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Business Supporters Newsletter: January 2023

Dear All

We are delighted to welcome the following companies/organizations as business supporters of the AIPP.

New Business Supporters include: Beechlawn Organic Farm, The Shannon Airport Group and AbbVie (Manorhamilton, Sligo).

Impacts & Dependencies - AIPP entry-level on any site

In the language of biodiversity we often talk of 'impacts' and 'dependencies'.

Simply put - we are '*dependent*' on pollinators (wild bees) for pollination of crops, trees, flowers etc. and we know we can have an almost immediate '*impact*' on their environment by delivering on the AIPP evidence-based actions. We also know that as we start taking action for pollinators (wild bees), we are impacting on wider biodiversity. So, in 2023 don't overthink what your company might do for biodiversity. Focus on pollinators first, an entry-level, and then add other biodiversity year on year.

Mapping Actions

Many thanks to all businesses who have mapped evidence-based actions on our GIS '[Actions for Pollinators](#)' - biodiversity-accountability mapping portal. Mapping actions is now MANDATORY and it is part of the requirement for participation in AIPP. N.B. No physical site? No problem; there are lots of communication actions in which you can participate. Delivering physical actions for a third party? If you have permission from the landowner (re GIS mapping), map what you are doing on their site. OR You can list what you are planting on their site as a communication action.

Sarah Kelly

Agri-business Officer

*The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025](#), co-ordinated by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#), actively addresses the time-critical pollinator-biodiversity challenge. It is a shared plan of action for the island now in its sixth year, which builds on the targets within [The EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy](#), Ireland's *National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021* (Objective 4) and is mentioned in Northern Ireland's *Biodiversity Plan to 2020*, to halt and reverse pollinator decline by 2030. It responds to the Irish Government's 2019 Biodiversity Emergency Declaration which happened alongside the Climate Declaration. It is also aligned with Bord Bia's Origin Green programme with reference to 'pollinator actions', and, supports members' biodiversity targets.

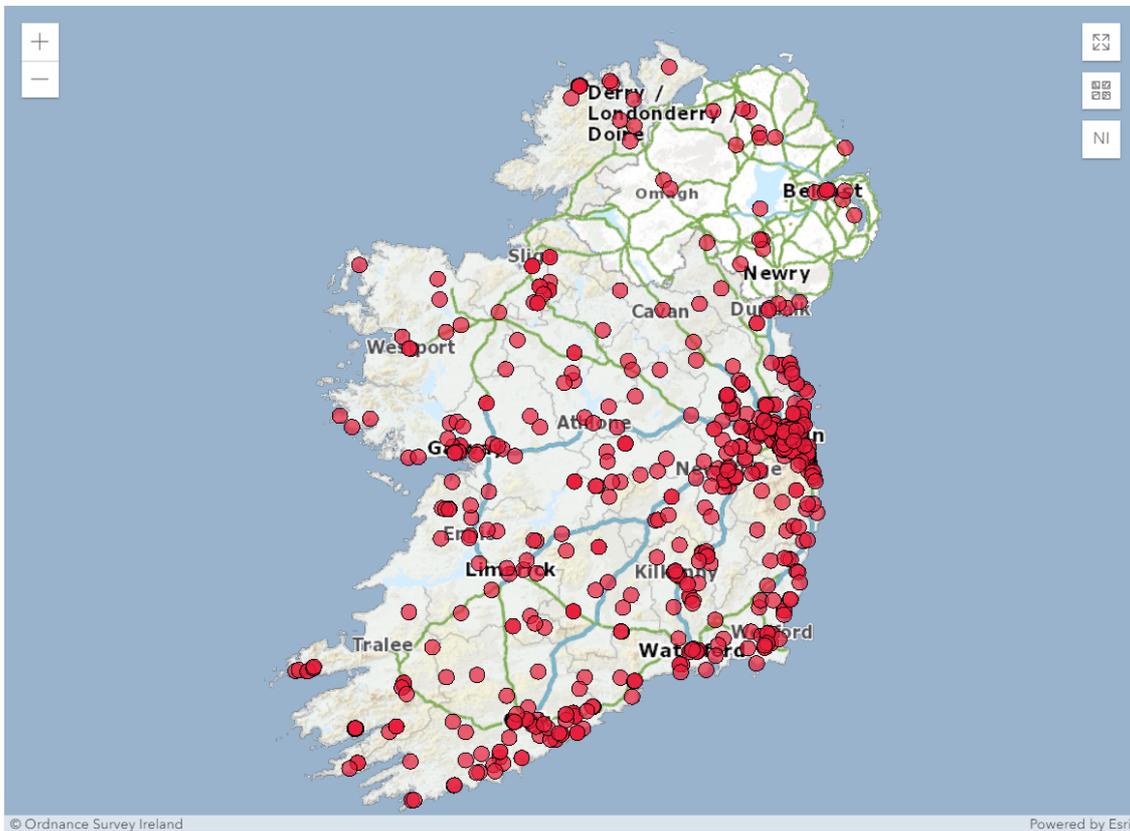
TO DO THIS MONTH: Encourage employees to 'Pledge Your Garden' for pollinators

Across the island, 751 gardens have been 'pledged for pollinators' - added to our online mapping system by people who are taking positive actions for pollinators in their gardens and outdoor spaces.

When you 'Pledge Your Garden' for pollinators, it means you have chosen to make it a healthy pitstop for pollinators like wild bees. By taking some simple actions, you can help provide much-needed food and shelter for these important insects, while creating a beautiful, colourful garden. [READ MORE HERE](#)

Consider adding your garden to 'Actions for Pollinators' mapping system in 2023 if you are striving for a pollinator-friendly garden (business, park, school, or community area). This helps us keep track of the number of pollinator-friendly places on the island and brings us closer to our goal of creating a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. A huge THANK YOU to those who have already pledged their garden and mapped. [REVIEW ACTIONS FOR POLLINATORS HERE](#).

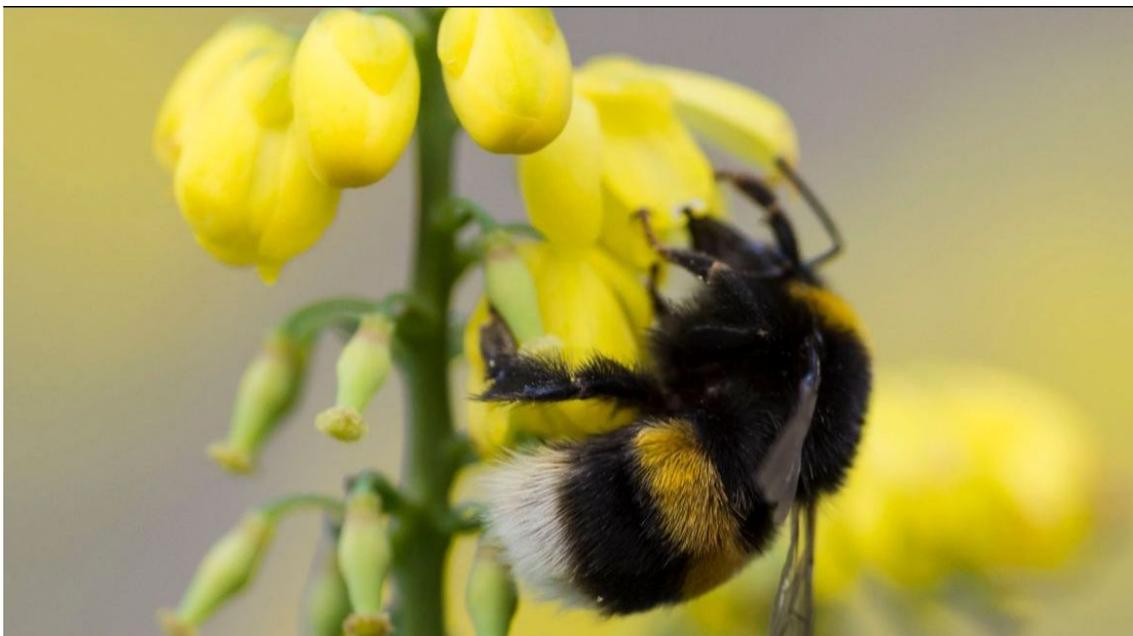
Already mapped on 'Actions for Pollinators' and want to find out if your actions are working? Check out our simple [FIT Count App](#) (Android and ios) or become a [citizen scientist](#)



Go to 'Actions for Pollinators' GIS system [HERE](#)

BEE WATCH: Winter bumblebees

January is still a quiet month for sightings. The normal lifecycle of most Irish bumblebees ends when the workers and males die off and the newly mated queens hibernate through the cold winter months. However, in recent years, the Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) has been seen foraging during winter months in both Ireland and in southern Britain. It is not known for certain what exactly is causing this. You can help improve our understanding by letting us know if you spot winter-active bumblebee workers. PIC: Ciaran Taylor



Submit bumblebee sightings [HERE](#)

Annual Review for Business Supporters 2022 - in case you missed it

REVIEW the written report [HERE](#) and see the evidence-based actions mapped on ***Actions for Pollinators*** (GIS) by businesses in 2022.

Ninety-three new companies joined in the past 12-months. In joining, they committed to taking evidence-based actions for pollinators and reporting on their activities. This brought the total number of business supporters to well over 400. N.B. As of 2022, both annual reporting (written) AND mapping are mandatory for AIPP Business Supporters.

To maintain the integrity of this network, those who did not submit an update of their activities in support of the Plan in 2022 were removed from the supporters list (they can re-engage at any point). The adjustment is reflected in the overall figure for AIPP Business Supporters, which now stands at **340**.

The **Business Supporters** network continues to grow underpinned in 2022 by continued funding from **Bord Bia Origin Green**, and, also in 2022 funding from Ireland's new **Business for Biodiversity** Platform (N.B. Platform partners include *Natural Capital Ireland, Business in the Community and the National Biodiversity Data Centre*). Our thanks to the funders for making the crucial interaction between the AIPP and its Business Supporters, including this report, possible.

Interested in other annual reporting from the AIPP? Check out the **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan: Annual Review 2022** (Partners), and **Council Partners Annual Review 2022**.



[Review Business Supporters Annual Review 2022 HERE](#)

IDEAS FOR 2023: AIPP Communication Actions

We talk about **DEPENDENCIES** and **IMPACTS** when referring to biodiversity.

- (i) We are **dependent** on pollinators (for pollination) - they are struggling to survive on this island.
- (ii) We can have almost an immediate **impact** on their survival by taking AIPP evidence-based actions - an entry level into biodiversity on any site.
- (iii) And we know, that as we take evidence-based actions for pollinators we impact on wider biodiversity. [READ HERE Physical Actions](#).

Your Business - do you have **SMART** targets for pollinators-biodiversity?

As with all things in life if you can't measure you can't monitor - and that goes for work on pollinators-biodiversity. So, can you set SMART communication targets in 2023?

- Is Biodiversity part of your ESG/CSR? [AIPP is aligned to ISO14001:2015](#) and UN SDGs (2021-2025).
- Mapping your [evidence-based actions](#) on the [GIS system 'Actions for Pollinators'](#)?
- Follow us on socials? Twitter [@PollinatorPlan](#) / Instagram [@allirelandpollinatorplan](#)
- Signed up to [Business for Biodiversity Ireland - National business and biodiversity platform?](#)
- Do you have/need a Baseline Survey for your site(s) to [track changes](#) over time?

- PLEASE (i) AVOID sowing/scattering wildflower seed mixes (or corporate gifts). To do so is NOT a biodiversity action; it is a horticultural action. Make the distinction. Non-native wildflower seed may contain invasive species such as *Black Grass*. Please choose instead a pollinator-friendly mowing regime, allowing natural wildflowers to develop. (ii) AVOID honeybee hives - honeybees may create competition for food for the island's 100 wild bee species. To have honeybee hives is NOT a biodiversity action. Honeybee hives are wonderful as a hobby and if you already have hives - please don't increase numbers. Always seek expert advice from your local beekeeping association if considering.

Your Employees - can you identify simple SMART targets for 2023?

Encourage employees to:

- Pledge Your Garden OR pot/planter - and plant herbs, larger garden options.
- Run an in-house 'Wild Bee Garden' competition to celebrate World Bee Day - 20 May.
- Engage in e-Learning - free pollinator/biodiversity courses.
- Develop an interest in monitoring during April-Sept (FIT Counts - via easy App) and Citizen Science - Beginners Guide to Recording.
- Share with family and community: Junior Pollinators, Sports/GAA Clubs, Golf, Faith Communities.

Your Suppliers - can you identify simple SMART targets for 2023?

- Are suppliers aware of/signed up to a pollinator-biodiversity initiative such as AIPP?
- Are Landscape Contractors/Grounds Maintenance following the AIPP evidence-based guidelines?
- Are pollinators-biodiversity included in your procurement/tender process?
- Mitigation Actions: are you using Peat-Free and Neonicotinoid Free products? Is the provenance of native trees Irish? (e.g. if you purchase a *Blackthorn* from Central/Eastern Europe it will flower at the wrong time for our wild bees).

Your Community - can you identify simple SMART targets for 2023?

Can your business:

- Sponsor a local Tidy Towns initiative or spring bulb planting (e.g. *Crocus* or *Grape Hyacinth*) at a local community centre.
- Print the Junior Pollinator Plan or Bee Posters for a local school.
- Develop a 'connecting habitat' initiative to support our beautiful and rare Large Carder Bee.
- Encourage your local community to participate in an AIPP/ChangeX project. Or fund a project in your area.

National Biodiversity Data Centre helps develop

GAA Green Club Toolkit

In December 2022, the National Biodiversity Data Centre was one of several partner organisations who attended the launch of a new GAA Green Club Toolkit. This online toolkit provides simple advice for the implementation of sustainability actions at GAA clubs across five areas: *Biodiversity*, *Energy*, *Water*, *Waste*, and *Travel & Transport*. It will be freely available to all GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association units and members.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre helped develop the biodiversity branch of the toolkit as an expert partner to the Green Club programme, drawing on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan guidelines for pollinator-friendly management of sports clubs. Photo shows the Toolkit launch at Croke Park.



[Review details on GAA Green Club Toolkit Launch](#)

For agri-business farmer-suppliers:

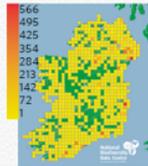
The islands first farmer moth monitoring project

Moths are important nocturnal pollinators. In 2022, Dr Saorla Kavanagh and Owen Beckett of the *National Biodiversity Data Centre* worked with a group of 20 farmers to support them in monitoring moths on their farms. The Farmer Moth Monitoring Project was a one-year EIP (European Innovation Partnership) project that was administered by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The project was a great success and demonstrated that a wide variety of moths can be found on Irish farms Click on the link below to read more about the project and find a flyer on 6 common moths found on farmland.

Interested in finding out more about farmland seasonal actions to support pollinators? [READ MORE HERE](#)



Spilosoma lubricipeda
White Ermine



- Length 34-48 mm
- White background colour with small black speckles
- May - July



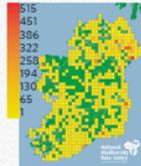
Korscheltellus fusconebulosa
Map-winged Swift



- Length 28-52 mm
- Chestnut-brown with paler map-like markings
- May - July



Diachrysia chrysitis
Burnished Brass



- Length 28-35 mm
- Chocolate-brown with brassy-green wing markings
- June - August

Farmer Moth Monitoring Project

National Biodiversity Data Centre: Free online identification courses

The *National Biodiversity Data Centre* has developed a series of free online identification courses. Winter is a great time to brush up on your skills, before the field season starts again. Learn about spiders, bumblebees, hoverflies, butterflies or marine biodiversity.



Ireland's Biodiversity Learning Platform

Supporting collaborative learning on Ireland's biodiversity

All courses



Spiders of Ireland

In this course, we will get a brief introduction to Ireland's native spiders, developed with Collie Ennis.

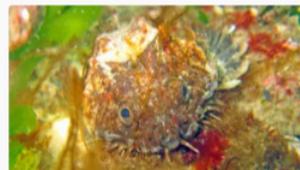
Free



Identifying Ireland's common farmland hoverflies

In this course, you'll learn about the key identification features of hoverflies and how to identify species commonly found in Ireland...

Free



Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science Open Course

This course is designed to enable beginners and those wishing to refresh their recording skills to identify and record common marine intertidal...

Free

Go to Ireland's Biodiversity Learning Platform



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*National Biodiversity Data Centre Beechfield House, Waterford Institute of Technology West Campus,
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