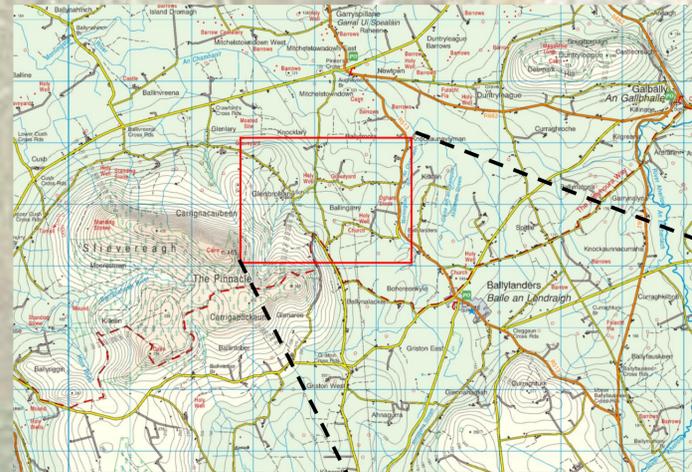


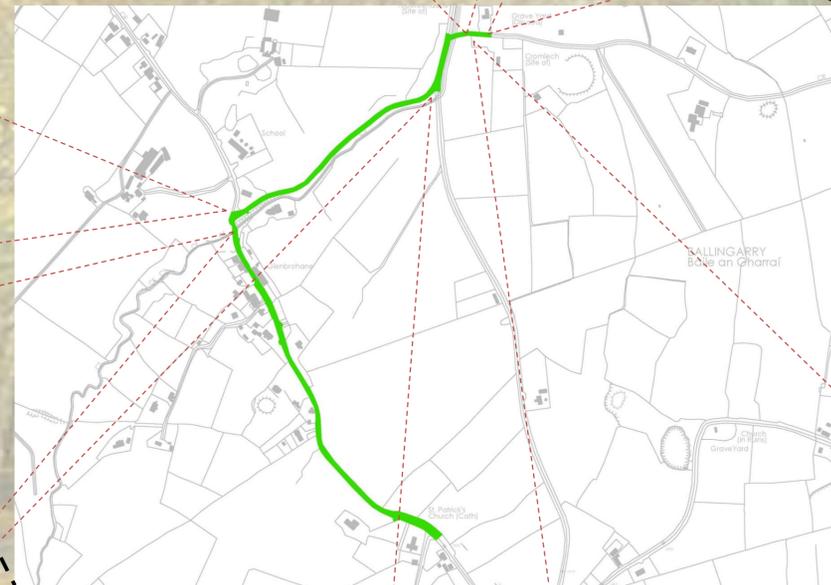
Glenbrohane's Golden Mile 2015

Slí an Dúlra Gleann Bruacháin



Glenbrohane's Golden Mile 2015

Glenbrohane's mile starts at 'Casey's gate' (approximate grid reference 574616, 626322) on the local road the L8645, and ends at the bridge by the junction of the L1517 and the L8644 (approximate grid reference at 574122, 625314)¹. Taking this walk you find yourself walking on the L8645, L8643 and the L8645. On this interesting meandering route on the slopes of Slabh Riagh you skirt the edges of the townlands of Ballyfoota, Knocklary, walking by the River Port and continue through the townland of Ballingarry. You pass a number of fine traditional gates, and interesting built structures including the roadside cromlech from pre-historic times, the famine memorial, a famine graveyard, the famine relief road, bridges, lovely stone walls, steps, bridges, the old pump, the 18th century traditionally built former pub and attached dwelling, the old school house (restored and used as a community hall), fine traditional gateways and associated stiles, the 18th century St. Patrick's RC church (a Protected Structure), its beautiful environs, including the restored stable for the permanent nativity display, and the roadside shrine. Do take the time to absorb the sweeping views of the countryside as you look over the lowlands and east to the Galtee uplands. Have a look at the historic 6" maps first edition from the early 1800s and you will see a number of houses on the road leading to the Church that have long since disappeared. You will also see the 'Famine Relief' road, the L8643 as we know it today had not been constructed.



This walk takes you along lovely, diverse, native hedgerows which are essential wildlife corridors for mammals, invertebrates and birds alike. These hedgerows would have been planted from the 18th century onwards when landowners were legally required to enclose their lands. Observed along these hedgerows are native species including Rowan, Sycamore, Crap Apple, Birch, Aspen, Blackthorn, Whitethorn, just to name a few. One also finds the lovely Scabious which is a favourite of the butterfly. The Himalayan Balsam at the bridge on the junction of the L8645 and L8643 also lends its colour to this lovely setting, though it is an invasive species which depletes survival of native plants at this location and thus needs to be carefully controlled. From ground level to the canopy of the hedgerows 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.



Useful links:
www.hedgelayers.ie
www.invasivespecies.ie
www.biodiversityireland.ie
www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie
www.wildflowersofireland.ie
www.buildingsofireland.ie – Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church Ref:21904906
www.noticenature.ie
www.heritagecouncil.ie
www.limerick.ie – Limerick's heritage
www.maps.osi.ie

¹ www.maps.osi.ie

