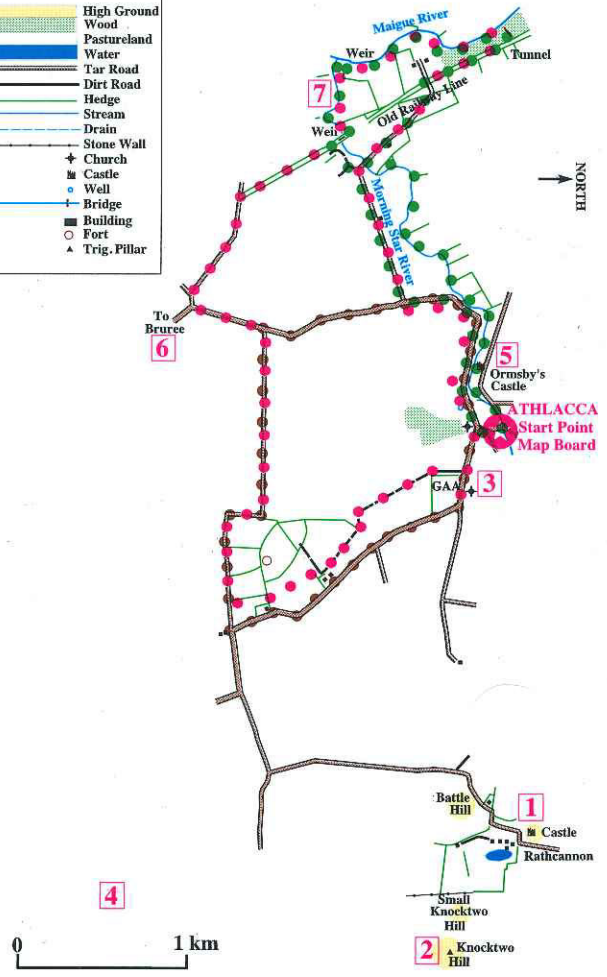


# 3 ATHLACCA

- ● ● ● ● WHITE WALK 5.4km
- ● ● ● ● GREEN WALK 6.6km
- ● ● ● ● RED WALK 8.0 km

- High Ground
- Wood
- Pastureland
- Water
- Tar Road
- Dirt Road
- Hedge
- Stream
- Drain
- Stone Wall
- Church
- Castle
- Well
- Bridge
- Building
- Fort
- Trig. Pillar



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**DROMIN / ATHLACCA COMMUNITY**

### 3 ATHLACCA

Athlacca, situated 5 km (3.5 mls.) W. of Bruff, is intersected by the Morning Star river and surrounded by lush fertile land. The village derives its name from the Irish *Ath - Leacach*, Ford of the Flagstones; the Morning Star was crossed at this ford before the first bridge was built. From the early 14th to mid 17th century, Athlacca was owned by the powerful Norman family of de Lacy. The de Lacy castle no longer remains. However, on the banks of the Morning Star there are the remains of the early 18th century mansion of the Ormsby family who were granted the de Lacy lands confiscated by the Cromwellians.

1 Rathcannon Castle built on the site of an early pre-Norman rath or fortification, belonged to the Earls of Kildare. In 1550 it was leased to the Casey family. It is claimed that from the high ground in the vicinity of the castle it is possible to see every county in Munster.

2 Knocktwo, Cnoc Tuath, the Hill of the Axes, lies a short distance east of Rathcannon Castle. Traces of earthen embankments on its summit may indicate the site of a hill top fort. In 1824, in boggy ground between Knocktwo and Rathcannon, Archdeacon Wray Maunsell, the local landlord, discovered the complete skeleton of an Irish elk, now displayed in the National Museum, Dublin.

3 Kilbroney, Cill Bhronai, Church of St. Bronach, in Athlacca North, is the oldest surviving church site in Athlacca, probably 12th century or earlier. Three other churches were built on this site since then, only the spire remains of the last built in 1823. The oldest dated sepulchral monument in the Churchyard is a stone dated 1623, commemorating three members of the illustrious de Lacy family.

4 Maidstown Castle, situated in the townland of Maidstown, belonged to the Norman family of Fox. In the 1650s their castle and lands were granted to a Cromwellian family named Ormsby, who built a large residence adjoining the castle in the early 18th century.

5 Castle Ivers was built north of Athlacca, in 1740 by the Ivers family. It is thought to occupy the site of Tullerboy castle which belonged to the Leo family.

6 In 1885 Eamon de Valera came to Ireland from America to Bruree. His home at Knockmore, was only about 3 km (2 mls.) south of Athlacca; in his youth he used herd his uncle's cows as they grazed along the grassy sides of the road to Athlacca.

7 The Corcas, meaning marshland, is an extensive alluvial flat formed during the ice age. When ancient rivers brought rich alluvial soil from the mountains and fed the large glacial lake. Some of the finest soils in Ireland are on the edge of this Corcas. It harbours a range of bird life especially curlews, lapwings, snipe and mallard. Greenland white-fronted geese and other migrants can be seen here in winter and spring.

#### *Famous Names in Sport*

**Dr. James C. Daly**, weight thrower, winner of nine Irish Championships 1876/1890.

Jimmy Cregan, running under the name 'Jim Hogan' European Marathon Champion in 1966.

**Brian Marshall**, who attended school in Athlacca, Jockey, winner of three Grand Nationals.

The Loop Walk Series and the Ballyhoura Way Map Guide (1:50,000) are published by Ballyhoura Country Holidays, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick. Tel: 063-91300 Fax: 063-91404 E-mail: holidays@ballyhoura.org Guides partly funded by the European Union & the National Exchequer.