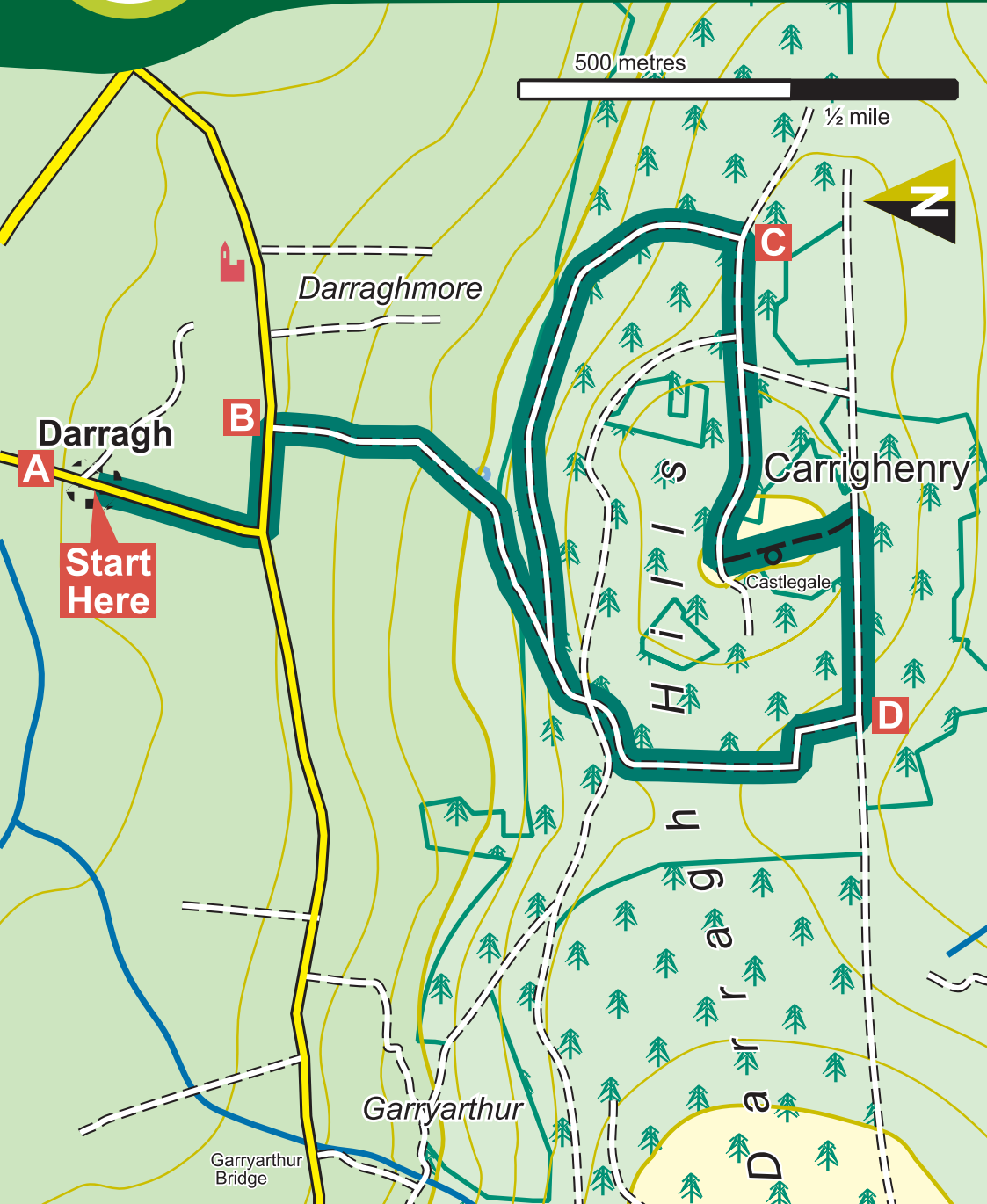




Trailhead 89

Ballyhoura Country Walks

Castlegale Loop



TRAILHEAD SERVICES
DIST / TIME
DIFFICULTY
TERRAIN
MIN. GEAR
GPRS

Darragh Bridge, Darragh, Co Limerick
Kilfinnane (6km), Mitchelstown (12km)
7km / 1hr30mins – 2hrs
Moderate
Forestry roads, woodland paths
Hiking boots, raingear, liquids and mobile phone
8 24° 24"W (Darragh Hills Carpark) 52 20° 25"N



Simply different

Ballyhoura Country

Castlegale Loop

The town of Mitchelstown is situated just off the M8 – the main motorway which links the cities of Dublin and Cork. From the roundabout on the northern side of Mitchelstown take the R513 in the direction of Kilfinnane. After 2km veer left at a Y-junction and take the R517 in the direction of Kilfinnane. After approximately 11km watch for a disused Creamery building on your left at Darragh Bridge. The trailhead is the old Creamery building. Park at the creamery which is before you cross the bridge.

Directions

A-B. Starting from the trailhead at Darragh bridge, follow the green (and purple) arrows uphill along the surfaced roadway to reach a T-junction. (The purple arrows are for the longer Darragh Hills loop). Turn left here and travel 100m to reach a junction with a narrow laneway on your right. Turn right here.

B-C. Follow the laneway uphill past a Holy Well and after 500m reach a junction with a forestry track. This is the point from which the loop properly begins. Continue straight on through the wooden posts and join a woodland track. Continue to follow the green and purple arrows along the track as it meanders through a section of broadleaf woodland and ascends to exit onto a forestry roadway. Turn right here.

C-D. The loop follows the forestry roadway for a further 600m to reach a right bend where it turns left into forestry and ascends to reach the pile of stones that is Castlegale. Enjoy the views before continuing over the top and descending a short distance to reach a forestry road. Turn right and walk for almost 500m. At a point just short of a stile into a field, watch for a marker which directs you right and into forestry. [Note that you leave the purple loop here].

D-A. Follow the green arrows through a short section of forestry and reach a forestry roadway where you rejoin the purple loop and turn right. After 200m veer left onto a grassy downhill track and after a short descent reach the junction from where you started the loop. Turn left and follow the green and purple arrows to join the laneway and descend to reach the surfaced road. Turn left, then right, and enjoy the last 300m back to the trailhead.

Ballyhoura Office 063 91300, Emergency 112,
Office hours Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.
www.visitballyhoura.com



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht,
Gnóthaí Neigheanta, Tuathle agus Gaeltachta
Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



Realising our
Rural Potential
Action Plan for Rural Development



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