



Colclough Walled Garden



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

www.colcloughwalledgarden.com

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) bequeathed 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

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 ~ May to September.
10am to 4pm ~ October to April.
Last admission: 30 minutes before closing time.

Admission

€3: Adult. €2: 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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