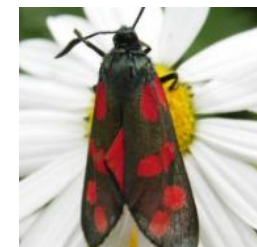


# Helping biodiversity: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



Dr Úna FitzPatrick  
Senior Ecologist, National Biodiversity Data Centre  
Chair & Project Manager, All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

# BIODIVERSITY LOSS IS A HUGE PROBLEM



Ireland has ~31,500 species living within 117 habitats

# *Identify simple vehicles that can be used to sell a biodiversity message to a very wide audience*



- ✓ Pollinators are an element of biodiversity that people understand & relate to
- ✓ Can be communicated as a clean & simple message
- ✓ Changes can be easily monitored
- ✓ Protecting pollinators has knock-on benefits for biodiversity generally



# The plight of pollinators is typical of many components of our biodiversity

Ireland has **99** bee species

Honeybee



Bumblebees



Solitary bees

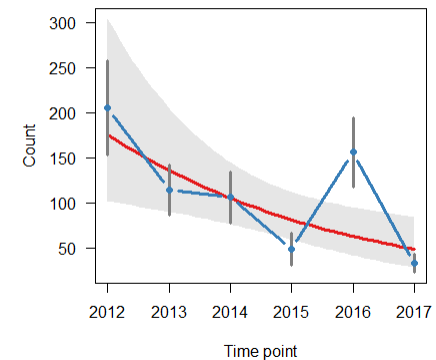


## WILD POLLINATORS



**One third of our 98 wild bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland**

## Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme



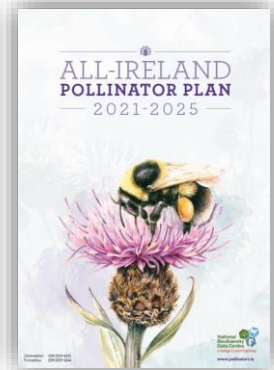
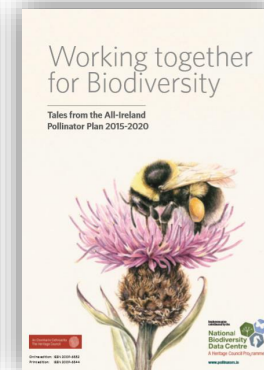
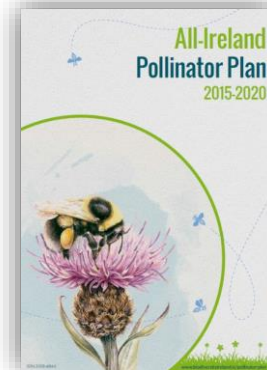
Abundance of common bumblebees has declined since 2012

Rare species are disappearing through loss of semi-natural habitats & common species are declining in abundance as a consequence of how we manage the rest of the landscape



# If there is a problem what do you do?

1. Decide if it's important
2. Critically assess the problem and how serious it is
3. Identify the causes
4. Collectively agree a positive framework to address the problem
5. Identify **evidence-based actions** to help
6. Communicate these properly
7. Develop a partnership driven approach where possible
8. Track progress – is it working?



# Be very clear on what you are asking people to do



If you want to help implement the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan  
it is important to think about how your site can provide  
**food, shelter & safety**

✓ In doing this you help protect biodiversity generally



© Steven Falk

# Solutions should be evidence-based and carefully tailored to the target audience



- ✓ Actions are all evidence-based
- ✓ Relevant sectors feed into development
- ✓ Communication is tailored each time



- ✓ Pollinator friendly actions, each very clearly explained
- ✓ Lots of options
- ✓ All actions are pragmatic & low cost

[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



Use existing networks/partnerships to encourage implementation and roll out







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[Latest News](#)
[Media](#)
[Videos](#)
[Resources](#)
[World Bee Day](#)

## All-Ireland Pollinator Plan


One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction from Ireland. This is because we have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. The **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan** is about all of us, from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses, coming together to try to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive. The first Plan covered the period 2015-2020 and a new version has been developed for 2021-2025. To see what can be done by each sector, click on the appropriate link below.




**NEW:** All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025




Progress: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020




Farmland




Councils




Businesses




Communities




Sports Clubs




Transport Corridors




Schools & Campuses




Gardens




Site-specific guidelines




Helping endangered pollinators




Faith Communities




National Initiative Toolkit




Pollinator Research




Add your actions to our map



Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) Count



Pledge your garden for pollinators



**The Buzz**

**May Pollinator Plan newsletter**

New resources, World Bee Day and a documentary to watch out for. Lots of news in our latest issue [Details](#)

**Making Wind Farms pollinator friendly**

New guidelines published for pollinator-friendly management of Wind Farms [Details](#)

**New All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 launches**

A new five-year roadmap that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. [Details](#)

**Create a natural wildflower meadow**

Don't Mow, Let it Grow! Pollinators don't want you to plant wildflower seed - they want you to allow common wildflowers to grow naturally. Learn how by watching these videos [Details](#)

**NEW: Free online interactive course:**

Learn to identify our 6 most common bumblebees. There are activities and quizzes to test your progress and get feedback on answers. [Details](#)

## What's the Buzz about Bees?



## Top Tips for Creating a Wildflower Meadow



## Managing Healthy Hedgerows:

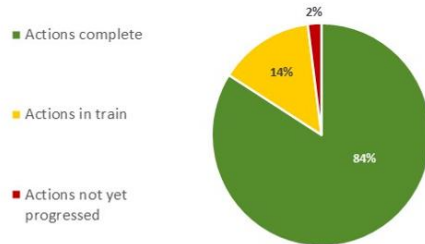




# ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN KEY SUCCESSES: 2015-2020

## 81 actions have been delivered

Status of the 81 actions in the AIPP 2015-2020



\* Some actions not yet progressed are funding dependent

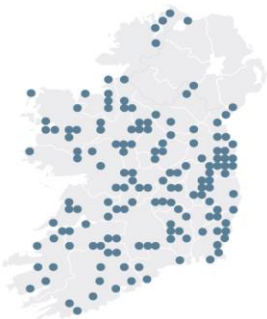
## Evidence-based toolkits by sector



## 55% of Councils have become partners



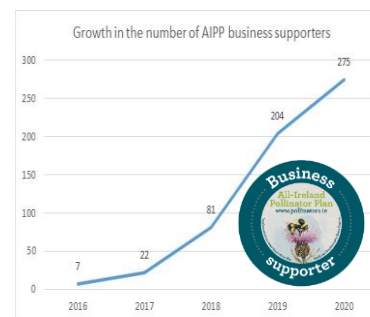
## 162 local communities have become pollinator-friendly



## Reached all 3,200 primary schools in ROI



## Business supporters continue to increase



## Parks become pollinator friendly through Green Flag award

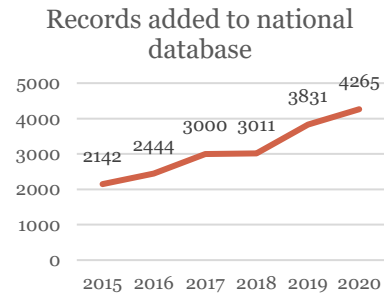


**1,600+ sites** logged  
as pollinator-friendly

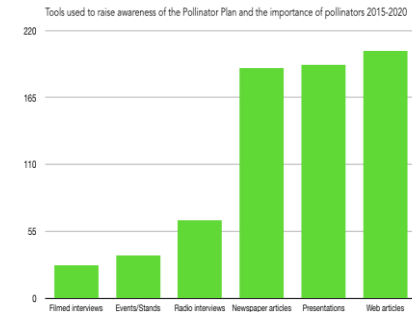


Increasing levels of  
volunteer **recording**

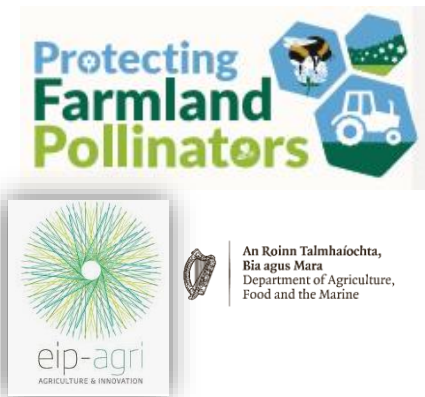
All-Ireland **BUMBLEBEE**  
Monitoring Scheme



**Raising Awareness**



**Farmland EIP project**  
2019-2023



**Irish Pollinator Research**  
Network established  
2017



Regarded as a  
**success story**  
internationally

# Working together for Biodiversity

Tales from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020



## Reducing pesticide use - Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLR) introduced major changes to grass management in the county, moving towards a pollinator friendly mowing regime. DLR is also the first local authority to introduce chemical pesticides.

Over the last number of years, DLR Parks and Environment staff have not been to examine the use of alternative non-chemical weed control, such as hot water and hot steam. The aim is to reduce the use of chemicals that can impact on nature, including bees and pollinators. There are already a number of housing estates where the use of herbicides is restricted, for example, Marley Grange, Lifford and Kilmessy.

DLR is responsible for weed control on almost 7000m of coastline in the county. Up to now, it is the case for many other local authorities around the country, the primary method of weed control and for local authorities is the application of a herbicide product. In recent years, the method of application was changed to a targeted application method, rather than a spray method, which aimed to reduce the volume of herbicide used and deliver a more efficient and less environmentally hazardous approach. The product used, Novekor, also reduced health and safety risks to operators by eliminating the risks associated with diluting the product before application.



The manual removal of weeds, using scuffs and brush techniques, has also been used by the Cleaning Section in many areas of the County, particularly in areas where residents have reported that herbicide use has led to or small scale areas requiring weed control.

The Parks Section are also in the process of reducing the use of herbicide on open spaces and are piloting alternative landscape maintenance regimes at a number of sites throughout the County. The intention is to support the reduction and ultimate elimination of use of herbicide in parks and open spaces, while supporting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

## Wildflower amenity areas help people and pollinators - Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

At Billy Hall MBE Country Park, the Council worked in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to create a series of habitats to help birds and pollinators.

Wildflower meadows are being managed as traditional meadows, with a long flowering through to autumn to provide a pollinating insect and a variety of food for birds. The meadows will improve water quality and create a habitat for birds and pollinators.

— Tony Conolly, B&C

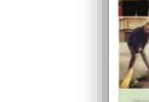


Goatfield won the national Pollinator Award in 2017, received a regional award in 2018, and in 2019, Goatfield took home the top prize for most pollinator friendly small town in Ireland. An important part of their success has been in creating awareness of the importance of pollinators and education on how to help them.

Engaging with the local primary school, Goatfield Tidy Teams not only ran workshops, but also created a mural for the school and helped the children to plant their own seeds. 'Goatfield is a life!'

'The Tidy Teams group told them who haven't got noticed the local Authority Pollinator Award, do it! This and your children will benefit. Your village or town is being recognized and most important of all - your pollinators and wildlife will reap the rewards of your love. And it's all for free!'

— Pat Foley, Goatfield Tidy Teams



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— Pat Foley, Goatfield Tidy Teams

## Using art to create awareness of pollinators - Geashill, Co. Offaly

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## Bulbs for city bees - Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council's Parks Service is brightening up the city's northside with 10,000m of spring bulbs, 100,000 of wallflowers, and 100m of blue and butterfly bulbs too, sown as part of a city wide trial, including Ardena, Clonsilla, Donnybrook, Finglas Village, Cabra, Ballymore and Saggart.

This ongoing work also involved planting over 700,000 bulbs along the main avenue in St. Anne's Park to provide attractive seasonal colour and a source of food for pollinators early in the year. A large-scale wallflower planting scheme was implemented along Malahide Road, one of the main arteries into the city centre, beginning at Clonsilla and covering a distance of 1.5 kilometres. A similar scheme runs along the median of the Ballymore Road between Ballymore Village and Saggart. Some 30 white flowering cherry trees, Prunus pendula, were planted recently along the median of the Ballymore Road between the St. Anne's Park, Clonsilla, and Saggart. Local parts staff also provide groups with advice to help biodiversity in their gardens. Local parts staff also provide groups with advice to help biodiversity in their gardens. Local parts staff also provide groups with advice to help biodiversity in their gardens.

With new plants and trees, as part of 'Better Bulbs Day'.

## Making a real difference by publishing town pollinator plans - Cork County Council

In 2020, Councillors in the East Cork Municipal District approved Ireland's first whole town Pollinator Plan for Cork County Council. In accordance with the AIPP Council guidelines, if every clearly defined area where actions will be taken across Midleton to identify and protect existing habitats, more to pollinator friendly mowing regimes, plant pollinator friendly bulbs, trees and shrubs, provide safe pollinator nesting habitat, and reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides.

It has already been an outstanding success, with some surprising results, including the appearance of hundreds of new bees along previously tree-lined roads, following on from this success, Cork County Council have announced an initiative to develop plans for an additional 10 more Cork towns.

Sample actions table from Midleton's Pollinator Plan

1. Reduce frequency of mowing to allow more native plants to flower

2. Create meadows (1 out of 10) in town

3. Plant native trees and shrubs

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## All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025

- ✓ Wanted it to be more ambitious, yet remain realistic
- ✓ Critically reviewed successes and failures and built upon these for the next five years

**Objective 1:** Making farmland pollinator friendly

**Objective 2:** Making public land pollinator friendly

**Objective 3:** Making private land pollinator friendly

**Objective 4:** All-Ireland Honeybee Strategy

**Objective 5:** Conserving rare pollinators

**Objective 6:** Strategic coordination of the Plan

✓ **186** actions

✓ Responsibility shared out between the partners

Implementation is coordinated by the  
National Biodiversity Data Centre

## OBJECTIVE

# 02

### Making public land pollinator friendly

#### Public land targets for 2021-2025:

- TARGET 2.1** Increase the area of Council land that is managed in a pollinator-friendly way
- TARGET 2.2** Make transport corridors more pollinator friendly
- TARGET 2.3** Make schools and educational properties more pollinator friendly
- TARGET 2.4** Organisations with site networks on public land to manage these in a pollinator-friendly way
- TARGET 2.5** Make local communities more pollinator friendly
- TARGET 2.6** Manage protected land in a pollinator-friendly way where appropriate
- TARGET 2.7** Make healthcare sites more pollinator friendly
- TARGET 2.8** Complete policy investigations
- TARGET 2.9** Strengthen links between the AIPP and other national initiatives
- TARGET 2.10** Track changes in pollinators on public land

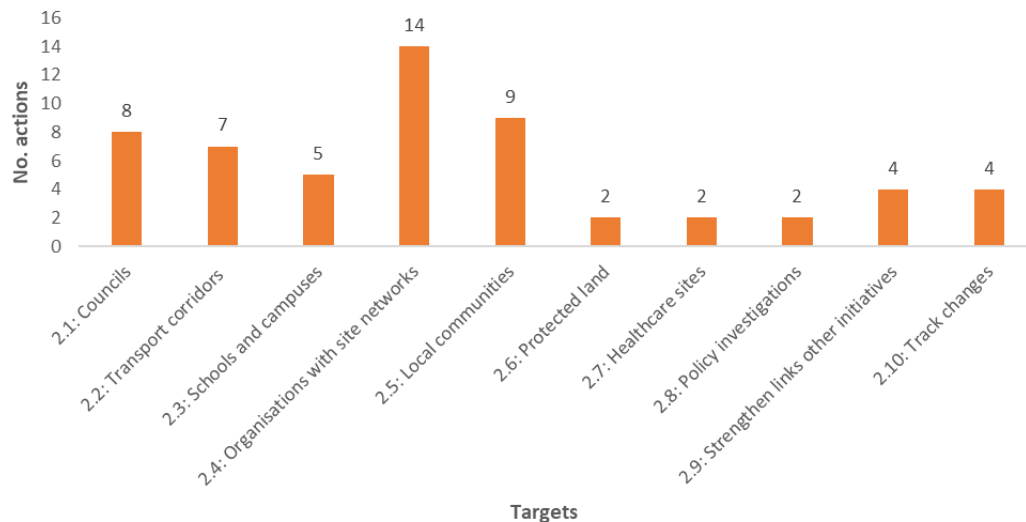


## New ideas for 2021-2025

*To build on the first phase and encourage more land to be managed for pollinators and biodiversity*

# 10 Targets, 57 actions

## OBJECTIVE 2: MAKING PUBLIC LAND POLLINATOR FRIENDLY



### PARTNERS WHO WILL DELIVER THE CORE ACTIONS:

- ✓ National Biodiversity Data Centre
- ✓ Heritage and Biodiversity Officer network
- ✓ An Taisce
- ✓ Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
- ✓ Department for Infrastructure NI
- ✓ Iarnród Éireann
- ✓ Translink
- ✓ Waterways Ireland
- ✓ Green-Schools
- ✓ Eco-Schools
- ✓ Green-Campus
- ✓ BirdWatch Ireland
- ✓ Bord na Móna (BnM)
- ✓ Coillte
- ✓ Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- ✓ Electricity Supply Board (ESB)
- ✓ Gas Networks Ireland
- ✓ Irish Water
- ✓ National Trust
- ✓ Northern Ireland Water
- ✓ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- ✓ Office of Public Works (OPW)
- ✓ The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB NI)
- ✓ The Courts Service of Ireland
- ✓ Tidy Towns Unit
- ✓ Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful
- ✓ Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT)
- ✓ ChangeX
- ✓ NIEA
- ✓ NPWS
- ✓ CEDaR



Thanks to the National  
Parks and Wildlife  
Service for funding



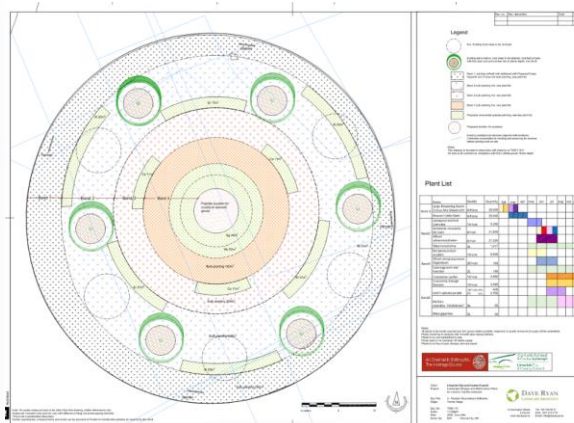
Juanita Browne – Communities & Engagement Project Officer



National Parks &  
Wildlife Service



# Provide you with better and more technical advice



What is the best grass cutting regime to balance biodiversity and ease of maintenance?



What are the best pesticide alternatives?

I need planting regimes in the right format

If you have issues you want the AIPP to address – please put them into the chat today or email [pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie)

# Better share the positive stories across the sector

<https://pollinators.ie/ideas-hub>




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## Ideas Hub

Much of the success of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan can be attributed to the free sharing of knowledge across sectors. In our [Ideas Hub](#), you can browse some project ideas from various sectors, as well as in-depth articles on various actions. The Hub will be updated with new projects as they happen. If you have a project you'd like to tell us about, please email [pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie)




### Don't sow! Let it grow

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan strongly endorses natural regeneration as opposed to sowing commercial wildflower seed...




### Pledge your garden for Pollinators

Are you reducing mowing, planting bee-friendly plants or taking other actions in your garden for pollinators? Why not let us know...




### Make an Ecological Corridor Network

Learn how you can create a biodiversity-friendly corridor through your estate, village or town. Learn how other groups joined up the dots...




### Make a Biodiversity Walking Trail

A Biodiversity-rich walking trail is a great project for sports clubs, schools, parks or business grounds. Enjoy the health benefits...




### Plant a Pot for Pollinators

You don't need a garden to help our struggling pollinators. Why not create a 'pot for pollinators' for your patio or balcony?



### Develop a Pollinator Plan for your town/village

Cork County Council is leading the way, with plans for seven towns...



### Pesticide-free Zone

Go pesticide-free

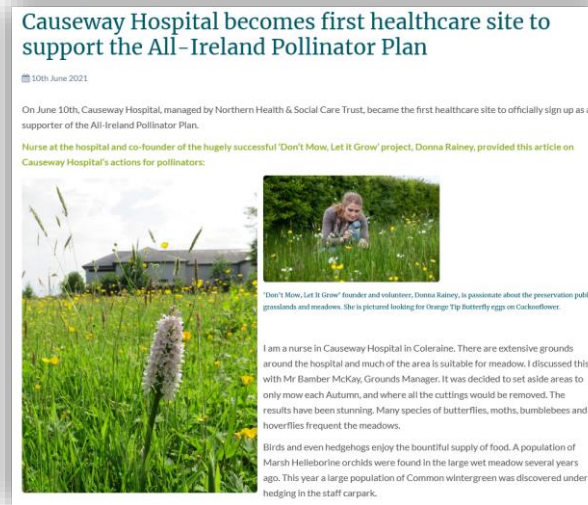
Make your garden, park, village, school or town pesticide-free

# Develop more resources

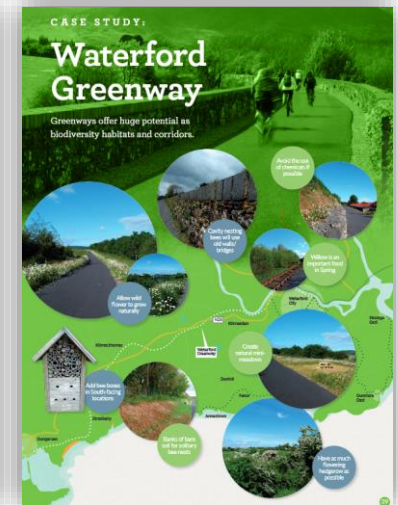
<https://pollinators.ie/resources>



- ✓ Information boards for natural meadows



- ✓ Guidelines for health care sites



- ✓ Greenways

If you have ideas for future resources you'd like to see – please put them into the chat function or email [pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie)



## Develop a map of good semi-natural grassland sites



- ✓ Could potentially be used as **local** donor sites for brush harvesting wildflower seed in the future

## Identify a pollinator trail

Establish a 'Pollinator Trail' to celebrate excellent examples of restored pollinator habitat across the island



# Better explain the wider benefits of pollinator actions

Particularly to climate and to health and well-being

## Helping pollinators also reduces Carbon emissions - Derry City & Strabane District Council

Derry City & Strabane District Council developed the first Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032 in Northern Ireland. Biodiversity is one of the four key themes within this plan, with a key action to create a Pollinator Plan for council-owned green spaces, aligned to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. In 2020, the Council invested in new equipment to change the grass management regime at key green spaces. This campaign aims to create species-rich grassland on 4% of our estate (28ha). This involves transforming around 50 football pitches' worth of amenity grass to create grasslands rich in native wildflowers. We installed signage at these key green spaces, highlighting the biodiversity benefits of leaving the grass long at these sites, to provide a source of food and habitat for the declining bee population, to help deliver the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We cut and lift long grass in late August and September, when the wildflowers have completed their full cycle and set their seeds for next year. This helps to remove thick grass



and reduce the fertility to facilitate sustainable species-rich meadows in coming years.

This plan enhances ecological connectivity, contributes towards biodiversity net gain and increases the existing natural capital value of these sites by £6,500/annum. This change prevented 1.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions through reduced grass cutting.

To find out more, see [www.derrystrabane.com/gi](http://www.derrystrabane.com/gi)

**- Dr Christine Doherty, Lead Officer for Green Infrastructure of Derry City & Strabane District Council**

## Create a Biodiversity Walking Trail

Many sports clubs have space around the perimeter of the site where people in the community come to walk or jog. These walking routes could be incorporated into a biodiversity trail along interesting existing habitats, such as hedgerow, as well as supplementing the trail with wildflower meadows, planting of native trees, a mini-woodland or orchard.

- Native trees can be planted along the route to create a 'Native Tree trail' and each tree could be identified using small signs.
- Create bee banks or erect bee hotels at points around the trail. Bird or bat boxes could also be placed on trees.
- Parts of the walking route can follow paths through meadows, created by reduced mowing.
- Foraging sites for blackberries (Bramble), elderberries (Elder trees) among others, could be marked on your biodiversity trail map.





# Identify sites that have decided to go pesticide free



### Herbicide-free parks - Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is committed to improving and enhancing green spaces for local communities and native wildlife. Conscious of the need to reduce, replace, and where possible, completely eliminate the use of herbicides, Council has committed to significantly reducing herbicide usage over the next three years.

A number of sites, including Bashfordland Wood Carrickfergus, Diamond Jubilee Wood Whitehead, and Ecos Nature Park Ballymena, are now officially herbicide-free. As well as this, herbicide usage will be significantly reduced in all green spaces across the Borough.

Council has also committed to creating urban wildflower meadows across the Borough. Areas traditionally planted with floral bedding displays have been replaced with sustainable pollinator-friendly flowers and trees. One great example is Marine Gardens in Carrickfergus, with rows and rows of lavender, swarming with bees in summer. This received positive feedback from the public.

Herbicide-free urban meadows and grasslands may seem a little untidy, but are a haven for bees, butterflies and other wildlife. They can also add a beautiful splash of colour across the Borough. Council encourages public support for this initiative and hopes residents will accept some areas looking a little more wild than usual.

Council has also committed to planting 58,000 trees over the next five years - that's one tree for each household. This is a partnership project with the Woodland Trust and all trees planted will be native.

Thanks to Council's efforts around improving our Borough for biodiversity, we have won the Translink



Ulster in Bloom 'Special Award for Biodiversity' twice for Carrickfergus and Cullybackey, and won the RHS Britain in Bloom 'Gardening for Wildlife Award' for Ballymena.

Our own Mid and East Antrim in Bloom community competitions have a specific award category for 'Gardening for Wildlife' to encourage residents to consider pollinators and wildlife.

- Alison Diver, Growing Communities Officer, Parks and open spaces, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council



Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has a wide network of community volunteers, all working to make their home pollinator friendly. The Friends of Ecos Nature Park in Ballymena have created a large urban wildflower bank. The volunteers harvest how to manage the meadow by the Ecos Nature Park, such as cutting and mowing each year. They have also set up a butterfly monitoring transect.



**63%** of people want more wildflowers in parks and 69% want fewer and less harmful chemicals used to kill weeds and insects.

- Ipsos Insights poll, 2018

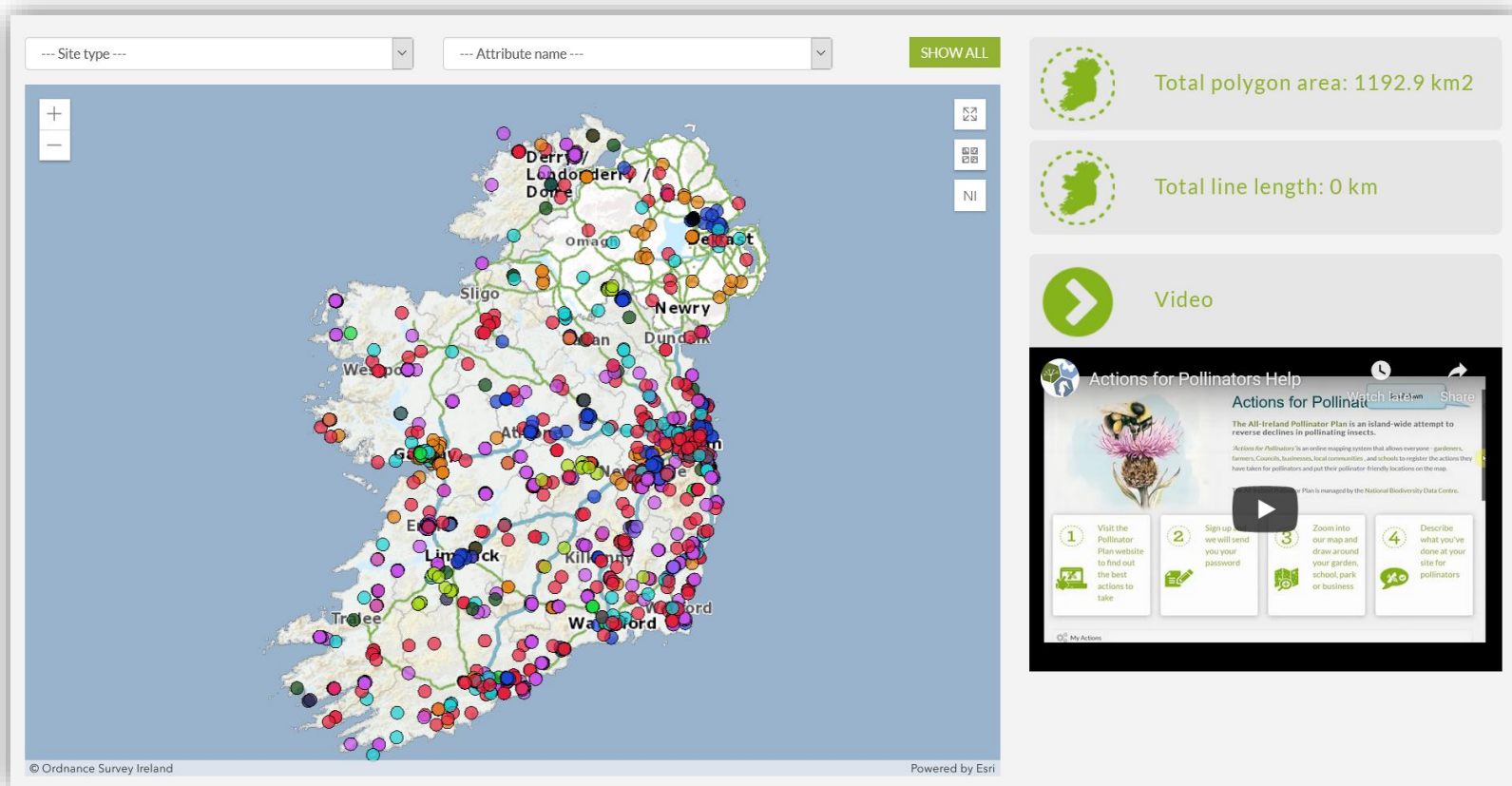
<https://pollinators.ie/pesticide-free-places>

# Track progress in the creation of pollinator-friendly habitat

## ‘Actions for Pollinators’

Provides recognition and also facilitates local coordination

[pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie](http://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie)



# Collect more biodiversity data

<https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

**Biodiversity Maps**  
Mapping Ireland's Wildlife

Biodiversity Maps is a national portal that compiles biodiversity data from multiple sources and makes it freely available on-line.

Navigation: Home, Maps, Dataset, Species, About, Help

**Summary Statistics:**

Number of records	Number of species	Number of datasets	Last updated
4,389,813	16,750	159	31/03/2021

**Species Search**

Species name

**Recently updated datasets**

Dataset	Records added
Stoneflies (Plecoptera) of Ireland	182
Ladybirds of Ireland	37
Bees of Ireland	415
Explore Your Shore	2,546
General Biodiversity Records from Ireland	454
River Biologists' Database (EPA)	347
Mammals of Ireland 2016-2025	2,822
Dragonfly Ireland 2019 to 2024	4,036
Discrete vascular plant surveys	6,653
Carrión Beetles of Ireland	949

**Species Categories:**

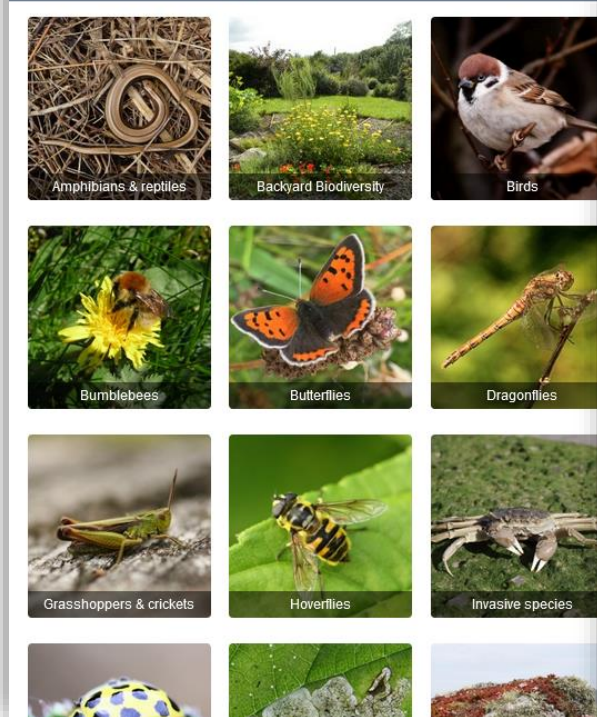
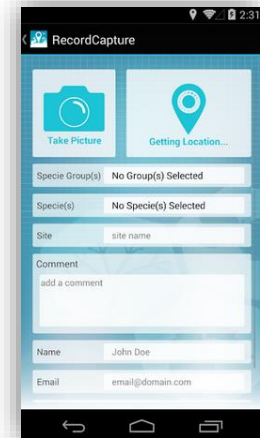
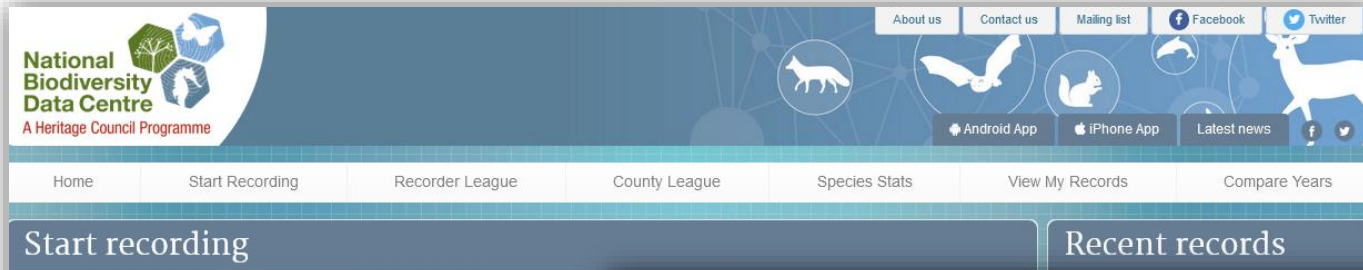
- Protected Species**  
Records: 799,171  
Species: 292
- Threatened Species**  
Records: 742,440  
Species: 1,332
- Invasive Species**  
Records: 69,499  
Species: 174
- Higher plants**  
Records: 1,562,648  
Species: 2,794
- Mammals**  
Records: 254,995  
Species: 89
- Birds**  
Records: 1,217,219
- Fishes**  
Records: 50,944
- Invertebrates - marine and estuarine**  
Records: 105,087

- ✓ See maps of species
- ✓ Download datasets for use
- ✓ See what occurs in your area



# Submit records

<https://records.biodiversityireland.ie>



## Birds

### Sample details

Recorder name	Recorder email
<input type="text" value="The name of the recorder"/>	<input type="text" value="someone@somewhere.com"/>
Record date	County
<input type="text" value="2021-04-12"/>	<input type="text" value="Select county"/>
Location name	Spatial reference
<input type="text" value="Townland or nearest village"/>	<input type="text" value="5123456 or 51.12345, 9.12345"/>
<small>Click on map to generate spatial reference.</small>	
Additional information	
<input type="text" value="Additional information"/>	

### Click map for grid reference

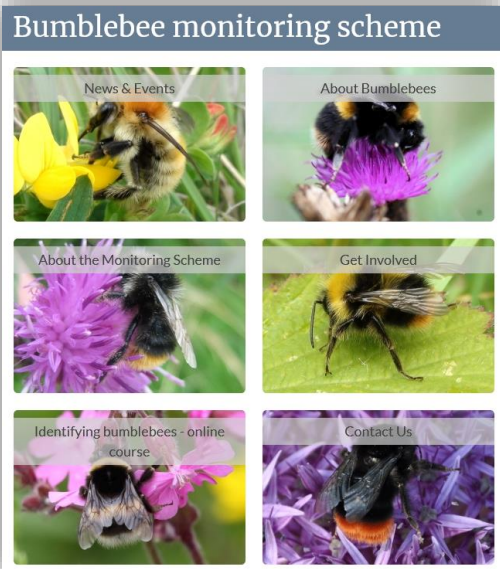


### Observation details

Species	Activity	Abundance
<input type="text" value="Species name"/>	<input type="text" value="Activity"/>	<input type="text" value="Abundance"/>
<input type="button" value="Reset Species"/>		

# Monitor biodiversity on Council sites

<https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/monitoring-scheme-initiatives>



## Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count)

Watch a 50x50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and record how many insects visit.



<https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/fit-count>



**Lots of small actions,  
taken together, can begin  
to solve big problems**



Thanks to all our Council  
partners for your support of  
the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan





Thanks to **Carlow County Council** for  
hosting this knowledge exchange event



**CARLOW**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

# www.pollinators.ie

[pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie)

THANK YOU