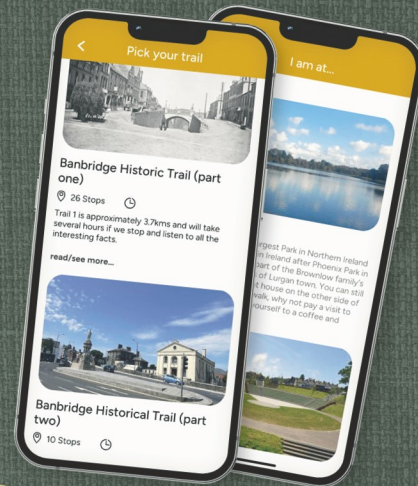




BANBRIDGE HERITAGE TRAILS



Audio Journey through the town and the surrounding area



Download the ExploreABC app from an audio version of the heritage trail. Listen as you walk to learn interesting fact about history of the area. Available now from the Google Play or the App Stores.

Available now from Google Play or the App Store. Just scan the QR code below.



DOWNSHIRE BRIDGE & THE CUT
Built in 1885 to replace the original bridge built in 1834 on the site of the old Market House to enable a cutting to be made on the hill for the mall coaches, which found the ascent much too steep.



MARKET HOUSE
The Marquis of Downshire financed the construction of the Market House to the side of Downshire Bridge. Originally, the ground floor of the building was open and used for markets, while upstairs was the Town Hall



WAR MEMORIAL
This war memorial was erected in 1923. On the front panel is engraved in bold lettering the words "In Memory of the Men of Banbridge and district who laid down their lives serving their King and Country in the Great War 1914-1918.



DOWNSHIRE ARMS HOTEL
Built in 1816 by the Marquis of Downshire as a coaching inn. The extensive courtyard was designed to cater for the coach traffic running from Belfast to Newry & Dublin.



WORKHOUSE MEMORIAL GARDEN
Created in 2009 to honour former workhouse residents. The garden features a bronze statue, "First Day at the Workhouse," sculpted by artist Ann Feeley.



SCARVA STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Built in 1830 by members who left Banbridge Presbyterian Church after Rev. James Davis controversially introduced Unitarianism to the congregation in 1828.



COURTHOUSE
A Victorian Italianate stucco courthouse built around 1872-1873, designed by county surveyor Henry Smyth. It replaced the petty sessions court formerly held in the Market House.



JOSEPH SCRIVEN MEMORIAL
A memorial to Banbridge-born Joseph Scriven, who wrote the beloved hymn "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" before emigrating to Canada.



MCCLELLAND MEMORIAL DRINKING FOUNTAIN
Erected in 1906 on Downshire Bridge in memory of Dr. Robert Brown McClelland. After being vandalised in Reilly Park, it now stands at the Civic Building.



DUNBAR MEMORIAL SCHOOL
Opened 1st May 1985 as a school serving the nearby First Presbyterian Church. It operated as an educational establishment for over 65 years.



OLD TECHNICAL SCHOOL
An Edwardian building from around 1902, extended in 1910 and 1927. Originally a Free Library and Technical School, it later housed Banbridge Academy until 1950.



METHODIST CHURCH
Built in 1870, marking the culmination of Methodism in Banbridge, a tradition stretching back to 1785.



NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN
Built around 1845 in fine classical style, replacing the old Meeting House on Church Street. Architectural historian Sir Charles Brett praised it as one of Ulster's finest classical Presbyterian churches.



LEISURE CENTRE & BANKS OF THE BANN
Built on the former railway goods yard, redundant since the Banbridge-Belfast line closed in 1956. Original stonework remains visible in the building's rear walls.



RAILWAY STATION TURNTABLE
The tall conical steel structure beside the Leisure Centre was the axle of the old Railway Station Turntable, once used to turn trains around.



ENGINE HOUSE
The original station Engine House, visible through riverside fencing, is now used as a Water Service store. Its distinctive arches remain visible on the gable ends.



EDENDERRY [WEIR]
This old weir once powered the Millmount Bleachworks, owned by the Cowdy family from Loughgall.



MILLMOUNT MILL
Built on the site of an old cornmill. The 19th-century chimney still stands. A nearby stone platform marks where the railway crossed the river through the mill.



DUNBAR'S BRIDGE
Named after spinning mill owner Hugh Dunbar, who lived in Huntly House, built around 1840 at Huntly Glen, visible among the trees beyond the bridge.



KILN LOANING
This laneway crosses the old railway line and Millmount mill race. Its name is believed to derive from a cornmill and kiln once operating nearby.



BANBRIDGE ACADEMY
The Academy occupies Edenderry House, once known as "Ferguson's Castle" and home to the Ferguson linen family. The property was acquired by Banbridge Academy in 1947 for £11,000.



MEETING HOUSE GREEN [Graveyard]
A picturesque graveyard dotted with fine memorials and yew trees, formerly the site of Banbridge's first Presbyterian church, built in 1717.



LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL
Built in 1826 to educate the town's poor using the monitorial system, where older pupils taught younger ones. The building has recently been converted into apartments.



TEMPERANCE HALL
Built 1878-1879 for the "Good Templars" temperance movement. Since opening, it has served as school rooms, a meeting hall, and a marketplace.



SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH [RC]
Built 1835-1839 in Gothic style, designed by Newry architect Thomas J. Duff, who also designed Newry Cathedral. The church was formally dedicated to St Patrick in 1841.



SEAPATRICK PARISH CHURCH
Erected in 1837 with support from the Marquis of Downshire. The Parish's history dates to the 5th century, linked to St. Patrick's journey from Downpatrick to Armagh.



MASONIC HALL
Originally built as a Presbyterian Church in 1848, designed by Edward Gardner of Armagh. The local Masonic Lodge took over the building around 1893.



FORMER POLICE BARRACKS
Built in 1860 as a police barracks and Downshire Estate rent office. Occupied by the RIC then the RUC, the building was fully vacated in 1991.



AVONMORE HOUSE [Captain Crozier's Birthplace]
Built for George Crozier, his son, explorer Captain Francis Crozier, was born here in 1796. The building continues to operate as solicitors' offices today.



CROZIER MONUMENT
A memorial to Captain Crozier, the great Arctic explorer. Designed by W.J. Barre and erected in 1862 at a cost of £700, it stands before his birthplace.



SOLITUDE HOUSE
A fine three-storey stucco house built in 1840, situated on an island formed between the River Bann and the millrace from the old Clibborn Vale Bleachworks.



CLIBBORN VALE BLEACHWORKS
Built in 1850 by Clibborn Hill & Co. During 1944-45, Miles Aircraft Co. took over the factory as part of the wartime effort. Also once owned by Robinson & Cleaver.



SOLITUDE PARK
Originally a private estate for a wealthy linen merchant. Paths follow the old mill race to lock-gates that once controlled water flow from the nearby River Bann.



OLD RAILWAY ROUTE
Follow the Bann back to town along the former Banbridge-Newcastle railway line, closed in 1955. Look out for original signal signs along the way.



Welcome to... BANBRIDGE HERITAGE TRAIL

Immortalised in the song, “The Star of the County Down,” Banbridge owes its development to Lord Downshire and to its once thriving linen industry.

There are two circular trails for you to explore.

A Trail 1 begins at the Downshire Bridge and The Cut, lasting about 3.7 km. It features 25 stops and may take several hours if you stop to listen to all the interesting facts.

B Trail 2 begins at Seapatrick Parish Church at the bottom of the town and is approximately 1.3 km long. There are nine stops, and it will take you about an hour to complete.

Please remember to look out for traffic when crossing the road and always supervise children.

