

Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park



Route description

This route takes you through a former estate rich in horticultural and historic interest, on surfaced and grass paths with some hills.

Distance

2.5 miles 4 km.

Average Time

1 hr 10 mins – 1 hr 20 mins (More if you spend time in the rose gardens).

Access

By bike - The park is accessible from NCN Route 9.

By bus - Metro service 8A, 8B, 8C from City Hall. Get off at the junction of Upper Malone Road and Finaghy Road South: walk along the Upper Malone Road for one mile (1.6 km) to the start of the route. Ulsterbus service 21 to Drumbeg from Europa bus station (Mon-Fri only).

By car - Entrances signposted off the Upper Malone Road. Enter at lower car park.

Trail Route

Beginning at the lower car park, take the path to the right of the buildings, leading behind the works yard. At the first junction turn right up the azalea walk **(1)**.

At the end of this path turn left through the small gate, and then left again at the fountain **(2)**. This leads to the walled garden **(3)**.

Retrace your steps to the fountain, turn right and follow the path between the yew hedges. Half way along is an opening on your left, follow this to Wilmont House **(4)**.

To the left of the house, across the lawn you will see the first of the rose gardens **(5)**: take time to admire the roses before returning to the main driveway. Close by are the only public toilets in the park.

Continue along the main driveway, turning left into the Japanese Garden. Pause to enjoy the garden then return to the main driveway, turning left.

After some distance, a path on your left leads down to a stone patio - this makes a good base to explore the remainder of the rose gardens to the left and right of the patio.

Walk straight ahead from the patio, keep to the right beyond the rose beds and follow a grass path around the hay meadows **(6)**.

Before you reach a low-lying belt of trees, the grass path continues to the left, sweeping round the meadow. Shortly you will see the River Lagan ahead: walk on round the edge of the meadow, keeping the river to your right. Turn right through the woodland and soon you will pick up a gravel path which leads back to the lower car park.

