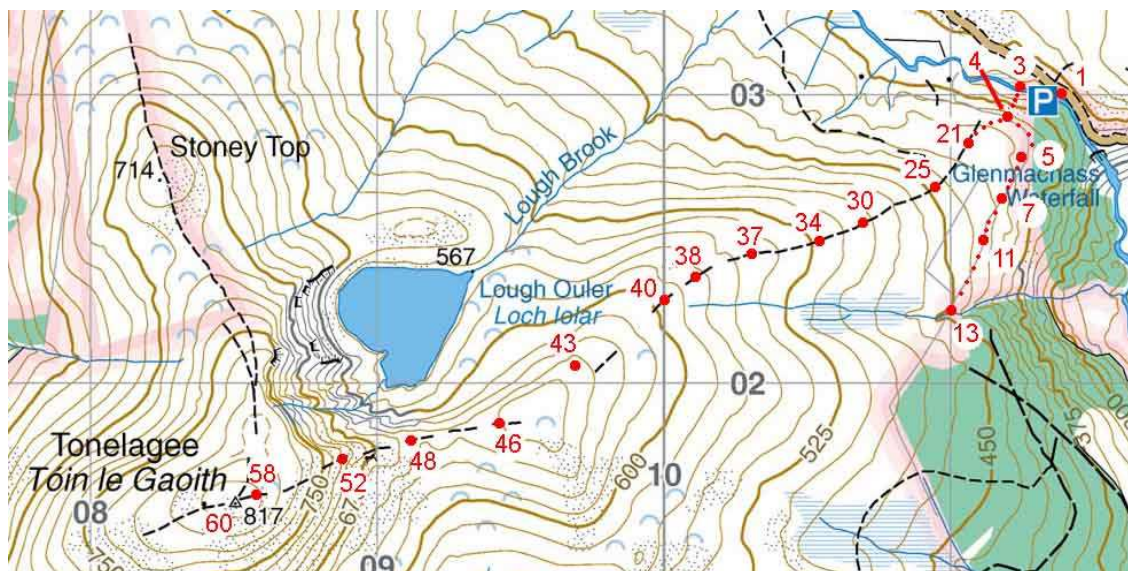


Wicklow Mountains Path Survey


Glenmacnass Tonelagee	
Start to Finish:	O 114 030 to O 085 016
Altitude (lowest – highest):	370m – 817m
Weather:	Sunny day, hot
Access:	Military Road, Glenmacnass
Surveyed by:	John Monaghan 4 / 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 O	Comments / Photographs
1	114 030	Start Glenmacnass Car Park
2		grass path runs along by the riverbank, across one wet dip, to...
3	11228 03040	...a crossing place on the river over large boulders; (more than one) path goes up the steep embankment to...
4	11185 02940	...a 2.5m wide track, with a surface of grass / stone which runs back towards the forest above the carpark; it then veers around to the right and runs parallel to the forest
5	11275 02798	<p>pic1v looking back, shows the track on a surface of grass and stone with some wet patches covered with sphagnum moss; tape 1m; road and carpark down out of sight at the end of the forest</p> 

6		the track gets drier as it begins to go uphill, still 2.5m wide
7	11190 02658	the track now rises gently across the side slope of the hill, on a magnetic bearing of 227° (magnetic variation in 2003 for Wicklow is 7°)
8	11152 02609	<p>track crosses a wet soak; a drier single file path goes up onto the bank beside it as walkers avoid the wet area; total pw = 4m</p>  <p>pic2 looking back shows the tape (1m) lying across the upper single file path; the wet area is lower down on the right</p>
9	30m on	a wet area about 15m long caused by water coming down the cross slope onto the track
10		the track becomes overgrown in rushes and long grass; a single file path through the rushes and sphagnum moss bypasses it on the right as far as...
11	11112 02496	track "reappears" at a 4m wide wet area, still overgrown in places, now on a magnetic bearing of 210°; further on it becomes overgrown again
12	11026 02305	more defined here, the track is 3m wide, with a stony surface


13	11000 02274	track runs out / finishes at a wet area above the deep gully of a mountain stream running east and down by the forest
14	end of boundary, forest break, farm track (?).....
15		
16	11185 02940	Starting again (as at No. 4 above) , there is a step up from the track onto a single file path on soft peat going through heather
17	40m up	path braiding as it goes through a wet area;
18		in the first 200m of this path there are three wet areas, each relatively small, about 4m diameter
19	11113 02912	<p>path braiding and a small wet area; pic3v looking ahead shows the wet area in the foreground</p> 



20		on the next section of path the effects of fluvial erosion - water coursing down the path flattening the vegetation - can be seen; the surface is grass on mineral soil / peat; avg pw = 1m
21	11064 02842	path braiding; pw = 2m; mainly on a surface of grass; pw then returns to 1m
22	11019 02757	<p>the slope steepens, the path still on a surface of grass with some bare stone, heather on either side;</p> <p>the path is widening with more braiding, as seen in pic4v; tape 1m</p> 
23	30m up	path braiding for a distance of 10m; pw 3m; with increased use this path will widen dramatically (braiding, heather cover decrease, peat erosion by trampling and ice / water action)
24	60m on up	the path surface here a thicker cover of grass



25	10961 02695	path braiding for about 20m; pw 4.5m
26	40m on up	path braiding for 10m; pw 3m; path surface mainly grass
27	10856 02640	path braiding for 10m with a 2m wide "island" in the middle
28	10786 02615	path braiding for 5m with a 2m wide island of vegetation between the diverging / converging paths
29		the next section of path is on grass; pw 1m or less; this section looks more stable than the preceding sections on the slope below
30	10708 02567	path braiding x 3; total pw going out to 4m; the upper slopes of Tonelagee above Lough Ouler now come into view
31		the next section of path is still 1m wide, with two instances of "new" braiding, still predominantly grass covered but with some bare peat patches
32	10600 02522	<p>pic5 looking ahead shows more braiding with an island of heather in the middle; the "newer" path goes to the left, the more worn one to the right; total pw 3m here; pw before and after 1m; tape 1m</p> 


33	25m on up	path braiding x 3
34	10553 02508	path surface gets softer, with more bare peat; pw is less defined, but wear goes out to 4-5m; the path getting more broken on the flatter, soft ground
35	80m on	pw 5 – 6m
36	10404 02461	the end of this broken, boggy section; on the next section the path narrows, single file in places, on a surface of grass / moss (spongy)
37	10308 02453	the path splits for a short distance and joins up again 
38	10137 02364	another single file path, also faint, comes in from the left and joins the main path; it may have split from the main path earlier...or is a separate path coming up from below...
39		the next section of path is not well defined; pw avg 1m on grass and soft peat



pic6b looking shows walker and the faint path ahead



40	10006 02305	<p>the route crosses a flat area between raised peat banks, the path widening out (edges not defined) as it does so</p> <p>pic7 shows the step-up at the end of the flat area, the peat trampled as walkers ascend / descend; tape 1m</p>  <p>the path beyond is faint and not well defined</p>
41		<p>the next section of the route has no distinct path; lots of boot prints over a wide area indicate the direction of the route</p>
42	09868 02197	<p>path reappears, faint, about 1m wide, with a flattened grass surface</p>
43	09710 02066	<p>bike tyre tracks going through the bare peat</p>


44	50m on up	<p>pic8 looking ahead, shows the path going through the grass / peat; tape 1m; the slopes above Lough Ouler in the background</p>  <p>Note: there are no other paths to the left of this one (i.e. running across the top of the ridge)</p>
45		<p>shortly after this, Lough Ouler can be seen below to the right (pic9)</p> 

46	09413 01860	<p>pic10 shows the terrain ahead across the saddle to Tonelagee, the lowest point being the lightly coloured sandy area; the saddle itself is covered with eroded peat banks; the path can be seen faintly at the bottom of the photograph</p> 
47	09270 01822	<p>the path is not well defined as it crosses the saddle; the route crosses the sandy / stony area</p>
48	09118 01800	<p>pic12 shows the step up at the end of the saddle as the steep climb begins; the trampling damage is evident; tape 1m</p> 

49	100m up	pw difficult to measure, but the damage is going out to 4 - 5m, as it picks its way among the large rocks and boulders
50		<p>many paths up the slope as walkers find their own route; splitting and joining up again; some nearer the edge over Lough Ouler, others more to the left</p>  <p>pic13 looking back over the saddle towards the NE Top; three faint paths over the Top, including today's one, were visible to the naked eye, but are not seen in the photograph</p>

51	150m up	pic15 shows a typical section of path on this slope, wending its way around the boulders; tape 1m 
52	08894 01764	pic16v shows pigeon holing, steps in the grass slope; tape 1m 

53	further up	<p>pic17v shows the damage on the slope up ahead; tape 1m; dry now, this will suffer added damage from water and ice in winter</p> 
54	50m up	<p>pic18 looking back down, shows the slope, a corner of Lough Ouler, and the saddle below; two paths meet at the white stones, bottom of the photograph</p> 

55	08844 01743	<p>the path splits again, going right to the edge over the lake, and left up the slope;</p> <p>the path to the right peters out further on; I followed the more used one to the left</p>
56	08771 01722	<p>single file path on a grass surface on mineral soil / peat, with a lot of pigeon holing;</p> <p>the slope now eases off and.....</p>
57	08715 01703	<p>.....pic19 shows the path braiding on a flat area between peat banks; two sheep top left (distinguish rocks from sheep...!)</p> 

58

08591
01626

the path meets up with another one converging from the left;
at the junction pic20v shows the path ahead onto the summit area,
wider and more pronounced now; pw 2.5m; tape 1m




the top of the trig point on Tonelagee summit is just out of sight at
the top of the photograph

59

same

pic21, tape in same position, looking back, shows the junction; today's path on the left, the other pointing towards Scarr in the background



60	085 016	<p>pic23 (taken on a magnetic bearing of 124°) at the Trig Point, shows the summit area, the grass worn by weather, walkers and sheep grazing</p>  <p>other paths lead off the top on bearings of 124° (straight ahead) and 149° (on the top right of the photograph), the latter heading towards Brockagh; they both become single file paths further down;</p> <p>today's path leads off the top on a bearing of 67° (towards Kanturk); the path to Barnacullian is dealt with in a separate survey.</p>
		END