established in 1795. Russell Library has one of the most magnificent interiors in the college, and the grounds are well maintained. The yew tree at the entrance, known as the Silken Thomas Yew, is one of the oldest native trees in Ireland. The college grounds are open all year.



Maynooth Castle, located close to the entrance of St. Patrick's College, was home to the Fitzgerald family from the 13th century. Gearóid Mór (1456-1513) was the most powerful member of all the family and was known as the Uncrowned King of Ireland.

6. Royal Canal, Kilcock



The Royal Canal passes through Leixlip, Maynooth and Kilcock on its way to the river Shannon. The Royal Canal is perfect for anglers with plentiful stocks of roach (the most popular fish), pike and bream.

The canals offer fantastic walking and cycling experiences along the historic towpaths. For more details on canal walks see www.waterwaysireland.org

7. Straffan House 1832 / K Club



Straffan House was built in 1832 by Hugh Barton of the world-famous Barton and Guestier wine company. The design of the house was based on a magnificent château at Louveciennes not far from Versailles in France. The K Club, formerly Straffan House, is

now a magnificent golf resort and was the venue for the 2006 Ryder Cup. The K club comprises 500 acres of open parkland. A map highlighting a designated walking route is available at reception. See www.kclub.ie/en/hotel-straffan/

8. Burial Ground of Arthur Guinness / Arthur's Way



The burial ground of Arthur Guinness is located at Oughterard Graveyard in a beautiful rural setting along Arthur's Way. The site is an Early Christian monastic site. Saint Bríga (Brigid) is said to have founded a monastery here in the 6th century. The early Irish

manuscripts (the Annals) record that the Vikings, under Sitric Silkenbeard burnt the monastery down in 995.

9. Grand Canal / The Village at Lyons



Like the Royal Canal, the Grand Canal also passes through county Kildare to the Shannon and offers miles of towpath for walking and cycling. The Canal offers magnificent views of the Hill of Lyons, the possible venue for the famous duel between

Daniel O Connell and John D'Esterre in 1815. O'Connell, the great Irish political leader and campaigner for Catholic emancipation, mortally wounded his opponent in the duel.

The restored Village at Lyons along the banks of the Grand Canal close to Ardclough is a real gem. See www.villageatlyons.com, to check opening times phone 01 6303500. This section of the canal is now part of Arthur's Way.

Celbridge attractions

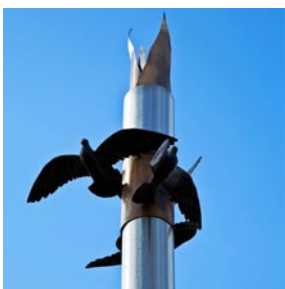
A. Castletown



Castletown Parklands in Celbridge by the banks of the River Liffey has over 120 acres of open parkland, which is managed by the OPW. A map highlighting several points of interest in the parklands is available at reception in Castletown House. This map indicates

river walks, gate lodges, bridges, a temple, an ice-house and a man-made lake with an abundance of wildlife. The beautiful restored parklands and river walks are open every day and there is no admission fee. See www.castletown.ie / 01 6288252

B. Workhouse Burial Ground



The Celbridge Workhouse, built on land donated by Edward Pakenham Conolly of Castletown, cost 6,800 pounds to build and opened in June 1841. When inmates died in the workhouse in Celbridge, their bodies were carted to a pit in the graveyard, where

they were buried together in unmarked graves. No record was kept of their names and possibly thousands were buried there, unknown and forgotten.

A cross was subsequently erected in memory of all those who died during those tragic years. In 2007 Celbridge Tidy Towns restored the graveyard and erected a beautiful memorial sculpture.

C. Celbridge, Birthplace of Arthur Guinness



Arthur Guinness

Arthur Guinness, the founder of the Guinness brewery, was born in Celbridge on the main street in 1725 and lived there for 30 years. He is commemorated by a statue in the heart of the town. The Mucky Duck and The Village Inn pubs on the

main street mark the site where Arthur was born. Details of a heritage route that traces Arthur Guinness's early years can be found at www.arthursway.ie

D. Kildrought House 1719



Kildrought House is the oldest in Celbridge. The house, which is set back from the street, was built in 1719 by a Dublin upholsterer and tapestry maker Robert Baillie, who leased the land from William Conolly. Baillie brought Flemish weavers to

Ireland. Two of their tapestries depicting the Siege of Derry and the Battle of the Boyne still hang in the Irish House of Lords in College Green, Dublin, now the Bank of Ireland.

Celbridge Guided Tours can arrange a free visit to the gardens, by appointment, phone 087 9630719

Please note:

**D, F & G by appointment
contact 087 9630719**

E. Celbridge Mill 1850



The first reference to a mill in Celbridge was a corn and tuck mill in 1217. Over the years the Mill has been a source of employment and has changed uses from flour, flax, paper to a textile mill. Peat from local bogs was used for the paper mill. At one time, in the early 19th century, it was the largest mill in Ireland.

F. Tea Lane Graveyard

Tea Lane in Celbridge is a graveyard of immense cultural and historical significance. The graveyard stands on an ancient path that linked Dublin Bay to Galway Bay, known as the Slí Mhór, one of Ireland's ancient five roads. The site was an early medieval monastery dedicated to St Mochua, the first abbot of Clondalkin.

Tea Lane is the burial ground of the Dongan family, William Conolly of Castletown, and Henry Grattan the younger, his wife and five children. This Henry Grattan was the son of Henry Grattan, the famous politician and statesman, who campaigned for legislative freedom for the Irish parliament and which resulted in 'Grattan's Parliament'. The younger Henry Grattan was also an M.P. and worked with Daniel O Connell to repeal the Act of Union. He wrote the Life and Times of the Rt. Hon. Henry Grattan, (1839) a biography of his father.

In 1995 a plaque in honour of Thomas Dongan of Castletown, who had served as Governor General of New York in the 1680s, was unveiled at Tea Lane graveyard by the former American Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy-Smith. Visits by appointment, phone key holder at 087 9630719.

G. Celbridge Abbey c1697



Jonathan Swift

Celbridge Abbey was built by Bartholomew Van Homrigh, who served as Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1697. His eldest daughter, Esther, was a close friend and correspondent of Jonathan Swift, who called her Vanessa. A quiet romantic spot overlooking

the weir in the Abbey grounds was chosen to be their special bower. Jonathan Swift, who became dean of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, was a great satirist and is remembered for such famous works as *Gulliver's Travels* and *A Modest Proposal*.

Other connections to Celbridge Abbey include Henry Grattan, the greatest orator in the Irish House of Commons in the 18th century. Phone 087 9630719 to arrange a free visit.

H. Celbridge Manor Hotel

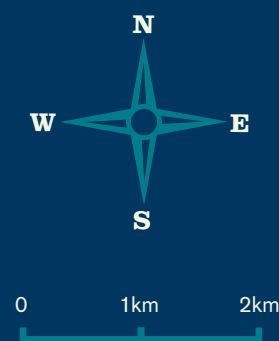


Celbridge Manor Hotel was formerly the Celbridge Charter School planned by William Conolly before his death in 1729. Students were employed to farm the 50 acres around the school, growing flax and manufacturing linen. The school continued as a

girls' boarding school until 1973. The building is of Georgian design and has wonderful features. See www.celbridgemanorhotel.ie/

For a complete listing of Celbridge Historic sites view the Discover Celbridge Brochure at www.celbridgeonline.ie in the Visitors Information Section.

A Heritage Route Map



Kildare County Council

A Castletown 1722



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This Map/ Brochure is sponsored by
Kildare County Council, whose
generosity is greatly appreciated