The People's Millennium Forests

Portlick, Co. Westmeath

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.

Portlick woodland is a native hazel/ash woodland with oak, whitebeam, holly, alder, willow, elm, birch and buckthorn. Situated on the eastern shores of Lough Ree, Portlick is one of a number of outstanding heritage woodlands around the lakeshores of the River Shannon.

In the early 19th century, much of the area was pastureland. As a result of depopulation, the fields were abandoned and were invaded by scrubby woodland, which developed naturally into the woodland you see here today. Some areas have been planted with non-native trees, especially beech and sycamore.

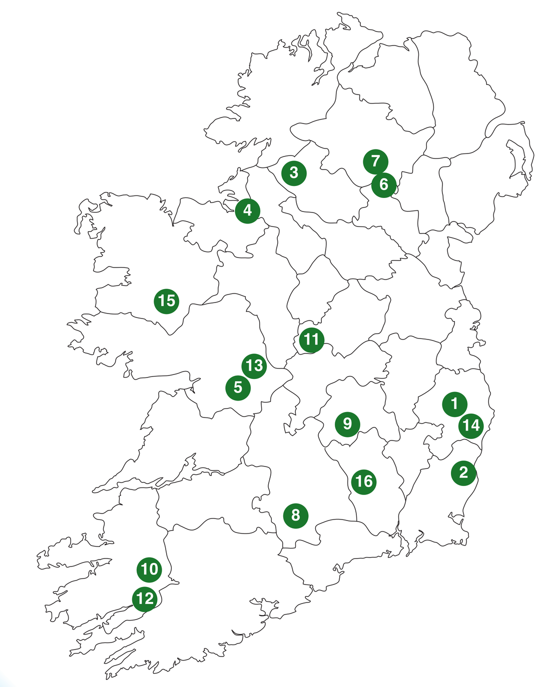
The Portlick estate was occupied for the last four centuries by the Dillon, and later, the Smyth families. Today, Portlick woodland is owned by Westmeath County Council and is being managed by Coillte as part of the People's Millennium Forests project. An area of conifer forest has been replaced with native woodland as part of this project.

As you walk through the woods you will see mainly ash and hazel with some oak and birch trees. During spring and summer, bluebell, primrose and wood sorrel blossom here. Signs of animals such as hedgehog, stoat, badger and fox may be seen, and you may hear the calls of birds like treecreeper, goldfinch and sparrowhawk.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

the people's millennium forests

1.	Ballygannon, Co Wicklow
2.	Camolin, Co Wexford
3.	Castlearchdale, Co Fermanagh
4.	Cullentra, Co Sligo
5.	Derrygill, Co Galway
6.	Derrygorry, 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 loo, 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 Eolaing, Co. Loch Garman
3.	Castlearchdale, Co. Fhear Manach
4.	Cullentra, Co. Shligigh
5.	Doire Ghill, Co. na Gaillimhe
6.	Doire Ghofraidh, Co. Mhuineacháin
7.	Achadh Maoil, Co. Thír Eoghain
8.	Gleann Garaidh, Co. Thiobraid Árann
9.	Lacca, Co. Laoise
10.	Mucros, Co. Chiarraí
11.	Portlick, Co. na hIarmhí
12.	Ros an Chrú na Lua, Co. Chiarraí
13.	Ros Dora, Co. na Gaillimhe
14.	Shelton, Co. Chill Mhantáin
15.	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo
16.	Baile na Coille, Co. Chill Chainnigh

Coillearnach Óg Dúchasach Meascthа
Young Mixed Native Woodland

Seanchoillearnach Dúchasach
Old Native Woodland

Siúlóid Rinardoo
Rinardoo Walk

Siúlóid an Chaisleáin
Castle Walk

Siúlóid na gCrann Coill
Hazel Walk

Carrchlós/Buschlós
Bus / Car Park

Fothrach Theach Whinning
Whinning House Ruin

Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail

Portlick, Co. na hIarmhí

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 rabhthas ag ceiliúradh na tríú Mílaoise in 2000 roghnaíodh sé choillearnach déag ar fud na hÉireann, cúig chéad déag acra ar fad, ar Fhoraoiseacha 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 Meascthа 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.

Is coillearach dúchasach fuinseoige/coill é Coillearnach Portlick a bhfuil dair, fionncholl, cuileann, saileach, beith, leamhán agus paide bréan ann. Suite ar bhruacha thoir Loch Rí tá Portlick ar cheann de na coillearnach oidhreachta is breátha ar bhruacha na Sionainne.

Ba talamh innír a bhí i bhformhór an cheantair i dtús na 19ú aoise. Mar gheall ar bhánú tréigeadh na páirceanna agus ba ghearr go raibh siad faoi choillearnach. Cuireadh crainn nach crainn dhúchasacha iad i gcuid de, an feá agus an seiceamóir go háirithe.

Le cheithre chéad bliain is iad muintir Dillon agus ina dhiaidh sin muintir Smyth a bhí ag cur fúthu ar Eastát Portlick. Is le Comhairle Chontae na Mí coillearnach Portlick anois ach go bhfuil sé á bhainistiú ag Coillte mar chuid de thionscadal Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail. Mar chuid den tionsadal seo cuireadh coillearnach dhúchasach in áit na foraoise buaircíní a bhí ann.

Crainn fuinnseoige agus coill is mó a thabharfá faoi deara ann ach go bhfuil crainn darach agus beithe freisin ann. Bíonn coinnle cora, sabhaircíní agus an seamsóg faoi bhláth ann san earrach agus sa samhradh. D'fhéadfá lorg na gráinneoige, na heasóige agus tsionnaigh a fheiceáil ann nó éin mar an snag, an lasair choille nó an spioróg a chloisteáil ag ceol ann.

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

IRELAND
A National Millennium Committee Project

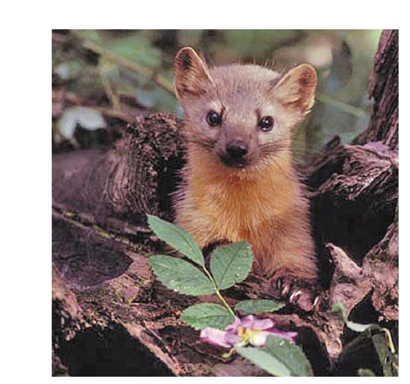
á bhainistiú ag
managed by

i gcomhpháirtíocht le
in partnership with
Coillearnacha Dúchasacha

woodlands OF IRELAND

An Dair Neamhghasánach
Sessile Oak

Caor Chon
Guelder Rose



Cat Crainn
Pine Marten

Cuileann
Holly

www.millenniumforests.com

www.coillte.ie