



Irish Trees Dunsany Estate

Impact Report 2025 · Restoring Ireland's Habitats Together

A record of progress, partnership and purpose.

Through the shared vision of Irish Trees, Dunsany Estate and our highly supportive Patrons, we are restoring natural habitats,

Reconnecting woodland and inviting life to return across one of Ireland's most historic landscapes.

Your support helps make this living legacy possible.

A Year of Resilience and Renewal

The past year at Dunsany has been one of renewal — storms tested us, growth inspired us, and you supported us.

Together, we expanded woodland, deepened biodiversity, and advanced Ireland's largest privately led rewilding effort.

This report celebrates measurable ecological improvement, stronger community connection, and the enduring impact of your partnership.

Storms and Recovery

Storm Éowyn brought high winds and the loss of more than 150 mature trees. Yet new planting held firm — proof of planning and resilience. Months of restoration followed:

Clearing trails, recovering habitats, and using new monitoring and safety equipment to strengthen defences.

Open canopy gaps now allow light to reach the forest floor, sparking new wildflowers and native tree replanting.

Tree Planting & Habitat Expansion

With your support, thousands of native Irish trees — over 15 species — were planted to reconnect fragmented woodland and restore wildlife corridors.

We targeted degraded pasture, invasive-cleared zones, and woodland edges to create natural transition zones rich in birds, pollinators, and ground flora.

Each new stand strengthens the estate's ecological network and its long-term carbon and biodiversity balance.





Flora and Fauna at Dunsany

Across 1,600 acres — 750 set aside for nature — Dunsany now supports native woodlands, meadows, freshwater springs, and ponds.

Surveys recorded 350+ wild plant species and thriving pollinators such as mining bees, hoverflies, and bumblebees.

Wildlife sightings include red squirrels, pine martens, long-eared owls, buzzards, and otters..



Ecology & Data

Working with Habitats.ie, we completed baseline surveys across woodland, grassland, hedgerow, and water habitats.

These studies underpin our Biodiversity Net Gain framework and restoration roadmap.

A new GIS-based data system will map ecological change over time, combining professional surveys, academic research, and citizen science for transparent reporting.



EVIDENCE MATTERS

RESEARCH & SCIENCE IN ACTION

- 12 Research Surveys 
- 8 Technology Tools 
- 47 Habitat Types 
- 3 Universities Engaged 

DUNSANY ESTATE IN NUMBERS

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

- 1600 Acre Estate
- 750 Acres given back to Nature
- 290 Acres of woodland
- 5 kilometres of Streams & Ponds
- 25 kilometres of hedgerows
- 180 Acres of wild meadows

LIFE AT DUNSANY ESTATE

CLICK ICONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH ON EACH SPECIES

- 27 species of Fungi & Lichens 
- 25 species of Bees & Hoverflies 
- 6 species of Birds of Prey 
- 72 species of Birds 
- 34 species of Arachnids 
- 7 species of Wetland Plants 

LIFE AT DUNSANY ESTATE

CLICK ICONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH ON EACH SPECIES

- 8 species of Butterflies 
- 16 species of Grasses 
- 12 species of Mammals 
- 8 species of Bats 
- 30 species of Trees 
- 2 species of Amphibians 

- 270 Acres of wild wetland, scrub, copse
- 850 Acres of arable land
- 400+ species identified by ecological study

Knowledge in Action

Our collaboration with Ecology firms turns Dunsany into a living classroom.

So early-career ecologists can train here under expert guidance, conducting real-world biodiversity assessments.

The data they gather to feed directly into our monitoring program — enriching understanding while building the next generation of Irish ecological leaders.



Supporting Ireland's Pollinators

Our work aligns with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan through meadow creation, native hedgerows, orchard zones, and complete pesticide elimination.

Surveys in 2025, Polliknow AI cameras, human verification, This work lays the foundation for long-term tracking of pollinator trends and supports Dunsany's wider restoration efforts

Tussocky grass margins, south-facing banks, and old stone walls provide nesting sites for solitary bees.

In 2026 we'll expand pollinator meadows, install more nesting boxes, and launch a citizen-science bee and butterfly survey to feed national data.



Community & Education

This year we welcomed interns from Trinity College, Maynooth University, Dundalk IT, and Learn International.

They worked across ecology, sustainability, media, and data science — translating research into field impact.

We also hosted the Irish Hospice Foundation, horticultural students, interns, community groups, sharing the healing power of nature.



Learning & Leadership

We participated in the Business for Biodiversity Action Track, the Kylemore Abbey Green Sod Summer School, and the ESG Summit.

Training covered soil health, biochar, safety, and European sustainability reporting.

Each event strengthens our capacity to lead by example in regenerative land management.



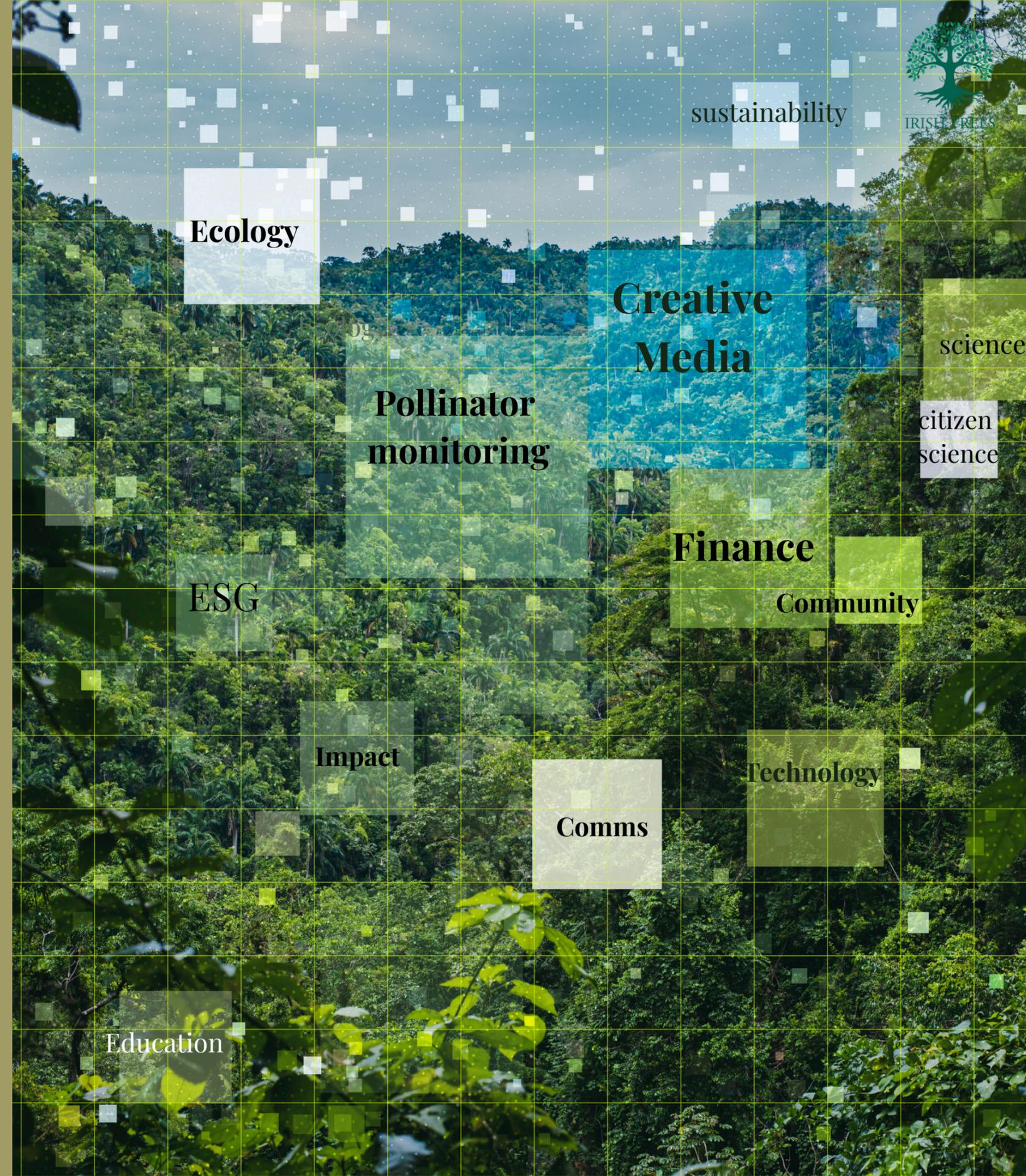
Expert Network

Guided by Expertise

Our expanding network includes leaders in:

- Ecology & environmental science
- Corporate sustainability & ESG
- Finance & impact investment
- Technology & AI monitoring
- Education & citizen science
- Creative media & communication

Together they ensure our work is scientifically sound, financially credible, and socially meaningful.



Local Economy

Rooted in Community

From fencing to catering, we source locally wherever possible.

Every euro spent helps sustain rural jobs, local suppliers, and community enterprise.

Rewilding at Dunsany demonstrates that ecological restoration and economic vitality can grow side by side.



Looking Ahead to 2026

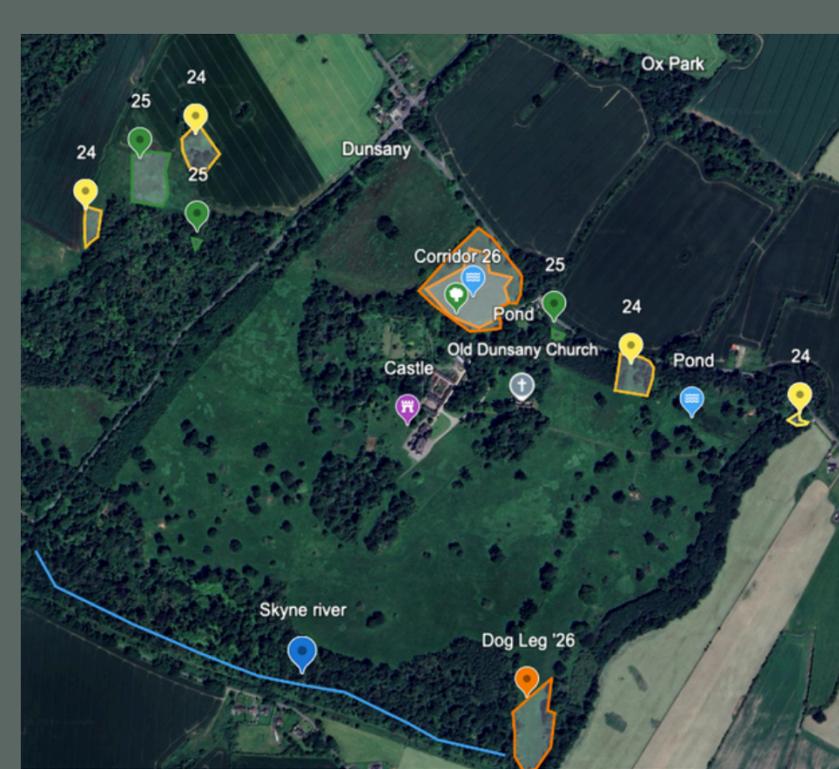
Next Steps in Restoration

Plans include expanding woodland and meadow zones, enhancing the biodiversity data portal, launching a public dashboard, and hosting our first “Rewilding & Research BioBlitz.”

We’ll continue invasive-species management and strengthen partnerships for data-driven habitat recovery.

Implementing biodiversity improvement zones, trees, meadows, ponds, measurement.





Thank you.
Your continued belief and support
turns ambition into action and helps restore
Ireland's natural heritage for generations to
come.
Together, we are rewilding for a sustainable
future!





IRISH TREES

