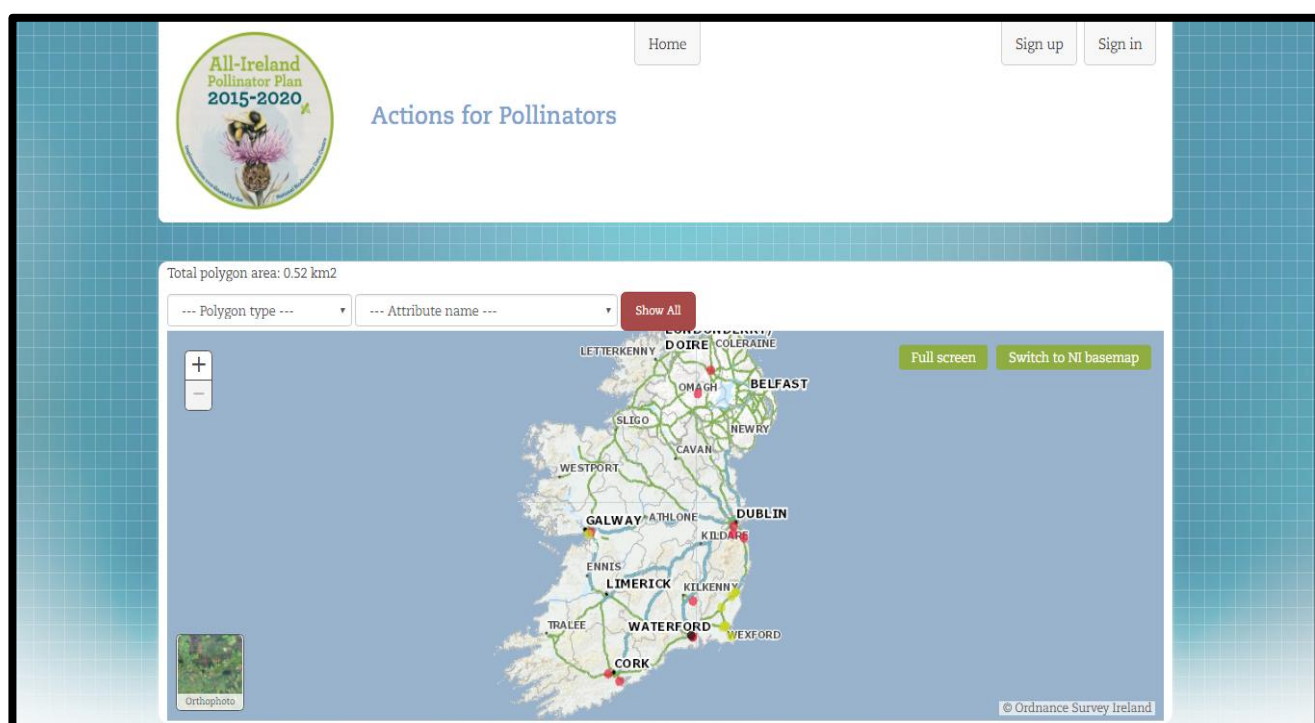# Instructions for 'Actions for Pollinators'

Publically available, online mapping system

Tracking the build-up of food & shelter for pollinators

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife

Entering a pollinator friendly Garden

What is the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan?

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 is an island-wide attempt to help pollinators by creating a landscape where they can survive and thrive. By making small changes to the ways we manage our land we can ensure pollinators continue to provide us with their vital service. Everyone, from gardeners to local communities, businesses, Councils and farmers can help to achieve the goals of this shared plan of action.

What is 'Actions for Pollinators?'

'Actions for Pollinators' (pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie) is a publically available, online mapping system. It allows everyone that has taken pollinator friendly actions to log their location and the action(s) taken.

The actions that this website tracks align with our series of pollinator friendly guidelines. For example, our guideline document for Gardens suggests 20 possible actions suitable for any type of garden. You can download the Garden Guideline from the Pollinator Plan's website: www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan

If you take any of these pollinator friendly actions, add your garden to 'Actions for Pollinators' and tell us what you've done.

How is the information from this site used?

Each year in November we report on the Pollinator Plan's progress to-date. As more and more people take pollinator friendly actions each year, 'Actions for Pollinators' will help in this annual reporting by tracking the build-up of food and shelter for pollinators throughout the landscape. Enter your garden and any pollinator friendly actions you've taken to make sure your efforts are included. Then in subsequent years all you have to do is update your site each autumn.

Who should use Actions for Pollinators?

We hope everyone will use Actions for Pollinators so that the public can see the efforts being taken across all sectors. **This guide explains how to use the system and enter your own pollinator friendly garden in just 3 simple steps.**

'Actions for Pollinators': here's what it does

If you visit the 'Actions for Pollinators' homepage (pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie), you can view existing pollinator friendly sites throughout the island of Ireland.

Total polygon area: 0.52 km2

This shows the total area on the island under pollinator friendly management

--- Polygon type ---
- --- Polygon type ---
- Councils-Actions
- Councils-Policy changes
- Gardens
- Local Communities

--- Attribute name ---   Show All

You can search for specific sectors (polygon types)

Full screen   Switch to NI basemap

Each coloured dot on the map represents a site where pollinator friendly actions have been taken

Different colours stand for different sectors
RED = gardens

Orthophoto

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Total polygon area: 0.52 km2

--- Polygon type ---   --- Attribute name ---   Show All

--- Attribute name ---
A. Protect existing pollinator habitats
B. Reduce mowing
C. Pollinator friendly planting
D. Provide nesting habitats
E. Reduce pesticide use
F. Raising awareness of pollinators
G. Tracking progress
H. Other

You can also search by the type of pollinator friendly actions taken (attributes)

Switch to NI basemap

Click on a dot to get more information about that site. Clicking 'View Detail' tells you what action has taken place on this site. **This is all publicly available information.**

Maypark Garden (1 of 3)
Date: 2/9/2017
Site Name: Maypark Garden
Type: Gardens
View Detail
Zoom to

Orthophoto

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Total polygon area

--- Polygon type

Site Details

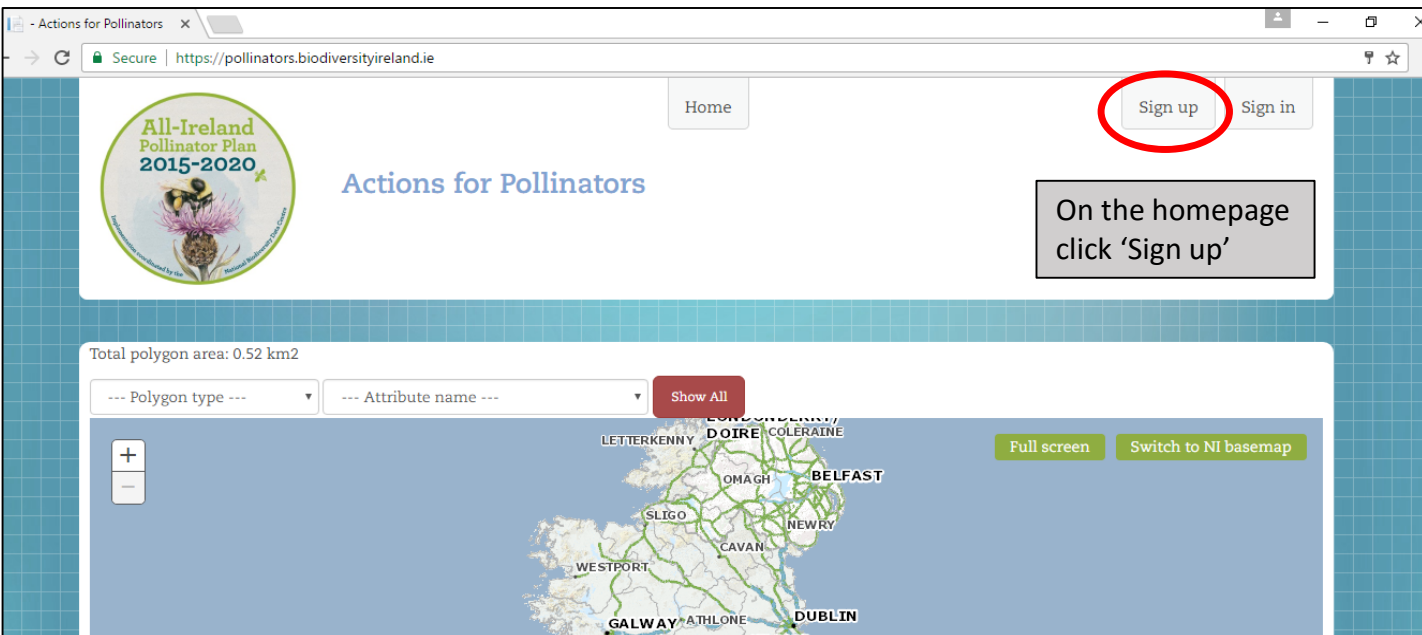| Site Name | Maypark Garden |
Date	09/02/2017
Type	Gardens
Recorder Name	Una FitzPatrick
Area	0 km2
B. Reduce mowing	Area where Dandelions are allowed to bloom- first... Area mown every 6 weeks to allow Clover to bloom... Area managed as long-flowering meadow-1 grass...
C. Pollinator friendly planting	SPRING-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/s... SUMMER-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees... Oregano, Currants, Raspberry, Tomato, Apple, Thyn... AUTUMN-flowering pollinator friendly plants/tree...
D. Provide nesting habitats	Area of earth bank or bare soil created for mining... Plant stems left standing (type) - Raspberry Number of holes drilled in wood - 5
E. Reduce pesticide use	Insecticide use eliminated Herbicide use eliminated
F. Raising awareness of pollinators	Junior Pollinator Plan promoted (number of childre...
G. Tracking progress	Garden pollinator records submitted to data centre

This is what comes up when you click 'View Detail' for a specific site

✓ Gives a summary of the pollinator friendly actions taken at each site
✓ The total site area and the area of each action taken is listed- if a site is less than 1 square kilometre the area will display as zero, but the site's actual area **IS** being captured
✓ Photos included by the recorder are displayed

Step 1-Creating an account

Once you've seen the actions others have taken for pollinators, the next step is to create an account. This will allow you to enter your own garden into the site. Signing up for Actions for Pollinators is very simple.

On the homepage click 'Sign up'

You will be bought to this page. Fill out the form, and remember to write down the username and password you choose.

Create a New Account

Please complete all required fields to create your account.

Passwords are required to be a minimum of 8 characters in length.

Account Information

First Name

First Name

Last Name

Last Name

Phone Number

Phone

User name

Username

Password

Password

Confirm password

Password

E-mail address

E-mail

Reason to sign up

Provide some description

Be sure to tell us why you want to sign up. For example, "to log the pollinator friendly actions I've taken in my garden."

To finish, click 'Create New Account'

Create New Account

Once you've completed the form we have to approve your account. Then you get a confirmation email and can log in to the site. This might take a day or so, but we try to process these requests as quickly as possible.

Step 2-Adding a new site

After you receive your confirmation email, sign into Actions for Pollinators as a user.

The homepage looks the same, except now there are two green buttons. To add your own garden, click 'Manage my sites.'

First, make sure you're using the correct basemap. If your site is in the Republic of Ireland you don't have to do anything. If it's in Northern Ireland, click 'Switch to NI basemaps"

Second, find your site on the map.

- ✓ Use the zoom buttons or the scroll wheel on your mouse to zoom to your garden
- ✓ Switching to orthomaps will help you find the exact location of your site more easily

Manage my sites

⊕ Add Site

Show 10 ▼ entries   Search: [   ]

Date	Name	Type	Area	Actions
		No data available in table		

Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries   Previous   Next

Once you've located your site, click 'Add Site.' Put the cursor on the map and click to begin drawling a polygon around your garden. Don't worry about being too exact- you can edit the polygon later. When you've finished click 'Confirm,' or double click. To start over click 'Cancel,' then try again.

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IMPORTANT! All information is publically available- DO NOT PUT ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION IN THESE FIELDS

Add site

Site Information

Site Name   [   ]

Type   --- Select a Type --- ▼
          --- Select a Type ---
          Councils-Actions
Date   Councils-Policy changes
          Gardens
          Local Communities

Add image

Save   Cancel

The 'Add site' screen pops up. Enter a site name, and under the 'Type' drop down menu, choose 'Gardens.' The date will autofill.

The 'Add site' screen now shows all the actions you can take in your garden. Tick the relevant boxes, and fill out any corresponding text boxes. You can even add some images of your garden.

Lastly, click 'Save' to finish adding your site

C. Pollinator friendly planting	SPRING-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs ☑ main species	Crocus		
	SUMMER-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs ☑ main species	Lavender, Thyme, Salvia, C		
	AUTUMN-flowering pollinator friendly plants/trees/shrubs ☐ main species			
D. Provide nesting habitats	Area of earth bank or bare soil created for mining bees (m2) ☐			
	Plant stems left standing (type) ☐			
	Number of holes drilled in wood ☐			
	Number of bee hotels installed ☑	1		
	Length of fencing replaced with flowering hedgerows (m) ☐			
E. Reduce pesticide use	insecticide use eliminated ☑ Herbicide use eliminated ☑			
F. Raising awareness of pollinators	Junior Pollinator Plan promoted (number of children reached) ☑	>5		
	Pollinator friendly plants shared ☐ main species			
	Printable pollinator friendly sheet given to property manager ☑			
G. Tracking progress	Garden pollinator records submitted to data centre ☐			
H. Other	[ ]			
Image 1	Choose File image2.JPG			

Add image

Save   Cancel

IMPORTANT! Images MUST be smaller than 5 MB.

If the form will not allow you to save, it's likely that the image is too big. Reduce the size, choose the reduced photo, and try saving again.

Now you've uploaded your own garden to Actions for Pollinators. And remember, you can always edit the area or the actions of any site (see Step 3 below).

Over time you may want to edit your garden site. Perhaps in subsequent years you take additional pollinator friendly actions in your garden and you want to record these. Or maybe you move, so you need to delete a site and start over. You can edit any of the sites you enter, just see the instructions below.

You can easily edit the area of your site by clicking the second button under 'Actions.' Adjust the area of your polygon with your cursor, and click 'Confirm' to finish.

If you have an awkwardly shaped site, it is easier to be precise when editing the area.

You can delete the site completely by clicking the X.

Finally, you can edit the actions for each site by clicking the pencil symbol.
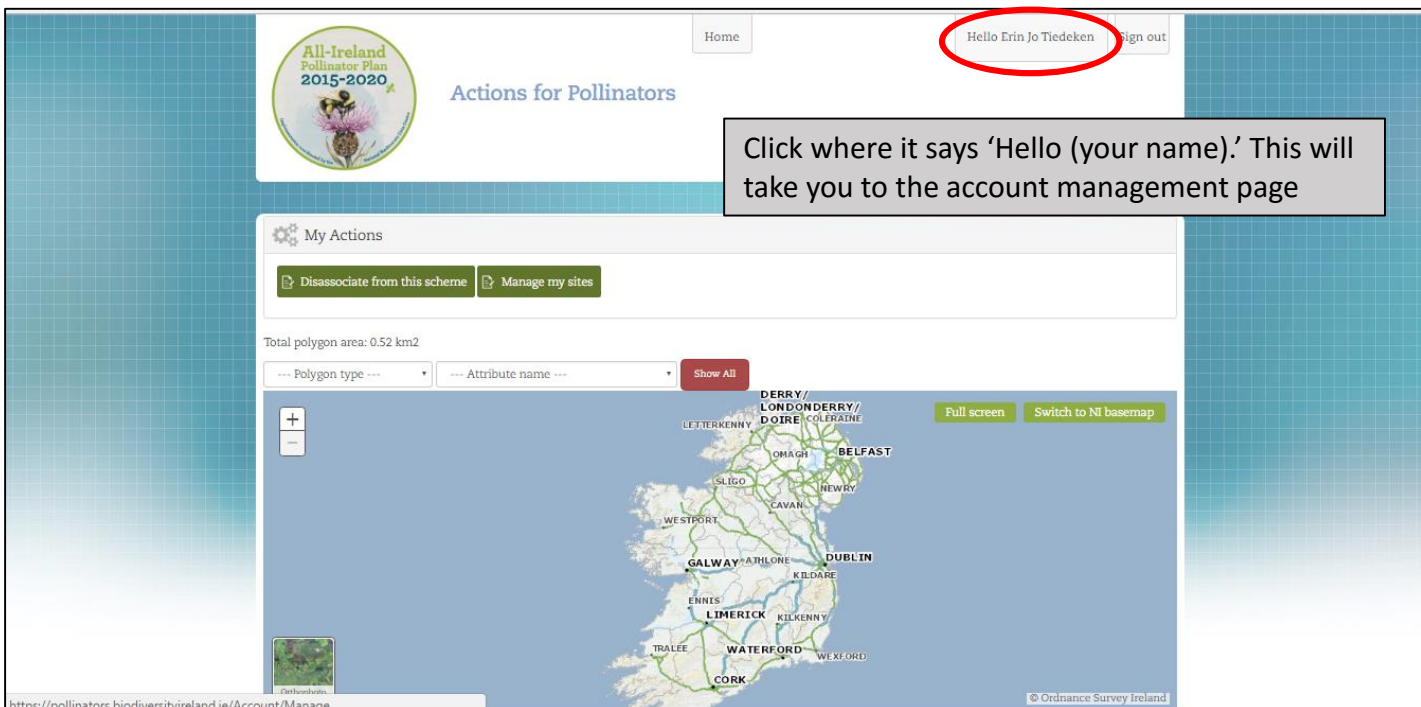

Add or change whatever fields you want on the tick-box screen, fill in any relevant text boxes and/or change the photographs you have uploaded. When you're done just click 'Save.'
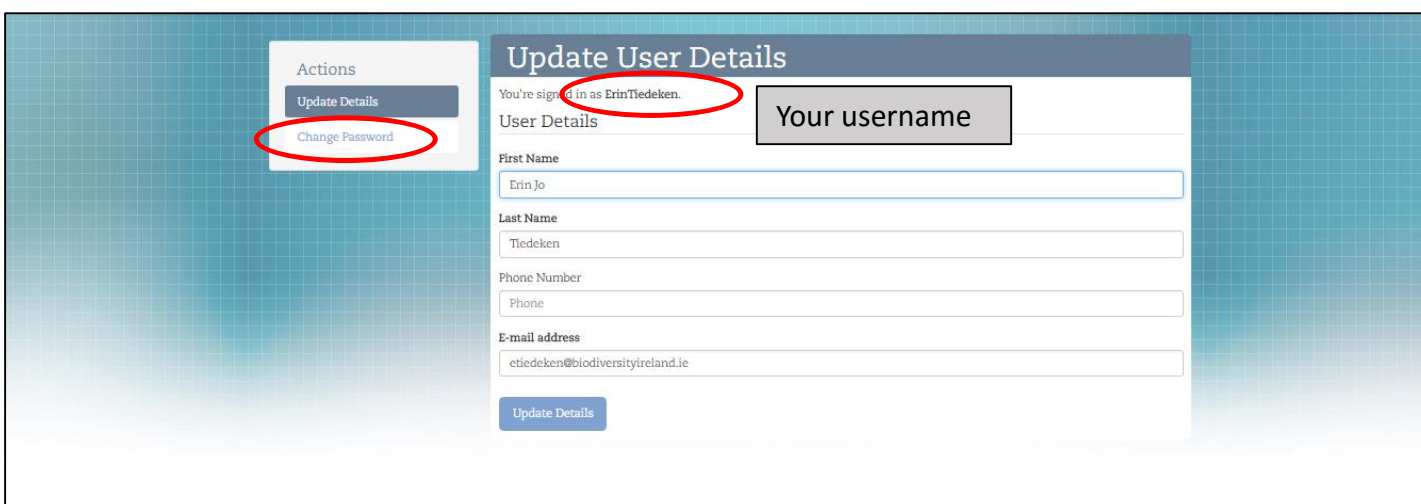
We hope Actions for Pollinator users will log into the site and update their gardens or other pollinator friendly sites each autumn. We will send out annual email reminders at the end of the pollinator season. That way we can ensure all of the information displayed on the website is as up-to-date as possible.

If you need to manage your account-change your password, the name associated with the account, your email address- it's very simple.

Click where it says 'Hello (your name).' This will take you to the account management page

You can update your user details on the page below, or click 'Change Password.' Your username is also displayed on this screen.

Your username

If you have any difficulty using the online system you can contact the Pollinator Plan project officer at pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie.

1. **Where can I find ideas for how to make my garden more pollinator friendly? What about suggestions/lists of pollinator friendly plants?**

Answer: You can find 20 suggested pollinator friendly actions in our Garden Guidelines, 'Gardens: Actions for Pollinators.' There are options to suit every type of garden, from larger rural spaces to urban balconies. If you have any outdoor space at all, this guideline is for you. Pollinator friendly planting suggestions are also included. The Garden Guidelines can be downloaded from our website:

http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/gardens/

2. **What do you have to do to make a garden 'Golden' for pollinators?**

Answer: In order to receive gold status, your garden must provide the best food, shelter and safety for pollinators by meeting the following three criteria:

> **-Food:** Have at least 5 different types of pollinator friendly plants flowering each season-spring, summer and autumn.
> **-Shelter:** Create nesting habitats for solitary bees. Some habitats in your garden must be suitable for both cavity nesting AND mining bees.
> **-Safety:** Completely eliminate the use of all pesticides in your garden.

For more information see our pollinator friendly Garden Guidelines.

3. **I'm having trouble estimating the area of my sites or pollinator friendly actions**

Answer: The area of your site will be calculated under the 'Manage my Sites' page. However if your garden is less than 1 square kilometre, it will show up as 0. Don't worry- the area of your site is still being captured in our system and reporting!

When it comes to the area of each specific action, your answers don't have to be exact. If the text box next to an action you've taken asks for an area, just give a realistic best estimate.

4. **Where can I get help with the website?**

Answer: If you have any difficulty using 'Actions for Pollinators' you can contact the Pollinator Plan project officer at pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie

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