



Energy for generations



THE RIVER LEE AN LAOI

The River Lee rises in the Shehy Mountains encircling Gougane Barra on the Cork/Kerry border. It flows due east and runs 65km to Cork city. Its total catchment area is 1,150km².



DRAINAGE

The northern and western boundaries of Gougane Barra rise steeply. Many tributaries drain the steep mountain slopes and consequently respond very rapidly to rainfall.

STEEP AND RAPID

The early course of the river from Gougane Barra to Inchigeela is steep and rapid, but downstream of Lough Allua the gradients are gentle and the river has a meandering course as far as Carrigrohid.

9KM² WITH A CAPACITY OF 16.2M CUBIC METERS

CARRIGADROHID RESERVOIR & DAM

DAMS AND RESERVOIRS

Hydroelectric development of the river took place between 1953 and 1957 resulting in the construction of two dams and associated reservoirs at Carrigrohid (8MW) on the upper catchment and Inniscarra (19MW) on the middle catchment.

RIVER BED DROP

From Carrigrohid dam to Inniscarra the topography changes and the river bed falls about 35m through a narrow and in places a steep-sided valley over a distance of 13km.

35M DROP BETWEEN DAMS

5KM² WITH A CAPACITY OF 16.4M CUBIC METERS

INNISCARRA RESERVOIR & DAM

TRIBUTARIES

Three major tributaries – the Bride, the Shourmagh and the Curaheen all join the Lee below Inniscarra and add significantly to the flow of the river before reaching Cork City.

EXCESS FLOW OF WATER

The reservoirs at Carrigrohid and Inniscarra have limited storage capacity relative to the large catchment area. Excess rainfall and flow must be passed through the dams and the reservoirs can assist in reducing the effect of small floods downstream but, because of their small capacity, they are not capable of absorbing larger floods.

CORK CITY

The river flows eastward through Cork where it splits in two for a short distance creating an island on which Cork's city centre is built.

CELTIC SEA

Please note: this map is for illustrative purposes only and is not to scale.