

Outstanding Beauty

Tollymore resides in the heart of the designated Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The diversity of landscape within the park also provides a wide range of habitats enhancing local and national bio-diversity. One of the many species of wildlife present within Tollymore is the native red squirrel. Forest Service proactively manages Tollymore to ensure the survival of this endangered species.



TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK

Forest Service interests here date back to 1930 with the first acquisition of the former privately owned Roden Estate, and has continued the forest management that was begun by the Earls of Clanbrassil. In 1955 the forest was opened as the first Forest Park in Ireland to encourage the general public to come and visit the forest environment and enjoy its natural beauty. With the backdrop of the Mourne Mountains, the rivers and the afforested hills offer a recreational resource that is unparalleled within the province.

Meeting of the Waters

Tollymore Forest Park's two rivers, the Shimna and the Spinkwee, join together at the Meeting of the Waters. The Shimna is famed for its migrating native salmon. The Spinkwee is also known as the Cascade due to a narrow gorge which, during high water levels, has a great volume of water cascading through it. Both offer enjoyable vistas along their banks, which vary infinitely throughout the four seasons.

The Drinns

These are the two distinct hills clearly seen from the main carpark. The easterly Drinn is the highest point within the Forest Park at 255m. The Curraghard viewpoint on the Drinns offers a resting spot to view the expansive view of the northern Mourne, Dundrum Bay and Slieve Croob.

Bridges

There are 16 bridges in the Forest Park varying in age from the more recently constructed wooden footbridges to the older stone bridges dating back to previous centuries. The Old Bridge is aptly named as it was the first of the present structures to be constructed in 1726 by James Hamilton. The Ivy Bridge is the most elaborate of the structures built in 1780 and James Hamilton, 2nd Earl of Clanbrassil, went on to build Foley's Bridge in 1787. Parnell's bridge, the last of the stone bridges constructed within the forest, was built in 1842 in recognition of Sir John Parnell's visits to Tollymore in the latter half of the 18th century.

Hermitage

Built into the edge of a gorge on the Shimna River this stone structure was built in the 1770s by James Hamilton, 2nd Earl of Clanbrassil. When the lady gentry of the day needed shelter they would sit inside the Hermitage while the gentlemen fished for salmon in the Shimna below.

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.
- Way-marked Trails.
- Horse-riding by permit.
- Fishing by permit.
- Guided Tours (bookable by organised groups).
- 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.

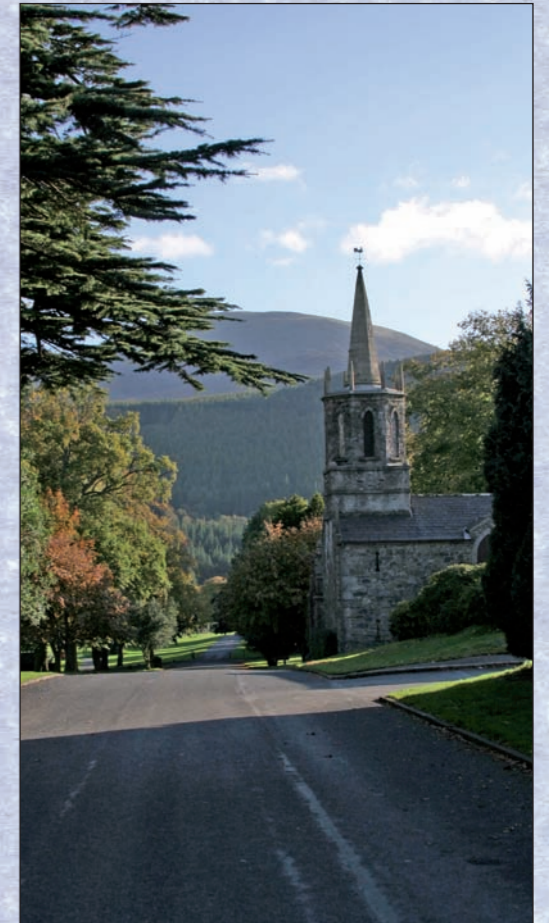
For further information and bookings contact:
The Forester in Charge, Castlewellsan, Co. Down,
BT31 9BU. Telephone: 028 4372 2428
or 028 4377 2246

www.forestserviceni.gov.uk



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TOLLYMORE FOREST PARK



WAY-MARKED TRAILS

Four way-marked trails of varying lengths take the visitor on a tour of the Parks most beautiful areas. Strong footwear is recommended.

Arboretum Path 0.7Km



Tollymore arboretum is the one of the oldest known arboreta in Ireland. Planting began in 1752 as a Georgian landscape feature and this path meanders past various species of tree from around the world including the remnants of a lightning struck Giant Redwood and a thickly barked cork tree.

River Trail 5.2Km



Down the Azalea Walk towards the Shimna river to the Hermitage this trail passes through both conifer and broadleaved woodland before crossing the Shimna at Parnell's bridge. Dramatic views of the Pot of Legawherry can be seen from the trail. There is an optional spur to the White Fort Cashel before following the Spinkwee River downstream, past the cascades and back to the Meeting of the Waters. The trail proceeds through conifer plantations, past the duck pond and crosses the Shimna River over the Old Bridge, returning to the car park via the Green Rig.

Mountain Trail 8.8Km



Passing through the Forest Plots this trail enters a beech woodland, which in the spring is covered in bluebells. The route runs parallel with the Shimna River before crossing it over the Boundary Bridge. The trail continues along one of the Shimna's tributaries through mature conifer forest. Good views of Luke's mountain can be had as the trail reaches the boundary wall before zigzagging back toward the Spinkwee River, crossing at the Hore's bridge. The second half of the trail passes through conifer plantations at various stages of maturity before reaching the second crossing point of the Shimna River at the Ivy Bridge. The return route to the car park proceeds along the old river drive passing Foley's bridge and the dramatic Shimna Gorge before returning up the Green Rig.

Drinns Trail 4.8Km



This additional Black trail adds a further 4.8 Km by circumnavigating the Drinns running along the boundary wall and past conifer forest to the Curraghard viewpoint. Stunning views of Bryansford, Castlewellan and Slieve Croob are seen on the return route to the second half of the Mountain Trail.

FOREST TRAILS

