

# The People's Millennium Forests Coill an Fhaltaigh Woodlands, Co. Kilkenny

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 millennium 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.

**Coill an Fhaltaigh** occupies the entire townland of **Woodlands**, on the outskirts of Kilkenny city, and is the largest of the People's Millennium Forests. Though sometimes known as 'Woodlands', it is in local tradition still known as 'Coill an Fhaltaigh' or 'Wall's Wood'. In the 17th century, the wood was part of the Brittas Estate, home of the O'Rourke family.

The southern half of the site was once an old broadleaf woodland with considerable wildlife value. Today, veteran deciduous trees from the former woodland are still present, scattered here and there, with the younger generation of millennium trees thriving beneath. A recent survey of the plant life of Coill an Fhaltaigh found an impressive 125 different species were present. As you walk through the woods you will see mainly oak and ash trees, with some alder, hazel and birch. During spring and summer, bluebell, herb robert and honeysuckle blossom here. Look carefully and you may see signs of red squirrel, stoat, hedgehog and fox. Listen and you may hear the call of birds like woodcock, long-eared owl, coal tit and sparrowhawk.

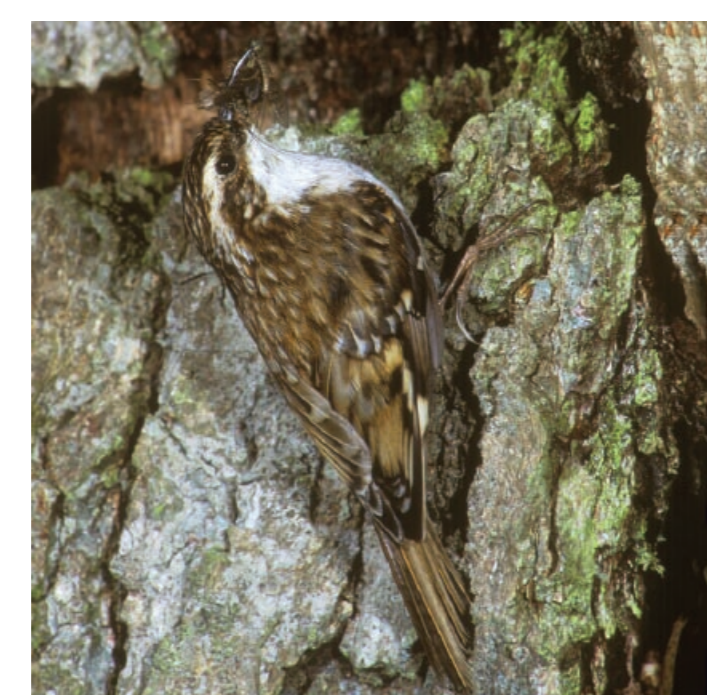
We hope you enjoy your visit.



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



i gcomhpháirtíocht le  
in partnership with  
Coillearmacha Dúchasacha



An Dair Nearnghásánach  
Sessile Oak



Caor Chon  
Guelder Rose



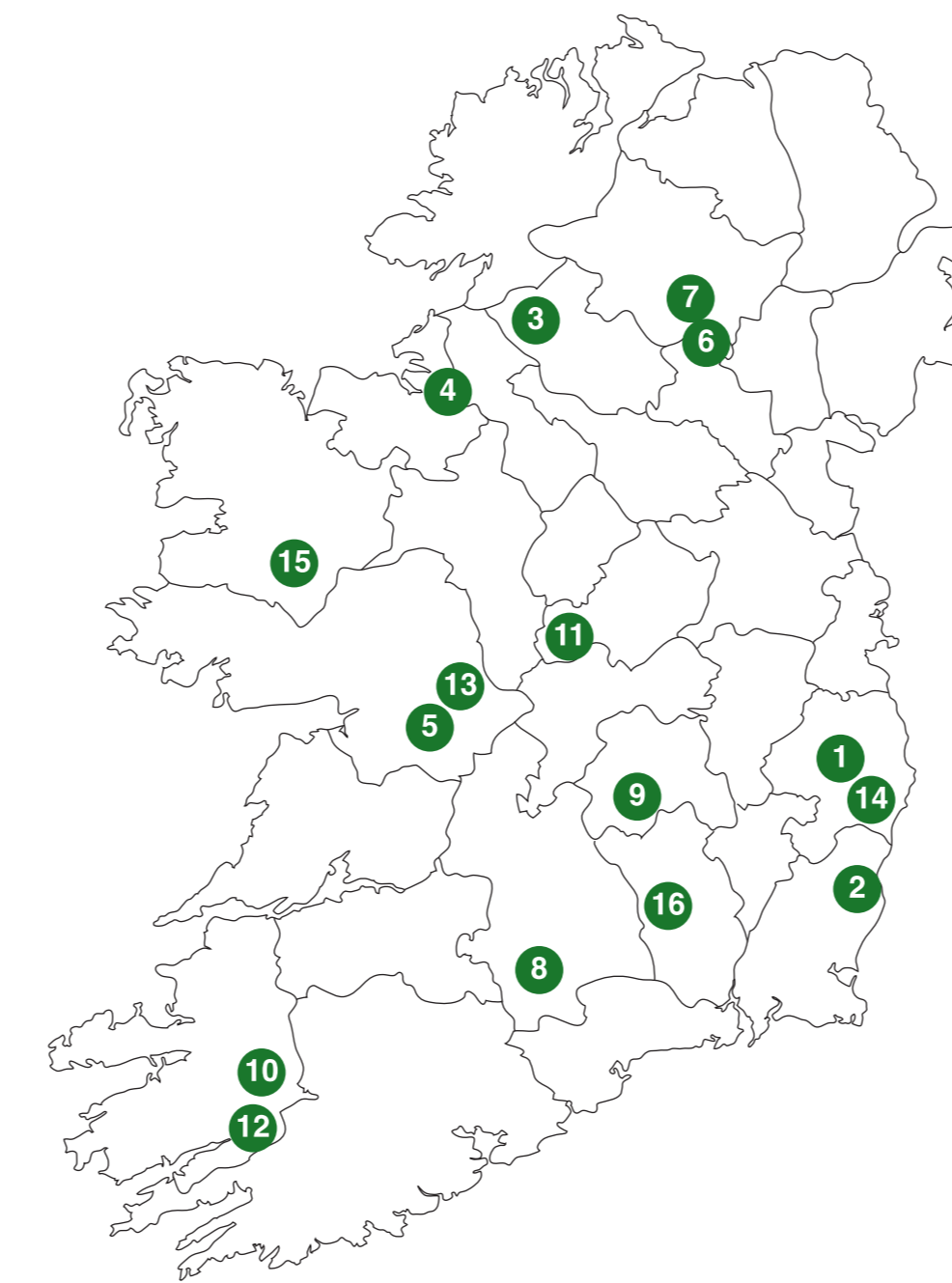
Cat Crainn  
Pine Marten



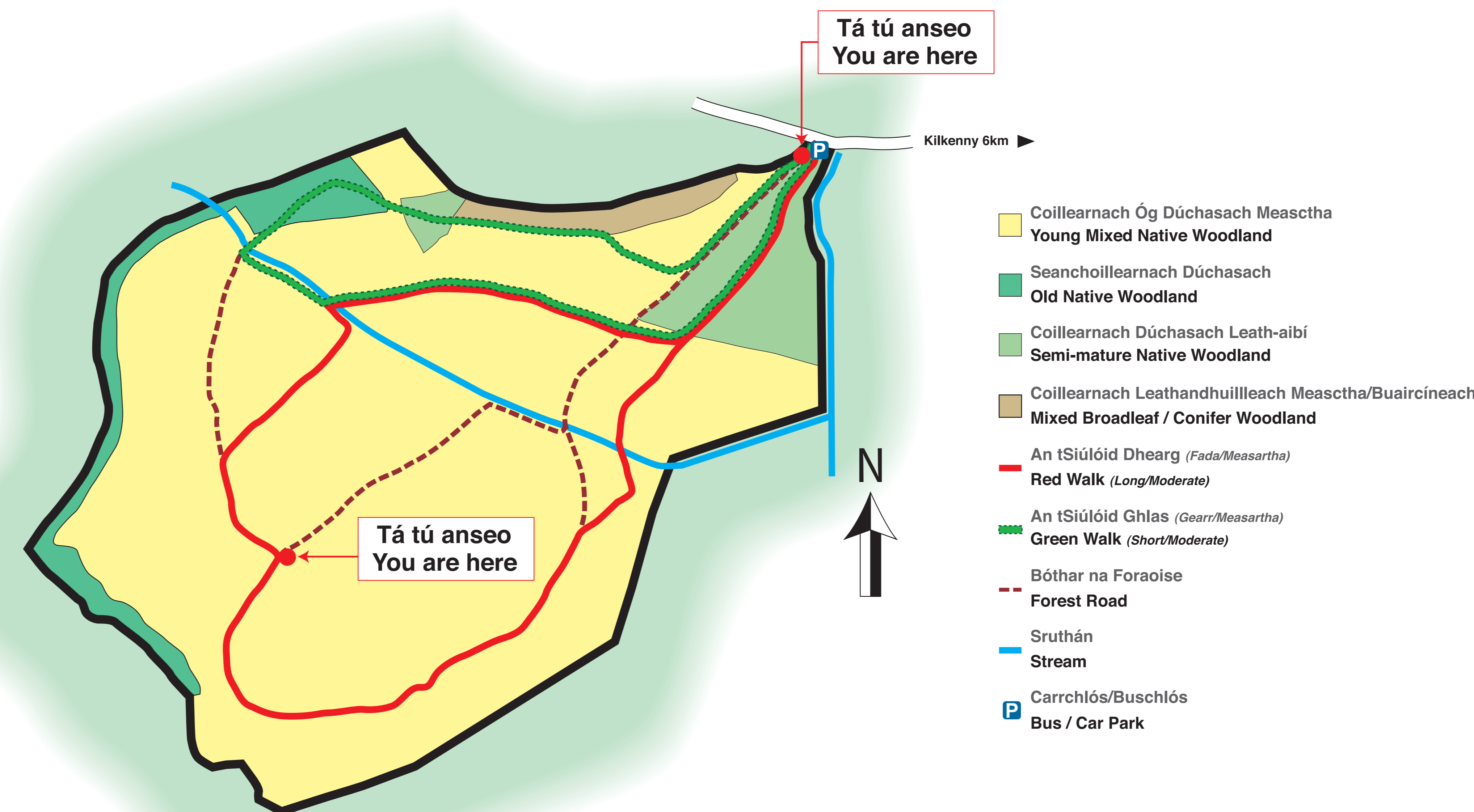
Cuilleann  
Holly



1. Ballygannon, Co Wicklow
2. Camolin, Co Wexford
3. Castletreacle, Co Fermanagh
4. Cullentra, Co Sligo
5. Derrigilly, Co Galway
6. Derrigorry, Co Monaghan
7. Favour Royal, Co Tyrone
8. Glengarra, Co Tipperary
9. Laccas, Co Laois
10. Muckross, Co Kerry
11. Portlick, Co Westmeath
12. Rossacree na Ioo, Co Kerry
13. Rositurra, Co Galway
14. Shelton, Co Wicklow
15. Tourmiskeady, Co Mayo
16. Woodlands, Co Kilkenny



1. Baile na gCánóinach, Co. Chill Mhantáin
2. Cam Eolainn, Co. Loch Garman
3. Castletreacle, Co. Fhear Manach
4. Cullentra, Co. Shligigh
5. Doire Ghill, Co. na Gaillimhe
6. Doire Ghoiraidh, Co. Mhuineacháin
7. Achadh Maoil, Co. Thír Eogháin
8. Gleann Garaoidh, Co. Thiobraid Árann
9. Laccas, Co. Laoise
10. Mucros, Co. Chiarraí
11. Portlick, Co. na hIarmhí
12. Ros an Chruí na Lús, Co. Chiarraí
13. Ros Dora, Co. na Gaillimhe
14. Shelton, Co. Chill Mhantáin
15. Tuair Mhíche Eadsaigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo
16. Baile na Coille, Co. Chill Chainnigh



# Foraoiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail Coill an Fhaltaigh Baile na Coille, 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, fuinseoig, 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 Fhoroiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail a fhághar 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 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.

Coill an Fhaltaigh a thugtar ar an gcoillearnach ar fad ar imeall Chathair Chill Chainnigh agus is í an choill is mó i d'Fhoroiseacha Mílaoise an Phobail. Cé go dtugtar 'Baile na Coille' uirthi 'Coill an Fhaltaigh' nó 'Wall's Wood' a thugtar go háitiúil fós uirthi. Bhí an choill ar chuid d'Eastát Brittas, a mbíodh muintir Uí Ruairc ag cur fúthu ann, san 17ú aois.

Coillearnach leathandhuilleach a bhí sa chuid ó dheas den láthair a raibh tábhacht mhór ag baint leis ó thaobh fiadhúlra de. Tá seanchrainn duillsilteach as an seanchoillearnach fós ann, iad scaipthe anonn is anall agus tá glúin óg de chrainn na mílaoise ag fás go tréan fúthu. Léirigh suirbhé le déanaí ar phlandaí i gCoill an Fhaltaigh go raibh 125 speiceas éagsúla le fáil ann. Crainn darach agus fuinnseoige is mó a thabharfá faoi deara ann ach go bhfuil crainn fhearnóige, coill agus beithe freisin ann. Bíonn na coinne cora, an ruithéal rí agus an féithleann faoi bhláth ann san earrach agus sa samhradh. Féach go maith agus feicfidh tú lorg an iora rua, na heasóige, na gráinneoige agus an tsionnaigh. Éist go cúramach agus b'fhéidir go gcloisfeá éin mar an creabhar, an ceann cáit, an meantán dubh agus an spioróg.

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh tú sult as do chuairt.