



Gleann An Loineáin  
SUÍOMHANA ÁRGA, BEANNAITHE AGUS STAIRIÚLA  
**Lingaun Valley**  
ANCIENT, SACRED AND HISTORICAL SITES

# Visit Lingaun Valley

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**5,000** years  
of history  
within **25km**





The Lingaun River runs through a small, quiet valley and forms the border between south-west Kilkenny and south-east Tipperary.

It is also part of the larger border between the ancient provinces of Leinster and Munster, and separates the dioceses of Ossory and Cashel. This peaceful area contains a wealth of Irish history, and over 5,000 years of history can be visited within a 25km journey.

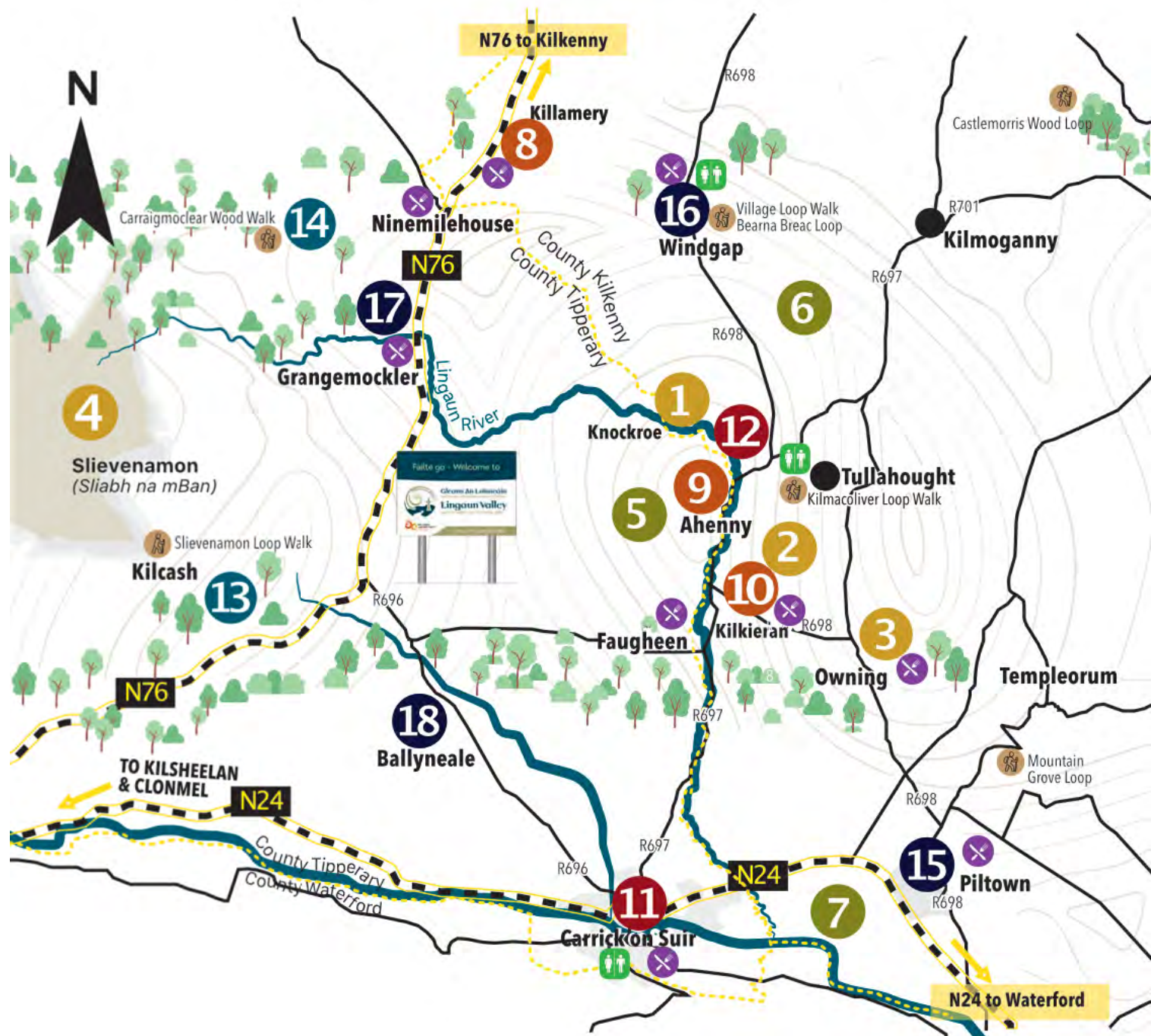
Ancient passage tombs pre-date Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids. High crosses, church ruins and monuments from the early Christian and medieval periods are to be found throughout the valley.

# Historical Sites

- 1 Knockroe Passage Tomb
- 2 Kilmacoliver Megalithic Standing Stones
- 3 Owing Portal Tomb
- 4 Slievenamon Cairn & Walk (Mountain of the Woman)
- 5 Carrigadoon Hillfort
- 6 Lamogue Ogham Stones
- 7 Tybroughney Castle
- 8 Killamery High Cross
- 9 Ahenny High Cross
- 10 Kilkieran High Cross
- 11 Ormond Castle
- 12 Slate Quarries
- 13 Kilcash Castle
- 14 CarraigmoCLEAR Hill: Battle of CarraigmoCLEAR
- 15 Bessborough House - Kildalton Piltown
- 16 Windgap Calvary Grotto
- 17 GrangemoCLEAR Michael Hogan
- 18 Ballyneale Tom Kiely

- 4000 - 550 BC
- 1500 - 1800's
- 1242 - 1400's
- 700 - 800 AD
- 400 - 900 AD
- 1846 - 1915's

- Walking
- Food & Drink
- Toilet



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# Knockroe Passage Tomb

## TIME PERIOD

4000 - 2500 BC

## LOCATION

Knockroe, Co. Kilkenny

## COORDINATES

52.43190, -7.39980

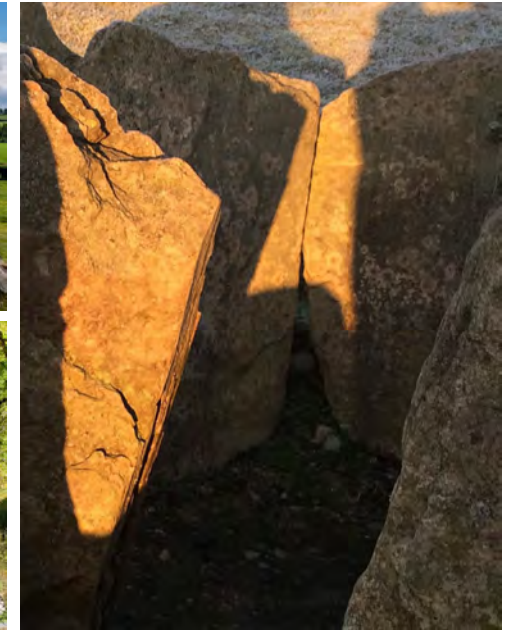
## ACCESSIBILITY

The site is freely accessible

**The historical unique megalithic site in the Lingaun Valley is the Knockroe double passage tomb.**

Built from massive stones, it marked for our ancestors an important turning point in the year, and was also a burial site for the cremated remains of the Stone-Age peoples who built it. This is an unusual site in both Ireland and Europe, in that the tomb aligns with both the rising and setting sun on the shortest day in December, the Winter Solstice. Several stones are also adorned with megalithic art.

The site is freely accessible. A Solstice Festival attracts several hundred people each December, and is growing in popularity. Knockroe is just one of several interconnected megalithic sites in the locality, several of which can be accessed by the public. Others include the cairn on Slievenamon (Mountain of the Women) across the valley, and the Kilmacoliver Megalithic Tomb on nearby Baunfree Hill which is not accessible



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# Slievenamon ( Sliabh na mBan )

## LOCATION

Ballyknockane,  
Co. Tipperary

## COORDINATES

52.42805, -7.56178

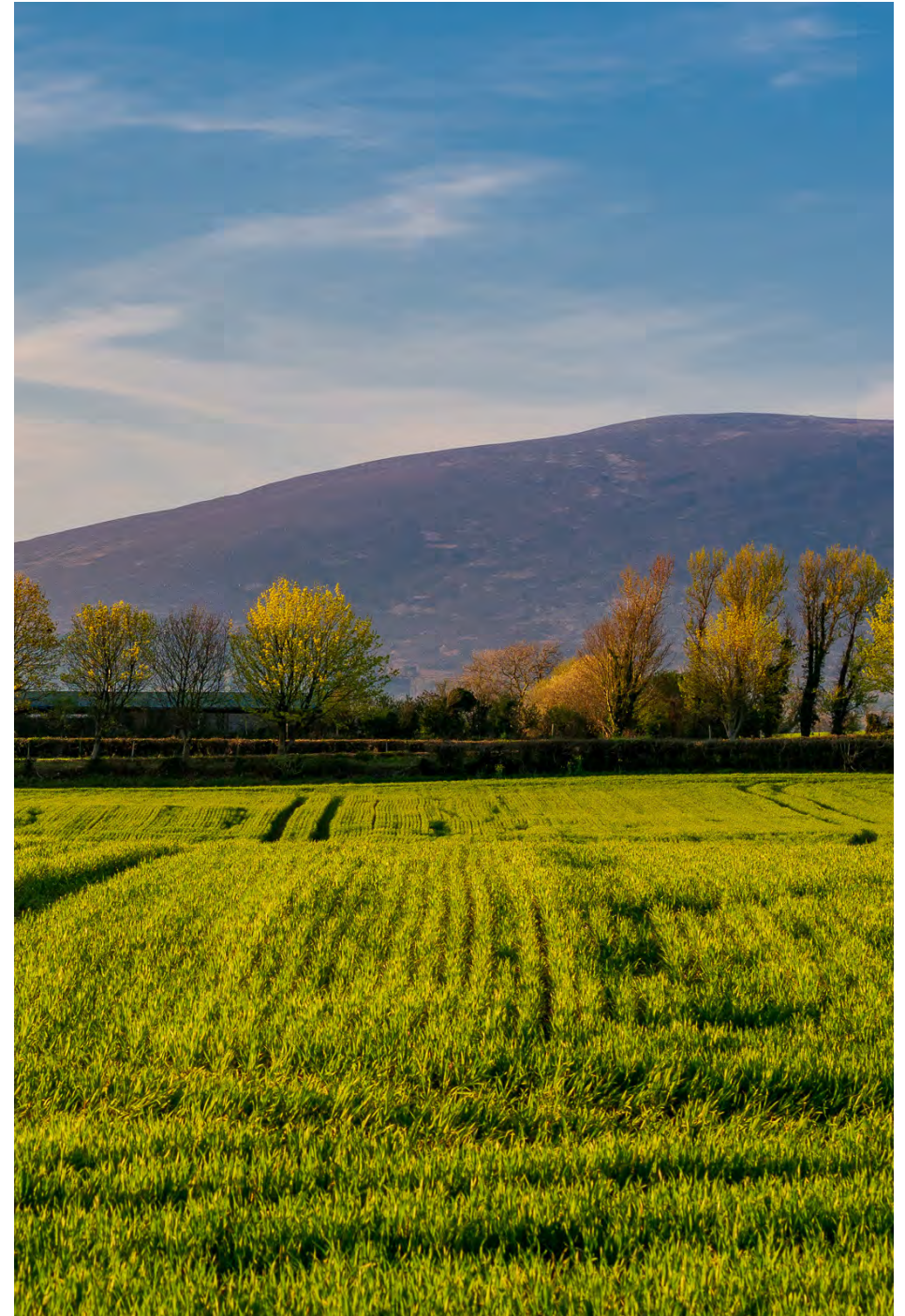
## ACCESSIBILITY

The site is freely accessible

**Slievenamon Cairn and Walk: 721m (2,365 ft.) high, Slievenamon provides a dramatic view from the top and can be accessed by Kilcash.**

Legend has it Fionn Mac Cumhaill was sought after by many women so he set up a race to the top of Slievenamon. Fionn gave the start signal standing on the Cairn at the top of the mountain. The winner was Grainne. The song "Slievenamon" written in the mid nineteenth century by revolutionary and poet Charles Kickham, is a well-known patriotic and romantic song about exile, used always at Tipperary hurling matches and social events.

The area is also noted for the huge rally of 50,000 people who assembled on Slievenamon in 1848, in a leadup to the famous failed rebellion of that year. The nearby site at CarraigmoCLEAR was the site of a battle during the earlier Irish Rebellion of 1798.



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# High Crosses

## TIME PERIOD

700 - 900 AD

## LOCATION

Killamery High Cross:  
Springmount, Co. Kilkenny

Ahenny High Cross:  
Ahenny, Co. Tipperary

Kilkieran High Cross:  
Knockglass, Co. Kilkenny

## COORDINATES

Killamery High Cross:  
52.47560, -7.44605

Ahenny High Cross:  
52.414180, -7.392558

Kilkieran High Cross:  
52.39808, -7.38088

## ACCESSIBILITY

The sites are freely accessible

**This beautiful valley also provides one of the most impressive collections of Celtic ecclesiastic art in Ireland, the High Crosses.**

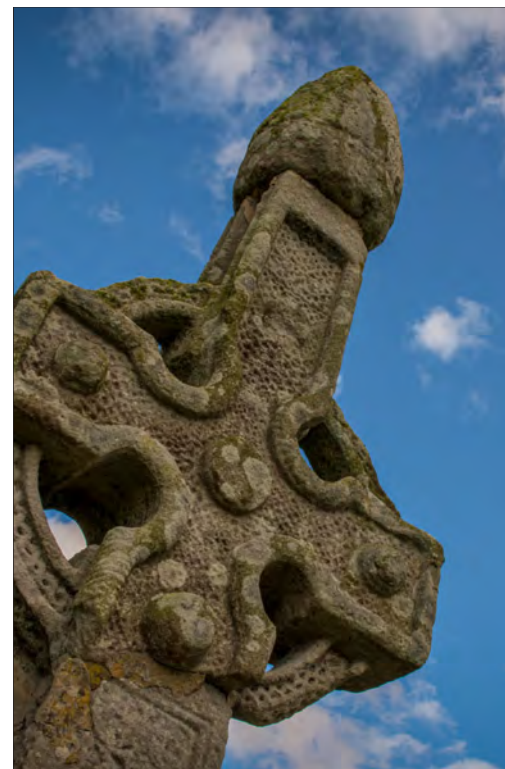
Six of these treasured limestone sculptures are to be found: three in Kilkieran; two impressive crosses in Ahenny; and one in Killamery.

The partial shaft is all that remains of a fourth cross which stood at the Kilkieran site, other remnants of which are stored in Jerpoint Abbey. Local folklore has it that a third High Cross stood in Ahenny.

In Killamery, a 9th century brooch found in the 1850s and which is now in the National Museum. The monastery at Killamery, founded in the 7th century, grew into a monastic school, and hundreds of monks lived and worked around the site.

All of these crosses date from the 8th and 9th centuries, and display the work of the craftsmen of the early medieval period. The crosses were originally brightly painted, portraying scenes and stories from the Bible for local communities, visitors and pilgrims of the time.

Today, the crosses are open to visitors and allow for quiet contemplation in their peaceful surroundings.



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# Slate Quarries

## TIME PERIOD

1800s

## LOCATION

Baunreigh/Ahenny,  
Co. Kilkenny

## COORDINATES

Ormonde Slate Quarries:  
52.42564, -7.38788

## ACCESSIBILITY

This site can be viewed  
from the road and is  
private property

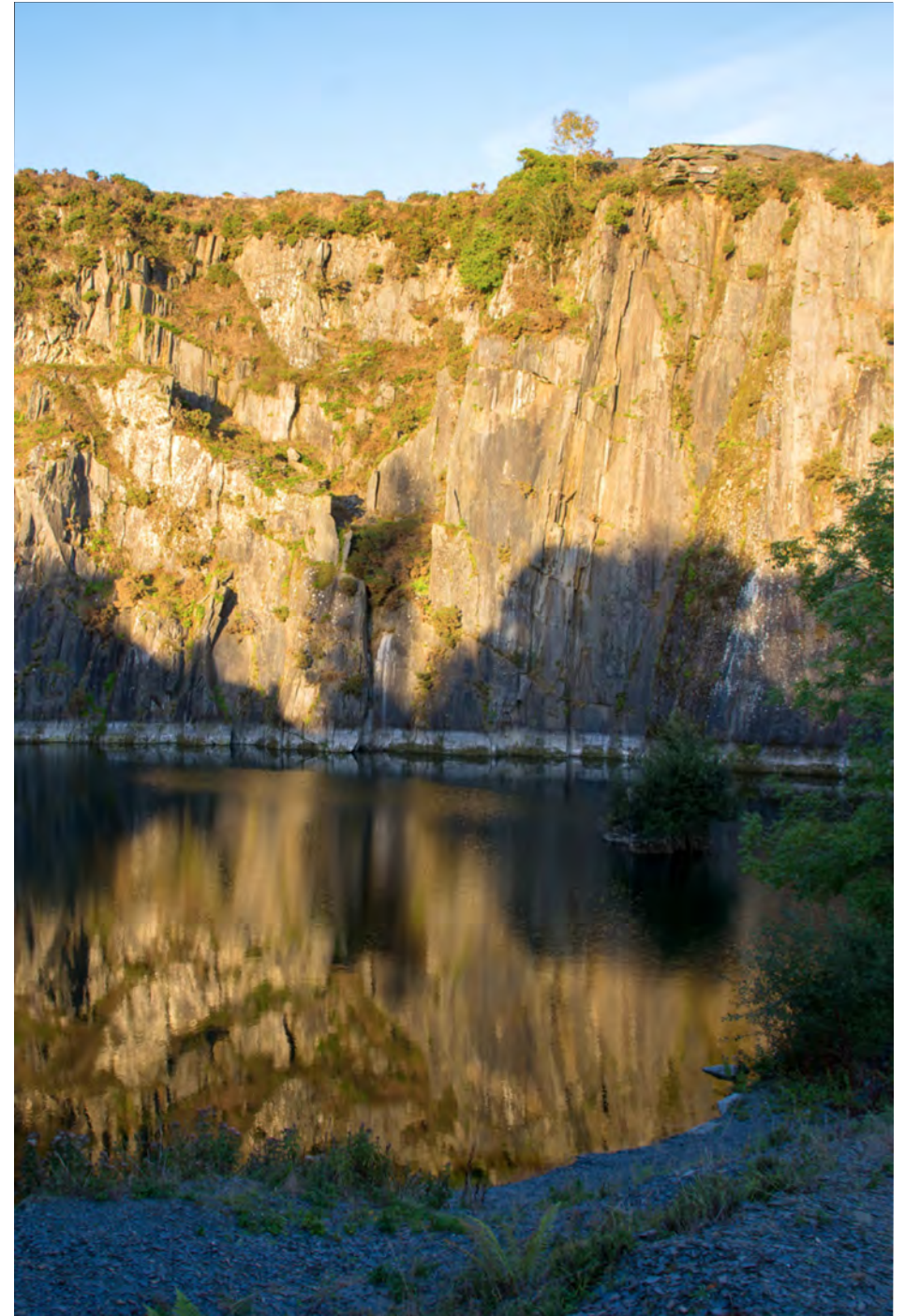
**The Victoria quarries, now inaccessible, lie close to the village of Ahenny. The village of Ahenny was constructed for Welsh slate workers as the industry grew in the early 19th century. The Ormonde quarries, once owned by the Earl of Ormonde, are situated beside the Lingaun River.**

**The quarries have been worked since at least the fourteenth century, but were extensively used in the nineteenth century.**

It appears that many of the slate quarrymen from the Kilkenny and Tipperary area emigrated to Vermont, USA in the mid-1800s, during the time of the Famine. The quarries closed around the 1930s.

The quality of the slate was highly regarded, and was used in the construction of nearby Ormonde Castle in Carrick-on-Suir. It is also thought to have been used on the Palace of Westminster in London.

The quarry beside the river is now an area of quiet beauty and a haven for plants and wildlife, with several slate sculptures scattered around the Ormonde Quarry. Close to the Knockroe passage tomb, it provides a peaceful space to visitors. Nearby lie the ruins of cottages, believed to date from the 1860s, which provided accommodation for quarry worker's.



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# Kilcash

## TIME PERIOD

1500s - 1800 AD

## LOCATION

Kilcash, Co. Tipperary

## COORDINATES

52.39748, -7.52326

## ACCESSIBILITY

The site is **not** accessible

**The small village of Kilcash holds many historical ties across the centuries. Visit the ruins of Kilcash Castle, a tower house which was also a stronghold of the Butler family, until the family moved to Kilkenny Castle in the late 18th century.**

Kilcash is also associated with the poem 'A Lament for Kilcash', (Cad A Dhéanfaimid Feasta Gan Adhmad) which mourned the death of Margaret Burke, who married Col. Thomas Butler. The couple are buried in the churchyard nearby, in a large and elaborately carved mausoleum.

The peak year of the famine in 1848 saw a period of tension and rebellion around Ireland, particularly in Tipperary. The Paris revolution in February gave new hope to Irish nationalists. In July, a Monster Rally on the slopes of Slievenamon above Kilcash attracted roughly 50,000 people, and a speech was given by Thomas Francis Meagher who, a few months before, had brought the new tricolour flag of green white and orange from Paris. John O'Mahony, a Gaelic scholar and member of the Young Ireland movement who lived in nearby Ballyneale, is also thought to have been there. One story relates that a mitre and other leaden ornaments were stolen from the local Catholic church to make bullets for the rebellion. However, after a few strikes at the local authorities the rebellion failed, as British authorities were well aware in advance of the Young Ireland plans.





# Wildlife and Biodiversity

**For those interested in wildlife and biodiversity, the valley offers a range of plants, insects and birds in quiet surroundings.**

Native wildflowers such as Cowslip, Foxglove, Lady's Smock and Wood Sorrel abound. Insects include the Water Boatman, dragonflies, and several

varieties of butterflies. The valley is also home to native and migratory birds, and sparrow hawks, bullfinches, robins and a variety of tits can be seen.

Different locations, from the river up into the surrounding hills and woodland, provide a biodiversity of plants

and wildlife throughout the valley.

Walking routes throughout the Lingaun Valley are shown on our map.

Also check out our website: [lingaunvalley.ie](http://lingaunvalley.ie) for more information and news.



# Connections to Wales

**The area of the Lingaun Valley and the wider surrounds of Kilkenny have many connections with Wales over many centuries.**

One ancient legend states that the Deisi Mumhan, a tribe in Munster, set up a kingdom in the 5th century in what is now Dyfed in south-western Wales. They were later expelled by the Welsh chiefs.

In the 6th century, St Modomnoc spent several years studying with St David in Wales, and one of his tasks

was attending to the bees. When he returned to Ireland, it is said that the bees swarmed on to the boat with him, and after three attempts to return them, St David allowed him to bring them to Ireland. Modomnoc went on to found a monastery in Tybroughney, near Carrick-on-Suir, and the ruins can still be visited there. Today he is remembered as a patron saint of bees.

The Surname Walsh, and similar derivatives such as Welsh and Welch, originated from the Anglo-Norman

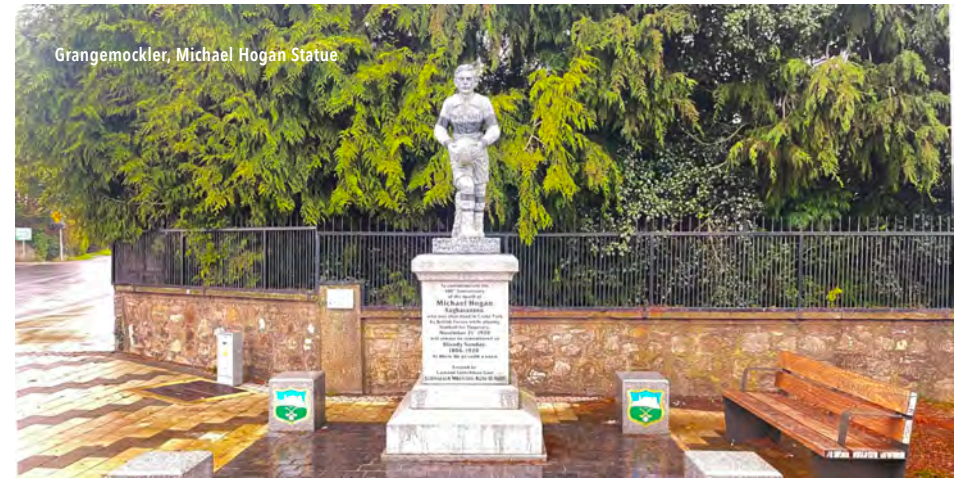
families that came from Wales in the 1100s and afterwards. By the 1850s, records show almost ten thousand occurrences of the surname, with large numbers around Kilkenny and Waterford in particular. The Walsh Mountains in southern Kilkenny also attest to the popularity of the name locally.

In the 19th century, a Welsh company worked the slate in Ahenny, and in the early 1900s, a Welshman called Daniel Evans was a manager of the quarry.





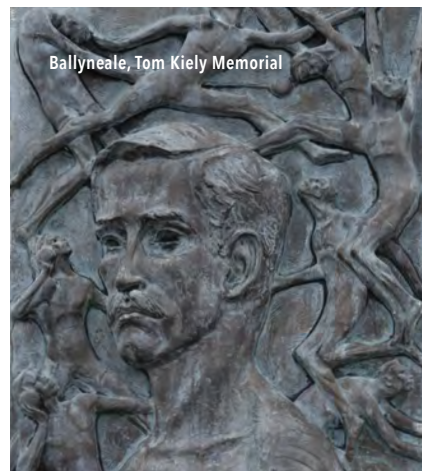
Ormond Castle



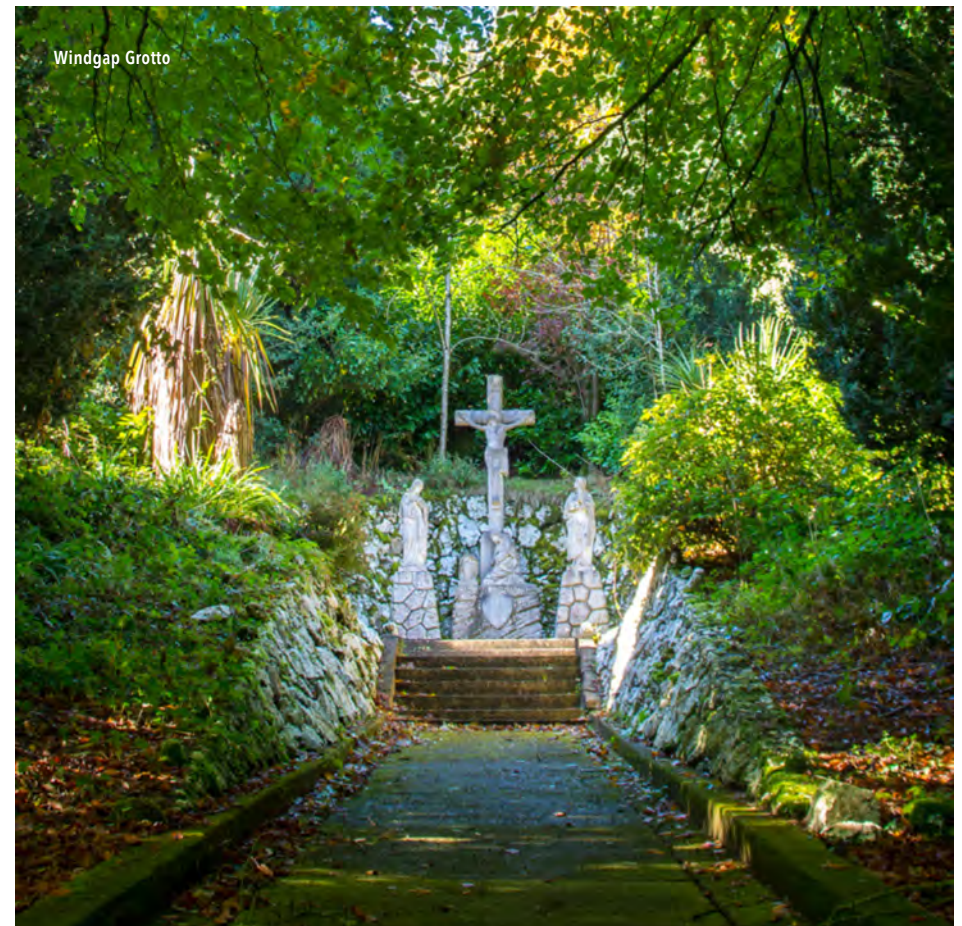
Grangemockler, Michael Hogan Statue



Tullahought Viewing Tower



Ballyneale, Tom Kiely Memorial



Windgap Grotto

# A day in the Lingaun Valley

**Step ①** ----- Only a short drive from the important towns of Kilkenny, Waterford and Clonmel, the town of **Carrick-on-Suir is the starting point for our day's outing (R697** Cregg road and the return road to Carrick from Ballyneale **R696)**

**Step ②** ----- Leaving the manor and Carrick-on-Suir, **the road climbs gently, and soon a sign welcomes us into the Lingaun Valley**, and we drive past a mixture of fields and woodland. **After a few minutes' drive, we turn right towards Kilkieran** and stop to admire the **Kilkieran High Crosses**. The three crosses date back to the 7th – 8th centuries.



**Step ③** ----- We **turn back to the main road and drive north**. After a few moments we turn left towards **Ahenny**, and its two beautiful **High Crosses**.

**MORE INFO**  
Made in the 8th century, the base of the larger cross displays scenes from the bible. Models of the crosses, made in 1908, can be seen in the Medieval Mile Museum in Kilkenny.



**Step ④** ----- Back on the main road, **a short drive takes us off to the right and uphill** to the picturesque village of **Tullahought**. The trailhead for the **Kilmacoliver Loop Walk** also starts here, a beautiful walk of about 4.5 km through woodland, and with views out over several surrounding counties. It is also worth taking a small detour up to the **Viewing Tower**, which gives lovely views out over the valley.

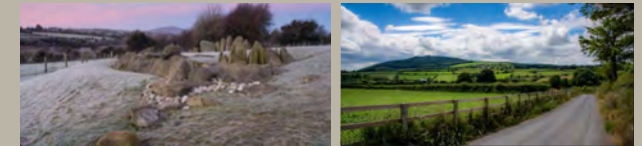


**Step ⑤** ----- After driving back to the main road, we **take a left turn** for the **slate quarries** and **Knockroe Passage Tomb**. There are slate quarries situated on both sides of the Lingaun River.

**Step ⑥** ----- **We follow the small lane on to Knockroe Passage Tomb**, one of the most unique megalithic tombs in Europe. It was built about 5,000 years ago by the early farming peoples of Ireland, around the same time as Newgrange in Co Meath, but pre-dates the pyramids of Giza in Egypt, and Stonehenge.

**MORE INFO**

It is a distinctive site in that the tomb aligns with both the rising and setting sun on the shortest day in December, the Winter Solstice. Every year, a Solstice Festival attracts several hundred people each December, which is growing in popularity due to this dual alignment.



**Step ⑦** ----- **Leaving Knockroe, we follow the country lanes** and head towards the village of **Windgap**, with its Grotto walks and Tea Rooms

**Step ⑧** ----- **We now head towards Killamery**, where we can visit the last of the **High Crosses**.

**MORE INFO**

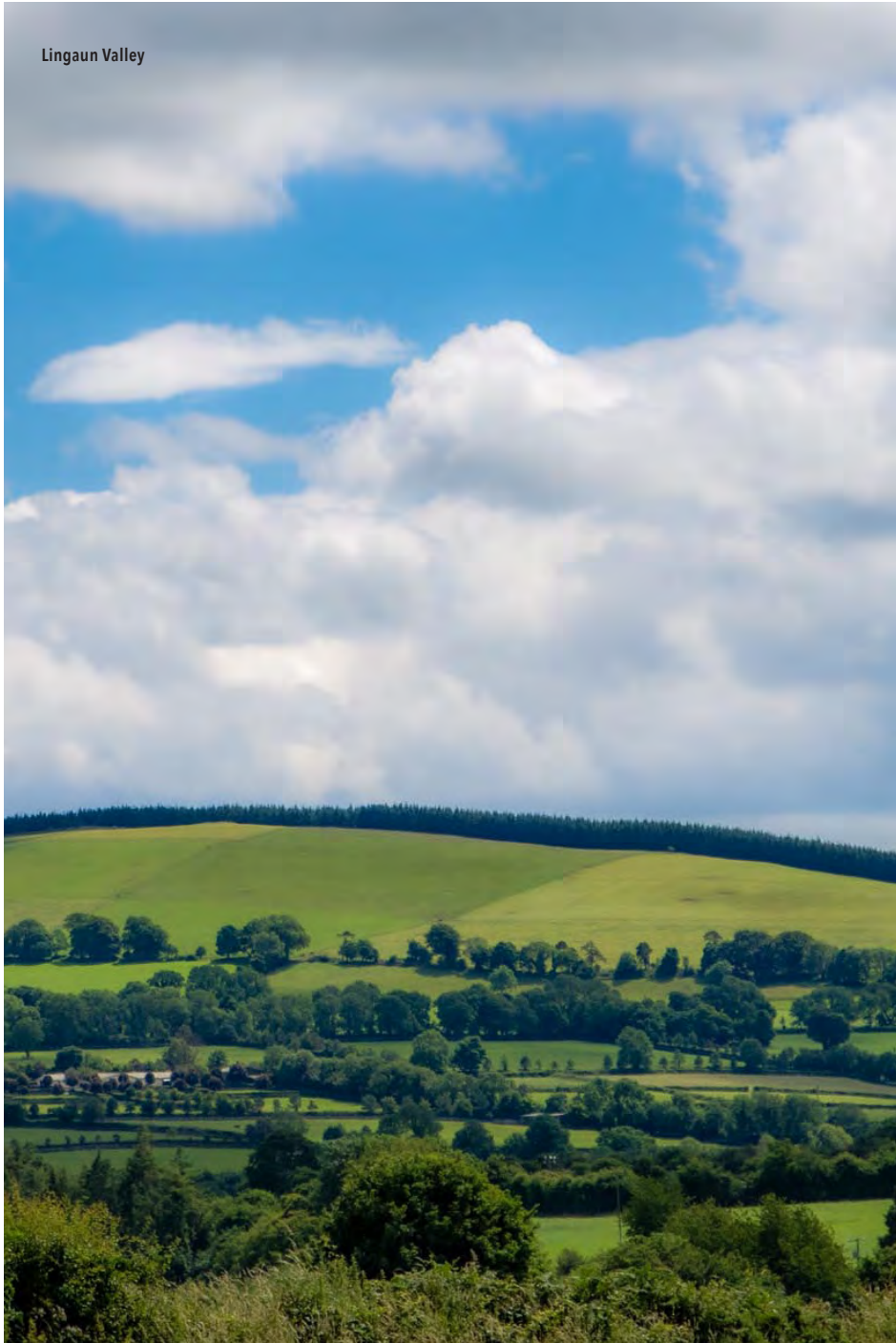
This cross was the model for an exquisite 9th century brooch found in the 1850s, now in the National Museum in Dublin, and has also been the model for crosses sold in Irish tourist shops around the world. The monastery at Killamery, founded in the 7th century, grew into a monastic school, and hundreds of monks lived and worked around the site.

**Turning left we travel to Grangemockler** on the N76, (Michael Hogan statue) with the **option of a diversion to Carrigmoclear**, (1798 rebellion) before we travel on to **Kilcash**. **A small detour will take us down to Kilcash Castle**, a ruined tower house which was also a stronghold of the Butler family, until the family moved to Kilkenny Castle in the late 18th century. We can visit **Ballyneale** (Tom Kiely) and then return to Carrick direct or via Faugheen.

**Step ⑨** ----- **Our day trip through the Lingaun Valley ends here, and we can take the road up to Kilkenny** to visit its many offerings such as Kilkenny Castle, **or back down to Carrick-on-Suir and Waterford**. Several other castles and Big Houses in the area can be explored, including Curraghmore House and others around Cappoquin in north Waterford, Cahir Castle and the ornate Swiss Cottage in Co Tipperary, and Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum in Inishtioge, Co Kilkenny.

**Step ⑩** -----

Lingaun Valley



Lamouge Ogham Stone



Ahenny Village





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