

Phoenix Park

Event Programme 2024



Heritage Ireland
OPW





Welcome

Through our Phoenix Park Programme 2024, the Office of Public Works wants to provide a broad range of exhibitions/talks/walks/events that are interesting, scientific, educational, fun and above all else family orientated to our visitors. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Visitor Centre complex became a major resource for many people to come and enjoy a safe environment for exercise, nature, peace and tranquillity with family and friends and in September 2022 the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre celebrated 30 years open. Free guided tours delivered by OPW guides.

The centre is located on the grounds of Ashtown Demesne and consists of an interpretive centre, exhibition space, walled garden and playground. The Victorian Walled Garden now attracts over half a million visitors per year. The gardens are managed and maintained using organic principles and it is hoped that it will inspire and educate both young and old on the horticultural skill involved in growing fruit, vegetables and flowers in a sustainable manner. Why not visit during the year and meet the fantastic gardeners who look after the garden.

The Office of Public Works were honoured during 2018 when the Phoenix Park was one of only two parks in the world to receive a prestigious Gold Award in the Inaugural International Large Urban Parks Awards organised by World Urban Parks. This award showcases Dublin as a green city with the Park providing many environmental, health, social and recreational benefits to the people that use it and the surrounding communities. We hope that our Programme for 2024 continues to highlight the many benefits that the Phoenix Park offers to our visitors.

I hope you enjoy the programme and maybe see you at some of the events that we have organised.

Kind regards,

Paul McDonnell

Park Superintendent



Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and Ashtown Castle

T: +353 (0)1 677 0095
or +353 (0)46 940 7048

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

W: www.phoenixpark.ie

Admission: Free

Open daily: 9.30am – 5.50pm

Last admission: 1 hour before closing.

Group Visits: Must be booked in advance.

Tours: see page 6

Eircode: D08 Y304, located just off the Phoenix Roundabout beside Áras an Uachtaráin on Chesterfield Avenue.

Biodiversity Centre, Knockmaroon

T: +353 (0)46 942 2190

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

Admission: Free

Open daily: 9.30am – 5.50pm

Last admission: 45 mins before closing.

Group Visits: Must be booked in advance.

Tours: Wednesday to Sunday at 10.30am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm & 3.30pm

Eircode: D20 A402, located beside Knockmaroon Gate.

Park Superintendent's Office

T: +353 (0)1 821 3021
(8.00am – 5.00pm, Monday-Friday)

E: superintendent.park@opw.ie

W: www.phoenixpark.ie

X: @phoenixparkopw

f: thephoenixpark

📷: thephoenixparkopw



Vision

Phoenix Park Conservation Management Plan

“To protect and conserve the historic character of the Phoenix Park and the archaeological, architectural and natural heritage whilst facilitating visitor access, education and interpretation, facilitating the sustainable use of the park's resources for recreation and other appropriate activities, engaging research, and maintaining its sense of peace and tranquillity.”

Given the international significance of the Phoenix Park, the goal is to realise this vision at a standard comparable to the best in the world.





Phoenix Park Visitor Centre & Ashtown Castle

A lively and entertaining exhibition on the history and wildlife of the Phoenix Park is on display in the Visitor Centre. The visitor can enjoy a historical interpretation of the park from 3,500 B.C. to the present day. There are two audio-visual presentations available; one tells the story of the park through the ages while the other interprets the history of Áras An Uachtaráin. Free guided tours of Ashtown Castle are available. Please enquire at reception.



Victorian Tea Rooms

These world famous Victorian Tea Rooms, situated along picturesque Chesterfield Avenue that serve a wide variety of organic teas, coffees and delicious food. Open 7 days.

April to October Daily: 9.30am – 5.30pm

November to March Daily: 9.30am – 4.30pm

T: +353 (0)1 671 9376



Phoenix Park Café

Located in the grounds of the Visitor Centre adjoining The Walled Garden and Ashtown Castle, the café serves a wide range of healthy and vibrant salads, freshly baked quiches.

March to September (summer hours)

Mon-Fri: 9.30am – 5.00pm; Sat-Sun: 9.30am – 5.30pm

October to February (winter hours)

Mon-Fri: 9.30am – 4.00pm; Sat-Sun: 9.30am – 5.00pm



Ashtown Victorian Walled Kitchen Garden

Located beside our Visitor Centre in the heart of the Phoenix Park, it is the perfect place to sit and relax, have a quiet stroll or even grow your interest in horticulture. It is a two and a half acres oasis of herbaceous borders, trained fruit and vegetables all cared for by dedicated and enthusiastic gardeners.



Using Organic Principles

The produce is appropriate to the Victorian period and the fruit and vegetable crops grown are used for educational and demonstrative purposes. The cultivation in the garden is based on the organic principal of care, ecology, fairness and health.

The Phoenix Park management plan encourages the awareness of biodiversity and ecosystems – different organisms or living things living together and depending on and helping each other. We also use the Hierarchy of Control, which covers prevention, identification, biological and cultural control.

Open daily from 10.00am – 4.00pm

For all inquiries, please contact: superintendent.park@opw.ie
T: +353 (0)46 942 3111



Sport/Events of the Park

Over 2,300 sporting events take place in the Phoenix Park every year, organised by accredited sporting organisations to train and play matches such as soccer, Gaelic football, hurling and camogie. There are also many athletic events and activities including orienteering, cycling races along with astronomy and model airplane flying. The oldest cricket club in Ireland, Phoenix Cricket Club founded in 1830, has its home in the park as well as the oldest Polo Club in Europe, the All Ireland Polo Club, which was founded in 1873.



Bike Hire

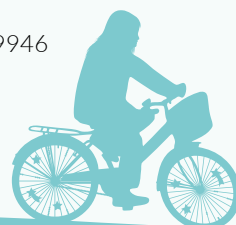
Bike hire is available with Phoenix Park Bikes, located at the Parkgate Street entrance to the Phoenix Park. Single bikes can be rented from as little as €7 per hour or €20 per day. Tandems, electric and children's bikes are available. Guided bike tours can be arranged for groups.

T: +353 (0)1 679 8290 or +353 (0)87 379 9946

E: info@phoenixparkbikes.com

X @BikesInThePark

f [phoenixparkbikes](https://www.phoenixparkbikes.com)





Áras an Uachtaráin

At the Residence of the President of Ireland, our past and present heads of state, on behalf of the nation, have welcomed world leaders and foreign dignitaries to Irish shores. In this historic house, we have also honoured many of our own heroes whose achievements have made us proud on the international stage, and regularly welcome visitors from all over the island of Ireland and overseas.



Location: Tours starts at the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre.

Opening Hours: Guided tours on **Saturdays only** at the following times: 10.00am, 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm and 3.00pm.

Guided Tours: An hour and fifteen minute tour that features the visitor centre, main reception rooms, the house and garden in summer. Tour tickets are free, limited and issued on a first come, first served basis on the day.

Occasionally, due to State business it may not be possible to accommodate public tours.

No group or advanced bookings.

T: +353 (0)1 677 0095

or +353 (0) 46 940 7048

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

W: www.phoenixpark.ie

X: @phoenixparkopw

f thephoenixpark

ig thephoenixparkopw



Arbour Hill Military Cemetery

The military cemetery is the burial place of 14 of the executed leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising. Among those buried are, Patrick Pearse, James Connolly and Major John MacBride. The leaders were executed at Kilmainham Gaol and their bodies were transported to Arbour Hill for burial.

The graves are located under a low mound on a terrace of Wicklow granite in what was once the old prison yard. A limestone wall on which are inscribed the names in both Irish and English, surrounds the gravesite. On the left of the wall opposite the gravesite is a plaque with the names of others killed in 1916. This cemetery is in the care of the Office of Public Works.



Location: Arbour Hill Cemetery can be accessed from Arbour Hill, a street that runs parallel to Wolfe Tone Quay.

Opening Hours: Open all year round.

Monday - Friday: 8.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday: 11.00am – 4.00pm

Sunday: 9.30am – 4.00pm

Guided Tours: Commencing at 11am on the first Friday of the month from April to the end of October.

Tours are weather permitting and subject to change.

Outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear recommended.

T: +353 (0)1 677 0095

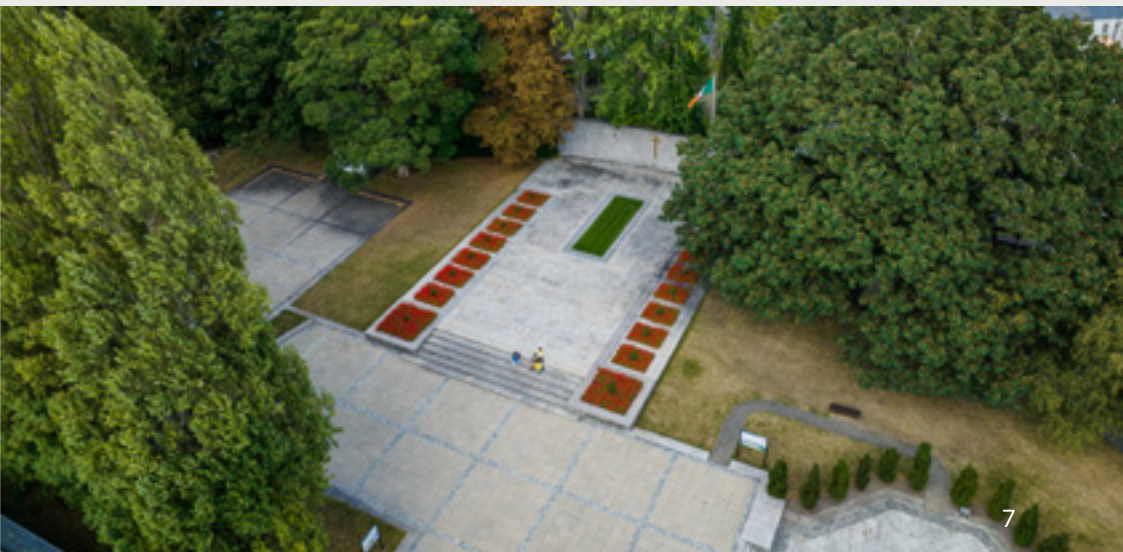
E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

W: www.opwdublincommemorative.ie

X: @opwarbourhill

f: Arbour Hill Cemetery

ig: thephoenixparkopw





Grangegorman Military Cemetery

Grangegorman Military Cemetery situated on Blackhorse Avenue outside the Phoenix Park is the largest Military Cemetery in Ireland. It was first opened in 1876 and contains over eleven hundred burials.

Buried in the cemetery are a Victoria Cross winner, the first British Officer casualty of the 1916 Rising and some of the casualties of the sinking of the RMS Leinster on 10 October 1918, including Thomas Woodgate, aged fourteen, one of the youngest military casualties of the First World War. There are several members of the ANZAC forces also buried in the cemetery.

The graveyard is maintained by the Office of Public Works and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Location: The cemetery is located near the east side of the Phoenix Park, Dublin 7, on Blackhorse Avenue.

Opening Hours: All year round, 7 days a week from 10.00am – 4.00pm.

Guided Tours: Thursdays at 11am from April to 7th November. Meet inside the cemetery gates of Grangegorman or phone 01 677 0095 with enquiries. Tours are weather permitting and subject to change. Outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear recommended.

T: +353 (0)1 677 0095

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

W: www.phoenixpark.ie

f Grangegorman Military Cemetery

ANZAC Day Dawn Service

The Annual ANZAC Day Dawn Service commemoration will last approximately 30 minutes. Members of the public are welcome to lay a wreath at the conclusion of the service.

Date: Thursday, 25th of April 2024

Time: 6.30am

Remembrance Ceremony

There will be a remembrance ceremony for those who fell during World War I and remembering those who were lost during other wars. Meet at Grangegorman Military Cemetery on Blackhorse Avenue. Outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear recommended. The ceremony may last approximately two hours.

Date: Thursday, 7th November 2024

Time: 10.45am



St Mary's Hospital formerly the Royal Hibernian Military School

This tour covers the historical importance of the site as it contains the Linkardstown burial cist and the founding of the Royal Hibernian Military School in 1769 and its history. We will give you a day in the life of a pupils in the school during the 18th century.

The tour will describe the transformation from Military School to the modern hospital that provide intermediate care, rehabilitation care to older persons. They provide both private and public outpatients, inpatients and residents.

This is a working hospital so be mindful of patients, visitors and vehicles.

Location: Meet inside the main gate of St Mary's Hospital.

Guided Tours: The first Sunday of the month at 11.00am from April to the end of October. Tours take approx. 1 hour, are weather permitting and subject to change. Outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear recommended.

T: +353 (0)1 677 0095

or +353 (0)46 940 7048

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W: www.phoenixpark.ie





Irish National War Memorial Gardens

The Irish War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge are dedicated to the memory of the 49,400 Irish soldiers who died between 1914-1918 in the First World War. The gardens, which reflect a style of simple dignity, were completed by 1939 and occupy an area of approximately eight hectares on the southern banks of the River Liffey.

Sir Edwin Lutyens, a distinguished architect and landscape designer, designed the War Memorial Gardens in conjunction with Gertrude Jekyll the renowned horticulturalist. His work at Islandbridge has generally been acknowledged as being an outstanding design capturing the mood of remembrance and reflection. On 10 September 1988, fifty years after they were initially laid out, the gardens were formally dedicated and opened to the public.

The book rooms at Islandbridge are located at the entrance to the rose garden. There are two pairs of book rooms built from granite, representing the four provinces of Ireland. These rooms contain the Books of Remembrance, which were illustrated by the artist Harry Clarke

and are inscribed with the names of the 49,400 Irish soldiers who died in the First World War.

In this decade of centenaries (2013-2024), the Irish National War Memorial Gardens, has become an important focus to remember and reflect, through a spirit of reconciliation of the Irish men and women who lost their lives in the First World War.

Location: There are entrances to the gardens from both Con Colbert Road, and from the Phoenix Park end of the South Circular Road.

Opening Hours: Open all year round, except Christmas Day.

Monday-Friday: 8.00am – dusk.

Saturday-Sunday: 9.30am – dusk.

Please contact the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre for exact closing hours.

Guided Tours: Commencing April to October on Wednesdays at 11am. Meet at the gate of the car park. Tours are weather permitting and subject to change. Outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear recommended.

T: +353 (0)1 677 0095

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

W: www.opwdublincommemorative.ie

f Irish National War Memorial Gardens





PHOENIX PARK BIODIVERSITY FESTIVAL & Honey Show

W: www.phoenixpark.ie

X @phoenixparkopw

f thephoenixpark

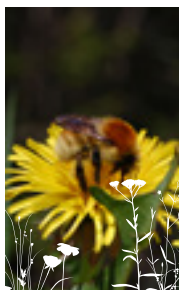
ig thephoenixparkopw

Friday 6th – Sunday 8th September 2024

The Phoenix Park Honey Show, in conjunction with The Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Association (FIBKA), will take place at the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre. There will be a large assortment of honey and bee-related products on display. While the honey judging is taking place, there will be a variety of interesting lectures and guided tours for visitors.

This is a free event for all the family to enjoy. Outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear are recommended.

See the website www.phoenixpark.ie nearer the dates for further information.



Doctors' Orders – A Park Prescription

Some doctors are issuing 'Park Prescriptions' to encourage their patients to exercise outdoors. Benefits of being out and active in green spaces include; reduction of tension and stress, lower blood pressure, improved immune system responses, and milder ADHD symptoms in children. Regular exercise in a park also reduces obesity, chronic disease and mental health issues. As your fitness increases, you can tackle progressively longer distances or aim to complete routes in shorter periods of time. Visit the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and collect a route map to help you improve your health as you enjoy the beautiful surrounds of the Phoenix Park.





Code of Conduct for Dog Owners

General

Dogs accompanied by responsible owners* are welcome at OPW National Historic Properties including Historic Parks, Gardens and designed landscapes. However, there are specific areas where dogs are not permitted or must be kept on a lead (see table below).

Some species – especially ground nesting birds and deer – are sensitive to disturbance by dogs and people. Please pay attention to and observe the signs to protect our wildlife. Under the Control of Dogs Act, 1986, dog owners of restricted breeds shall not allow their dogs in a public place unless such dog is securely muzzled and being led by a sufficiently strong chain or leash.

OPW site	Dogs not permitted	Keep dog on a lead
Phoenix Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashtown Walled Garden• Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People's Gardens• Visitor Centre Complex• Where deer are in close proximity• Close to horse trekking• Cycle lanes
Grangegorman		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of the site
Arbor Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1916 grave plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All of the site

* 'Owner' means the person responsible for bringing the dog into the park. 'Your dog' means any dog which you have brought into a Park. **GUIDE DOGS ARE EXEMPT.**

Restricted areas within the Parks

There may be times when further temporary restrictions are enforced.

Some examples where we ask for your co-operation are:

- at certain times of the year, deer can become particularly intolerant to intrusion, at rutting or fawning, for example. For your own safety and that of your pet, please observe signage.
- to control the spread of diseases such as foot and mouth. Such restrictions are only imposed after seeking expert advice from appropriate authorities. Signage will be displayed when these special circumstances apply and owners must ensure they comply with instructions.





Dog Fouling

Dog waste left in the park is unpleasant for other park users, unhygienic and causes serious ecological damage to plants and animals. Dog waste should be placed in a tightly sealed bag and taken home or deposited in the normal bins provided. Dog waste can be deposited in any of the Park bins provided.

Anyone failing to clean up after their dog may face prosecution.



Lost and Stray Dogs

There are no dog compounds in the parks and neither the Gardaí nor OPW staff can take animals into their care. If you see a stray dog in a Park you should contact the relevant local authority's dog warden service.

Keeping Dogs Under Control

Unruly and noisy dogs can cause disturbance to other park users. Please consider that other park users may not be as fond of dogs, and that some people – especially small children – can find dogs intimidating. Your dog* should be kept in sight and under control at all times. Permitting your dog to chase, injure or kill any form of wildlife is an offence.

If you see any restricted dog breeds in the Phoenix Park without a muzzle and a strong leash, please contact our Park Rangers immediately.

T: +353 (0)87 228 9698 or

T: +353 (0)87 228 9688.

Restricted Dog Breeds

- American Pit Bull Terrier
- Bull Mastiff
- Dobermann Pinscher
- English Bull Terrier
- German Shepherd (Alsatian)
- Japanese Akita
- Japanese Tosa
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Rottweiler
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- and every other cross of the above mentioned breeds



Walking More Than One Dog

It can be difficult to control a large number of dogs, so as a rule of thumb no-one should be in charge of more than 3 dogs at any one time.

Advice for owners walking more than one dog:

- Keep all dogs in sight.
- Be in full control of your dogs at all times.
- Keep any dog whose obedience cannot be guaranteed on a lead.

If your dogs are threatening or interfering with wildlife or the enjoyment of other park users, you may be asked to leave the park or face prosecution.



Please Remember

It is your responsibility to keep your dog under control and to clean up after it. Failure to do so could result in prosecution.

- Always keep your dog(s) in sight.
- Keep the lead handy, you will need it. Please be particularly cautious when walking your dog near cycleways.
- Respect the areas where dogs are not allowed or need to be kept on leads.
- It is an offence to allow your dog to chase or injure birds and other wildlife.



We hope you and your dog(s) enjoy our national historic properties. Thank you for helping us protect our wildlife and ensuring OPW National Historic Properties are a safe and pleasant environment for all our visitors.



Orienteering in the Phoenix Park

Orienteering is a competitive international sport that combines running with navigation. It is a timed race in which individual participants use a specially created, highly detailed map to select routes and navigate through diverse terrain and visit control points in sequence. There are twenty-one Irish Orienteering clubs with approximately 1,000 members ranging in age from nine to ninety.



The Phoenix Park has a permanent orienteering course which comprises of three courses. It is located in the vicinity of Ashtown Demense and you can collect the course map from the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre, or download for free from the website www.phoenixpark.ie. The answer sheet for this course is permanently displayed at the Visitor Centre.

Please come suitably prepared for the weather and ground conditions. It is recommended that sturdy boots are worn on rough grounds.



Brachytron pratense
Seabhcaí an Earraigh
Hairy Hawker

Route 99

Phoenix Park Visitor Centre





Glasnevin

National Botanic Gardens

Glasnevin Cemetery

R805

Cabra

Drumcondra

R805

Phibsborough

R417

R805

Grangegorman Military Cemetery

Grangegorman

Dublin Zoo

Stop 8205: Dublin Zoo

Stop 8209: Dublin Zoo

Stop 8206: Park Gates

Stop 8208: Park Gates

NCR Gate

Stoneybatter

Arbour Hill Cemetery

Parkgate Street Gate

R109

Stop 7078: Parkgate St

R109

Smithsfield

Islandbridge Gate

R418

Heuston Station

The Liberties



Fallow Deer in the Phoenix Park

The Phoenix Park is 1,752 acres in size and is home to a herd of circa 450 Fallow deer (*Dama dama*) which roam freely in the park and have done so for over 350 years.

We would ask people to be mindful that the deer are wild animals. The deer may seem tame and friendly, please remember that the deer are wild animals and not to approach them or try to touch them.

Deer naturally only eat plant vegetation such as grass (90% of the time), leaves and seeds such as acorns. We always try to explain this to all our visitors to the park. Sometimes people try to feed the deer human food, but if deer eat human food this will lead to health issues and make them ill.



The Herd

The male is called the buck, the female the doe, and the young are called fawns. There are four different types of colours in the park. These are black, brown, common and menil and the colour varieties are best seen in summer (*see below*).

Black	Brown	Common	Menil
<i>Summer:</i> glossy black, black rump, spots very faint.	<i>Summer:</i> rich chestnut brown, brown rump, spots very faint.	<i>Summer:</i> rich brown, white spots, black tail stripe, white rump.	<i>Summer:</i> ginger-brown, white spots, brown tail stripe, white rump.
<i>Winter:</i> dull black.	<i>Winter:</i> dull black.	<i>Winter:</i> dark grey, spots not evident.	<i>Winter:</i> grey-brown, spots very faint.

Antler Shedding (April/May)

In April, the bucks start shedding their antlers, known as casting. This is when the old antlers fall off. Sometimes bucks are seen with just one antler, as they often do not lose both at the same time. The new antlers start growing in May, and growth is complete by August, ready then for the rut in autumn. The antlers are covered with a soft vascular skin called velvet, which supplies oxygen and nutrients to the growing antler. In August, the blood supply to the antler is cut off and the velvet dries. The buck then removes the velvet by rubbing its antlers against trees.

Fawning Season (June/July)

The fawns are born in June and July each year and they are rarely seen for the first few weeks. The doe keeps them safe. If you see a fawn; it is not lost or abandoned, the mothers close by. They rely on their mother's milk, so she will hide them in long grass. Please do not get too close or try to touch the fawn as your scent may cause the mother to reject the fawn. If an animal threatens a fawn, the mother stamps her forefeet, snorts and might try to drive the threatening animal or person away. The fawns are colour tagged shortly after birth. Different colours are used each year to indicate the deer's year of birth.

Rutting Season (October/November)

Autumn is mating season, known as rutting, and lasts about five or six weeks. The rut peaks in October and during this time, bucks can be seen sizing each other up, known as parallel walking. If neither buck backs down then they will clash antlers until one is exhausted, gives up, and is chased off. The victor buck can then mate with the nearby females. Bucks can be heard at this time making loud grunts to attract does and warn off other bucks. The best time to see rutting is early morning when it is quiet in the park.





Cull (December/January/February)

The deer are a valuable component of the biodiversity of the Phoenix Park. However, this must be balanced with an equal recognition of the potential for deer to impact adversely on a range of other biodiversity values. Sustainable deer management must rely on sound, practical and applied scientific research. An over-abundant deer population can result in an increasing incidence of road traffic accidents and increase the potential role of deer in spreading specific diseases. Deer management is the integrated management of deer populations in balance with the carrying capacity and land use objectives.

In Ireland, deer do not have any natural predators since the last wolves disappeared in the 17th century. Therefore, artificial suppression of the deer population is necessary and this is best accomplished by culls, which take place every year. This keeps the herd healthy and maintains the deer numbers to around 550 animals to prevent the herd from getting too large and from over grazing the park. Each cull is undertaken in consultation with the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin and a veterinary expert in deer welfare following a detailed protocol.

TOP TIPS FOR HELPING TO LOOK AFTER THE DEER

- **Please never feed the wild deer** or come within 50 metres of the animals.
- **The deer are wild animals** even though they look tame. Please do not get too close to the deer, touch or try to feed them.
- **Human food is not good for deer.** Even though deer will eat it, human food can make them very ill. They get all their nutrition from grass and leaves.
- **Keep a look out for signs.** Sometimes paths can be closed off during fawning season or during culls.

If you have any concerns regarding the deer in the park please contact the Park Superintendent's Office as soon as possible, or alternatively, the Park Rangers.

Superintendent's Office T: +353 (0)1 821 3021 (8am - 5pm, Monday – Friday)

Park Rangers Office T: +353 (0)87 228 9688 or +353 (0)87 228 9698

(6.30am – 11.30pm, seven days a week)



Deer in the Phoenix Park - Frequently Asked Questions

1 Why is there a herd of wild deer in the Phoenix Park?

The Phoenix Park was established as a Royal Deer Park in 1662 by James Butler, Duke of Ormond and fallow deer were imported from Great Britain by the Duke. Fallow deer have been in the Park ever since. Some of the deer living in the Park today are the descendants of those original deer brought over 350 years ago.

2 Why are there still deer in the park of a major city?

The wild deer herd has become an integral part of the biodiversity in the Phoenix Park over 350 years. Getting rid of the herd would have a major impact on the biodiversity of the park including changing wildlife habitats.

The largest of London's Royal Parks, Richmond Park, also contains wild fallow deer.

3 Can I feed the deer?

Please do not feed them any food including carrots, apples, bread, crisps and chocolate. These food stuffs are not part of the deer's natural diet. While some people have good intentions, feeding deer human food, such as the examples above, is having detrimental effects on the deer and their interaction with visitors to the park.



**PLEASE DO NOT
FEED THE DEER**

4 So what do the deer eat?

90% of the diet of the fallow deer in the Phoenix Park consists of grass. They do occasionally browse on other vegetation such as leaves and seeds.

5 Can I go up to the deer?

Keep a reasonable distance between you and the deer, at least 50m. Always keep in mind that the deer in the park are wild animals and their behaviour can be unpredictable so be alert when you are around the deer. Please do not put children at risk by bringing them close to the deer, especially the bucks.





6 Can I take photographs/selfies with the deer?

If you wish to take a photograph, keep a distance of at least 50m between you and the deer. Please do not take selfies with the deer as they are wild animals.

7 How many deer are in the Phoenix Park?

Today the herd is maintained at approximately 600 wild deer.

8 What size/weight do fallow deer grow to?

The weight of an adult male is 53kg-90kg and adult female is 35kg-55kg.

They are approximately 0.9m in height and 1.6m long.

9 Why do each of the deer have a tag in their ear?

The ear tags allow us to identify each individual deer. Tagging the deer is a vital part of their management and gives us an insight to their biology and behaviour. The colour of the tags change yearly so it is possible to age a deer by looking at the colour of its tag. On the tags there is a sequence of number that allows us to identify the deer on an individual level.

10 What are the different colours of the fallow deer in the Phoenix Park?

There are 4 main colour variations of fallow deer in the Phoenix Park:

- Spots are dominant over no spots
- Black is dominant over Brown
- Black + Spots = Common
- Brown + Spots = Menil

11 When are the new fawns born?

Fawning season is in the months of June and July.





12 What should I do if I come across a new born fawn?

If you find a fawn, do not touch it or attempt to move it. If the mother smells your scent on her fawn she will reject it and the fawn will die.

Fawns are often left hidden in long grass by their mothers. She will return every few hours to allow the fawn to suckle (drink milk). The fawns are never abandoned.

13 When is the rutting season?

Peak mating activity occurs in mid-October/early November and is known as the Rut. During the rut a wide array of physical changes and ritual displays occur.

14 Can I watch the rutting?

We advise the public to stay away from the bucks during the Rut. During rutting season, the bucks can become aggressive due to an increase of testosterone and competition for mates. The bucks become very dangerous and unpredictable during this season. By encouraging them to approach the public they have the potential to injure members of the public especially during rutting season.

15 Why do male deer lose their antlers each year and when?

Antlers initially form in cartilage and then mineralise into bone. The antlers are covered with a protective skin which supplies the antlers with blood to allow them to grow. This skin is called Velvet. In late August, the antlers are fully grown. At this point the velvet is shed. This can be a messy time as the velvet may be bloody and may take hours or even days before it falls off. The bucks will often rub their antlers vigorously against vegetation in order to remove the velvet. Another surge of testosterone causes the antlers to harden and maintains the dead bone once the velvet has fallen off.

A drop in testosterone will cause the antlers to fall off in April or May and this is known as casting. Sometimes the bucks will lose one antler at a time. The new antlers will start growing soon after. Generally, the next set will be bigger than the last until the buck reaches their prime.

16 How do the OPW manage the wild deer herd?

Fallow deer have no natural predators in Ireland ever since the grey wolf became extinct in 1786. Ireland's largest land predators are now the fox and the stoat. While foxes may prey on the young fawns, neither of these predators are large enough to successfully hunt the fallow deer. Therefore, there is no natural population management of fallow deer in the park. It is necessary to control the population through culling.





17 Why do the OPW undertake culls of the herd?

If there is no population management the deer will overgraze and food sources will become scarce leading to welfare issues such as low body fat, malnutrition and high incidences of deaths from exposure during cold winters. The increase in fallow deer population would also lead to a build-up of parasites and other pathogens causing disease to spread rapidly. A lack of population control can also have a detrimental effect on the other flora and fauna in the park.

Therefore, it is necessary to control the population through culling a number of deer yearly to maintain the herd at a sustainable size (600 deer). The cull is carried out in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the School of Biology and Environmental Science, UCD, overseen by a qualified Vet and under license from National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS).

18 Are there any alternatives to culling and what are they?

A number of alternative methods for deer population control have been suggested but all have different reasons why they are not suitable in the Phoenix Park.

- **Administrating Contraception:** There are no contraceptives licensed for use in free-living deer in Ireland. Contraception is also difficult to monitor - which females have received contraception and if they are receiving a sufficient dose. There may also be a negative effect if the contraceptive drug is leached into the environment or ingested by males (causing adverse effects on antler growth and shedding) or by other animals.
- **Castrating males:** One male can sire many offspring therefore castrating males may not reduce the number of fawns being born.
- **Relocating a number of individuals:** Rounding up the deer can be a very stressful experience. Confining them in an enclosed space can also lead to injury or death. Transporting deer is again a very stressful experience. It is illegal in Ireland to release any deer even if they are being relocated. Finally, moving the deer to a new location simply moves the problem elsewhere.

19 How many deer are culled each year?

On average 90 animals per year.

20 What happens to the carcasses after each cull?

The carcasses are removed by refrigerated vehicle by an authorised Game Dealer who is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.





21 Does the OPW receive payment for the carcasses of the deer?

The OPW does not carry out culls in order to generate profit. The OPW does receive payment from the selling of the deer carcasses, and this is returned to the exchequer.

22 Does the OPW seek advice on the management of the herd and from whom?

The OPW seek advice from the School of Biology & Environmental Science at University College Dublin and the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (Deer Management in Ireland a Framework for Action – 2015). The OPW liaises with the Royal Parks London, whose deer management practices are endorsed by The British Deer Society and the Deer Initiative of England. The OPW is also a member of the Irish Deer Society and received the John Nicholson Perpetual Trophy in 2016. The trophy is the society's highest honour, awarded for meritorious service in the welfare, conservation, management and protection of deer in Ireland.

23 Who do I contact if I come across an injured deer or a deer that is outside the Phoenix Park?

Please contact the Park Superintendent's office as soon as possible. The telephone number is **+353 1 821 3021** (8.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday)

Or alternatively, the Park Rangers on **+ 353 87 228 9688** or **+353 87 228 9698** (Park Rangers, 6.30am-11.30pm, seven days a week).

24 What can I do to help advise the public about the dangers of feeding the deer and getting too close to them?

The OPW is introducing a Deer Ambassadors' initiative in the Park, where we will invite members of the public to a meeting where we outline the importance of the deer in the park and what ambassadors can do to advise the public.

25 What does the deer keeper do?

The main job of the Deer Keeper is to look after the welfare of the deer herd. He also liaises with, and assists, the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin with their work in the Park. If there are any major events or concerts in the park the Deer Keeper monitors the deer for any distress that may occur within the deer herd. From time to time the Deer Keeper also gives talks to various schools, universities and community groups.





26 What about Lyme Disease?

Deer are common carriers of ticks, but there has been no evidence of Lyme Disease in the Phoenix Park either among Park staff or members of the public. However, people should be aware of the disease, its causes, and its symptoms and should look out for any signs. Please see the HSE website for further details on these <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/az/l/lyme-disease/>.

27 Can I walk my dog near the deer?

Please be mindful of your dog around the deer. Deer are a prey species and as of such are very wary of their predators (such as wolves) and anything that resembles their predators (such as dogs). Deer can feel threatened by dogs even over long distances and when dogs are not behaving aggressively. In order to prevent any undue stress on the deer:

- Please keep your dogs on a lead where the deer are present;
- Please keep your dog 50m or more away from the deer at all times;
- Please consider walking your dog outside the park during the fawning (June/July) and rutting season (October/November).

28 Is the Office of Public Works undertaking any studies on the deer at present?

There are currently a number of research projects being undertaken by students from the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin.

Project 1: This project focuses on the effects of human interaction with the deer in the Phoenix Park and to understand the complex effects that these interactions may have on our wildlife. This involves on-the-field collection of data on both male and female herds of fallow deer in Phoenix Park. The deer are often fed by visitors, despite it being against Park policy. This close-contact has led to major animal welfare and human safety concerns.

Project 2: This project aims to understand the link between animal personality and life history traits in wild fallow deer. Animal personality within wild deer is an important component of behaviour, and influences resilience to external factors such as human disturbance, climate and habitat change.

Project 3: A research project that uses photographs to measure antler size and shape in Phoenix Park fallow deer – the first of its kind in any deer species. This technique allows to measure antler size and shape from a distance of 50-250 metres without interfering with deer behaviour.





Calendar of Events for the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre



Phoenix Park Visitor Centre Tours – April to November

Location	Days	Time(s)
Ashtown Castle	Sunday to Friday	10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00pm 1.00pm, 3.00pm and 4.00pm
Áras an Uachtaráin	Saturdays April – November	10.00am, 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm and 3.00pm
Irish National War Memorial Gardens	Wednesdays	Meet at the site at 11.00am
Grangegorman Military Cemetery	Thursdays	Meet at the site at 11.00am
Arbour Hill Cemetery	First Friday of the month	Meet at the site at 11.00am
The Royal Hibernian Military School/St Mary's Hospital	First Sunday of the month	Meet at the site at 11.00am



MUSIC IN THE COURTYARD – Every Thursday

THE EVERGREEN TRIO

Every Thursday
from 2pm – 4pm
at the Visitor Centre

Subject to change



January

Event	Date	Time
Deer in the City An exhibition of the fallow deer of the Phoenix Park.	Throughout January in the Visiting Exhibition Room	



February

Event	Date	Time
Patchwork Society of Ireland This exceptional exhibition covers aspects of the life and times of St. Bridget.	Throughout February in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
Irish Astronomical Society (WA) The Irish Astronomical Society will host a series of exciting, free, family-friendly events in the Phoenix Park throughout the year. These will include Dark Sky events, taking advantage of the lack of light pollution within the park, as well as a series of lectures on topics related to astronomy. Please see www.phoenixpark.ie for details on all upcoming events.		

(WA) Wheelchair Accessible



March

Seachtain
na Gaeilge
le enérgia

Seachtain na Gaeilge
1– 17 March

Celebrating 122 years since
its first festival in 1902!

#SnaG24

Event	Date	Time
National Tree Week These events will give you an appreciation of the arboretum as well as encourage you to explore further the magnificent trees that are not only in this tree collection but also throughout the Phoenix Park. Outdoor clothing and footwear are recommended.	Wednesday, 4th to Sunday, 8th	<i>Please see Phoenix Park media for times</i>
Architectural Highlights of the Phoenix Park	Throughout March in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
Celtic Tree Tour A walking tour of Ashtown Demesne studying native Irish trees of Ireland and their association and meaning to Celtic culture.	Wednesday, 6th	11.00am
ART CART: Felt Making with Gabi Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult.	Sunday, 10th	11.00am
Arboretum Tree Tour of Ashtown Learn more about the trees of Ashtown as part of National Tree Week.	Sunday, 24th	2pm
The Big Dig Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult. 40 minute sessions. BOOKING ESSENTIAL via Eventbrite.	Sunday, 31st	11am-4pm



April

Event	Date	Time
Castleknock Art Exhibition A mixture of various mediums.	Throughout April in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
First Flight A talk by Peadar Slattery about three men who set out in 1912 to fly from Britain to Ireland. This will take place in the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and free tickets can be collected from the desk.	Monday, 1st	2.00pm
The Big Dig Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult. 40 minute sessions. BOOKING ESSENTIAL via Eventbrite.	Monday, 1st	11am-4pm
ART CART: Felt Making with Gabi Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult.	Sunday, 7th	11am-4pm

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

Tuesday, 25th April 2024 at 6.30am

The Annual ANZAC Day Dawn Service will take place on Tuesday, April 25th - the commemoration will last approximately 30 minutes. Members of the public are welcome to lay a wreath at the end of the service.



May

Event	Date	Time
Feltmakers Ireland The theme of this year's member exhibition is 'Opposites Attract'.	Throughout May in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
Moon and Sixpence Puppet Theatre Free event for children. Tickets issued on a first come first served basis from the Visitor Centre reception.	Sunday, 5th	1:30pm & 3pm
ART CART: Felt Making with Gabi Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult.	Sunday, 19th	11am



June

BLOOM IN THE PARK

May 30th – June 3rd 2024 from 9am-6pm daily

Bloom celebrates its 18th birthday in 2024 and has been deemed one of the nations' favourite summer events. This spectacular gardening event is a great coming together for garden designers, flower growers, landscapers, plantaholics, garden-furniture makers, food fanatics and anyone who loves to garden.



Event	Date	Time
Floral Art for Bloom Floral & botanical art exhibition.	Throughout June in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
The Big Dig Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult. 40 minute sessions. BOOKING ESSENTIAL via Eventbrite.	Saturday, 22nd & Sunday, 23rd	11am – 4pm
ART CART: Felt Making with Gabi Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult.	Sunday, 30th	11am

July

Event	Date	Time
140 Years of The Gaelic Athletic Association For further information please see www.phoenixpark.ie	Throughout July in the Visiting Exhibition Room	

August

Event	Date	Time
140 Years of The Gaelic Athletic Association	Throughout August in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
The Big Dig Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult. 40 minute sessions. BOOKING ESSENTIAL via Eventbrite.	Saturday, 17th & Sunday, 18th	11am-4pm



September

Event	Date	Time
Irish Hawking Club A visiting exhibition exploring the captivating history of the ancient practice of hawking.	Throughout September in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
The Phoenix Park Biodiversity Festival and Honey Show In conjunction with The Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Association (FIBKA), will take place at the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre. There will be a large assortment of honey and bee-related products on display. While the honey judging is taking place, there will be a variety of interesting lectures and guided tours for visitors. This is a free event for all the family to enjoy. Outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear are recommended.	Friday, 6th – Sunday, 8th	<i>See the website nearer the date for further information</i>
The Big Dig Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult. 40 minute sessions. BOOKING ESSENTIAL via Eventbrite.	Saturday, 7th & Sunday, 8th	11am – 4pm
Observe the Moon International Night Hosted by the Irish Astronomical Society.	Saturday, 14th	

October

Event	Date	Time
Park Life A visiting exhibition of park-themed art created by Headway artists.	Throughout October in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
Astronomy Day Hosted by the Irish Astronomical Society	Saturday, 12th	
ART CART: Felt Making with Gabi Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult.	Sunday, 20th	11.00am
The Big Dig Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult. 40 minute sessions. BOOKING ESSENTIAL via Eventbrite.	Sunday, 27th & Monday, 28th	11am – 4pm
Dublin City Marathon	Sunday, 27th	



November

Event	Date	Time
Sheelagh Duff An art exhibition by Sheelagh Duff who has captured many beautiful scenes within the Phoenix Park.	Throughout November in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
Moon and Sixpence Puppet Theatre Free event for children. Tickets issued on a first come first served basis from the Visitor Centre reception.	Sunday, 3rd	1:30pm & 3pm
<div><h3>REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY</h3><p>Thursday, 7th November 2024 at 10.45am</p><p>There will be a remembrance ceremony at Grangegorman Military Cemetery for those who fell during the First World War. Meet inside the Cemetery gates on Blackhorse Avenue Dublin 7. Outdoor clothing and appropriate footwear recommended.</p></div> 		
ART CART: Felt Making with Gabi Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult.	Sunday, 12th	11am – 12.30pm

December

Event	Date	Time
Deer in the City An exhibition relating to the Fallow Deer of the Phoenix Park.	Throughout December in the Visiting Exhibition Room	
Christmas Choir Please see www.phoenixpark.ie	<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>
Moon and Sixpence Puppet Theatre Free event for children. Tickets issued on a first come first served basis on the day from the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre reception.	Sunday, 8th	1.30pm & 3pm
Christmas Choir Please see www.phoenixpark.ie	<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>



December (continued)

Event	Date	Time
Music in the Courtyard The Evergreen Trio	Thursday, 12th	2pm – 4pm
Christmas Choir Please see www.phoenixpark.ie	<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>
Music in the Courtyard The Evergreen Trio Band (subject to change)	Sunday, 10th	11am – 1pm
Moon and Sixpence Puppet Theatre Free event for children. Tickets issued on a first come first served basis on the day from the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre reception.	Sunday, 15th	1.30pm & 3pm
Christmas Choir Please see www.phoenixpark.ie	<i>To be confirmed</i>	<i>To be confirmed</i>
ART CART: Felt Making with Gabi Free event for children aged 6-11 years old. Must be accompanied by an adult.	Sunday, 15th	11.00am

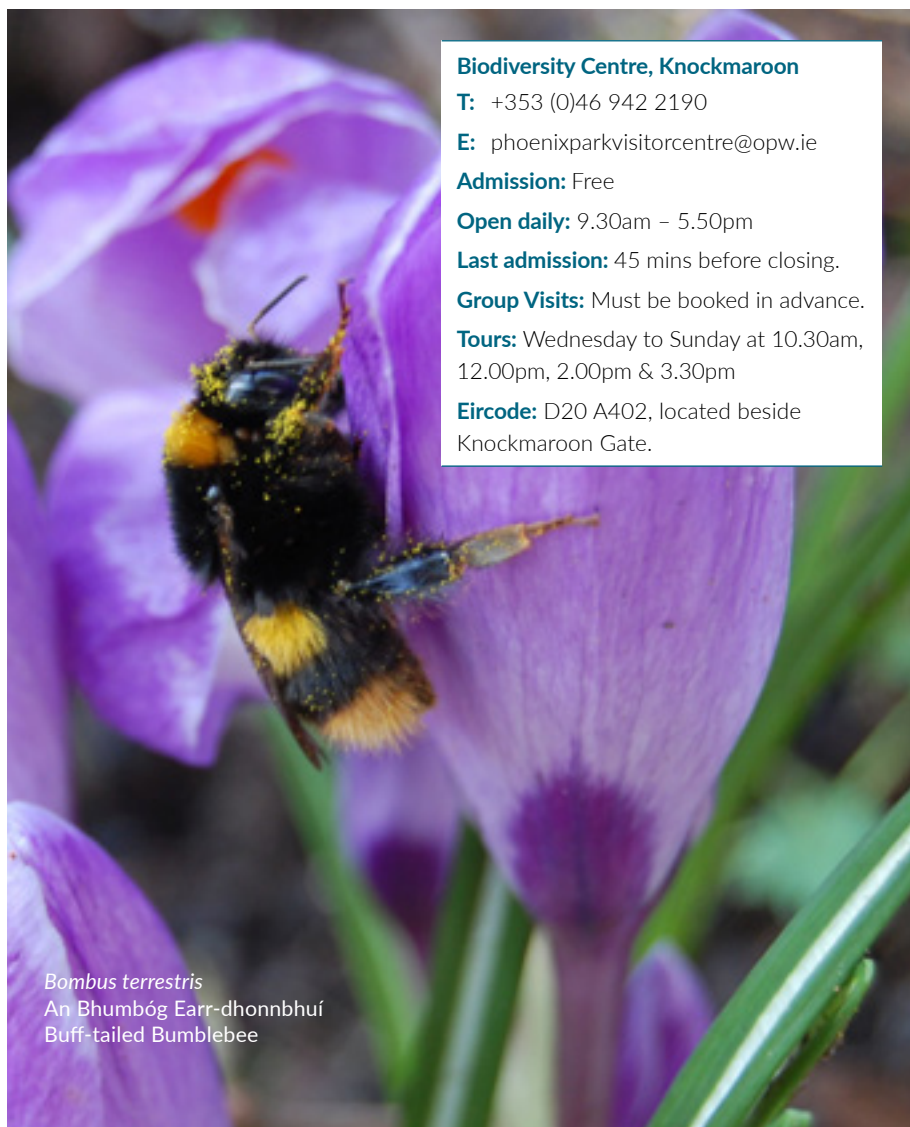








Calendar of Events for the Biodiversity Centre, Knockmaroon



Biodiversity Centre, Knockmaroon

T: +353 (0)46 942 2190

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

Admission: Free

Open daily: 9.30am – 5.50pm

Last admission: 45 mins before closing.

Group Visits: Must be booked in advance.

Tours: Wednesday to Sunday at 10.30am,
12.00pm, 2.00pm & 3.30pm

Eircode: D20 A402, located beside
Knockmaroon Gate.

Bombus terrestris
An Bhumbóg Earr-dhonnbhúí
Buff-tailed Bumblebee



March

Event	Date	Time
National Tree Week Join us at the Biodiversity Centre Knockmaroon for a variety of events to celebrate National Tree Week 2024.	Wednesday, 4th to Sunday, 8th	
Tree Walk Walk by OPW Guide at the Biodiversity Centre Knockmaroon. This event will give you an appreciation of the flora and fauna of the area as well as encourage you to explore further the magnificent trees that are not only in this tree collection but also throughout the Phoenix Park. Outdoor clothing and footwear are recommended.	Wednesday, 22nd	11.00am
All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 Tour This plan is a call to action. Everyone can help by becoming a Citizen Scientist. The plan was developed by scientists and bee experts from an All-Ireland steering group and co-ordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.	Sunday, 8th	2.30pm





Biodiversity Centre, Knockmaroon

Join us at the Biodiversity Centre Knockmaroon for a variety of events to celebrate National Tree Week 2024.

Tree Walk at the Biodiversity Centre, Knockmaroon

This event will give you an appreciation of the arboretum as well as encourage you to explore further the magnificent trees that are not only in this tree collection, but also throughout the Phoenix Park. Outdoor clothing and footwear are recommended.

Location: Biodiversity Centre,
Knockmaroon, D20 A402

T: +353 (0)1 677 0095

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

W: www.phoenixpark.ie

X @phoenixparkopw

f thephoenixpark

@ thephoenixparkopw





All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021–2025 Tour

This plan is a call to action. Everyone can help by becoming a Citizen Scientist. The plan was developed by scientists and bee experts from an All-Ireland steering group and co-ordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

This plan informs people on what they can do to help our pollinators in Ireland to survive and thrive. Pollinators are in decline and this requires our immediate attention. Everyone is needed to help stop the number of bees declining and tell everyone about how important bees are. By protecting our pollinators, we protect our food supply of fruit and vegetables so we can have a healthy balance diet.

A Citizen Scientist is someone who voluntarily gives their time to scientific research in collaboration with professional scientists. Therefore, you do not need a background in science.

www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/

There will be a presentation given on our wild pollinators in the Biodiversity Centre Knockmaroon, followed by a Bumblebee walk (weather permitting). The species seen and recorded on the walk will be sent into the National Biodiversity Data Centre. By taking part in the pollinator plan, you can help our pollinators and our environment.



Location: Biodiversity Centre, Knockmaroon

Please see social media for date and time

T: +353 (0)1 677 0095

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

W: www.phoenixpark.ie

@phoenixparkopw

thephoenixpark

thephoenixparkopw

The plan has 5 objectives:

- 1 Making Ireland pollinator friendly;
- 2 Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;
- 3 Managing pollinators – supporting bee-keepers and growers;
- 4 Expanding our knowledge on pollinators and pollination service;
- 5 Collecting evidence to track, change and measure success.



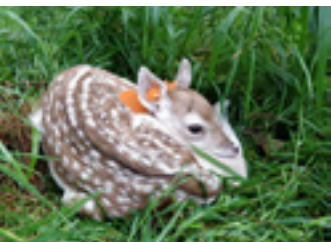
**National
Biodiversity
Data Centre**
A Heritage Council Programme





Primary School Modules

At Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and the Biodiversity Centre Knockmaroon. The modules can be arranged at a time to suit school requirements Monday to Friday, between 10am and 12 noon. Please contact the Visitor Centre for more information.



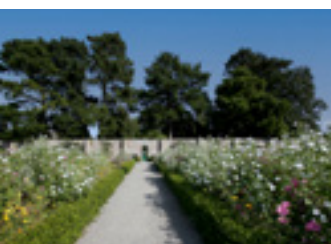
Module 1. Trees – What would we do without them?

Introduction: Identify exotic and native tree species in the arboretum beside the Visitor Centre. Break for 15 minutes. Then a 20-minute video on the history of the park, after which the group can look around the visitor centre, which is self-guiding over two floors.



Module 2. Discover the animals that live in the park

Introduction and PowerPoint presentation on deer, squirrels, badgers and much more. Break for 15 minutes. Then a 20-minute video on the history of the park, after which the group can look around the visitor centre, which is self-guiding over two floors.



Module 3. Step back in time with our Heritage Module

Introduction: Video and self-guiding tour of the visitor centre. Break for 15 minutes. Become a king or queen for the day with a visit to Ashtown Castle and find out about what life was like in medieval times.



Module 4. Biodiversity

Learn about the different habitats that exist in the Phoenix Park and the diversity of species that can be found here. There are trees, wild flowers, mammals, birds, bees, butterflies and dragonflies all living in the Phoenix Park.

Module 5. Pollinators

Learn about the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 and what everyone can do to help our pollinators survive and thrive in Ireland. By protecting our pollinators, we protect our food supply of fruit and vegetables.





Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and Ashtown Castle

T: +353 (0)1 677 0095
or +353 (0)46 940 7048

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

W: www.phoenixpark.ie

Admission: Free

Open daily: 9.30am – 5.50pm

Last admission: 1 hour before closing.

Group Visits: Must be booked in advance.

Tours: see page 6

Eircode: D08 Y304, located just off the Phoenix Roundabout beside Áras an Uachtaráin on Chesterfield Avenue.

Biodiversity Centre, Knockmaroon

T: +353 (0)46 942 2190

E: phoenixparkvisitorcentre@opw.ie

Admission: Free

Open daily: 9.30am – 5.50pm

Last admission: 45 mins before closing.

Group Visits: Must be booked in advance.

Tours: Wednesday to Sunday at 10.30am, 12.00pm, 2.00pm & 3.30pm

Eircode: D20 A402, located beside Knockmaroon Gate.

Park Superintendent's Office

T: +353 (0)1 821 3021
(8.00am – 5.00pm, Monday-Friday)

E: superintendent.park@opw.ie

W: www.phoenixpark.ie

X: @phoenixparkopw

f: thephoenixpark

@: thephoenixparkopw



Heritage Ireland
OPW