



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

How Heritage Officers are delivering for Biodiversity

AMANDA PEDLOW OFFALY HERITAGE OFFICER



What is Included in Heritage?

Natural, Built and Cultural

The categories listed are *buildings, monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks, and inland waterways.*

Heritage Officer Role = The Interconnections

Offaly Heritage Forum

Meetings are held quarterly

- Strategic Policy Committee chair, Offaly County Council
- BirdWatch Ireland
- Senior Planner, Planning Department, Offaly County Council
- Conservation Architect, Offaly County Council
- Farming Organisations
- Offaly Public Participation Network
- Historical Societies
- Offaly Archives
- Slieve Bloom Rural Development
- Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland
- Bord na Mona Energy Ltd
- Coillte
- Waterways Ireland
- National Parks and Wildlife, Dept Housing
- National Monuments Division, Dept Housing
- Offaly Local Development Company
- Water and Communities Office
- Offaly Heritage Officer, Offaly County Council





No Two Counties are the same! See your County Heritage Plan

- Every county has different priorities
- Planning
- Community
- Involvement in Council projects

- Biodiversity Officer - new programme

COUNTY SPECIFIC WORK



Enabling local groups
and societies to plan
and deliver projects



KEY ACTIONS DELIVERED

Interconnections

Conservation and Pollination Just Transition - Laois Offaly

- 3 year programme from 2021 - 23
- 3 medieval churches in Laois and Offaly



Local Biodiversity Action Plan

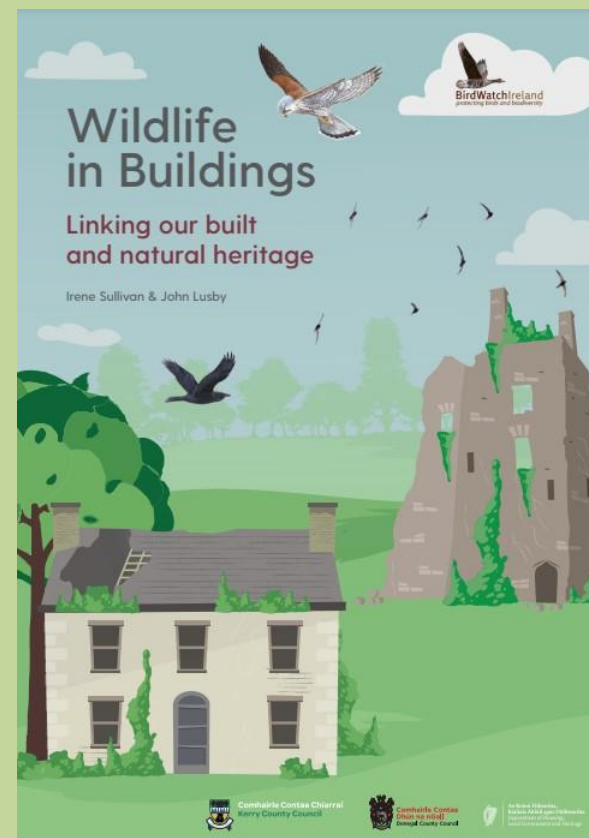
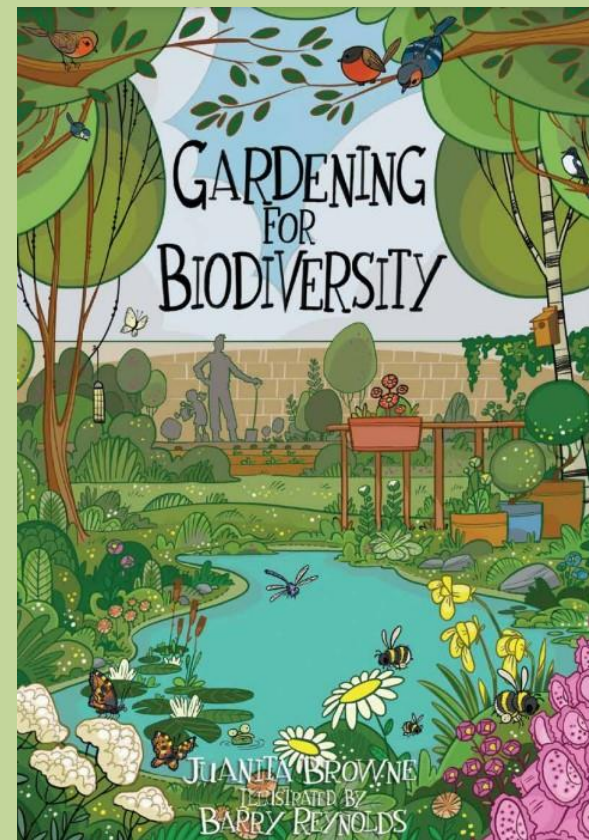
- Invasive species control
- Surveys, reports and publications
- Management of lands for biodiversity

- Very positive impact within Councils and communities



Access to Heritage

- Offaly Naturalists' Field Club
- YouTube Wildflower of Offaly videos
- Heritage Week (August)
- Annual Heritage Seminar (November)
- *In Your Nature* Podcast
- Midlands 103 information
- Social Media
- Emails notifying News & Events



National Heritage Week
A Heritage Council programme

13-21 August 2022
Offaly Event Guide

www.heritageweek.ie

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Offaly County Council

As Reins Tíbhachta, Rialtais Áiteil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Fáilte Ireland



Collecting Data and Submitting Records to National Biodiversity Data Centre

- Support recorders through the Offaly Naturalists' Field Club and Summer school
- Provision of moth traps, and swatches from the Biodiversity Data Centre
- Working with communities to promote Bioblitz
- Surveys commissioned by the heritage office

All Ireland Pollinator Plan

Adopted by Offaly County Council 2021

- Sponsorship of the Local Authority award for pollinators in the Tidy Towns competition
- Many Council and Community initiatives now addressing actions in the plan
- Widespread interest across the Council



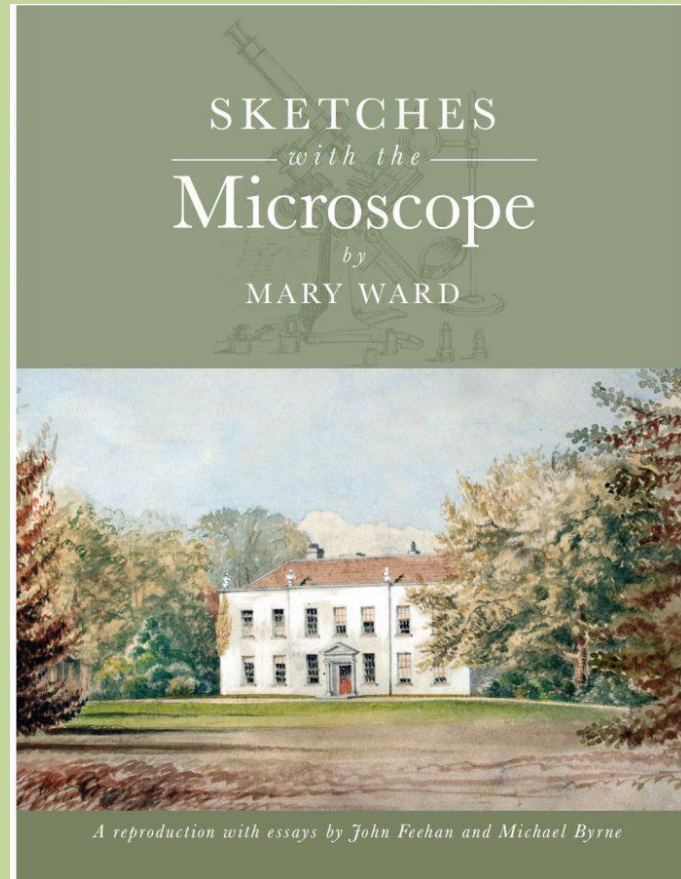
Creative Ireland

Interdisciplinary team community based

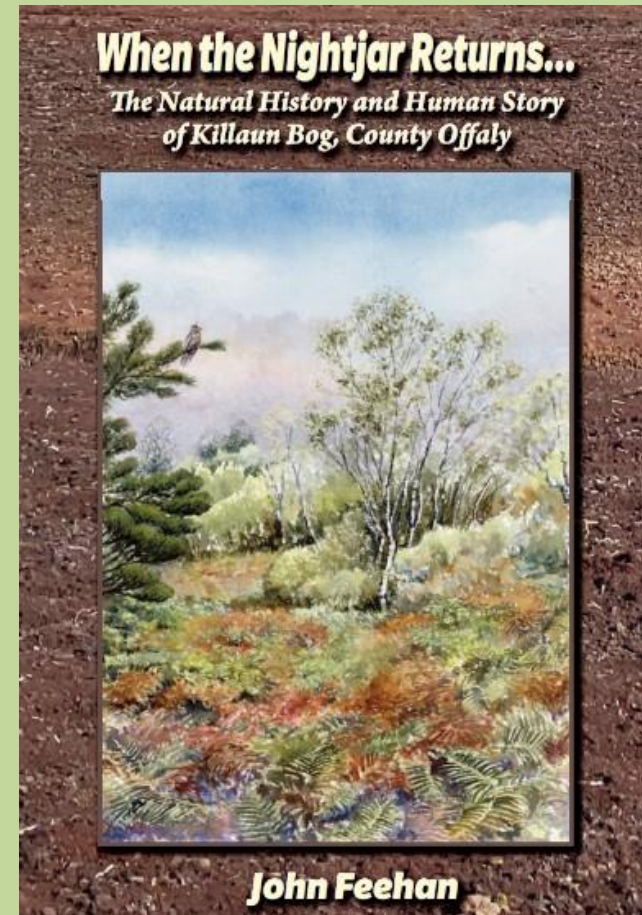
Working with a cross department team involving heritage, libraries, arts, architecture, community and local enterprise office working with communities and practitioners to deliver a range of creative projects.



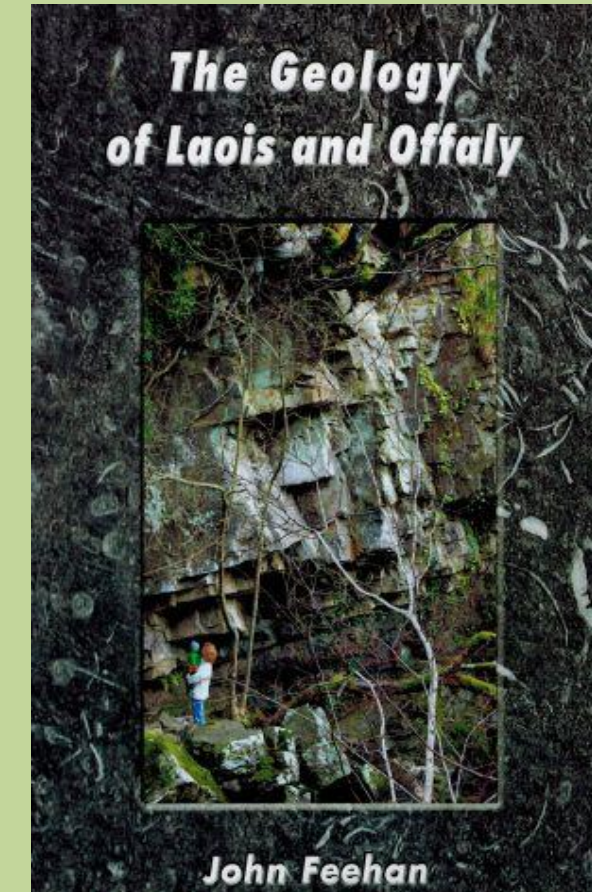
And finally - PUBLICATIONS - SAMPLES



**Mary Ward –
Sketches with the
Microscope**



**When the Nightjar
Returns**



**Geology of Laois
and Offaly**