Map 8 - Arigna to Drumshanbo

Walking Notes:

Distance: 7 Km (4.5 miles). Walking Time: 2 hours.

General Description: This map also shows the route of the Miners Way linking from Arigna to Drumshanbo and Slí Liatroma. The walk leaves Arigna via the old railway track to Mount Allen, crossing the R280 at McRann's pub. It follows the Arigna River to the Old French Road which leads in turn onto the main road into Drumshanbo.

Manager House and Mount Allen House

These are the oldest inhabited houses in the area and date from Elizabethan times. Manager House is at the start of the railway and is owned by the Wynne family. Mount Allen House is owned by the Earley family. Both houses have a very rich history.

The Narrow Gauge

This old railway was part of the Cavan Leitrim Narrow Gauge which opened in 1883 and closed in 1959. It was a lifeline for the country during the Second World War when coal from Arigna was brought on it to be distributed throughout Ireland. It is worth pausing to examine the fine stonework on the several little bridges.

The Arigna River

This river cuts through the entire Arigna valley. It is a spate river and subject to flash floods. In very dry and settled weather it is possible to walk up the ten miles to its source. This is a very spectacular expedition but only recommended for the very fit and adventurous.

The river from Mount Allen to Lough Allen was part of a proposed canal to facilitate navigation and over which the fine stone bridge was built. The canal was never finished because the builders were jailed for fraud. It seems that the government in England was told that there was an 18 foot coal

seam at Aughabehy but in fact it was only 18 inches! They were given \$800,000 in the 17th century to extract this 'rich seam' and ship it out via the Shannon. White collar fraud is not confined to the 20th century.

Ballintra

Where the River Shannon leaves Lough Allen there are sluices to control water leaving the lake. This is because Lough Allen is used as a huge reservoir to maintain water levels in the river. Consequently the lake has an unstable water level and this mitigates against the shoreline flora developing normally and it is very poor. Looking downstream from Ballintra Bridge is one of the best places to see kingfisher.

This wooden bridge was built on the old Drumshanbo to Drumkeeran Road. The French army took this route to Ballinamuck in 1798. There was a skirmish with English troops at this bridge.

Lough Allen Canal

The Lough Allen Canal, built in 1822, links Lough Allen to the Shannon - Erne waterway at Leitrim village. It runs from here through beautiful wooded country.



Sluice Gates at Ballintra Bridge

