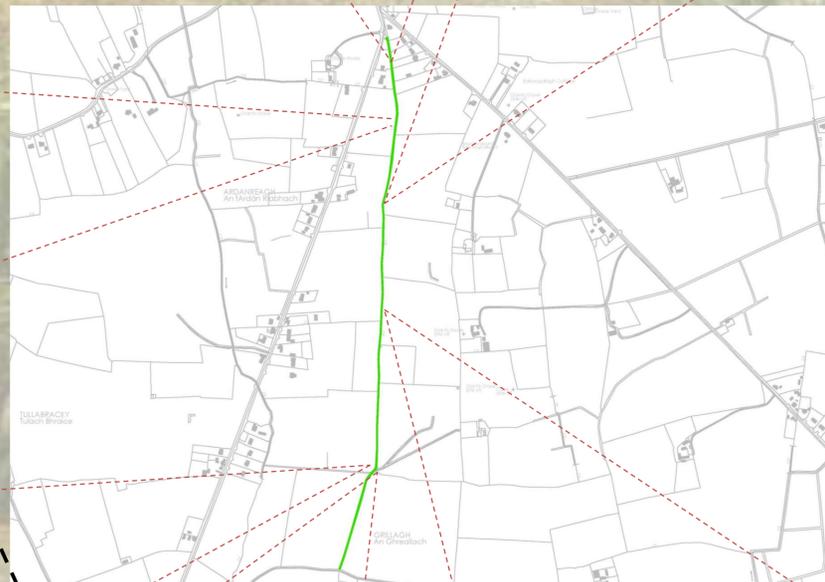
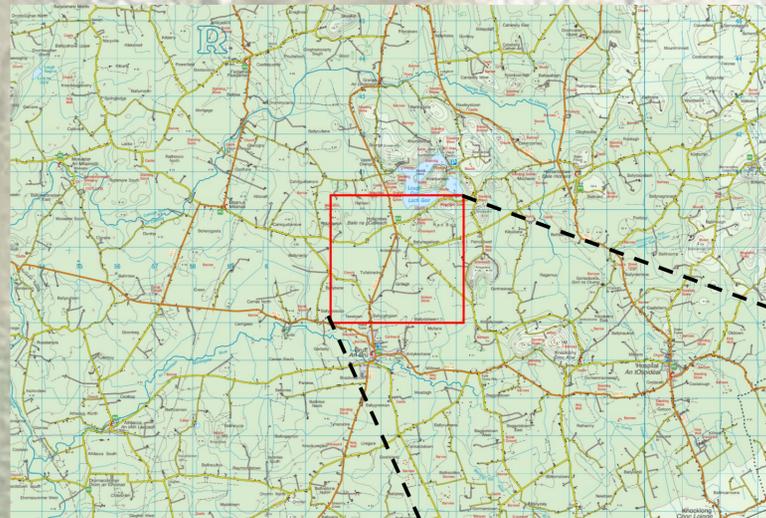


# Bruff's Golden Mile 2015

## Slí an Dúlra Brúgh na nDéise



### Bruff's Golden Mile 2015

Bruff's mile is located approximately 200m south of the Holy Cross junction just north of the town of Bruff and is within walking distance of the town. It is known locally as the Old Cork Road, having been the main road to Cork from Limerick until the late 1800s when the R512 was constructed. It starts at the Ink Bottle House (approximate grid reference 563508,639804), and ends at the junction (approximate grid reference 563251,637880)<sup>1</sup>. Continue along the road and you reach the R512 and walk a further 1km along the path on the regional road and you reach the town. The mile is a pedestrian route on a gravel surface. It is very safe for walkers as any traffic is likely to be associated with the very small number of farm holdings on the road. The alignment of the road is generally straight and flat with open stretches, and mature enclosing tree canopies along the way.

Taking this pleasant quiet rural walk you can imagine horse drawn coaches, carts of times past trundling along its narrow road which is only 2.5m. There are low stone walls on either side of the narrow carriageway. This walk takes you through the townlands of Grillagh and passing by Ardaneagh and Ballinagallagh. At the start of the mile you find the remnants of what is known locally as the 'Ink Bottle House'. Local sources suggest this building was associated with the Glebe House approximately 200m to the east of the mile. As you start the mile you will see the Glebe House which was built in the early 1800s. This house is a Protected Structure (RPS 454)<sup>2</sup> and is considered to be of regional importance for its social and architectural merit<sup>3</sup>. Take a look at the historic 6" maps first edition from the 1840s and you will locate the Glebe house, with its farm yard and walled garden<sup>4</sup>. These historical maps also indicate dwellings in the area such as Ballygrilla House and along the Old Cork Road that no longer exist. On the mile there is also a very good example of traditional wrought iron farm gates, pillars and stile, possibly from the 1800s.

This walk takes you along lovely, diverse, ecologically interesting, stone walls, banks and ditches and mature tree canopies which are essential wildlife corridors for mammals, invertebrates and birds alike. From ground level to the canopy of the tree you will find, beetles, woodlice, invertebrates, spiders and other insects, field mice, shrews, and birds such as blackbirds, thrushes, tits, robins, and finches. Butterflies, and bees seek the nectar of flowers by the roadside. At night bats seek the insects along the hedgerow and indeed use the hedgerow for navigation as sonar detection is best guided by the hedgerow and they avoid the open fields. The kestrel and the occasional barn owl hunt along the grass verge of the hedgerow. Thus, hedgerows are the necessary links between burrows and feeding sites. Hares, rabbits and foxes can be seen in the adjacent fields.

The local community recognise the wealth of biodiversity in the area including bird boxes on trees. There are interesting ideas regarding harvesting wild seed from the mile, which are the remnants of limestone meadow of the past in the area, and using this seed to plant wild flowers elsewhere in the Bruff and Holycross area. The community is to be commended for its plans to limit alteration to the natural habitat along the mile.

#### Useful links:

[www.hedgelayers.ie](http://www.hedgelayers.ie)  
[www.invasivespecies.ie](http://www.invasivespecies.ie)  
[www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)  
[www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie](http://www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie)  
[www.wildflowersofireland.ie](http://www.wildflowersofireland.ie)  
[www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie)  
[www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie) – Limerick's heritage  
[www.maps.osi.ie](http://www.maps.osi.ie)  
[www.buildingsofireland.ie](http://www.buildingsofireland.ie)

<sup>1</sup> [www.maps.osi.ie](http://www.maps.osi.ie)

<sup>2</sup> Limerick County Development Plan 2010 – 2016 as amended, Volume 3 Record of Protected Structures

<sup>3</sup> National Inventory of Architectural Heritage ref:21903212, refer to [buildingsofireland.ie](http://buildingsofireland.ie)

<sup>4</sup> Refer to [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie)– historical 6" maps

