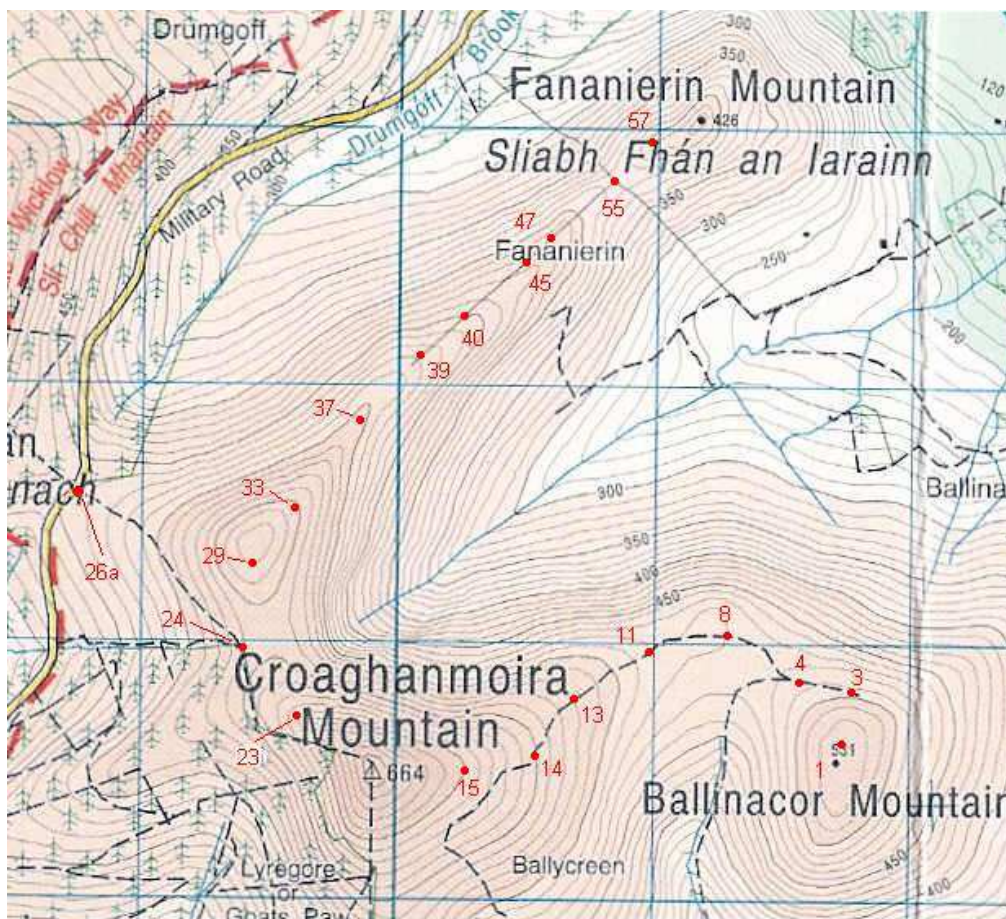


Wicklow Mountains Path Survey

Ballinacor Croaghanmoira Fananierin	
Start to Finish:	T 11723 86602 to T 11175 89057
Altitude (lowest – highest):	385m – 664m
Weather:	Hot
Access:	Coolgarrow forest entrance
Surveyed by:	John Monaghan 11 / 8 / 03





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Abbreviations used:



- pw = path width
- tape = measuring tape set to 0.5m or 1m in a photograph for scale
- NSEW = North, South, East, West
- pic = photograph
- avg = average


No	Pos Irish Grid T	Comments / Photographs
1	11723 86602	Start at small, knee-high stone cairn, Ballinacor; the highest point on a flat summit area is further south at 1173 8654; a faint single file N-S path crosses here by the cairn
2		no visible path from the summit area towards Croaghanmoira; a detour to the N finds a path crossing the N slope in a WNW direction, coming from lower down...
3	11753 86827	...the path bypasses the top of Ballinacor
4	11570 86863	the path is single file through low heather, is more overgrown here, but along an obvious trench (which can be seen from Croaghanmoira summit)
5	1154 8690	path junction; the path continues on, faint, in a NNW direction (pointing towards Turlough Hill); the main path veers left towards Croaghanmoira
6		path braiding (vehicle width) for 100m after the junction
7	11445 86962	the path continues, single file in width
8	11293 87024	path braiding for 80m (vehicle width)

9	11179 87027	pic33 looking back E shows the single file path through the heather; tape 0.5m; Ballinacor top right 
10	100m on	path passes a lone conifer and the nature of the path changes; it now has a grass surface, going through grass, heather and rushes across a low flat area
11	10974 86957	the path passes a 50m long fenced sheep enclosure on the right and climbs gently uphill
12		on the next section the path is braiding and splitting
13	10665 86752	single file in width
14	10544 86576	path getting faint through grass / some heather; shortly after, it runs out...
15	10236 86508	...I pick up another faint path, briefly...

16	10125 86482	<p>...I pick up a 1m wide path, grass covered but worn at the edges, with grass and some heather either side; pic34 shows the path ahead up the final 200m to the summit of Croaghanmoira (trig point can just be seen at the top); tape 1m; gps also in photo</p> 
17		<p>the last 80m to the top is on soft peat, the path broken somewhat (i.e. wide / narrow, edges indistinct)</p>

18	0992 8650	<p>Croaghanmoira summit;</p> <p>pic1 looking back shows the view towards Ballinacor; the path just walked from there is on the sunnier, left hand side of the broad ridge</p> 
19	same	<p>the summit area is marked by a trig. point; a stone track comes up the S slope to the summit and turns left to go down by the edge of the forest on the W slope</p>  <p>pic2 from the summit shows the track coming up from the S</p>

20	same	<p data-bbox="430 142 1302 210">pic5 from the summit shows the track as it turns left to go down to the forest below</p> 
21		<p data-bbox="430 949 1302 1016">to the right of this track and parallel to it, a 1m wide path also runs down to the forest</p>  <p data-bbox="430 1690 1253 1757">pic6 shows this path (which has more grass cover lower down away from the summit area); tape 1m</p>

22		<p>I took the more direct route to the NW Top on a faint single file path through the grass / flags; pic7 looking back up towards the summit; tape 0.5m; the track going down to the forest (see pic5) can be seen top right</p> 
23	09618 86726	<p>this faint path runs out as walkers spread out to go down to join the track and parallel path along the forest edge, or head directly for the NW Top</p>
24	09407 86982	<p>the NE corner of the forest; the forest track turns left to follow the forest edge down to the road; another path runs NW from here also joining the road below (at the highest point between Drumgoff and Aghavannagh); the path to the NW Top crosses a post / wire fence running E-W here</p> <p>NOTE: No's 25, 26, 26a and 26b refer to the path going NW from here to the highest point on the Aghavannagh – Drumgoff Road. The main path to Fananierin resumes in No. 27 below.</p>

25


same


pic8 shows the path running down NW to the highest point on the Aghavannagh – Drumgoff road below; tape 1m; the surface from the fence is stony, but lower down there is more grass cover




26	50m down	<p data-bbox="430 142 1258 210">pic9 looking down shows this NW path with more grass cover; tape 1m</p> 
26 a	0875 8758	<p data-bbox="430 1186 1185 1281">pic38 shows the other end of the path from the top of the Aghavannagh – Drumgoff road; the forest (No. 24) and Croaghanmoira summit are seen in the background</p> 

26 b	100m up	<p data-bbox="430 142 1209 178">Another view of the grass covered path in pic39; tape 1m</p> 
27	100m on up from No. 24	<p data-bbox="430 919 1274 1018">back on the main path to the NW Top, pic10 shows the path ahead; tape 1m; pw 1m; surface of grass / some bare peat; heather / grass either side</p> 

28		the path widens out to 1.5m with less grass cover as it nears the top of the slope
29	09441 87357	<p>the path widens out to 4m with "islands" of grass in the middle; deep ruts on the left hand side from quad tyres; pic11 shows this; tape 1m</p> 
30	09450 87390	NW Top; pw 2m as it goes over the top; mainly bare peat surface
31	50m on	pw 1.5m

32	30m on	pic12 looking ahead shows 20cm deep tyre tracks in the soft peat; tape 0.5m; Fananierin ridge in the background 
33	09580 87513	damage going out to 3m on the soft peat; grass either side

34	09610 87542	<p>pic13 shows the broken nature of the path ahead as the slope descends more steeply; tape 1m; pw 3.5m; Fananierin summit in shadow in the distance</p> 
35		<p>80m short of where the fences cross the ridge, there is more grass cover; the tyre tracks less obvious; pw 3 - 4m (path edges not clear)</p>  <p>pic15 looking back shows damage on a peat step; tape 1m; NW Top can be seen in the background</p>
36		the path narrows to 1m as it approaches the fences


37


09844
87840

3 fences meet on the ridge; pic16 looking back shows the grass covered path on the left running away from the fence post; NW Top in the background; slope up to Croaghanmoira top left



38	80m on	<p>pic17 looking back along the fence shows the grass covered path; tape 1m; there is another, less worn path on the other side of the fence</p> 
39	10118 88128	<p>on the next section the pw is 1-2m, mostly on grass, some parts on patches of bare peat; pic18 looking back shows this; tape 1m</p> 

40	10238 88250	<p>pic19 looking ahead shows the path surface a mix of grass / peat / bare stone; braiding, island of grass in the middle; mostly grass on either side; tape 1m</p> 
41	50m on	wet area 10m long from water coming off the cross slope
42	10323 88327	wet area 10m long; path braiding just after
43	100m on	wet area 5m long
44	10430 88420	path braiding for 10m; then single file width
45	10498 88482	faint single file path goes left and down through heather to join the forest track, and thus onto the road below

46	50m on	path braiding for 18m; path surface on grass with some exposed stone; longer grass either side
47	10588 88564	a short rise to a 1.5m high fence post beside the path; the path surface is more peaty with heather on either side
48	40m on	pic21 looking ahead; tape 0.5m 

49

further
on


pic22 shows the single file path through the heather down the
slope ahead



50

there is more exposed stone with stone steps on the slope; pic23
looking back shows a closeup of one of these; tape 0.5m



51	10710 88680	the surface at the bottom is wet, the path on soft peat
52		<p>the path goes up the short rise to a 1m+ high old fence post; pic24 from the post (bottom right) looking back to the slope beyond</p> 

53

10778
88744

pic25 looking ahead shows the final col before the rise to Fananierin summit; the path on grass / peat / exposed stone at the bottom of the picture; the cross wall / fence; the single file path up through the heather to the left on the far slope



54

just before the cross wall / fence, a single file path on grass veers left and goes steeply downhill to join the forest track below



pic26 shows this path; it joins the forest track at the corner, then through the gap and onto the road seen at the top of the picture

55

10840
88803

pic27 the wall / fence and a step-over in the middle of the picture



56

pic28 shows the single file path ahead up the final slope, through knee-high heather (August); surface of peat with some exposed stone



57	10983 88909	the slope eases off; pic29 looking ahead; tape 0.5m and pencil 
58	11175 89057	Fananierin summit
		END