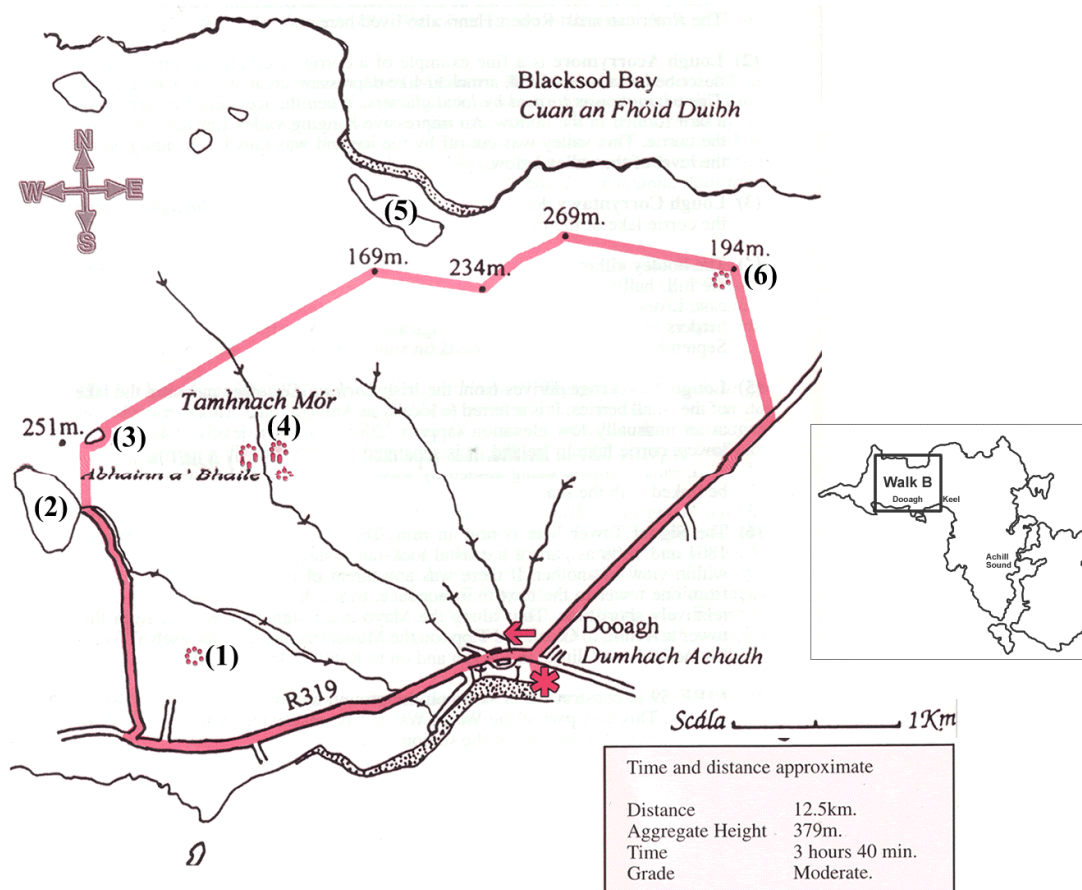


Walk B – Dooagh

The walk starts at the carpark at Dooagh Beach. From here turn left, and follow the main road (R319) westwards as far as the junction for Lough Acorrymore. Take the road towards the lake, noting an impressive building on the right called Corrymore House, once the home of Captain Charles Boycott (1). Lough Acorrymore (2), which is dammed, provides a water supply for the entire island. Cross the dam, and passing a group of boulders on your left, continue in a direct line northwards across a spur towards Lough Corryntawy (3). From the lake proceed north-eastwards (keeping the high ground on your left) towards the river. The former booley village of Tawnaghmore (4) lies in the valley to the south. Cross the river and continue across the spur towards the col (hollow or dip) at 169m along the ridge to the north-east. Immediately to the north on the seaward side of the ridge is Lough Nakeeroge (5). Proceed to spot height 234m and from here north-eastwards to the next highpoint at 269m.

The view from here is superb – Dooagh village lies to the south, Clare Island and the Minaun cliffs to the south-east, the towering Slievemore to the north-east, the cliffs of Croaghaun to the west and the Mullet Peninsula across Blacksod Bay to the north. Continue on to spot height 194m. Nearby are the remains of a signal tower (6). From here travel south-eastwards towards a gravel road and turn right. Continue straight on back to the main road (R319) at Dooagh.



Walk B – Dooagh (page 2)

Points of Interest:

(1) Captain Boycott moved to **Corrymore House** after his residence at Keem was burnt down. He sub-leased the house and land from Blacker. The American artist Robert Henri also lived here.

(2) **Lough Acorrymore** is a fine example of a corrie or cirque. A corrie may be described as a steep-sided, armchair-like depression created by glacial erosion. This example was formed by local glaciers. When the ice melted a lake called a tarn formed in the hollow. An impressive hanging valley lies directly above the corrie. This valley was cut off by the ice and was thus left hanging above the level of the valley below.

(3) **Lough Corryntawy** derives from the Irish *Loch Choire a'Tamhnaigh* meaning the corrie lake of the meadow.

(4) The **booley village** of *Tamhnach Mor* (big meadow) lies on the lower slopes of the hill, halfway between Lough Acorrymore and the 169m col to the north-east. Livestock were moved here for summer pasture, known as the *buaille*. The herders resided in the stone dwellings and returned to the permanent village in September / October.

(5) **Lough Nakeeroge** derives from the Irish *Loch na Caoroige* meaning the lake of the small berries. It is referred to locally as Annagh Lake. This corrie lake lies at an unusually low elevation (approx. 20m above sea level) making it the lowest corrie lake in Ireland. It is separated from the sea by a narrow neck of land. This is slowly being eroded by wave action and the lake will eventually be linked with the sea.

(6) The **Signal Tower** here is now in ruin. These structures were built between 1801 and 1806 as part of a coastal look-out system. Each tower was situated within view of another. If there was any threat of invasion a signal was sent from one tower to the next in a sequence, to reach the higher authorities in a relatively short time. Thus along the Mayo coast signals were sent from this tower at Achill to Glosch and Tipp (on the Belmullet Peninsula) to Bogach a'Tower (Stonefield), to Glinsc, to Lacken and on to Rathlee Hd. In Sligo.

EIRE 59 is constructed in stone on the ground nearby to be read by passing aircraft. This was part of the World War 2 Coastal Sector Identification Mark with 59 being the number of the station.

Safety Notice

Please observe caution when walking on cliffs and keep a safe distance from the cliff edge. Check weather conditions before setting out on your walk. The weather can change suddenly with mist falling quickly on the mountains. Sturdy boots and suitable clothing are advisable. It is best to wear layers of clothing as they can be altered to suit the prevailing conditions. Waterproofs should be carried. A nutritious packed lunch is recommended to supply energy. Always let someone know where you are going and when you should be expected back.