

Derrigimlagh - A place of wonder, innovation and daring

Derrigimlagh is one of fifteen Signature Discovery Points along the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's long distance coastal touring route stretching from the Inishowen Peninsula in Co Donegal to Kinsale in West Cork. The Signature Discovery Points have been amplified for their dramatic coastal views and/or the richness of the stories associated with the area. Make sure to visit other Discovery Points on your Wild Atlantic Way journey.

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Derrigimlagh - Marconi and Alcock & Brown

A Wild Atlantic Way
Signature Discovery Point



Stretching from the shore of the Atlantic Ocean towards the mighty Twelve Bens mountains, this blanket bog is one of the most magnificent wetland environments in Europe. The bog boasts a rich archaeology, dating back over 6,000 years, but it also has a remarkable modern history.

In the early 20th century, Derrigimlagh was at the centre of not one but two outstanding transatlantic technological achievement that marked the beginning of an era of modernity.

First commercial transatlantic wireless transmission

In 1907, the great Irish-Italian innovator, Guglielmo Marconi, combined cutting-edge technology and business acumen to achieve the first successful commercial wireless transmission across the Atlantic from Derrigimlagh. His radio station dominated the local landscape from 1905 until its partial destruction and eventual closure during the Irish Civil War (1922-1923).

First non-stop transatlantic flight - "Yesterday we were in America"

On 15th June 1919, daredevil airmen, John Alcock and Arthur Whitten-Brown, won the first race to make the first non-stop transatlantic flight and claimed prize of £10,000 offered by the English Daily Mail newspaper. Starting from St John's, Newfoundland in their Vickers Vimy bi-plane, they landed in the bog at Derrigimlagh 16 hours and 28 minutes later, making it the first European site to connect directly with North America by aeroplane. The Marconi station broadcast the news of their triumph to the world.



Take a short drive, or hire a bike in Clifden, and travel the ancient blanket bog - a mosaic of tiny lakes and peat, crossed by a single narrow road - to uncover two remarkable events of 20th century history.

Derrigimlagh is located 4.3 kilometres south of Clifden on the R341. From Clifden take Ballyconneely Road. Go over 3 bridges and it is on your left. Location: 53.461474 N; 10.023652 W

Close-by on the Errislannan Peninsula is an aeroplane wing-shaped memorial to Alcock and Brown. Location: 53.467146 N 10.032487 W

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Take the signposted looped walk of the bog to soak up Derrigimlagh's beauty and learn more about this remarkable place.



The Looped Walk



The looped walk is approximately 5km (3.1 miles) long and the story is told across seven stop points. Six of these stops are shelters. Starting at the car park, the walk will bring you from the entry and orientation point of the Marconi site to the location of former landmarks such as Marconi's Condenser House, Power Station and Social Club, as well as the cairn highlighting the landing of Alcock & Brown. Pathways and timber boardwalks lead you back through a bog landscape of outstanding beauty.

The looped walk will bring you on a fascinating journey, with each stop point allowing you to visualise the wonders of Derrigimlagh, both past and present. **You will also encounter a number of art installations celebrating the site's history of innovation.** It takes between 1.5 and 2 hours to complete the full trail.



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Please note that the trail is on exposed and uneven terrain so please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.



There are no toilet facilities on site.



Please do not litter.



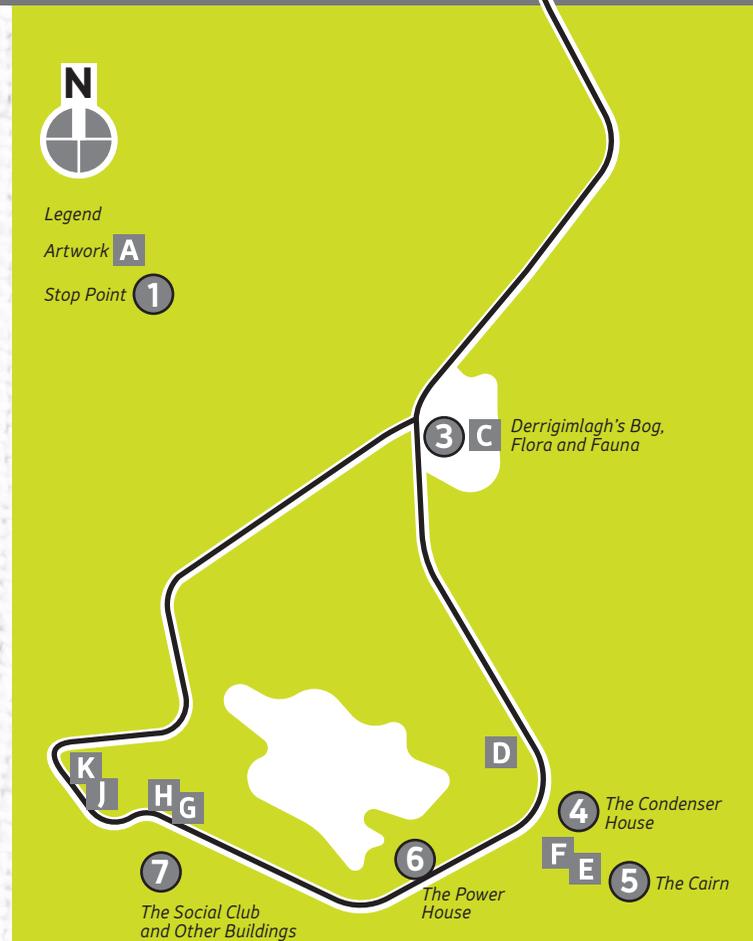
The wider bog can be marshy and dangerous in places. Please stick to the marked pathways for your safety.



No dogs.



- A Stop Point 1 - 'Photo Op' backdrop**
Inspired by an original photograph, this artist's impression shows Alcock and Brown in the railcar of the Marconi Light Railway. Guglielmo Marconi himself can be seen to the extreme left of the drawing.
- B Stop Point 1 - Tuning Fork Organ**
The Tuning Fork Organ plays with the relationship between wavelength, frequency, pitch, and the length of a resonating body.
- C Stop Point 3 - The Wind Reed**
A sculpture that draws on several different traditional sources.



- D On Looped Walk - Historioscope**
Using an original photograph, it exploits binocular vision to give you a glimpse of how the site may have looked during the time of Marconi.
There are 4 photoscopes on the looped walk. Looking through them you will see an image superimposed onto the landscape, giving you an impression of how the site might have looked in the time of Marconi and on the day Alcock and Brown landed here.
- E Stop Point 5 - Photoscope 1**
The first Photoscope shows Alcock and Brown's aircraft being guarded by British troops after completing the first non-stop transatlantic flight in 1919.
- F Between stop point 5 and 6 - Photoscope 2**
The second Photoscope shows a view looking west along the railway track, with the Power House visible in the background.
- G Stop point 7 - Parabolic Mirror**
This artwork, integrating a stainless steel polished parabolic dish, directs light and sound waves towards the focal point of the parabola. Stand close to it and you will hear distant sounds amplified, while reflections that are seen upside down from a distance suddenly flip the right way up as you pass through the focal point.
- H Stop point 7 - Panoramoscope**
Looking left to right through the Panoramoscope with its panoramic drawing you can see a range of sites and structures.
- J Just after stop point 7 - Photoscope 3**
Looking left to right through the Panoramoscope with its panoramic drawing you can see a range of sites and structures.
- K Further along after stop point 7 - Photoscope 4**
This Photoscope shows the front and north facades of the Engineers' Bungalow with the porch and tennis court in front.

Artworks by Cleary Connolly