

The Skyscape & Horizon at Ballycroy Visitor Centre

The Horizon

For observers worldwide, the distant horizon is a magical interface between landscape and sky. The horizon delimits our view and is the domain where celestial bodies rise and set. It frames the transition from darkness to light and light to darkness.

Skywatching

Skywatching enables us to predict the coming of the seasons. Notice how the Sun appears to swing through almost 90° on the horizon from June to December. A distinctive horizon aids in forecasting the seasons using the predictable rising and setting of the planets and stars.

Stellarium

Stellarium is a powerful and realistic computer-based planetarium for viewing the movements of the planets and more than 600,000 stars in our Universe. It also shows constellation lines and asterisms from 10 cultures. This project customises Stellarium using the real landscape and horizon surrounding Ballycroy.



Sunrise, summer solstice c. June 20–22



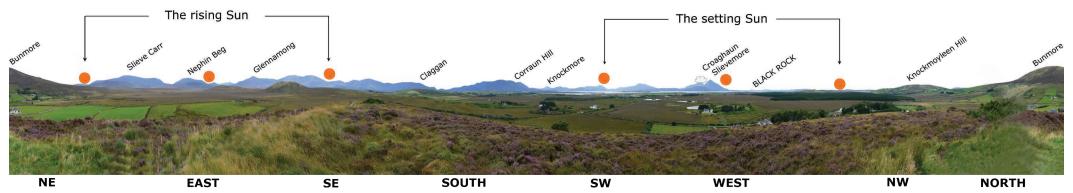
Sunrise, winter solstice c. December 21–22



The night sky at Ballycroy



Venus the 'Morning Star'



The Horizon and Dark Sky are critically important elements of our natural and cultural world. Each need protection from unnecessary light pollution.

Design: Dr Frank Prendergast College of Engineering & Built Environment Dublin Institute of Technology 2017 October 29



Stellarium Landscape File for Ballycroy is available free of charge from www.mayodarkskypark.ie.
Stellarium is a free planetarium for your computer available at http://www.stellarium.org/en/

This project is a collaboration with Friends of Mayo Dark Skies Community Group and funded by Mayo County Council via Local Agenda 21 Programme.



Mayo Dark Skies