

Ballyroney: 3 walk combinations

including Lackan Bog and Annahinchigo Lake



Introduction

The village of Ballyroney is located between Rathfriland and Dromara. Notable features of the area include Ballyroney Lake with its backdrop of the Mourne Mountains, the River Bann and Lackan Bog which is the largest single block of lowland peatland left in County Down. The bog is a designated Area

of Special Scientific Interest, an ASSI.

Captain Mayne Reid, the writer, was born on 4 April, 1818 in Ballyroney. He led a colourful and unconventional life after sailing for America aged 20. Dare devil and eccentric Mayne Reid involved himself in many and various activities from hunting buffalo, trading with Native Americans, acting as a war correspondent and fighting in the Mexican War (where he achieved the rank of Captain).



He took up writing becoming, in his lifetime, a popular, prolific and highly successful writer of adventure stories, many of which were based on his experiences such as the 'Scalp Hunters' (1849), 'Rifle Rangers' (1850) and 'Boy Hunters' (1853). He settled in England, dying in London in 1883.

The following walk suggestions take in public rights of way and public roads in the area.

How to get there

From Banbridge take the A50 in the direction of Castlewellan. After passing the turn-off for Katesbridge take next road on the R, the Ballyroney Road. At end of road take R into the Dromara Road, take the next road on L, the Lackan Road, signposted for Castlewellan. Continue for approximately 1.5 miles to the crossroads (for parking see Fact File).

Points of interest

Ballyroney has a wealth of history, indeed it was once known as 'Castletown', presumably due to the remains of the two Anglo-Norman settlements in the area dating from the 12th century. The first site was Ballyroney Mound, a motte and bailey earthwork still visible as a tree covered mound from the Ballyroney Road. Later, a stone castle was built downstream at Seafin, little of which now remains (both are in private ownership). There is a further site at nearby Katesbridge. Ballyroney Post Office (pictured above) is a listed building which featured in a 1997 issue of Royal Mail stamps.



BANBRIDGE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

FACT FILE

Distances:

Between 4.5 and 5.6 miles approx.

Grade: Moderate.

Advice:

Lackan Bog is a very fragile, protected, bogland habitat. Please do not discard lighted matches or cigarettes. The Green Road Path crosses very uneven terrain subject to burrowing. The paths are uneven and may be muddy in wet weather. **Walk (3)** passes, in part, through open fields with cattle. Dogs must be kept on leads at all times.

Start and Finish:

Junction of Lackan Road, Flush Road and Crabtree Road, Ballyroney.

Parking:

On road verge at junction of Lackan Road and Flush Road (with due care and consideration).

Grid Ref:

J245367 Ordnance Survey of NI Discoverer Series 1:50 000 Sheet 29 and Slieve Croob Outdoor Pursuits Map.

Terrain:

Dry path across uneven bogland, farm track and on-road walking. **Walk (3)** includes open fields in which cattle are grazed.

Accommodation:

For information contact Banbridge Tourist Information Centre on 028 4062 3322.

Refreshments:

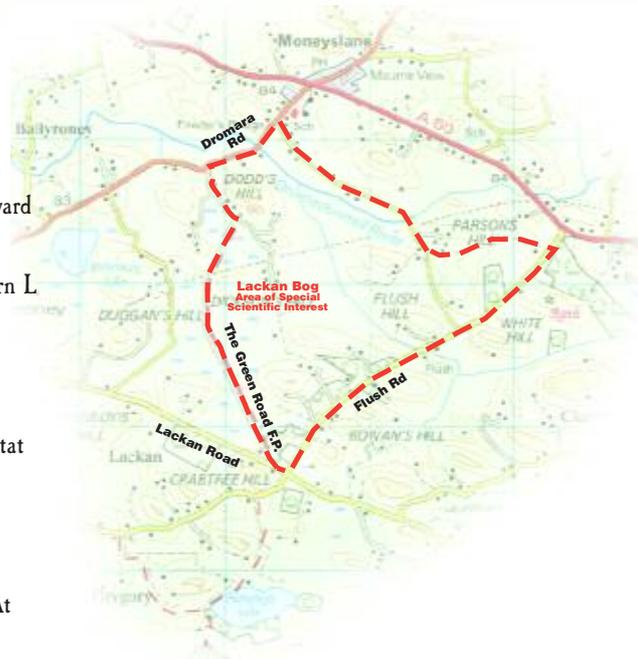
Shop at Ballyward – approx 2.5 miles away from parking place – turn L into Flush Rd at junction turn R into Ballyward Road, cont. along road and look out for shop on L. Nearest town is Rathfriland about 1.5 mile from Ballyroney.

Castlewellan is approx. 6.5 mile SW along Lackan Road (to Lough Island Reavy and on meeting Dublin Road turn L to Castlewellan).

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Walk (1): Flush Road to Eelwire Road and Green Road – 4.5 miles approx.

From the junction of Lackan Road and Flush Road turn L into Flush Road which is a quiet, undulating road bordering Lackan Bog. Continue along Flush Road for approx. 1.5 mile, pass Eelwire Road and look out for footpath signpost on L near junction with Ballyward Road. Turn into this lane and pass house and dog kennels. Follow lane to junction with Eelwire Road, turning R. Continue along this road to junction with Dromara Road and turn L into this road. Exercise extreme caution walking along this busy road. Look out for 'No-through Road' sign on L (after less than 0.5 mile) and turn into this road, Dickson's Hill Road. Continue along until you see a rambler stile and signpost 'Green Road Footpath' pointing across a field to the right. Having crossed the field you will enter the special habitat of Lackan Bog. This track is uneven and is prone to rabbit burrowing so watch your step! You will cross the railway bridge over the former Banbridge to Ballyroney/Castlewellan Railway which closed over 40 years ago. The bog provides a unique habitat for some very specialised plants and animals, including many of the known species of Irish dragonflies. At the end of the track you will emerge on the Lackan Road – turn L to return to your car.



Walk 2: Lackan Bog and High Road skirting Bog – approx. 3.75 mile

Take the Green Road Foot Path from Lackan Road (near junction with Flush Road). On emerging at Dickson's Hill Rd, turn L and L again onto the Rathfriland to Dromara Road. Exercise extreme caution as you walk along this road for approx. 0.5 miles. Take next turn-off on L into the High Road. Follow this very quiet old road which gives great views of the bog. On meeting the Lackan Road, turn L to return parking place.



Walk (3): Flush Road to Annahinchigo Lake and Lackan Bog – 5.6 miles approx.

Begin by turning into Crabtree Road from Lackan Road and climb hill. Take first lane on L marked with a footpath sign to Annahinchigo Lake. Continue along lane, following waymarks to gate and stile, cross stile and walk along side of field towards lakeshore, look out to right for gate and stiles leading past a cottage. Cross stile and continue along this enclosed section of lane beside the shore to next stile; continue along shore at bottom of open field looking out for rambler stile to R, pass through and away from lake along 2 open fields to wooden gate and stile which leads to another enclosed section of lane. On meeting surfaced lane, continue straight ahead away from derelict house. At next turn of lane take left and at next turn R, towards the Crabtree Road. Turn L, at Crabtree Road and continue to Bannside Road turning R and R again into the very narrow road. Continue along Bannside Road to junction with Dromara Road, turn R and continue through Ballyroney – exercise extreme care walking along this road. Pass Ballyroney Lake on right and turn into second road on Right Dickson's Hill Road (No-Through Road). Continue along Dickson's Hill Road and follow finger post on R reading 'Green Road Public Footpath'. Pass over rambler stile and cross open field for short distance before coming to pathway across Lackan Bog. Follow the path to Lackan Road and turn L to return to the starting point.

