

## 3·4 Glenbeigh to Cahersiveen

**Map** panel 3

**Distance** 31 km 19 miles

**Terrain** short road walk, then forest track; quiet road leads to scenic hill track; minor roads across Ferta valley, then field paths; brief road walk; hill tracks and finally 5.5 km along mostly quiet roads

**Grade** short steep climb from Glenbeigh; long steady ascent; undulating descent into Ferta valley, one more climb, then downhill and level to the finish (total ascent 400 m)

**Food and drink** Glenbeigh, Kells (limited range), Cahersiveen (wide choice)

**Summary** forest walking along an old railway formation and quiet roads lead to an exhilarating traverse of a steep hillside high above Dingle Bay, followed by moorland and Ferta valley farmland



*Old coach road across Drung Hill*



*North-east towards the sand of Rosbehy Point*

- At the western end of Glenbeigh, go right at a junction along a minor road, crossing the River Behy. Turn right at an intersection and continue for 500 m to a picnic area.
- Cross to a path on the right. Climb through conifers to a junction and turn left to gain more height. The track soon levels, following the line of a railway which between 1893 and 1960 linked Tralee and Cahersiveen.
- About 1.6 km from the picnic area, descend to a minor road. This rises gradually, affording fine views of the upper Beithe valley and the rugged hills to the south.
- Continue through a crossroads, and at the next crossroads turn left on to a road that bridges the main road. At the far end, turn right.
- Follow this minor road for 700 m to a junction on the left and go up a gravel track. Within 200 m you reach a gate, beyond which it's easier going on a grassed track.
- Eight gates punctuate the track as it rises across the steep slopes of Drung Hill, boggy in places. It follows the dramatic route of the old road, with magnificent views across Dingle Bay. If the last gate is locked, climb it at the hinged end.
- As you round a bend and head into a wide valley, look down to the right to see two tunnels on the old railway. A steady climb brings you to a saddle overlooking wide, partly forested Ferta valley, dominated by massive Knocknabobar to the north.



*Above the railway line, with two tunnels*

- Continuing downhill, there's a good view of the Gleensk viaduct to the north-west. Cross a small stream and follow a wide track into a plantation.
- About 1.6 km further on, a track leads across moorland dotted with peat extractions, soon with the encouraging prospect of Cahersiveen beside the wide Valencia River to the west.
- Past scattered ruinous stone cottages, bear left along a minor road for 600 m. Drop down right to follow a track across potentially boggy moorland. Ignoring intersecting tracks, go on to a minor road.
- Continue along the minor road, after 250 m taking care to avoid turning right and uphill – unless you plan to finish the day at Kells, 1 km away.



*Gleensk viaduct*



*Valencia River*

- To continue on the Way, bear slightly left (the waymarker may be hidden in dense nettles). Continue for nearly 3 km to the second junction on the right.
- Leave the road here by turning left along a path between two large pillars. Pass through a small gate, cross a field then descend steeply to another gate leading to a footbridge over the Ferta River.
- Bear diagonally right across the next field, with a steep bank on the left, then veer left to walk parallel to the river below. Cross a stile to the next field and go on to a solid bridge across the river.
- At a road, turn right and follow it for only 400 m. Opposite a large farm building, turn left along a gravel road. Go straight up to a junction where you turn right.
- A few steps along, cross a stile then go left up a field edge to the next stile on the right. Cross a small field, go over a stile and left up a gravel road to a house entrance.
- Bear right along a farm track to the point where the main Way continues to the left. To reach Cahersiveen, follow the waymarked spur of the Way instead.
- Look for a right turn into a field. After around 500m the path emerges onto another quiet country lane and turns left. Passing a left turn, the Way arrives at a slightly busier staggered junction and threads its way through by taking a left followed by an immediate right.
- A tree-lined lane soon gives way to an open bog with small heaps of turf stacked up to dry. After about 1 km, the trail joins a tributary of the Carhan River and follows it downstream to meet a minor road, where it turns left.
- After about 400 m, the Way turns right into a field and crosses the main Carhan River via a footbridge. It then meets a boreen with a miniature thatched cottage. Follow the lane to the right of the house for about 2 km, passing through a gate and continuing down a hedge-lined road.



- The Way unexpectedly turns left at this T-junction, leading away from Cahersiveen. After 500 m, at the edge of a forest, turn right down through a field and follow the boundary through the adjacent fields on the right.
- In the 3rd field cross the stream on the left. Half-way up the next field, the trail cuts diagonally across the field to reach a slender field ascending to reach a road.
- Continue straight across the road and up a long lane. At the end of the cul-de-sac, turn left through a farmyard and exit the gate. The trail curves back around the farmstead and follows the line of trees and hedgerow along the flank of Bente Mountain.
- It is from this point that the extra detour from Cahersiveen can be fully appreciated with vast views across the Ferta Vallley. Knocknadober dominates the horizon to the north with the broad mountain range that includes Coomacarrea and Teermyole to the north-east.
- The Way crosses several stiles as it makes its way along a grassy path between field boundaries and criss-crossing lanes. After about 1 km, the track becomes wide enough to accommodate a car. Just before arriving at a gate to a house, the Way cuts across the field on the left to reach the forest.
- The deciduous wood above Hillgrove provides a sheltered approach to the town. The trail winds around a water treatment plant, then descends on a tarmac road. Turn left, then right, to reach New Market Street in the centre of Cahersiveen.

*North-east towards Knocknadober*