

Standing Stone on Croaghaun

Continue from the summit of Croaghaun for a couple of minutes and you'll be rewarded with a fine view northwards over the plains of Carlow - the village of Myshall lies below with Tullow and Carlow town in the distance. You'll also see a large pillar of Schist, pictured here. This is a Standing Stone or Gallan, of unknown age. Standing Stones were erected for various reasons over the years - to mark a burial site, to mark an event or as cattle scratching posts. Return to Croaghaun and start your descent - the view stretches away towards the TV mast on the summit of Mount Leinster and along the length of the Blackstairs Mountains.



Flowers & Shrubs



The soil on Kilbrannish is relatively poor compared to the lowlands of Carlow. Up here, the soil is acidic and peaty and is largely mountain blanket bog. It is also cooler and wetter up here. Two common flowers you will see are heathers and foxgloves.



Trees on Kilbrannish

Kilbrannish Wood is a working forest owned & managed by Coillte, the State forestry company. The two principal type of trees found here are:

Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) is a conifer with needle sharp blue green leaves - try shaking hands with one! Originates in north America and widely planted in modern forest plantations here where its quick growth rate makes it attractive. Timber is white deal and is widely used in the construction industry and for papermaking.

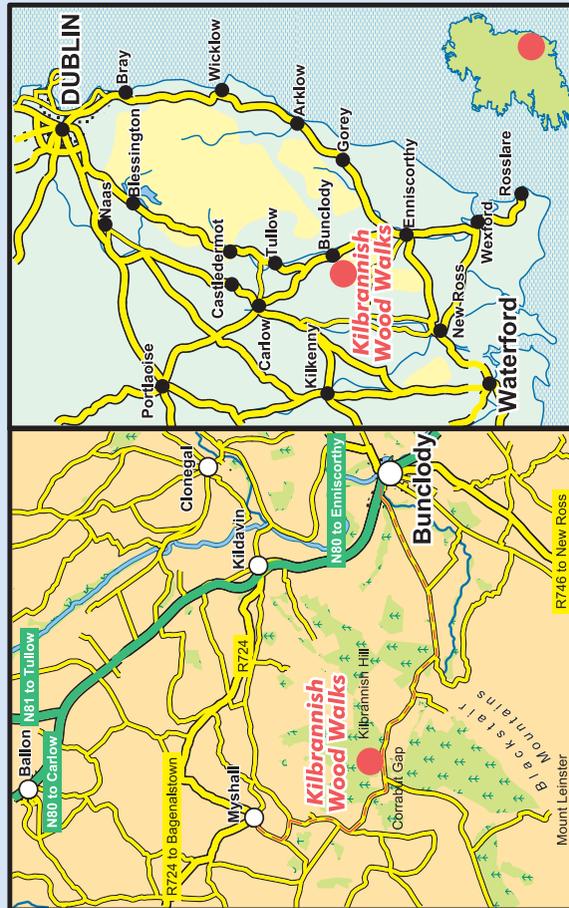


Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) is a common forest plantation tree in Ireland.

It originally came from western North America. Like all pines it is evergreen and has dark green needle like leaves in clusters on the branches. This tree can be 30-40 metres tall, but is often much smaller. The timber also called white deal is used for construction, knotty pine panelling, shelving, cabinetry, interior finish, fence posts, telephone poles, veneer, plywood, pulpwood and firewood.



How to Get There



Kilbrannish Wood is located 8 kilometres (5 miles) west of Bunclody. From the upper end of Bunclody opposite the Wexford Farmers Co-op, turn left up onto a minor road. This road winds it's way up to cross The Blackstair Mountains at Corrabut Gap. The carpark for the walks is located on the right a short distance before the Gap. You can also approach from Myshall following minor roads, signposted for Mount Leinster.

coillte



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kilbrannish forest loop

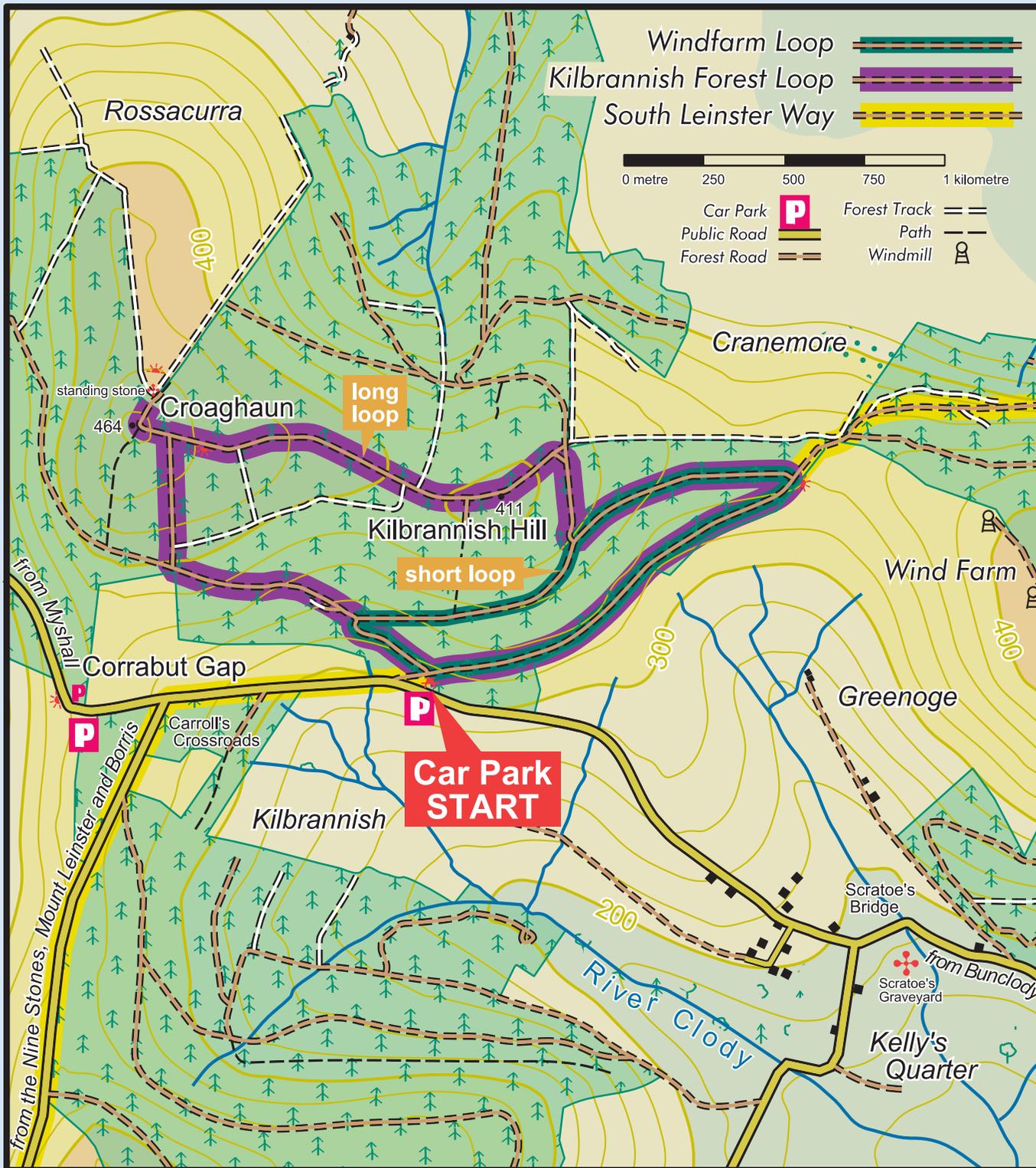


carlow
kilbrannish forest loop



blackstairs mountains, co. carlow, ireland

for further details on this and other walks in the carlow area please contact
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Walking at Kilbrannish

Walking is good for your physical and mental health. Set your pace to suit your enjoyment and you'll quickly feel better and get fitter. Drink a glass of water before and after your walk and don't forget, wear good comfortable shoes or boots. It's a good idea to wear or carry a water/wind proof jacket and hat on these walks.



There are two signposted walks at Kilbrannish Forest:

Windfarm Loop: 3 kilometres - 1 hour good surface with uphill sections, shorter walk suitable for families with younger children.

Kilbrannish Forest Loop: 5 kilometres - 2 hours good surface with more sustained uphill to reach the top of Kilbrannish and Croaghaun.

Wood or Church?

Kilbrannish in Irish is either Cill Breatnais or Coill Breatnais meaning Keither Walsh's Church or Walsh's Wood. When Irish placenames were 'anglicised' in the 1800's, the local names tended to be given a spelling that followed the local pronunciation. The Irish words Coill & Cill have very different meanings but a similar sound and hence tend to appear as Kil or Kyle. Breatnais is a word associated with those of British or Welsh origin, hence the surname Walsh.



Greenoge Windfarm

Four large wind turbines fill the skyline on the summit of nearby Greenoge Hill. These will be seen rotating on most days of the year, even in gentle breezes and this energy derived from the wind is used to generate electricity. This windfarm started operating in 2005 and each turbine is capable of generating 1300 Kilowatts. At present the four masts can generate a total of 5.2 megawatts with an annual output estimated to supply the electrical needs of circa 4500 people.



Nordex Wind Turbine at Greenoge