

34. Galtee Castle Wood



Galtee Castle Wood



Fallow Deer

The start of this walk begins in an area of mixed woodland and ends in a spectacular mountain valley with a stream running alongside the track. There are scenic views of Galtymore and Galtybeg nearby in quiet peaceful surroundings. I call it the Forgotten Corner of Limerick.

Walking distance 10km, Time 2.5 hrs (there are options for shorter walks). Terrain moderate. O.S.Map 74: Start grid ref R878188

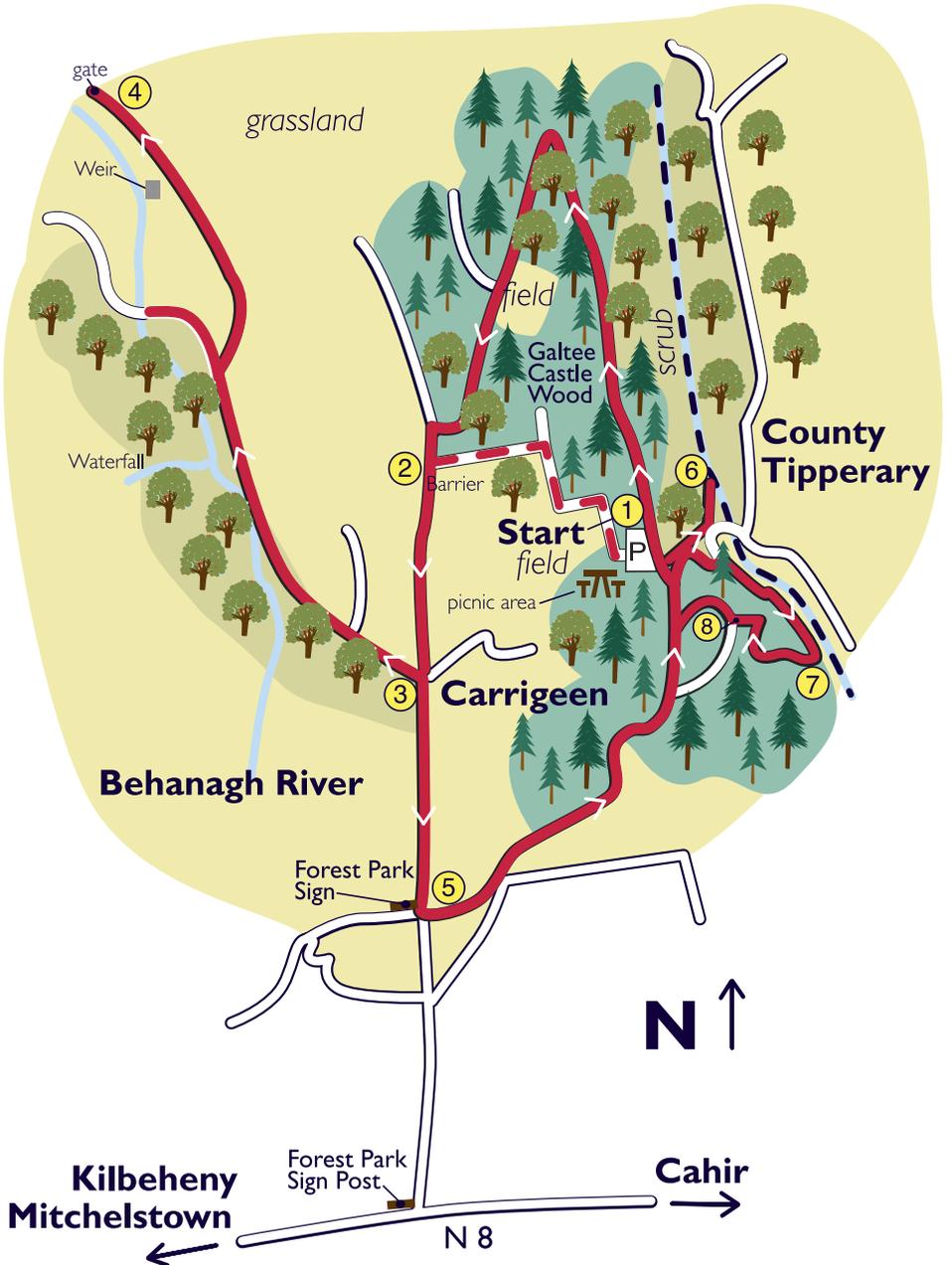
Starting from the car park [Point 1]

follow the track in a northerly direction towards the Galtys. Fallow Deer are seen regularly in the area, so keep a look out for them. Along the track you will find some Beech, Ash, Lodgepole Pine and Sitka Spruce. Ignore the paths to the right and at the top of the hill keep to the left up around the sharp bend. Continue past the next track on the right whilst passing a large stone-walled field on the left. Soon you will enter an enclosed canopy of conifer trees with Beech. The track bends to the right, past a house and meets a T- junction. Turn left down the hill; in the ditch there are Hart's-tongue Fern, Rusty-back Fern, Mullein and

Wood Sorrel. After a short distance you will see a barrier on your left **[Point 2]**.

Option: to return to the start, take this turning through Scots Pine, which eventually becomes coniferous plantation. At the T-junction turn right, which leads the way back to the car park (this section can be muddy for a short distance).

We continue along the road and turn right at a road junction **[Point 3]**. Follow this road, which passes by a mixed woodland on a steep bank. Keep an eye out for the Red Squirrels that occur here. Numerous birds move about the trees, ranging from the small Goldcrest to the larger Woodpigeon. Along the verges Pennywort, Herb Robert and Cuckoo-pint occur. Further on the road emerges into a scenic mountain valley where it meets a stream. There are waterfalls tumbling down the opposite hillside and into the valley below. When meeting a fork in the road, veer uphill to the right just before the bridge. The stone walls are covered with Bracken, Polypody Fern and Bilberry. Further on beside a weir there are two Broom bushes where Coal tit and Willow Warbler may be heard singing. When approaching the stream a Grey Heron could suddenly take flight, whilst Ravens may pass overhead. At the gate you have reached the end of the walk **[Point 4]**.



34. Galtee Castle Wood



Behanagh River



Willow Warbler (Padraig O'Callaghan)



Attychraan River

Return to **Point 3**; turn right and follow the road to the next junction where there is a signpost for the forest park **[Point 5]**. Turn left to return to the start. Butterflies along the way include Silverwashed Fritillary, Orange Tip and Holly Blue.

Option: At the car park follow the footpath down to the Attychraan River that can be heard in the distance. It is worth the short walk down for a quick look **[Point 6]**. This river is on the County border with Tipperary. Look out for Shaggy Ink Cap and Puffball Mushrooms in autumn. There is a heathy slope down to the river that has Heathers, Woodrush and some scattered Downy Birch. Along the riverbank there are some clumps of Goldenrod whilst Dippers and Grey Wagtails may be seen on the rocks in the river. Returning back to the road, turn left where you can see a gate on the right a short distance away. Turn right and enter this gate.

Continue along the forest track that follows above the river. The path overlooks a ravine that has steep-sided slopes. Eventually you will reach a space for turning cars **[Point 7]**. Turn right up a steep footpath that bends to the right, which can be muddy. At the T-junction turn left uphill. Turn right again at the next T-junction **[Point 8]**, which will bring you back to the entrance road. Turn right here and the car park is a short distance away. This is the end of our walk.