



Oileán na hUan agus Oileán Dheilginse ó Chuan na Coille Móire

RÉAMHRÁ

Sa ghrúpa oileán seo tá an príomhoileán, Oileán Dheilginse, agus na hoileáin níos lú Oileán na nUan, Carraig Chlára agus Carraig na Maighdean. Tá an-saibhreas fíadhúlra agus cultúir sa cheantar

Seandálaíocht

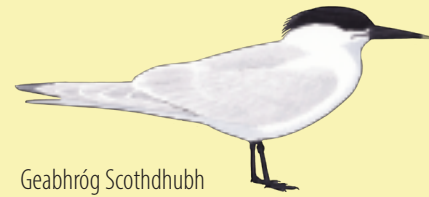
Ó na focail 'dealg' agus 'inis' a thagann an t-ainm Oileán Dheilginse, agus is ann a raibh cónaí ar na chéad lonnaitheoirí Clochaise ar chósta thoir na hÉireann. Tá fianaise ann go rabhtas ann sa tréimhse Neoiliteach agus sa tréimhse Cré-Umha. Thángthas ar chinn saighde, tuanna agus earraí potaireachta ó na tréimhsí seo le linn na tochailte seandálaíochta ar an oileán. I measc na fianaise a fuarthas ó thréimhsí ina dhiaidh sin tá gloine an 5ú agus an 6ú haois ón mBeilg agus ón bhFrainc, earraí potaireachta ó Shasana, agus bonn airgid an 11ú haois ón Normainn. Tá comharthaí ann gur úsáideadh an t-oileán tráth le haghaidh feirmeoireachta.

An Túr Martello agus an Bataire Gunnaí

Tá an túr Martello ar Oileán Dheilginse ar cheann de na comharthaí talún is aitheanta ar chósta Bhaile Átha Cliath. Tógadh é ar cheann de na hairde ar an oileán agus bhí sé beartaithe go n-oibreodh sé i gcomhar leis an mbataire a tógadh ar an taobh ó dheas den oileán chun bheith mar bhealach isteach do shoithigh go Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath agus le haghaidh leaba ancaire i Sunda Dheilginse. Sonraíodh ar an ordú chun an dá dhaingniú seo a thógáil, dar dáta 30 Meitheamh 1804, go raibh siad beartaithe: Chun an Sunda a chosaint, agus mar shlí idir na Muigliní, chun báid agus soithigh a choinneáil amach, agus chun dualgas a chur orthu oibriú chun Balla an Bhulla Theas a bhaint amach.

Cill Bheagnata agus an Reilig

Is in áit fheiceálach atá Cill Bheagnata agus an Reilig agus tá radharc anuas ann ar Shunda Dheilginse. Is do Naomh Beagnata a tiomnaíodh an chill, amhail an ceann i mbaile Dheilginse, agus tá baint aige le Ceann San Bea in Cumberland agus le Killibeaes in Albain. Rinneadh páirt-athchóiriú ar an gcill go luath sa naoú haois déag chun bheith mar áit chónaithe d'fhir oibre a bhí i mbun an tÚr Martello agus an bataire a thógáil. Mar thoradh air seo, athraíodh oscailt na bhfuinneog agus suiteáladh tinteán.



Geabhróg Scothdhubh



Geabhróg



Geabhróg Rósach



Geabhróg Artach



Seaga

Broigheall

Geabhróga

Éin mhara iad na geabhróga atá beag agus grástúil agus déanann siad imirce chun chósta na hAfraice agus cósta Antartaice gach geimhreadh. Filleann siad ar Éirinn arís go luath i mí na Bealtaine chun nead a dhéanamh. Tá cúig speiceas a dhéanann nead in Éirinn, agus tá trí cinn díobh le fáil anseo ar oileáin Dheilginse. Le blianta beaga anuas, síolraíodh 10–50 péire Geabhróg, 50–110 péire Geabhróg Artach, agus péire nó dhó den Gheabhróg Rósach anseo. Mar thoradh air sin, Limistéar faoi Chosaint Speisialta atá sna hoileáin, ar sannachán Eorpach é do láithreacha ina dtugtar tacaíocht do dhaoine éan atá tábhachtach go hidirnáisiúnta.

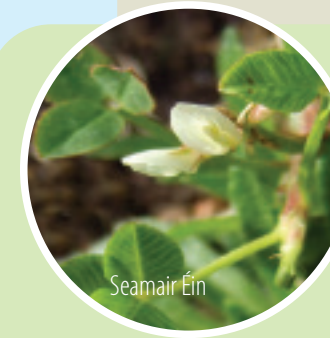
Beireann geabhróga a n-uibheacha ar charraigeacha loma, nó i loga beaga le móin ghairid, agus dá thoradh tá siad an-leochaileach do chur isteach ó dhaoine, do thuilte agus do chreachadóirí. Cé go bhfuil siad uile faoi réir aimsir neamhshéasúrach, is iondúil do gheabhróga a bheith sábháilte ó chreachadóirí mamacha amhail Sionnaigh agus Easóga má dhéanann siad neadacha ar oileáin. Na príomhchreachadóirí i nDeilginse ná faoileáin, éin chreiche agus francaigh agus iad uile éifeachtach i mbun uibheacha, sicíní agus fiú geabhróga fásta a ghabháil.

D'fhostaigh Tionscadal Geabhróg Dheilginse, in éineacht le maoiniú breise ón Tionscadal Téarnamh Geabhróg Rósach LIFE, maor tiomnaithe chun monatóireacht agus bainistiú a dhéanamh ar an gcóilíneacht geabhróg. San áireamh san obair seo, déantar rialú ar láithreacht chreachadóirí neamhdhúchasacha (francaigh, mar shampla), agus cuirtear foshraitheanna neadaithe (gairbhéal, mar shampla) chun stop a chur le huibheacha ag rolláil anuas an charraig lom. Baintear úsáid as boscaí neide chun scoilteanna, mar dhea, a chur ar fáil do Gheabhróga Rósacha agus chun sicíní geabhróige a chosaint ón aimsir. Chomh maith leis sin, eagraíonn an maor imeachtaí agus siúlóidí treoirithe chun aird a tharraingt ar stair an dúlra sa cheantar.



Éin farraige eile phórúcháin

Ar Oileán Dheilginse agus ar Oileán na nUan, nedaíonn trí speiceas faoileán, is iad sin an Droimneach Mór, an Droimneach Beag agus an Scadán, agus nedaíonn Foracha Dubha i gcuasa i gCuan na Coille Móire agus in áiteanna timpeall air. Is Broighill agus Seagaí iad na héin mhara mhóra dhubha a fheictear ina seasamh go feiceálach ar Charraig na Maighdean. I measc na n-éan mara eile a théann tríd an Sunda agus a théann ar thóir foráiste sa cheantar, tá: Cánóga Dubha, Gainéid, Saidhbhéir, Forachain Choiteanna, Crosáin agus Sléibhíní Meánmhuirí.



Seamair Éin



Gnáthóga agus Flóra

Tá roinnt gnáthóg suimiúil ar oileáin Dheilginse, lena n-áirítear talamh féaraigh tirim leathnádúrtha, talamh féaraigh fluich, lomáin chreagacha, dlúth-raithneach, aillte cósta agus cladaigh chreagacha, chomh maith le gnáthóga sceireacha nochna atá tábhachtach go hidirnáisiúnta. Tá éagsúlacht shuntasach speiceas in sé phríomhghnáthóg ar Oileán Dheilginse, agus i measc na speicis neamhchoitianta a bhfuil taifead déanta orthu, tá *Trifolium ornithopodioides* (Seamair Éin), *T. scabrum* (Seamair Gharbh), *T. occidentale* (Seamair Mhara) agus an hibrid neamhchoitianta *Spurgularia rupicola* (Cabróis na gCloch) agus *Spurgularia marina* (Cabróis Mara beag).

Mamaigh Talaimh Oileáin Dheilginse

Tá trí speiceas mamach ar oileáin Dheilginse: an Gabhar Fia, an Coinín agus an Francach Donn. Níl aon cheann díobh dúchasach do na hoileáin, ach tá fiúntas sóisialta ag baint le gabhair mar gheall ar an traidisiún le déanaí go gcoinnítear gabhair ar an oileán, agus cuireann siad le carachtar fiáin an oileáin. Féadann Coiníní damáiste a dhéanamh do ghnéithe seandálaíochta lena gcuid tochailte, agus déanann siad damáiste do ghnáthóga an oileáin trí ró-innilt a dhéanamh. Tá Francaigh Dhonna le fáil ar an oileán agus teastaíonn iad a bhainistiú toisc go gcreachann siad uibheacha geabhróige agus sicíní geabhróige.

Mamaigh Mhara Oileán agus Shunda Dheilginse

Tá réimse leathan mamach mara le fáil san uisce thart ar na hoileáin, lena n-áirítear Róna Beaga, Róna Glasa, Muca Mara, Deilfeanna Coiteanna agus Deilfeanna Bolgshrónacha. Is minic a dhéanann Róna Glasa 'triomú' agus iad dá ngrianadh féin, agus sa Sunda, is gnách gurb é eite droma na Deilfe Coitinne, an céiticeach is lú in Éirinn, a fheictear san uisce. Tá na hainmhithe seo le fáil chomh minic sin gur sannadh 'Limistéar Caomhantais Speisialta' faoi Threoir an AE um Ghnáthóga ar cheantar atá mórthimpeall ar na hoileáin agus atá chomh fada ó thuaidh le Cloch Dábhíolla



Le haghaidh tuilleadh faisnéise agus sonraí faoi imeachtaí, scanadh an cód QR le do thoil



Lamb Island and Dalkey Island from Coliemore Harbour

INTRODUCTION

This group of islands consists of the main island, Dalkey Island, and the smaller islands of Lamb Island, Clare Rocks and Maiden Rock. The area is rich in wildlife and culture.

Archaeology

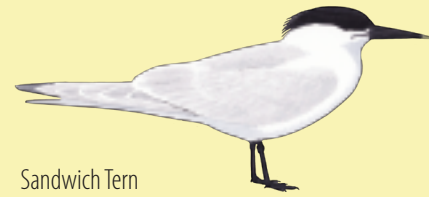
Dalkey Island, meaning 'Thorn Island', was home to some of the first Stone Age settlers on the east coast of Ireland. There is evidence of activity from the Neolithic and Bronze Periods. Arrowheads, axes and pottery from these periods have been discovered during the archaeological excavations of the island. Uncovered evidence from later periods revealed 5th and 6th Century glass from Belgium and France, English pottery and an 11th Century silver coin from Normandy. There are also signs that the island was once used for farming.

Martello Tower and Gun Battery

The Martello tower on Dalkey Island is one of the most recognizable landmarks on the Dublin coastline. It was built on a high point of the island and was intended to work in tandem with the battery built at the south end of the island to command a vessel's approach to Dublin Bay and anchorage in Dalkey Sound. The order to build these two fortifications, dated 30 June 1804, stated that they were intended: 'For the defence of the Sound, and passage between the Mughlins, to keep an enemy's boats & vessels at a distance and oblige them to work up to fetch the South Bull.'

St. Begnet's Church And Burial Ground

Saint Begnet's Church and its burial ground occupy a prominent position overlooking Dalkey Sound. The church, like that in the town of Dalkey, is dedicated to Saint Begnet, (also referred to as Begh or Bee) and is associated with Saint Bea's Head in Cumberland and Killibeaches in Scotland. The church was partially re-modelled in the early nineteenth century to house by workmen engaged in the construction of the Martello tower and battery. This led to the alteration of window openings and the installation of a fireplace.



Sandwich Tern



Common Tern



Roseate Tern



Arctic Tern



Shag

Cormorant

Terns

Terns are small, graceful seabirds that migrate to the coasts of Africa and Antarctica each winter, before returning to nest in Ireland in early May. There are five species that nest in Ireland and three that are found here on Dalkey Islands. In recent years, 50-110 pairs of Arctic Terns, 10-50 pairs of Common Terns and one or two pairs of Roseate Tern have bred here. As a result, the islands are a Special Protection Area (SPA), which is a European designation for sites supporting internationally important populations of birds.

Terns lay their eggs on bare rock or in a small scrape with short turf, making them highly vulnerable to human disturbance, flooding and predators. Although susceptible to unseasonable weather, by nesting on islands terns are usually safe from mammalian predators like Foxes and Stoats. At Dalkey the key predators are gulls, raptors and rats, which are effective in taking eggs, chicks and even adults.

The Dalkey Tern Project, with added funding from the Roseate Tern LIFE Recovery Project, employs a dedicated warden to monitor and manage the tern colony. This includes controlling the presence of non-native predators (e.g. rats), adding nesting substrate (e.g. gravel) to prevent eggs rolling down the bare rock. Nest boxes are also deployed to simulate crevices for Roseate Terns and protect tern chicks from the weather. The warden also organises events and guided walks highlighting the natural history of the area.



Other breeding seabirds

On Dalkey and Lamb Islands, three species of gull, namely Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-backed and Herring, nest, while Black Guillemots nest in cavities in and around Coliemore Harbour. The large black seabirds regularly seen standing prominently on Maiden Rock are Cormorants and Shags. Other seabirds that pass through the sound and forage in the area include: Manx Shearwaters, Gannets, Kittiwakes, Common Guillemots, Razorbills and Mediterranean Gulls.



Bird's-foot Clover



Habitats and Flora

Dalkey Island contains some interesting habitats, including semi-natural dry grassland, wet grassland, rock outcrops, dense bracken, sea cliffs and rocky shores with internationally important exposed reef habitats. Dalkey Island holds a significant diversity of species in six key habitats, with some rare species recorded including *Trifolium ornithopodioides* (Bird's-foot Clover), *T. scabrum* (Rough Clover), *T. occidentale* (Western Clover) and a rare hybrid of *Spargularia rupicola* (Rock Sea-spurrey) and *Spargularia marina* (Lesser Sea-spurrey).

Land Mammals of Dalkey Islands

Three species of mammal range over Dalkey Islands: Feral Goat, Rabbit and Brown Rat. None are native to the islands, but the goats have a social value through a recently formed tradition of goats on the island and they contribute to its wild character. Rabbits can potentially damage archaeological features with their excavations and damage the habitats of the island through overgrazing. Brown Rats occur on the island and require management, as they predate tern eggs and chicks.

Marine Mammals of Dalkey Island and Sound

A wide range of marine mammals are found in the waters surrounding the islands, including Harbour Seals, Grey Seals, Harbour Porpoises, Common Dolphins and Bottle-nosed Dolphins. Grey Seals are often 'hauled-out' basking in the sun, and in the sound, a fleeting glimpse of a dorsal fin is usually that of Ireland's smallest cetacean, the Harbour Porpoise. These animals occur so regularly that an area around the islands extending northwards to Rockabill, 35 km away, has been designated a 'Special Area of Conservation' under the EU Habitats Directive.

