



On Bann Boulevard

**The Craigavon Cycle Trail** is a thirty-five mile cycle ride through the Borough of Craigavon linking inland waterways, the shores of Lough Neagh and picturesque villages. The level, traffic-free sections through City Park and the Newry to Portadown Canal are suitable for family or novice cyclists whilst the undulating countryside of County Armagh offers magnificent vistas of Slieve Croob and the distant Mourne Mountains for those wishing to explore the area. The Craigavon Cycle Trail is a section of the National Cycle Network, a comprehensive network of safe and attractive routes throughout the UK. 10,000 miles are already open, one third of which is on traffic-free paths, the rest following quiet lanes or traffic-calmed roads. It is delivered through partnerships with Government Departments, Local Councils and community groups and is co-ordinated by the charity Sustrans.

[www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk](http://www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk)

## TRAVEL TO/FROM THE CRAIGAVON CYCLE TRAIL

The Northern Ireland Railways network serves the cycle route. Portadown station is within a few minutes of the route and Lurgan station is on a link route. Facilities exist for the carrying of bicycles on trains except before 9:30 am Monday to Friday

### Useful Contacts

#### Tourism

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre,  
Analoiste Road, Lurgan.  
(Oxford Island) 028 3832 2205

Millennium Court Arts Centre  
Millennium Court, William St,  
Portadown. Tel No: 028 3839 4415

Town Centre Managers Office  
High St, Lurgan, Craigavon.  
Tel No: 028 3834 9149

#### Public Transport

Translink  
Tel No: 028 9066 6630  
[www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk)

Portadown Train Station  
Tel No: 028 3835 1422

Lurgan Train Station  
Tel No: 028 3832 2052

#### Cycling

Sustrans  
Tel No: 028 9043 4569  
[www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk](http://www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk)

Craigavon Borough Council  
Tel No: 028 3832 2205  
[www.craigavon.gov.uk](http://www.craigavon.gov.uk)

Cycling Ulster  
Tel No: 0781 675 1471  
[www.cyclingulster.com](http://www.cyclingulster.com)

Cycle Northern Ireland  
Tel No: 028 9030 6940  
[www.cycleni.com](http://www.cycleni.com)

CAAN (Off-road cycling)  
Tel No: 028 9030 3930  
[www.countrysiderecreation.com](http://www.countrysiderecreation.com)

#### Cycle Hire

Craigavon Water Sports Centre  
1 Lake Road, Craigavon.  
Tel No: 028 3834 2663

#### Cycle Shops

Ross Raymond  
65, Bridge St, Portadown.  
Tel No: 028 3835 2828

Central Cycles, 4 Church Lane,  
Portadown. Tel No: 028 3833 3668

TJ McCabrey, 70 William St,  
Lurgan, Craigavon.  
Tel No: 028 3832 5720

The Cyclery, 74 Edward Street,  
Lurgan. Tel No: 028 3834 8627

Dynes, 23 William Street, Lurgan.  
Tel No: 028 3832 6863

Halfords, Marlborough Retail Park,  
Craigavon.  
Tel No: 028 3833 7624

JJB Sports, Rushmere Shopping  
Centre, Craigavon.  
Tel No: 028 3834 5987

Any comment or for more information on the route email:  
[belfast@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:belfast@sustrans.org.uk)



## Craigavon Cycle Trail

A thirty five mile cycle route through  
County Armagh following traffic free paths and  
public roads within the Borough of Craigavon



[www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk](http://www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk)



## *Attractions along the route*

### **The Canals**

The Trail uses three and a half miles of canal towpaths. From Portadown you can travel south on the towpath following the River Bann, until reaching the Point of White Coat. At this point the Newry to Portadown canal meets the Bann and Cusher rivers, and it is here barges would have raised their sails and continued down stream to Portadown and Lough Neagh. Cross the river Cusher by footbridge and continue beside the canal, which was open in 1742 making it the first summit level canal in the British Isles. The path then takes in Moneypenny's Lock, lockhouse, stable and bothies. These buildings have been beautifully preserved and are now home to an exhibition on life on the canals. The Trail diverges from the canal towpath at Knock Bridge where you can observe a series of stone bridges dating back to the 1730's.

The Trail also takes in three quarters of a mile of the Lagan Navigation Canal towpath near Aghagallon. This canal dates back to 1793 and was funded by a levy placed on beer and spirit sales in the area. Along this section of the trail, the Cranagh and Annaghdroghal bridges are great examples of canal architecture and marks made by the ropes of the barges can still be seen on the masonry.

### **Old Coach Road**

This section of the trail, south of Portadown, follows the old road which ran between Lurgan and Newry and was originally created for stagecoaches. There are quite a number of interesting sites on this section of route.

The Red Cow Inn, is a striking example of English plantation architecture. This house is thought to date back to the 1660's and is said to be the oldest dwelling of its type in Ireland. It was used as a stop for stagecoaches to allow the driver and passengers to obtain refreshments and possibly a bed for the night.

Lisnaminty Rath derives its name from the Gaelic Lios Druim-Min-Tire, meaning Fort of the Hill of the smooth great spot. This earthwork shows evidence of an early Christian rath dating back to between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

This section of Road is also home to the Lynastown Quaker Burial Ground dating back to 1658 and is considered to be the oldest Quaker burial ground in Ireland. Also on this section of the trail is the site of Bluestone, which was a popular meeting point and the site for executions during the Eighteenth century.

### **Craigavon City Park**

The city section of the Trail runs through 180 hectares of parkland alongside the park's two man-made lakes. From the park you can easily access Tannaghmore Gardens with a rare breeds farm which is home to many species of animal. It also boasts a large children's adventure playground, themed gardens, sculpture trails, and The Barn Museum which houses an exhibition displaying the agricultural activities in Armagh in by-gone days.

At the lake side is The Craigavon Watersports Centre - the foremost facility of its kind in Northern Ireland. Expert instruction is offered in a wide range of water sports, cycling, orienteering and team building games in a safe environment. There is a 7 metre climbing tower for individual or group hire. There is bike hire available including mountain bikes and touring cycles. These can be hired individually or as a guided tour.

The first purpose built mountain bike trail in NI is located at the City Park. The 10km trail meanders through the woods and meadows and is suitable for families with children competent at cycling, and is also challenging enough for more experienced riders.

### **Oxford Island National Nature Reserve**

Oxford Island National Nature Reserve is situated on a peninsula in the south east corner of Lough Neagh. Its mosaic of reedbeds, woodland, wildflower meadows and wildlife ponds make this one of Northern Ireland's most spectacular National Nature Reserves and a wonderful place to view many aspects of our wildlife at close hand, no matter what the season!

On clear days the distant Sperrin Mountains are visible to the north across the vast expanse of water, the largest freshwater lake in the UK and Ireland.

There is also a café, specialising in home cooking, tourist information, educational visits and conference facilities.

### **Villages**

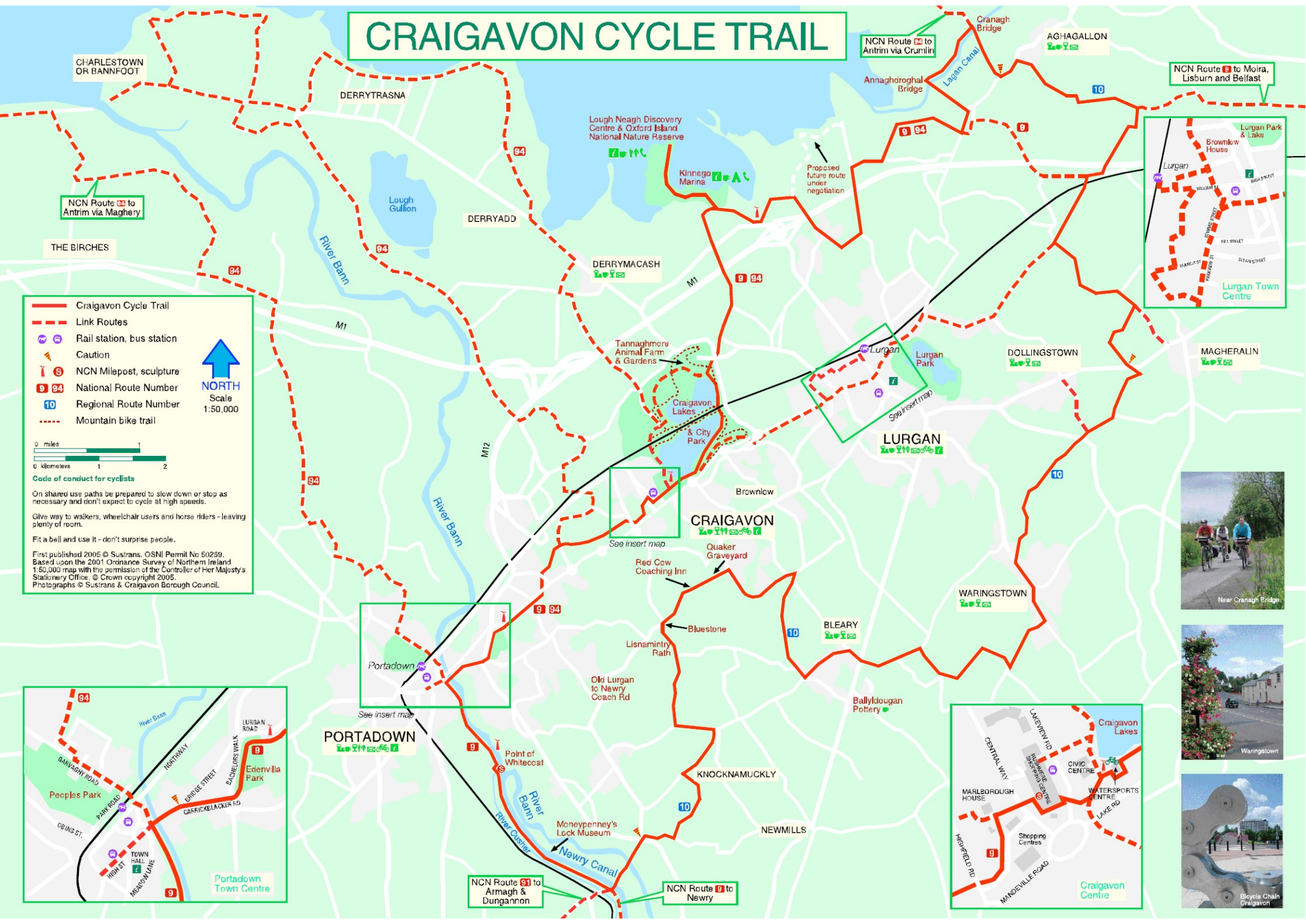
The route also takes in the villages of Waringstown and Bleary. Waringstown was founded in the seventeenth century by Samuel Waring, one of the pioneers of Irish commercial linen production.

This picturesque village includes a Manor House and Church both also dating back to the seventeenth century.

Bleary is home to Bloomvale House. This historic thatched house was built in 1785 by a French Huguenot family and was home to a substantial linen business. The house and its out-buildings is now home to Ballydugan pottery where pottery is hand crafted using traditional techniques.

The adjacent Linen Barn coffee shop is set in the surroundings of one of the nineteenth century linen barns.

# CRAIGAVON CYCLE TRAIL



**Legend**

- Craigavon Cycle Trail
- - - Link Routes
- Rail station, bus station
- Caution
- NCN Milepost, sculpture
- 9 94 National Route Number
- 10 Regional Route Number
- - - Mountain bike trail

**Scale**  
 Scale 1:50,000  
 NORTH

**Code of conduct for cyclists**

On shared use paths be prepared to slow down or stop as necessary and don't expect to cycle at high speeds.

Give way to walkers, wheelchair users and horse riders - leaving plenty of room.

Fit a bell and use it - don't surprise people.

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