



# Planning for Nature

PARTICIPANT  
XXXX, Co. Clare

SITE VISIT CONDUCTED BY  
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Team

This 'Plan for Nature' has been produced through The Hare's Corner initiative of Burrenbeo Trust. All recommendations made are intended to increase biodiversity and help the local flora and fauna which are native to Ireland. For more information on The Hare's Corner, please visit [burrenbeo.com/thc](http://burrenbeo.com/thc)

## KEY ACTION PLANS

Your garden is already good for wildlife as it contains mature trees, scrub and areas of flower-rich grassland. However, there are options to make it even better including managing the grassland areas as wildflower meadows, creating new wildflower meadow areas, managing the invasive Traveller's-joy and possibly building a pond. Your garden contains a recorded archaeological monument, a Rath, which means that certain activities have to be notified to the National Monuments Service before they can be undertaken e.g. putting in a pond, planting new trees or uprooting trees and scrub. You should consult an archaeologist for advice before undertaking any activities that could damage the monument.

- Reduce mowing to allow more plants to flower and set seed
- Sow Yellow Rattle to help promote grassland diversity
- Confine Briars, Blackthorn, Whitethorn and Bracken to where they are currently located



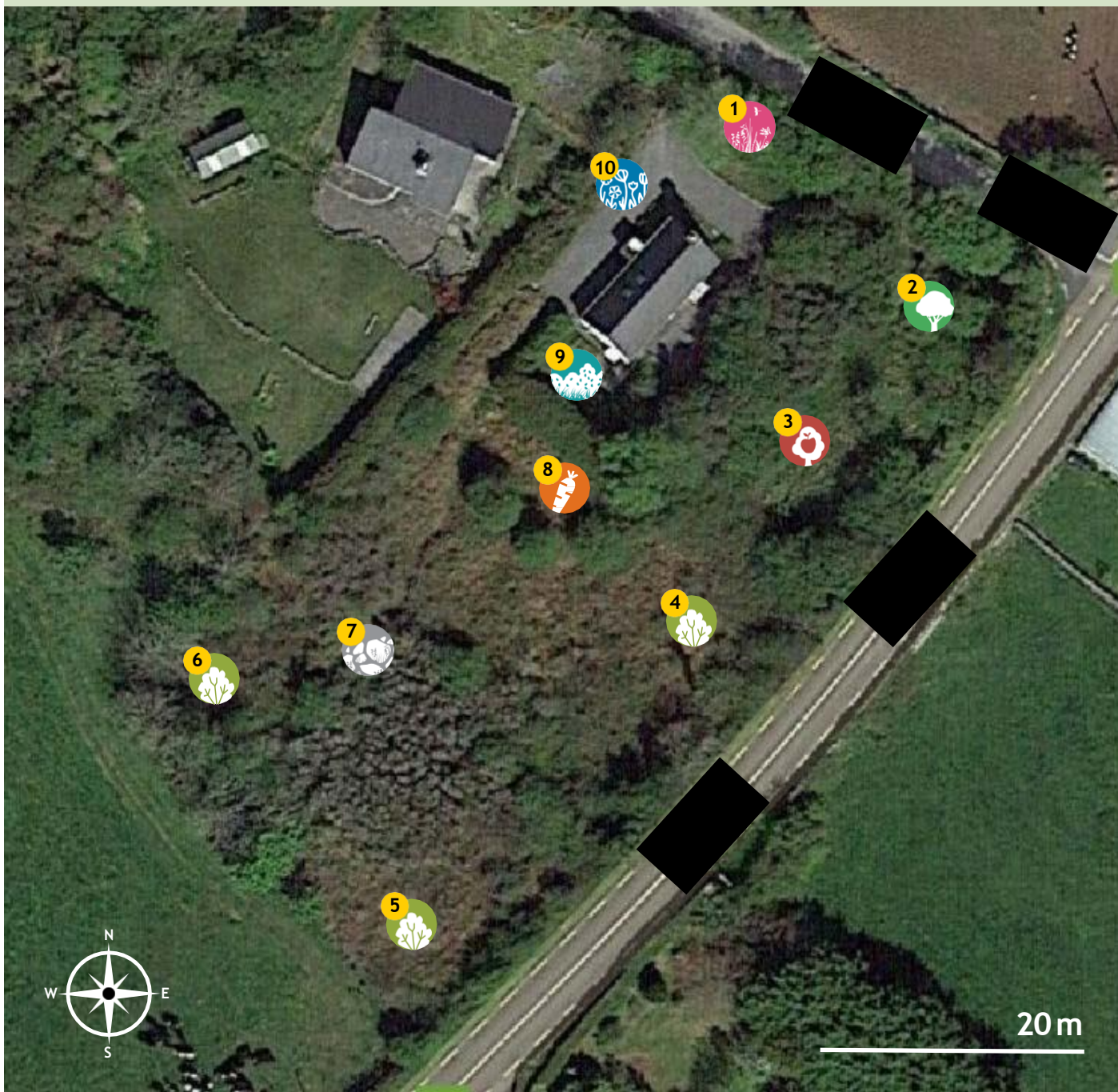
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The BurrenBeo Trust is an Irish charitable company limited by guarantee which helps to support the landscape, heritage, and conservation of the Burren. Charity number 16834.




# SITE MAP



## MAP LEGEND

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
|  1 Wildflower Meadow               |  4 Scrub  |  7 Rock pile                       |  10 Flower Beds Around border |
|  2 Elder Trees                     |  5 Scrub with South-facing Aspect                 |  8 Vegetable Patch, Trees, Bracken |  |
|  3 Grass/Moss, Trees, Mini Orchard |  6 Scrub, Potential Meadow with South-west Aspect |  9 Grassy Patch with Hedgerow      |  |


## YOUR PLAN FOR NATURE

**1**  **Habitat: Wildflower meadow with good wild plant diversity**  
Including - Common Knapweed, Bluebell, Self-heal, Harebell, Common Dog Violet and Bird's-foot Trefoils and from dried grasses indoors, Yorkshire Fog, Perennial Rye-grass, Quaking Grass, and False Oat-grass. There is a cattle grid next to this area which is a potential death-trap for hedgehogs.

**Benefits:** Seeds and nectar are good food sources for birds and insects

**Tips:** Mow in spring (March) then only mow paths during summer. Leaving this uncut until autumn will allow lots of plants to flower and set seed. Cut in autumn and remove all cut vegetation. To create an escape route from the cattle grid, make a ramp with a wooden plank or use blocks/bricks to make steps.


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**2**  **Habitat: Elder tree/corner**  
leave both standing and fallen dead wood here for larvae of beetles and other insects (unless risk of damage to shed). Lots of the non-native, invasive climber, Travellers Joy/Old Man's Beard (*Clematis vitalba*)

**Benefits:** The native climber, Ivy is good for insects especially Bumble Bees and other pollinators as its late blossoming provides food when it is becoming scarce.


**Tips:** Try and keep Traveller's-joy cut down to protect the Elder and other trees.

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**3**  **Habitat: Blackthorn at entrance to lawn which has some nice, flower-rich areas**  
**Benefits:** The "Island" of Holly, Whitethorn & Hazel provides great cover for birds, insects and small mammals.


**Tips:** Trim back Blackthorn where it is leaning over grass to make mowing easier and encourage more flowers e.g. Primroses, by letting light in. To protect the apple trees from damage by hares, you could use a 2lt. bottle (cut-off top and bottom, and slice down centre) as sleeve around trunk. Yellow Rattle could be sown next autumn in areas that will not be mown to weaken the strong grasses and encourage more flowers (mowing Yellow Rattle stops it setting seed and it will disappear quickly). Consider a succession-type mowing for this area e.g. centre paths at 2-week intervals, others at 4-6 weeks, and 8 weeks or longer where there are the most flowers.

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**4**  **Habitat: A thicket of Blackthorn, Whitethorn and bracken**  
**Benefits:** Blackthorn is the food plant of the caterpillars of the rare Small Eggar moth (largely restricted to the Burren in Ireland) and the rare Brown Hairstreak butterfly which feeds on the young growth of Blackthorn.

**Tips:** A path through this would allow you to access it and other currently inaccessible parts of the garden. Can let this area remain wild, but possibly cut sections every 5 years or so to keep it in check.

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**5**  **Habitat: Scrub**  
Could not access this area but good potential for clearing and having it as a meadow with good south-facing sun.

## YOUR PLAN FOR NATURE

- 6**  **Habitat:** **Border of Ash and Hazel along boundary, with Blackthorn and briars on once open grassland**  
**Benefits:** The south facing aspect means that this area would make a great wildflower meadow with benefits to insects.  
**Tips:** Recommend clearing the Blackthorn and briars using a strimmer with a cutting blade. Keep the one, small Spindle tree. Spread the grass cut on areas 1 and 3 in autumn as 'green hay' to bring in flower and grass seeds naturally.
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- 7**  **Habitat:** **Area where there is an overgrown rock pile**  
**Benefits:** Rock pile can be used by insects and the Common Lizard for basking and shelter.  
**Tips:** Remove vegetation and scrub to expose the rock. Widen the path to 2 metres width, making it easier to keep open in future.
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- 8**  **Habitat:** **Vegetable Patch with area of thick bracken to the south**  
**Benefits:** Growing one's own food greatly reduces the individual's carbon footprint as well as creating a closer relationship to the land creating more respect and admiration.  
**Tips:** To control the bracken (encroaching ferns), put a double break in the stems. Part of this area would be a great spot for a pond in the future. If you do not want to dig a pond there are options for mini-ponds made from old sinks or basins. Adding a source of water really benefits wildlife both as a habitat and somewhere to drink.
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- 9**  **Habitat:** **Grassy/mossy area next to the Escallonia hedge**  
Parts of this area are flower rich.  
**Tips:** Mow as suggested for areas 1 and 3.
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- 10**  **Details:** **Flower beds bordering the house**  
Found the remains of a Common Spotted-orchid amongst ornamentals.  
**Tips:** Adding garden flowers that are good for wildlife, e.g. wall flowers for early nectar and pollen for emerging Bumble Bee queens in Spring, and other nectar-rich plants will increase their value for wildlife.

## RESOURCES

Please visit the Hare's Corner website at [burrenbeo.com/thc](http://burrenbeo.com/thc) for links to specific actions for helping pollinators, gardening for biodiversity, tree nursery contact lists, and more!

Direct to specific documents/booklets/posters:

[Actions to Help Pollinators](#)

[Gardening for Biodiversity](#)

[Pollinator-friendly Plants for Your Garden](#)

[Pollinator-friendly Herbs](#)

[Pledge Your Garden for Pollinators](#)

[Tree Nursery Contact List](#)

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan [www.pollinators.ie](http://www.pollinators.ie)

Bat Conservation Ireland [www.batconservationireland.org](http://www.batconservationireland.org)

BirdWatch Ireland [www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie)

Extensive list of Resources [www.pollinators.ie/resources](http://www.pollinators.ie/resources)

Irish Garden Birds [www.irishgardenbirds.ie](http://www.irishgardenbirds.ie)

Irish Seed Savers Association [www.irishseedsavers.ie](http://www.irishseedsavers.ie)

Irish Wildlife Trust [www.iwt.ie](http://www.iwt.ie)

National Biodiversity Data Centre [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)

Native Irish Trees [www.treecouncil.ie/native-irish-trees](http://www.treecouncil.ie/native-irish-trees)

National Parks and Wildlife Service [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

Native Woodland Trust [www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie](http://www.nativewoodlandtrust.ie)

Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland [www.wri.ie](http://www.wri.ie)

Wildflowers info [www.wildflowersofireland.com](http://www.wildflowersofireland.com)

Wildflowers by month, colour, or habitat [www.irishwildflowers.ie](http://www.irishwildflowers.ie)