

**PRESS RELEASE 13 August 2023**

**Official Opening of Ballybrittas Dolmen Trail**

The Ballybrittas Dolmen Trail, Bree Hill was officially opened on Sunday 13th August 2023 by Cllr. John O’Rourke, Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District.

Bree Hill is a Coillte Forest with three beautiful trails to enjoy in an area that was produced by a volcanic eruption roughly 400 million years ago, there are spectacular views to enjoy including the Blackstairs Mountains and, on a good day, Tuskar Lighthouse which is situated 6 miles southeast of Rosslare Euro port. Bree Community Development Group are delighted to extend the trails to include a spur leading to the Ballybrittas Dolmen. The Ballybrittas Portal Dolmen dates from the Neolithic Period (4000-2500 BC) and is probably Wexford’s oldest standing structure. The Tomb consists of two large portal stones and a backstone that support a substantial roof stone. In addition, the dolmen has two side stones and a sill stone, the latter located at the tomb’s east facing entrance. Together, these elements enclose a small rectangular chamber in which burial remains would have been placed. This form of burial monument is known as a Portal Tomb.

There are only two known dolmens in the county which makes the site at Ballybrittas very rare and has the protection of the National Monuments Act. The trail was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) grant and by Wexford County Council

The trail is a 45-minute (3km) walk to the tomb site from Bree Community Centre.

For further information please visit [www.wexfordwalkingtrail.ie](http://www.wexfordwalkingtrail.ie)

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A group of people standing in a field

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From left: Cllr. Cathal Byrne, Betty Kelly Bree Tracks & Trails, Colm Moriarty Archaeologist, Rory O’Mahony Wexford County Council, Shelia Moriarty Bree Tracks & Trails, Madeline Quirke and Michael Delaney Wexford Walking Trails.

A person holding a ribbon to another person

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Cllr. Cathal Byrne and Cllr. John O’Rourke, Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District

Photographs Courtesy of Billy Kelly.