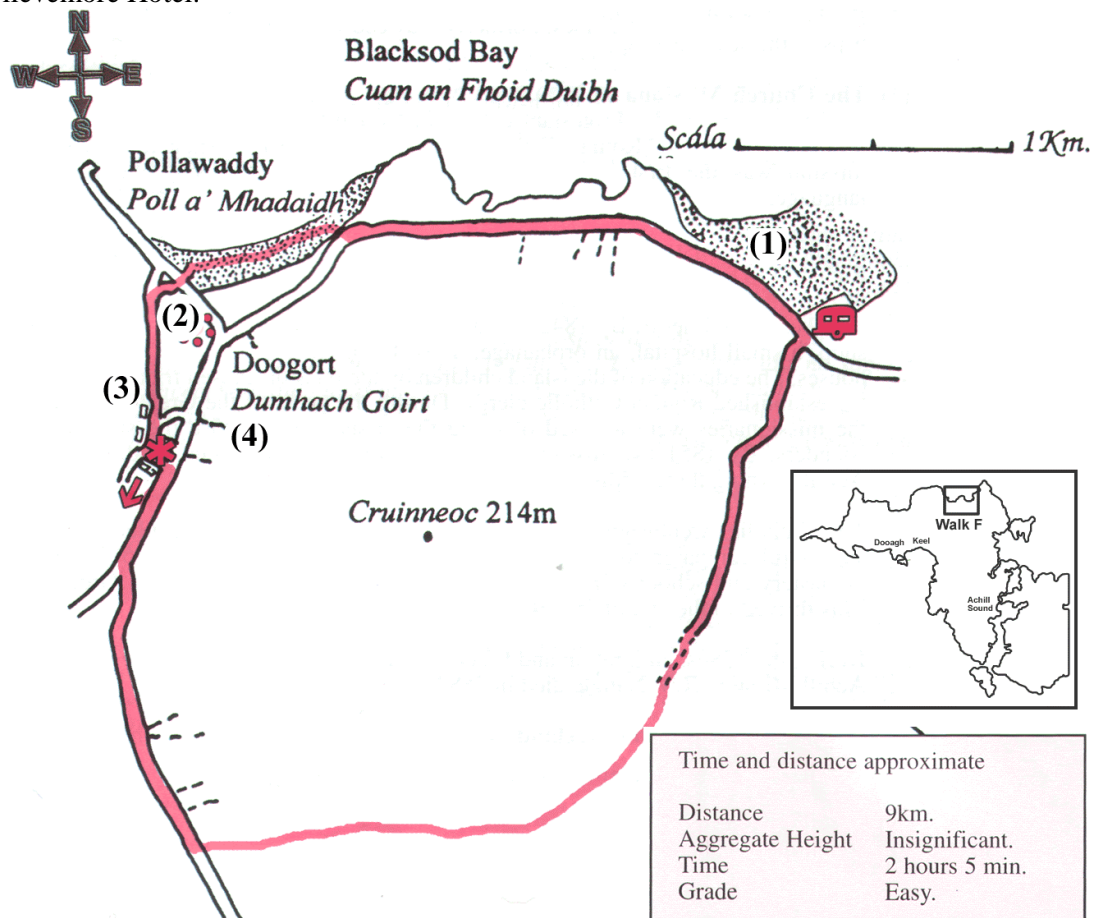


Walk F – The Doogort Loop

The village of Doogort lies at the foothills of Slievemore. Here the oldest hotel in Achill is located, i.e. The Slievemore Hotel, and this is where the walk starts. Leaving the carpark, turn right and take the next road on the left. Continue along for approx. 1.3km noting the hills on your left. The northern hill which is known as Krinnuck (Cruinneoc – a rounded hill) rises to 214m, with the hill further south reaching a height of 122m. The terrain dips to 50m between the two hills forming a prominent col or hollow.

Leaving the road travel across the open mountain towards the col. On the other side you will meet a track, which leads to a tarmac road taking you through the village. Turn left where this road meets the main road. To the north is the beautiful beach of Barnyagappul Strand (1) which is bordered by a camping and caravan park. There are promontory forts located on two of the headlands further west. The spectacular quartzite peak of Slievemore dominates the landscape here.

Descend towards Pollawaddy beach to the west of the Post Office. Continue along the beach towards the Strand Hotel (2). When you reach the road turn right then left. This section of road runs adjacent to the former Mission Colony (3). Continue straight on back to the Slievemore Hotel.



Walk F – The Doogort Loop (page 2)

Points of Interest:

(1) **Barnyagappul Strand** derives from the Irish Trá Bherna na gCapall meaning the strand of the gap of the horses. Formerly seaweed was drawn from the shore by horses and used as fertiliser.

(2) Further along the coast to the north-west of the **Strand Hotel** is the quay where trips to the seal caves are organised (enquire locally for details.)

(3) **The church Missionary Society:** Rev. Edward Nangle, a Church of Ireland minister, established a Protestant colony in Doogort in 1831 in a determined effort to convert the Roman Catholic population to the Protestant faith. The Mission was the first established among the native Irish using the Irish language.

In 1932, the mission leased 130 acres of land from the local landlord Sir Richard O'Donnell. By 1835 the colony had grown and a church and schools were built. Later it published its own newspaper 'The Achill Missionary Herald and Western Witness'. By 1842 it had its own cornmill, grain stores, hardware shop, a small hospital, an orphanage, a hotel (The Slievemore) and dwelling houses. The education of the island children by the Mission caused friction with the established Roman Catholic clergy. During the years of the Great Famine the missionaries were accused of using the crisis to proselytise the starving islanders. By 1851 the Mission had become the most important landlord in Achill, owning three-fifths of the island. The Catholic Archbishop John McHale launched a vigorous and ultimately successful campaign to bring the people back to Catholicism. In 1850/51 a monastery and school were developed at Bunacurry by the Franciscan Order. This thrived to the end of the 1960's and was then abandoned.

During the 1880's, emigration and financial difficulties led to the demise of the Achill Mission. Rev. Nangle died in 1883.

(4) **St. Thomas's Church of Ireland** lies along the main road to the north-east of the Slievemore Hotel.