

# Biodiversity Westmeath Working Together for Nature

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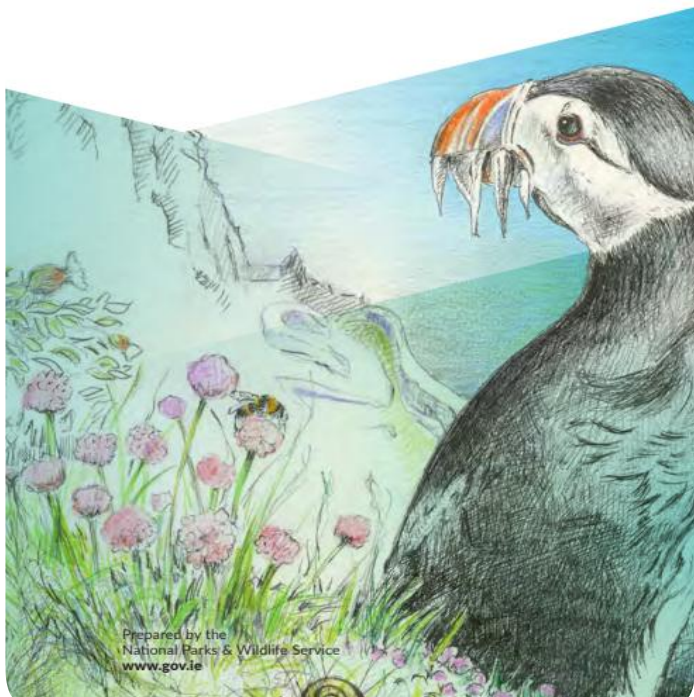
## Why Biodiversity Matters?

- 81% of EU habitats are in an unfavourable conservation status
- 56% of Ireland's native wild plants are in decline
- 63% of Ireland's bird species are in decline
- 57% decline in common butterflies across Europe since 2008
- 17% decline in bumblebees in Ireland and Europe since 2012



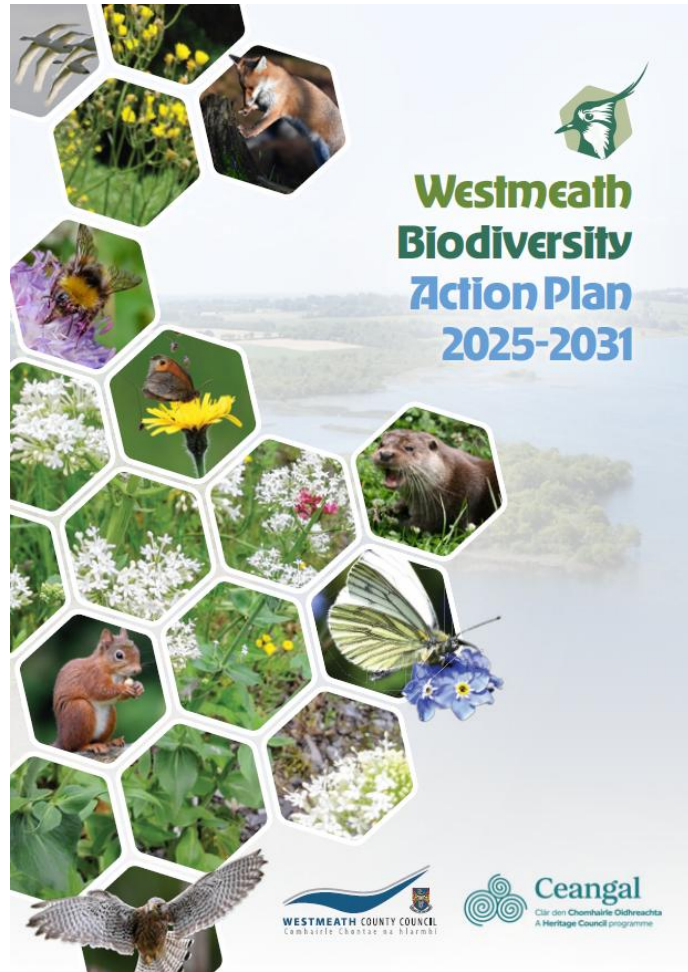
## Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan

2023-2030



# Why a Biodiversity Officer





# Westmeath Biodiversity Action Plan

- ▶ 5 Strategic Goals
- ▶ 43 Actions
- ▶ A renewed focus on delivery and measurable outcomes

# Raising Biodiversity Awareness in Our Communities

- ▶ Support community groups to take action for biodiversity
- ▶ Share funding opportunities, tools and practical guidance
- ▶ Connect groups through the Westmeath PPN network
- ▶ Develop a county biodiversity directory and community forum
- ▶ Host a county-wide biodiversity conference
- ▶ Support biodiversity events through other partnerships
- ▶ Work with libraries as local biodiversity learning hubs
- ▶ Recognise and celebrate the biodiversity work already happening across Westmeath



# Delivering Actions



# Gardening for Biodiversity

Tidy Towns groups leading local nature projects

# #NoMow May

Red clover



Don't mow, let it grow  
Join the buzz to save the bees  
[www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)



Church grounds  
supporting pollinator-  
friendly spaces



Cut once a year – food and shelter

Cut regularly

Cut on a 6-weekly rotation from mid April -  
food

Sports clubs and pitches managing  
grasslands for biodiversity



Local businesses creating wildlife-friendly areas  
Schools and community groups developing nature initiatives



Residents' associations and volunteers  
improving local habitats





► *“We are the first generation to know we are in a biodiversity crisis and the last generation that can do anything about it.”*

Thank you!

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