

# The Copper Coast Geopark County Waterford, Ireland

## Trail card - Dunhill



### > Walk 3 - Reisk and Ballymoate (cont.)

Return to the road, turn right and walk on about a kilometre straight past a T-junction. A private road on the right leads to a passage grave. Continuing along the road, Reisk medieval church ruin is shortly after a junction left up a short laneway on right. It has some interesting headstones with vernacular art passion symbols.

> Passion symbols on headstone at Reisk medieval church



> Back to the road turn left and then shortly right at the earlier junction, for a meandering walk off the beaten track. Note on the left a shrine to Sean O'Rourke. Further on to the right is a conical hill (possibly a Norman Motte) and beyond a huge standing-stone (function unknown). On further one can visit Ballymoat gardens. Stride out now and keep going left. The old ruin on the left was once a dance hall. At the crossroads again turn left. You are a half hour's pleasant walk from Dunhill.

Cover photo: Dunhill Castle

Photo credits: Des Cowman (Reisk church headstone), Keith Fitzgerald (cover), John Galloway (Ballinageeragh dolmen, the Obelisk), Sophie Prétesille (Annestown beach, wetland project).



### > Walk 2- Dunhill Castle and Anne River Valley (cont.)

Keeping the river to your left the road runs for a peaceful and bird-rich kilometre-plus to Annestown village. About half a kilometre from the castle, on the right and just after the quarry you may like to look for the ring-fort. It is one of thousands in the country, also known as Dun, Lios or Rath. Further along you may wonder about the origins of the obelisk to the left. So do we all! The cottage on the right as you approach the village used to be the local forge.

At the village, cross the road and take the path to the beach under the trees. (Also see the notes about starting point on Annestown trail card). From the car park bear right, being careful as this can be a busy road in summer. Within half a kilometre take the first left, and enjoy a different perspective of the valley and castle. At the bottom, turn left across the bridge, follow right once again around the base of the castle and walking up the hill turn right at the cross roads to stroll back to Dunhill. A well deserved rest at the Copper Coast seats may be had here.



### For Further Information

Copper Coast Geopark  
Co. Waterford  
Ireland

T: +353 (0)51 292 828  
E: info@coppercoastgeopark.com  
W: www.coppercoastgeopark.com

|  |                          |                      |            |  |  |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|------------|--|--|
| Supported by:  |                          |                      | Member of: |  |  |
|  |                          |                      |            |  |  |
|  |                          |                      |            |  |  |
| University College Cork<br>Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh | Waterford County Council | *Active Communities* |            |  |  |



a story captured in stone

### > Walk 3 - Reisk and Ballymoate - about 10 km

Take the Tramore road going east from the village. At the bridge one can see wetlands and waterworks on both sides. Keep going uphill about a kilometre, past the G.A.A. (Hurling and Gaelic football) sports field and the D.F.B.A. Enterprise Centre. Take the second lane to the right and after about 200 meters, peering over a ditch left one can find a double banked ring-fort, the overgrown remnants of an Iron Age defended farm.



> Walk 1 - Dolmens - about 3km

Walk up the hill past the side of Harneys' pub and after the school turn left. After about a kilometre there is a lane to the right. A short walk to the end and, in the field to the right stands Ballinageeragh Dolmen, from the late Stone Age. Return to the public road and continuing walk to the "T"- junction, turning left and then left again for a pleasant walk back to Dunhill. As you approach the village look out for the broken dolmen in a field to the right.

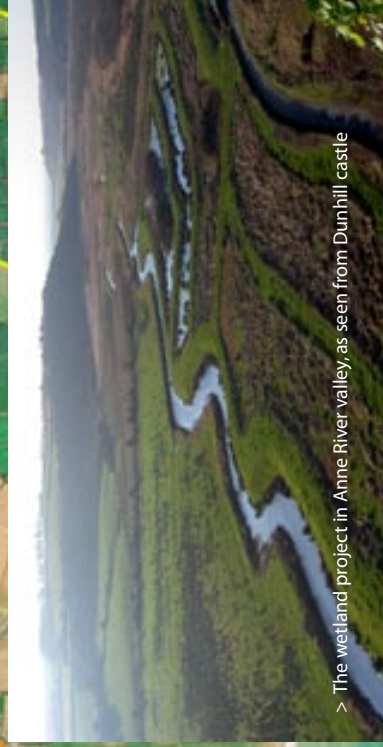


> Ballinageeragh dolmen

> Walk 2 - Dunhill Castle and Anne River - about 7km

Set off with the church to the right. This was built in 1884 though the belfry dates back to an older church in 1820. Walking on past the farm buildings on to the left stands a 4000 year old Stone Age burial place (Dunhill Dolmen). The capstone on this dolmen weighs about 30 tons and seems to have been too heavy or the support stones underneath. Walking up and over the top of the hill, turn left at the crossroads to descend to the valley of the Anne River. Dunhill Castle looms on the right and is in community ownership. It is accessible by steps from the valley floor and information boards outline its history as well as interpreting the present spectacular ruin.

The castle area affords a panorama along the valley while below lie the reed-beds and ponds of a "wet-lands" project which insures that any seepage from the farms above is filtered before flowing into the Anne River. A short walk left from the top of the steps leads to the remains of the medieval church. Like the castle it was deliberately destroyed but the stairs within the original tower lie diagonally, miraculously intact.



> The wetland project in Anne River valley, as seen from Dunhill castle