

clashganny viewing point looped walk

Trailhead: Clashganny viewing point car park
Services: Toilets; nearby restaurant, Borris 4km
Distance/Time: 6 km/2 hours
Difficulty: Easy
Definition of grade: Generally flat trail with a smooth surface and some gentle slopes or shallow steps. This trail is generally suitable for family groups including children and the elderly. Normal outdoor footwear can be worn.
Ascent: 80 metres
Dogs: Dogs allowed if kept on a leash at all times.
Trail Management: Contact secretar@carlowcoco.ie
Terrain: Road, track, river towpath
To suit: Beginner or experienced walkers, only suitable for buggies in part, special care to be taken of children near deep water and steep track edges.
Minimum gear: Hiking boots, rain gear, fluids, snacks and mobile phone.
Type of trail: Local loop walk – marked with purple arrows
Emergency Services: 999 or 112

About the area

Clashganny Viewing Point Looped Walk offers the user a gentle walk on forest roads and along the Barrow Way with magnificent views of Clashganny Lock and the River Barrow. Much of the walk is through an old wood and has had forestry cover present since the 1800’s. The name Clashganny called Clashganna comes from the Irish, Clais Ghainimh – meaning here ‘the sandy river trench’. The trail is on a secluded forest path with some historic land marks including a mass rock. There is a local tradition that people gathered at this rock to say mass in the past. Mass rocks in Ireland are usually associated with the period of the Penal Laws (1695-1829) when the practice of Catholicism was banned. People could not gather in a church or chapel but rather met up at locally accessible but secretive sites.

The walker will also encounter the banks of the River Barrow and associated wildlife including kingfishers, herons and various types of native flora and fauna. The River Barrow was used by the earliest settlers in Ireland to travel in from the coast deep into the midlands. Clashganny and Ballykennan canals, locks and keepers cottages along the trail are a reminder of a busier time on the river. The lock keeper operated the locks and collected toll fees as the barges travelled up and down river, hauling all manners of goods and grain. The nearby Clashganny mill was once an extensive and important business, milling corn and oats for the many farmers in the area.

Walk directions

- A-B

The walk is signposted with purple arrows. Walk downhill from the car park, following a forest track. This track descends for a kilometre, reach a Y-junction where you veer right and downhill towards the Barrow river.
- B-C

After a short distance, follow the purple arrow and take a right turn onto a narrow forest path. This delightful rugged path, narrow in places, runs through deciduous woodland with glimpses of the river below. After 2km, the path descends by an old mass rock and joins the tarmac road below.
- C-D

Turn left now and follow the road down to the main Clashganny car park and the river. Walk through the car park and follow the river downstream. The old towpath that you are following is wide and easy to follow and is marked by both purple (this walk) and yellow (Barrow Way) arrows. After a short distance, you will reach Ballykeenan lock, where the canal re-enters the river.
- D-A

Shortly after this, follow the purple arrow to turn sharp left and back uphill on a forest track. You now rejoin your earlier route and follow the forest track back uphill to the Clashganny Viewing Point car park.



Flora and Fauna en route



Principles

- Practising a ‘Leave no Trace’ ethic is very simple. Make it hard for others to see or hear you and leave no trace of your visit.
- Plan ahead and prepare
 - Be considerate of others
 - Respect farm animals and wildlife
 - Travel and camp on durable ground
 - Leave what you find
 - Dispose of waste properly
 - Minimise the effects of fire