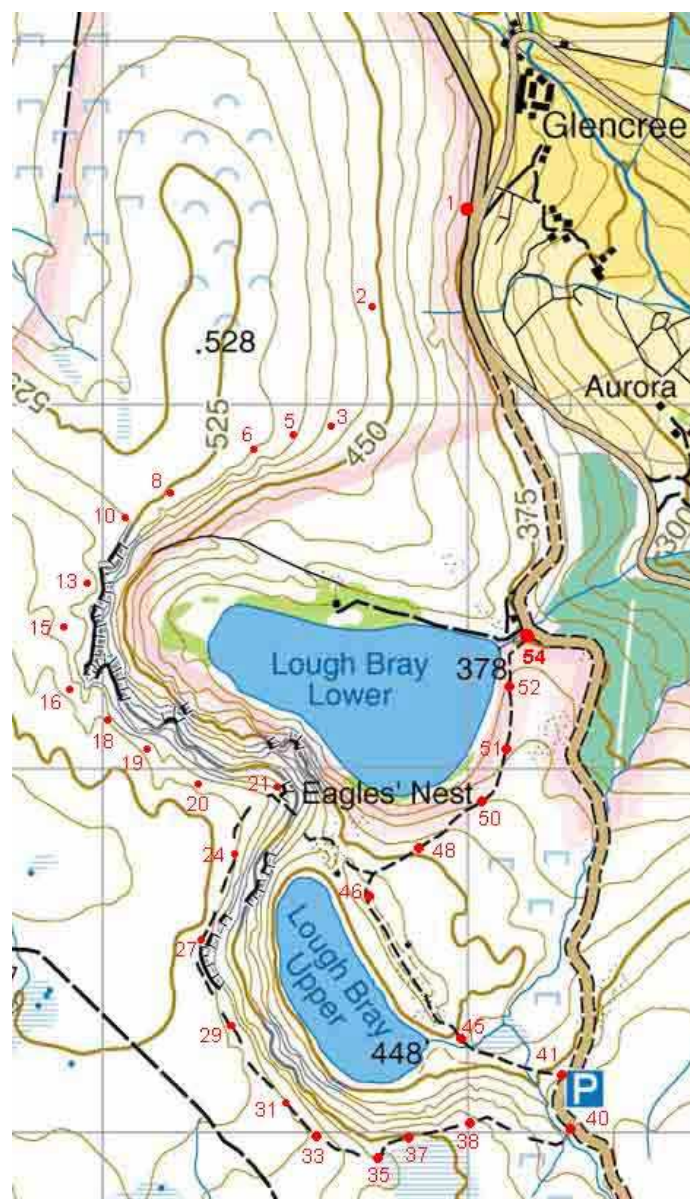





Wicklow Mountains Path Survey


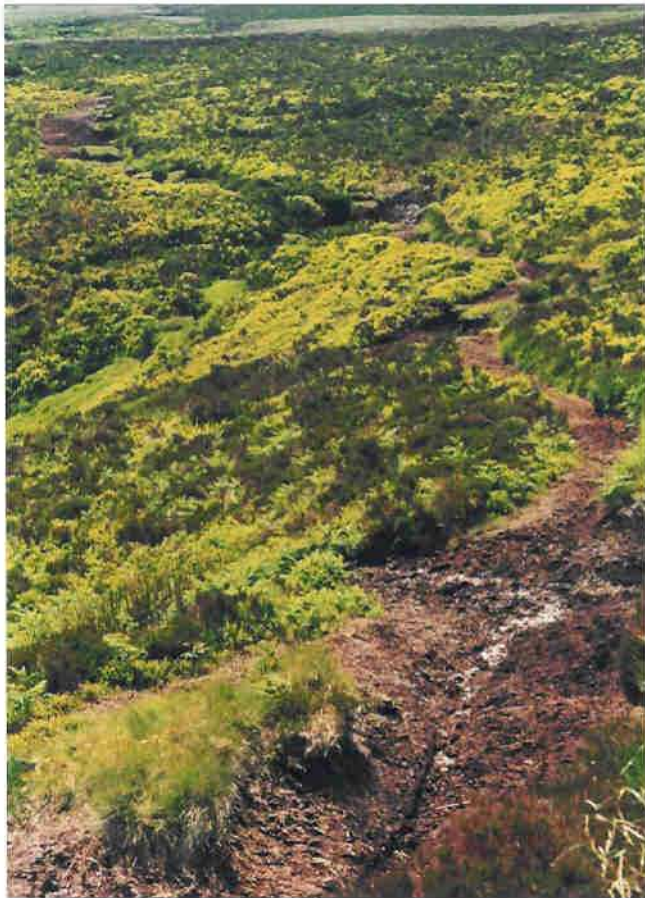
Lough Bray	
Start to Finish:	O 140 ₀₀ 175 ₅₀ to O 141 ₇₀ 163 ₇₀
Altitude (lowest – highest):	370m – 555m
Weather:	Sunny, after rainy June.
Access:	Rathfarnham – Sally Gap road at start and finish given above
Surveyed by:	John Monaghan, 20 / 6 / 02





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No	Pos Irish Grid O	Comments / Photographs
1	14000 17550	Start, at road junction above Glencree
2	13761 17267	picked up single file path heading towards Lower Lough Bray; peat depth > 60cms here
3	13634 16940	path turns right (W) uphill at a lone conifer; immediate deterioration and widening to 2m of path surface
4	13537 16915	junction of two paths; main path 3m wide  <p><u>pic37</u> looking W up the slope shows braiding, new path on the right; Kippure mast in background</p>
5	100m on up	path has divided into 4 "single file" paths
6	13425 16877	path divides; main path to the left (nearest lake)
7		path on edge of steep heather slope; single file width


8	13184 16751	<p>very wide; sand / gravel surface; bad erosion here on the overhanging bank on the right</p> <hr/>  <p><u>pic38</u> looking back down (E) shows path dividing; Prince William's Seat at top-left; Glencree valley and Bray Head in background</p>
9		<p>parallel paths on soft peat 10m apart; then re-join</p>
10	13070 16688	<p><u>pic0</u> looking SW, shows eroding bank from walkers ascending / descending; Kippure summit out of sight in background</p> <hr/> 


11	same	 <p data-bbox="430 772 802 806"><u>pic1</u> shows same, closer up</p>
12	further on	<p data-bbox="430 877 1211 947"><u>pic2</u> shows a general view of the path ahead; tyre tracks in foreground; a need to drain water off the path here</p> 


13	12958 16510	wet grassy patch and braiding followed by eroded bank
14	50m on	more braiding, just before small stream enters large gully down to the lake below; the path divides here, soon 30m apart; I followed the higher one
15	12895 16393	<p><u>pic3</u> shows path ahead ascending steep slope</p> 
16	12910 16229	path braided and broken up; natural erosion above to the right of the path; the path again divides, the upper branch getting indistinct after 50m; I followed the lower, more defined one
17		path crosses a stream running down a gully; walkers make their own way up the far bank; a need for <u>one</u> path here
18	13014 16140	paths dividing and joining here; eroded / damaged peat bank to ascend / descend; wet area at the top of the bank; I followed the path nearest the lake, steep drop on the left-hand side – this section could be dangerous in winter conditions...

19	13129 16045	path divides again; the lower, narrower one contouring to the left; I followed the wider one going uphill to the right, crossing a small stream over a badly eroded bank
20	13274 15951	more eroding banks crossing small stream; large loose stones available here to make a bridge across to stabilise the peat banks
21	13500 15950	Eagle's Nest – numerous paths here; eroded and badly torn up area generally
22	same	path divides up again going SW from the Eagle's Nest; I took the lower path on the left
23	200m on	wet area; 3 parallel paths now close together
24	13370 15770	<p>pic6 shows wet area ; (GPS in foreground); path width \leq 4m</p> 

25		there are large stones further on which could be used for surfacing work
26		path in good condition, less than 1m wide at two large 2m boulders
27	13266 15536	<p data-bbox="435 390 1122 422"><u>pic7</u> shows path ahead after crossing the large gully</p> 
28	100m on	path divides up

29	13353 15297	<p>paths join again about 150m on</p>  <p><u>pic8</u> shows the broken nature of the path here; very soft peat rapidly being washed and blown downslope; the slope at the far end of the photo is also badly eroded</p>
30	100m on	wet area; you have to go up and around it – it needs to be surfaced to stop path widening
31	13510 15077	the path from pic8 to here is generally good with the above exception; mostly <1m wide; however it now widens out to >2m; there is also a badly eroded bank here
32		the path above Upper Lough Bray is generally good until the end of the lake, but ...

33	13586 14993	<p>... it begins to get bad at the beginning of the descent to the road (a result of the slope and a lot of casual walkers coming up from the road as far as here?)</p>  <p><u>pic9</u> shows the path; path width = 3.5m; the road can be seen below</p>
34		just below this a drain crossing the path at right angles needs to be bridged to prevent any more path widening
35		an indistinct path goes straight on down towards the road; the main path turns sharp left towards the lake
36	13765 14950	wet area here and for the next 100m
37	13856 14994	two minor paths come down from the right to join the main path

38	14003 15024	<p>pic10 shows the path and the quarry below (white bus, two cars, one burned out); the foreground shows the peat to be very soft and deep (>60cms); it will quickly erode with increased trampling</p> 
39		<p>the path down to the road varies from 1m to 3m wide with some very wet, mushy spots; it divides up near the road</p>
40		<p>the route now turns left on the road for a short distance.....</p>
41		<p>.....then turns left off it at the quarry</p>

42


pic11 a welcome place to rest at the end of a long day



43



pic12 shows state of path halfway to the Upper Lake; it is very broken up and wet; one definite path is needed here; materials available close by; also easy access from road

44		<p>pic13 small distance further on</p> 
45		<p>the slope up to the top of the moraine is in bad condition (combination of steep slope, peat surface and trampling); the path surface and width improves along the top</p>

46

13726
15650




pic14 shows the worst part of the path along the crest of the moraine; 1- 2m wide; the Eagle's Nest is out of sight straight ahead and above; a narrow minor path goes down left to the lake shore from here; I turned right here, away from the lake

46

pic5 looking down from the Eagle's Nest, shows an overall view of the path along the top of the moraine, and the turn down towards the finish of the route



47	10m on down	<p>pic15 shows the path downslope in very poor condition; eroding and widening</p> 
48	13886 15796	wet area; broken up
49	30m on down	wet and broken up; path braiding
50	14054 15920	very broken up area; rocky and wet; difficult to walk on; there is a good slope left down to the lakeshore so drainage should not be a problem; also lots of stones about to build a path surface
51	14114 16054	braiding; path splitting; it gets wide and ill-defined here; walkers going all over the place to get through
52	14124 16228	the path needs to be defined on the 175m section from No.50 to here; a need for surfacing, bridging of wet areas and drainage along this section

53		the last section of path down to the road at (what was) McGuirk's Tea House is drier and rockier but there is much path splitting; this section is probably much walked by people who come up this far, but no further!
54	14170 16370	END