

Assessment of Pilot Pollinator Action Areas -July report 2018

1. The Corbally Road Meadow

This site was surveyed again on 13th July 2018. Three additional plant species were added to the June list: common poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) (Fig. 1), quaking grass (*Briza media*) (Fig. 2) and musk mallow (*Malva moschata*). All three were found in area B and were not very common.

All of the grasses, sedges and rushes and some herbaceous dicots (ragged-robin, ox-eye daisy) had finished flowering and had set seed, and in some cases dispersed their seed, a process accelerated by the drought conditions and high temperatures that prevailed from the June sampling date. Thirty-three herbaceous dicot species were in flower (vs. 36 in June), most notably : wild carrot, chicory, knapweed, creeping and common thistle, autumn hawkbit, lady's bedstraw, red bartsia, fleabane, ragwort, teasel and butterfly bush (Table 1) (Figs. 3-12). A number of plant species (purple loosestrife, red and white clovers, bird's-foot trefoil, meadow vetchling and others) showed reduced flowering probably because of soil moisture limitations resulting from drought. On the meadow margins, rosebay willowherb (Fig. 13), butterfly bush, creeping thistle, great willowherb, yarrow (Fig. 14) and hedge and large bindweed were in flower (Fig. 15).

1.1 Value for biodiversity and pollinating insects in July

The drought conditions undoubtedly restricted flowering of pollinator-friendly plants that would be expected to be in flower normally in July (Fig. 16). Nonetheless, five pollinator-friendly species were widely distributed in the meadow in July: wild carrot, chicory, knapweed, creeping and common thistle, and lady's bedstraw. Wild carrot was by far the most abundant of these in area B.

1.2 Recommendations for July management.

- Manual removal of the flowered stalks of docks, taking care not to disperse the seed (Fig. 17), is recommended as soon as possible. Removal of willow saplings is also required as these will grow rapidly and spread by clonal growth.
- A colony of Japanese knotweed in area A should be eradicated.

2. The College Park Meadow.

The range of plant species found here was the same as in the June survey with the addition of common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) in the damper area to the south of the meadow. Creeping and meadow buttercups, white clover and marsh bedstraw were still in flower. The most common flowering plant, particularly in the damper part of the meadow, was tubular water dropwort. Great willowherb was also in flower in places on the margins of the meadow. The impact of the ongoing

drought was not as obvious in the Corbally Park meadow as in the other two sites, probably because of the damper soil.

2.1 Value for biodiversity and pollinating insects in July

Tubular water dropwort (Fig. 18) was the main pollinator-friendly plant species in flower in the meadow in July, and this is confined to the southern half of the meadow. This plant is likely to be more valuable as a nectar source to hoverflies, solitary bees and beetles than to the larger bee species.

2.3 Recommendations for July

Some casual dumping of garden waste (hedge and grass clippings) is occurring in the main meadow (Fig. 19, 20). This will have a negative impact on the meadow and should be discouraged. A management plan for the meadow needs to be drawn up which incorporates the recommendations listed in the June report (Sect. 2.3). The value of the meadow as a biodiversity resource should be highlighted by signage and information fliers to the local community. The management plan should involve local consultation in order to find the optimum balance between amenity use of the meadow and sustaining its biodiversity value.

3. Childers Road site

Many of the pollinator-friendly herbaceous perennials, including white and red clover, meadow vetchling, birds-foot trefoil, creeping and meadow buttercups, and oxeye daisy, black medick, which were in flower in the June survey, had largely finished flowering and were in seed, no doubt hastened by the drought conditions which have prevailed since June. The impact of the drought seems to be more severe here, probably because of the nature of the soils, which are shallow and stony for the most part.

Plants coming into flower in July include traveller's joy (Fig. 21), butterfly-bush, honeysuckle, common ragwort, knapweed, rosebay willowherb, fennel (Fig. 22) and teasel. The last species is attractive to a variety of pollinating insects and the seeds are eaten by seed-eating birds such as goldfinches.

3.1 Value for biodiversity and pollinating insects in July

The value of the site to animal diversity has been impacted negatively by the drought, since many pollinator friendly plants have finished flowering prematurely. Nonetheless, the stands of teasel and traveller's joy are a valuable resource to pollinators and other wildlife at this time.

3.2 Recommendations

As for the June report

Table 1. Plant species in flower in Corbally Road, College Park and Childers Road meadow sites on 13th July 2018.

Species	Common Name	Corbally Rd.	College Park	Childers Rd.
Grasses				
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	+	+	+
Herbaceous Perennials				
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	+		+
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's-water-cress		+	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy		+	
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	+	+	+
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Large Bindweed	+		
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	+		+
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian			+
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb	+		+
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	+		
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	+		+
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	+	+	+
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	+		
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel			+
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh-bedstraw	+	+	
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	+		
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan			+
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Square-stalked St John's-wort			
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	+		+
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	+		
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil			
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife	+		
<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	Tubular Water-dropwort		+	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	+		+
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Common Fleabane	+		
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	+	+	+
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	+	+	+
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort	+		
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort	+		+
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort	+	+	+
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	+		+
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	+	+	+
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	+	+	+
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot	+		+
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	+	+	+
Herbaceous Biennials				

<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle			+
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	+		+
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Carrot	+		
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Wild Teasel	+		+
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Common Melilot	+		
Trees and Shrubs				
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush	+		+
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy			+
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	+		+
Annuals				
<i>Brassica rapa</i>	Wild Turnip	+		+
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red Bartsia	+		+
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	+		
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	+		

Fig. 1 Common poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 2. Quaking grass (*Briza media*), Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 3. Wild carrot and chicory, Corbally Road meadow



Fig. 4. Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 5. Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 6. Common thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 7. Lady's bedstraw (*Galium verum*) Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 8. Red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*) Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 9. Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 10. Common ragwort (*Senecio jacobea*) Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 11. Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 12. Butterfly-bush (*Buddleja davidii*), margin of Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 13. Rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), margin of Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 14. Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), margin of Corbally Road meadow.



Fig 15. Large bindweed (*Calystegia silvatica*), margin of Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 16. Drought conditions in area B, Corbally Road meadow, July 13th 2018.



Fig. 17. Curled dock seed head, Corbally Road site.



Fig. 18. College Park meadow with tubular water dropwort in flower in sward, July 2018.



Fig. 19. Dumping of garden waste, College Park Meadow.



Fig. 20. Traveller's joy (*Clematis vitalba*), Childers Road Site.

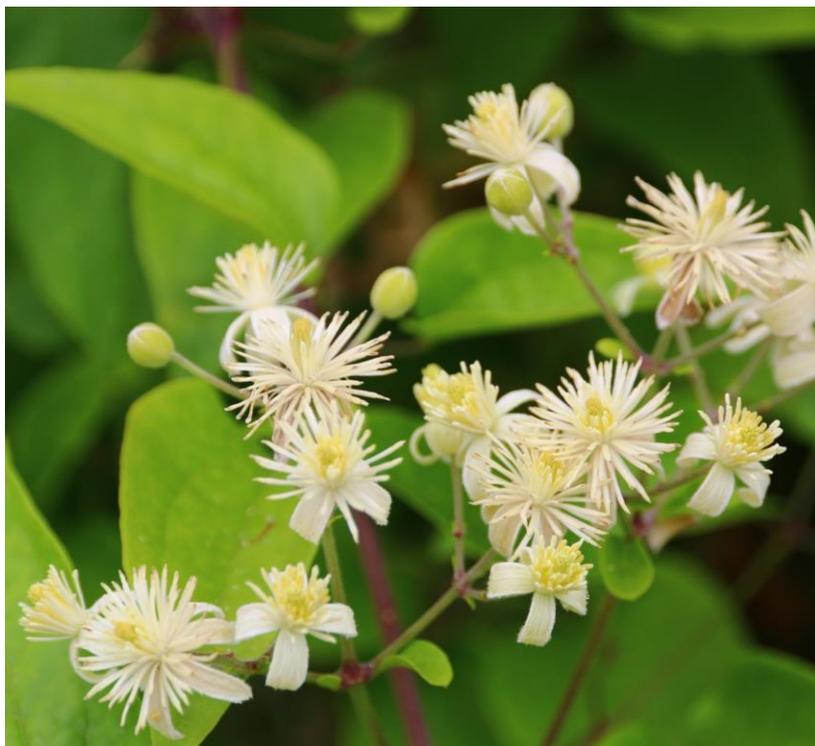


Fig. 21. Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Childers Road site.



Report compiled by:
Dr Tom Harrington
Environmental Consultant
Ashview
Golf Links Road
Castletroy
Limerick
thomas.harrington@ul.ie

