

The Copper Coast Geopark County Waterford, Ireland

Trail card - Stradbally



> Woodhouse

> Walk 3 - The Durrow circuit - about 2h

Downhill and passing the Cove, a canopy of trees closes overhead. There is a record of 150,000 of such trees being planted here in the 1740s and many of these are the originals. They were part of the Uniacke Estate and the main residence, Woodhouse, may be glimpsed at in the Tay valley on the right and through the spectacular wrought iron entrance on the top of the hill.

The quiet road continues through farm-land and at the next cross-road, turn right and bear right again on the main coast road. On the left is a dramatic rail bridge, crossing the steep Dalligan river valley. The disused Waterford-Dungarvan line comes close to the walk opposite the pub at Durrow and one can see where it disappears into a tunnel here. The line is being converted into a signposted walk.

Proceeding through open countryside for a while one re-crosses the river Tay and beyond it is a small disused quarry with a mass-rock. Immediately beyond are the mature trees of the Woodhouse estate followed by the quarrying of greenish volcanic andesite. The next turn right and right again leads back to Stradbally via the Catholic church and the Barron hall (see plaques on walls for explanations).

Cover photo: Stradbally cove


Photo credits: Richard Cutbill (cover, Woodhouse), Sophie Préteseille (all others)



For Further Information

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a story captured in stone

> Walk 1 (c) - The cove

It is worth stopping as one walks downhill to look at the beautiful thatched cottage on the left. In 1992 it won a special award as the best thatched cottage in Ireland. At the foot of the hill is the bridge over the river Tay and immediately after it on the left a gate leading into the unique cove (see front cover photo).

The beach is long and narrow with the sea some distance out even at high tide. Bounded by interesting rocks on the right, its distinguishing feature is the way the river emerges from the trees and runs as a separate entity along the east side of the beach. Enquiries can be made locally about cliff walks here. The double lime kiln here dates to the agricultural improvements of the late 1700s.



> The double lime kiln (above), Ballyvooney (below)



> Walk 2 - Ballyvooney circuit - about 1h

Go downhill from the sundial and take the first turn left. A suburban road leads down to Ballyvooney Bay where one may sit and enjoy the view before reading the information boards. Continue uphill along a quiet country road and straight on where it meets the main coast road. At this junction on the right is an award-winning garden. Turn left. There is little traffic to bother one as one dips into a tranquil valley and up again. A sharp turn left brings one back to Stradbally.