

WALKING THE ROSSES



The Old Railway Walk

This beautiful walking trail filled to the brim with spectacular scenery and woodland was originally the route taken by the train which connected Burtonport to Letterkenny between 1903 and 1940.

There are many features of the old railway remaining which you can view along the way including: stations, gatehouses, accommodation crossings—the pillars, cuttings, embankments, a bridge, rusty gates and much, much more.



Kinballycrowie Loop

This lovely looped walk takes you from Burtonport harbour along the old railway corridor and back again via quiet country lanes and road. The walk is filled to the brim with spectacular views, a vast array of flora & fauna and a fabulous woodland of beautiful ash trees.



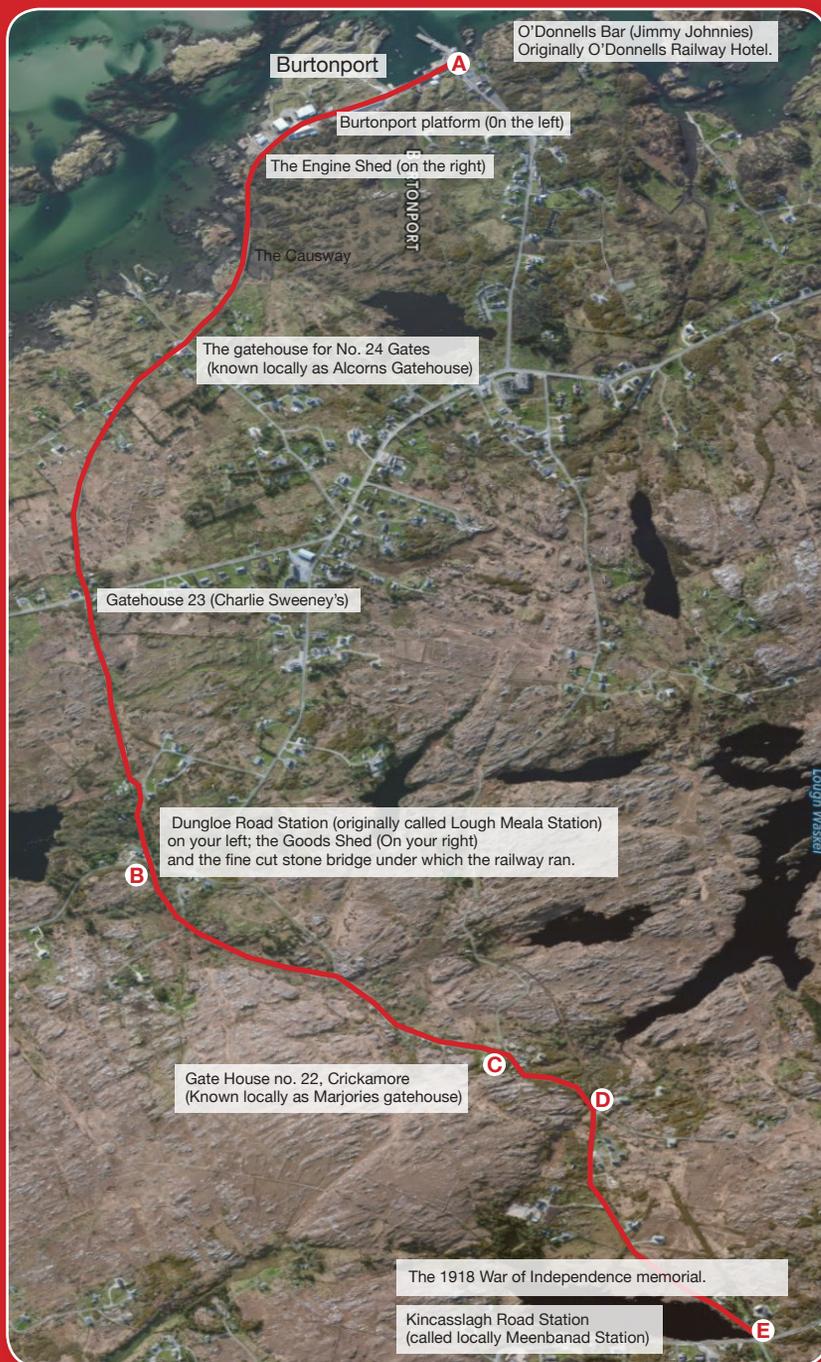
Crickamore Loop

This short looped walk takes you along a scenic stretch of the old Burtonport railway corridor and back to your starting point at St Columba's Community Centre via quiet country lanes. The walk has an abundance of flora and fauna which provides this trail with a splendid diversity of colour and sound that changes regularly with the seasons.



Siúlóid an tSean Bhóthar Ianrainn

The Old Railway Walk



Trail Start	Burtonport Harbour
Trail Finish	Meenbannad Station
Length	ca. 5.5km (11km return to Burtonport)
Time To Complete	1hour (2 hours return)
Terrain	Minor roads & Surfaced track
Format	Linear Walk
Grade	Easy
Way Marking	Red train & Red Directional Arrows on white background
Grid Ref./Map	B717 151/OSI Discovery Series Sheet 1

This beautiful walking trail filled to the brim with spectacular scenery and woodland was originally the route taken by the train which connected Burtonport to Letterkenny between 1903 and 1940. There are many features of the old railway remaining which you can view along the way including: stations, gatehouses, accommodation crossings—the pillars, cuttings, embankments, a bridge, rusty gates and much, much more.

Walk Directions:

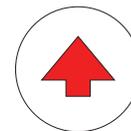
A—B: The walk leaves Burtonport Harbour and leads the walker through the industrial area, past the wind turbine and over the causeway to Alcorn's gate house NO 24, following the red train and red directional arrows marked "The Old Railway Walk". Walking straight ahead past the gatehouse where the surface now changes to a gravel covering, until you meet the main Dungloe Road, across from Sweeney's gatehouse NO 23.

TAKE CARE CROSSING THE ROAD.

B—C: After crossing the road, carry on along the gravel path past Dungloe Road Station, under the bridge, through the ash woodland, past Marjorie's gatehouse NO 22.

C—D: Cross the backroad and continue along the path past the lake until the track turns sharp right and up the steep bank on to the tarred road.

D—E: Turn left and follow the red arrows along the tarred road for ca. 1km to the end of the walk at Meenbannad Station NO 21.



In case of emergency call 999

Lúb Cheann Bhaile Cruaiche

Kinballycrowie Loop



Trail Start	Burtonport Harbour
Trail Finish	Burtonport Harbour
Length	ca. 7km
Time To Complete	1 - 1.5 hours
Terrain	Minor roads & Surfaced track
Format	Looped Walk
Grade	Easy
Way Marking	Orange Directional Arrows on white background.
Grid Ref./Map	B717 151/OSI Discovery Series Sheet 1

This lovely looped walk takes you from Burtonport harbour along the old railway corridor and back again via quiet country lanes and road. The walk is filled to the brim with spectacular views, a vast array of flora & fauna and a fabulous woodland of beautiful ash trees.

Walk Directions:

A—B: The walk leaves Burtonport Harbour and leads the walker through the industrial area, past the wind turbine and over the causeway to Alcorn's gate house NO 24, following the orange directional arrows marked "L'ub Cheann Bhaile Cruaiche - Kinballycrowie Loop". Walking straight ahead past the gatehouse where the surface now changes to a gravel covering, until you meet the main Dungloe Road, across from Sweeny's gatehouse NO 23.

TAKE CARE CROSSING THE ROAD.

B—C: After crossing the road, carry on along the gravel path past Dungloe Road Station, under the bridge, through the ash woodland, to Marjorie's gatehouse NO 22.

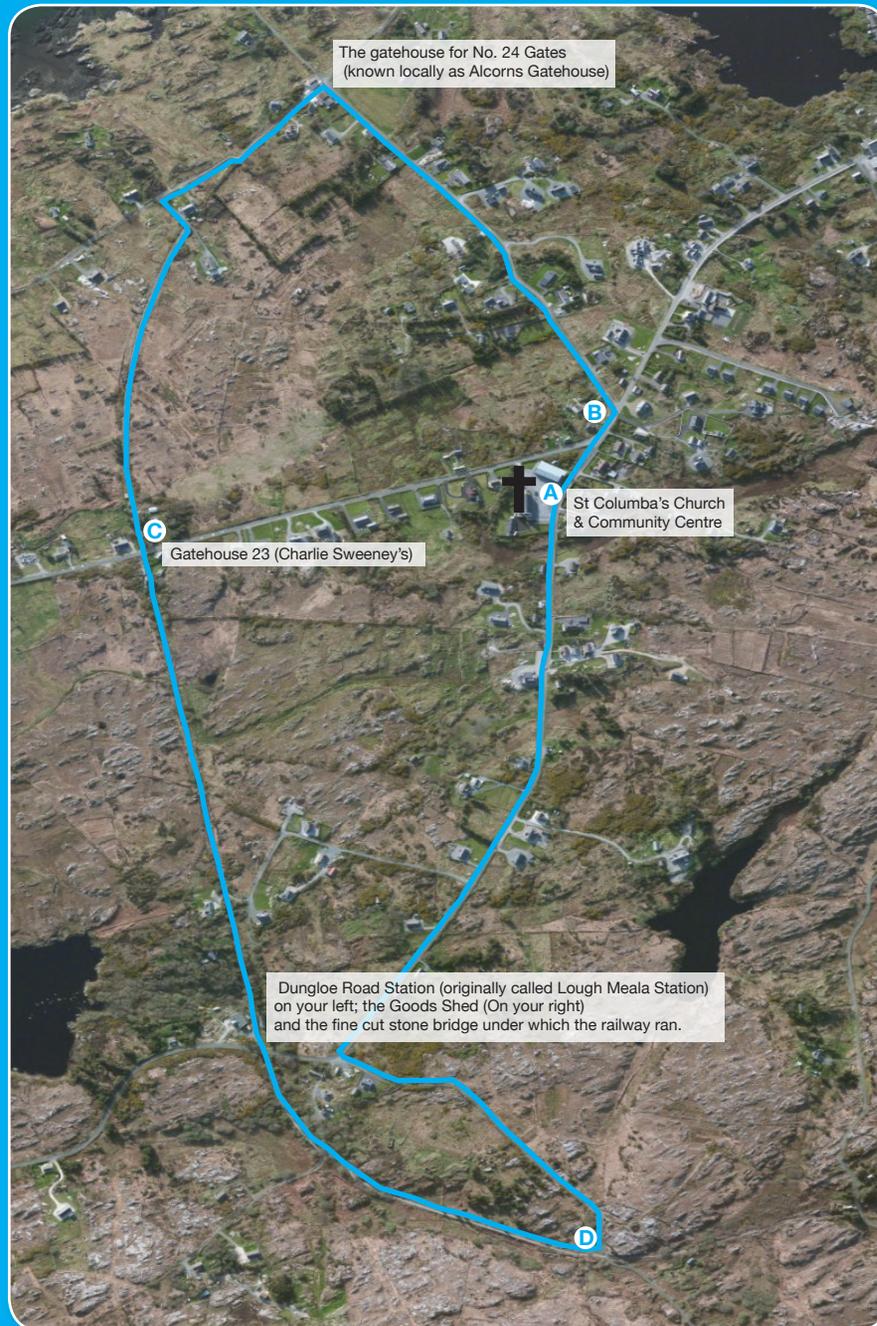
C—D: Turn left here onto the tarred road, up a small hill and follow this narrow country lane for ca. 2.5km until you reach the t-junction with the main road R259.

D—A: Turn left towards the filling station and immediately right on to the road that leads you back to the trailhead at Burtonport harbour.



In case of emergency call 999

Lúb Chroicheach Mhór



In case of emergency call 999

Crickamore Loop

Trail Start	St Columba's Community Centre
Trail Finish	St Columba's Community Centre
Length	ca. 5km
Time To Complete	45 min – 1hour
Terrain	Minor roads & Surfaced track
Format	Looped Walk
Grade	Easy
Way Marking	Blue Directional Arrows & Name on white background.
Grid Ref./Map	GPS B 731 147 OSI Discovery Series Sheet 1

This short looped walk takes you along a scenic stretch of the old Burtonport railway corridor and back to your starting point at St Columba's Community Centre via quiet country lanes. The walk has an abundance of flora and fauna which provides this trail with a splendid diversity of colour and sound that changes regularly with the seasons.

Walk Directions:

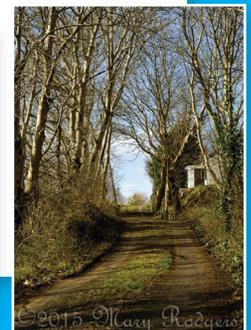
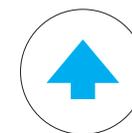
A—B: Leaving the car park, turn left and walk in the direction of Burtonport for ca. 100m following the blue directional arrows marked Crickamore Loop - L'ub Croicheach Mh'or.

B—C: Turn left onto the Lxxxx until you reach the crossroads at Alcorn's gatehouse NO 24. Turn left and join the Si'ul'oid an tSean Bh'othar Iarainn - The Old Railway Walk, where the tarred road now changes to a gravel track, and leads you to the Dungloe Road, across from Sweeney's gatehouse NO 23.

TAKE CARE CROSSING THE ROAD.

C—D: From here, carry on along the gravel track past Dungloe Road Station, under the bridge and through the ash woodland. Take the next lane on your left.

D—A: Continue on the tar road to the t-junction. Turn right here and walk the remaining ca.1km along the L1523 (Pole road) until your back at Community Centre on your left.



©2015 Mary Rodgers

SIÚLÓIDÍ IARNRÓD AILT AN CHORRÁIN BURTONPORT OLD RAILWAY WALK

The Burtonport Walks are a series of four separate trails of various lengths, all of which lead the walker along part of the abandoned railway line between Burtonport and Meenbannad in West Donegal, Ireland.

The original railway line was built to serve the excellent harbour in Burtonport and as a Government attempt to alleviate the poverty in North Donegal. It was a joint venture between the British Government and the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway. Opening for traffic in 1903, the line ran through the remote and difficult terrain of North Donegal often skirting towns it was meant to serve by miles in an effort to save on the cost of construction.

The line was the subject of two enquiries over its safety and operation. The Derry Chamber of Commerce noting “defective construction and inadequate and unsuitable equipment” as a cause of the lines many ills. Despite this the line managed to survive until 1947, the Burtonport - Gweedore section closing earlier in June 1940. The station in Burtonport was demolished early in 2003.

Following a prolonged period of heavy snowfall in the winter of 2009 some of the line on the Burtonport side was cleared to access water mains which needed repairing. The remaining section was later cleared and gradually developed as walkway with the support of the local community.

Getting here:

From Letterkenny and Dungloe - SITT Rural Transport – Tel 0749741644.

From Dublin – Bus Éireann @ www.buseireann.ie Donegal Airport : 00353(0) 749548284.

From Scotland & Northern Ireland – Doherty Travel (00353) 749521867 .

