

La Great Southern Trail (GST) attraversa con i suoi 96 km una bella regione dell'ovest della contea di Limerick e del nord della contea di Kerry, in Irlanda. La GST copre il tracciato dell'antica linea ferroviaria Limerick-Tralee/Fent, aperta in varie fasi tra il 1867 e il 1887. La maggior parte del tracciato fu chiusa tra il 1975 e il 1978 ma la CIE, azienda pubblica dei trasporti, ne conserva la proprietà. GST Ltd, associazione di volontariato, si è presa carico di gran parte della sua trasformazione in percorso ricreativo, con il patrocinio diversi enti locali e statali. Attualmente la GST è una greenway fruibile a piedi e in bicicletta per 40 km nella contea di Limerick, tra Rathkeale e Abbeyfeale. Nella contea di Kerry ne è stato completato un breve tratto nei pressi del Museo Ferroviario di Listowel e sono iniziati i lavori sulla tratta Tralee-Fent. [Traduzione: Giulio Senes]



El Great Southern Trail (GST) atraviesa con sus 96 km una bella región del oeste del condado de Limerick y del norte del condado de Kerry en la República de Irlanda. El GST aprovecha el trazado de la antigua línea ferroviaria Limerick-Tralee/Fent, abierta a tramos entre 1867 y 1887. La mayor parte del ferrocarril, se cerró entre 1975 y 1978 pero la CIE, empresa pública de transportes, mantiene su propiedad. La parte fundamental de su transformación en camino recreativo ha sido realizada por el GST Ltd, un grupo de voluntarios apoyado por diversas agencias locales y nacionales. En la actualidad el GST es una vía verde para uso de caminantes y ciclistas, de 40km en el condado de Limerick entre Rathkeale y Abbeyfeale. En el condado de Kerry, se ha acondicionado un tramo corto cerca del museo ferroviario de Listowel y ya han comenzado las obras entre Tralee-Fent. [Traducción: Mercedes Muñoz Zamora]



Síneann Slí an Mhór-Dheiscirt(GST) feadh 96km(60 míle) trí Iarthar Luimnigh agus Tuaisceart Chiarraí. Leanann sí líne an iarnróid, Luimneach –Trá Lí/An Fhianait, a d'oscail i gcéimeanna idir 1867 agus 1887. Dúnadh an chuid is mó den slí idir 1975 agus 1978 ach fós is le CIE an líne. Tá Slí an Mhór-Dheiscirt (GST Ltd), grúpa deonach a fhaigheann cabhair ó ghníomhaireachtaí Áitiúla agus Stáit, freagrach as an gcuid is mó den bhforbairt mar áit taitneamhachta.

Faoi láthair tá an GST in úsáid mar áis easbhóthair do shíúlóirí agus do rothaithe feadh 40km i gCo. Luimnigh, idir Ráth Caola agus Mainistir na Féile. I gCo. Chiarraí tá forbairt déanta ar pháosa gairid in aice le Músaem Lartigue i Lios Tuathail agus tá obair tosaithe ar an gcuid sin ó Thrá Lí go dtí An Fhianait.

GST: CO.LIMERICK PRINCIPAL ACCESS POINTS

There are over twenty access points to the GST from various public roads; these facilitate locals and those who wish to do loop walks/cycles. Apart from the entrance at Rathkeale Trailhead all others are to the north of the N21; along which the Limerick-Tralee/Killarney public buses operate.

The principal trailheads are as follows:

1. Rathkeale: The old station is now the Palatine Museum and is accessed from the R518 roundabout just south of the N21 and near the Catholic Church (large spire)
2. Ardagh: The entrance is at the railway bridge on the local road L7001 which links the N21 with the R523. Parking is at the Community Centre 200m from the railway bridge.
3. Newcastle West: There are two entrances one at Bishop Court (off Bishop St., town centre) and the other near Gaelscoil Ó Dóghair/ Recycling Centre on the R521.
4. Barnagh: This is the summit of the GST and parking is at the N21 westbound lay-by with three options for exploration: a] main trail west towards Abbeyfeale; b] main trail east towards Newcastle West/Rathkeale; c] Barnagh railway tunnel 1km directly from the lay-by
5. Templeglantine: Parking at Halla Inse Bán on the local road L21006 (directly opposite the Church); the trail is 1km north along this local road.
6. Devon Road: At Devon Road Cross turn north off the N21/R515 junction and travel along the L7059 where Tullig Wood is clearly visible to the right.
7. Abbeyfeale: In the town centre turn off from the N21 onto the R524 (Athea road) where the old Station is on the right after 1km (adjacent to the 'Railway Bar').

Der Great Southern Trail ist eine 96km lange Bahnstrecke in West Limerick/Nord Kerry. Sie wird von der Limerick - Tralee/ Fent Railway Line befahren und wurde zwischen 1867 und 1887 eröffnet. Ein Großteil der Strecke wurde zwischen 1975 und 1978 stillgelegt, verblieb aber im Eigentum des nationalen Transportunternehmens CIE. Die Weiterentwicklung zu Freizeitzwecken wurde von der GST Ltd. vorangetrieben – eine Gruppe von Freiwilligen, die von lokalen und staatlichen Behörden unterstützt wird. Heute kann der Great Southern Trail entlang des 40 km langen County Limerick-Abschnitts (zwischen Rathkeale und Abbeyfeale) zum Wandern und Radfahren genutzt werden. Im Co. Kerry wurde ein kleiner Teil der Strecke in der Nähe des Lartigue Railway Museums ausgebaut und am Tralee-Fent-Abschnitt wurde ebenfalls schon mit der Arbeit begonnen. [Translation: Thomas Falch]



Le Great Southern Trail (GST) traverse sur 96 km une belle région de l'ouest du comté de Limerick et du nord du comté de Kerry en République d'Irlande. Le GST n'est autre que le tracé de l'ancienne ligne ferroviaire Limerick-Tralee/Fent, ouverte par étapes entre 1867 et 1887. Pour sa plus grande partie, elle fut fermée entre 1975 et 1978 mais elle reste toujours la propriété de la CIE, la société nationale des transports. L'essentiel des aménagements en chemin récréatif a été entrepris par la GST Ltd, un groupe de volontaires soutenus par diverses agences locales et nationales. À ce jour le GST est une voie verte praticable à pied et à vélo sur 40 km dans le comté de Limerick entre Rathkeale et Abbeyfeale. Dans le comté de Kerry, une courte section a été aménagée près du musée ferroviaire de Listowel et les travaux ont commencé sur la section Tralee-Fent. [Traduction: Gilbert Ferrin]



The Great Southern Trail (GST) to oddinek terenu o dlugosci 96 km (60 mil) w zachodniej czesci hrabstwa Kerry. Tamtey Limerick przebiegalo polaczenie kolejowe Limerick - Tralee/ Fent, ktorego oddinki zostaly oddane do uzytku w latach 1867 - 1978. Wiekoszosc trasy zostala zamkniete w latach 1975 - 1978, ale w dalszym ciagu pozostaje ona wlasnoscia CIE (the National Transport Company). Ten teren zostal przekszalcomy w duzej czesci w teren rekreacyjny przez GST Ltd, ktora jest organizacja wolontariacka wspierana przez rzone lokalne i panstwowe instytucje. Obecnie GST jest wykorzystywany do spacerow i jazdy rowerem na oddinku o dlugosci 40 km. w hrabstwie Limerick pomiedzy Rathkeale i Abbeyfeale. W hrabstwie Kerry przekszalcono krotki odcinek i rozpozczeco prace na oddinku Tralee - Fent. [Translation: Nikola Sekowska-Moroney]



The Great Southern Trail (GST) is a unique 96km (60 miles) stretch of countryside in West Limerick/North Kerry. It is the route taken by the Limerick - Tralee/Fent railway line, which opened in stages between 1867 and 1978 but remains the property of CIE (the National Transport Company). Most of the route closed between 1975 and 1978 but remains the property of CIE (the National Transport Company). Most of the development as a recreational amenity has been undertaken by the GST Ltd, which is a voluntary group assisted by various Local and State agencies. Today the GST is suitable for off road walking and cycling along 40km of the Co. Limerick section of the route between Rathkeale and Abbeyfeale. In Co. Kerry a short stretch has been developed near the Lartigue Museum in Listowel and work has commenced on the Tralee-Fent section.



Great Southern Trail

SLÍ AN MHÓR-DHEISCIRT

Great Southern Trail

SLÍ AN MHÓR-DHEISCIRT

Do not enter adjoining farmland

Respect the habitat that is the greenway and its flora and fauna

Please do not litter the trail

Keep dogs on leads (and 'scoop the poop'!)

Trail is strictly for walkers / pedal cyclists only

Cyclists please wear a helmet and always yield to pedestrians

In Case of EMERGENCY phone Newcastle West Gardai:

069 20650



Photo (Near Rathkeale 2012) : Michael O'Donoghue



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1. RATHKEALE-ARDAGH [9Kkm]

This is a level section and begins at the Old Station [now the Palatine Centre] ; a museum dedicated to the settlers from the Palatinate in Germany who arrived in Ireland 300 years ago to escape persecution www.irishpalatines.org.

After a few hundred metres the River Deel is crossed and an immediate sharp turn to the right brings the trail to the north of the N21, crossing the road by means of a riverside underpass. The westward journey continues through lands associated with the Palatines. Five beautiful cut-stone overhead bridges are encountered on the trail to Ardagh. Just before the third one, on the right, can be seen the ancient Churchyard at Clounagh and the ruins of 15th Century Lisnacille Castle in the distance.

On the approach to the fourth bridge, about a mile further on, a local road at a right angle [90 degrees] to the trail leads to Cahermoyle House (now a private Nursing Home) which has associations with William Smith O' Brien leader of the 1848 Young Ireland rebellion. The fifth bridge is at Ardagh Station (house private) from where the village, St. Molua's Well and the old fort where the Ardagh Chalice was found in 1868 can be visited.

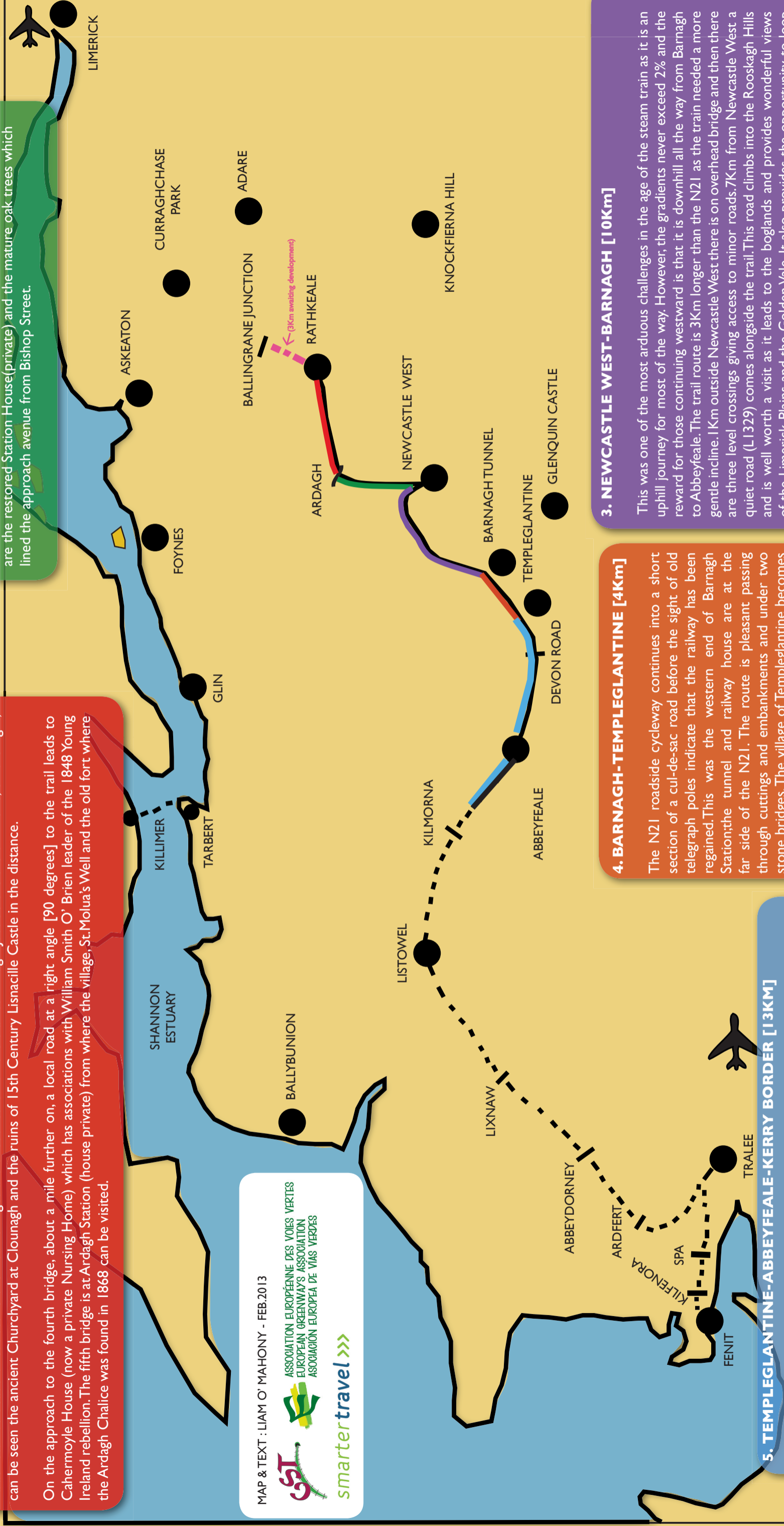
2. ARDAGH-NEWCASTLE WEST [4Kkm]

This section is level at each end with a 'dip' in the middle in the form of a 1% gradient. It passes through pleasant pastoral farmland with views of the surrounding hills. As Newcastle West is approached the River Daar is bridged. 500 metres further on the R521 is crossed on the level and Newcastle West station is entered. The only survivors of the railway age are the restored Station House (private) and the mature oak trees which lined the approach avenue from Bishop Street.

MAP & TEXT : LIAM O' MAHONY - FEB.2013



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4. BARNAGH-TEMPLEGLANTINE [4Kkm]

The N21 roadside cycleway continues into a short section of a cul-de-sac road before the sight of old telegraph poles indicate that the railway has been regained. This was the western end of Barnagh Station; the tunnel and railway house are at the far side of the N21. The route is pleasant passing through cuttings and embankments and under two stone bridges. The village of Templeglantine becomes visible on the left and is reached along the L21006. Templeglantine is a good starting point for a side trip in a southeast direction to Glenquin Castle (restored) [7Kkm] and Killeedy Castle (ruin) / St. Ita's Churchyard [9km]. This excursion will also afford great views of a modern Windfarm.

3. NEWCASTLE WEST-BARNAGH [10Kkm]

This was one of the most arduous challenges in the age of the steam train as it is an uphill journey for most of the way. However, the gradients never exceed 2% and the reward for those continuing westward is that it is downhill all the way from Barnagh to Abbeyfeale. The trail route is 3Km longer than the N21 as the train needed a more gentle incline. 1Km outside Newcastle West there is an overhead bridge and then there are three level crossings giving access to minor roads. 7Km from Newcastle West a quiet road (L1329) comes alongside the trail. This road climbs into the Rooskagh Hills and is well worth a visit as it leads to the boglands and provides wonderful views of the Limerick Plains and the Golden Vale. It also provides the opportunity to loop back onto the trail at the aforementioned level crossings and elsewhere further west. Continuing on the trail the L1329 is crossed by a high bridge and then Ferguson's Viaduct is traversed. Shortly after the viaduct the railway was incorporated into the N21 and now the trail becomes a dedicated roadside tarmacadam cycleway, with excellent views, for 2Km before regaining the railway at Barnagh Station. The trains entered Barnagh Station through a tunnel which can be visited along a 'stand-alone' 1Km section of the old railway. Access to the tunnel is from the lay-by at Barnagh on the N21 (Westbound).

5. TEMPLEGLANTINE-ABBEYFEALE-KERRY BORDER [13Kkm]

Opposite the Church the L21006 leads to the trail where a left turn is taken for Abbeyfeale. After 2Km Tullig Wood is entered and its tranquil atmosphere is in sharp contrast to the noisy N21 only a couple of fields away. A little further on the restored station (house private) at Devon Road is passed; once serving a local Creamery. The trail now levels out as it comes parallel to the River Allaghaun and keeps company with it until Abbeyfeale. One stone bridge spans the trail and 2km later the Station (house private) at Abbeyfeale is passed. (Exit left onto the R524 for the town centre). Continuing Westwards toward Co. Kerry the river Oolagh is bridged and Purt Castle (ruin) soon appears on the left, as does the river Feale.