



Ash



Silver Birch



Holly



Oak



Hazel

BIODIVERSITY YOU CAN FIND AT MOOGHAUN

The Mooghaun site includes the Bronze-Age hill fort and surrounding woodlands. A thin layer of soil covers most of the limestone bedrock.

BIODIVERSITY is the variety of all life forms on Earth, from the tiniest bugs living in the soil to the butterflies in your garden, the plants they feed from, and the biggest whales in the sea.

A HABITAT is the home of a particular plant or animal or grouping – not just where they sleep but the area where they find food, e.g. a native woodland habitat (the richest habitat on land for biodiversity).

AN ECOSYSTEM is a community of plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms (bacteria, etc) that live, feed, reproduce and interact together in the same area or environment.

There are two distinct woodland areas of interest here with some commercial woodland. Around the car park is mainly Beech and Scots Pine planted approximately 50 years ago. Around the hill fort is mainly native woodland consisting of Oak, Hazel, Ash, Birch, Willow, Holly, Whitethorn and Blackthorn which appear to have naturally regenerated in recent years. It is noticeable that there are many more wildflowers in the native woodland area where more light can reach the ground.

THERE ARE FOUR MAIN LAYERS WITHIN NATURAL WOODLAND:

GROUND LAYER : Soil with micro-organisms, dead leaves, fungi, bacteria and small plants including mosses, lichens, liverworts, ferns and herbs such as wild strawberry, woodrush, wood sorrel with animals such as worms, beetles, centipedes, spiders, ants, snails, mice, voles and ground-nesting birds such as chiff-chaff and willow warbler.

FIELD LAYER: This is the richest layer of flora, composed mainly of herbaceous and low plants including tree saplings, bracken, bramble, wild arum, herb robert, wood avens and larger ferns. Visitors include butterflies, beetles, wasps, bees, moths. Animals include badger, fox, pine marten, red squirrel and deer. Many species of bird will feed, shelter and nest here including sparrows, wrens, tits, blackbirds and robins.

SHRUB LAYER: Native woodland has more variety of flowering shrubs including whitethorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly, willow, elder, dog rose, honeysuckle, ivy – few of these are found in the planted beech / scots pine woodland due to the restricted light conditions.

CANOPY LAYER: This is formed by the dominant tree species in each area. The amount of light penetrating to the forest floor is determined by the competition between these trees. In the native woodland area, the canopy comprises mainly of ash, oak and hazel, whereas in the planted woodland it is beech and scots pine.

This Information sign was created by a collaboration of Obair Newmarket-On-Fergus Ltd, CELT (Centre for Environmental Living and Training), and Clare County Council.



Comhairle Contae an Chláir
Clare County Council



Dog Rose



Wild Strawberry



Herb Robert



Arum Lily



Willow Warbler



Red Squirrel