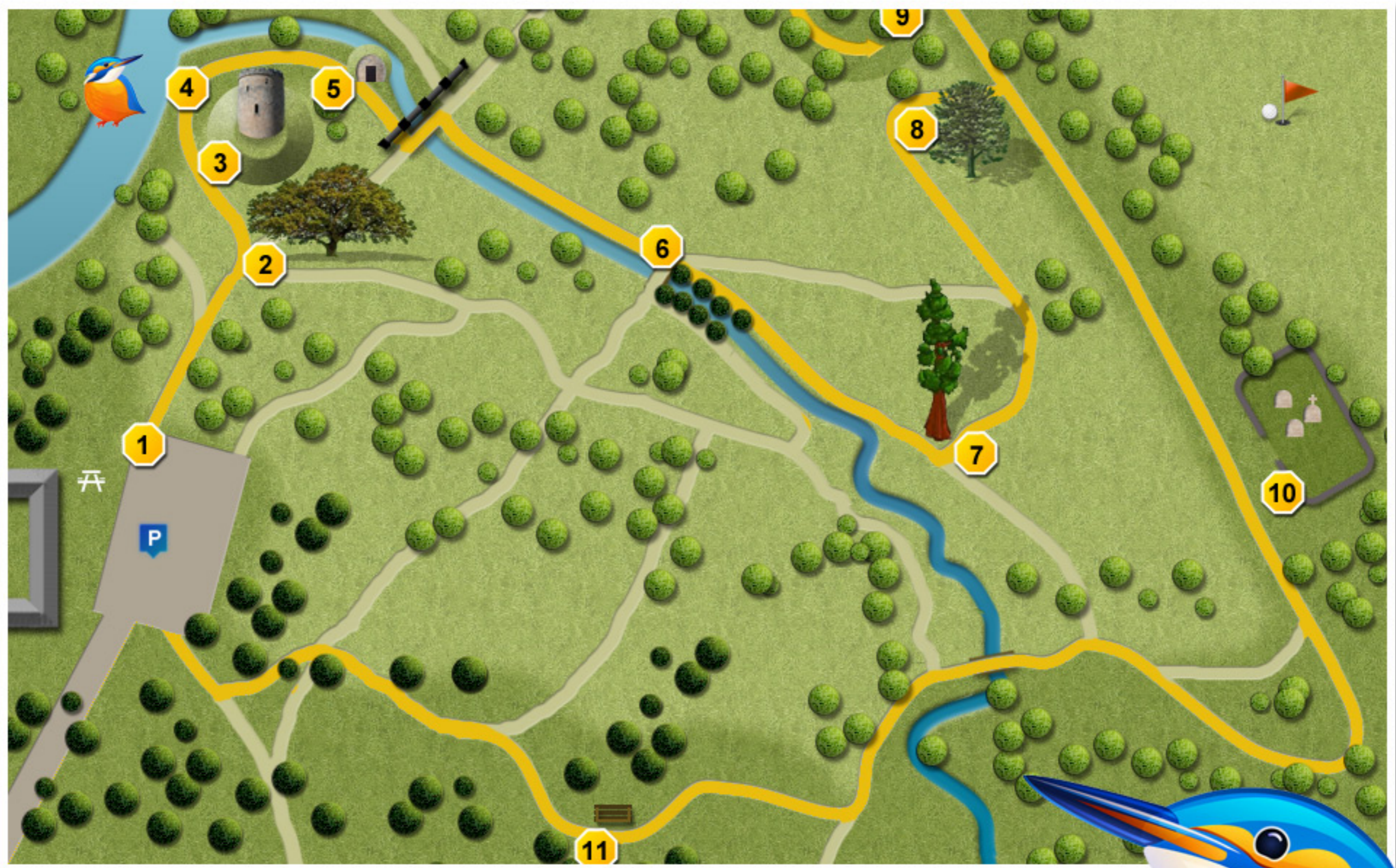


# Belvoir Park Forest Trail Activity Pack







# The Big House



This is what the Big House at Belvoir looked like before it was demolished in 1961.



Look at the car park. This is where the house once stood.



The stables are the only buildings left that can show us that the Big House once stood here. Can you make a sketch of the building in the box below? Label where you think the coaches would have driven.



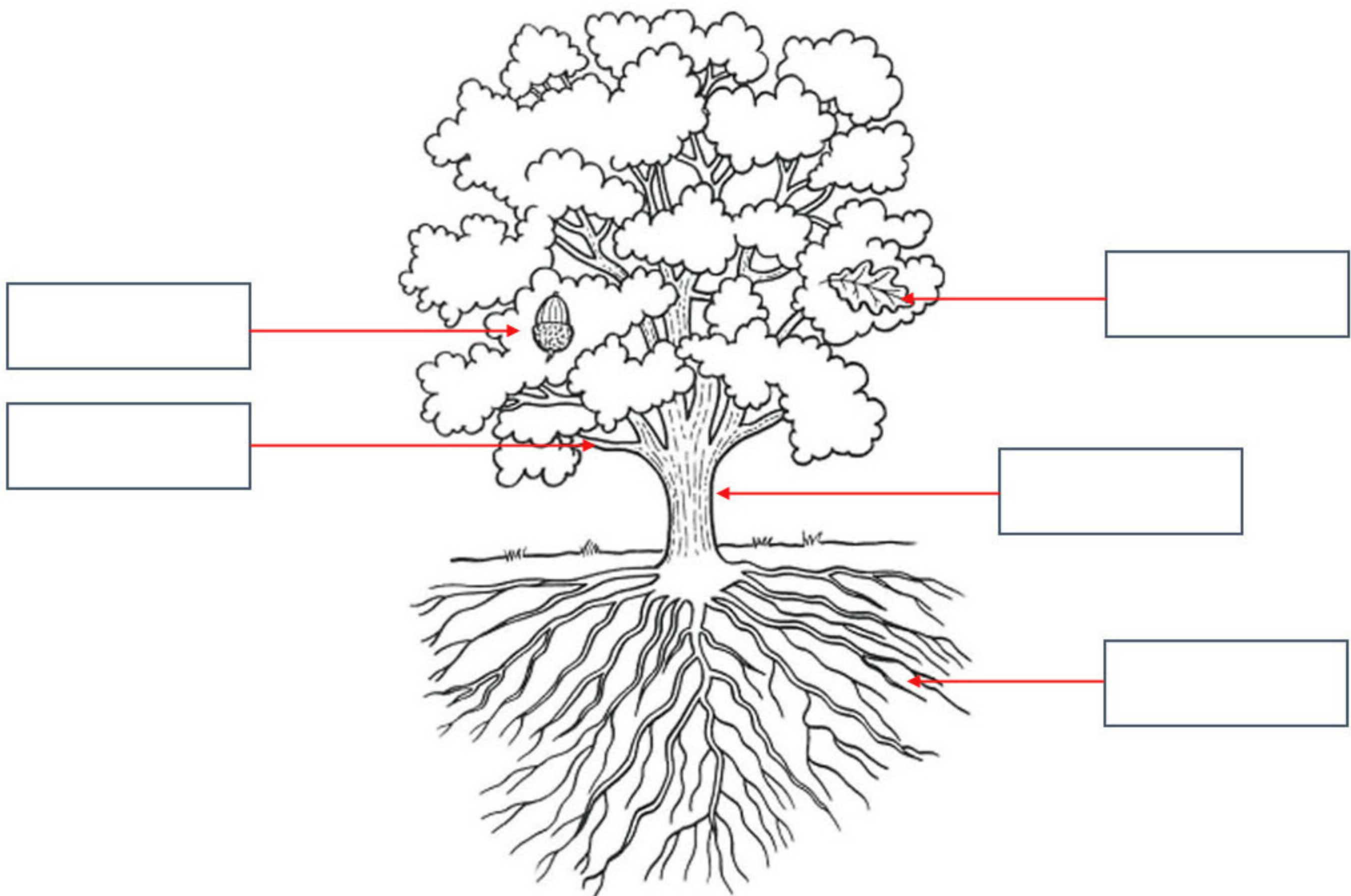


# Life in an Oak Tree

This is one of the oldest oak trees in Ireland. It is about 300 years old. Oak trees are a great habitat for lots of different animals, birds and minibeasts.



Can you correctly label the parts of this tree?



Can you name 3 things that might live at the **top** of the oak tree?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

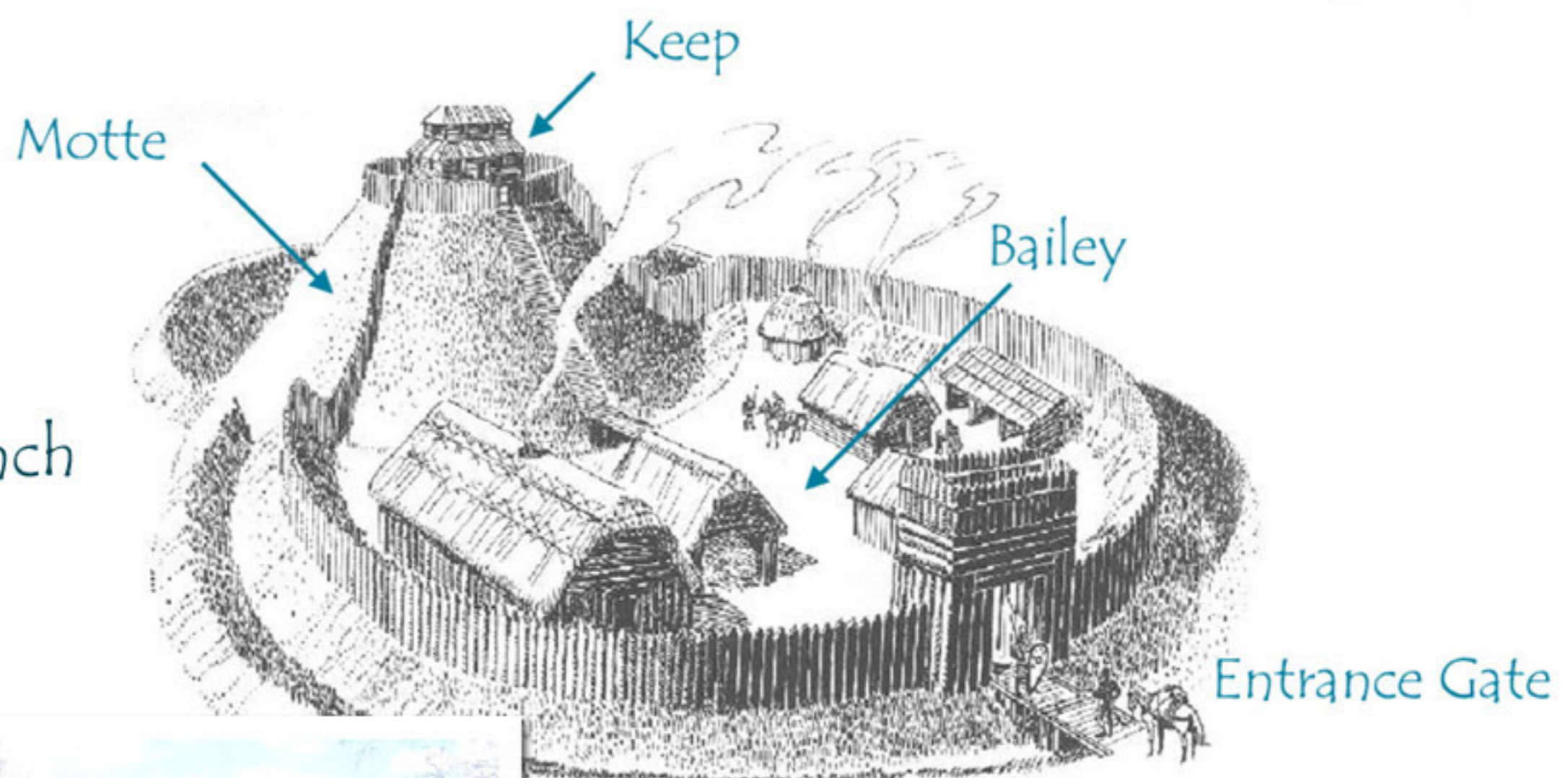
Can you name 3 things that might live **under** or at the bottom of the tree?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.





# The Motte



'Motte is a French word meaning mound'



The Normans arrived in Ireland in 1177 led by John DeCourcy. They built motte and bailey castles all over the country.



Why do you think the Normans built motte and bailey castles?

What material do you think the keep was made of?

Think of 3 reasons why they chose this area to build a motte and bailey?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What kind of weapons do you think the Normans used to defend their castles?





# The River Lagan

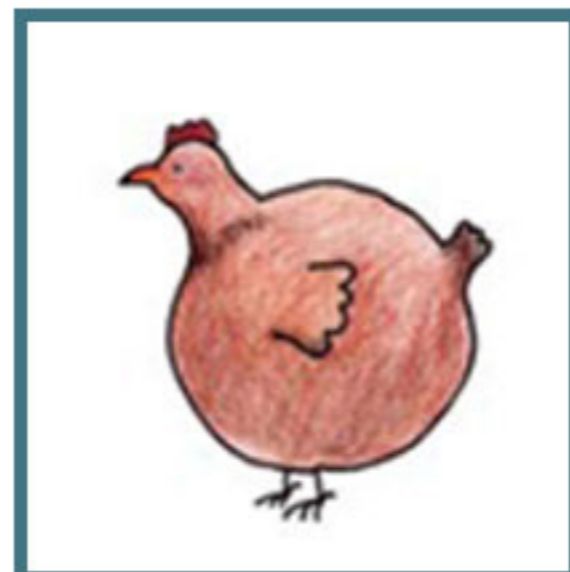
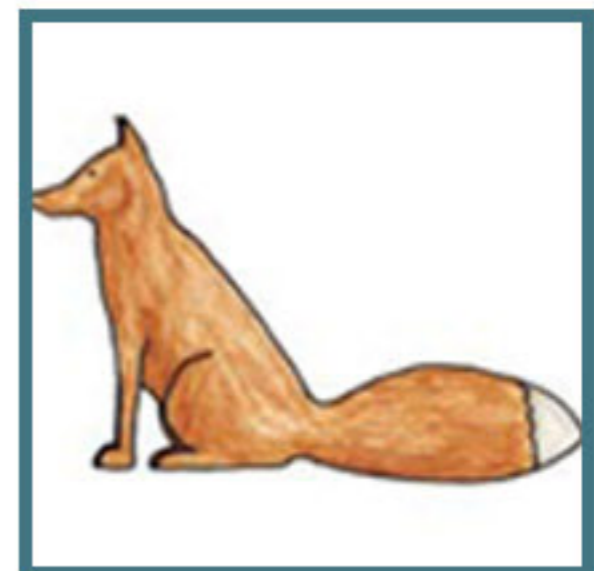
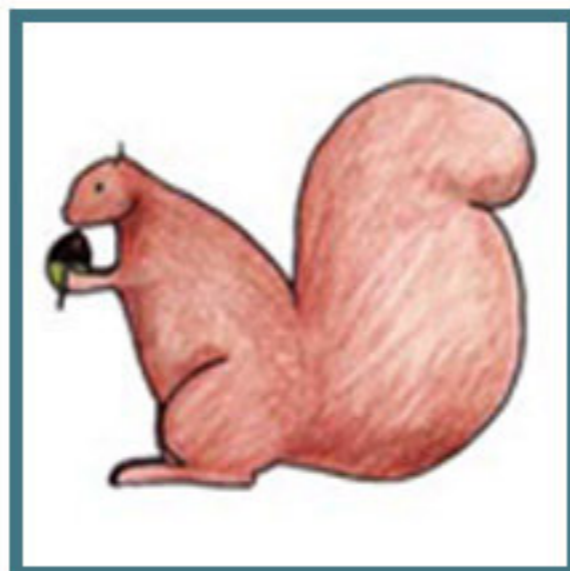
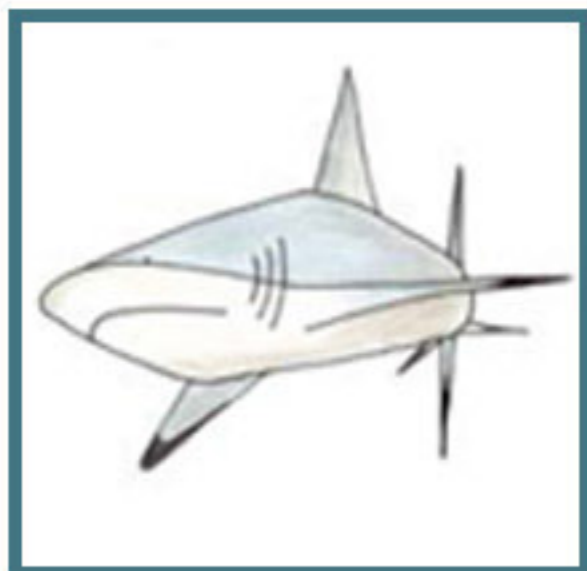
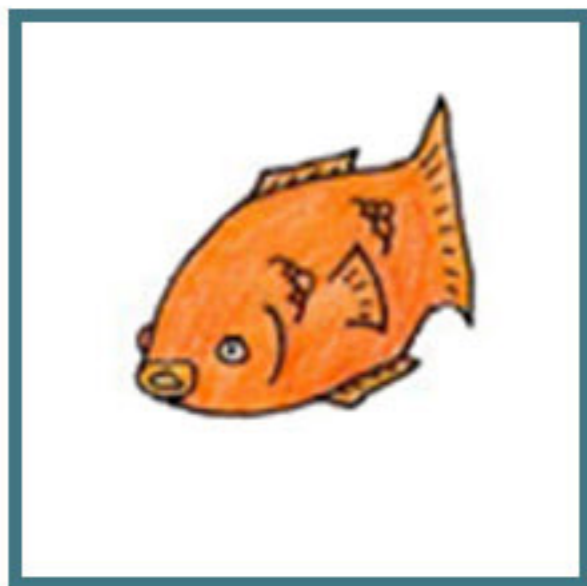
From the path you can see the River Lagan. Think about what kind of animals would live in or on the river.



Can you put a **circle** around creatures you would find in a river?

Can you put a **square** around creatures that live in the woods?

Can you put a **triangle** around creatures that live at the beach?







# Animal Tracks

As you walk along the path you may see signs that birds and animals have been here. Look for tracks in the mud.



From the pictures below can you label each footprint?



Squirrel



Fox



Dog



Heron



Badger



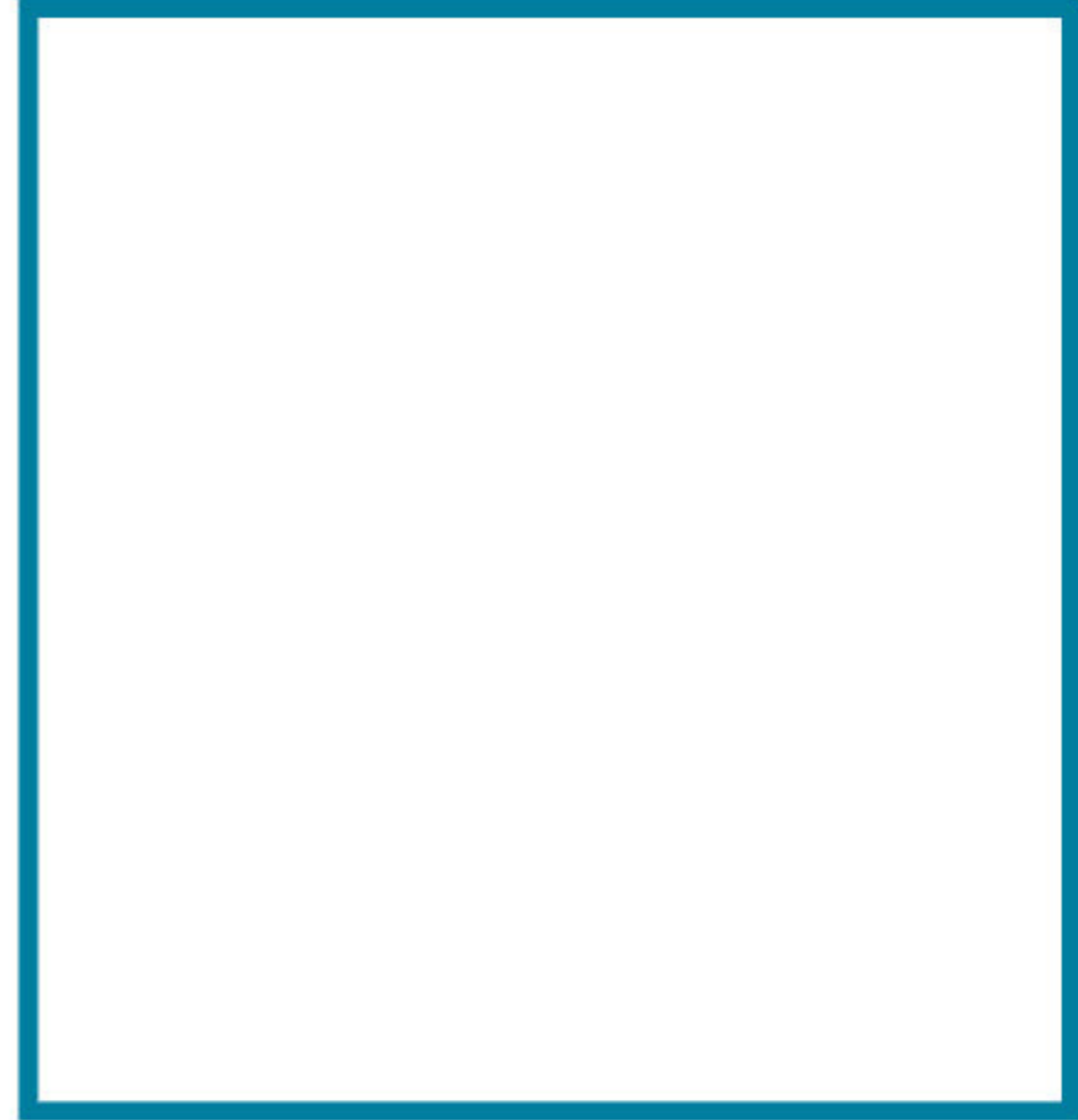
Duck





# The Ice House

Look at this old building. When you guess what it is draw what a modern day ice house looks like in the box below.



This is an ice house built at the same time as the big house. When was this?

1170

1940

1750

Where do you think the ice came from? \_\_\_\_\_



Follow the path you will come to a bridge. Look up high you'll see a pipe. Can you guess what flows inside?

Drinking water

Sewage

North Sea Oil







# The Arboretum



You are now entering the gardens of Belvoir House. In the past people liked to plant exotic trees to show off their wealth. These gardens have many interesting features. Can you find a stone bridge crossing the stream?



Can you put this river food chain in the right order?



Mayfly nymph



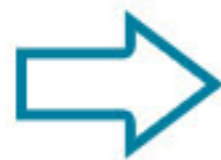
Kingfisher



River plants



Fish







# The Giant Redwood

This is a giant redwood tree. Can you touch the bark and write 3 words to describe how it feels?

---

---

---







# Discovering the Natural World

Find a space on your own, sit down and in the circles below make a note of the colours, shapes and sounds you find.

Colours

Shapes

Sounds



Now, discuss and compare what you have observed with the rest of your class.





# The Woodland

This is a woodland. There are many different living things that make this their home.



What mammals might live here?



In the picture above you can see that the woodland floor is covered in leaf litter. This is a great habitat for minibeasts. Can you find and record any minibeast you find?

Minibeast	Drawing	Tally count	Total
Snail			
Ladybird			
Woodlouse			
Spider			
Millipede			
Centipede			
Worm			
Ant			
Beetle			
Fly			





# Trees of the Woodland

Using your tree identification chart, can you correctly identify 2 different trees? Draw the leaves or buds in the boxes below and label them.



## Meet a tree ?

Choose a tree in the woodland.

Guess how old it is? \_\_\_\_\_

Now estimate how old the tree is by measuring the girth/circumference, then divide that number by 2.

*This is because a tree grows around 2cm in circumference every year.*

Girth of the tree \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Age of the tree is (Girth \_\_\_\_\_ cm  $\div$  2 = \_\_\_\_\_ cm)





# Bredagh Churchyard

You are now standing outside one of the smallest graveyards in Ireland. The graveyard dates back to medieval times and would have been associated with Bredagh Church.



What building is no longer standing in the graveyard?

---

Considering where the graveyard is situated how do you think the bodies were carried from Belvoir House? (Clue think of transport in those days).

---



This is the burial place (mausoleum) of the Dungannon Family.

The bodies were removed after grave robbers broke into the tomb to steal the lead from the coffins

Can you think of anything else grave robbers might have been looking for?

---

---

---





# Looking for Evidence

As you walk between stop 10 and stop 11 look out for the following things. Tick the ones that you see.



Bird nest



Horse chestnut leaf



Daisy



Thistle



Pine cone



Magpie



Tree with silver bark



Bridge



Bee





# In the Larch Trees

As you walk back to the car park you will enter squirrel country. The trees around you are called larch. They are conifer trees.



What are the leaves of conifer trees called?

\_\_\_\_\_

Most conifers are evergreen but larch trees are deciduous.



In the boxes below explain the meaning of evergreen and deciduous.

Deciduous

Evergreen



Red squirrels love to eat the seeds from larch cones. Can you name 2 more creatures that might eat larch cones?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Leaves



Alder



Ash



Beech



Birch



Elder



Hawthorne



Holly



Horse Chestnut



Ivy



Lime



Maple



Oak



Hazel



Rowan



Larch





Sycamore







# Twigs and buds


Alder 

Ash 

Beech 

Birch 


Blackthorn 


Elder 

Hawthorn 

Hazel 

Horse Chestnut 

Larch 

Lime 

Oak 

Rowan 

Sycamore 

Maple 