

# The People's Millennium Forests Cullentra Wood, Co. Sligo

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. 1.3 million young trees of native species were planted on the sites – a tree for every household in Ireland. The millenium trees were planted in sections of the area shown as Young, Mixed Native Woodland on the accompanying map. These saplings have developed into a young, vibrant, **native woodland community**, rich in both plant and animal life. It will take centuries for these forests to reach ecological maturity. Naturally, some of the trees you see here today will disappear from the developing forest, while others will survive to maturity. Many more young trees will join the developing woodland through natural processes over time.

The oakwoods at **Cullentra** have been in existence for at least 300 years. The name Cullentra derives from Cullentragh or Cullenagh meaning 'a place abounding in holly'. Cullentra is part of a larger area of woodland known as Slish Wood. This is an outstanding heritage area on the southern shore of Lough Gill overlooking the Lake Isle of Inishfree, approximately 10km southeast of Sligo town.

Oak dominate at Cullentra, but ash, hazel, holly, mountain ash, cherry, birch and alder are also present. The rare strawberry tree is also found nearby – its northernmost location in Europe.

Three separate areas are being managed at Cullentra under this project. Two sites are new native woods whilst the third is an ancient oak woodland that is being restored.

As you walk through the woods, you will see mainly oak, alder and birch trees, with some hazel, ash and Scots pine. During spring and summer, bluebell, wood orchids and honeysuckle blossom here. You may see signs of fallow deer, badger and fox as you walk through the wood, while the calls of birds like wood warbler, woodcock and sparrowhawk may also be heard.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



Iora Rua  
Red Squirrel



An Cloigín Gorm  
Bluebell



An Snag  
Tree Creeper



Lus na Gaoithe  
Wood Anemone

urraite ag  
sponsored by



á bhainistiú ag  
managed by



igcompháirtíocht le  
in partnership with  
Coilteamacha Dúchasacha



An Dair Neamhghasánach  
Sessile Oak



Caor Chon  
Guelder Rose



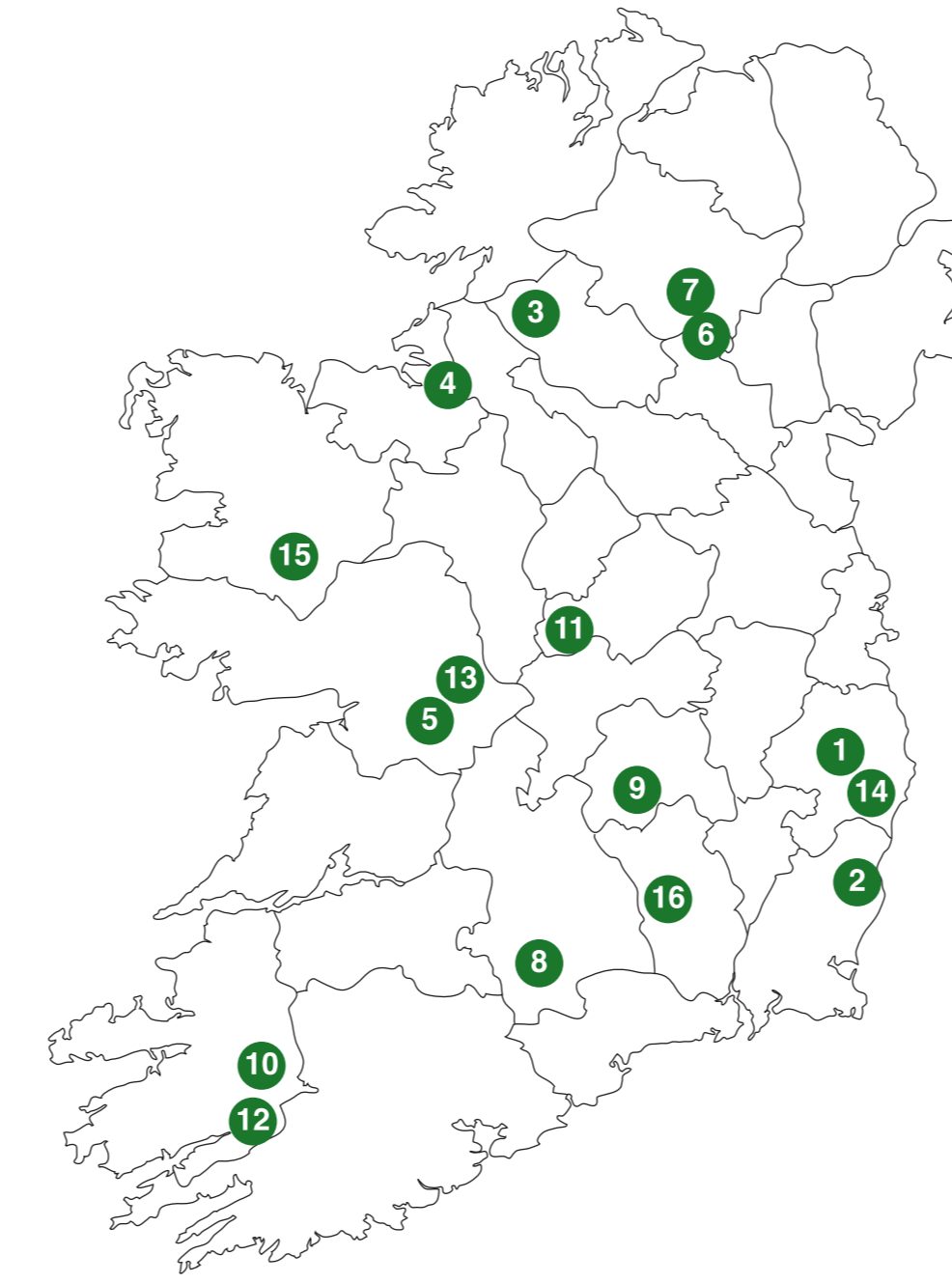
Cat Crainn  
Pine Marten



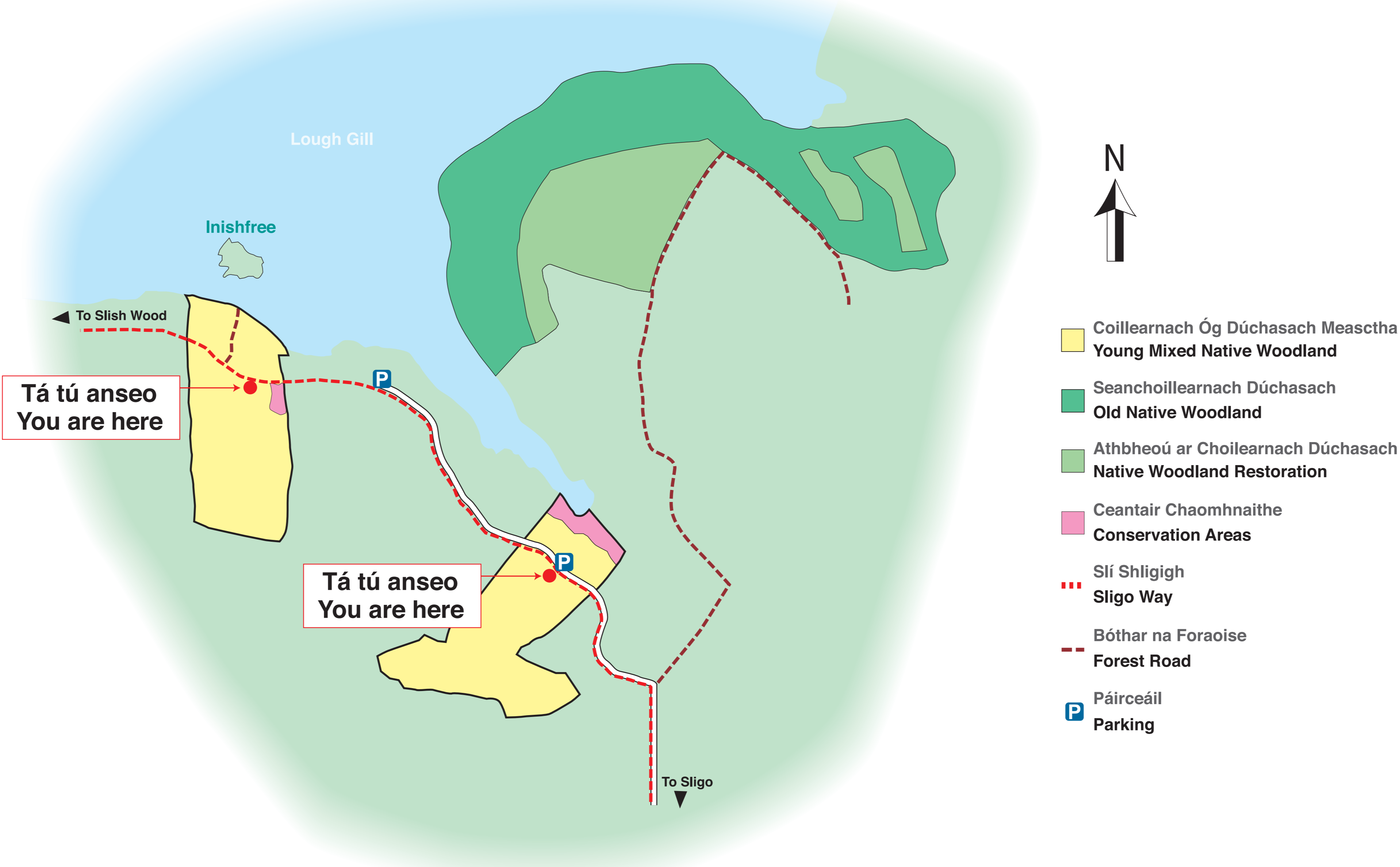
Cuilleann  
Holly



1. Ballygannon, Co Wicklow
2. Camolin, Co Wexford
3. Castlearchdale, 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. Rossacroo na Ioo, Co Kerry
13. Roslurra, Co Galway
14. Shelton, Co Wicklow
15. Tourmakeady, Co Mayo
16. Woodlands, Co Kilkenny



1. Baile na gCánóich, Co. Chill Mhantáin
2. Cam Eolaing, Co. Loch Garman
3. Castlearchdale, Co. Fhear Manach
4. Cullentra, Co. Shligigh
5. Doire Ghill, Co. na Gaillimhe
6. Doire Ghoiraidh, Co. Mhuineacháin
7. Achadh Maoil, Co. Thír Eogháin
8. Gleann Garaigh, Co. Thiobraid Árann
9. Lacca, Co. Laoise
10. Mucros, Co. Chiarraí
11. Portlick, Co. na hIarmhí
12. Ros an Chruí na Lúis, Co. Chiarraí
13. Ros Dora, Co. na Gaillimhe
14. Shelton, Co. Chill Mhantáin
15. Tuair Mhíic Éadsaigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo
16. Baile na Coille, Co. Chill Chainnigh



# Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail Coill Cullentra, Co. Shligigh

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

Cuid dlúth de chultúr na tíre tráth, tá coillearnach dúchasach 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 bhfaillí 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, ar Fhoroiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail a fhágfar anois le hoidhreacht go brách ag muintir na hÉireann. Cuireadh 1.3 milliún crann de speiceas dúchasach ar na láithreacha - crann in aghaidh gach líon tí sa tír. In áiteanna sa limistéar ar a dtugtar Coillearnach Óg Dúchasach Measctha ar an léarscáil a théann leis seo a cuireadh crainn na mílaoise. Tá na crainn óga sin anois óg, láidir agus ar **choillearnach dúchasach** a bhfuil saibhreas plandaí agus ainmhithe ag baint leo. Glacfaidh sé na céadta bliain ar na foraoiseacha sin aibiú ó thaobh na héiceolaíochta de. Ar ndóigh ní mhairfidh roinnt de na crainn atá le feiceáil anseo inniu ach mairfidh cuid eile acu go mbeidh siad lán-aibí. Le himeacht ama fásfaidh crainn óga eile go nádúrtha sa choillearnach.

Tá coill dharach i Cullentra le os cionn 300 bliain. Is ón bhfocal 'Cullentragh' nó 'Cullenagh' a chiallaíonn 'áit a mbeadh cuileann fairsing' a tháinig an t-ainm Cullentra. Tá Cullentra ar chuid de cheantar coillearnaigh níos mó ar a dtugtar Coill na Slise. Is ceantar ar leith oidhreachta é seo ar bhruach thoir Loch Gile ag breathnú amach ar 'Lake Isle of Inishfree' timpeall is 10 km soir ó dheas de bhaile Shligigh.

Dair is mó atá i Cullentra ach tá fuinseo, coll, cuileann, caorthann, síliní, beith agus fearnóg freisin ann. Tá an caithne, atá fíorghann, le fáil in aice láimhe freisin – an pointe is faide ó thuaidh san Eoraip a bhfuil sé le fáil ann.

Tá trí cheantar ar leith de Cullentra á mbainistiú faoin tionscadal seo. Is coille dúchasacha nua dhá láthair acu ach is coillearnach ársa darach atá sa tríú ceann a bhfuil athbheoú á dhéanamh air.

Ag siúl duit ann is crainn darach, fearnóige agus beithe is mó a thabharfá faoi deara ach go bhfuil crainn coill, fuinseoige agus péine Albanach freisin ann. Bíonn coinnle cora, an ruithéal rí, an magairlíní coille agus an féithleann faoi bhláth ann san earrach agus sa samhradh. Ar shiúl duit ann d'fhéadfá a theacht ar lorg an fhia, an bhroic agus an tsionnaigh nó ceol éan leithéid an cheolaire coille, an creabhar nó an spioróg a chlosteáil.

Tá súil againn go mbeifidh tú sult as do chuairt.