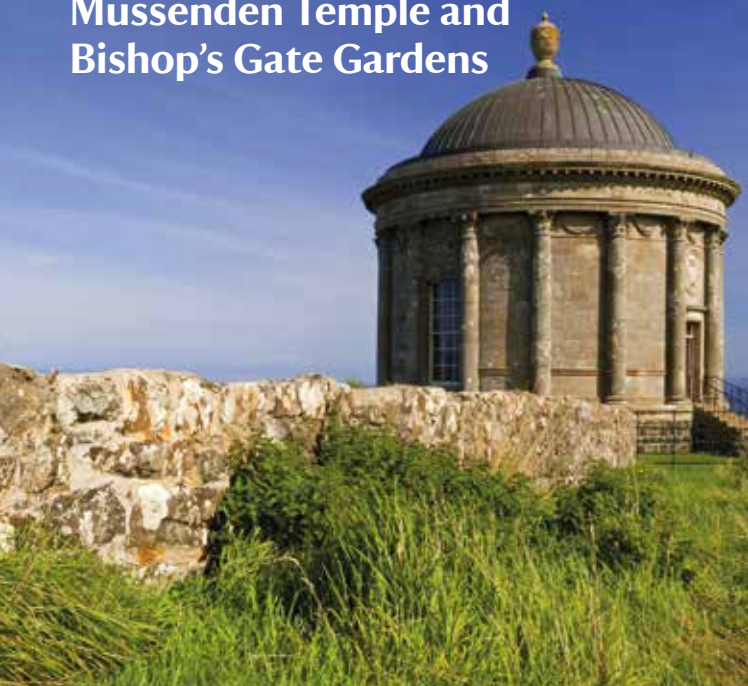


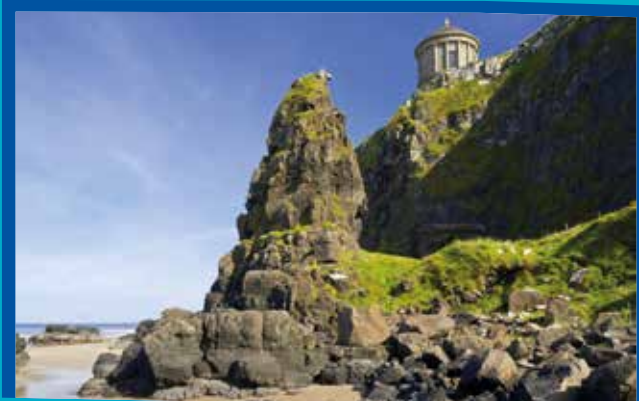


National
Trust

Downhill Demesne, Mussenden Temple and Bishop's Gate Gardens



A warm welcome awaits...



A stunning cliff top estate built by a Bishop

Downhill Demesne, with its sheltered gardens, iconic clifftop landmark and striking ruins of a headland mansion, bear testament to the eccentricity of the Earl Bishop who once made this his home 300 years ago.



The Earl Bishop

Downhill began to take shape around 1772 when the Earl Bishop Frederick Hervey (1730–1803) began an ambitious building project.

Frederick inherited the title of Earl of Bristol in 1779, after his brothers died. But there's much more to Frederick than his titles. The facts tell us that Frederick married Elizabeth Divers at 22 and that they had five children. He was appointed Bishop of Cloyne by his brother – the 3rd Earl – in 1768 and only one year later as Bishop of Derry.

The Earl Bishop was an eccentric and colourful person. He had an eye for the ladies and was reputed to have had many affairs, earning the nickname 'the English Casanova'.

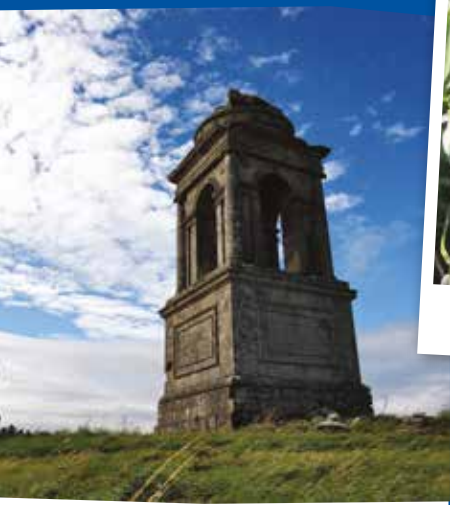
Society described the Earl-Bishop as 'that abominable wicked old fello', 'a most excellent companion, pleasant, intelligent, well read', 'a shallow stream, rapid noisy, diverting but useless'. King George referred to him as 'that wicked prelate'.



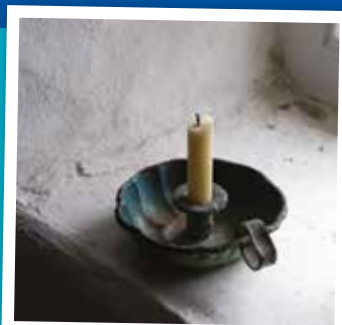
The flamboyant Earl Bishop

Don't miss

- Uninterrupted views of the Donegal Coastline
- Childrens play and nature trail at Bishops Gate
- Snowdrops, bluebells and wild garlic in Spring
- Weekly garden tours in July and August
- Great programme of events
- The old Ice House and Dovecote



Carpets of snowdrops



Facilities and access

Admission free

Car park charges apply at Lion's Gate car park all year around

Catering

Refreshments available at Bishop's Gate
Al's Coffee bar at Lion's Gate.

Toilets

Toilets located at Lion's Gate and Bishop's Gate.

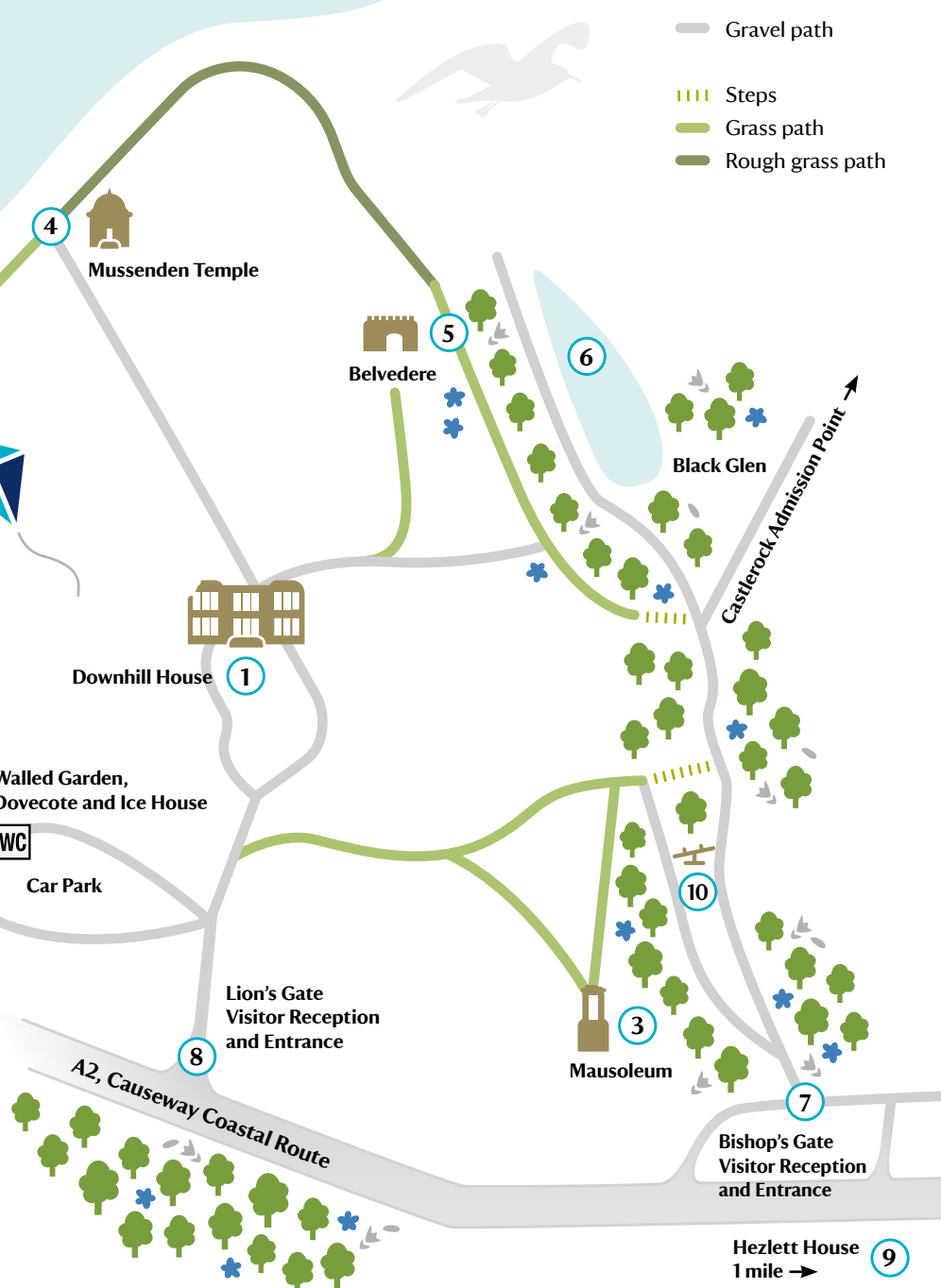
Awe inspiring views, colourful gardens and events all year

Nearby National Trust properties

Portstewart Strand
Giants Causeway
White Park Bay
Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge

Places of interest

- 1 Downhill House**
Built around 1774, now lies in ruins.
- 2 Walled Garden, Dovecote and Ice House**
Provided the big house with food.
- 3 Mausoleum**
Erected between 1779 and 1783 in dedication to the Bishop's brother George, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
- 4 Mussenden Temple**
Built between 1783 and 1785 by Michael Shanahan, planned to be a library.
- 5 Belvedere**
Was built for the Bishop's daughter, Mary, as a summer house for her to enjoy the view.
- 6 Black Glen Pond**
Created in 1840s by the excavation and construction of a dam. It also provided the family with food.
- 7 Bishop's Gate**
Built in 1784 to replace Lion's Gate as the principal entrance to the Demesne.
- 8 Lion's Gate**
Built around 1780 as the original entrance to the Demesne.
- 9 Hezlett House**
Home to the Hezletts in 1766 and stayed within the family for the next 200 years.
- 10 Bishop's Play Trail**
Interactive Nature and Play Trail.



Mussenden Temple and Downhill Demesne are now preserved for your enjoyment by the National Trust. The paths shown on the map will help you to experience Downhill for yourself. Look out also for the many Explorer paths throughout the Demesne.

Note:

- Strong footwear recommended
- Open water feature
- Uneven paths and steps
- Please close all gates
- Dogs must be kept on leads