

River Barrow

Green Tourism – Fad or Fact?





Gearóid

*Co. Kilkenny

*Photography

*Computing

*Film Making



Jack

* Co. Laois

* Music

* Football

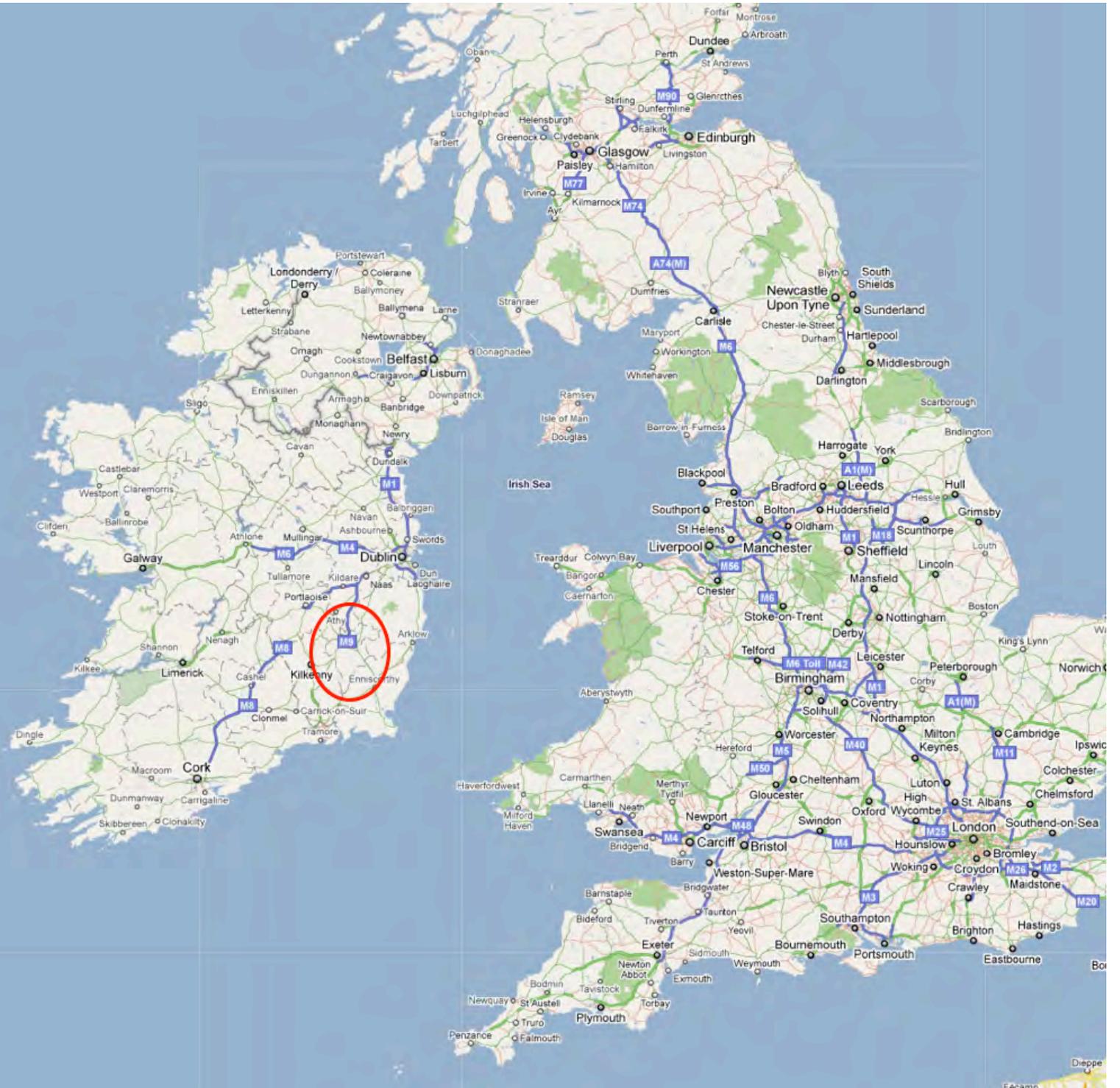
* Reading



Map









Symbols of Ireland



Flag

- ◆ Irish Flag



- ◆ 3 vertical strips of green, white and orange
- ◆ First used in 1848
- ◆ Green represents Catholics
- ◆ Orange was the colour of the Protestant population
- ◆ White symbolises a hope of unity between the two

Shamrock

- ◆ Shamrock



- ◆ A single-stemmed plant with three leaves growing from that single stem.
- ◆ Made famous by St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland.
- ◆ Remains a strong symbol of his life in our yearly St. Patrick's Day celebrations, on the 17th of March.

Harp

- ◆ Harp



- ◆ The harp has long been the traditional symbol of Ireland
- ◆ Seen on coins, the presidential flag, uniforms, state seals and so on.
- ◆ The Celtic harp is said to stand for immortality of the soul.

Leprechaun

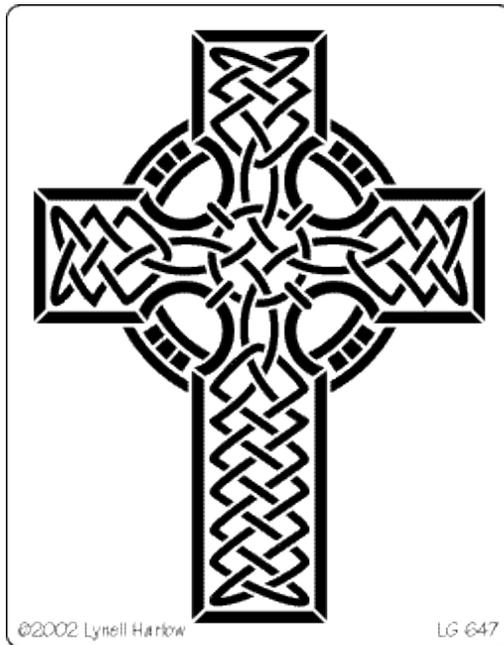
- ◆ Leprechaun



- ◆ Type of fairy in Irish folklore
- ◆ Leprechauns spend their time making shoes
- ◆ They store all their coins in a hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.
- ◆ No taller than a small child.

Celtic Cross

- ◆ Celtic Cross



- ◆ Combines a cross with a ring surrounding the intersection.
- ◆ Made of stone
- ◆ Introduced by Saint Patrick during his time converting the pagan Irish
- ◆ Emblem of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)

Famous People of Ireland



St. Patrick

St. Patrick



- ◆ Most recognised patron saint of Ireland.
- ◆ Said to have gotten rid of all the snakes from Ireland
- ◆ Used shamrock to teach Irish pagans about Christianity
- ◆ St. Patrick's day celebrated worldwide on March 17th annually.

Famous People

Daniel O'Connell



Michael Collins



Famous People

Bob Geldof

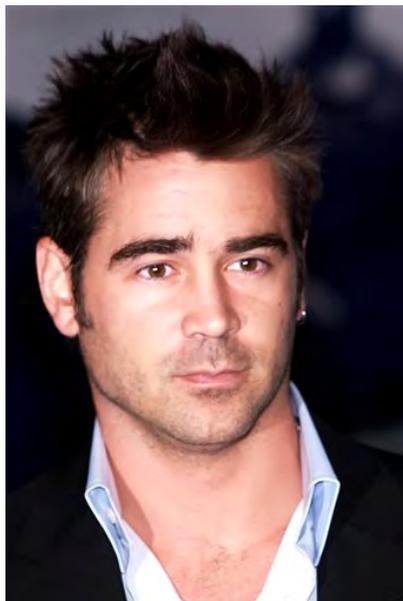


Bono

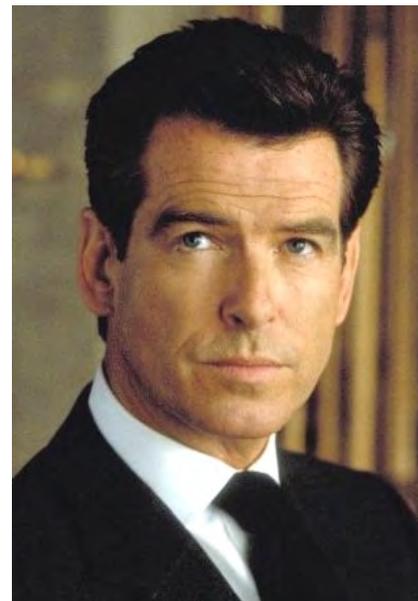


Famous People

Colin Farrell



Pierce Brosnan



Irish Tourist Attractions



Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare

◆ Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare



- ◆ Ireland's most visited tourist attraction
- ◆ Rise in places to over 214m and stretch for almost 8km
- ◆ Take their name from a ruined promontory fort "Mothar"

Connemara, Galway

- ◆ **Connemara, Galway**



- ◆ A district in the west of Ireland
- ◆ Covers 2000 hectares, 1 of 5 National Parks
- ◆ Regarded as the real emerald of Ireland.

Lakes of Killarney, Kerry

◆ Lakes of Killarney, Kerry



- ◆ Scenic attraction located near Killarney, County Kerry
- ◆ Consists of three lakes - Lough Leane, Muckross Lake and Upper Lake
- ◆ Lie in a mountain-ringed valley starting in the Black Valley

Newgrange Neolithic Tomb, Co. Meath

- ◆ **Newgrange Neolithic Tomb, Co. Meath**



- ◆ 5000 years old and therefore older than the pyramids!
- ◆ Built during the Neolithic or New Stone Age by a farming community
- ◆ Newgrange is a large kidney shaped mound covering an area of over one acre

Blasket Islands, Kerry

◆ Blasket Islands, Kerry



- ◆ Blaskets are red sandstone rocks sprawled in the Atlantic
- ◆ There are four big islands, and three smaller ones
- ◆ Ruined hermitages and forts which exist on the islands, show that they were occupied in early historic times.

Glendalough, Co. Wicklow

◆ Glendalough, Co. Wicklow



- ◆ Valley of the two lakes – spectacular scenery
- ◆ Monastic Site with Round Tower
- ◆ One of the most visited places in Ireland.

Trinity College and Book of Kells, Dublin

- ◆ **Trinity College and Book of Kells, Dublin**



- ◆ Trinity College Dublin is the oldest university in Ireland, founded in 1592
- ◆ The Book of Kells a 9th century illuminated manuscript of the four gospels is on view in the Old Library
- ◆ It was created by Celtic monks circa 800 or slightly earlier

Giants Causeway, Co. Antrim

◆ Giants Causeway, Co. Antrim

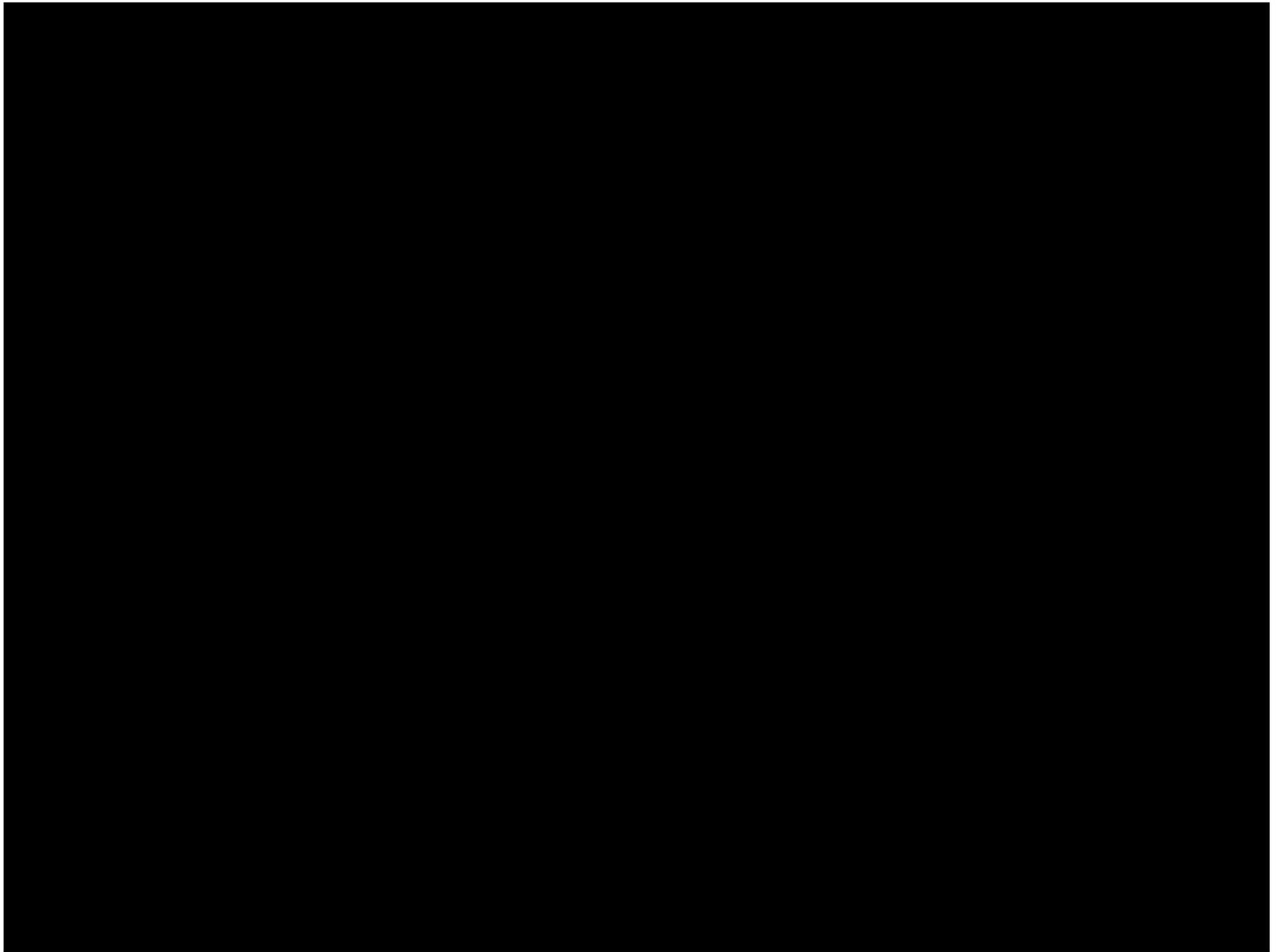


- ◆ Located in County Antrim, - northeast coast of Northern Ireland
- ◆ 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the result of an ancient volcanic eruption.
- ◆ Most of the columns are hexagonal, although there are also some with four, five, seven and eight sides.
- ◆ The tallest are about 12 metres (36 ft) high, and the solidified lava in the cliffs is 28 metres thick in places.

Waterways

In Ireland





Carlow



Knockbeg College



- ◆ Founded in 1793
- ◆ Originally a seminary for priests
- ◆ One of the oldest secondary schools in Ireland
- ◆ There are approximately 380 pupils in the school.

Knockbeg College

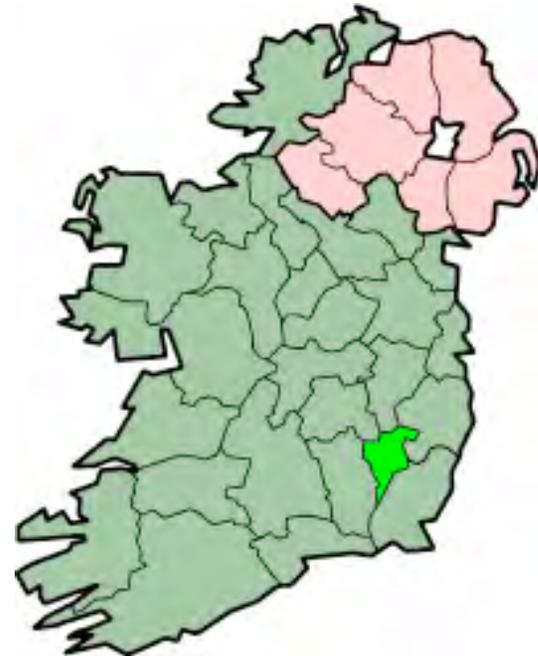
- ◆ Boarding school being phased out
- ◆ Knockbeg College is now accepting Day Boys only.
- ◆ End of the school's long history of boarding, making it an all day-boy school.
- ◆ River Barrow flows through grounds of school



Carlow

Basic Facts

- ◆ Size: 896 Kilometers square
- ◆ Population: 50,471 (2006)
- ◆ Main town: Carlow town
- ◆ River Barrow flows through Carlow town.

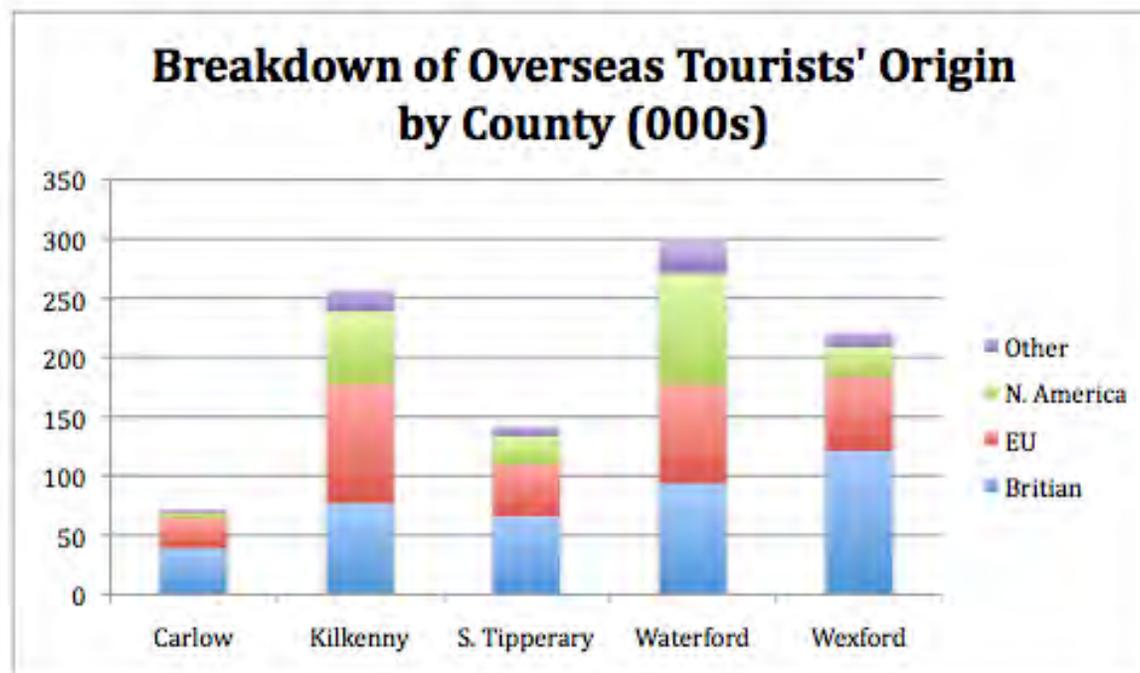


Statistics

**Percentage Share of South-Eastern
Tourism Market by Demographic
(2008)**



Statistics



Statistics

**Breakdown of Tourists' Origin Visiting
County Carlow**



River Barrow



Why the River Barrow?

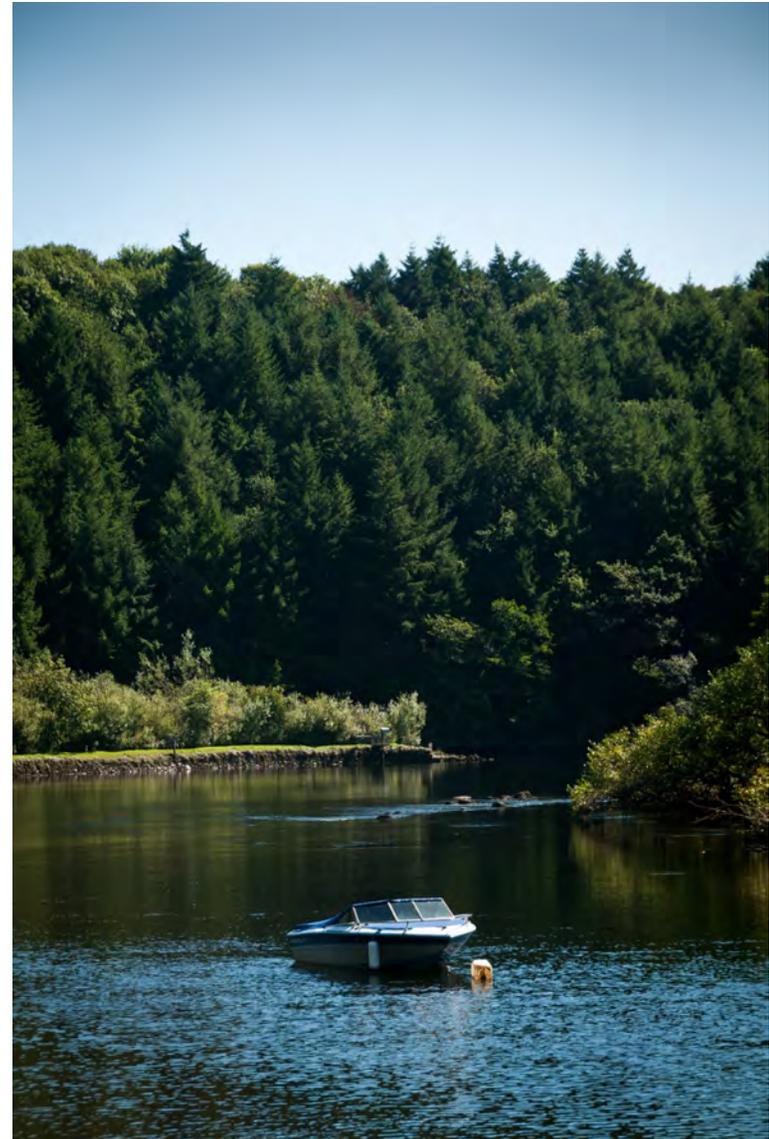
- ◆ River Barrow flows through grounds of Knockbeg College
- ◆ Walked along the river with our class during Transition Year.
- ◆ Studied the river in environmental studies class
- ◆ Always interested in the river

A weir on the River Barrow in the grounds of Knockbeg College



Facts

- 2nd Longest River in Ireland
- Length – 192 kilometres
- 65 kilometres are navigable
- 23 Victorian locks
- Covers an area of approximately 2983 km²



Three Sisters

The Three Sisters are three rivers in Ireland:

- River Barrow
- River Nore
- River Suir

All three rivers join the sea in the same bay southwest of the city of Waterford.



Source

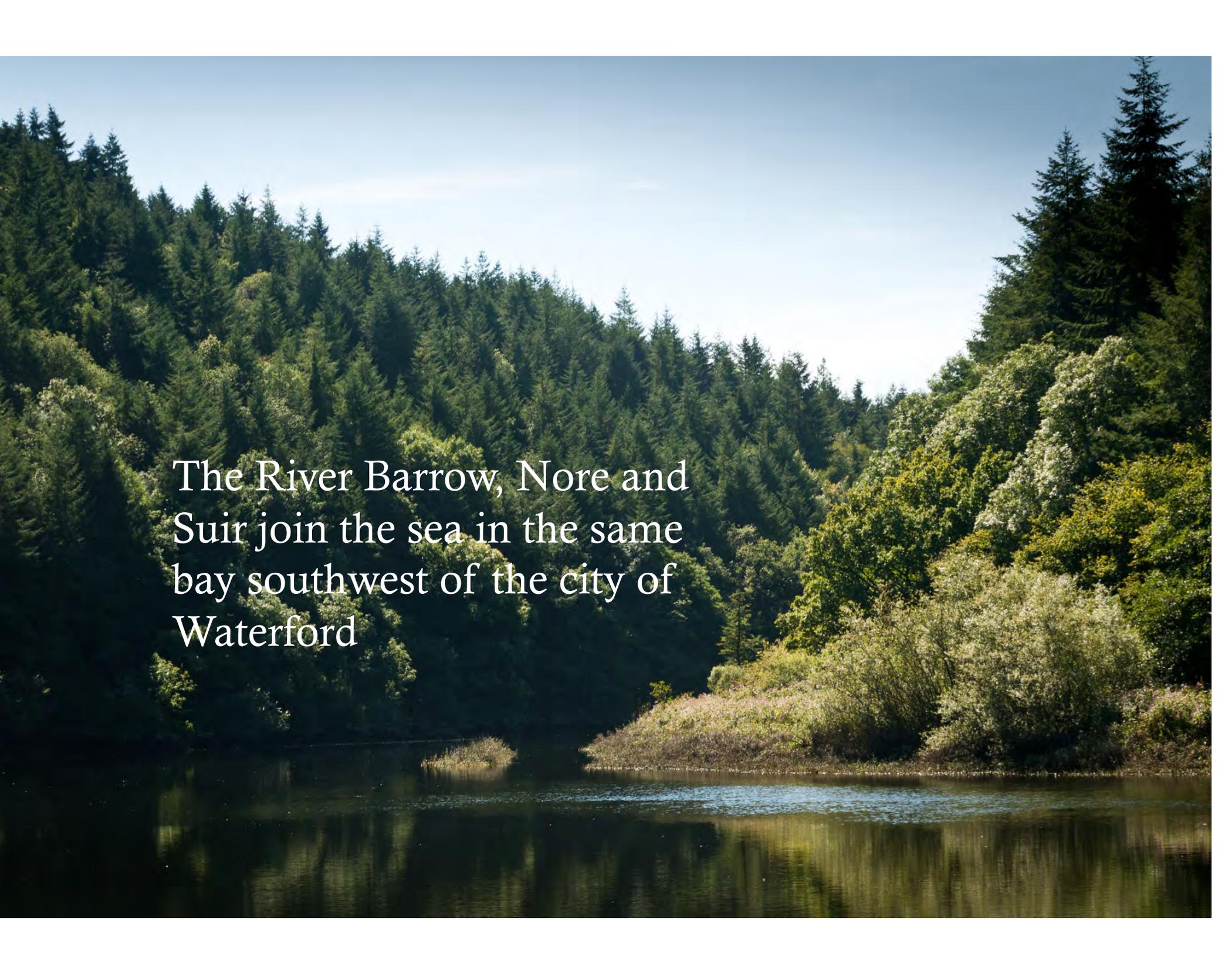
- ◆ Rises in the Slieve Bloom Mountains, County Laois
- ◆ Winds it's way through peaceful woods, fertile valleys and picturesque villages
- ◆ It flows in a north easterly direction through mountainous forested land crossing over the Slieve Bloom Way until it reaches the Offaly county boundary.



The Barrow rises in the Slieve Bloom mountains, Co. Laois

Navigation

- ◆ It then flows in an easterly direction forming part of the boundary between County Laois and County Offaly.
- ◆ It turns in a southerly direction and flows through many towns to its confluence with the River Suir.
- ◆ The Barrow is joined by the Nore approximately 4 km upstream of New Ross and is tidal for another 13 km upstream to St. Mullins.



The River Barrow, Nore and
Suir join the sea in the same
bay southwest of the city of
Waterford

History

Of the River Barrow



History

- ◆ The Barrow acted as a strategic military highway
- ◆ Also a highway for commerce since earliest times.
- ◆ Evidence of early Christian and later medieval church establishments can be seen all along the river



Commercial History

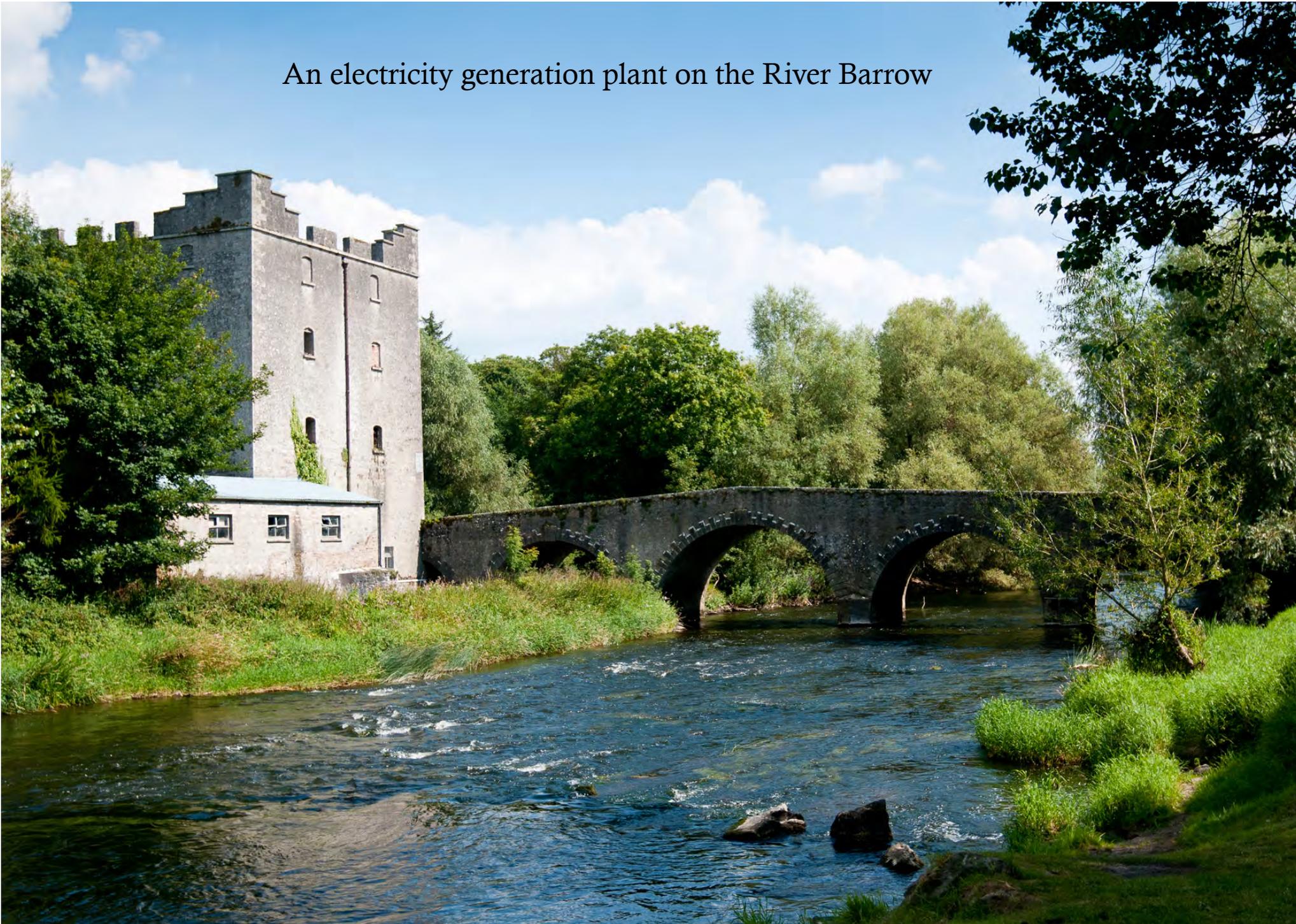
- ◆ Until the second half of the 20th century the Barrow was a commercial canalised waterway with many important river ports.
- ◆ A variety of heavy goods, from Guinness stout to sugar beet for Ireland's first sugar factory at Carlow were freighted through the canal system.
- ◆ Many mills situated along the river that relied on the river to transport flour to Dublin.

Commercial History

- ◆ The advent of rail transport in the 1960's signaled its decline.
- ◆ The Barrow is now completely given over to recreation.



An electricity generation plant on the River Barrow



Activities



Activities

- ◆ Recently experienced an exciting rejuvenation - range of sporting activities for the sports enthusiast.
- ◆ Many events held during the year including:
 - ◆ walking festivals
 - ◆ regattas
 - ◆ music and arts festivals

Cruising



- ◆ Speed limit on river sections is 11km/h and 6km/h on lateral canals.
- ◆ Waterside towns offer full services to boating visitors.
- ◆ Relax on board and watch the banks drift lazily by.
- ◆ Boats can be rented from local companies

Fishing

- ◆ A haven for both the novice and experienced angler.
- ◆ Facilitates both game and coarse angling.
- ◆ Produces more official award winning fish than any other single fishery in Ireland.
- ◆ Hosts prestigious international annual shad fishing competition



Fishing

GAME

- Trout
- Salmon

COARSE

- Bream
- Tench
- Rudd
- Pike



Salmon



Brown Trout



Bream



Roach



Rudd



Pike



Perch



Tench



Dace

Water Sports

- ◆ The tranquil waters of the River Barrow are suitable for swimmers and other water sports including:
 - ◆ Sailing
 - ◆ Waterskiing
 - ◆ Rowing
 - ◆ Canoeing
 - ◆ Kayaking



All these activities can be enjoyed at ease in the peaceful surroundings

Walking



- ◆ Barrow Track – 114 km
- ◆ Originally towpath
- ◆ Superb walking environment.
- ◆ Beautiful setting, mountain views and wooded banks
- ◆ Many picnic spots are available.

Cycling

- ◆ Cycling is also popular along the Barrow Way
- ◆ Path is flat and offers a peaceful location for cyclists.



Art

The Barrow is a tranquil and scenic location which attracts artists and photographers from all over the world.

Carlow has recently opened a new Arts Centre in the town



Wildlife

- ◆ The Barrow is a nature wonderland, providing many hours of enjoyment for visitors
- ◆ The open fields and woods, attract a huge variety of birds and waterfowl.
- ◆ Badgers, foxes, stoats, rabbits and hedgehogs are commonly seen along the banks.



Birds



- ◆ Kingfishers
- ◆ Herons
- ◆ Farmlands harbour:
 - ◆ Lapwing
 - ◆ Rook
 - ◆ Hooded crow
 - ◆ Pheasant



A fox on the bank of the River Barrow

Accommodation

- ◆ Canal side inns are to be found near locks and mooring berths.
- ◆ Picturesque villages cater for all tastes with a range of hotels and B&B's.
- ◆ Something for everyone wherever you are.

Attractions

on the River Barrow





Glenbarrow, Co. Laois



- ◆ Most scenic part of the Slieve Bloom area
- ◆ Source of river
- ◆ 10 km walk EcoWalk
- ◆ Very remote and offers the visitor peace and tranquillity.

Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny



- ◆ Picturesque village
- ◆ Good restaurants and accommodation
- ◆ Holds book festival every September
- ◆ Annual regatta
- ◆ Duiske Abbey

St. Mullins, Co. Carlow



- ◆ One of Carlow's most important archaeological sites
- ◆ Location of a monastic site built by St. Moling.
- ◆ Excellent fishing
- ◆ Steeped in history
- ◆ End of Barrow Way

Carlow Town, Co. Carlow



- ◆ A bustling centre - great shopping, fine restaurants and accommodation.
- ◆ Lively festivals - Eigse Arts Festival
- ◆ Long tradition in river sports - Carlow Regatta, one of the oldest rowing festivals in the country.

Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow



- ◆ Picturesque village located in County Carlow
- ◆ Part of Carlow Garden Trail – ‘the garden village’
- ◆ Location of Black Castle, one of Ireland’s earliest Norman castles
- ◆ Nine-arched bridge is the oldest on the river, it was built in 1320 and is one of the oldest functioning bridges in Europe.

Clashganny, Co. Carlow



- ◆ One of Carlow's and Ireland's most famous landmarks
- ◆ Offers a panoramic view of the surrounding area.
- ◆ Location of an old mill

Development and Maintenance

Of the River Barrow



Safety

- Life buoys located along the banks of the river
- Safety signage is located along the river
- Lifeguards are situated in popular areas of recreation
- Search and Rescue teams available for emergencies



Search and Rescue helicopter flying
above the River Barrow



Maintenance

In order to maintain the River Barrow certain steps must be taken:

- ◆ Dredging to maintain the navigable depth
- ◆ Provision of jetties for mooring and lock access
- ◆ ‘Access for All’ programme ensuring access to river and track to people with a wide variety of disabilities.



Water Quality

- ◆ The water quality of the Barrow has improved over recent years
- ◆ Tests are now routinely carried out to monitor the water quality of the river.



Anti-Social behaviour

There is a certain amount of anti-social behaviour, including under age drinking, vandalism and littering associated with the river

- Not a widespread issue
- Action is being taken to prevent such behaviour



Potential Development

What we think could help to improve the River Barrow:

- ◆ Interactive museum on the history of the Barrow
- ◆ More recreational areas and picnic spots
- ◆ Improvement of walkways
- ◆ Improvement of access areas and parking
- ◆ More family friendly
- ◆ More marketing as a premier tourist destination in Ireland

A winter landscape of the River Barrow. The river flows through a valley, with a dam in the foreground creating a small waterfall. The banks are covered in snow, and the trees are heavily laden with frost. In the distance, a few people can be seen near a fence on the right bank. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

The River Barrow during the winter

Other Attractions

In Carlow



Carlow Garden Trail

Featuring 16 different gardening attractions, ranging from small to very large gardens, garden centres and forest parks.

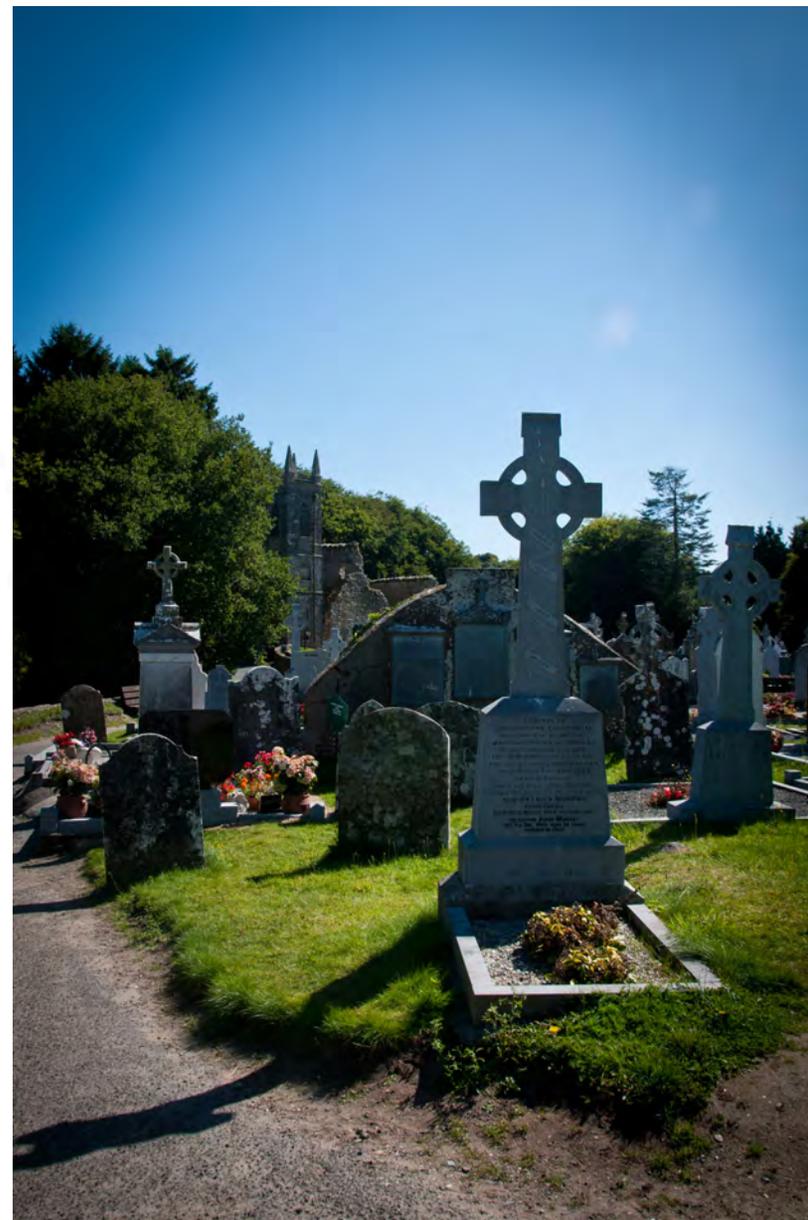
- Altamont Gardens
- Ducketts Grove
- Leighlinbridge



Carlow – Trail of the Saints

Three driving routes featuring
51 ecclesiastical attractions.

- St. Mullins
- Old Leighlin
- Killeshin



Other Attractions in Carlow

Brownshill Dolmen



- ◆ Megalithic portal tomb situated 3 km east of Carlow town
- ◆ Capstone weighs 100 metric tons
- ◆ Said to be the heaviest capstone in Europe.

Other Attractions in Carlow

Visual Arts Centre



Carlow Cathedral



Conclusion

- ◆ The River Barrow has a lot to offer visitors, with further development, the river can be a first class tourism destination.
- ◆ **Green tourism – fad or fact?**

As you can see the River Barrow is definitely an example of eco tourism in Ireland.

Acknowledgements

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A sepia-toned photograph of two people walking a dog on a path by a river. The scene is captured from a low angle, showing the silhouettes of the two individuals and their dog as they walk away from the camera. The path is on the left, leading towards a large, leafless tree in the center. To the right, a calm river reflects the light from a cloudy sky. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

Questions?