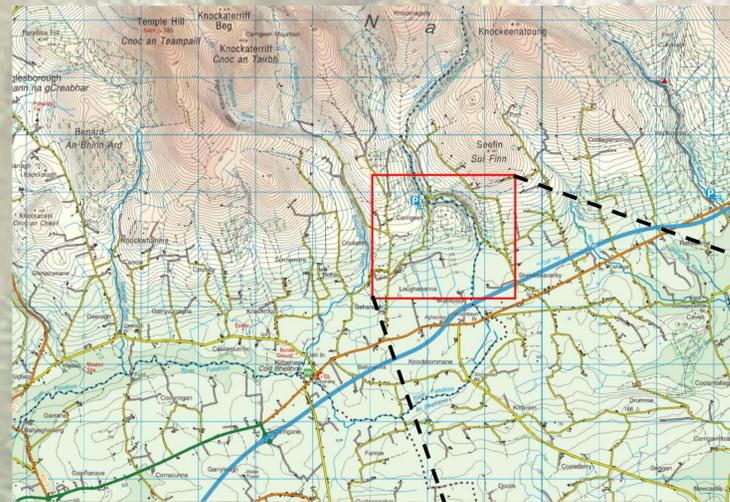


# Kilbeheny's Golden Mile 2015

## Slí an Dúlra Coill Bheithne



### Kilbeheny's Golden Mile

Kilbeheny's mile starts at the car park of Galtee Castle Wood (approximate grid reference 587858, 6188853)<sup>1</sup> on the southern slopes of the Galtees, and ends at the gates and gate lodge associated with the Castle (approximate grid reference 588933, 618218) on the L73152. Walking through this woodland area you find yourself in the townland of Carrigeen and ending in Skeheenaranky. This area was planted by the Earls of Kingston in the early 1800s. The predominant species of trees are Sitka Spruce, Douglas Fir and Scots Pine. There are some broadleaf species, mainly Oak.

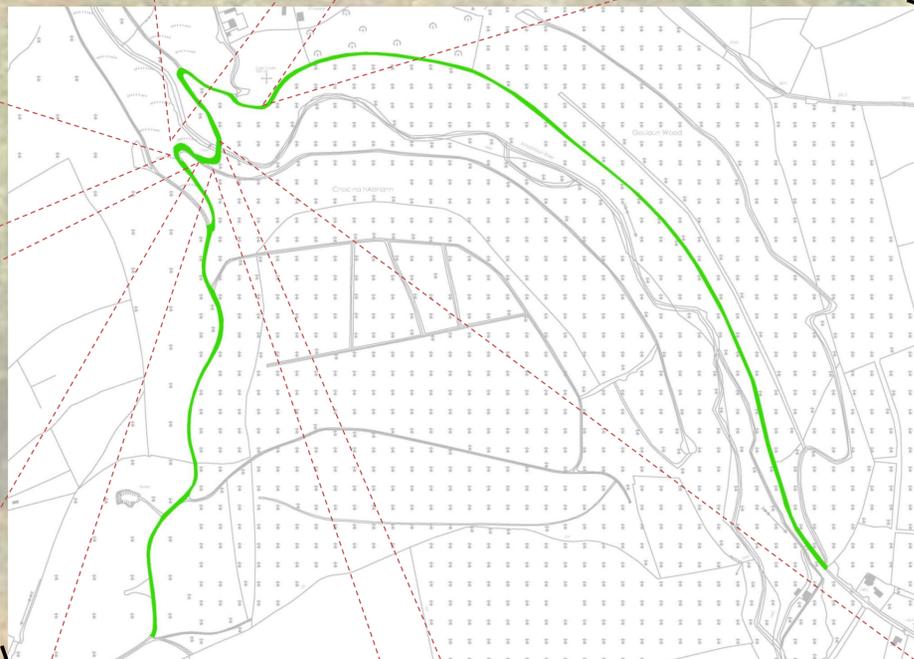
This is a very historic location with many features just off the road including, Lord Kingston's seat (a tranquil place with a seat set into the sandstone wall where the landlord would sit and view his estate), the remnants of a small hydroelectric station (installed in the 1890s) that served Galtee Castle. The original structure was built as a mountain lodge by the Earls in the late 1700s and modified later in the 1820s. Today one finds on the estate the remnants of castle tennis courts, associated steps and rockery, the ruins of the castle itself, sandstone walls, the gate house and the mill. Many of the features are not clearly visible from the road as they are overgrown and require exploration. Nevertheless, local people have identified these features and the local community is working to clear the undergrowth.

On this interesting meandering route you follow beautiful sandstone walls as you cross the River Funshion also known as the Attycran river. Look over the bridge down to the left and you will see the remains of the small hydro-electric station. To the right you will see Bamboo and Rhododendrons and Azalias which are colorful but are not native species. This general area is of scientific interest for its rare species of toadstools and fungi. Continue up the hill to a junction and to the left is the site of the Castle which was demolished in 1940. Materials from the castle were used to build Glanworth Church. The remainder of the walk takes you along an extensive and impressive high stone wall within the curtilage of the castle to the left and a relatively steep valley to the right of the road with its scenic views. Towards the end of the mile one can find a grassy path to the right leading to the former timber mill and with its millwheel. Back to the road as you approach the gate look closely into the trees and you will see the former gatehouse.

In this area many species of wildlife can be seen including Peregrine Falcons, Sparrow Hawks, Raven, Choughs, Woodcock, Buzzards, Pheasants, Owls and Kestrels. Mammals include the Sika Deer, the shy native Red Squirrel and possibly the Pine Marten. Kingfishers have been observed on the river as have the mink which is an invasive mammal which does pose a threat to native wildlife. Bats are also familiar with this area given the number of old built structures in the estate used for roosting and the availability of insects associated with the woodland and the river.

- Useful links:
- [www.hedgelayers.ie](http://www.hedgelayers.ie)
  - [www.invasivespecies.ie](http://www.invasivespecies.ie)
  - [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)
  - [www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie](http://www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie)
  - [www.iwt.ie](http://www.iwt.ie) - Irish Wildlife Trust
  - [www.noticenature.ie](http://www.noticenature.ie)
  - [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie)
  - [www.limerick.ie](http://www.limerick.ie) - Limerick's heritage
  - [www.maps.osi.ie](http://www.maps.osi.ie)

<sup>1</sup> [www.maps.osi.ie](http://www.maps.osi.ie)



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
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