

The Shannon Blueway

Ireland's first floating boardwalk at Drumshanbo

Eamonn Daly

DRUMSHANBO — Drumleague Lock — Drumleague Bridge — Battlebridge —
Distance: 6km, along the Lough Allen Canal.
Multiple Leisure Activities: Walking, Cruising, Cycling, Canoeing, Kayaking, Paddling and Fishing.

Duration of Walk from Drumshanbo to Battlebridge: *Slow-Walk: 2.5 hrs; Fast-Walk: 1 hr.*
Some walkers do a section of The Blueway from, for example, Drumshanbo to Drumhauver Bridge or Drumleague Lock.

The Shannon Blueway is the first of its kind in Ireland where many recreational activities have been developed and combined as a single or multiple visitor experience and tourism proposition. The Drumshanbo (Acres Lake) to Battlebridge Blueway was developed by Waterways Ireland in partnership with Leitrim County Council, Leitrim Tourism, Fáilte Ireland, The National Trails Office and Canoeing Ireland. The project was funded with the aid of €500,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Shannon Blueway Boardwalk at Acres

Lake, Drumshanbo floats over the lakeside for 160 metres, and forms the first stage of the Trail to Battlebridge. The Boardwalk and Trail were officially opened by Minister Michael Ring, TD on 5th Sept 2017.

There has been a great response to the Blueway since it opened. People have come from far and wide to avail of this superb facility. Drumshanbo people are well used to saying by now that there are always people on The Blueway.

The Boardwalk at Acres Lake is located

beside The Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre, the outdoor Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts and a well-equipped Children's Play Area.

The recent announcement of €1.1m of funding to Leitrim County Council will see the delivery of a new Walkway and Cycleway from Carrick-on-Shannon to Leitrim Village, and from Acres Lake to the Lough Allen Hotel, Drumshanbo.

The Blueway network will then cover 200km of trails on both land and water in Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon and Cavan.

