Map 8 - Corrie Mtn. to Arigna

Walking Notes:

Distance: 13 Km (8 miles) Ascent: 260 m.
Walking Time: 4½ hours.

General Description: Map 8 shows the section of the Miners Way back to Arigna. On the way, it passes through the main mining areas of the region. There are several large mines along the pass down the mountain including the original Spion Kop mine. Then it passes through fields onto Tents lane which leads down to Lough Allen and the old power station. An interconnecting series of old lanes, roads and paths leads back into the Arigna valley via a footbridge over the Arigna River beside a school. There follows a climb up Kilronan Mountain to the Rover Pit - one of the last to close. The Way runs south along the rock to Derrinavoggy pits and down the old road to Arigna village.

Colliery House

This is located near the 78 kilometre mark and is now a ruin. It was once a police station and later became the headquarters of mining in the district.

Lough Allen

Coming down from the hills one gets good views of Lough Allen which at 3,500 ha. is the 6th largest lake in the Republic of Ireland. In general it is too deep and exposed to support much bird life. The best places are actually at the southern tip of the lake near Drumshanbo.

Tents & The French Road

The townland of Tents got its name in 1798 when a French army camped here. They later marched via The French Road to Ballinamuck where they were defeated.

John McKenna's Birth Place

The area generally is renowned for Irish traditional music. Many famous musicians came from the area. Perhaps the most famous of all was John McKenna. John was born in 1880 in the townland of Tents. His house is alongside the Miners' Way. John emigrated to America about 1911 and he was one of the early musicians to be recorded in America amidst a great upsurge of interest in Irish traditional music.

ESB Power Station

This coal-burning station was built in the 1950s and took most of the coal that was mined in Arigna and all the other local coal mines. It closed in 1994 and the giant chimney stack which was a landmark in the area was demolished in 1999.

Greaghnafarna School Path

This school is still in use unlike many rural schools which have closed due to depopulation. The Way follows a pleasant path over a footbridge and along the Arigna River.

Mining at Arigna

The Rover and Derrinavoggy mines are but two reminders of a way of life that the people of Arigna followed for hundreds of years. Between these two mines, old pit eyes seem to peep out from narrow ravines. The remnants of an old overhead cable car system are now rusting away. It was a very sophisticated method in its day. Slag heaps, old paths to the mines, old pieces of mining machinery and buildings all along this section of the Way are very vivid reminders of the work that went on down underground here in the past.

Old pit eye near Arigna

Peter Robinson