

Carton House Estate... explore its rich diversity.



Watch out for...

Wildlife

The Estate's rich, rolling grassland, meandering rivers and wild wooded areas are home to a rich diversity of native animals and birds. We've created and nurtured specific habitats so that the deer, foxes, badgers, squirrels and hares feel right at home. We're also delighted to have an otter set tucked into the reeds beside **Tom's Weir**. Follow the Yellow Walk down through **River Meadow** and you might catch a glimpse of them. But be very quiet, they're notoriously shy!



Birds

Carton has an impressive range of birds including herons, cormorants, kingfishers and swans. Many migratory birds such as Brent geese like to come and holiday with us in the winter and there's a flurry of woodland favourites too. Don't forget to bring your binoculars!

The Estate boasts some magnificent birds of prey including falcons, hawks and buzzards. Look carefully and you might see one hovering over its next snack, or soaring high in the sky over Tyrconnell Tower.



Plants and Flowers

Parts of the Carton Estate have a Designated Special Area of Conservation Status. As a result of this, we've been able to protect and nurture many exotic trees, plants and flowers, brought back to Carton House over the years by adventurous botanists.

For tree lovers we have magnificent Oriental Planes, Persian Ironwoods, Tiger Spruce and Yellow Oak. We've also planted acres of native Irish species - Beech, Oak and Ash. The Yellow Walk borders 37 acres of native trees. In fact a total of 100,000 trees were planted as part of our woodland regeneration project. The deer love to hide in this untamed part of the Estate.

Each season brings its own beauty to our woodland and glades - snowdrops, crocuses, bluebells and carpets of pungent wild garlic.

The Gardens

Formal gardens were a statement of the Estate owner's position in society. The more formal the gardens, the more lofty your status! Huge amounts of work went into creating these incredibly ornate gardens. There were also private areas created for the family to enjoy.

Carton boasts a fine formal garden which has impressive sweeping views across the estate. The garden is a wonderful example of the fine topiary that was very much in fashion at the time. In addition, many acres were left untamed for hunting deer. The thunder of hooves and the call of the bugle was a common sound across the estate, as the gentry took part in the thrill of the hunt.



Walking Trails

The Red Walk

3km

This walk takes you past some of Carton's most beautiful buildings and secret hideaways. Using the two Oriental Planes as your starting point, take the original Carriage Walk down towards the Boathouse. The Walk then follows the Rye Water down to the Black Bridges and Shell Cottage before climbing Tyrconnell Tower before bringing you back to the Formal Gardens.



The Yellow Walk

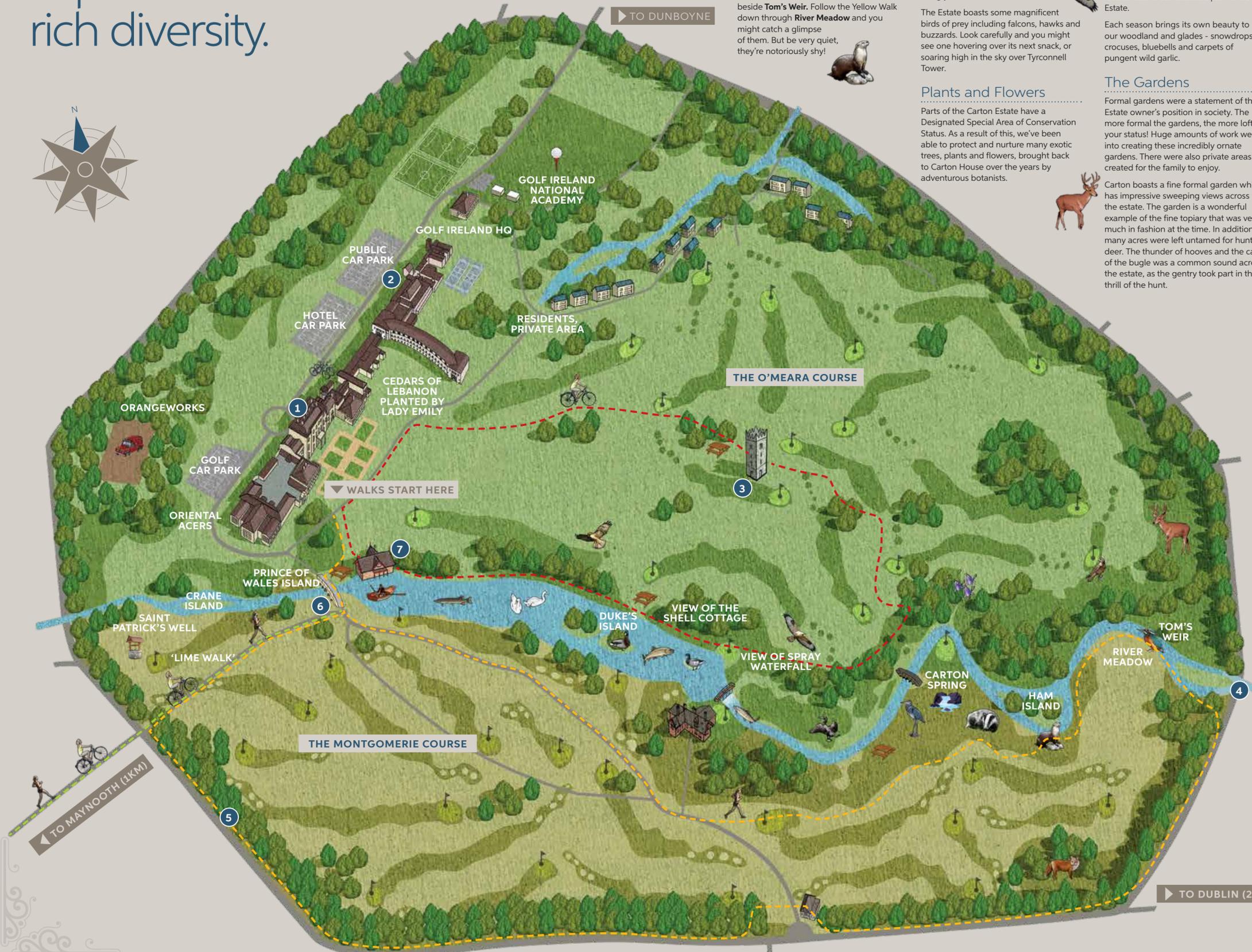
6.5km

This walk meanders through the Montgomerie Course before swinging left and hugging the boundary of the Estate. The Yellow Walk will take you past our native tree plantation, where our resident deer love to hide. This Trail is great for jogging. Parts of it are semi-wild so don't forget to wear sensible shoes or boots.



The Lime Walk

This beautiful 20 minute walk leads directly from the Estate into the historic town of Maynooth. Once a tree-lined avenue leading up to the main House, the Walk was donated to the people of Maynooth by former owners, the Brocketts.



1 The House

The Gold Salon
This barrel-vaulted room has a gloriously ornate Baroque style throughout, with stucco work crafted by the famous Franchini Brothers of Switzerland. Have a look at the ceiling; it's covered in intricate gold swirls and delicate motifs.

The Chinese Boudoir
It's hard to not be impressed when you enter the Chinese Room. Unapologetically extravagant, this room once housed the four-poster bed in which Queen Victoria slept. The stunning gilt-wood and hand-drawn papyrus wallpaper were commissioned from China by Lady Emily. *viewing by appointment only.

The Print Room
Take a little time out to study some of the characters in Carton's history including the 1st Duke and Duchess, James and Emily or one of their children, the famous Irish Patriot Lord Edward FitzGerald. You can also examine the famous FitzGerald Coat of Arms adorned with the "monkeys" and view the Manor Of Maynooth book proudly displayed.

The Bell Room
The Bell Room has an impressive array of bells, each carefully labeled so that when it rang, the servants knew exactly what room they were being summoned to.

2 The Water Tower

Water was pumped in here from all the rivers in the estate. Water was harnessed as a main source of power on the Estate. Even the Gold Salon's magnificent organ used water power. How ingenious!

3 Tyrconnell Tower

This magnificent folly was originally built by Richard Talbot, 1st Earl of Tyrconnell, then rebuilt as a famine relief project. The tower stands proudly, like a giant chess piece, at the top of a grassy hill. In the distance is Connolly's Folly, capped by a distinctive obelisk. This was built on land that was originally part of the Carton Estate.



4 The Black Bridges

The Black Bridges are made from black limestone found on the estate.

5 Hooker's Gate

Used to smuggle ladies of the night into the estate for clandestine trysts!

6 The White Bridge

Called after the limestone that it was made from and designed by Thomas Ivory.

7 The Boat House

The Boathouse was built in mid-18th century. Boats used to row from here down the lake, past Duke's Island and Ham Island mooring at Shell Cottage.

