

A c t i v i t i e s

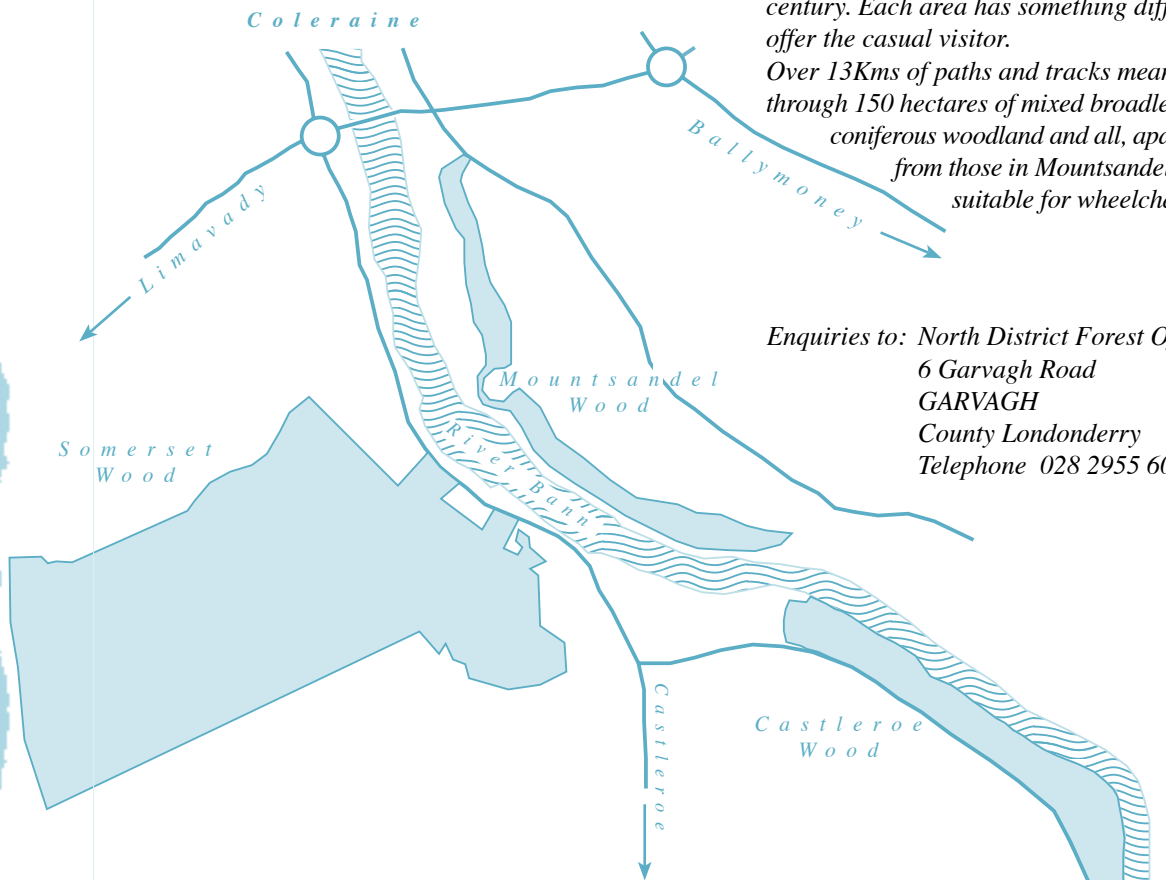
- Woodland and riverside walks.
- Picnic sites.
- Mountsandel Wood - mooring jetty.
- Somerset Wood - fitness cluster.
- Archaeological sites.

C o l e r a i n e W o o d s

Just under 2Kms from the centre of Coleraine lie three areas of woodland - Mountsandel, Somerset and Castleroe. Situated on either side of the River Bann the woods were planted in the 1930's and 40's, although some more mature broadleaved trees date from the last century. Each area has something different to offer the casual visitor.

Over 13Kms of paths and tracks meander through 150 hectares of mixed broadleaved and coniferous woodland and all, apart from those in Mountsandel, are suitable for wheelchair users.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

F O R E S T W A L K S

I N

C o u n t y L o n d o n d e r r y

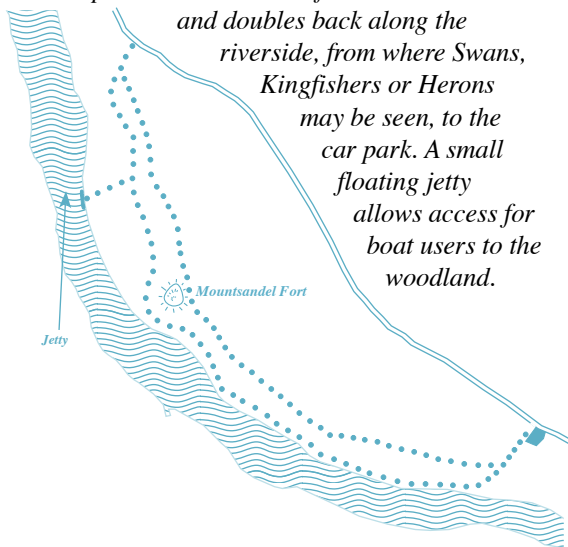


COLERAINE WOODS
MOUNTSANDEL • SOMERSET • CASTLEROE



M o u n t s a n d e l W o o d

Leaving from a car park at the southern end of the Moundsandel Road a waymarked path runs through the wood to the earliest known habitation site in Ireland - Moundsandel Fort. The area around the Fort dates from about 7000BC, and here hundreds of small flint tools have been found providing evidence of Stone Age hunter gatherers camping near the natural weir to trap salmon. The large earthen Fort probably dates from Norman times, and may have given Coleraine its ancient name of Culrath, meaning 'Corner of the Fort'. There are fine views over Somerset Wood and downriver towards the town centre, before the path enters an area of broadleaved trees and doubles back along the



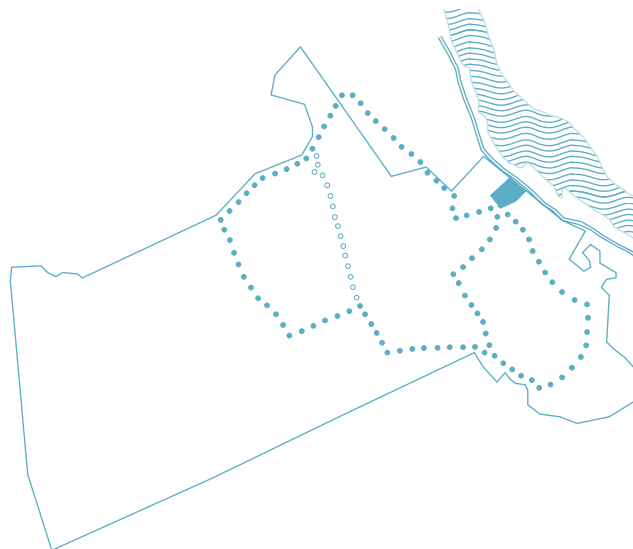
riverside, from where Swans, Kingfishers or Herons may be seen, to the car park. A small floating jetty allows access for boat users to the woodland.

FRONT COVER:

Herons can be seen regularly along this stretch of the River Bann.

S o m e r s e t W o o d

This wood is situated on the A54 Kilrea Road and has a large car park with open grass areas and picnic tables. From here two waymarked paths lead through a wide variety of broadleaved and conifer trees. These paths can be used for jogging in conjunction with exercise apparatus situated in a fitness cluster next to the car park. Guidance on how to use this apparatus safely and effectively is given on an illustrated lectern beside the fitness cluster. Herons nest beside the woodland, and squirrels can be seen further in the wood among the oak and beech trees.



KEY

- Car Parks ■
- Circular Walks ●●●●
- Other Forest Roads ○○○○

C a s t l e r o e W o o d

Further along the A54, between the road and the River Bann, lies Castleroe Wood. A car park and picnic tables overlook the river, and from here walks start and finish which lead through mixed areas of mature woodland. Waymarked paths stretch alongside the river for over 1.5Kms, giving fine views and good opportunities to view the variety of birds, and perhaps otters, inhabiting the riverbank. Small pockets of trees have been cleared, allowing seed from broadleaved trees to germinate in the open areas and to provide continuous woodland for the different bird species.

