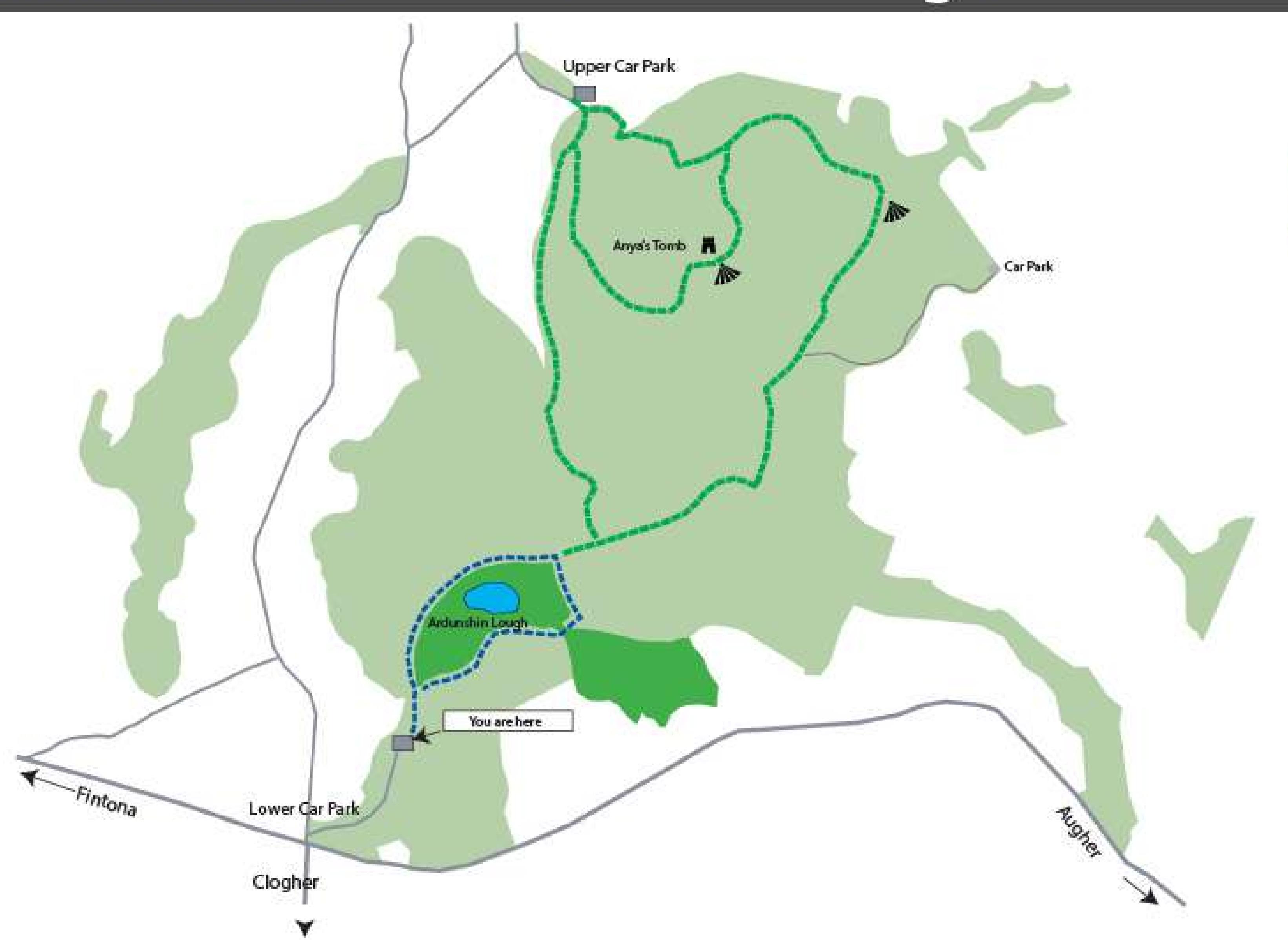
Knockmany Forest





Anya's Tomb Trail (1.5 km)



Ardunshin Lough Trail (1.4 km)















History

Knockmany Forest encompasses what was the old estate of Cecil Manoe. This land at one time belonged to the Calmes family and was known as Sav-Ille Lodge however the Reverend Francis Gervals purchased the estate in 1811 and built Cecil manor-house C1829. Although now demolished, it was a rather severe three-storey, early 19th century block, probably attributed to Willian Farrell.

Knockmany forest was acquired in 1911 by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, which was based in Dublin and was one of the first areas in Northern Ireland to undergo afforestation.



Much of the forest was planted in the 1920's and has now reached maturity. A landscape plan is devised every 5 years, which defines area of tree felling and replanting. This programme is being carried out in sympathy with the general landscape of the area and will afford the opportunity to plant more broadleaf species.

Folklore of Knockmany

Knockmany (Irish – Cnoc mBaine), meaning the Hill of Baine, or possibly the Hill of the Monks or Anyas's Cove. Queen Baine, the wife of the first century King Tuatnal Techtmar is supposed to be buried on Knockmany in A.D. 111 in the tomb of the earlier Queen Anya.

Knockmany is also reputed to be the home of legendary glant Fin M'Coul and his wife Conagh and it was said to be there where he defeated his foe the glant Cuculin.

About Ardunshin Lough Woodland Trian (1.4km)

As you leave the carpark you pass the 1994 Peace garden set aside in memory of LT. Col. And Mrs F.C. Tracey who lived in Augher. Then take a right onto the footpath past the glant Douglas fir trees planted in the 1920's. As you pass these you'll see Ardunshin lough on your left. Records show that carp were once reared here by servants of Cecil manor as a staple food source. As you return to the forest road through the capanese larch trees you will notice several small streams, reputed to carry gold, pour from Knockmany hill to spill into Ardunshin lough. The walk around this area is largely flat and most pleasant, and will allow the visitor to see some of the oldest coniferous trees in Northern Ireland. From here the trial takes you on a homeward journey along the forest road and back to the carpark.

About Clogher Valley View Trail (4.0km)

This Trail is designated a Black walking trail and has several step hills. Leaving the lower car park and following forest roads the trail takes you across the top of Ardunshin Lough. Turning left at the way-marked junction you pass the remains of the gardener's cottage which was affiliated with Cecil Manor. The head gardener would have lived and worked from here and tended the large flower and vegetable beds. Though long since demolished there was once a vast greenhouse which was heated and produced many fruits including, figs, grapes and even oranges. Head up along the steep road to the upper carpark and follow the road along the top of Knockmany hill. As you pass through the young plantations the ground levels out and after passing under some ancient beech trees you arrive at the vista the gives the trail its name. Noe clearly visible following a recent clear fell by Forest Service, enjoy the views along the Clogher valley. Continue along the forest road following the markers down the hill and turn right at the bottom. Dead ahead is where Cecii Manor once stood. This road will bring you back, past Ardunshin, to the car park.

Please respect this walking facility, other users and the wildlife that make this forest a home.