

SIÚLÓIDÍ IARNRÓD AILT AN CHORRÁIN BURTONPORT OLD RAILWAY WALK



The Burtonport Walks are a series of trails of various lengths, all of which lead the walker along part of the abandoned railway line between Burtonport and Meenbannad in West Donegal, Ireland.

The original railway line was built to serve the excellent harbour in Burtonport and as a Government attempt to alleviate the poverty in North Donegal. It was a joint venture between the British Government and the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway. Opening for traffic in 1903, the line ran through the remote and difficult terrain of North Donegal often skirting towns it was meant to serve by miles in an effort to save on the cost of construction. The line was the subject of two enquiries over its safety and operation. The Derry Chamber of Commerce noting "defective construction and inadequate and unsuitable equipment" as a cause of the lines many ills. Despite this the line managed to survive until 1947, the Burtonport - Gweedore section closing earlier in June 1940. The station in Burtonport was demolished early in 2003. Following a prolonged period of heavy snowfall in the winter of 2009 some of the line on the Burtonport side was cleared to access water mains which needed repairing. The remaining section was later cleared and gradually developed as a walkway with the support of the local community.

Getting here:
 From Letterkenny and Dungloe - SITT Rural Transport - Tel 0749741644.
 From Dublin - Bus Éireann @ www.buseireann.ie Donegal Airport : 00353(0) 74 95 48284.
 From Scotland & Northern Ireland - Doherty Travel (00353) 74 95 21867 .

Walk 1:
Siúlóid an tSean Bhóthar Iarainn - The Old Railway Walk

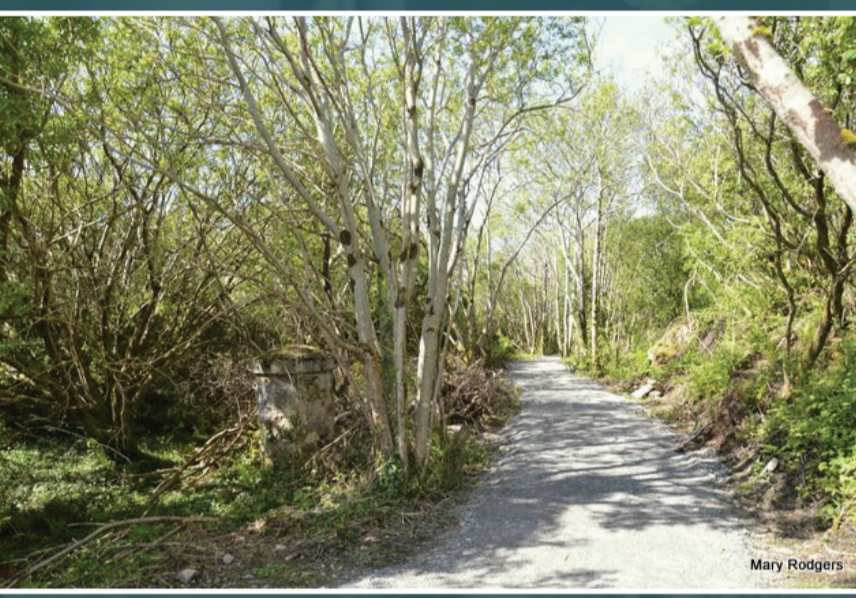
Trail Start: Burtonport Harbour
 Trail Finish: Meenbannad Station
 Length: ca 5.5km (11km return to Burtonport)
 Time To Complete: 1 hour (2 hours return)
 Terrain: Minor roads & Surfaced track
 Format: Linear Walk
 Grade: Easy
 Way Marking: Red train & Red Directional Arrows on white background
 Grid Ref./Map: B717 151/OSI Discovery series sheet 1



The trail leaves Burtonport Harbour and leads the walker using the red directional arrows and train marked the old railway through the industrial area, past the wind turbine and along a ca 5.5km stretch of the original railway corridor to Meenbannad station . The trail traverses along quiet roads, surfaced track and across species rich bog and woodland. This provides the walker the opportunity to explore the diverse range of flora & fauna habitats along the abandoned railway corridor, as well as a selection of the many original railway features including - stone pillars, gateposts, bridges and gatehouses which remain intact today.

Walk 2:
Lúb Cheann Bhaile Cruaiche - Kinballycrowie Loop

Trail Start: Burtonport Harbour
 Trail Finish: Burtonport Harbour
 Length: ca 7 km
 Time To Complete: 1 - 1.5 hours
 Terrain: Minor roads & Surfaced track
 Format: Looped Walk
 Grade: Easy
 Way Marking: Orange Directional Arrows on white background
 Grid Ref./Map: B717 151/OSI Discovery series sheet 1



The trail leaves Burtonport Harbour and leads the walker through the industrial estate, along ca 3 km stretch of the original railway corridor to gatehouse number 22. Once past the gatehouse follow the orange directional arrows marked Kinballycrowie loop - Lúb Cheann Bhaile Cruaiche for a further 2.5km along a narrow country lane until you come out on the main R259. At this junction, turn left towards the filling station for about 50m and then turn right down the R260 back towards the trailhead in Burtonport.

Walk 3:
Lúb Chroicheadh Mhór - Crickamore Loop

Trail Start: St Columba's Community Centre, Acres, Burtonport.
 Trail Finish: St Columba's Community Centre, Acres, Burtonport
 Length: ca 5km
 Time To Complete: 45 min - 1hour
 Terrain: Minor roads & Surfaced track
 Format: Looped Walk
 Grade: Easy
 Way Marking: Blue Directional Arrows & Name on white background
 Grid Ref./Map: B 731 147/OSI Discovery series sheet 1



Park your car at St Columba's Community Centre/ Acres Chapel car park and walk in the direction of Burtonport for cr 100m. Follow the blue directional arrows marked Crickamore Loop - Lúb Chroicheadh Mhór which will take you down the first left hand lane and towards gatehouse NO 24 (Alcorns) on "Siúlóid an tSean Bhóthar Iarainn - The Old Railway Walk". From here go left along the Old Railway going past Dungloe Road Station, under the bridge and through the ash woodland. Continue following the blue directional markers taking the 2nd lane on the left to eventually connect you with the L1523 (Pole Road). At this junction turn right which will lead you back to the Community Centre / Acres Chapel car park.

For more information on walks and the area please see: www.therosses.ie www.letswalkdonegal.com & www.irishtrails.ie

Notice:
 Some of the property traversed by the **Burtonport Railway Walks** is private property. Access is available by kind permission of all the landowners/holders on the route. It is understood that persons entering do so by permission with the consent of the landowner and no matter how often they enter, or in what numbers, they do not do so as of right. No amount of expenditure by the partners to this agreement or by private individuals on the route being used will alter this position. Nothing in this notice shall impact or address any pre-existing public rights of way.

These walks are closed to the public on the 1st of February each year.

For comments or suggestions on the Burtonport Old Railway Walks Please contact Local Railway Walk Committee via Email at: wardbreege@gmail.com or via their facebook page: at Burtonport Old Railway Walk. Alternativelyly contact : Inga Bock Rural Recreation Officer Donegal Local Development Company Ltd. Phone: 087 9318077 Email: ibock@dldc.org

In the event of accidents and/or emergencies: Please call 999 or 112 and ask for Mountain Rescue, Police or Gardai or in the case of a fire, the Fire Service

Grading Levels for Walking Trails	
Grade Title	Description
Multi-Access	Flat smooth trails, suitable for all users including people with reduced mobility, wheelchair users, people with a vision impairment, using cutches, with a buggy, with small children, older people and so on. Normal outdoor footwear can be worn.
Easy	Generally flat trails with a smooth surface and some gentle slopes or shallow steps. These trails are generally suitable for family groups including children and the elderly. Normal outdoor footwear can be worn.
Moderate	These trails may have some climbs and may have an uneven surface where the going is rough underfoot, with some obstacles such as protruding roots, rocks, etc. The routes are appropriate for people with a moderate level of fitness and some walking experience. Specific outdoor walking footwear and clothing is recommended.
Strenuous	These are physically demanding trails, which will typically have some sections with steep climbs for long periods, while the going underfoot can be extremely rough including many obstacles. Suitable for users accustomed to walking on rough ground and with a high level of fitness. Specific outdoor walking footwear and clothing required.
Very Difficult	These routes are predominantly in remote upland areas. They will typically include steep slopes and very variable and rough underfoot conditions on sometimes indistinct trails. They may be unmarked so the use of a map and navigational skills will be required. Suitable only for very fit and competent mountain walkers with a high level of experience. Specific outdoor walking footwear and clothing required.

Leave No Trace
 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
 2. Be Considerate of Others
 3. Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife
 4. Travel on Durable Ground
 5. Leave What You Find
 6. Dispose of Waste Properly

www.leaveonotraceireland.org

Dogs under effective control welcome