

Other gardens and parklands to visit in and around Armagh are:

6. Argory Gardens

Just beside the car park are the Pleasure Gardens featuring many interesting plants including specimens from the ‘Springer’ collection. There are two pavilions at the corners of the Pleasure Gardens and two delightful Victorian arbours. A path leads through to the beautiful rose garden with its regimented box hedges and a fascinating sundial dating back to the 1820s.

For more details see **w:** www.nationaltrust.org.uk

7. Address House Gardens

The delightful Rose Garden was replanted in the year 2000 with a mixture of varieties of Irish roses. Floribundas ‘City of Belfast’ and ‘Paddy McCredy’ take centre stage and they are flanked by floribundas ‘Dearest’, ‘City of Leeds’, ‘Chanelle’, and hybrid perpetual ‘Hugh Dickson’. In the walled garden, within the farmyard, there are planted many varieties of old Irish apple trees. The Ladies’ Walk provides a perimeter path around the grounds.

For more details see **w:** www.nationaltrust.org.uk

8. Clare Glen

Clare Glen is an ideal location for those seeking a relaxing afternoon. The park is located within a winding river valley in an area of considerable natural beauty enhanced by mature trees bordering the River Cusher.

For more details see **w:** www.visitarmagh.com



9. Gosford Forest Park, Markethill

Gosford Forest Park, formerly Gosford Demesne, comprises some 240 hectares of diverse woodland and open parkland set in gentle rolling drumlin countryside. It is open every day from 10.00am to sunset. Way-marked trails of varying length wind through the forest, leading into some of the park's most beautiful and tranquil areas. Shorter informal walks are possible around the arboretum and garden area of the park.

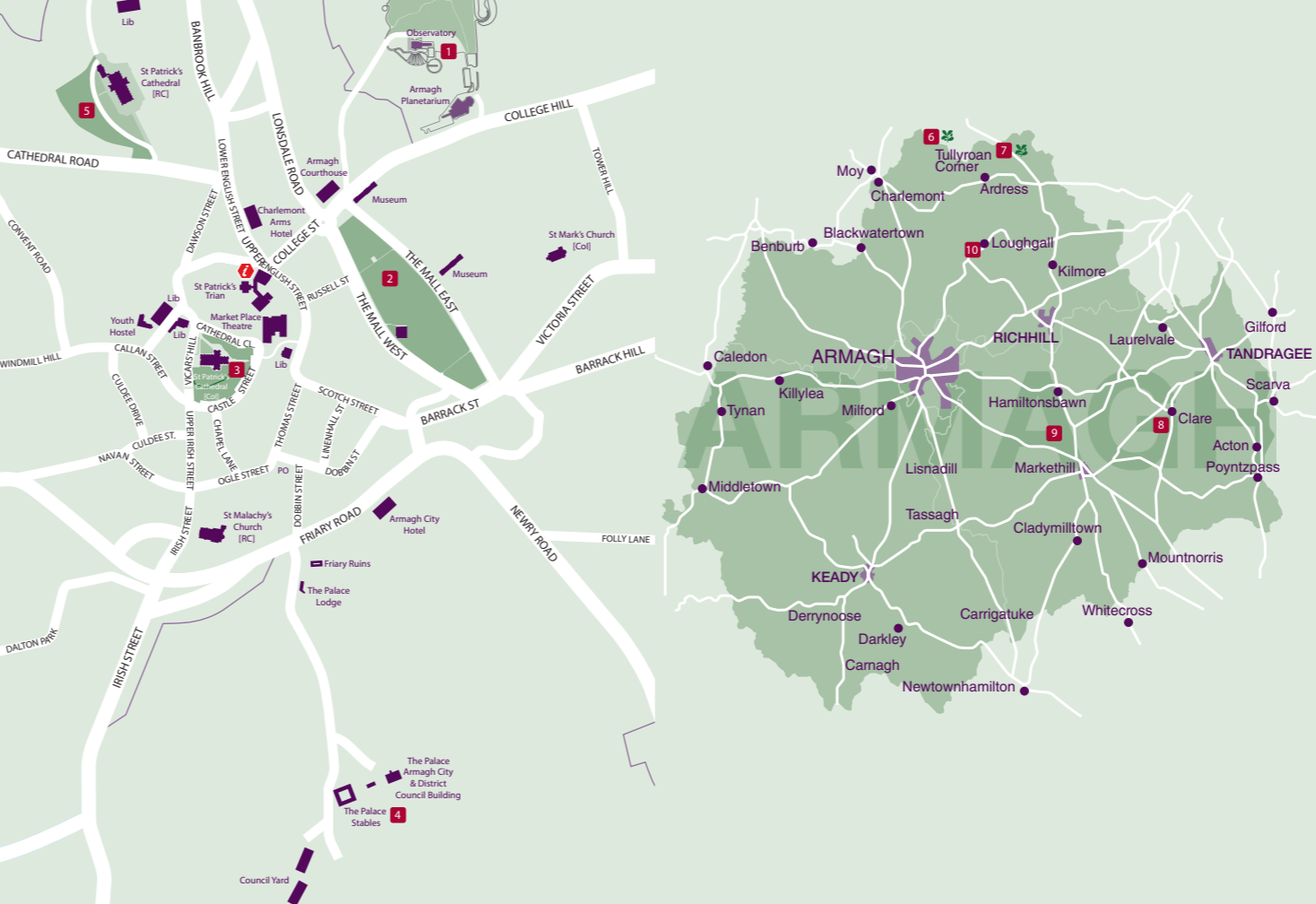
The park contains a large collection of traditional breeds of poultry and rare breeds of farm animals, and a herd of red deer.

For more details see **w:** www.visitarmagh.com

10. Loughgall Country Park

Loughgall Country Park features an 18-hole golf course, way-marked country walks, 37-acre fishing lake, bridle path, children’s play area, a football pitch and a trim trail for adults and children.

For more details see **w:** www.visitarmagh.com



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Armagh
 GARDENS AND PARKLANDS



1. The Armagh Observatory Grounds and Astropark

The Armagh Observatory is a modern astronomical research institute, the oldest scientific institution in Northern Ireland. Founded by Archbishop Richard Robinson in 1790, it stands in approximately 14 acres of attractive, landscaped gardens. The grounds are open throughout the year.

The gardens adjacent to the main Observatory building complement the historic main building and telescope domes and include the Observatory's meteorological station and the Human Orrery.

A walk through the Astropark is a stroll through the Universe. The path begins near the Planetarium car park and leads to a scale model of the Solar System in which every three paces corresponds to 100 million kilometres in space.

There is a woodland walk which leads to the top of the Observatory drive. This comprises paths through the wood to the north of the main Observatory building. In this area look out for yew, oak, rhododendron, beech, holly, redwood, hazel and bamboo. Diverse fauna include birds and other small animals.

For more details see **w:** <http://star.arm.ac.uk>



2. The Mall

The Mall, or Commons, has been central to the leisure activities of Armagh's citizens for over 200 years. From 1731 to 1773 it was the horse-racing course with a monthly trading fair in the central area. The arrival of Archbishop Robinson, in 1765, saw a change as he began a plan to redevelop Armagh as a city to rival Dublin.

The Commons and its 'raucous' pursuits did not fit in with the Archbishop's vision for a new city and by 1773 he had ended the racing and gifted the new Mall to the citizens of Armagh as a public walkway. Over the years the tree-lined promenade became an area for various sports such as cricket, football and rugby.

By the mid 19th century the Mall was also a place for the public to enjoy evening recitals at the bandstand, and poignantly to remember the fallen soldiers of this garrison town. Care of the Mall was left in the hands of the Mall Trustees, and by 2003 a partnership was formed along with Armagh City and District Council.

The Heritage Lottery Fund granted an award for refurbishment which aimed to update the facilities of the Mall without losing its unique character. In 2005 the Mall won the Civic Trust Award and the Irish Architecture Award.

For more details see **w:** www.visitarmagh.com

3. St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral Gardens

The gardens at the St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral consist of a monastic herb garden laid out in the simple pattern employed by the early Christian monasteries. They include herb beds edged with dwarf boxed hedging; an orchard garden laid out in the classic walled garden manner with bush-trained fruit trees in grass, and fanor espalier-trained trees on the walls; a parterre garden popular in Renaissance, Georgian and Victorian times; a contemplative garden designed in a modern style, consisting of trees and a pattern of hedges dividing the garden into 'rooms' where people may sit and meditate; and a transition garden linking the walled gardens and the Garden of the Future. In contrast to the walled gardens, this has an open prospect and abstract design.

The gardens are accessible from Market Street as well as the main entrance to the Cathedral. Opening hours are 10.00am to 4.00pm every day.

For more details see **w:** www.stpatricks-cathedral.org



4. The Palace Demesne and the 'Garden of the Senses'

For over two hundred years the undulating parkland of the Palace Demesne has been one of the glories of Armagh. The Demesne, comprising some 300 acres, is the creation of Archbishop Richard Robinson; the Palace was the residence of the Archbishops of the Church of Ireland from 1770 to 1975. The walks around the Demesne vary in distance and effort required, taking you into the back meadows and around the more formal Palace Gardens. Go through the woodlands and enter a parkland of mature and young trees; follow the carriage track to the arboretum, taking in impressive views of the Obelisk.

The 'Garden of the Senses' is no ordinary garden; rather it is a sensory experience that will appeal to both able-bodied and disabled visitors. Made up of five distinct areas linked by a winding path, the garden offers a veritable feast for the five senses. There is a seating area to relax in, and listen to the gentle noise of the fountains. All of the above, combined with a wonderful adventure playground, craft shop and Restaurant/Coffee shop, offer visitors a great experience.

For more details see **w:** www.visitarmagh.com



5. St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral Gardens

The gardens at St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral have taken shape over more than 100 years. When the Cathedral was dedicated in August 1873, Archbishop Daniel McGettigan had the seven-terrace flight of steps constructed from the Cathedral gates to the piazza in front of the Great West Door. The terraced lawn was created and planted with trees and shrubbery, along with the gardens around the Primatial residence, Ara Coeli.

In the late 1950s, the then Primate, Cardinal John D'Alton, had the shrubbery removed to create the lawn we see today. To mark the 150th anniversary of the Cathedral in 1990, a new garden with pathways was created to the left of the main driveway. This is called Crolley Garden, commemorating Primate William Crolley who instigated the building of the Cathedral in 1840.

New shrub-beds were created in the most recent renovation of the Cathedral in 2003 to complement the existing mature trees which include oak, lime, beech and sycamore.

The gardens are open to the public every day and are found on the approach to the Cathedral on either side of the main steps.

For more details see **w:** www.armagharchdiocese.org

