Monasterevin

This guide covers a 9 km long section of the Barrow Line of the Grand Canal, from the new motorway bridge on the 25th level south of Monasterevin to Umeras Bridge on the 23rd level just north of the town.

The canal is well known for the quality of its bream stocks. Perhaps not coincidentally the canal here also supports abundant pike populations, with some fish to over 9 kgs (20lbs). Regular pike angling competitions are held along this stretch, and it has been used as a heat venue for the National Pike Championships, which is organised and run by the Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs.

There is one permanent, 60 peg match section within the area covered by the guide. All the stretches have good stocks of bream, roach, hybrids, tench, perch, rudd, and pike. Carp, are also present. At all locations, access is good, with virtually the full length of the canal fishable. Road access is excellent, and large sections of tow path are driveable, although care should be taken if driving along the towpath, due to marshy conditions after rain. Occasionally, laybys are provided for car parking. In recent years a large number wild, hard fighting coarse fish have been stocked to supplement the resident shoals.

The canal varies in character along its length. While predominantly quiet and rural, the harbour section, in the heart of town with a number of deep bays, offers both an excellent fish habitat and an attractive and unusual canal angling location.

In 2006, the top match weight in the area was in excess of 38lbs was recorded, and weights over 20lb are frequent and often necessary to frame. Pleasure catches, far in excess of these figures are possible.
Grand Canal - Barrow Line
The canal here is between 12 to 15 meters wide, although much wider sections exist. Depth is normally between 1.5 to 1.75m, but deeper water is available in the harbour area of the town and in the southern portion of the Wide Waters match stretch. Diversity from the typical linear canal is apparent in the town section, where both the harbour and the confluence with the disused Mountellick Branch are located. The water is also often coloured here. 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. Baits should be fished on the bottom. 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 most productive baits include maggots, worms and sweetcorn. For carp and big tench it is worth having pellets, paste, boilies and a range of modern ground baits on standby. Heavier tackle will be required for these species. Light pre-baiting, with can be effective. For pike a roving approach, continuously covering new water should maximise sport. Most techniques will work including dead-baits or artificial lures. Fly fishing for pike can also be productive. Basic pike tackle incorporating suitable wire trace should be employed whatever method is used.

For advice contact Johnathon Finlay, PRO Monasterevin and District Angling Club, Tel: +353 (0)45 525331

Fish Stocks
The canal supports many species, including bream, roach, rudd, hybrids and pike. Tench fishing can be excellent in the summer months. The canal also has a large eel population. While large stocks of small and medium sized fish abound, it also harbours large specimens. These include tench to 4lb, bream to 3lb, hybrids to 2lb and roach to 1lb and pike to 20lb. Large carp to 10lb, are also present, particularly in the town section.
Monasterevin, is located in north Kildare, some 65km south of Dublin. The town is situated on the banks of the Barrow Line of the Grand Canal – and the Barrow River.
This guide covers a 9 km long section of the Barrow Line, from the new motorway bridge on the 25th level south of Monasterevin to Umeras Bridge on the 23rd level just north of the town. Use map 2 to leave Monasterevin to reach the stretches indicated in map 1.
Fishing is free of charge on the Grand Canal - Barrowline
Grand Canal - Barrowline

Macartney’s Stretch

Ummeras Bridge

Doyles Lock

Macartney Bridge

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**Directions**

**Directions to Monasterevin**
From Dublin travel southwards on R110 and at the Red Cow follow signs onto the N7 to join Motorway M7. Leave the M7 at Junction 12 and take the 3rd exit at roundabout onto M7 all the way to Monasterevin (see maps 1 & 2).

**map 1**

**Wide Waters**
Continue through the town on the R445 (Old N7), and continue over the river and canal bridges. Take the left turn, approximately 3km from the town which is sign posted for the Grand Canal. Continue along this road for 500m until you meet the canal. To the left, a gravelled tow path is drivable and terminates in a parking area which can hold in excess of 20 cars. Road access continues on the north bank of the canal, to the left of the bridge as far as the new motorway bridge (see map 1). Good shoals of bream, roach, hybrids, and some very large tench can be caught here. Deeper water makes this a popular winter venue for both coarse fish and pike.

**Y Section**
On the R445 (Old N7) from Dublin, turn right onto the main street R424. Continue over the draw bridge that crosses the canal. Turn left over the river bridge, and take an immediate left again. Follow the road until you cross a small hump-back bridge. Turn left immediately after this bridge. There is limited parking here, and there is also road access to the 25th lock (see map 1). All the main species can be captured here, and a number of carp patrol the area. The bay above the lock gates is the hot spot.
Directions

map 2

Town Section / Harbour
Anglers can fish from both banks of the canal in the harbour section. Road side parking is available on the south bank of the canal. On the R445 (Old N7) from Dublin take the first right (sign posted for Rathangan). Continue straight along the street until you reach the harbour (see map 2). Large stocks of bream with roach and hybrids are present. Carp are regularly seen but seldom caught in this section.

Doyles Lock/Macartneys Stretch
Follow the signs for the town section. Turn right at the canal and continue for 1.75 km. At Ballykelly Mill (see map 2), follow the road to the left. Limited parking is available at the lock. The north and south banks are fishable either side of the lock. Above the lock, a gravel tow path with four parking bays has been constructed on the north bank.