

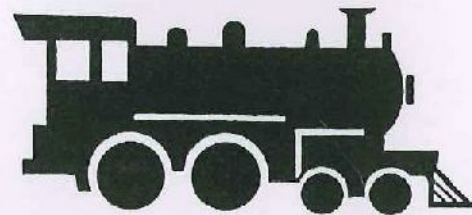
Belturbet Railway Station History

The ten acre site at Belturbet Railway Station which has been purchased by the local Community Development Group accommodated two Railway Companies during its working life, Oct. 1887 - March 1959. Belturbet was the Southern Terminus for the more dominant Great Northern Railway (G.N.R.) which served all of Northern Ireland, Monaghan, Clones, Cavan and part of Donegal. It was the Northern Terminus for the famed Cavan and Leitrim narrow gauge which served Belturbet, Ballyconnell, Ballinamore, Dromad and Arigna. Indeed the very reason for its existence was to open up South Leitrim and to tap into the coal and Iron deposits at Arigna.

The Main Station Buildings were built by the G.N.R. who shared their facilities with the C/L. Belturbet was one of the very few Grade 1 purpose built, and it was the only Station to be built entirely of cut stone on the entire G.N.R. system. Most of those fine old buildings are still standing.

The C/L was the last passenger Narrow Gauge to close in all Ireland, and it was the only N/G to stay with steam all through its history. The local names for the two railways i.e. Broad Gauge for the G.N.R. and Narrow Gauge for the C/L came about because the G.N.R. rolling stock ran on 5ft 3in gauge track (distance between each rail), and the C/L ran on 3ft gauge. This caused big problems in Belturbet facilitating the transfer of people, goods, cattle etc. from one line to the other, especially the transshipping of vital Arigna coal from the C/L to G.N.R. This arduous and dirty task was performed for many (war) years by local men using only shovels.

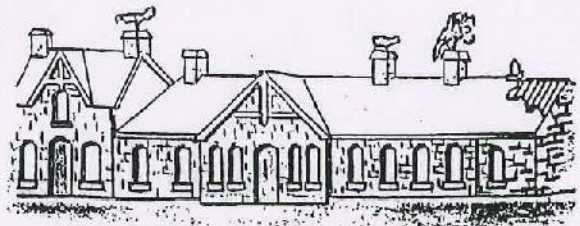
The Belturbet Railway Development Project



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Tours/Group Tours by Appointment
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