

SUIR BLUEWAY TIPPERARY

The Suir Blueway Tipperary includes a 53km kayaking and canoe trail from Cahir to Carrick-on-Suir and a 21km river bank walking and cycling trail between Clonmel to Carrick-on-Suir. The Blueway passes through a number of towns and villages and there are nearby walks on low level trails and on mountains. This Blueway also includes a whitewater and slalom training site on a grade 2/3 rapid which less experienced paddlers can safely walk past.



BLUEWAY PROFILES

The Suir Blueway Tipperary passes through several towns and villages and there are nearby walks on low-level trails and mountains. There is also an active local canoe club in Clonmel which make regular use of the Blueway.

DEVELOPMENT

The Blueway and Greenway were developed and are managed under the aegis of Tipperary County Council and the Tipperary Sports Partnership, a Sports Ireland core funded body which operates within the County Council structure.

The Suir Blueway Tipperary was initially developed as part of a European Union INTERREG Green and Blue Futures project undertaken with European partners. The project actions included mapping access on the River Suir, undertaking a canoe and kayak audit and evaluating the river towpath. This INTERREG project supported subsequent infrastructure grants for small craft water access at several locations along the river and successful Sports Capital and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme grants for the river works and slalom course.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT MATERIALS

- Seven canoe/kayak water access points were developed along the route.
- Weir and river bed works were completed at Suir Island in Clonmel and kayak slalom infrastructure installed to maximise the recreational value of the rapids at this location.
- An asphalt surface was installed along the towpath between Clonmel and Carrick on Suir.
- Directional signage to and on the Blueway and information panels/map boards were installed.
- An online interactive map, a paper map and information on local services were developed¹.

EVENTS

Local businesses and recreation providers are engaged with via Tipperary Tourism with all-year-round packages and tourism campaigns.

Annual Blueway events include canoeing – marathon, freestyle and slalom events, walking events and weekly Park runs. Tipperary Sports Partnership supports a variety of participation canoeing, walking and cycling programmes and initiatives on the Suir Blueway Tipperary.

ONGOING MANAGEMENT OF THE BLUEWAY

A Blueway management process which includes several local stakeholders is overseen by Tipperary County Council. A Suir Island Masterplan was developed in 2019 to further realise the recreation potential of the rapids at Suir Island in Clonmel. The Tipperary Sports Partnership continues to be closely involved in the ongoing development of the Blueway and in supporting events and activities along the route.

¹ See <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/news/explore-suir-new-interactive-map>