

NEWRY CANAL TOWPATH

This cycle and walking route from the Bann Bridge in Portadown to the Town Hall in Newry is a 20 mile trip on part of route 9 of the National Cycle Network. The route follows the towpath on the western bank of the now, non-navigable, Newry Canal.

The canal operated for more than 200 years and provided employment throughout its length and generated wealth for the many towns and villages nearby. The canal was the first summit level canal in the British Isles and has fourteen locks between Carlingford Lough and Lough Neagh, most of which can be seen on this route.

ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE ROUTE

Point of Whitecoat is at the end of the canal and the confluence of the Bann and Cushier rivers. The latter is crossed by a distinctive bridge.

Moneypenny's Lock is the last lock on the canal before it joins the River Bann and is the location of a small museum.

Scarva Visitors' Centre can be accessed via a footbridge and is located beside the only port on the canal where barges once passed each other or collected and delivered their cargoes.

Acton Interpretative Centre is situated on the site of a former sluice keepers cottage beside Lough Shark. The small lake was used to maintain the water level in the canal.

Gamble's Bridge was also known as the Crack Bridge due to either the crack in its wall or as a meeting point to share a bit of craic.

Stenson's Bridge is a picturesque stone bridge incorporating three arches.

Art Pieces can be seen along the route including some NCN Mileposts and a series of specially commissioned pieces which reflect the former work and nature of the Newry Canal.


Additional cycling opportunities away from the towpath can be enjoyed by:

1: Continuing on route 9 from Newry, via the National Trust property at Derrymore, to Camlough and the Slieve Gullion Courtyard Centre.

2: Cycling from Portadown, journey via the Craigavon Lakes and Oxford Island, to the Lagan Canal at Lisburn and on to Belfast or return to the towpath via Regional Route 10 through Waringstown and Bleary.

3: Travelling west from Scarva on National Route 91 towards Clare, for Armagh and Enniskillen, or swinging north towards Tandragee to meet the towpath again at Knock Bridge.

TRAVEL TO/FROM THE NEWRY CANAL TOWPATH

The excellent cross-border  rail service, which connects Belfast and Dublin calls at Portadown and Newry and can accommodate up to 12 bicycles. Cyclists are encouraged to use this service to start or finish their trip to the canal. Local rail services operate from Belfast to Portadown and Ulsterbus express services run to Portadown and Newry. Bicycle carrying is limited on these services and travellers should contact the operator before setting out. Bus Eireann services connect Dundalk and Newry.

Useful Contacts

Tourism

Millennium Court Arts Centre
Tourist Information Point
William Street, Portadown
Tel No: 028 3839 4415

Armagh Tourist Information
Centre
40 English Street, Armagh
Tel No: 028 3752 1800

Banbridge Tourist Information
Centre
200 Newry Road, Banbridge
Tel No: 028 4062 3322

Newry Tourist Information
Centre
Tel No: 028 3026 8877

Scarva Visitor Centre
(Seasonal)
Tel No: 028 3883 2163

Lough Neagh Discovery
Centre
Tel No: 028 3832 2205

Public Transport

Translink
Tel No: 028 9066 6630
www.translink.co.uk

Irish Rail
Tel No: 00353 1 836 6222
www.irishrail.ie

Bus Eireann Dublin
Tel No: 00353 1 836 6111
www.buseireann.ie

Cycling and Walking

Sustrans
Tel No: 0845 113 0065
www.sustrans.org.uk

Outdoor Recreation NI
Tel No: 028 9030 3930
www.outdoorrecreationni.com

Any comments or for more information on the route email:
info@sustrans.org.uk

Other contacts for cycling in Northern Ireland

Cycle Northern Ireland: www.cycleni.com

NI Tourist Board: www.discovernorthernireland.com



Newry Canal Towpath

A 20-mile cycle and walking route
between Portadown and Newry



www.sustrans.org.uk



PORTADOWN

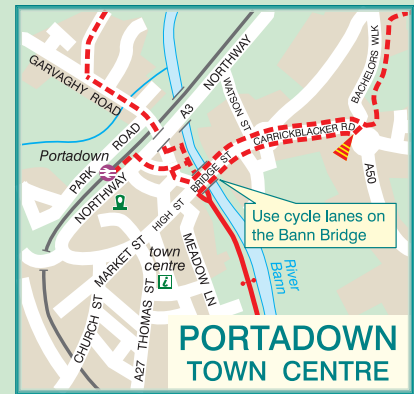
The Newry Canal towpath is a shared use path and can be busy at times in places. Please give way to pedestrians and be prepared to dismount if necessary.



Moneypenny's Lock



Near Lough Shark

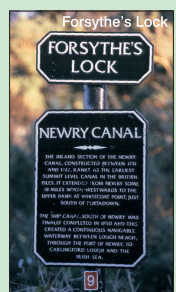


PORTADOWN TOWN CENTRE



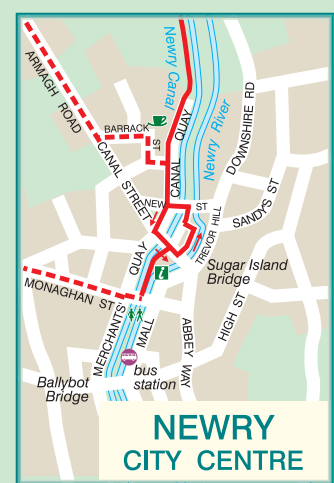
Scarva Visitors Centre

The canal towpath offers all users of the route the opportunity to observe the varied flora and fauna and to discover the historical and archaeological heritage of the area.



Forsythe's Lock

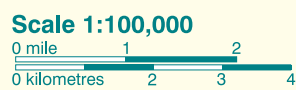
The Newry Canal towpath is a shared use path and can be busy at times in places. Please give way to pedestrians and be prepared to dismount if necessary.



NEWRY CITY CENTRE

NEWRY CANAL TOWPATH

- Newry Canal Towpath
- Link routes (some may be on-road)
- National Route, Regional Route
- Access point
- Rail station, bus station
- NCN Milepost
- Sculpture



Code of conduct for shared use paths

- Cyclists** please don't expect to cycle at high speeds
- be prepared to slow down or stop if necessary
 - be careful at junctions, bends and entrances
 - give way to walkers and wheelchair users - leaving plenty of room
 - remember that many people cannot hear or see well don't assume that they can see or hear you
 - fit a bell and use it - don't surprise people

Motorcycles and quads are not permitted on traffic-free paths.

First published 2001. Re-printed and revised 2006, 2014.
 © copyright Sustrans 2014. Photographs © Banbridge District Council, Craigavon Borough Council and Sustrans.
 © Crown Copyright 2014 (Permit No. 140015).
 Map production by Stirling Surveys. Printed by L & S Litho.