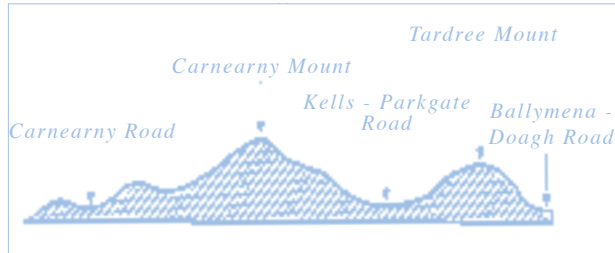


Background to Tardree

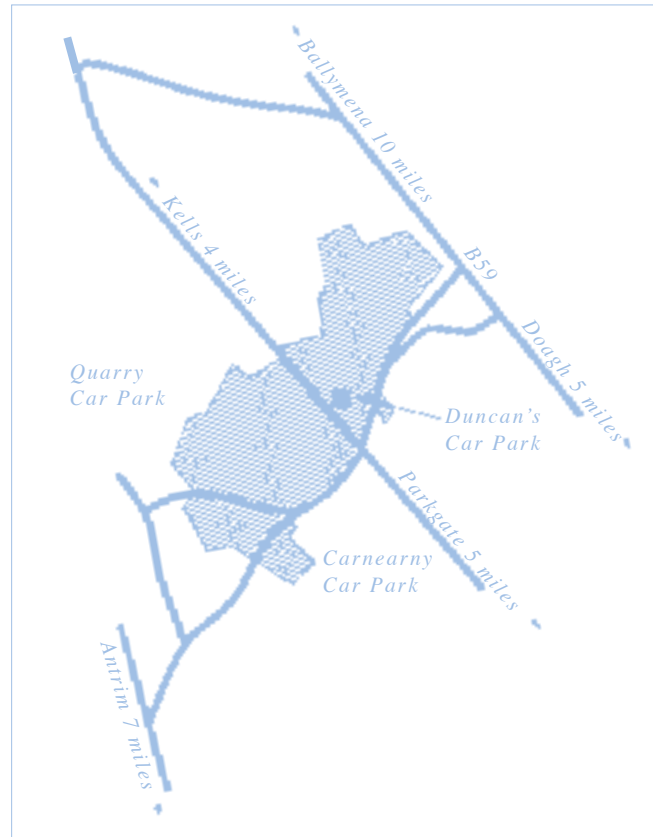
The forest covers an area of 336 hectares and lies over two hills, Tardree (247 metres) and Carnearny (323 metres) with a shallow



Today the forest is intensively utilised. Much of the first tree crop has been harvested and wood production has averaged 1500 tonnes per year over the last twenty years. The forest supports a healthy wild-life population - Jays and Crossbills are the latest bird species to be observed. In addition it provides a place of quiet relaxation for many visitors, and, for the more energetic, an ideal area for orienteering and keeping fit.

How to get there

There are three car parks.



Enquiries to: East District Forest Office
The Grange
Castlewellan Forest Park
CASTLEWELLAN
Telephone: 028 9049 1540
or 028 4377 1144

F O R E S T W A L K S I N **C o u n t y A n t r i m**



T A R D R E E

11 miles (17km) of forest roads and paths.
Easy to moderate walking, some
paths steep in places.

1. For superb all round views of the countryside turn up the hill where the signs indicate viewpoint. Here at Tardree Mountain the recent felling of the tree crop has opened up magnificent views of Slemish, the Sperrins and the Antrim Hills.

2. This disused quarry is now a Forest Nature Reserve because of its unusual volcanic rock, Rhyolite, locally known as 'Tardree Stone'. The face of the exposed stone is gradually being covered with many types of plants, ranging from mosses and lichens to young trees. A small area is kept clear of vegetation for scientific study.

3. A few elderly Scot's pine, remnants of an old plantation, grow slowly beside the burn. One of Ireland's few native conifers? Perhaps, but it is not certain as to whether this species returned here after the last Ice Age. The forester has always to strike a balance between man's need for timber and the requirements of wildlife, here one or two trees have been left to decay naturally.



4. A man-made pool, small and liable of dry out in summer, forms an important wildlife habitat. It supports common newts and a variety of aquatic insects. Frogs breed here and other animals interact with the pond life, it regularly attracts a Heron, and both Mallard and Teal have been observed. On summer evenings Pipistrelle bats can sometimes be seen hunting over the pond

FRONT COVER
Tardree's resident Sparrowhawks prey on unwary Wood Pigeons.