

The Demesne - 2002



Boating in the Castlecomer Demesne, early 1900's.



The Demesne at present 2002 .

Castlecomer Demesne is located at the edge of the town and encompassed Castlecomer House, home of the Wandesforde family. They established a unique and ornate haven within the estate walls but down through the years as a result of years of neglect, the Demesne has returned to nature, becoming totally overgrown with heavy undergrowth and brambles.



These were once a beautiful set of steps, but like everything else in the Demesne today, they too have fallen victim to the under growth and years of neglect.

Today, Castlecomer Demesne covers an area of approximately 150 acres. A point named the 'Twelve Views', which offers a panoramic vista across the surrounding countryside, the remnants of the two boating lakes, man made caves and the derelict Ardra Castle provide historical focal points of the Demesne. The 'Scarp Drive' exposes the rock character and creates for the visitor a visual link between the past and present.



This is one of the two man-made caves in the Demesne.

Castlecomer Demesne was also the venue for a series of art projects during the summer/autumn of 2000. Artists and sculptors worldwide came to the Demesne and produced many fine works of art. Here are some examples of the sculptures:



This map is to be found at the entrance to the Demesne and points out the location of these works of art and also shows the many pathways and trails around the Demesne.



St. Peter's Wolves



Hand-woven Bird's Nest



These are carved birds and are sitting on poles about twenty-five feet tall.



Two beautifully carved logs are also to be found.

Demesne Re-development - 2004

Work commenced in the summer of 2004 to re-develop the Castlecomer Demesne. This is a

very exciting project and hopefully the area will be restored to it's former splendour. The "Demesne Company" are the group responsible for this project. The first stage is the restoration and stocking of the lakes. Below we have some photos of the early work. When completed and filled (early 2005) we will take a few more shots. Fishing will form a major part of the project. An interpretative centre will be constructed and eventually when funds allow there will be the long awaited "Mining Museum"



View from above the Lower Lake



The old "Gazebo" or summer house which overlooks the lower lake. Picnics were held here and apparently it was also used for shooting Ducks from.



Drainage works on the lower lake



The bridge connecting the upper and lower lakes



Drainage works on the lower lake



Drainage works on the upper lake



One of the walks around the lower lake



The bridge connecting the upper and lower lakes



The lakes were very much overgrown



Lower lake



Water cascade at entrance to lower lake



Clearing the lake



Fishing should be good!



Walkways will be beautiful