

Boherbue Looped Walk

Access



Overview

This project involved the construction of a looped walk that follows a historic ditch walk along a mass path in the community of Boherbue. The walk is approximately 4 km long. The route begins in the centre of Boherbue before moving off-road and continuing along the historic ditch walk. Benches were installed at a viewpoint overlooking the Derrynasaggart and Boggeragh Mountains, providing a place for walkers to rest and enjoy the scenery. Native trees were also planted along the edges of the walk where it passes a field, and a trailhead sign was installed in the centre of Boherbue.

Because the path begins in the centre of the community, it allows many people to access the trail without needing to drive outside the town to find a safe place to enjoy nature. Its location also enables local schools to easily use the amenity. The creation of this looped walk, supported in part by the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund, has brought the trail up to standard and secured a place on the National Trails Register. The trail is also listed on the Sport Ireland website and promoted for visitors and locals alike throughout the year.

Objective

The aim of the project was to improve the access and quality of an existing path with historic ties in the community, and to bring it up to a high standard of safety and ecological responsibility. The trail is available to the local community, schools, and tourists visiting the region. Improving the trail is also aimed at enhancing the suite of existing walks and looped walks offered in the Duhallow area, as these are eco-tourism attractions within the region. The need for the development of walkways and spaces to interact with nature was highlighted by communities in Duhallow at community stakeholder meetings.



Location:
Cork



Project Lead:
IRD Duhallow



Cost:
€33,000

Tags:
Infrastructure, Trails,
Walking trails, Walking,
Running



Opportunities

- **Access:** This project was brought forward by the main landowner as he wanted to ensure that locals had the ability to access the local countryside in a safe way, while also ensuring that he could continue using the land for grazing without having to stop people crossing it.
- **Environment:** The project helps to protect the environment by ensuring that people access the countryside in a safe and responsible way, while also ensuring that the heritage of mass paths is not forgotten.
- **Awareness:** This project helps to create awareness that the outdoors is for everyone. Making this path more accessible for people with the provision of steps, stiles, and bridges while still maintaining the natural environment ensures people can get out and enjoy the countryside.

Solutions

- **History:** Preserving this heritage and highlighting its significance supports the National Planning Framework objective of “Enhanced Amenities and Heritage.” It also recognises the vital role rural communities play in shaping our national identity.
- **Nature Preservation:** The development of this walkway provides a dedicated space for people to engage with nature, while minimising environmental impact. Construction methods were carefully chosen to protect biodiversity and reduce erosion, with minimal impact on the surrounding landscape. Native trees were planted to form a natural buffer, helping manage water levels and support wildlife, alongside native perennial planting. The trail also serves as a valuable educational resource, giving local schools opportunities to explore native plants and learn about their ecological importance.
- **Accessibility:** The path, including the installation of stiles and safety fencing, has improved accessibility and usability, making the route suitable for families and school groups. As a result, walking groups now regularly visit Boherbue to enjoy the amenity.

Actions to support environmental sustainability

The development of this amenity provides locals with a designated walk to engage with nature and learn about local flora and fauna throughout the seasons. The project has minimised erosion and preserved the character of the surrounding landscape. Educational signage along the path informs walkers about native plants and wildlife, encouraging public awareness and participation in protecting the environment. Native pollinator plants and seeds have been sown along the trail, and a buffer of native trees creates a living fence, supporting biodiversity and enhancing the ecological value of the walkway.

Challenges

- **History:** This particular application also helps to protect part of our heritage. Mass Paths were the routes taken by locals to celebrate mass, and many were known due to the information being passed down orally from generation to generation however, the reality is that within the next generation, this history may be forgotten or lost.
- **Nature preservation:** The increase in people participating in outdoor recreation has led to increased pressure on natural ecosystems and biodiversity
- **Accessibility:** Previously, this path was only accessible by those who were comfortable walking on rough terrain and able to climb over gates.



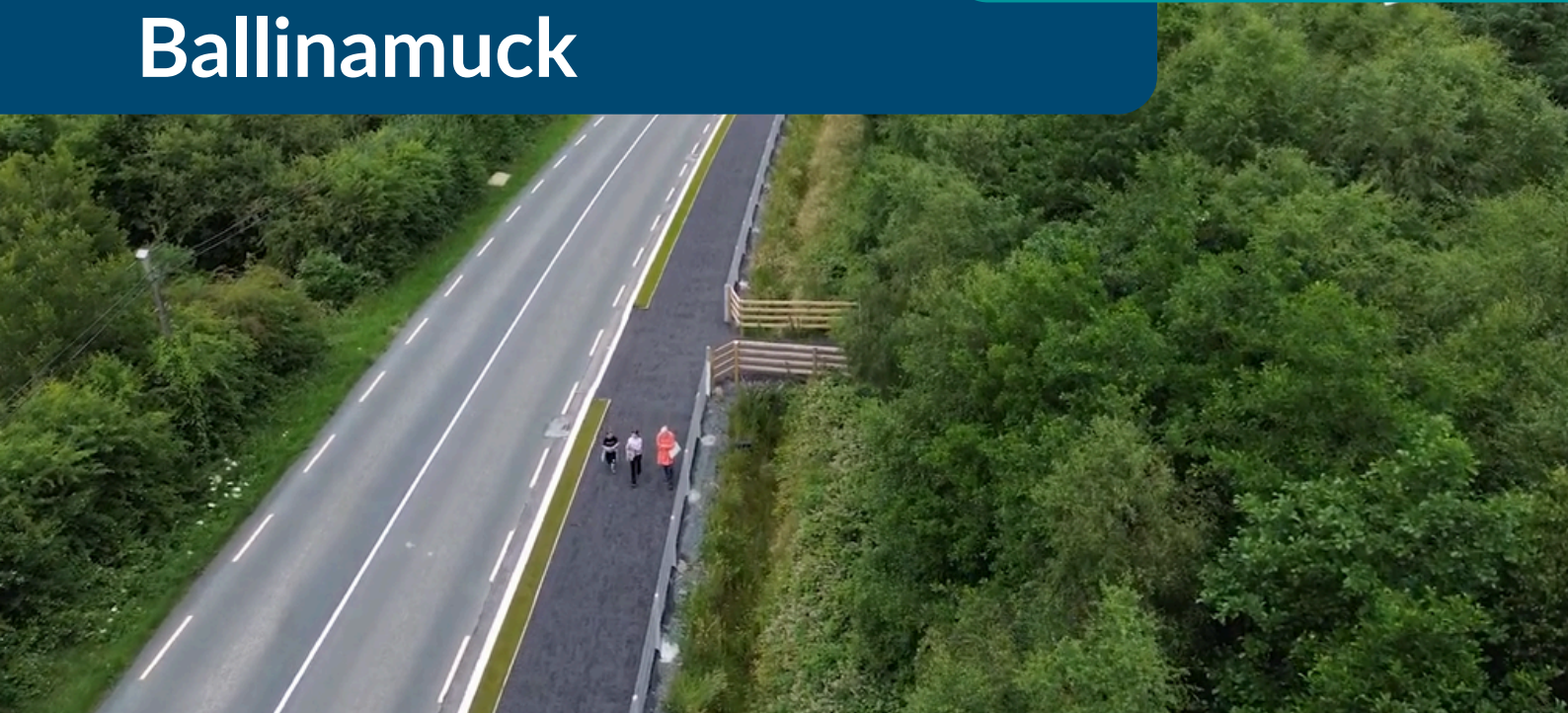
More information

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North Longford Rebel Trail - Drumlish to Ballinamuck

Access



Overview

The North Longford Rebel Trail is a major outdoor recreation initiative that connects the communities of Drumlish and Ballinamuck at the central point of Monaduff Sports Grounds through a safe, accessible walking and cycling route. Developed under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, the project delivers an off-road corridor that links key historic sites associated with the rebellious past of North Longford, allowing users to engage with both heritage and landscape in an immersive way.

The trail was delivered in two phases.

Phase 1, completed and opened in March 2020, created an off-road route from Drumlish to the Monaduff Sports Grounds, a central amenity hub serving both villages.

Phase 2, officially opened on 3 December 2024, extended the route from Monaduff to Ballinamuck, completing the vision of a continuous 5 km walkway and cycleway between the two communities. The project provides benches and rest points along the route, improving accessibility for older people and those with reduced mobility. It also forms part of a wider heritage driving and walking network showcasing historically significant sites across North Longford. The Rebel Trail enhances local well-being, strengthens community connections, and supports tourism by providing a high-quality, safe, and meaningful outdoor experience.

Objective

- Provide a safe, off-road walking and cycling link between Drumlish, Monaduff and Ballinamuck.
- Improve community health and wellbeing by encouraging active travel and outdoor activity.
- Reduce car dependency and carbon emissions by enabling safe non-vehicular access to Monaduff Sports Ground.
- Enhance road safety along the R198 by reducing vehicle traffic and hazards near the sports grounds.
- Strengthen tourism potential through the wider North Longford Rebel Trail, linking villages, heritage sites and natural amenities.
- Support local economic growth by enabling future visitor-driven services



Location:
Longford



Project Lead:
Longford County Council



Cost:
€1,250,000

Tags:
Infrastructure, Trails,
Walking trails, Cycle trails
Tourism