



Business Supporters Newsletter: July 2023

The [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#) (AIPP) is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Implementation of the AIPP is coordinated by the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#).

Dear All

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

New Business Supporters in June included: Wild Ireland, Integrated Material Solutions, Park Electrical Services, Grene Sports Grounds Ltd., Kerry Dairy Charleville and Kerry Dairy Consumer Foods (Portadown, NI), DPD Ireland, Asgard Cleanroom Solutions and LEDSpan.

Want to align your Marketing Communications with AIPP?

[REVIEW HERE](#) the AIPP Abridged Comms Plan for 2023. Follow us on Twitter @PollinatorPlan and Instagram @allirelandpollinatorplan.

Need ideas to help?

Employees take pollinator friendly actions: [READ MORE HERE](#)

Suppliers take pollinator-friendly actions: [READ MORE HERE](#)

Community take pollinator-friendly actions: [READ MORE HERE](#)

DRIVE MEASUREMENT & MONITORING OF POLLINATORS ON YOUR BUSINESS SITE

- **Map early, map often (GIS)** - THANK YOU you to all the businesses in June, who mapped their AIPP evidence-based actions on ['Actions for](#)

[Pollinators'](#) - GIS biodiversity-accountability portal. Mapping actions is now MANDATORY and it is part of the requirement for AIPP participation.

- Not sure what is on your site? Establish a [Baseline Ecological Survey](#) through the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and repeat every 3 or every 5 years.
- To monitor what is on your site, invite employees to participate in [FIT Counts](#) or the more complex (but do-able) [Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme](#).
- Processors & Farm Suppliers/Growers can check out the '[Biodiversity on the Farm](#)' initiative where you can start to record on farm pollinators-biodiversity (no experience necessary). Based on the simple AIPP [Farmland: actions to help pollinators](#) guidelines.

'Impacts' & 'Dependencies' - AIPP an evidence-based, 'entry-level' into biodiversity 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 AIPP evidence-based actions. We also know that as we start taking AIPP actions for pollinators, we are impacting on wider biodiversity.
- So, don't 'overthink' what your company might do for biodiversity. Focus on pollinators first, which can be cost-neutral or low cost, and then add other biodiversity year on year.
- Why not start with your [car park](#) and surrounding grassy areas? [Reduce mowing](#) to create naturally re-generated wildflower areas and choose planting options from our [TOP TEN](#) planting guide.
- REMEMBER choose an alternative action to [wildflower seed mixes](#) and [honeybee hives](#) neither of which is a biodiversity action.
- Also can you choose (i) Peat-free compost (ii) Pesticide-free bulbs/shrubs/trees (iii) Provenance-Irish native trees (e.g. a Blackthorn from Central/Eastern Europe will flower at the wrong time of year for our wild bees) (iv) Eco-alternatives to pesticides - BUT continue to spot spray [invasive species](#).
- **No physical site?** No problem; there are lots of [communication actions](#) in which your business can participate across employees, community and suppliers.

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 seventh 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.

Thanks to the funders of the Agri-business Officer position: [Bord Bia Origin Green's](#) food sustainability programme and [Business for Biodiversity Ireland](#), Ireland's new biodiversity hub.

WILD BEE WATCH: keep an eye out for the Wool Carder Bee

This large solitary bee is very distinctive and can be spotted on business sites and in gardens, especially in the South-East. It was first recorded in Ireland in 2015. Both males and females have a pattern of yellow markings down the sides of the abdomen, head and legs. PIC: Liam Lysaght



SUBMIT solitary bee sightings - from your business site

- Car park needing a make-over? [REVIEW](#) pollinator-friendly suggestions.
- Develop an 'Assign a Planter' employee initiative and run an inter-departmental competition for 'Most Pollinator-friendly Planter'.
- Is your Landscape Contractor/Grounds Maintenance company delivering pollinator-friendly planting on your site(s)? Click the link below for more extensive planting choices.



REVIEW AIPP Planting Code - for landscape contractors

NEW RESOURCE: Pollinator-friendly management of Solar Farms

We are delighted to release a new AIPP resource. Solar energy expansion is important for climate mitigation, but it can have consequences for biodiversity. Through working with experts, we have developed a guide which identifies ten evidence-based actions to help pollinators and biodiversity on solar farms. We thank the [Irish Solar Energy Association](#), who have supported these new guidelines.

Working on a WINDFARM project? [REVIEW guidelines](#).

Involved in a GROUP WATER SCHEME? [REVIEW guidelines](#)

Working on a NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT? [REVIEW new Cluid Guidelines](#) (endorsed by AIPP).



REVIEW solar farms guidelines - for your business site

WEBINAR: ORIGIN GREEN Pathways to Pollinator-biodiversity - farmland management to measurement

26 August 2023, 1000-1100

Masterclass Overview

Origin Green, in conjunction with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP), will be hosting the second in a three-part webinar series focused on **processor/agri-business** actions to encourage farm suppliers/growers on enhancing pollinator biodiversity. The second webinar of 2023, on Wednesday 26 July, will focus on:

- The evidence emerging from the 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators' EIP (European Innovation Partnership) project which is developing a pollinator whole farm 'scoring' system which has its basis in the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Farmland Guidelines*.
- An EIP participant farmer's experience of implementing the whole farm 'scoring' system, and,
- How the *Irish Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (IPoMS)* is shaping our understanding on Irish Farms.

The webinar will feature an update from Dr Saorla Kavanagh Project Manager on the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP, Dr Michelle Larkin on evidence emerging from the Irish Pollinator Monitoring Scheme and a farmer participant in the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP.

Agenda and Speaker Details

- Introduction: Martin Hofler, Sustainability Partnership Manager at Bord Bia
- Dr Saorla Kavanagh, Project Manager, 'Protecting Farmland Pollinators' – developing a whole farm scoring system for farmer suppliers
- Dr Michelle Larkin, Project Manager, Irish Pollinator Monitoring Scheme
- Farmer – confirmed.

BOOK HERE



An initiative by

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

WEBINAR BOOKING LINK

DRIVING BIODIVERSITY MEASUREMENT:

Are pollinators thriving on your business site?

FIT Counts are a really important way to help us monitor pollinator activity and is one of the simplest recording initiatives available. It will help you track what is happening on your business site(s). Maybe invite employees to conduct FIT Counts on your site or in their gardens?

3 Steps to a FIT Count:

- (1) Download the free [FIT Count App](#)
- (2) Watch a 50x50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes, and,
- (3) Count how many insects visit.

- N.B. A FIT Count can be carried out anywhere, and on any flower.
- In the month of JULY, it is especially useful to carry out FIT Counts on **Bramble** or **Hogweed** (one of our 15 target flowers), however, you can conduct it on other flowers too.
- In 2022, the average number of insects recorded on a FIT Count was 8.
- Don't forget, ALL submissions are validated.

Already measuring pollinators?

Why not participate in the National Biodiversity Data Centre's *Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme* (LINK below)?

Keen to measure the efficacy of [AIPP evidence-based actions](#) on your business site?

- COMMISSION a [Baseline Ecological Survey](#) and repeat every 3 or 5 years.
- INVITE employees to participate in the [Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme](#).
- 'LOCATE' species on/adjacent to your site [Maps - Biodiversity Maps \(biodiversityireland.ie\)](#)
- MANAGE and map invasive species on your site via www.invasives.ie

Pollinator monitoring: Flower-Insect Timed Counts (FIT Counts)

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/fit-counts/>

Watch a 50cm x 50cm patch of flowers for 10 minutes and count how many insects visit.
This scheme runs from April until September

JULY

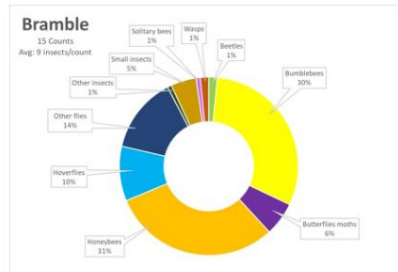
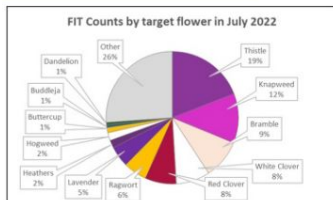
Target Flowers: This month please try to carry out FIT Counts on **Bramble** or **Hogweed**. Other good target flowers are Lavender, Knapweed, Ragwort, White Dead-nettle, White Clover, Red Clover, Buddleja, Heathers, Thistle.



July 2022

Total number of FIT Counts 157

Average insects/FIT Count 9.0



Based on the 2022 data, bumblebees & honey bees were by far the most common visitors to Bramble last July



Bumblebee on Bramble (Áine Fenner)

FIT Count website

Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

IN OTHER NEWS

INGENIOUS POLLINATOR-FORAGING NETWORK MAP

Carlow County Council recently adopted their *County Carlow Green Infrastructure Strategy*, which contained an ingenious and novel approach to managing urban pollinator foraging networks. The approach is based on the policy that: “*No pollinator in County Carlow’s towns and villages will have to travel more than 200 metres in order to find a food source*”. The approach resulted in the production of a pollinator foraging map. It is being trialed in Carlow Town initially, with a view to replicating in all other towns and villages. We hope that others will be inspired by their innovative approach. [READ THE BLOG](#) by Shane Casey, Environmental Awareness Officer, Carlow County Council.

- DISCOVER how you might engage with your local [Council](#) and/or [community](#) to support pollinators. Encourage employee volunteering or provide sponsorship for a mapping exercise.

THRIVING RARE WILD BEES IN WATERFORD LONG-FLOWERING MEADOW

Native meadows are an incredibly important habitat for biodiversity. We know that creating and managing these meadows is one of the most challenging actions you can take as a business - [REVIEW our recently published meadow guide](#) to help. However, if you choose an appropriate initial location on your business site(s), and manage correctly throughout the year, the positive impact on pollinators and other biodiversity can be enormous. [READ THE BLOG](#) on the excellent meadows in Tramore, County Waterford already supporting rare pollinators.

- Consider habitat-development for the [Large Carder Bee](#) on your business site and invite/sponsor business neighbours to join you? [READ MORE](#) on how Sustainable Skerries has extended habitat for this beautiful rare pollinator within a period of two years. N.B. email Sarah Kelly skelly@biodiversityireland.ie to verify your location for this habitat development initiative.

MATCH POINT: #NoMowMay = Orchid delight at Trinity College Dublin

This year, Trinity College Dublin enthusiastically embraced #NoMowMay, and were blown away by what popped up when they temporarily stopped mowing several of their lawns in May and June. The most thrilling of more than 30 species to emerge from the usually closely mown lawns in Parliament Square (the two lawns just inside the Front Gate of Trinity, each with a *Birch* tree at the centre) is a rare orchid, the *Broad-leaved Helleborine!*

- [READ Prof. Jane Stout's BLOG.](#)

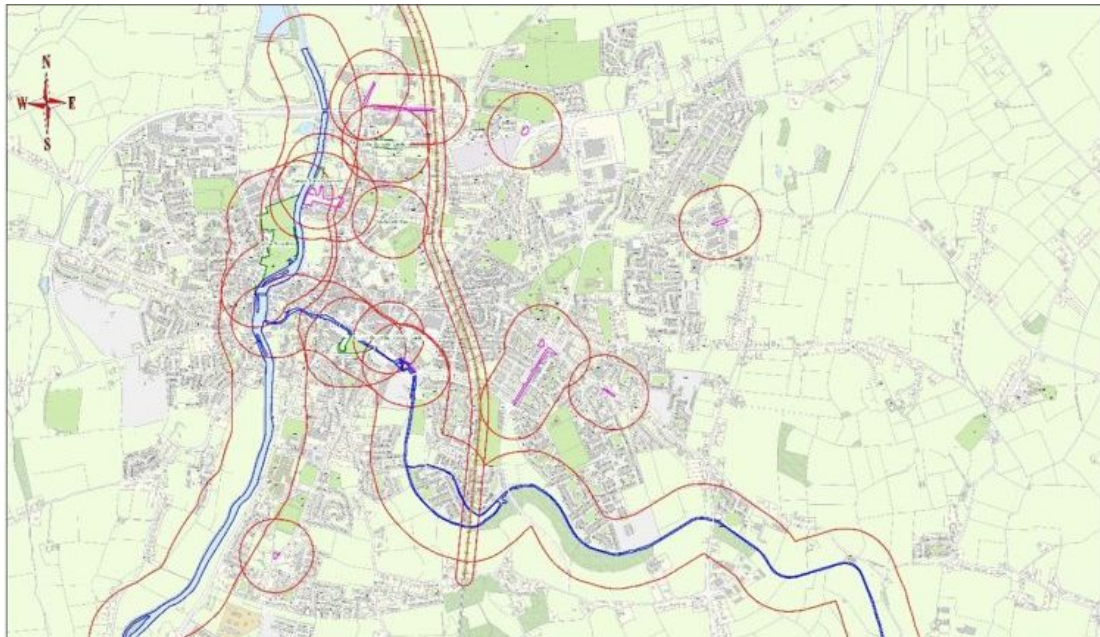
& continuing on the Orchid-Theme: Why not submit a *Bee Orchid* record?

As a result of #NoMowMay, we've had many emails from people who have spotted another type of orchid, Bee Orchids, for the first time on their business sites, around their local communities and in their gardens. If you're aware of Bee Orchids in 2023, please submit the record to the *National Biodiversity Data Centre*. The return of this beautiful native Orchid is symbolic of how easy it can be to help biodiversity by choosing the right actions.

- [SUBMIT BEE ORCHID SIGHTINGS HERE](#)

NEW Business Supporters Resources section on www.pollinators.ie

As a business supporter you will be: 1) Following the suggested evidence-based actions listed **A-F** in the *Businesses: actions to help pollinators* guidelines, aligned to ISO14001:2015 and currently being updated. If you, or your Landscape Contractor/Grounds Maintenance company are working on a specific area of habitat development e.g. Native hedgerow management or Meadow management then there are supporting resources to help in your decision making/management of those habitats. [REVIEW RESOURCES](#)



[READ MORE](#)

[SUBMIT bee orchid sightings - from your business site](#)

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