

June 1996

IRELAND



ROUGH STUFF IN IRELAND — A FEW NOTES

This leaflet is an attempt to encourage members to try some Irish R.S. At present little is known about R.S. possibilities there, possibly due to the earlier lack of good maps. A 1:50,000 'Discovery' series is now being produced; hopefully the whole country will be available at that scale by the end of the century. As in other mountainous areas of the British Isles, late spring and early summer give the best chance of good weather.

Suggested routes are divided into 3 sections: section A covers routes described in past journals, section B covers those routes marked as green or forestry roads, while section C deals with routes involving footpaths or tracks shown on the new maps. Most routes should be fairly easy, except CC & TM in section A, and those longer routes in section C on maps 5, 11, 23, 62, 70 & 75.

A few high road routes are given, using the map no. as code, with no more than two routes per map. There are plenty more on map 56, for example. I am told that roads shown metalled on the new maps may have odd rough sections.

MAPS AND SKETCH MAPS

The new 1:50,000 'Discovery' series of Eire are superb maps. They have contours at 10m. intervals, layer coloured with tint changes every 100m. The 'Discoverer' series of Northern Ireland was produced in the 1980's; the layer colouring on these is a bit overwhelming, with tint changes every 50m.

* Maps available by June 1996 are nos. 1-31 inclusive, 36A, 37, 38, 44, 45, 50, 51, 56, 57, 62, 63, 66, 67, 70, 71, 74, 75, 77-79 incl. & 83-89 incl. The K² series sheets are being withdrawn when all the corresponding 1:50K's have been published. The new maps may be obtained from the C.T.C. shop or from the Map Shop, 15 High St., Upton upon Severn, Worcs. WR8 0HT. There are also four 1:250,000 O.S. 'Holiday' maps of Ireland, with their National Grid.

A few sketch maps are included where an easy R.S. route occurs on two or more 1:50K maps (eg. Maumeen), or where it is on a map with few other R.S. possibilities. Symbols used include — R.S. route; —▲— hilltops, ridges; and ~~~~~ for streams. Key maps show the approximate location of most of the routes; the latter are identified by their code letters. Single letters denote towns or mountains, and figures the map numbers of road routes.

* by Sep 97 add 49, 55, 58, 62-67 incl. & 70-89 incl.

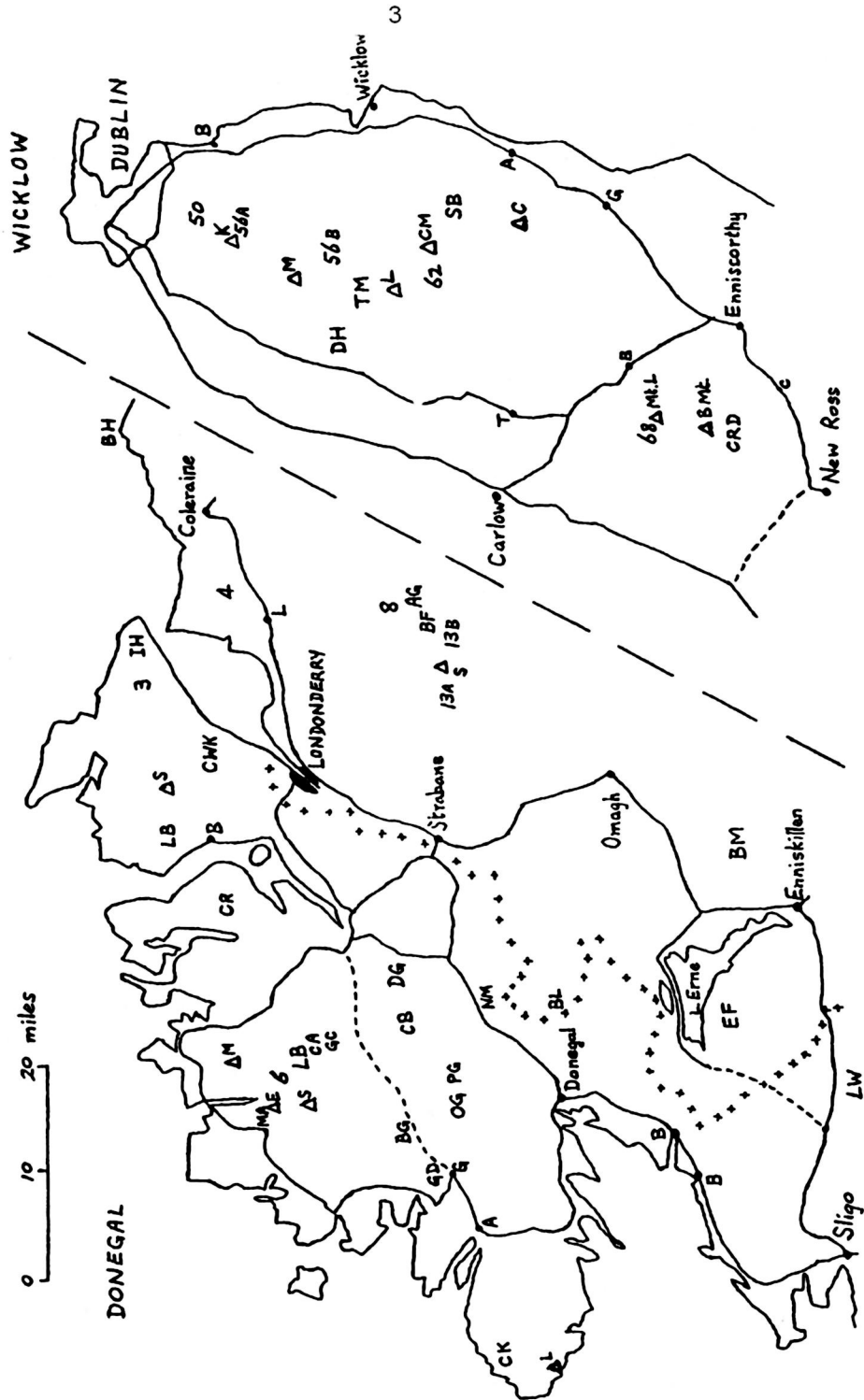
A FEW HIGH ROAD ROUTES

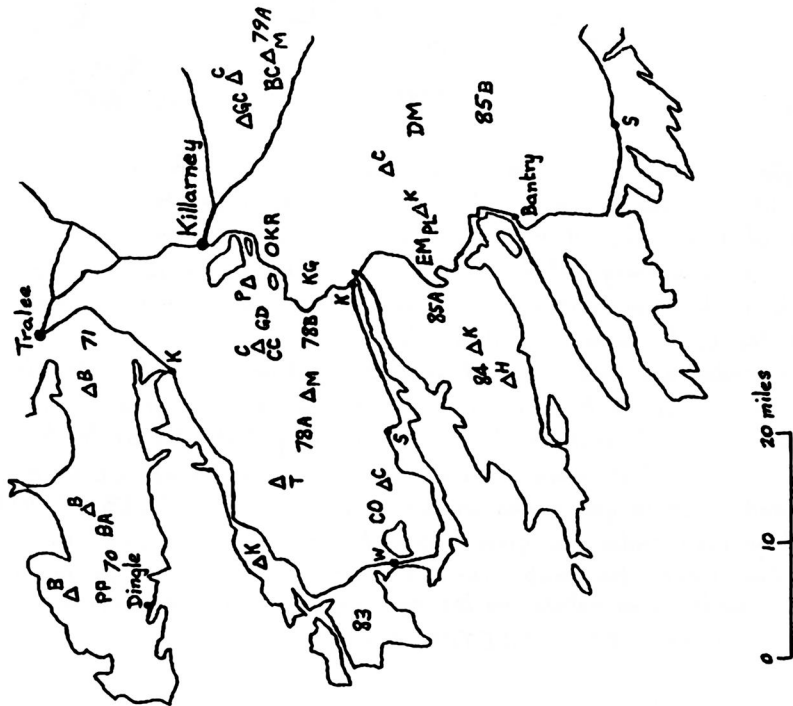
Map	R.I. no.	G. R.	Ht.	Map	R.I. no.	G. R.	Ht.
3 Greencastle-B'bane	u	C 625431	298	56A Kippure(T.V.)	u	O 116154	757
4 Limavady-Downhill	u	C 708249	332	56B Wicklow Gap	R 756	O 075002	475
5 Armoy-Cushendall	u	D 134284	350	62 Aghavannagh-Laragh	u	T 087876	455
6 L'kenney-Gweedore	R 251	B 964212	278	64 Knockanimpaha	u	R 217345	330
8 Dungiven-Moneyneary	u	C 725028	358	67 Gortnahoo-Kilmanagh	u	S 332567	333
9A Newtown C.-Glendun	u	D 154215	415	68 Mount Leinster(T.V.)	u	S 828525	793
9B Buckna-Ballyclare	u	D 253032	375	70 Dingle-Stradbally	u	Q 490055	408
13A Cranagh-Carnanreagh	u	H 589969	438	71 Tralee - Castlemaine	u	Q 835080	320
13B Sperrin - Dreen	u	H 639975	330	72 Mullaghareirk	u	R 278201	364
20 Waringford-B175	u	J 298451	355	74 Clogheen-Lismore	R 668	S 031099	335
25 Geevagh - Arigna	u	G 865183	382	75 R 678-Ballymacarbray	u	S 255180	434
26 Ballinagleragh-B'more	u	H 055191	410	78A Ballaghishcen pass	u	V 670791	308
29 Kilkeel - Kilcoo	u	J 279275	405	78B Killarneay-Kenmare	N 71	V 861774	265
30 Menawn Hill (T.V.)	u	F 670027	403	79A Ballyvourney-R582	u	W 224804	405
37 Cregg (T.V.)	u	L 715524	297	79B Millstreet-Rylane	u	W 350861	428
38 Toormakeady-Westport	u	M 063701	292	83 Kilkeaverragh(T.V.)	u	V 393709	371
50 Glencullen-Dublin	R 116	O 146221	370	84 Healy Pass	R 574	V 786535	285
52 Maghera (T.V.)	u	R 517910	397	85A Tunnel Road	N 71	V 905603	315
54 Kinnitty-Mountrath	R 440	N 268038	455	85B Kilgarvan-Bantry	u	W 038650	375

ROUGH ROUTES

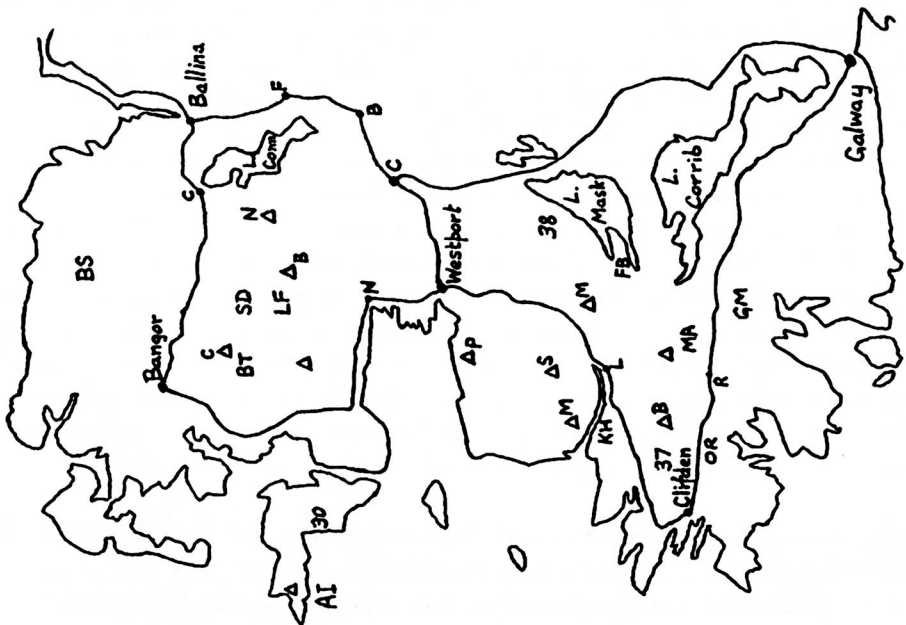
Code	Section A	Map	Page	Code	Section C	Map	Page
LB	Lough Beagh side	6	3	BH	Benbane Head	5	6
MA	Maumeen	37,38,44	3	CK	Cashel-Killyfinned L.	10	
BU	The Burren	51	3	OG	Owengarve R. - Reclan R.	11	
LF	L. Foeagh - Keenagh etc.	23,31	3	PG	Polladoo Glen	11	
TM	Table Mountain	56	3	BL	Big Br. - Laghy Barr	11	
CRD	Caher Roe's Den	68	3	DS	Belfast skyline	15	
PL	Priest's Leap	85	3	BS	Ballymonnelly Br. - Sheekin etc.	23	
CC	Cummeenduff Gl. - Caragh V.	78	4	BT	Bangor Trail	23	
KG	Kenmare - Galway's Br.	78	4	SD	Srahmore Lo. - Derry Upper	23	
	Section B			KH	Killary Harbour	37	
LD	Loop nr. L. Doo	3	5	OR	Old Rly. Clifden - Recess	44	
CWK	Crana R. - Carrowkeel	3		GM	Glencoh - Mnam Cross	45	
BF	Bannagher Forest	7,8		DH	Donard - Hollywood	56	
AG	Altanahylish Glen	7,8		PP	Pilgrims Path	70	
CA	L. Beagh - L. Cailli	6		BA	Ballyduff - Anascaul	70	
GC	Glendowan - L. Cailli	6		TG	The Gap, Comeragh Mts.	75	
DG	Deele R. - Glenoughty	6		OKR	Old Kenmare Rd.	78	
NM	N15 - Maenbury	11		BC	Ballyvourney - Clydagh V.	79	
LW	Brisloonagh - Aughrim	26	↓	CO	Cappamore - Oughtiv	83	↓

MAPS





MAYO AND CONNEMARA

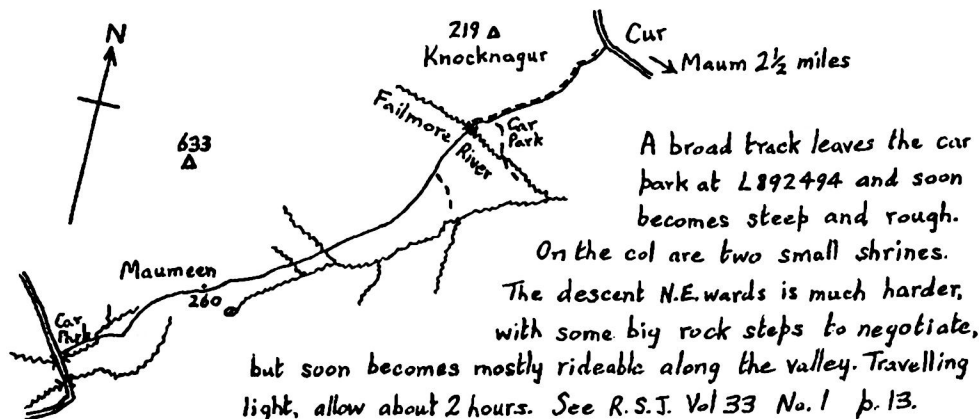


SECTION A ROUTES IN R.S. JOURNALS

LB LOUGH BEAGH SIDE R254 to R251
 O.S. 6 B971158 - C042227 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 1 6½ miles R.S.

A path of sorts follows the S.E. side of the Owenreagh river, grassy with bracken and a few boulders, but with many side streams to cross. Improving as it gets nearer to L. Beagh. Good track along lough to Glenveagh castle. Notice at N.E. end: Private road to Glenveagh castle, no admission. See R.S.J. Vol. 3 No. 4 p. 59 (Nov. 1957). Update needed!

MA MAUMEEN Recess (N59) to Maum 260m.
 O.S. 44, 37x38 L892494 - 925523 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 10 or 11 3 miles R.S.



BU THE BURREN

O.S. 51 covers most of the area. $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 14

The Burren is a large area of limestone country in County Clare. Often this consists of pavements, bare areas of rock that resemble crevassed glaciers, separated by low cliffs, with a wide variety of Alpine or Arctic flowers in the crevices. The nature of the terrain makes it dangerous to wander indiscriminately. Keep to the established paths or tracks; off these, there are many deep fissures, hidden caves, etc. There are many megalithic tombs in the area; one of the finest is the Poulnabrone Dolmen, at M 235003, just East of R480 from Ballyvaghan to Leamaneh. Another fine sight is the cliffs of Moher, R0290-R0492. See R.S.J. Vol 28 pp. 122 & 146, & Vol 33 No. 1 p. 14. Suggested R.S.; The Burren Way M115025 - 190070 with offshoots to 191099 & 112045; R249991 - M271022; R242946 - R304945; etc.

LF Lough Feeagh to Bunaveela Lough, Keenagh & R312 F97 06
OS 23 & 31 (the R.S. is on overlap of both maps.) $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 6 2½ miles R.S.

A delightful stretch of rideable forestry road links the lanes here.
Keep always straight ahead going in either direction. See R.S.I. Vol. 33 p. 14

TM TABLE MOUNTAIN Glen of Imaal to Glenmalur 695m.
O.S. 56 S986948 - T061945 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 16 Grade: moderate.

From a bend in the dead end lane past Ballinlea Y.H., a fairly clear track climbs out of Glen Imaal with a large block of forestry on the left. Check that no firing is taking place while making the crossing; the whole of the ascent is in the Glen Imaal artillery range. Nearing the top, the track plunges into a mass of peat bog. A fairly clear path descends the east side, becoming a green track crossing the occasional boggy patch or bare peat. Good track through the forestry, keeping always on SW. side of Avonbeg river. The road starts at the hostel. See R.S.I.'s Vol. 22 No. 4 p. 79 or Vol. 36 No. 1 p. 13.

CRD CAHER ROE'S DEN Rathnure to Ballymurphy c 380m. 4 mls. R.S.
O.S. 68 (not yet published 6/96) S821395 - 778460 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 19 easy/moderate.

Leaving the lane that runs parallel to R731 (L129) at g.r. S821395, the route is tarmac as far as a small bridge, then continues as a forestry track. Keep straight on at all cross tracks and one should reach the col at c 1250', with extensive views westwards. The descent starts as a less well defined path going N. to a ruined building; after this the path gradually petered out, the ground steadily becoming rockier and much wetter. Eventually one meets a tarmac road leading to Ballymurphy. Allow 2½ hours. See R.S.I. Vol. 36 No. 6 p. 154.

PL PRIESTS LEAP Kenmare to Bantry 464m. Grade: easy
O.S. 85 V973632 - 985611 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 24 2 miles R.S.

A minor road crosses the Coomeelan stream at Drohidoughtera, immediately to become a clear broad stony track, mostly too steep to ride. The track remains very well defined as it ascends to Priest's Leap; from here there is a rewarding panorama with the Kerry hills behind and Bantry Bay ahead. There is an iron cross at the top. According to O.S. 85, the descent is now metalled throughout as it skirts the west side of Coomhola Mountain. A very rewarding alternative to N71.

See R.S.I. Vol. 22 No. 5 p. 99.

CC Cummeenduff Glen to Caragh Valley 295m. Grade: Difficult
 O.S. 78 V823816 - 788817 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 20 or 21 $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles R.S.

The road up the glen past Cummeenduff Lough ends in a steep zigzag climb. From here a rideable track continues on for about a mile to a small settlement. Pass through a couple of gates, past the houses, on a clear path with the odd boggy patch to the head of the valley. The col is prominent straight ahead, with many large boulders around. Ignore the standing stone on the pass - very boggy here. A path of sorts winds up through the rocks, with an occasional cairn or yellow waymark to help. It should be possible to find a way through the boulders without too much lifting or carrying. Over the top the route (scarcely a path) runs for a while along a small ridge between two streams. There are many awkward rocks or rock steps to negotiate, or holes between rocks concealed by ferns, etc. At g.r. V793819 one reaches a good path leading to the left: however this leads nowhere, so one has to keep straight on around the edges of extremely rocky fields, to emerge at a farmhouse and the start of a good track leading to the road. See R.S.J's Vol.22 Nos 4 & 5, pp. 80 & 98; Vol.36 No.3 p.74; (& Vol.35 No.4 p.103 !)

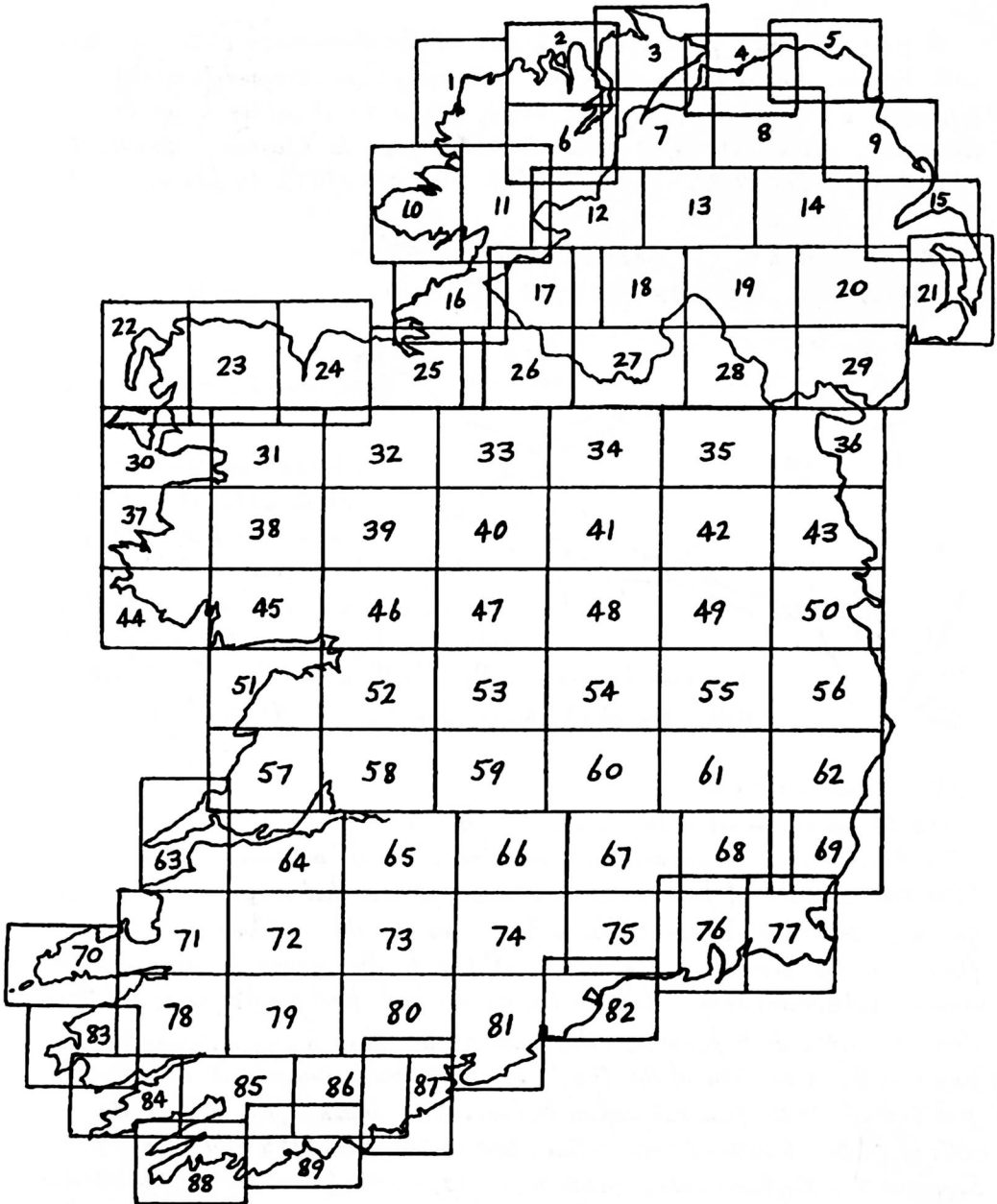
KG Kenmare to Galway's Bridge 322m. Grade: Moderate
 O.S. 78 V917752 - 914803 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 20 or 21 4 miles R.S.

A good alternative to the N71 over Moll's gap. The R.S. starts at Gowdane, 3 miles N. of Kenmare, at g.r. V917752, going due N. It is a good track, but mostly too steep to ride uphill. Once over the top, the descent is a bit rougher but not too bad, whilst a few muddy sections indicated that these could be a problem after rain. Further on, one reaches a wide swampy area, with no way round it. After the swamp one drops through woodland and rhododendrons. There are two major fords with high stepping stones: the second one is particularly awkward with a loaded bike. Indeed, after heavy rain these streams may be impossible to cross, so if in doubt, start from the Galway's Bridge end - the first ford is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile up.

GD Gap of Dunloe 235m. Grade: Easy
 O.S. 78 V879886 - 860829 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 20 or 21

Arguably the most scenic pass in Ireland: definitely R.S. in 1967, but shown as metalled on O.S.78. Told in June 1996 that it is only partly metalled, the rest is still gravel (P. Dillon)

Index to the new 1:50,000 maps



SECTION B UNMETALLED ROADS

CR CROCKANAFFRIN Lurganboy to Glenalla 300m.

O.S. 2 C 264307 - 240275 or

C 255310 - 234283

$\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 1 3 miles R.S.

No details, nor for O.S. 3 routes, below.

LD Lough Doo 326m. C 335377-372380.

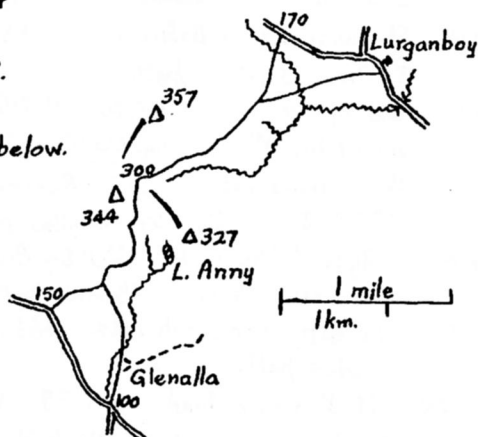
295m. 4 miles R.S.

CWK Crana R. - Carrowkeel C 441343-

C 492314 300m. 4 miles R.S.

IH Inishowen Head C 664437-677441

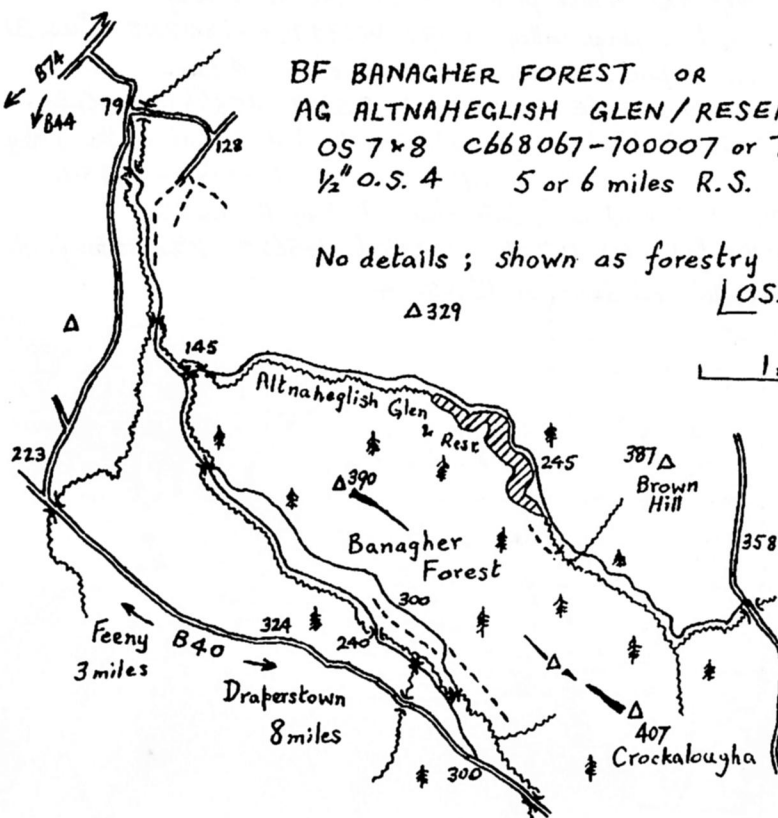
285m. 3 miles R.S.



BF BANAGHER FOREST or
AG ALTNAHEGLISH GLEN/RESERVOIR
OS 7 x 8 C 668067-700007 or 726021
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 4 5 or 6 miles R.S.

No details; shown as forestry roads on
OS. 7 x 8.

Δ 329



O.S. 6

CA L. Beagh - L. Cailli C028215-058178

195m. nr. L. Meeltoge 4 miles R.S.

GC Glendowan - L. Cailli C027135-060175

110m. nr. L. Gartan 4 miles R.S.

DG Dee R. - Glenoughty C135038-165082

245m. nr. Ballystrang 4 miles R.S.

O.S. 6 & 11

CB Cloghan - Carr Br. C060008-078037

290m. nr. Cullagh 2½ miles R.S.

O.S. 11 (start on edge of O.S. 10)

GD Gweebarra Br. (N.56) to lane E. of Derkbeg Hill

G797995-840990 160m. 3½ miles R.S.

O.S. 11

BG Beaghmore (R250) - Glenleheen Br. (R252)

160m. B876000-903036 3½ miles R.S.

NM N-15 to Meenbog etc. H051884-106872

185m. at start 4 miles R.S. (Road on ½" O.S.)

O.S. 22 or 30 (on overlap)

Anyone visiting Achill Island in fine weather is recommended to try (without bike) the magnificent cliff walk from Keem (F562044) to Moyteoge Head, Achill Head, and Croaghawn. The latter, at 688m. is the highest cliff in Britain (sea or land). Code AI

BM BROUGHER MOUNTAIN Lifford to Glen

O.S. 18 H 353540 - 344507 3 miles R.S.

No details. Sketch map on right. ½" O.S. 8

LW* Briscloonagh to Aughrim 375m.

O.S. 26 G951373 - 956314 ½" O.S. 7

6 miles R.S. No details; ignore a track heading westwards at end of first block of forestry.

GC Gortnagane to Clydagh River 315m.

O.S. 79 W146890 - 145840 ½" O.S. 21 3½ mls. R.S.

Track through gap East of the Paps keeps to E. side of valleys

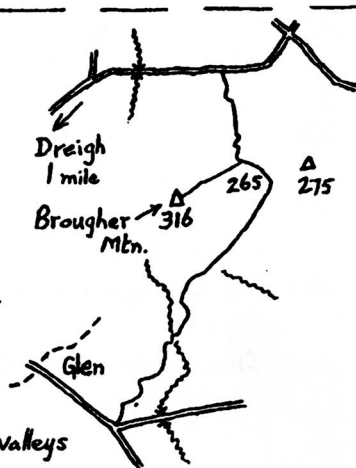
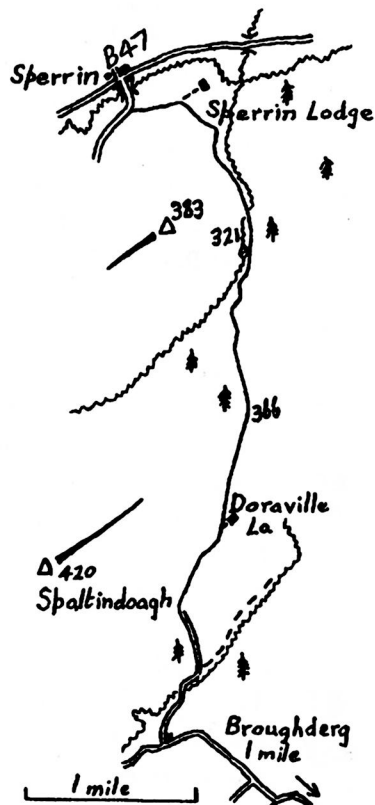
* LW: Leitrim Way

SB Sperrin to Broughderg 366m.

O.S. 13 H 635938 - 640893

4 miles R.S.

No details of any routes on page



SECTION C MAINLY PATHS AND TRACKS

- MA Moneybeg to L. Agannive area O.S.1 B907205-916246 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 1
2½ miles unmetalled road, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile path. No details of any paths on page
- BH Benbane Head & Giants Causeway coast path. O.S.5 C938433-
D008443 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 2 7 miles path
- CK Cashed to Killyfanned L. O.S.10 G536849-563885 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S.3
2½ miles unmetalled road, 2 miles path.
- OG Owengarve R. - Reelan R. O.S.11 G890938-968963 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S.3
4 miles unmetalled road, 3 miles path. 295m.
- PG *POLLD00 GLEN Reelan R. - Letterkillew G978967 - H012943 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S.3
4 miles unmetalled road, 1 mile path 275m. (? path link at 985933).
- BL Big Bridge to Laghy Barr O.S.11 H092815 - G998756 or 981775
4 miles forestry road, 4 miles path 325m. $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S.3
- DS Belfast skyline - Divis & Squires Hill etc. O.S.15 J266741-310793
3 miles road (? metalled) to TV. stas., 3 miles path 478m. & 374m.
- EF Several forestry roads on O.S.17 south of Lower Lough Erne.
- BS Ballymonnelly Bridge to Sheskin and Ballycastle etc. The 'Western Way'
O.S.23 F941224 - G087375 or 030296. The latter, easier option,
involves 9½ miles of forestry roads and 2½ miles of forestry track;
Western Way throughout involves 8½ miles of forestry road and 8½ miles of
track/path. Central section not shown on $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 6.
- BT Bangor to Srahmore Lodge. O.S.23 F866226 - 976048 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 6
The Bangor Trail: 16 miles path along W. side of Nephin Beg range. 250m.
Also a link path to 'BT' from Bellagarvaun road end F850071-919104.
1 mile rough road, 4 miles path. ? ford at F872073
- SD Srahmore Lodge to Derry Upper. O.S.23 F976048 - 993170
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 6. 2 miles unmetalled road, 8 miles forestry track. (Western Way)
- SG Several forestry tracks on Slieve Gullion O.S.29 J0220 area. $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S.9
- KH Killary Harbour S.W. side. O.S.37 L771648 - 821607 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 10 or 11.
2½ miles rough road, 2 miles path.
- FB Finny to Barrevaugh O.S.38 L978568 - M011588 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 10 or 11
3 miles rough road, completing circuit of S.W. arm of Lough Mask.
- OR Old railway, Clifden to Recess O.S.44 L688499 - 834476 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 10
6½ miles track; 2 miles on R 341.
- GM Glencoh to Maam Cross O.S.45 L927387 - 955448 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 10
5 miles path.

- DH Donard to Hollywood O.S. 56 S940988 - N935042 or 957043
425m. $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles rough road, 4 miles path, good to col. No more details.
- CM Croaghmoira Mtn. 664m. O.S. 62 T095846 - 087876 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 16, 19
 $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles path, about 300m. ascent from col.
- SB Sheeanamore to Ballinaclash O.S. 62 T122832 - 158844 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 16, 19.
330m. 3 miles path.
- FH Foildarg Hill 440m. O.S. 66 R 890503 - 914508 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 18; 2 miles rough
- SM Slievefelim Mts. 320m. O.S. 66 R 807558 - 838572 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 18; $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles ditto.
- PP The Pilgrims Path 397m. Reenconnell to Cloghane Q 431059 - 470068
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 20 O.S. 70 4 miles path, somewhat hard going, and steep.
- BA Ballyduff (An Baile Dubh) to Anascaul. O.S. 70 Q 545101 - 583047
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 20 365m. $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles path, hard going & steep. View of 'Reeks'.
- TG The Gap, Comeragh Mts. 466m. O.S. 75 S276128 - 327145 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 22
4 miles path.
- OKR Old Kenmare Road O.S. 78 V974857 - 916796 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 20 or 21
5 miles rough road, 1 mile path? Part of the Kerry Way.
- BC Ballyvourney to Clydagh valley OS79 W197794 - 180836 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 21
4 miles track/path, descent through forestry. 432m.
- CO Cappamore to Oughtiv (E of L. Currane) O.S. 83 V566650 - 561689
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 20 & 24. $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles rough road, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles path? Part of Kerry Way.
- EM Esk Mtn. Bunane to Glengarriff O.S. 85 V930617 - 923591
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 24 1 mile rough road, 1 mile path. Part of Beara Way
- DM Doughill Mtn. (col to E.) O.S. 85 W120636 - 145623 $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles rough rd.
N. side metalled; not shown on $\frac{1}{2}$ " O.S. 24.