



# Colclough Walled Garden



**Revive your natural senses...  
visit the Walled Garden Tintern Abbey  
Hook Peninsula Co. Wexford**



**IRELAND'S  
ANCIENT EAST®**  
*Wander Through Time*

## The garden now



This Georgian Walled Garden was built by the Colclough (pronounced Coke-lee) family over 200 years ago, before 1814. Restoration work by volunteers, organised by Hook Tourism, began in July 2010, after a five-year licence was signed with the garden's owners Coillte Teoranta.

The original layout of the Walled Garden has been reinstated as it was in the 1830's. The main features of this 2.5 acre stone/brick lined Walled Garden include curved corners, two intra mural structures on the dividing brick wall which splits the garden into two sections, east (Ornamental) and west (Kitchen), and a river, crossed by 5 bridges, which flows through the length of the Walled Garden.

It is situated in a verdant vale with beautiful wooded scenery filled with songbirds. Visitors pass through the quondam village of Tintern along the woodland path where bluebells and wild garlic abound in springtime. In summer beech trees cast a dappled shade until the open blue sky of the Walled Garden is reached, where Colclough eagles still fly.



## and how it was then



Gardeners re-enacting the election duel

### A Sense of History

**Tintern Abbey was founded by Cistercian monks** after 1200, under the patronage of William Marshall, on a small river that flows into Bannow Bay. After its dissolution in 1536 its lands were granted to Sir Anthony Colclough in 1562. The Colclough family, who lived there for the next 400 years, modified the abbey and built many structures down through the years around the abbey, including bridges, a linen mill, a flour mill, battlement walls and the Georgian Walled Garden.

**The Walled Garden was built 520 metres south west from Tintern Abbey**, using stone gathered from the surrounding fields and lined with bricks which were hand made in the Walled Garden using local estuarine mud. Lime was made in a lime kiln at the battlement bridge from burnt limestone brought from the Hook Peninsula by boat and mixed with sea sand to make lime mortar.

**The original layout of the garden has been reinstated as it was in 1838 using information found in the OSI Historical Map.** This map shows the path structure, 5 bridges, the outer-enclosure, the location of the vegetable garden and fruit trees. Colclough Walled Garden re-opened to the public on May 18th 2012.





# Overgrown

Aerial photograph, July 2010



Miss Marie B. Colclough (died 1983) gifted Tintern Abbey to the Irish state in 1959. The Walled Garden was abandoned to nature until Coillte (State-sponsored company) removed over 30 very large Sitka spruce trees which were planted in 1955. The overgrown laurel hedge in the east section was cut back to its original line and has now regrown into a healthy hedge. The middle path through the forest leading to the Walled Garden was cleared and resurfaced with gravel, to allow access to the northeast wall where the two entrances are situated. While there is no specific mention of the garden being built in known family archives, here is what visitors to Tintern recorded in the 19th century:

John Bernard Trotter, who wrote “Walks in Ireland 1812”, (published in 1819) visited Tintern in June 1812 and stayed nearly a month, but did not mention the Walled Garden.

*“ We have employed several days in enjoying the beauties of Tintern and its environs, and experienced much civility from Lady Colclough.”*

June 27, 1812.

The first known mention of the existence of the Walled Garden was in “The Irish Tourist” by A. Atkinson which was written in July 1814 (published 1815).

*“Lady Catherine Colclough had the politeness to show me a very beautiful and fruitful Walled Garden, of two or three acres, enclosed by a handsome brick wall, and abounding with the delicacies of the season.”*

Lady Catherine Colclough (nee Grogan of Johnstown Castle) was Caesar Colclough’s mother. As Sir Vesey’s eldest son, Caesar inherited his father’s estate in 1794. Caesar’s brother John managed the estate until he was killed by William Congreve Alcock of Wilton Castle in an election duel in 1807. Thomas MacCord, Land Agent, managed the estate until Caesar returned from France in 1814. Caesar was released from imprisonment after Napoleon’s abdication and was elected MP to the House of Commons in 1818.

J.W. Goff of Horetown House managed the Tintern estate as agent for Caesar Colclough from 1831-1840. Receipts of the purchase of peach, apricot, nectarine and cherry trees from **Fennessy Nursery** in Waterford and **Miller and Sweet’s Nursery** in Bristol have survived from this period. Correspondence between Caesar and his agent during this period survives in the National Library of Ireland and mentions various plants growing in the gardens at Tintern during this period such as Geraniums, Carnations and Daphne. **We hope you visit the Walled Garden this year and make your own memories.**



**Colclough Walled Garden Restored  
July 2013**



## Great Colclough Will Case

Caesar Colclough died aged 76 in Botelers Hall, Cheltenham in August 1842 and his body was brought back to Tintern for burial in the old church. Caesar left his estate to his wife Jane Stratford Kirwin whom he married in 1818. Caesar's 5th will made in 1842 was disputed by members of the Colclough Family who preferred the 1st will made in 1824 which left the estate to the Colclough's with Mary Grey Wentworth Colclough (Caesar's 1st cousin once removed) declaring herself, Heiress at Law.

*“The alleged Will of the 6th of August, 1842 should be set aside and declared null and void, and be delivered up to be cancelled as have been obtained from said Caesar Colclough the alleged testator by undue influence and misrepresentation, as having been executed by him when not capable of exercising his judgement in such matters, and therefore as not being his genuine last Will and testament.”*

Jane subsequently married Thomas Boyce of Bannow House in 1846 and Mary married Thomas Rossborough from Co. Fermanagh in 1848. A protracted and expensive litigation ensued which provided the inspiration for **Charles Dickens's** Jarndyce vs Jarndyce case in his novel Bleak House. Caesar's 5th will was set aside by a special jury at Wexford in July 1852, giving Tintern Abbey to Mary.

## Taking possession, May 5th 1853

*This princely estate having reverted to the Ancient family of the Colclough's, Mr. Rossborough the husband of the heiress at law, in whose favour the Lord Chancellor, lately pronounced his decision proceeded on Friday last to Tintern Abbey to take formal possession of the property. Mr. Rossborough was met by the tenantry in the warmest and most affectionate manner, to whom he promised to be a father and a protector, that his Lady and himself, intended making the Abbey their future residence and to become acquainted personally with every tenant on the estate, and to relieve their wants and improve their conditions should be their duty and their pride.*

An appeal was heard by the House of Lords in 1857 where a retrial was ordered to take place in Wexford. The case was finally settled in July 1857 with Jane's Lawyer Mr. Brewster who declared amid breathless silence in court: *“I am happy to announce to your Lordship, that this case is settled to the satisfaction of both parties. My client (Jane) consenting to a verdict for the defendant (Mary), with an immediate right of possession.”*

Jane received £20,000 and Mary received Tintern Abbey with a rental income of £8,000 a year. The discovery of a bundle of dusty old letters behind a press in Tintern Abbey written by Caesar to his Wexford relatives describing a warm and friendly relationship brought the case to a conclusion but also bankruptcy to the Colclough's. A failure to pay debts would lead to Tintern Abbey being put up for sale in 1892, only to be saved by the Colclough's Catholic tenantry who raised £1,000 preventing banks from foreclosing. Marie B. Colclough inherited the estate in 1912 from her mother Louisa who was Mary's daughter. Marie B. never married and lived in Tintern Abbey with her two aunts Bella (d. 1929) and May (d. 1936). After 400 years of continuous occupancy she can be described as the Last of the Tintern Colclough's.





## Glasshouse Restoration

This Victorian Vinery/Orangery has been restored by our Gardeners with the help of Wexford County Council. A 'Sponsor a Timber' fundraising scheme raised all the money needed for the restoration of the Glasshouse which originally grew Grapes and was where Citrus plants were over-wintered to protect them from frost. Conservation Architect Michael Tierney drew up plans based on surviving features. Baltic Redwood from Seacroft Infirmary in Leeds was reclaimed by Clare O'Morchoe from Kiltra Timber Company Ltd and machined by Alan Bennett from Oakman Ltd. Stainless steel fittings were supplied by Kent Stainless. Metal work made by Jim Furlong. Glass sponsored by Wexford Viking Glass Limited.

## Geometric Design

The Diamonds have been reinstated after Earthsound Archaeological Geophysics discovered this Geometric design with diamond flowerbeds. Soil analysis by Dr. Patrick Forrestal, Research Scientist, Johnstown Castle, and Pollen Analysis by Dr. Karen Molloy, Palaeoenvironmental Research Unit, National University of Ireland Galway, have given insights into how the diamonds were originally planted.

*“ Colclough Walled Garden is as much about community as it is about Horticulture, and it excels in both areas. I've seen many expensive, professional garden restorations and this is as good as any of them. ”*

Jane Powers, Sunday Times

“The sightseeing highlight of Wexford's South Western corner is the atmospheric ruin of Tintern Abbey at the neck of the blustery Hook Peninsula...Beyond the Abbey, verdant woodland trails lead to the recently restored Colclough Walled Garden which is traversed by a stream crossed by five small bridges. ”

Rough Guide to Ireland

*“ Walking trails wind into the surrounding woods, past lakes and streams and more crumbling ruins, including a small single cell church, to the Beautiful, 200 year old Colclough Walled Garden which has been replanted and restored to its former glory. ”*

Lonely Planet

“Leave time for the unexpected: That's a very important rule for travellers. Too tight a travel schedule will leave you hostage to the clock, and unable to explore wonderful things. Like, for instance, Colclough Gardens in County Wexford, Ireland. It would be easy to miss Colclough, as you rush to visit the many other worthwhile sites in Wexford - but don't. ”

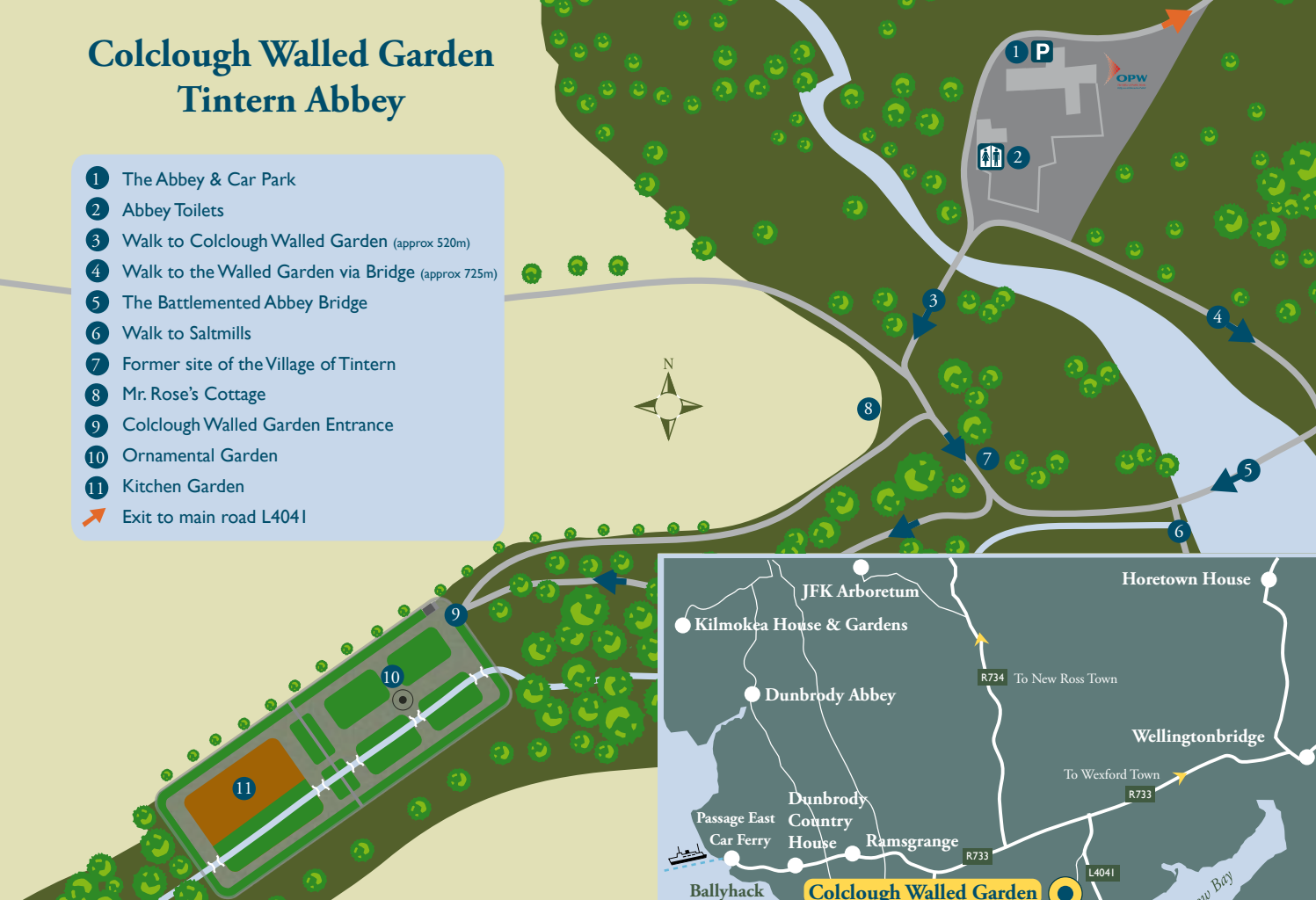
Paul Knowless, Toronto Sun

**Fruit from the Walled Garden - Painted in 1862 by 14 year old Louisa Colclough**



# Colclough Walled Garden Tintern Abbey

- 1 The Abbey & Car Park
  - 2 Abbey Toilets
  - 3 Walk to Colclough Walled Garden (approx 520m)
  - 4 Walk to the Walled Garden via Bridge (approx 725m)
  - 5 The Battlemented Abbey Bridge
  - 6 Walk to Saltmills
  - 7 Former site of the Village of Tintern
  - 8 Mr. Rose's Cottage
  - 9 Colclough Walled Garden Entrance
  - 10 Ornamental Garden
  - 11 Kitchen Garden
- Exit to main road L4041



## Restoration of Colclough Walled Garden supported by:



## Directions

Leave the R733 (Ballyhack to Wellingtonbridge road) at the turn off for Saltmills, L4041. The entrance (Stone walls with Beech trees) to Tintern Abbey and Colclough Walled Garden is 1km from this junction on the right hand side. The Walled Garden is located 520 meters to the south west of the Abbey car park (7 minute Walk). Signposts are on all approaching roads. Map reference inside. ~ Sat Nav: -6.8377833 52.23696 ~

## Opening Times

Open Everyday: 10am to 6pm ~ April to September.  
10am to 4pm ~ October to March.  
Last admission: 30 minutes before closing time.

## Admission

€5: Adult. €3: Reduced Rate; Senior Citizens, Students, Groups of 10+. Annual Ticket available. Under 14 years: free admission. Coaches and large groups, please ring in advance of visit. Well behaved dogs on a lead are welcome.

## Contact Details

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**Colclough Walled Garden**

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