

Redpoll



The Metal Bridge

The Metal Bridge was constructed by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company (GS&WR) in 1885 by S.G. Frazer. From the Metal Bridge trains travelled eastbound as far as Farranfore, and westbound as far as Valentia Harbour making it the most westerly railway line in Europe. In February 1960, the railway line closed due to decreasing rural populations, emigration and alternative modes of transport.

Astellas in Killorglin

Astellas was formed as a result of the merger of two Japanese companies Fujisawa and Yamanouchi, on April 1st 2005. The Kerry Plant, based in Killorglin, was established in 1990 and presently employs over 290 people. Astellas formulates immunosuppressants which are used to prevent the rejection of transplanted organs. Ointments for the treatment of dermatitis and fungal conditions are also packaged on site. Astellas is actively involved in the community providing educational talks, calendar competitions promoting a healthy lifestyle, and newsletters on environmental topics including biodiversity, the nature reserve and wind energy.

Wind Energy

Wind energy is clean and environmentally friendly and sustainable source of energy which is free from greenhouse gas emissions. Ireland has some of the highest wind speeds in Europe making it an excellent wind resource. Astellas recognised the importance of reducing their environmental impact and installed this 800kW wind turbine to help reduce carbon emissions. The wind turbine, which meets a fifth of the electrical demand at the site has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by ca. 1,000 tonnes per year.

Experience nature and wildlife along this walking trail

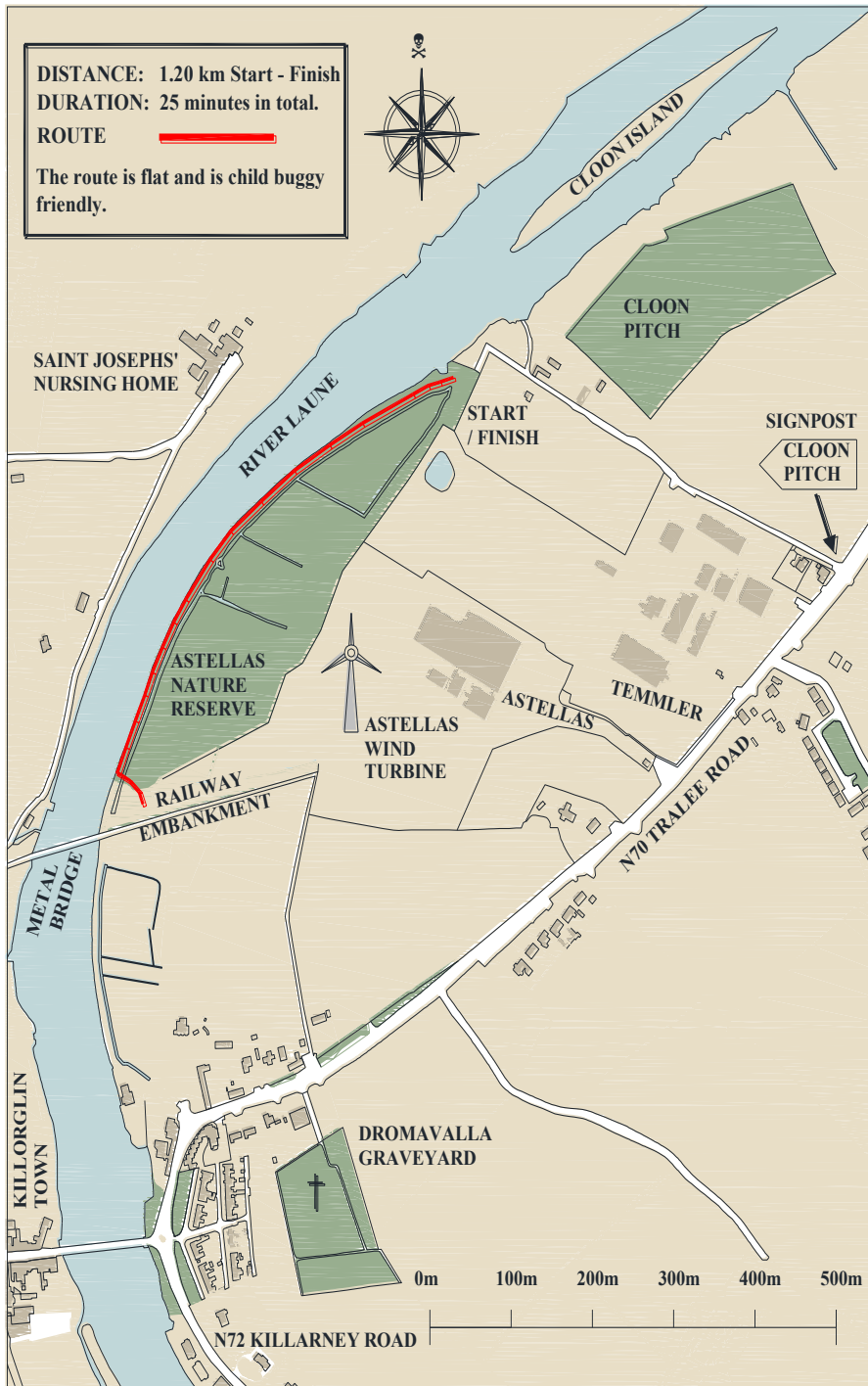
This brochure was designed and produced by **Killorglin Tidy Towns**

Photos: Emily Mc Carthy, John O'Sullivan Map: William Boteman

ASTELLAS RIVERSIDE TRAIL



To get to the start of this walk, head out of Killorglin on the Tralee Road.
Pass Astellas on your left and shortly thereafter, see a road to the left.
This road is signed 'CLOON PITCH'.
Go to the end of the road, bear left and towards the river.



Start the trail near Cloon and follow the pathway along the Laune river bank until you reach the wet willow woodland by the old railway bridge. Continue a short distance further to view the remains of the historic railway embankment and the metal perimeter fence near the wind turbine. Then retrace your footsteps back to the start. The trail is punctuated by interpretive boards informing you of the flora and fauna that you may see along the way.

The River Laune

The river Laune originates in Killarney and flows over a distance of 20km reaching the sea at Dingle Bay just north-west of Killorglin. Lough Leane, Muckross Lake and the Upper Lake in Killarney are part of the river Laune waterway which drains a catchment of some 320 square miles/823 square km. The river is tidal nature with saline intrusion reaching as far as Killorglin Bridge.

The River Laune forms an important habitat complex called *the Castlemaine Harbour Special Area of Conservation* which is of European Conservation Importance. It provides excellent habitats for Otter and Lamprey and is an important Salmon habitat with nurseries, riffles, pools and glides. The River Laune and its surroundings are popular with visitors given the natural beauty of the landscape, set against the backdrop of the MacGillycuddy Reeks.

The Reed Beds

The reed beds form part of a wetland system that fringe the River Laune. They are dominated by large common reed and also support yellow flag iris, reed-mace, water-plantains and flowering rush. The reed beds provide numerous benefits including natural flood control, an extensive and complex food chain supporting mammals, birds, amphibians, fish and invertebrates and also offer significant recreational and educational value.

Shelter and Walkway Bridge

As you walk along the Astellas trail you will notice a newly constructed bridge and shelter which were installed by Astellas as part of the walkway upgrade programme to enable people to enjoy the natural beauty of the River Laune and the surrounding areas of interest.

St. Josephs Nursing Home

St. Joseph's Home, purpose-built in 1971, is located across from the Astellas Walkway on the opposite side of the River Laune. The nursing home is owned and managed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy, who provide care for the elderly. The Nursing Home has a front balcony which overlooks the river Laune and which provides a delightful space to sit, rest and chat.



Kingfisher