



Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan

2025-2030

Objectives and Actions



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnígh
Limerick City
& County Council

ATLANTIC EDGE
LIMERICK
EUROPEAN EMBRACE



The LBAP objectives are in keeping with the objectives of the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan



TABLE OF ACTIONS

A. Adopt a Whole of Limerick City and County Council, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity

Action Code	Action	Target/Measure of Success	Responsible Body	Resources
1	Actively communicate good news Biodiversity Case Studies/Initiatives via the Council's Communication team	Nos of media releases that will be issued	LCCC	LCCC own resources
2	Continue to host the Limerick Biodiversity Forum	Min 2-3 meetings will be held annually	LCCC	LCCC own resources
3	Biodiversity Training for all in LCCC including a) decision makers, b) elected representatives c) all outdoor and indoor staff.	Training will be undertaken	LCCC & HC others such as the CCMA	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
4	Include best practise Biodiversity Training requirement/standard in all council procurement processes	Procurement Guidance will be developed	LCCC	LCCC own resources
5	Invest /work with 3rd parties in demonstration sites to promote local biodiversity	Min of 2 Demonstration sites will be supported. 1x Rural and 1x Urban	LCCC	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
6	Ensure biodiversity is integrated into guidance document for LCCC grant initiatives	Guidance documents will be developed	LCCC	LCCC own resources
7	Work Actively with TT groups, NGOs and Faith Communities in relation to Biodiversity etc.	Annually	LCCC	LCCC own resources
8	Develop Best Practice Guidelines to reduce the impact of development on biodiversity	Guidance document will be published	LCCC	LCCC own resources
9	Support LA housing estate communities to manage green areas in a biodiverse manner	Annually	LCCC community sustainment team and regeneration team	LCCC own resources
10	Develop and provide Teacher Training workshops on Biodiversity and nature based solutions	Annually	LCCC in collaboration with neighbouring LAs and other stakeholders	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
11	Work with the Green Schools and Heritage in Schools programme to promote biodiversity and climate issues to students and the wider schools population	2 Case studies on wildlife in schools will be developed	LCCC in collaboration with others	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
12	Promote the development of nature based outdoor classrooms to reach Science Foundation Ireland or equivalent standard where possible	Minimum of 2 promotions will be developed	LCCC in collaboration with others?	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
13	Targeted education programmes for the farming community	Minimum of 1 education programme targeting farming community will be carried out annually	LCCC in collaboration with others	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
14	Collaborate and harness Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Principles in order to collaborate with Corporate Bodies and Local Organisations where appropriate	Minimum of 2 collaborations	Local industry and LCCC	Local Industry and LCCC resources
15	Host a series of capacity building events annually for the general public and interested groups including Tidy Towns to promote the importance of Biodiversity and encourage participation in citizen science.	Minimum of 4 in-person events will be held annually with additional events online events where appropriate. One biodiversity conference will be hosted during the plan period.	LCCC in collaboration with other stakeholders	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
16	Creation of high impact, true to life Biodiversity Murals in Limerick City and County.	Project will be completed	LCCC in collaboration with Draw Out	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources

	Flexible/Unknown	Start Time
	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Short term	Start 0-2 years
	Medium term	Start 2-4 years

TABLE OF ACTIONS

B. Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs			
Action Code	Action	Target/Measure of Success	Responsible Body
1	Identify Locally Important Biodiversity Sites (LIBS) in Limerick City and County according to Heritage Council guidelines. Ensure these are mapped and protected through inclusion of policies in the Limerick Development Plan, the review of which will commence in 2026 and subsequently in the associated local area plans.	LIBS will be identified and mapped. The existing protection policies in the county development plan will be retained or amended where necessary, as part of the review of the development plan	LCCC & HC
2	Provide pre-planning guidance document for biodiversity inclusion in all new and refurbished developments	Guidance document will be provided	LCCC Planning Team et al
3	Ring fence a percentage of development contribution specifically for biodiversity	% to be identified	LCCC
4	Develop a City or County -wide pollinator plan for Limerick in line with the AIPP	Plan will be developed	LCCC Parks and Env Team
5	Develop an LCCC Grassland Management Plan for areas managed by LCCC with the aim of improving their nature, habitat and ecological value	Management plan will be developed. There will be an increase in land area year on year from established baseline in 2024 and display on colour coded map	LCCC
6	Develop a LCCC Dark Skies Policy to reduce unnecessary light pollution for inclusion in the Limerick Development Plan, the mid-term review of which will commence in 2026.	Policy will be developed and included in the revision of the Limerick Development Plan	LCCC
7	LCCC will minimise use of compost with peat as an ingredient and actively source new peat free compost or generate their own.	A reduction target will be identified and reported annually	LCCC
8	Continue to minimise and reduce the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides across council operations	Pesticide use across the organisation will be reported annually	LCCC
9	Undertake a mapping of all zoned lands to determine the extent of trees and hedgerows at the time of zoning and that this mapping is included in all area plans at draft stage and the Limerick Development Plan Review 2026.	Mapping will be completed and included in relevant plans	LCCC
10	Investigate and pilot use of controlled Grazing on Council Land where appropriate	An appropriate area to pilot grazing measures will be identified and introduced.	LCCC and animal owner
11	Prioritise and Ecologically Survey and develop Management Plans Council owned lands	A priority list will be developed and 1 management plan produced per year	LCCC and successful contractor
12	Continue to determine risks to water quality via source pathway receptor model on all planning applications.	% of applications that will be reviewed	LCCC planning team et al
13	Work with the LCCC Planning to incorporate IFI's Planning Guide for Watercourses in the Urban Environment in LCCC decision making	Reference Guide to be incorporated in the review of the Limerick Development Plan	LCCC planning team
14	Set targets in line with LCCC Tree Policy to maintain existing LCCC woodlands in good condition and plant new native trees in urban and rural areas.	Acreage areas currently maintained to be identified. Nos of trees planted, % increase in tree coverage to be reported annually	LCCC

TABLE OF ACTIONS

B. Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs			
Action Code	Action	Target/Measure of Success	Responsible Body
15	Promote native/local provenance for trees, shrubs plants etc. and LCCC to include this as a criteria for procurement	No. of promotions and no. of trees/ plants procured annually	LCCC in collaboration with others
16	Support and collaborate on environmental and biodiversity projects as identified with external stakeholders	Collaborations to be considered as they arise	LCCC collaboration with other stakeholders
17	Identify suitable nest box location on Council Lands for Barn Owls, Kestrels and other species identified by NPWS and liaise with local farming community organisations re same	5 x nest boxes to be installed annually	LCCC with BWI BOP, NPWS and Acres/ Teagasc
18	Promote the prevention of fragmentation of ecological corridors including hedgerows and riverine features	Regular capacity building and awareness initiatives will be undertaken	LCCC planning team
19	Continue to work with LAWPRO (Local Authority Water Programme) and others to identify the impacts of critical and vulnerable receptors in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan and Water Framework Directive	No. of meetings to be held no. of projects to be developed	Environment Climate Action Team
20	Support the efforts of LAWPRO and other parties to promote the reduction of chemical fertilizers on land.	Guidance booklet to be disseminated	Collaboration with farming associations LAWPRO Teagasc and LCCC
21	Support the implementation of Marine Spatial Plan and protect the Shannon estuary in collaboration with Kerry and Clare local authorities.	Support to be outlined in annual report	LCCC and other stakeholders
22	Advocate for responsible pet ownership	Recognised NGO/ Charity campaigns for spaying and neutering to be promoted	Relevant Stakeholders

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Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
- Ruairí Ó Chonhoir, LAWPRO

TABLE OF ACTIONS

C. Secure Nature's Contribution to Current and Future Generations				
Action Code	Action	Target/Measure of Success	Responsible Body	Resources
1	Protect and enhance Biodiversity on all developments in Limerick including new, existing and refurbished developments along with Greenways and all infrastructural developments	New measures introduced to be highlighted in new developments and progress implementation of the Greenway Biodiversity Action Plan	LCCC Greenway Team and LCCC and contractors and franchises	LCCC own resources
2	Increase awareness of the intrinsic value of biodiversity and the services it provides us with.	No. of measures to be carried out and shared with the wider population	LCCC	LCCC own resources
3	In line with LCCC Tree Policy increase the planting of suitable trees and hedgerows of local provenance	No. of trees, hedgerows to be planted in urban, town and village areas (ensure right tree right place)	LCCC and developers	LCCC own resources and part of overall project development
4	Deliver a minimum of 2 case studies to combat pollution using Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SDS)	A min. of 2 sites to be identified where NBS and SDS will be implemented and case studies written up with data indicating pollution avoided and positive impact on biodiversity as a result of these works	LCCC in collaboration with others	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
5	Collaborate on programmes with the LCCC Arts Office, education, youth projects and others that emphasise Nature as a muse of the arts and culture	2 collaborative programmes	LCCC in collaboration with others	LCCC own resources
6	Collaborate on education and research programmes that emphasise Natures positive impact on human well being	Urbact projects, BiodiverCity and Green Place to be completed and LCCC to continue emphasis on natural play	LCCC in collaboration with others	LCCC own resources
7	Create online info hub of locations where people can visit and immerse themselves in existing nature areas and showcase river Shannon and its contribution and importance to biodiversity	No. of views to the online hub	LCCC in collaboration with others	LCCC own resources and possible grant funding
8	Conduct wellbeing surveys to capture impact of identified actions in certain circumstances	5 x wellbeing surveys to be carried out	LCCC in collaboration with others	LCCC own resources

**Citizen Science Training,
Tackling Himalayan balsam
- Kieran Ryan Benson**



TABLE OF ACTIONS

D. Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity				
Action Code	Action	Target/Measure of Success	Responsible Body	Resources
1	Carry out habitat surveys on council owned land and highlight areas at risk and identify areas suitable for restoration/enhancement and also identify potential wildlife corridors for protection through statutory plans	Areas to be identified and prioritised for survey. Min 1 survey annually	LCCC	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
2	Share data from all LCCC surveys with NPWS, Heritage Council National Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland and other relevant organisations	Data to be shared with relevant body	LCCC	own resources
3	Support NPWS national surveys for data collection on all annex species.	No. of surveys that are supported	LCCC	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
4	Investigate the development of an open source digital repository for Limerick Biodiversity Related Data subject to GDPR and wildlife sensitivity restraints	Investigation to be completed and feasibility report to be undertaken/ web links one / nature sites that /you can visit (ongoing)	LCCC	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
5	Progress to Phase II of Limerick Wetland Survey	Phase 1 complete with story board Q1 2025 and Phase 2 to be completed with identifying actions Q4 2025	LCCC in Collaboration with Wetland Survey's Ireland	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
6	Action the recommendations from 1. Newcastle West Demesne Ecological Survey 2024 and the annual recommendations for the 2. Baggott Estate Management Plan 2023-50, 3. Westfields Management Plan and 4. Corbally Meadow Work Programme	Actions to be identified in the report carried out as far as is practicable	LCCC in collaboration with local TT group and contracting ecologist	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
7	Compilation, centralisation and GIS mapping of existing data from assessments, reports and planning aps. Years 2023 - 2025	Body of work to be identified and costed	LCCC in collaboration with 3rd Level Institute and Midwest Roads	LCCC own resources
8	Resurvey Limerick County Barn Owls, Swifts and Bat Roosts include desktop surveys for ground truthing.	No. of surveys that will be participated in.	LCCC in Collaboration with BirdWatch Ireland / landowners	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
9	Promote Citizen Science Projects to gather evidence to aid in the collection of data which will be verified and collated on the NBDC website.	No of surveys participated in	LCCC, NBDC in collaboration with others	LCCC own resources possible ESG and other grant funding sources

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NOTE - All lower-order plans and projects supported by this plan shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening, where necessary, in accordance with the requirements of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) or the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), as the case may be.

TABLE OF ACTIONS

E. Strengthen Limerick's Contribution to National and Regional Biodiversity Initiatives

Action Code	Action	Target/Measure of Success	Responsible Body	Resources
1	Promote the National Biodiversity Data Centre species recording portal	% increase in the number of Limerick recorders that engage annually	LCCC	LCCC own resources
2	Develop integrated programme to address Invasive Alien Species including a) mapping, b) management protocol for public lands and c) guidelines for private lands and d) targeted education workshops.	Species map to be developed. Protocol & guidelines will be developed. A minimum of 1 invasive workshop per annum will be carried out along with 4 x toolbox talks	LCCC in collaboration with relevant stakeholders	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
3	Continue to collaborate on Lesser Horseshoe Bat's national group and regional group.	Number of LHB meetings that are attended annually	LCCC, NPWS, BCI and other stakeholders	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
4	Engage with Inland Fisheries Ireland, Electricity Supply Board, Office of Public Works and other stakeholders to reverse decline in riparian and riverine habitat which is home to many annex species such as Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey etc, including the removal and mitigation of barriers to fish movement in our rivers.	Develop working relationship with all and report on the number of Meetings held annually	LCCC in collaboration with stakeholders	LCCC own resources
5	Develop online resources to raise awareness of biodiversity in the Shannon Estuary	Digital resource to be developed	LCCC, Clare County Council and Kerry County Council	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
6	Promote seed saving of local plants and trees that support biodiversity within LCCC and with the general public	Min of 2 seed saving public events to be held annually	LCCC	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
7	Promote the protection of hedgerows and other trees which contribute to green infrastructure	Min of 2 training sessions to be held annually. Educational guidance leaflet which includes case studies to be produced	LCCC in collaboration with landowners and other relevant organisations	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
8	Update 2021 Bluesky Tree Cover Survey	Bluesky Tree Cover to be updated and made more user friendly to inform LCCC	LCCC	85% NPWS LBAF 15% LCCC own resources
9	In line with LCCC Tree Policy identify and survey trees under the management of LCCC that are affected by Ash Die Back	No. of trees that will be Identified and surveyed. No. of recommendations carried out from survey	LCCC in collaboration with others	LCCC own resources plus grant funding (to be identified)
10	Promote and enhance habitat for species scarce to Limerick where appropriate	Efforts will continue towards the ongoing protection of nationally scarce and species scarce to Limerick	LCCC in collaboration with relevant stakeholders	LCCC own resources
11	Support and contribute to future European, National and local plans for Nature	The nos of plans on which submissions are made or LCCC contributes to or supports	LCCC in collaboration with others	LCCC own resources
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