

# BURRISHOOLE LOOP WALKS

Walking in the West of Ireland

## TIERNAUR



BURRISHOOLE LOOP WALKS

### 1 Newfield Inn

Newfield Inn is one of the oldest hostelries in Mayo. The owner in the 1700's was Dinny Sweeney who was a close relative of Fr Manus Sweeney (who was hanged in Newport). When Dinny died his wife re-married into the Gibbons family of Carheenbrack. The hostelry remained the property of the Gibbons family until it was sold to Paddy Nevin in 1971. During the construction of the Westport to Achill railway line between 1894 and 1900, Newfield Inn was a central rendezvous point for the workers. It also included a food store servicing the area stretching from Mulranny to Newport. The wake of murdered local landlord James Hunter took place in Newfield Inn after his death in 1869. The occasion was also used as an attempt to uncover the identity of his killer.

### 2 St. Brendan's Well

St. Brendan's Well is on the shoreline adjacent to Killeen cemetery. Legend has it that once upon a time the well was actually in the graveyard and the devil came and tried to throw the well into the sea. The well landed where it is today. The alter where St. Brendan prayed is situated in the cemetery and was re-furbished in the last twenty years. An interesting feature located within the graveyard, is that of an old burial ground surrounded by stone.

### 3 Roigh Pier

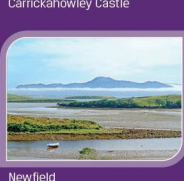
Roigh Pier situated on the shores of Clew Bay dates back to the early 1800s. Used by local fishermen and islanders at the turn of the century it was renowned for herring fishing and the ferrying of turf to the islands.

### 4 Newfield House

Newfield House was the residence of the McLaughlin family in the 1700s. They built Newfield House and also Tiernaur Church. Later it became the home of local landlord, James Hunter, who in 1869 was shot dead close to the Newfield Inn. Newfield House was left uninhabited and subsequently fell into ruins. The existing structure on the site was originally the staff quarters of Newfield House.

### 5 Rockfleet (Carrickahowley) Castle

Rockfleet (Carrickahowley) Castle was built in the mid 16th century and was originally called "Carraig a' Chabhlaigh" or "Rock of the Fleet". It was home to Grace O'Malley (Granuaile) the renowned pirate queen and chieftain of the O'Malley clan in the 16th century. It was from here that the pirate queen of the west set out on many of her expeditions.



Carrickahowley Castle

Newfield

Nephin Mountains

## Glenthomas loop

Distance: 11 km  
 Highest point: 101 metres  
 Trail Surface: Minor roads, bog roadways, Greenway  
 Difficulty: Shortest / Easiest  
 Duration: 2.5 hours  
 Trailhead: Tiernaur - GPS 53.903502, -9.689592



11 Km

The Glenthomas River flows into the Owengarve River, and both rivers meander through drumlin hills to reach the sea. The hiker can see stepping stones in the river below that were used to cross the ford bringing sheep and cattle to the commonage above the rail line. Commonages are large tracts of open mountain side owned by variable numbers of shareholders. As the name implies those shareholders graze the commonage with stock numbers related to their share size. A ruined railway cottage close to the greenway was once the home of a level crossing keeper, so busy was this crossing point.

## Knockbreaga loop

Distance: 13 km  
 Highest point: 98 metres  
 Trail Surface: Minor roads, bog roadways, Greenway  
 Difficulty: Middle Distance - Moderate  
 Duration: 3 hours  
 Trailhead: Tiernaur - GPS 53.903502, -9.689592



13 Km

A most interesting place name to ponder. Knockbreaga the hill of falsehood, perhaps named for a standing stone that stood on the hill top, falsely depicting a man elsewhere called Farbreaga. Meennaclochfinny is another place name from this area, this time meaning the smooth hillside of the white stones, the stones were white when exposed from under the turf banks that dot the hillsides.

## Tiernaur loop

Distance: 15 km  
 Highest point: 104 metres (Location)  
 Trail Surface: Minor roads, bog roadways, Greenway  
 Difficulty: Longest - Most Challenging  
 Duration: 4 hours  
 Trailhead: Tiernaur - GPS 53.903502, -9.689592



15 Km

The longest loop in the series it reaches east as far as the Carrwsallagh River, before returning along the Greenway to Newfield. After crossing Glendahurk Bridge [if hiking clockwise] and passing through the next gate there is a well whose water quality is superb. Wells have always been important to country folk, in folklore they often had their own guardian spirit, eventually becoming Christianized.