

## Devenish Trail

**Devenish Trail**  
(Approx 5km)

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(Approx 3.5km)

- 1 Johnston's Bridge, 1954
- 2 Cherry Island
- 3 Torii Gate at Old Ferry Port, 1989
- 4 Enniskillen Workhouse Entrance Block, 1841-1845
- 5 Brewster Park, 1982
- 6 Raceview or Factory Road
- 7 Cornagrade Castle, c.1614
- 8 The Paupers' Graveyard (1847-1948) Memorial 1995
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- 13 Kilmacormick
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- 15 The Back Lough
- 16 The Wide Awake
- 17 The Round O
- 18 Cornagrade Townland

### Trailhead Information Signs

- (A) Johnston's Bridge
- (B) Irvinestown Road Carpark

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Land              | Trees           |
| Lough / Lake      | Steep / Cliff   |
| Buildings         | Marina / Jetty  |
| Car Parks         | Picnic Area     |
| Playing Fields    | Playpark        |
| Main Road         | Public Car Park |
| Minor Road        | Public Toilets  |
| Pedestrian Street |                 |



## The Wide Awake Way



### The Wide Awake Way

The Devenish Area Pathway covers ground that holds much interest in terms of our heritage and history.

Dating from creation of the town in the early 17th Century, the trail uncovers a Plantation Castle, a mass bush at Mill Lough, evidence of the town's industrial past, the creation of the workhouse and the development of new housing off the island town from the 1950s.

The Riverside Redevelopment saw the gradual relocation of residents from Queen Street, Mary Street, Abbey Street, Dame Street, Strand Street, Kelly's Cottages, Jones's Cottages and

Carleton's Park to the newly created estates at Kilmacormick, Cornagrade and Hillview. In doing so changing the landscape forever.

All these events are seamlessly connected with the island town of Enniskillen. Some of this history has left very clear footprints still visible on or above ground (or indeed water). Other significant areas along the path are not so clear to see, but are remembered.

The walk is called The Wide Awake Way.

A Cargo boat, The Wide Awake was used as a sand barge by Jack Lemon (who owned a shop in East Bridge Street, Enniskillen in the 1920s and 1930s). For almost a decade it lay at the

back of the courthouse. It saw service during World War II hauling timber from islands on the lower lough to a sawmill at Enniskillen. The boat made daily voyages, returning with 40-ton cargo of logs 20 and 30 feet long to the Brooke at Mossman's Quay. Victor Johnston and George Acheson were responsible for this unique shipment of native grown timber and at its peak they employed around 40 workers. The boat became a familiar site on Lough Erne for many years. The boat sank with many ceramic tiles on board; making it too heavy to bring to the surface, with the mast and the funnel of the boat still visible in the water at the Back Lough in Cornagrade.

### 1 Johnston's Bridge 1954

Enniskillen's long awaited third bridge; built to allow access to the new housing estates and the Erne Hospital. The town's first traffic lights were installed at St. Michael's Church after the bridge was built. The bridge divided Cherry Island in two. The Johnston Bridge, was officially opened on November 15, 1954 by Lord Brookeborough.



### 4 Enniskillen Workhouse Entrance Block, 1841-1845

The Entrance Block is a visible and crucial reminder of the former Workhouse building on this site. This stands as a fine example of one of the 130 Irish workhouses built before the famine. The Irish Famine is unique in terms of the proportion of the population who died. One fifth of all deaths in this period occurred in a workhouse. In Enniskillen 2,040 people of the 10,000 who entered the house died.



### 7 Cornagrade Castle, c.1614

Dating from the early C17th was William Cole's Castle in Cornagrade; the site is currently referred to as the Bawn. This was Cole's third castle in Enniskillen. Trimble's Enniskillen notes: "Cole's castle at Manor of Corrigrade with 300 acres, it was upon this proportion that Captain Cole constructed what was called at the time the Castle of Cornagrade, which was a strong stone house, with a bawne around it for cattle."



### 10 Old Railway Line (The Black Path)

The railway line from Enniskillen to Derry was first surveyed by George Stephenson in 1837. 17 years later, in August 1854, the line reached Enniskillen. The train station serviced The Great Northern Railway, The Sligo Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway & the Clogher Valley Railway. The train station closed on 30 September 1957, having operated for just over 100 years; all too brief an encounter.



### 13 Kilmacormick

The townland name Kilmacormick or "Cill Mhic Chormaic" translates to "MacCormick's church" (John O' Donovan, OSBN, 1834). It was the first of the new housing estates built as part of the Riverside Clearance Programme which saw the demolition of "The Back Streets" in Enniskillen. Kilmacormick 2 provided 124 houses and 48 flats. The estate assumed the name of the townland.



### 16 The Wide Awake

The Wide-Awake cargo boat lies abandoned in the Back Lough, Cornagrade. It was used as a sand barge by Jack Lemon in the 1920s and 1930s. It was re-commissioned in 1939 and saw service during WWII hauling timber from islands on the lower lough to a sawmill at Enniskillen. The boat made daily voyages, returning with 40-ton cargo of logs, to Mossman's Quay at the Brooke.



### 2 Cherry Island

Referred to as Piper's Island on mid C19 map of Enniskillen. On OS maps the names seem to have been interchanged. In 1833 it was Piper's Island, in 1842 it was Cherry Island & in 1861 Piper's Island. The 1772 map of Enniskillen shows no.106 as Cherry Island; the 1745 map also refers to it as Cherry Island.



### 5 Brewster Park, 1982

Home ground of Enniskillen Gaels and County ground of Fermanagh GAA. Formerly McNeary's Field; drained by Prunty Pitches to create a playing field. The park was called after Michael Brewster, a significant Fermanagh player involved in the planning of the park, who sadly died shortly before it was opened. The complex cost £220,000. In the opening match Fermanagh secured victory over reigning Ulster Champions, County Down.



### 8 The Paupers' Graveyard (1847-1948), Memorial 1995

From 1845-1852 a total of 2,040 people died in the workhouse. After 1847 the majority of whom were buried in the paupers' graveyard. A letter addressed to Enniskillen guardians (1847) is cited "We beg to direct the attention of the Guardians to the shameless, indecent and dangerous piling of the dead paupers in the new ground." The memorial was unveiled on 28 August 1995.



### 11 Devenish

Daimh-inis "the island of the oxen" is in Lower Lough Erne. The island is the site of a sixth-century monastery which includes a round tower, the ruins of the medieval parish church of St. Molaisse and the ruins of the medieval St Mary's Abbey. Devenish has given name to the townland of Tullydevenish, Tulaigh Dhaimhinse 'hillock of Devenish', which lies opposite it on the western shore of Lower Lough Erne.



"Waiting for the Rowers"  
Kathleen Gunning and another lady (in white)

### 14 Hillview & Donnelly's Field

Hillview was a new housing estate built to provide more housing off the island of Enniskillen. Across from the entrance to Hillview is Donnelly's Field, named after Jim Donnelly from Dungannon, a local Nationalist politician who stood as the candidate for the Unity Party (a formative SDLP) in the 1966 Fermanagh-South Tyrone Election. He and his family lived in Willoughby Place.



### 17 The Round 'O'

A name going back over 150 years, it refers to common land alongside the River Erne to the North West of the island of Enniskillen. The name almost certainly derives from a small pool which existed there before the water levels of Lough Erne were lowered by drainage schemes in the 19th century.



### 3 Torii Gate at Old Ferry Port, 1989

The Torii Gate on the shoreline marks the old stone jetty used for years before the Johnston Bridge was opened 1954. Access to the workhouse was via the ferry (wooden rowing boat) that ran from the bottom of Market Street to the jetty. A Torii is a gateway commonly found at the entrance to Shinto temples; the literal interpretation means "bird perch."



### 6 Raceview or Factory Road

The name Raceview reflects the view from the area to the Racecourse Lough. In 1955 Taylor Woods opened a second factory in Enniskillen manufacturing lingerie; their original factory, where Adsa is now located, made nylons. The factory was later used by Standard Telecommunications (STC) and subsequently Desmond's, clothes manufacturer, which was the last company to be located there.



### 9 Mill Lough, formerly Racecourse Lough

Once the site of a corn mill (Near Mill). Later the site of a racecourse; the course was 1.5 miles long, with races going twice around the course. The last race was in 1823. The racetrack passed through Drumclay alongside the old Mass Bush. As there was no Catholic Chapel in the town, worshippers gathered at the Mass Bush, beside the racecourse, between Mill Lough and Kilmacormick.



### 12 The Battle of Kilmacormick, 1689

The battle was part of the Williamite Wars in Ireland, (1689-91). The garrison at Enniskillen defended the town from James II on 13 July 1689 at Kilmacormick. The Dutch artist, Adriann Schoonebeek, (1661-1705), captured the scene and captioned it: "Victory of the garrison of Inniskilling against the Irish, a tactical defeat but a strategic victory". Ordnance Survey memoirs refer to "skirmish July 1689 between troops".



Adriann Schoonebeek, 1661-1705

### 15 The Back Lough

The Lough straddles the townlands of Kilmacormick and Cornagrade. It leads to the Narrows, a stretch of water running between the Round O and Portora Castle, passing Derrygore House. The approach leads to the lock gates heading towards Devenish Island. The present Derrygore House was built in 1856, designed by Roderick Gray, for Edward Irwin J.P. replacing an earlier c17 house.



### 18 Cornagrade

The townland Cornagrade "Corradh Mhic Grád" translates to "MacGrade's eel-weir" (John O'Donovan, OSNB, 1834). An alternative interpretation is the: "hill of the persecutions, deaths". The new housing development assumed the name of the townland; at the centre of the new housing development stood the new primary school, St. Michael's PS, opened in 1963. It is now Holy Trinity, site 2.

