

# The People's Millennium Forests

## Reenadinna Wood, Muckross, Co. Kerry



# Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail

## Coill Reenadinna, Mucros, Co. Chiarraí

The **People's Millennium Forests** is the largest-ever project in Ireland aimed at restoring and managing our native woodlands. Native woodlands are forests or woodlands made up of tree species that occur naturally in Ireland, such as oak, ash, elm, Scots pine, yew and birch.

Once an intimate part of our culture, Ireland's **native woodlands** were in danger of becoming a lost legacy and this project, with the support of AIB and the National Millennium Committee, is a hugely successful step to redress centuries of over exploitation, neglect and clearance of our native forests. To coincide with the celebration of the third Millennium in 2000, sixteen woodlands around Ireland, comprising fifteen hundred acres, were chosen as the **People's Millennium Forests**, and were dedicated in perpetuity to the people of Ireland.

Killarney National Park contains the largest area of native woodland in Ireland and is dominated by native oak woodland. It is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and is home to a host of native trees, shrubs, plants, mosses and lichens. In addition to yew there is also hazel, oak, willow, birch, ash, aspen and the rare strawberry tree, which is thought to have originally come from the Iberian Peninsula. Situated on the Muckross peninsula separating Lough Leane from Muckross Lake in Killarney National Park, Reenadinna Wood is the largest area of yew (*Taxus baccata*) woodland in Ireland and indeed Western Europe. It is therefore of exceptional conservation importance and has been afforded Annex I Priority Habitat status under the European Habitats Directive. It is designated as a 'Special Area of Conservation' (SAC) and a 'Natural Heritage Area' (NHA). The wood covers approximately 25ha of 'karst' limestone and the yew trees are growing on very thin, fertile soils with their roots anchored within the limestone fissures (known as grikes). Yew is a slow growing tree, often living to 2,000 years or more. It is estimated that the yew trees growing here are between 200 and 250 years old.

The dense canopy layer associated with yew woodlands inhibits light reaching the woodland floor which results in very little ground vegetation diversity. The woodland floor is however, enveloped by a thick blanket of mosses, lichens and liverworts (bryophytes) which gives the wood a magical atmosphere. At the edges of this woodland where light levels are higher the yew is intimately mixed with oak, ash, hazel, holly and alder. Here and in adjacent native oakwoods ground vegetation diversity is very diverse and includes a variety of sedges, yellow loosestrife, marsh fern and wood millet - a plant found only in very old or 'ancient' native woodlands. There are also a number of rare orchids and a considerable variety of bryophytes present that reflect the continuously moist 'Atlantic' climate in this region. In particular, the small rare fern known as Moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*) is present at the woodland edge.

The principal threat to the yew wood is the presence of sika deer which strip the bark and score the tree trunks, which can eventually weaken and kill the trees. The erection of a deer fence in 2000 around the woodland excluded deer. This allowed Park Rangers cull deer to a sustainable level which is now showing benefits as is evident by recent woodland regeneration on the peninsula. Deer will continue to be managed to minimise damage and to secure the long term viability of the wood by allowing young trees to flourish and replace old, veteran trees as they die.

The Killarney woodlands are also home to the last remaining herd of native red deer. Look carefully and you see signs of red deer, fox, badger, red squirrel and pine marten. Stay silent and you may hear the calls of birds such as coal tit, blackcap and goldcrest.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



Iora Rua  
Red Squirrel



An Cloigín Gorm  
Bluebell

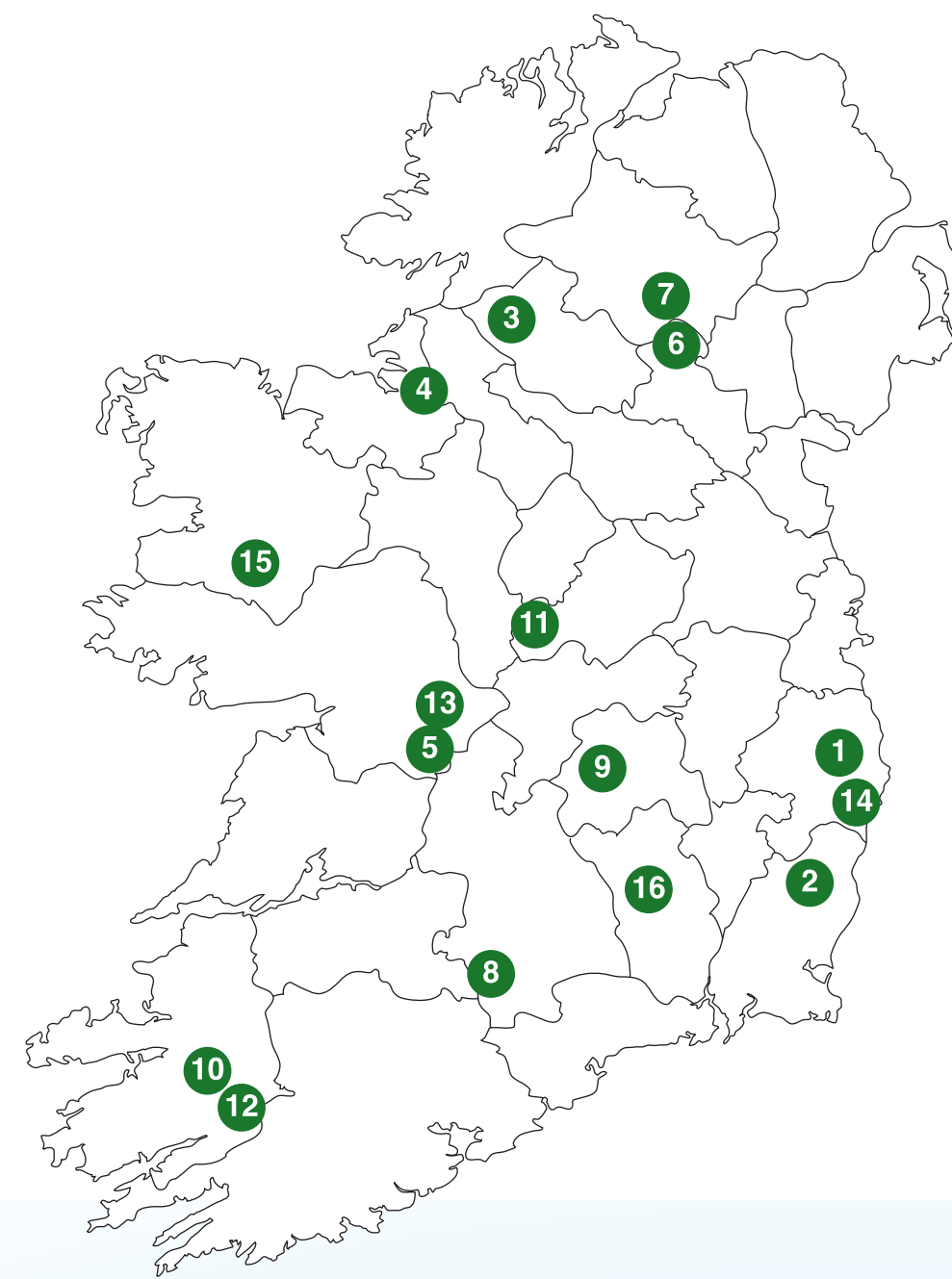


An Snag  
Tree Creeper



Lus na Gaoithe  
Wood Anemone

1. Ballygannon, Co Wicklow
2. Camolin, Co Wexford
3. Castle Archdale, Co Fermanagh
4. Cullentra, Co Sligo
5. Derrygill, Co Galway
6. Derrygory, Co Monaghan
7. Favour Royal, Co Tyrone
8. Glengarra, Co Tipperary
9. Lacca, Co Laois
10. Muckross, Co Kerry
11. Portlick, Co Westmeath
12. Rossacro na Ioo, Co Kerry
13. Rosstulla, Co Galway
14. Shelton, Co Wicklow
15. Tourmakeady, Co Mayo
16. Woodlands, Co Kilkenny



1. Baile na gCánóich, Co. Chill Mhantáin
2. Cam Eolainn, Co. Loch Garman
3. Caisleán Archdale, Co. Fhear Manach
4. Cullentraigh, Co. Shligigh
5. Doire Ghill, Co. na Gallimhe
6. Doire Ghoiraidh, Co. Mhuineacháin
7. Achadh Maol, Co. Thír Eoghain
8. An Ghleanna Ghairbh, Co. Thiobraid Árann
9. Leacich, Co. Laoise
10. Mucros, Co. Chiarraí
11. Port Lice, Co. na hIarmhí
12. Rios an Chriú na Lus, Co. Chiarraí
13. Rios Dorn, Co. na Gallimhe
14. Shelton, Co. Chill Mhantáin
15. Tuair Mhic Éadaigh, Co. Mhagh Eo
16. Coill An Phallaigh, Co. Chill Chathnagh

- Forais Mílaoise Reenadinna  
Reenadinna Millennium Forest
- Coillearnach Iúir  
Yew Woodlands
- Sean-Coillearnach Darach  
Old Oak Woodlands
- Coillearnach Fhliuch  
Wet Woodlands
- Coillearnach Leathanduilleach Mheasctha  
Mixed Broadleaved Woodland
- Coillearnach Leathanduilleach /  
Bhuaircineach Mheasctha  
Mixed Broadleaved/Conifer Woodland
- Talamh Féaraigh Fhliuch  
Wet Grassland
- Talamh Féaraigh Neodrach &  
Thirim Chailcreach  
Dry Calcareous & Neutral Grassland
- Bóthar na Foraoise  
Forest Road



**Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail** an tionscadal is mó riamh in Éirinn atá dírithe ar choillearnach dhúchasach na tíre a athbheoú agus a bhainistiú. Is éard is coillearnach dhúchasach ann ná foraoiseacha nó coillearnach ina bhfuil speiceas a bhaineann go nádúrtha leis an tír seo, speiceas mar daír, fuinseog, leamhán, péine Albanach, iúr agus beith.

Cuid dlúth de chultúr na tíre tráth, tá **coillearnach dhúchasach** na hÉireann anois i mbaol dul in éag agus is céim mhór chun cinn é an tionscadal seo, le tacaíocht ó AIB agus ó Choiste Náisiúnta na Mílaoise, le haghaidh a thabhairt ar an bhfailli agus ar an dúshaothrú a rinneadh orthu leis na céadta bliain. Tráth a rabhtas ag ceiliúradh na tríú Mílaoise in 2000 roghnaíodh sé choillearnach déag ar fud na hÉireann, cúig chéad déag acra ar fad, mar **Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail** a fhágfar anois le hoidhreacht go brách ag muintir na hÉireann.

Is i bPáirc Náisiúnta Chill Airne atá an limistéar is mó de choillearnach dhúchasach in Éirinn ar coillearnach dhúchasach dharach is mó atá ann. An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Páirceanna agus Fiadhúla a dhéanann bainistiú uirthi agus inti tá crainn, toir, plandaí, caonaigh agus léicín dhúchasacha le fáil. Chomh maith le crainn iúr a bheith sa pháirc tá crainn choill, darach, sailí, fhuinnseoige, chreathach agus crann atá gann, an crann sú talún, a cheaptar a tháinig as Leithinis na hIbéire an chéad lá riamh. Suite ar leithinis Mhucrois idir Loch Léin agus Loch Mhucrois i gCill Airne tá Coill Reenadinna i bPáirc Náisiúnta Chill Airne an limistéar is mó de choillearnach iúr (*Taxus baccata*) in Éirinn agus go deimhin in Iarthar na hEorpa. Tá tábhacht eisceachtúil caomhnaithe ag baint leis agus tá stádas Gnáthóg Tosaíochta Innéacs 1 sannta dó faoi Threoir maidir le Gnáthóga na hEorpa. Tá sé ainmnithe ar 'Limistéar Caomhantais Speisialta' (SAC) agus ar 'Limistéar Oidhreacht Nádúrtha' (NHA). Tá an choill ag luí ar timpeall is 25ha d'aolchloch charnach agus tá na crainn iúr ag fás in ithir thanaí, shuibhir agus iad fréamhaithe i scoilteáin (ar a dtugtar gríoga) na haolchloiche. Crann é an crann iúr a fhásann go mall agus a mhairéann 2,000 bliain nó níos faide go minic. Meastar go bhfuil na crainn iúr atá ag fás anseo idir 200 agus 250 bliain.

Is beag solas a scaoileann brat dlúth na coillearná iúr chuig talamh na coillearná agus is beag éagsúlacht atá i bhfásra íochtarach na coillearná dá bharr. Tá talamh na coillearná faoi bhrat tiubh caonaigh, licéin agus aelusa (brifít), áfach, a thugann draíocht don choill. Ar cholta na coillearná, san áit a mbíonn níos mó solais, tá idir chrainn iúr agus darach, fhuinseoige, choill, chuilinn agus fhearnóige ag fás go dlúth in éineacht. Anseo agus sa choill darach tá éagsúlacht mhór sa bhfásra agus áirítear ann cineálacha cíbe, breallán léana, raitheach chorrach agus muillead coille – planda nach mbíonn le fáil ach i gcoillearnach dúchasach thar a bheith sean nó 'ársá'. Tá roinnt magairlí fánacha ann freisin chomh maith le roinnt mhaith brifite ar léiriú iad ar aeráid thais an Atlantaigh sa réigiún. Go háirithe an raitheach beag gann darb ainm Lus na Míosa (*Botrychium lunaria*) atá le fáil ar cholta na coillearná.

An baol is mó don choill iúr ná an fia Seapánach a tharraingíonn an choirt den chrann agus a scríobann tamhan na gcrann a lagaíonn agus a mharaíonn iad sa deireadh. Choinnigh fál a cuireadh suas i 2000 amach na fianna. Chuir sé seo ar chumas Mhaoirseoirí na Páirce na fia a dhealú go dtí leibhéal inmharthana agus tá a shliocht sin le feiceáil biodh is go bhfuil an choillearnach ag teacht chuici féin arís ar an leithinis. Leanfar ag déanamh bainistiú ar fhianna chun a chinntiú go ndéantar a laghad dochair agus is féidir agus lena chinntiú go mairfidh an choill amach anseo trí dheis a thabhairt do chrainn óga teacht faoi bhláth in áit na seanchann de réir mar a théann siad in éag.

I gcoillearnach Chill Airne freisin atá an tréad deiridh den fhia rua dúchasach. Féach go grinn agus feicfidh tú lorg an fhia rua, an tsionnaigh, an bhroic, an iora rua agus an chait crainn. Bí cinín agus b'fhéidir go gcloisfeá ceol na n-éan – an meantán dubh, an caipín dubh agus an cíorbhuí.

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh tú sult as do chuairt.

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Department of **Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**

Déan an beart, coinneigh an bhitheagsúlacht slán  
take action on biodiversity loss



An Dair Nearnghasánach  
Sessile Oak



Caor Chon  
Guelder Rose



Cat Crainn  
Pine Marten



Cuilleann  
Holly