

Larne

Country Walks

General Information

Accommodation

For accommodation information, contact Larne Tourist Information Centre on (028) 2826 0088.

Grades

Easy - Predominantly flat and/or relatively short routes not requiring a high level of fitness.

Moderate - Walks that could be pleasantly challenging for some people.

Strenuous - Exposed hilly walks where a high level of fitness, specialist footwear and outer clothing will be essential.

Dogs

Please read the information on the route card as to whether or not dogs are allowed. Some of these walks are by permission of the landowner and the land is often used to graze sheep. The goodwill of these landowners is vital for the future continuance of the walks.

Public Transport

Some of the walks are close to public transport routes. Larne Bus Station is (028) 2827 2345 and Translink's Customer Information line is (028) 9066 6630 open 07:00 until 22:00 hrs, 7 days a week.

Type of route

Linear OR - These walks have an optional return the same way.

Linear CR - These walks have a compulsory return the same way.

Circular - These walks cover new terrain throughout.

OSNI map number

All the routes are covered on Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland Sheet No 9. These are available in almost all book shops.

The Ulster Way and Waymarked Ways

The Ulster Way is under review and there may be some changes to the existing route.

At time of writing, a Waymarked Way (20 mile route) through this area is being designed and parts are likely to follow the same line as the Ulster Way. Please be observant of the waymarkers as these transitions take place. The Ulster Way and Waymarked Ways cross private land at the permission of landowners, so please do not stray off the path as this disrupts farming activities and constitutes trespassing. Many thanks for your co-operation.

QUICK GUIDE TO ROUTES

No.	Walk Name	Grade	On or off-road	Type of route	Distance (miles)	Estimated time	Dogs
1	Agnews Hill	Strenuous	Off	Linear OR	3.7	2 hrs	No
2	Carnfunnock Country Park	Moderate	Off	Circular	1	25 mins	On lead
3	Cranry/Gortin	Easy	Off	Linear CR	3	1 hour	On lead
4	Layde Walk	Moderate	Part on, part off	Circular	1	25 mins	On lead
5	Glenarm Coastal Walk	Easy	Off	Linear OR	0.4	15 mins	Yes
6	Glenarm Forest	Easy	Off	Circular	0.5/2	10 mins/40 mins	On lead
7	Gleno Waterfall	Moderate	Off	Linear and Circular	0.4	20 mins	On lead
8	Sallagh Braes	Moderate	Part on, part off	Circular	7	3 hours	No
9	Scawt Hill	Moderate	Part on, part off	Linear and Circular	7/9	2 hrs 30 mins/ 3 hrs 45 mins	No
10	Skernaghan Point	Easy	Off	Circular	1+	20 mins+	On lead

Linear OR - Linear Optional Return. Linear CR - Linear Compulsory Return. All routes use OSNI map 9.

MAP KEY ■■■■■■■■■■ Route Mark **R** Route Starts  Disabled Friendly

1 Agnews Hill

OSNI Sheet 9



Agnews Hill

Fact File

LOCATION:

Agnews Hill lies half way between Ballyboley Forest and the Sallagh Braes, 5 miles west of Larne town.

FACTS:

This is a linear (optional return) walk, all off-road over farmland, covering a distance of 3.7 miles (6km). Allow 2 hrs one way. Dogs not allowed. This walk goes over a wide and exposed landscape with few landmarks. In misty weather, this can be disorientating, so it is advisable to be well equipped before starting out.

GRADE:

This is a strenuous walk, covering bogland terrain which is very wet and uneven in places. There is also a steep descent to the Star Bog Road.

STARTING POINT:

Start at the small car park located on the A36, Shane's Hill Road which runs between Ballymena and Larne through Ballyboley Forest.

FACILITIES:

Refreshments are available at Ballyboley Inn about 1 mile west from the Ulster Way.

1 Route Description

After crossing the A36, enter the forest and follow the firebreak in the trees. Wooden Ulster Way marker posts are in place. At the boundary of the forest is a stile and ditch to be negotiated. The route then follows a straight line, crossing two wide farm tracks, to the cairn of stones which can be seen on top of the hill (weather permitting). This is the highest point in Hightown (412 m). From here, there are magnificent views stretching to the Mourne Mountains, Lough Neagh, the Sperrins, Slemish, Mull of Kintyre, Ailsa Craig, Larne and Belfast Lough. The ships passing to and from Larne Port to Scotland can be seen.

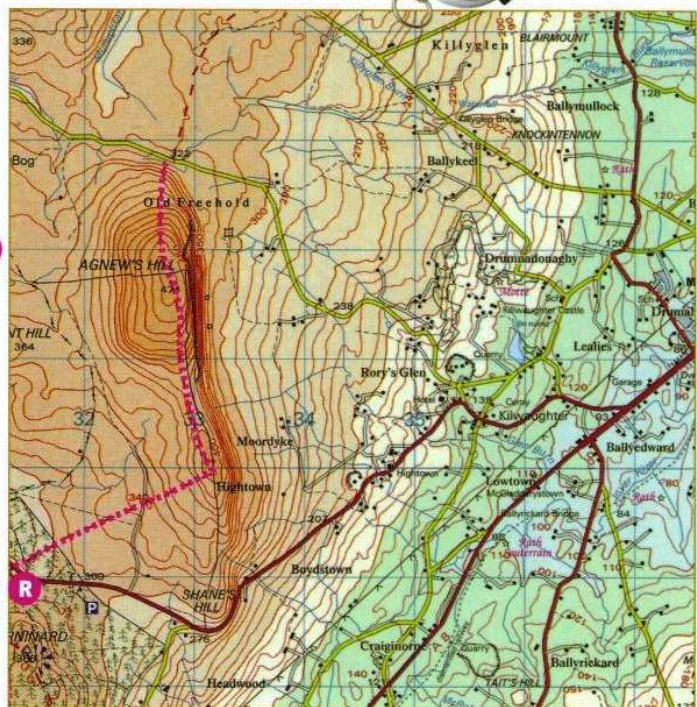
The walk continues on to climb towards the summit of Agnews Hill (474 m), which provides extensive views of the surrounding countryside, including Woodburn and Carn Forests near Carrickfergus. The ruins of Kilwaughter Castle (the ancient seat of the Agnew family) is situated to the north, in the former demesne. From the summit, follow the waymarkers and use the stiles provided, taking care when descending to the Star Bog Road as the conditions in this location are more often wet than dry.



Route Mark

R

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To Larne

2 Carnfunnock Country Park OSNI Sheet 9



Carnfunnock Country Park

Fact File

LOCATION:

Carnfunnock Country Park is situated 4 miles north of Larne on the Coast Road (A2) between Drains Bay and Ballygalley. Tel: (028) 2827 0541

FACTS:

This is a circular, off-road path, covering a distance of 1 mile (1.6 km), taking about 25 minutes plus time to enjoy the features of the park. Dogs allowed on a lead only.

GRADE:

This is a moderately difficult walk, with some minor hills and steep steps.

STARTING POINT:

The Visitor's Centre in Carnfunnock Country Park

FACILITIES

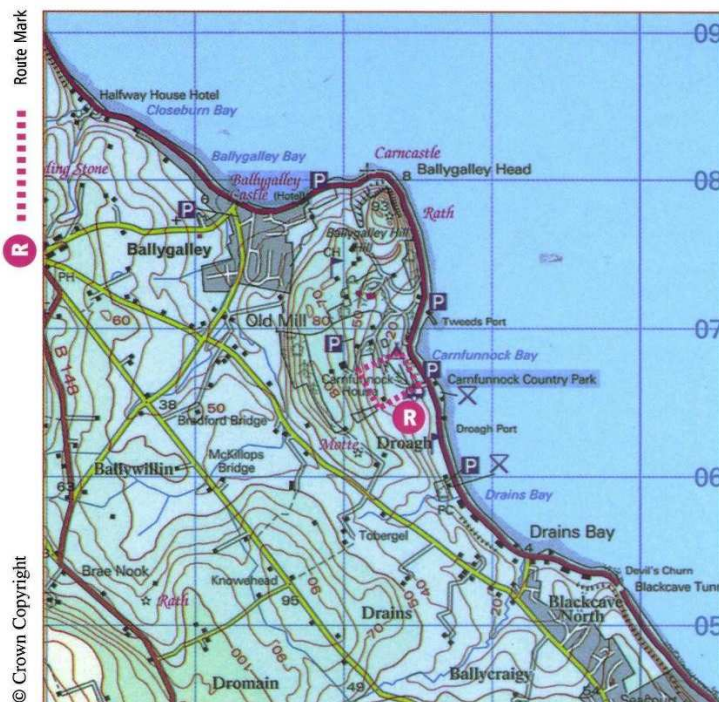
There is a coffee shop and activity centre open from Easter to September. The toilets are open every day all year.

2 Route Description

Carnfunnock Country Park is an excellent base to explore this part of the famous Antrim Coast. The Park has numerous attractions to entertain visitors of all ages has a network of paths.

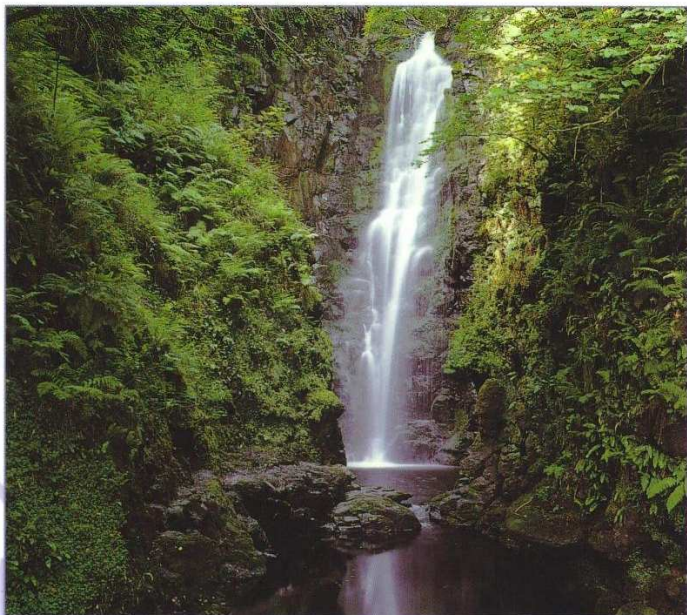
From the Visitor's Centre make your way along the road towards the Activity Centre. When you get there, you can either go through the Activity Centre (refreshments are available for sale in the summer) and meet the path at the other end or veer left onto the stoney track, turn right at the fork and walk up the steep hill towards the lime kilns. At the top of the steps, turn right and follow the path. At this point you are at a height of about 70m. This is a beautiful path which is sheltered in places by the branches of sycamore

and hawthorn. A short distance along is a viewpoint to rest and enjoy the views across the water to Islandmagee and Larne Lough. Sometimes, the passenger ferries can be seen anchored off harbour as they wait for a berth in the port. Further along the path is the old ice house of the estate. Follow the path as it goes sharp right, then take first left just a few steps further along. This path passes through a young plantation of oak, willow, rowan and ash trees. Another excellent viewpoint awaits you. Turning right again leads you past the wildlife garden, towards the maze and the walled garden where there is a host of beautiful shrubs and plants to see, not to mention the fascinating time garden. The Visitor's Centre is only a stone's throw from here.



3 Cranny Falls/Gortin Quarry OSNI Sheet 9

3 Route Description



Cranny Falls

Fact File

LOCATION:

This walk lies just behind Carnlough village, which is 15 miles (24.2km) north of Larne and 15 miles south of Cushendun, along the A2 Coast Road.

FACTS

This is a linear (compulsory return) off-road path covering a distance of 3 miles (4.8km) to Cranny Falls and back plus an optional 0.5 miles (0.8km) to the viewpoint in Gortin Quarry. Allow 1 hour. Dogs must be kept on a lead as sheep may be grazing nearby.

GRADE:

This is an easy walk as it is on a very gentle incline. The path to

Gortin viewpoint is steeper but shorter.

STARTING POINT:

Parking is available in the town or at Glenlough Community Centre car park, off Croft Road. For the less able-bodied, a limited number of parking spaces are available at the entrance into Cranny Falls. Take the Waterfall Road to the entrance gates. Please note that Waterfall Road is a Private Road and vehicular access is for the disabled only.

FACILITIES:

Refreshments are available in the many hostellers in Carnlough village. Public Toilets are situated in the car park at Herbert Street.

From Carnlough, take the steps going uphill beside the "Harbour Lights" building. This takes you around to the right and across a bridge over the main road. This path soon takes you to Glenlough Community Centre car park which is the alternative place to park. A whiting mill formerly stood on the site of the Community Centre. It used to grind limestone from the nearby quarries for industrial use. Follow the long path up to Gortin. This was the bed of the mineral railway line. It was built in 1854 to transport limestone to the mill and the harbour. Walkers have the option to explore Gortin Quarry where there are superb views across Carnlough Bay or you can go direct to Cranny Falls, a Local Nature Reserve. These mini landscapes with their old spoil heaps, are "species-rich limestone grasslands".

To get to the viewpoint in Gortin, follow the signs that direct you up the short climb into the quarry to enjoy the views. Retrace your steps to the bottom of the hill and follow the signs through the quarry towards Cranny Falls. Cross the Waterfall Road and follow the path directly opposite. Hazel also thrives on the alkaline soil, which in turn supports a vibrant population of red squirrels. Cranny is Gaelic for "place of many trees" but today, the carpets of bluebells on the surrounding agricultural fields in the spring are all that remain of the former woodlands. A viewing platform over the Carnlough river, allows the waterfall to be appreciated in its splendour.



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4 Layde Walk, Glenarm

OSNI Sheet 9



Layde Walk

Fact File

LOCATION:

The Layde Walk is in and around the village of Glenarm on the Coast Road.

FACTS

This is a signed circular walk, mostly on road ascending to a most rewarding viewpoint. The distance is only 1 mile and should take 25 minutes. Dogs are allowed on a lead.

GRADE:

This is a moderate walk, with some hilly sections leading to the viewpoint where there are seats to rest.

STARTING POINT:

Start on the Coast Road, where there is a car park and bus stop.

FACILITIES:

The village of Glenarm is a Conservation Area and has many quaint shops and pubs. Public toilets are beside the car park. The Tourist Information Centre, located on the Coast Road, is open all year, Tel: (028) 2884 1087.

4 Route Description

From the Coast Road, go over the bridge over the Glenarm river and turn right into Toberwine Street. Here you will pass the famous Steenson's silver jewellery workshop and close by is the Barbican Gate, once the entrance to the 17th Century Glenarm Castle. The castle is a private residence but is open for two days a year, during a very popular festival held in July. Continue on up Vennel Street and as you pause for breath on this steep little street you can admire the unique pebble patterned footpath. Keep going uphill until you see the sign for the Layde Path on the left. This is a short limestone walkway with seats and excellent viewpoints overlooking the village and Glenarm Bay. This walk gets its name from an artificial waterway which took water

from higher up the Glen, along this path, down to the Harbour for use in the now obsolete limestone industry. At the end of this delightful path, turn left onto Dickeytown Road. The remains of the old limestone quarry are on the right at the end of this road. Turn left here, back towards the village or cross over to take a tour of the new harbour with its colourful boats. You should also be able to see the Mull of Kintyre and even further afield on a good day.



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5 Glenarm Coastal Walk

OSNI Sheet 9



Glenarm Village

Fact File

LOCATION:

The Glenarm Coastal Walk is 2 miles south of Glenarm village beside the Coast Road.

FACTS:

This is a linear (optional return) walk, all off-road covering a distance of 0.4 mile or 600 metres. Allow 15 minutes for a return journey. Dogs are allowed. The walk can be extended to the village of Glenarm by taking the footway along the Coast Road. The distance to Glenarm is 0.8 mile (1.3km) - allow 30 minutes.

GRADE:

This is an easy walk on a flat, chalk path. It is suitable for most wheelchair users.

STARTING POINT:

There is a car park at both ends of the walk.

FACILITIES:

Picnic tables are available on site. Public toilets can be found in Carnlough and Glenarm.

5 Route Description

This is a short linear walk along a stretch of the famous County Antrim coastline. It provides a welcome break for the traveller following the Coast Road. Picnic tables are also provided. From either car park follow the path along the coast to enjoy the scenery. The path is designed to be sympathetic to the less able.

Views to the north include Glenarm Forest, Glenarm Salmon Farm, Carnlough Bay, Gortin Quarry, The Trosks and Garron Point. Across the North Channel, the Scottish Islands of North Islay, Mull of Kintyre, Rhyns of Galloway, Paps of Jura and Paddy's Milestone or Ailsa Craig can be seen. Looking south, you can see The Maidens or Hulin Rocks.

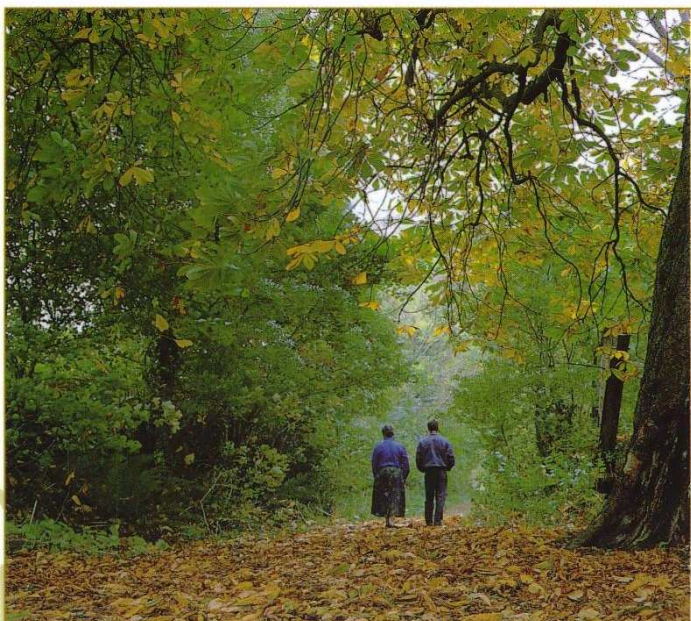
Along the path, several rough tracks lead down to the stony beaches. Carpets of Birdsfoot Trefoil decorate the path along the way and above your head are the towering white limestone cliffs of Minnis North, so watch out for buzzards. An interpretative panel in the south car park explains the geological history of the area. It explains how the cliffs were formed from deposits of skeletal remains of fish when the area was submerged in a warm tropical sea about 140 million years ago.



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6 Glenarm Forest

OSNI Sheet 9



Glenarm Forest

Fact File

LOCATION:

The entrance to Glenarm Forest is off Altmore Street in the village of Glenarm. Glenarm lies on the A2 Coast Road, 4 miles south of Carnlough and 11 miles north of Larne.

FACTS:

These are circular walks, all off-road. There are two signed routes:

Yellow route - 0.5 mile (0.8km)
Red route - 2 miles (3.2km).

GRADES:

These are all easy walks within the forest with parts beside the Glenarm River.

STARTING POINT:

The Forest Service car park is about 150m through the "Town Gate" at the top of Altmore Street in Glenarm village.

FACILITIES:

Public conveniences, refreshments and accommodation are available in Glenarm village. Glenarm Tourist Information Centre is open all year. Tel (028) 2884 1087.

6 Route Description

Yellow route - 0.5 miles, 10 minutes.

Grade: easy

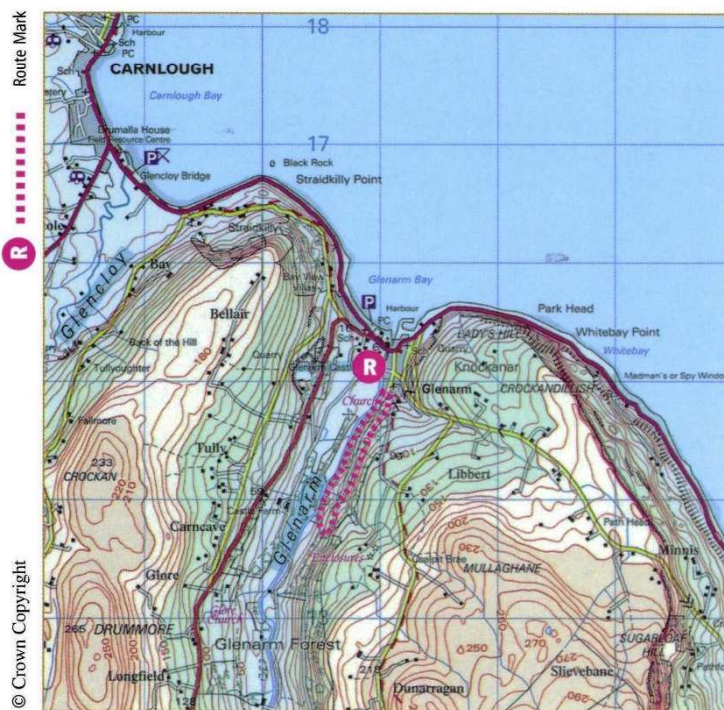
From the car park go through the barrier and follow the yellow arrow sign to your right. This gentle path takes you to the edge of the Glenarm river and a short distance along the bank. A picnic site is provided under a delightful tree canopy and is an ideal location for a rest or meal. Keep on the path and it rejoins the main path back to the car park.

Red route - 2 miles, 40 minutes.

Grade: easy

From the car park go through the barrier and of the two tracks ahead, take the one on the left. Follow the red route arrows along the forest track. This is again, a very gentle walk in pleasant and quiet surroundings. Along the way, breaks

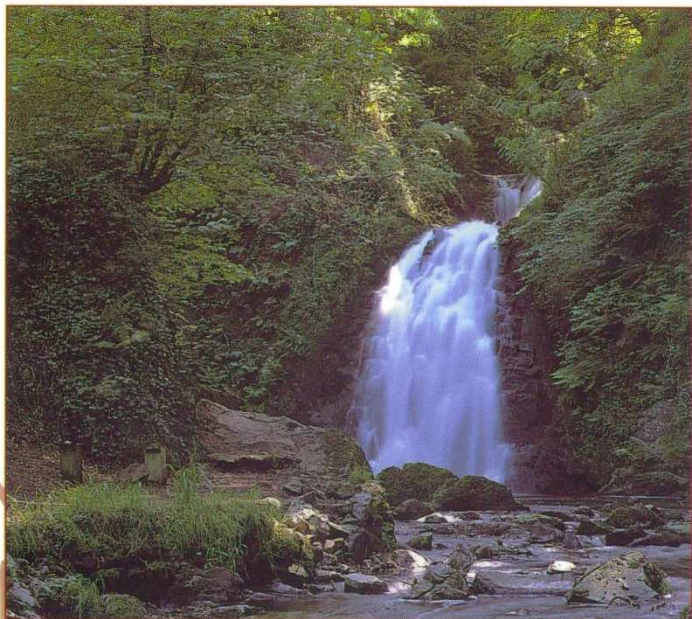
in the trees allow views across the glen to Glenarm Estate and Castle, seat of the Earl of Antrim since the 17th Century. Crockan and Drummore hills can also be seen. Keep straight on and cross the bridge over a picturesque stream. The former 'Layde,' can be seen on your left as you approach the top of the next hill. This is an artificial waterway that was used to carry water down to industries in the village. The arrows soon direct you to the right to begin the return journey along the lower slopes of the glen and towards the banks of the Glenarm river. While alongside the river, if you are lucky you may catch a sighting of an otter, heron, dipper or kingfisher.



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7 Gleno Waterfall

OSNI Sheet 9



Gleno Waterfall

Fact File

LOCATION:

This path is located at the edge of Gleno village, 4 miles south of Larne, on the B99.

FACTS:

This walk is both circular and linear as it consists of a maze of paths and steps connected to two car parks. It is all off-road covering a distance of 0.4 miles (700m). Allow 20 minutes for walking and exploring, plus optional 0.4 miles/700m around the village. Dogs are allowed on a lead. The site is owned by The National Trust.

GRADE:

This is a moderately difficult walk which although short, is located at the side of a steep gorge and so there are numerous steps to negotiate.

STARTING POINT:

There are two small National Trust car parks both situated off the B99 immediately to the west of the village. They are about 200m apart. Follow the signposts.

FACILITIES:

Refreshments can be found at Dairyside Stores on the Waterfall Road or Howies Pub (Billy Andy's) of Mounthill, 2 miles from the village.

7 Route Description

The south car park is in a higher position than the north one but they both give spectacular and different perspectives of the waterfall and river. Directly across from the south car park on the other side of the gorge, Raloo Parish Church, consecrated in 1842, can be seen. From this car park the paths are accessible from the road.

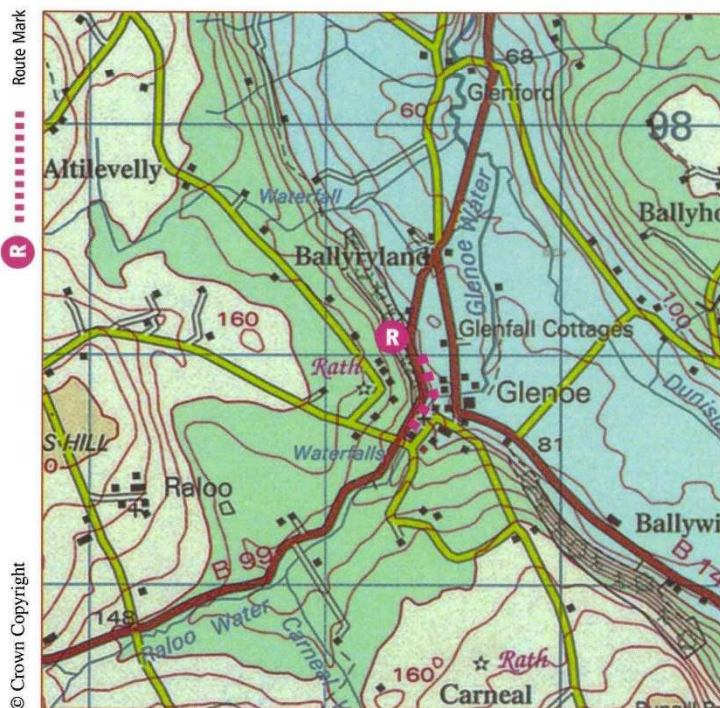
The north car park is located further inland from the road and has a picnic table, situated in a pleasant clearing that overlooks Black Hill.

The maze of paths and steps take you all around and across and up and down the western side of the glen, always within the lovely sound of falling water. At several points you will be right beside the river, only a few metres from the waterfall itself.

Do not attempt to stand on the wet rocks as they are very slippery. There are beautiful ferns, ivy, bluebells and moisture-loving mosses draped along or clinging to the vertical rock face and in the crevices.

The village can be accessed by a path on the other side of the bridge at the level of the river. The town boasts one of the steepest main streets of any Ulster village and leads past a picturesque terrace of former labourer's cottages.

 THE NATIONAL TRUST



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 THE NATIONAL TRUST

8 Sallagh Braes

OSNI Sheet 9



Sallagh Braes

Fact File

LOCATION:

The Sallagh Braes is about 3 miles west of Ballygally, close to the Coast Road.

FACTS:

This is a circular walk, about 7 miles (11 km) long with about 3 miles off-road (on the Ulster Way) and 5 on-road. Allow about 3 hours to do the round trip. Please note that the Ulster Way route differs from that shown on OSNI Sheet 9. Marker posts show the new route. Dogs are not allowed.

GRADE:

This is a moderately difficult walk. It starts from a height and undulates across hummocky land with some hills and stiles to negotiate.

STARTING POINT:

The car park at Linford, 3 miles (4.8 km) above Ballygally on the Feystown Road.

FACILITIES:

Refreshments and toilet facilities are available in the Meeting House Pub, Cairncastle.

8 Route Description

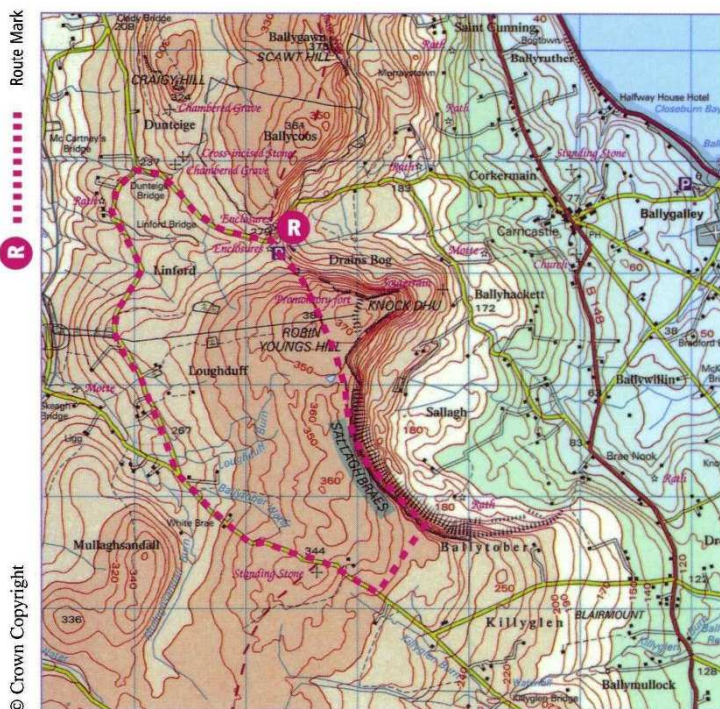
This route takes in some of the best walking Co Antrim has to offer, along the edge of Sallagh Braes, a spectacular ballast amphitheatre. The outward leg of the walk is along country roads in the upper reaches of Glenarm Glen, one of the nine Glens of Antrim.

At the car park, which has a 200 metres height advantage, turn left and continue along the Feystown Road for 1 mile. Turn left onto the Loughdoo Road. You are now in the valley of Linford Water, a tributary of the Glenarm River.

Walking along this road for 2 miles, there are views across the picturesque Glenarm Glen to Aughaboy Hill, Slemish, Capanagh Forest, Garron Plateau and Trostan (the highest mountain in Antrim) in the distance. At the next road junction, turn left to reach a standing stone on your right, at a

height which affords excellent views of Hightown, Agnews Hill, Cavehill, the Mourne, Islandmagee, the North Channel and the Ayrshire Coast. Continue beyond the standing stone for approximately 500 metres to a stile on your left. From here back to the car park is across farmland. Please take care to follow the waymarked posts and stiles for the Ulster Way. A short distance has changed here and may differ from your map. Follow the waymarked route along the edge of the cliffs, stopping to take in the spectacular views of the North Channel, Ballygally Head and Carnfunnock Woods.

The route leaves the cliff edge to pass inland, close to Robin Young's Hill and a downhill descent to the car park. In the car park, walkers can read two information panels about local souterrains and American connections.



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9 Scawt Hill

OSNI Sheet 9



Scawt Hill

Fact File

LOCATION:

Scawt (pron. 'skat') Hill lies between the Sallagh Braes and Glenarm, about 2 miles inland from the Coast Road.

FACTS:

This walk offers both a circular and linear option. They are both part on-road and part off-road. The circular walk covers a distance of 9 miles (14.5kms) and will take 3 hours 45 minutes to get back to the start. The linear walk is 7 miles (10km) long and will take an estimated 2 hours 30 minutes. Dogs are not allowed as the route goes over farmland.

GRADE:

This is a moderately difficult walk. The off-road section is hilly and exposed but usually dry.

STARTING POINT:

At the car park near Linford on the Feystown road, 3 miles (4.8km) above Ballygally village.

FACILITIES:

Refreshments and toilets are available at the Meeting House Pub, Cairncastle. Accommodation and eateries are available in Ballygally and Glenarm.

9 Route Description

Both walks begin from the car park which affords spectacular views of Ballygally Bay and the North Channel. Follow the Ulster Way sign and stile on the other side of the Feystown Road. This walk goes across undulating farmland, so please ensure that you follow the waymarked post and stiles. The first hill is Ballycoose (361m), then you come to Scawt Hill (368m) which has a very distinctive profile and visible for miles around. Another distinctive profile to note is Slemish mountain to the west. Take care ascending Black Hill (381m), as the ground can be soft underfoot. From the summit the views are extensive. Offshore are the Maidens or Hulin rocks, a group of rocky islands and on a good day, the Ayrshire coast and Ailsa Craig or

Paddy's Milestone can be seen. On top of Crockandoo, the old church and graveyard of Glenarm Estate comes into view.

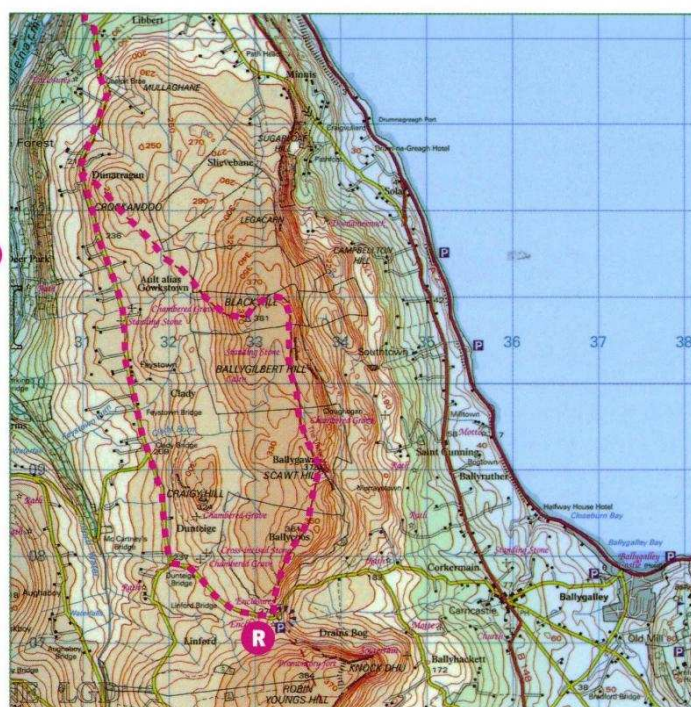
After this hilly trek, you will reach the Feystown Road and from here, there is a choice:

- For the circular option, turn left and enjoy an easy 4 mile walk on-road back to the car park. Keep on the Feystown Road.
- For the linear option, turn right and follow the Ulster Way signs. This will take you into the village of Glenarm using minor roads.

Route Mark

R

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10 Skernaghan Point Islandmagee OSNI Sheet 9



Skernaghan Point Islandmagee

Fact File

LOCATION:

Skernaghan Point is beside Brown's Bay at the northernmost tip of Islandmagee.

FACTS:

This largely unmarked walk is on 90 acres of open access farmland, so you could enjoy a short coastal walk of 1 mile or a longer walk over fields for up to 4 miles. Allow at least 20 minutes. Dogs are not allowed inland as cattle are usually in the field. The land is owned by the National Trust.

GRADE:

This is an easy walk. The path is uneven and narrow but very gentle.

STARTING POINT:

Brown's Bay has a substantial car park. Alternatively, the Islandmagee passenger ferry from Larne Harbour (Tel (028) 2827 3785 for timetable) will take you to Islandmagee and from there, Brown's Bay is about 1.5 miles.

FACILITIES:

Public Toilets are at Brown's Bay car park. Refreshments can be found at Steele's Shop, Brown's Bay.

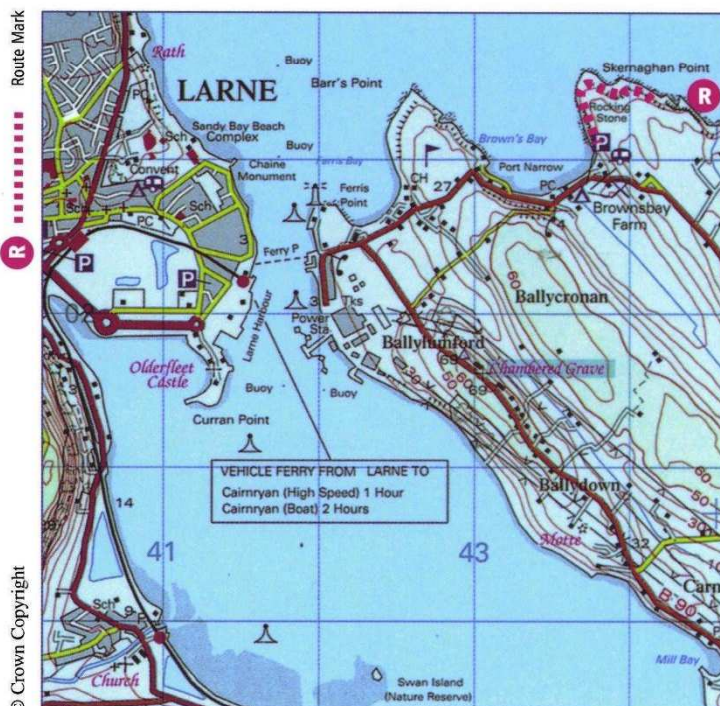


10 Route Description

This is a walk which takes you onto 90 acres of open access National Trust property in a relatively unexplored part of County Antrim. From the car park, cross the road and follow the concrete promenade to the right and up the slight slope towards Skernaghan Point. The 5 minute walk to the end of the gravel path from the car park provides an excellent viewpoint. From here, there are good views across the Bay. The chimneys of Ballylumford Power Station can be seen from behind the hill. On the mainland, the uplands of Agnews Hill and Hightown, Sallagh Braes and Scawt Hill are clearly visible. The outer edges of Larne town, Carnfunnock Bay, Ballygally Head and Garron Point can also be seen. The gravel path gives way to a well-worn grass path and this can be rough and wet in places. The path runs alongside the rocky coastline and passes the rather colourful

'Rocking Stone', a local landmark. However the Rocking Stone rocks no more as a concrete plinth has been built around it.

The National Trust property extends a considerable distance inland and you are permitted to cross fields using the stiles provided. Take care as there may be cows and calves in the fields. A wide variety of seabirds feed on or around the rocky coastline, so look out for cormorants, shag, oystercatchers, curlew and redshank.



Your Guide to Walks



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A complete copy of the Holiday Map and the 1:50 000 maps which cover the area are available from Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, Colby House, Stranmillis Court Belfast BT9 5BJ. Telephone 028 9025 5732. Web <http://www.osni.gov.uk>



www.larne.gov.uk

or contact us via email at
larnetourism@btconnect.com

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

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