

Lough Muckno is a beautiful lakeland landscape framed by the iconic drumlins of County Monaghan and forms the attractive setting for the historic Lough Muckno Estate, including Hope Castle, its annexe buildings and walled garden. The estate and lake are accessed through the historic gateway and restored Gate Lodges from Castleblayney's Market Square. Lough Muckno Estate serves principally as a valuable amenity to the town and welcomes local and international visitors alike.

In recent years, enhancements have been made to the recreational amenity of Lough Muckno and environs, including walking trails, fishing stands, playground and car park, along with the refurbishment of the Gate Lodges to a library and community facilities.

Previous studies have explored potential opportunities for Lough Muckno's future development.

Monaghan County Council recognises that an overall Master Plan and Development Framework for Lough Muckno and its environs is required to act as a blueprint for its sustainable evolution, to guide phased development of an enhanced experience for its townspeople. This may encourage visitors, thereby supporting the future development of Castleblayney as an attractive location.

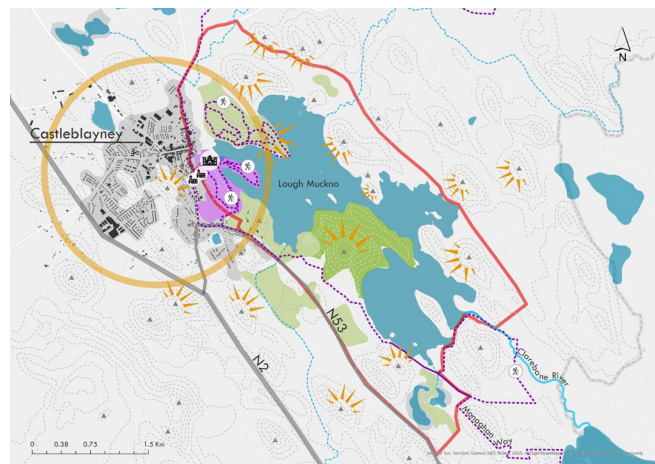
Monaghan County Council has appointed a consultant team led by Cunnane Stratton Reynolds to prepare a Master Plan and Development Framework.

The study area consists of the lake and its surrounding lands, including Hope Castle, Annexe buildings, park lands, farmlands, and the town area in the vicinity of the lake.

The Master Plan and Development Framework will consider the wider environmental considerations and the connectivity with and potential impacts on the town, specifically addressing:

- A Vision for Lough Muckno and its environs which reflects the needs of the community and a sustainable model for future development
- A Spatial planning framework to facilitate sustainable development and provide for the integration of Lough Muckno Estate with the town
- Proposals for additional and/or improved use of public spaces and buildings
- Proposals for recreational and tourism opportunities
- Proposals for heritage conservation, enhancement and protection of biodiversity

Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation is a key part of all aspects of the project, to ensure community buy-in and to support the delivery of emerging actions of the plan. In line with best practice, the stakeholder engagement will be guided by the core values of the New European Bauhaus, of 'sustainability, aesthetics and inclusiveness.'



The Study Area (outlined in red)

Summary Programme

March - June 2025
Analysis and Consultation

September 2025
Emerging Concepts

Early 2026
Draft Masterplan

Watch out for notification of consultation events in the near future. We want to hear your views.

Please scan QR code for community survey.

See our project website:

<https://monaghan.ie/planning/lough-muckno-and-environs-masterplan/>

Project email:

mucknoplan@csrlandplan.ie

