

# EMBRACE THE UNEXPECTED

Built along the former Limerick to Tralee railway line, Limerick Greenway weaves through West Limerick's traditional agricultural landscape, linking the major towns of Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale; before extending on to Listowel as part of the Kingdom of Kerry Greenways.

Limerick Greenway's surface was designed with mobility and accessibility in mind and is safe and suitable for users of all abilities.

You can start the full route at Rathkeale or Listowel, and join at any of the entry points located at key stops along the Greenway.

Along the route, you will pass through a spectacular railway tunnel as well as restored station houses and goods sheds from the Victorian era, visit ancient castles and abbeys, bask in the solitude of a native forest, and meet the people that make Limerick unique.



# EMBRACE THE UNEXPECTED



# PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE

Carving a 50km path through the local countryside, Limerick Greenway offers an authentic experience through rural Ireland for cyclists, runners and walkers.

Following the old Limerick to Kerry railway line, Limerick Greenway seamlessly links the West Limerick landscape with bustling towns and villages and some of the country's most historic sites.

Experience Limerick Greenway in one visit or explore in shorter stages, perfect for day-trippers or those looking to holiday in the area.

Whichever you choose, there will be a warm welcome from the towns along the way, offering delicious food and quality accommodation.

Limerick Greenway – embrace the unexpected.

## BIKE HIRE

For information on Bike Hire and other services & amenities along Limerick Greenway, please visit: [LIMERICKGREENWAY.IE](http://LIMERICKGREENWAY.IE)

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## KEY DISCOVERY POINTS

### RATHKEALE STATION

Rathkeale is a thriving market town and was an essential stop on the old Limerick to Tralee railway line. Its old railway station, opened in 1867, still stands to this day – just not in the same place. To accommodate the expanding road network of the late 20th century, it was moved stone by stone to its current location, protecting a piece of Limerick heritage.

### ARDAGH STATION

Ardagh Station was served by its first train in 1867, just a year before the discovery of the iconic Ardagh Chalice. Part of a hoard of early Christian art, the chalice is on display in the National Museum in Dublin, and a replica can be seen at the Hunt Museum in Limerick.

### FERGUSON'S VIADUCT

Ferguson's Viaduct is a testament to the ingenuity of Victorian engineering, bridging the line for almost a century and still standing today. Built in cast iron, the bridge is one of the best surviving examples of 19th century railway architecture in Ireland.

### BARNAGH TUNNEL

Opened in 1880, the Barnagh Tunnel was dug using explosives and pick axes, and runs 115-metres underground through the most difficult terrain of the old Limerick to Tralee line. Visitors can now walk or cycle through the tunnel and observe the architectural details up close.

### BARNAGH VIEWING AREA

From the Barnagh Viewing Point, 164 metres above sea level, you can see the Limerick countryside, towns like Newcastle West, Abbeyfeale, Adare and Askeaton, and even as far as neighbouring counties Clare and Cork.

With a picnic area, the viewing point is also the perfect stop for a rest after a gentle climb to reach the top.

### BARNAGH STATION

This station marked the steepest point of the Limerick to Tralee Railway line, as the plains of Limerick met the mountainous area of Sliabh Luachra on the border with Cork and Kerry.

It was an essential stop for steam locomotives to replenish their coal and water so they could continue the journey.

### TULLIG WOOD

The natural tranquillity of Tullig Wood stands out from the vibrant market towns along the Limerick Greenway.

The beech woodland is an important wildlife habitat for birds, badgers, and butterflies.

### DEVON ROAD STATION

The Devon Road Station sits just outside Templeglantine, and was essential to Limerick's dairy industry. Its main purpose was to serve a local creamery, which has long since closed.

The station opened in 1880 as the railway expanded towards Kerry.

### ABBEEFEALE STATION

Abbeyfeale has long been an important market town for Limerick, and is one of the essential stops on the Greenway.

The railway station was once one of the busiest stops on the Limerick to Tralee railway, sitting on the border between Kerry and Limerick as the system was expanded in 1880.

### PORT CASTLE

Port Castle is known locally as Purt, and was originally known as Port na dTri Namhad, the fort or castle of the three enemies. The existing ruins date to the late 16th / early 17th century and replaced an earlier structure built by the Earls of Desmond.

## GREENWAY SECTIONS & TOWNS

### RATHKEALE – ARDAGH (10km)

One of the major towns on Limerick Greenway, Rathkeale has plenty of heritage and hospitality on offer. Soak up the local culture, go fishing on the River Deel, check out the ruins of a 12th century Augustinian Friary and learn about local history at the Irish Palatine Heritage Centre in the old Rathkeale Station House. In the many shops, pubs and restaurants in the town, visitors will be met with a warm welcome and friendly service.

Heading towards Ardagh, you will pass five overhead bridges, beautifully cut from locally sourced stone. In Ardagh, visit the old station house, located close to where the iconic Ardagh Chalice was found in 1868.

Greenway Parking facilities are available at both Rathkeale and Ardagh.

### ARDAGH – NEWCASTLE WEST (4km)

The journey to Newcastle West will take you through some of Limerick's most beautiful countryside, with lush pastures surrounding the Greenway path.

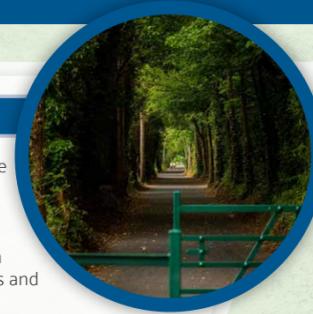
Newcastle West is Limerick's largest town, with an array of cultural and historical places of interest to visit and boutique shops. Visitors can learn all about local history at the Desmond Castle, enjoy the excellent facilities at Castle Demesne Park, or pop into the cosy pubs and quality restaurants for some rest and relaxation.

Greenway Parking facilities are available at Newcastle West.

### NEWCASTLE WEST – BARNAGH (10km)

The incline from Newcastle West to Barnagh brings you to the peak of the old Limerick to Tralee line, offering great views of County Limerick and beyond. Along the way, you'll pass over the cast iron Ferguson's Viaduct and through the 115-metre long Barnagh Tunnel, two Victorian Era marvels that helped level the train's path as the line was expanded towards Kerry. At 164 metres above sea level, the viewing point at Barnagh

is the perfect place to stop for a break and admire the natural landscape, with views out to neighbouring counties Clare and Cork. Greenway Parking facilities are available at Barnagh.



## GREENWAY SECTIONS & TOWNS

### BARNAGH – TEMPLEGLANTINE (4km)

The journey from Barnagh to Templeglantine passes through cuttings and embankments and under two stone bridges. Explore the village of Templeglantine and access its facilities and services just a short distance off Limerick Greenway along a quiet local road. Known locally as Glantine, the village has a rich tradition of Irish music, and is part of the Sliabh Luachra area with a distinctive musical style. Greenway Parking facilities are available at Templeglantine.

### TEMPLEGLANTINE – ABBEEFEALE (9km)

Leaving Templeglantine will take you through the beautiful forest of Tullig Wood.

This natural woodland has a rich array of native and non-native trees including beech, oak, sycamore, horse-chestnut and ash. The understory is home to a variety of plants and fauna such as badgers, butterflies and birds. It is one of the most tranquil places along Limerick Greenway.

Further along, pass Devon Road station before reaching Abbeyfeale, getting closer to the Kerry border and moving further into the rugged landscape of the Sliabh Luachra region.

### ABBEEFEALE – LISTOWEL (13km)

As one of the largest towns in Limerick, Abbeyfeale has an array of shops, pubs, restaurants and inviting places to stay. Check out the vernacular architecture and plasterwork on display in the main street or explore the award-winning town park.

The route continues beyond the town, where you will see the ruins of Port Castle and pass by the River Feale, reaching the Kerry border and onto Listowel, where further adventures await.

Greenway Parking facilities are available at Abbeyfeale.



Limerick Greenway

Cornhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh  
Limerick City & County Council

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EUROPEAN EMBRACE

#LIMERICKGREENWAY



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