

# Bloomfield Walkway



## Route description

This route along a former railway bed is open to both walkers and cyclists: it is on surfaced paths and relatively flat.

## Distance

1.5 miles 2.4 km (one way).

## Average Time

45 – 50 mins (one way).

## Access

**By bike** - You can access the greenway from Ravenscroft Avenue, Beersbridge Road and Sandown Road.

**By bus** - Metro Services: 3, 4, 18, 19, 19A, all pass Hollywood Arches. 18 for Sandown Road.

**By car** - Car park at Ravenscroft Avenue or on Sandown Road.

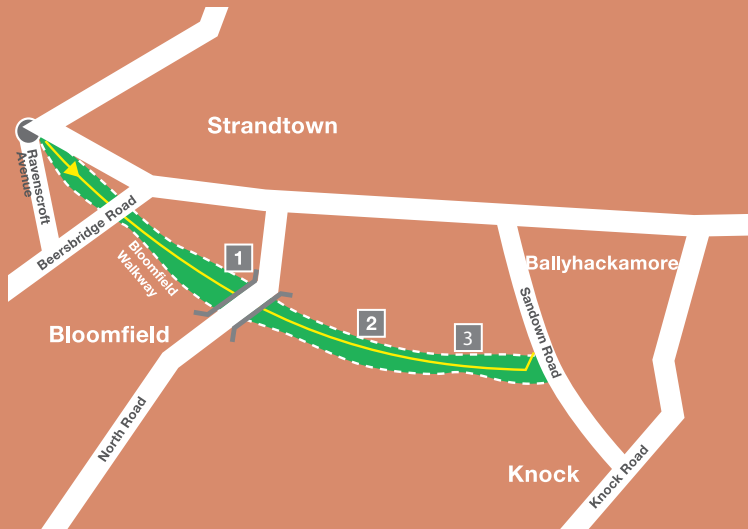
## Trail Route

The linear park follows the line of the former County Down railway. From the top of the car park follow the path to the Beersbridge Road.

Taking care crossing the road, continue along the path. Although a pipeline was recently laid under this route, the corridor still retains some of its mature character. Re-planted shrubs and trees are becoming well established. Soon the path passes under the North Road Bridge **(1)**.

The path continues between high embankments **(2)** towards the Sandown Road. Look out for the remains of the former railway platform and pockets of wildflowers on the banks.

## Trail 04



### History

This linear corridor follows the original route of the Belfast and County Down railway which opened between Belfast and Comber in 1850. The line operated until the middle of the 20th century.

After its closure the railway lands were earmarked for a proposed motorway scheme. There are plans to extend the greenway along the old railway bed from Sandown Road as far as Comber.

### Things of Interest

#### North Road Bridge (1)

Passing under this bridge you can see the original brickwork of the railway bridge. The bridge was widened in 1930 to accommodate the increase in road traffic.

#### Embankments (2)

Recent installation of a pipeline has disturbed much of the flora along this route, but farther up the embankments the ground flora is well established.

#### Old platforms (3)

Near the Sandown Road you can see the remains of the original railway platforms which are now overgrown.

### Look out for

- unusual 'garden type' plants that have escaped from neighbouring gardens.
- Himalayan balsam that has become well established in places.
- the ghosts of the old steam trains that once ran along the route!