Map 11 - Stony River to Drumshanbo

Walking Notes:

Distance: 7 Km (5 miles) Ascent: 120 m.
Walking Time: 3 hours.

General Description: This section of Slí Liatroma follows a route along an old tarred road above Lough Allen. It finishes at Drumshanbo.

Ringforts

There are ringforts, the dwelling places of Early Christian period farmers, in Druminalass, Drumnafinnila and Tullyveacan townlands. There is a cliff-edge fort, a position giving more protection, in Urbal. Some traditional houses still survive along this route.

Stony River Ford

Most of the route from Dowra to Drumshanbo is on what is described as the 'Old Road'. This is undoubtedly an ancient road. When you meet the Stony River the sign says 'Stony River Ford'. There is however no ford, only stepping stones and it looks as if there never was a bridge over this river here. It makes the crossing of it, especially when in flood, more dramatic although you would be better advised to detour.

Famine Graveyard

Close to Drumshanbo is the old graveyard known as the famine graveyard or *Reilig an Ghorta Mhóir*. Here the remains of famine victims were buried during the great disaster that occurred during 1847-1849.

Drumshanbo

Droim Sean-Bhoth or the ridge of the old huts, is a most interesting town with its twin-level Main Street and narrow side streets. Drumshanbo has two big festivals yearly. An Tostal, held in June each year since the early 1950's and the more recent Joe Mooney Summer School, a major festival of Irish traditional music held annually in July.

Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre

In the centre of Drumshanbo the Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor centre gives an excellent account of the history and traditions of the Sliabh an Iarainn, Lough Allen and Drumshanbo Regions. It has an audio visual show and various exhibits and is open during the summer season.

Convent of Perpetual Adoration

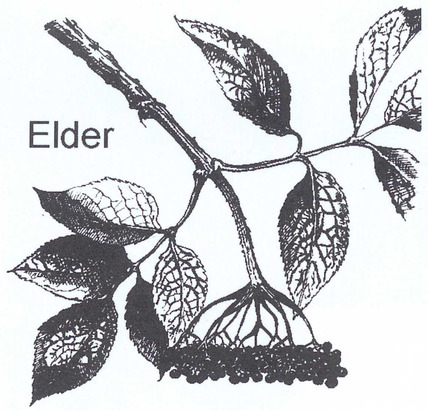
The nuns in the Franciscan Convent observe perpetual adoration. This enclosed order is one of very few in Ireland. The church attached to the Convent can be visited. It is a place of wonderful solitude and prayer.

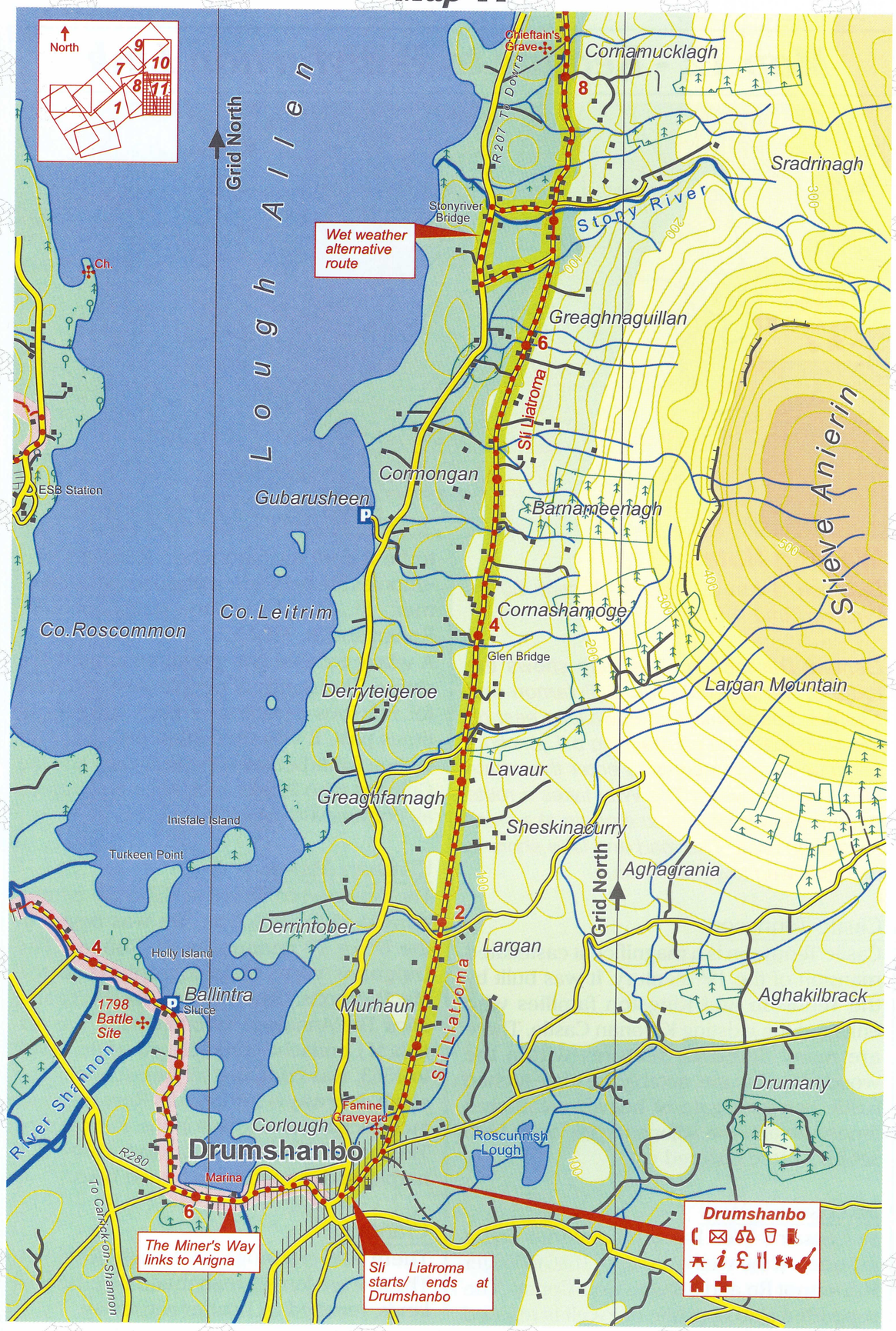
Railway

Drumshanbo had a railway station on the old Cavan-Leitrim Narrow gauge line which closed in 1959. The Railway station and the water tank still stand.

Mayflower Ballroom

The old Mayflower Ballroom was a mecca for dancing fans in the great days of the Showbands during the 1960s. It is now a Community Centre.



ELDER - Trom
A shrubby tree often found in farmland hedgerows. Grows to c.10 metres in height, produces clusters of frothy white flowers in May which mature to clusters of dense purple berries in autumn.

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