



An National
Líonra Cycle
Rothaíochta Network

Glasbhealach Mór an Iarthair Great Western Greenway

Overview

The World Class Great Western Greenway (Newport - Mullaranny) is an 18km traffic free cycling and walking facility which primarily follows the line of the famous Newport / Mullaranny Railway, which closed in 1937. Its development has been made possible by agreement of local landowners who have allowed permissive access to users to pass through their lands.

This route offers gentle gradients and some of the most idyllic scenery in the west of Ireland. The route forms part of the National Cycle Network and it is the longest off road cycling experience in the Country.

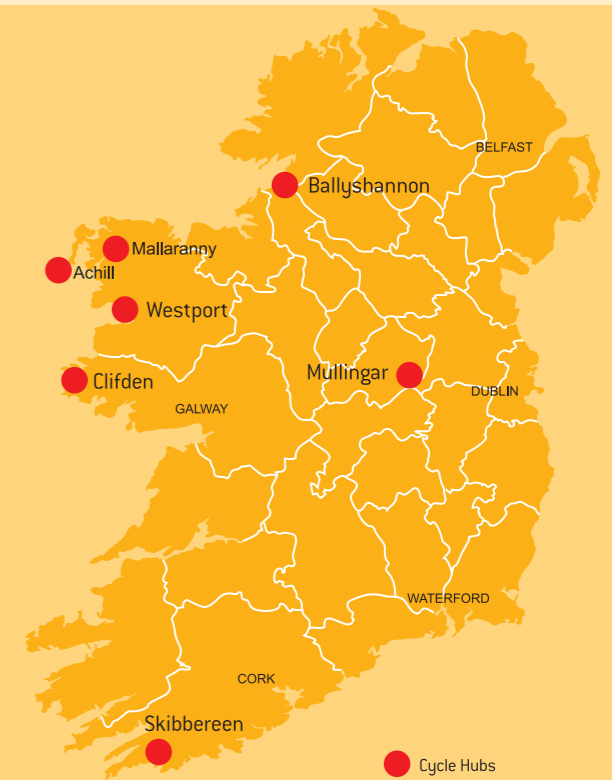
From Railway to Greenway

The Newport / Mullaranny railway formed part of the once famous Westport / Achill Railway. This railway was one of the so-called 'Balfour Lines', called after Arthur J. Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland during the years 1887-91, who introduced the Light Railways (Ireland) Act which provided State assistance for the construction of narrow gauge lines to disadvantaged areas such as West Mayo. The first station on this extension was Newport which opened in February 1894, followed by Mullaranny in August of the same year. The line to Achill was completed in May 1895.

Individual towns and villages prospered with the arrival of the Great Western and Midland Railway company. The luxurious Great Western Hotel opened at Mullaranny in 1897 and a combined rail and hotel ticket was available. The hotel was equipped with every modern convenience of the time, including electric light and hot and cold water baths were also available.

The promoters of the line had high hopes for its future and it proved to be a great social and economic asset to West Mayo, however traffic never consistently reached the levels originally anticipated. Development of road traffic in the 1930's sealed the fate of the line. The last train ran in the Autumn of 1937, a mere 42 years after the line had opened.

Today the section of the line between Newport and Mullaranny with its many fine engineering structures, gentle gradients and outstanding scenery has been converted into an off road walking and cycling route – a fitting reminder to the glorious railway era.



Trail Description

Start/ Trailhead: Mullaranny / Newport
Distance: 18 km
Estimated Time: 2-2.30 Hours Cycling
5-5.30 Hours Walking
Ascent: 82m

Terrain: Greenway off road cycle and walking trail.

Waymarking: Trail is waymarked using the National Cycle Network symbol and a white directional travel arrow.

To Suit: Suitable for people with moderate levels of fitness.

Minimum Gear: Helmet, Bike, Mobile Phone, Snacks, Fluid and waterproofs.
Services: Services available at Newport, Mullaranny and Tiernaur.

Os Discover Map: Sheet No 30 & 31

Emergency Contact No: If you encounter any difficulties, contact the emergency services on 999

Help to Maintain this Greenway
Please report any dangerous obstacles or missing / damaged signs to:
Mayo County Council 098 41169
Email: mayowalks@mayococo.ie



Legend

- N59 National Primary Road
- Great Western Greenway
- Parking
- Pub/Restaurant
- Bicycle Hire

National Cycle Network

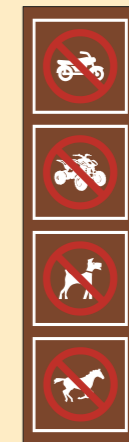
The National Cycle Network is being developed throughout Ireland. A number of linear trails and cycle hub towns are located across the country. Each hub town has a number of looped cycle groups consisting of half day and day cycles.

Acknowledgement

Mayo County Council wishes in particular to thank local landowners without whose cooperation, enthusiasm and support this project would not have been made possible.

The Local Authority would also like to acknowledge the support and assistance of CIE, South Mayo Development Company (LEADER), the Local Rural Social Schemes, the North West Regional Fisheries Board, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Trails Office.

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Leave no trace

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Respect wildlife and farm stock
- Be considerate of others
- Minimise the effects of fire