

Limavady
Heritage Trail

Largy



Largy

‘Largy – Leargaidh – the side or the slope of a hill’

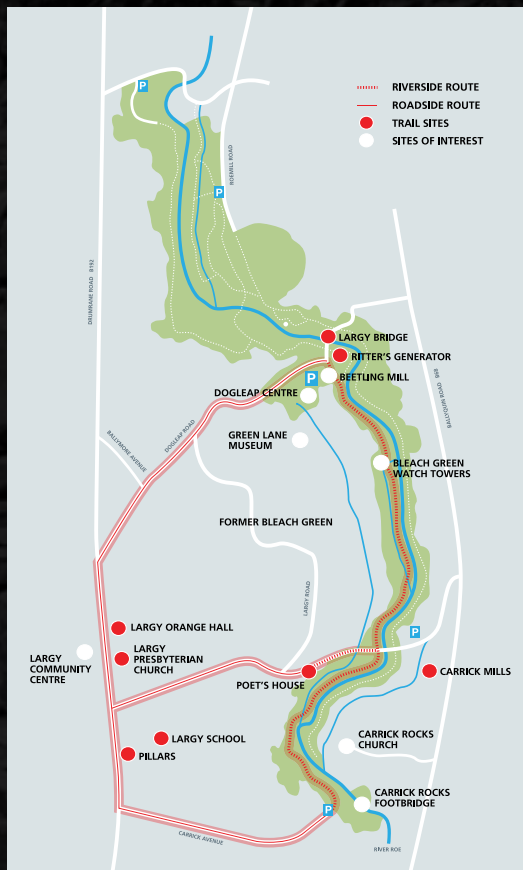
Now predominantly a farming community, Largy was a thriving centre for linen production.

There was a large bleaching mill at Largy Green, which operated until the 1830s, when the building was converted into a spinning mill. A weaving mill was also established, which now houses Green Lane Museum.

Community life has long been focused around the Orange Lodge and Presbyterian Church.

Largy Presbyterian Church was built between 1831 and 1836. The local landlord, Alexander Alexander, provided the land and the building was paid for by public subscription.

Largy Orange Lodge No. 988 was first granted its warrant in 1911 and originally met in a local barn. Largy Orange Hall was built in 1954 and has also been used as a dance hall and as a cinema.



Ritter's Generator



This is the only surviving example in Northern Ireland of a hydro-electric power station.

The station was built in 1896 by John Ritter, who installed three water turbines here to generate an alternate current to light his house at Roe Park.

The venture was so successful that he later formed the Limavady Electric Company, which supplied electricity to Limavady and Ballykelly.

In 1946 the Dogleap Station was acquired by the Electricity Board for Northern Ireland. It was closed in 1967, when electricity could be generated more cheaply and efficiently with fossil fuels. As we have become aware of the environmental impact of using fossil fuels the possibility of re-opening the hydro-electric power station has been investigated, but has not yet been developed. It remains a memorial to Ritter's foresight and pioneering spirit.



PERIOD
C19th/20th

GRID REFERENCE
C6795 2030

TOWNLAND
Largy

ACCESS
Roe Valley
Country Park

OPEN
9am - 5pm
1st Oct to 30th Mar
9am - 6pm
1st Apr to 30th Sep

Largy Bridge



A bridge was first erected here around 1624 by Sir Thomas Phillips, during the Plantation of the area under the direction of The Honourable the Irish Society.

The original bridge collapsed in 1680 and was replaced by a wooden bridge after 1782, and then the present stone bridge in 1828. During the 1840s, the bridge was widened by famine relief workers to become a toll bridge. It has altered little since then and still provides a dramatic focal point for the surrounding buildings and landscape.

PERIOD
C17th/19th

GRID REFERENCE
C6794 2033

TOWNLAND
Largy

ACCESS
Roe Valley
Country Park

OPEN
9am - 5pm
1st Oct to 30th Mar
9am - 6pm
1st Apr to 30th Sept

The Largy Ploughman Poet



Samuel Connor, known as the Largy Ploughman Poet, was born in this small cottage in 1883 to a large farming family. He wrote 'Sweet Largy Braes', a well-known song praising the beauty of the local countryside.

Samuel attended Largy School until he was 12 years old, but he was an enthusiastic reader and soon began to write poetry. His work was very popular, and was regularly published in the Northern Constitution and the Coleraine Chronicle, even after he and his family emigrated to Canada in 1925. He died in Brampton, Ontario on 2nd October 1958, aged 76, but his work is still remembered and often recited.

*Ah! When I am doomed among strangers to toil,
The land of my boyhood I cannot revile,
No, oft in my rapture still let me return
To view the dear cottage in which I was born,
There let me roam where sweet friendship delays;
There's no spot in this world like the sweet Largy Braes.*

From 'Sweet Largy Braes' written 23rd June 1923

PERIOD
C19th

GRID REFERENCE
C6810 1820

TOWNLAND
Largy

ACCESS
Viewed from the
Roe Valley Country
Park river walk

OPEN
9am - 5pm
1st Oct to 30th Mar
9am - 6pm
1st Apr to 30th Sept

Largy Primary School



Largy Primary School opened on 1st January 1859 and is the oldest primary school in the Western Education and Library Board. Its imaginative building, almost unchanged since it was built, makes it unique.

It was built by the local landlord, Samuel Maxwell Alexander, who chose the site after riding throughout his estate planting flags on every hill top to find which one was the highest. There was one classroom heated by an open fire at each end and connected to an adjoining two storey teacher's residence.

In 1962, the school was threatened with closure, but was saved through a determined campaign by the local community and media. However, numbers remained small and in 2008 it closed to merge with Dungiven and Burnfoot Primary Schools at the new Drumrane Primary School in Burnfoot.

PERIOD
C19th/21st

GRID REFERENCE
C6752 1839

TOWNLAND
Largy

ACCESS
Private, permission must be gained from landowner

Carrick Mills

This large complex of mill buildings housed a wide variety of industrial activity during the 19th century, and is now being converted into holiday homes.

There was a linen bleaching mill here in the early 1800s. It was converted into a flax scutching mill in the 1830s and later into a corn mill. The complex also included a corn kiln, a flour mill and a flax retting mill, with associated stores and houses. The mills were powered by water wheels up to 11 feet high and a mill race leading from the River Roe at Carrick Rocks.

PERIOD
C19th

GRID REFERENCE
C6859 1907

TOWNLAND
Terrydremont South and North

ACCESS
Viewed from Roe Valley Country Park car park



The Largs Pillars

The entrance pillars and gates to the school are protected with the main building as being of special architectural or historical interest. The pillars became the main meeting point for the local community, where news, stories and gossip were exchanged each day. It is also the location of one of the few Victorian post boxes still in use.



PERIOD
C20th

GRID REFERENCE
C6737 1831

TOWNLAND
Largy

ACCESS
Viewed from Drumrane Road

Limavady's Path Through History

Below is a timeline showing Limavady Heritage Trail sites in their historical context. Those featured in this guide are highlighted.

BC	C1st	C5th	C7/8th	C12th	C13th	C17th
CARNABANE TOMB 4500-2500BC	DRUMCEATT ASSEMBLY SITE C1st	BLACK FORT C5th/C12th WHITE FORT C5th/C12th KING'S FORT C5th/C12th TANDRAGEE FORT C5th/C12th ROUGH FORT C5th/C12th	TAMMARIN FORT C7th/C8th	BANAGHER OLD CHURCH C12th BOVEVAGH CHURCH C12th DUNGIVEN PRIORY C12th	ST AIDAN'S CHURCH C13th	DUNGIVEN CASTLE C17th/C19th
C18th	C19th					
DRUMSURN OLD CHAPEL C18th BALLYDONEGAN SWEATHOUSE C18th DRUMCOVITT HOUSE C18th TANNYPANNY CHURCH C18th	THE RHELICK, KILLEEN C19th LARGY BRIDGE C19th LIMAVADY WORKHOUSE C19th PAUPER'S GRAVEYARD C19th BALLYKELLY OS BASE TOWER C19th MAGILLIGAN MARTELLO TOWER C19th SAMPSON'S TOWER C19th LOUGHERY'S SCUTCHING MILL C19th KILHOYLE LIME WORKS C19th GALVIN SCHOOL C19th RITTER'S GENERATOR C19th CARRICK MILLS C19th					
C19th	C20th	WW2				
LARGY SCHOOL C19th LARGY POET'S HOUSE C19th LARGY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH C19th LIMAVADY JUNCTION C19th DRUMSURN RAILWAY STATION C19th MAGILLIGAN RAILWAY STATION C19th BELLARENA RAILWAY STATION C19th OS MARK MAGILLIGAN C19th OS MARK BENBRADAGH C19th ST MATTHEW'S GRAVEYARD DRUMSURN C20th LARGY ORANGE HALL C20th LARGY PILLARS C20th	AGHANLOO AIRFIELD WW2 BALLYKELLY AIRFIELD WW2					

For more information please contact:

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The Causeway Museum Service represents a partnership between the four local authorities of Coleraine, Ballymoney, Limavady and Moylis. This project is part of a three year community outreach programme supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Causeway
Museum Service



Photography by:
Tim Millen and Rachel Cassidy
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