

Welcome to EirGrid/SECAD Community Biodiversity Webinar

12th June 2024



EirGrid

SECAD PARTNERSHIP

Wildwork

HELPING PEOPLE HELP NATURE HELP PEOPLE

WEBINAR AGENDA

- Introduction from Michelle Walsh, CLO – Celtic Interconnector, EirGrid
- Introducing Biodiversity Action – William O'Halloran, SECAD Wild Work
- Conor O'Brien, Harper's Island & Glounthaune Tidy Towns
- Ruth Ring, Cobh Tidy Towns
- Ciaran Lynch, Cabragh Wetlands
- What Best Practice Looks Like - Robert Fennelly, Senior Ecologist, EirGrid
- Q & A (8 pm)

Things to note…

- Webinar is being recorded and will be made available to view after event
- Please use the Q&A function to submit any questions for the panel and we will answer as many of these as possible at the end of the webinar





Michelle Walsh

EirGrid

Community Benefit Fund

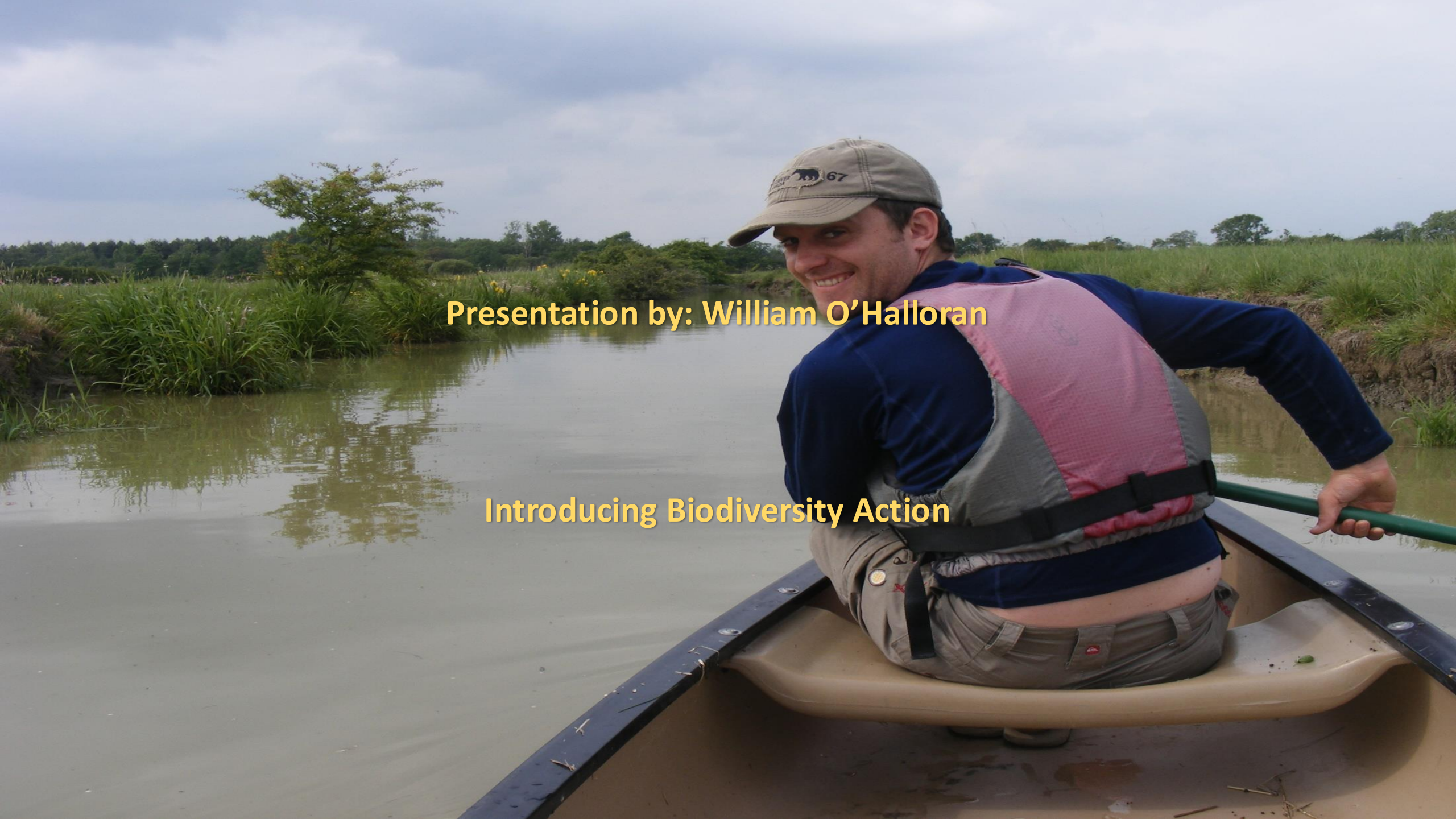
‘for the local community, by the local community’

€2.4 Million Total Fund		
Community	**Sustainability**	**Biodiversity**
Phase 1 (2023): €320,000	Phase 1 (2023): €320,000	Phase 1 (2023): €320,000
Phase 2 (2024/2025): €240,000	Phase 2 (2024/2025): €240,000	Phase 2 (2024/2025): €240,000
Phase 3 (2026): €240,000	Phase 3 (2026): €240,000	Phase 3 (2026): €240,000
Total: €800,000	Total: €800,000	Total: €800,000

- Phase 1 €838,987 was allocated in funding to 29 successful projects.
- **Underspend in Biodiversity of €121,013 to be carried over to phase 2**
- **Phase 2 Biodiversity fund is €361,013**

EirGrid

SECAD PARTNERSHIP



Presentation by: William O'Halloran

Introducing Biodiversity Action

What exactly is a biodiversity action




Journey into the unknown (or the unforgotten)


Anyone can do it


This can be fun


Bringing people together


To do things you’d never expect

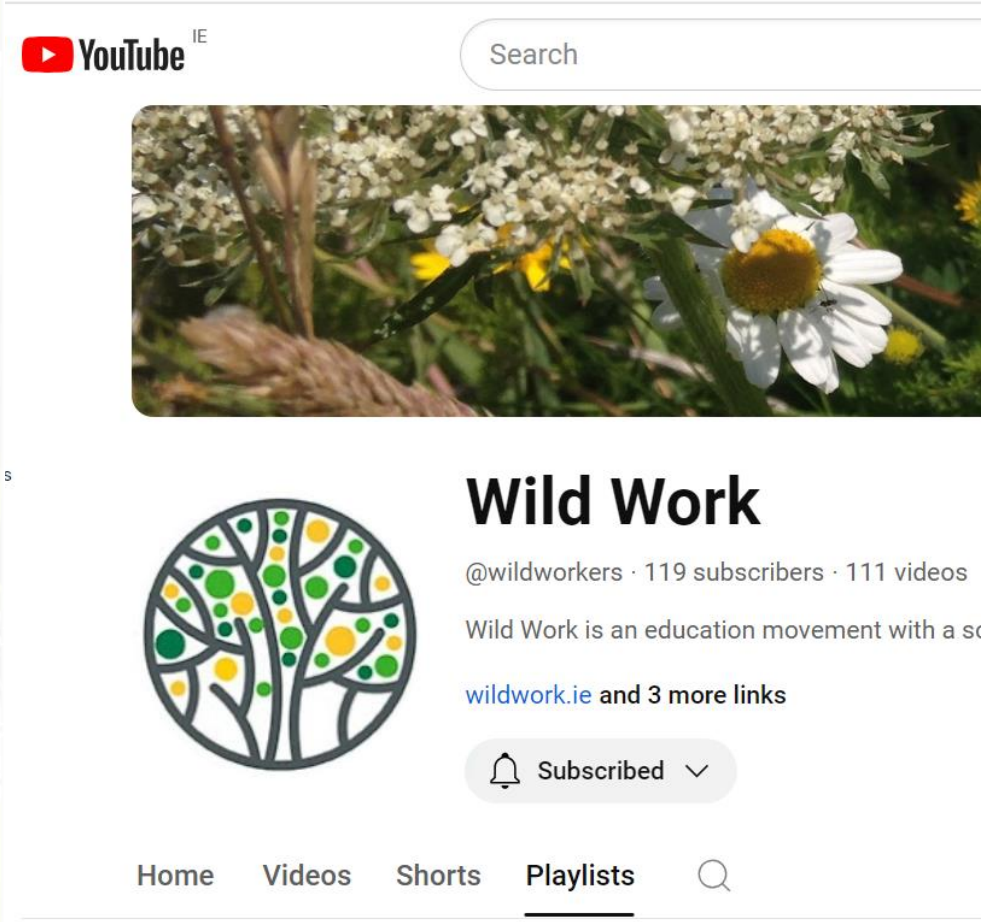

While discovering what’s special in your local landscape


But always aim to do the right thing, or don't do it at all…
Managed for wildlife
DO NOT CUT
SECAD
Wildwork


There’s help, advice and resources available through local experts, other community groups, Wild Work, State Agencies, Academia, etc.
And support through Eirgrid, SECAD and others…

Accessible on www.wildwork.ie

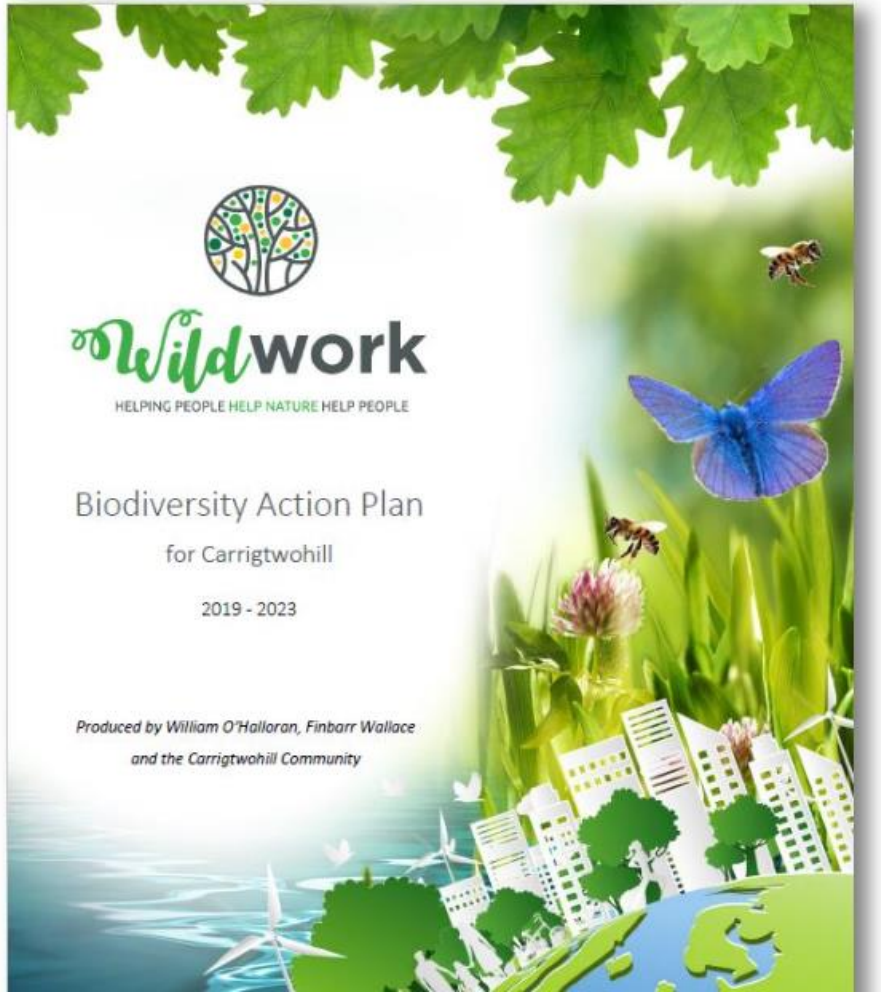


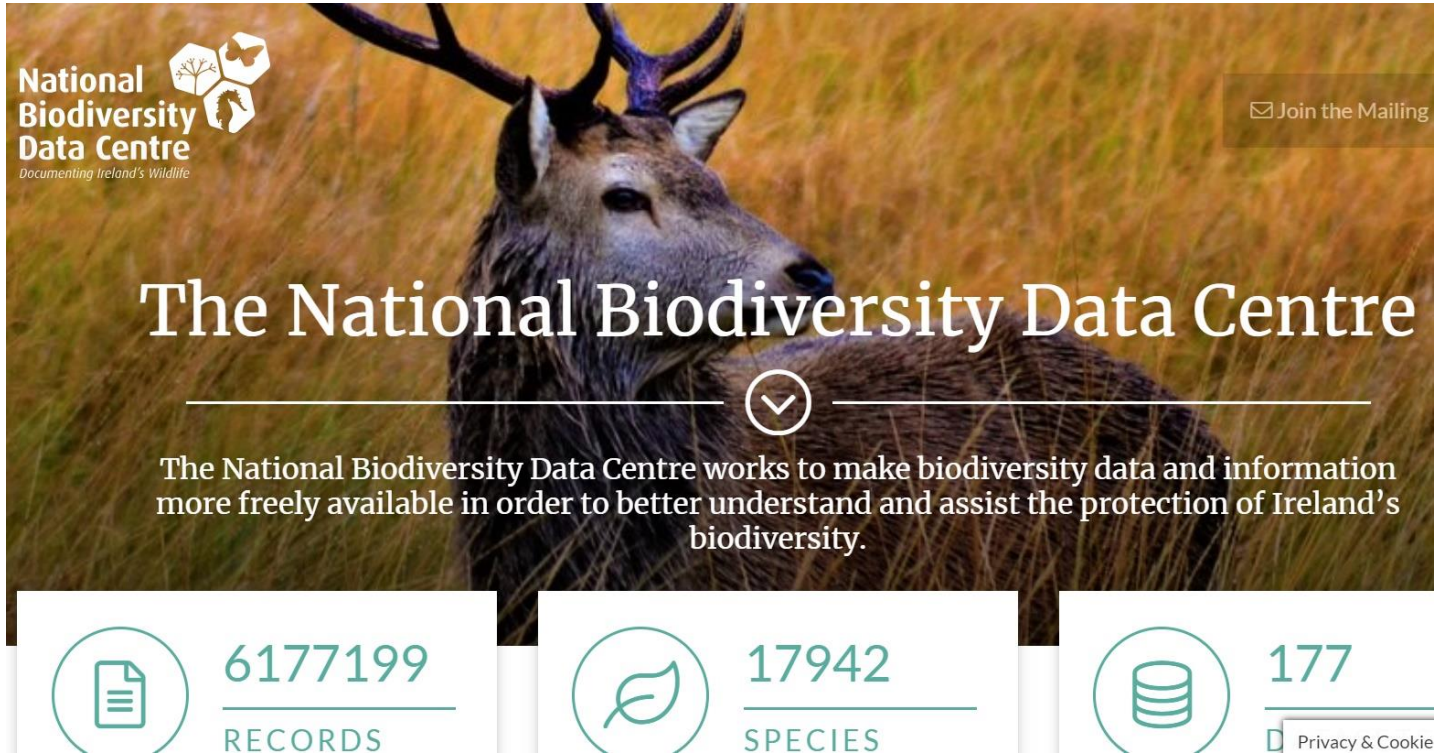


Accessible on www.wildwork.ie

Completed Community Biodiversity Action Plans

- Ard Carrig Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ballincollig Tidy Towns Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ballinora and Waterford Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ballybrack (Mangala) Biodiversity Action Plan
- Ballyvergan Marsh Work Plan
- Carrigaline Tidy Towns Biodiversity Action Plan
- Carrigtwohill Biodiversity Action Plan
- Douglas Tidy Towns Biodiversity Action Plan
- Durrus and District Biodiversity Action Plan
- Wild Work Public Lands Cavan Site (Killeshandra) Wild Work Biodiversity Action Plan
- Wild Work Public Lands South Cork Site (Great Island, Cobh) Biodiversity Action Plan
- Wild Work Public Lands West Limerick Site (Newcastle West) Biodiversity Action Plan
- Wild Work Public Lands West Cork Site (Ballinspittle) Biodiversity Action Plan
- Youghal Tidy Towns Biodiversity Action Plan




National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife
Join the Mailing
The National Biodiversity Data Centre
The National Biodiversity Data Centre works to make biodiversity data and information more freely available in order to better understand and assist the protection of Ireland's biodiversity.
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County Cork Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014
Contae Chorcaí Plean Ghníomhartha Bhithéagsulacht 2009-2014

Conor O'Brien
Harper's Island & Glounthaune Tidy Towns



Bogaigh Oileán an Harpúraigh

Harper's Island Wetlands

Conor O'Brien Glounthaune Tidy Towns





An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

CORK HARBOUR SPA
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
SPA DESIGNATION

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives SPA Supporting Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 004030; version 2.04. CO. CORK

0 1 2 3 4 km

The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.
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Níl sna teorainneacha ar na hiarscáileanna ach nod garshuíomhach ginearálta. Féadfar athbhreithnithe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthathe.
Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh EN 0059214. © Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Rialtas na hÉireann

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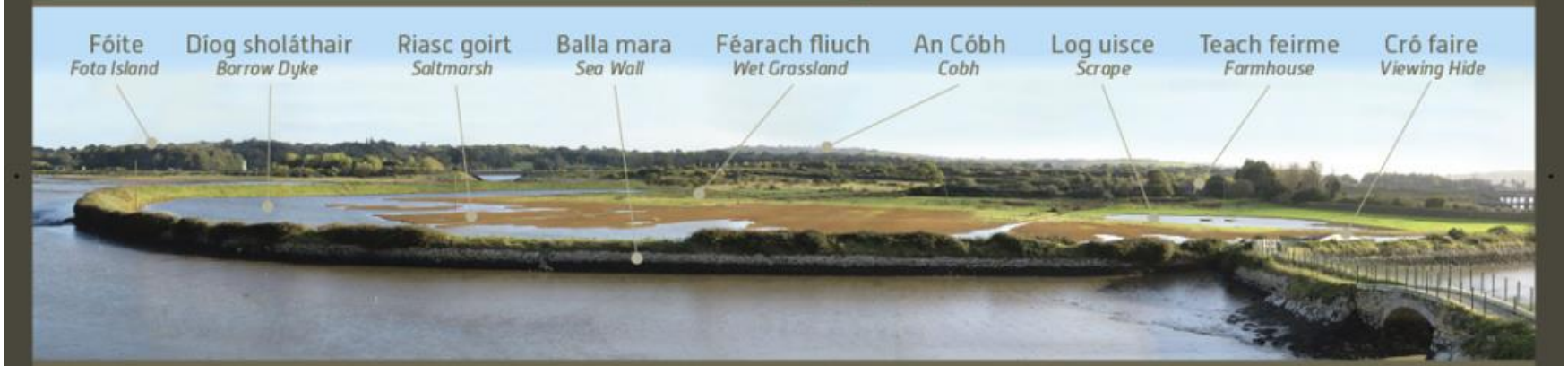
Map Version 1
Date: Nov 2014

Harper's Island Wetlands



Ionad Bogaigh Oileán an Harpúraigh
Harper's Island Wetland Centre

Lánléargas ar Ghnáthóga *Habitats Panorama*





Imeacht ama, na Taoldi agus an Bháisteach

Láthair na bogaigh ar Oileán an Harpúraigh stair an oileáin agus conas mar a chuaigh an bháisteach agus na taoide de bharr na taoide i bhfeidhm ar an áit.

Tógadh an balla mara breis is 200 bliain é shin chun réileán líthe a athrú ina thalamh fairme. Le himeacht na mblianta, rinneadh an talamh ar chól an bhalla mara a thochailt chun cur leis an mballa mara. Ar an gcaoi sin, cruthaíodh clais leathan ar a dtugtar díog sholáthair. Shil uisce na báistí leis trí bhuaicphointe sa bhalla mara, agus mar sin d'fhéadfaí na páirceanna tirime a úsáid don fharmeoireacht.

Tá Oileán an Harpúraigh á bhainistiú ar mhaithe le caomhnú an dúlra anois, mar sin fuaraíonn uisce an t-oileán a choinneáil fliuch. Anois tarnann an t-uisce báistí ar an oileán agus tagann uisce na taoide isteach tríd an mbuaicphointe, agus ar an gcaoi sin tá córas luachmhar de ghnáthóga bogaigh le fáil ar an oileán.

Tá an díog sholáthair go hiomlán faoin uisce anois, agus is linn atá anois ann. Tá riasc goirt le fáil anois ar an taobh ó dheas den díog sholáthair i limistéar a bhíonn faoi uisce nuair a bhíonn leibhéal ard uisce ann. Plandaí ar a dtugtar lus na gloine a bhíal acmhainn aigéar an salann is mó a fhaightear sa riasc goirt seo. Tá féarach fliuch le fáil anois sna páirceanna ar an taobh eile den riasc goirt. Cruthaíodh an fuaigh níos [ten Asdonhaint] sa chuid ó thuaidh den fhéarach fliuch in 2017.

Tá réileán líthe thaoidmheara timpeall ar Oileán an Harpúraigh, agus tá bia le fáil sna réileáin lítheacha sin do líon mór éan ar na bogaigh. Téann na héin sin ar an bhfóra ar bhogaigh Oileán an Harpúraigh nuair a bhíonn sé ina lán mhara agus nuair a bhíonn na réileáin lítha faoin uisce. Bíonn áit bhogaigh eile ag brath ar aice sa díog sholáthair nó téann siad ag imirt ar an bhfóra fliuch. Baith áiseanna nua beathaithe agus neadaithe ag na héin bhogaigh sa log uisce anois.

Time, Tide and Rain

The wetlands of Harper's Island reflect the history of the island and the influence of rainfall and tidal flooding. The sea wall was constructed over 200 years ago to change mudflat into farmland. Over the years, the land behind the sea wall was excavated to build up the sea wall. These excavations created a wide trench called a borrow dyke. Rainwater drained out through a sluice in the seawall keeping the fields dry for farming.

Harper's Island is now managed for nature conservation so we want to keep the island wet. Rainwater now accumulates on the island, and tidalwater comes in through the sluice, creating a valuable complex of wetland habitats.

The borrow dyke is now a permanently flooded lagoon. Saltmarsh has developed to the south of the borrow dyke in an area that is flooded when water levels are high. This saltmarsh is dominated by a salt-tolerant plant called Glasswort. The low-lying fields beyond the saltmarsh have developed into wet grassland. In 2017, the scrape [a shallow pond] was created in the northern part of the wet grassland.

Harper's Island is surrounded by tidal mudflats, which provide food for large numbers of wetland birds. At high tide, when the mudflats are flooded, these birds roost in the Harper's Island wetlands. Other wetland birds catch fish in the borrow dyke, or graze in the wet grasslands. The scrape will provide new feeding and nesting areas for wetland birds.



Cork County Council

Bogaigh an Chósta Coastal Wetlands

Saibhreas Fiadhúlra

Rich in Wildlife

Guilbneach eardhubh
Black-tailed Godwit
Limosa limosa



Fiacail madra
Dog-tooth Moth
Lacanobia suasa

Tacaíonn na bogaigh ar an gcósta leis na mílte gnéithe iasc agus beatha eile, táid rí-thábhachtach don gheilleagar réigiúnach, cultúr agus cáilíocht beatha. Tá cosaint againn trí bhogaigh shláintiúla ar an gcósta ó éifeachtaí stoirme is tuilte. Táid an-mhaith ar fad chun carbón a stóráil, deich n-uaire níos fearr ná foraois bháistí. Is fíor, áfach, go gcuireann gníomhaíochtaí daonna isteach go mór ar dhaoine ó thaobh forbairt agus truailliú de. Anois beidh leibhéal na farraige ag ardú is beidh athruithe eile de dheasca athrú aeráide. Anois freisin beidh dúshláin níos mó ná riamh romhainn maidir leis an dtionchar úd.

Coastal wetlands around Ireland support thousands of species of fish and other wildlife, and they are crucial for the regional economy, culture, and quality of life. Healthy coastal wetlands also protect us from the effects of storms and flooding. They are highly efficient at storing carbon, up to ten times more than rain forests. However, coastal wetland habitats and wildlife are under pressure from human activities such as development and pollution. Now sea level rise and other changes due to climate change will create even greater challenges for these valuable places.

Beatha Uisce agus Láibe

Bíonn bithéagsúlacht an-mhór sa tsaoi – tuairtear i mar phiardanna na n-aigéan. Táid ar na héicseachórais is fearr ar domhan. Luaitear iad chomh saibhir le foraois báistí na hAmazóine – ról casta bíbhachtach acu i saol ar an gcósta.Mar shampla féadfar teacht ar suas le 1000 piast laistigh de mhéadar cearnach láibe. Idir uisce is láib bíonn ribí róbeis, peist, éisc slogáin, éisc an-mhór mar an Lannach -Glas. Baineann siad go léir leas as gréasáin casta agus gach éinne bainteach le sláinte an éicseachórais ollmhór úd a chomeád beo.

Life in Water and Mud

Coastal wetlands contain a rich biodiversity of life – said to be the nurseries of oceans. They are one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth, some say as rich as the Amazon rain forest – playing an important and complex role in the life of our coast. For example you can find up to a 1000 worms alone per square metre of mud! The water and mud is home to many creatures from tiny shrimps, worms and shellfish to large fish like the Thick-lipped Mullet. All benefit from being part of a complex food web and each one plays a part in maintaining the health of this important ecosystem.



Up to 75cm

Míléad bruasach
Thick-lipped Mullet
Chelon labrosus



Up to 8.5 cm

Slogán Piobarach Cleis
Peppery Furrow Shell
Scrobicularia plana



Up to 7mm

Séacla láib
Mud Shrimp
Corophium sp.



Up to 30mm

Raga coiteann
Ragworm
Hediste sp.

Ceann Scríbe mar Imirce

D'fhorbair na héin chun teacht i dtír ar bhogaigh mar a mbíonn raidhse bia ar fáil. Anuas ar na héin bhogaigh atá againn sa tír, tagann na mílte eile chugainn mar an Ladhrán Trá Comónta agus Praslacha na hEoráise. Is maith leo teacht sa gheimhreadh chun éalú ó na tailte eile i dtuaisceart na hEorpa, An tSibéir agus fiú an t-Artach i Meiriceá. Tagann an Plibín go ceann tamaillín chun éalú ón bhfuacht dochreidte is tiocfaidh na mílte eile ina dhiaidh.Tagtar freisin go dtí na bogaigh ón Afric sa tsamhradh ar thóir na Geabhróige, iad ag lorg bia do na héin bheaga.

Migration Destination

Birds have evolved to take advantage of coastal wetlands which are a rich source of food. As well as being home to Irish born wetland birds, Ireland is a destination for hundreds of thousands more, such as the Common Redshank and Eurasian Teal. Birds like these migrate here each winter to escape harsh winter weather on their breeding grounds all over northern Europe, Siberia and even arctic America. Some wetland birds such as the Lapwing will make short-term migrations to escape freezing weather and tens of thousands may arrive here to join Irish birds. Summer migrants from Africa like the Common Tern hunt on coastal wetlands, finding food to feed their hungry chicks.



Breacóg Dunlin
Calidris alpina



Cosdeargán Redshank
Tringa totanus



Geabhróg Common Tern
Sterna hirundo



Seabhac seilge Peregrine Falcon
Falco peregrinus



Criadán Kingfisher
Alcedo atthis



Plibín Lapwing
Vanellus vanellus

Plandaí Fulangacha Salainn ar ár mBogaigh fan gCósta

Salt tolerant Plants of our Coastal Wetlands



Lus na gloine
Glasswort
Salicornia europaea



Luibh bhléine
Sea Aster
Aster tripolium



Cabróis mhara bheag
Sea Spurry
Spergularia marina



Bogshúlín mara
Club Rush
Bolboschoenus maritimus



Corr réisc
Grey Heron
Ardea cinerea

Praslacha Teal
Anas crecca

All species featured on this information board can be found in or around Harper's Island

All images contributed by Mark Carmody & Jim Wilson - except Sea Spurry, Club rush (Jim Devlin), Mullet (Richie Ryan)











2005



2020





November 2019




September 2022

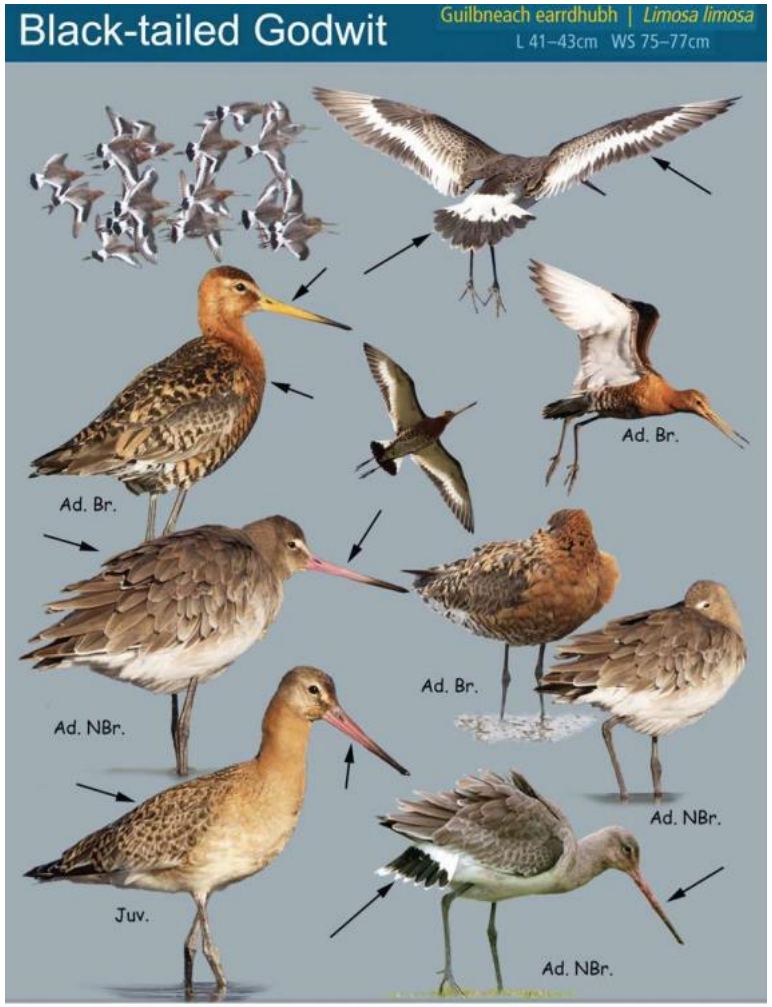

Harper's Island Wetlands
Meadow/Móinéar
Farmhouse/Teach Feirme
Lime Kiln/Áith Aoil
Nature Trail/Slí Dhúlra
Viewpoint/Láthair Amhairc
Hide/Folachán
Bench/Binse
Outdoor Classroom/
Seomra Ranga Faoin Spéir
Sea Wall/Balla Mara
Borrow Dyke/Díog Sholáthair
Saltmarsh/Riasc Goirt
Wet Grassland/Féarach Fliuch
Embankment/Port
Scrape/Linne Log Uisce
Marsh/Bogach
Native Woodland/
Coillearnach Dhúchasach
Pollinator Mound/
Dumha Pailneoir
Sluice/Bualchomhla
Estuary/Inbhear
Railway/Iarnród
700m to Glounthaune Railway Station
Entrance
Borrow Dyke Hide
Folachán an Díog
Sholáthair
Scrape Hide
Folachán na
Linne Log Uisce
Sea Wall Hide
Folachán an
Balla Mara
To Midleton
To Cork
N25

129 Bird Species!

Recorded At
Harper’s Island Wetlands



Kingfisher



Smaller than a Curlew. **Br:** chestnut-red underside; black bars on the flanks and belly, white on vent and undertail coverts; mainly black tail. Long, straight, black-tipped, straw-yellow beak. Female: overall paler. **NBr:** mainly uniform pale grey-brown upperparts; pink beak with black tip; pale supercilium between beak and eye. **Juv/Im:** tan wash on the head and breast; dark-spotted brown back. **In flight:** broad white wing stripe; square white rump patch; mainly black tail; straight beak. Feet project beyond the tail. Flight straight with rapid wingbeats.








Harper's Island Wetlands
Meadow/Móinéar
Farmhouse/Teach Feirme
Lime Kiln/Áith Aoil
Nature Trail/Slí Dhúlra
Viewpoint/Láthair Amhairc
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Balla Mara
To Midleton
To Cork
N25


Flowers of Harper's Island Wetlands




Butterflies of Harper's Island Wetlands


Moths of Harper's Island Wetlands








MTD








Harper's Island Wetlands
Meadow/Móinéar
Farmhouse/Teach Feirme
Lime Kiln/Áith Aoil
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To Midleton
To Cork
N25




August 20 2021


August 20 2021


May 2 2022


P Camera


P Camera
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Harper's Island Wetlands
Meadow/Móinéar
Farmhouse/Teach Feirme
Lime Kiln/Áith Aoil
Nature Trail/Slí Dhúlra
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To Cork
N25




Harper's Island Wetlands
Activity Book
Things to do at Home or in Class
Harper's Island Wetlands
Activity Book
Things to do at Harper's Island Wetlands
Harper's Island Wetlands
Activity Book
Environmental Education Games

Bogaigh Oileán an Harpúraigh
Harper's Island Wetlands

Glounthaune Community Association

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL 1899

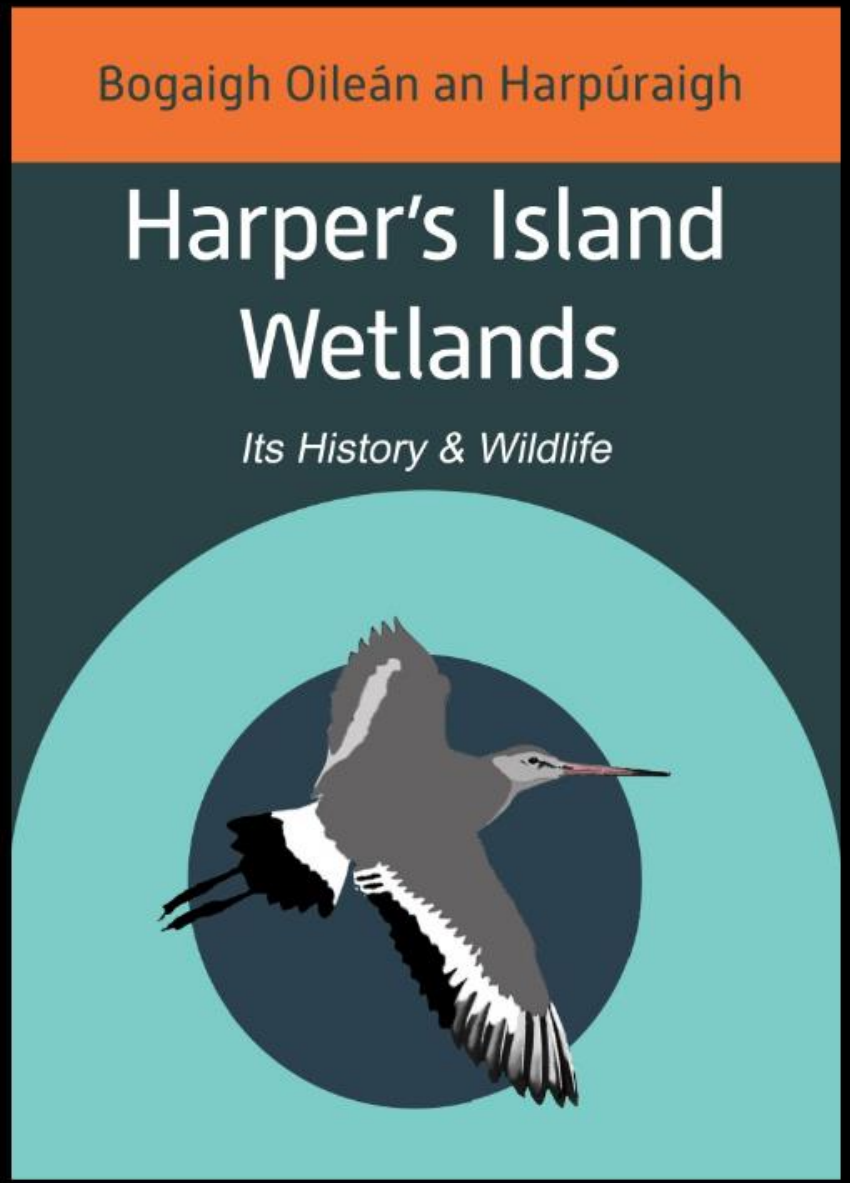
Cork Branch
BirdWatchIreland
protecting birds and biodiversity

IRISH MEN'S SHEDS ASSOCIATION
menssheds.ie

Glounthaune TIDY TOWNS

An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

harpersislandwetlands.ie







Thank You

RUTH RING

COBH TIDY TOWNS





COBH
TIDY TOWNS

COBH TIDY TOWNS

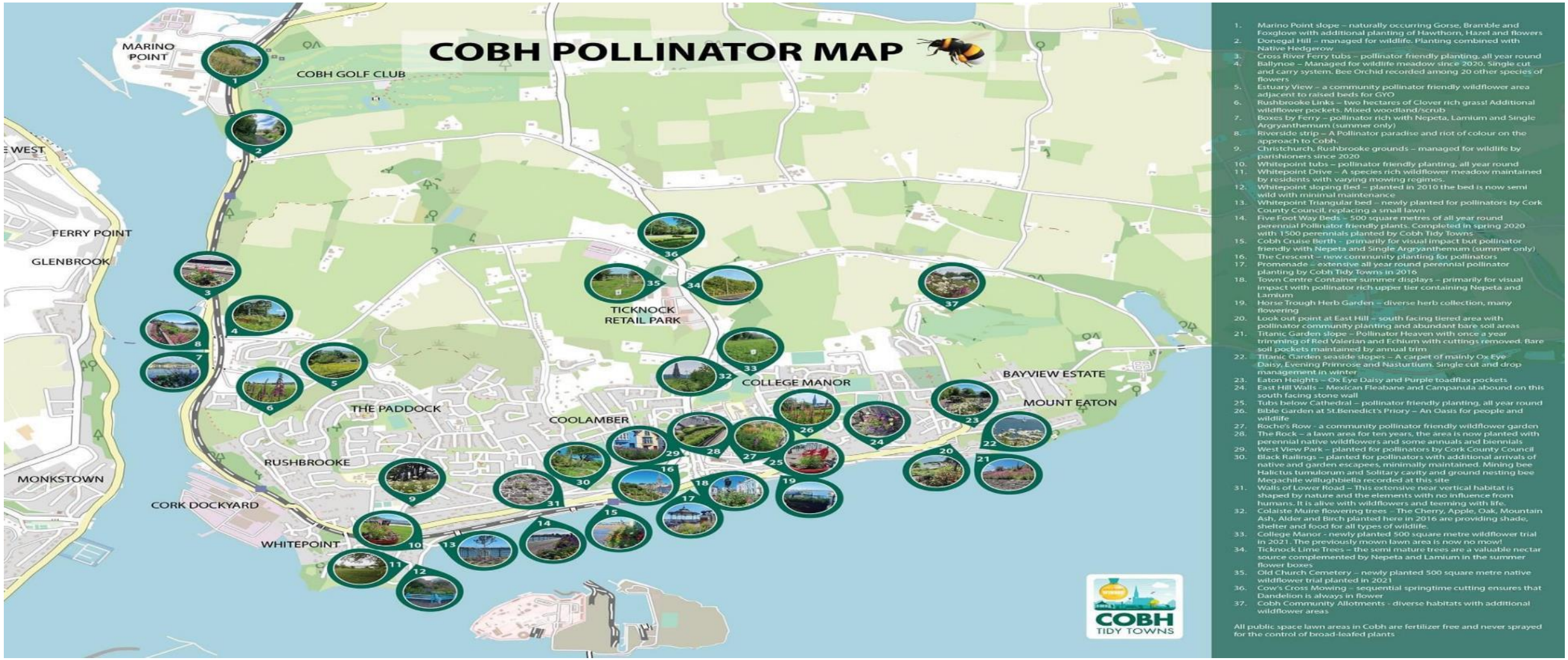
Founded 1976

Bronze 2011, Silver 2012-2015, Gold 2016-2023

Tidiest Large Town in Ireland 2021

Biodiversity Ireland Pollinator Award 2022

Biodiversity Ireland Regional Winner 2023


COBH POLLINATOR MAP
MARINO POINT
COBH GOLF CLUB
FERRY POINT
GLENBROOK
TICKNOCK RETAIL PARK
COLLEGE MANOR
BAYVIEW ESTATE
MOUNT EATON
THE PADDOCK
COOLAMBER
RUSHBROOKE
MONKSTOWN
CORK DOCKYARD
WHITEPOINT
COBH TIDY TOWNS
1. Marino Point slope – naturally occurring Gorse, Bramble and Foxglove with additional planting of Hawthorn, Hazel and flowers
2. Donegal Hill – managed for wildlife. Planting combined with Native Hedgerow
3. Cross River Ferry tubs – pollinator friendly planting, all year round
4. Ballynoe – Managed for wildlife meadow since 2020. Single cut and carry system. Bee Orchid recorded among 20 other species of flowers
5. Estuary View – a community pollinator friendly wildflower area adjacent to raised beds for GYO
6. Rushbrooke Links – two hectares of Clover rich grass! Additional wildflower pockets. Mixed woodland/scrub
7. Boxes by Ferry – pollinator rich with Nepeta, Lamium and Single Argryanthemum (summer only)
8. Riverside strip – A Pollinator paradise and riot of colour on the approach to Cobh.
9. Christchurch, Rushbrooke grounds – managed for wildlife by parishioners since 2020
10. Whitepoint tubs – pollinator friendly planting, all year round
11. Whitepoint Drive – A species rich wildflower meadow maintained by residents with varying mowing regimes.
12. Whitepoint sloping Bed – planted in 2010 the bed is now semi wild with minimal maintenance
13. Whitepoint Triangular bed – newly planted for pollinators by Cork County Council, replacing a small lawn
14. Five Foot Way Beds – 500 square metres of all year round perennial Pollinator friendly plants. Completed in spring 2020 with 1500 perennials planted by Cobh Tidy Towns
15. Cobh Cruise Berth - primarily for visual impact but pollinator friendly with Nepeta and Single Argryanthemum (summer only)
16. The Crescent – new community planting for pollinators
17. Promenade – extensive all year round perennial pollinator planting by Cobh Tidy Towns in 2016
18. Town Centre Container summer displays – primarily for visual impact with pollinator rich upper tier containing Nepeta and Lamium
19. Horse Trough Herb Garden – diverse herb collection, many flowering
20. Look out point at East Hill – south facing tiered area with pollinator community planting and abundant bare soil areas
21. Titanic Garden slope – Pollinator Heaven with once a year trimming of Red Valerian and Echium with cuttings removed. Bare soil pockets maintained by annual trim
22. Titanic Garden seaside slopes – A carpet of mainly Ox Eye Daisy, Evening Primrose and Nasturtium. Single cut and drop management in winter
23. Eaton Heights – Ox Eye Daisy and Purple toadflax pockets
24. East Hill Walls – Mexican Fleabane and Campanula abound on this south facing stone wall
25. Tubs below Cathedral – pollinator friendly planting, all year round
26. Bible Garden at St.Benedict's Priory – An Oasis for people and wildlife
27. Roche's Row - a community pollinator friendly wildflower garden
28. The Rock – a lawn area for ten years, the area is now planted with perennial native wildflowers and some annuals and biennials
29. West View Park – planted for pollinators by Cork County Council
30. Black Railings – planted for pollinators with additional arrivals of native and garden escapees, minimally maintained. Mining bee Halictus tumulorum and Solitary cavity and ground nesting bee Megachile willughbiella recorded at this site
31. Walls of Lower Road – This extensive near vertical habitat is shaped by nature and the elements with no influence from humans. It is alive with wildflowers and teeming with life.
32. Colaiste Muire flowering trees – The Cherry, Apple, Oak, Mountain Ash, Alder and Birch planted here in 2016 are providing shade, shelter and food for all types of wildlife.
33. College Manor - newly planted 500 square metre wildflower trial in 2021. The previously mown lawn area is now no mow!
34. Ticknock Lime Trees – the semi mature trees are a valuable nectar source complemented by Nepeta and Lamium in the summer flower boxes.
35. Old Church Cemetery – newly planted 500 square metre native wildflower trial planted in 2021
36. Cow's Cross Mowing – sequential springtime cutting ensures that Dandelion is always in flower
37. Cobh Community Allotments - diverse habitats with additional wildflower areas
All public space lawn areas in Cobh are fertilizer free and never sprayed for the control of broad-leafed plants

3 PROJECTS

-FIVE FOOT WALKWAY

-AN GARRÁN

-ST COLMAN'S CEMETERY

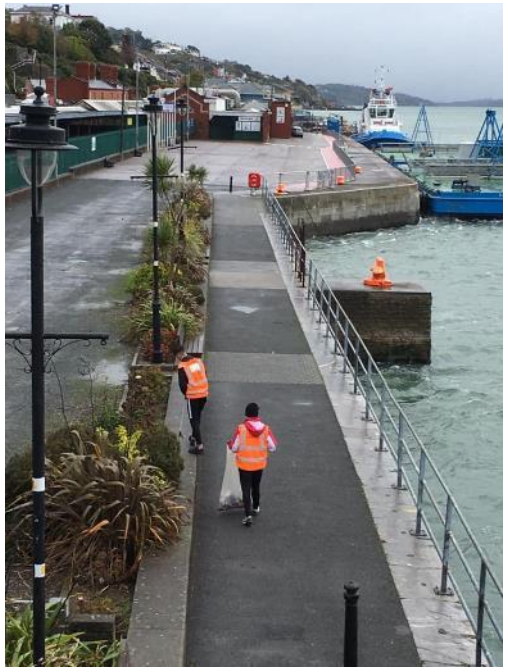
COBH
TIDY TOWNS



Five Foot Walkway



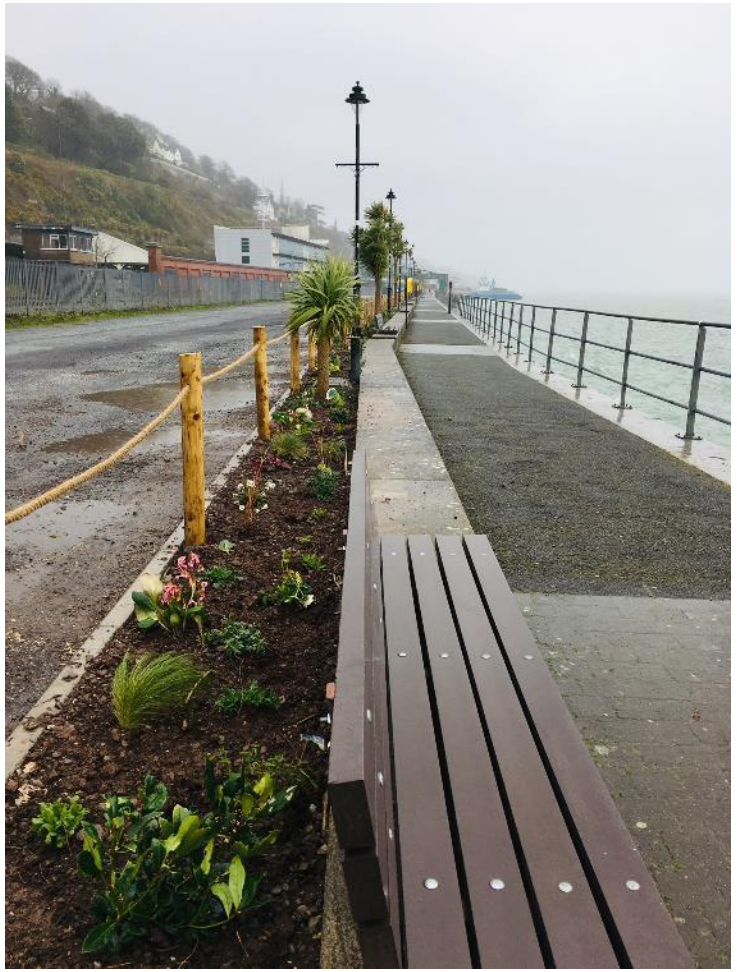


















This walkway was originally known as Midleton Quay and built in 1845 as part of the grand plan for the town prepared for Lord Midleton by Architect Decimus Burton.
Now known as the Five Foot Way or simply as The Waters Edge it was upgraded in 2003 and the Car Park was added by Cobh Town Council.
The new playground was opened in April 2018 after a mammoth community fundraising campaign spearheaded by the Cobh Playground Fundraising committee.







In 2019 Cobh Tidy Towns embarked on a project to enhance this valuable amenity for the people of Cobh and for visitors.
The overgrown planting was removed from 500 metres of flower bed.
1500 new plants were planted, 150 stakes were secured to regularise parking and 400 metres of rope completed the seaside theme.
The variety of plants has been carefully chosen to provide year round interest and as food sources for pollinating insects in all seasons.
The Time to Explore signs near the Cobh Cruise Berth will encourage Cruise passengers returning from Bus Excursions to enjoy Cobh before they sail.
This project was conceived, planned, actioned and completed by Cobh Tidy Towns volunteers.

Watch the project video by scanning the QR code

The project was funded by Cobh Tidy Towns with generous support from Cork County Council and Port of Cork

Cork County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Port of Cork

This sign is an initiative of COBH to encourage everyone to Bee Friendly when planting flowers
#makeithappen #LoveCobh






KEEP OFF
THE FLOWER BEDS


COBH
TIDY TOWNS


COBH
TIDY TOWNS

An Garrán – native Irish tree grove











St Colman's Cemetery –native hedgerow and tree avenue























COBH
TIDY TOWNS

Thank You

https://youtu.be/wlLyVJrGhfE?si=vKSan1MjN3BZ-xTJ
See our YouTube channel for videos Cobh Tidy Towns and come visit us!



Cabragh Wetlands

Ciaran Lynch

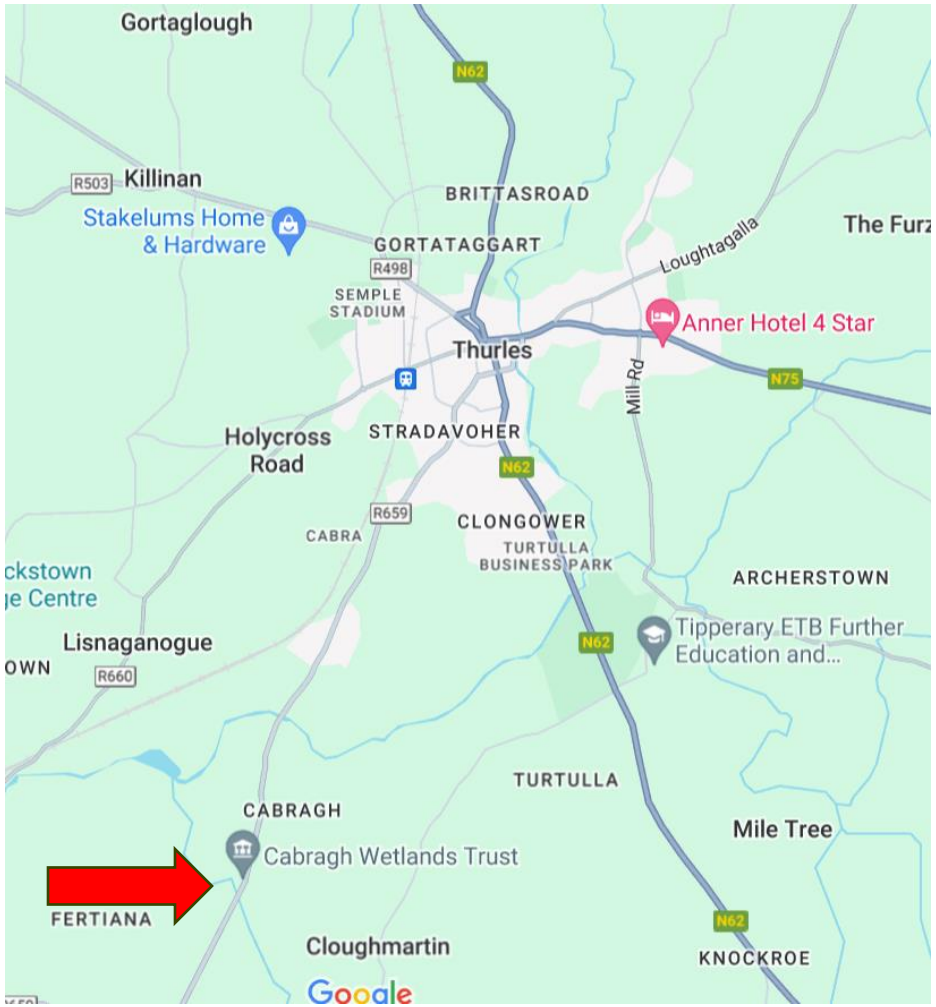
Presentation to SECAD Webinar



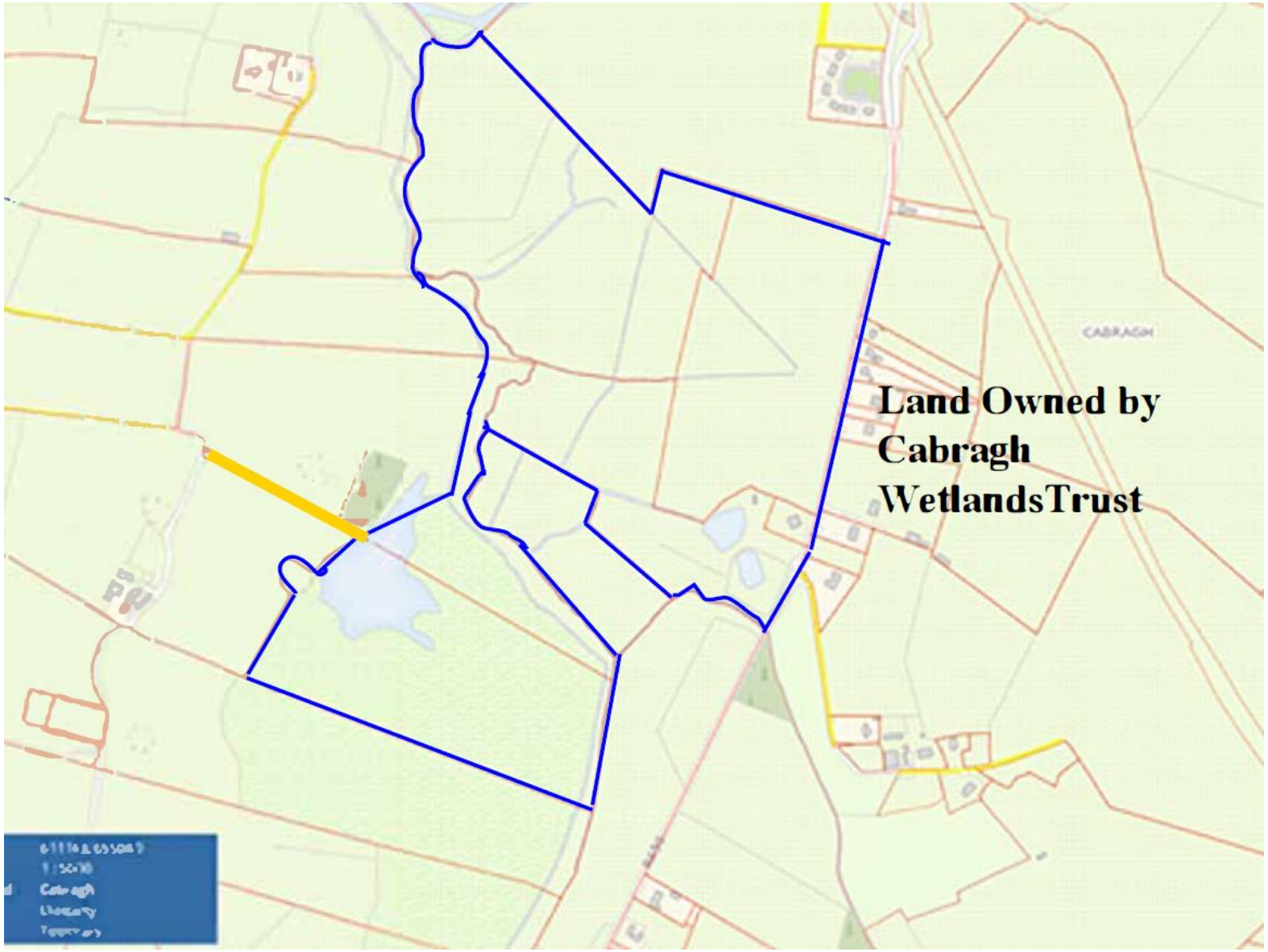


Where we are


Coleraine
Letterkenny
Londonderry
Derry
NORTHERN IRELAND
Belfast
Lisburn
Sligo
Belmullet
Ballina
Newry
Castlebar
Dundalk
Drogheda
Tuam
Mullingar
M3
Athlone
M4
Dublin
Galway
Bray
Ireland
Portlaoise
M18
M9
Carlow
Limerick
Kilkenny
Gorey
M8
Clonmel
M9
Wexford
Tralee
Waterford
M8
Dingle
Killarney
Cork


Gortaglough
N62
R503
Killinan
BRITTASROAD
Stakelums Home & Hardware
GORTATAGGART
R498
Loughtagalla
The Furz
SEMPLE STADIUM
Anner Hotel 4 Star
Thurles
Mill Rd
N75
Holycross Road
STRADAVOHER
N62
R659
CABRA
CLONGOWER
TURTULLA BUSINESS PARK
ckstown
ge Centre
ARCHERSTOWN
Tipperary ETB Further Education and...
Lisnaganogue
OWN
R660
N62
TURTULLA
CABRAGH
Cabragh Wetlands Trust
Mile Tree
FERTIANA
Cloughmartin
N62
KNOCKROE
Google

What we have









How is started

- Late 8Os Thurles sugar factory closing
- Part of the land was these wetlands
- There was talk of turning it into the town dump
- A number of local people got together and purchased the land to conserve and protect it
- They then established what was called Cabragh Wetlands Trust
- Not really a trust though
- It was an unincorporated association with a constitution
- But it did get charitable status

The early vision

- The early vision was conservation, education and recreation
- Conserve the wetland habitat which is part of the Suir SAC
- Use it to provide education in conservation and biodiversity
- Provide walks where people could enjoy and experience nature
- This purpose hasn't really changed

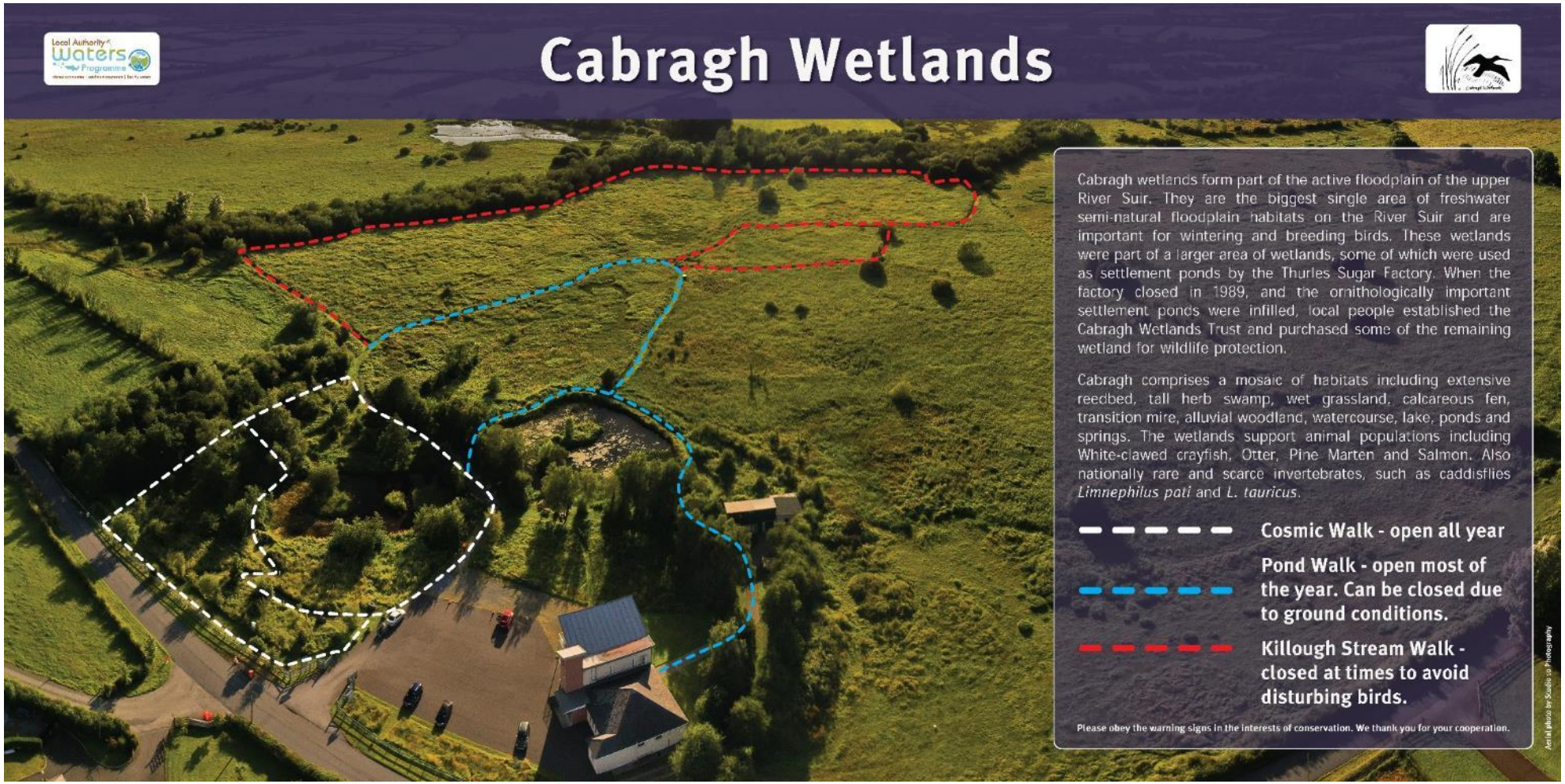




Some of the things we have done

- Built a building to accommodate training, meetings, visitors and events
- Built a Cosmic Walk and provided other walks
- Built two bird hides
- Have a lot of information signs around the area
- Bought conservation equipment
- Have a barn-owl breeding programme
- Prepared a habitat management plan
- Carried out small-scale habitat maintenance projects
- Installed solar panels
- Bought and leased more land

An aerial view



And some of the organisational stuff

- Established a CLG and got charitable status for it
- Transferring all assets to the CLG which will run the wetlands from now on
- Adopted all the policies and systems needed for a charity
- Set up sub-committees of volunteers for training and education, habitat management and event management
- Got assistance from a local CE Scheme
- Do local fund-raising for the non-project expenditure
- Are about to remodel the centre to make it more fit for purpose
- Provided a training course in biodiversity with TUS and South Tipperary Development Company
- But remember – all this is over 35 years!

Where we got help

- Local Authority – now all have a biodiversity officer but very helpful under a lot of headings including some funding
- NPWS – very helpful staff
- LAWPRO – specifically for water-related projects
- Heritage Council – funding and advice
- Local CE Scheme – some excellent workers over the years
- Local Development Companies – Social Enterprise and LEADER
- Wind Energy Community Fund

Where we got help

- Banks – we did have to get loans
- Schools who come on school visits
- Technological University of the Shannon
- Local businesses
- Local press and radio
- Volunteers with expertise
- One consultant whom we used a lot and who got to know the place well
- Placement students
- Some national philanthropic organisations

And finally - some of the lessons

- It is worth setting up good structures from the start – even if it is only set out in a constitution
- If you are going to own land or other assets consider setting up a CLG
- Get charitable status particularly if you are going to have property
- Try to get people on your group who have legal, financial and similar skills as well as those who are interested in biodiversity
- Have clear goals and objectives and stick to them and think about what you are going to measure to be able to demonstrate progress
- When you are starting on a project consider how it is going to be managed in the long-term as well as implemented initially
- Make sure that you have things like insurance, permissions, NPWS approval, land agreements if needed and so on in place as early as possible

And….

- Do a business/strategic plan
- Don’t be afraid to apply for funding but provide the funders with everything they need. It may seem difficult, but it gets better as you go along.
- Take a little time to write good briefs for designers, consultants, and specialist advisers
- Think about how you are going to continue to recruit volunteers over time if your project is one that will be ongoing
- And after all of that….. have some faith.
- Do your planning as well as you can, do look to the long-term as well as the short-term but, if there is something good to be done which will enhance biodiversity – just do it!





Thank You





Robert Fennelly

EirGrid

What Best Practice Looks Like?





3. Are the methods 'tried and tested'?

NBDC Handy 1 Pagers

Case studies of success stories

Tidy Towns Handbook

EirGrid



Q&A

www.eirgrid.ie/community/celtic-interconnector/celtic-interconnector-community-benefit-fund

info@secad.ie
021 4613432

Thank You!