

Actions to enhance local Biodiversity

Sligo Rowing and Kayak Clubs

County Sligo



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Ár dTodhchaí
Tualthe
Our Rural
Future



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development
European investing in rural areas



LCDC
Local and Product Based Action through
Sligo Local Community Development
Committee



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

Collated in consultation with Sligo Rowing & Kayak Clubs

Summer 2022

by Woodrow Sustainable Solutions Ltd.

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Acknowledgements

Sligo Rowing and Kayak Clubs would like to thank all of their volunteers who gave up their time and took part in the different training sessions, workshops and meetings associated with the development of this plan. Under the guidance of ecologists from Woodrow Sustainable Solutions Ltd (Woodrow), and with input from other stakeholders, the suggestions of the community volunteers have been collated into this long-term plan.

The funding for this work was provided by Sligo LEADER Partnership. The development of this plan was part of a wider biodiversity programme that included delivery of workshops, training and different biodiversity plans for communities across Co Sligo. This biodiversity programme was delivered by Woodrow who were appointed to deliver this work following their success in public tender process.

The workshops, and training materials and recordings of sessions are available to the public at <http://woodrow.ie/resources>.







Introduction and Local Context

The aim of this biodiversity document is to raise awareness of local biodiversity and to empower the Sligo Rowing and Kayak club communities to undertake actions for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity within their new club boathouse and surrounding area.

What is Biodiversity and Ecology?

'Biodiversity' literally means the diversity of life in the world around us. It includes all sorts of life, from the tallest trees to the tiniest microorganisms, birds, fish, mosses, reptiles... the list is endless and there are still species that have not yet been discovered! Biodiversity also includes genetic diversity within species, such as the things that make each person unique, and the differences in the genetic makeup of animals and plants that come from different places.

Ecology is the study of the way that living things interact both with each other and the places in which they live (known as their habitats).

		
Male house sparrow: <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Large white butterfly: <i>Pieris brassicae</i> on Blackthorn: <i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Badger: <i>Meles brassica</i>
		
Dandelions: <i>Taraxacum</i> sp	A hoverfly: <i>Sericomyia lappona</i> on Marsh-marigold: <i>Caltha palustris</i>	Corvid nests

Why are Biodiversity and Ecology Important?

All of the species in the world, no matter how small, have a specific part to play in the network of life that exists on Earth. Biodiversity has a key role in the formation of soils, availability of clean water, flood prevention, pollination of crops, natural pest control and many other vital functions. Biodiversity provides us directly with food, oxygen and medicines, and its economic value is infinite. Genetic diversity means that life on Earth is able to adapt to changes in climate, natural disasters and outbreaks of disease. Without the resources that biodiversity provides and maintains, we would not exist.

Biodiversity is not just about animals and plants - humans are an important part of biodiversity and our actions can influence other aspects of biodiversity, for better or for worse. Ecology deals with the inter-relations between organisms and the places in which they live. This includes how people interact with the species and habitats around them.

Location and setting

Sligo Rowing and Kayak Clubs who are affiliated to the sports national rowing body, Rowing Ireland, are located in Doorly Park, Sligo Town, Co. Sligo near the southern bank of the Garavogue River (Figure 1). They currently use a number of containers in this area for boat storage, however they have recently received planning permission for a boathouse to be built within the footprint of these existing containers. Taking this into consideration, these biodiversity actions aim to compliment both the existing Rowing Club area as well as the new boathouse when it is built.

Figure 1: Aerial imagery showing the location of Sligo Rowing Club



Sligo Rowing and Kayak Clubs - Actions to enhance Biodiversity

Actions for Biodiversity:

The actions laid out in this plan aim to :

1. Enhance and maintain the overall biodiversity of the area in and around Sligo Rowing and Kayak Clubs;
2. Be achievable, sustainable and of low maintenance;
3. Compliment the vision for safe and sustainable Rowing and Kayak Clubs.

Table 1 : Actions for Biodiversity

Sligo Rowing and Kayak Clubs - Actions for Biodiversity			
Action No.	Proposed Action	Details/Proposed Location	time of year
1	'Check, Clean Dry' ;- Encourage members and visitors to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species between water bodies.	<p><i>To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species across water bodies of Ireland, raise awareness of the issue and highlight the easy procedures that can be followed. Signage is available through invasives.ie https://biodiversityireland.ie/check-clean-dry/ and https://invasives.ie/check-clean-dry-resources/ see overleaf.</i></p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask all members putting craft into the water at Doorly Park to 'Check, Clean Dry' equipment. • Erect and maintain signage .to 'Check, Clean Dry' at the premises. This will help spread the word to non-club members also eg. Canoeist, jet ski users etc. • Provide facilities for visitors (eg during competitions) to 'Check, Clean Dry' • All members when travelling/competing elsewhere to Check, Clean Dry'. • New member induction to highlight the importance of 'Check, Clean Dry' procedures. 	Year-round
2	Responsible Litter Management.	<p><i>It is very important to raise awareness of the risks to local wildlife from litter including glass, rope, and plastic items such as milk carton tops, fizzy drink cans, water bottles/tops etc – many of these items can be accidentally ingested by birds or otters and can cause suffocation and poisoning. They are also unsightly and will break down into harmful microplastics in the environment.</i></p> <p>Litter Prevention Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide much-needed in-river litter collection at least twice annually with local resident volunteers. • Register with https://nationalspringclean.org/ to do • Encourage members to dispose of waste responsibly. • End all training sessions with #2minstreetclean • Provide segregated bins during all competitions/events. • Assist local residents in any regular litter picks./ • Have litter warden contact number to hand to report any major littering issues in vicinity. 	Annual Spring Clean. Throughout the year.

3	Erect bat and bird boxes	<p><i>Although there are already bat and bird boxes nearby in Doorly park, there might be scope to include a bird or bat box on the new boathouse?</i></p> <p>https://www.batconservationireland.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/05/BCIrelandGuidelines_BatBoxes.pdf</p> <p>and</p> <p>https://birdwatchireland.ie/irelands-birds-birdwatch-ireland/nestbox-designs-for-birds-and-wildlife/</p>	Year round, but Spring is best
4	Piles of leaves left in quiet corners	<p><i>At the back of the boathouse where there won't be any disturbance over the winter. This is especially important for hibernating species.</i></p>	Autumn/Winter:
5	Raising biodiversity awareness	<p><i>Raise awareness of local biodiversity in and around Lough Gill.</i></p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use club media to raise awareness of local biodiversity; • Share pictures of wildlife/run a wildlife photo competition; • Promote local wildlife walks; • Include designs for wildlife in new building. 	Commence ASAP

Examples of Check, Clean Dry resources and signage available through invasives.ie : <https://biodiversityireland.ie/check-clean-dry/> and <https://invasives.ie/check-clean-dry-resources/>

Thanks for remembering to

Protecting our environment from invasive species

An Roinn Tíreochta,
Riailaís Aintíil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

National Biodiversity Data Centre
A Heritage Council Programme

Invasives.ie
Invasive Alien Species in Ireland

Calling all Boaters Help stop the Invasion!

Invasive plants and animals harm our wildlife and environment. They can damage boat engines, clog propellers, and block waterways. Contaminated boats can cause their spread.

Report any invasive species you find, including:

FISH DISEASES

QUAGGA MUSSEL

AFRICAN CURLY WATERWEED

KILLER SHRIMP

Protect the environment you enjoy by keeping your boat and kit free of invasive species

An Roinn Tíreochta,
Riailaís Aintíil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

National Biodiversity Data Centre
A Heritage Council Programme

Invasives.ie
Invasive Alien Species in Ireland

Waterways Ireland
Wildwater Estate - Wicklow, Co. Wick

Remember to check these places

Find out more about invasive plants and animals and how you can help to stop the spread at:
invasives.ie/biosecurity/check-clean-dry