

CASTLETOWN

HOUSE, COURTYARD CAFÉ, PARKLANDS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE CENTRE

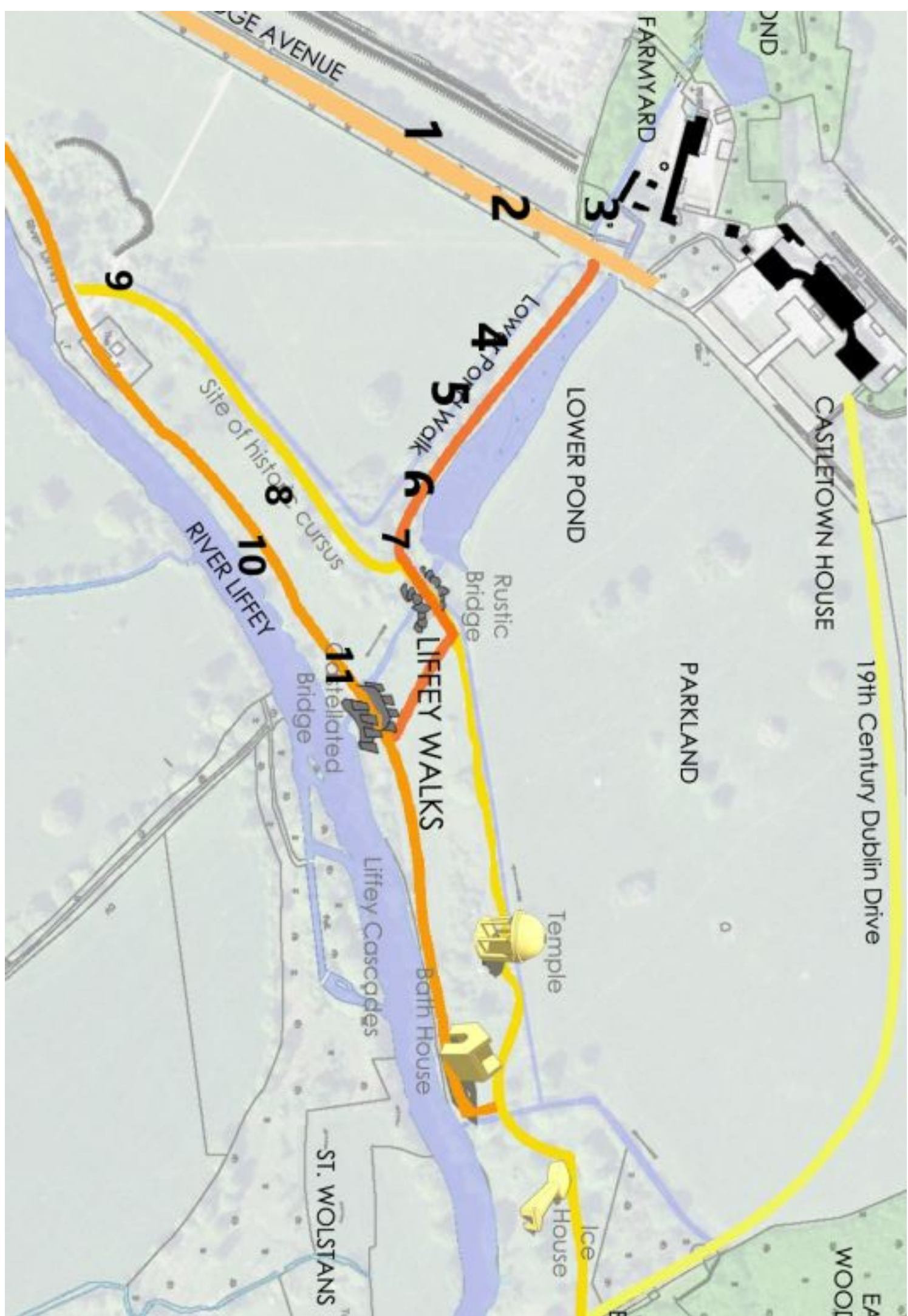
Castletown's TREEmendous Tree Trail



OPW

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GE AVENUE

FARMYARD

DND

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Site of historical cursus

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7

RIVER LIFFEY

LOWER POND

CASTLETOWN HOUSE

Rustic Bridge

LIFFEY WALKS

PARKLAND

19th Century Dublin Drive

Ornate Bridge

11

Temple

Liffey Cascades

Bath House

ST. WOLSTANS

Ice House

EA WOOL



Squirrels help plant oaks by burying acorns in Autumn and forgetting where they put them. That is why you sometimes find oaks growing a long way away from their parents!

COMMON OAK / ENGLISH OAK



Latin: Quercus Rabur Irish: Dair Ghallda

King Charles II ruled over England (and Ireland of course) from 1630 - 1685.

During his time as King, he made many enemies including a man named Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell led a rebellion against Charles II and defeated him in battle. Charles survived but had to go into hiding.

In great danger wherever he went, Charles took on the disguise of a woodsman. On another occasion, fearing for his safety, his supporters encouraged him to hide in an oak tree! Eventually he fled to France.

The Oak tree you see here is actually older than the house which was built 1722 - 1729.

Cromwell died in 1658 and two years later in 1660, Charles II came back to England as king. He celebrated his return with a Royal Oak Day.

It is a good thing Charles did survive because his great granddaughter, Lady Louisa married Tom Conolly of Castletown House and she spent her life renovating the house and designing the parklands you see today.

Did you know?

There are over 500 types of oak tree! One big oak tree can be home for over 200 mammals and insects. The acorns are also eaten by animals like mice and squirrels. No wonder the oak is known as the KING of the forest!



Goats, pigs, sheep and cows love lime leaves! Sometimes these leaves when collected were fed to the animals in winter. However, it was believed that if a cow ate too many lime leaves it would make their milk bitter.

The inner bark of the lime tree is called bast and it is flexible. In the past it was used to make rope and string products.

LIME TREE

2

Latin : Tilia x Europaea Irish: Teile

There are many different types of Lime tree. The lime tree you see here is called the common lime. It is a popular tree for avenues because of its height and speed of growth. They can grow between 33 and 60 centimetres a year up to 39 metres tall.

On sunny days in June you can hear thousands of bees buzzing on the flowers high up in the trees.

Some people think lime trees are not the best for avenues. The lime tree produces lots of honeydew which is a thick sticky sap and sometimes this can drip off the trees. Aphids love these trees as they feed on the sticky sap.

Lime trees produce lots of leaves and every Autumn the servants would have to clear the leaves from the avenue. Look how long it is! That would take a really long time.



Yew trees can live a very long time, some living up to 2000 years! In Ireland, three of our oldest trees are Yew trees and one is near here. the Silken Thomas tree in Maynooth is said to be 800 years old!

Did you know that yew seeds can be slow to germinate? The best seeds are those that have been eaten by birds and pass through their tummies out the far side!

YEW TREE

3

Latin: Taxus Baccata Irish: Iúr

The Yew is an evergreen tree with dark green foliage and red berries. Many parts of the yew tree are poisonous. A small amount of Yew leaves and berries is enough to kill a horse!

Yew trees can be found planted close to castles. One reason for this is Yew wood was used to make weapons, especially longbows. The wood of a yew tree has just the right 'springiness' or flexibility to make longbows. In fact, England nearly ran out of yew for its longbows so in 1472 a law was passed that every ship coming to England had to bring timber to make bows.

Yew trees are very important in Ireland. They are mentioned in Irish myths and legends as having almost magical powers. Yew trees also inspired many Irish place names. For example, Mayo (Maigh Eo) = Plain of the Yew.

The red berries are very high in Vitamin C and are loved by birds such as greenfinch and starlings.



The Scots Pine can reach heights of up to 40 metres and can live 150 - 300 years.

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SCOTS PINE

Latin: Pinus Sylvestra Irish: Péine Albanach

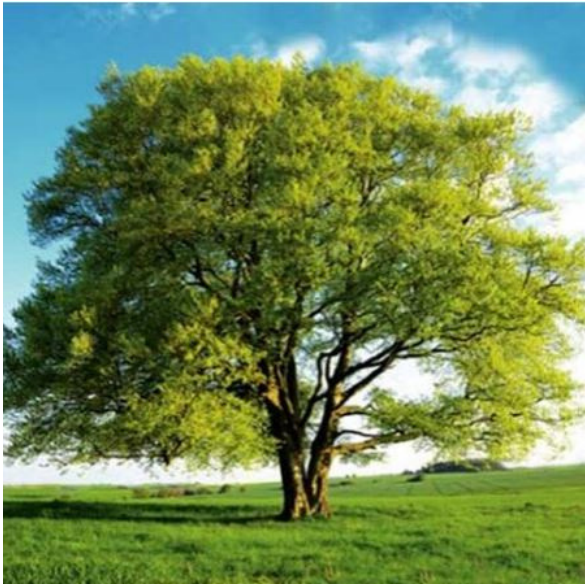
Pine trees were used to build ships. Pine trees have a high resin content in their sap. This means the wood will take a very long time to decay so is perfect for being used to build ships. The tall, straight and flexible trunks are perfect for masts.

The Scots Pine first grew in Ireland just after the last Ice Age ended nearly 12,000 years ago.

Then, about 4,000 years ago, it began to decline but was re-introduced in the 17th century.

It was believed that when the moon looked smaller in the sky, pine trees should not be cut to build ships. It was said that the moon affected the resin in the wood just as the moon affects the tide!

The Scots Pine is Scotland's National Tree and the only timber producing conifer native to Scotland so it is a very important part of Scotland's history and many placenames are inspired by the tree.



The Beech tree is native to Asia, North America and parts of Europe.

BEECH TREE

5

Latin: Fagus Sylvatica Irish: Crann Féa

Beech trees produce beech nuts.

They ripen in September and October. Mice, birds and squirrels love them. Many years ago, beech nuts were used as food for cattle and pigs.

People also use the nuts to make oil. This oil is used in some countries in place of butter. It is important to know how to do this properly because if done incorrectly it can make you sick!

Beech trees provide food and homes for lots of wildlife. The bark is home to a variety of fungi, mosses and lichens. The seeds are eaten by mice, voles, squirrel and birds. caterpillars eat the leaves and a beech woodland makes the perfect habitat for lots of butterflies!

Beech trees have shallow roots. They like to grow near streams and can grow for hundreds of years!



Did you know? In English and Welsh mythology the Elm tree is associated with the underworld. It is also said that fairies and elves live in the branches of the elm tree.

WYCH ELM

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Latin: Ulmus Glabra Irish: Leamhán Sléibhe

Wych comes from the old English word *wice* meaning flexible or bendy. The Wych elm is known for its bendiness and it was often used to make weapons in the past. The Welsh used to use Wych rather than Yew wood to make their longbows.

In the past, people used the bark of the elm tree in medicine. The inner bark was boiled or chewed to cure sore throats or colds. The bark is also believed to help cure diarrhoea, clean wounds and help heal burns.

Other historical uses for Elm were making twine, dyeing wool and even making water pipes! In London, water pipes of elm were discovered underground in 1930. the pipes, laid in 1613 had been in use for over 300 years.



The Horse Chestnut can live for up to 300 years and can grow up to 40metres.

HORSE CHESTNUT

7

Latin: Aesculus Hippocastanum Irish: Crann cnó Capaill

The horse chestnut tree is famous for its conkers. Every Autumn, children gather conkers and use them for conker games. In 1914 when Britain went to war with Germany, the British government encouraged everyone to gather conkers to use in weapon making!

The conkers could be used to make acetone which was an ingredient in a material called cordite which was used to fire shells and bullets.

During the Second World War, a Dutch girl named Anne Frank spent many years hiding from the Nazis with her family in Amsterdam. In her now famous diary, she wrote about a Horse Chestnut tree she could see from her window.

The tree fell in a storm in 2010 but seedlings from it were brought to the United States and donated to schools and organisations named in her memory.



In California, the Wellingtonias are so big that tunnels have been dug through them for cars to drive through!

WELLINGTONIA



Latin: Sequoidendron Giganteum Irish: Ruachrann Mara

In the 19th century, trees were a big business, particularly big trees. Wealthy people planted them in their estates to show off. In America, a man named Dr. Albert Kellogg helped to discover big trees located near San Francisco. Word got out about these trees and lots of people went to see them. One of them, William Lobb collected lots of seeds and brought them back to England.

Having seen the tree in 1852, Lobb rushed back to England in the hopes of being credited with its discovery and being allowed to name it.

Kellogg, meanwhile tried to do the same and name it Washingtonia after George Washington.

Kellogg was too late, however and Lobb named the tree Wellingtonia after the famous General, Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington who was born not far from here in Trim.

A big row ensued and eventually the tree was given the Latin name Sequoidendron Giganteum.



Did you know? Hans Christian Anderson wrote a Christmas story about the Silver Fir tree!

SILVER FIR

9

Latin: Abies Alba Irish: Giúis Geal

Legend has it that Martin Luther is responsible for the very first modern Christmas tree! Martin Luther, living in 16th century Germany, appears to have been fond of walking. One cold winter night, Luther decided to go for a walk in the forest and as he walked, he admired the way he could see the stars twinkling through the branches of the fir trees.

Seeking to replicate the scene in his home, he chopped down a silver fir tree and brought it home where he decorated it with candles to replicate the starlight.

The idea spread to England and Ireland in the nineteenth century when Queen Victoria's German husband Albert introduced the idea to the Royal household.



Bhutan, the home of the Bhutan Pine tree, broke the Guinness World Record of most trees planted in an hour. 100 people planted 49,672 trees.

BHUTAN PINE

10

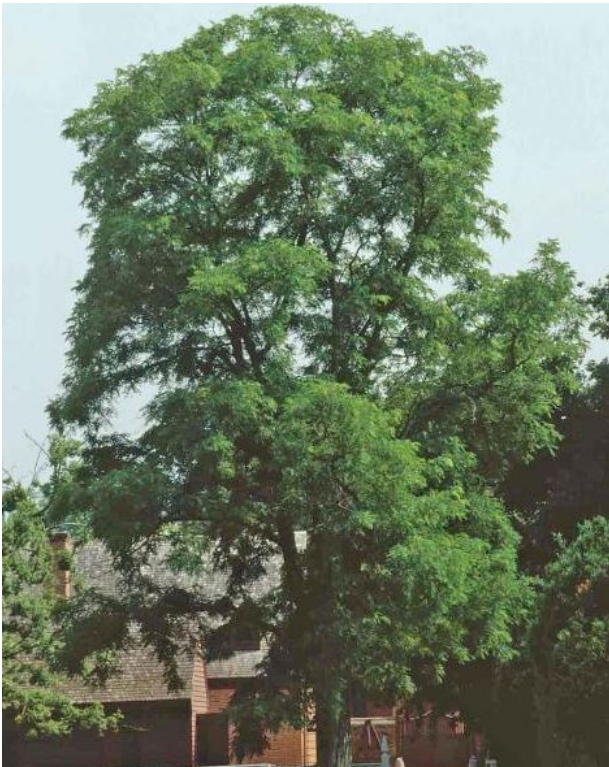
Latin: Pinus Wallichiana Irish: Péine Bútánach

The Bhutan Pine can be found in the Himalayan mountains. It is native to Afghanistan, Northern India, Tibet and parts of China.

A Danish botanist, Dr Nathaniel Wallich brought the Bhutan Pine to Europe in the early nineteenth century. Wallich travelled around India, all over Asia and Africa recording different trees and plants.

If you look above at the Latin name for Bhutan Pine you will see Wallich's name. The tree was named after him because he brought the tree to Europe.

Bhutan Pine grows to 30 - 70 metres. It became popular in Europe because of its size and also because it produces pretty pine cones. You will often see it growing on country house estates.



The flowers of the Black Locust are used by bees to make honey called acacia honey.

BLACK LOCUST

11

Latin: Robinia Pseudoacacia Irish: Crann Lócaiste

The Black Locust tree comes from North America and was brought to England in 1636.

They are very important as the wood is so strong and is very rot resistant. The tree itself can be very hard to chop down.

In 1814, the British and Americans fought a big naval battle and it is said the American ships were much stronger than the British. The Americans had used black locust timber for the nails of their ships while the British had used oak.