



PRECAUTIONS

To ensure the continued enjoyment of these walks for other users, please observe the following:

- Guard against all risks of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep to assigned paths
- Keep dogs under proper control
- Avoid damaging fences, hedges & walls by using the stiles provided
- Leave no litter
- Respect the life of the countryside

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The walks were established by IRD Duhallow with assistance from the EU LEADER Programme, with the co-operation of the people of Duhallow, COILLTE, Cork County Council Fáilte Ireland, and the Rural Social Scheme.

IRD Duhallow



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Fáilte Ireland

Rural Social Scheme



This is one of a series of walking guides for the Duhallow Region. Other available leaflets include: The Duhallow Way, The Island Wood, Mount Hillary and Mullaghareirk Mountains.

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Walking Duhallow
SIGNPOSTED WALKING ROUTES

Source of the Blackwater

In the production of this leaflet every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. IRD Duhallow cannot however accept responsibility for errors or omissions in material included but where such is brought to our attention, future publications will be amended accordingly.



Source of the Blackwater



DIRECTIONS: Starting from Ballydesmond in North Cork at the junction of the R578, R577 and R582 take the R578 road for Newmarket. Travel 0.3km and turn left. Travel for 1.8km to a 3 way junction and turn left. The Trailhead is 1.8km along this road on the right hand side. [Note: The trailhead is signposted from Ballydesmond.]

From Castleisland take the DL 2032 Cordal road for 10.5km passing through the village of Cordal until you reach a 4 cross road where there is a monument to the musician Padraig O Caoimh. Turn left to take the L 7022 Glenawaddra road for 1.6km, the trailhead is on the left hand side.

TRAILHEAD: Glanawaddra, Ballydesmond, Co.Cork. Map Ref: OS 72 R170 078.

SERVICES: Ballydesmond 6km, Newmarket 20km, Cordal 5km and Castleisland 10km.

DESCRIPTION: The Blackwater is Ireland's second largest river next to the mighty Shannon. It rises in the Mullaghareirk mountains of East Kerry, and flows eastwards for 120 km through Counties Cork and Waterford until it enters the sea at Youghal in East Cork. The Blackwater is also a spawning ground for Atlantic Salmon. The view from The Steeple takes in the counties of Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary. The landscape along the Blackwater Valley is as varied as the industries and people who live there - with strong traditions for theatre, music, dance and sport. This loop is the longer of two which start and finish near the source of the river in the north Duhallow region - this loop actually passes the source. The area is known as Meenganine and is celebrated for providing a hiding place for Gearoid Iarla, the fugitive Earl of Desmond in 1558 after the collapse of the Desmond Rebellion. There are no signs of his hideout today but local townland "Feidhlan Tigh an Iarla" or "The Plain of the Earls House" is called after him. Meenganine is also associated with Fr. Maurice McKenraghry, chaplain to the Earl of Desmond. He was captured here by Lord Roche in the 1580's and martyred. In September 1992 he was beatified by Pope John Paul II.

A-B. Starting from the car park, enter the forestry following the green arrows. You are also following green arrows which are for the shorter Doctor's Hill Loop. After almost 1km you reach a junction with a forest road from the right. Proceed straight on here.

B-C. Continue to follow the forestry road for over 1km to reach a 3-way junction where the green loop turns right - you continue straight here.

C-D. Proceed uphill towards Knockanofune. After 2km you reach the Source of the Blackwater River.

D-E. Now you begin your homeward journey, following forestry roads for 3km as you descend gently towards Muinganine. Watch for a right turn which takes you off the forestry road and onto a woodland path downhill through forestry.

E-F. Follow the downhill path and exit beside an old homestead (O'Learys) where you turn left onto a sandy laneway. Continue along the laneway to eventually reach a tarred road. Turn right here.

F-G. Follow the road for a short period - crossing the Blackwater River via Doctor's Hill Bridge. Almost immediately, turn right onto a laneway near Doctors Hill.

G-H-A. Follow the laneway over the shoulder of Doctor's Hill to reach a 3-way junction where you rejoin the green loop for the remainder of your journey. Continue on a forestry road to reach a T-junction which you passed at A-B above. Here you turn left and enjoy the trip back to the trailhead.

<i>Theme</i>	Nature
<i>Terrain</i>	Forestry Tracks
<i>Distance/Difficulty</i>	12km / Moderate
<i>Ascent</i>	150m
<i>Duration</i>	2hr 30mins-3hrs
<i>Minimum Gear</i>	Walking boots, raingear, snack and fluid

PLEASE NOTE that sections of the loop walks may be closed at certain times during the year in order to allow Coillte to carry out any necessary work.