

## **Tassagh Bridge to Darkley - 6.15 (or up to 11.2 miles)**

At 6.15 miles, this is the shortest of the three parts of our Keady Walk. However, there are a few options below if you wish to extend this up to over 9 miles. I'll leave it to you to plan which diversions you wish to take (all are good), but please study all and plan well.

Start at the crossroads of Tassagh Road and Dundrum Road, just east of Tassagh Bridge.

Irish Grid Ref. H 86933 35941 (see at [Google Maps](#)). Download GPX Map at [MapMyWalk](#)

**Go south into Dundrum Road** and soon past Tassagh Post Office.

**0.25 miles.** Stay **straight on** past narrow road to left.

**(OPTIONAL DIVERSION NOTE:** At 0.3 miles. Turn right to follow the farm lane down to Dundrum Mills and where the Clea River joins the Callan River. This is an addition and well worth this minor diversion, you'll then need to retrace your steps to re-join the walk. It will add about 0.65 miles – [see map](#))

At 0.32 miles. Past the entrance gates to Dundrum House to the LHS.

**(Note:** At 0.65 miles. Up and across the field to the RHS is an ancient ringfort (Dundrum Fort, Multivallate rath, aka Gordon's Fort))

**1.0 miles.** Go **straight on at crossroads**, still along Dundrum Road.

**1.26 miles, Turn right into Lower Darkley Road.** This leads downhill to cross the Callan River after 170 yards

After another 60 yards and to the right you'll see the shell of an old mill. On old maps a second is shown just to the left of the road, but very little remains. Maps show these as the Darkley Beetling Mills.

In another 70 yards a gate supported by two large stone pillars will give you a better view of the mill to the right and over the valley.

Continue along Lower Darkley Road for another 0.78 miles to at T-junction.

**2.22 miles. Turn left at T-junction** onto Annvale Road.

**2.33 miles. Stay straight on past road to RHS.**

At 2.61 miles. To the left is an old bleach and beetling mill and to the left and above it is a large white house named Linen Vale.

At 2.64 miles the road crosses over the Callan River

**3.14 miles. At T-junction, turn right** onto Dundrum Road. **Then, after just 70 yards, turn right** into Annvale Road, signed Mountain Lodge Church.

**3.6 miles.** Cross **straight over** (A29, with care) and into Mountain Lodge Road.

At 3.7 miles Mountain Lodge Road crosses over a small stream which originates at Aughnagurgan Lough.

At 3.8 miles Aughnagurgan Lough is visible to the LHS.

**4.0 miles. Straight on** past Graysons Road to your LHS.

At 4.15 miles Mountain Lodge Pentecostal Church is to your RHS.

At 4.25 miles Entrance to Darkley Forest and car park is to your RHS.

**(OPTIONAL DIVERSION NOTE:** At this point you have some options to extend the length of the walk, if you wish – I would recommend at least 1. and 3. below).

1. Take a walk around Darkley Forest Fairy Village (adds about 0.6 miles).
2. Follow the Aughnagurgan Trail through the forest (adds 1.4 miles). See [LINK](#).
3. Follow the Mountain Lodge Trail around the Forest (adds 1.9 miles). See [LINK](#)

There is a sign from the car park to the Fairy Village, plus both the trails are waymarked. To take any or all of these diversions, you need to turn right thru' the car park to join them, then when finished walk back out thru' the car park and turn right along Mountain Lodge Road).

At 4.65 miles Tullynawood Lake becomes visible ahead and to the right. Also, soon, if you look sharp right, you can see Darkley Lake.

**4.8 miles.** Turn **very sharp right into Upper Darkley Road**. Tullynawood Lake is now down to your LHS.

**NOTE:** At this point, there is another optional diversion if you wish to again extend the walk. This time it is a 1.9 mile circular route. It goes south along a narrow road above Tullynawood Lake, past the Aughnagurgan megalithic tombs, then back on a narrow road along the valley floor and closer to the lake. If you do choose this, and you have also taken the other recommended options above, then the total length of this part of your walk will be 11.2 miles. For details, click on the button below.

At 5.1 miles road passes over the Callan River.

**5.13 miles. Stay straight on**, past road to LHS.

Next to the left is a derelict house and just after this the road crosses a watercourse. This was the mill race from Darkley Lake that fed some of the mills at Darkley.

**5.63 miles. Past Darkley Mill Chimney** to RHS and into Darkley Village. Then **after 100 yards**, at end of wall to RHS, **turn right onto footpath** and downhill.

**5.73 miles.** Go **straight on** along road, past row of houses to LHS.

To the RHS at 5.8 miles, below and through trees, is an old Linen Spinning Factory.

At 5.89 miles Darkley House (now Crossfire Trust) is to the LHS.

**5.98 miles.** At T-junction, **turn left** and follow the road uphill. Stay on LHS.

**6.15 miles.** Just before T-junction, and entering Darkley Village. **Finish at bus-shelter** on the LHS.

**NOTE:** If you have added the diversion to Dundrum Mill, plus the two I recommended in Darkley Forest, and the 1.9 mile loop via Aughnagurgan megalithic tombs, then you have walked 11.2 miles.

If you decide to finish your walk here, then you can catch a 69 bus back to Keady. See [Bus Timetable](#).

If you wish to continue walking, then see instructions for Part 3.