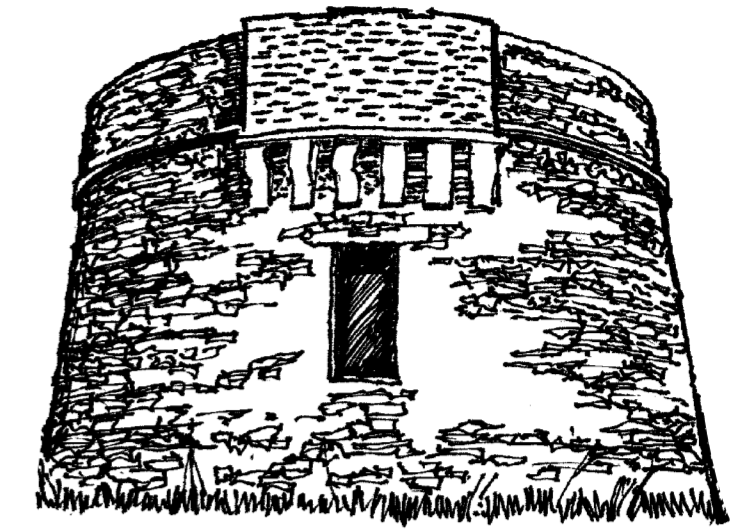


Lonehort Heritage Trail

Cosán Oidhreachta Longphoirt



Rerrin Stone Pier

The stone pier, here, at Laurence Cove, has, for more than two hundred years, been an important lifeline connecting the people of the eastern end of Bere Island with the mainland. The pier, begun in 1797, just a year after the attempted French Invasion, was the first construction work to be carried out by the British on the island in the nearly two hundred years since the building of Carew's road in 1602.

Although some claim that the stone for the pier was imported from Portsmouth aboard naval vessels, locals are adamant that the stone was quarried locally at a place known as the Coal Slat. From the quarry, the stone was transported on rafts at high tide to the pier site. Testament to the excellence of the workmanship is the fact that, in spite of constant use over a two hundred year period, the pier, but for some little subsidence on the northern end, still remains in good condition and more than adequate to its task.

During the Second World War, the pier was mined by the Irish army who planned to blow it up in the event of any invasion attempt. In recent years, the pier continues to serve the needs of the army as modern army lorries, armoured vehicles, and troops are brought ashore on the island.

In 1797 those building the pier could hardly have imagined that more than two hundred years later their stone pier at Laurence Cove would still be an integral part of island life.



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council