

CONNEMARA NATIONAL PARK

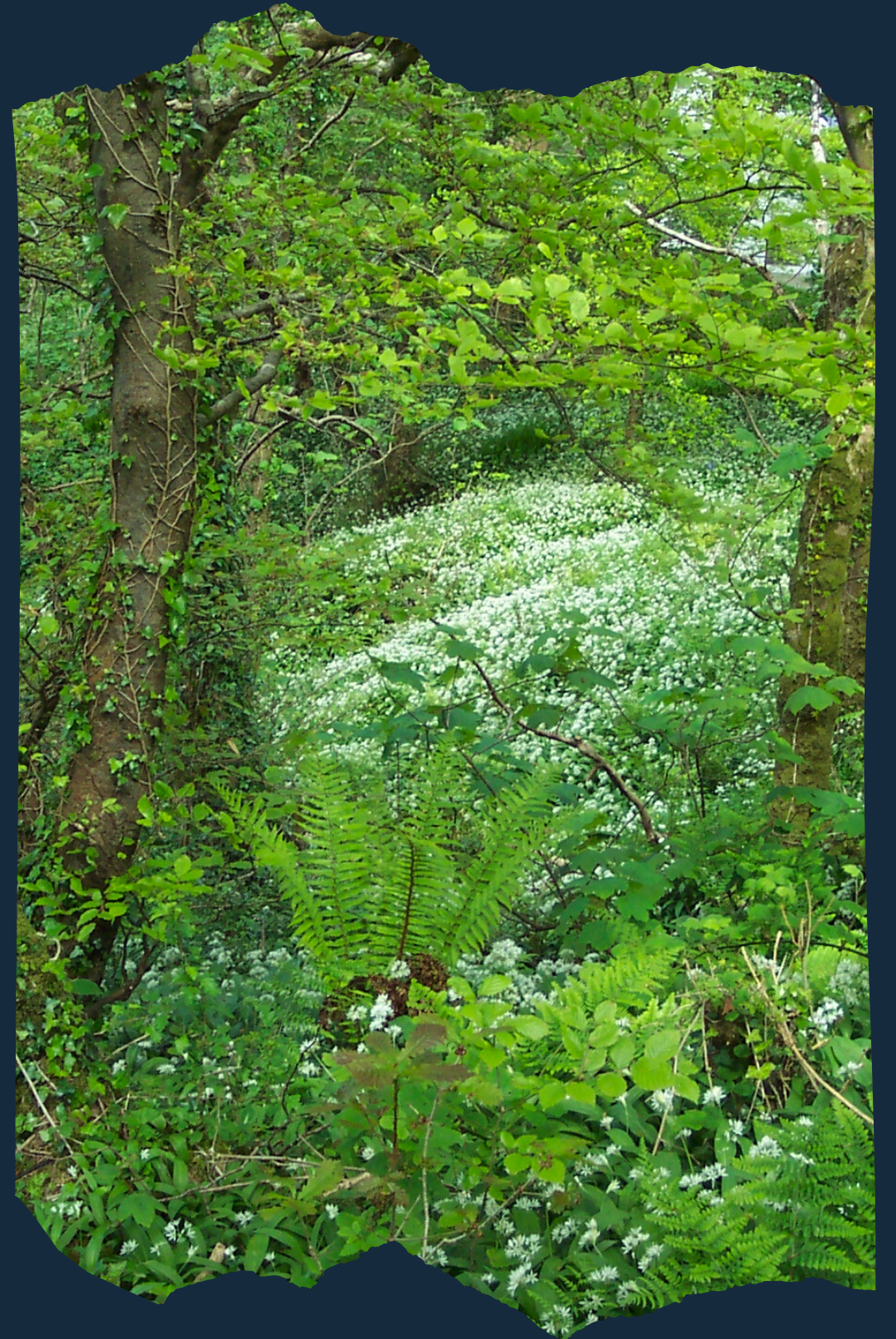
LIFE IN OUR WOODLANDS

Woodlands are wonderful places to visit, to explore. To many people they are just a collection of trees and shrubs but they are much more than that. They are ever changing, throughout the seasons, over the years and decades. In Winter, they are bare and bright, allowing the early spring flowers to flourish when the time is right. In Summer, they are dark and interesting, providing much needed cover for many birds and mammals.

Woodlands are very important for the environment. Trees take up carbon dioxide as they grow and then release oxygen, which is necessary for us to survive. Trees can live for many years, changing over the years, providing much needed resources for wildlife over their lifetime.

A mature tree, for example, can be covered in mosses and lichens, with numerous insects living on its bark and leaves. Bats can use little crevices that might be in the trunk to rest in and of course birds will build their nests in the canopy.

Woodlands are often more humid and mild in temperature in comparison to the surrounding area due to the sheltering nature of the trees. This makes them perfect places for plants to flourish. Some of the plants that you might expect to see in spring time are shown below.



Common Dog Violet
(*Viola riviniana*)



Wild Garlic
(*Allium ursinum*)



Pignut
(*Conopodium majus*)



Primrosel
(*Primula vulgaris*)



St Patrick's Cabbage
(*Saxifraga spathularis*)



Bluebell
(*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)



Lesser Celandine
(*Ficaria verna*)



Wood sorrel
(*Oxalis acetosella*)