

Enfield

The section of the Royal Canal between Fern's Lock (Lock 17) and Ballasport Bridge (Lock 18) is 30 km long. This section of canal plays host to a number of nationally important match fishing venues and many kilometres of prime pleasure angling. The town of Enfield represents the hub of this high profile coarse fishery.

The Royal Canal in this area is located in a relatively undisturbed, rural environment, where peace and tranquility are available to those who seek it. Waterways Ireland has created an infrastructure along the canal that provides ready access for anglers to most stretches. In addition to easy access, the angler is provided with ample adjacent car parking and managed match stretches.

Each year the Royal Enfield Coarse Angling Club hosts a number of major coarse angling competitions. These include: the Royal Enfield CAC 2-day International festival, in early June, the Royal Enfield CAC Seamus Mooney Memorial Winter League (6 matches), between October and February, an all night competition staged in early July and many open matches for adult and junior anglers throughout the year. This active Club also provides angling teach-ins for juniors and beginners. These events attract large numbers of match anglers from Ireland and abroad. The popularity of these events is perpetuated by the abundance of quality coarse fish, the high fish catch rate and the hospitality of the local population.

Over the past 10 years this section of the canal has been stocked with wild coarse fish from game fisheries elsewhere in the country. Introduced species included roach, bream, hybrids, tench and carp. In addition to a large stock of medium-sized fish, this section holds some large bream to 3.2 kg, tench to 2.5 kg, roach x bream hybrids to 1.5 kg and rudd to 0.9 kg. In recent years a number of large pike to 12 kg have been caught and released, in this productive section of canal.



The Canal

The Royal Canal in the Enfield area is between 10 and 14 m wide and averages 1.6 m deep. The water can be very clear, particularly near Enfield. The vegetation is carefully managed and does not pose an obstruction for anglers. Boat traffic density along the canal is low.

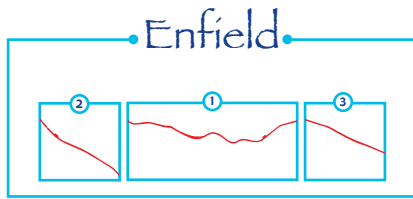
Fishing Tackle and Bait

Pole tackle is the most productive fishing method, while float fishing can also prove effective. Raking your swim can enhance sport. At the start of a session, the angler should target the middle of the canal, approximately 6 to 9m from the bank. Introduce between 4 and 8 small balls of ground bait and loose feed thereafter. Try adding extra groundbait if a number of cruisers pass. Fish with No. 6 or 8 elastic, 1.4 kg main line to a 0.9 kg hook length, and a medium-wire, size 18 hook. The lighter the tackle the greater the catch. However, large fish patrol this canal so be prepared to introduce heavier terminal tackle. A wide range of hook baits work, although white and red maggot, pinkies, casters and worm are best. It is worth having corn on standby.

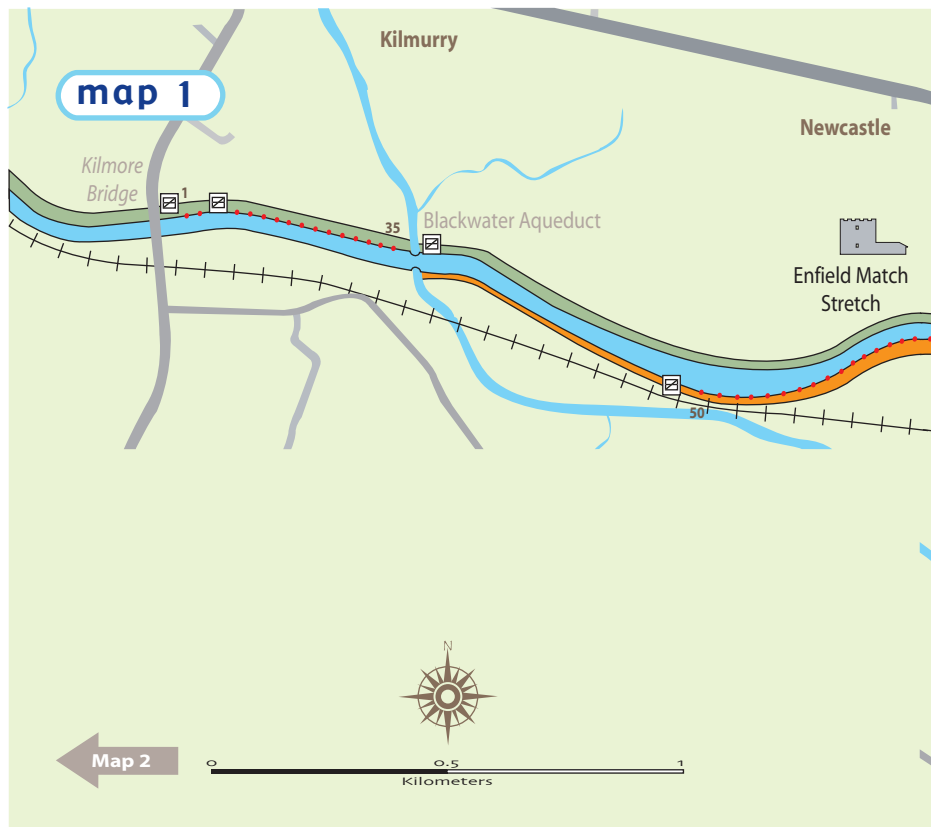
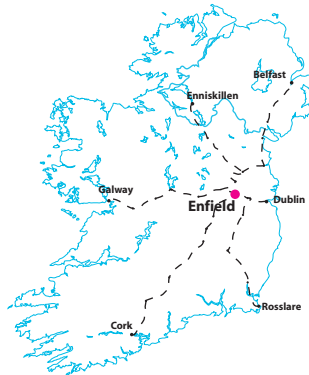
For advice contact Brian O'Donoghoe, Hon. Treasurer of the Royal Enfield CAC at Tel: +353 (0)46 9541911 (evening).

Fish Stocks

The Enfield match stretch boasts good stocks of tench, bream, roach, rudd and even some carp and has produced some notable match results. Kilmore, with depths up to 1.9m can turn up big weights, most notably 50 kg in a five-hour match. At the Longwood stretch large catches of big bream can be had particularly in August and September. At a recent 5 hour match 50 anglers weighed in 362 kg of bream. Fern's Lock fishes better during the summer for good bream and tench. Historically, Blackshade was the main competition stretch used by the Club. It has since been used more for pleasure angling and has produced phenomenal weights for those anglers willing to walk a little. Moyvalley has good stocks of tench, roach and some bream in shallow water. Cloncurry boasts a good spread of species and excellent access to every peg. Kilcock is a notable winter match stretch, with good stocks of roach. Excellent access is available throughout. Ballasport has been recently deepened and holds a big head of bream and tench.



Enfield is located in Co. Meath just 43 km from Dublin, city centre. The town is situated on the banks of the Royal Canal.

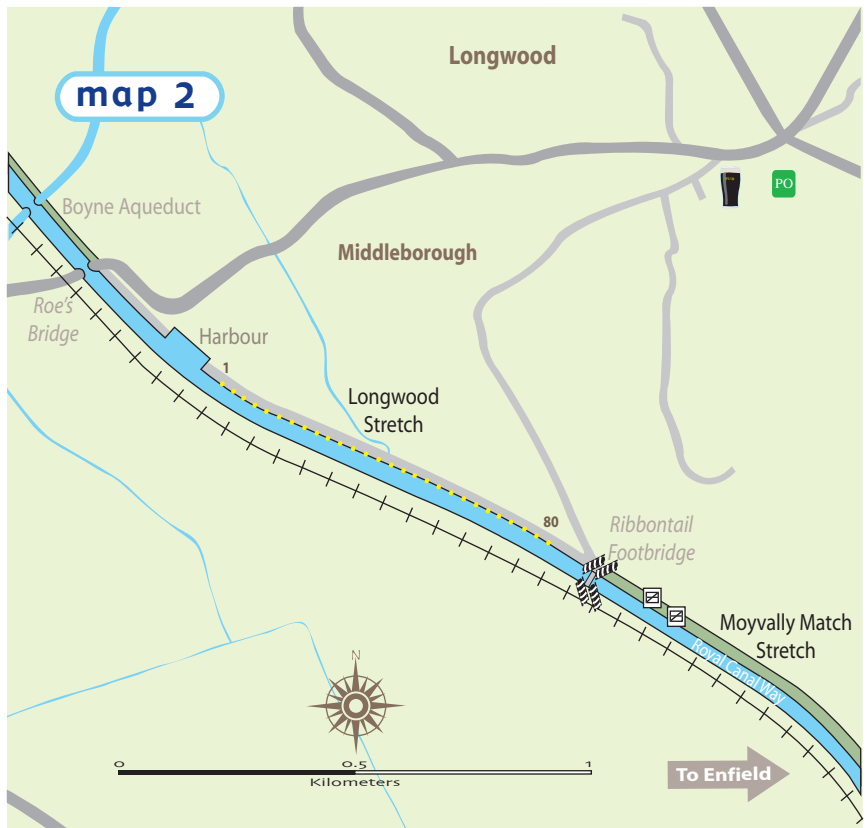




The 30km long section of the Royal Canal included in this brochure is covered by three maps highlighting the stretches of Enfield. The maps are labelled 1-3. Use map 1 to leave Enfield to reach the stretches indicated in map 2 and 3.



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Directions

Directions to Enfield

From Dublin City Centre, follow signs for the M50/N4. On the N4, travel Westwards 42km to a roundabout. Here, take the second exit R159 for Enfield.

map 1

Enfield Match Stretch

Turn off the N4 into Enfield village. Turn left immediately after the *Railway bridge* at a coarse fishing signpost onto a hardcore towpath. Continue along the towpath to the first gate (see map 1).

Kilmore Stretch

Travel west from Enfield on the N4. Take the first major left turn approximately 1.5 km outside of Enfield before Moyvalley (see map 1). Some parking is available along the grass towpath and all pegs are easily accessible by foot.

Blackshade Stretch

Take the N4 west from Enfield for approximately 15 km. Turn right at Clonard and follow the coarse fishing sign. Travel 2 km following signposts for Longwood. At Y-Junction, take left for Castlerickard/Trim for *Blackshade bridge*. Turn right, before the bridge onto a driveable towpath.

Ballasport Match Stretch

Take the N4 to Clonard. Turn right in Clonard at the coarse fishing sign and follow signposts for Hill of Down. Turn left. Continue through the junction with the R161, until reaching the canal at *Ballasport Bridge*. Access is available to every swim along a driveable hardcore towpath.



Directions

map 2

Longwood/Ribbontail Stretch

Travel west from Enfield on the N4. Approximately 2.6 km after Moyvalley take a right turn signposted for Longwood (R160). From here to a crossroads is 2.4 km, turn right for Longwood. The road passes under the canal at *Roe's Bridge* (see map 2), before swinging to the right. Ample parking is available at the harbour and the entire section is served by a hardcore towpath.

Moyvalley Match Stretch

Travel 6.1 km west from Enfield on the N4. Turn right into the car park at Furey's Pub, parking is available here. The match stretch begins after the car park. Access to every peg is within walking distance and is a very good summer evening stretch.

Cloncurry Match Stretch

Travel east from Enfield on the N4. Turning left at Cloncurry crossroads for *Cloncurry bridge*. Take an immediate right after the bridge. Parking is available on the towpath where the road separates from the canal.

Fern's Lock Stretch

Follow the N4 east from Enfield (see map 3). Turn left 8 km from Enfield, after the motorway sign. Take a right, (signposted for Summerhill). Cross level-crossing and turn left before the bridge. Parking is available at either side of the Locks. Access is along a grassy bank and gates must be kept closed at all times.

Kilcock Match Stretch

Kilcock is situated approximately 10 km east of Enfield. Take signposted turning off the N4. Match stretches are accessible from the town.