

Galway Green Leaf Biodiversity Trail



Barna Woods (PINK Route)

Description: A mixed broadleaf woodland with a trail running through its centre.

This is one of the largest woodlands within the boundaries of Galway City and is of high ecological value as it is linked to other habitats of conservation importance as part of the wider Galway Bay Complex, Special Area of Conservation. Non-native

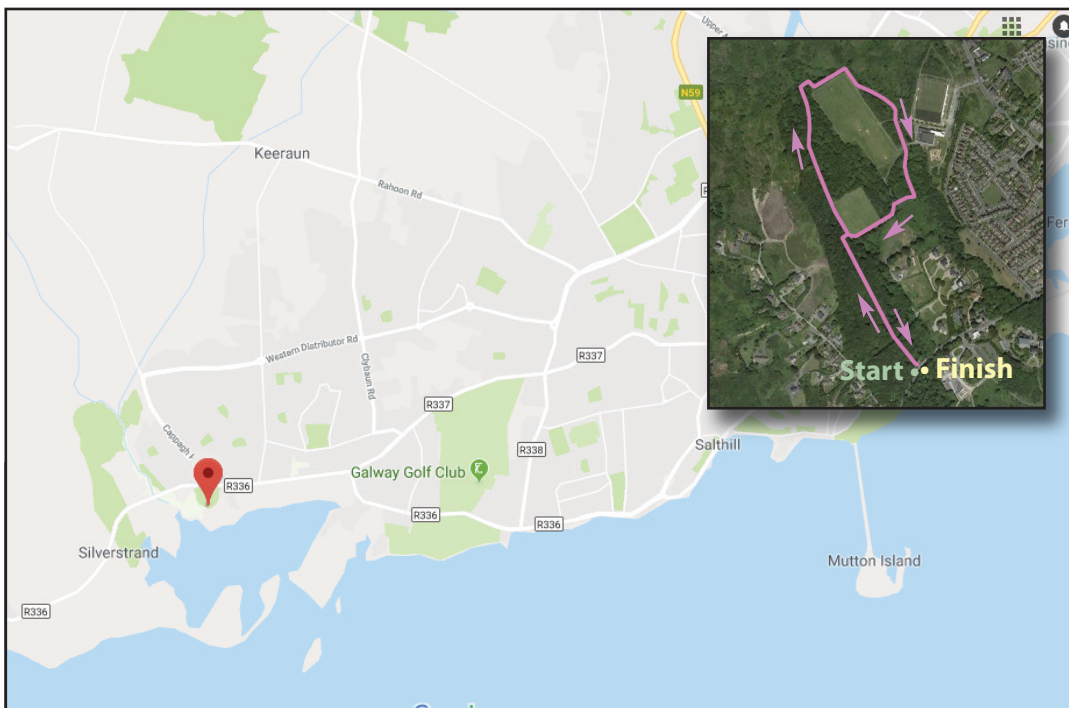


Photos: Ruth Hanniffy

Route distance 1.6km

Route difficulty Easy

Route info This route is mostly on paved or gravel paths, ground is relatively even. Family friendly.



Access: Car park (53°15'30.1"N 9°07'55.1"W).
Free parking, 24 hours.

Closest bus route (412 or 414 bus).
See bus info **HERE**.
Bike stands available.

Grey Wagtail



trees including old and large majestic Beech (most frequent), and a number of old Oak trees which are a native species and provide an important refuge and feeding for a huge diversity of birds, mammals, invertebrates, fungi and other plant life.

The main section of the woodland is open with little understory but littered with large moss-covered boulders. The route starts at the car park and runs through the centre of the woodland and out along the football pitches which borders a wet woodland of Alder and Willow. The track runs along Barna stream for most of the route, with several bridges which cross over and provide viewing points where you can sometimes see Dipper and Grey Wagtail.

Otter also use the stream and their spraints can be located with careful examination of the banks. In the open areas and playing fields, look for Mistle Thrush and sometimes Oystercatcher feeding on the pitches, and check the stream for frogs. You can take a very short detour to Cappagh Park Playground, and the trail then returns in a loop alongside pitches and back into the woodland to join the same woodland track to the car park.

Oystercatcher



In the woods, look and listen for Jay, Treecreeper and nesting Magpie in spring, as well as a range of songbirds including Great Tit and Chaffinch. Fox and Stoat also occur in the woods.

Fox



Great Tit



Start and Finish Start and finish at the car park.

What to bring Boots, warm clothes, rain gear.

What to look for This route takes you through the mixed and open broadleaf woodland of Barna Woods, which is mostly dominated by Beech, with some Oak and Holly. The main section of woodland has little understory but is littered with large moss-covered boulders. As you leave the woodland you emerge into open fields, playing pitches, surrounded by wet woodland of Alder and Willow and the track runs along a small stream and some marshy areas.

Wood Mouse



The woodland and hedgerows provide habitat for common woodland birds such as Treecreeper, Long-tailed Tit, Great Tit, Jay and Magpie. Treecreeper are occasionally present in the area around the stone footbridge in the main section of the woods. In spring and summer, the mornings are filled with birdsong, one of the more easily identified being that of the Chiffchaff, its onomatopoeic call ringing around the verdant green woodland.

Many species of mushroom and fungi can be found growing on dead wood and around the bases of trees. Small mammals including wood mouse and Bank Vole are present in the woods, as are Stoat and Fox. Butterflies which can be observed include the striking lime-green Brimstone in spring, and the Speckled Wood in summer.