



Corofin Bio-Diversity Plan 2019

Loch Inchiquin

A family if swans,
The elders in the candor of their down,
Three cygnets in their tweedy grey and brown,
Slowly patrol the islet's fastnesses,
Safely away from all
Safe convoy coot and water-hen
Who ride respectfully beside
These majesties and highnesses.

A gathering of cloud
Spreads autumn at the islet's edge;
An upstart wind makes con and pen lead landward
And three dark princes vanish into sedge,
Safe for a while from all;
From all save winter and swanhood
And the eventual wrench of exile
Before the next leaves fall.

John L Sweeney



Introduction

Definition of Bio-Diversity:

-Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

-Biodiversity forms the foundation of the vast array of ecosystem services that critically contribute to human well-being.

-Biodiversity is important in human-managed as well as natural ecosystems.

Decisions humans make that influence biodiversity affect the well-being of themselves and others.

Origin of Plan

The Bio-Diversity Plan is a joint project between a number of interested local groups and individuals, namely the North Clare Agricultural Show and the Corofin Tidy Towns.

Through the implementation of the Plan it is hoped that a number of other key stakeholders will engage in activities to promote Bio-Diversity.

There are a number of positive bio-diverse projects and programmes in place. These ongoing projects will provide a strong foundation of which the proposed Plan will grow

Introduction

Corofin is a beautiful village on the southeast edge of The Burren. The River Fergus runs through the village and the village itself is an Architectural Conservation Area. There are many fine protected structures located in the village. Corofin is located adjacent to the East Burren Complex Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Corofin Wetlands Special Protection Area (SPA). Corofin is also adjacent to a Natural Heritage Area. Corofin has a vibrant community with an increasing population.



Legend:

- 1. Lough Inchiquin
- 2. Corofin Village
- 3. Lough Atedaun
- 4. River Fergus

- A: Laghtagoona housing Estate
- B: Lough Inchiquin car park and amenity area
- C: Corofin GAA Club
- D: Main St
- E: North Clare Agricultural Show Field
- F: National School
- G: The Bottles



Wildlife & local habitats

The village of Corofin known as 'The Angler's Paradise' and 'The Gateway to the Burren' lies 16.5km north of Ennis, nestled between the lakes of Lough Inchiquin and Lough Atedaun with the River Fergus skirting the village and joining these two lakes. The village grew up as a market town in the 1600's taking its name from Coradh Finne or the Weir of Finna, some reference this as the White Weir and is fortuitous in its location, where the built-environment is situated within a richly diverse natural ecosystem. The area is within what is described as the Burren Lowlands which is part of the unique Burren landscape and includes generally low-lying land with gentle undulating hills and exposed limestone pavement in places. The landscape and topography around Corofin is very much a reflection of the fabric of the Burren region, its geology and natural habitats. Corofin and its hinterland is underlain by karstified Limestone bedrock, which can be seen in its use in the dry stone walls or protruding from beneath the soil in many fields. This type of geology allows for connectivity between groundwater and surface water in so far as water beneath the ground originating from further north within the Burren Region contributes greatly to the River Fergus and the two lakes of Lough Inchiquin and Atedaun. Indeed in winter time the volumes are significant to fill up the flood lands of the Fergus and Atedaun around Corofin.

This in turn provides the basis for diverse habitats with a



Wildlife & local habitats

multitude of rich flora and fauna. The Corofin Wetlands is designated as a Special Area of Protection (SPA) and includes Lough Inchiquin, Clifden Hill, River Fergus at Corofin and Lough Atedaun. This SPA designation protects bird species and their habitats particularly in case those associated with the water environment. It boasts the presence of internationally and nationally important numbers of waterfowl such as Little Grebe, Whooper Swan, Wigeon, Teal and Black-Tail Godwit, Golden Plover, Coot, Mute Swan, Curlew. The area is also included within The Special Area of Conservation (SAC) called 'East Burren Complex' designated under the EU Directives for Habitats and Species. This SAC is described as being of international scientific interest due to the presence of typical Burren Limestone habitats such as calcareous grasslands and heath, scrub and woodland and exposed limestone pavement, some of these being evident around Corofin. Lough Atedaun is a good example of a Burren Wetland habitat and home to the rare species Mudwort (*Limosella aquatic*) which is listed in the Red Data Book. The Marsh Fritillary Butterfly is another important species present in the SAC and listed in Annex II of species in the Habitats Directive. The area supports the home of several species of bats such as Lesser Horseshoe, Pipistrelle and Brown Long-eared Bat. The diverse habitats of rich grasslands, natural scrub and wood lands, river and lake shores, hedgerows and gardens provide for ample foraging grounds. Of interest too is the impervious outcrop of shale and sandstone bedrock that is Clifden Hill overlooking Lough Inchiquin. Clifden Hill has a number of small caves, developed at the interface of the shale and limestone bedrock, with one of these caves called Vigo Cave described as being an 'a valuable example of karst heritage landform'. The Burren is region is geologically of national and international importance with Geopark Status awarded in 2011 making it a member of the Global and European Geopark network supported by UNESCO.



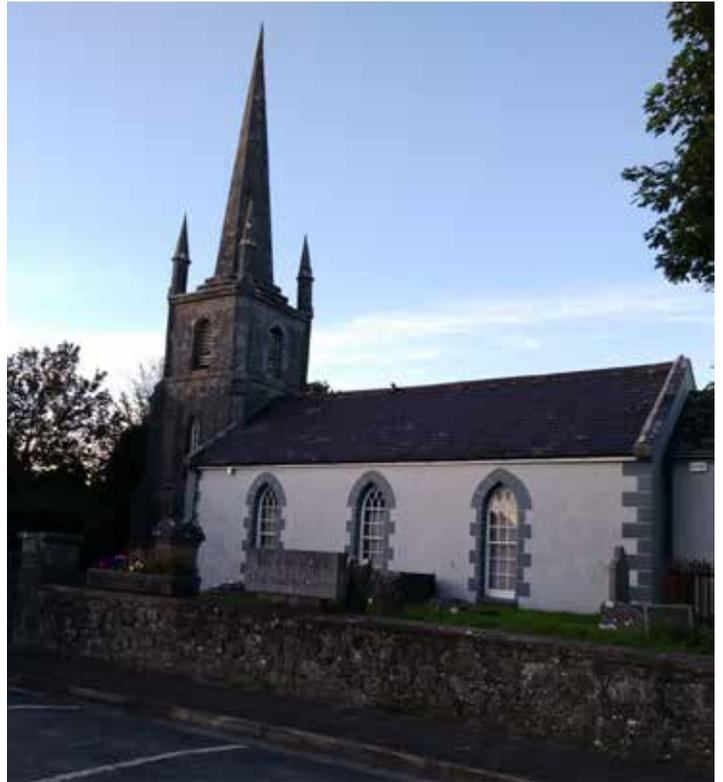
Heritage

Corofin, situated on the river Fergus, between Lake Inchiquin and Lough Ath Teadaun, has a rich built Heritage.

Corofin has a history that goes back to monastic Ireland.

This is evident from relics such as the Tau Cross, Kilnsboy and the crozier and bells of At. Blathmac. The graveyard of Kilvoydan is part of a monastic enclosure. The holy well or wart well is a relic of this.

In the heart of the village is St. Catherine's church, named after its benefactress, Catherine Keightley-O'Brien. In 1820 the porch and steeple were added. Today it is our Sinsearlann an Chlàir (Heritage Centre).



In the late 17 century, Corofin has been described as a good market town, one of the principal towns in the country, having Corofin house (where Centra is now), a malt house and an imposing market house which has the O'Brien arms.

Heritage

Directly opposite the Market House is Crowley's, formerly The Queen's Head Inn, dating back to the early 1700s.



Richmond House, dates back to the late 1700s, probably built around the time of Richard Brew's marriage to Alice Adams in 1786. Richard Brew of Richmond was leaseholder of both the Queen's Head Inn and the malt house in 1812. He and his wife had connections with the Blood, Burton and Adams families of Applevale, Clifden, Roxton and Willbrook.



Ongoing Bio-diversity projects

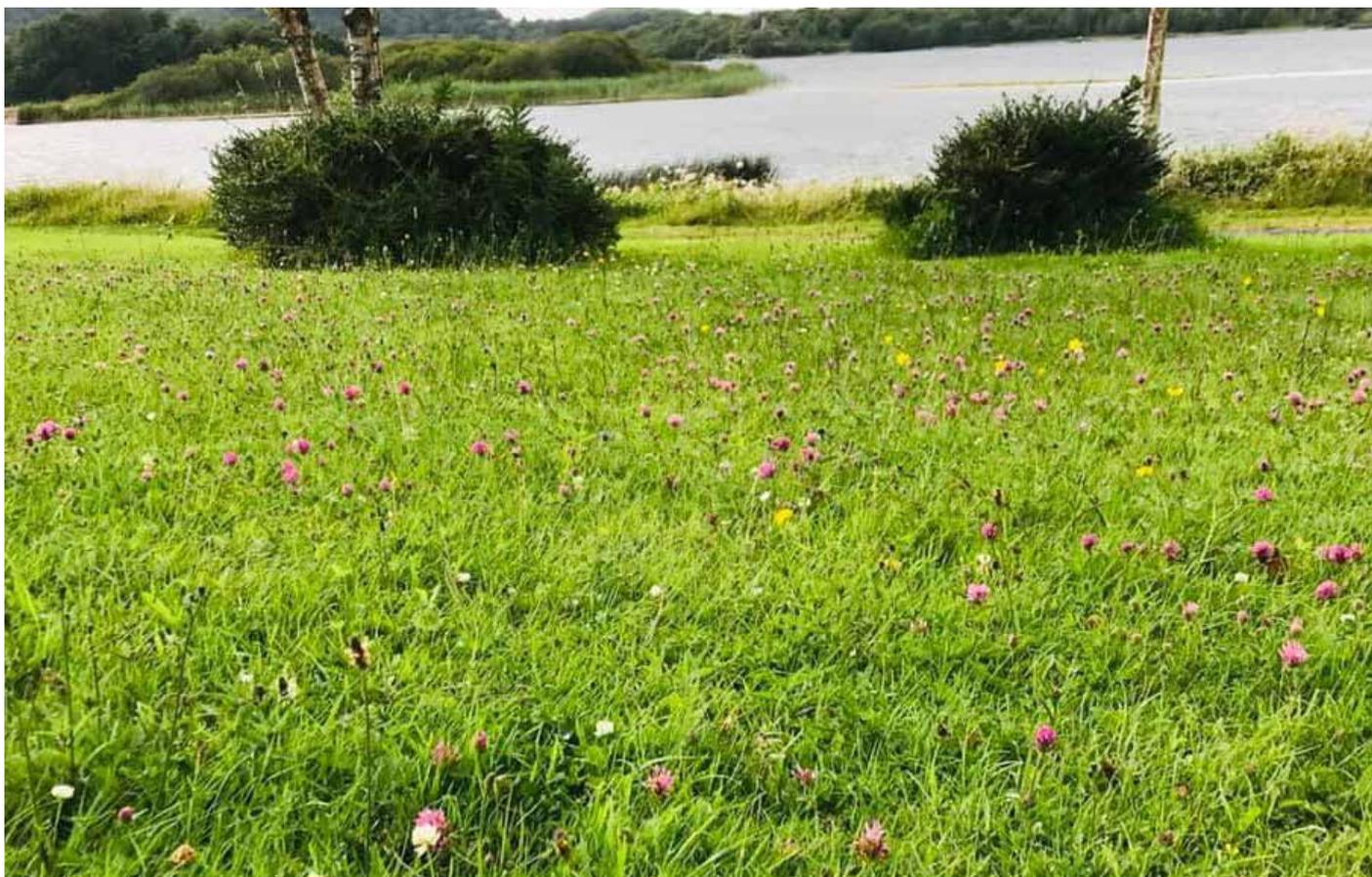


Information panel at Lough Inchiquin



Green areas managed for wildlife

Ongoing Bio-diversity projects



Species rich grassland with wild flowers at Lough Inchiquin



Pollen rich planting at strategic locations throughout the village

Ongoing Bio-diversity projects



Multi-sensory garden at the Grotto

Ongoing Bio-diversity projects



North Clare Agricultural Show field, parts of which are being managed for bio-diversity



Local Honey Classes in this years North Clare Agricultural Show

Corofin Bio-diversity Plan 2019 - 2024

	Project	Project Leader	Partners	Time Frame
1	Continue and further developer partnership for bio-diversity between national schools, tidy town group and North Clare Agricultural Show Association	Tidy Town, North Clare Agricultural Show, National Schools	Clare Coco	
2	Maintain and promote Tidy Town's policy of 'no spray' in relation to pesticides and herbicides	Tidy Town	North Clare Agricultural Show, Clare Coco	
3	Maintain and promote Tidy Town's policy of 'reduced cutting regime' of selected green areas	Tidy Town	North Clare Agricultural Show, Clare Coco	
4	Develop a programme for the creation Bee & Bug hotels throughout the parish	Tidy Town	North Clare Agricultural Show, Clare Coco	
5	Erect interactive signs at key sites related to local bio-diversity.	Tidy Town	Agricultural Show, Clare Coco, Corofin Tourism Group, Corofin Development Group	
6	Continue to develop parts of the North Clare Agricultural Show's field from the perspective of bio-diversity	North Clare Agricultural Show	Clare Coco	
7	Develop a programme of native tree planting amongst members of the North Clare Agricultural Show Association	North Clare Agricultural Show	Clare Coco, Burren Beo	
8	Investigate possibility of enhancing water systems habitats through a programme of conservation and restoration.	Tidy Town	Corofin Development Group, Clare Coco, Burren Beo, Tourism Group	
9	Investigate possibility of developing strategic sites for ivy growth	Tidy Town	Clare Coco, Agricultural Show,	
10	Investigate possibility of creating a community orchard	Tidy Town	Clare Coco, Development Group,	

11	Organise a series of talks and field trips about local wildlife and botany.	Tidy Town	X-PO, Clare Coco, Burren Beo	
12	Promote and encourage bio-diverse activities amongst the public through annual community events	Tidy Towns, Agricultural Show	Clare Coco, Burren Beo, CHAF, Corofin GAA, National School	
13	Encourage local sports clubs to engage in bio-diverse activities	Tidy Towns	Corofin GAA, Corofin Soccer Club	
14	Engage resident association to develop bio-diverse activities in private grounds	Tidy Towns	Resident Association, Clare Coco,	
15	Investigate possibility of developing walking routes and amenities local to water systems and lakes.	Tidy Towns	Corofin Development Group, Clare Coco, Burren Beo, Tourism Group	



Appendix

North Clare Agricultural Show Action Plan for Show field

The Show is 70th years in existence this year 2019 and during this time it has been a froce in prmoting agri-cultural and rural activities in Corofin and North Clare.

With our new field we now plan to incoporate a Biodiversity Habitat within the field.

Area A (Mound Area) as per map. This area has been left fallow since 2018.

1. We hope to indentify plants/trees/shrubs in this area and remove alien species within.
2. Devolop a wild flower area with interplanting with some trees and shrubs native to the area and suitable for Biodiversity
3. Plant some Bluebells to form clumps under trees where suitable
4. Encourage wild life birds by adding bird boxes etc. Bug hotels and plants to encourage butterflies and moths to the area

Hedging strategy as per plan below.

Upgrading of walls required between the community field and the field . This work is to be done before planting commences. Planting of 'crateagus' to form a food hedge that will suport wildlife abd birds. The continouse planting will help form a corridor between this field and the surrounding countryside for wild-life.

We will work with Burren Beo, local schools and our own committee member to proceed with this project.

