



Provisional Walks programme for 10th-13th May 2019. (issued 1st May)

Walks Programme for Burren Weekend – Skibbereen Walking Group

Friday 10th May Meet 21h00at Burren Castle Hotel bar for social exchanges etc.

Saturday 11th May Walks 1 and 2 (choice) depart hotel 9.30am sharp.

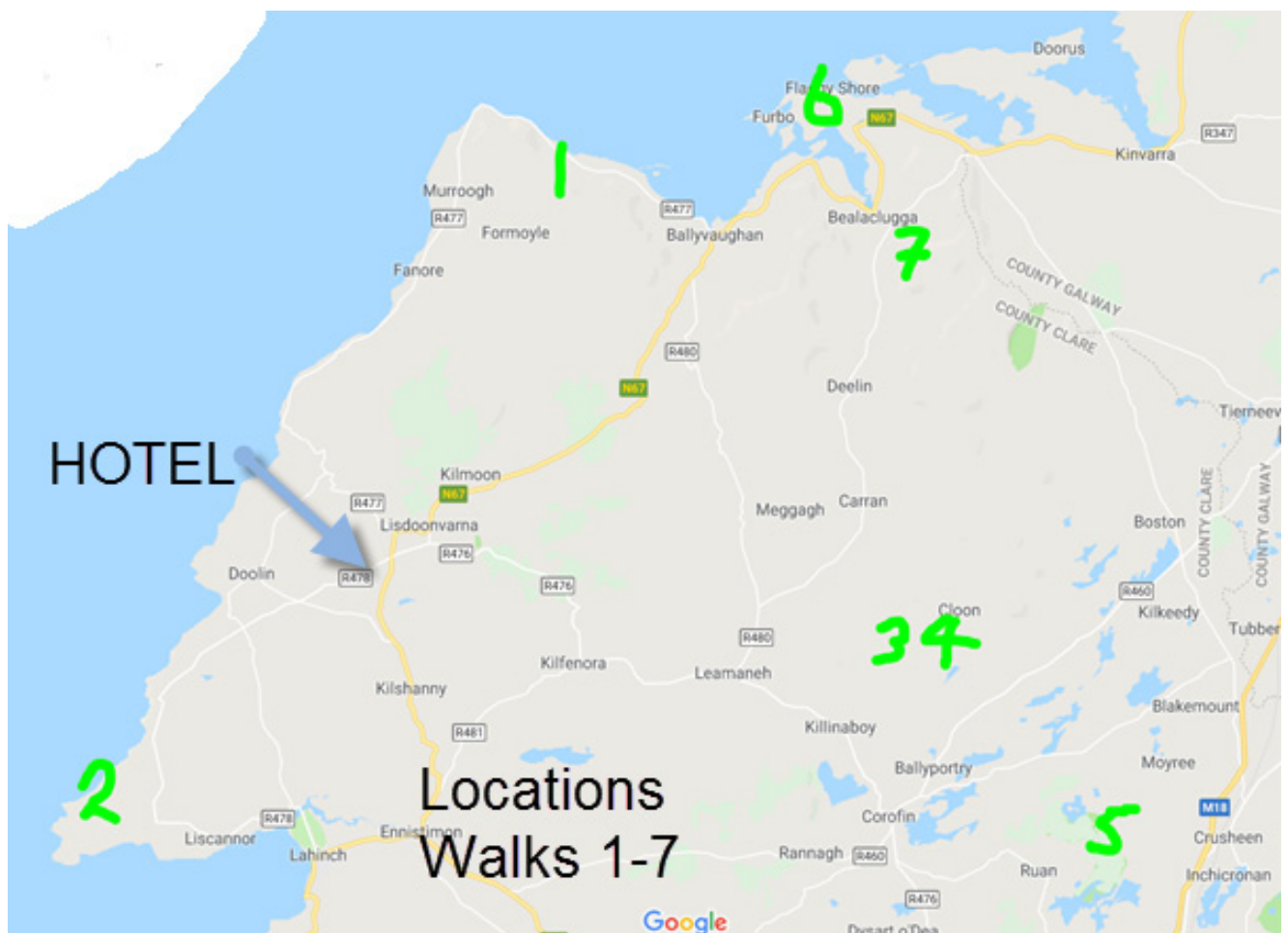
Backup if weather poor – walk 7 (long and short options) or do walks 3 and 4.

Sunday 12th May Walks 3 and 4 depart hotel 9.30am sharp (checkout if you are leaving Sunday)

Note – enthusiasts might have time to do BOTH walks 3 and 4 on the Sunday.

Monday 13th May – Walk 5 or 6 depending on weather and group appetite

Map showing approx location of the seven planned walks and the Hotel



Exact location of parking will be available on the weekend.

Walk 1 - Gleninagh Mountain (off road loop) (Hill Walk).

This is a hill walk on high Burren karst (limestone) and is rough going. You should see some flowers.

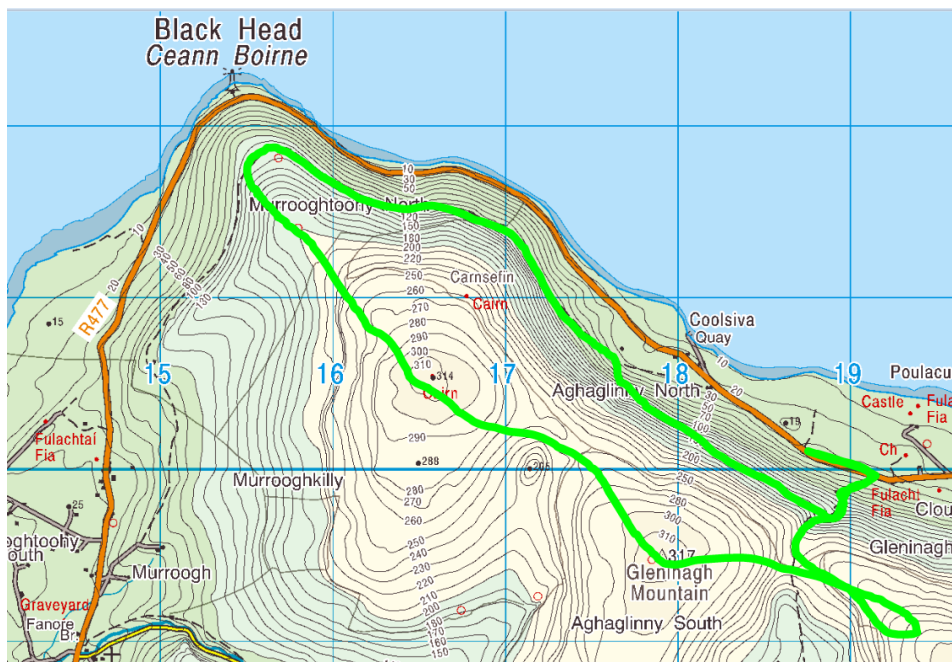
10km – 370m ascent , 4-5 hours. Tough going underfoot so good boots required.

Parking – on main road up near Gleninagh Castle (or Black Head). Info on the day.

All but 100m off-road. 50% rough track/path and 50% wild karst landscape. Rough karst / flowers.

Park cars on edge of road near house. Ascend track and then follow path NW along side of Gleninagh Mtn to join old coast road (track) as far as Black Head turning SW as you round the headland above lighthouse. Ascent to old iron age fort then on up onto top of hill (314m) and along ridge to Gleninagh Mtn (317m).

Descend east to join track which crosses col. Maybe venture further east about 500m to look at the fields of early purple orchids and maybe visit a pothole if your guide can remember where it is ☺. Return to path and descend to road with care. Head for pub in Doolin to meet rest of group.



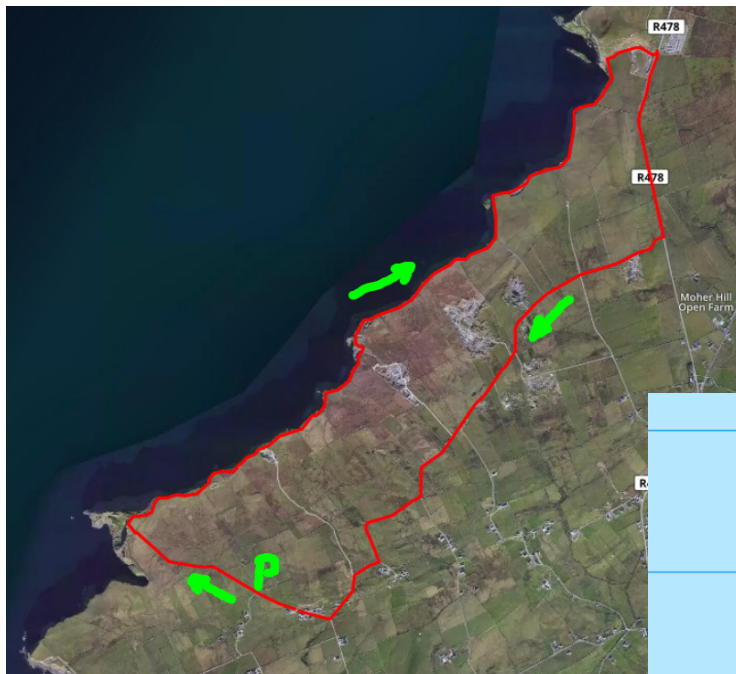
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Walk 2 – Cliffs of Moher Walk from nr. Liscannor to Visitor Centre (IW loop)

This is a walk along the cliffs on shale/slate which overlies the Burren Limestone buried beneath it. It's a very new walk only recently opened up to the public and the views of the sea, cliffs and Arran Islands is splendid. Halfway is the famous Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre so it could be pretty busy there with tourists and coaches but no big deal – we pass right though after a coffee stop maybe. 10km, ~100m ascent, about 4 hours plus breaks for photos and visitor centre. (50% road, 50% path)



Parking – car park near Hag's Head (or at Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre). NOTE – car parking charges in both places. Final arrangements issued on the day. From car park walk on track to Hags Head then follow Burren Way north trying not to fall over the edge. This is a new path and although it goes quite near the edge of some very high cliffs it should be ok. If you are afraid of heights this may not be for you as it's fenced to stop you going further from the edge into the fields. If it's windy we'll have to go to plan B or do the walk in a different direction.



After about 5km we reach the Cliffs of Moher Visitor centre. Well worth a visit if just for the coffee, ice cream etc. There may be a small entry fee to some parts of the centre. Now we can either retrace our steps down the coast or follow some small roads through the fields with ancient stone walls to reach the cars.

This is mostly farmland, it is the area where Liscannor Slate is quarried so it isn't typical Burren karst landscape but it is very wild and beautiful. Probably won't see many of the orchids for which the Burren is famous but we can go see them on the way home.

Return to hotel via Doolin where a Pint in O'Connors or McGann's pubs is almost essential.



Sunday (Note some people are heading home so need to be finished by about 3pm (4pm latest))

Walk 3 - Lough Avalla Loop – Nice easy IW with very little road. 7km 150m ascent – some rough ground - ~ 3 hours. There is a good café on the walk open by arrangement.

Lough Avalla Farm loop

[Review this Trail](#)

Trail Overview Details		
Grade: Moderate	Format: Circular	Trail Quality: ***
County:	Clare	
Category:	Walking/Hiking Trails	
Type:	National Loop Walk	
Length (Kms):	6	
Climb (m):	140	
Estimated time:	2hr 30min	
Dogs Allowed:	No	

Trail Reviews

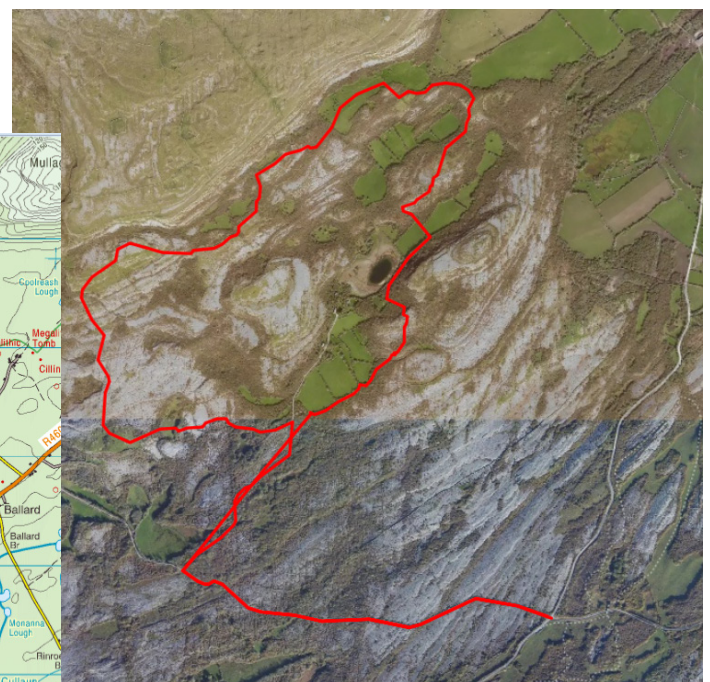
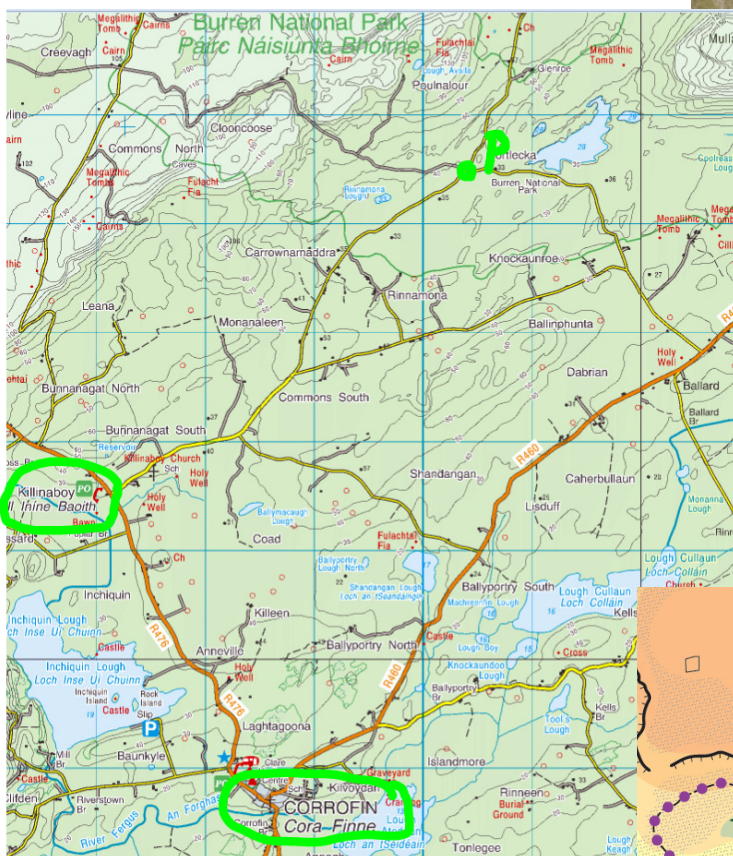
★★★★★

30/04/2018 09:52 AM by Martina from Galway

Great 8km hike... even though we hadn't realised it was that distance when we started out! Beautiful terrain - burren stoney landscape mixed with intervals of farmland. Some tough climbs but definitely worth it. Spotting farm animals along the way kept our 7 year old son entertained. Lovely on a clear day but parts would be quite slippery if wet conditions. The treat of fresh apple pie, brownies and tea in the farmhouse after was the icing on the cake! Harry took the time to show us his organic garden and to taste the honey from his beehive. Highly recommend this trail and cannot wait to go back.

★★★★★

This is way marked walk – you can't go wrong ☺

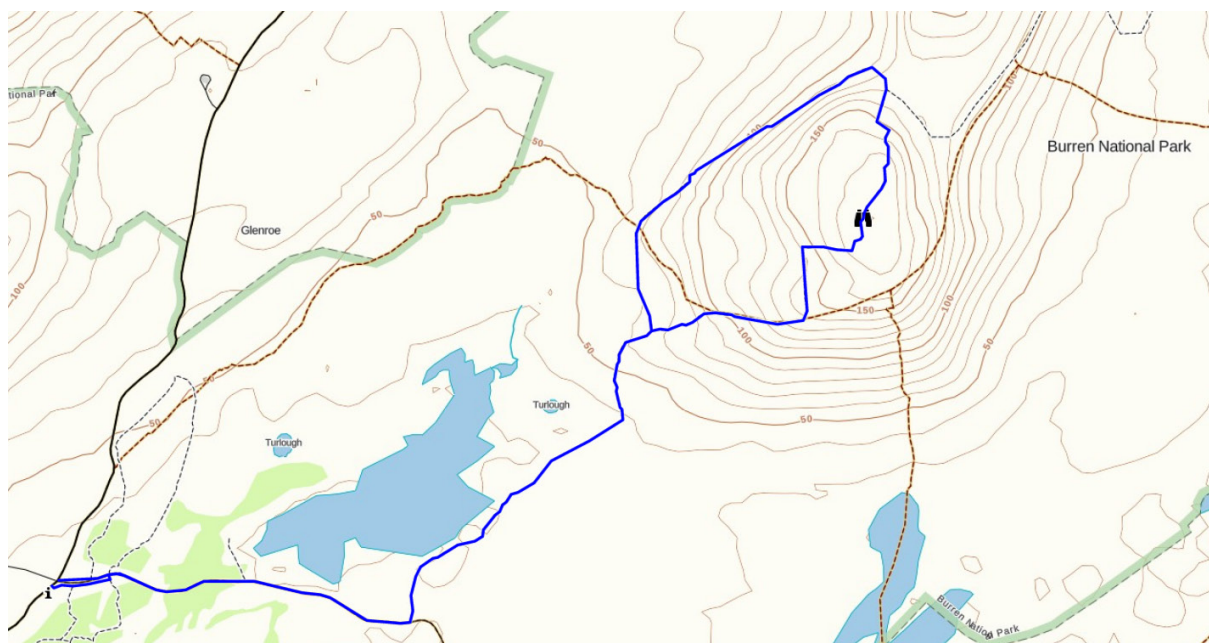
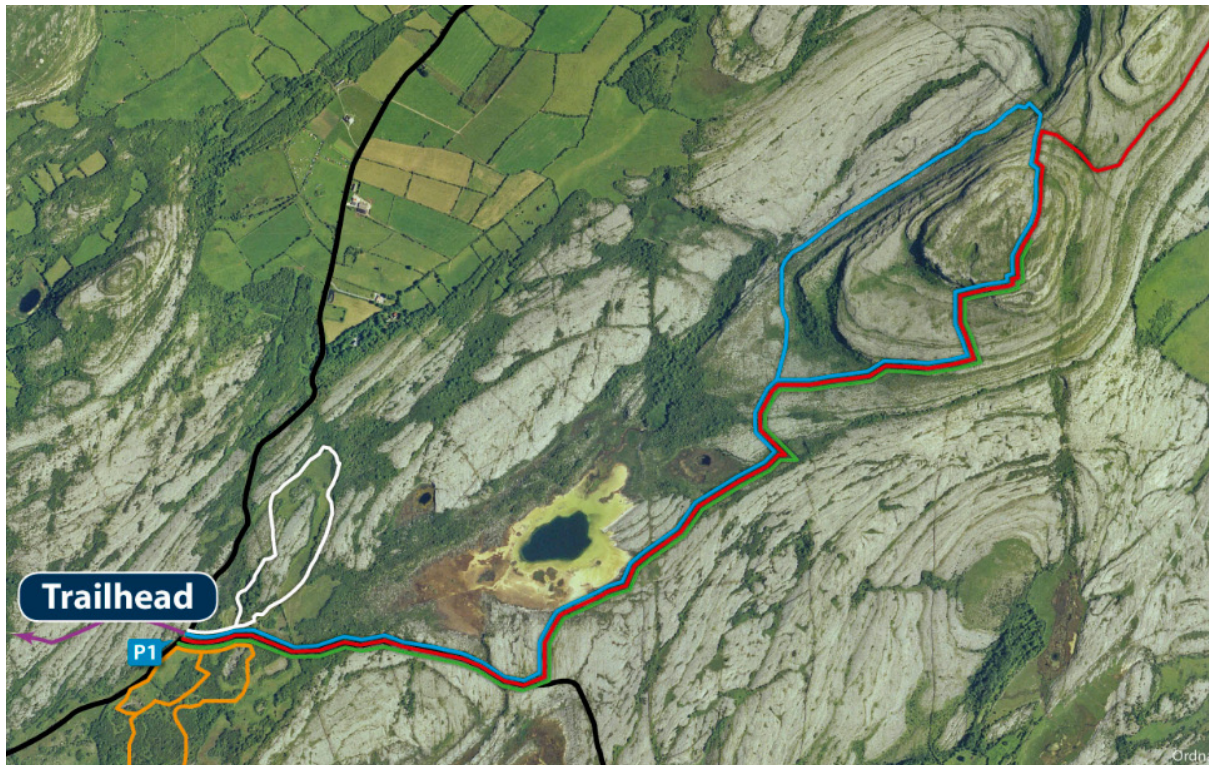


This walk starts/ends at the same place as Walk 4 so in theory anyone with time on their hands could do part or all of this walk after completing walk 4. Eg in to the farmhouse for a coffee and return to carpark.



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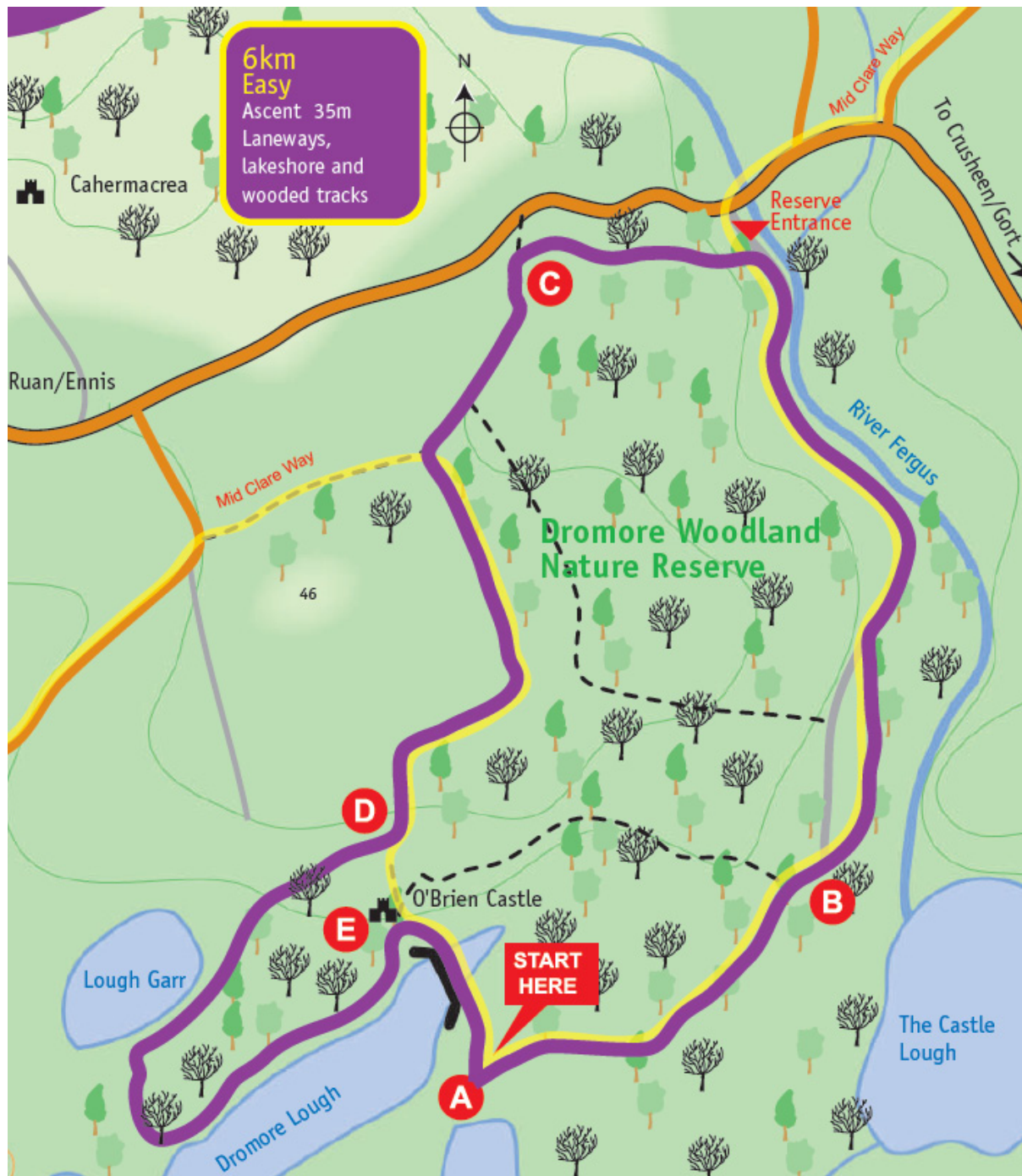
Walk 4 - Mullaghmore – Blue Route. 7.5km 190m ascent. This is part of the Burren National Park and there are various descriptions on the web. It is sometimes described as “very difficult” but this appears to be an exaggeration to deter baby buggys. Estimated time 3-4hours. Walk will be led by a local guide who can tell you a bit about the karst, flora and fauna. Fabulous countryside.



Monday (optional) – we have a small number staying over till Monday.

Either Walk 5 OR Walk 6 depending on the mood and weather.

Walk 5 - Dromore Woods (near Ennis) 6km – Easy – 2hours Start at gates (red triangle). This is the wet/windy weather option.



Walk 6 - Flaggy Shore – Road Walk (coastal between Ballyvaughan and Kinvarra) This is the good weather option.

8km, 70m ascent 3 hours incl home made Ice Cream in the dairy half way round. Finishes at the best seafood pub/restaurant in Ireland at NewQuay (according to some). (10km incl Martello Tower)



----- Reserve Walk for poor weather -----

Walk 7 – Corcomroe Abbey, Abbey Hill and Turlough Hill

(reserve walk for windy weather making coastal walks potentially dangerous.)

Full loop 17km, 500m ascent. Probably shorten to 12km using cars at Corcomroe and Burren OEC. This is a fantastic walk and it's a shame we don't have time to fit them all in. Depending on circumstances we will probably leave some cars at BOEC and drive to Corcomroe then climb Abbey Hill and head east to Turlough Hill where there is evidence of many ancient homesteads. Descend to road and walk out to BOEC to collect cars etc.

