



Áth Leathan Broadford County Clare

History

THE LOCATION OF THE VILLAGE of Broadford was historically very important. Broadford or its original name in Irish *Áth Leathan*, meaning 'the broad crossing' developed where people travelling from East Clare were able to cross the O'Garney river on their way through the two passes in the Slieve Bearnagh Mountains heading southwards to Limerick or eastwards to Killaloe. For centuries this was one of the principle routes in Clare before other roads were laid out in the 19th century. Prior to the Sixmilebridge Drainage Works of the 19th century Doon Lake extended right to the village.

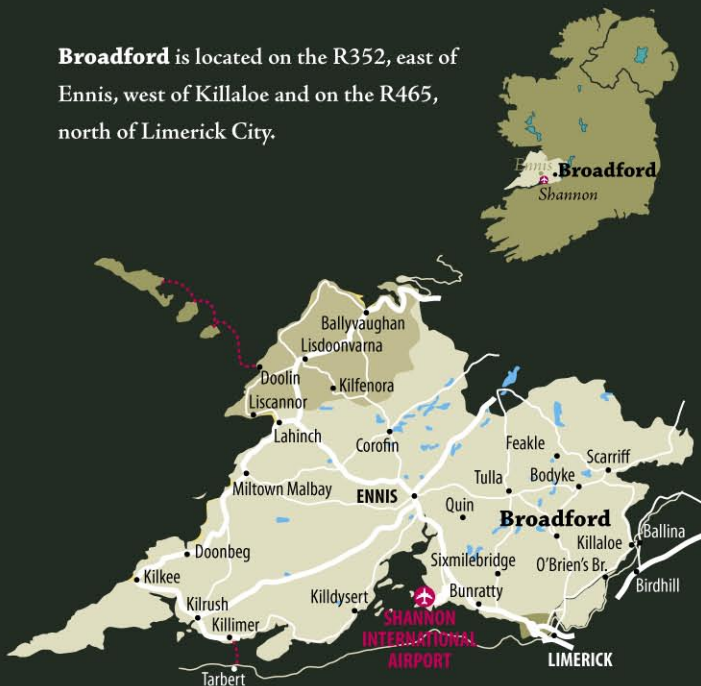


Broadford has been associated with many different historical characters. During the Jacobite wars, Patrick Sarsfield passed close by on his return from the raid on Van Ginkel's artillery train in 1690 at Ballyneety. Charles Bianconi ran his mail car through here and JP Holland lived here for a time on the shores of Doon Lake. He later went on to invent the modern submarine which was first used by the U.S. Navy.

During the 19th and 20th centuries famous political figures such as Daniel O'Connell, Charles Stewart Parnell and Eamon de Valera all spoke at great meetings in the village.

Location

Broadford is located on the R352, east of Ennis, west of Killaloe and on the R465, north of Limerick City.



Design: www.OpticNerve.ie T. 061-316 955

Áth Leathan—the Broad Crossing



Produced by Clare County Council and the Broadford Community with the support of The Heritage Council.





Built Heritage

THE RUINS OF DOON HOUSE located to the west of Broadford on the eastern shores of Lough Doon is a significant local heritage site. The house which was burned down in 1920 during the war of independence is of great importance as it is associated with JP Holland the man responsible for inventing the modern submarine.

The site of the Church of Ireland and graveyard is located immediately to the west of the village on the Kilsely road. The church was built in 1811 by a loan from the Board of First Fruits. It was closed and demolished in the 1950s. There is also a Mediaeval Church, Graveyard and Holywell located to the west of Broadford at Kilsely near to the old slate quarry. Located beside this disused slate quarry is a deserted miners village.

Located to the south west of Broadford are the ruins of John O' Donovan's House. John O' Donovan was the Ordnance Survey's first historian & archaeologist. Also to the south west, beside the Broadford River and close to the Broadford Bridgetown road is an old mill.

Immediately to the south of the village are the Old Forges on the Broadford river. Also to the south of the village beside the Primary School is the Parish Hall which was built during the 1940s. The roof and floor was taken from Doon House ballroom. Further south is Hurdlestown House. It is a compact stone-built shooting lodge with gables and a steeply pitched roof. William Fogerty designed the house in 1871 for a Colonel White.

St. Peter's Catholic Church is located on the northern fringes of the village on the road heading to Bodyke. The Old RIC Police Barracks is on the opposite side of the road to the Catholic Church. Further north is a house, once famous as the "Broadford Soviet".

Located in the village close to the school and bridge is Brookville House. The site of the old Courthouse is located in the centre of the village. The Black Horse Inn is nearby and fronts on to the road to O' Callaghan's Mills. The site of the old Parochial School which was in use during the 18th and 19th centuries is located immediately to the east of the village on the Ardskeagh road. This site was also the former Fair Green.

History and Heritage

The following are extracts taken from 'County Clare A History and Topography' by Samuel Lewis in 1837. These extracts give a detailed description of the Broadford and Kilsely area during the 1800s.

BROADFORD IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS. A post-town, in the parish of Kilsely, barony of Tulla, county of Clare, and province of Munster, 8 miles (N.) from Limerick, and 94 miles (S. W. by W.) from Dublin; containing 71 houses and 383 inhabitants. It is picturesquely situated on the road from Killaloe to Ennis, at the foot of a range of hills extending to Lough Derg on the Shannon, and has a post-office dependant on that of Limerick ; a constabulary police force is stationed here, and fairs are held on the 21st of June and the 21st of November. The parish church, a neat building with a square tower, is situated in the town ; and a large and handsome R.C. chapel is now in course of erection on an eminence overlooking it. Here are the parochial school, (chiefly supported by the minister) and a public dispensary. This place is much visited by anglers and sportsmen : the neighbourhood affords excellent grouse shooting, and about a mile to the west is Doon lake, remarkable for the size of its pike, and abounding also with bream. In the vicinity are several gentlemen's seats and shooting-lodges, which are more particularly noticed in the article on Kilsely. There are some excellent quarries near the village, producing slate of superior quality.

The following is a description of Broadford and Kilsely in 1845 taken from "The Parliamentary Gaseteer of Ireland".

BROADFORD IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS. A village in the parish of Kilsely, barony of Lower Tulla, Co. Clare, Munster. It stands 7 miles west of Killaloe, on the road thence to Ennis. In its vicinity are Lough Doon, and the mansions of Hurdleston and Doon, the seats respectively of Mr. Bentley and Mr. Butler. A dispensary in the village is within the Limerick Poor-law union, and serves for a population of 9,913; and, in 1839-40, its receipts amounted to 85 4s, and its expenditure to 80 13s. Fairs are held on June 21, and Nov. 21. Area of the village, 12 acres. Pop., in 1831, 383; in 1841, 316. Houses 55.

Nature

THE AREA AROUND BROADFORD is something of an angler's paradise. Pike fishing is very popular at Doon Lake (Loch a' Dúin) with four different fishing stands catering for enthusiasts. Broadford River is also popular for fishing.

There are three Waterfalls & Sandtraps located along the Broadford River. Two are located close to Hurdlestown House and the third is located to the rear of the Primary School. Located just off the Broadford/Bridgetown road and crossing the Broadford river in the townland of Derry, there is a footbridge.

There were also three slate quarries in the Broadford area, all are at present disused. There was one at Kilsely to the south west of the village, at Ardskeagh to the north east of the village and beside the Glenomra River to the south east of the village on the Broadford/Bridgetown road. At the disused quarry to the north of Broadford on the Bodyke road, there is an old steam crusher which can be viewed.

There are three wells and springs located in the Broadford area. The first is located immediately to the west of the village. The other two are located beside the Glenomra River in the townland of Derry close to the Broadford/Bridgetown road.

The riverbank walk beside the Broadford River is located to the rear of the Primary School.

There are two oak stands/native oak woods located in the Broadford area. One is in the village beside the river opposite the Primary School. The other is along the Kilsely road immediately to the south west of the village. These trees were preserved when a new residential development was constructed in the area. Three miles to the east of Broadford are Ballymaloney Woods. The woods are said to be over 1000 years old.

There are Bird Sanctuaries at various locations on and around Doon Lake. These sanctuaries house many different types of bird including Duck, Swan, Kestrel and Owl. There is also a Rookery for Crows located in the village.

There are many different species of Mammal to be found in the Broadford area. These include Bat, Badger, Hedgehog, Mink, Pine Marten, Squirrel (Red), Otter, Deer, Hare, Rabbit, Stoat and a community of Feral Goats.

The lake on Slieve Bearnagh, four miles to the north is said to be "enchanted" in local folklore.

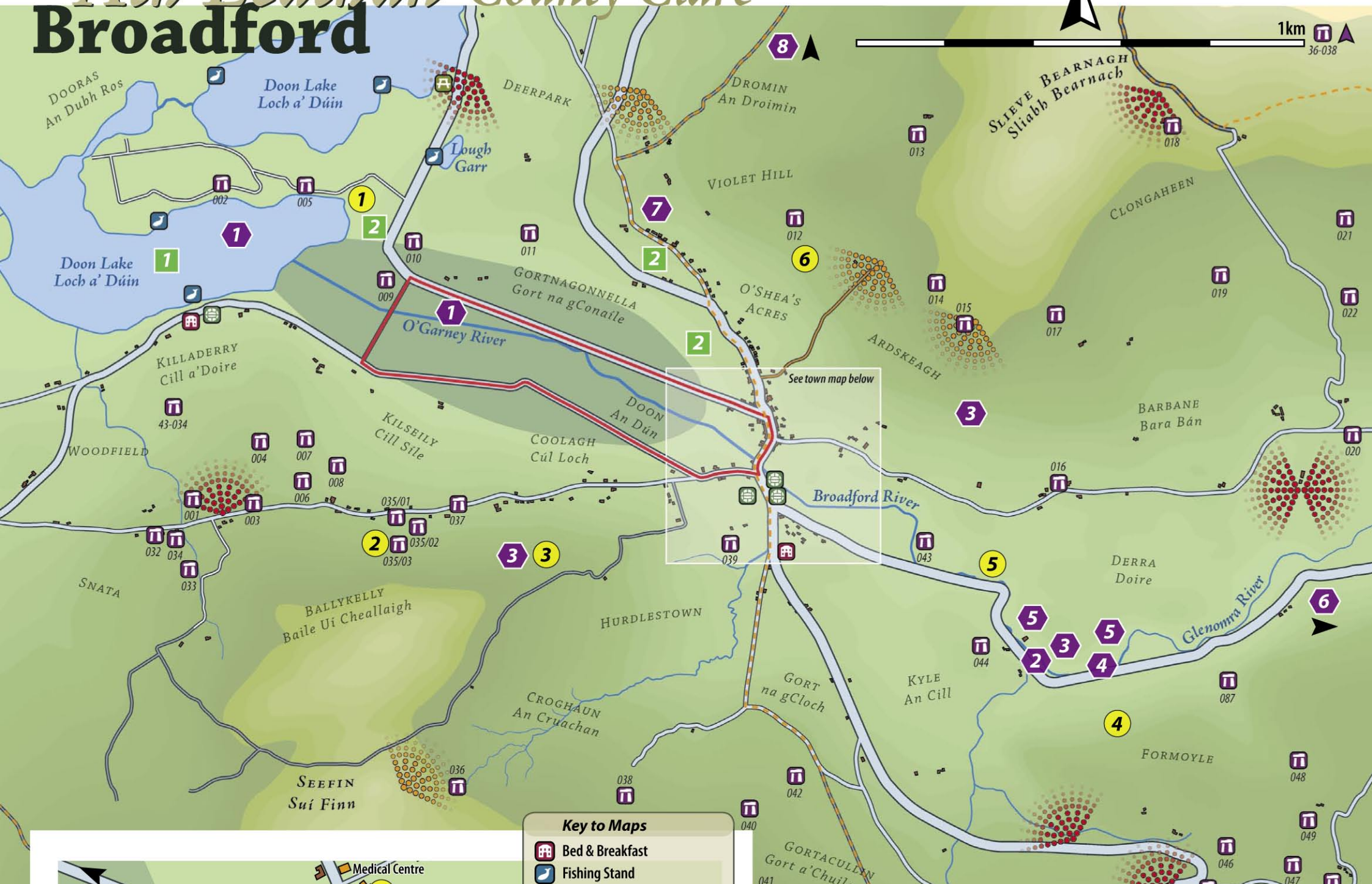
The area of land that lies between the village of Broadford and Doon Lake used to be a lake and flood plain. In the 19th century the area was reclaimed as part of the Sixmilebridge Drainage Works.

Áth Leathan County Clare



Broadford



1km
36-038



Key to Maps

-  Bed & Breakfast
-  Fishing Stand

Medical Centre



Built Heritage

- 1 Doon House (ruins) burned 1920's associated with JP Holland, inventor of modern submarine
- 2 Mediaeval Church, Graveyard, Holywell at Kilsely
- 3 Deserted Miners Village
- 4 O'Donovans House (ruins) First Ordnance Survey Historian & Archaeologist
- 5 Old Mill
- 6 Formerly the house of 'Broadford Soviet'
- 7 Parochial School 18th, 19th century. Former Fair Green
- 8 Black Horse Inn
- 9 St. Peter's R. C. Church
- 10 Old Police Barracks
- 11 Site of old Courthouse
- 12 Old Forges (Marsh's Bridge)
- 13 Brookville House
- 14 Site of Church of Ireland & Graveyard
- 15 Parish Hall 1940s. Roof and floor taken from Doon House Ballroom
- 16 Hurdlestown House

Natural Heritage

- 1 Fishing (River/Lake)
- 2 Waterfalls & Sandtraps
- 3 Slate Quarries (3 in total)
- 4 Footbridge
- 5 Wells/Springs
- 6 Ballymaloney Woods (Oak Woods) 3 miles east
- 7 Quarry & Old Steam Crusher
- 8 Enchanted Lake on Mountain top. Slieve Bearnagh (4 miles to the north)
- 9 Riverbank Walk
- 10 Oak Stands (Oak Woods)

Wildlife

- 1 Bird Areas (Duck, Swan, Kestrel, Owl)
- 2 Mammals Areas (Bat, Badger, Hedgehog, Mink, Pine Marten, Red Squirrel, Otter, Deer, Fox, Hare, Rabbit, Stoat, Feral Goat, Owl)
- 3 Rookery, Crows

Record of Monuments & Places, Broadford Village Design Map, Co. Clare (Available in each Branch Library)

The following table shows the various different monuments that are in the Broadford area and are illustrated on the Village Design Map. Each monument has a number, its townland location and its classification.

Monument No.	Townland	Classification	Monument No.	Townland	Classification	Monument No.	Townland	Classification	Monument No.	Townland	Classification
CL036-038	Cloongaheen West	Wedge-Tomb	CL044-011	Doon (Tulla Lower)	Burial Ground	CI044-032	Ballykelly	Enclosure	CI044-041	Gortacullin	Wedge-Tomb
CL043-034	Killaderry		CL044-012	Violethill	Wedge-Tomb	CI044-033	Ballykelly	Enclosure	CI044-042	Gortacullin	Holy Well
CL044-001	Killaderry	Ringfort (Rath/Cashel)	CL044-013	Drumin (Tulla Lower)	Wedge-Tomb	CI044-034	Ballykelly	Wedge-Tomb	CI044-043	Derry (Tulla Lower)	Potential Site – Aerial Photo
CL044-002	Doon (Tulla Lower)	Enclosure	CL044-014	Ardskeagh	Wedge-Tomb	CI044-035	Kilsely	Ecclesiastical Remains	CI044-044	Kyle	Burial Ground
CL044-003	Killaderry	Enclosure	CL044-015	Ardskeagh	Megalithic Tomb Unclassified	CI044-03501	Kilsely	Church	CI044-045	Formoyle More	Wedge Tomb
CL044-004	Killaderry	Enclosure	CL044-016	Ardskeagh	Megalithic Tomb Unclassified	CI044-03502	Kilsely	Graveyard	CI044-046	Formoyle More	Enclosure
CL044-005	Doon (Tulla Lower)	Enclosure	CL044-017	Barbane	Wedge-Tomb	CI044-03503	Kilsely	Holy Well	CI044-047	Formoyle More	Enclosure
CL044-006	Killaderry	Enclosure	CL044-018	Cloongaheen West	Wedge-Tomb	CI044-036	Hurdlestown	Enclosure	CI044-048	Formoyle Beg	Enclosure
CL044-007	Killaderry	House- 17 th Century Site	CL044-019	Cloongaheen West	Enclosure	CI044-037	Kilsely	Enclosure Possible	CI044-049	Formoyle Beg	Enclosure
CL044-008	Killaderry	Enclosure	CI044-020	Cloongaheen West	Potential Site-Aerial Photo	CI044-038	Gortacullin	Enclosure	CI044-050	Formoyle Beg	Enclosure
CL044-009	Doon (Tulla Lower)	Enclosure	CI044-021	Cloongaheen West	Enclosure	CI044-039	Hurdlestown	17 th Century Site	CI044-087	Formoyle Beg	Rectangular Enclosure Possible
CL044-010	Doon (Tulla Lower)	Enclosure	CI044-022	Cloongaheen West	Enclosure	CI044-040	Gortacullin	Enclosure			