



mills & millers of IRELAND

The Society for the Preservation of Ancient and Traditional Irish Mills

www.millsofireland.org

Some places of interest in this part of Co. Tipperary and Co. Waterford.

Clogheen town: Clogheen was once a bustling thriving town with an Artillery Barracks, Court House, Bank, Workhouse, Market House, several schools, bakeries, mills, brewery etc. Clogheen also suffered both fever and famine – and it is recommended not to leave Clogheen without visiting the large soup kitchen pot set in the grounds of St Theresa’s hospital Eircode E21 Y447 (site of earlier workhouse) on the R668 (the road that serves “The Vee”, Mt Melleray, Cappoquin & Lismore).



The stone plaque beneath the pot states –

*Plague wind blew across the land
Fever was in the air
Fields were black that once were green
And death was everywhere*

Further up the road, on the left side, is a famine graveyard (Reilig Reidh), now just an undulating field without a single marked grave.

Beyond Clogheen: if time or opportunity permits the following are places of interest in close proximity, or on the way to/from Clogheen.

- i) **The Vee, the Grubb grave, Bay Lough and the Bianconi horse stands** – all these are a short distance further out the R668 in this order – well worth seeing – from the Vee (a hairpin in the road) one can often see the Devils Bit in the Slieve Blooms - the full length of Tipperary between. Further on the Grubb grave is uphill on the left, while Bay Lough (with its legend of Pettycoat Loose) is a short distance further on to the right. By the carpark see the stone shelters where the horses were changed/rested after the hard hill climb out of Clogheen during the Bianconi coach service years.
<http://galteewalkingclub.ie/maps/baylough.html>
- ii) **Mount Melleray Abbey** – further on towards Cappoquin, Mt Melleray is a peaceful place with a great atmosphere – sit through one of the monks *hours* in the community chapel – note the beautiful stained glass window behind the altar; or hike up behind the abbey farm buildings along a section of the St Declan’s Way pilgrim route & see the Abbey’s water source and treatment & settlement beds.
https://www.tripadvisor.ie/Attraction_Review-g551581-d650100-Reviews-Mount_Melleray_Abbey-Cappoquin_County_Waterford.html
- iii) **Cappoquin onto the Dromana Gate and Villiarstown:** The gate is a rather strange structure, originally built as a wedding present to the returning landlord, in a Hindu-Gothic style; further on is Villiarstown (*An Baile Nua* in Irish), a purpose-built town for a linen/flax industry - families came from the Lurgan area.
<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/building-of-the-month/dromana-gate-dromana-td-county-waterford/>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Villierstown>

- iv) **Lismore Castle Gardens, St Paul's Church and area, the Ballysaggartmore Towers:** while the castle is not open to the public, its gardens are. The river is tidal to just above Cappoquin and from there a small canal to the castle area to ferry the stone from the duke's English estates up-river to build the castle. St. Paul's church, its interior & exhibition is interesting as well as the surrounding housing. The Ballysaggartmore Towers are fairytale like follies built by a particularly cruel landlord to his tenants during the famine times. Today a lovely walk through these still substantially intact gates & towers – the fuller history of these is carried in the attached links
<https://www.discoverireland.ie/waterford/lismore-castle-gardens>
<https://www.theirishplace.com/heritage/history-ballysaggartmore-towers/>
- v) **Cahir Castle, the river walk, the Swiss Cottage:** The castle is said to have been a 13th century power house – a cannonball still visible in its walls. 3 mills were situated in this area of which some evidence remains. A very pleasant walk along the river is possible and one can actually access the Swiss Cottage by foot too. This Swiss Cottage, supposedly a hunting lodge, with its fancy windows and French wallpapers was much more, as a visit or the link below will clearly show.
<https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/cahir-castle/>
<https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/swiss-cottage/>
- vi) **Mitchelstown Caves:** A well-hidden gem really worth a visit - just a short distance from Cahir.
<http://mitchelstowncave.com/>
- vii) **Rock of Cashel:** “Cashel of the kings”, there are 4 distinct structures in the cluster – The round tower (the oldest & c1100), Cormac's Chapel, the cathedral, and the tower-house all co-located and interlinked..
<https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/rock-of-cashel/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_of_Cashel
- viii) **Holycross Abbey:** A place of pilgrimage with a past – dates back to 1182 – restored 800 yrs later as the parish church – has a relic of the true Cross, and the remains of a small mill at the back on the river. Also check out the wonderful mason's symbols on the stonework in and about the altar area.
<https://heritageireland.ie/places-to-visit/holycross-abbey/>

Clonmel had 23 mills, Cahir had 5 mills and Clogheen had 7 mills:

An extract from Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Ireland (London, 1837, page 341) states
“... which is made into flour of very superior quality and sent by land to Clonmel, whence it is conveyed down the (River) Suir. For this purpose there are seven flour mills in the town and neighbourhood, which are worked by 14 water wheels”

- i) **Coolville mill** (actually 3 mills)
- ii) **Union Mill** – at the union of the Tar & Dwag – fed by races from both rivers
- iii) **Dwag Mill** – on the Dwag river behind Coolville.
- iv) **The Brewery** – at the end of Brewery Lane again fed from the Dwag via a long mill race.
- v) **Fennel Manor Mill** – out the Vee road on right hand side before St Theresa's
- vi) **“Lonergans Mill”** – further out the Vee road on the Glounliagh Stream – a tributary of the Dwag.
- vii) **Flemingstown Mill** – out the Ballyporeen road past Shanrahan Cemetery