

The Grange Loop (follow the green arrows)

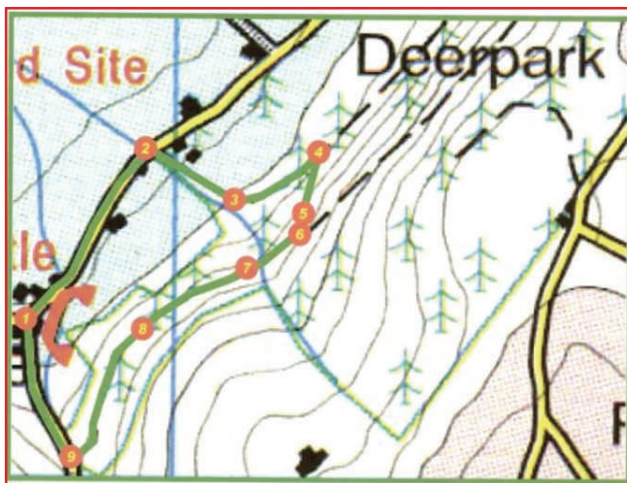
This is a short walk of about 30 mins to 1 hour's duration and is suited to those looking for a short pleasant stroll. However good shoes or boots are advisable as the route follows unpaved forest paths.

Point 1 to 2. With your back to Hogan's Bar, turn left and follow the green arrows along the surfaced road. The green arrows are for the shorter Grange Loop. Walk for 500m to reach the entrance to Grangecrag Woods on your right. Turn right here.

Points 2 to 5. Follow the woodland track for 300m to reach the site of an icehouse where you veer left. After another 200m you reach a 3-way junction - turn right here, still following the purple and green arrows. Continue to ascend along the forest road to reach a 3-way junction where the green loop turns right onto a grassy trail.

Point 5 to 8. Follow the trail for about 150 metres to a fine view over the village of Grange, with Kilcooly Abbey in the middle distance and the Devils Bit Mountain on the western horizon.

Point 8 to 1. Continue on the trail down to the kissing gate and public road. Turn right and walk the 200 metres downhill to the village and some refreshments in the shop or bars!



Features on the Looped Walks

The Ice House

The looped walks pass a fine example of an ice house. Usually only large manor houses like Kilcooly Abbey estate had purpose-built buildings to store ice and preserve food. The typical ice house was an underground chamber, usually man-made. Our example being banked over with earth serves the same function. It was usual to construct an ice house close to a source of winter ice, for example freshwater lakes or slow-flowing rivers; this allowed ice to be collected when water had frozen over in winter and quickly transport it for storage in the ice house. Where ice was scarce it was often imported Scandinavia and elsewhere up until the 1950's! To keep the ice frozen, doors or openings were usually built facing north and straw or sawdust was added between layers of ice to act as insulation. The ice would stay frozen for many months, and would be used to preserve and chill food all year round. The Grange icehouse also houses the water filtration system for Kilcooly Abbey estate which flows the mile to the 'big house' through a cast-iron pipeline.

The Wellington Monument

In 1817, Sir William Barker, the then landlord of Kilcooly Abbey estate caused to be erected a large structure in commemoration of the Duke of Wellington's victory over Napoleon Bonaparte at the Battle of Waterloo two years previously. The Wellington Monument has a finely carved dedication stone on its 15 foot high west or 'front end'. The south side is also impressive but the remaining side of the monument is half the height and clearly shows that the structure was designed to be viewed from the west and Sir William's manor house at Kilcooly a mile away. The monument – technically called a folly, became completely hidden by forestry in latter years and its reappearance in the early 1990's, following Coillte's clear felling was a pleasant surprise to all.

Acknowledgements

The two 'loop walks' were developed by volunteers of Grange Development Group— a local committee of Slieveardagh Rural Development. The walk is largely on property leased by Coillte from the Ponsonby family. Thanks to them both for their permission. The capital construction costs were funded by Fáilte Ireland and the labour and maintenance were undertaken by the volunteers and the hard workers of the 'Rural Social Scheme' of initially, Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development and South Tipperary Development Company from 2009. Thanks to all of these and others involved for their generosity and help!

Grange Walks



Grange is a small village in the Slieveardagh Hills on the Tipperary border with Kilkenny. It lies just east of the magnificent ruin of Kilcooly Abbey founded in 1182. Grange derives its name from it being an out-farm or the *Grainseach* (in Gaelic), of Kilcooly. The medieval tower-house castle would have protected the area for the abbey estate.

Grange is acknowledged to be extremely scenic and interesting in its historical heritage. The area is the host to a range of wildlife including fallow deer, red squirrels and many species of native flowers. There are two interlinked looped walks in Grange. The shorter walk is the **Grange Loop** and the longer the **Crag Loop**.

Kilcooly derives its name from the Gaelic, *Cill Chuile*, "the church of the corner" or angle. And the Abbey and all of the Slieveardagh region does indeed lie in a corner between the hills to the east and the bog and on its west. Not for nothing do we call it 'Tipperary's hidden corner'. We hope you enjoy your visit and come again!



The Crag Loop (follow the purple arrows)

Grange village to wood entrance With your back to Hogans Pub, turn left and follow the purple (and green) arrows along the surfaced road. The green arrows are for the shorter Grange Loop. Walk for 500m to reach the entrance to Grangecrag Woods on your right. Turn right here.

Wood entrance to Point 2 Follow the woodland track for 300m to reach the site of an icehouse (see elsewhere on this guide on what an icehouse is) where you veer left. After another 200m you reach a 3-way junction - turn right here, still following the purple and green arrows. Continue to ascend along the forest road to reach a 3-way junction where the green loop turns right onto a grassy trail - BUT you turn sharp left.

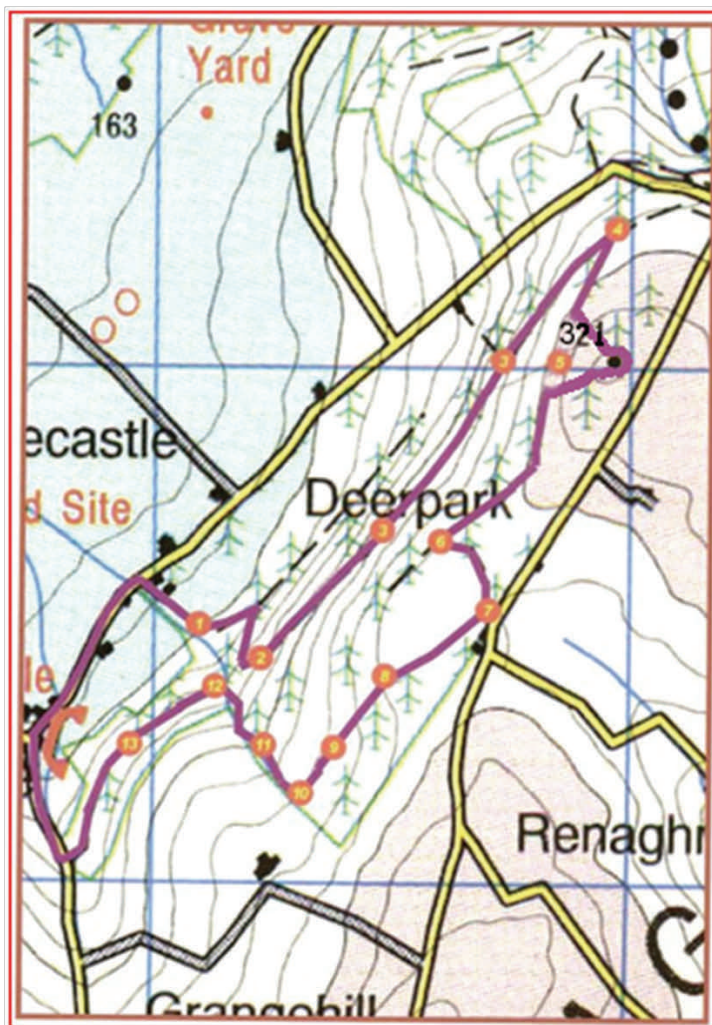
Points 2 to 4 Continue to follow the forestry road as it gently ascends for more than 1km to reach a T-junction where you turn sharp right on to another forestry road.

Points 4 to 5 After 200m you reach a set of steps and track on the left which takes you uphill to reach the impressive Wellington Tower.

At the Wellington Tower monument have a well-deserved rest. Then try to read the inscription on the finely carved limestone dedication stone on its west face. (A brief history of the Tower features in this guide). Walk around its back and discover why it was designed to be viewed from only two sides.

Points 5 to 7 Once finished your viewing at this the highest point of the walk (310 metres) take the other exit track through the trees to the southwest down on to the forestry road. Turn left and follow the road with its magnificent views to the west on your right.

At the path T junction follow the purple arrows and turn to the left. Walk towards the forestry entrance gates. Some fine views of the surrounding countryside open up on your right before you reach the barrier and a junction onto a public road. **Do not exit** on to the public road at the wood entrance- instead veer right & directly back into the forestry through the facing barrier .



Point 7 to 10 Follow this forestry road for about 500m to its conclusion where the forest road ends and narrows on the right to a single track to cross open ground and reach mature broadleaf woodland. Enjoy again the spectacular views to the west.

Points 10 to 12 Shortly after entering the woodland the loop turns right and descends along a stream. You follow criss-crossing by railway sleeper bridges and steps to exit onto a track where it rejoins the green loop and turns left.

Points 12 to 13 Follow the trail for about 150 metres to a fine view over the village of Grange, with Kilcooly Abbey in the middle distance and the Devils Bit Mountain on the western horizon.

Point 13 to Grange village Continue to follow the green and purple arrows along the woodland track for almost 1km to reach a surfaced road. Turn right and downhill here. Enjoy the 300m

Directions to Grange

From the town of Urlingford on the N8, take the R690 in the direction of Mullinahone. After 2km stay on the R690 as the road splits – the R689 goes to Killenaula. Continue for almost 5km with the impressive stone wall of Kilcooly Abbey to your left, to a junction where you turn left (following the wall) off the main road and after 2km enter the village of Grange. The trailhead is located opposite Hogan's Bar.

Walk Information

Ascent	310m/150m
Distance	3 km (Grange Loop); 6km (Crag Loop)
Estimated Time	30 min – 1 hour (Grange); 1.5 hrs - 2hrs (Crag)
Grade	Moderate (Grange); Moderate (Crag)
Minimum Gear	Hiking boots/ stout shoes, raingear, snack & fluid
Services	Grange: grocery shop and 2 public houses. Urlingford (8km) all services
Terrain	Good forestry tracks & woodland trails; but at times parts of Crag Loop can be wet
Trailhead	Hogan's Bar & Shop, Grange, Barna, Co. Tipperary; Map Ref:308563
Map	OS Discovery Map Series Sheet 67,

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