



### History of The Royal Canal

The Royal Canal was built between 1790 and 1817. However, due to developments in rail and road transportation in the mid 19th century the canal was made redundant and was officially closed to all navigation in 1961. After many years of campaigning by local community groups, led by the Royal Canal Amenity Group, the historic route has now been restored to its former glory and is navigable from Spencer Dock in Dublin to Richmond Harbour in Cloondara, or Clondra as it's known locally, in County Longford. It was officially re-opened as a navigation route on September 30th, 2010 at Richmond Harbour in Cloondara. The Canal carves its way from Dublin to Cloondara in County Longford, where the Royal Canal meets the River Shannon. The total length of the main navigation is 145 kilometres (90 miles), and includes 46 locks. Abbeyshrule is the location of the Whitworth Aqueduct. This magnificent large-scale aqueduct carries the Royal Canal and associated towpaths over the River Inny for distance of 50 metres. It is arguably the single most important element of the nineteenth century engineering heritage of County Longford. The branch of the Royal Canal to Longford Town is yet to be fully restored as a navigable channel for boating. The Royal Canal along with other navigable inland waterways is now managed and maintained by Waterways Ireland.

### The Royal Canal Greenway - County Longford

The Royal Canal Greenway in County Longford utilises 35km of the Canal towpath from the County boundary with Westmeath in the east, to Richmond Harbour in Cloondara, where the Royal Canal terminates.

**Route Grading** - The route is rated as 'Easy' with a flat terrain suitable for 'infrequent cyclists'.

**A2 31km South Longford Cycle Loop** - The Royal Canal Greenway overlaps with a number of fully sign-posted road-based cycling trails, which provide an opportunity to discover the countryside of south County Longford. There are four local looped routes, A1 to A4, with a 'moderate' trail classification of varying distance which combine to form the larger South Longford Cycle Loop. Information boards can be found in a number of locations along the route.

**Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre** - located near Keenagh, this centre hosts one of County Longford's most fascinating historical attractions, an Iron Age bog road, constructed from oak planks in 148-147 BC. Discover exhibitions and audio visual presentations on Iron Age trackways, archaeology and bog culture, as well as interpretive panels and related artifacts. There is also a walking trail on the cutaway bog beside the centre. The Corlea centre can be accessed directly from the Royal Canal Greenway, or by public road at Island Bridge.

#### Please note:

Given the proximity of the greenway to the Royal Canal, there are drop-offs into the canal and steep embankments at certain locations - **always use caution near open water** especially when children are present. Please exercise caution at the intersections with public roads, and along shared sections of public road.

**Pay attention to all route signage!** In the unlikely event of emergency dial 999 or 112 to contact emergency services. For more information on what the Royal Canal has to offer, visit [www.waterwaysireland.org](http://www.waterwaysireland.org) or [www.royalcanalgreenway.com](http://www.royalcanalgreenway.com). For tourist information on County Longford see [www.visitlongford.ie](http://www.visitlongford.ie)

- 1 Longford County Boundary
- 2 Quinn's Bridge
- 3 Whitworth Aqueduct (River Inny)
- 4 Scally's Bridge
- 5 Abbeyshrule Harbour & Webb's Bridge

- 6 Draper's Bridge
- 7 Allard's Bridge
- 8 Guy's Bridge
- 9 Molly Ward's Bridge
- 10 Fowland's Bridge
- 11 Toome Bridge
- 12 Chaigneau Bridge & Ballybrannigan Harbour, Ballymahon

- 13 Longford Bridge
- 14 Archie's Bridge
- 15 Pake Bridge
- 16 Foigha Bridge
- 17 Cloonbreany Bridge
- 18 Island Bridge & Mosstown Harbour, Keenagh

- 19 Coolnahinch Bridge
- 20 Ards Bridge
- 21 Lyneen Bridge
- 22 Lyneen Crossover Bridge
- 23 Longford Branch Junction
- 24 Aghnaskea Bridge
- 25 Killashee Harbour & Savage Bridge

- 26 Ballydrum Bridge
- 27 Begnagh Bridge
- 28 Bord na Mona Bridge
- 29 Richmond Bridge & Richmond Harbour, Cloondara

- 30 Cloonsheerin Bridge
- 31 Aghantrah Bridge
- 32 Newtown Bridge
- 33 Cloonturk Bridge
- 34 Knockanboy Bridge
- 35 Churchlands Bridge
- 36 Farranyoogan Bridge
- 37 Longford Town (South of Railway Line)