

The People's Millennium Forests Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo

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 **Tourmakeady Wood**, on the western shore of Lough Mask, you are in an area that was densely wooded up to the early 19th century. Most of what remains of this once vast native forest occurs along the lake fringes. During the 19th century, the forest at Tourmakeady was planted with oak, larch and Scots pine by its owner, Bishop Plunkett. It is now being restored to native woodland under the People's Millennium Forests Project. Today, where the millennium trees are planted, you will see young, developing native woodland – look out for young trees of oak, alder and birch, with some hazel, ash and Scots pine. The locally abundant non-native and invasive rhododendron and cherry laurel, which will eventually completely smother and replace the native vegetation if not controlled, is being continuously cut and removed from the wood. Our native forests are havens for wildlife and plants. During spring and summer, bluebell, foxglove and honeysuckle blossom here. Look carefully and you may see signs of pine marten, badger and fox. Stay silent and you may hear the call of birds such as treecreeper and sparrow hawk.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo

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.

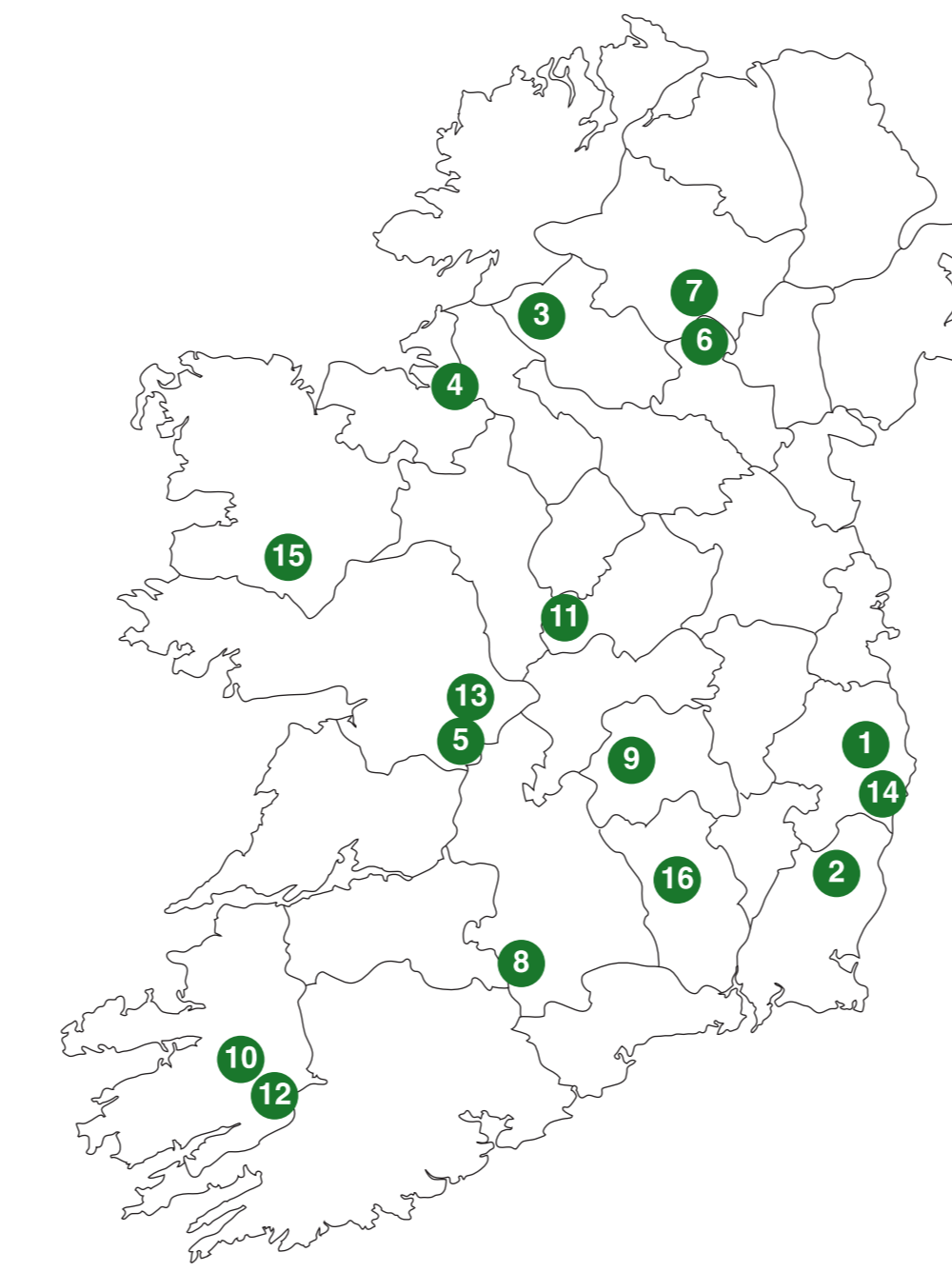
Cuid dlúth de chultúr na tíre tráth, tá coillearnach dúchasach na hÉireann anois i mbaol dul in éag agus is céim mhór chun cinn é an tionscadal seo, le tacaíocht ó AIB agus ó Choiste Náisiúnta na Mílaoise, le haghaidh a thabhairt ar an bhfailli agus ar an dúshaothrú a rinneadh orthu leis na céadta bliain.

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 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.

Anseo i **gCoill Thuar Mhic Éadaigh**, ar bhruach thiar Loch Measca tá tú i gceantar a bhí faoi choill uilig go dtí tús an 19ú aois. Ar imeall an locha atá a bhfuil fanta anois den fhoraois mhór sin le fáil. Le linn an 19ú aois chuir úinéir na foraoise, an tEaspag Plunkett, dair, learóg agus péine Albanach sa bhforaois. Táthar anois ag déanamh coillearnach dhúchasach arís di faoi Thionscadal Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail. Inniu, san áit a bhfuil crainn mílaoise curtha tá coillearnach óg dhúchasach ag fás - bí ag faire amach do chrainn óga darach chomh maith le crainn fearnóige, beithe, crainn coill, crainn fuinnseoige agus péine Albanach. Bítear go leanúnach ag gearradh agus ag baint an róslabhrais agus an labhrais silíní, plandaí neamhdhúchasacha ionracha a phlúchfadh an fársa dúchasach mura gcoinneofaí smacht orthu. Tearmann ceart iad foraoiseacha dúchasacha don fhiaidhúla agus do phlandaí. Bíonn coinne cora, lusa móra, agus an fhéithleann faoi bhláth anseo san earrach agus sa samhradh. Féach go grinn agus feicfidh tú lorg an iora rua, an chait crainn, an bhroic, agus an tsonnaigh. Bí ciúin agus b'fhéidir go gcloisfeá éin mar an snag agus an gealbhan ag glaoch.

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh tú sult as do chuairt.

1. Ballyannon, 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. Tourmakeady, 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. Shligigh
5. Doire Ghill, Co. na Gallímhíne
6. Doire Ghofraidh, Co. Mhuineacháin
7. Achadh Meoil, Co. Thír Eoghain
8. An Ghloanna Gharbh, Co. Thiobraid Árann
9. Leacach, Co. Lúaidhe
10. Mucros, Co. Chiarraí
11. Port Lico, Co. na hIarmhí
12. Ros an Chru na Lú, Co. Chiarraí
13. Ros Dora, Co. na Gallímhíne
14. Shelton, Co. Chill Mhantáin
15. Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo
16. Coill An Phallaigh, Co. Chill Chainnigh



Iora Rua Red Squirrel, An Cloigín Gorm Bluebell, An Snag Tree Creeper, Lus na Gaoithe Wood Anemone



An Dair Neamhghasánach Sessile Oak, Caor Chon Guelder Rose, Cat Crainn Pine Marten, Cuileann Holly

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