



REPORT

**Green Foundation Ireland and
Vincent Wildlife Trust Ireland**

invite you to an afternoon in-person TALK

with Ruth Hanniffy

(Species Conservation Officer at Vincent Wildlife Trust Ireland)

Pine Martens in Ireland



***Venue:* Moynalty Steam Threshing Museum**

Moynalty, Kells, County Meath, A82 C6K7

Saturday 9 April 2022 – 14:00 to 16:00

**Admission to this event is FREE but you MUST register beforehand.
You can do so through our [Eventbrite page here](#)**

This talk forms part of Green Foundation Ireland's Pine Marten project.

Pine Martens in Ireland

THEME

This talk looked at protecting pine martens in Ireland – and your hens !

Once common throughout the country, by the 20th century pine martens had become extinct from the majority of Ireland, surviving only in a few isolated and fragmented populations mainly in the west. Recent abundance estimates suggest that the total population of pine martens in Ireland is approximately 2,700 individuals, making it Ireland's rarest native mammal species.

This event formed part of Green Foundation Ireland's Pine Marten project

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Ruth Hanniffy



Ruth is the Species Conservation Officer at the Vincent Wildlife Trust Ireland. She studied Zoology at the National University of Ireland Galway, undertaking a dietary analysis of the lesser horseshoe bats at Dromore Stables in County Clare. She then completed a Masters in Wildlife Management and Conservation at the University of Reading, carrying out analysis of the density and habitat preference of small mammals on Paxton Pits Nature Reserve in Cambridgeshire. Following this she joined the

Environment Agency for 8 years as a Biodiversity Officer working on river enhancement and restoration on the River Thames and its Tributaries.

Upon returning to Ireland Ruth worked with Inland Fisheries Ireland as a fisheries assistant carrying out National Water Framework Directive fish surveys of lakes and rivers throughout Ireland. Ruth is a wildlife and landscape photographer.

You can find out [more about the Vincent Wildlife Trust Ireland here](#).

ABOUT OUR TALK

The talk took place in-person at the Moynalty Steam Threshing Museum in County Meath, with a slideshow presentation, as well as demonstration of pine marten boxes that can be used to provide shelter for them. Ruth began by explaining the conservation status of pine martens in Ireland, including their distribution throughout the country. She also detailed some interesting studies used to examine the behavior and life cycles of these animals in the wild.

Ruth told us about the conflicts that can arise between homeowners and pine martens, and how these conflicts can be managed, as well as the negative media coverage regarding pine martens.

She explained the role of Vincent Wildlife Trust in working with these threatened animals, and in engaging with negative media perception.



Approximately 20 people attended our first in-person indoor event since COVID. There was a high level of audience engagement during questions, and a varied audience, consisting of both people familiar and unfamiliar with pine martens and animal conservation in general.

Green Foundation Ireland

31 March 2022