

## Assessment of Pilot Pollinator Action Areas -September report 2018

### 1. The Corbally Road Meadow

This site was surveyed again on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Three additional plant species were added to the original (June) list: viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) (Fig. 1), corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) (Fig. 2), and dove's-foot crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*). The first species is uncommon in Ireland, and is likely to have originated from the seed mixture used to reseed the site in 2017.

Considerable re-growth of some of the grasses and smaller herbaceous plants was evident (Fig. 3). Docks had been removed from the main part of the meadow since the last survey (Fig. 4); some still remain in the smaller Area A to the south (Fig. 5).

#### 1.1 Value for biodiversity and pollinating insects in September

The main flowering period for plants is now over but nonetheless, 21 species were noted in flower in late September in the main part of the meadow (Area B) (Table 1). Red clover (Fig. 6), yarrow, hybrid knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, autumn hawkbit, black medick and meadow buttercup were the main species still in flower. The first four are probably the most useful to late foraging pollinators.

#### 1.2 Recommendations for autumn management.

Cutting: This is scheduled for early October. The cut sward should be removed and not left as "thatch". Some of the cut sward could be transferred to areas with shallow or negligible topsoil and this should in time help to develop a topsoil. The recent removal of most of the docks is welcome and should reduce the seed burden from these next year. The removal of the remaining docks from Area A is recommended. During cutting it is recommended to remove the willow saplings by hand if possible, while they are still manageable.

### 2. The College Park Meadow.

The meadow has been cut since the August survey and no pollinator plants of any significance were in flower here in late September (Fig. 7). The cut sward was left in situ.

### 3. Childers Road site

Eight species were in flower in the September survey, red and white clover being the only ones of significance for late season pollinators.

#### 3.1 Recommendations for autumn management.

The grassland on the roadside berm should be cut end of October and the sward removed (it can be composted on site, for example to the rear of the site on one of the spoil heaps).

**Table 1.** Plant species in flower in Corbally Road, College Park and Childers Road meadow sites on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Species	Common Name	Corbally Rd.	College Park	Childers Rd.
<b>Grasses</b>				
<i>Lolium pratense</i>	Perennial Rye Grass	+		
<b>Herbaceous Perennials</b>				
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	+		+
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy		+	
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	+		+
<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i>	Hybrid Knapweed	+		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian			+
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-Ear	+		
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	+		
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	+		
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	+		+
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy	+		
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	+		
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	+		
<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	Ragwort	+		
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	+		+
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	+	+	+
<b>Herbaceous Biennials</b>				
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Canadian Fleabane			+
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	+		
<b>Trees and Shrubs</b>				
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush	+		+
<b>Annuals</b>				
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	+		
<i>Brassica rapa</i>	Wild Turnip	+		
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	+		
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	+		
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red Bartsia	+		

Fig. 1. Viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 2. Corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 3. Grass re-growth in Area B of Corbally Road meadow, late September 2018.



Fig. 4. Area B in late September 2018, Corbally Road meadow.



Fig. 5. Area A, Corbally Road meadow September 2018.



Fig. 6. Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), Corbally Road Meadow.



Fig. 7. Corbally Park meadow, September 2018.



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