

Have you heard of the

North Mayo Sculpture Trail?

Organic

PLANT AND SEED SALE

5th & 6th April 2025
North Mayo Heritage
Centre, Crossmolina
(F26 FR94)

Deirbhle's Twist,
Faulmore, on the Mullet peninsula
part of the North Mayo Sculpture Trail

(Image: Northmayoarttrail.com)

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The
North Mayo
Heritage
Centre

The North Mayo Tír Sáile Sculpture Trail – the largest public arts trail ever undertaken in Ireland

Have you ever wondered about the intriguing stratified stone sheep on the side of the road at Ballinaboy, located near Glenamoy? Or pondered the meaning behind the jumbo-sized standing stones of Deirbhle's Twists at Faulmore? If so, you're not alone.

They are, in fact, part of what's called **The North Mayo Tír Sáile Sculpture Trail**, a collection of thought-provoking mixed-media structures or installations that harmonize art with the natural beauty of the region.

The trail originated in 1993, the year of the Mayo 5000, which was a year-long cultural celebration inspired by the surviving human imprint in earth and stone on the Mayo landscape over fifty centuries. The general idea for the Sculpture Trail had its genesis in the discovery of the most extensive Neolithic site in the world at Céide Fields on the North Mayo Coast. The installation of the works along the Tír Sáile Sculpture Trail was conducted during the course of a three-week sculptural symposium in June 1993.

The original trail entailed the installation of fourteen site specific sculptures along the North Mayo Coast, supplemented by an exhibition site at which the work of artists or temporary exhibitions were accommodated.

The locations of the sculptures varied from a disused quarry to sand dunes and agricultural land. A number of the original works have since been decommissioned and currently the trail consists of these 11 works:

- Caochain (Carrowteige),
- Wind Trees (Muingelly),
- Tonnta na mBlianta (Kilcummin pier),
- Echo of Nawascape (Lacken Bay),
- Intercommunications Park (Killala Harbour),
- Court Henge (Ballycastle Cottages),
- Tearmann na Gaoithe (Lacken Bay),
- Battling Forces (Downpatrick Head),
- Stratified Sheep (Ballinaboy),
- Acknowledgements (Claggan Island)
- Deirbhle's Twist (Faulmore).

The Tír Sáile Sculpture Trail was established not only to enhance the cultural landscape of North Mayo but also to promote tourism in the area. The initiative encourages visitors to engage with the local environment, fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural beauty and rich history of the surroundings. Moreover, it serves as a platform for artists to showcase their work, turning the entire region into an open-air gallery.

The trail is also part of a broader movement to encourage community involvement in the arts. Local schools, residents, organisations and a large group of volunteers have played a vital role in the development of the project, ensuring that it reflects the spirit and identity of North Mayo. Workshops, guided tours, and community events are organized regularly, making the trail a dynamic space for learning and exploration.

The Tír Sáile Sculpture Trail is more than just a collection of artworks; it is a celebration of community, culture, and the natural world. Whether you are an art enthusiast, a nature lover, or simply looking for a unique experience in County Mayo, this trail offers a chance to connect with both the environment and the rich tapestry of stories that shape the region.

So, why not lace up your hiking boots, grab your camera, and embark on this artistic journey? The Tír Sáile Sculpture Trail awaits, ready to inspire and captivate all who wander its paths.

References:

www.northmayotrail.com
www.northmayo.ie
www.visitBelmullet.ie
www.mayo-ireland.ie
www.discoverireland.ie



Tír Sáile, The North Mayo Sculpture Trail was featured in the National Geographic magazine as one of the top sculpture parks.



Left: stratified sheep at Ballinaboy
Above: Court Henge, Ballycastle
(Images from northmayoarttrail.com)