



## **Tintern Walking Trails**

*Tintern Abbey, Hook Peninsula, Co. Wexford*

These three looped walks start from the trailhead at Tintern abbey, and offer a variety of scenery and historical features along the routes.

**Osi map:** Discovery series 76.  
**Trailhead grid reference:** S795101  
**GPS:** 52.23690- 683810 - these coordinates direct you to the front entrance to avoid unsurfaced lanes.

### **OVERVIEW**

Pretty inland countryside with quiet woodland walks, combined with a stretch of coastline which is particularly beautiful, makes this part of Wexford one of the most scenic areas of Ireland.

These walks encompass many distinctive attractions, including spectacular scenery, ancient monuments and a variety of birdlife.

The area around Bannow Bay has strong links with the past and there is much to engage the interest of the walker. The Normans first landed in Ireland at Bannow in 1169 and dominated the region for many years. Their influence can still be seen in the wealth of castles and other remains which dot the landscape. A fine example of their legacy can be seen at the Cistercian monastery of Tintern Abbey.

Walkers can enjoy panoramic views out over Bannow Bay and of the Saltee and Keeragh islands as they follow the road beside the bay, which is an important bird watching area. The mild climate of this part of south-east Ireland ensures year round food sources and therefore good overwintering grounds for a wide variety of migratory birds. An expanse of mudflats exposed at low tide offers an ideal habitat for large numbers of waders, Shelduck, Brent geese and other wildfowl.

### **DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD**

From the R733 take the L4041 and after 1km.turn right at the entrance to Tintern abbey. Continue to trailhead at the abbey.

N.B. Entrance gates lock every evening, check notice for times. If you think you will be returning to your car after the gates are locked, please bear this in mind. An alternative trailhead is located next to the pub in Saltmills. Parking available on road in village.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Please visit our 'facebook' page. 'Tintern trails'

For trail maintenance issues please contact 0874146403

Visit [www.hookpeninsula.com](http://www.hookpeninsula.com) for information on the Hook peninsula area

The village of Feathard-on-Sea is a 10min drive away and has shops, pubs, cafes, etc.

Emergency contact. Gardai: 999 or local Garda station in Ballycullane on +353 (0)51 562740 or New Ross on +353 (0)51 426030

We ask all visitors to the trails to:

- Please respect the beauty and tranquillity of the area, some trails are on private land and access is by kind permission of the landowners.
- Coillte have byelaws relating to their properties, details can be found on the Coillte Outdoors website.
- Please keep your dog under control at all times, some trails are close to areas containing livestock.
- Leave no trace by following the seven principles:
  - Plan ahead and prepare
  - Be considerate of others
  - Respect farm animals and wildlife
  - Travel on durable ground
  - Leave what you find
  - Dispose of waste properly
  - Minimise the effects of fire

Tintern Trails have been developed by Hook Tourism Ltd with assistance from:





### **THE GARDENERS TRAIL**

<b>Distance:</b>	0.9km
<b>Ascent:</b>	0
<b>Walking time:</b>	20 minutes
<b>Waymarking:</b>	Blue discs N.B. The trail is marked in one direction only, if you decide to walk the route in reverse, please keep this in mind.
<b>Grade:</b>	Easy. Generally flat trails with a smooth surface and some gentle slopes. This trail is generally suitable for family groups including children and the elderly. Normal outdoor footwear can be worn.

This walk starts at Tintern abbey, which was founded in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Cross the Tintern river via the old stone bridge and enjoy the mixed woodland containing 200 year old beech trees. About half way, discover the Colclough walled garden (admission charge) which once supplied the Colclough family who lived in the converted abbey. Look out for the ruins of the head gardener's cottage on the return path to the trailhead.

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### **TINTERN DEMESNE TRAIL**

<b>Distance:</b>	2.4km
<b>Ascent:</b>	50m
<b>Walking time:</b>	40mins to 1hour.
<b>Waymarking:</b>	Red discs N.B. The trail is marked in one direction only, if you decide to walk the route in reverse, please keep this in mind.
<b>Grade:</b>	Moderate. This trail has some climbs and has some uneven surfaces where the going is rough underfoot with some obstacles such as protruding roots, rocks etc. The route is appropriate for people with a moderate level of fitness and some walking experience. Specific outdoor walking footwear is recommended.

This walk along the Tintern river and around the Demesne boundary shows nature's bounty, including fine beech, oak and chestnut trees, as well as kingfishers, egrets, buzzards, red squirrels, stoats and seven types of bat. As the path winds through the woods, enjoy picturesque views of the abbey across the green pasture.



## **BANNOW BAY TRAIL**

<b>Distance:</b>	7.2km
<b>Ascent:</b>	50mts
<b>Walking time:</b>	1hr. To 1.5hrs.
<b>Waymarking:</b>	Green discs. N,B. The trail is marked in one direction only, if you decide to walk the route in reverse, please keep this in mind.
<b>Grade:</b>	Moderate. This trail has some climbs and has some uneven surfaces there the going is rough underfoot with some obstacles such as protruding roots, rocks etc. The route is appropriate for people with a moderate level of fitness and some walking experience. Specific outdoor walking footwear is recommended.

Starting at the Abbey, this trail meanders through the 'Deal park' and on to the 'brickfield' where the bricks to construct the walled garden were made. Your walk will take in the old estate village of Saltmills. Cross over Saltmills bridge, following part of the Wexford coastal path and, after passing St. Mary's church, turn right and follow the edge of Bannow bay. This area is home to an old IRA memorial, a rare double lime kiln, a grounded dredger and is rich in birdlife. Follow the road uphill to a crossroads, turn left and eventually cross the L4041 road. Pass through the gate and a tranquil leafy lane returns you to the trailhead. Please note that three quarters of this trail is on quiet country roads.

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## **ITEMS OF INTEREST ALONG THE TRAILS**

### **TINTERN ABBEY**

The abbey at Tintern boasts a fascinating past. It owes its origins to a dramatic crisis enacted off the south Wexford coast. In the year 1200, William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Leinster, was journeying across to Ireland when his ship was caught in a raging storm. He vowed that if he were saved, he would build a church wherever he safely landed. The ship was washed up on the shores of Bannow Bay and it was here he established the monastery, colonising it with monks from Tintern Abbey in Wales. It became known as Tintern Minor, or Tintern de voto (of the vow). After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, the Abbey and its estates were granted to Anthony Colclough, an English soldier in King Henry VIII's army in Ireland. The Colclough family retained the Abbey as their family residence for the next 400 years. The last direct descendant, Lucy Marie, vacated her historic home in 1959 and sometime later she donated it to the Irish nation. It is presently in the care of the Office of Public Works and it has been designated a National Monument.

### **COLCLOUGH WALLED GARDEN**

The walled garden was built by the Colclough family to provide fruit, flowers and vegetables. It has recently been restored and contains a large selection of herbaceous perennials, fruit and vegetables.

### **OLD CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD**

This little single cell church (or perhaps an earlier one) was built by the monks for the local lay people. By a decree passed in 1380, locals were not allowed inside the precincts of a monastic settlement such as Tintern. These little chapels were known as Capella ante portas (the church outside the gates) and this one is reputedly the best preserved example in Ireland as it is one of the few that survived the reformation. It contains some interesting tombstones and the wall memorial to Anthony Colclough is remarkably well preserved.

### **SALTMILLS VILLAGE**

The village of Saltmills was built at the instigation of Caesar Colclough between 1810 and 1820. it was intended to replace the old village of Tintern which at that time had fallen into a state of disrepair. The townland of Saltmills (from which the village got its name) was so called because it once had a mill worked by the tide. Some of the original houses are still inhabited.

### **ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

This church is very simple in plan and is typical of what were known as "First Fruit" churches. The Board of First Fruits was established in 1711 and its purpose was to contribute financially to the erection and restoration of Church of Ireland churches.

When Caesar Colclough built the new village of Saltmills, he decided to also build a new church. Erected in 1818 at a cost of approximately £1000, its architecture is slightly Gothic in style. The church is no longer in use, the last service having been held there in December 1991.

### **MEMORIAL**

This monument was erected in October 1970 in memory of those who lost their lives in an explosion here in October 1920. On the night of October 12, an explosion occurred in the old



courthouse building, which was being used as a munitions factory by the South Wexford Brigade of the old I.R.A. Five young men lost their lives and nine others were maimed or injured.

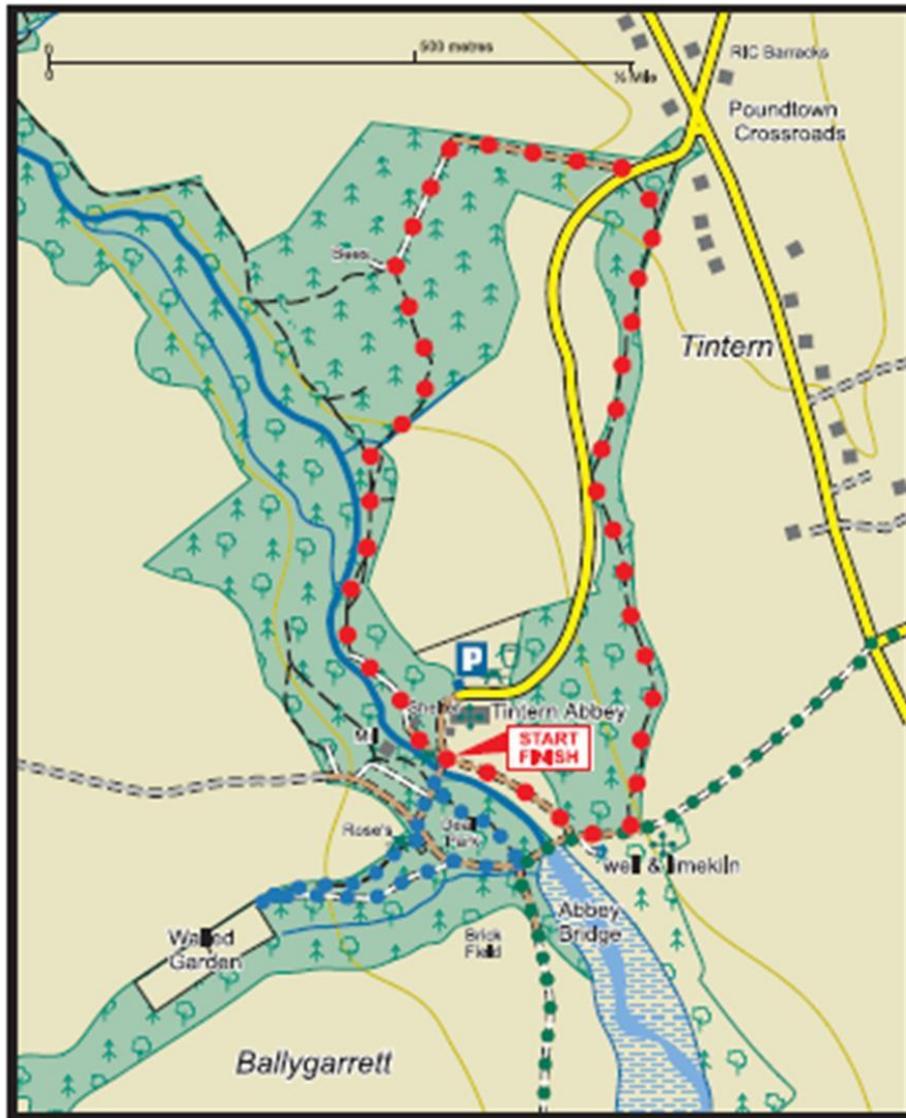
### **ST.KEARNS QUAY**

Up until this quay was built in the 1700's, there had been a quay at the far side of the river mouth in Bannow. Local folklore says that a great storm silted up that quay and opened up a new inlet, all in the course of one night. Sailing and later steam ships brought cargos, including coal and fertiliser, into St. Kearns. There was a general store at the quay which sold a variety of goods.

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# Tinteirn - Tintern

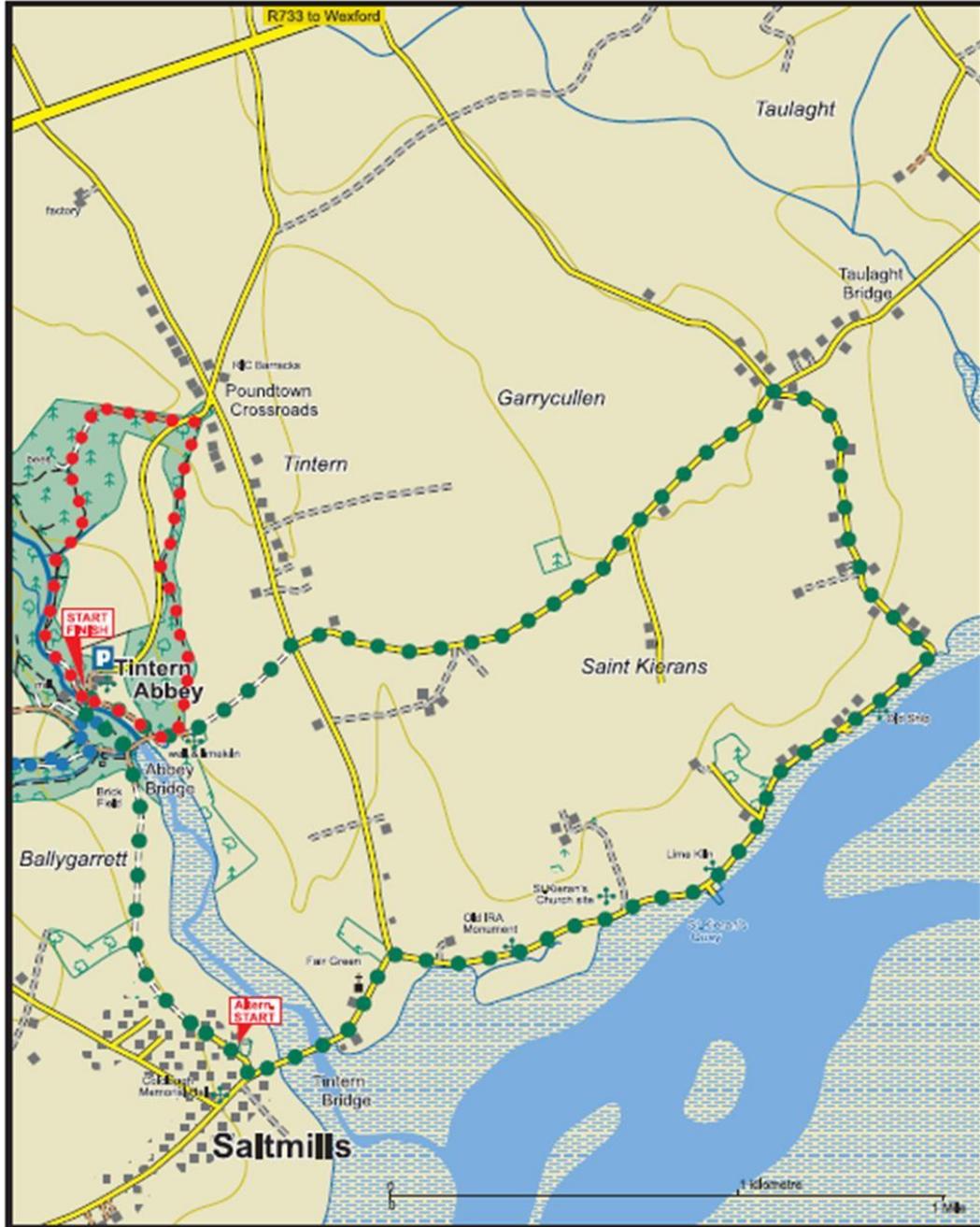


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|--|----------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | Príomhbhóthar / Main Road                          |  | Carrchós / Car Park                 |
|  | Mionbhóthar / Minor Road                           |  | Baí páircála / Parking Spot         |
|  | Bóthar Foraíse / Forest Road                       |  | Láthair Oidhreachta / Heritage Site |
|  | Raon / Forest Track                                |  | Láthair Pícnicí / Picnic Area       |
|  | Cosán / Path                                       |  | Bia agus Deochanna / Refreshments   |
|  | Ionad Amhairc / Viewpoint                          |  | Seanbail / Old Walls                |
|  | Réadmhaíne Coite / Coite Properties                |  | <b>Tintern Demesne Trail</b>        |
|  | Forais Crann Buaircínigh<br>Conifer Forest         |  | <b>Gardeners Trail</b>              |
|  | Forais Crann leathanduilleacha<br>Broadleaf Forest |  | <b>Bannow Bay Trail</b>             |

Níor chóir go mímhíneodh an léiriúchán ar an léarscáil de na bóthra, raonta agus cosáin taobh amuigh de réadmhaíne Coite mar go bhfuil ceart sáil tugtha. The representation on the map of roads, tracks and paths outside Coite property should not be interpreted as conferring a right of way.



## Tinteirn - Tintern



- Príomhbhóthar / Main Road
- Mionbhóthar / Minor Road
- Bótharín / Gravel Road
- Raon / Track
- Cosán / Path
- Ionad Amhairc / Viewpoint

- Carrchlós / Car Park
- Bó páirceála / Parking Spot
- Láthair Oidhreacht / Heritage Site
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- Bannow Bay Trail
- Tintern Demesne Trail
- Gardeners Trail