



Gathabawn Village

# Gathabawn Loop



<b>Trailhead</b>	Gathabawn village
<b>Services</b>	Shop/pub in village
<b>Distance/Time</b>	<b>Long Loop:</b> 11.5km/2.5-3hrs <b>Short Loop:</b> 6.5Km/1.5hrs
<b>High/Ascent</b>	40m
<b>Difficulty</b>	Moderate
<b>Terrain</b>	Open fields, forest tracks, minor roads
<b>To Suit</b>	Average levels of fitness
<b>Minimum Gear</b>	Walking boots, rain gear, fluids and mobile phone
<b>Grid Ref.</b>	OS Sheet 60 S358 686
<b>Additional info</b>	To protect farm animals, no dogs allowed

## Directions to Trailhead (for SatNav enter 'Coolcashin')

Gathabawn Village is located on the L1804 between Freshford and Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny. Watch out for turn on the R693, 0.5 miles on Johnstown side of Freshford. Gathabawn can also be accessed from the R639 (old N8) at crossroads half way between Cullahill and Johnstown (see sign for Gathabawn). **Note: Follow 'Gathabawn Loop' signs only.**

## Walk Directions

**A-B** Starting from the Trailhead, walk downhill with the Church on your left. Pass through the Millennium Park continuing uphill along the road to where the Long and Short Loops separate.

## Long Loop

**B-C** Turn right onto lane and follow the signs, there is a sharp turn uphill, carry on along the lane over stile up to the woods.

**C-D** Just inside the wood, follow the narrow path (possibly wet) uphill to the felled wood. 200 metres into the felled wood, see left turn sign, down to the green fields. Take care here. Across the bridge, follow along the fence on the right, to the stile to Shirley's Lane into Co. Laois.

**D-E** Follow Shirley's Lane down to the road and the Famine Village then cross the stile in the stone wall on the right.

**E-F** Pay close attention to Gathabawn Loop signs across open farmland with several green stiles across Cullahill Mountain. Step over a timber stile to Point F 'The Gooseneck'. The Short Loop re-joins here.

**F-G** The signs will bring you down to some old houses, cross back into County Kilkenny at the next ditch. This final stretch through open farmland to Ballygooney Lane, takes you back uphill and then back down to the Trailhead in Gathabawn.

## Short Loop

**B-F** Continue straight along the road for 2.6km to the bottom of the Gooseneck. See the sign to turn Right, uphill along the steep winding road for 100 metres to Point F and rejoin the Long Loop. Take track on right at Point F and follow directions F-G above.

