

# ***Derryclare Wood***

## ***Start and Finish –***

*At the entrance to the Derryclare Wood. To get there drive or walk towards Recess on the R344, and the wood entrance is on the right just over 4 km from Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel. There is a lone cottage opposite the wood entrance, and there is parking for several cars outside the wood gate.*

## ***Description –***

*This is a trio of winding walks along quiet forestry roads in a scenic wood, where the lake wraps around in unexpected places, with fine views up to Derryclare Mountain and some of the Twelve Bens brethren.*

## ***Comments –***

*Once in the wood, let your time and your mood decide what you want to do – this is a peaceful place.*

## ***Directions –***

*Go over the easy stile on the left of the wood gate and walk in along the forest road. The route descends to the very attractive spot where a double bridge spans the short river linking Lough Inagh to Derryclare Lough. Continue over the bridge, and then you can make your own decision when you come to the first fork, about 1 km from the start.*

## ***The Derryclare End –***

*Take the left at the fork and follow the road around past a disused quarry, as it swings South for another stretch and terminates at a clearing. On the way, there are good views left, where the forest has been cleared to Derryclare Lough and down to an oak forest at a nature reserve near the lakeside. Return the same way. Return trip from entrance is 5 km, say 1½ hours.*

## ***The Northern End –***

*My own favourite. Go right at fork and left upward crossing a wee bridge over very attractive mountain stream less than 1 km later. The forest road then turns down right, then sharp left, before arriving at a clearing with dramatic views up to Binn an Choire Bhig. Return the same way. Return trip from entrance is 9 km, say 2½ hours.*

## ***A Peek at Lough Inagh –***

*Right at fork, and right downward at second fork and follow down curving right, to a clearing. Just before the clearing, you can push left through a few trees to the side of Lough Inagh. Return the same way. Return trip from entrance is 6 km, say 1½ hours.*