

Ard na Mona Woods Loop

2.6km
Moderate
Woodland
paths &
bridges

A Car Park
B 2nd Gate
C Junction
D T-junction

What3Words Location: behinds.adopts.forests

This marvellous quiet Nature Reserve on the shore of Lough Eske with a nicely created walking path loops around large oak, hazel and holly trees in a Woodland that is left in its natural state. There are beautiful mosses, bluebells, wood sorrel, streams and the lakeside to enjoy on this delightful walk developed by National Parks and Wildlife Service. The wood is also home to red squirrel, badger, fox and mink. The route has a few short steep sections, but the beauty of this natural broadleaf woodland will more than compensate you for the strain.

Dogs are allowed if kept on a lead.

Walk Directions

From the new car park **A** follow the path below the road to the bridge over the Clady river. **Walk through** the pedestrian gate, and follow the track to the next gate **B** ahead. ***The house is private property – please respect the owner's privacy.*** There is a detailed information sign inside the gate **B** about the Nature Reserve. The next junction is the point **D** where you will come back to. For now, **go straight** for ca. 700m as the route ascends gently up to the junction at **C**, where you **turn right**. The path winds steeply down for a short while- please use the handrails provided, and crosses a number of little streams. Watch out on your left for one great example of new branches growing vertically from an old fallen trunk. Then you arrive at the shore of Lough Eske, with stunning views over the lake and the magnificent Bluestack Mountains rising behind it. Continue along the path for ca. 800m, cross another footbridge, and encounter a number of short, steep inclines. At the top of the path you are back at T-junction **D**, **turn left** to go through the entrance gate **B** once more, and follow the path past the private house, over the Clady and back to the car park at **A**.

