6 LOCK 17: ASYLUM LOCK & LOCK HOUSE

The Ulster Canal featured 26 locks in all. Each lock is numbered, with Lough Neagh providing the starting point. The length of canal which starts in Monaghan Town starts at Lock 15 Silverstream and goes a short way beyond Lock 19 Tully West Lock. Lock 17, known as “Asylum Lock” due to its proximity to St. Davnet’s Hospital, which once served as the Asylum for County Monaghan, can be seen along the greenway. Approx 100m on the town side of Lock 17 you will find Rooskey Lock House. A perk of the job of the lockkeeper was that it came with it’s own Lock House.

7 “MOVING ON” SCULPTURE

“Moving On” was created by artists Mark Ryan and Maree Hensey and represents the role of the canal both in the regions history and in its future. The artwork is about connectivity, renewal, making a different future, finding purpose and a peaceful way forward. A full explanation of the piece is provided on an information board at the site. Members of Monaghan Tidy Towns, Teach na Daoine’s homework club, Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project and the National Learning Network participated in art workshops to develop the imagery featured on the sphere.

8 ROTARY CLUB MEMORIAL GARDEN

Monaghan Rotary Club engaged with local artist, Nelius Flynn and together designed a garden which would serve as a memorial to those members of the Rotary Club of Monaghan who had passed on. The Rotary International logo is a fitting reminder of the impact Monaghan Rotary Club has had in the local community and beyond through its charity work and fundraising since its foundation in 1967.

KEY INFORMATION

- This is a **4.5km linear route** featuring a combination of urban and rural landscapes, following the path of the Ulster Canal.
- **Trail Grade:** Class 2, Easy. Generally flat trail with even surface and some gentle slopes. Suitable for infrequent cyclists and family groups. Normal footwear can be worn.
- **Caution:** The route features some road crossings and sections adjacent to traffic, therefore it is strongly advised that children are accompanied by an adult on these sections.
- **Signs** and route markings featuring the Ulster Canal Greenway logo are provided along the route.
- **Distance:** 4.5km, which can be walked in an estimated time of 50 minutes by average users. Those who wish to walk further can continue along the Threemilehouse Road by footpath to nearby Rossmore Forest Park.
- **Terrain underfoot:** Bound tarmac surface throughout.
- **Lighting:** LED lighting is provided on the 4.5km route from dusk to dawn. Occasionally it may be switched off or reduced between the hours of midnight and 6am as a means of reducing energy.
- No big hills. **Total ascent:** 33m.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ulster Canal was built between 1825 and 1842 and was 74 km (46 miles) long with 26 locks and 16 lock keepers cottages. It ran from Charlemont on the River Blackwater to Wattle Bridge on the River Finn, south-east of Upper Louth Erne and connected the Shannon/Erne water system to Lough Neagh.

When the rail network reached Monaghan in 1858 it quickly took over as the transport mode of choice, providing quicker transportation to a wider number of destinations. The last boat travelled the canal in 1929 and it closed two years later. You can read the full story on our website...

www.ulstercanalgreenway.com

The channel is enjoying a rebirth and again facilitating movement of people, this time along its banks, which are being developed as a Greenway.

A Greenway is defined as...
“A recreational or pedestrian corridor for non-motorised journeys, developed in an integrated manner which enhances both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area”.

For more information about the Ulster Canal and Monaghan Town we recommend you visit:

Monaghan County Museum
Admission Free

Or learn more online at
www.monaghan.ie/museum
www.ulstercanalgreenway.com
www.monaghantourism.com
www.monaghanhasit.ie
www.monaghan.ie

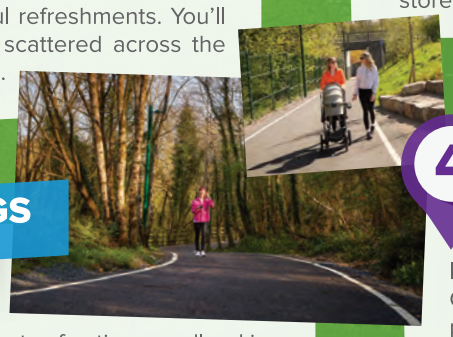
Monaghan Ulster Canal Greenway is for everyone, facilitating the creation of enjoyable and memorable experiences for people who use it for recreation, exercise or short daily commutes as they travel to work, school or college.

It’s for everyone!

Monaghan Town ULSTER CANAL GREENWAY

1 ROSSMORE PARK

Follow the footpath along the Threemilehouse road to the front of the gates of the estate. It provides miles of beautiful tracks, featuring man-made lakes, flowing streams, banks of wild garlic and bluebell covered hills. It also boasts a fantastic adventure playpark which is suitable for children up to 12 years of age and a family cycle path. The coffee doc offers indoor and outdoor seating and an array of delightful refreshments. You’ll also find a series of sculptures scattered across the park, namely, The Drumlin Giants.



2 TOM YOUNGS WOODS

This is one of the oldest pockets of native woodland in Co. Monaghan and contains a fantastic diversity of trees and flowering plants. The greenway passes along the edge of the wood, however other paths into the wood are there to explore and Monaghan County Council has provided biodiversity signs and a bog garden along the route.

3 ST. LOUIS CONVENT

The Sisters of St Louis arrived in Monaghan from France in 1859. The school took both “boarders” and day students up until 1977. Today it serves as a day school for around 600 girls. The convent buildings include the convent itself, a chapel, and the school building. There is a concert hall and a gym, the latter being housed in a cut stone building which formerly served as a canal stores. This can be seen just inside the convent gates at the Glen Road entrance to the Greenway. The original route of the canal past the stores can be seen.

4 ULSTER CANAL WALK

In 2016 many counties, towns and parishes installed Gardens of Remembrance. Monaghan Tidy Towns participated with the support of Monaghan Municipal District. All gardens would be unified by three core features, a flagpole and tri-color, seven trees in honour of the Seven Signatories and a copy of the Proclamation. In Monaghan seven plaques bearing the names of the signatories were used in place of trees. They were set in the ground surrounding the proclamation.

5 OLD CROSS SQUARE

This area was formerly known as “The Shambles” and the centre of the butchering trade in years gone by. The Market Cross, also located here, once a gathering point for those wishing to offer themselves into service, known as “hiring”. At the junction of Slí Óige Dhufaigh with Old Cross Square, you will find one end of what was Irelands only canal tunnel, bringing the canal under the road and coming out over at where Mc Guirk’s Fuel Merchants now stands. Most of the tunnel is still intact, under the modern day road. Mc Guirks is sited on what was once a quay for the canal.

Navigation of GREENWAY

A Access to the Greenway on the **Threemilehouse Road** is adjacent to the NCT Centre. Head east for 280 metres, crossing the road at Killyconnigan. Enjoy a landscape of mature trees and tranquil surrounds for approx. 600 metres, before exiting at Teach na Daoine Family Resource Centre on Oriel Way.

B On crossing **Oriel Way** continue along Canal View to reach Horseshoe Bridge.

C Continue across **Park Road** for 700 metres meander along the pathway, enjoying all that nature offers in this woodland area. Along this path you will encounter a connection point between the Ulster Canal Greenway and the Shambles River. Exit the greenway adjacent to St. Louis Convent Secondary School onto the Glen Road.

D You will rejoin the Greenway at **Ulster Canal Park** where you will pass by the 1916 commemoration memorial, following the path 200 metres before exiting onto the link road.

E Turn Right and an immediate left onto Canal Steet to reach the crossing point at **Old Cross Square**.

F Enter the Greenway at **Slí Ógie Uí Dhufaigh**, passing along the old route of the Ulster Canal and the hidden tunnel near the old harbour. Continue along the Greenway dedicated route for approx. 480 metres until you reach the next point of interest. You will come across the old Lock House and a significant stone bridge over the former Ulster Canal.

G Follow the greenway by turning left at the **Lock House**. For approx. 830 metres you will walk through an area of natural beauty, enjoy the Canal and established native planting and trees along with opportunities to rest before arriving at Sheriff's Bridge.

H For the final 300 metres, make your way to the underpass on N2 where you can opt to exit to West of the **Coolshannagh Roundabout** or continue under bridge and exit onto the N12. If you wish to cross over at the Roundabout you will find a resting spot in the Rotary Club Garden.

I You have reached the end of the current greenway. Plans are in place to extend further along in the future.

Monaghan Town
ULSTER CANAL GREENWAY

ULSTER CANAL GREENWAY

N W E S

to **St. Macartan's College** *(N2)*
to **Monaghan Education Campus** *(N12)*
incl. Gaelscoil Ultain, Colaiste Oiriall, Garage Theatre, Monaghan Institute, MTEK Buildings, Monaghan Education Centre.
to **Combilift** *(N2)*
to **Rossmore Park** *(R189)*
to **Monaghan Collegiate School**

Maurice Grahams
Four Seasons Hotel
Coolshannagh Rd.
Derry Road
St. Davnet's Complex
Monaghan Harps GAA Club
Peace Campus
North Road
Plantation Road
The Model Primary School
Mullaghadun Lake
Monaghan General Hospital
Peter's Lake
Glasslough Street
High Street
Westenra Arms Hotel
Hill Street
Market St.
Dublin Street
OldCross Square
Hillgrove Hotel
Old Armagh Rd.
Park Street
Dawson Street
Monaghan Shopping Centre
Broad Road
Macartan Road
Killygoan Pound Hill
Dublin Road
Beech Hill College
St. Macartan's Cathedral
St. Mary's Boys N.S.
Coral Leisure Monaghan
St. Louis Infant School
St. Louis Girls N.S.
St. Louis Secondary School
Convent Lake
Park Road
Glen Road
Mall Road
Monaghan County Council Offices
Scotstown Road
Clones Road
Teach Na Daoine
Omniplex Cinema
Century Homes
Cortolvin Road
Threemilehouse Rd.
N54
N2
R937