

Hidden gems and Forgotten People

GLENRAVEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE DRUM WALLS, GLENRAVEL, CO, ANTRIM

The Drum Walls which are still visible to this day, supported a large wooden wheel, Used to lower wagons full of iron ore/ bauxite down a steep incline, (The Drum Brae), to the Parkmore Railway below. The iron ore was then transported to Larne or Belfast for smelting. Laden wagons going down the slope on rails, supported by a heavy gauge steel cable around the Drum. brought empty wagons back up again to be refilled. The system was controlled by a brakeman at the top operating a lever.

This process was necessary because the gradient of the slope was so great that it was not possible to transport the ore directly from the mines in that area to the existing Crommelin Mineral Railway.

Gregory O'Reilly

See also *The Drum Sculpture, Glenravel*