

Listening script

Unit 6

10

I'd like to describe a place that is really very beautiful. It is a picnic area on a mountain top on the north coast of Ireland. It is close to where my father was born and I went there for the first time when I was about 14 years old with my family on holiday. And I've been back many times since. The place is special to me, because the surrounding landscape is breathtaking. I also like it because the views of the countryside below the mountain are really spectacular. The area is very scenic, but it's usually empty, as you need a car to get there and there are no facilities, so few people go there. That makes it very peaceful and somewhere to escape from the world. It isn't quiet because of the wind, but it is a place to relax.

11

Good morning and welcome to the Moorland Countryside and Woodland Programme. I'd like to give you some information about the programme and the short courses we run for people on woodland awareness.

We're actually a programme run by volunteers, and we were set up 15 years ago to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the wonders of our woodlands and, hence, nature itself. And for the past five years we've been taking groups of youngsters in their teens on educational trips on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, mmm ... from schools mainly from around the area, ... but some've come from much further afield. At first, some youngsters're not very impressed by the setting, because we discourage them from using any electronic devices, especially smartphones, so they can engage more with the surroundings ... this throws them quite a bit. But almost without exception, by the end of the three days they're here the young people don't want to leave and want to come back again. In fact, two of the workers here came with student groups five years ago, and when they left school they came straight to work for us.

The programme is completely self-sufficient, due in part to the sales from the plant nursery and also to donations, but the bulk of our income's now from running the educational and awareness courses.

This is a basic map of our centre. We're here at the entrance, and you can see the cabins running along the east side of the path as you go north. The first cabin, Beech Lodge, is for students. It's quite large and can accommodate 10 students in bunk beds. Then the next four cabins're for families, and the cabin after that, Chestnut Lodge, is for teachers, which can hold up to four adults. On the west side of the path, directly opposite the family cabins, are the educational facilities. They're quite up-to-date with all the latest wizardry. And next to that's the cafeteria, which is shared with visitors to the centre. Just beside the cafeteria is a family area with climbing frames for children. We don't allow open-air cooking here, because of the trees.

The plant nursery's that area you can see that runs all the way along the north part of the map.

.....

If you go over here, between the family area and the nursery, the path leads to the woodland itself. We're on a hill here and quite high up, ... and as there's some spectacular scenery around here, we have breathtaking views of the countryside. You can see the river stretching for miles through rolling countryside. Fortunately, the whole woodland is protected by law, so nobody can chop down any trees.

The landscape here's not changed for hundreds of years. Some of the trees've been growing here rather a long time, and the aim of the scheme and the volunteers is to keep it that way. We advise people to stick to the paths, because it's very easy to get lost. As you walk through the woodland, you'll see workers removing dead wood and trees. I'd ask everyone not to remove anything like seeds or flowers from the woodland so we can try and conserve it for future generations.