

► FORTLAWN HOUSE

Period two-storey House built c. 1748 - no record of the builder or original owners exist, the Mulrooneys (the first recorded owners) were a protestant family who lived in Fortlawn until the 1940s. Joseph Blowick, leader of Clann Na Talmhan & Minister for Lands, bought the property in 1945; it was sold in 1962 to Padraig & Bernie McGreal, the present owners. Some renovations were carried out recently to the property.

► DONAMONA CASTLE

Donoma castle was originally a Bourke stronghold. In the early 15th century the O'Kellys of Ui Maine occupied it. In 1574 Richard Mac Davy Mac Parson (Bourke) is listed as the owner. The Indenture of Composition of Mayo was ratified here by Sir Richard Bingham.

► DRUM GARVEYARD

Monastic Enclosure or Cashel is still a drop from the site to the outer field level. No clear trace of the enclosing element can be seen elsewhere. The ancient Church of Drum was the seat of the Parish of Drum. It is believed that St. Patrick built the first church here in 440 A.D, it was of timber construction.

Over the years a stone church (possibly medieval) was built which fell into disrepair in the 1800s. In 1871 local people decided to build a new church but sadly their wish was never fulfilled, all that remains of the old church is one wall aligned east west. Sited around the old church are many gravestones dating back to the 1700s. The construction of a Caiseal further marked the importance of Drum church. The remains of the Caiseal can still be seen west of the graveyard.



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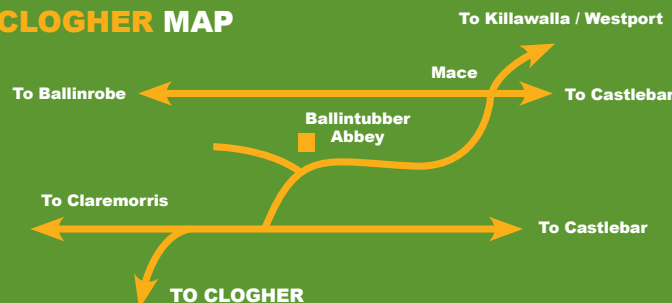
CLOGHER COMMUNITY HALL

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CLOGHER MAP



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Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority



CLOGHER BOG LOOP WALK

Lúb-Shiúlóidí an Chlochair



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CLOGHER BOG LOOP WALK

TRAIL OVERVIEW DETAILS

GRADE	EASY
FORMAT	CIRCULAR
TRAIL QUALITY	**
COUNTY	MAYO
CATEGORY	WALKING/HIKING TRAILS
TYPE	NATIONAL LOOP WALK
LENGTH (KMS)	8
CLIMB (M)	50
ESTIMATED TIME	3HR
DOGS ALLOWED	NO

DESCRIPTION OF TRAIL

The Clogher Bog Loop Walk is an 8km National Waymarked Loop Walk. It covers varying landscape of hedgerows, woodland and bogland and follows quite country lanes and bog tracks. The terrain is flat and uneven (walking boots recommended.)

The first section of this looped walk takes you through some areas of Fenland and along bog tracks through a lowland blanket bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. This living, breathing, unspoilt bogland is teeming with wildlife. There is a wonderful variety of birdlife, plant and animal life and this is displayed through a number of interpretive panels along the walk. Listen out for the birdsong as you walk.

The next section takes you along quiet country lanes where you can admire trees and flora of the hedgerow, before entering active farmland. We follow a section of the ancient Tochar that once led from Rathcroghan in County Roscommon to the ritual site of Cruachan Aigle (Croagh Patrick). This section is through Hazel Woodland and has an amazing variety of flora.

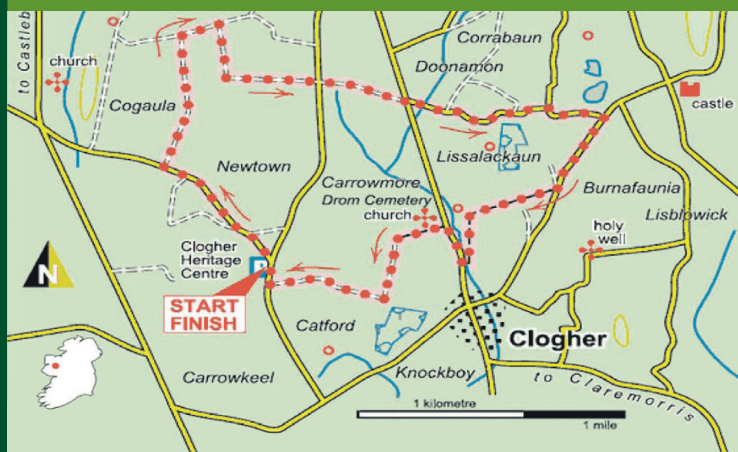
▶▶ The final section brings you to an early Patrician Church at Drum Cemetery and in the adjoining lands, the remains of a Caiseal, once a resting place for pilgrims making their way to Croagh Patrick. Many simple uninscribed stones mark the resting place of victims of the great famine. You can even see what is believed to be the imprint of St. Patrick's footprint (see pic below), on a stone behind the graveyard. A quiet bothrin leads you back to starting point at Clogher Heritage Complex.

BACKGROUND OF TRAIL

Clogher is located mid south of the County between the towns of Castlebar, Ballinrobe & Claremorris. A series of local and loop walks were developed in 2007. Each of the approved walks range in distance from 5km to 8km.

DIRECTIONS OF TRAIL

Start from the village of Ballintubber just off the N84 Castlebar to Ballinrobe road. Approximately 100m past the Ballintubber Abbey which is located to your right, look out for fingerpost sign pointing you in the direction to Clogher. Turn left and follow this road for approximately 5km until you arrive in Clogher village.



ITEMS OF INTEREST ON TRAIL

▶ THE CLOGHER HERITAGE COTTAGE

A typical one bedroomed labourers cottage it includes a Cailleach Bed/ Hag Bed (a bed in an alcove/recess) and a Loft. The Loft would have been used as extra bed space but currently houses an excellent display of Churns.



▶ STAUNTONS FORGE

This forge in Newtown has been rebuilt from a ruin. The site and ruin were donated by the Staunton Family of Ballyheane, the old forge was in the Staunton family since the 19th century. Patrick Staunton, head of the household was listed in the 1901 census as a 'Blacksmith and Farmer', his son Richard was also listed as a blacksmith.

▶ FORTLAWN RINGFORT

Ringforts are probably the most common archaeological feature in Ireland with approx. between 40,000 and 45,000 countrywide. They were generally constructed during the Iron Age early Christian period generally as single family homesteads; other large structures may have contained several families of the same clan.

