



# Rathgormack WALKS

## Glenpatrick Bridge Loop Walk

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<b>Trailhead</b>	Glenpatrick Bridge Picnic Area, OSI Map 75, S289194
<b>Services</b>	Rathgormack 5km, Carrick-on-Suir 12km
<b>Length</b>	8 km
<b>Time</b>	2 hrs
<b>Waymarking</b>	Green
<b>Grade</b>	Moderate



## Glenpatrick Bridge Loop Walk

The second half of this walk is particularly interesting as you take a trip back in time under the north eastern slopes of Knockanaffrin Ridge along part of the old and very scenic “Clonmell to Kilmeaden” road, a military road built in the early 19th century (as so many military roads were) in response to the 1798 Rebellion and local faction fighting.

### Directions to Trailhead.

**Start:** from the picnic area near Glenpatrick Bridge (S289194), 6 kilometres west of Rathgormack just off the R678.

**A-B** As you turn right onto the road, walk through the peaceful Glasha gorge for 200 metres to Glenpatrick Bridge. Follow the green arrows left into Coolishal Wood then veer left at the Y junction. Compact Rush and Foxglove dot the path margins here and you may be lucky to spot some deer coming down to the stream to drink. Continue along the forestry road by the river and, after nearly 1km, veer left at the next Y junction. After 500m you approach an exit onto the R678 near Boola Bridge. Do not exit - instead swing sharp right, staying on the forest path.



Glenpatrick Picnic Area

**B-C** Ascend now but look behind you. Some of “The Seven Sisters” of the dramatic Knockanaffrin Ridge loom large. Turn left at the next junction and, shortly afterwards, left again. Now you are travelling parallel to (but well above) the R678 - continue to do so for almost 1km to reach a marker post which directs you left onto a narrow track. This soon exits onto the R678

near Harney’s Cross - take care crossing it to join the old road which starts your homeward journey.

**C-D** This 3 kilometre stretch is all that’s left of the early 19th century military road. It affords splendid views of Knockanaffrin Ridge. Soon after you cross the Glasha at Auhavrella Bridge the road climbs and views of Slievenamon, Carrickatober, Burnt Rock and Toor Hill open up on the left. A clump of trees on the right marks the remains of houses linked to Glenpatrick slate mining in the 19th century. A kilometre nearer the ridge you can make out what is believed to be an authentic mass rock. All the while, the peaks of Carrigsheegowna, Knocksheegowna and the pyramidal peak of Knockanaffrin itself, draw ever closer. In winter snow “the Reeks of Glenpatrick” are positively alpine in profile. Soon after the path descends to a sheep grid you are on tarmac, 10 minutes later you reach the R678.

**D-A** Turn left and follow the road for 200m, now turn right and follow “Lynch’s Boreen” as it descends to the ruins of the Glenpatrick Slate Mine. Turn left - the trailhead is only 50m away.

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