



The National Cycle Network is being developed throughout Ireland. A number of Cycle Hub towns are located across the country. Each hub town has a number of looped cycle routes consisting of half day & day cycles.

### Route Description:

Leaving Ballycumber turn right out of the village when the road veers left. After a short uphill stretch 2 km on, you pass by Lis church, now a private residence. 3km further, Boher village is reached and a stop to see the 12th century St Manchan's shrine in the church is highly recommended. The church is also known for its Harry Clarke studio windows. There is a walking route from Boher to the Early Christian Monastic site of Lemanaghan, the home of the Shrine. After another 4.7 km there is a sign for St Manchan's well on your left. 10km further the crossroads at Doon is reached with views of Togher castle in the field on your right and Esker castle up on the ridge behind it. Cross over the N62 here and proceed along the R444 with caution to Mannion's Crossroad. Turn right and then wheel left to rise up onto the next stretch of esker. As you approach Clonmacnoise the view is stunning with Mongan's Bog on your left, the Shannon Callows on your right and Clonmacnoise round tower ahead. The first contact with Clonmacnoise is the Nun's church on your left. Access to the modern graveyard is ahead of you but carry on round to the entrance gates of Clonmacnoise to the south.

This route is one of 6 developed with support from the Heritage Council Pilgrim Path project.



These routes are part of a countrywide network developed by Fáilte Ireland in association with the Local Authorities.

Fuller details of these and other route options are available from [www.discoverireland.ie/cycling](http://www.discoverireland.ie/cycling)

- Leave no trace**
- Plan ahead & prepare
  - Be considerate of others
  - Respect animals & wildlife
  - Travel & camp on durable ground
  - Leave what you find
  - Dispose of waste properly
  - Minimise the effects of fire

# The Pilgrim's Road to Clonmacnoise

This route follows the ancient Pilgrim's Road from Ballycumber to Clonmacnoise monastic site, which runs along the crest of an esker. Eskers are sinuous ridges that rise above the otherwise generally flat landscape. They are made of sand and gravel that was laid down in meltwater tunnels beneath the glaciers that covered central Ireland at the end of the last Ice Age, 12,000 years ago. When their supporting banks of ice finally melted, the beds of these subglacial rivers were left standing above the landscape.

For centuries the dry, well-drained esker ridges have provided important natural lines of communication. For pilgrims, the esker route was dry underfoot, relatively level and afforded a view over the surrounding countryside, which can be enjoyed today by bike.



**Ballycumber to Clonmacnoise : 24.4 Kilometres**

**Birr Cycle Routes**

**Waymarked Walking Routes**

**Distance 24.4 kilometres**    **Total ascent 110 metres**    **Start elevation 51 metres**  
**Total descent 121 metres**    **End elevation 40 metres**

**Your nearest Tourist information office**

**Tullamore Tourist Office**  
Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore.  
Telephone 057 9325017  
Web [www.discoverireland.ie/shannonregion](http://www.discoverireland.ie/shannonregion)  
[www.shannonregiontrails.ie](http://www.shannonregiontrails.ie)    [www.offaly.ie/heritage](http://www.offaly.ie/heritage)

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