

## Natural Heritage of our Mile

### Animals

Mammals that live along our PURE Mile:

See <http://mammals.biodiversityireland.ie/> for further details on these species

#### 1. Rabbits (*Coinín*)



Rabbits are a very common sight on our road, they are enjoying a resurgence in recent years. They are most often spotted at beginning of our mile, from the top of Kennas Bank as far as the Sweet Hill Gate.

#### 2. Fox (*Madra Rua*)



Glimpses of foxes can be caught crossing the road, most commonly during the spring when vixens are out hunting for their young. The piercing cry of the vixen can be heard around the Sweet Hill.

### 3. Sika Deer



Deer are mostly commonly seen near the end of our mile between Floods Brook and Scraw Cottage. These are mostly likely straying from Ballinacor Estate where there is a large population of deer. The roar of the stags is easily heard during rutting season.

### 4. Red Squirrel (*Iora Rua*)



We consider ourselves very lucky to have a population of Red Squirrel. They are most commonly seen scuttle across the road near the end of our road in the seasonal carpet of hazelnuts under our hazel trees.

### 5. Hedgehog (Grainneog)

The nocturnal hedgehog can be difficult to catch a glimpse of, but are known to visit gardens along our stretch of road.



### 6. Irish Mountain Hare



Hares are most commonly spotted at the higher points of the mile, between the top of Kennas Bank and the end of the Fairy Lane.

### 7. American Mink



Mink can be seen close to any of the streams along the road, particularly around Floods Brook which is the closest to the Avonbeg River.

## 8. Pine Marten



Most pine marten sightings along the road have been near the end of our mile around Scraw Cottage; perhaps they are spreading to Ballinabarney from Ballinacor Estate.

## 9. Badger



As a nocturnal mammal badgers are an unusual sighting along the road. There are reports of badgers sets in Ballinderry Wood and occasionally seen in the fields nearby.

## 10. Bats

Bats are often seen swooping over head on summer evenings after sunset. We the help of Enda Mullen we confirmed the presence Common & Soprano Pipistrelles and a rarer Whiskered Bat. Enda advised that we would also have Leisler's Bat in the area and possibly Natterer's Bats feeding around Flood's Brook.



## 11. Irish Stoat (Easóg)



Stoats have been seen along the road particularly at times when our rabbit population increases. The stone wall at the right at the end of our road is another spot where we would expect to see them.

## 12. Pgymy Shrew



Due to their small size shrews are difficult to spot and identify but have been seen in our hedgerows and meadows along the raod.

## Birds along our PURE Mile

<http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Birdwatching/IrelandsBirds/FullAlphabeticalList/tabid/1224/Default.aspx>

### 1. Red Kite



The Red Kite is undoubtedly the most recognisable of our bird species, due both to its size and distinctive flight pattern. Despite the fact that they have become such a common sight along the road, all members of the group have commented on how they still stop us in our tracks. They also encourage great competition on who can capture the best photo- this picture was taken by Rita Mc Mullen

### 2. Sparrowhawk



Sparrowhawks are seen hunting along our hedgerows- commonly at either end of the road (but usually seen near the dense foliage of foliage etc)

### 3. Buzzard



Buzzards can be seen hunting the fields at the higher points of the mile. Locals believe there is a pair currently nesting in trees adjacent to Kennas Bank.

### 4. Peregrine



Peregrines do not nest along the road but are frequently spotted hunting in the area. They are most likely coming from the known nesting sites in the Barravore Cliffs (visible from Williams Bank)

### 5. Merlin



Merlin are another small bird of prey that hunt along our hedgerows- smaller than sparrowhawk.

## 6. Kestrel



Kestrels most are most likely to be spotted hovering above the meadow fields along the road.

## 7. Pheasant



Pheasants are a common sight in the area due to those straying from Ballinacor Estate. They nest in long grass and headlands of the fields.

## 8. Lapwing



Lapwing are unusual sight on the road. Locals believe sightings during the winter months mean snow is on the way!

## 9. Woodcock

Woodcock are found in wet areas along the road – for example the field behind Doyles House.





### 10. Snipe



Snipe are another bird that favour wet marshy ground so are also found in the fields at Doyles' House.

### 11. Gulls

Different species of gulls are common visitors to this area, particularly on the open green pasture at the top of the road. It is believed that they are a sign that there are rough conditions at sea. Fresh earth being turned during ploughing season also attracts them.



### 12. Woodpigeon



Woodpigeon live in the tall trees along the road. There is a large number of them on this road as the crops and clover provide excellent foraging for them.

### 13. Collared Dove



Collared Doves find homes in farm buildings and sheds along the road.

#### 14. Cuckoo



The cuckoo s distinctive call can be heard in the area and locals have seen this very elusive bird on the Sweet Hill. The first sound of the cuckoo each spring brings excitement about the forthcoming summer.

#### 15. Barn Owl



The Barn Owls nocturnal hunting habits make them difficult to spot, but there distinctive screech can be heard and it is believed they are nesting in farm sheds along the road.

### 16. Swallow



Swallows return each spring/summer to nest in sheds and barns along the road. Their return is always seen as the beginning of summer. When they gather on the wires in autumn it is a seasonal reminder of the evenings becoming shorter and cold temperatures on their way.

### 17. House Martins



House Martins arrive and leave with the swallow. Their shorter tail makes them identifiable in flight. They choose homes for their nesting grounds.

### 18. Jay

The jay is a colourful bird favouring wooded areas. Most commonly seen near the hazel trees at the end of The road



### 19. Magpie



Magpies are a common sight in the area often seen clearing road kill. Many locals view them with superstition- some greeting and others believe in the significance in the number that are together.

## 20. Jackdaw

Jackdaw are a small crow that can be seen and heard in large and noisy flocks.



## 21. Raven



The largest of the crow family. Their dark shiny plumage makes them identifiable. Are most common on the higher points of the road – fields above The Fairy Lane

## 22. Hooded Crow

The hooded crow is locally known as “The Grey Back”. They are an opportunist Feeder, feeding on roadkill, songbirds etc.



**23. Rook**

Rooks are seen around the local farmyards. There is currently a large rookery in Tars Haggard.

**24. Great Spotted Wood Pecker**

A few locals have been lucky enough to spot this distinctive red and black bird in the area. Some also believe they have heard the drumming sound of this unique bird.

**25. Red Grouse**

Red Grouse are an elusive bird but there have been occasional sightings in the overgrown grass on the Sweet Hill.

### Other Garden Birds along our PURE Mile:

1. Pied Wagtail
2. Grey Wagtail
3. Thrush
4. Hedge Sparrow
5. House Sparrow
6. Blackbird
7. Robin
8. Blue tit
9. Great tit
10. Coal tit
11. Chaffinch
12. Greenfinch
13. Bullfinch
14. Goldfinch
15. Dunnock
16. Wren
17. Starling
18. Yellow Hammer
19. Siskin
20. Treecreeper
21. Chiffchaff (in the woods on the slopes of Kirikee)



Flowers and trees identified along the Ballinabarney/Ballintombay PURE Mile:

1. Ash
2. Bindweed
3. Bird'sfoot trefoil (loved by the common blue butterfly)
4. Bluebells
5. Bracken
6. Brambles
7. Bush Vetch
8. Buttercups
9. Clover
10. Cock's Foot (Grass)
11. Common Cat's-ear (very similar to dandelion)
12. Common Field Speedwell
13. Common Vetch
14. Compact Rush
15. Cuckoo Flower (also called Ladies Smock & loved by the Orange-tip butterfly)
16. Cudweed
17. Daisies
18. Dandelion
19. Dock (broad-leafed and narrow-leafed)
20. Dog Violet
21. Elder
22. Fiddle heads (the furled fronds of a young fern)
23. Fireweed
24. Forget-me-not
25. Foxgloves (good for bumble bees)
26. Goose grass (also called cleavers & robin run the hedge)
27. Gorse
28. Hawkbit
29. Hawthorn
30. Heath Bedstraw
31. Herb Robert (member of the geranium family and edible)
32. Hogweed
33. Honeysuckle
34. Ivy
35. Lesser Spearwort
36. Monbretia
37. Nettle
38. Pineapple Weed
39. Ragwort (hosts lots of insects, including the beautiful cinnabar moth)
40. Ribwort plaintain
41. Rosebay Willowherb
42. Scarlet Pimpernel
43. Selfheal
44. Sheep's-bit (also called blue bonnets & bachelor's buttons)
45. Silver weed (potentilla family)
46. Sow Thistle
47. Stitchwort
48. Tormentil (of the potentilla family)
49. White clover (good for honey bees)
50. Willow herb
51. Wood sage
52. Yellow Pimpernel

## Wildflowers

Some of the wildflowers we have on the mile are:



Bluebells  
Dandelions  
Stitchwort  
Daisies  
Dog violet  
Purple Clover

Herb Robert  
Fox Glove  
Buttercup  
Forget-me-not  
Sheepsbit  
Wild Iris

Yellow Pimpernel  
Whitethorn  
Wood Sage  
Lady's Smock  
Pennywort  
Pineapple Weed







## Trees/Other

- Ferns
- Common Sorrel
- Plantain
- Hogweed
- Bracken
- Cock's Foot (Grass)
- Common Vetch
- Ash
- Brambles
- Cleavers (Goose Grass)
- Bindweed
- Hawthorn
- Gorse
- Ivy
- Thistle
- Elder
- Dock
- Nettles
- Holly
- Rowan
- Hazel

