



Draft Discussion paper on Biodiversity a 2024/5-2030

Sinead Mc Donnell – Biodiversity Officer, Limerick City and County Council



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The Heritage Council

**The Local Authority
Biodiversity Officer Programme
is delivered in Partnership
with the Heritage Council**

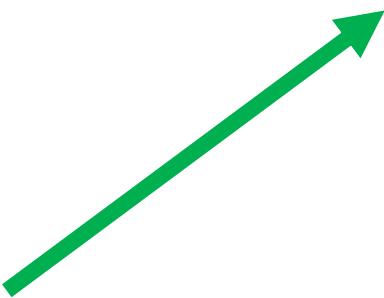


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Credit: WTML / Earnie Janes



BirdWatchIreland.ie

A place to start



<https://thelastdaysofthunderchild.blogspot.com/2017/07/the-baby-dunnock-chicks-are-developing.html>



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The aim of this discussion paper is to begin this process. To:

- Hear views on nature/biodiversity/natural heritage
- Listen to views on what actions are needed and
- Record, conserve and restore biodiversity in Limerick.
- Make space for nature

Provisional Time Frame to draft the LCCC Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Q 2
Limerick City & County
Council Biodiversity Action
Plan Discussion Paper

Q 2
Invite submissions/comments
on the Discussion Paper

Q 3
In-house drafting of the
Draft Plan

Q 3 – JUNE LOCAL ELECTIONS

Q 3
Environmental Screening of
the Draft Plan

Q 4
Draft Plan and Screening
Documents Open for Public
Consultation

Q 4
Consider Submissions and draft
the Final Limerick City and
County Council Biodiversity
Action Plan 2025-2030

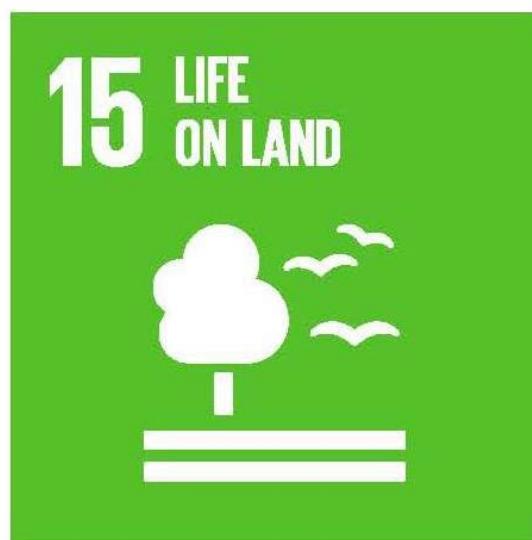
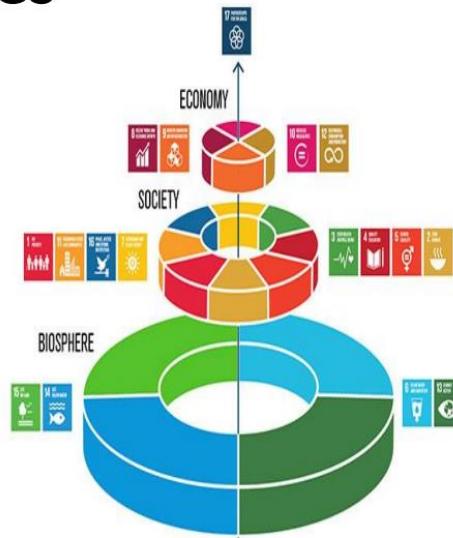
Q1/Q2 2025 publish the Final Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity 2025-2030



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

3 Pillars of the SDGs

- BIOSPHERE
- SOCIETY
- ECONOMY
- All linked through Partnership



What is Biodiversity?

- Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms and all its interactions, (including humans).
- Locally it's the wealth and diversity of all living things in Limerick.
- The importance of the interdependence between the variety of life forms
- Nature or Natural Heritage are sometimes used instead of the word Biodiversity



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Why Protect Ireland's Biodiversity?

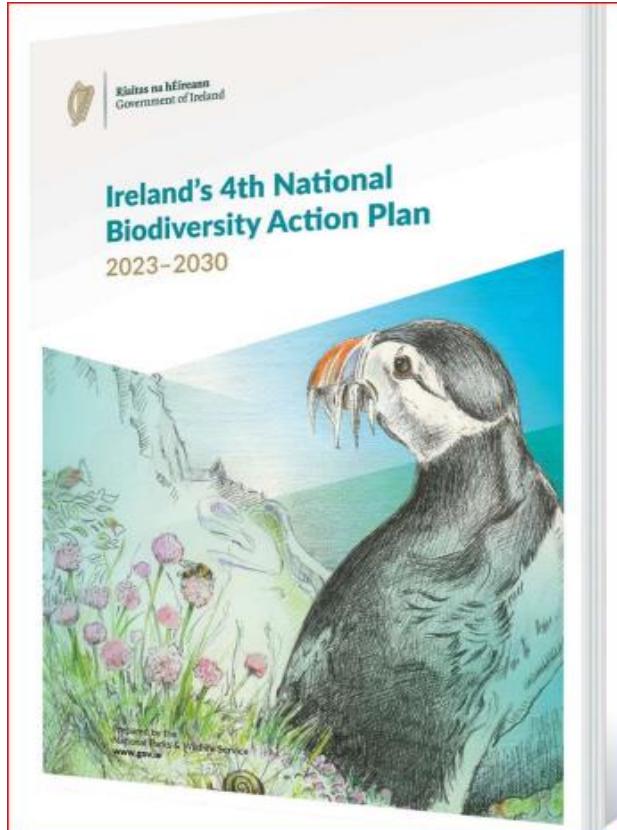
- Biodiversity provides us with clean air, water, food, materials, medicines, health benefits, and recreation along with being a muse and continual resource for the arts.
- It supports pollination and soil fertility, regulates climate and protects us from extreme weather and other effects of climate change. It is these benefits that underpin our economy, health and wellbeing.



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4th National Biodiversity Action Plan



It is an objective of the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan that each Local Authority prepare Local Biodiversity Action Plan which will provide a framework for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and natural heritage at a local level.

The LCCC Biodiversity Officer will work with a representative group to produce a Biodiversity Action Plan for the Limerick City and County.

The 4th NBAP has identified five main pressures that impact on biodiversity.

- Habitat Loss
- Climate Change
- Pollution
- Over exploitation
- Invasive Species

Limerick's SPA / SAC / NHA/WFS

SPA (3)
(Birds) Special
Protected Area

Site Name: [River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA \(004077\)](#)

Site Name: [Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA \(004165\)](#)

Site Name: [Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA \(004161\)](#)

Site Name: [Askeaton Fen Complex SAC \(002279\)](#)

Site Name: [Ballyhoura Mountains SAC \(002036\)](#)

Site Name: [Barrigone SAC \(000432\)](#)

Site Name: [Blackwater River \(Cork/Waterford\) SAC \(002170\)](#)

Site Name: [Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC \(002037\)](#)

Site Name: [Clare Glen SAC \(000930\)](#)

Site Name: [Curraghchase Woods SAC \(000174\)](#)

Site Name: [Galtee Mountains SAC \(000646\)](#)

Site Name: [Glen Bog SAC \(001430\)](#)

Site Name: [Glenstal Wood SAC \(001432\)](#)

SAC (10)
(habitats)
Special Area of
Conservation

NHA(4)
Natural Heritage
Areas

Your search returned 4 results.

Site Name: [Carrigkerry Bogs NHA \(002399\)](#)

Site Name: [Grageen Fen and Bog NHA \(002186\)](#)

Site Name: [Lough Gay Bog NHA \(002454\)](#)

Site Name: [Moyreen Bog NHA \(002361\)](#)

WFS (2)
Wildfowl
Sanctuary

WFS-33	Lough Gur	Limerick
WFS-34	City of Limerick (part)	Limerick



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Limerick's pNHA's

Inner Shannon Estuary - South Shore

Curraghchase Woods

Ardagh Church, Newcastlewest (Disused)

Castleconnell (Domestic Dwelling, Occupied)

Lough Gur

Galtee Mountains

Clare Glen

Dromore & Bleach Loughs

Glen Bog

Glenastar Wood

Glenstal Wood

Dromsallagh Bog

Bilboa And Gortnageragh River Valleys

Skoolhill

Fergus Estuary And Inner Shannon, North Shore

Castleoliver Woods

Ballyhoura Mountains

Ballintlea Wood

Ballynacourty Wood

Mountrussell Wood

Herbertstown Fen

Loughmore Common Turlough

Adare Woodlands

Barrigone

Tory Hill

Knockanavar Wood

Tarbert Bay

Ballymorrisheen Marsh

Ballinvirick Marsh

Cappagh Fen

Gorteenamrock

Heathfield Wood

Sturamus Island

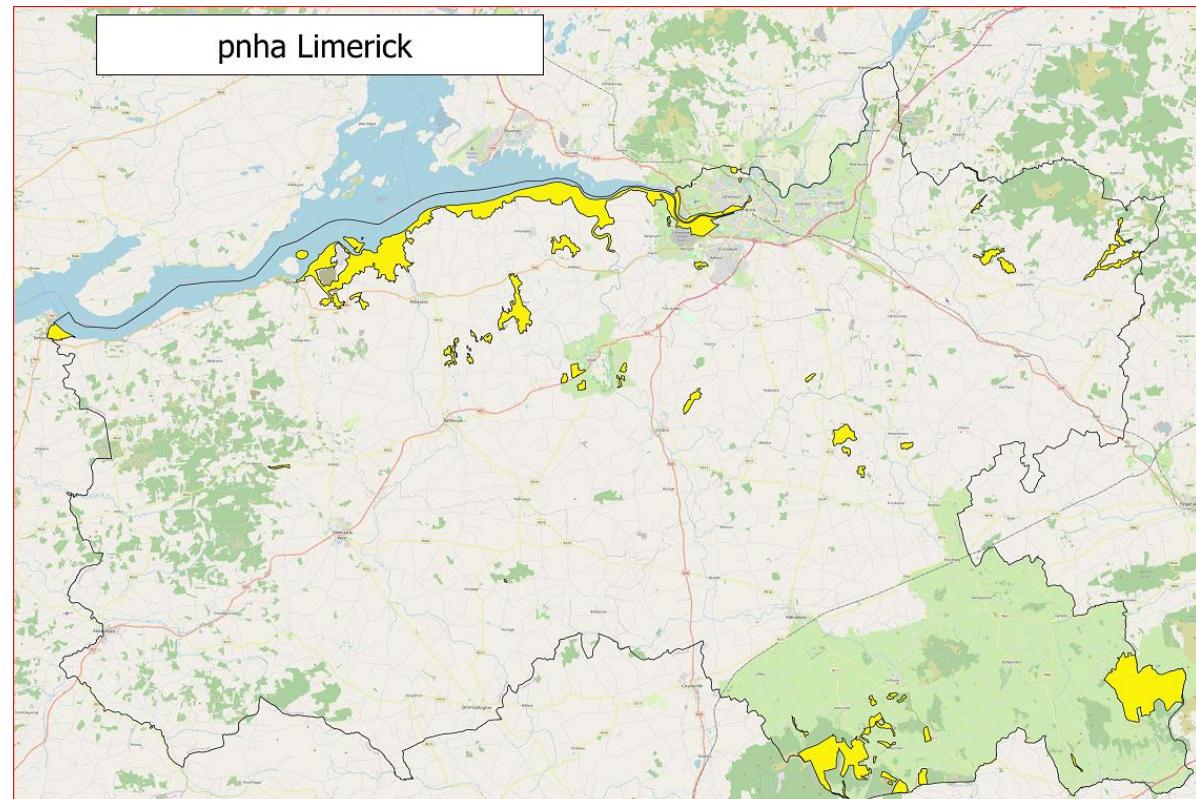
Ballyvorheen Bog

Knockalisheen Marsh

Glenacurane River Valley

Carrigeenamronety Hill

Ballyroe Hill & Mortlestown Hill

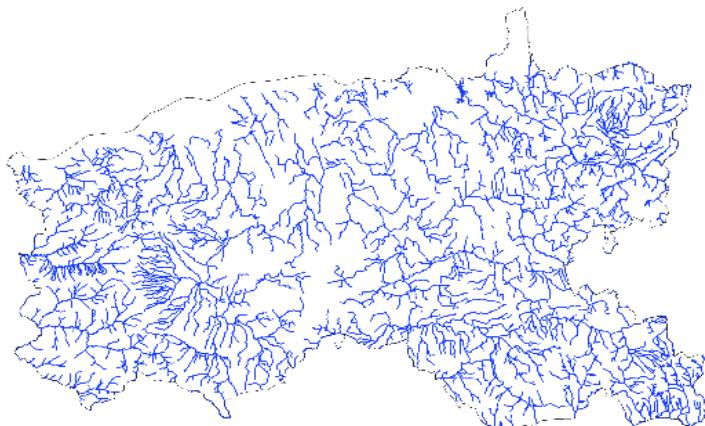


pNHAs (38)
Proposed Natural
Heritage Areas

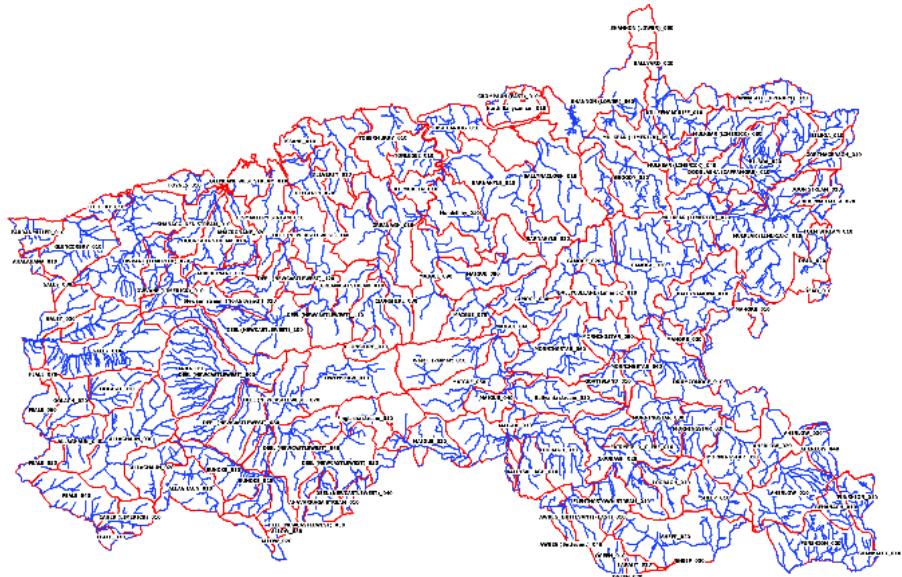


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Catchments – Rivers / Corridors – Hedgerows & Verges



Rivers in Limerick County



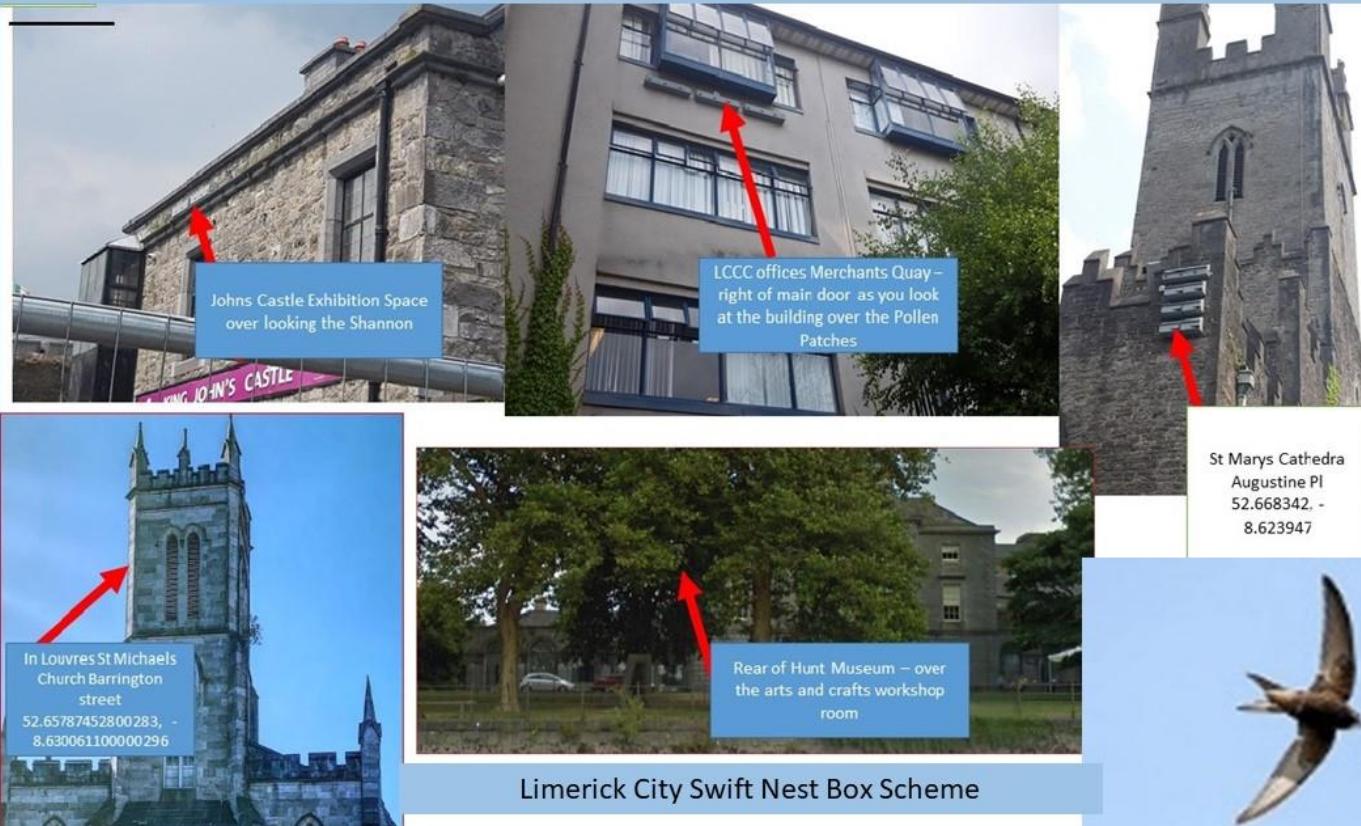
Rivers & Sub Catchments in Limerick County

LCCC Progress in supporting Biodiversity

- LCCC Dev Plan Policy EH P1-4 along with associated objectives.
- Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Metropolitan Area
- LCCC Tree Strategy is currently out for public consultation
- Swift and Barn Owl baseline surveys_supported by the Heritage Council and organized by the LCCC Heritage Officer
- Westfileds Wetland Management Plan
- Limerick Greenway Biodiversity Plan
- County Limerick Hedgerow Survey Report 2023.
- Staff training for planners organized by Heritage Officer
- The Council continue to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and report annually on these actions to the National Biodiversity Data Centre
- LCCC is drafting a local pollinator action plan
- The council's programme of biodiversity related events.
- European Projects: Current URBACT BiodiverCity and URBACT GreenPlace and the completed Health & GreenSpace
 - <https://www.youtube.com/@LimerickEuropeanGreenLeafCity/videos>
- LCCC environment has a positive social media presence @limerickenviron

Limerick City Swift Nest Box Project

#Limerick Volunteers will survey the Swift Nest Boxes in June & July 2023



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Limerick Metro Area Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy



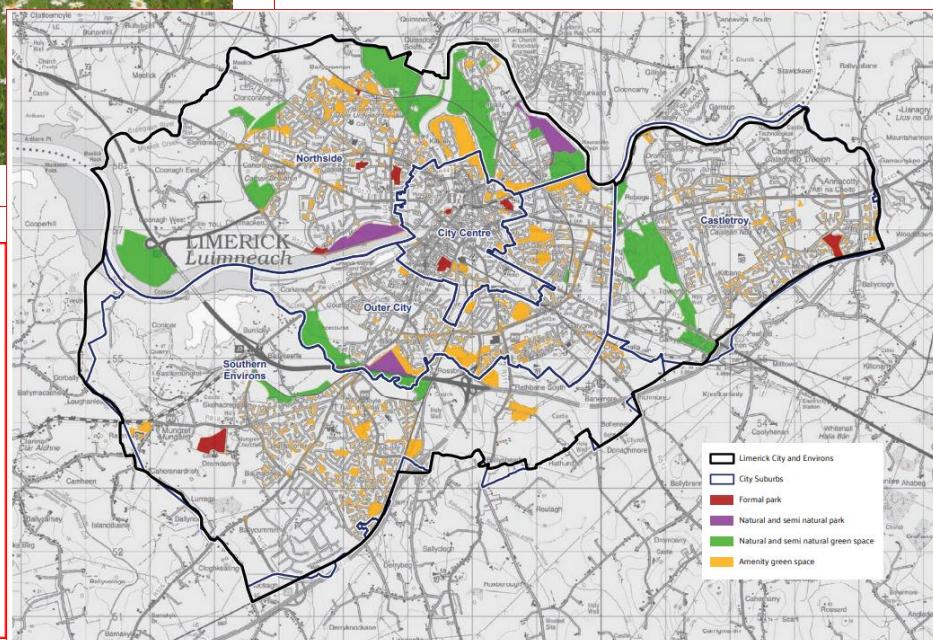
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Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy

- A network of multi-functional green and bluespaces
- Natural and semi-natural spaces and corridors, including parks, open green spaces, woodlands, allotments, fields, hedges, playgrounds, lakes, coastal habitats, cycle routes and water courses
- Assists in developing a network, to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystems
- Essential component of resilient and healthy communities, cornerstone of sustainable development



- Limerick City and Environs
- City Suburbs
- Formal park
- Natural and semi natural park
- Natural and semi natural green space
- Amenity green space



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LCCC Pollinator Planting & Let It Bee



Pollen Patch



Tipperary Road
Roundabout

World Wetlands Day 2024

1

Cistíte ag

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LCCC ran two events for WWD

- Annual Tidy Towns Seminar
Focused on Wetlands and
- Outing to Lough Gur
 - Dabbling Ducks
 - Diving Ducks
 - Swans



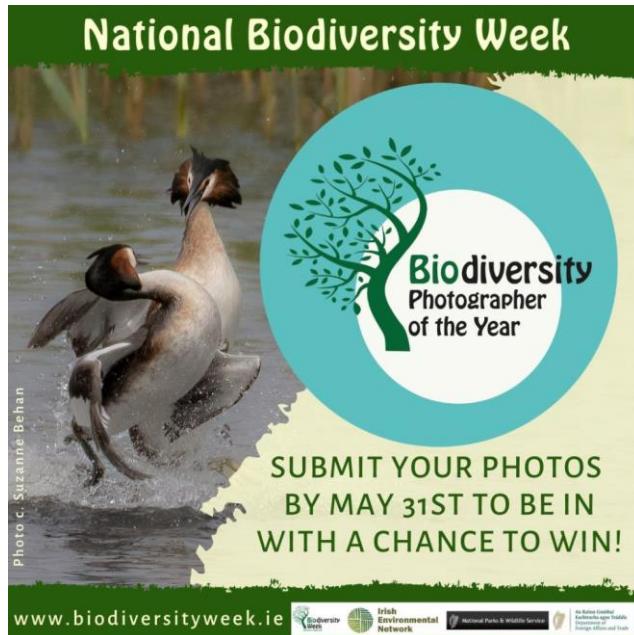
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Biodiversity Week 2024 18th – 26th May



Limerick City and County Council will be support National Biodiversity Week with a series of events:

- Moths and Bats – creatures of the night with Albert Nolan
- Day time pollinators – With Aine Ni Flathairg
- Guided walk in the Newcastle West Demense – Geoff Hunt
- Griston Bog with Naula Madigan of the IPCC in collaboration with Ballyhoura Development Company
- Days, Dates and times tbc.

Heritage Week 2024 17th – 25th August

The Theme for 2024 is Connections, Routes & Networks



Limerick City and County Council will be host biodiversity events for National Heritage Week with a series of events: Days, Dates and times tbc.

Hedgerow Week normally 1st week in Sept



Waiting to hear on the date.



Events at Lough Gur



Sunday, 5 May

Seán Ronayne - Irish Wildlife Sounds

Irish Wildlife Sounds with Seán Ronayne.



By Lough Gur Visitor Centre and Lakeshore Park
138 followers

Follow

General Admission 1

€15.00

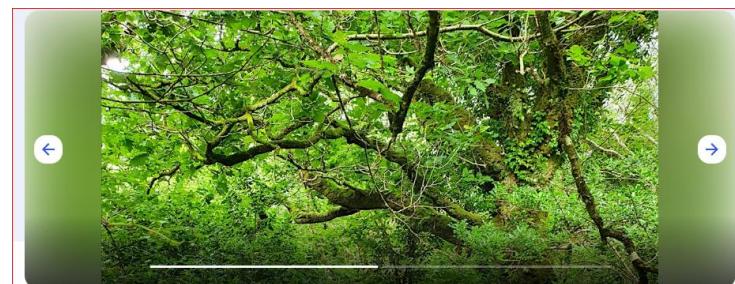
Check out for €17.07

Date and time

Sun, May 5th 2024 14:00 - 15:00

Lough Gur Visitor Centre

Supported by Limerick City and County Council & the Heritage Council



Sunday, 24 March

Eoghan Daltun - An Irish Atlantic Rainforest and the Magic of Rewilding

Eoghan, one of Ireland's most exciting rewilders, is coming to Lough Gur to talk about his successes in recreating a rainforest in West Cork



By Lough Gur Visitor Centre and Lakeshore Park
138 followers

Follow

Date and time

General Admission 1
€15.00

Check out for €17.07

Past Event

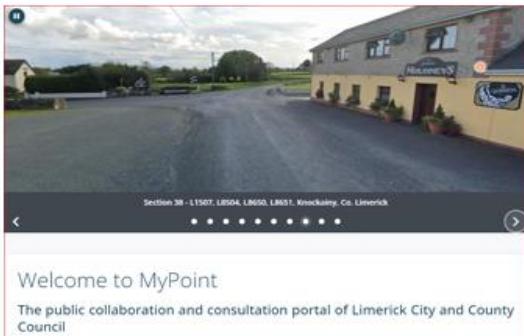


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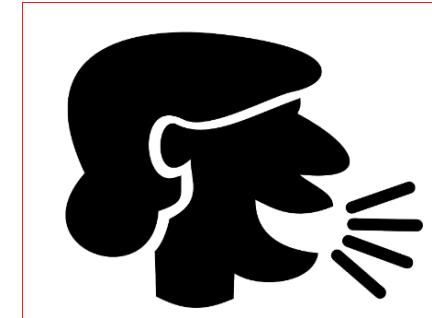
Limerick.ie My Point

Face to Face Meetings & information Sessions

- **Mypoint on Limerick.ie**
- **Email the answers to the questions posed, your thoughts, suggestions and/or comments to biodiversity@Limerick.ie or**
- Come along to any of our biodiversity events and other information sessions keep an eye on [@limerickenviron](https://twitter.com/limerickenviron) [@limerickenviron](https://facebook.com/limerickenviron) & Instagram and Limerick City and County Council social media for details.
- **send a written submission to Biodiversity Officer, Environment & Climate Action Team, Limerick City & County Council, Dooradoyle Limerick**



By Email



Needpix.com



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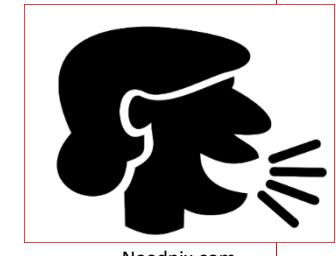
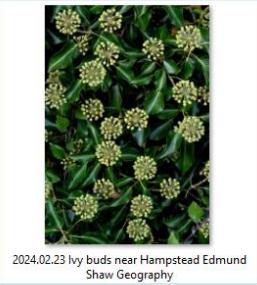
Some Questions / Prompts to Start the Consultation Process

- Imagine Limerick in 2050 – what type of biodiversity would you like to experience in Limerick City and County.
- How can we develop and protect the Ecological Network in the County?
- What are the main threats to Limerick's biodiversity and natural heritage?
- How can we provide for development while ensuring that we enhance and protect biodiversity and nature
- Do you have an ideas for Citizen Science Projects that you think may support and enhance biodiversity in Limerick?
- What are the most important priority actions that need to be taken to restore and enhance biodiversity in Limerick?
- Do you have any innovative ideas on how we can gather and manage baseline data?
- Think of your younger days. Have you noticed a biodiversity decline in your local area, what is missing now that was abundant in the past?



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<https://creativecommons.org/>



2024.02.23
stinging nettles
Ewen Roberts
Flickr



2024.02.24
Fiesty
Furry Caterpillar
Garden Tiger
Moth Catterpill...



2024.02.26
Elephant Hawk
Moth Caterpillar
Alison Day Flickr

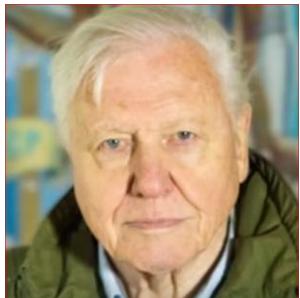


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Sir David Attenborough



“It's surely our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us, but for all life on Earth.”



Flickr John Pervis

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Thank you