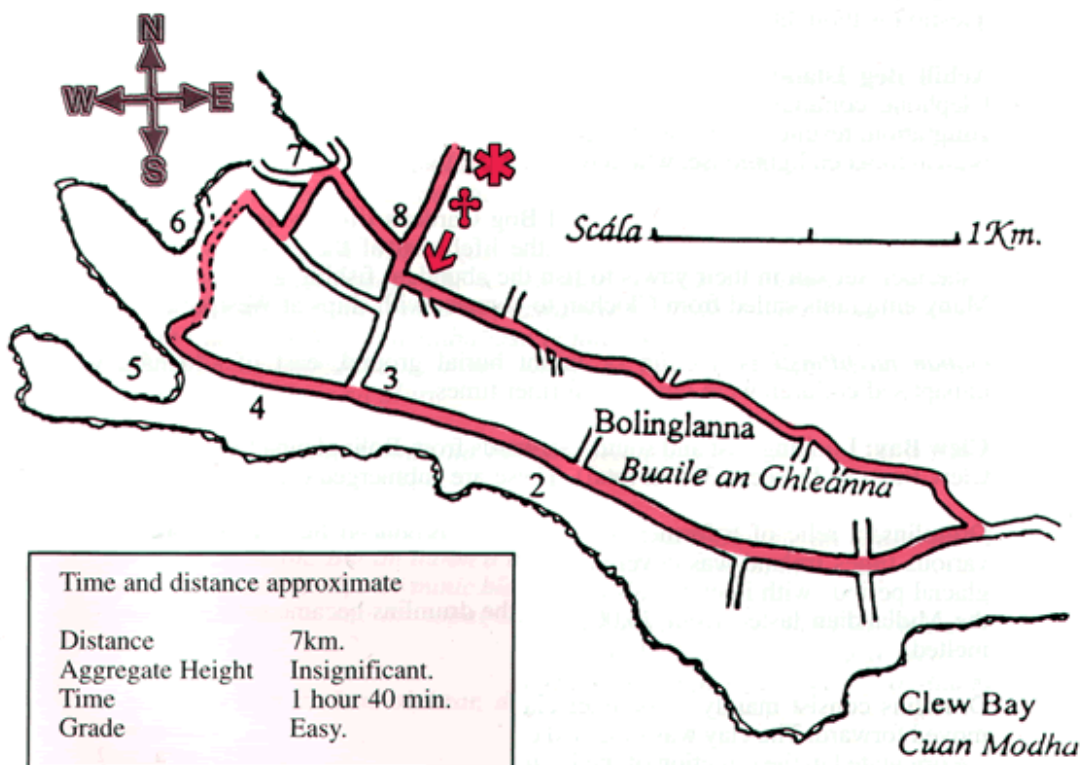


## Walk N – The Corraun-Bolinglanna Loop

The walk starts at the carpark at Corraun church **(1)**. Leaving the carpark, turn left and take the next road on the left after 400m. Continue on for 2.5km to where this road converges with the main road at the T-junction. Turn right and continue on through the townlands of Bolinglanna (*Buaile an Ghleanna*) and *Cnoc na Ceasaitha* **(2)** as far as the junction at *Áith an Aoil* **(3)**. From here there is an excellent view of Clare Island to the south-west, Achill Beg Island to the west and Achill Island across Achill Sound to the north-west.

Continue straight on towards the western shoreline. There are numerous lazy beds **(4)** in the small fields on the left. Further on, a beautiful secluded sandy beach lies in the shelter of the inlet **(5)** to the south-west. After approx. 700M the tarmac road leads to a track. Follow the track northwards (noting the pier **(6)** on the left) to where it joins with another tarmac road. Turn right here and take the next road on the left. There are beautifully built stone walls and derelict houses of old red sandstone to be seen in this area. Turn right at the junction further on. A pier known as *Caladh Mhánais* **(7)** on the left provides a safe haven for fishing boats. Keeping to the right return to the main road at Caslach **(8)**. Turn left and return to the carpark, your starting point.



## Walk N – The Corraun- Bolinglanna Loop (page 2)

### Points of Interest:

**Corraun** is a Gaeltacht area where the native Irish language is still spoken. Keep an eye out for Irish placenames in the course of the walk. The local community has built a community centre called *Glór na dTonn* (the sound of the waves) which is located beside the church.

**Cnoc na Ceasaithe** means the hill of the wicker causeway. The causeway in question is thought to have connected Corraun with Achill Island, across the bay.

**Achill Beg Island** is now uninhabited. Despite the provision of electricity and telephone communication, the hardship faced by an ageing community due to emigration, resulted in the abandoning of the island. On the south side of the island is an automated lighthouse, which replaced the long serving Clare Island lighthouse.

**Clochán**: East of Corraun House and Bog Gardens (in private ownership), lies a small harbour which in the past was the lifeblood of the community. From here fishermen set sail in their yawls to fish the abundant fishing grounds of Clew Bay. Many emigrants sailed from Clochán to connect with ships at Westport.

**Gobán na bPáistí** is a cillín or infant burial ground, east of Clochán, where unbaptised children were buried in former times.

**Clew Bay**: Looking east and south-eastwards from Bolinglanna the many islands of Clew Bay can be seen (365 in total). These are submerged drumlins.

Drumlins, a relic of a former Ice Age, were produced by glacial deposition. At various times Ireland was covered by massive ice sheets. There were at least two glacial periods with interstadials or warm periods in between. The last Ice Age, i.e. The Midlandian, lasted from 70,000 to 10,000 years ago when the last of the ice melted.

Drumlins consist mainly of boulder clay which was dropped by the glacier as it moved forward. The clay was moulded or shaped into streamlined hummocks which are orientated in the direction of the ice movement. Their average height is 30m with the end facing the ice flow steeper than the tapering downstream end. These drumlins are usually huddled together in clusters and are often referred to as a 'basket of eggs' topography.

After the ice sheets melted, sea levels rose and the drumlins became submerged.