

# The People's Millennium Forests

## Derrygill Wood, Co. Galway

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.

**Derrygill Wood** is one of the remaining fragments of a once impressive and extensive native forest in the Woodford region. Derrygill means 'oakwood of the foreigner' and old maps show that Derrygill townland was densely forested for centuries. Located approximately three kilometres southeast of the village of Woodford, you are in an outstanding natural heritage area. According to local folklore, St. Anne's Well in Woodford has a "pattern" associated with it, and a tradition of curing illnesses, "mainly sore eyes". Cloths are tied to a nearby bush – a rag-tree – which is associated with the Blessed Virgin. In many parts of Ireland, trees or bushes are often singled out for reverence, as it is thought that they possess curative powers.

Today, where the millennium trees are planted, you will see young, developing native woodland (oak, birch, ash and alder) underneath older trees of oak and Scots pine. Over time, as the woodland matures, a woodland understorey of holly, rowan and hazel will develop. During spring and summer, wood sorrel, heather, bilberry and violets blossom here. Look carefully and you may see signs of red squirrel, fox, badger and pine marten. Stay silent and you may hear the call of birds such as jay, treecreeper, long-tailed tit and sparrow hawk.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



# Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail

## Doire Ghill, Co. na Gaillimhe

**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, fuinseog, leamhán, péine Albanach, iúr agus beith.

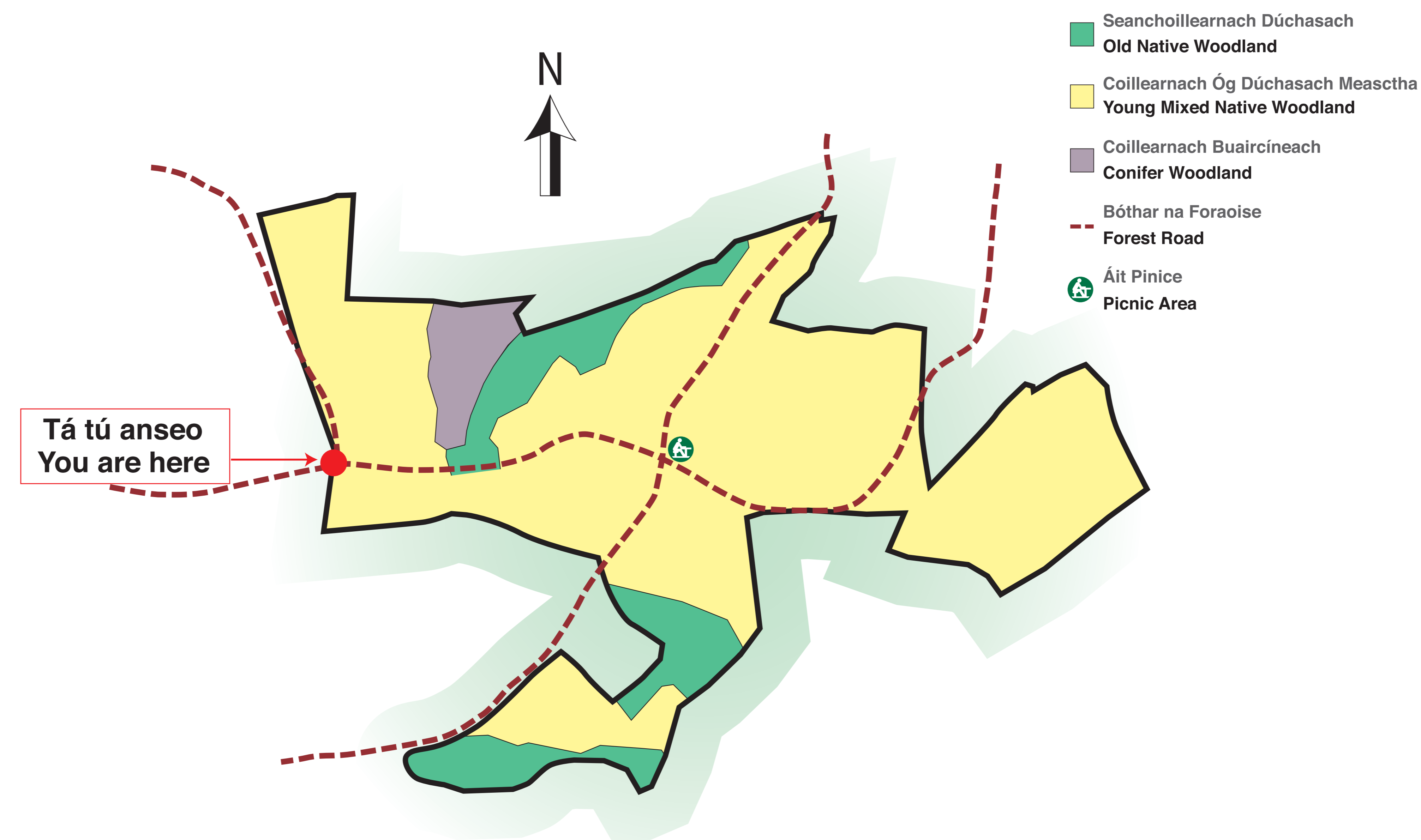
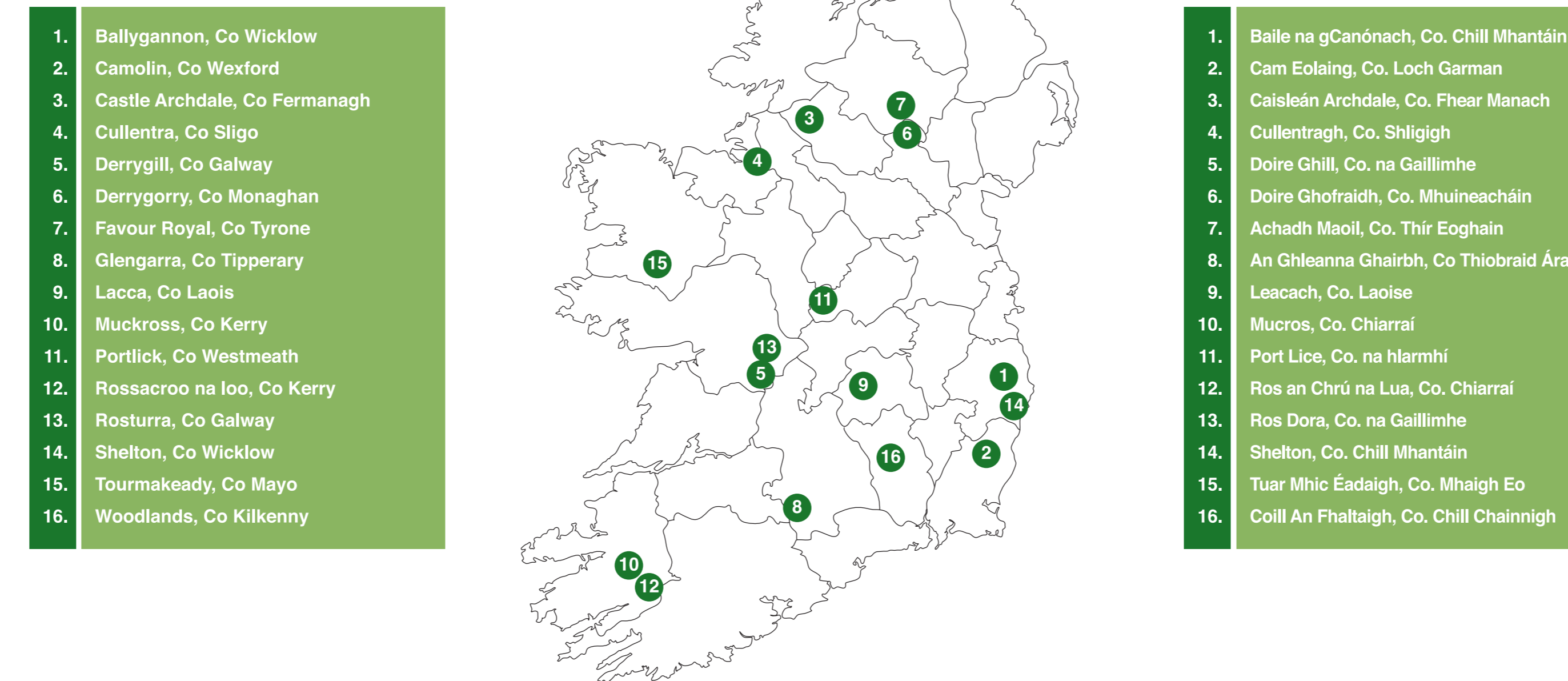
Cuid dlúth de chultúr na tíre tráth, tá coillearnach dúchasach na hÉireann anois i mbaol dul in éag agus is céim mhór chun cinn é an tionscadal seo, le tacaíocht ó AIB agus ó Choiste Náisiúnta na Mílaoise, le haghaidh a thabhairt ar an bhfaillí agus ar an dúshaothrú a rinneadh orthu leis na céadta bliain.

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 **Foraoiseacha 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 aibíú ó thaobh na héiceolaíochta de. Ar ndóigh ní mhaifidh 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 **Doire Ghill** ar a bhfuil fanta anois den fhoraois dhúchasach fhairsing a bhí sa Ghráig tráth. Is éard is brí le Doire Ghill ná 'adhmad darach na nGall' agus léiríonn seanléarscáileanna go raibh baile fearainn Dhoire Ghill faoi fhoraois ar feadh na céadta bliain. Timpeall is trí chiliméadar soir ó dheas ón Ghráig, tá tú anois i gceantar nádúr oidhreachta den scoth. De réir bealoideas áitiúil bhí 'pátrún' ag baint le Tobar Naomh Anna san Ghráig agus deirtear go raibh leigheas le fáil ann, ar "shúile tinne" is mó. Ceanglaítear éadach don sreach – sreach éadaigh – a ndéantar ceangal leis agus an Mhaighdean Bheannaithe. Is iomaí áit in Éirinn a ndéantar guí ag sreach nó ag crann mar go meastar go bhfuil leigheas ag baint leo.

San áit a bhfuil crainn na mílaoise curtha tá coillearnach óg dúchasach (darach, beith, fuinseog, agus fearnóg) le feiceáil ag fás faoi chrainn darach agus péine Albanach níos sine. Le himeacht ama agus de réir mar a thiofadh an coillearnach in inmhe fásfaidh sraith mheánach de chuileann, de chaorthann agus de choll. Bíonn seamsóg, fraoch, fraochán agus an corcairghorm faoi bhláth ann san earrach agus sa samhradh. Féach go grinn agus feicfidh tú lorg an iora rua, an tsionnaigh, an bhroic, agus an chait chrainn. Bí ciúin agus b'fhéidir go gcloisfeá ceol na n-éan, an screáchóg, an snag, an meantán earrfhada agus an spioróg.

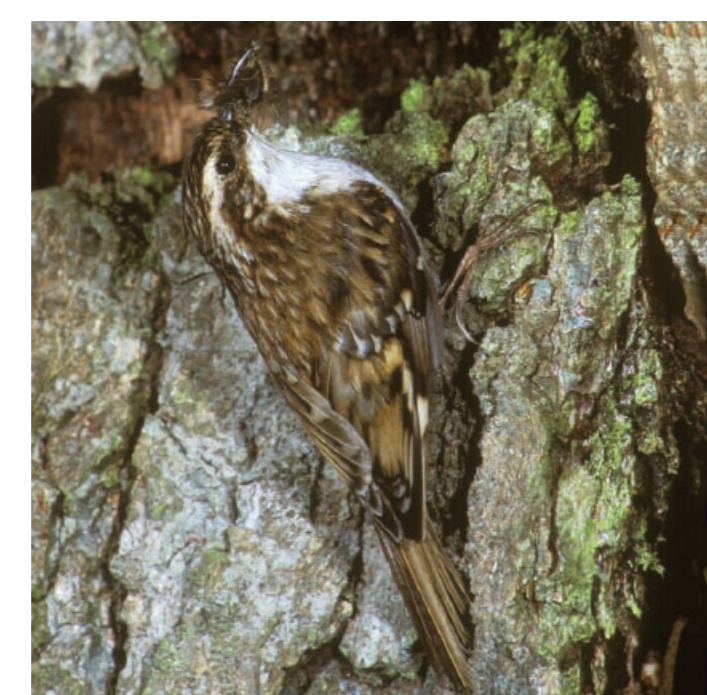
Tá súil againn go mbainfidh tú sult as do chuairt.



Iora Rua  
Red Squirrel



An Cloigín Gorm  
Bluebell



An Snag  
Tree Creeper



Lus na Gaoithe  
Wood Anemone

urraithe ag  
sponsored by



á bhainistiú ag  
managed by



i gcompháirtíocht le  
in partnership with  
Coillearnacha Dúchasacha



An Dair Nearnghasánach  
Sessile Oak



Caor Chon  
Guelder Rose



Cat Crainn  
Pine Marten



Cuilleann  
Holly

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