

Off-Road Equestrian Access Provision in Northern Ireland



Updated – 23 June 2023

A list of the current off-road access provision in Northern Ireland, listed by county in alphabetical order. If there is any other off-road access you are aware of that is not listed, please email access@bhs.org.uk.

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County Antrim

Ballyboley Forest

A forest with a mixture of lakes and grassland views to enjoy.

www.outmoreni.com/place/52-ballyboley-forest

Glenariff Forest

Ballymena to Cushendal Road (A43). 6.4km. Small area for trailer parking.

Portrush East Strand Beach

East Strand Beach, at the heart of the coastal resort of Portrush, forms a continuum of sand, approx. 2.5 km / 1.6 miles long, merging into Curran Strand and Whiterocks at its eastern extremity.

www.discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/east-strand-beach-portrush-p676801

Portrush West Strand Beach

From 1 May-30 September horses are not allowed on this beach at any time.

www.discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/west-strand-beach-p676101

Waterfoot Beach

Waterfoot Beach is approximately 1 km in length and comprised entirely of sand. The bathing area is backed by dunes which run the length of the beach and the village of Waterfoot is at the northern end of the beach.

www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/see-do/beaches/waterfoot-beach

County Armagh

Gosford Country Park

Multiuser route, 6km available to horse riders.

www.getactiveabc.com/facility/gosford-forest-park

Loughgall Country Park

Parkland with picturesque woodland and countryside. Permits/daily rates available for horse riders.

www.loughgallcountrypark.co.uk/bridle-path

County Down

Ballyholme Beach

1.3km bay of sandy beach curving along the shore of Ballyholme. Horse riders are restricted to early morning or late evening access.

www.discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/ballyholme-beach-p676431

Ballywalter Beach

A long sandy beach to enjoy on horseback.

www.discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/ballywalter-beach-p708701

Castle Ward Trail

A route famous for its scenes in the filming of Game of Thrones, enjoy a 7.5/12km mile 'hoof trail'. This route requires a permit and includes horse box parking area.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-ward/trails/castle-ward-hoof-trail

Castlewellan Forest Park

A25 Annsborough to Castlewellan Road. 12km. Ample parking. East District Forest Office (028) 4377 8664.

[Horse Riding Trails - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council \(newrymournedown.org\)](http://www.newrymournedown.org)

Delamont Country Park

A 200-acre country park with views across Strangford Lough. Horse riders by permit only.

www.newrymournedown.org/delamont-country-park

Drumkeeragh Forest

Offers a horse trail in a 200h area of forest. Horsebox parking is available.

www.outdoorrecreationni.com/projects/drumkeeragh-forest-community-trail-network

Grey Abbey Toll Ride

This picturesque 6.5km trail is situated in the privately owned grounds of the Montgomery estate in Greyabbey. Open to BHS Members and BHS Approved Centre.

www.tickettailor.com/events/bhsireland/684754

Helens Bay

By permit only by calling 02891 853621.

www.discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/helens-bay-beach-p708691

Millisle Beach

Gold sand, popular to horse riders.

www.outmoreni.com/place/148-millisle-beach

Newcastle Beach

A sandy and pebble beach of 2.5km.

www.discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/newcastle-beach-p708711

Tollymore Forest Park

Castlewellan/Newcastle area. 12 km. Car park, signage. East District Forest Office (028) 4377 8664).

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/tollymore-forest-park

Tyrella Beach

A sandy beach, 2km long.

Horses not allowed from 1 April – 30 September when the red flag is flying.

www.discovernorthernireland.com/things-to-do/tyrella-beach-p676011

Bridleways:

The following list shows all bridle paths open to the public in the Castlewellan/Newcastle area.

- Green Lane, Raleagh CD/RW/5502 -Raholp to Lough Money, Raholp CD/RW/6023
- Drumee Cemetery, Castlewellan CD/RW/8014
- Drumee Road to Carnacaville Road, Castlewellan, CD/RW/8017
- Carnacaville Road to Churchill Road, CastlewellanCD/RW/8019
- Tullybrannighan Road to Tullybrannighan Road, Newcastle,CD/RW/8021
- Kilmegan Road to Priests Road, Dundrum CD/RW/8027
- Kilmegan Road to Wateresk Road, Dundrum CD/RW/8028
- Drumee Road to Dundrinne Road Upper, CastlewellanCD/RW/8031
- Dundrinne Road to Brook Cottage, Castlewellan, CD/RW/8032
- McSherry's Lane, Castlewellan, CD/RW/8011 - Barbican Farm to Wild Forest Lane, Newcastle, CD/RW/8020
- Wild Forest Lane, Newcastle CD/RW/8010

County Fermanagh

Castle Irvine

Not a formal equestrian route, contact prior to visiting.

www.castleirvine.com/

Tel: (0044) 2882 897401

Email: info@castleirvine.com

Address: Castle Irvine, Necarne Demesne, Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, BT94 1GG

County Londonderry

Link for all beaches:

www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/see-do/beaches/horse-riding-on-councils-beaches

Banone Beach

Horses not allowed on the beach from 11am-7pm from May-September.

www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/see-do/beaches/benone-strand

Benone/Magillian

A 20.6 km route. Open all day during winter. Summer access prohibited between 11:00 am and 7:30 pm. Riders are asked to clear up after their horses. It is advisable to check with the Culture Arts Tourism section at Limavady Borough Council prior to visiting (028) 7776 0300.

Cam Forest, Meencraig, Coleraine

Access from B66 Craigmole Road (between Garvagh/Limavady). 35 km. Car park for 3 – 4 trailers. Access via locked horse gate.

North District Forest Office (028) 2955 6000.

Castle Rock Beach/Downhill Beach

Horses not allowed on the beach from 11am-7pm from May-September.

www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/see-do/beaches/downhill-beach

Old Coach Road

Portstewart. 1 mile between Mill Road and Agherton Road. Coleraine Borough Council

Portstewart Strand Beach

Horses only allowed until 9.30am.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/portstewart-strand

County Tyrone

Gortin Glen Forest

Multiuser horse trails, 8km, free with no permit. £100 deposit for key to horsebox car park.

www.fermanaghomagh.com/residential-services/leisure/gortin-glen-forest-park