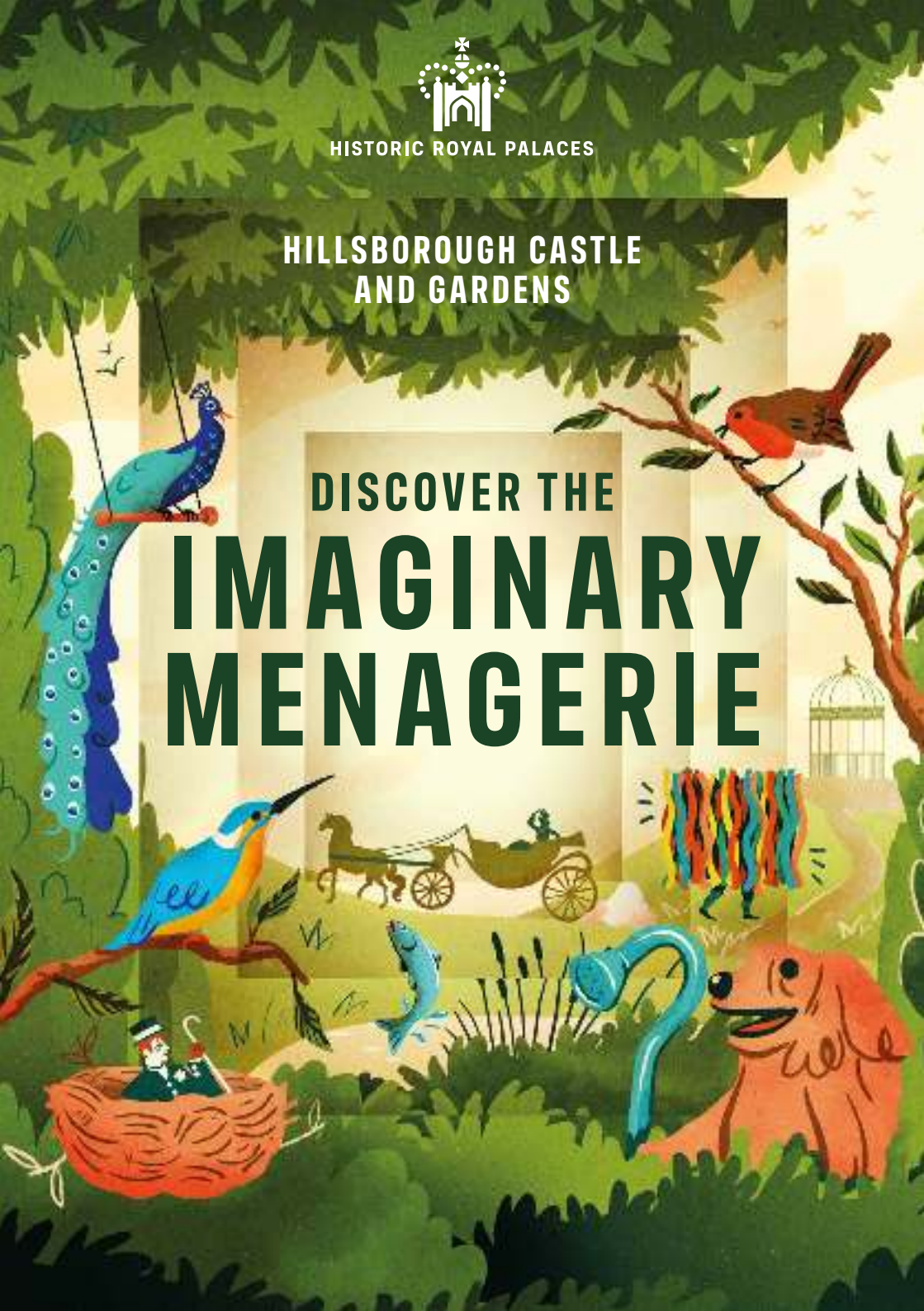




HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE  
AND GARDENS

DISCOVER THE  
**IMAGINARY  
MENAGERIE**





## THE KINGFISHER TRAIL



This trail takes you around the Lake and will take about 30 minutes plus extra time for play.



*Can you spot the kingfishers? Follow them around the trail and see what you can find – look out for the real live kingfishers near the island on the Lake.*

### BAREFOOT WALK



Kick off your shoes and feel the earth between your toes – it's good for you and so much fun! If you prefer to use your hands you can explore Nature's textures on our touch-table. There is also a handy tap to wash your feet at the end.

### A SHOAL OF FISH

Created by local artist Kevin Killen, this magical sculpture commemorates former Governor of Northern Ireland Lord Erskine's passion for his pet tropical fish.



### SOUND FOREST

Push your way through the forest of wooden chimes designed by leading German artist Hansjorg Palm and create marvellous music.



# WELCOME TO THE IMAGINARY MENAGERIE

where you can uncover the stories of the pets that have lived at the Castle and the wild animals that continue to make Hillsborough their home.

Follow the kingfishers and the robins and discover magical places to play, marvel, or simply relax with your family and friends.



Look out for the kingfishers and robins!





### BEES

Hillsborough's bees are busy making honey and helping all the flowers, fruit and vegetables to grow. See if you can find their hives – but don't get too close!

### CARRIAGE

In the early 19th century, the Hill family had several carriages including a barouche like this one. They also kept coach dogs who lived in the stables and bonded with the horses. If they were well trained they fought off highwaymen too!



*Went out in the barouche.  
Took out Surryalla the beautiful coach  
dog to make him follow the carriage,  
but he soon ran home again!*  
Journal of Lady Charlotte & Lady Mary Hill

### COWS HELPING NATURE

Our local rare breed cows are helping to manage the meadow – they trample the seeds into the earth and encourage lots of different plants to grow.

Even their dung supports many insects which in turn provide food for birds, foxes and other animals.



### BIRD HIDE

Shhhh! Hillsborough's Lake is home to many birds including our majestic swans. If you are quiet and still you might spot our resident kingfishers and little grebes too.



### BIRD FEEDING STATION

Bread isn't good for our wild water birds, but they love to eat grain.

### HILLSBOROUGH'S HOUNDS

Many dogs have made Hillsborough Castle their home. In 1815 Lord Arthur Hill bought 'a pretty little dog named Rosette for Mama' and in the late 19th century, Lady Alice Hill regularly showed her borzois at Mr Croft's dog show.

The Castle even had its own corgi, Bridie, who lived here with Lord Wakehurst, Governor of Northern Ireland in the 1950's. But Hillsborough Castle's most famous canine residents, Bobby and Jack, arrived in 1999 along with their owner, the new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Mandelson. Which one of these doggy companions is your favourite?

*A pretty little dog named  
Rosette for Mama'*



# THE ROBIN & KINGFISHER TRAILS

AT HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS



## THE ROBIN TRAIL



40 minutes walk plus extra time to play

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 A Family Nest        | 4 Crannog and Board Walk |
| 2 Build your own Folly | 5 A Cage of Exotic Birds |
| 3 Sounds of Nature     | 6 Willow House           |



## THE KINGFISHER TRAIL



30 minutes walk plus extra time to play

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Barefoot Walk   | 6 Cows                  |
| 2 A Shoal of Fish | 7 Bird Hide             |
| 3 Sound Forest    | 8 Bird Feeding Station  |
| 4 Bee Hives       | 9 Hillsborough's Hounds |
| 5 Carriage        |                         |



Weston Pavilion





## THE ROBIN TRAIL



This trail takes you past Moss Walk and through the Lost Garden and will take about 40 minutes plus extra time for play.



*Look out for the robins. Follow them around the trail to see what you can find.*

### A FAMILY NEST

There's room for everyone in our huge nest. Pretend to be a giant bird, brood and nestle down!



### BUILD YOUR OWN FOLLY

If you had lots of money would you design a special house for your pet? Maybe a kennel in the form of a temple? Or a chicken coop shaped like a pyramid? Let your imagination run riot and have a go at building your own folly.

### SOUNDS OF NATURE

Do you know what sound a robin makes? What about a fox? It's fun to talk to the animals and birds at Hillsborough. Why not speak to your friends using our special talk tubes too?



*chak-chak!  
kaaa!  
pruk!  
tsee!*

### CRANNOG AND BOARD WALK

Crannogs are a kind of island structure which were built throughout Ireland since the Stone Age. They might have been used as houses or as a place for feasting or even somewhere to hide.

Can you make your way over the stream and the bog to the crannog? What will you do there?

### A CAGE OF EXOTIC BIRDS

We know that when he built his house in the 1750s, Wills Hill planned a menagerie of exotic birds. This would probably have included pheasants, parrots and fancy chickens.

We don't know if he ever completed his plans but if he did do you think it might have looked something like this?



*Look out for the sculpture!*

*The entrance to the castle is to be a court with spaces laid out for a Menagerie or rather foreign birds*

Mary Delaney, celebrated botanical artist on a visit to Hillsborough in 1758

### WILLOW HOUSE

The Marquess of Downshire used to invite all of the children on his estate to a party every year. As a special treat they were given a mug of beer! What's your favourite party drink?



## REMEMBER THE RULES KEEP SAFE AND HAVE FUN!

### 1 FAMILY

The Imaginary Menagerie is designed for the whole family, whatever their age and ability, to play and explore together. There are places for adventurous play and places for quiet play.



### 2 SUPERVISION

Though children are safe in the Gardens, they should be supervised by a responsible parent or carer at all times. We don't allow unsupervised visitors under 16 in the Gardens. If we do find an unsupervised child and can't find their carer within 30 minutes, we may contact the Local Authority to report an abandoned child. There are lots of adventures for children of all ages. Parents and carers need to decide which play equipment is right for their children's age and ability.

### 3 CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

The Imaginary Menagerie includes sand, water, pebbles, bark and a range of play equipment, some of which could graze sensitive young skin. Please make sure your children are appropriately dressed for these conditions.

### 4 KEEP TOGETHER!

Please stay with your children at all times as the Imaginary Menagerie is designed for adventure and exploration – and is full of places to disappear!

### 5 SMOKING AND ALCOHOL

No-one is allowed to smoke around the Imaginary Menagerie installations and alcohol is forbidden too.

### 6 PICNICKING

We want visitors to be able to play all over the Imaginary Menagerie. Please don't set up any picnic blankets and chairs that will get in the way of children playing. There are lots of lovely picnic spots around the Gardens and you can always come back to play later.

### 7 RESPECT OTHER CREATURES

You will encounter bees, cattle and large wild water birds around the Imaginary Menagerie. Please obey the signs and respect our fellow creatures.



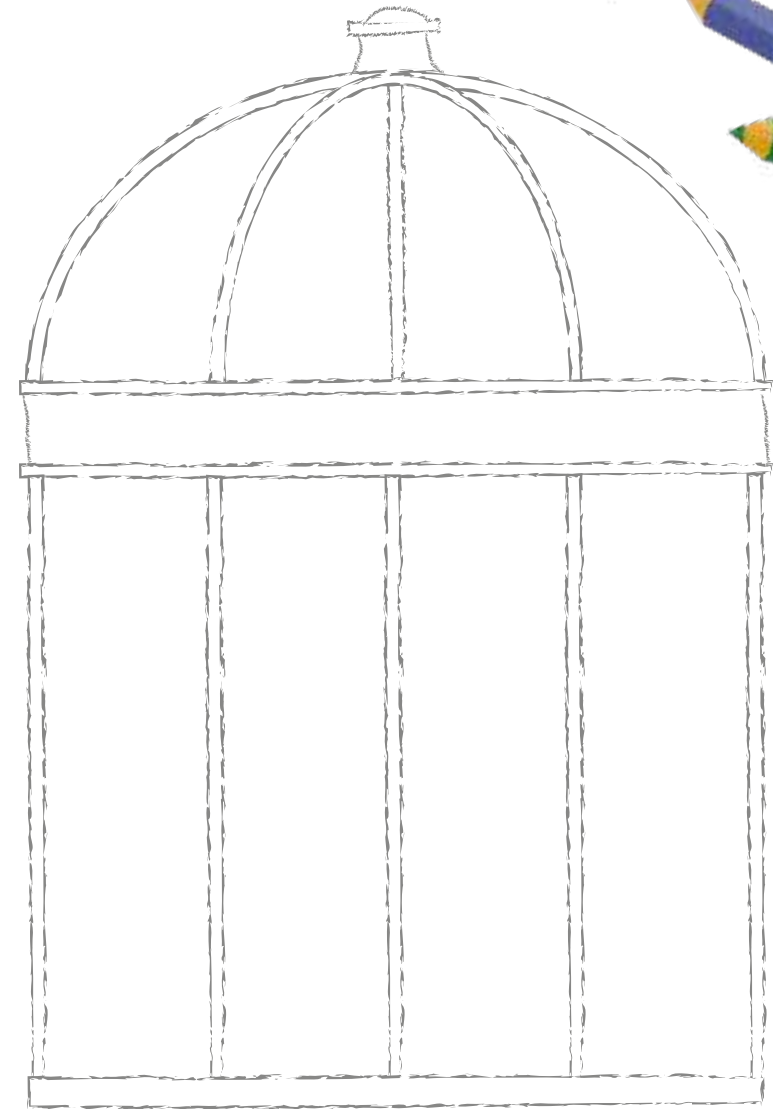
### 8 FIRST AID


There are first-aid trained staff on hand at Hillsborough at all times – just ask any member of staff and they'll call a first-aider for you. All of our staff are trained in safeguarding.




## DRAW YOUR OWN IMAGINARY MENAGERIE!


Let your creativity run riot and fill this birdcage with your own exotic birds.





Share your experience  
online and follow us here

 Hillsborough Castle

 @Hillsboroughcastle

 @HillsCastle

 HERITAGE  
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