

Community Native Woodland

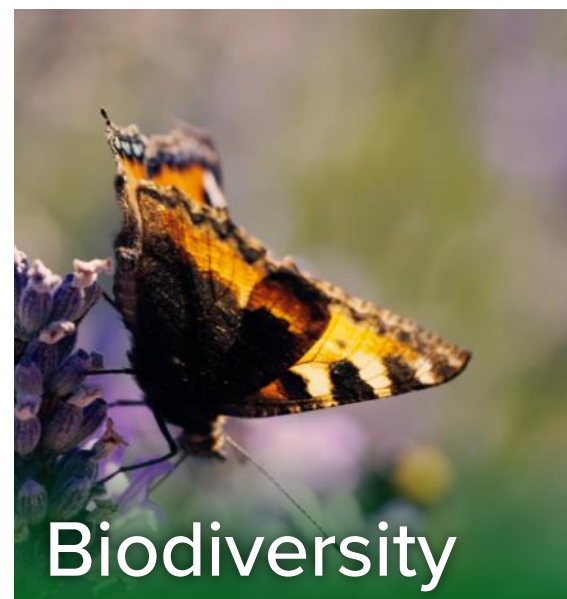
Ecology report 2025

Overview

The Community Native Woodland (CNW) was established in 2013 through a collaborative initiative led by the Letterfrack campus of Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (now ATU Connemara), in partnership with Connemara National Park, Connemara West, and local community groups.

The woodland was designed with ecological sensitivity, incorporating native tree species suited to the site's peaty soils. The CNW serves as a model for integrating education, conservation, and community engagement in a protected landscape.

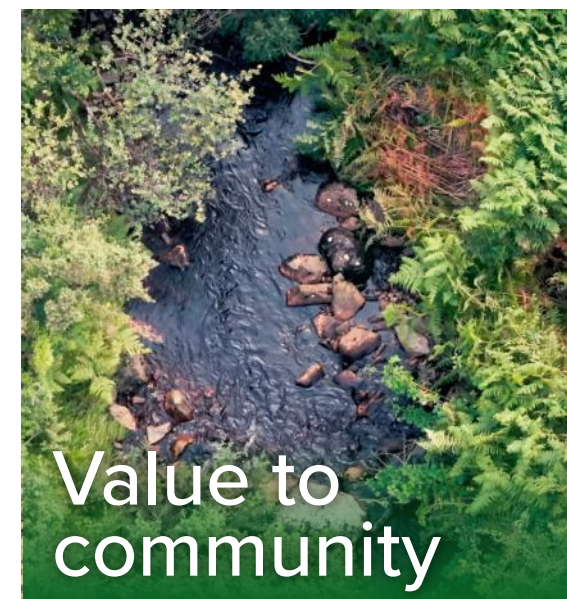
The CNW has been supported by the "One Million Trees in One Day" initiative, Department of Agriculture Native Woodland Grant, and Power to Change.



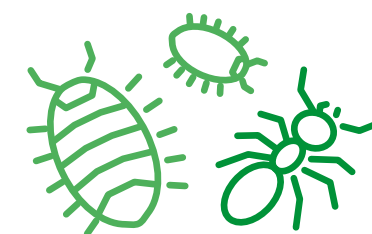
The CNW supports a developing mosaic of habitats that contribute to local biodiversity within Connemara National Park.



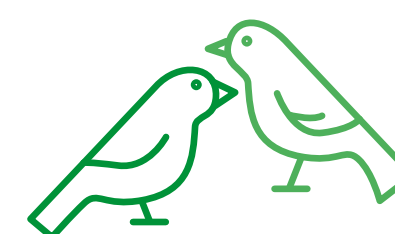
Planted primarily with alder, alongside oak, holly, and other native species, the woodland is classified as an "Immature Woodland"



The CNW provides a range of ecosystem services that benefit the local community.



Invertebrates, including woodlice, ants, and ground beetles were observed, indicating healthy soil processes.



Bird species such as robin, blue tit, chaffinch, and coal tit are using the woodland for feeding and refuge.



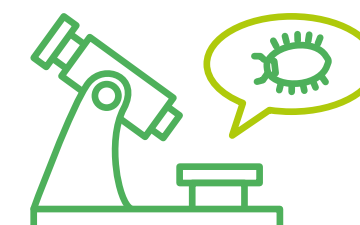
No mammals were directly observed during the survey, though the area may be used by foxes and small mammals.



The ground flora is dominated by grassland species, with herbaceous plants that support pollinators such as small white butterflies, white-tailed bumblebees, and hoverflies.



It plays a meaningful role in regulating services such as carbon sequestration, air and water quality improvement, and soil health enhancement.



Culturally, the woodland holds growing value as a site for environmental education and research, particularly for ATU students.



A proposed long-term goal is to connect with the wooded corridor along the Owengarve River, which would significantly enhance its ecological function and educational value.