



A USER'S GUIDE

Ireland's Longest Off-Road
Walking And Cycling Route

EUROPEAN
DESTINATION
OF EXCELLENCE
AWARD WINNER



Escape the bustle of urban life on the 42km Great Western Greenway, Ireland's longest off-road walking and cycling trail which forms part of the National Cycle Network.

The Greenway has been designed for shared use by leisure walkers and cyclists and is suitable for people with a moderate level of fitness. The route is mainly traffic-free and off-road with a solid surface, either tarred or compacted and can be used to commute to and from school or work. The Greenway is way-marked with a National Cycle Network symbol and white directional arrows.



SAFETY

When walking or cycling it is important to think of your own safety and also the safety of others. Always be courteous and respectful of other cyclists, walkers and drivers along your route.

Minimum Gear: Walking shoes, bike, mobile phone, snacks, fluids and waterproofs. Always wear a helmet while cycling.

It is recommended that a hybrid bicycle be used on the Greenway - contact local bike hire operators for more information (Page 11). Whether on or off road, always ensure your bike is in good working order.

ON-ROAD

- Be familiar with the Rules of the Road as they apply to walkers & cyclists
- Maximise your visibility - wear bright clothing, fit lights to your bike & use them at night and wear clothing with reflective strips
- Be alert and don't wear earphones

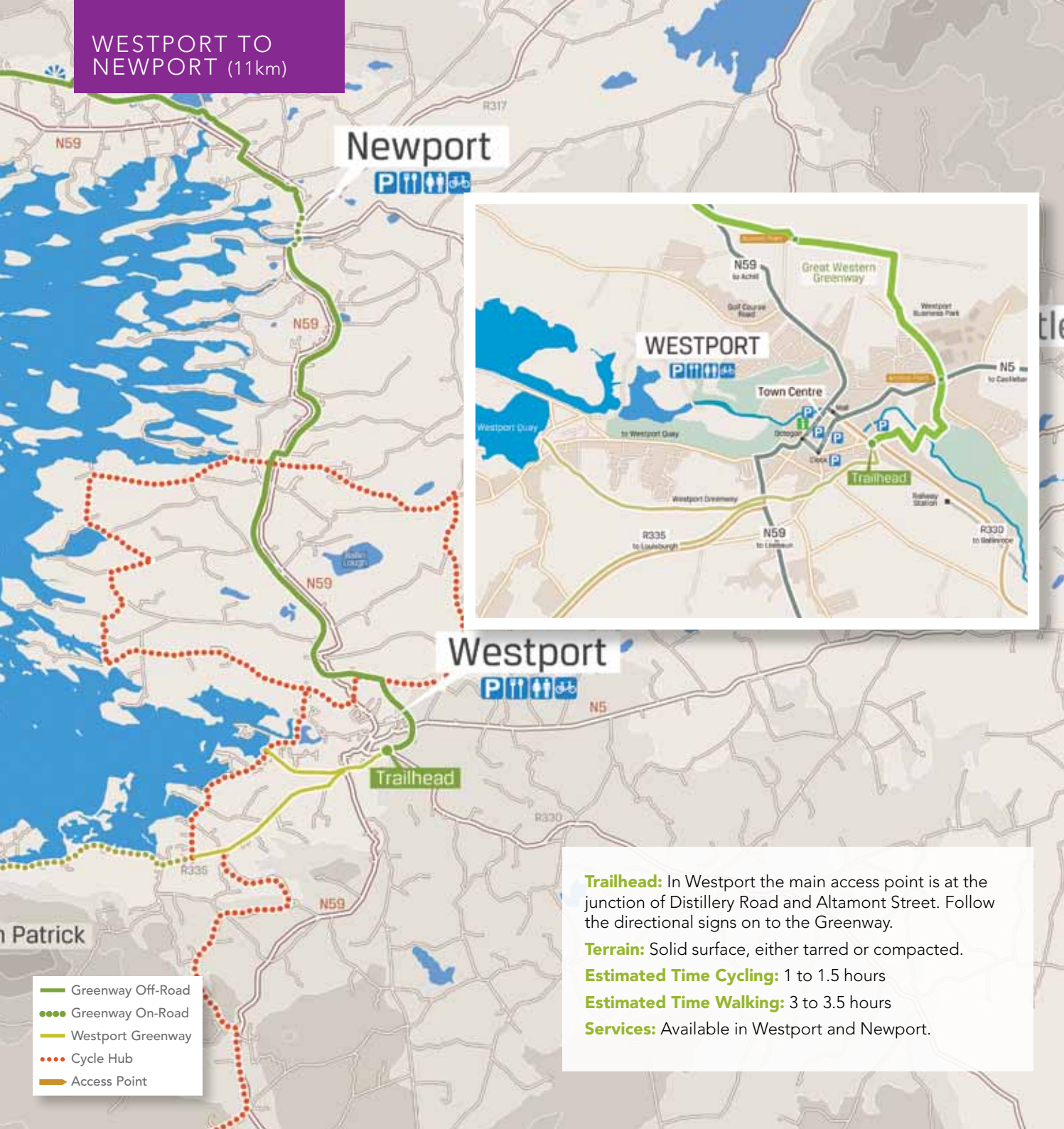
- Cycle decisively and clearly indicate your intentions to other route/road users
- Take care at junctions
- Think ahead and anticipate walkers and drivers actions
- Walk / cycle well clear of the road edge or kerb – debris and drains are a hazard
- Don't cycle on footpaths intended for pedestrians
- When cycling in a group always warn cyclists behind you of hazards ahead
- Cyclists should always give way to walkers

OFF-ROAD

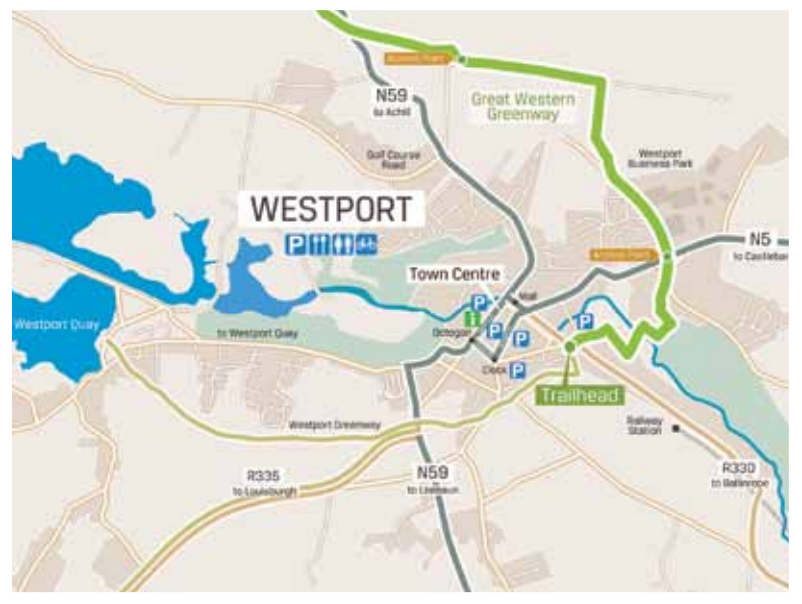
- Give way to pedestrians and leave plenty of room. Slow down and stop if necessary
- Take care at junctions, bends and entrances
- Don't assume that other users can see or hear you - use a bell

EMERGENCY CONTACT: If you encounter any difficulties, contact the emergency services on **999**

WESTPORT TO NEWPORT (11km)



Newport



Westport



Trailhead

Patrick

- Greenway Off-Road
- Greenway On-Road
- Westport Greenway
- Cycle Hub
- Access Point

Trailhead: In Westport the main access point is at the junction of Distillery Road and Altamont Street. Follow the directional signs on to the Greenway.

Terrain: Solid surface, either tarred or compacted.

Estimated Time Cycling: 1 to 1.5 hours

Estimated Time Walking: 3 to 3.5 hours

Services: Available in Westport and Newport.

NEWPORT TO MULRANNY (18km)

Nephin Mountains

Mulranny



N59

N59

Newport



N59

NEWPORT



Great Western Greenway

N59 to Achill

R317 to Glenhead

School

Church

R311 to Castlebar

CLEW BAY

The Quay

Newport Harbour

Newport Boat

Ferry Rd.

Malahide Rd.

Meekins Rd.

N59 to Westport

Great Western Greenway

Trailhead: In Newport the access point is located on the N59 to Mulranny approximately 2km from town.

Terrain: Solid surface, either tarred or compacted.

Estimated Time Cycling: 2 to 2.5 hours

Estimated Time Walking: 5 to 5.5 hours

Services: Available in Newport, Derrada, Tiernaur and Mulranny.

Greenway Off-Road

Greenway On-Road

Westport Greenway

Cycle Hub

Access Point

Murrisk



Croagh Patrick

Trailhead

R335

R335

N59

MULRANNY TO ACHILL SOUND (13km)



- Greenway Off-Road
- Greenway On-Road
- Westport Greenway
- Cycle Hub
- Access Point



CLEW BAY

Trailhead: In Mulranny an official access point is located to the rear of Mulranny Park Hotel. At Achill Sound the access point is at Óstán Oileáin Acla (Achill Island Hotel).

Terrain: Solid surface, either tarred or compacted

Estimated Time Cycling: 1 to 1.5 hours

Estimated Time Walking: 3 to 3.5 hours

Services: Available in Mulranny and Achill Sound.



Clare Island

HISTORY

The Midlands Great Western Railway was one of the 'Balfour Lines' named after Arthur J Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland from 1887 – '91. Balfour introduced the Light Railways (Ireland) Act providing State assistance for the construction of narrow gauge lines to disadvantaged areas like west Mayo. The first station on this extension was Newport which opened in February 1894, followed by Mulranny in August. The line to Achill Island was completed in May 1895.

The railway proved a great social and economic asset to the area though traffic never consistently reached the levels originally anticipated. The development of road traffic in the 1930s sealed the fate of the lines and the last train ran in Autumn 1937, only 42 years after the line had opened.

Today the line between Westport and Achill with its many fine engineering structures, gentle gradients and breath-taking scenery has been given a new lease of life and is a fitting reminder of the glorious railway era.

LEAVE NO TRACE

This is an Outdoor Ethics Programme designed to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research, and partnerships.

The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Be considerate of others
- Respect farm animals and wildlife
- Travel on durable ground
- Leave what you find
- Dispose of waste properly
- Minimise the effects of fire

Practice a Leave No Trace ethic and make it hard for others to see you or hear you.



BIKE HIRE

CLEW BAY BIKE HIRE LTD.

Distillery Road, Westport, Co Mayo
Tel: 085 7030177 / 086 3921428
Email: sales@clewbayoutdoors.ie
Web: www.clewbayoutdoors.com

ELECTRIC ESCAPES

Westport, Co Mayo
Tel: 087 745 1155 Website: www.electricscapes.ie

GREENWAY BIKE HIRE

Westport Road, Newport, Co Mayo
Tel: 086 0382594 / 086 0382593

MULRANNY CYCLES

Mulranny, Co Mayo. Tel: 098 36127 / 087 2587840

MULRANNY PARK HOTEL

Mulranny, Westport, Co Mayo. Tel: 098 36000
Email: info@mulrannyparkhotel.ie
Website: www.mulrannyparkhotel.ie

WESTPORT BIKES 4 HIRE

Carrabawn, Westport, Co Mayo
Tel: 086 0880882 Email: info@westportbikes4hire.com

WESTPORT BIKE SHOP

The Paddock, Newport Road, Westport, Co Mayo
Tel: 098 24966 Email: thewestportbikeshop@gmail.com

WESTPORT CYCLE CENTRE

James Street, Westport, Co Mayo. Tel: 098 25471

Some bike hire operators provide a drop-off and pick-up service – please enquire for more information.





Please Note!

The Great Western Greenway can be traversed from Westport to Achill Sound or from Achill Sound to Westport. For the purposes of this brochure details are provided for Westport to Achill Sound.

The Greenway crosses through privately owned active farmland. The public have landowner permission to walk or cycle on the Greenway. Please respect private property, livestock and farming activities.

The Greenway will close for 24 hours on 21 February each year

