

33. Darragh Hills

These hills, situated to the southeast of Kilfinnane, offer pleasant walks through mixed broadleaf and conifer woodland with some heathland. There are wonderful views of the rolling hills of the surrounding countryside with Galtymore in the distance. From Kilfinnane take the Mitchelstown road [R517] for approximately 7km and park at Darragh Bridge near the now disused Creamery building. Walking distance 8km, way-marked with blue arrows. Time



Carrighenry

2 hrs (there are options for shorter walks). Terrain moderate. O.S. Map 73: Start grid ref R723175

Starting from the old creamery near the Darragh Bridge [Point 1], take the road signposted for the Darragh Cottages. At the T-junction turn left where presently you will see a blue arrow marker and a stile on the right **[Point 2]**. Enter the stile and continue uphill along the edge of a field boundary. There are some wooden steps to climb along the way. Follow the path until you reach a junction, which is just past some benches **[Point 3]**. Go straight across this junction following the blue arrow marker under the canopy of conifer trees. Eventually the trees become broadleaved, mainly Beech with some Ash, Oak, Holly and Birches. Look out for Red Squirrel and Jay amongst the trees. The Birch Polypore can be seen growing on the dead tree stumps. Ignore the path on the right and continue along the footpath, which turns uphill to the right **[Point 4]**. On reaching a roadway turn right **[Point 5]**, then after a short distance turn left up a footpath under the canopy of conifers. This leads to Carrighenry **[Point 6]**, which is a lovely spot to rest awhile and enjoy the view.

Continue along the path down the other side over an area of bog. At the T- junction turn right and follow the path along the County boundary. Soon you will meet three fields; enter these by climbing over the stiles. During winter Fieldfares and Redwings flock in these fields, feeding on the ground. Continue along the edge of the forestry, avoiding the path on the right. Eventually the path turns uphill where you should look for a gap in the wall at the top, which brings you to the summit of Carrigeenamronety (Kilcruaig), **[Point 7]**. Keep a look out for Peregrines that may be seen in the area. There is a short walk across a heathy area where you will find Ling Heather, Bell Heather, Bilberry and Autumn Gorse. There are breathtaking views all around. Return to the path and continue along downhill, which is quite steep. The path follows the edge of the forestry and meets a roadway **[Point 8]**. Turn right where there is a row of Birches on the edge of the plantation with Rosebay Willowherb, Selfheal, Tormentil, Common Centaury, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil, Ling Heather and Bracken. The occasional Common Darter rests on the pathway whilst Peacock, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Speckled Wood and Green-veined White butterflies flutter by along the track. As the track bends around, check the ditch for Frogs, Pond Skater and Whirligig Beetles. Veer to the left at the next junction.

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Galtymore in the distance

Avoid the next track on the left and follow the next footpath to the left **[Point 9]** that brings you back to **Point 3**. Return from here to the starting point.



Peregrine (John Carey)

