

ALL-IRELAND Pollinator Plan 2026-2030

Dr Sarah Larragy

Programme Manager of the
All-Ireland Pollinator Plan,
National Biodiversity Data Centre



An tIonad Náisiúnta
Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta
National Biodiversity
Data Centre



Shared Island
Initiative



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

pollinators.ie

biodiversityireland.ie

Overview of webinar:



Who are our pollinators?



What is the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan?



The next phase: AIPP 2026-2030

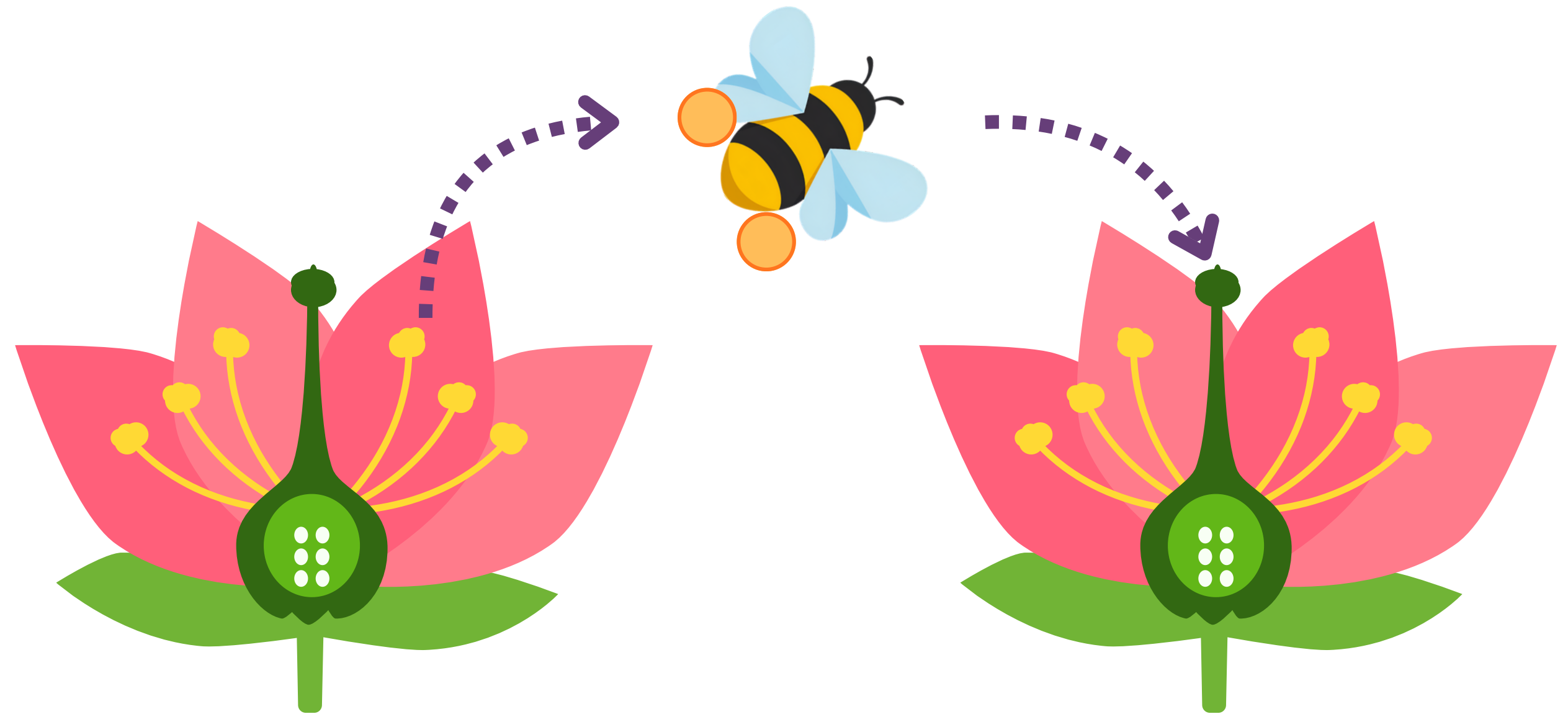


How you can get involved!

What is a pollinator?

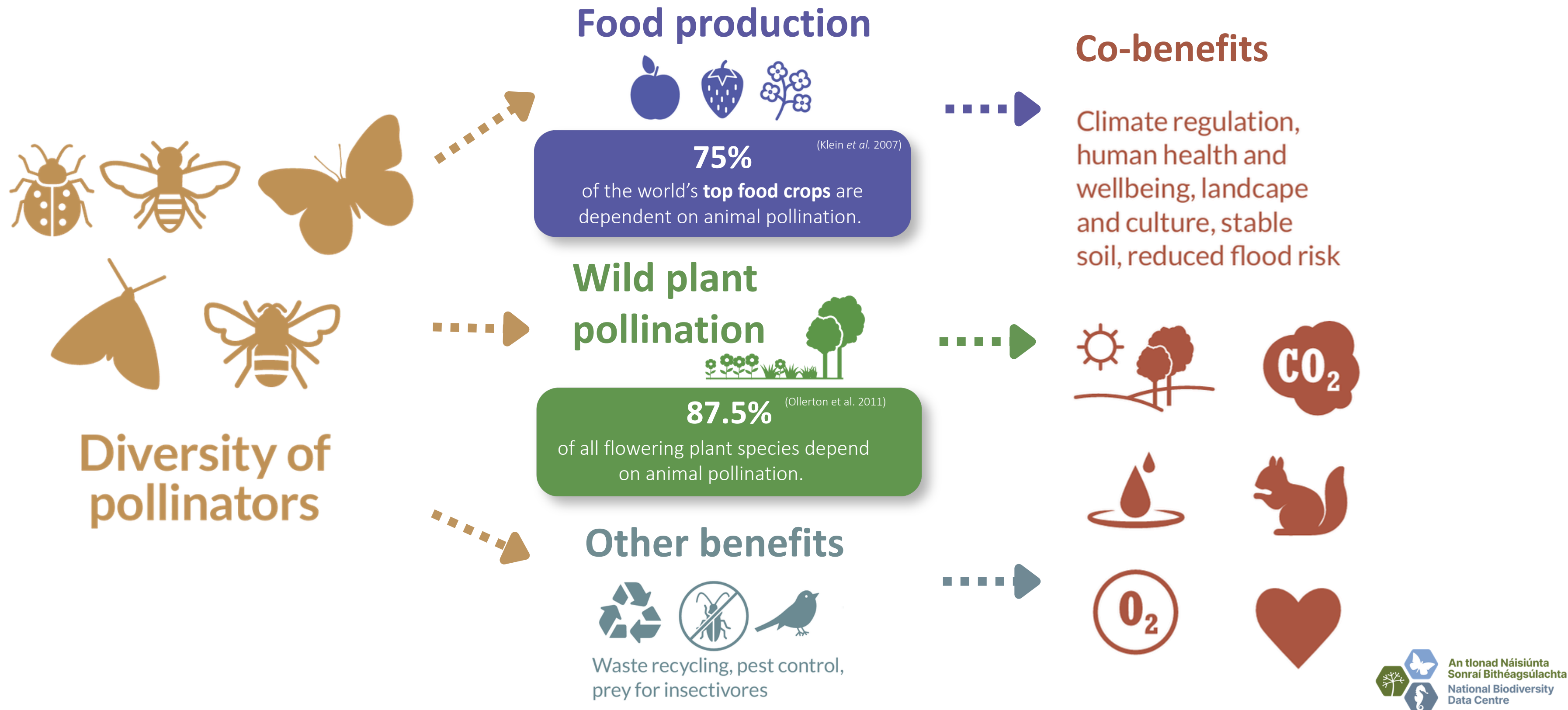


Sarah Larragy



Pollination: Biological process in which pollen is transferred from the male anther of one flower to the female stigma of another flower.

Why do we need pollinators?





The entire life cycle of bees is dependent on pollen and nectar provided by flowering plants!

Bees



Honeybee



1 species

- Social bees, mainly managed by beekeepers.
- Some free-living colonies.

Bumblebees



21 species

- Social bees, nest in or on the ground e.g. old rodent burrows, long grass.
- Don't make honey, only ever a few days away from starvation.

A female solitary bee will only travel ~200m from her nest to collect resources!

Solitary bees



81 species

- Not social - each female makes her own nest.
- Ground or cavity nesting.
- Diverse, many colours & sizes!

Hoverflies

180 species



- Adult hoverflies feed mainly on nectar and pollen.
- Larvae of many species are predators of aphids & other pests!

Moths

1,500 species



- Adults feed on nectar
- Essential nocturnal pollinators
- Visiting a wide diversity of plants that might be missed by the day shift!

Other insects



- E.g. butterflies (35 species), beetles, wasps and ants.
- Frequent flower visitors, don't always successfully pollinate.

Pollinators are in decline

- **Over half** of our bee species have undergone substantial declines since 1980 *(FitzPatrick et al. 2006)*
- Approximately **one-third** of our 102 wild bee species in Ireland are threatened with extinction *(FitzPatrick et al. 2006)*
- **Key drivers of decline:** Habitat loss & fragmentation, pesticide use, climate change and disease spread



What is the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan?

Dr Úna FitzPatrick



Chief Scientific Officer



An tIonad Náisiúnta
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National Biodiversity
Data Centre

Island wide
steering group



Prof Jane Stout



*Professor of Ecology, VP for
Biodiversity and Climate Action*



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Since 2015, implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan has
been coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, (NBDC).

What is the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan?

AIPP vision:

Creating an island where pollinators can survive and thrive.

- Framework brings together all sectors across the island of Ireland - everyone can help!
- Engage & empower society to take actions for pollinators with ultimate goal of reversing their decline.



Progress so far

Two successful phases of AIPP!



Phase 1

2015 - 2020

- 81 actions
- 1 project officer



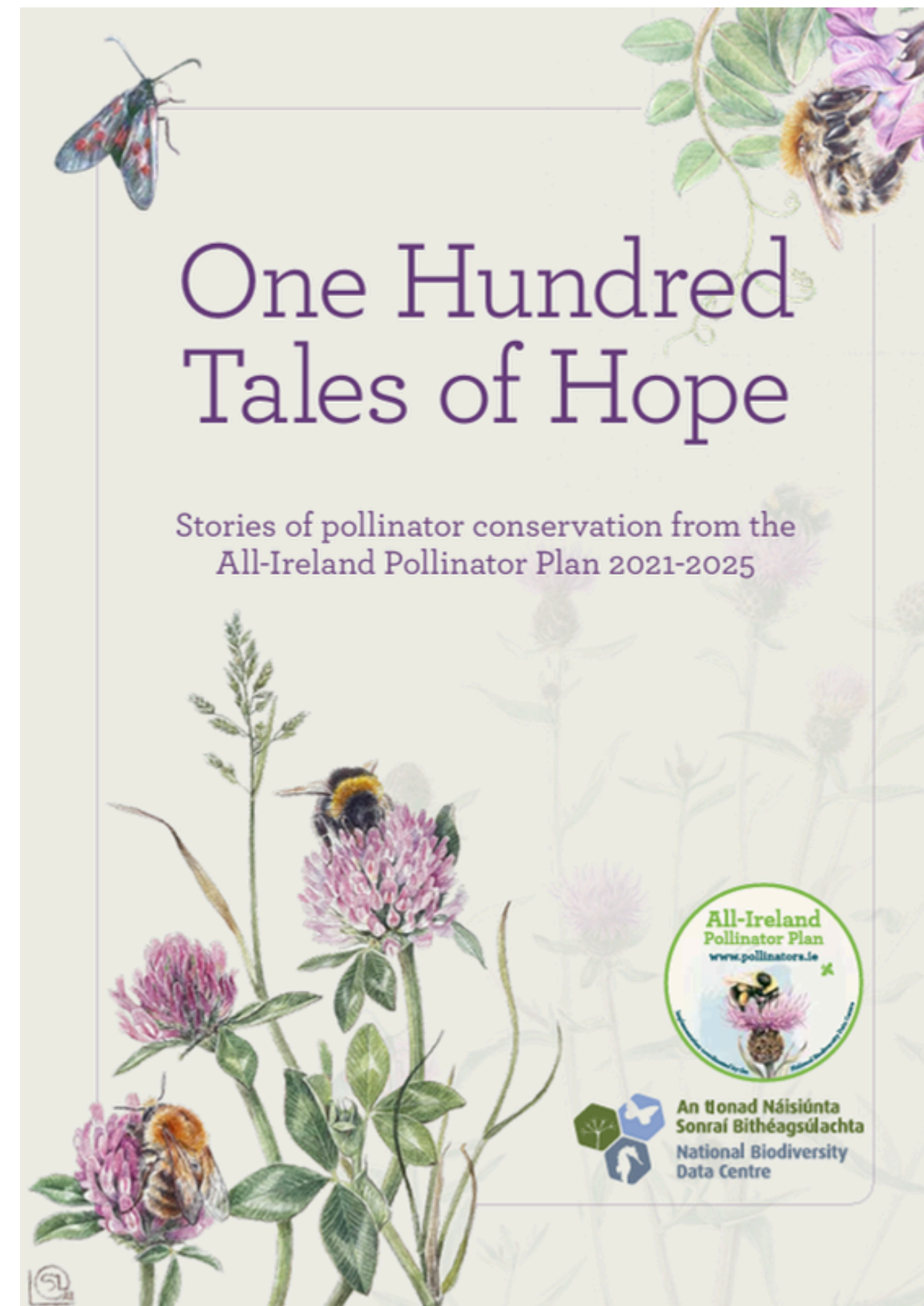
Phase 2

2021 - 2025

- 186 actions
- 3 project officers

By end of 2025:

- **Huge public support for pollinators: 67%** of public interested in learning about AIPP; **84%** felt AIPP needed for 2026-2030
(Nationally representative poll (IE), 2025)
- **200+** local community groups
- **400+** business supporters
- **100%** of Councils as partners
- No. of people recording wild bees up by **300%**
- **5000+** sites logged as pollinator-friendly



Key lessons:

- People care about pollinators
- Importance of accessible, evidence-based guidance on practical, low-cost actions
- Everyone has a role to play
- Partnerships among and between sectors are vital

But we need to do more joining up



Is it working?

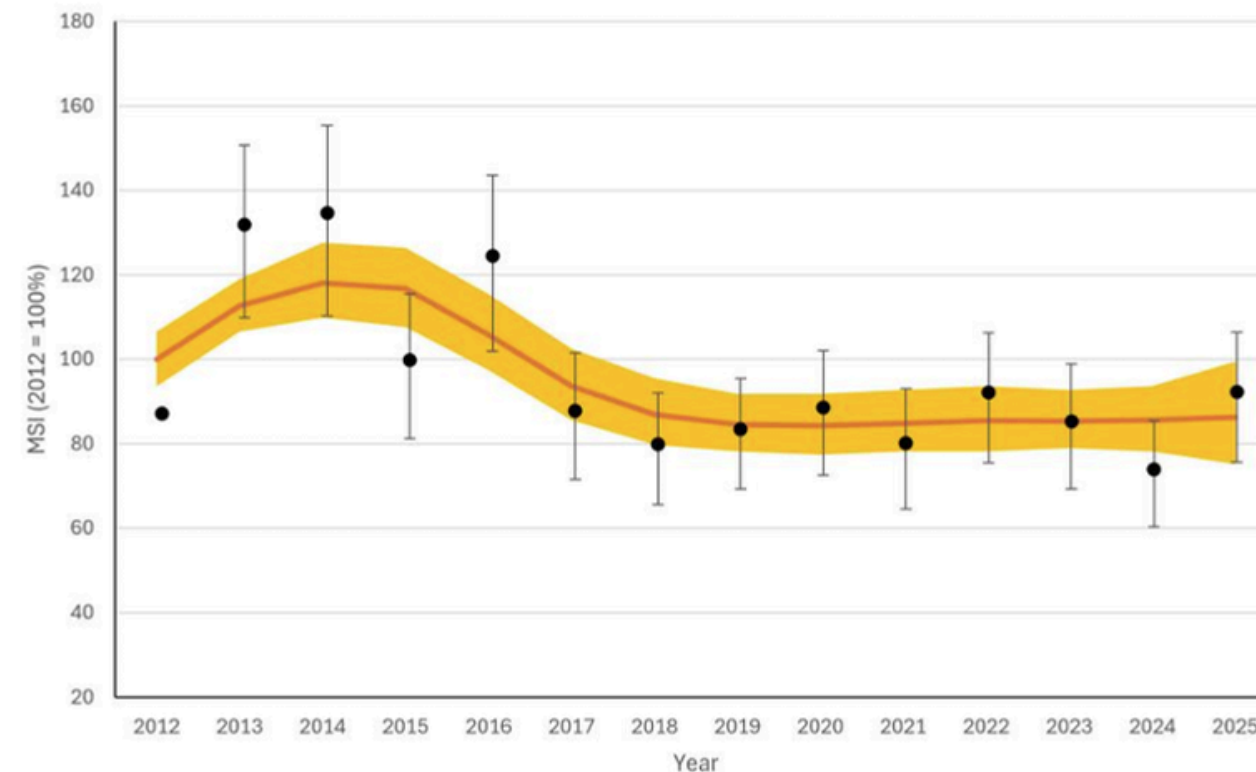
- Data shows bumblebees are still in decline (-2.7% per year) ...

but declines seem to have stabilised over past five years.

- Several species, including common spp., still in decline...

but some positive responses on local scale after action is taken.

Bumblebee population trends 2012-2025



Our goal remains to
reverse this decline

Yes - but we still have to do a lot more.

Policy context

EU Nature Restoration Regulation Article 10

Member States shall, by putting in place in a timely manner appropriate and effective measures, improve pollinator diversity and **reverse the decline of pollinator populations at the latest by 2030** and thereafter achieve an increasing trend of pollinator populations, measured at least every six years from 2030, until satisfactory levels are achieved, as set in accordance with Article 14(5).

NI Environmental Improvement Plan (Environment Act 2021)

Develop and implement nature recovery plans and programmes, including for priority species; with **the vision of biodiversity loss halted and reversed**, real and measurable gains in biodiversity, habitats and species at favourable status.

What does this mean for AIPP?

- **Stop the decline of pollinator populations by 2030** and get their numbers increasing again (diversity & abundance).
- **Create and restore habitats** across the landscape to support healthy pollinator populations have enough food, shelter and places to nest.
- Show evidence that actions are working by **standardised monitoring of pollinators** and reporting progress



The AIPP is the key mechanism for delivering, coordinating and reporting on pollinator recovery across both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.

Public consultation

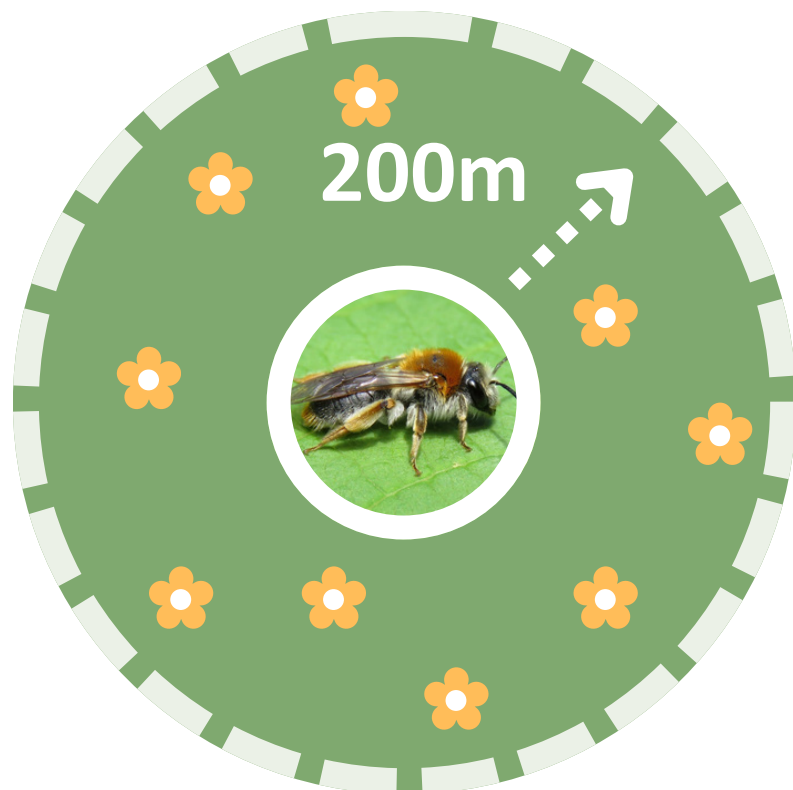
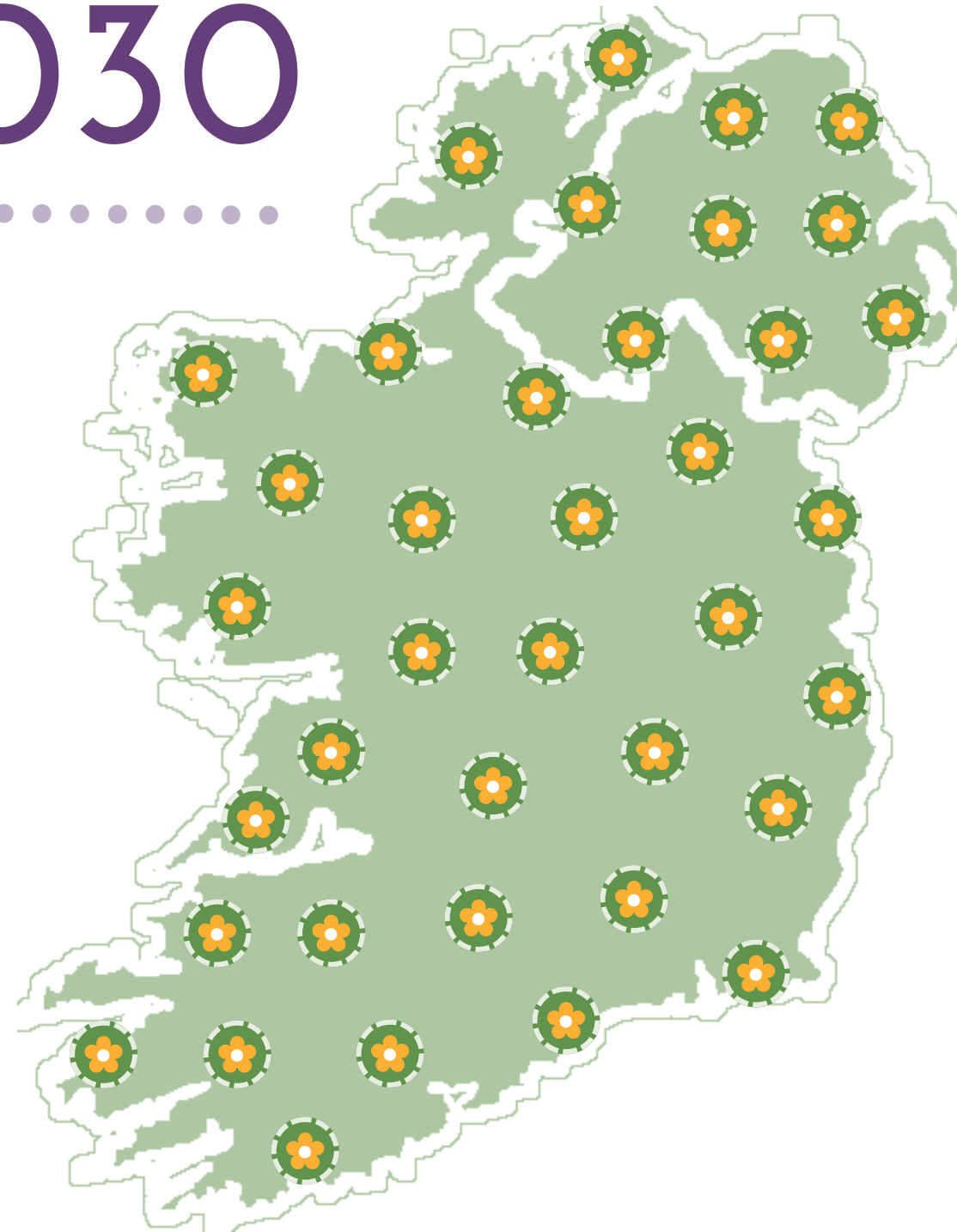
- Consultations began in December 2024.
- All sectors including current partners and key stakeholder groups, across both jurisdictions.
- Public survey took place from early January to June 2025.
- Strong support for moving towards a structure with different work packages form a coherent plan.



AIPP: 2026 - 2030

Overall vision for 2026-2030

Creating an island with pockets of
nature every 200 metres



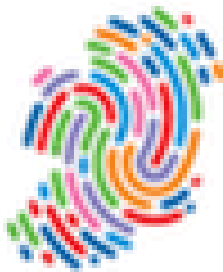
*A female solitary bee will not fly further than 200m
from her nest to find food*



Funding was granted at the end of 2025



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Government of Ireland



**Shared Island
Initiative**



NPWS

**An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúla**
National Parks and Wildlife Service



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture
Food and the Marine



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency



**An tIonad Náisiúnta
Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta**
National Biodiversity
Data Centre

Officially launched 9th July 2026



- **Andrew Muir**, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, NI
- **Christopher O'Sullivan**, TD Minister for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, ROI

Dermot Byrne Photography

Steering group



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An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

afbi AGRI-FOOD
& BIOSCIENCES
INSTITUTE



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

NI  **A** Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Biodiversity Officer, NI



DAERA

Department of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs

An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí
Tuaithe

Department o' Fairmin,
Environment an' Kintra
Matthers

www.daera-ni.gov.uk



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife
Service



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



CEDAR

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
DATA & RECORDING

**NATIONAL
MUSEUMS NI**



Bonneagar Iompair Éireann
Transport Infrastructure Ireland



**Ulster
Wildlife**

Honey Bee
steering group



An tIonad Náisiúnta
Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta
National Biodiversity
Data Centre

AIPP: 2026 - 2030

10

work packages

50

strategic aims

75

success metrics
(reported on annually)

- Builds on the lessons of the last ten years
- On publication, it is supported by 130 partners, of which 32 are new organisations



AIPP Partner organisations

AIPP 2026-2030 partner organisations: National Biodiversity Data Centre | Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) | An Post (semi-state) | An Taisce | Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council | Ards and North Down Borough Council | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council | Association of Landscape Contractors (ALCI) | Belfast City Council | BirdWatch Ireland | BnM (semi-state) | Bord Bia Origin Green | British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Northern Ireland | Buglife | Business for Biodiversity Ireland (BFBI) | Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) | Business in the Community Northern Ireland (BITCNI) | Butterfly Conservation Northern Ireland | Carlow County Council | Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council | Cavan County Council | Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) | Chambers Ireland | Clare County Council | College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) | Community Gardens Ireland (CGI) | Cork City Council | Cork County Council | Courts Service | DAA | Dark Sky Ireland | Department for Infrastructure Northern Ireland (DfI) | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) | Department of Education and Youth | Derry City and Strabane District Council | Donegal County Council | Dublin City Council | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council | Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) | Eco-Congregation Ireland | EirGrid | Electricity Supply Board (ESB) | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | Failte Ireland | FarmBioNet | Farming for Nature | Federation of Irish Beekeepers' Associations (FIBKA) | Fermanagh and Omagh District Council | Fingal County Council | GAA | Galway City Council | Galway County Council | Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) | GIY | Green-Campus Ireland | Green-Schools | Hedgerows Ireland | Heritage in Schools | Housing Executive Northern Ireland | Iarnród Éireann (IE) | Irish Beekeepers' Association CLG (IBA CLG) | Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) | Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) | Irish Men's Sheds Association | Irish Organic Association (IOA) | Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) | Irish Schools Sustainability Network (ISSN) | Irish Seed Savers | Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT) | Kerry County Council | Kildare County Council | Kilkeny County Council | Land Development Agency | Laois County Council | Leitrim County Council | Limerick City & County Council | Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council | Live Here Love Here | Longford County Council | Louth County Council | Maynooth University | Mayo County Council | Meath County Council | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council | Mid Ulster District Council | Monaghan County Council | MPA Northern Ireland | National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) | National Museum of Ireland (Natural History) | National Museums Northern Ireland | National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) | National Transport Authority (NTA) | National Trust | Native Irish Honey Bee Society (NIHBS) | Native Woodland Trust | Newry, Mourne and Down District Council | Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) | Northern Ireland Water | Offaly County Council | Office of Public Works (OPW) | Organic Trust | Roscommon County Council | Shannon Airport Group | Sligo County Council | South Dublin County Council | State Examinations Commission | Sustainable Tourism Network | Teagasc | Teagasc Research | The Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland | The Heritage Council | Tidy Towns Unit | Tipperary County Council | Translink | Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) | Trinity College Dublin | Uisce Éireann | Ulster Beekeepers' Association (UBKA) | Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) | Ulster Wildlife | University College Cork | University College Dublin | University of Galway | Waterford City and County Council | Waterways Ireland | Westmeath County Council | Wexford County Council | Wexford Naturalists' Field Club (WNFC) | Wicklow County Council

~130 partners to AIPP 2026-2030 - new partners can join at any time!



Meet the team

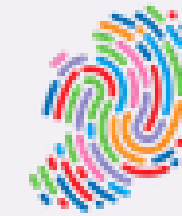


2026 - 2030

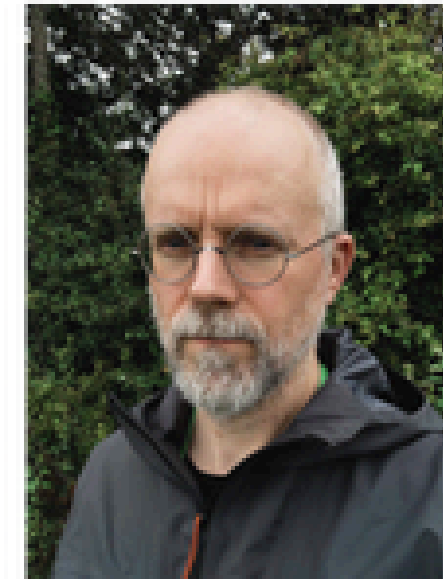
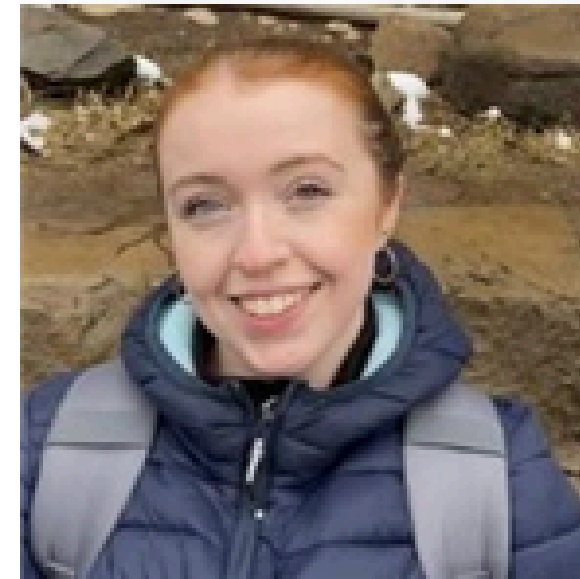
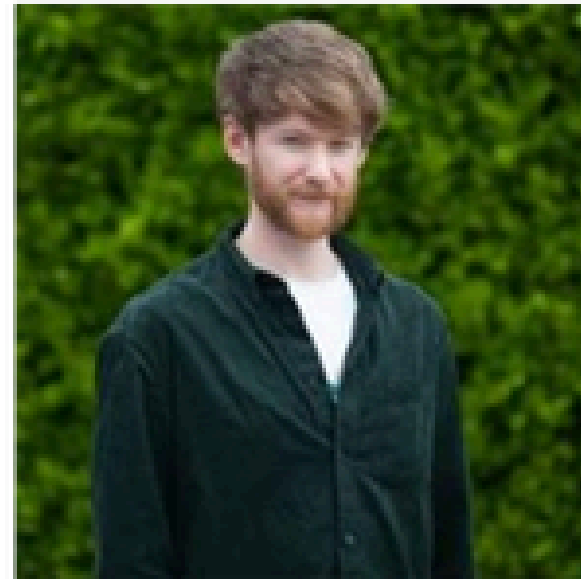
- Dedicated team of eight in NBDC



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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



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10

work packages

ALL-IRELAND Pollinator Plan 2026-2030



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strategic aims

75

success metrics
(reported on annually)

CORE

01

Protecting
Farmland
Pollinators

Harry Nugent

04

Buzzing
Communities

Martin Fitzpatrick

02

Local
authorities and
public bodies

Réamair Mathers

05

Encouraging
Businesses to
Protect
Pollinators

Applegreen Kinnegad

03

Transport
authorities and
utility
companies

Una FitzPatrick

06

Pollinators on
the Edge

Steven Falk

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Pollinators on
the Edge

CROSS-CUTTING

07

Mapping Pollinator Action across
All Sectors

08

Monitoring the Status of Pollinators

09

Research

10

Raising awareness of pollinators
and inspiring collective action

CORE

01

Protecting
Farmland
Pollinators

01. Protecting Farmland Pollinators

Developed in collaboration with farmers during
& after Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DATA CENTRE

Farmland Pollinator Tool

Assess how pollinator-friendly your farm is with this evidence-based tool:

- Completing the Farmland Pollinator Tool should take no more than 15 minutes.
- Answers can be provided in either hectares (and km), or acres (and miles).
- Enter the area of your farm, this value will establish targets for your farm which will be used to generate your score.
- Enter the area and distance information as accurately as possible to get the most representative score for your farm. However, if you don't know the exact values, enter estimated values to get an approximate score.
- When you complete the scorecard you will have the option to submit your score.

Start here:

Your farm area: ha **Select:** ☒ Hectares ☐ Acres

Your overall score (max: 100):

Farm supports pollinators: 50+. Farm very pollinator friendly: 70+

0.0



- Farmed land
- Hedgerows and Field Boundaries
- Other habitats and non-farmed areas
- Pesticides and artificial fertilisers

*Self-assessment tool,
scores out of 100*

- 50+ supports pollinators
- 70+ pollinator-friendly



Patrick Doran



Patrick Fitzmaurice



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

02. Local authorities and public bodies

- More support
- More knowledge exchange
- More public bodies on board



Emma King

03. Transport authorities and utility companies

- More knowledge exchange
- Establish connections between the different networks
- Increase area of land being managed for pollinators along routes/lines



04

Buzzing Communities

Martin Fitzpatrick

04 Buzzing Communities

- Create networks of nature-friendly habitat
- Encourage community groups to work together
- Celebrate the role of communities



Kate Chandler

Creating an island with pockets of nature every 200 metres

CORE

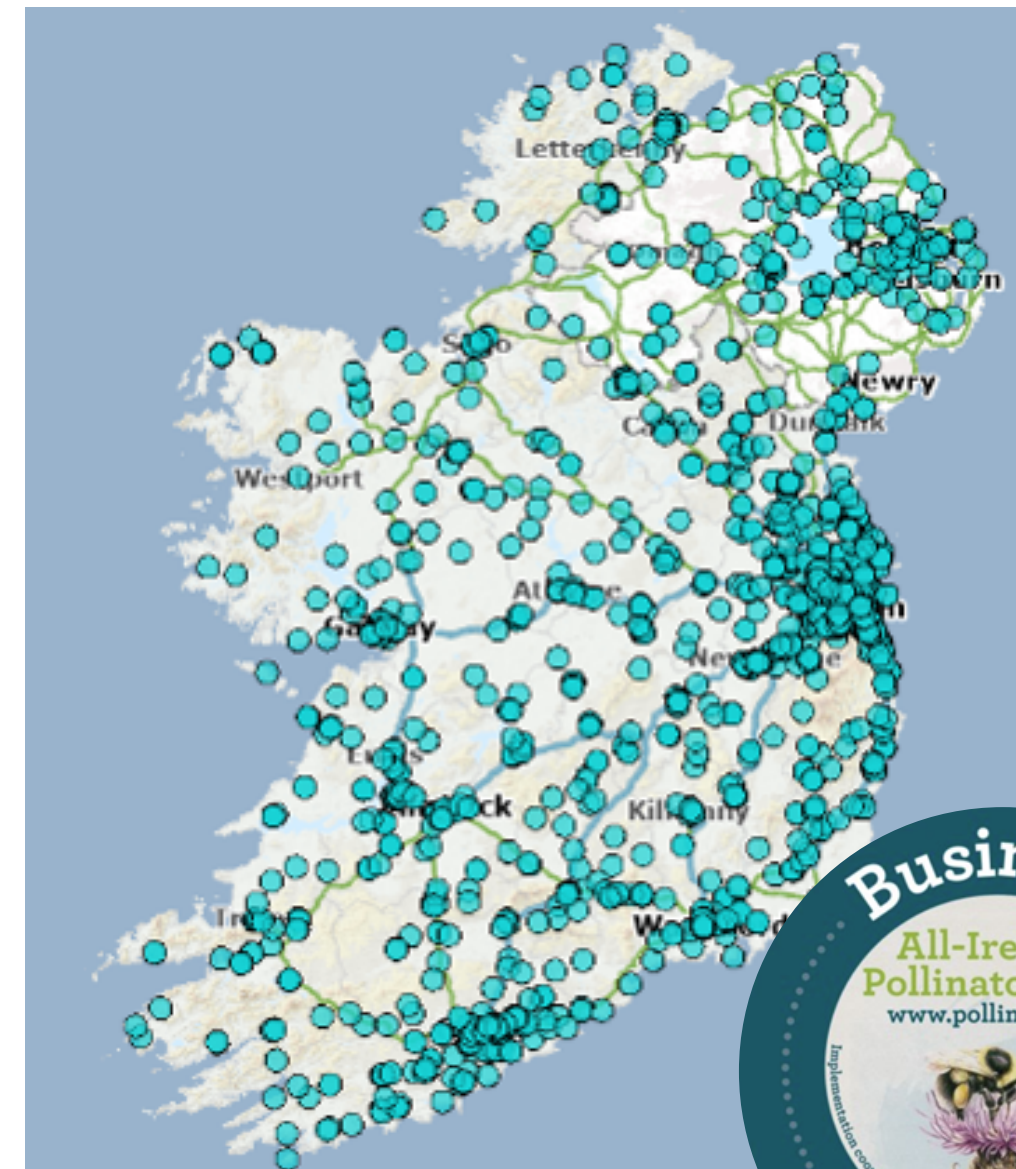
05

Encouraging
Businesses to
Protect
Pollinators

Applegreen Kinnegad

05 Encouraging Businesses to Protect Pollinators

- Get lots more companies involved
- More knowledge exchange
- Promote the role of business supporters



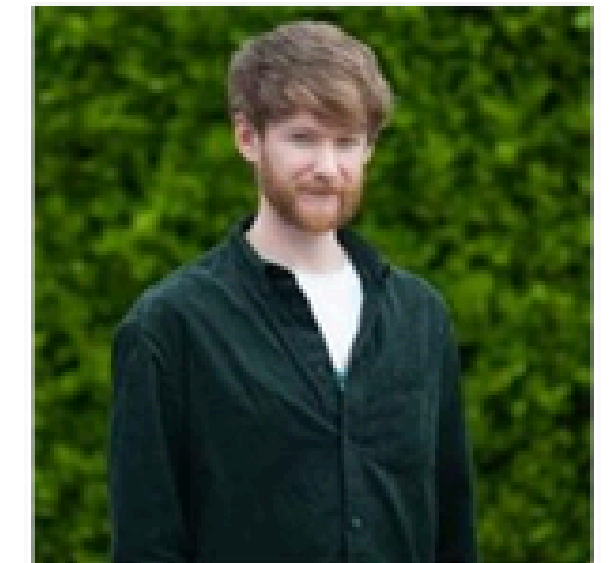
Sarah Kelly



06

Pollinators on the Edge

06 Pollinators on the Edge



Joshua Clarke

- Annual monitoring of our rarest and most threatened species
- Evidence-based guidelines for declining species
- More pollinator-friendly land and Nature Reserves to support threatend species

First sighting of critically endangered bee in 26 years

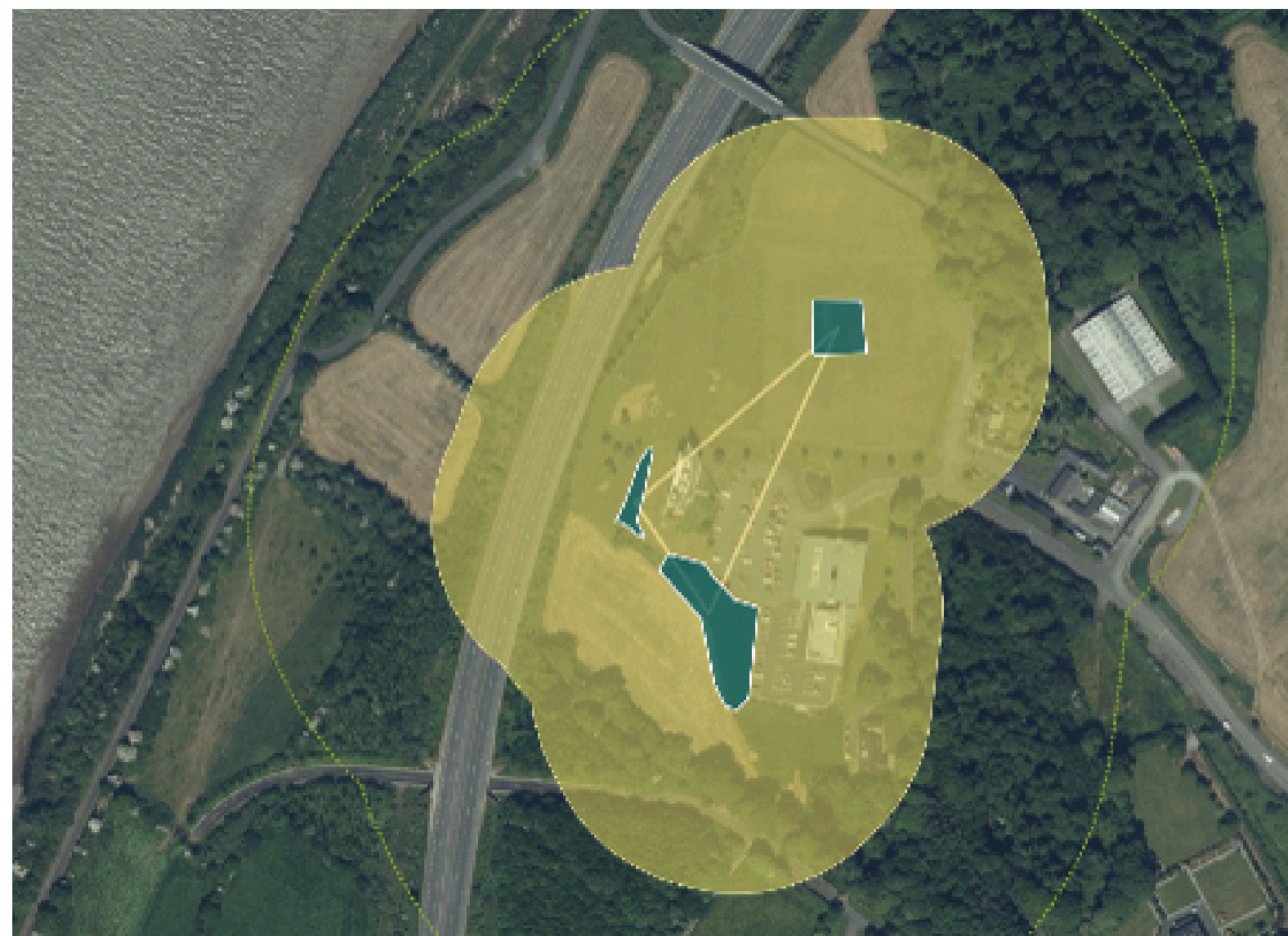
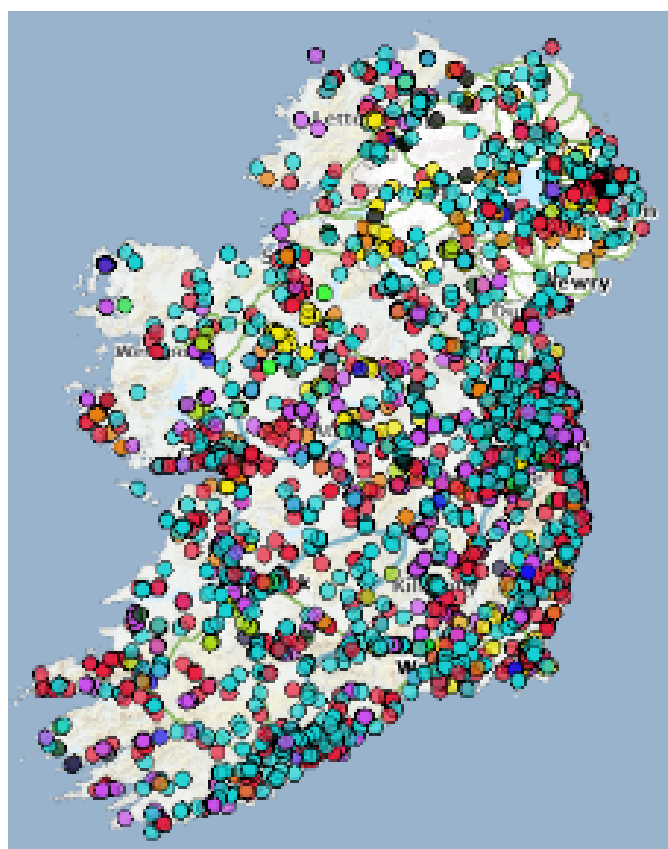


Nomada argentata

07

Mapping
Pollinator
Action across
All Sectors

07 Mapping Pollinator Action across All Sectors



08

Monitoring the
Status of
Pollinators

08 Monitoring the Status of Pollinators

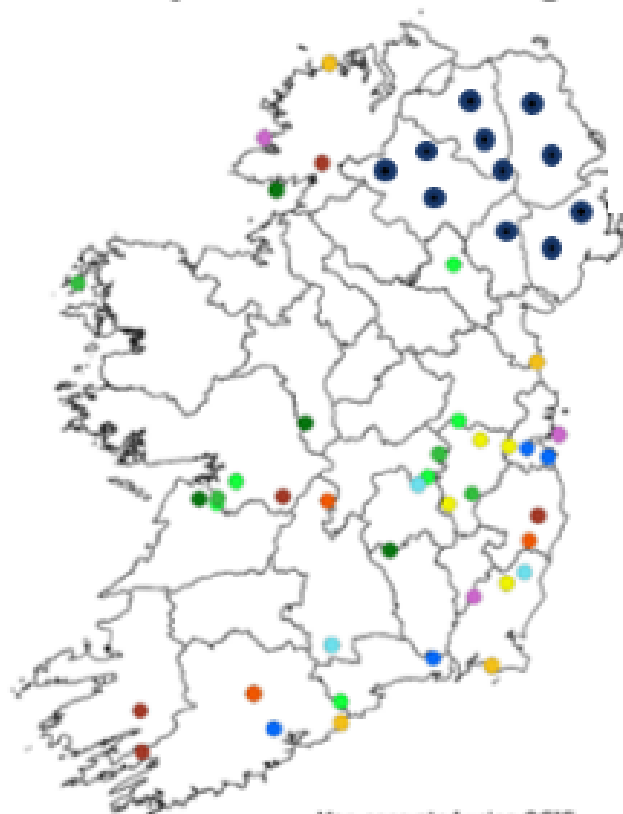


2022-2025 pollinator monitoring sites

Site type

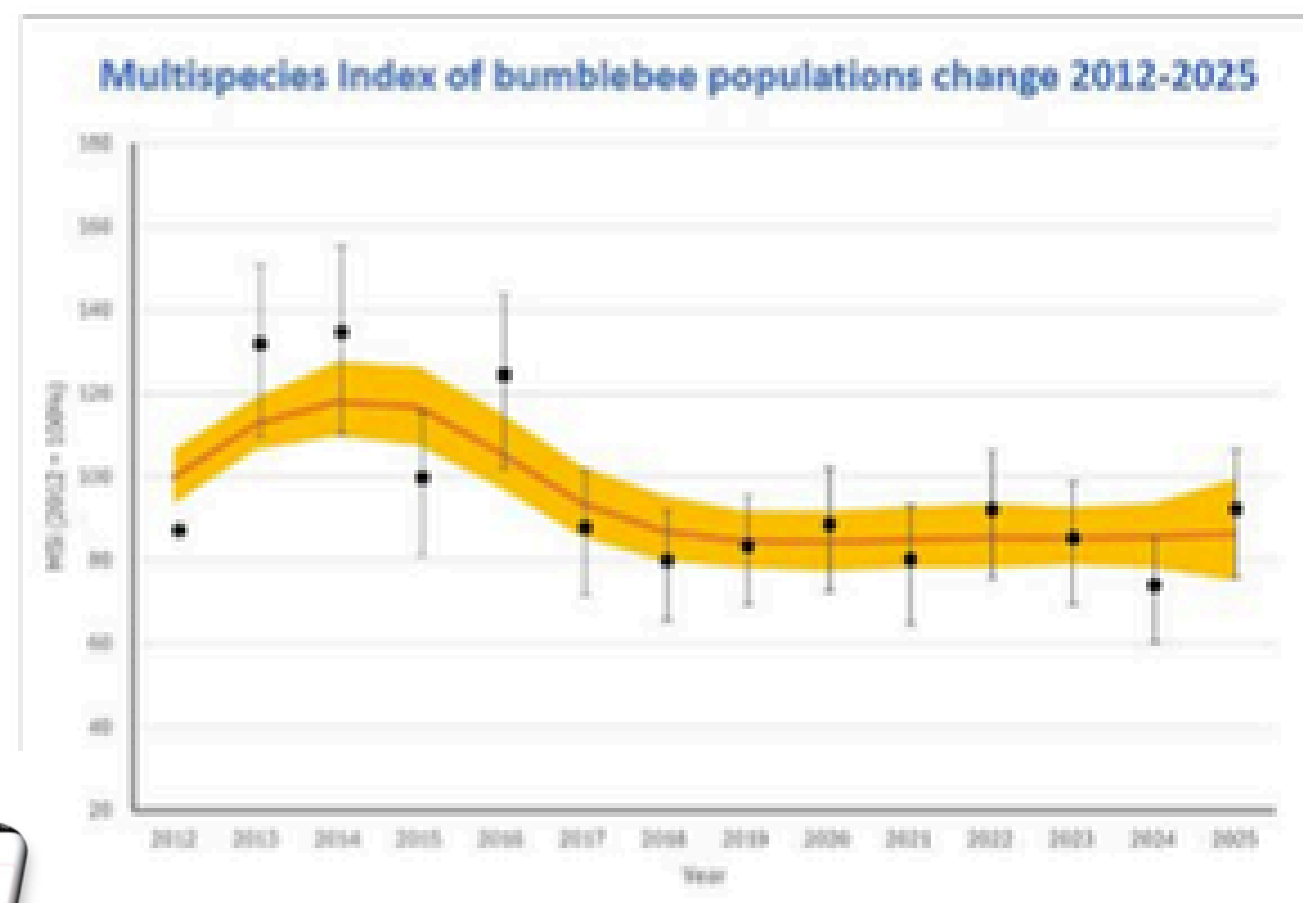
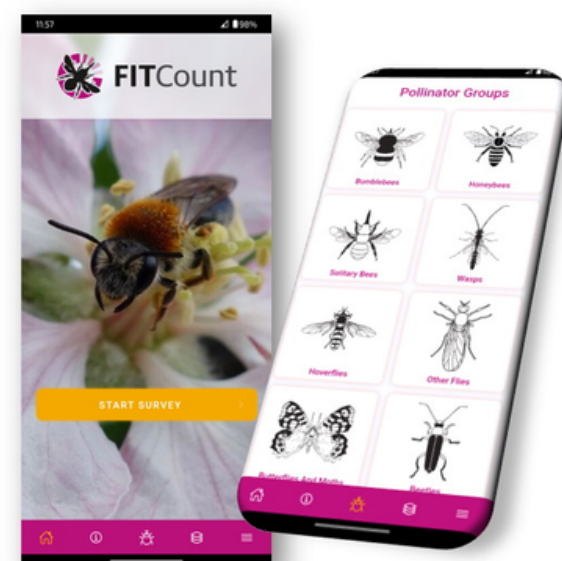
- Dairy farm
- Extensive beef farm
- Intensive beef farm
- Mixed farm
- Tillage
- Grey dune
- Semi-natural grasslands
- Sessile oak woodland
- European dry heath
- Urban park

0 75 150 km

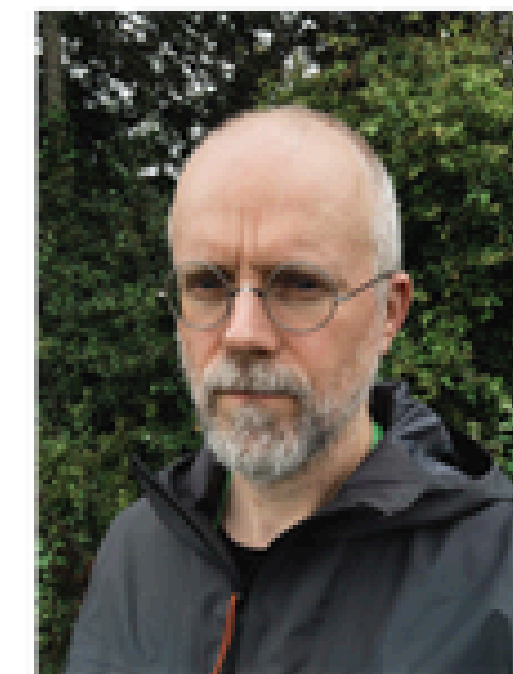


Map generated using QGIS
Desktop version 3.16.11

POMS
UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme



BUMBLEBEE
Monitoring Scheme



Jon Ryder



09 Research

Prof Jane Stout
represents IPRN on AIPP
steering group



- Research-practice dialogues
- Communicate findings in accessible language

Published **76 scientific papers** relevant to
Irish pollinator conservation 2021-2025



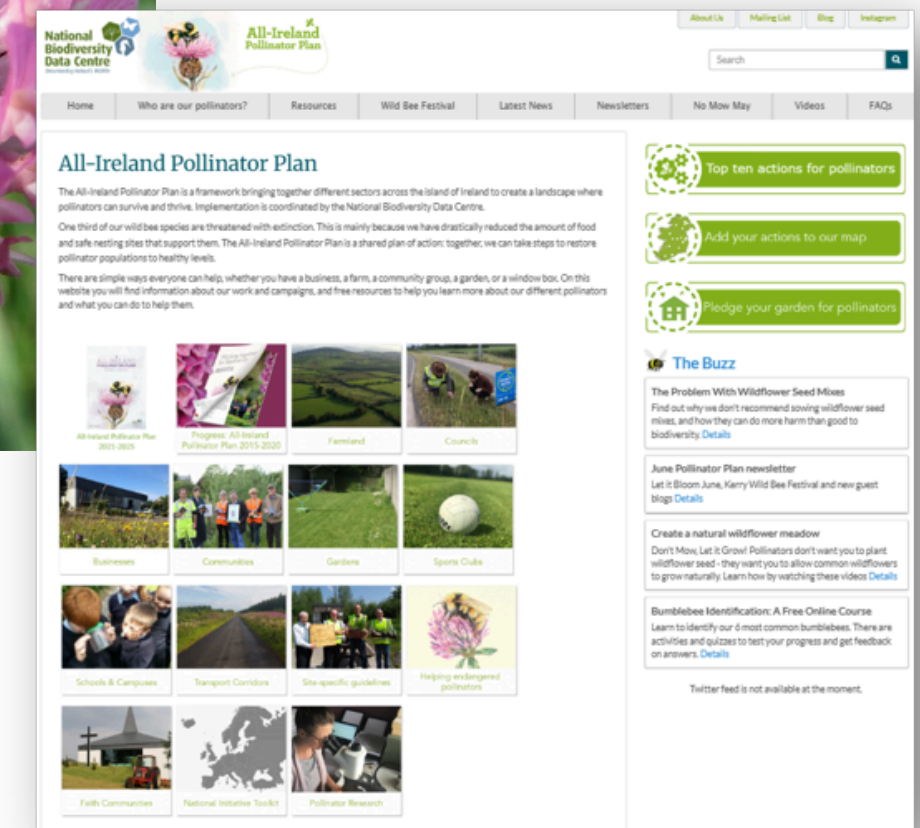
10

Raising awareness of pollinators and inspiring collective action

Jane Powers

10 Raising awareness of pollinators and inspiring collective action

- Increase public understanding of pollinators
- Run series of island wide campaigns
- Continue updating and developing free accessible resources and advice
- Communication across work packages and sectors
- Benefits of pollinator actions for biodiversity, climate and human health and wellbeing



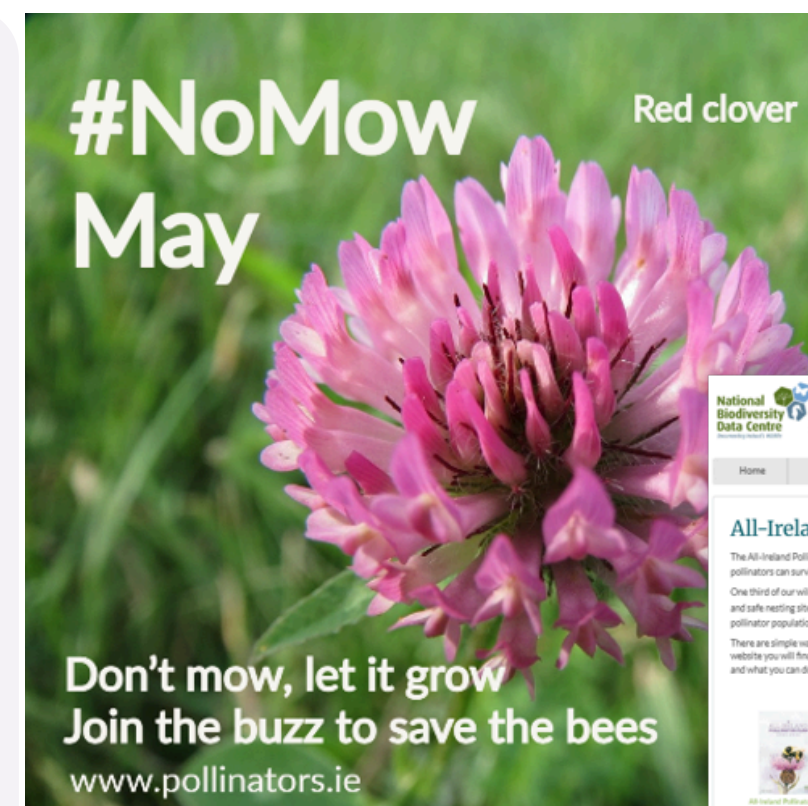
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Raising awareness of pollinators and inspiring collective action

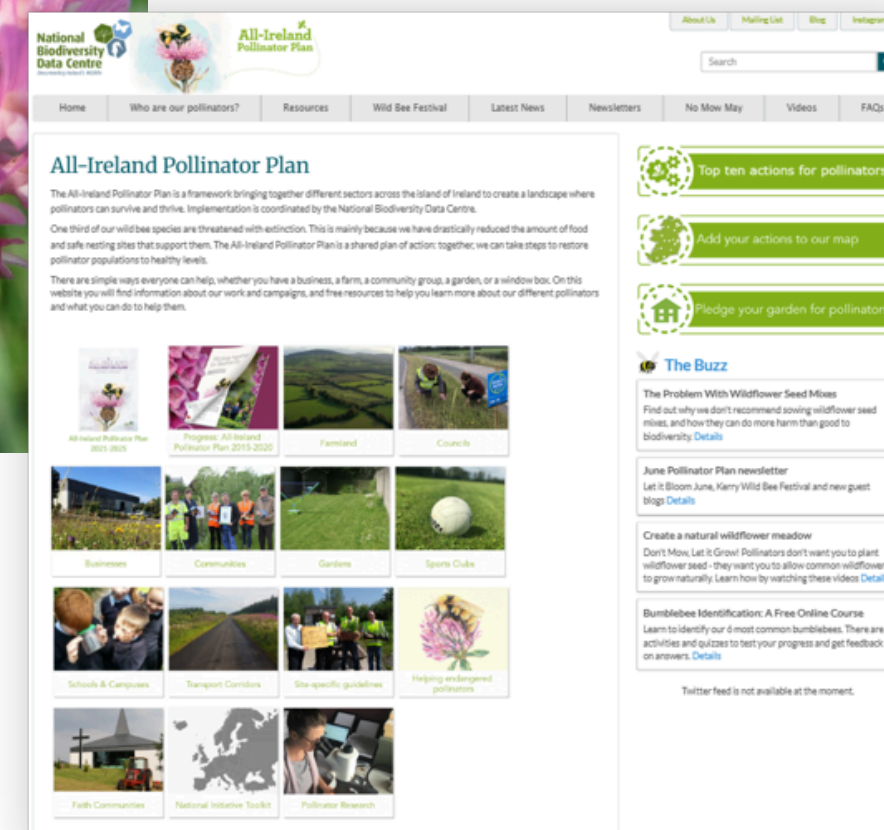
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75
success metrics
(reported on annually)



How to get involved?



Take on-the-ground actions



Get involved in monitoring



Spread the word!

Taking action for pollinators

Where do I start?

pollinators.ie

- ✓ Free
- ✓ Accessible
- ✓ Sector-specific



.. and many more!!!

Taking action for pollinators

What should I plant?

You don't need to plant anything!



***Don't mow,
let it grow!***



Short-flowering meadow

*Cut every 6-weeks
starting mid-April*



Long-flowering meadow

*Cut only once a year
in September*

Reduced mowing allows **native wildflowers** to return **naturally**

Taking action for pollinators

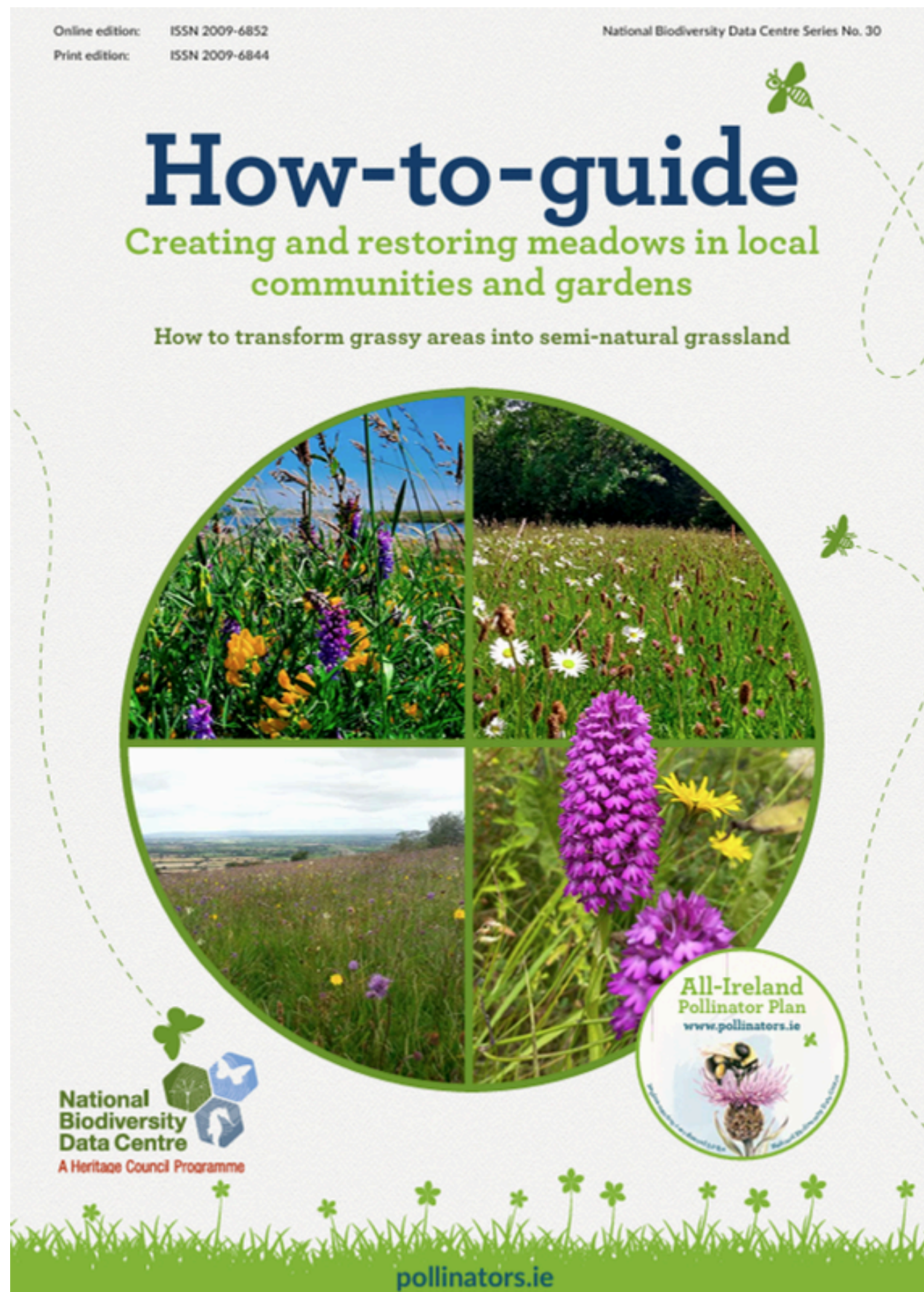
What should I plant?

You don't need to plant anything!



***Don't mow,
let it grow!***





pollinators.ie/resources

Patience, not packets

Progression of the long-flowering meadow at the National Biodiversity Data Centre



Year 1 & 2: very grassy



Years 3-5: becoming more flower rich



Years 3-5: becoming more flower rich



Year 6: the first orchid appeared!



Avoid wildflower seed mixes



Using wildflower seed mixes will not result in species-rich grassland.

Patience, not packets

Progression of the long-flowering meadow at the National Biodiversity Data Centre



Year 1 & 2: very grassy



Years 3-5: becoming more flower rich



Years 3-5: becoming more flower rich



Year 6: the first orchid appeared!

Trees and hedgerows

- Native flowering trees and hedgerows = food & shelter for pollinators, corridors
- Protect existing native trees and hedgerows
- If you have hedgerows - cut on a 3+ year rotation (Sept-March), cut different hedges each year
- If planting, check out our resources for suggestions!

Willow supports 266 insect species.



Thomas Cuffe



Avoid pesticides

.....



Research shows that pesticides can cause sublethal impacts on pollinators & reduce availability of resources

- **Insecticides** - impact learning, navigation and growth/reproduction
- **Herbicides** - reduce availability of flowering resources
- **Fungicides** - can increase the toxicity of certain pesticides, alter gut microbiomes



Pesticides should always be used sparingly and **only when absolutely necessary**, such as in treatment of invasive species, e.g. Japanese Knotweed.

If planting...

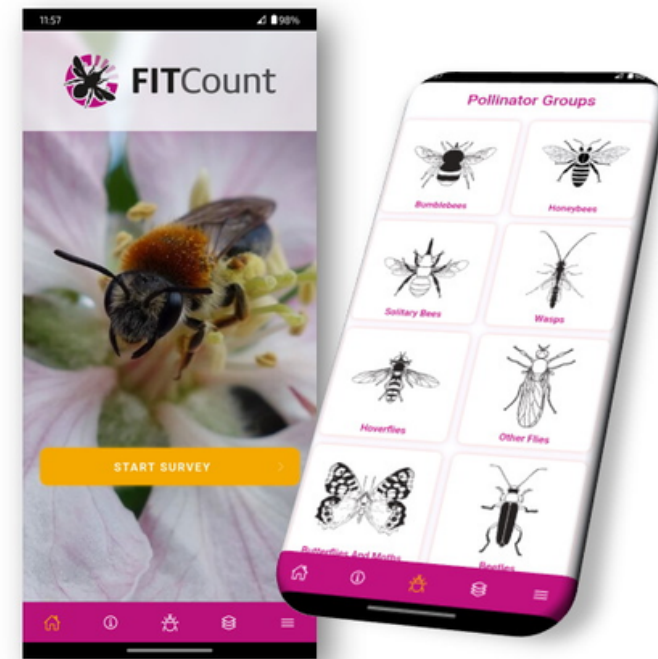
- Pick species that are rich in nectar and pollen
- Pick plants that flower at different times of the year
- Opt for perennials & single blooms



Get involved in pollinator monitoring!

Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count)

No experience
required!



All-Ireland **BUMBLEBEE**
Monitoring Scheme



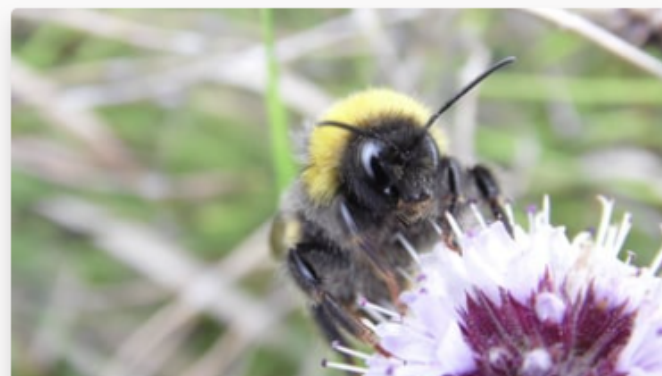
Irish Butterfly
Monitoring Scheme



Garden
Butterfly
Monitoring Scheme



biodiversityireland.ie/monitoring



How to Identify, Record and Monitor Common Irish Bumblebees

Bumblebee Monitoring volunteer, Liz Gabbett,
collaborated with the National Biodiversity
Data Centre ecologists to create an online...

Free



How to identify and record Ireland's butterflies

This is a detailed eCourse for identification of all
of Ireland's butterflies, showing features of
upper and lower wing and any physical...

Free

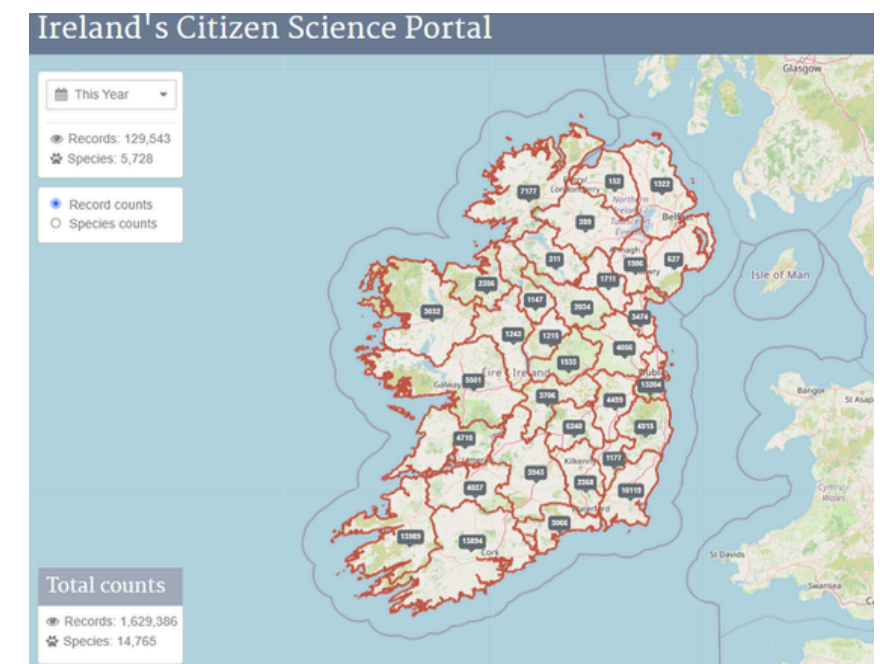


Identifying Ireland's common farmland hoverflies

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

Free

learn.biodiversityireland.ie



records.biodiversityireland.ie

How to communicate the AIPP message!

Many ways to spread the word!

Share resources!



Sign up to the AIPP newsletter!



Newsletter: August 2026

Take part in initiatives



Follow us on socials & share our posts



@allirelandpollinatorplan



BiodiversityIreland



National Biodiversity Data Centre

Some tips

- Get familiar with AIPP advice
- Listen & empathise
- Use signage -
Managed, not neglected!
- Share your stories e.g. with
neighbours, community
events, social media
- Be patient



Thanks so much to all who support

“Across the island, the seeds of change have been planted, but they need to be nurtured and protected, and we need to plant many more... If the last 10 years have taught us anything, it is that by working together, we can create a brighter future for nature and for ourselves.”



Shared Island Initiative



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



**Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency**



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



**An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra**
National Parks and Wildlife Service



**An tIonad Náisiúnta
Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta**
**National Biodiversity
Data Centre**

Visit our websites:

Reach out to us at pollinators@biodiversityireland.ie

pollinators.ie

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