



Map Key

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1. Windgap School top of long steps and turn left to next door.
2. Windgap Parochial House

Did You Know? Hidden Gems found in Windgap area can be seen in the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin!

The Kilamery Brooch, Celtic 9th Century, Viking Age, (silver with gold, glass and amber)



In 1850's a silver pin brooch was found by a labourer digging in a field in Kilamery within the parish of Windgap. It was said the man accidentally broke the pin with a blow from the spade. The brooch dates to the ninth century and was made in Ireland.

Lunula - Bronze Age Necklace or Collar (shaped like a crescent moon)



This Lunula was discovered in nearby Coolaghmore (between Windgap and Callan in 1976). Since 1975 the National Museum of Ireland has acquired five gold lunulae- sheet-gold collars of the Early Bronze Age - a significant addition to the national collection.

1 Nature & Walking Trails

Whether you are looking for a leisurely stroll or a more challenging experience you have 2 wonderful trails to choose from.

Village Loop This is a 1.5km leisurely walk, starting at The Lake and through our Fairy Glen and by Feehans Well. A section of this loop, formed part of one of the many routes used by Charles Bianconi Stagecoach between 1804 and 1840.

Bearna Breac Loop For the more adventurous, this is a 9.5 km trail. Experience the freedom of the great outdoors as you meander through the Bearna Breac and its many broad leaf trees, listen to the whispering pines as you inhale the purest air filtered by the woodland and tinged with eucalyptus, all the time enjoying the beautiful views of the picturesque countryside.

Windgap, a hidden gem in Ireland's Ancient East.

The Windgap Community are immensely proud of their local, natural, historical and cultural heritage. As a visitor you will be welcomed warmly and guaranteed a unique and authentic experience, hosting examples from both the Stone and Bronze Ages.

Windgap (Bearn na Gaoithe) is a village in County Kilkenny located in the South Western part of Kilkenny on the border with Tipperary. The village is located on the R689 regional road, the nearest main road being the N76 from Kilkenny to Clonmel.

Windgap (Bearn na Gaoithe) was named for its location on a pass through hills east of Slievenamon, and is one of the 7 gaps of *Siabh Dile* (the ancient name for Slievenamon). The landscape of Windgap is dominated by steep hills and large wooded areas, (Bearna Breac and *Carrig na Capall*). It lies in a former slate-quarrying district spanning the Kilkenny / Tipperary border.



Explore the Undiscovered

www.windgap.ie
<https://www.facebook.com/windgap.tidytowns>
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Photos kindly provided by: National Museum of Ireland and Dylan Vaughan Photography.

Welcome to **Windgap** Visitor guide



A trail of **Heritage, History** and Beauty

2 Feehan's Well

Feehan's Well is of significant historical importance to the people of Windgap. The villagers obtained their spring water from this Well, as it was the only water supply to the village until 1875 when the Village Water Pump was installed at the upper village. However, Feehan's Well continued as the only water supply to the School until 1964.



3 Old League House

The Irish National Land League was an Irish Political Organisation of the late 19th century, which sought to help poor tenant farmers. Its primary aim was to abolish landlordism in Ireland and enable tenant farmers to own the land they worked on. The Land War in Irish history was a period of agitation in rural Ireland in the 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s.

The League House here in Windgap was built in 1881 to shelter a farming family evicted from their lands. This house is one of the few remaining League Houses in Ireland today.



4 Reflective Walk (Calvary Grotto)

This amazing Grotto is the largest in Europe, covering 4 acres. Situated on a hill overlooking the village it contains many interesting walkways. You will find Italian mosaic featuring three languages and Ogham Stones as well as pathways decorated with quartz. The Grotto was built over a number of years between 1915 and 1922 by local stone masons and parishioners under the expert guidance of Parish Priest, Fr. James Brennan. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Comeragh Mountains in Co. Waterford and Slievenamon in Co. Tipperary.



5 Bell Tower

The Bell, bearing the name of our Diocesan Patron, St. Kieran, was presented to Windgap Parish by Daniel Brennan, (brother of Fr. James Brennan Parish Priest) who resided in Newtown, Sydney, Australia and was erected in position by the faithful people of our parish. It was solemnly blessed by Bishop Abraham Brownrigg, Bishop of Ossary on Ascension Day, 1915.



6 Ogham Head Stones

Ogham Stones are found both in Windgap & (Lamogue Graveyard 3km) The Ogham Stones in Lamogue are believed to be similar to those found scattered throughout Ireland and Britain. Mainly standing stones, their inscription contain the earliest form of writing in Irish, they date primarily from the 4th & 5th centuries. The Ogham Headstones in Windgap Graveyard date back to the 1800s The writing on these Headstones is known as Scholastic Ogham.



7 Village Water Pump

This free standing cast-iron water pump c. 1875 (now disused) with its elegant attributes including the curvilinear handle, is of primary significance, as a reminder of the services put in place to provide water from a local source in the period before the development of mains systems.



8 Old Village Forge

The Walsh Family, who originally came from Kilcash in Co. Tipperary, carried on a thriving business at The Village Forge from the late 1800's until it finally closed its doors in mid 1970's. The Blacksmith was a central figure in our community, a wonderful craftsman who fabricated objects out of iron by hot and cold forging on an anvil and specializing in the forging of shoes for horses.

Several examples of the Blacksmith's work, can be seen throughout our village and also depicted on the adjacent Sculpture.



9 Knockroe Passage Tombs

Dating back to Stone Age Ireland, circa 4000BC, Knockroe is one of the most significant tombs outside of the Boyne Valley. The tomb is unusual in that it is the only tomb with passages aligned to both the rising and setting sun of the Winter Solstice (December 21st). This is now an annual celebration on our Calendar. The site is now owned and maintained by the OPW. (4km from Village)



10 Slate Quarries

The Ormonde and Victoria Quarries span both sides of the Linguan River, with the Ormonde Quarry on the Kilkenny side and the Victoria Quarry on the Tipperary side. Slate was quarried in the Slate Quarries from the 14th Century onwards and closed in 1920. Under the new Free State Government, who were anxious to promote indigenous industries, the Quarries were reopened in 1926.

There were many difficulties including the depth of the dig and the enterprise was unable to stay viable. The Quarry finally closed in 1935 and with it died the culture that it created. Slate from this site was used in the building of Kells Priory, Ormonde Castle in Carrick-on-Suir and most notably the Houses of Parliament in London. The Quarry now hosts an outdoor gallery of sculptures. (5km from Village)



11 Kilamery Church & High Cross

This is the site of a famous monastery circa 632 under the abbacy of St Gobain Fionn. Only 3 walls and a tower remain from the church. The High Cross which was carved in 9th Century is part of a group of High Crosses of Western Ossary. Similar High Crosses can be seen in the surrounding areas of Ahenny, Kilkieran and Kilree. An inscribed Cross Slab, Two Bullauns and a Holy Well are also located here.

A brooch was discovered on this site in 1854. It is a beautiful example of silver and glass workmanship from the 9th century. This brooch can be seen in the National Museum in Dublin. This cemetery is also the burial site of members of the 1798 Rising, who died in nearby Carrigmo-clear, the only site of the Rising in Munster. (4.5 km from Village).

Please do not litter or disturb the monuments.

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