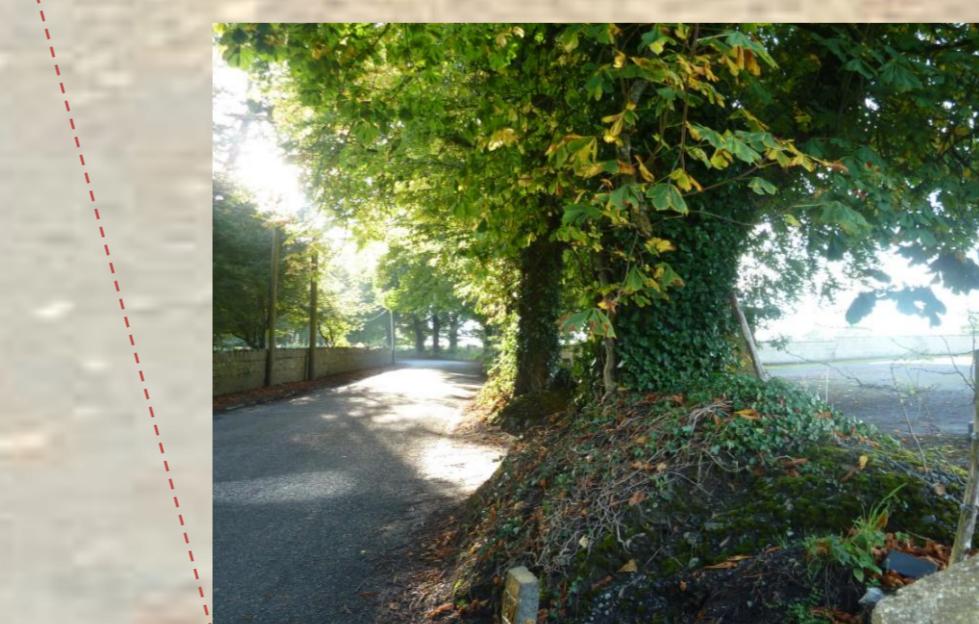
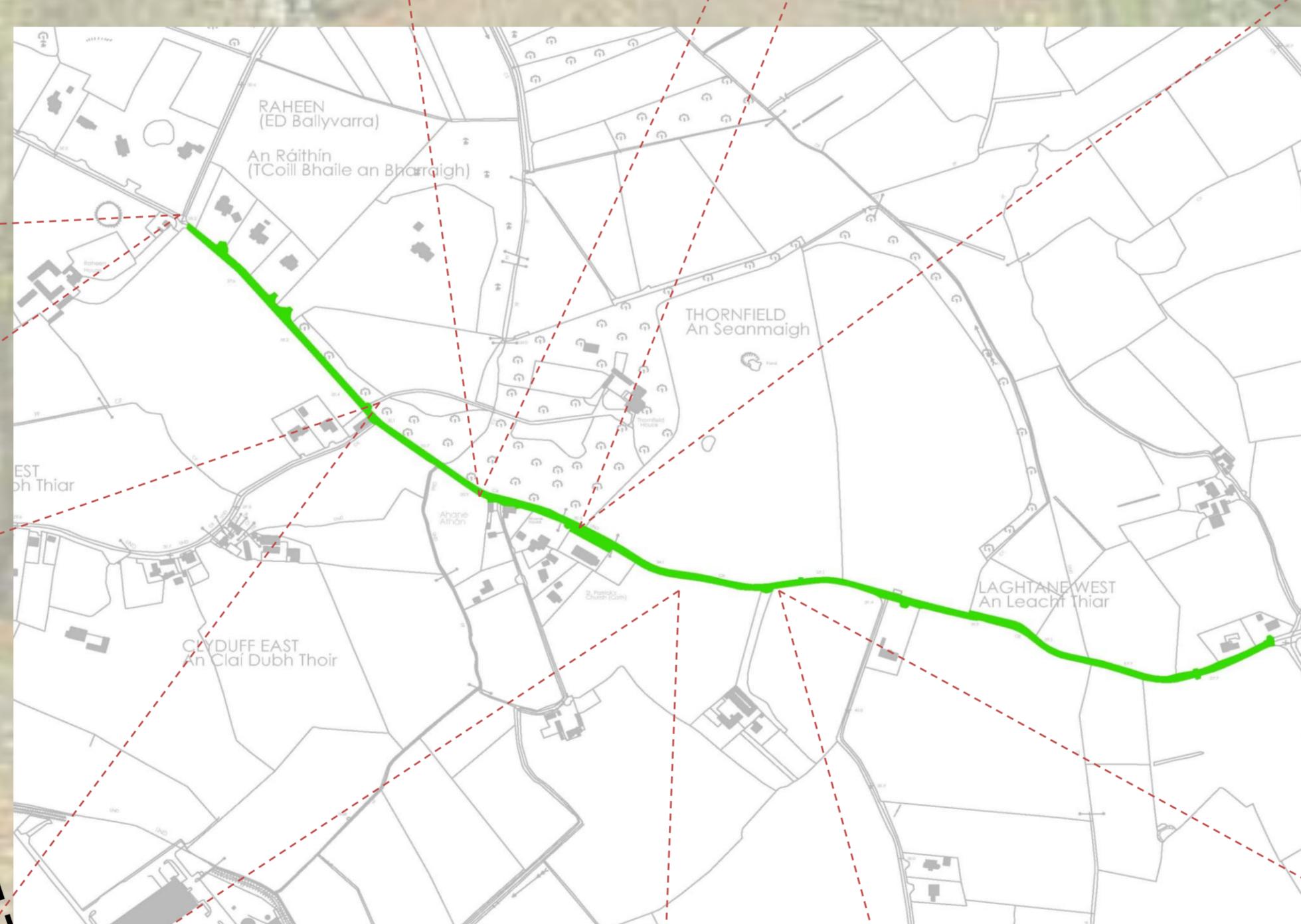


Ahane's Golden Mile 2015

Slí an Dúlra Áthán



Ahane's Golden Mile

Ahane mile is located on the L1122. It starts at the gate lodge associated with Raheen House, in the townland of Raheen at (565851, 658234)¹, and ends in the townland of Laghtane West at the junction with L5007 (approximate grid reference 567336, 657646). This is a flat walk, part of which has an old footpath. This mile has a very interesting history with examples of built structures dating to the late 1700s and 1800s. In terms of biodiversity you pass roadside boundaries with trees, hedgerow and ditches.

There are three Protected Structures on this route². The Mile begins at the lodge house (RPS 645) formerly part of Raheen House demesne and was built c.1810. This gate lodge is considered to be of regional importance in terms of architectural and artistic merit and included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (ref: 21900622)³. Thornfield House is also a Protected Structure (RPS 719), and is a fine example of a Georgian country house built c. 1780. Sir Richard Burke built Thornfield estate and is responsible for many of the mile's built heritage including the fine estate walls, the entrance to the estate, the craft factory building, and the bridge over the ford from which the place name Ahane (Áthan) originates from. Sir Richard Burke became Governor of Australia and was a founder of the city of Melbourne. Looking at the historical 6 inch maps (1829 -1841) you will see a landscaped garden indicated by the house. You will also see references to the Glebe, a dispensary and a national school on the roadway by Thornfield. Looking at the 25 inch historical maps (1897-1913) there is no reference to the dispensary⁴. St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church is also a Protected Structure (RPS 179) and is also included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Ref:210900640).

Taking this walk you find yourself walking past extensive old stone walls, ditches, mature hedgerow and trees. This combination gives you a mature tree canopy at times and open views over ditches into surround farmland. Trees and hedgerows are essential wildlife corridors for mammals, invertebrates and birds alike. From ground level to the canopy of the hedgerows you will find, beetles, woodlice, invertebrates, spiders and other insects, field mice, shrews, and birds such as blackbirds, thrushes, tits, robins, and finches. Butterflies, and bees seek the nectar of flowers by the roadside.

Useful links:

- www.hedgelayers.ie
- www.invasivespecies.ie
- www.biodiversityireland.ie
- www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie
- www.wildflowersofireland.ie
- [www.heritancecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie)
- www.limerick.ie
- www.maps.osi.ie

¹ maps.osi.ie

² Record of Protection Structures as determined by the Limerick County Development Plan 2010 – 2016 as amended, Volume 3 under the provisions of Section 2 in Part IV of the Planning and Development Acts 2015

³ Refer to www.buildingsofireland.ie

⁴ www.maps.osi.ie

