

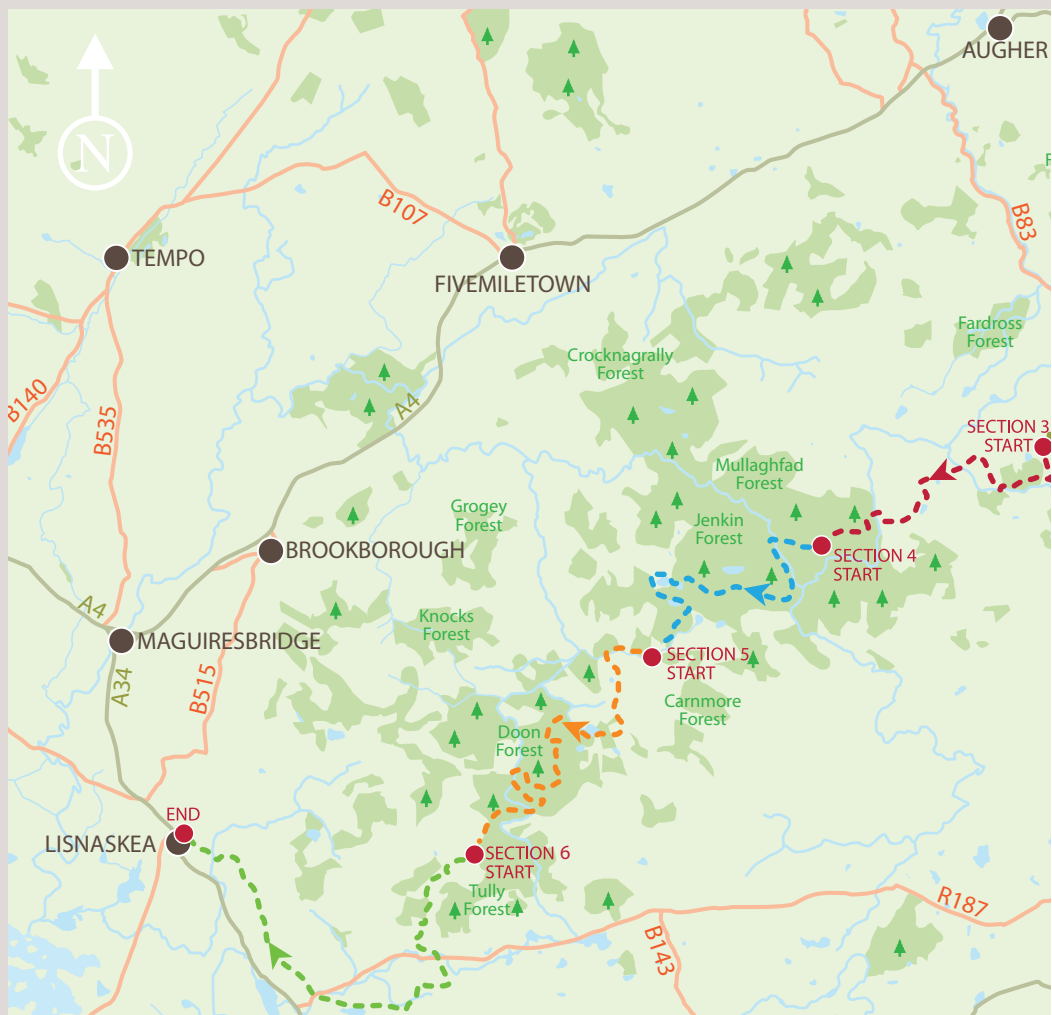
# Sliabh Beagh Way

Steeped in local myth and legend, the Sliabh Beagh Way meanders through the valleys of Co Tyrone, the drumlins of Co Monaghan and the lakelands of Co Fermanagh



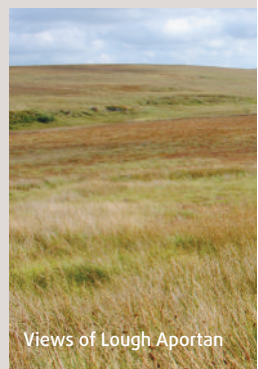
**WalkNI.com**

*Your definitive guide to walking in Northern Ireland*



## Key to Map

- SECTION 1 - AUGHNACLOY TO ST PATRICK'S CHAIR AND WELL (12km)
- SECTION 2 - ST PATRICK'S WELL AND CHAIR TO BRAGAN (8.7km)
- SECTION 3 - BRAGAN TO MUCKLE ROCKS (8.8km)
- SECTION 4 - MUCKLE ROCKS TO ESHYWULLIGAN (9.6km)
- SECTION 5 - ESHYWULLIGAN TO TULLY FOREST (12.2km)
- SECTION 6 - TULLY FOREST TO LISNASKEA (14km)



Views of Lough Aportan



## Welcome to the Sliabh Beagh Way

This 65km two-day walking route follows a mixture of country lanes and forest tracks as it explores the varied countryside around South Fermanagh. A remote path across the expanse of moor around Sliabh Beagh is one of the highlights, while good signage and generally firm terrain make it suitable for all fit walkers.

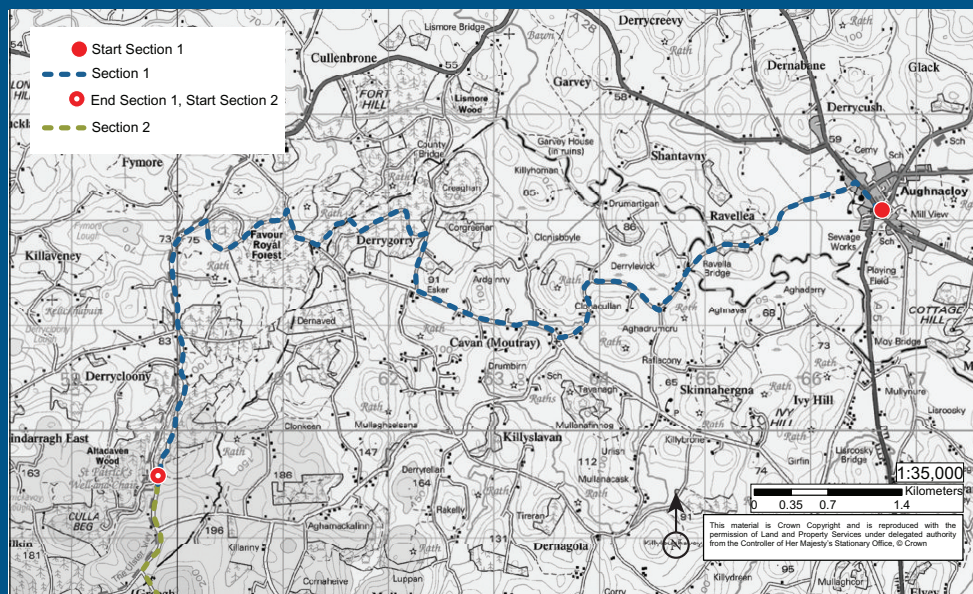


Lough Nadarra

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## SECTION 1 - AUGHNACLOY TO ST PATRICK'S WELL AND CHAIR



### Section 1 - 12km

#### The route begins along a series of country lanes.

From the main street in Aughnacloy, begin by heading west along Ravello Road. This soon brings you into pastoral surrounds, with fields on both sides. After 2km, cross the bridge over the River Blackwater. This river marks the international border and for the first half of the route you will be crossing back and forth between County Fermanagh and County Cavan in the Republic of Ireland.

Around 400m beyond the bridge, turn right onto a smaller lane, then turn left at the next T-junction. This brings you to a large painted church in the hamlet of Cavan. Turn right here, then right again 1.5km later.

Before long you arrive at the route's first off-road section. On the left you will see a wooden gate and turnstile that guards the entrance to Favour Royal Forest, pass through this and follow a track through deciduous trees. A mixture of native saplings were planted here in 2000 as part of the People's Millennium Forests scheme.

Follow the track as it swings left, then look out for a footpath that leads off to the right, follow this across a footbridge, then turn left onto a track on the opposite bank. This brings you to another turnstile at the forest exit.

Join a road and turn right, then, 400m later, turn left onto another forest track. Here you pass through mature pine forest. Keep straight ahead at a track junction, then turn left onto a road. Follow this road for 2.5km, climbing beside Altadaven Wood. The section ends at the southern end of the wood, where you will find a car park for St Patrick's Well and Chair.





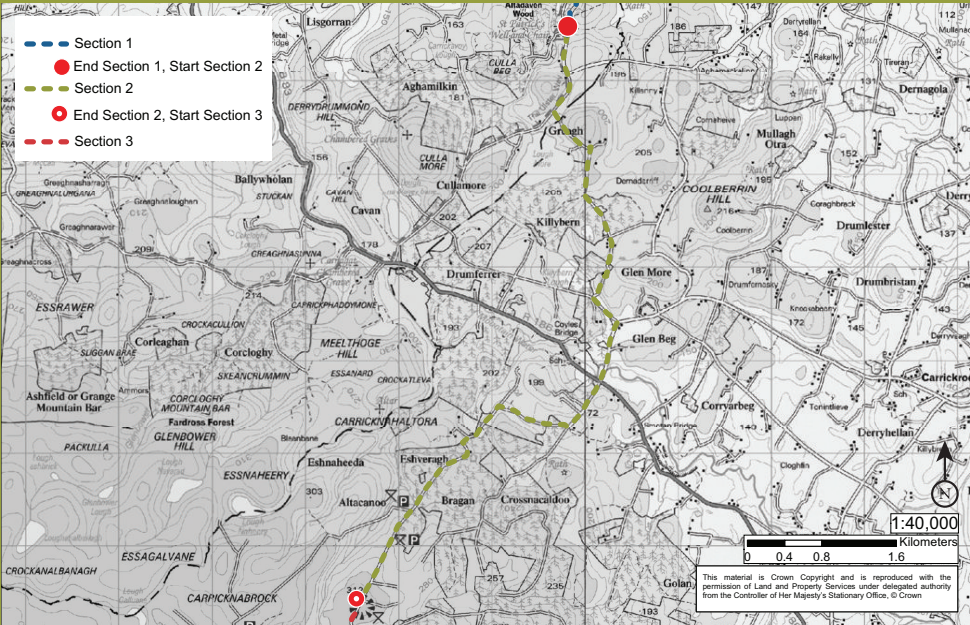
Aughnacloy Market



St Patrick's Chair

## Did You Know?

Ireland was once covered by massive deciduous forests, but these native woodlands were gradually cleared and by 1900, less than 1% of the country was wooded. In 2000, one native tree was planted for every household in the country as part of the People's Millennium Forests scheme. Favour Royal Forest was one of 16 sites chosen to host the new woodlands.



## Section 2 - 8.7km

This section follows the country road as it climbs to a high moorland viewpoint.



Unless you are in a rush, it's well worth beginning with a five-minute detour to visit St Patrick's Well and Chair. From the car park, walk along the track to a barrier, then turn right and climb a set of forest steps. The Chair is hewn from massive boulders and is located along the ridge some 100m further on. The moss-cloaked stones make this an evocative place and it is tempting to linger a while to soak up the atmosphere.

When you are ready to leave the forest, continue south along the road. Take the second road on the left, which offers good views over Lough More. You now follow a series of narrow lanes and descend across a river to reach the main R186 road. Each junction is signed to help keep you on the right course.



Cross straight over the R186, following signs towards Bragan Penal Cross. The road climbs gradually and is flanked by trees on both sides. After 3km you emerge from the vegetation to a sudden view across open, peat-cloaked hillsides. This is the expanse of moor that surrounds Sliabh Beagh.

Continue to the highest point of the road, marked by a picnic area and an open landscape that allows fine views in all directions. You will also notice a sign directing you left to Bragan Penal Cross. The cross itself is a detour of a few hundred metres from the road and it commemorates a local priest, Father McKenna, who was shot here around 1754.



Stone engraving at St Patrick's Chair

### Did You Know?

Tradition relates that St Patrick said mass in the Chair in Altadaven Wood, and blessed the nearby Well. However it is likely that the site's importance pre-dates St Patrick. The name Altadaven translates as 'Glen of the Druid, or Devil' and archaeological evidence indicates that the Chair was probably also used for pre-Christian rituals.

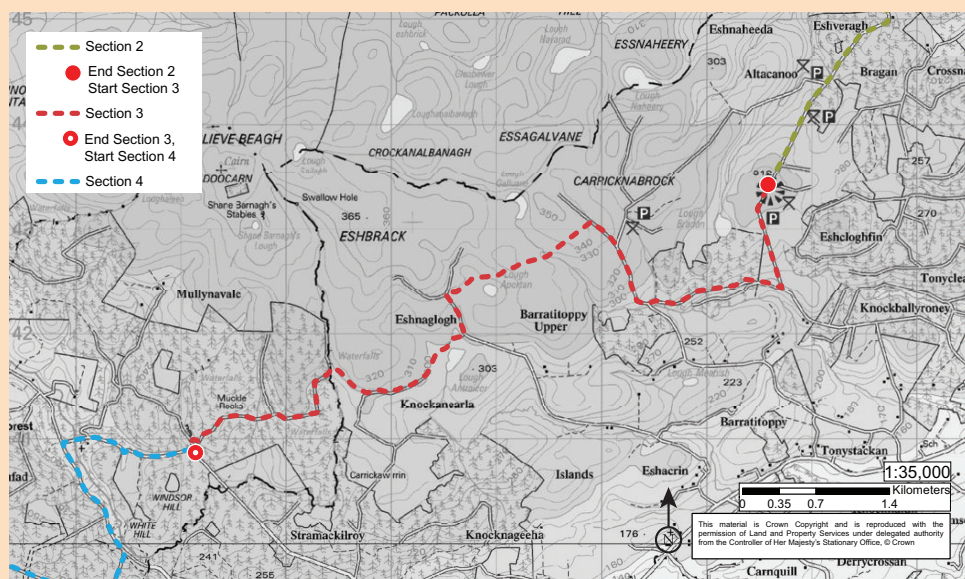


Landscape at Bragan

Landscape surrounding Lough Aportan

### Did You Know?

Just north of the forest at Muckle Rocks lies Shane Barnagh's Lough and a nearby outcrop of sandstone is known as Shane Barnagh's Stables. The name recalls an outlaw who roamed across Northern Ireland in the 17th Century. He used the rocks for hiding stolen livestock and rumours persist of a horde of undiscovered treasure still buried beneath the Lough.



### Section 3 - 8.8km

Now follow a moorland path across the lower slopes of Sliabh Beagh.

From Bragan, continue along the road for 1km, descending steadily to a T-junction. Turn right here, then turn right again after 1.5km. Follow this lane uphill for 800m. Where the road bends sharply right, continue straight ahead onto a stone track.





After 400m, turn left onto a faint path across the open moorland. The turf is springy underfoot as you pass along the right hand side of an old drainage ditch. Cross a stream with the help of a metal footbridge and continue ahead, following marker posts across the peaty ground.

At the top of a hummock, the waters of Lough Aportan come into view below. Here the trail veers abruptly to the right and you head northwest to join the end of a track. Follow the track, swinging left at a junction and continuing towards Lough Antraicer. Shortly before this lough, the waymarkers indicate a right turn and a return to open ground. Pass along the western side of the lough, crossing two more footbridges on the way.

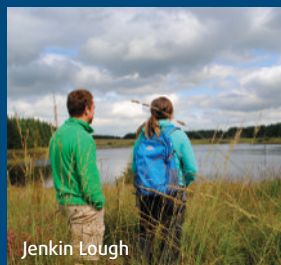
Soon you arrive at the end of another track. Follow this for around 600m, then watch out for a signed right turn back onto the moorland. The route runs parallel to Mullaghfad Forest for a while, then makes a sharp left turn. Cross a footbridge over the Colebrooke River and enter the trees, then turn left onto a forest track. Now follow the signs through three track junctions to reach the road at Muckle Rocks.



Eshnaglogh



Carricknabrock landscape



Jenkin Lough

## Section 4 - 9.6km

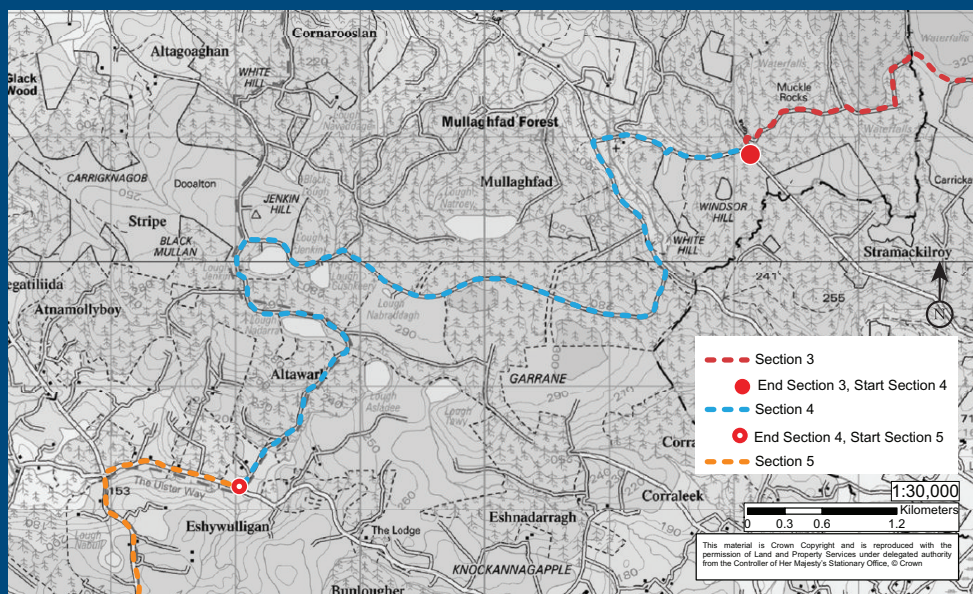
Country lanes now carry you to Mullaghfad Forest and an enjoyable stroll past several upland lakes.

At Muckle Rocks, turn right onto the road and follow the tarmac for 1.5km. Here you pass Mullaghfad Church, a remote, stone church with an external bell. A number of fine, ancient yew trees can also be seen in the graveyard.

Shortly beyond the church you arrive at a T-junction, turn left here. After one kilometre along the tarmac, the route turns right and you embark along a series of tracks that lead you through Mullaghfad Forest.

The first track begins with a steady climb through the pines and brings you to a T-junction. Turn left here, and you will soon find yourself passing along the shore of Lough Cushkeery. Just a few hundred metres later you reach the larger Jenkin Lough. If it's a warm day, the placid waters of these lakes provide a pleasant place to take a break. Such remote, upland loughs are a haven for wildlife, with fish species such as brown trout, pike, perch and eel living beneath the water and creatures like frogs, newts and dragonflies thriving on the margins.

Continue past the lakes to reach a T-junction with a wider track. Turn left here and follow this track as it swings round to the left and passes beside Lough Nadarra. At the next junction turn right and descend to meet the road at Eshywulligan.







Views of Mullaghfad Forest



Mullaghfad Church

### Did You Know?

Mullaghfad Parish Church dates from 1836 and must be one of the most remote churches in Ireland. It has never had an electricity supply and a handful of services are held here each year. The cemetery contains the graves of two Ulster Special Constabulary Officers ('B' Specials), who were killed near here by the IRA in 1921, during the Anglo-Irish War.



Tully Forest

### Section 5 - 12.2km A climb along a moorland road brings you to the traverse of two forestry plantations.

Turn right where you join the road in Eshywulligan and follow the tarmac for 1km to a crossroads. Now turn left and climb past Lough Nabull, heading towards the hill of Carnmore. In poor weather, the open peat moorland near here can seem a featureless and desolate place. Shortly before the top of the hill, turn right onto a gravel track signed to Lough Corry. Descend to the shore of the lake, which is popular with fly fishermen seeking to catch brown trout.

Follow the track past the western shore of the lake, then sweep left past several signed junctions. Now climb over the brow of a hill in Doon Forest and descend past Eshcleagh Lough to reach a road. Turn right here and continue for 1.5km to a T-junction. Turn left here, then take the next right.

This brings you to a track that leads into Tully Forest. Keep right at a junction after 250m, then begin to undulate across a series of hummocks. Along with Altadaven Wood, Tully Forest remains a stronghold of the native red squirrel. Though you will be lucky to catch sight of this elusive animal, look out for nibbled nuts and pinecones along the track that provide evidence of its presence.

Where the slopes are free of trees, there are also good views across the surrounding countryside. Now descend steeply to a track junction, where you turn right and meet the barrier that marks your exit from Tully Forest.





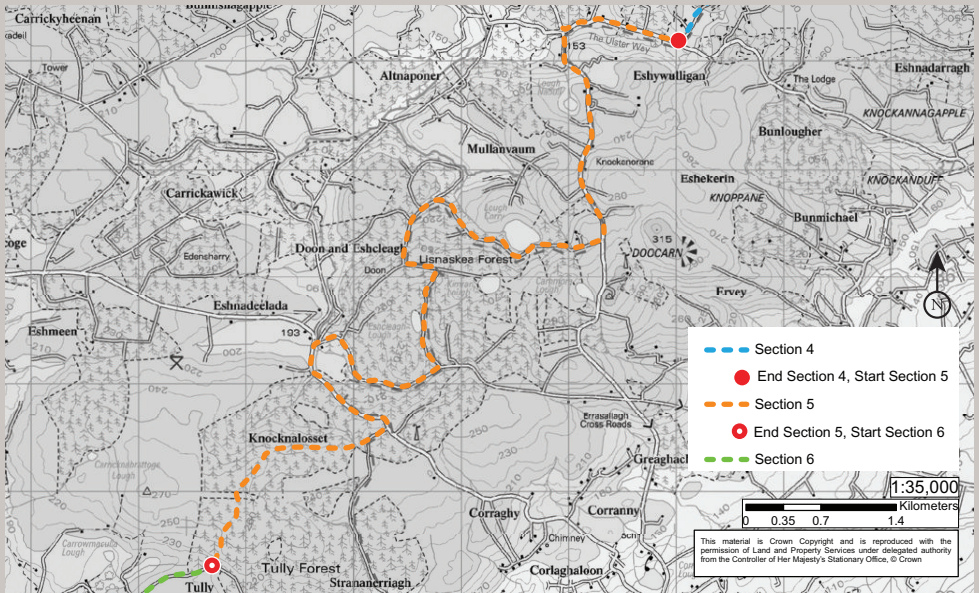
Tully Ponies

## Did You Know?

The hill of Carnmore plays a central role in Irish Mythology. When Noah took to sea in the ark, a second ship also set sail, containing Noah's son Bith, Queen Cesair and her fifty maids. The ship came to rest in Ireland; Sliabh Beagh is named in Bith's honour, while his body lies under Carnmore, which was once topped by a massive burial cairn.



Lough Corry





Lisnaskea

## Section 6 - 14km

**A series of country lanes winds gently towards the finish in Lisnaskea.**



Donagh

From the exit barrier in Tully Forest, the route continues straight ahead, following the track across an expanse of moor. After one kilometre you reach a concrete farm lane; turn left here, then quickly right onto a country road. Descend through several road junctions - all of which are signed - to arrive at the main B36 road at Ballagh Cross.

Cross straight over the B36, continuing ahead along a smaller road. Now take the first turn on the right, soon enjoying the slightly incongruous sight of an old church being used as a farm building. Follow the road as it turns sharply left and descends steeply between the fields. Continue past Kilmacbrack Lough, which is home





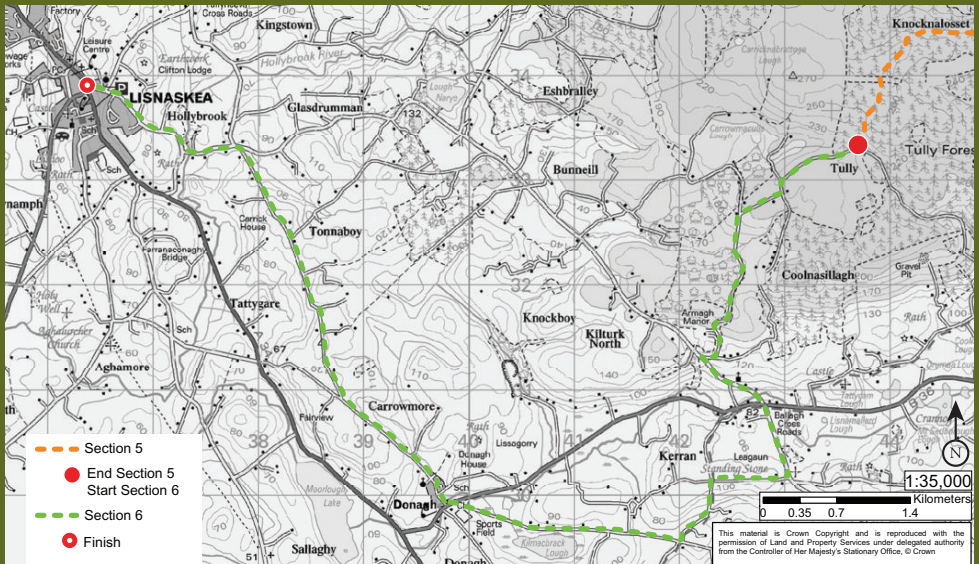
to a flock of whooper swans during the winter months. These impressive birds make the 1,500km migration to reach this lake from Iceland each year.

Just 1km beyond the lake you reach the small village of Donagh. Here the route turns left, then quickly right. You are now on a road that climbs past the church and begins a picturesque journey along a hillside to the northwest. The verges are sometimes lined with trees, but where the vegetation falls back, there are good views west across the myriad islands of Upper Lough Erne.

Roughly 4km from Donagh you reach a T-junction. Turn left here, then turn right 500m later. A final descent brings you to the main street in the heart of Lisnaskea and the official end of the route.

## Did You Know?

The Gaelic name for the village of Donagh is Domhnach, meaning 'Place of Patrician Origin'. This implies a link with the ancient Roman Republic. The name matches the archaeological record, it is the remains of an Early Christian church or monastery, dating from around the 7th Century, which can still be seen in the village today.

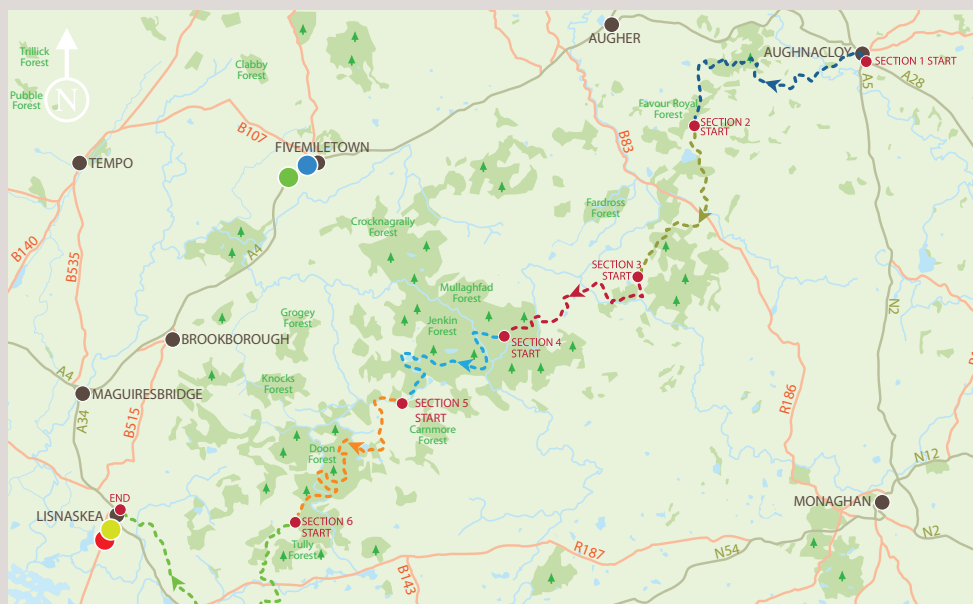


## Walker Friendly Accommodation

There are a wide range of accommodation options available – from hotels to self catering cottages. For a full list visit [www.discovernorthernireland.com](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com), however the following accommodation providers offer services and facilities specifically to meet the needs of walkers. These include:

- Location within one kilometre of the route
- Packed lunches available to take away in the morning – upon request
- Suitable overnight area for drying wet clothes/boots
- Late meal/early breakfast available - upon request
- Detailed walking information available
- One night bookings available
- Approved by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board

The accommodation providers have been identified due to their proximity to the route. However there may be other accommodation providers available. Please contact Fermanagh Visitor Information Centre (see page 19 for details).



- Don Carragh (Hotel with 16 ensuite rooms)
- Share Discovery Village Hostel (Hostel with 13 ensuite rooms)
- The Valley Hotel (3 star hotel with 22 ensuite rooms)
- Clogher Valley Golf Club B&B (B&B with 6 ensuite rooms)



Accommodation	Location	Telephone	Email/Website
Don Carragh	Lisnaskea	+44 (0)28 6772 1206	eldanni@hotmail.co.uk
Share Discovery Village Hostel	Enniskillen	+44 (0)28 6772 2122	rory@sharevillage.org www.sharevillage.org
The Valley Hotel	Fivemiletown	+44 (0)28 8952 1505	info@thevalleyhotel.com www.thevalleyhotel.com
Clogher Valley Golf Club B&B	Fivemiletown	+44 (0)28 8952 1505	info@cloghervalleygc.co.uk www.cloghervalleygc.co.uk

## Where to Eat

The area is home to an extensive range of eateries catering for all tastes. Many are frequented by walkers – where backpacks and walking boots are very welcome!

For a full list of where to eat in the Sliabh Beagh area please contact the Killymaddy or Fermanagh Visitor Information Centres (see page 19).

# Other Information

**Other useful maps – available from [www.osni.gov.uk/mapstore](http://www.osni.gov.uk/mapstore)**

OSNI Discoverer Map Series 1:50 000 Sheets 18, 19 and 27. Walkers are always recommended to carry the relevant OSNI map.

**Leave No Trace**

In order to minimise your social and environmental impacts on the outdoors, please follow the principles of Leave No Trace. Leave No Trace is an outdoor ethics educational programme designed to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. For more information please visit [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org)

**Walking Providers**

The Sliabh Beagh Way is waymarked and should be straightforward to navigate. However, should you wish to explore the wider area including Culicagh Mountain, Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark or the Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism, contact one of the guides specialising in this area to guide you.

Name	Telephone	Email/Website
About Ulster	+44 (0) 79267 85706	<a href="mailto:martin839@btinternet.com">martin839@btinternet.com</a>
Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism	+44 (0)28 6632 3110	<a href="mailto:info@fermanaghlakelands.com">info@fermanaghlakelands.com</a> <a href="http://www.fermanaghlakelands.com">www.fermanaghlakelands.com</a>
Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark	+44 (0)28 6634 8855	<a href="mailto:info@marblearchcavesgeopark.com">info@marblearchcavesgeopark.com</a> <a href="http://www.marblearchcaves.net">www.marblearchcaves.net</a>

**Walkni.com**

For further information on the Sliabh Beagh Way and all other walks across Northern Ireland, please visit [www.walkni.com](http://www.walkni.com), here you will find short, medium and long distance walks, as well as downloadable maps, suggested itineraries, and everything you need to know when planning a walking trip in Northern Ireland

**Fermanagh Walking Festival**

This Festival takes place during the second weekend in October every year. A range of guided walks including some advanced walking routes are available.

Tel: +44 (0)28 6632 5050

**Outdoor Shops in the area**

Home, Field and Stream,18-20 Church St, Enniskillen, +44 (0)28 6634 0758

Tresspass, Unit 16/17, Erneside Shopping Centre, Enniskillen, +44 (0)28 6632 5318

## Other Information

### Go Prepared

Weather conditions in the Sliabh Beagh area can be changeable – even during summer months. Waterproof and windproof clothing are essential and strong walking boots are advised.

### Emergency

In the event of an emergency call the PSNI on 999 or:

Police Service NI, Enniskillen +44 (0)845 600 8000

South West Acute Hospital A&E, Enniskillen, +44 (0)28 6638 2000

### Other Activities & Places to See

The Sliabh Beagh area is renowned for its natural beauty, outdoor recreation, culture, tradition, folklore and heritage. In addition to walking, a wide variety of activities and attractions are on offer – including cycling, horse riding, arts and crafts markets, castles, dolmens and ruins. To find out more please visit Fermanagh Visitor or Killymaddy Tourist Information Centres (contact details below).

#### Fermanagh Visitor Information Centre

Wellington Road, Enniskillen, BT74 7EF

[www.fermanagh.gov.uk](http://www.fermanagh.gov.uk) [tic@fermanagh.gov.uk](mailto:tic@fermanagh.gov.uk) +44 (0)28 6632 3110

#### Killymaddy Tourist Information Centre

190 Ballygawley Road, Dungannon, BT70 1TF

[killymaddy.reception@dungannon.gov.uk](mailto:killymaddy.reception@dungannon.gov.uk) +44 (0)28 8776 7259

### Public Transport

Aughnacloy and Lisnaskea are serviced through the rural bus network, buses link Dungannon, Enniskillen, Fivemiletown, Augher and Clogher to the start and finish of the route. Aughnacloy bus stop is on Main street, where the Sliabh Beagh Way starts.

Timetables are available from Bus Stations or Tourist Information Centres across Northern Ireland. For more information call (028) 9066 6630 or visit [www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk). Over 60s travel free on presentation of a valid SmartPass.

#### Taxis:

Call A Taxi, Dungannon.....+44 (0)28 8772 4537

Irwin Taxis, Fivemiletown .....+44 (0)28 8952 2216

Rosslea Taxis, Rosslea .....+44 (0)28 6775 1245

CDM Cabs, Lisnaskea .....+44 (0)28 6772 2360

Skea Taxis, Lisnaskea.....+44 (0)28 6772 2446

### Disclaimer

Every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this guide. The information provided is, to the best of the promoter's knowledge, correct at the time of going to print. The promoters cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions but if any are brought to their notice, future publications will be amended accordingly.

### Land Access

Some popular walking routes in Northern Ireland are not formally designated public rights of way. Access is on a de-facto basis and depends on the goodwill and tolerance of local landowners. Walkers are advised to respect that they may be walking on private land and are encouraged to make themselves aware of and adhere to the principles of 'Leave No Trace' [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org).

Please note:- sections of the Trail may close from time to time to facilitate forestry and other essential operations

For any questions on walking in Northern Ireland contact

Outdoor Recreation NI

The Stableyard, Malone Road, Barnett Demesne, Belfast BT9 5PB

Tel: +44 (0)28 9030 3930

Email: [info@walkni.com](mailto:info@walkni.com)

This guide is available on request in alternative formats.

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Route Descriptions by Helen Fairbairn. Design by [www.thinkstudio.co.uk](http://www.thinkstudio.co.uk)

