

Welcome to the Whyte Estate

The Loughbrickland Historic Trail in the Whyte Estate follows tree lined trails through woods and open countryside. The trail offers an opportunity to enjoy the beauty and peace of this natural environment and to discover the traces of previous occupants of the estate from the time over 1000 years ago when the impressive Coolnacran Ringfort and the smaller Johnston's Fort were in use - to World War II when troops were stationed in the estate.

The Whyte Family

Originally a Norman family, the Whytes of Loughbrickland are descended from one Walter Whyte who, having accompanied Strongbow to Ireland in 1170, was knighted by Henry II in Dublin in 1171. He then played a leading role in the Norman conquest of Ulster alongside John de Courcey for which he was made one of the five barons of Ulster under de Courcey and given large estates to the west of Strangford Lough where the family became Lords of Duffryn.

By the 16th century the head of the family, Sir Nicholas Whyte, was in residence at Leixlip Castle, which had been granted to him in 1569 and remained the family seat until it was sold to William Conolly of Castletown in 1732, and Loughbrickland House became the family seat. The Loughbrickland estates had been the property of Sir Marmaduke Whitechurch, who laid out the village of Loughbrickland in its current form after he purchased the surrounding lands from the ruling Irish family of the time, the Magennises, Lords of Iveagh, in 1615. They passed into the Whyte family's possession when Sir Nicholas' great-great grandson, John Whyte, married Whitechurch's great granddaughter, Mary Purcell, in 1704. Mary was also a granddaughter of Mark Trevor, Viscount Dungannon, of Lisnagade, and part of her extensive estate remains in the ownership of the Whyte family who have continued to play an important role in the development of the village over the years.

The Woodland Trail and the Boundary Trail

Although the estate is privately owned the Whyte family generously permitted public access to the Woodland Trail as part of the Loughbrickland Historic Trail project in 2001. This was a joint project between Dr. Jean Whyte, Loughbrickland Community Association and Banbridge District Council. In 2008 an extension of the historic trail, the 'Boundary Trail' was opened extending the walk around the perimeter of the estate and giving access to another ringfort, Johnston's Fort.

The Woodland Trail follows a circular path through the wood, to Coolnacran Fort and back to the main entrance at Scarva Street past the rookery. You can extend this walk by following the Boundary Trail which follows an old landscape feature which runs around the perimeter of the estate and takes in Johnston's Fort, another scheduled ancient monument.

Information:

The Trails run through woodland and the edge of farmland and can be rough, uneven and muddy with some steep sections and steps along the route. Appropriate footwear is recommended.

Please note that public access is permitted along the way marked trails only, and no access is permitted to the house or grounds or along the front avenue beyond the entrance to the historic trail.

Ballvally Archery Club use the wood as their outdoor range and hold archery competitions at various times during the year. During competitions, the route will be closed and notices posted.

The trails pass through habitats that support a wide variety of wildlife and plants and along land in agricultural use, so you are asked to take great care and show due consideration at all times

For further information please see the Loughbrickland Historic Trail guide (2008)

If you encounter any problems with the trail, please contact the Countryside Officer on o28 4066 o605

The Whyte Estate



• Fields along the Boundary Trail are in agricultural use please ensure that your dog is kept under control at all times and does not enter

• Look out for agricultural machinery at crossing points along the

No motor vehicles, bicycles, or horse riding

Please leave wild flowers and plants undisturbed for others to enjoy

adjoining farm land

• No parking within the estate

Boundary Trail

No hunting

No camping







Photographs courtesy of Andy Potts











Kintra Fordèrin

Fairms an









