

The People's Millennium Forests Shelton, Co. Wicklow

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.

Located about three kilometres northwest of Arklow Town, **Shelton** was named after the nearby abbey and was once the seat of Lord Viscount Wicklow. Shelton lies at the eastern end of the Vale of Avoca, which is renowned not only for its scenic beauty but also because it contains one of the largest areas of oak-dominated woodland in the country. Old maps indicate that the Vale of Avoca has been heavily wooded for centuries. As Shelton once formed part of an estate, non-native tree species such as beech and spruces, were extensively planted throughout the woodlands in recent centuries. In fact, Shelton was one of the first locations in Ireland where beech was introduced during the 17th century. As part of the Peoples' Millennium Forest Project, the non-native trees were removed from this selected area, and replaced with native trees and shrubs, which were planted. Today, where the millennium trees are planted, you will see early-stage woodland or 'thicket' – look out for young trees of oak and ash, with some alder, hazel and birch. During spring and summer, bluebell, herb robert and honeysuckle grow here. Look carefully and you may see signs of red squirrel, stoat, hedgehog and fox. Stay silent and you may hear the call of birds such as woodcock, long-eared owl, coal tit, red kite, buzzard, great spotted woodpecker and sparrow hawk.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail Shelton, Co. Chill Mhantáin

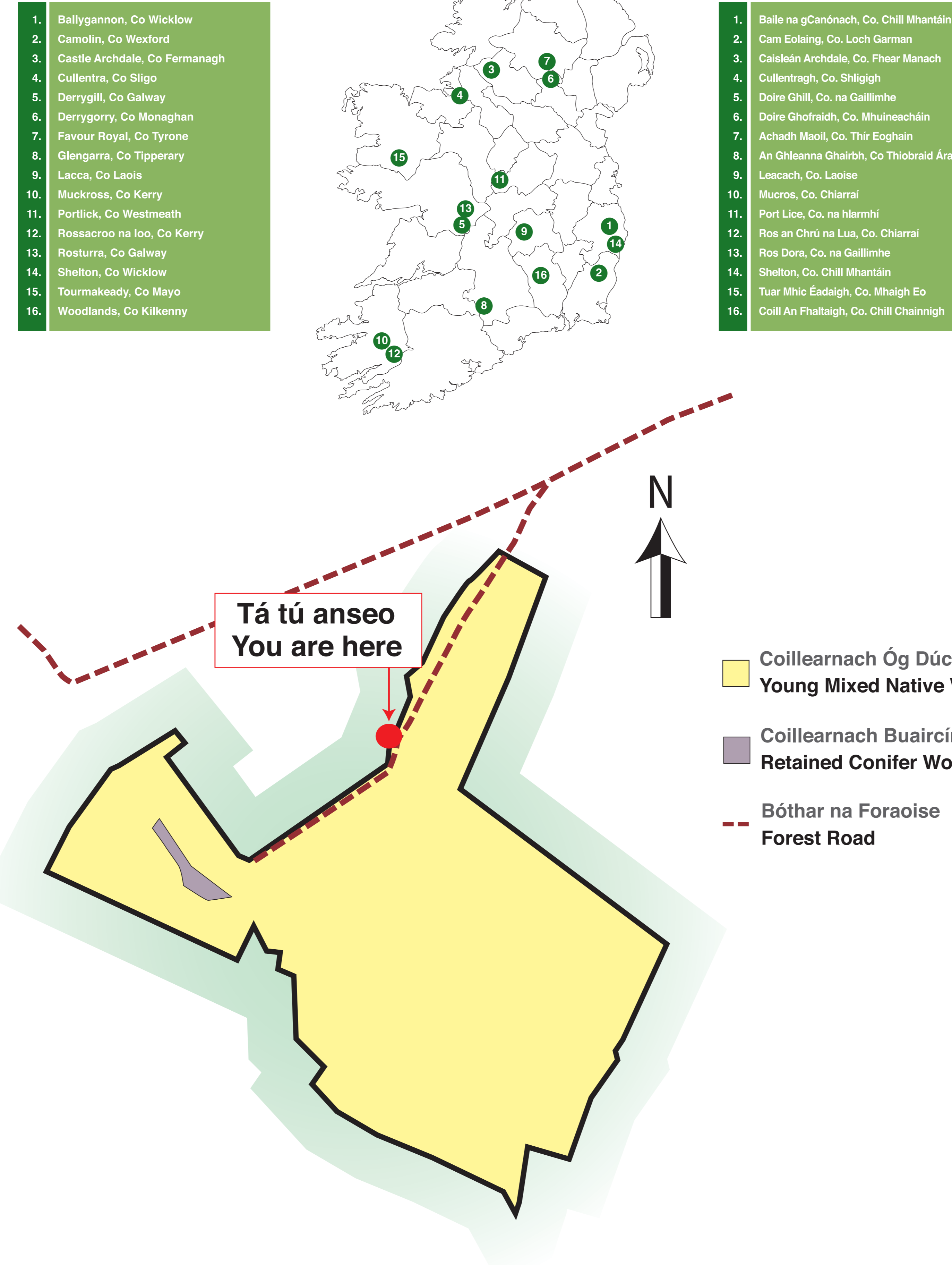
Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail an tionscadal is mó riamh in Éirinn atá dírithe ar choillearnach dúchasach na tíre a athbheoú agus a bhainistiú. Is éard is **coillearnach dúchasach** ann ná foraoiseacha nó coillearnach ina bhfuil speiceas a bhaineann go nádúrtha leis an tír seo, speiceas mar dair, fuinseog,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

Timpeall is trí chiliméadar siar ó thuaidh den Inbhear Mór atá **Shelton**. Is de bharr na mainistreach in aice láimhe a tugadh Shelton ar an áit agus ba ann a bhí cónaí ar an Tiarna Viscount Chill Mhantáin tráth. Timpeall is trí chiliméadar siar ó thuaidh de Ghleann Abhóca a bhfuil clú air, ní hamháin mar gheall ar chomh álainn is atá sé, ach mar gheall go bhfuil sé ar cheann de na coillearnach is mó ina bhfuil dair sa tír. Léiríonn seanléarscáileanna go bhfuil Gleann Abhóca faoi choill leis na céadta bliain. Mar go raibh Shelton ina chuid d'eastát tráth, cuireadh speiceas crann neamhdhúchasach, mar an beith agus sprúis, go forleathan ar fud na gcoillearnach leis na céadta bliain anuas. Go deimhin bhí Shelton ar cheann de na chéad áiteanna in Éirinn ar cuireadh feá le linn an 17ú céad. Mar chuid den tionscadal Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail tugadh as na crainn neamhdhúchasacha ar an áit roghnaithe seo 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 - bí ag faire amach do chrainn óga darach agus fuinseoige chomh maith le crainn fearnóige, coill, agus beithe. Bíonn na coinne cora, an ruithéal rí agus an féithleann faoi bhláth anseo san earrach agus sa samhradh. Féach go cúramach agus feicfidh tú lorg an iora rua, na heasóige, na gráinneoige agus an tsionnaigh. Bí cúin agus b'fhéidir go gcoisfeá ceol na n-éan - an creabhar, an ceann cáit, an meantán dubh, an cúr rua, an clamhán, an mórchnagaire breac 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



igcomhpháirtíocht le
in partnership with
Coillearnacha Dúchasacha



An Dair Neamhghasánach
Sessile Oak



Caor Chon
Guelder Rose



Cat Crainn
Pine Marten



Cuilleann
Holly

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