

The People's Millennium Forests

Lacca, Co. Laois



Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail

Leacach, Co. Laoise

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.

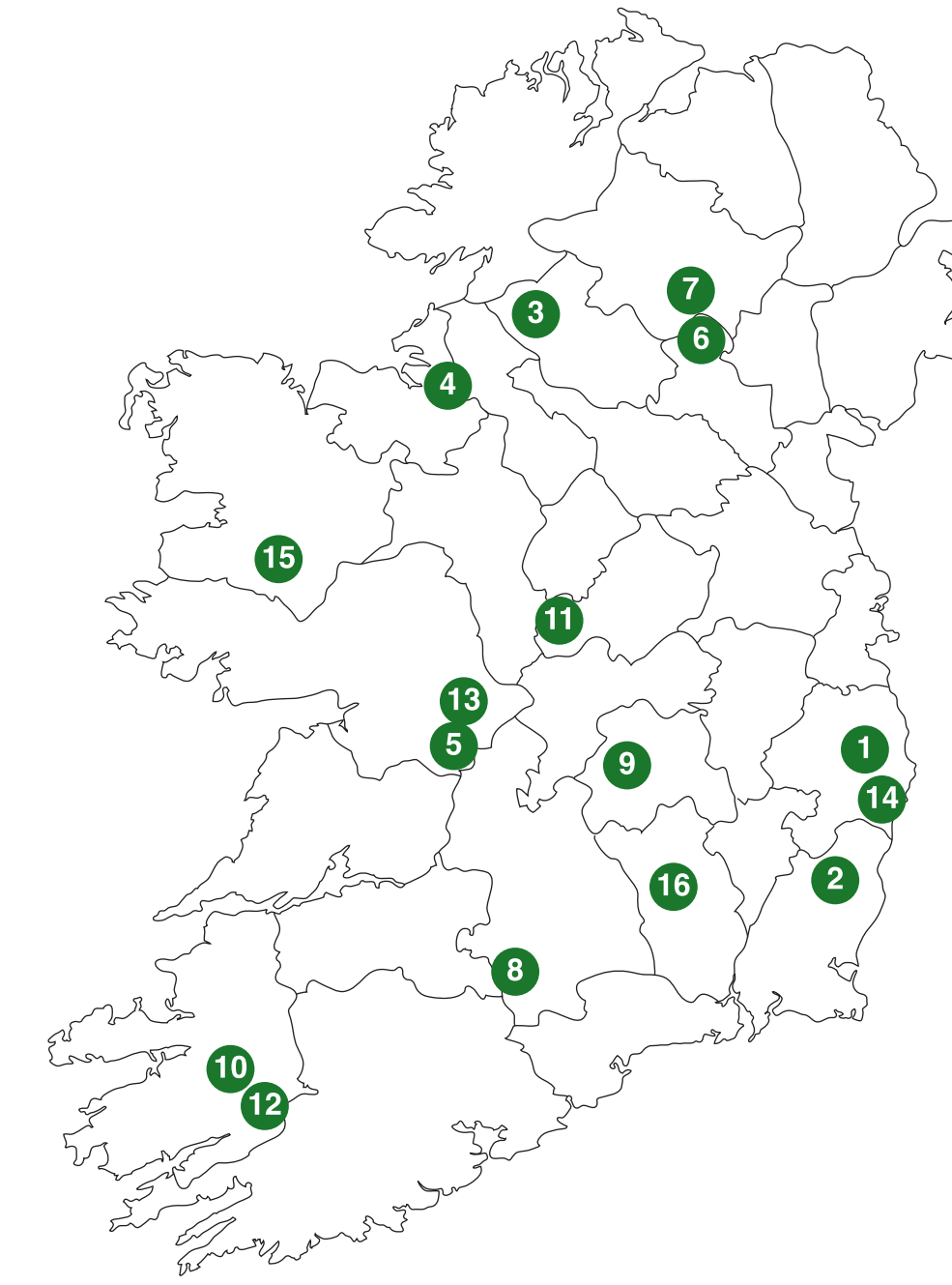
Once an intimate part of our culture, Ireland's native woodlands were in danger of becoming a lost legacy and this project, with the support of AIB and the National Millennium Committee, is a hugely successful step to redress centuries of over exploitation, neglect and clearance of our native forests.

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.

Here at **Lacca Wood**, you are on the southern slopes of the Slieve Bloom mountains, some six kilometres northwest of Mountrath. In Irish, Lacca has several meanings, including 'the side of a hill' and 'a place full of stones or flags', all of which reflect the rugged terrain. A Down Survey map of the area dating from 1656 AD shows old woodland in the general vicinity of Lacca. Until very recently, the wood comprised mainly of Norway spruce and beech, with lesser amounts of Scots pine and oak. As part of the People's Millennium Forests Project, the non-native spruce and beech have been removed and replaced with native trees and shrubs. Today, where the millenium trees are planted, you will see early-stage woodland or 'thicket' – young trees of oak, alder, birch, hazel, ash and cherry abound. Our native forests are havens for wildlife and plants. During spring and summer, look out for woodland ferns and grasses. In autumn, keep an eye out for woodland fungi, including the unmistakable red-and-white fly agaric or fairy toadstool, which likes to grow under birch trees. Look carefully and you may see signs of grey squirrel, stoat, badger and fox. Stay silent and you may hear the call of birds such as great tit, coal tit, long-eared owl and sparrow hawk.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

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. Rossacroo na Ioo, Co Kerry
13. Rosturra, Co Galway
14. Shelton, Co Wicklow
15. Tourmakeady, Co Mayo
16. Woodlands, Co Kilkenny



1. Baile na gCanónach, Co. Chill Mhantáin
2. Cam Eoláing, Co. Loch Garman
3. Caisleán Archdale, Co. Fhear Manach
4. Cullentraigh, Co. Shligigh
5. Doire Ghill, Co. na Gallainne
6. Doire Ghofraidh, Co. Mhuineacháin
7. Achadh Meoil, Co. Thír Eoghain
8. An Ghloanna Gharbh, Co. Thiobraid Árann
9. Leacach, Co. Laoise
10. Mucros, Co. Chiarraí
11. Port Lico, Co. na hIarmhí
12. Ros an Chru na Lua, Co. Chiarraí
13. Ros Dora, Co. na Gallainne
14. Shelton, Co. Chill Mhantáin
15. Tuair Mhíic Endaigh, Co. Mhuigh Eo
16. Coill An Phalaigh, Co. Chill Chainnigh



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 Meastha 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 tú ar bheanna theas Shliabh Bladhma anseo i **gCoill Leacaigh**, sé chiliméadar siar ó thuaidh de Mhaighéan Rátha. Tá cúpla brí le Leacach lena n-áirítear 'taobh cnoic' agus 'áit a bheadh faoi chlocha nó faoi leaca', léiriú ar an taobh tíre garbh atá ann. Léiríonn léarscáil den áit faoin Suirbhé Down a théann siar go dtí 1656 AD seanchoillearnach san áit a bhfuil Leacach go ginearálta. Go dtí le gairid ba féa agus sprús Lochlannach ba mhó a bhí ann chomh maith le roinnt péine Albanach agus darach. Mar chuid den tionscadal Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail tugadh as na crainn sprúis agus féa neamhdúchasacha agus cuireadh crainn agus sceacha dúchasacha ina n-áit. Inniu, san áit a bhfuil na crainn mílaoise curtha tá coillearnach óg nó 'mothar' ag fás - crainn óga darach, fearnóige, beithe, coille agus fuinseoige chomh maith le crainn silíní. Tearmann ceart iad foraoiseacha dúchasacha don fhiadhúlra agus do phlandaí. Bí faire ar fhéir agus ar rathneach coille san earrach agus sa samhradh. Sa bhfómhar bí ag faire amach d'fhungais coillearnaí lena n-áirítear agaric na gcuilleanna dearg agus bán nó an beacán bearaigh a fhásann faoi chrainn beiche. Féach go grinn agus feicfidh tú lorg an iora ghlais, na heasóige, an bhroic agus an tsionnaigh. Bí ciúin agus b'fhéidir go gcloisfeá éin mar an meantán mór, an meantán dubh an ceann cait agus an spioróg ag gloach.

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



igcomhpháirtíocht le
in partnership with
Coillearnacha Dúchasacha



An Dair Neamhghasánach
Sessile Oak



Caor Chon
Guelder Rose



Cat Crainn
Pine Marten



Cuilleann
Holly

www.millenniumforests.com

www.coillte.ie