

Shannon-Erne Waterway

Upper Lough Erne End

*He loved the breeze that warns the black grouse,
The shout of ghillies in the morning
When packs are counted and the swans cloud
Loch Erne, but more than all those voices,
My throat rejoicing from the hawthorn.*

Austin Clarke

The peaceful eye of the storm



Marks indicate the navigation channel on Garadice Lough where the exit is not obvious.



Exploring Garadice Lough's shoreline.



From Carrickmakeegan Bridge (May 24, p42) the canal runs due east and quickly reaches Garadice Lough, the largest lough used by the waterway. There are several crannog sites dotted around the lough. The route passes the north end of the wooded Church Island, where the church must have had some difficulty attracting congregations. Cherry Island has a castle and Crane Island a bawn, a fortified enclosure, and great crested grebes might be seen.

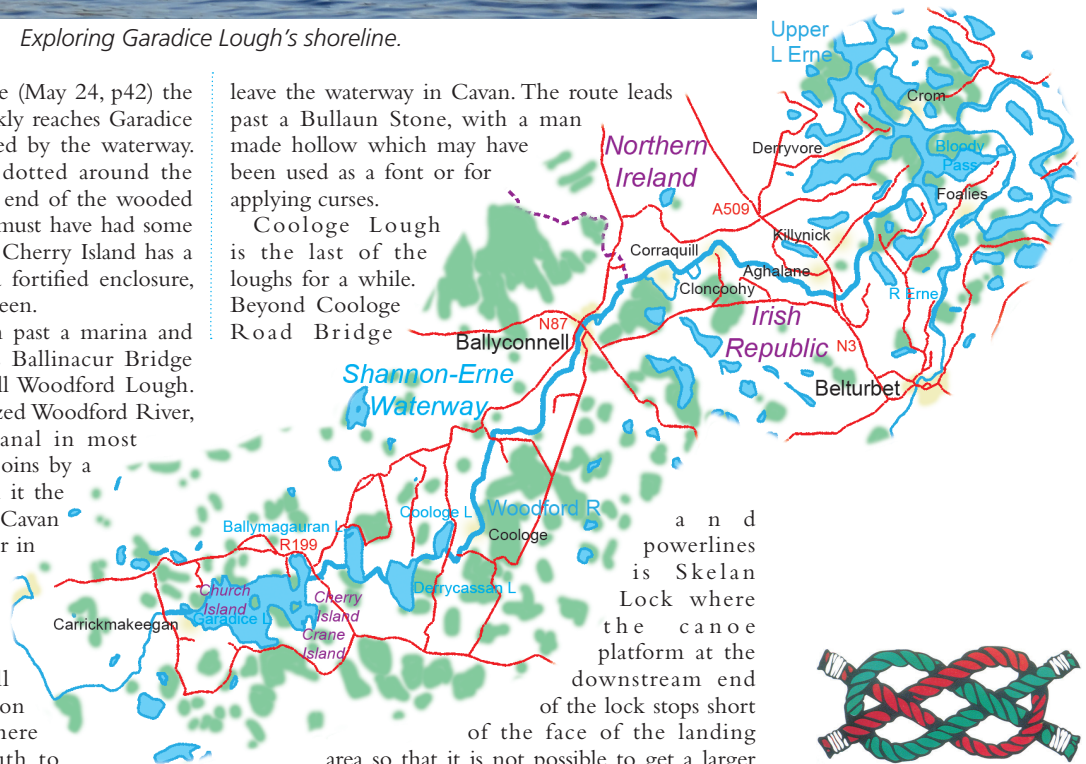
The waterway leaves the lough past a marina and slipway where the R199 crosses Ballinacur Bridge and then passes through the small Woodford Lough. The rest of the waterway is canalized Woodford River, resembling river rather than canal in most places. The Ballymagauran River joins by a fortified house site, bringing with it the County Cavan and Ulster border, Cavan being one of the counties of Ulster in the Irish Republic, the county of 365 lakes.

Ballymagauran Lough follows with a castle and a crannog site and strange clumps of reeds all over it. Another short river section leads to Derrycassan Lough, where the county boundary turns south to

leave the waterway in Cavan. The route leads past a Bullaun Stone, with a man made hollow which may have been used as a font or for applying curses.

Coologe Lough is the last of the loughs for a while. Beyond Coologe Road Bridge

and powerlines is Skelan Lock where the canoe platform at the downstream end of the lock stops short of the face of the landing area so that it is not possible to get a larger



Access and passage are not necessarily permitted and safe under all conditions.