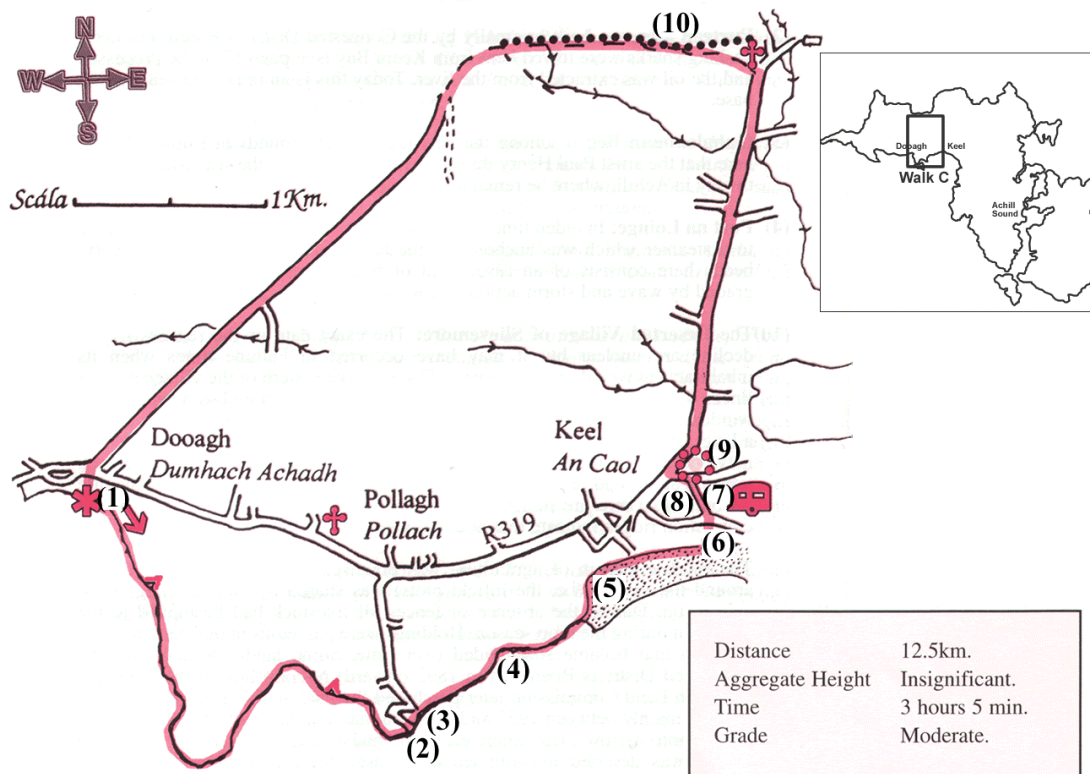


## Walk C – Dooagh / Keel

Start at the carpark at Dooagh Strand (1). Follow the shoreline to the east, walking on the bank above the rocky shore. Continue on for approximately 2.6km as far as Purteen Pier (2). From here continue along the shore to Gubalennaun Beg (3) and an inlet known as Port na Loinge (4). Continue towards Trawmore beach (Keel strand) (5). Walk along the beach for about 700m and travel inland at the information panels (6). A caravan park (7) is on the right and a children's playground (8) lies on the left. Walk northwards towards the main road (R319) and turn left. Turn right after the Minaun View Lounge Bar (9). Keel Lough lies on your right.

Continue on northwards for approximately 2.5km in the direction of Slievemore mountain and the graveyard. At the graveyard are a holy well dedicated to St. Colman and old crosses. From the western corner of the graveyard follow the track through the Deserted Village (10), a pre-Famine settlement consisting of over seventy houses. Continue past the village to where the track meets a gravel road. Go straight on here and return to the main road (R319). Croaghaun Mt. (688m) overlooks the Atlantic to the west. Turn left at the main road and return to the starting point.



## Walk C – Dooagh / Keel (page 2)

### Points of Interest:

(1) **Dooagh Strand:** Don Allum, the first person to single-handedly row across the Atlantic in both directions, landed on the rocky shore here in September 1987, having travelled from Newfoundland.

(2) **Purteen Pier** was built originally by the Congested Districts Board. Formerly basking sharks were towed here from Keem Bay to be processed and the oil extracted from the liver. Today this is a base for sea-angling.

(3) **Gubalennaun Beg** is among the best rockfishing grounds in Europe. It was here that the artist Paul Henry threw his return ticket into the sea, after deciding to stay in Achill, where he remained for eight years.

(4) **Port na Loinge:** In olden times small rowing boats ferried emigrants from here to a steamer which was anchored in the bay, bound for America. The storm beach here consists of an assortment of rounded pebbles which have been graded by wave and storm action.

(10) The **Deserted Village of Slievemore:** The exact date or the reasons for its decline are unclear but it may have occurred in Famine times when its inhabitants moved down the coast to Dooagh. The pattern of the village itself is linear. The houses are rectangular in plan, built of unmortared stone with small windows. The roof timbers rested on the tops of the walls and were covered by a layer of sods. This was finished off with rye straw thatch and secured with a network of straw ropes. Some were one-room byre dwellings with the livestock tethered at one end of the house. A shallow channel in the floor lead to a manure pit outside. There are numerous lazy beds around the village. These ancient cultivation ridges indicate that potatoes were the main crop grown.

The rundale system of agriculture was practised here. The unenclosed land around the village (ie. the infield plots) was shared by all the villagers for cultivation. Due to the absence of fences all livestock had to be moved to the mountain during the crop season. Holdings were passed from one generation to the next and became sub-divided over time. Some landlords and later the Congested Districts Board (from 1892 onwards) re-consolidated the holdings. The Irish Land Commission later purchased the land and divided it among the tenants, mainly between 1922 and 1935. In marginal areas of poor land, it was divided into narrow strips where each strip had a variety of soil types. After the village was deserted it continued to be used for the custom of booleying (transhumance) up to the 1940s.

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### *Safety Notice*

*A section of this walk is tidal. It is advisable to check the tide timetable beforehand. Check weather conditions before setting out on your walk. 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.*