



WICKLOW TRAILS Passport



Go Explore!

The Wicklow Trails Passport is a set of 5 **family friendly** walking trails located in and around the villages of Rathdrum and Laragh in county Wicklow.

This guide will help to choose the walks most suitable for you and your family and help you find the start point for each, the trail head. These trails are suitable for most ages and levels of fitness.

This guide contains a map of each trail, information such as walk time, length, passport stamp location, route markers to follow and some interesting information to share with others.

Don't forget to collect your Passport Stamp during each walk. If you **collect all 5 trail stamps** in your passport, return your passports to school and earn a certificate as a **Wicklow Explorer!!**

Follow these tips for a safe and fun walk. Plan your walk and be prepared for Ireland's changeable weather. Remember, there is no such thing as bad weather just unsuitable clothing!

Some sensible items may include suitable clothing and footwear, water, snacks/ picnic, sunscreen and a fully charged mobile phone in case of emergency. Remember you are only as fast as the slowest member of your group.



Remember to **Leave No Trace**:

- **Bring home everything you brought along**
- **Leave what you find**
- **Respect nature and wildlife**
- **If you have a dog, always keep it on a leash**
- **Be considerate of others**

For more information contact:

Rural Recreation Officer

County Wicklow Partnership

Tel: 0402 20955

www.wicklowpartnership.ie



Wicklow trails



Ballygannon Woods Trail

Location: Ballygannon Woods, Co Wicklow

Route Length: 2km

Parking: Car park at trail head

- GPS 52.944, -6.237 (type into Google Maps)

The **Ballygannon Woods Trail** loop walk is a perfect way to enjoy Ireland's native woodlands and our natural heritage.

Forming Part of the **Clara Vale Nature Reserve**, these woodlands are the second largest **Oak** forest in Ireland and have ancient origins that link back to the native forests that covered Ireland thousands of years ago.

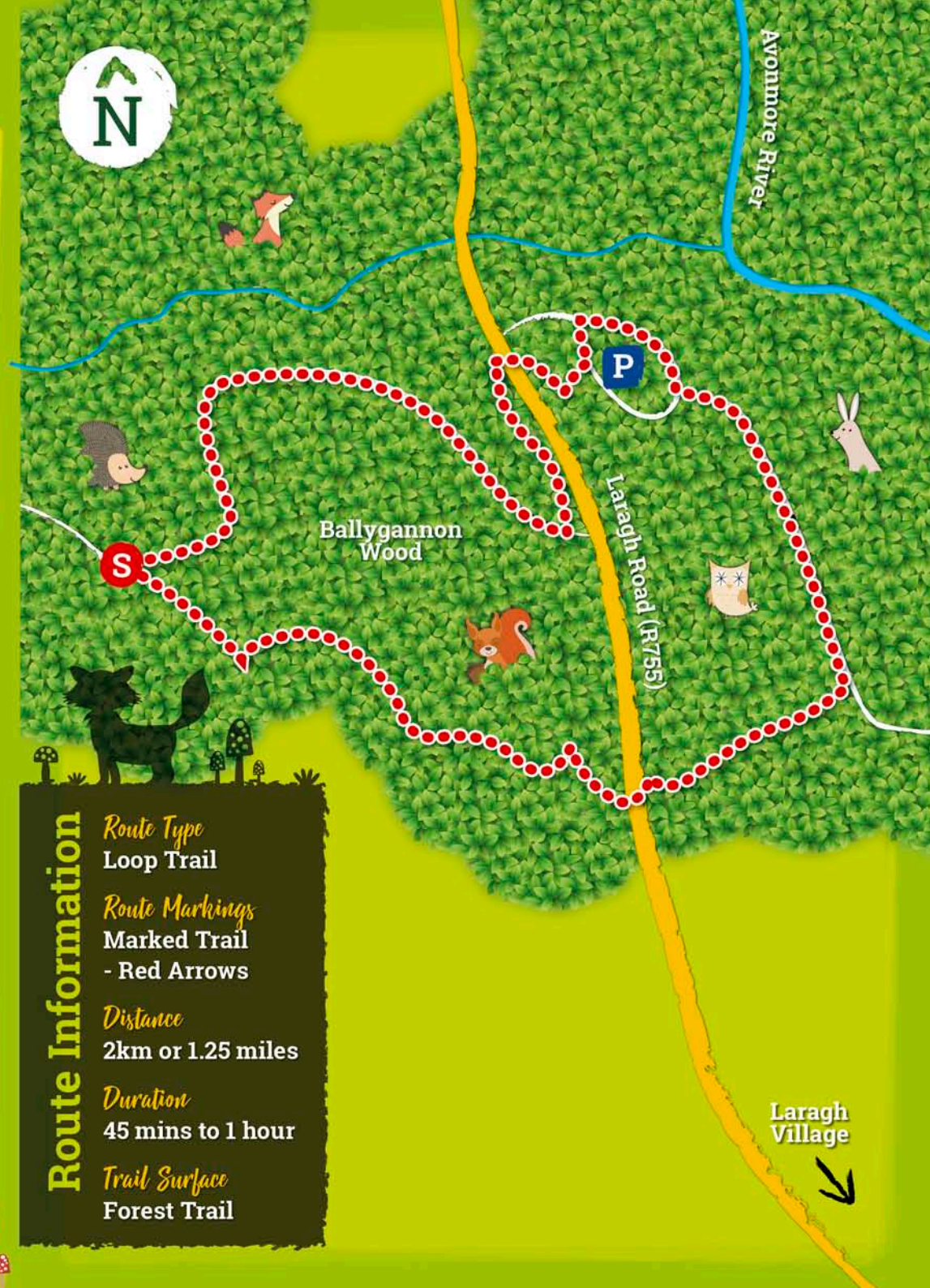
'Dedicated forever to the people of Ireland', these woods also form part of the **People's Millennium Forest** project, when in the year 2000, over 1.6 million native broad-leaved tree trees were planted, one for each household. Planted to help restore and manage our native forests, the native trees included oak, birch, alder, ash and more. During various times of the year wild honeysuckle, bilberry, primroses, bluebells and violets grow on the forest floor.

The name **Ballygannon** in Irish is Baile na gCanonach which means 'The town or dwelling of the canons' and is where Canons (clerics from a cathedral) owned lands in the 12th century. To the south of the woods is the village of Rathdrum and to the east is the **Avonmore River** which flows through these woodlands.



LEGEND!

-  Roads
-  Other walking tracks
-  Route
-  Parking
-  Passport Stamp



Route Information

Route Type
Loop Trail

Route Markings
Marked Trail
- Red Arrows

Distance
2km or 1.25 miles

Duration
45 mins to 1 hour

Trail Surface
Forest Trail

Clara Vale Trail

Location: Clara Vale, Co Wicklow

Route Length: 4km

Parking: Car park - GPS 52.967, -6.260

(type into Google Maps)

Have you ever imagined what Ireland looked like 10,000 years ago? Well look no further, this is real wilderness.

The **Clara Vale Trail** follows the **Avonmore Way** walk through the **Vale of Clara Nature Reserve**, a 550 acre forest of native Irish trees and what most of Ireland looked like after last Ice Age.

Along the banks of the **Avonmore River** you will be surrounded by the lords of the forest, Oak and Scots Pine towering above you, Holly, Hazel, Birch, and Willow trees lower down and Honeysuckle, Bilberry, Wood Sorrel and Bluebells on the woodland floor.

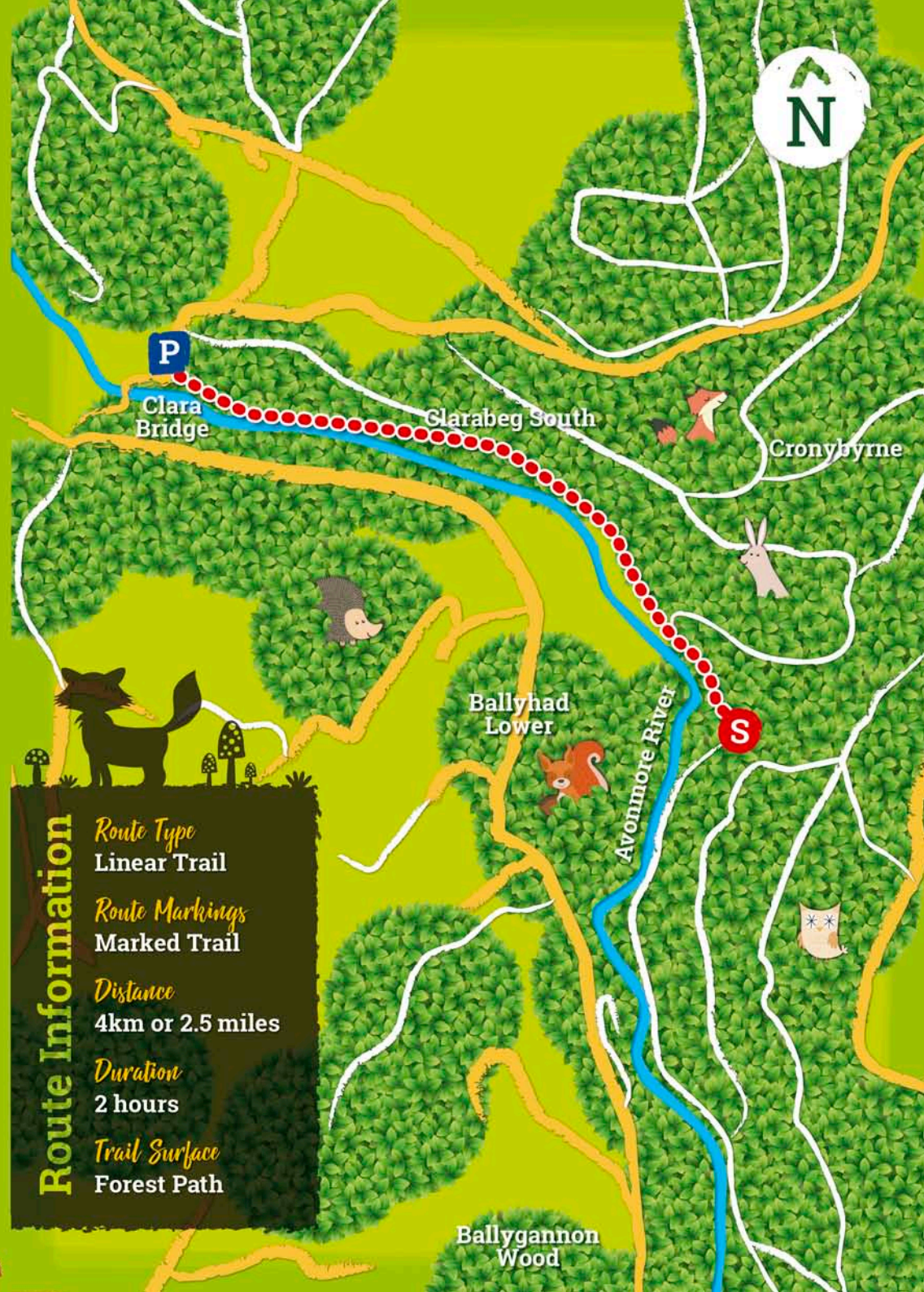
Keep an eye out for the bird and bat boxes on some trees and the wide range of wildlife that live in these woods including birds such as long-eared owls, tree-creepers, woodcock, redstarts, buzzards and the **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, which has recently arrived back to Ireland.

This is why Clara Vale Forest is so exciting. This is the Trails Passports longest walk and the only non-loop trail where you must return on the same route or need a second car at another trail head.



LEGEND!

-  Roads
-  Other walking tracks
-  Route
-  Parking
-  Passport Stamp



Route Information

Route Type

Linear Trail

Route Markings

Marked Trail

Distance

4km or 2.5 miles

Duration

2 hours

Trail Surface

Forest Path

Deputy's Pass Trail

Location: Deputy's Pass, Co Wicklow

Route Length: 2km

Parking: Car park - GPS 52.948, -6.164

(type into Google Maps)

Taking the **Deputy's Pass Trail**, the shorter of the loop walks through the old oak woodlands, lets you enjoy one of the last remaining pockets of the vast forests that once covered much of ancient Wicklow.

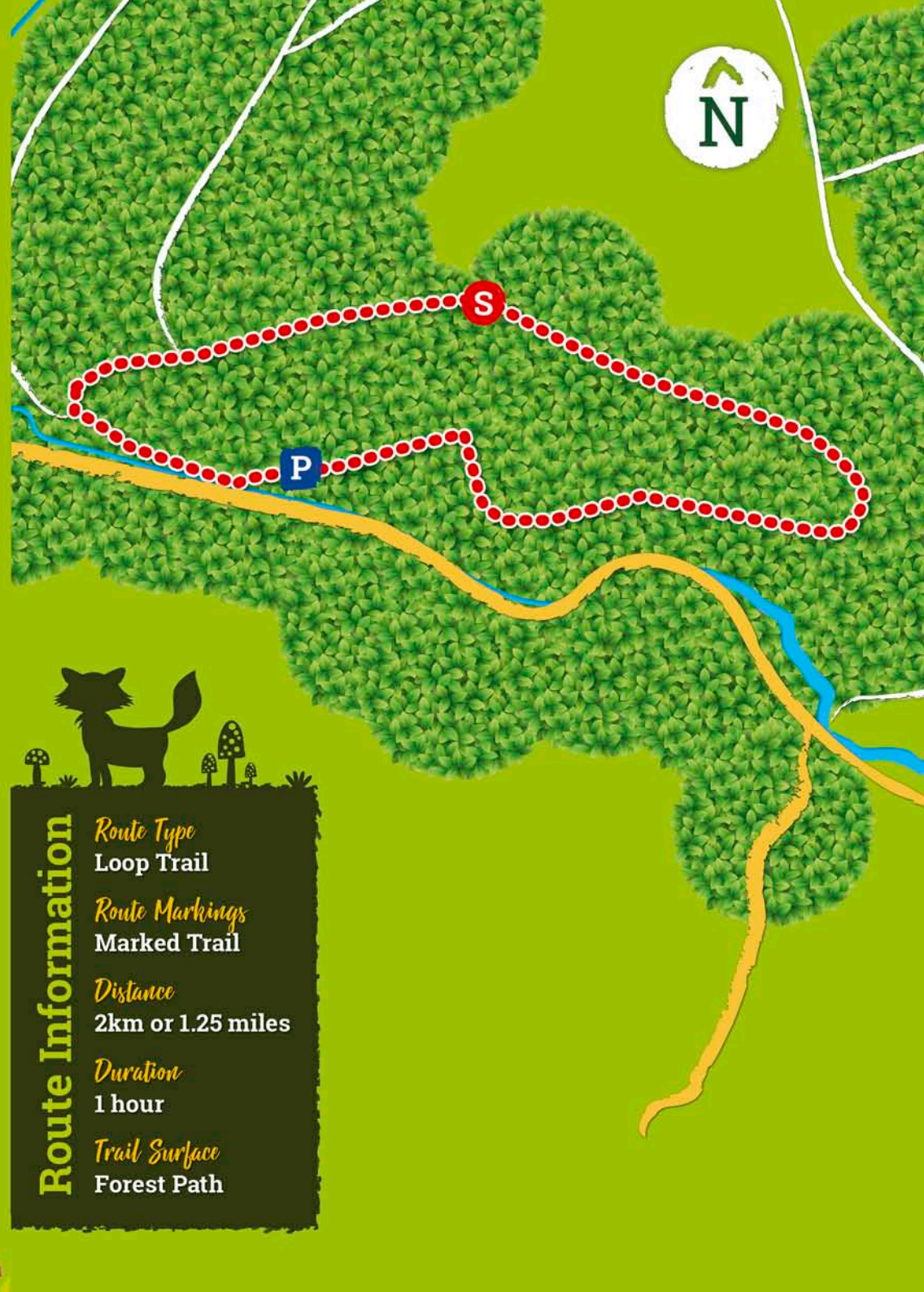
Established as a **Nature Reserve** in 1982, the valley is inhabited by a range of trees, plants and wildlife along the **Potter River**. With trees such as **Oak**, Beech, Birch, Holly, Hazel and Rowan and **plants** including Woodrush, Bilberry, Blueberry and Wood Sorrel on the woodland floor, the local **wildlife** is varied and includes birds such as Kestrels and Wrens and amphibians including the Smooth Newt and Common Frog.

The name Deputy's Pass dates back over 400 years when the English **Tudor Monarchy** was trying to defeat the local Gaelic **O'Byrne Clan**. At the time, Wicklow's landscape was much different with no roads as we know them and dense woodland. The Lord Deputy was said to have cut a Pass through the wooded valley for his troops and supplies and hence the name. However, it was the O'Byrne Clan who used new Pass to ambush their enemies!



LEGEND!

-  Roads
-  Other walking tracks
-  Route
-  Parking
-  Passport Stamp



Route Information

- Route Type**
Loop Trail
- Route Markings**
Marked Trail
- Distance**
2km or 1.25 miles
- Duration**
1 hour
- Trail Surface**
Forest Path

Avondale Forest Trail

Location: Avondale Forest Trail, Co Wicklow

Route Length: 2.5km

Parking: Car park - GPS 52.914, -6.226

(type into Google Maps)







Explore with amazement the exotic trees from all over the world on the **Avondale Forest Tree Trail** (Red Loop). At over 500 acres, the **Avondale House and Forest Park** has a collection of the tallest, oldest and most exotic trees in Ireland with several walking trails, gardens, rivers and a majestic sweeping lawn known as the 'Great Ride'.

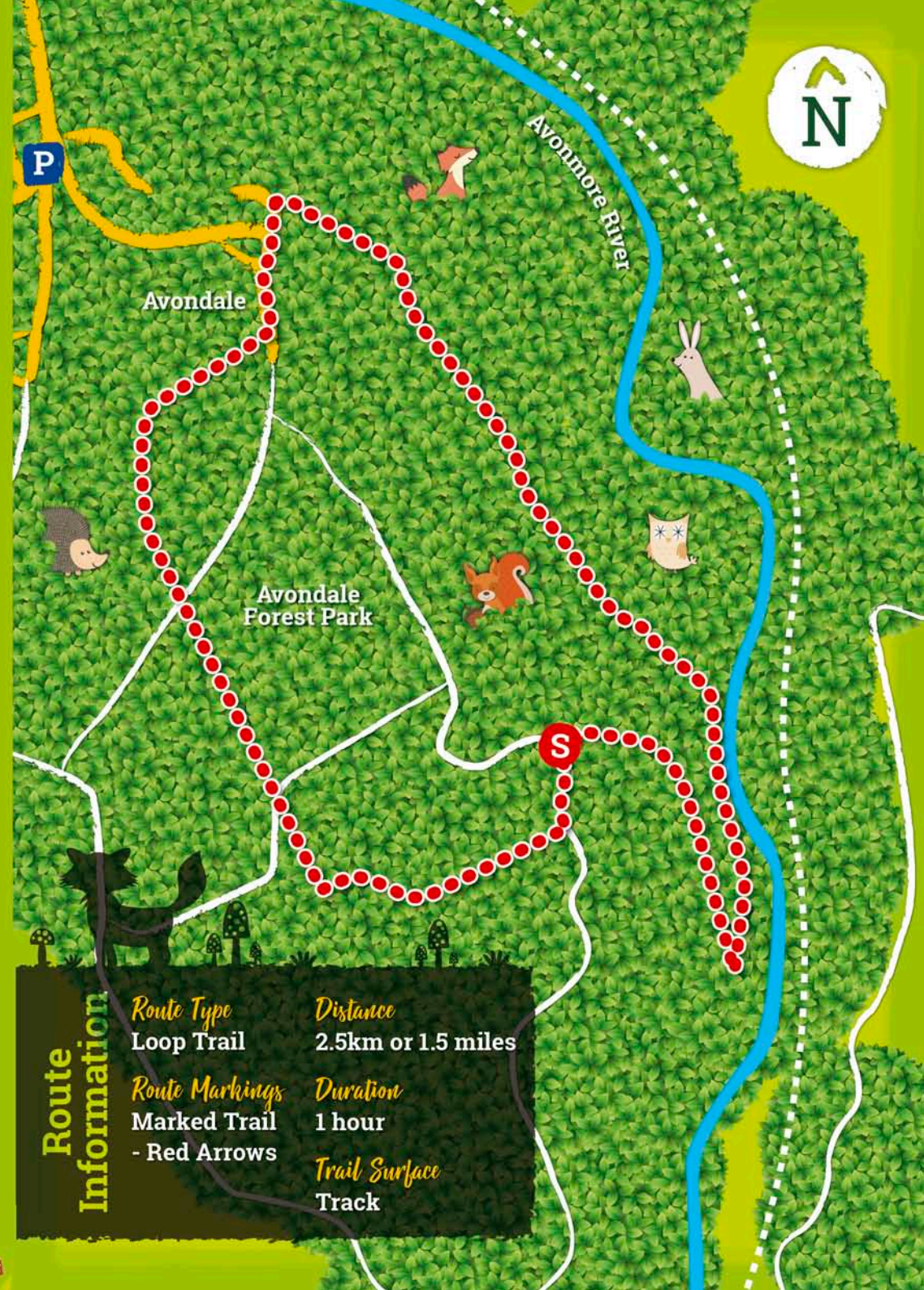
Built in 1779 by **Samuel Hayes**, Avondale House was the birthplace and home of **Charles Stewart Parnell** (1846–1891), one of the leading political leaders in Irish history. Samuel Hayes collected and planted a range of tree species from all over the world and made Avondale the birthplace of **Irish Forestry** where training and research has been undertaken since.

Avondale has Ireland's **Tallest Tree**, a Coastal Douglas Fir standing at 61.3m (201 feet) and 4 in the top 10!!, including a Western Hemlock (50m), European Silver Fir (48.3m) and Tasmanian Yellow Gum (45.4m). The park has a giant Beech tree that is over 200 years old and other exotic trees such as Western Red Cedars, Giant Sequoia, Monkey Puzzle, Hornbeam and more.



LEGEND!

-  Roads
-  Other walking tracks
-  Railway tracks
-  Route
-  Parking
-  Passport Stamp



Route Information

Route Type	Distance
Loop Trail	2.5km or 1.5 miles
Route Markings	Duration
Marked Trail	1 hour
- Red Arrows	Trail Surface
	Track

Laragh - Glenmacnase River

Location: Laragh, Co Wicklow

Route Length: 2km

Parking: Southeast of St Kevin's Church
- GPS 53.0106, -6.3026 (type into Google Maps)

Perfect for a family walk, the **Laragh Loop Trail** is set in one of Ireland's few native woodlands near the village of Laragh. The area is blessed with a wide variety of flora and fauna and the trail itself is a mixture of surfaces and is easily accessible. You may even catch a glimpse of a **red squirrel** or even a **great spotted woodpecker**.

Laragh or An Láithreach is located in the heart of the Wicklow Mountains and only 2km from the famous **Glendalough**, where St. Kevin started a Monastery in the 6th Century.

Step into the past as you walk through the **Glenmasnass River Valley** which was carved out by huge mountain sized glaciers during the last Ice Age, 10,000 years ago!

Rising from these wooded Valleys of Oak and Scots Pine, are Wicklow's gently rolling and rounded granite mountains. Around the year 1000AD, the largest **Viking ship** ever built at 30m/100feet long used oak timber from this area.

The nearby **Military Road** was built in the early 1800s and leads to the scenic **Sally Gap** mountain pass and **Glenmacnass Waterfall** to the north of Laragh.



LEGEND!

- Roads
- Other walking tracks
- Route
- Parking
- Passport Stamp



Route Information

- Route Type**
Loop Trail
- Route Markings**
No Trail Markers
- Distance**
1.6km or 1 mile
- Duration**
30mins to 1 hour
- Trail Surface**
Gravel and mixed



An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht



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