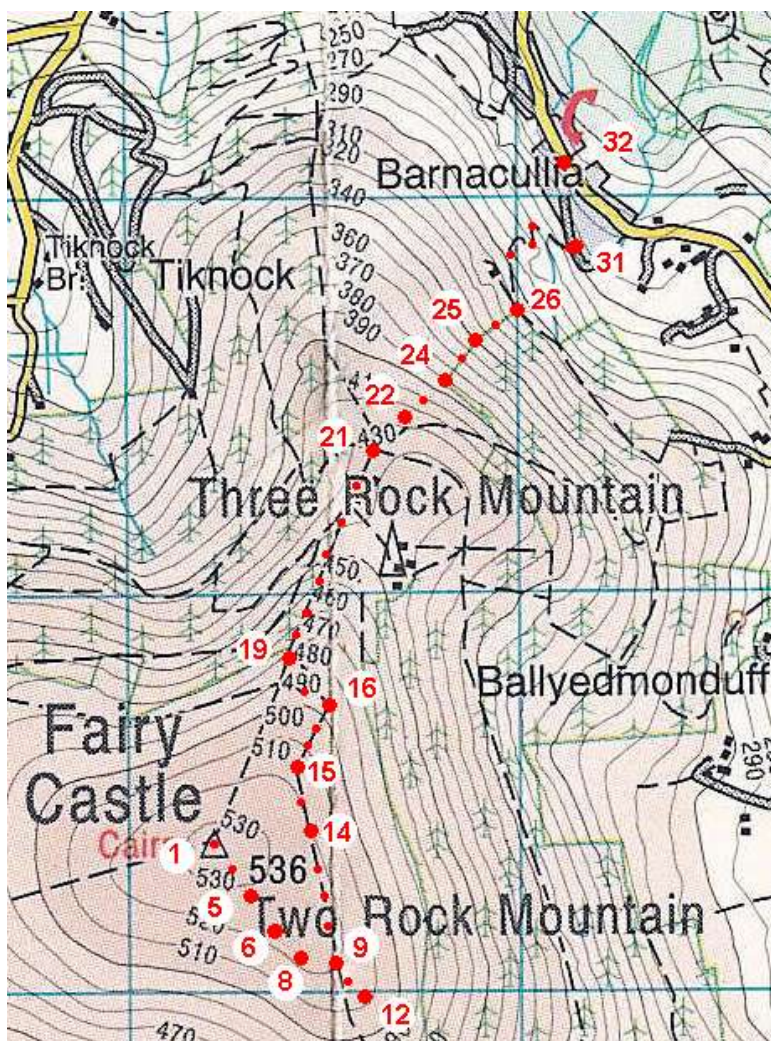


## Wicklow Mountains Path Survey


<b>Fairy Castle</b>	
Start to Finish:	O 17216 22384 to O 18167 24018
Altitude (lowest – highest):	240m – 536m
Weather:	Hot, dry
Access:	lane beside Blue Light Pub, Barnacullia
Surveyed by:	John Monaghan August 2003





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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 O	Comments / Photographs
1	17216 22384	Start at Fairy Castle summit
2	same	<p data-bbox="430 457 1242 525">pic40 from the summit cairn shows the path SE to Two Rock; Sugarloafs (loaves?) and Bray Head in the background</p>  A photograph showing a dirt path leading up a grassy hillside towards a distant mountain range under a clear blue sky. The path is composed of dirt and small rocks, winding through green grass and some low-lying shrubs. In the distance, a person can be seen walking on the path. The background features rolling hills and mountains, including what are identified as Two Rock, Sugarloafs, and Bray Head.

3	30m on	<p>pic44 looking back shows a wide path approaching the summit; bare peat, granite sand and dwarf heather; tape 1m</p> 
4	80m on	<p>pic45 looking ahead shows the path widening on the right; pw 3-4m; tape 0.5m</p> 

5	17320 22251	<p>pic46 looking ahead, two walkers approaching (or one walker with two heads); pw 4m and widening dramatically on the right</p> 
6	17371 22152	<p>pic48 looking ahead towards the granite tor shows the "original" stony path on the left, the widening bare peat on the right; tape 1m; pw 6m; the surface a mix of stone, gravel, grass, heather and bare peat</p>  <p>the low boundary (wall) to the right (out of pic) also shows signs of trampling</p>

7

pic49 shows the final metres to the outcrop (the true "Two Rock" is further on across and lower down); pic does not show the full pw; the path here is braided and broken; tape 1m





8



17452  
22070



Two Rock summit (so called); pic50 looks back along the path to Fairy Castle 400m away, seen on the horizon




9	17540 22047	<p>pic52 looking back to the summit 90m away; the stony path, also widening, meets a NS track (seen in bottom of the pic); tape 1m</p> 
10	same	<p>pic53 looks N along this track; the path from the summit is on the left; tape in same position as in the previous pic</p>  <p>(aside: the two tors which make up "Two Rock" are out of pic to the right)</p>

11		<p>pic54 looks towards the two tors; the path is 1 – 2m wide on peat; tape 1m; Bray Head and Sugarloafs in background</p> 
12	17612 21996	<p>at the first tor; the path in the pic above heads east by the first tor and then down towards the forest below; pw 2m and deeply rutted (tyres) on soft peat; there is a faint single file path between the tors</p>
13		<p>back on the NS track which runs along by old fence posts, pic58 looks N; pw 2 – 3m on stone, gravel and a little heather / grass; recent burning of heather in this area</p> 

14	17455 22432	pic59 shows the track ahead 
15	17428 22558	the track changes direction (to 36° mag.) and descends, still along by the old fence posts, towards one of the TV masts; pw 4m (2m of stone. 2m of bare peat); burnt heather on both sides
16	17512 22715	track turns left again (to 340° mag.) before it reaches the mast; pw 1 – 2m; pic60 at the turn; tape 1m; pic shows vegetation damage (widening) at the path edges 

17	17453 22804	pic62 looking ahead and downwards; tape on the left 1m; the track ahead is 1.5 – 2m wide 
18	same	pic61 from the same place, looking left; tape in same position as in the previous pic; walkers in the distance are at the junction noted in the Three Rock Fairy Castle survey (No.15 in that survey) 

19	17417 22871	<p>pic25 looking back up today's track from the junction (Nos. 9 – 12 in Three Rock Fairy Castle survey)</p> 
20		<p><b>the route now turns right and goes downhill; this section has been surveyed (ascending) in the Three Rock Fairy Castle survey (No's 1 – 9 in that survey)</b></p> <p><b><u>this</u> survey continues at the crossroads (No. 1 in the Three Rock Fairy Castle survey) following a different route down to the road at Barnacullia</b></p>
21	17647 23382	crossroads (forest track / TV masts service road) on Three Rock Mountain

22	17754 23452	<p>a narrow path, soon single file, leads steeply downwards towards forestry (on a 40° mag. bearing), passing a low mast on the left</p> 
23	100m down	<p>the path on stone and gravel with some grass cover; high bracken on the right; rusty fence on the left</p>
24	17816 23527	<p>at the corner of the forest seen in pic above; a minor path going right along the forest edge; the main path continues straight on down</p>
25	17893 23618	<p>where the path turns right into the forest a narrower, single file path branches left and then descends steeply (50° mag.) through bracken</p> <p>two wet patches with motorbike tracks on the way down</p>

26

18003  
23709

this narrow path meets a 1m wide forest path at a tee; looking left we make way for approaching horses (pic67)



27

10m  
on

pic68 shows a fork in the path (also visible in previous pic)



28		took the right fork downhill, the path going N through high bracken; the path surface of stony / granite soil
29	18072 23827	path follows an S – bend; (gps readings jumping here, so co-ords may not be accurate; may be due to the high vegetation around)
30		another bend; pw 0.5m
31	18150 23860	path emerges onto narrow tarmac road at house, "Bruach na Binne"
32	18167 24018	onto the Barnacullia road and then to the Blue Light for a pint.
		END