

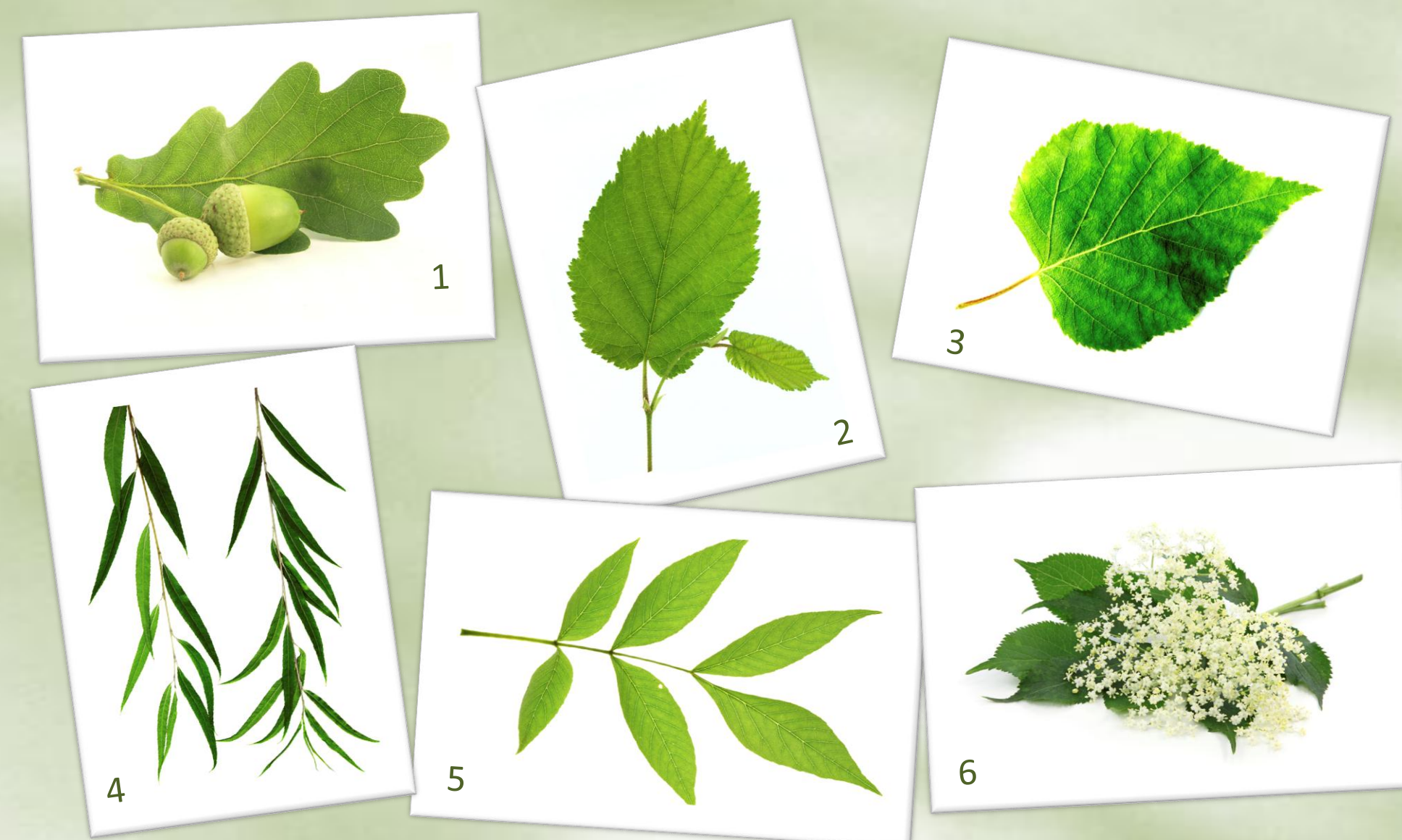


Wild About Clane – Plants and Insects



Trees

The more mature trees of the park include Ash (*Fuinseog*), Sycamore (*Seiceamóir*) and Willow (*Saileach*). There are younger examples of native Hazel (*Coll*), Oak (*Dair*), Silver Birch (*Beith Gheal*), Elder (*Trom*) and Alder (*Fearnóg*). Can you find the trees? Do you recognise their leaves? The answers are in the bottom right corner.



Wildflowers

Meadow Vetchling (*Peasairín Buí*), Rosebay Willowherb (*Lus na Tine*), Herb-Robert (*Ruithéal Rí*), Wild Angelica (*Gallfheabhacán*), Butterbur (*Gallán Mór*) - can you spot any of these wildflowers nearby? Remember that different plants flower at different times of the year, so you may have to come back a few times before you see them all looking their best.



Clane Liffeside Park

Owned by Clane Community Council, this piece of land where the Clane-Sallins Road meets the River Liffey has been recently planted with native trees and is now home to a surprising variety of plants and animals.

Here we introduce some of the plants and insects that can be seen around the park. A complementary poster describes some of the animals, birds and fish. We hope you enjoy the sights, sounds and smells...

...Wild About Clane



Willow Catkins by Alexandra Bridge

Stone mad?

Many wild plants have evolved to survive in very challenging environments. The stone wall by the road provides just the right amount of nutrients to support colonies of both Wall Rue (*Luibh na Seacht nGábh*) and Ivy-Leaved Toadflax (*Buaflíon Balla*).



Wall Rue



Ivy-Leaved Toadflax

Blow ins?

Several plant species introduced into Irish gardens have no natural predators here, and so have started to spread. The Himalayan Balsam (*Lus na Pléisce*) was grown for its spectacular flowers, but the plant is now colonising both riverbanks and waste ground. It is driving out native flora on which, for example, riverine insects depend. If it takes over all our riverbanks, perhaps our fish populations will be impacted.



Himalayan Balsam



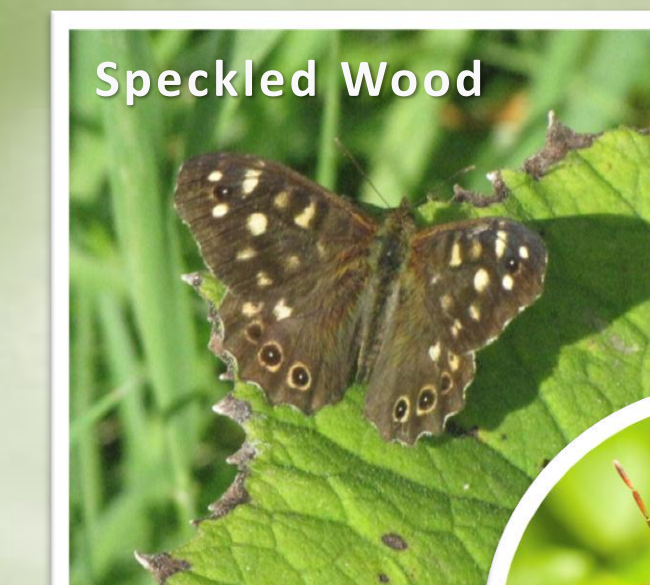
Seven-spot Ladybird



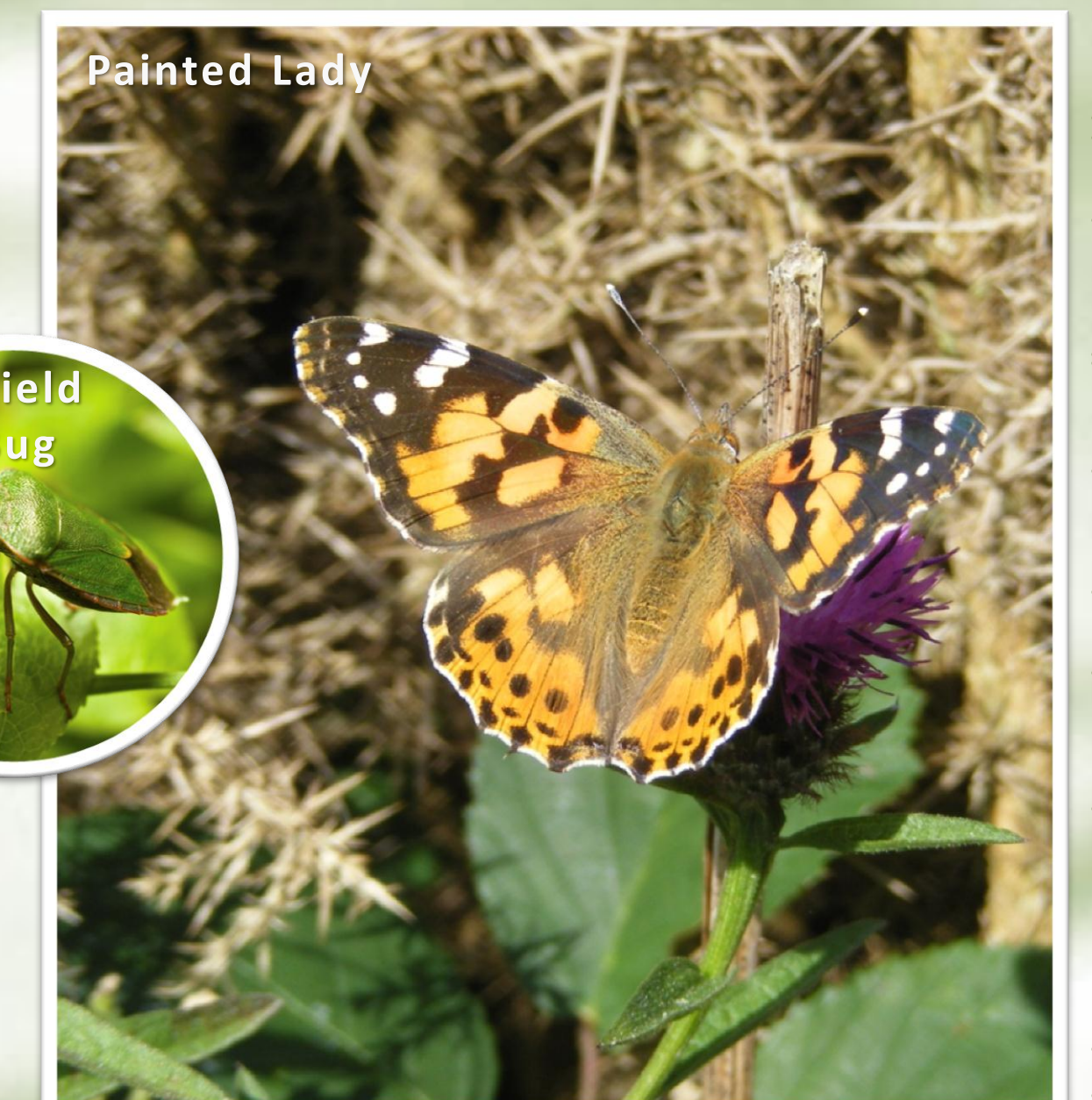
Ladybird larva

Insects

Plants provide food and shelter for a huge variety of insects which, in turn, play a key role in helping plants to reproduce. Irish insects have evolved to survive on native plants. Some native trees host several hundred species of insects, and insects like the Ladybird (*Bóin Dé*), Shield Bug (*Frid Scéithe*) and Speckled Wood (*Breacfhéileacán Coille*) are born and bred locally. However, other insects are long distance flyers: every summer, Painted Lady (*Áilleán*) butterflies fly to Clane from as far away as Northern Africa. The spectacular Hummingbird Hawkmoth (*Conach Foluana*), a day-flying moth, also visits us from overseas.



Speckled Wood



Painted Lady



Shield Bug



Hummingbird Hawkmoth

Photos of all wildflowers © Zoë Devlin of wildflowersofireland.net and 'Wildflowers of Ireland - A Personal Record' by Zoë Devlin to be published autumn 2011. Photos of Speckled Wood, Willow Catkins © John Kennedy; Seven-spot Ladybird (and Spider) © Stephen Duffy; Painted Lady © Pat Bell.

For more information see 'Wild About Clane' on www.ClaneCommunity.ie

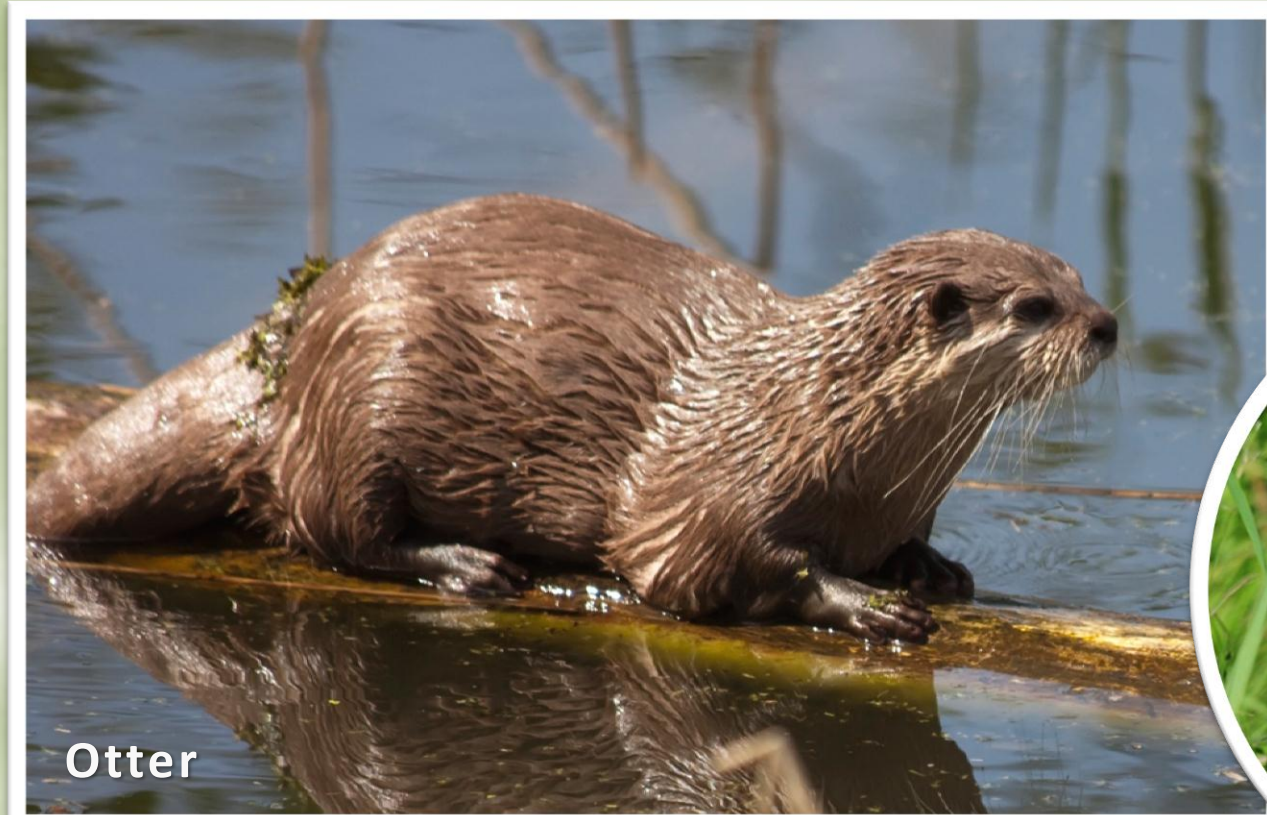
Generously Supported by Kildare County Council



The leaves are: 1 Oak, 2 Hazel, 3 Silver Birch, 4 Willow, 5 Ash, 6 Elder



Wild About Clane – Animals and Birds



Mammals

Although animals like the Hedgehog (*Gráinneog*), Fox (*Sionnach*), Otter (*Dobharchú*) and Badger (*Broc*) can all be seen around Clane, perhaps the easiest animals to spot within this park are the bats. Ireland's largest bat, the Leisler's Bat (*Ialtóg Leisler*), can be seen at dusk hunting over the nearby fields - diving down and back up again as it catches insects. Our smallest bats, the Common Pipistrelle (*Ialtóg Fheascrach*) and Soprano Pipistrelle (*Ialtóg Shopránach*), can be seen and heard hunting along the trees, hedges and walls. Their sounds include a brief, harsh, high-pitched click which is more often heard by children than adults - young people can hear higher frequencies than most grown-ups.



On their way back?

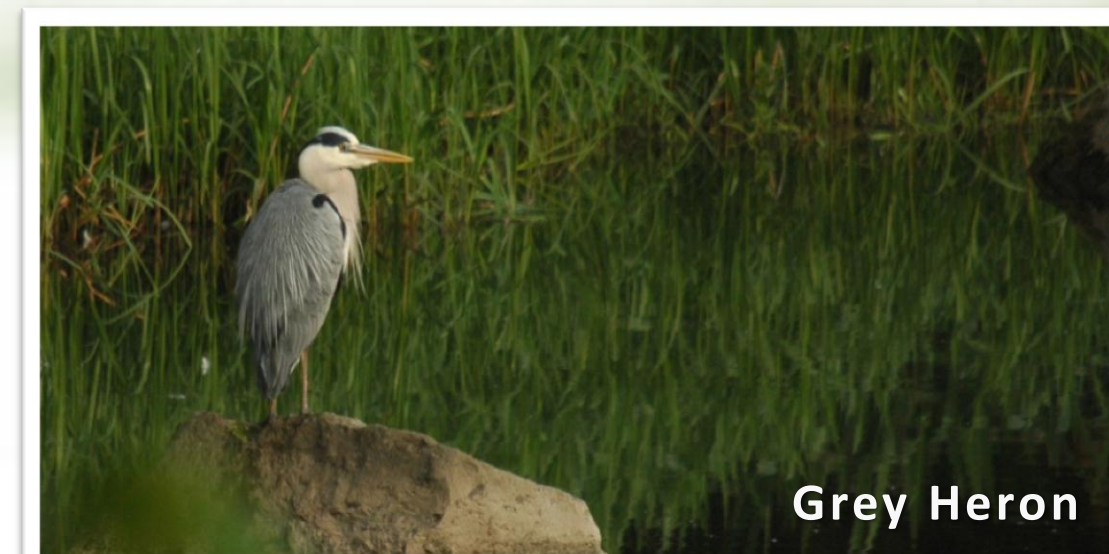
Pine Marten (*Cat Crainn*) populations seem to be slowly recovering in Ireland, possibly helped by their ability to catch the recently introduced Grey Squirrel (*Iora Liath*). Pine Marten have recently been seen near this park, so, perhaps some day soon, they will relax here in this wood. Grey Squirrels have been blamed for driving out Red Squirrels (*Iora Rua*), but soon the local Grey Squirrels may need to watch out!

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Bonjour!

Little Egrets (*Éigrit bheag*) have recently started to colonise Ireland from France. Look for them by the riverbank or flying overhead.



Birds

Over 60 species of birds have been recorded in and around the park, from the mighty Buzzard (*Clamhán*) to the cheerful Willow Warbler (*Ceolaire Saili*). Mallard (*Mallard*), Grey Heron (*Corr Éisc*), Goldfinch (*Lasair Choille*) and Great Tit (*Meantán Mór*) can be seen throughout the year. Swifts (*Gabhlán Gaoithe*) fly from sub-Saharan Africa to breed here in the summer, and Fieldfares (*Sacán*) are one of the thrushes that make their way from Russia, Scandinavia and Iceland to enjoy our relatively mild winters.



Fish and Aquatic Life

The Brown Trout (*Breac Donn*) is the most common fish in the River Liffey at Clane. Pike (*Liús*), Salmon (*Bradán*) and the remarkable White-Clawed Crayfish (*Gliomach Fionnuisce*) – a freshwater crustacean – can also be found.

