

## Tóchar Daithí Bán at Ballycroy Visitor Centre

Enjoy a leisurely walk along a 2km looped trail at the Ballycroy Visitor Centre. The trail is named after the mythical giant Daithí Bán who built a fortress on the Park's tallest mountain, Corslieve (721m). Discover the mountains of the Nephin Beg Range and Achill Island from a gently ascended viewing point.

## Claggan Mountain Coastal Trail

Situated on the N59 you will find a gentle walk (1km boardwalk) through Atlantic Blanket Bog and a sheltered shoreline. Enjoy stunning panoramic views of the Park to the east and Bellacragher Bay and Achill Island to the west. Listen for the calls of wading birds and catch glimpses of otters and seals.

## Letterkeen Loops at the Brogan Carroll Bothy

Letterkeen Trailhead is 14km from Newport, Co Mayo. Nearest services are at Newport. From the Ballycroy Visitor Centre, head either north or south on the N59. Directions as follows:

### Northwards from the Ballycroy Visitor Centre

Take N59 to Bangor-Erris, follow N59 eastwards towards Crossmolina/Ballina. After Bellacorick take the Castlebar Road (R312) for 11kms until you reach the Keenagh crossroads. Take a right here and follow this road for approximately 10km passing Bunaveela Lough until you arrive at Wild Nephin National Park. Continue to follow the Letterkeen Loop fingerpost signs until you arrive at Brogan Carroll Bothy. The trailhead is located at this point.

### Southwards from the Ballycroy Visitor Centre

Take the N59 heading in the direction of Mulranny. Head eastwards towards Newport for approximately 16kms to reach a road junction on your left (signposted Letterkeen Loop & Bangor Trail). Turn left and follow this road for approximately 10km until you arrive at Wild Nephin National Park. Continue to follow the Letterkeen Loop fingerpost signs until you arrive at Brogan Carroll Bothy. The trailhead is located at this point.

## MAYO DARK SKY PARK

Half the Park is After Dark! Ballycroy Visitor Centre, Claggan Mountain Coastal Trail and the Brogan Carroll Bothy are all designated Dark Sky Park Viewing Points.

## WILD NEPHIN NATIONAL PARK

Wild Nephin National Park is Ireland's sixth National Park. Comprised of 15,000 hectares of Atlantic blanket bog and mountainous terrain, it covers a vast uninhabited and unspoilt wilderness dominated by the Nephin Beg Mountains. To the west of the mountains is the Owenduff bog, one of the last intact active blanket bog systems in Ireland and Western Europe. To the east is the Nephin Forest, currently dominated of Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine, it was originally planted for commercial purposes. This area will now be managed for biodiversity and recreation.



## CONTACT US

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🐦 WildNephin

 Páirceanna Náisiúnta  
National Parks

 IDA  
MAYO INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK

## Wild Nephin National Park Walking

# Wild Nephin Trail Guide

 Páirceanna Náisiúnta  
National Parks

 Páirc na Spéire Dorcha Láthair Amhairc  
Dark Sky Park Viewing Point

# Letterkeen Loops | Trail Descriptions

## Vary's Loop (Orange Loop)

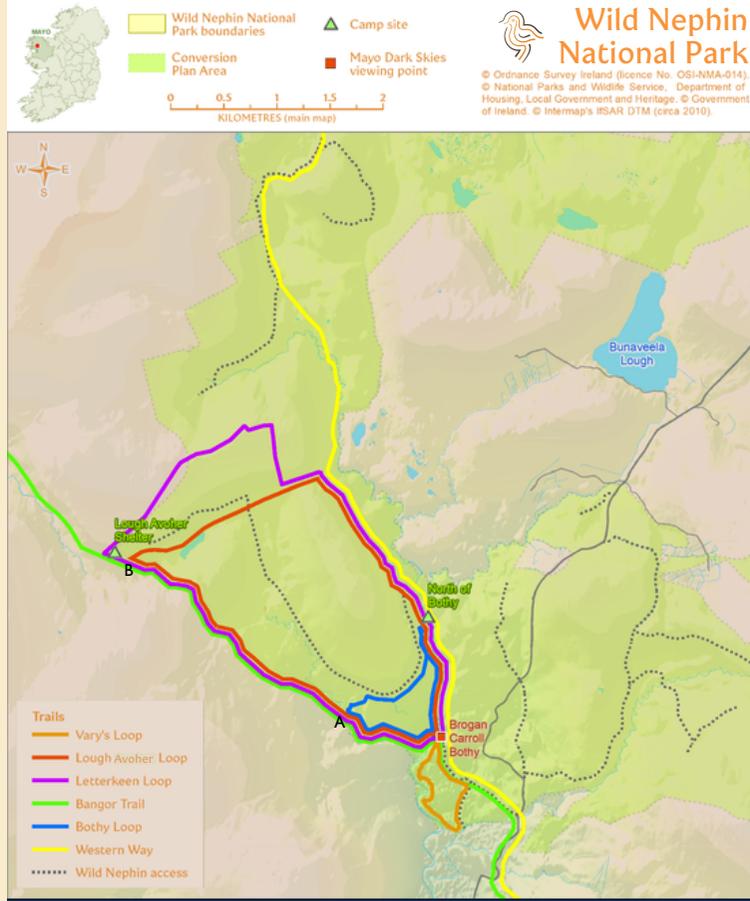
Starting from the Brogan Carroll Bothy walk to the start of the green footbridge and follow the gravel pathway along the left hand side of the river bank. Follow this trail for approximately 1km passing a stone building called Vary's, cross the wooden boardwalk and continue along the gravel trail until you eventually cross a stone bridge. After the stone bridge you keep left passing the Marine Institute's wooden hut on your right hand side. Stay on the track for another 400m until you reach a T-junction where you will turn left to return to the trailhead at the bothy.

## Bothy Loop (Blue Loop)

Starting from the Brogan Carroll Bothy follow the blue (red and purple) arrows for 100m to reach a footbridge. Cross the bridge and turn left onto the bank of the Altaconey River. Follow the tracks along the banks of the river for almost 1km to reach 'humpback' metal footbridge. Cross the bridge and turn right. Continue to follow the blue arrows as you travel along what remains of an old cattle road. After 500m – watch for the stile crossing the sheep wire fence on your right hand side (A). Cross the fence and the small wooden bridge and follow this track until you see another stile crossing a sheep wire fence and join a sandy/gravel roadway where you turn right. Follow this roadway for about 1km as it sweeps left and reaches a T-junction with a forestry road. Here you rejoin the red and purple loops. Turn Right. Following the blue (red and purple arrow), the loop takes you onto and along the Altaconey river for 2km to regain the trailhead.

## Lough Avoher Loop (Red Loop)

Follow the directions for the blue loop but instead of crossing the stile at (A) you continue straight. Continue to follow the old roadway for approx. 2km – crossing a stream en-route. Near the end of a section of forestry (on your right) watch for the point where the loop turns into the forestry via wooden posts (B).



### At a glance | Loops Overview

<b>Vary's Loop</b> Éasca/ Easy 2.5 km 45 min 17m timbhealach/looped	<b>Bothy Loop</b> Measartha/ Moderate 5 km 1 hr 30 min - 2 hr 80m timbhealach/looped	<b>Lough Avoher Loop</b> Dian/ Strenuous 10 km 3 hr - 3 hrs 30 min 240m timbhealach/ looped
<b>Letterkeen Loop</b> Dian/ Strenuous 12 km 4 hr - 5 hr 350m timbhealach/looped	Sli an Bhaingir An-deacair Bangor Trail Very difficult	Rabhadh: is conair 40km a shineann amach thar an bPáirc Náisiúnta atá anseo. Warning: this is a 40km trail that extends beyond the National Park.
	Sli an Iarthair Measartha Western Way Moderate	Rabhadh: is conair ós cionn 200km ón tús a shineann amach thar an bPáirc Náisiúnta atá anseo. Warning: this is a trail of over 200km that extends beyond the National Park.

Camping is only permitted at designated camping sites and through our online registration system. See [www.campingwildnephin.com](http://www.campingwildnephin.com)  
 All visitors to the National Park, including hikers and walkers, are requested to register on the online registration system.

### Visitor Advice

- ☹️ Níl an clúdach fóin seasmhach anseo, ní fhéidir brath air.  
Mobile phone coverage is not reliable here.
- 🐕 Ní mór madraí a bheith faoismacht an t-am ar fad.  
Dogs must be kept under control at all times.
- 📞 Glaigh ar 999 nó 112 i gcás éigeandála  
Call 999 or 112 in case of emergency



## Lough Avoher Loop (Red Loop continued)

The more challenging purple loop continues straight – but you turn right here. Now follow the track into the forestry and join a sandy roadway which takes you along the side of Lough Avoher (on your right). Over 1km later, at a sharp right bend, the loop proceeds straight into a green track. Follow the track as ascends for 500m to rejoin the purple loop – then continue through the pass and descend to reach a forestry road where you turn right. Follow the forestry road for 1km to rejoin the blue loop as it comes in from your right. Veer left and follow the blue, red and purple arrows as the loop takes you onto and along the Altaconey River for 2km to regain the trailhead at the Brogan Carroll Bothy.

## Letterkeen Loop (Purple Loop)

Follow the directions for the red loop until (B) continuing straight for only another 200m to reach a point where you turn right and ascend following the inside of an old wire fence. Follow the wire fence to the top of the hill, and veer right as the loop skirts the corner of the forestry – then follow the markers carefully as you ascend steeply to the highest point 311m. Enjoy the panoramic views before turning right and reaching the end of the forestry where you turn left. After 300m the loop turns right and descends steeply along a narrow path through trees. At the bottom you rejoin the red loop and turn left. Follow the stony track through the pass and descend to reach a forestry road where you turn right. Follow the forestry road for 1km to rejoin the blue loop as it comes in from your right. Veer left and follow the purple, red and blue arrows as the loop takes you onto and along the Altaconey River for 2km to regain the trailhead at the Brogan Carroll Bothy.

## Wild Camping & Hiking

Camping is only permitted through our online registration system. All visitors to the National Park, including hikers and walkers, are requested to register on the online registration system. To register go to [www.campingwildnephin.com](http://www.campingwildnephin.com)