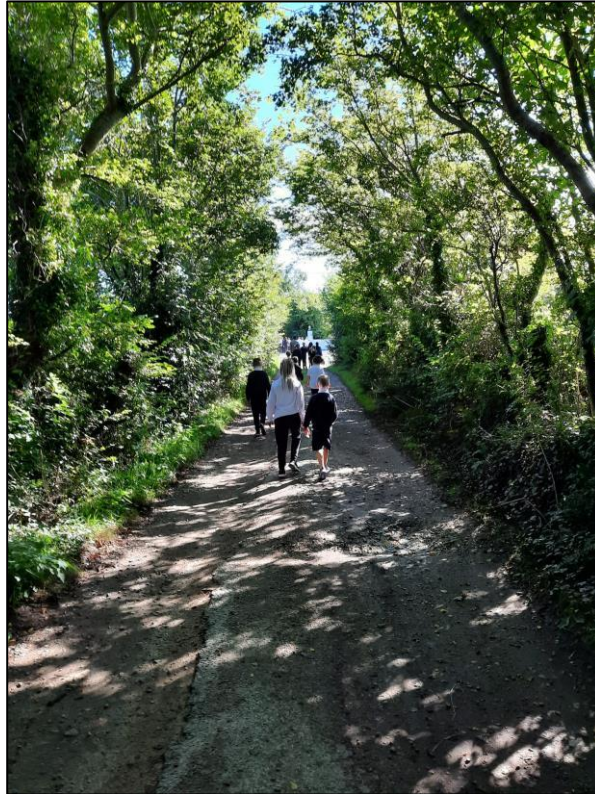


Yola Farmstead
Community Biodiversity Action Plan
2023-2026



ORGANISED BY
YOLA HEDGE SCHOOL

PREPARED BY DEBORAH D'ARCY
ECOLOGIST

 **The Community
Foundation for Ireland**

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INTRODUCTION

Yola Hedge School were successful in securing funding through The Community Foundation for Ireland to develop this Community Biodiversity Action Plan. Yola Hedge school received grant funding under Funding Strand 1. This allowed the development of a biodiversity plan for this community resource centre.

Yola Hedge School is a non-profit making organization, which provided various resources and activities which support families from the local area of Tagoat such as a youth club, a playground, an indoor skate park, a communit vegetable and fruit garden, a wildlife garden, a floodlit soccer pitch, a homework club, walkways, art and music workshops, family events, and more recently a relaxing safe place for asylum seekers to spend time.

The five acre site has a number of outbuildings in various states of repair but used as storage with potential for further development as workshop spaces.

Ecologist Deborah D'Arcy was commissioned by Yola Hedge School to facilitate the development of this plan. The focus of this work was to review the biodiversity resources currently present at Yola farmstead and to advise on actions to conserve, manage and enhance the habitats present and to maximise the benefit the local community could gain from their community resource though engagement with biodiversity.

It is encouraging and commendable that the Yola Hedge School to date have taken biodiversity into account when designing past and current projects, thereby reflecting their awareness, respect and appreciation for wildlife and their habitats. A wildlife garden has been started, tree planting has begun and the local school children are regularly brought on field trips and to do gardening activities at the centre.

The aim of this project is to further build upon their achievements and to strive for greater community participation to ensure that as many people as possible are made aware of the value of biodiversity in their locality and have an opportunity to contribute to its conservation and enhancement.

This biodiversity plan was drawn up following an ecological survey of the site, a walkover with Paul O'Keef and volunteer group leaders. Their aspirations and priorities were taken into account.

This Biodiversity Action Plan is the first plan for the centre and further actions no doubt will follow later as this group have huge commitment and great ideas.

This Biodiversity Plan is a component part of Yola Hedge School overall environmental sustainability goals.

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is a word used to refer to the variety of life on Earth. It includes all living things that make up the natural world including humans. Biodiversity also refers to the places where animals and plants live (their habitats) and the complex interactions between living things and their environment which are called ecosystems.



WHY IS BIODIVERSITY IMPORTANT TO US?

Humans are a component of biodiversity. We are part of the web of life that we call ecosystems. We are dependent on biodiversity to provide us with a range of goods and services. We call these goods and services ecosystem services. Our activities such as agriculture, forestry and fishing rely on productive ecosystems. We need biodiversity to provide us with clean air and water, food and medicines, flood control, to regulate our climate and provide us with natural landscapes and spaces for recreation and for us to enjoy and treasure contributing to our quality of life.



YOLA FARMSTEAD-THE LOCAL CONTEXT

Yola Farmstead is a five acre (20ha) site located in the townland Five Acre on the outskirts of Tagoat Village in Co. Wexford. The farmstead is on a long-term lease from Trustees who manage it on behalf of the community. The farmstead is a 5 minute walk down a lane from the local primary school, Tagoat National School. It is a 10-minute walk from the N11. There is a large housing estate of about 120 houses that backs onto the farmstead.

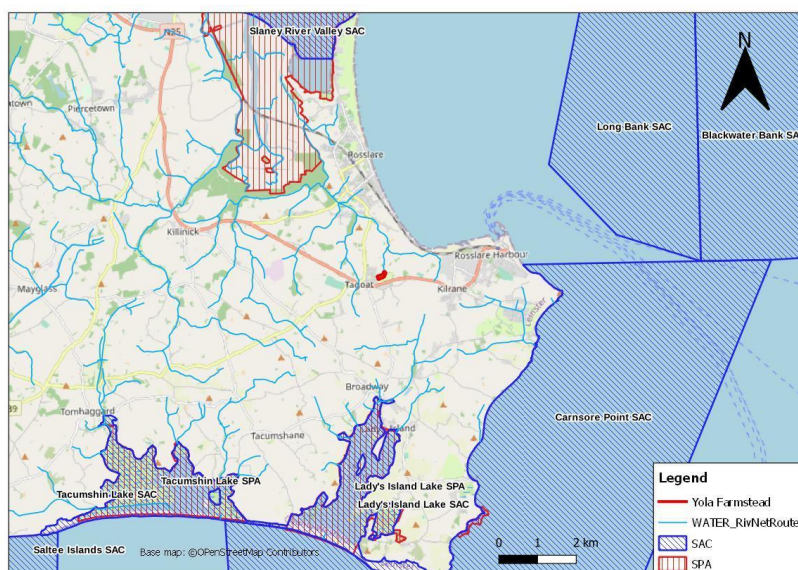
Yola farmstead previously housed a local genealogy and heritage centre and during that time a number of model vernacular buildings were constructed e.g from mud and stone and a working windmill.

Directly to the south of Yola Farm, there is the recently established International Outdoor Activity Centre (IOAC) which has an artificial lake, campsite and car park. The Centre opens seasonally in the summer months and provides youth camps and camping facilities.

Yola Farmstead is situated just 1km from the Wexford coastline and is just over 3km from the Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA and approximately 5.5 km from the Slaney River Valley SAC at Wexford Harbour. Carnsore Point SAC is 3.5km due east of the farm. Yola Farmstead is within the Bishops-Coastal water catchment. The Ballybro stream a tributary of the White house stream or arises at the farm. The White house stream discharges to Wexford Harbour.

Yola Hedge School was established in 2009 and since that time has built strong connections with the local school, local youths, local families, farmers and the local direct provision centre assisting refugees.

FIGURE 1 YOLA FARM LOCATION AND LOCAL CONTEXT



METHODOLOGY

The following is a brief account of the work undertaken to compile this biodiversity plan for Yola Farmstead

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations with Yola Hedge school were carried out chiefly through Paul O’Keefe in the summer of 2022 prior to surveys to ascertain the current activities that take place at the centre and their plans for the future. Discussions were had with regard to potential projects and activities bearing in mind the strong community focus of the Hedge School, their obvious deep commitment and their limited financial resources.

DESK STUDY

Desk studies were carried out prior to ecological surveys including, but not limited to, analysis of existing mapping including historic maps, satellite imagery, boundaries of designated sites and EPA catchment maps. Records from the National Biodiversity Centre were reviewed for the monad T1011

Specific data sources reviewed include:

- National Biodiversity Data Centre records
- County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2013-2018
- OSi vector mapping and aerial photography
- Historical 1st edition (1830s) and 2nd edition (late 1800s) 6-inch OS mapping
- NPWS designated area shapefiles, and other information and data for designated areas
- Geological Survey Ireland Spatial Resources
- EPA and Water Framework Development water quality data

ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS

A walkover survey of the habitats at Yola farm was undertaken on 23rd July 2022. A follow up botanical audit was carried out by Paul Green on 4th December 2022. Paul’s assistance with this project is gratefully acknowledged.

Habitat survey

Habitats were classified according to a *Guide to Habitats in Ireland* (Fossitt, 2000) and mapped having regard for guidance contained in *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping* (Smith et al., 2010). Habitat maps were digitised with QGIS 3.4. Semi-natural habitats were prioritized for survey. Where land was not accessed for survey, habitats were verified from a distance or in some cases were classified from review of aerial imagery only. During the habitat surveys, other ecological features such as birds, mammal signs and trails were recorded as encountered.

BIODIVERSITY AT YOLA FARMSTEAD

GEOLOGY, SOILS AND LAND USE

The bedrock underlying Yola Farmstead is grey and purple conglomerates, sandstones and siltstone/mudstone. The Macmore soils underlying the area are described as fine loamy over clayey calcareous Irish Sea till with poor drainage.

Agriculture is the predominant land use in the area. Pasture and arable land dominating the landscape around Tagoat.

SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER CATCHMENTS

Yoka Farmstead lies within the Bishop's Water Coastal Catchment and within Bridgetown groundwater body.

YOLA FARMSTEAD HABITATS AN OVERVIEW

Habitats within Yola Farmstead are presented in the Habitat Map attached to this report. Table 1 gives a detailed breakdown of habitat coverage according to Level 3 of the Heritage Council (Fossitt, 2000) classification scheme.

Amenity grassland GA2

The most abundant habitat mapped at Yola farm is amenity grassland. The central grassland of the area is managed as a sports field and cut regularly. There are further areas of amenity grassland around the windmill and bordering the pathways.



Broadleaved woodland WD1

The next most abundant habitat type at Yola farm is Broadleaved woodland (WD1). This habitat occurs along the eastern and south-eastern boundary of the property. It has developed as an expansion or a treeline running along the eastern and south-eastern boundary. At the northern and southern end of the property the woodland is wider extending up to 30m wide.

OSI historic 6 inch and 25-inch maps depict a strong conifer treeline along the eastern boundary with a mixed woodland at the northern end of the property. It is therefore likely that parts of the woodland is long established woodland. The broadleaved woodland at the northern end is accessible and used for recreational by the youths at the centre. It is dominated by the non-native sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) with ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) occurring occasionally. The understorey has frequent bramble in places. There are also large patches of the non-native garden plant Druce's crane's-bill (*Geranium x oxanianum*) and patches of the invasive plant species winter heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*) and three-cornered garlic (*Allium triquetrum*). Three cornered garlic is listed on the Third Schedule of the Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011, and it is therefore subject to legal control. It is an offence to cause this species to spread.

Along the drainage ditch the woodland canopy is composed of frequent Field elm (*Ulmus minor*), Ash, Sycamore, and Grey willow (*Salix cinerea*).

Scrub WS1

There are substantial areas of scrub which occurs along the northern boundary along the boundary hedgerow and within an area that has not been subject to management for some time. This area was to subject to detailed survey or botanical audit as it is very overgrown and impenetrable. However, bramble and dense bracken featured strongly. These areas provide very good bird nesting habitat and cover for other wildlife.

Dry meadow grassland GS2

Dry meadow grassland occurs on unmown and rough ground adjacent to the football field. It is comminated by false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and cock's foot (*Dactylis glomeratus*).

Recolonising bare ground ED3

This habitat occurs on the margins of the pathways and around the budlings where little or no traffic has allowed a thin soil layer to build up and colonisation by a range of plants species such as white clover (*Trifolium*

repens), common bird[s-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), scarlet pimpernel, common whitlow grass (*Erophila verna*), pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea*), Jersey Cudweed (*Gnaphalium luteoalbum*) and mossy stonecrop (*Crassula tillaea*) a non-native introduced species.

Treelines, hedgerows and immature woodland WL2 and WS2

A native hedgerow features along the northern boundary and expands into scrub. It is composed predominantly of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) with some stretches areas dominated by bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Drainage ditch (FW4)

Lines of trees have been planted along the walking path composed mainly of Red alder (*Alnus rubra*). A manged beech hedge encloses a secluded area by an old well. A Fuchsia hedge (*Fuchsia magellanica*) borders an old pond

A wide drainage ditch 1-2m wide runs along the south and east boundary of the property. This is not always visible as it occurs on the eastern side of the woodland on the adjacent property. Where visible this drainage ditch had abundant vegetation including fool's water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*) and strong lush growth of hemlock water dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) was evident in places. All parts of this plant are toxic to livestock and humans however several species of insects feed on the flowers. The drainage ditch provides suitable habitat for frog to spawn in the spring depending on the water level.



Pond FL8

There is an artificial pond near the woodland in the northern half of the property. The pond has dried up the cause of which is not clear but it appears as if the water feed which may have been from the drainage ditch has dried up or the base of the pond is leaking. A small clump of branched bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) was holding on in the silty bottom. In winter, the pond holds a small amount of water after heavy rain perhaps about 20 cm deep and bottom of the pond supports some march plants where a layer of silt has accumulated.



Eroding stream (FW1)

A narrow eroding stream flows through north of the pond to the north for approximately 50m. This is an attractive natural stream.

The source of the stream is unclear. It is vegetated with brook lime (*Veronica beccabunga*), fool's water-cress and a couple of patches of horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*). It is anticipated that this is culverted under the farm access road and feeds into the Ballybro stream mapped by the EPA. This stream is a tributary of the Grange big which is a tributary of the Whitehouse Stream which discharges to Wexford Harbour at Woodtown Rosslare. The stream therefore provides remote hydrological connectivity to the Wexford Harbour and Slob's SPA and the Slaney River Valley SAC. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of these named tributaries is moderate and their risk status (of not attaining good water quality) is under review



Yola Farm has significant woodland and scrub coverage with almost 30 % of the land area covered in woodland or scrub. Woodland, hedgerows, treelines and scrub have significant biodiversity value providing resources for birds, bats, other small mammals and pollinating insects.

Semi-natural grassland are relatively scarce although the areas of recolonising bare ground which are transitioning to grassland have many herb species and if managed sensitively could provide a good nectar source for pollinating insects. With the exception of the playing field patches of amenity grassland is managed on a reduced mowing regime can offer increased nectar sources for pollinating insects.

There is also potential to manage marginal meadow grassland areas around the playing field to maximise their biodiversity value.

Stone walls BL1

Stone wall features are dotted around the property. The buildings have some stone wall facings, some walls are stone built and a stone wall features around the pond. There a collection of boulders creating a rock habitat near the woodland. All these features provide crevices for plants to take hold and nooks for all sorts of wildlife from invertebrates to small mammals and perhaps even lizards to find shelter. The stone wall features add to the habitat diversity on the property.



Buildings BL3

There is an eclectic mix of out buildings on the farmstead. A few of these are constructed of mud and stone to mimic old construction methods. Some of the outbuildings are in ruin. Some of the buildings provide nesting sites for bird species. Swallow nests were noted under the veranda and house martin are also nesting on the buildings. There is potential for bats to roost in the buildings and it is planned to investigate this further with some bat surveys to be carried out in 2023 as part of this Biodiversity Action Plan.



Horticultural land BC2

Yola farm grow fruit and veg and there is a small area devoted to raised vegetable beds. There are also some planted apple trees which currently are encroached by scrub .



TABLE 1 OVERVIEW AND APPROXIMATE AREAS OF HABITATS AT YOLA FARMSTEAD

| Habitat areas | Fossitt code | Area (m ²) | Percentage of study area |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Amenity grassland | GA1 | 5000 | 25 |
| Broadleaved woodland | WD1 | 4600 | 23 |
| Scrub | WS1 | 3000 | 15 |
| Trees and shrubs | WD5/WS3 | 460 | |
| Buildings and artificial surfaces | BL3 | 2500 | 12.5 |
| Meadow grassland grasslands | GS2 | 1600 | 8 |
| Recolonising bare ground | ED3 | 1300 | 6.5 |
| Pond | FL8 | 120 | |
| | | Length (m) | |
| Drainage ditch | FW4 | 170 | |
| Stream | FW1 | 50 | |
| | | | |

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Invasive plant species are non-native plant species that due to their particular growth habits are very competitive and become dominant in the habitats they invade. Invasive plant species are a threat to our native species and semi-natural habitats, in particular woodlands and watercourses causing a decrease in their biodiversity value.

Some invasive plant species which pose a particularly high risk of threat are legally controlled. They are listed on the Third Schedule of the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, 2011. This means that it is an offence to cause these species to spread. It is not illegal to have these species growing on your land, but care is needed not to

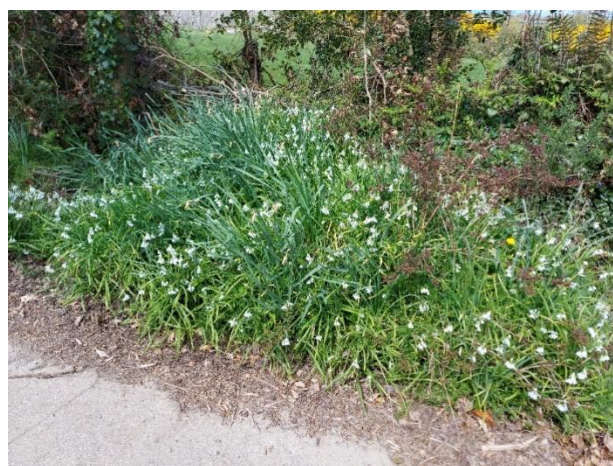
cause them to spread to other places. These plants can be inadvertently spread to other areas when “weeding out”, digging or moving soil so it is best to seek expert advice before trying to control or eradicate them.

Other non-natives plant species which have invasives tendencies recorded at Yola Farmstead include winter heliotrope, Montbretia (*Crocsmia crocsmia*), butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*), Fuchsia and of course the non-naïve tree sycamore.

FAUNA

BIRDS

NBDC Records for bird species for the tetrad T11A is provided in Appendix B. Notable is the record for yellowhammer although it is a dated record from 1991. Yellowhammer are listed on the red list of Birds of



THREE CORNERED GARLIC, AN INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Conservation Concern 2020-2026¹. They are strongly tied to arable farming feedings on the grain. The thick hedgerow and scrub at Yola farmstead may provide suitable nesting habitat for this species.

A detailed bird survey was not undertaken as part of this phase of the biodiversity action planning however birds recorded during the walkover survey included robin, wren, blackbird, blue tit, magpie, song thrush and pigeon. Swallows are resident in the building both inside the main “shed” which houses the skate park and outside under the veranda. House martins are also nesting on the buildings.

OTHER FAUNA

Record for fauna in the local area were reviewed on the National Biodiversity Data centre database. Pine marten have previously been recorded in 2012 within 1km of Yola Farm. The non-native mink (*Mustela vison*) has also been recorded in 2013. There is a dated record for common lizard (1973) but they are sure to occur in the local area. There is suitable habitat at Yola farm for common lizard and pine marten may visit the area. Fox are surely to visit. There were no signs of badger using the site but small mammals such as hedgehogs and pygmy shrew are sure to occur. Irish hare, badger, fox and rabbits have been recorded in the tetrad (2km square) within which Yola Farmstead is located.

There are no records for bat species within 2 km grid squares on the NBDC database reflecting a lack of recording effort for bats in the local area. The buildings on site may provide suitable roosting opportunities for bats and the woodland, treelines and scrub habitat provide excellent foraging habitat. Investigating the bat population of Yola Farm is an action under this biodiversity plan.

Bats roost in trees and in buildings and barns. There are some buildings which may be suitable as bat roosts at Yola farmstead. Generally, older or run down buildings are more likely to contain bat roosts due to ease of access for bats to attic spaces, under slates or behind soffit boards and crevices and suitable stable temperatures, but bat roosts are also found in more modern houses.

Bats typically roost in buildings during the summer months. Nursery roosts where females give birth and care for their young are the largest roosts. Female bats choose roosts that become very warm during the day. Non-breeding bats may occupy houses in smaller numbers, or even singly, and move around a lot, rarely staying long in the same roost.

Bats hibernate during winter in places that have a cool temperature. Occupied houses are usually too warm for bats in the winter due to central heating. Bats may roost in stone outbuildings, bridges, or even tree holes to roost and hibernate in the winter months.

Amphibians

There are two native amphibians in Ireland, the common frog and the smooth newt and both are protected species. While ponds and drainage ditches are important breeding habitat for amphibians, frogs and smooth newt (*Triturus vulgaris*) in the spring and early summer, in autumn and winter frogs and newts are found on land sheltering in woodland and long grass and under logs in hedge banks and garden near to their breeding places.



COMMON FROG, A PROTECTED SPECIES

¹ Gilbert G, Stanbury A and Lewis L (2021), “Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020 –2026”. Irish Birds 9: 523—544

The drainage ditch may be suitable as breeding habitat for frogs. Look out for frog spawn between February and March.

Smooth newts breed in ponds normally preferring deeper waterbodies than frogs with lots of aquatic vegetation to lay their eggs on. In spring about March or April the female newt lays her eggs on a water plant. Restoration of the pond would provide breeding habitat for frogs and smooth newt at Yola farmstead.

Pollinating insects

Pollinating insects including bumble bees, solitary bees, hoverflies, butterflies and moths are in decline in Ireland and globally. One-third of our 98 wild bee species are threatened with extinction in Ireland. In 2015, The National Biodiversity Centre produced the first All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) which has been a huge success in raising awareness and spearheading action to address the serious decline in pollinating insects. The decline in pollinating insects threatens our food security, our agriculture, our economy and biodiversity.

Through a shared plan of actions, individuals, community groups, farmers, county councils, and businesses have taken action to help halt the loss and decline of pollinators and work towards restoring healthy pollinator populations. Much has been achieved but there is much more to do. The second All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2026 has been launched. It appeals to people to engage more, monitor more, and

manage more land for biodiversity. In doing so, we will not only save our pollinators but also secure the future of our food, our productive agriculture and create a healthy and beautiful flower-rich environment for ourselves to enjoy.



MARMALADE FLY ON UMBELLIFER

Yola Farmstead has many suitable habitats to support pollinators and more can be provided by sensitive grassland management and strategic planting of hedgerows and pollinator friendly plants including fruit trees, and culinary herbs in the vegetable plots. Bees, hoverflies, butterflies and moths can be easily observed in during the warmer months, feeding on the bramble scrub and the small wildflowers on the marginal grassy verges and recolonising bare ground. A herb garden is an aspiration of the Yola Farm community and this will be a great asset for pollinators too!

Hedgerows and scrub are a crucially important habitat for pollinating insects providing food, shelter and nesting habitat for many different species and Yola farm has a good resource of hedgerows and scrub. It is important that hedgerows are managed in sensitive manner so that they can provide food for pollinating insects. If hedgerows are cut every year, they do not flower. Similarly, if they are cut too early their value as a food resource is reduced. Ivy which flowers from September to November provides a very important food source for pollinating insects. For these reasons, it is important to only cut hedgerows when necessary, only cut some hedgerows in any one year leaving some to flower and it is best to cut hedgerows as late as possible between November and February. In early spring, willow trees provide an important food resource for bees.

Some threatened butterfly species have been recorded within the 2 km grid square (T11A) and these notable species records from the NBDC are listed Table 6.

Table 2 Threatened and endangered pollinating insects that have been recorded in the 2 km grid square T1A

| Species | Record count | Date of last record | Dataset | Status |
|---|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Wall (<i>Lasiommata megera</i>) | 1 | 18/08/1998 | Butterflies of Ireland | Endangered |
| Moss Carder-bee (<i>Bombus (Thoracombus) muscorum</i>) | 1 | 08/09/2015 | Bees of Ireland | Near threatened |
| Large Red-Tailed Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus</i>) | 1 | 15/07/2009 | Bees of Ireland | Near threatened |

SWOT ANALYSIS

WEAKNESSES OPPORTUNITIES THREATS

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| STRENGTHS | Woodlands | Nice wooded walks, plenty of space to grow more native species. |
| | Stream | Monitor closely as a barometer of the health of local water and run off Therapeutic value Aesthetic value – makes the space look and feel beautiful and calming |
| | Hedgerows | Habitats for birds, food source for pollinators, Aesthetic value for walks Sensory value for smells and touch |
| | Scrub | Can be managed to be less impenetrable and surveyed to determine the extent of wildlife using the space. |
| | Community | Yola Farm has a strong community spirit and strong local connections which can be harnessed to protect the valuable habitats and to raise awareness and provide educational outreach on biodiversity |
| WEAKNESSES | Resources | Lack of human and financial and human resources to carry out the work that could be carried out to improve the bio-diversity of the site. |
| | Personnel | Competing priorities of different stakeholders in the farm |
| | Land | The pressure to commercialise the site |
| OPPORTUNITIES | Pond Restoration | Capture some of the water so that the pond becomes a wetland area even during the dry summer months |
| | Habitat Management | Embed maintenance practices that support biodiversity – a pack for new workers and volunteers that identifies areas to leave uncut, when to cut green areas, the height of the lawnmower, when to cut hedgerows . Develop a plan around the diversity of the hedgerows with planting. Build a polytunnel and propagate a range of plants that will enhance the habitat |
| | Bio Diversity Enhancement | There are opportunities to enhance the green amenity areas for pollinators |

| | | |
|--|------------------------|---|
| | | changing unproductive grass lawns to be nectar producers providing vital food for pollinators and bringing colour and life to the streetscapes. |
| | Invasive Plant species | Manage the areas that these plants inhabit, ensure that they do not spread, examine the possibility of gradually cutting back on these spaces in a systematic and methodical way. |
| | Education | Develop an outdoor/garden classroom where education around bio-diversity, Citizen Science activities, habitat management, gardening and cooking sustainably can be delivered |

ACTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY 2023-2026

The following section presents the projects that are proposed to conserve, restore, enhance and increase awareness of and engagement with biodiversity at Yola Farmstead.

The biodiversity projects outlined not only provide opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of areas for biodiversity but also afford opportunities for people to experience nature, to learn more about biodiversity and to get involved in active conservation and recording of biodiversity.

The projects outlined include actions for:

- Bat surveys
- Citizen Science workshops
- Grassland management
 - Hedgerow planting and management
 - Planting for pollinators
 - Invasive plant management
 - Pond restoration

| Bat Surveys and Conservation | |
|--|--|
| ITM Grid Ref: 710554, 611696 | |
| Potential partners: Wexford Naturalists Field Club, Wexford Bat Group (Bat Conservation Ireland) | |
| Potential funding: Community Foundation for Ireland; NPWS: https://www.npws.ie/news/npws-grants-small-recording-projects-2022-0 | |
| Further information: https://www.batconservationireland.org/irish-bats | |
| Objective: To determine if bats are roosting in the buildings at Yola farm, provide protection, raise awareness and engage the community (youth groups, school children, families and farmers) in bat conservation and recording. | |
| Actions | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek funding for professional bat surveys to investigate if any of the buildings on site are bat roosts and to survey the bat activity at Yola farm. 2. At least two bat surveys should be carried out during the summertime and some of the local community could be involved in the surveys. 3. Hold an information workshop for the Yola farm Community to learn about bats and the results of the surveys and to discuss conservation and enhancement measures for bats at Yola Farm. 4. Seek funding and plan for those conservation measures as informed by the surveys e.g. additional bat roosts, gardening for bats, awareness of lighting impacts etc 5. Submit bat records to the Bat Conservation Ireland database and the NBDC database. | |
| Evaluation | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase bat detectors 2. Yola community to monitor any bat roosts found or bat boxes installed annually in summer to monitor the bat population at Yola Farm 3. Submit bat records annually to the NBDC | |

Citizen Science Workshops

ITM Grid Ref: 710554, 611696

Potential partners: National Biodiversity Data Centre, Wexford Naturalists Field Club

Potential funding: Community Foundation for Ireland

Further information: <https://biodiversityireland.ie/online-training/>

Objective: To introduce the Yola Farm Community to the benefits of Citizen Science for biodiversity and CS Volunteers and upskill participants in identification and recording skill.

Actions

1. Identify a suitable person(s) to lead the Citizen Science Programme at Yola Farm
2. Upskill! Take one or more of the elearning training courses provided by the NBDC on recording butterflies, bees, dragonflies.
3. Organise a field trip, perhaps inviting the Wexford Naturalists Field Club to come show the Yola Community first hand how to identify certain species.
4. Once comfortable with species identification consider joining the butterfly and bee monitoring schemes.
5. Promote a culture of recording at the Yola Farm- Keep a log book or chart in a visible place for volunteers to note what they saw each day they visit the centre.
6. Consider wildlife photo competitions, number of records recorded leagues, etc
7. Submit species records to the NBDC

Evaluation

1. Monitor the number of people actively engaged in regular recording
2. Number of records submitted to the NBDC
3. Find out about the participants enjoyment of their citizen science activities and the benefits they see from increased learning and engagement with wildlife observations and recording.

| Pond Restoration | |
|--|---|
| ITM Grid Ref 710577, 611664 | |
| Potential Partners: | An Taisce's Legacy4LIFE Ponds for Biodiversity |
| Potential funding: | Community Foundation for Ireland; Wexford County Council https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/supports-grants-and-awards/community-support-fund-2022 |
| Further information: | https://biodiversityireland.ie/projects/ponds-for-biodiversity/ https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/ https://futureforests.ie/blogs/news/choosing-and-growing-water-plants-in-a-wildlife-pond |
| Objective: To restore the pond and provide a really valuable wildlife habitat at Yola farm, increase the habitat diversity and will also be an invaluable amenity and educational resource. | |
| Actions | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake a " structural survey" of the pond to see what s involved in its repair to retain water. 2. Research pond creation and consider the options to restore the pond. Repair the concrete structure or line the existing structure with EDPM rubber liner. 3. Consider design improvements e.g creating shelves to create carrying depths of water in the pond. 4. Seek funding to carry out the works 5. Choose native aquatic and wetland plants to plant up the pond. 6. Be sure to purchase plants from a reputable supplier. See Future Forests above. Don't be tempted to take plants from another pond due to risk of introducing aquatic invasive species. <p>Oxygenators: Whorled water milfoil (<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>). Hornwort (<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>)</p> <p>Floaters: Frogbit (<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>)</p> <p>Deep water: White water lily (<i>Nymphaea alba</i>), yellow water lily (<i>Nymphaea lutea</i>)</p> <p>Marginals: Flag iris (<i>Iris pseudocorus</i>), lady's smock (<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>), brooklime (<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>), marsh marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>) Water forget me knot (<i>Myosotis scorpiodes</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Observe what plants seed in themselves! <p>BEWARE Do not plant Parrot's Feather (<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>) or Canadian Pondweed (<i>Elodea canadensis</i> or <i>Elodea nutallii</i> which are invasive.</p> | |

Grassland Management

ITM Grid Ref.: 710488, 611626

Partners: TUS workers, Local farmers

Potential funding: Wexford Local Development

Further information: Local communities: Actions to Help Pollinators

<https://pollinators.ie/communities/>

Objective: To alter the mowing regimes at Yola farm maximise the grasslands as a resource for pollinators and enhance their aesthetic appeal. By reducing the frequency of cuts and removing all cuttings, over time the number and diversity of wildflowers will increase naturally.

Actions

1. Review the farmstead mowing regime and plan a new mowing regime.
2. Engage the TUS workers and explain the new mowing regime.
3. Make a mowing map showing areas of grassland that need to be cut short for football and kick about etc., path verges that can be allowed to grow and bit longer and finally areas that can be allowed to grow as long meadow grassland.
4. Maintain the football and other play areas on a regular short cut mowing regime as necessary.
5. For path verges and other out of play areas reduce the frequency of cuts to approximately once every 6 weeks. Raise the blades on the mower to the highest setting and remove all cuttings and compost.
6. Identify an area e.g. part of the large football field that can be maintained as a meadow. Allow this grass to grow long. Cut annually in September, rake off and remove all cuttings and make hay or compost. If growth is strong cut once more in October/November or in April once the dandelions have flowered. Perhaps a local farmer would assist with suitable machinery to cut and bale the hay.
7. Allow a 1-2 metre verge long meadow verge to grow next to the northern hedgerow. Cut once annually in September and remove all cuttings.
8. Hold a family event to show them how your grasslands are being managed and encourage others to do the same in their gardens.

Evaluation

1. Engage schoolchildren to record the number of different wildflowers growing in the meadow and along the verges annually.
2. Does the number of different types increase?
3. Log your 'Actions for Pollinators' on the NBDC mapping system

| Planting for Pollinators | |
|--|--|
| ITM Grid Ref.: 710518, 611644 | |
| Partners: Yola Farm GIY group; School children | |
| Potential funding: Wexford County Council Community Funding | |
| Further information: Pollinator friendly code: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Pollinator-Planting-Code-Guide-2022-WEB.pdf https://www.pollinators.ie/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/AIPP-Herbs-A5-Flyer-PRINT.pdf | |
| Objective: To recreate the herb garden at Yola farm, provide resources for pollinators and raise awareness of the benefits of planting for pollinators in gardens | |
| Actions | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a herb garden or herb walk to complement the vegetable garden at Yola Farm 2. Culinary herbs including Thyme, Sage, Fennel, Rosemary, Oregano, Mint, Lemon balm and Chives are all good for pollinators. Medicinal herbs such as Lavender, Lemon balm, bergamot, borage and tansy can be grown for added colour. 3. Additional pollinator friendly plants could be grown in pots in the yard. Choose plants from the Pollinator Friendly Planting Code and/or other pollinator friendly plants. Make sure a range of plants that flower during different seasons are planted to provide food for pollinators throughout the year. 4. Erect signage in the yard showcasing how you have chosen pollinator friendly plants for your pot planting to raise awareness and encourage the local community to do the same. 5. Avoid growing non-native plants in the semi-natural habitats (e.g. the woodland, hedgerows, by the stream and drainage ditch and in the grasslands around the farm. Native plants are best for wildlife and introducing non-native plants brings a risk of non-natives spreading in these semi-natural habitats. 6. When planting trees choose native species only. Willow, Hazel, Wild cherry, Hawthorn and Blackthorn are especially good for pollinators | |

New Hedgerows

ITM Grid Ref 710439, 611638

Partners: Local farmers

Further information: Teagasc: <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/daily/environment/planting-hedges.php>

Potential funding/source of trees: Trees on the Land <https://www.treesontheland.com/>
Wexford County Council Planting Grants: <https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/environment/biodiversity-community-and-schools/community-and-schools/environment-grants/planting>

Objective: To enhance the circular walk and boundary of the football field.

Actions

1. Plant a native hedgerow around the football field and fill in the gaps. Hawthorn, blackthorn, holly are the main structural species to plant
2. Buy 2 year old bare rooted whips, 6 plants per m, mainly whitethorn, but once every 2 m replace one with another hedging species that tolerates trimming such as Blackthorn, Holly, Hazel, Spindle, Guelder Rose, Dog Rose and Woodbine. Therefore, for every 100 m of new hedge - buy 550 whitethorn and 50 other species
3. After planting the whips should be pruned to an inch (30mm) above the ground level. The next year cut 30mm above the first cut and repeat yearly to allow the hedge to slowly grow up. This allows a hedge with a thick base to develop.
4. Include some native trees interspersed along the new hedgerow and allow these to grow into mature, full height trees. Oak, birch, crab apple, Elder, wild cherry are suitable
5. Always buy native trees grown in Ireland not imported stock
6. When established maintain this a hedgerow at least 1.5 -2m m high. Cut back once every 2-3 years to allow the hedge to flower.

Invasive Species Management -Three-cornered Garlic

ITM Grid ref: 710600, 611706

Partners: Local Growers, Ecologist

Potential funding Community Foundation Ireland

Objective: This project will tackle the control and eradication of invasive plant species of three cornered garlic in the woodland at Yola farm. Three-cornered garlic is listed on the Third Schedule of the Birds and Habitats Regulations, 2011. This makes it an offence to cause the spread of this species. Management actions may inadvertently cause the spread. So it will be necessary to draw up an invasive species management plan under the guidance of an ecologist.

1. With advice from an ecologist devise a management plan for three-cornered garlic preferably without the use of herbicides.
2. Management may include: Repeated cutting before flowering/seed set or carefully digging up the bulbs.
3. Disposal options need to be carefully considered and this will depend on the amount of plant material to dispose of. The advice of the ecologist should be sought.
4. Ongoing monitoring for regrowth of three-cornered garlic and follow up eradication.

Montbretia Control

Montbretia is an invasive plant but is not subject to legal control. Montbretia outcompetes native plants by growing in thick clusters and spreading via corms.

A combination of digging out montbretia corms and repeated cutting of the stems and leaves should be used to eradicate montbretia.

1. Dig out corms of montbretia and the surrounding soil
2. Sieve (or search the soil) to remove the corms
3. Dispose of corms in a waste bin (preferably a green waste bin). Do not compost.
4. Monitor and cut any regrowth of Montbretia repeatedly to exhaust the bulbs or dig out again.

Winter heliotrope

1. With advice from an ecologist devise a management plan for winter heliotrope preferably without the use of herbicides.
2. Mechanical removal. Mechanical removal of all plant material, including rhizomes and contaminated soil, is an effective control and eradication technique in specific circumstances (e.g. where the rhizomes have not entangled with other underground root systems)
3. Spoil disposal soil to a depth of 500mm beneath the invasive plant stand must be removed and disposed of at a licensed landfill facility
4. Monitoring of re growth will be required for several years.

| Nesting Facilitation | |
|---|--|
| ITM Grid Ref: 710553, 611702 | |
| Partners: Men's Shed, youth group | |
| Potential funding: Community Foundation Ireland | |
| Further information: https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Pollinator-Nesting-How-to-Guide-2022-WEB.pdf https://birdwatchireland.ie/irelands-birds-birdwatch-ireland/garden-birds/nestboxes/ https://www.batconservationireland.org/irish-bats/bat-roosts/775-2 | |
| Objective: To identify and protect good bee nesting habitat around the Yola farm and to create new shelters and nesting opportunities for bees, birds and bats. | |
| Actions | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Signpost "good bumblebee nesting habitat" on south and east facing grass based hedges and banks around Yola farm 2. Protect and manage this bumblebee nesting habitat sensitively. Avoid cutting or strimming during the summer. Cut in late Autumn/Winter instead. 3. Create an earth bank for mining bee nesting habitat with a south/east facing aspect 4. Drill south or east facing holes in fence posts around the farm 5. Provide nest sites for cavity nesting bees. Partner with the Men's shed to make bee boxes for cavity nesting bees. Erect these on buildings and wall around the club that have a sunny south or east facing aspect 6. Run a woodworking workshop in partnership with the Men's shed to make bat boxes and bird boxes. Erect these in the woodland and other areas around the farm so the public can see them 7. Protect your swallow nests. Raise awareness of the importance of buildings as nest sites for swallows, house martins and swifts | |
| Evaluation | |
| Monitor your new nest sites by observation (do not disturb) and see if they are being used. | |

REFERENCES

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George F. Smith, Paul O'Donoghue, Katie O'Hora and Eamonn Delaney (2010) *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping*. The Heritage Council.

Fossitt J. A. (2000) *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland*. The Heritage Council

APPENDIX A PLANT SPECIES RECORDED

| Common name | Scientific name |
|------------------------|---|
| Druce's Crane's-bill | <i>Geranium oxonianum</i> x |
| Dwarf Cherry | <i>Prunus cerasus</i> |
| Escallonia | <i>Escallonia rubra</i> var. <i>macrantha</i> |
| Feverfew | <i>Tanacetum parthenium</i> |
| Field Forget-me-not | <i>Myosotis arvensis</i> |
| Fuchsia | <i>Fuchsia magellanica</i> |
| Garden Lobelia | <i>Lobelia erinus</i> |
| Garden Privet | <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> |
| Germander Speedwell | <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> |
| Gorse | <i>Ulex europaeus</i> |
| Great Horsetail | <i>Equisetum telmateia</i> |
| Great Mullein | <i>Verbascum thapsus</i> |
| Great Willowherb | <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> |
| Greater Periwinkle | <i>Vinca major</i> |
| Greater Plantain | <i>Plantago major</i> |
| Ground-ivy | <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> |
| Groundsel | <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> |
| Hedge Woundwort | <i>Stachys sylvatica</i> |
| Hemlock Water-dropwort | <i>Oenanthe crocata</i> |
| Herb-Robert | <i>Geranium robertianum</i> |
| Hoary Willowherb | <i>Epilobium parviflorum</i> |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Hogweed | <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> |
| Holly | <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> |
| Horned Pondweed | <i>Zannichellia palustris</i> |
| Jersey Cudweed | <i>Gnaphalium luteoalbum</i> |
| Knotgrass | <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> |
| Lesser Celandine | <i>Ficaria verna</i> |
| Lesser Hawkbit | <i>Leontodon saxatilis</i> |
| Lesser Swine-cress | <i>Lepidium didymum</i> |
| Lesser Trefoil | <i>Trifolium dubium</i> |
| Meadowsweet | <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> |
| Navelwort | <i>Umbilicus rupestris</i> |
| Nipplewort | <i>Lapsana communis</i> |
| Oxeye Daisy | <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> |
| Pedunculate Oak | <i>Quercus robur</i> |
| Perennial Rye-grass | <i>Lolium perenne</i> |
| Perforate St John's-wort | <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> |
| Petty Spurge | <i>Euphorbia peplus</i> |
| Pineappleweed | <i>Matricaria discoidea</i> |
| Primrose | <i>Primula vulgaris</i> |
| Procumbent Pearlwort | <i>Sagina procumbens</i> |
| Red Clover | <i>Trifolium pratense</i> |
| Red Dead-nettle | <i>Lamium purpureum</i> |
| Red Fescue | <i>Festuca rubra</i> |
| Ribwort Plantain | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> |
| Rusty Willow | <i>Salix cinerea</i> subsp. <i>oleifolia</i> |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Selfheal | <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> |
| Short-fruited Willowherb | <i>Epilobium obscurum</i> |
| Small-leaved Elm (sensu Stace) | <i>Ulmus minor</i> |
| Smooth Sow-thistle | <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> |
| Snowberry | <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> |
| Soft Shield-fern | <i>Polystichum setiferum</i> |
| Soft-rush | <i>Juncus effusus</i> |
| Squirreltail Fescue | <i>Vulpia bromoides</i> |
| Stinking Iris | <i>Iris foetidissima</i> |
| Sun Spurge | <i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i> |
| Tansy | <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> |
| Thyme-leaved Speedwell | <i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i> |
| Tree-mallow | <i>Malva arborea</i> |
| Upright Hedge-parsley | <i>Torilis japonica</i> |
| Wall Speedwell | <i>Veronica arvensis</i> |
| White Clover | <i>Trifolium repens</i> |
| White Stonecrop | <i>Sedum album</i> |
| Wild Carrot | <i>Daucus carota subsp. carota</i> |
| Wild Cherry | <i>Prunus avium</i> |
| Wild Marjoram | <i>Origanum vulgare</i> |
| Wild Teasel | <i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> |
| Winter Heliotrope | <i>Petasites fragrans</i> |
| Wood Avens | <i>Geum urbanum</i> |
| Wood Dock | <i>Rumex sanguineus</i> |
| Yellow Iris | <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> |
| Yorkshire-fog | <i>Holcus lanatus</i> |

Appendix B NBDC Records of bird species in tetrad T11A

| Species | Record count | Last record | Dataset |
|---|--------------|-------------|--|
| Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Black-billed Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Blue Tit (<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Chaffinch (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>) | 2 | 26/02/2012 | Birds of Ireland |
| Common Blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>) | 2 | 26/02/2012 | Birds of Ireland |
| Common Chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Common Linnet (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Common Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Common Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>) | 1 | 31/12/2011 | Bird Atlas 2007 - 2011 |
| Common Wood Pigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Eurasian Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Eurasian Jackdaw (<i>Corvus monedula</i>) | 2 | 26/02/2012 | Birds of Ireland |
| European Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>) | 2 | 26/02/2012 | Birds of Ireland |
| European Greenfinch (<i>Carduelis chloris</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| European Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |

| Species | Record count | Last record | Dataset |
|---|--------------|-------------|--|
| House Martin (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Pied Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba subsp. yarrellii</i>) | 1 | 26/02/2012 | Birds of Ireland |
| Rock Pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Rook (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>) | 2 | 26/02/2012 | Birds of Ireland |
| Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| White Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Winter Wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |
| Yellowhammer (<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>) | 1 | 31/07/1991 | The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991 |

APPENDIX C CONTACTS AND FURTHER ONLINE BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES

National Parks and Wildlife Service

- [The National Parks and Wildlife Service](#) is part of the Heritage Division of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.
- The NPWS website contains a huge amount of information about the conservation of biodiversity and hosts all the information in relation to the designated sites for nature conservation in Ireland.
- <https://www.npws.ie/>
- NPWS District Conservation Officer (Wexford north, Wicklow) tel. (076) 100 2669

Wexford County Council

- **Wexford Heritage Officer** Catherine McLoughlin Email: catherine.mcloughlin@wexfordcoco.ie Tel. 053 9196101
- Local Authority Water Programme <http://watersandcommunities.ie/>
- **Local Authority Water and Communities Officer:** Ann Phelan Email: Ann Phelan Tel. 085 808 4067

The National Biodiversity Data Centre

- Organisation for the collection, collation, management, analysis and dissemination of data on Ireland's biological diversity. Access the centre's biodiversity mapping system
- <https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>

The Heritage Council

- A public body with an integrated approach to promoting and protecting natural and built heritage for the vital contribution that it makes to our identity, well-being and future
- <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/>

All Ireland Pollinator Plan Resources for Community Groups

- <https://pollinators.ie/communities/resources-for-community-groups/>

Citizen Science

- Biodiversity recording: - <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/>
- Citizen Science Biodiversity Monitoring Schemes
<https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/monitoring-scheme-initiatives/>
- Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI)

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)

- State agency responsible for the conservation, protection, management, marketing, development and improvement of our inland fisheries and sea angling resources
- [Inland Fisheries Ireland](#)

Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI)

- An all-Ireland charity that promotes the conservation of bats and their habitats

[Bat Conservation Ireland | Conservation of bats and their habitats](#)

Birdwatch Ireland (BWI)

- BirdWatch Ireland is a charity dedicated to the protection of wild birds and their habitats in Ireland.
- [Home Page - BirdWatch Ireland](#)
- Bat box design to make:
- https://birdwatchireland.ie/app/uploads/2021/01/5362-BirdWatchIreland-BatBox_leaflet_HR.pdf □ Best box design to make:
- <https://birdwatchireland.ie/irelands-birds-birdwatch-ireland/nestbox-designs-for-birds-and-wildlife/>

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

- UK organisation that promotes the conservation of birds and their habitats – operates in Northern Ireland
- [The RSPB Wildlife Charity: Nature Reserves & Wildlife Conservation](#)

Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT)

- Charity dedicated to conserving Ireland's habitats
- [Irish Wildlife Trust - Home \(iwt.ie\)](#)

Water Catchments -CATCHMENTS.IE

An online resource that shares science and stories about Ireland's water catchments and people's connection to their water

- [Catchments.ie - Water, from source to sea.](#)

LEADER – Working with water and biodiversity: a guide for community groups

- <https://www.catchments.ie/leader-working-with-water-and-biodiversity-a-guide-for-community-groups/>

ENNIS Tidy Towns toolkit

- Easy-to-follow guidelines for organisations, community groups, and residents' associations to manage and enhance the biodiversity of their local communal green spaces.
- <http://ennistidytowns.com/community-biodiversity-toolkit/>

The Vincent Wildlife Trust

- Charity dedicated to the conservation of Irish mammals, particularly bats.
- [The Vincent Wildlife Trust | Safeguarding the future of mammals in Britain and Ireland](#)

Rivers Trust

- A Trust that works across Ireland and the UK to drive positive changes for rivers
- [Our work | The Rivers Trust](#)

Biodiversity Handbook for Business

- <https://www.bitc.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/BITCI-Biodiversity-Booklet-14.2.19.pdf>

Gardening for Biodiversity

- <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Gardening-For-Biodiversity.pdf>

Conserving Hedgerows

- https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/conserving_hedgerows_2mb.pdf

EPA Maps

- View environmental data
- <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

Heritage Maps

- The *Heritage Maps* viewer is a web-based spatial data viewer which focuses on the built, cultural and natural heritage around Ireland and off shore.
- <https://www.heritagemaps.ie/>

GeoHive

- GeoHive is an initiative by Ordnance Survey Ireland to provide easy access to publicly available spatial data
- <https://geohive.ie/>

Birds, Bats, Buildings and You

- A leaflet explaining the importance of our buildings for bats and birds
- https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/bats_birds_buildings_you_2009_3mb.pdf

A Guide to Habitats in Ireland

- Download free copy of A Guide to Habitat in Ireland here:
- https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/guide_to_habitats_2007_5mb.pdf

Farming for Nature

- Farming for Nature seeks to acknowledge and support farmers who farm, or wish to farm, in a way that will improve the natural values of the countryside.
- <https://www.farmingfornature.ie/>

Farmland Habitats

□ https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/farmland_habitats_series_01_2007_1mb.pdf

EPA <https://www.epa.ie/>

Irish Wildlife Trust <https://iwt.ie/>

The Heritage Council <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/>

Wexford Heritage Officer Catherine McLoughlin Email: catherine.mcloughlin@wexfordcoco.ie Tel. 053 9196101

APPENDIX E HABITAT MAP

