

THE ANNESLEY GARDEN AND ARBORETUM

The walled Annesley Garden provides a central focal point for the National Arboretum. The magnificent collection of trees and shrubs are set in beautifully landscaped surroundings and incorporate fountains, ponds, ornamental greenhouses and broad sweeping vistas. Radiating from the Annesley Garden are the Spring Garden, the Rhododendron Wood, the Winter Garden, the Autumn Wood and the Cypress Pond.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Opening Hours: The Forest Park is open every day of the year from 10.00am until sunset.

Admission: Charges are displayed at the entrance to the Park.

Services & Facilities

- Caravanning and Camping Sites.
- Picnic and Barbecue areas.
- The Grange Coffee House.
- Way-marked Trails.
- Horse riding routes.
- Fishing.
- Guided Tours (bookable by organised groups).
- Orienteering routes.
- Disabled facilities.
- Special events (arranged by permit).

If you have any special needs arising from a disability, Forest Service will be happy to assist, where we can.

For further information and bookings contact:
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CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK




FOREST SERVICE

CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK

The Park covers 460 hectares of natural beauty enhanced by diverse woodland and a variety of attractive man made features, all of which are accessible to the visitor on foot.

The main features of the Park are:

- a mile long lake, ringed by hills clothed in broadleaved and coniferous woodland and open areas of mature parkland.
- the Annesley Garden and Arboretum which comprise a series of attractive and distinctive features of which the walled garden provides a magnificent focal point.
- a Castle, built in the Scottish baronial style, constructed from Ballymagreehan granite, sits at the base of the wooded slopes and overlooks the lake. The castle is now in use as a conference centre.
- the Grange Yard, a former farmstead, built about 1720 and consists of three courtyards in the Queen Anne style of architecture. The entrance to the first and best preserved yard is flanked by two Napoleonic eagles. The buildings house the Grange Coffee House.
- the Peace Maze is the newest addition to the Forest Park and has been funded as a Peace and Reconciliation project. Have an attempt at solving the largest and longest hedge maze in the world, covering 1 hectare and 3.5kms of path. A number of intriguing features may be encountered in the quest to reach the goal, from which you are rewarded with a spectacular view. The Peace Maze is adjacent to the main car park.



FOREST TRAILS

Blue Path

- No steps or gullies.
- Slight gradient (1:12 max).
- Edges generally defined.
- No overhanging branches.
- Firm surface with some loose material.
- Rest Areas generally every 300m.
- Way-finding Markers every 300m.
- Distance to go Markers every 300m.

Red Trail

- Steps, gullies, tree roots
- Moderate gradient (1:4)
- Generally undefined edges
- Overhanging branches
- Broken surface material
- Some Rest Areas at irregular intervals
- Way-finding Markers at trail junctions
- Distance to go Markers at trail junctions

Black Trail

- Steps, gullies, fences, streams, boulders
- Severe gradients
- Generally undefined edges
- Overhanging branches
- All types of terrain
- Some Rest Areas at irregular intervals
- Way-finding Markers at trail junctions
- Distance "To go" Markers at trail junctions.



WAY-MARKED TRAILS

Three way-marked trails of varying length wind through the forest leading you into some of the Park's most beautiful wooded areas.

Blue - Lake Path and Family Cycling (3.8km)



This path circumnavigates Castlewellan Lake providing good views of Slievenaslat and Castlewellan Castle. Points of interest along this path are the Ice House, various sculpted features and the Autumn Wood.

The Family Cycling route follows this path.

Red - Cypress Pond Trail (5.8km)



The initial part of the trail follows the former stagecoach route known locally as the Crow Road where striking views of the northern Mourne Mountains can be glimpsed before reaching Castlewellan Lake. There are delightful lake views heading to the Cypress Pond and the National Arboretum where a visit to the Annesley Garden is a must. The return route to the car park offers expansive views of the lake, castle and the historic open parkland.

Black - Slievenaslat Trail (7.6km)



Leading off the blue path the black trail enters the mainly coniferous plantation where the remnants of the Moorish Tower can be viewed. There are openings in the forest with impressive vistas of the farmland on and around Slievenaboley, Legananny Mountains and Slieve Croob. Further east there are vistas where the lake can be viewed as the trail reaches its highest point by Slievenaslat and the Mountain Lake. The return trail passes by the Winter and Annesley Gardens, open parkland, the lake and castle.

Parts of these trails are used for horse riding.

This symbol indicates those sections



Shorter informal walks are possible around the gardens area of the Park.