

# Killiney Hill Nature Trail

The trail begins at the Killiney Hill carpark.

First make your way into the woodland directly beside the carpark.

This woodland is made up of broadleaf trees; trees with soft flat wide leaves rather than the needle-like “pine” leaves on conifer trees. Look out for the different species of tree in this woodland. You should be able to spot native Irish tree species like Oak and Ash and non-native Sycamore and Horse Chestnut. Native species are species that occur naturally in Ireland, while non-native species are species that have been introduced by man. As you walk this woodland, take note of the structure of this woodland, the trees may be the dominant feature but there are other plants here too. The smaller plants growing closer to the forest floor make up what is known as the understory and the herb layer. In a typical Irish broadleaf woodland, you can expect to find species such as Holly, Hazel, Bramble and Bilberry in the understory and grasses and wildflowers in the herb layer. These layers are an important part of the woodland ecosystem; a broadleaf woodland with a healthy understory can support a greater diversity of animal life.

Can you spot any of the following species by using pictures of the leaves below? Circle the leaf when you find it.



Oak



Birch



Horse Chestnut



Ash



Sycamore

Broadleaf woodlands such as this support many native species of bird which use the trees and the understory for food and shelter. Can you find one plant that you think might provide food for a bird or one place it might find shelter in a woodland like this? Take a picture of each plant or tree and upload it to Seesaw.

Next, as you pass through the woodland listen for the sound of bird call. If you stop, stand still and face toward the sound you may well see one of our woodland birds in the trees or understory. Some woodland species you can expect to see or hear are the Great Tit, Wren, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Tree Creeper and Jay. Can you describe below the different bird calls that you can hear? Can you also get pictures and upload them to Seesaw?

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Killiney Hill is also home to many native species of animals. These include the red squirrel, red fox, birds, badgers, hedgehogs, rabbits, rats, and mice. On the next page you will see pictures of different tracks for different animals. Walk around any of the woodland on Killiney Hill and try to find any of the tracks in the pictures. Circle them if you find them.