

The People's Millennium Forests

Rossacroo na Ioo, Co. Kerry



Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail

Ros an Chrú na Lua, 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. 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 **Rossacroo na Ioo Wood**, you are in an outstanding heritage area of old oak dominated-woodland about 10km northeast of Kilgarvan. The forest gets its name from the old Irish "Ros-a'-chro" meaning "wood of the cro or cattle-hut". Historically, there was always extensive woodland in this region and the very rough, infertile land probably saved the woodlands from clearance. Sessile oak and downy birch dominate the woodland canopy, while the most common trees and shrubs in the understorey are holly and rowan, with some hazel and alder. The forest floor and the boughs of the trees are covered in a rich carpet of mosses, lichens and ferns which reflect the wet climate in this region. At the northern end of the wood, there is a disused railway line with a large, wide embankment which was in use between 1891 and 1959.

Our native forests are havens for wildlife and plants. During spring and summer, wood sorrel, heather and bilberry blossom here. You may see local speciality plants such as the bright green wood spurge or St. Patrick's Cabbage, which is a saxifrage with round leaf-rosettes found in rocky crevices. The wood is an important foraging habitat for the rare lesser horseshoe bat. Look carefully and you may see signs of sika and red deer, badger and fox. Stay still and you may see or hear birds such as the jay, treecreeper and sparrow hawk.

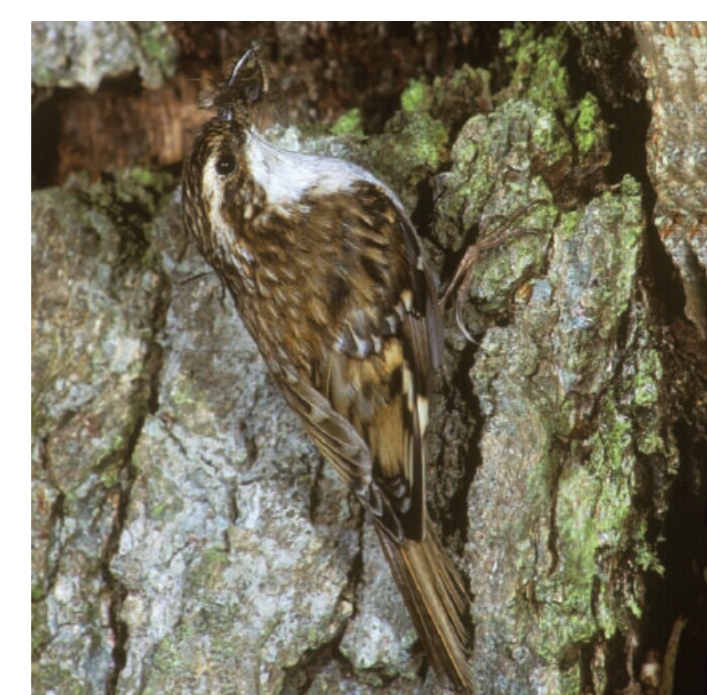
We hope you enjoy your visit.



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
Coilteannacha Dúchasacha



An Dair Nearnghasánach
Sessile Oak



Caor Chon
Guelder Rose

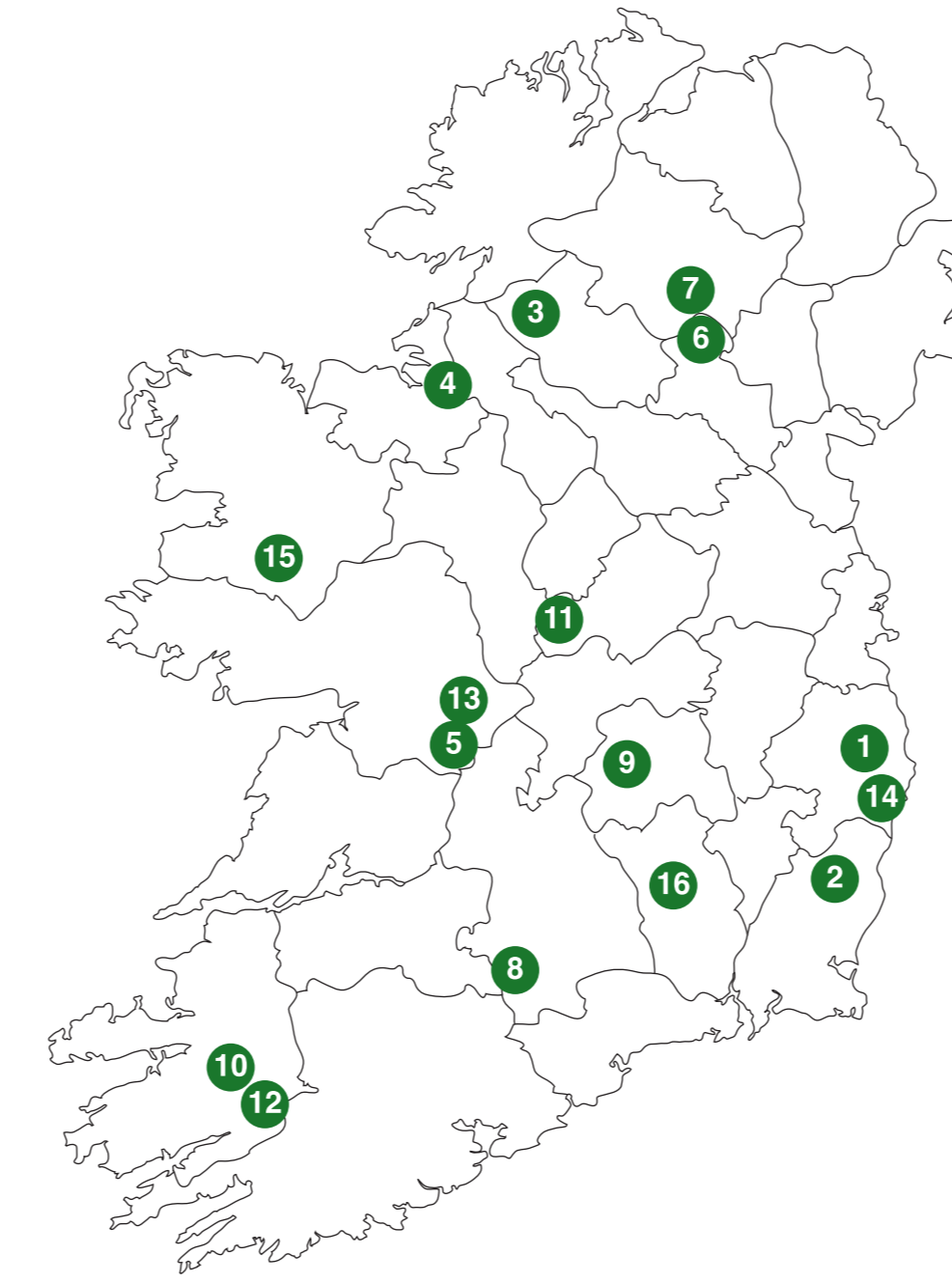


Cat Crainn
Pine Marten

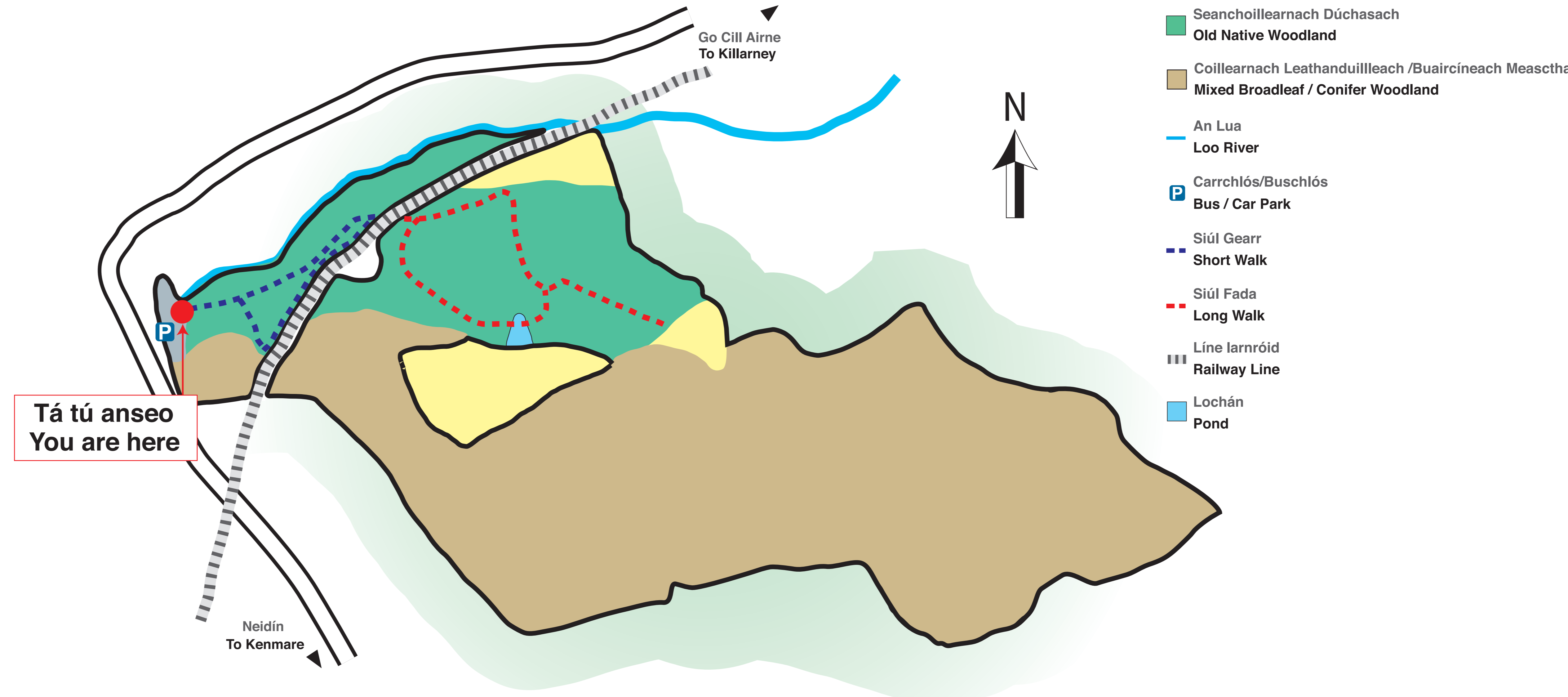


Cuilleann
Holly

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. Laccas, 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. Tourmalady, Co Mayo
16. Woodlands, Co Kilkenny



1. Baile na gCanóinach, Co. Chill Mhantáin
2. Cam Eolain, Co. Loch Garman
3. Caisleán Archdale, Co. Fhear Manach
4. Cullentraigh, Co. Sláighe
5. Doire Ghill, Co. na Gallimhe
6. Doire Ghofraigh, Co. Mhuineacháin
7. Achadh Maol, Co. Thír Eoghain
8. An Ghloanna Gharbh, Co. Thiobraid Árann
9. Leacach, Co. Laidis
10. Mucros, Co. Chiarraí
11. Port Lico, Co. na hIarmhí
12. Ros an Chrú na Lua, Co. Chiarraí
13. Ros Dora, Co. na Gallimhe
14. Shelton, Co. Chill Mhantáin
15. Tuar Mhíle Eadlaigh, 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 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, 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 saibreas 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 i gceantar oidhreachta ar leith anseo i **gCoill Ros an Chrú na Lua** – coillearnach ar seandair den chuid is mó agus atá suite 10 km soir ó thuaidh de Chill Gharbháin. Ón tsean-Ghaeilge "Ros-a'-chró" a tháinig ainm na coille agus an bhrí atá leis ná "coill an chró beithíoch". Bhí coillearnach láidir sa réigiún seo riamh agus is dócha gur mar gheall go raibh an talamh an-gharbh agus neamhthorthúil a mhair sé anseo. Dair ghaelach agus beith chlúmhach is mó atá i measc na gcrann ard ach go bhfuil cuileann agus caorthann chomh maith le roinnt coill agus fearnóige ar na crainn agus sceacha is fairsinge i sraith meánach na coille. Tá talamh na foraoise agus géaga na gcrann uilig faoi chaonaigh, faoi léicín agus faoi raitheach, léiriún ar an aimsir fhliuch a bhíonn sa réigiún. Sa chuid ó thuaidh den choill tá líne iarnróid nach bhfuil in úsáid chomh maith le claifort leathan a bhíodh in úsáid idir 1981 agus 1959.

Tearmann ceart iad foraoiseacha dúchasacha don fhiadhúlra agus do phlandaí. Bíonn seamsóg, fraoch, agus fraochán faoi bhláth ann san earrach agus sa samhradh. D'fhéadfá a theacht ar phlandaí ar leith na háite mar an lus Oilealla a bhíonn an-ghlas nó cabáiste an mhadra rua ar mórán é a bhfuil róisíní le duilleoga ciorclacha air, agus a bhíonn le fáil i scalpeanna sa chloch. Is gnáthóg thábhachtach seilge i an choill don chrú-ialtóg bheag. Féach go grinn agus feicfidh tú lorg an fhia Seapánaigh agus an fhia rua, an bhroic agus an tsionnaigh. Bí socair agus b'fhéidir go gcloisfeá éin mar an scréachóg, an snag agus an spioróg ag glaích.

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh tú sult as do chuairt.

www.millenniumforests.com

www.coillte.ie