CYCLING IN LIMAVADY BOROUGH

This map covers a 24 mile cycle route stretching from the northern Sperrins foothills at Foreglen, through the Roe Valley, over the magnificent Binevenagh mountain with spectacular views of Lough Foyle before descending to the 7 mile long beach at Magilligan. The National Cycle Network (NCN) continues to Castlerock and Coleraine along the Atlantic Coast and west through the delightful North Sperrins to Derry/Londonderry. Traffic free sections include the cycle track through Backburn Park in Limavady town centre, useful for everyday journeys and a hilly trail through Binevenagh Forest near Bellarena.

ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE ROUTE

The Roe Valley. The River Roe, famed for its trout and salmon fishing, links Dungiven in the south to Limavady and is watched over by the impressive Benbradagh Mountain. The Roe Valley Country Park, two miles south of Limavady has an excellent visitors’ centre incorporating a museum and wildlife exhibition area. Note that cycling is not permitted in the Roe Valley Country Park.

Backburn Park. This delightful level park in Limavady town centre, occupies the route of the former railway line and provides a green link to the town from adjoining housing developments. Links to schools, the leisure centre, and shops makes this an ideal alternative to motorised transport, for short journeys. It is also the site of the best surviving example of a Union Workhouse.

Binevenagh Forest and Lake. The NCN reaches its highest point in Northern Ireland (326m) on the Bishop’s Road at Binevenagh Mountain. Close to this point a road leads, in a short distance, to Binevenagh Lake with its stunning views of the coastal plain. Waymarked cycle trails lead through the forest.

Gortmore Viewpoint. As the NCN Route 93 descends towards Downhill and Castlerock the viewpoint at Gortmore provides a welcome stop and offers spectacular views over Lough Foyle, the Atlantic Ocean and the distant Inishowen Peninsula.

Benone Strand. This seven mile beach stretching from Magilligan Point to the cliffs at Downhill is one of the longest in Europe and is the recipient of many prestigious Blue Flag awards. It was close to the western end of the beach that Thomas Colby erected towers which began the first Ordnance Survey of Ireland.

Additional cycling opportunities can be enjoyed by continuing along NCN route 93 from Gortmore to Coleraine (10 miles), Portrush (18 miles) and Ballycastle (44 miles) or from Foreglen to Park (7 miles), Claudy (13 miles) and Londonderry (31 miles). Binevenagh Forest has marked routes for off-road cycling but remember that the surface may be rough in places especially after rain.

Travel Information

Limavady Borough is well served by express bus services from Belfast and L’Derry, which have facilities for carrying 2 bicycles. An hourly service passes through Dungiven with a few daily links to Limavady. Bellarena rail station is 5 miles from Limavady and is ideally situated to explore Magilligan Point, Benone Beach and Binevenagh Forest. For public transport information contact Translink: 028 9066 6630; www.translink.co.uk.

A new ferry links Magilligan Point to Greencastle in Donegal.

Useful Contacts

Tourist Information

Limavady Tourist Information Centre, 7 Cornell Street. Tel No: 028 7776 0307 www.limavady.gov.uk

Roe Valley Country Park Visitors Centre Tel No: 028 7772 2074

Cycling Information

Sustrans
Tel No: 028 9043 4569 www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk

Roe Valley Cycles (& Cycle Rental) Catherine Street Tel No: 028 7776 6406

Millars Cycles Dungiven Tel No: 028 7774 2478

Cycle Sales & Repairs

National Cycle Network Information Line Tel: 0117 929 0888

Ride Out Cycles Greysteel Tel No: 028 7718 0063

Emergency Information

Telephone 999 or Limavady Police: 028 7776 6797

www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk