



Holly (Ilex aquifolium)

Irish Name - Cuileann

The Holly is evergreen and used indoors in Ireland as a decoration for Christmas. It is often seen at the site of Sacred wells. The wood is very white. It is associated with death and rebirth and was important to the Winter

Solstice. It is a long lived tree sometimes living up to 150 years. Holly is represented by the letter T in the Ogham alphabet

Retrace your steps onto Lime avenue, keep SO for 80 meters then bear right onto a forest track and right when you meet a dirt road .After 150 meters note Scots Pine on your left, 3rd of the Noble trees of the Celts.



Scots Pine (Pinussylvestris)

Irish Name - PeineAlbanach

A beautiful evergreen tree often found growing in the mountains. Despite its name it is a native Irish tree and it is said to have been known in Ireland for over 9000 years. Its reddish bark smells of resin on warm summer

days. It was revered by our Celtic forbears. The branches of the Scots Pine were often decorated at Yuletide and logs burned to celebrate the New Year and at the Winter Solstice. Scots Pine is represented by the letter A.

Continue along track to a fork, bear left to a small stone bridge and straight on past the Special Area of Conservation. Turn right on track and right again after 30 meters into stand of oak trees.



Oak (Quercusrobur)

Irish Name - Dair

Known as the King of the forest, it is long lived and deep rooted. The Oak is represented by the letter D in the Ogham alphabet of twenty characters. Oak was used in crannogs,

the artificial islands built on lakes and marshes. It was also used in staves, pegs and mallets. A piece of Oak from the Brian Boru harp is now at Trinity College in Dublin.

Retrace steps back left over bridge to fork. Turn left for 450 meters to see 5th Noble tree, a grove of Ash trees on your left.



Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)

Irish Name - Fuinseog

Ash is a very common tree in the Irish countryside. It is much revered in Irish folklore. Three of the great legendary trees of Ancient Ireland were Ash; Bile Tortan, CraebDaithi and Bile Uisneg.

It is used today to make hurleys or the Camán in Irish, for our national game of Hurling. The wood is springy and said to be shock resistant. The tree was sacred to the Druids and wands were often made from Ash. The wood was used for boats, tool handles and oars. Ash is represented by the letter O in the Ogham alphabet.

Continue SO to Lily Pond. Behind pond is our 6th Noble tree, the Yew.



Yew (Taxusbaccata)

Irish Name Iur

A slow growing evergreen tree growing up to 20 meters .Often associated with graveyards symbolizing immortality. The Yew is found throughout Celtic mythology. The leaves are poisonous to cattle. The wood is beautiful,

very hard and tough. Long bows were often made of Yew. Dagger handles, bows and wine barrels were often made out of Yew. Yew is represented by the letter I in the Ogham Alphabet.

Return to track at Lily Pond ,turn left for 250 meters reaching the main castle car park. Take the road up to the Golf Academy at the back of the car park. At the top of the hill by the hedge the last of the 7 Noble Celtic trees the Wild apple is across the pathway. Note the fantastic views back over the castle from this vantage point.



Wild Apple (Malussylvestris)

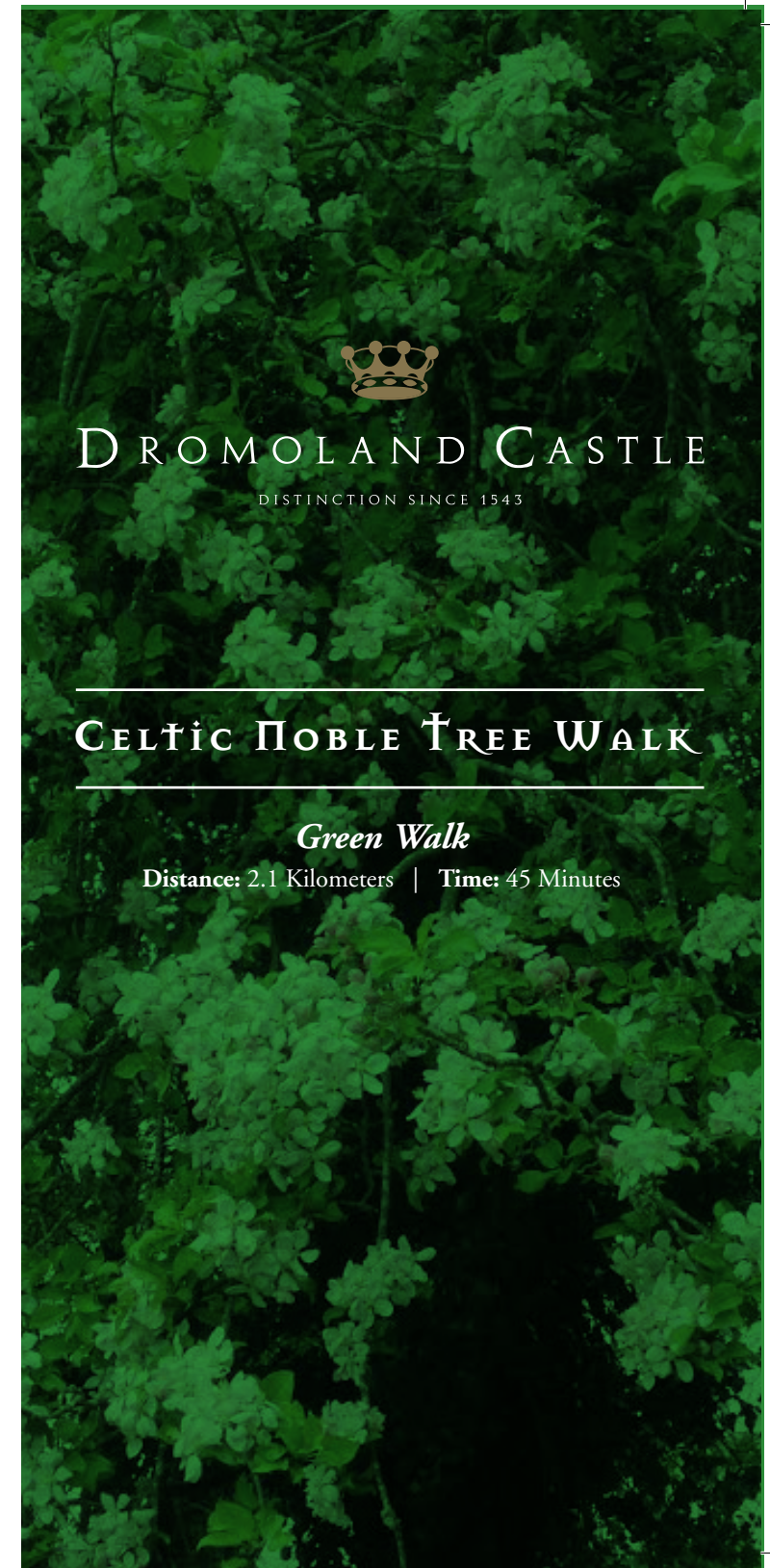
Irish Name - CrannFia – Ull

A deciduous tree with lovely pinkish blossom in Spring. The wood is hard and when burnt has a blue flame. The fruit is bitter and used to make Wild Apple Jelly. The tree was sacred

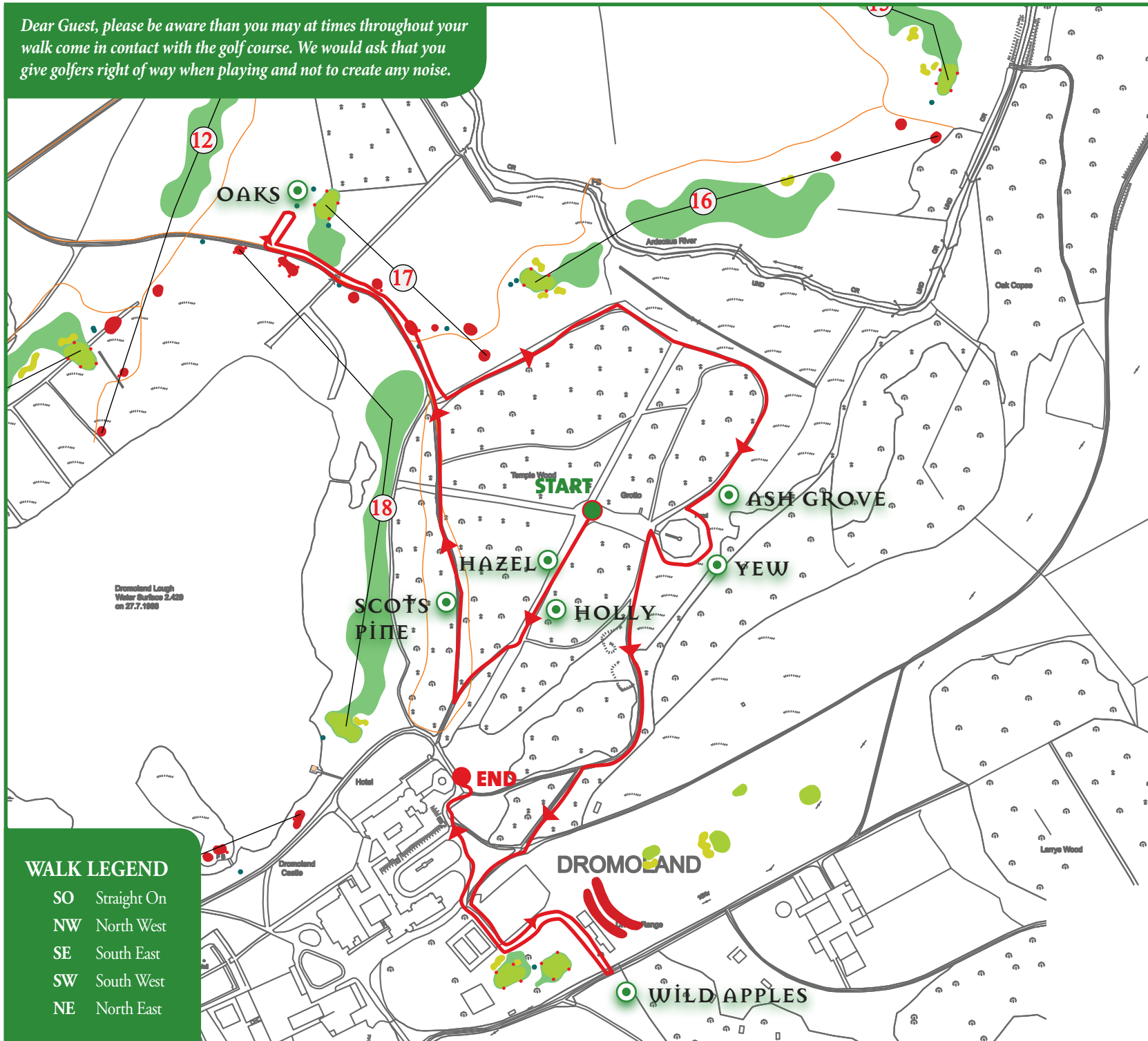
to the Druids. It was used in healing rituals and was a source of fruit in Celtic times. The Wild Apple is represented by the letter Q.

Retrace your steps back to the Castle.

End of walk.



Dear Guest, please be aware than you may at times throughout your walk come in contact with the golf course. We would ask that you give golfers right of way when playing and not to create any noise.



CELTIC NOBLE TREE WALK

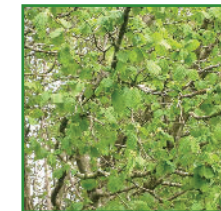
Green Walk

Distance: 2.1 Kilometers

Time: 45 Minutes

The Celts who roamed our land in 800 BC had a special affinity with trees as they were essential to their very existence. Trees were protected by law and proper planting and seeding was supervised. Trees were invaluable for wood, tools, food and bark was used for dyeing. The Celts divided their trees into groups including The Nobles, Commoners and Lesser Divisions of the wood.

From the Statue of Mercury head SW towards the Castle on Lime tree avenue. After 40 meters note the first of the 7 noble trees, the Hazel on your right.



Hazel (Corylusavellana)

Irish Name - Coll

A much loved tree with its lemon coloured catkins in Spring and delicious nuts in Autumn. Hazel was used to make wands and even today in some parts of Ireland forked Hazel branches are used to divine water. Hazel is also used for coppicing and in basket making. Hazel is represented in the Ogham alphabet by the letter C.

William Butler Yeats found inspiration with the Hazel in his poem 'The Song of Wandering Aengus'

*I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and picked a hazel wand
And hooked a berry to a thread;
And when white moths were on the wing,
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.*

Continue SO for 20 meters bear right in to the forest where you will find the male and female holly trees on your left.