

## BIRDS AND HABITATS OF THE CLARE RIVER

Both Pied and Grey Wagtail birds can be found along the riverbanks of the Clare River all year round. During the summer months, with luck, the Kingfisher might also be encountered. Common Sandpipers in spring and occasionally Green Sandpipers, at any time of the year, might be seen feeding on muddy areas. In the summer Sand Martin, House Martin and Swallow fly along the river and across fields hunting the rich insect life available.



Mute Swan and Dabchick (Little Grebe) are also present on the slower running parts of the river, as is the occasional Cormorant. If you are very lucky you may spot a Heron standing quietly in the river waiting for a tasty catch.

Habitats for wildlife along the river include the river itself, wet grassland, reed swamp and wet woodland. These wetlands are teeming with dragonflies, snails, beetles and other invertebrates in the summer, providing a rich source of food for other wildlife. Wildflowers that can be seen in and around the wetter margins of the river include Yellow Flag Iris, Orchids, Meadowsweet and Purple Loosestrife.

There are several small patches of native woodland in the parish, including stands of wet woodland (mainly Willow and Alder) along the Clare River. There are also several small conifer plantations and shelter belts of various ages around Milltown, at Curraghaderry, Drim, Knock, Carton, Burrish, Carrowntoatagh, Kilgevrin, Conagher, Stripe, Belmont and Cloondroon (about 500 acres in total in a recent survey).

Conifer plantations may appear at first glance devoid of much birdlife, but some interesting species can be encountered. Plantations host good numbers of breeding Woodpigeon, Goldcrest and Coal Tit, with both Crossbill and Siskin now probably breeding here as well. Long-eared Owls are regularly seen and heard at several local spots in Milltown and also the Sparrowhawk. In winter, these woods are the daytime roosting places for Woodcock, which winter in the area in quite good numbers thanks to our mainly mild climate.



Visitors to Milltown can avail of the many facilities and services the village has to offer including our brand-new playground, restaurants, pubs, shops, service stations, Post Office, accommodation and a Business Park.



WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT TO MILLTOWN AND  
REMEMBER

PLEASE KEEP OUR VILLAGE TIDY