

Deer Enclosure, Heritage Poultry and Rare Animal Breeds Collection

The deer and rare breeds enclosure are on what is part of the remnant open parkland that would have been an important landscape feature of the Earl of Gosford's Estate. The Forest Service has maintained this historic landscape feature and the Red Deer are one of the three varieties found in Ireland.

The heritage poultry are a collection of some of the original poultry breeds that many of our modern fowl are derived from.



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: Caravanning and Camping Sites.
Picnic and Barbecue areas.
Tea House and Shop.
Way-marked Trails.
Horse-riding routes.
Guided Tours (bookable by organised groups).
Orienteering routes.
Disabled facilities.
Special events (arranged by permit).
Function Hall.

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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GOSFORD FOREST PARK




FOREST SERVICE

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In 1958 the Forest Service acquired what was Gosford Demesne. Prior to this the Earls of Gosford owned the Estate for several centuries. They were descendants of the Acheson family who established woodland, parkland and edifices on the Estate. Gosford Forest Park offers its visitors paths and trails to see these historical features and the mix of conifer and broadleaf woodlands with its diverse flora and fauna.

The Arboretum

A variety of individual, conifer and broadleaf tree species from around the world, many having reaching over 150 years of age. At the northern end of the arboretum flowering shrubs and plants with a sundial at its focal point can be visited beside the Walled Garden.

Mill Ponds and Gatehouse

Prior to the availability of electricity other methods were used to provide power. The mill wheel in the car park was powered driven by water to process grain. To ensure a steady supply of water the millponds were created to hold a constant water supply. Although their use as millponds is redundant they offer an ideal environment for flora and fauna that thrive in a water habitat.

Literary Legend

Dean Swift visited here between 1728 and 1730, as he was a family friend of the Acheson family. He was one of the deans of St. Patrick's in Dublin but probably is more widely known as the author of Gulliver's Travels and other literary articles. Dean Swift's Well became known as the Holy Well when pilgrims brought by trains came here for cures from the water. The Dean Swift chair also marks this gentleman's visits to Gosford and Draper's Hill takes its name from his literary pseudonym.



FOREST TRAILS



WAY-MARKED TRAILS

Two way-marked trails of varying lengths wind through the forest leading into some of the parks most beautiful wooded and tranquil areas. These trails follow a circular route and are sign-posted from the Wheel car park.

Blue: Castle Path 2km

This path takes in the Arboretum and southern end of the Walled Garden before reaching the boundary of the privately owned Gosford Castle. From here the path leads through oak and Norway spruce plantations returning to the car park by the rare breed and heritage poultry enclosures and café.

Red: Greer's Trail 4.2km

Dean Swift's Well and Chair can be viewed along the Drumlack River before reaching the millpond ponds. The trail enters the beech woodland on Draper's hill and then skirts around the boundary of Gosford Castle into coniferous forest plantations composed mainly of Norway spruce. On the return to the car park the see the grassy mound of what remains of Greer's Fort (whose name is taken by a family of farmers who came here in the early 1600s) and the deer and heritage poultry enclosures.

Red 1: Crunaght Trail 6.2km

Branching south from Greer's Trail through Norway spruce and some broadleaf woodland, crossing over the southern part of Drumlack river. After the second river crossing point the trail enters into the middle of the open parkland through the deer and rare breed enclosures before returning towards the car park.

Family Cycling Trail 6.6km

This route utilises existing forest paths, roads and two sections of newly built trail that lead past the millponds, arboretum, Greer's Fort, extensive conifer forest and the deer enclosure.

Parts of these trails are used for horse riding. This symbol indicates those sections.

Shorter informal walks are possible around the arboretum and garden area of the Forest Park.