



Green Hairstreak, Geoff Hunt

Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030

Objective A - Action 7

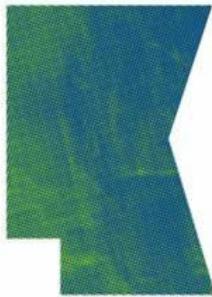
Sinead Mc Donnell

Biodiversity Officer Limerick City and County



This Evenings Talk

- **Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030**
 - Funded by Heritage Council of Ireland and LCCC
 - LCCC collaboration with the Burren Beo Trust for the **Hare's Corner**
 - Funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and LCCC
 - **Managing for Pollinators and Monitoring Pollinators**
 - Limerick's **Faith Communities Project**
 - Funded by the Heritage Council and LCCC
 - Conference: Save the Date
 - **The Future of Butterflies and Moths in Ireland**
 - Funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and LCCC



Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030

Objective A - Action 2



Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) is a Statutory Document

LCCC is obliged to have a Local Biodiversity Action Plan - Action 1C6 - 4th NBAP

LBAP 2025-30 has customized the 5 x Objectives from the NBAP for Limerick

Collaboration is an essential element of LBAP 2025-2030



Limerick Biodiversity Forum

Members

Acres

An Taisce Limerick Branch

Ballyhoura Development

BirdWatch Ireland Limerick Branch

Castleconnell Rivers Association

Coillte

Inland Fisheries

Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association

Irish Farmers Association

Irish Wildlife Trust Limerick Branch

Limerick 2030

Limerick Bat Group

Limerick City and County Council

Limerick Civic Trust

Limerick Clare Education Training Bord

Limerick County Recorder plants

Limerick DAC (Designated Activity Company)

Limerick Dioceses 30:30 Biodiversity group

Local Authorities Water Programme

Maigue Rivers Trust

Mary Immaculate College

National Parks & Wildlife Service

Office of Public Works

Paul Partnership

Representative of Limerick Tidy Towns Groups

Teagasc

Technical University of the Shannon

University of Limerick

West Limerick Resources

- The LBF supported, informed and advised on LBAP Discussion Paper and the Draft LBAP 2025-30
- **4.02.25 - PAUL Partnership Rep proposed and Irish Farmer's Association** seconded the Draft LBAP 2025-30
 - 4 x in-person half day workshops in 2024 plus 2 x online meetings of the Advisory Sub Group
 - 1 x in-person Meeting to date in 2025 additional meetings for 2025 to include Q 2/3 Online meeting and Q4 – In person meeting



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnígh**

Limerick City
& County Council



Policy and Legislative Context



- 5 Objectives
- 66 Actions
- Requires a whole of LCCC approach to biodiversity



The Process of drafting LBAP 2025-30

Quarter 2 2024

- **LCCC Senior Forum** updated on the requirement for an LBAP and a Limerick Biodiversity Forum. LBAP Discussion Paper drafted and presented to **CABE SPC**
- **Public Consultation** 15th April – 4th June 2024 included: Online Submissions MyPoint; Face to Face Presentation and Information Sessions; Email; Campaign and Social Media
- Presentation of **LCCC District Meetings** C/K, A/R NCW and Metro N, E & Central
- Submissions considered

Quarter 1 2025

- Submissions considered
- Feb 25 **LCCC Senior Forum** Update and Workshop for **Elected Reps**
- March 2025 **LCCC MT** update. Presentation to CABE SPC
- March Full LCCC Council Meeting for adoption

Quarter 4 2024

- **LCCC Senior Forum** Update
- Draft LBAP Finalised
- Workshop for **Elected Representatives** Mid Nov 24
- **Public Consultation** on the Draft LBAP 2025-2030 from 20th Nov 2024 – 10th Jan 2025 Online Submissions MyPoint, Face to face presentation and information sessions, Email campaign, *Social media/local media campaign*

The Draft LBAF 25-30 was independently screened in parallel with the process of drafting the plan



burren béo trust
connecting people and place

Who?

An independent landscape charity dedicated to connecting all of us to our places & our role in caring for these places.

How?

Through **COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP**
Engaged communities actively involved in conservation of their place.





THE HARE'S CORNER

Objective B - Action 16

The initiative helps landowners make more space for nature through the creation of:

- **Wildlife Ponds** – Min 5x5 M
- **Native Mini-Woodlands and Wildlife Hedges**, – area less than 0.1 ha
- **Heritage Mini-Orchards** – 5-8 Apple/Fruit Trees from Irish Seedsavers
- as well as with bespoke ecological advice in the form of a **Plan for Nature**

Burrenbeo offer **hassle-free** support in the form of **advice, materials, and micro-funding**.

Inspired by the term 'The Hare's Corner' - an old farming expression for an awkward section of a field which wasn't intensively farmed and so was 'left to nature'.

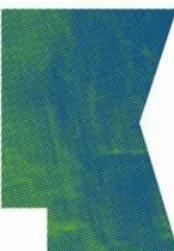
The aim of this project is to help create habitats that have proven benefits for biodiversity, for climate-action as well as for the wellbeing of our participants.





Actions to Date Nationally

- 94 Ponds
- 161 Woodlands
- 196 Orchards
- 87 Plans for Nature
- 0 Hedgerow – **New in 2025**
- 8 Peatland Plans



Limerick, Carlow, Galway, Meath, Offaly and Sligo open to applications in 2025



THE HARE'S CORNER in Limerick

- LBAP 25-30 -Objective A - Action 2



- **120 Applications**

- 84 private landowners
- 16 farmers and
- 20 schools/community groups

Breakdown of actions applied for:

- 62 Wildlife Pond
- 96 Plan for Nature
- 74 Hedge
- 96 Orchard
- 71 Woodland

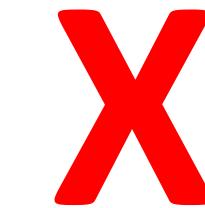
- Successful applicants to for Wildlife Ponds and Plans for Nature will be notified around mid-April
- Reasons applications may not be accepted is funding and capacity. However other considerations are taken into account:
 - Schools and community groups are prioritised
 - For ponds and plans for nature, we have to be sure that the applicant is willing to follow through on the application if approved
 - Whether people indicated they were willing to pay additional costs that may occur, say to fence or put guards around trees, as this is necessary for proper care of the trees, especially apple trees
 - What people want may simply not fit what the offering, eg - a fish pond or an ornamental pond, and not actually a wildlife pond.



Semi Natural Grasslands / Hay Meadow ...



Photo credit: DNFC



- Say No to Wildflower Seed Mixes
- How do I manage this grass?
 - Mowing & grazing regimes – size
 - Creating structural diversity
 - Yellow rattle.
 - Remember your capacity to manage
 - Local seed, green hay, natural seedbank
- Grazing?
 - Consider the Legalities, Practicalities & Alternatives

Make Grasslands the best they can be for Nature

- Flowers are only part of the story
- Management for inverts, birds, mammals





Learn to
love
“Weeds”

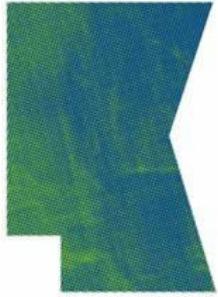




Research shows

Dandelions are the most important source of nectar and pollen for pollinators on the island of Ireland

Let the Dandelions Bee



Bees ...

Honey bees



... are for honey!



Focus on Native Bumble and Solitary Bees (miners, masons, leaf cutters & cuckoos)



10 ways to help pollinators

Advice from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

1 Don't mow, let it grow

Reduce mowing to once a month to let native wildflowers grow and feed the bees.

4 weeks

2 Protect native hedgerows

Plants like Hawthorn and Blackthorn provide vital food for wild bees when they emerge from hibernation.

3 Plant native flowering trees

Willow, Rowan and Holly flowers provide important food for pollinators.

4 Don't spray

Pesticides can kill, harm, and disorientate pollinators either directly or indirectly by poisoning the flowers they feed on.

5 Create nesting habitat

Scrape back some bare earth, leave some areas to grow wild, or drill holes in unvarnished wood.

6 Choose nectar and pollen-rich garden plants

Find lists on our website of pollinator-friendly plants for different settings



4. Do Not Spray



National
Biodiversity
Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife



All-Ireland
Pollinator Plan

Pesticides can kill, harm and disorientate pollinators either directly or indirectly by poisoning the flowers they feed on

Managing Grass Areas for Pollinators 1 of 3

Pollinator-friendly grass cutting

Reducing your grass cutting regime is the most cost-effective way to help bees – these actions do not involve purchasing wildflower seed



This image shows a mosaic of three different grass cutting regimes.

Managing Grass Areas for Pollinators 2 of 3



In a long-flowering meadow additional plants like these will grow naturally and provide food

Adding Yellow rattle seed after a meadow has established will help keep down grasses and encourage other wildflowers

Vetches Oxeye Daisy

Devil's-Bit-Scabious Knapweed

To naturally improve your meadow collect wildflower seed locally. Sow in trays and grow-on as small plants (plugs) which can be added to the meadow in spring or autumn.

How-to-guide
Collecting and sowing pollinator friendly wildflower seed

www.pollinators.ie

Long-flowering meadow:
Cut once a year to provide food and shelter for pollinators.

Cut once a year in September. Let the cuttings lie for a few days to allow any seed to drop and then remove. Meadows managed in this way will allow wildflowers to bloom throughout the pollinator season and also provide undisturbed areas for nesting.

These can be large areas or strips/patches within a more traditional grass cutting regime. Small areas can be cut with a scythe or strimmer. Larger areas may require specialised equipment or an arrangement with a local farmer. In large areas it is helpful to leave some small sections entirely uncut each year for other overwintering insects to nest.

Remove the cuttings each year and be patient!

Most meadows will look very grassy for the first few years. If you remove the cuttings each autumn the soil fertility will drop and it will gradually become more flower rich on its own. The poorer the soil - the more flower-rich your meadow will be!

Years 1-2

Year 4

Managing Grass Areas for Pollinators 3 of 3

Create a short-flowering meadow

By mowing just once a month, you can give native wildflowers and insect friendly grasses a chance to pop up naturally and help feed hungry wild bees. No seeds needed!



April:

#Let Dandelions Bee

 When you mow, make sure you remove grass clippings so wildflowers can grow.



Want to do more? Create a long-flowering meadow by cutting once a year in September.

May:

#No Mow May



June:

#Let it Bloom June

 Be creative when you mow! Cut pathways, spirals, and shapes.



July:

#Help Them Fly July



August:



If your grass gets too tall at any stage, trim it with blades raised high to save the wildflowers. Leave some corners to grow long.

Flowers close in the evening and may not be as colourful!

Find out more at www.pollinators.ie

Photos: Steven Falk

Limerick's Faith Communities Project

Timeline

2015	Pope Francis, 'Laudato si', 'Care for Our Common Home' - 1 st encyclical devoted entirely to environment
July 2023	Irish Bishops Conference recommend that Parishes Dedicate 30% of Church Grounds to Nature by 2030
2023/2024	Clare Biodiversity Officer ran successful and popular 30% to Nature by 2030 project
Feb 2024	LCCC Biodiversity Officer presented to a 30% by 2030 Limerick Diocesan Group Bishop and representatives from 12 Parishes Present
July 2024	Clare's Biodiversity Officer and Bishop Martin Hayes presented to the Heritage Council and the National Biodiversity Officer Network
Aug 2024	Heritage Week Event in the Infinity Woodland, Milford Care Centre
Nov 2024	Fr Michael Wall requested to coordinate Limerick Diocesan Efforts
Jan 2025	Seeds of Hope Conference Cork – 46 Delegates from Limerick alone
Feb 2025	Fr Michael Wall, LCCC Biodiversity Officer & Maureen Towlmey addressed Bishop Leahy and Parish Priests at Limerick Diocese Meeting
Feb/March 2025	Various Parishes put themselves forward for the Limerick Faith Communities project

Limerick's Faith Communities Project

Pollinator Friendly Mowing Regimes and Best Practices on areas of Church Grounds. LCCC to recruit specialist to meet with each church group to:

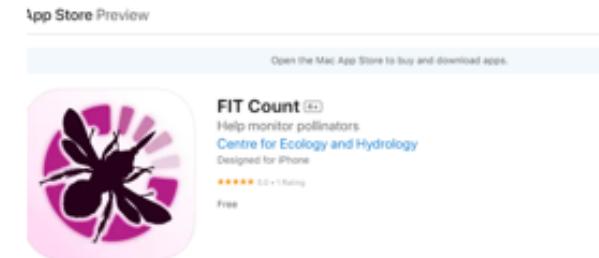
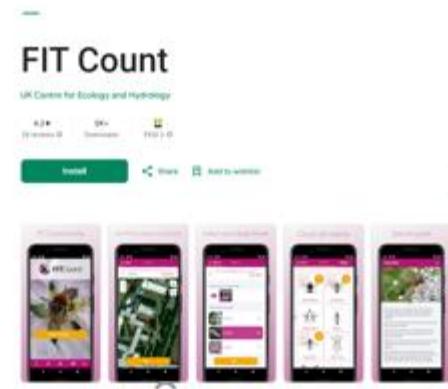
- Map Church Grounds
- Define and implement a pollinator friendly mowing regime for selected areas
- Install pollinator friendly signage
- PROVIDE Training on the Flower Insect Timed Counts and Bumblebee Monitoring
LBAP 25-30 - Objective D – Action 9
- Training on tree planting and pollinator friendly native trees or heritage fruit trees and spring bulb planting
course LBAP 25-30 - Objective C – Action 3
- Seed-saving
course LBAP 25-30 - Objective E – Action 6

Parish	Number of Churches
Dromcollogher/Broadford	6
Templeglantine	5
Raheen	4
Our Lady Queen of Peace	1
St John's Cathedral	1
Kilcornan	1
Kilmallock	10
Newcastle West	4
Total Churches	32
Total for Project	10

Flower Insect Timed Counts

- LBAP 25-30 - Objective E- Action -1

- Citizen Science Project
- Monthly time Commitment
April to September
- No expertise required just
an interest in nature.
- No need to indentify the
individual insects
- Count broad groups eg
Bumblebee, Wasp, Moth,
Butterfly, Beatle...
- At a Location that suits you



1. Watch a patch of flowers for 10 minutes
2. Count how many insects visit
3. 5 minutes data input
4. Submit your data



Research shows
Dandelions are
the most important
source of nectar and
pollen for pollinators
on the island of
Ireland

'Let Dandelions Bee'

letdandelionsbee.ie



LBAF 25-30
Objective A –
Action 15



Future of Moths and Butterflies in Ireland

DATE Thursday 5th and Friday 6th June 2025

LOCATION Castle Oaks Hotel, Castleconnell, V94 EH94

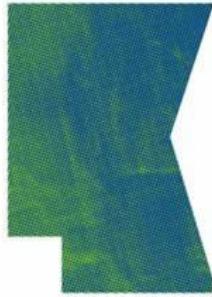
FREE Registration Essential - [**REGISTER HERE**](#)

Join us for the Future of Moths and Butterflies in Ireland Conference. Get the latest updates on butterfly and moth conservation in Ireland, discover the importance of butterflies and moths as pollinators and learn how to monitor moths and butterflies for citizen science projects. All this in the beautiful setting of Castleconnell, County Limerick and all for FREE.



An tSeirbhís Páircanna
Náisiúnta agus Faidhle
National Parks and Wildlife
Service





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Line Managers:

- Cathal Brodie Senior Executive Scientist
- Aidan Finn Senior Engineer
- Kieran Lehane Director of Service

Thank You for Listening

