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Dursey to Cahersiveen



Derrynane Bay

The Kenmare River, like its neighbours to north and south, is a beautiful inlet with magnificent scenery and a character all of its own. It gives the enduring impression of being a great and well-kept secret. Although its shores are on well-trodden tourist routes – the Ring of Beara to the south and the Ring of Kerry to the north – and they have some of the finest anchorages in Ireland, the visiting yacht will often have a bay to herself. And as it happens, the two Rings are much better seen from the sea than from the land. Local usage is “Kenmare Bay”, which is at least more logical, and consistent with the inlets to north and south – it is rumoured that the official name was insisted upon by a landowner of former times in order to extend his salmon fishing rights to the whole bay.

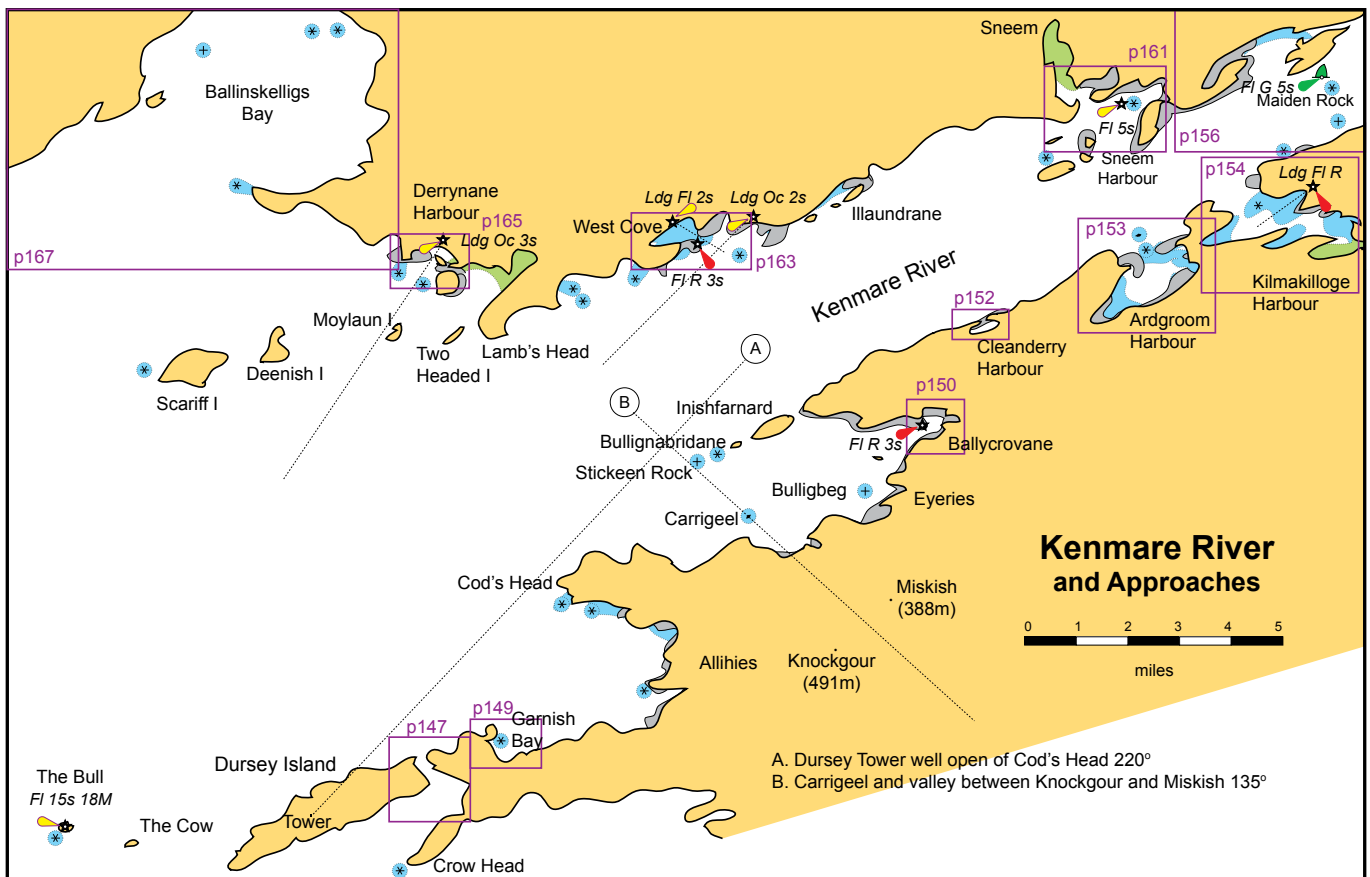
Derrynane Harbour, NW of Lamb’s Head, is a splendid anchorage, and the nearby Derrynane House was the family home of

the great 19th-century orator and reformer Daniel O’Connell. The house and gardens are open to the public.

Towering cliffs are the salient feature of the coast from here all the way to Dingle and Brandon Bay. Seven miles offshore are the Skelligs, not only breathtaking in their scenery but a UNESCO World Heritage site, and treasures in their bird life and antiquities. Valentia Island’s coastguard radio station can trace its origins back to the earliest days of the transatlantic telegraph, and the island shelters an excellent natural harbour. The picturesque town of Cahersiveen, two miles up-river from Valentia Harbour, has a small marina.

“Cruising Ireland”

*This coast is described on pages 68 to 80 of
Cruising Ireland*



Tides

Kenmare River and Approaches

Tidal Streams set fairly into and out of the Kenmare River. The ingoing stream starts at +0505 Cobh and the outgoing at -0120 Cobh. The spring rate is 0.5 to 0.8 kn in the outer bay, increasing to 1.5 kn in the inner bay with turbulence off Dinish and Dunkerron Islands on the ebb with strong W winds. Between Scariff and Dursey Islands the streams run N and S, running N on the flood. Between Dursey Head and The Bull the S-going stream starts at -0350 Cobh and the N-going at +0235 Cobh, spring rate about 3 kn. The streams run in the directions of the channels between the rocks, causing a turbulent sea and often a race near Gull Rock and S of the Cow.

Constant (West Cove) -0053 Cobh; MHWS 3.5m, MHWN 2.8m, MLWN 1.2m, MLWS 0.5m. The same data apply, to a good approximation, to Sneem, Ardgroom and Kilmakilloge.

Dangers

Dursey to Ballycrovane

- Flag Rock**, 0.3m, in Dursey Sound
- Lea Rock** (dries 3.4m), 1.5 cables SW of Dursey Head
- Tholane Breaker** (dries 0.3m), 1.5 cables offshore 5 cables S of Cod's Head
- Bulligmore**, 2.1m, midway between Carrigeel and Eyerias Island at the entrance to Ballycrovane
- Bulligbeg**, 0.6m, 3 cables NW of Eyerias Point
- Stickeen Rock**, 1.5m, 7 cables WSW of Inishfarnard
- Bulligabridane** (dries 1.2m), 4 cables ENE of Stickeen Rock

Lights and Marks

- The Bull**, white tower Fl 15s 91m 18M, Racon (N), AIS.
- Carrigduff**, grey concrete beacon, unlit, in Garnish Bay
- Illaunnameanla**, red square tower Fl R 3s, in Ballycrovane Bay.

Charts

The general chart AC2423 Mizen Head to Valentia, and Imray's C56, cover the area of this chapter. The Imray chart has plans of Ardgroom, Kilmakilloge, Sneem, Portmagee and Valentia, but AC2495 Kenmare River, with five insets, is preferable. AC2125 is the only Admiralty chart which shows any detail of Valentia Harbour. Refer to the general comments on charts, particularly electronic charts, on pp17 and 18.



Dursey Island from the E, with the Cow and the Bull beyond, and the Calf top L (Kevin Dwyer)

Approaches to Dursey Sound from the S; the jetty, L, and the cable car pylons, L and centre

KENMARE RIVER

The inlet extends 28M ENE of the line of Scariff and Dursey Islands, at which point it is 7.5M wide. There are many unmarked hazards and the shores must, in general, be approached with caution, but there is no danger in a mid-channel course as far as Sneem and Kilmakilloge, the most popular anchorages, 16M from the entrance. The S shore up to Kilmakilloge Harbour is described first, followed by the upper bay and then the N shore.

Dursey Sound

⊕DY 51°36'N 10°09'W

Dursey Sound, between Dursey Island and the mainland, is 1 cable wide at the narrows, which are further constricted by **Flag Rock** (0.3m) in mid-channel. The tide runs strongly (*see panel*). A cable car crosses the sound, with a clearance of 21m under the car itself and 25m under the cables. **From the S**, the narrows are difficult to discern until well into the bay, when the channel opens up to the NW. Having cleared the Bull's Forehead off Crow Head, steer for Illanebeg on the



Tides

Dursey Sound

In Dursey Sound the tide runs at 4 kn at springs, turning N at +0135 Cobh and S at -0450 Cobh, setting across Flag Rock and forming eddies and overfalls there. There are eddies on both sides of the S entrance during the S-going stream.



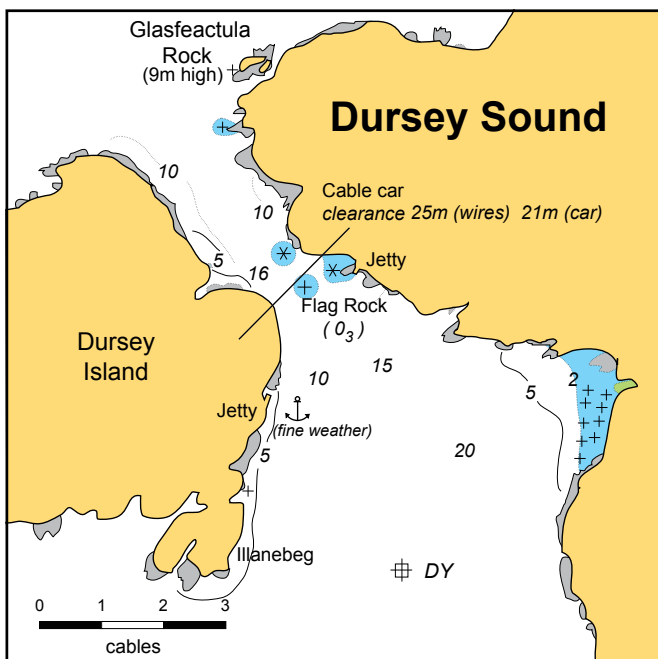
Dursey Sound from the mainland. The cable car system is scheduled for replacement but the clearances will be unchanged

island shore. Look out for lobster pots SW of the entrance to the sound. Keep very close to the island shore going through the narrows, and if marginal in headroom take care not to pass while the cable car is crossing. There is usually a disturbed sea at the N entrance to the Sound, which could become dangerous in strong to gale force winds. The sea rebounds from the cliffs of **Glasfeactula Rock**, 9m high, at the E side of the N entrance. Be prepared for sudden changes in wind direction going through the sound, especially near the N entrance where heavy squalls from the high ground may be met. **From the N**, the approach is clear.

In fine weather it is possible to anchor off the jetty in Dursey Sound.

Dursey Island

Dursey Island is 3.5M long and its highest point, on which stands an old watch tower, is 250m high. On its N side are the highest cliffs in County Cork. Its shores are clear of danger except off Dursey Head, where **Cuckoo Rock** is close inshore but **Lea Rock**, which dries 3.4m, is 1.5 cables SW of the Head. The N side of the Bull open S of the Cow 300° leads S of Lea Rock; Scariff Island, 9M N, open of Mealbeg Point (2 cables NW of Dursey Head), bearing 003°, leads W of it.



Dursey Sound: the island jetty at LW

Dursey Sound from the N





The Bull. The light is now shown from a small structure on the very summit and is visible through 360° (Kevin Dwyer)

The Bull, the Cow, the Calf and the Heifer

The Bull lies 2.5M WNW of Dursey Head and is 89m high. It is perforated SE–NW by an arched cavern through which breaking seas roll in bad weather. There are two detached rocks W of The Bull, one of which, the **Gull**, is 6m high. The Bull has an increasing gannet colony, which has claimed one of the two helicopter pads, forcing the lighthouse authority to depend solely on the other one.

The Cow lies between the Bull and Dursey Head, but slightly closer to the Bull, and is 62m high. It also has arched caverns. The Calf (21m high) and the Heifer (10m high) lie close together 7.5 cables SW of Dursey Head. There is often a considerable rebound of the waves in the channels between Dursey Island and the Cow and Calf.

The Cow



Dursey Head to Ardgroom

The N side of Dursey Island is steep-to. Ballydonegan Bay, between Dursey Sound and Cod's Head, is entirely exposed and offers only limited shelter in Garnish Bay, *see below*. Beyond Cod's Head is Coulagh Bay, with Ballycrovane Harbour in its NE corner. **Carrigeel** (2.4m high) is 4 cables N of Rahis Point, on the S side of Coulagh Bay. **Bulligmore**, midway between Carrigeel and Eyeries Island at the entrance to Ballycrovane, breaks in a heavy swell. Between Bulligmore and the shore at Eyeries Point to the SE are several shallow patches, including **Bulligbeg** (0.6m). The N side of Coulagh Bay is formed by a series of islands and rocks which extend for 2M W from Kilcatherine Point. **Stickeen Rock**, the W'most of these, has 1.2m and may not break. **Bulligabridane** (dries 1.2m) is 4 cables ENE of Stickeen Rock. Dursey Island tower well open of Cod's Head, 220° leads N of it. Carrigeel, 2.4m high, in line with the bottom of the valley between Miskish and Knockgour Hills and bearing 135° just clears Stickeen to the W. In line with the summit of Knockgour, bearing 146°, it leads between Stickeen and Bulligabridane. In clear weather Miskish and Knockgour are easily recognised



Dursey tower and Cod's Head in line (R). Come a little further N to clear Stickeen Rock. Inishfarnard, L: the Bull just visible at extreme R

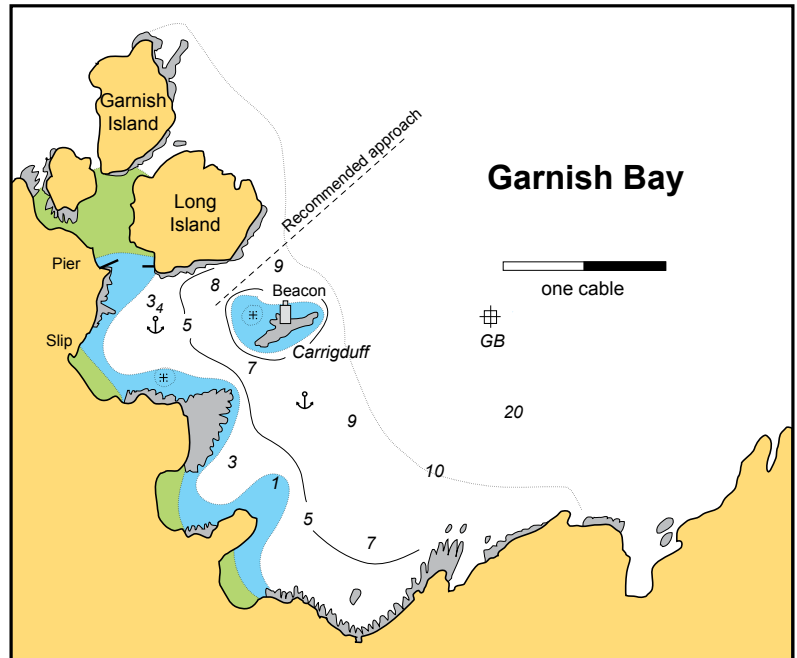
but Carrigeel can be hard to pick out against the land. Note that in a heavy sea the breakers extend W and N of Stickeen so give it a berth of at least 2 cables in these conditions.

Garnish Bay

⊕GB 51°37'N 10°07'·3W

Garnish Bay is an open roadstead in the SW corner of Ballydonegan Bay. It can be used for anchorage only in settled weather and with the wind between SE and W. **Carrigduff** (dries 2m), marked by an unlit concrete beacon, divides the bay in two. There are two anchorages:

- W of the Carrigduff beacon. It is important to find an area clear of weed and the water is usually clear enough to allow this. There is the least swell in this anchorage and it is convenient for landing. The approach N of Carrigduff beacon is reportedly kept clear of pots; stay close to the shore of Long Island to the N when entering.
- 1 cable S of the beacon in 5 to 7m, sand. There is more room in this anchorage and the holding appears to be good.



Ballydonegan Bay

51°37'·8N 10°04'·3W

In swell-free conditions this bay S of Cod's Head offers attractive temporary anchorage. Approach from the WSW and anchor off the beach in 3 to 5m. sand. Bird Rock, on the N side of the bay, does not cover as shown on the chart but stands 1·2m above HW.

Shops, pubs, PO at Allihies, 2km.

Garnish Bay from the NE; Garnish and Long Island R, Carrigduff beacon L centre (Kevin Dwyer)



Ballycrovane and Cleanderry

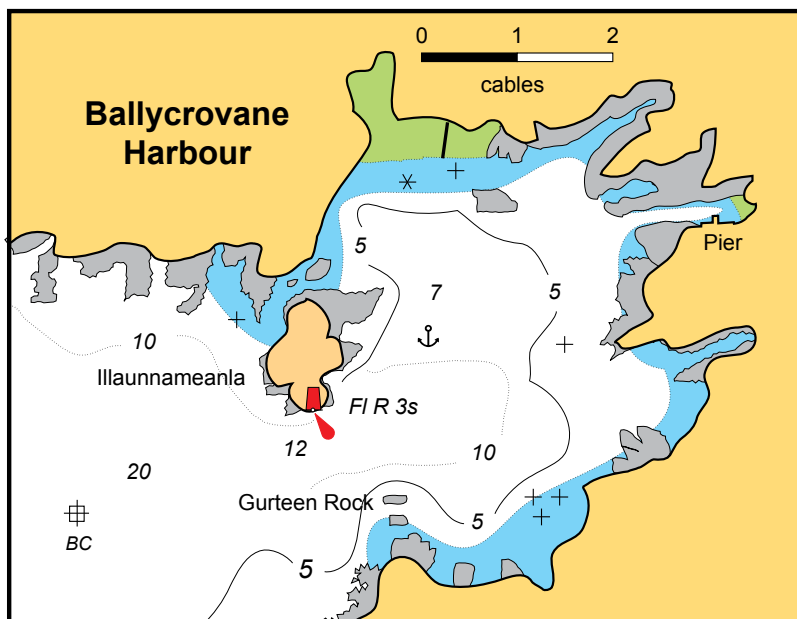
Garnish Bay from the E: Carrigduff beacon, R



(below)
Ballydonegan Bay from the W



Ballycrovane Pier



Ballycrovane Harbour

⊕ BC 51°42'·6N 9°58'W

From the W and Cod's Head, steer 057° with The Bull just showing astern till the summit of Inishfarnard is abeam, then steer to pass midway between Eyeries Island and the mainland N of it. **From the E**, use the passage between Inishfarnard and Kilcatherine Point, which has a least depth of 7·8m in mid-channel. See above for clearing lines for Stickeen Rock. There is a fish farm close S of Inishfarnard.

Eyeries Island is 4m high and has rocks all round it for a distance of 1·5 cables. After passing it, identify Illaunnameanla, with its red pillar beacon, at the NW side of Ballycrovane Harbour. **Gurteen Rock** is 0·75 cable off the S shore and dries 3·4m. The N and E shores of the harbour are foul for over a cable.

Anchorage

One cable NE of Illaunnameanla in 4 to 5m, stiff mud. The bay is exposed to W winds and subject to swell after bad weather from that direction.

The inlet leading to the pier, in the NE corner of the bay, is much less obstructed than AC2495 would suggest. There is deep water for a width of 50m as far as the pier, and a depth of 2m at the end of the pier. A temporary alongside berth may be available. Shops and pubs at Eyeries, 3 km.

Constant -0055 Cobh; MHWS 3·5m, MHWN 2·8m, MLWN 1·2m, MLWS 0·5m.

Cleanderry Harbour

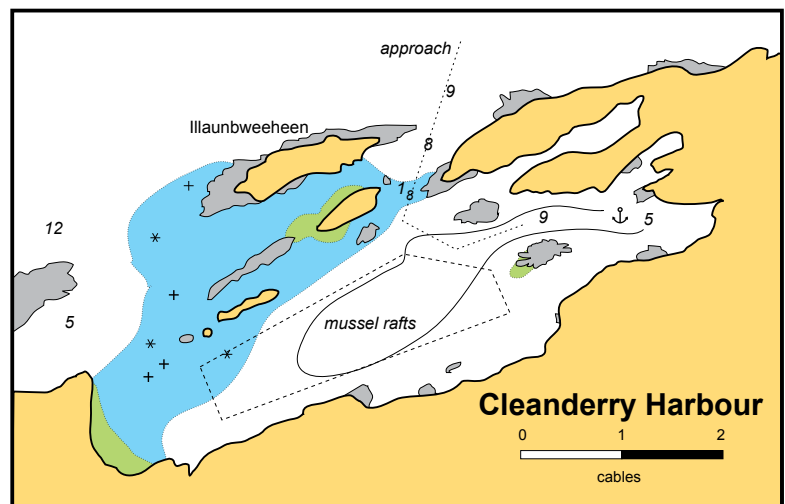
51°45'N 9°56'W

Cleanderry Harbour is 3M NE from Kilcatherine Point. Its entrance is concealed behind the low-lying Illaunbweheen, which is long and grass-covered. It can be identified by Shamrock Hill to the W and a big patch of scrubby trees on the hillside above it. The entrance is only 7m wide at LW with low



Ballycrovane from the NE; Illaunnameanla, centre, with its beacon, L

rocks on either side, and has a least depth of 2m. The pool inside has depths up to 13m, but it is heavily obstructed by mussel rafts and their associated plant and hardware. The W end of the harbour is exposed at HW when the rocks cover, and the best shelter is at the E end where there is space to anchor clear of a few moorings, but not much room to swing. Smooth water and a very careful, slow approach are essential. There are two drying reefs just inside the entrance and to port, and the course to the E end lies between them.



ARDGROOM HARBOUR

⊕AG 51°46'·2N 9°53'·1W

Ardgroom Harbour, on the S side opposite Sneem, offers excellent shelter but the entrance is narrow and intricate. **Kidney Rock** (0·5m high) is a cable offshore, 4 cables SW of Dog's Point. **Carravaniheen** (1m high), with submerged rocks extending NE and SW, lies N of the entrance, and 3 cables NE of Carravaniheen is a rock with 2·4m, which sometimes breaks. Across the mouth of the bay and protecting the harbour is a ridge of rocks and islets; the entrance channel lies in the centre of this ridge and has a rocky bar with least depth 2·4m. Unlit beacons, including two pairs of leading beacons, mark the channel.

Directions

Enter between Carravaniheen and Dog's Point, steering 155° for the beacon on Halftide



Cleanderry Harbour from the E (Kevin Dwyer)

Dangers *Ardgroom Harbour*

The rocks are too numerous to list individually but the principal dangers are as follows:

Ship Rock (dries less than 0.5m), 4 cables E of Dog's Point and a cable NW of the bar

Halftide Rock (dries) 1.5 cables SW of Ship Rock, with a beacon on it

Skellig Rock, 1m high, 2.5 cables E of Ship Rock, with drying and sunken rocks extending a cable W and marking the NE side of the bar

Sko Rock (dries), 2 cables SW of Skellig Rock, marking the SW side of the bar

Unnamed rocks with 1.5 and 0.9m, 1.5 to 2.5 cables SE of the bar

Black Rock (dries 2.1m), 3.5 cables ESE of the bar

Yellow Rock (awash at HW), 2.5 cables E of Skellig Rock

There are mussel rafts between Dog's Point and Halftide Rock, and in the SW arm of the bay, S of Cus Island.

Rock. Mussel rafts surround the beacon and extend a short distance to the NE. Skirt the rafts and identify the white pillar on Black Rock. A bearing of 099° on Black Rock, with the Halftide Rock beacon almost directly astern, leads across the bar and clear N of the 1.5m and 0.9m rocks. The rear beacon of this leading pair is difficult to distinguish; it looks out through a tunnel of trees and is visible only when very close to the line. Once across the bar, identify the second pair of leading marks to the NE. The front mark is the pillar on Yellow Rock and the rear mark is on the shore 1.5 cables beyond it. As soon as these marks come in line, turn to starboard and steer 206° keeping the beacons in line astern. Skirt the mussel rafts on the S side of the bay and steer for the pier at Reenavade when it bears NW.

Anchorage

Anchor 0.5 cable E of the pier at Reenavade in 4m, fair holding, or in the SW extremity of the harbour in 3 to 4m. Shop/PO/cafe, filling station at Ardgroom village, 500m from the

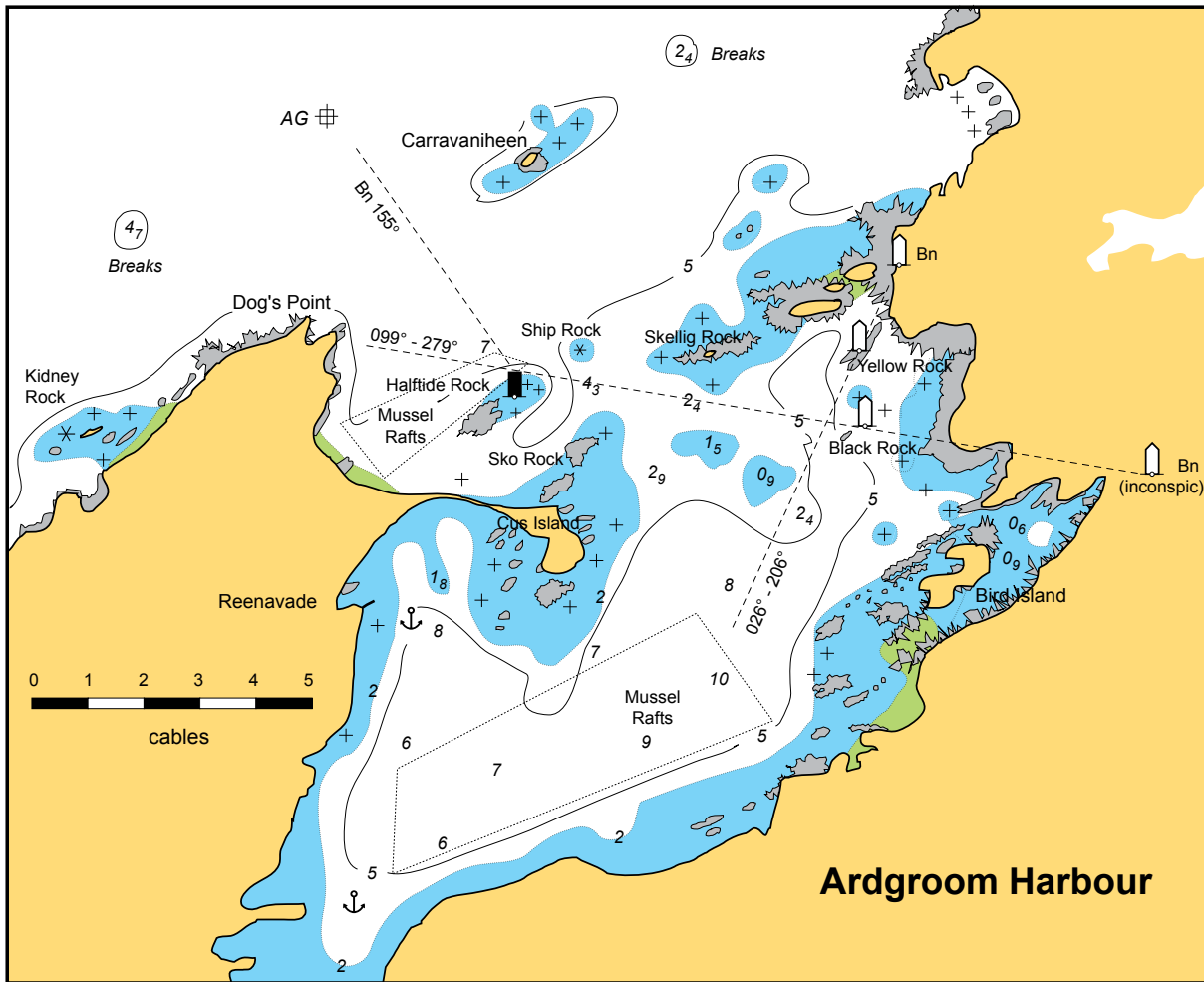
Lights and Marks

Halftide Rock, black beacon, unlit 🚫

Leading beacons, unlit stone pillars, first pair 099°–279° on Black Rock and the mainland to the E, second pair 206°–026° on Yellow Rock and the mainland to the NE. 🚫

Ardgroom from the E; Cus Island, R, Bird Island, L.





bridge (reachable by dighny) at the head of the inlet at the S anchorage.

KILMAKILLOGE HARBOUR

⊕ KM 51°47'N 9°50'·3W

Kilmakilloge, including also Bunaw and Collorus Harbours, is one of the most attractive inlets on the coast, and offers access in all weathers, and excellent shelter. The entrance, between Collorus Point and Laughaun Point, is 1·5M NE of Ardgroom and 7·5M from Kilcatherine Point. There are fish farms and mussel rafts in the bay,

(Lower R) The second pair of leading beacons at Ardgroom, the front one on Yellow Rock, leading 206°/026°

(below) Halfide Rock beacon from the NW



(above) The first pair of leading beacons at Ardgroom, the front one on Black Rock and the rear one (circled) among the trees, leading 099°/279°. The rear beacon tends to become overgrown and may be confused with the chimney of the house (L) or the tip of the gable (R). There are proposals to mark the beacons more distinctively





Anchorage off Reenavade pier, Ardgroon

Dangers Kilmakilloge Harbour

Most of the shore of the Harbour is foul to a distance of a cable off. The principal dangers are:

Book Rocks (dry 0-3m), extending 2-5 cables offshore, 4 cables S of Laughaun Point

Cuskeal (dries 0-3m), a rocky spit extending 3 cables offshore and forming the W side of Bunaw Harbour

Drying and below-water rocks extending 2 cables SW from Battle Point, S of Bunaw

Unnamed rock with 1-8m, 2-5 cables S of Battle Point

Carrigwee (dries 3-4m), 3 cables N of Doorus Point at the E end of the Harbour

but these do not impede access to the best anchorages and the pier at Bunaw.

Collorus Harbour

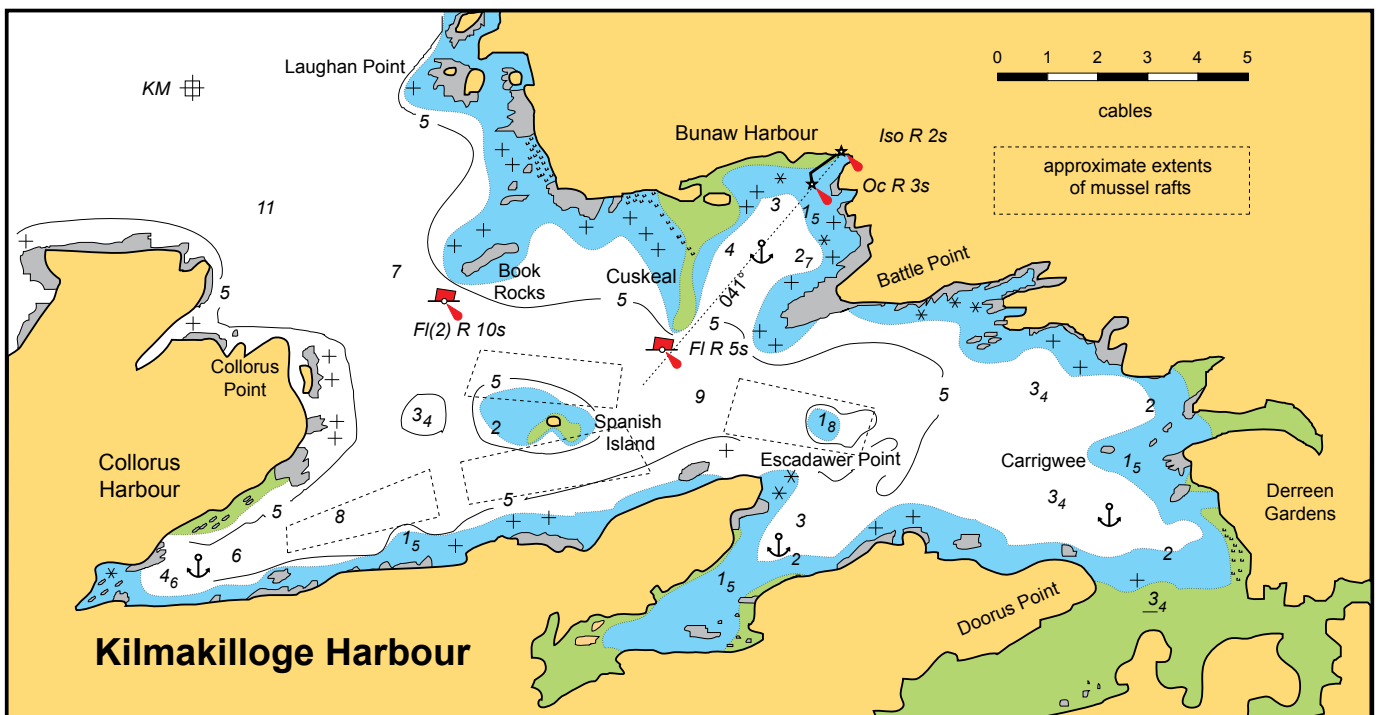
From the NW, Collorus Point should be given a berth of 1-5 cables. From the NE, give Laughaun Point a berth of 2 cables. Steer to pass midway between Collorus Point and Spanish Island (4-3m high). Identify Book Rocks buoy and leave it to port.

Lights and Marks

Book Rocks buoy, PHM Fl(2) R 10s

Cuskeal buoy, PHM Fl R 5s

Bunaw, ldg lts, yellow poles, black bands, front Oc R 3s 9m, rear Iso R 2s 11m



Bunaw

Leave Book Rocks and Cuskeal buoys to port, identify the Bunaw Pier leading marks and steer in on their line.

Kilmakilloge

Follow the directions for Bunaw as above but hold a course of 102° towards Derreen Woods to pass clear N of the mussel rafts, and the 1.8m rock 1.7 cables off Escadawer Point. Nearly 1 cable SE of Escadawer Point there is a small white perch which marks the extremity of a reef off the point.

Anchorage

- In the middle of Collorus Harbour in 5m, abreast a small disused boat slip on the S shore. The holding is rather soft and unreliable, with weed
- In Bunaw Harbour, NW of the leading line between the pier and Cuskeal in 3 to 4m. There is 0.4m alongside the pier, on the village side, and 0.8m N of the steps, with a clean gravel bottom suitable for drying out alongside. The steps should be kept clear.
- 1 cable SW of Carrigwee in 3 to 4m.
- S of Escadawer Point in 1.5 to 3m, avoiding the perch mentioned above.

There is a convenient landing above half tide near a road bridge SE of Derreen. No facilities at Collorus Harbour; pub/restaurant at Bunaw; filling station, pub/restaurant and PO at Lauragh village, E of Derreen. Derreen gardens are open to the public.

Constant (approx) -0053 Cobh; MHWS 3.5m, MHWN 2.8m, MLWN 1.2m, MLWS 0.5m.

UPPER KENMARE RIVER

The N shore is clean for 5M above Coongar Harbour, opposite and N of Kilmakilloge, but the S side is foul up to 2 cables offshore, and there are several hazards in mid channel.

Directions

A course of 066° from Maiden Rock buoy leads clear of all dangers to the mouth of Dunkerron Harbour. The narrows N of Brennel Island is 3 cables wide, marked by Carrignaronebeg perch and buoy to the N and Bat Rock buoy to the S.

Kilmakilloge; the anchorage S of Escadawer Point



Collorus Harbour; Collorus Point, R, Spanish Island, foreground



Bunaw from the SW

