

# Dunorlan Park

Dunorlan is a special place where everyone can enjoy a richly varied Victorian garden, meadows and wildlife, as well as the amenities of a modern park. Dunorlan was once the private grounds of a large and very grand mansion built by the Yorkshire-born millionaire, Henry Reed, who made his fortune in Tasmania. The garden was laid out in the 1850s and 1860s by the renowned Victorian gardener, Robert Marnock. The mansion no longer exists, but the garden is one of the best preserved examples of Marnock's work.

In 2003/4 the park underwent a major restoration costing £2.8 million, following a Heritage Lottery Fund award of £2.1 million. As part of the project, a wide and interesting range of plants and trees was planted.

Dunorlan is remarkable in having a variety of features made of 'Pulhamite', a type of artificial stone manufactured by the firm of James Pulham and Son of Broxbourne. There's a splendid Pulhamite and terracotta fountain, a Grecian temple and cascade.

## Key Features (see map overleaf)

- 1 Chalybeate spring** Tunbridge Wells has long been famous for its health-giving chalybeate springs. Dunorlan's chalybeate spring is known to have been in use since at least 1832, before Robert Marnock designed the garden.
- 2 Terrace** The original Dunorlan House was located above the terrace. Victorian visitors enjoyed views to the countryside beyond the grounds of the house. As no clear boundaries could be seen, the estate would have seemed more extensive than it actually was.
- 3 Grecian temple** The interior of the Grecian temple was originally finely painted with an intricate design. Some of the original paintwork can still be seen.
- 4 Rockery** The large rocks here are a mix of sandstone and Pulhamite and constructed to resemble the sandstone outcrops which occur naturally in this area.

- 5 Avenue** The avenue has been replanted with 48 cedars to recreate the original link between the fountain and temple.
- 6 Fountain** The splendid fountain adorned with dolphins, water nymphs and classical figures is made from Pulhamite and terracotta.
- 7 Water garden** Many of the trees and shrubs Marnock planted in Dunorlan were exciting new introductions to Britain. Some of Marnock's original planting can still be seen in this area.
- 8 Cascade** The cascade has changed little since it was built in the 19th century. A number of the large rocks near the cascade were uncovered during the restoration project.
- 9 Victoria Cross Grove** The grove of oak trees commemorates ten recipients of the Victoria Cross who had connections with the borough of Tunbridge Wells.
- 10 Boats** These can be hired from Easter – September (weather dependent). Prices available on [www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/dunorlan](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/dunorlan) or telephone 07792 542777.
- 11 Play Area** Natural play area for under 12's
- 12 Events Field** Can be hired for commercial and community events.
- 13 Summerhouse** Dedicated to the memory of Peter Reynolds, founder of the Friends of Dunorlan Park.



The Friends of Dunorlan Park is a Registered Charity (no. 1063715/0) with a special interest in the park.

The Friends arrange talks and guided walks on a range of topics.

To find out more call **Peter Russell**, Membership Secretary, on **01892 531830** or visit: [www.friendsofdunorlanpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofdunorlanpark.org.uk)

## Essential information

### Getting to Dunorlan Park

- Dunorlan Park is on the A264, 15 minutes' walk from the town centre.
- For travel by bus check the Arriva website or ring Traveline on 0871 200 2233.
- There is parking at the Pembury Road (A264) and Hall's Hole Road entrances with spaces for disabled visitors in each.

**Access** – see plan overleaf.

### Café

- Hot and cold snack meals, drinks and ice creams from 9am – 5pm daily.

### Dogs

- **Dogs and their owners are welcome, BUT please:**
  - keep your dogs under control and away from the water-fowl
  - don't allow them to disturb other visitors
  - clean up after your dog

### Contacts:

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Parks Service:  
01892 554031

e-mail: [parks@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:parks@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

Parks staff (Sodexo) during park opening hours:  
07920 507025

Or, visit the Council's website:  
[www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/dunorlan](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/dunorlan)

### Out of hours contact number:

07920 534369

Winter time (GMT) 9:00-16:00 weekends only

Summertime (BST) 17:00-20:00 weekdays

9:00-20:00 weekends



Green Heritage Site 



If you require this information in large print or any other format, please contact us on **01892 526121**



# Welcome to Dunorlan Park




Supported by the  
**Heritage Lottery Fund**

# Welcome to Dunorlan Park

This map will help you find your way around the park. Use the key on the right to plan your route. Information about the park's main features is included overleaf. You can find out more about the park's history and events and activities in Dunorlan Park at the information points at the café.

 Dunorlan Park is naturally hilly. However, there is a relatively level path around the lake that can be easily reached from Hall's Hole Road car park. The red paths  are steep and may not be suitable for some visitors. Steps are also highlighted in red.

Help to improve your health by walking the path  around the lake. National guidelines recommend that we all take a total of 30 minutes exercise, three days a week. The walk is nearly one kilometre long and is a very enjoyable way to reach this target.

