

How to get to the Park...

Ballincollig Regional Park is located six miles from Cork city just north of the N22 Cork-Killarney Road. Coming from Cork city, in Ballincollig, turn right after Healy's Bar, going through the pillars to the Gunpowder Mills (this is the eastern side of the park).

The No 232 bus leaves from the main bus station in Cork and stops right in Ballincollig. Crossing the main road and walking back a few hundred meters toward Cork City leads you to the road that reaches the eastern entrance of the park.

Latest timetables available from the Bus Station at Parnell Place or at www.buseireann.ie

Many thanks to Jenny Webb and Anne Donaldson for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm.



www.CorkGreenmap.org

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Ballincollig Regional Park and its Royal Gunpowder Mills



The Walk

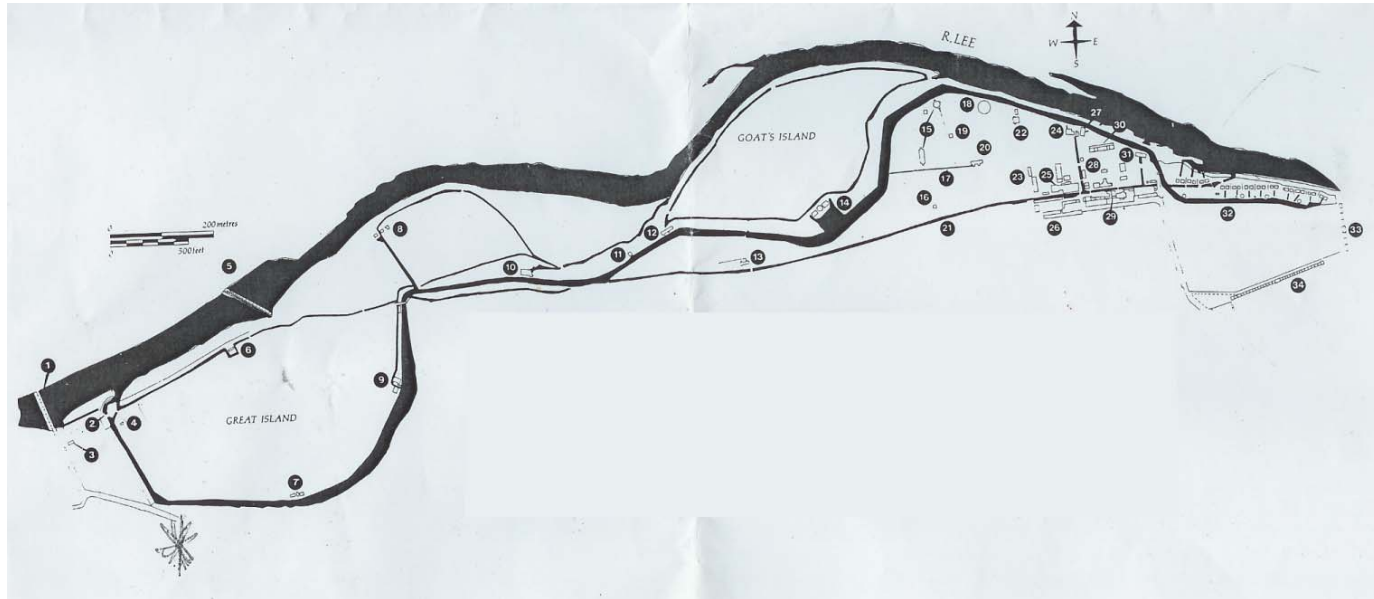
*Time: approximately 3 hours
(there and back)*

The park extends over one and a half miles on the south bank of the river and includes sports fields, woods and meadows, making it popular with dog walkers, joggers and families alike.

Our walk starts on the East side of the park and roughly follows the canal which runs through the park and among the ruins

of one of Ireland's best preserved industrial archaeological sites: the Ballincollig Royal Gunpowder Mills.

The canal is fed by the River Lee, and on its banks and hidden in the woods can be seen the remains of some of the sixty or so stone buildings which made up the mills complex.



Key to Buildings

1. Iniscarra Bridge
2. Sluice Gates
3. Entrance/Gatehouse
4. Press House
5. Weir
6. Corning Mill
7. Dusting House
8. Press House
9. Granulating Mill
10. Press House
11. Magazine
12. Glazing House
13. Grand Watch House
14. Boiler House
15. Magazines 1 & 2
16. Harness Maker's Shop
17. Tramway
18. Coal Store
19. Bagging House
20. Dusting House
21. Original Mill Race
22. Charcoal Burning House
23. Straining Shop
24. Old Sawmill
25. Saltpetre Refinery
26. Stables
27. New Sawmill
28. Cooperage
29. Offices
30. Workshops
31. Charcoal Mill
32. Incorporating Mills
33. Workmens' Cottages
34. Workmens' Cottages

The mills were established in 1794 by Charles Henry Leslie, a leading Cork family. Eleven years later, when Napoleon's control of France posed a grave threat to Britain, the British Board of Ordnance bought the mills from Leslie. The Army Barracks were also built in town to protect the supply of gunpowder. The Ordnance sold the Mills to Tobin in 1834. The mills had lain derelict for 20 years before that. In 1888 the mills were bought by John Briscoe and soon came under the control of Curtis's and Harvey. The mills closed in 1903. Curtis's and Harvey were absorbed into Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) and was bought by Cork County Council in

1974 who developed it into a public park.

At one time the name of Ballincollig was synonymous with the powder mills, and the growth and prosperity of the town was intricately linked with the fortunes of this dangerous industry.

The site was chosen because it was relatively remote from any well populated area and yet it was close enough to Cork to avail of the port facilities needed for the import of the raw materials required to make the black powder. The river valley broadens at this point and the Lee itself provided the source of power to drive the mill machinery.

The Powder Mills Visitors' Centre, which was situated at the eastern end of the site, closed in the summer of 2002 but visitors can walk through the park and discover the story of gunpowder manufacture for themselves. In this, they will soon be helped by a fascinating book due for publishing later this year. *A Hidden History, Guide to the Ballincollig Gunpowder Mills and Regional Park* is co-authored by Jenny Webb and Anne Donaldson.