

Santry Grounds

TCD bought part of the original Santry Demesne in 1972 to develop as a Sports grounds and to build the Book Repository. Santry Demesne also known as Santry Woods or Santry Park was home to an old palatial house and gardens built in the 17th century on the site of a medieval residence.

Originally the lands were owned by the Lord of Meath Hugh de Lacy before finally ending up in the possession of the Barry family who were protestant.

Lord Barry' s 4th son Henry Barry was the 4th lord of Santry, who had a reputation as a reckless and rakish nobleman, was also a member of the then Hellfire Club and it was at one of their events that his life changed drastically.

An intoxicated Lord Barry ran his sword through one of his servants called Laughlin Murphy, originally sentenced to execution, he was spared by his peers but lost his house and land.

The lands passed to the Domvile family who took great care of the estate and delighted in the dense original native woodland.

King Victor Emmanuel of Rome presented a gift of 16 tree species in 1912 the demesne gradually acquired an exotic quality with groves of Spanish chestnuts, Californian redwood, Italian walnut plus hazelnut and cedar.

The lands were taken over by the Health Board and then bought by Robert Harris and this is when the destruction of the dense or Dark woods began, this cumulated in the forming of Sábhál Coillte Sheanruibh.

The site is subject to an area Tree preservation order which was put in place in 1987.

Santry is a 14 Ha site in total with circa 4.3H/a of woodland/ shrub cover and roughly 8H/a grassland which comprises nearly 1.3H/a of wild meadows, this site is a very important portfolio in Trinity's estate. It also contains 3 3g pitches, an Olympic standard water-based hockey pitch, sand-based GAA pitch, two soccer pitches, a rugby pitch and numerous training areas.

There are many fantastically large and impressive specimens of Oak, Horse Chestnut, Pine's that can be found in the woodlands along with the more exotic species such Sweet Chestnut, Ginkgo and redwoods (currently small).