

#### About Kilbrittain

Kilbrittain is situated midway between Kinsale & Clonakilty. This scenic part of West Cork has many sandy beaches and castles to offer the visitor, a mecca for walkers, cyclists, water sport enthusiasts, bird watchers, fishermen and horse riders.

#### Fin Whale

On 15 Jan 2009 an 18 metre fin whale stranded and subsequently died on Burren Beach. The people of Kilbrittain organised to save its skeleton which is now displayed in the village. The whale was featured in a Channel 4 documentary "Inside Nature's Giants" which showed autopsies of large mammals. It is still viewable on the Channel 4 website or on YouTube.

#### Playground

There is also a lovely picnic area and a great children's playground with separate areas for Under 6, 6-14 and adult exercise equipment.

#### Clashavanna View

Overlooking the ruins of Clashavanna church (original site of Kilbrittain Village), Kilbrittain Castle and The Blanket Wood.

#### Kilbrittain Castle

Kilbrittain Castle is the oldest inhabited castle in Ireland. The Castle is said to date from 1035 built by Brodchon, grandson of Brian Boru. It was known to have been in the hands of the Norman family of de Courcey. Kilbrittain Castle was the principal seat of MacCarthy Reagh family, Riabhach (Riabhach meaning dark skinned).

Following the battle of Kinsale it came into the ownership of The Hollow Blade Steel Company and subsequently by the Stawell family who extensively restored and enlarged it. It was then purchased and restored by inventor Russell Winn in 1969. Winn invented a remote control robot vehicle for bomb disposal. Kilbrittain Castle is now in private ownership (Cahil O'Brien Family).

The Book of Lismore was compiled in the 15th Century to commemorate the marriage of the Gaelic lord Finghin Mac Cárthaigh Riabhach, of Kilbrittain Castle, to Caitilín, daughter of the Seventh Earl of Desmond.

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#### Waterfall / Woodland walk

The starting point is at the Village Park (1) where you descend to the river. Here you cross the footbridge and enjoy the wooded riverbank until the walk finally draws you upwards over the ridge and back to Kilbrittain village via the Community Centre Field.

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#### The Dower House

The Dower House was built in 1683, as a defence/look out tower as well as the tax collection point for visitors to the Castle.

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#### Dorothy Stopford Price

Dorothy Stopford Price (8/9/1890 – 30/1/1954) was an Irish physician who contributed to the elimination of childhood tuberculosis in Ireland by introducing the BCG vaccine. After she qualified as a doctor, Dorothy's first job was as a dispensary doctor in Kilbrittain, where she also engaged in the Irish War of Independence, tending to injured members of the IRA.

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#### St Patricks Parish Church

Kilbrittain Parish Church was built in 1790 by Fr. Patrick Geran OSF (1760-1814). It was extended sometime in the 1840's. The Church was dedicated to St. Patrick on the 10th of June 1892.

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#### Old Creamery

Opened in 1940, Milk Intake ceased in 1970's.

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#### The Look Out

There is a panoramic view of Courtmacsherry Bay from Timoleague to the Old Head of Kinsale. In the distance to the West you can see the windmills in Drinagh. To the North the hills around Bandon town.

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#### Garranefeen View

Stunning views of the Causeway, Estuary and the Old Head of Kinsale in the distance.

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#### Sli Na Slainte

Sli na Slainte stands for 'path to health'. Developed by the Irish Heart Foundation. The walk begins at Deasy's [Batemans] Bridge, which is a beautifully built 2 arched, protected stone bridge. At the bridge you will see a mapboard which illustrates the route.

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#### Trinity Well

Tobar na Tríonóide: Rosary is recited at Trinity Well, on Trinity Sunday. It is the only known Holy Well in the parish.

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#### Donn Byrne's Grave

Donn Byrne was born on 20/11/1889 in New York. He was interested in Irish history and Irish nationalism and was fluent in Irish. In the 1920s the Byrne family bought Coolmain Castle. Byrne lived in Coolmain until a tragic car accident cut short his life on 18th June 1928. He is buried in Rathclaren graveyard. The inscription on his headstone reads:

Tá mé mo codlath is na duisigh mé  
I am in my sleeping and don't waken me

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#### Rathclaren Church

The parish of Rathclaren has existed from at least 1291, the present church is either the third or fourth to have existed within that parish. The present Rathclaren church which stands in the townland of Farrannagark was built by the Church of Ireland. The previous church on this site, which would have originally been Catholic, fell into disrepair after the 1641 rebellion. The bells were put in place in memory of the Sealy brothers of Burren.

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#### Lisheenaleen View

Overlooking Lisheenaleen (Flaxfort) strand, while in the distance there is Burren Hill, Courtmacsherry Village and the Point of the Wood in Courtmacsherry.

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#### Sand Dunes at Harbour View

The site, which is largely estuarine in nature, consists of the drowned valley of the Argideen River which is now filled with sediments, resulting in extensive mudflats and areas of saltmarsh. The site is of ornithological importance for the many waders and wildfowl that feed on the mud and sandflats. Kilbrittain Creek is now designated as a SAC for Birds and Dune system habitat. It holds internationally important wintering numbers of Black-tailed Godwits. It also has nationally important numbers of Cormorant, Teal, Redshank, Great Northern Diver, Shelduck, Wigeon, Red Breasted Merganser, Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew and Greenshank. Black-headed and Common Gulls also occur in significant numbers.

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#### Cloondereen Church

Local lore has it that the church in Cloondereen was established by the Knights Templars in 1296, although it may well have been an order church linked with the Franciscans who founded Timoleague Abbey. The friars were dispersed when the Abbey was suppressed, in 1542, moved to Clogagh

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#### Con Murphy Monument

Con Murphy was shot dead during the War of Independence on 11 of May 1921. Age 25

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#### Ballycatten View

View of the Argideen River Basin rich rolling pastures lands to the North and West. The Argideen River is well known for salmon fishing. Donal Cam O Sullivan, chieftain of his clan in Beara, West Cork (1561-1618) passed by the Argideen river and through Ballycatten and Cloondereen, along this very road on his way to support the Irish in the Battle of Kinsale 1601.

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#### Kiln View

Views of the Argideen Estuary birds feeding on mudflats at low tide particularly during the winter. Lime kilns were once the commonest type of industrial archaeological sites in the landscape. Most of the lime kilns around the country have been destroyed and only rare examples survive. Unfortunately the kiln in Maryborough no longer exists except in the name of the hill it once stood on.

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#### Cloon Calla

Beautiful views of Burren Pier, with Courtmacsherry Village and the ruins of Abbeymahon Monastery across the Bay.

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#### Ardacrow View

An expansive view of fertile farmland rolling all the way to the Wild Atlantic Way coastline and beyond.

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#### Coolmain Castle

There is said to be a tunnel connecting Kilbrittain Castle to Coolmain Castle. The tunnel is no longer viable. Coolmain Castle was the European Base of Roy Disney (Walt Disney's Grand Nephew)

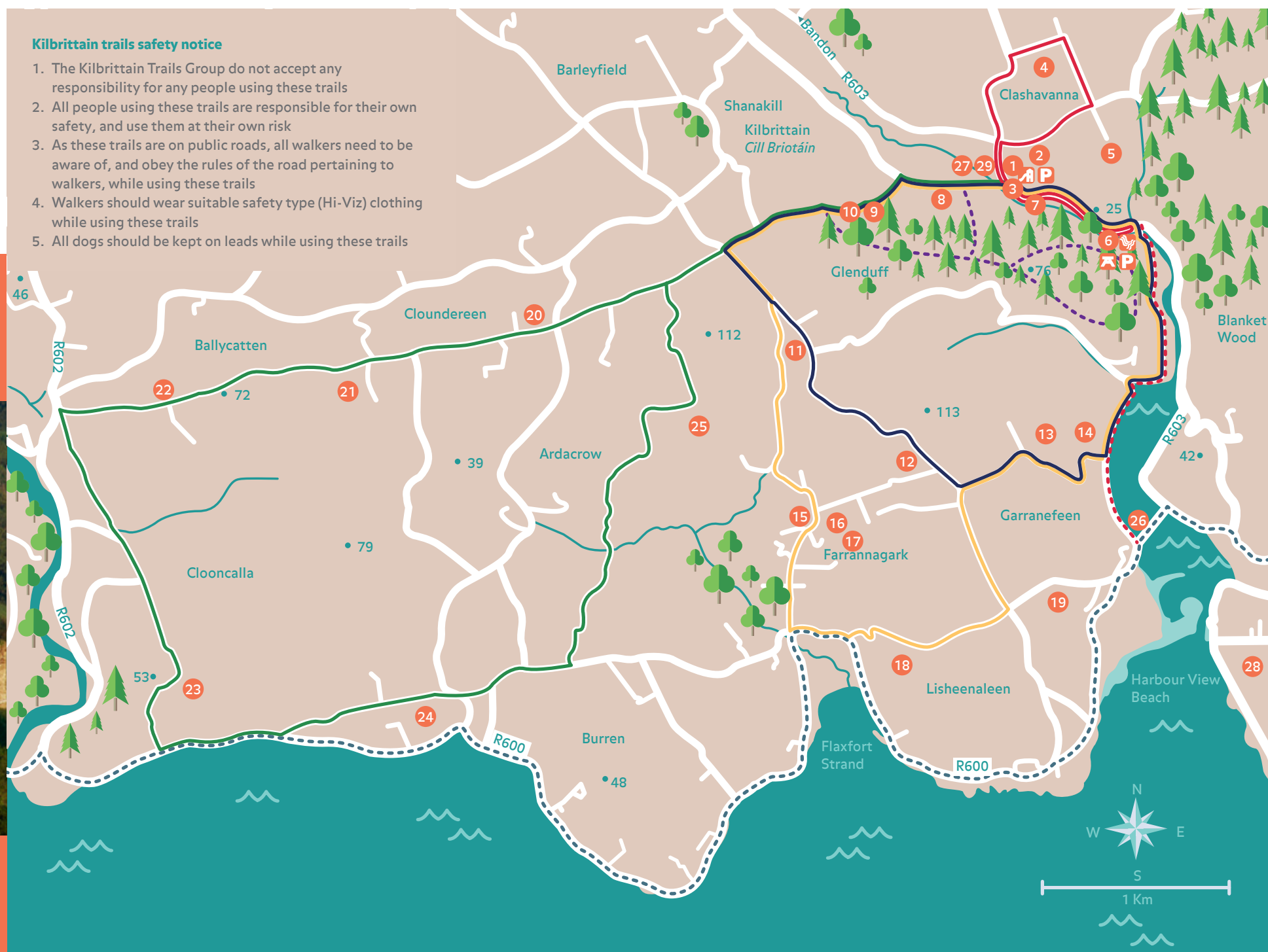
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#### 1916 Memorial Garden

The 1916 Memorial Garden commemorates all those who lost their lives, on all sides, during the struggle for Independence.



# KILBRITTAIN TRAILS



### Kilbrittain trails safety notice

1. The Kilbrittain Trails Group do not accept any responsibility for any people using these trails
2. All people using these trails are responsible for their own safety, and use them at their own risk
3. As these trails are on public roads, all walkers need to be aware of, and obey the rules of the road pertaining to walkers, while using these trails
4. Walkers should wear suitable safety type (Hi-Viz) clothing while using these trails
5. All dogs should be kept on leads while using these trails

### CASTLE WALK

OUTLINED IN RED 4.3km  
This route heads North – around quiet country roads in a loop returning down to the village and through the Village Park to the Castle Gates returning again to the village either along the main road or via the Village Park.

### ESTUARY WALK

OUTLINED IN BLUE 7km  
Starting at the Village Park walk West through the village, turn left at St. Patrick's Church and follow the blue arrows along quiet country roads, past rolling hills and lovely views of Coolmain and Harbour View Beaches, returning to the village to the Castle Gates via the woodland trail back to the Village Park.

### RATHCLAREN WALK

OUTLINED IN YELLOW 9km  
Starting at the Village Park walk West through the village turning left at St. Patrick's Church and follow the Yellow arrows along lovely quiet country roads, past Trinity Well and beautiful Rathclaren Church, this route has stunning views over the estuary, returning to the village to the Castle Gates via the woodland trail back to the Village Park.

### KILN WALK

OUTLINED IN GREEN 14.5km  
Starting at the Village Park walk West through the village turning left at St. Patrick's Church, follow the Green arrows west towards Timoleague, past the ruins of Cloundereen Church After 6 km head south to Courtmacsherry Bay – then return to Kilbrittain along quiet roads with spectacular views over the bays and strands.

- Wild Atlantic Way
- Slí na Slainte walk
- Coilte woodland walk
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Waterfall

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## Kilbrittain Trails

Go where the locals go



Have a whale of a time

**Things to do**  
West Cork Equine Centre: 08722717008  
West Cork Equine Centre is a family-run equestrian facility Open all-year round. The equestrian center caters for all equestrian disciplines.  
West Cork Secret: 0238849606/0878331206  
The West Cork Secret is a magical hideaway, loved by all who discover it. It couples the serenity of beautifully landscaped gardens with the shrieks of excitement from the obstacle course. McCarthy's Maze Trail: 0238849842/0877965321  
McCarthy's Maze Trail encompasses orienteering hunts in two mazes: a small maze and a large maze, both designed within a 5-acre field of corn maize up to 8ft tall.

**Places to stay**  
Bridgview Farmhouse: 0238849723  
Harbour Crest B&B: 0238849676  
Kilcaten Lodge: 0238864870  
Seafield B&B: 0238849818  
Places to eat and/or drink  
Cashmans Amber Bar: 0238849639  
Celine's Cafe: 0238849646  
Hickeys Foodstore: 0238849558  
Kilbrittain Inn: 0238849937  
The Pink Elephant: 0238849608  
Taxi and Bus Services  
Kilbrittain Hackney Services: 023 8846446/0873187398  
O Connors Tours / Bus Hire: 023 8849896/0876167835  
Services  
Coolmain Curios, Antiques and Crafts: 0238849910  
Crowleys Garage: 0238849718  
Keameys Garage: 0238849607  
Kilbrittain Accounting Services John Butler: 0238849613  
N M Oil Boiler Servicing: 0879449838 Or 0238849865  
Rebecas Kitchen: 0879737901

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