

Executive Summary

This upcoming document will be County Cavan's first dedicated Biodiversity Action Plan. It is a 5-year plan for the period 2025-2030. The Plan has been prepared by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants on behalf of Cavan Heritage Office in conjunction with the Cavan Biodiversity Office. It recognises the huge challenges faced in County Cavan (and throughout Ireland and the globe) in terms of biodiversity loss and habitat degradation. It also references the issue of climate change, which is interlinked with the biodiversity crisis. With these challenges come opportunities, however. This document attempts to lay out information and guidance to aid the conservation and enhancement of County Cavan's precious biodiversity and natural landscape.

The County Cavan Biodiversity Action Plan has been developed through desk research and site visits, in addition to feedback from key stakeholders during a consultation process held from late 2021 to early 2024. The consultation process involved tailored questionnaires and two stakeholder consultation meetings. It also involved the establishment of a Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group, which met in April 2022. This Steering Group was carefully formed following contact with a wide range of stakeholders with an interest in and/or responsibility for aspects related to biodiversity across County Cavan. The Steering Group helped to guide the completion of the Plan and will monitor its future implementation, along with Cavan Heritage and Biodiversity Office with a biodiversity officer now in the role within Cavan County Council. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening have also been carried out in respect of this Biodiversity Action Plan, under the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC Article 1 and the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Article 6(3) and (4), respectively. The plan given the latest review phase since May 2025 to incorporate legislative change, updated information (i.e. statistical data, species status, etc.) and updated actions is currently in final screening.

This Biodiversity Action Plan sets out the Aims, Objectives and Vision for enhancing and conserving County Cavan's biodiversity. It provides key details on County Cavan's main natural attributes and habitats, such as the unique and beautiful drumlin landscape, hedgerows and woodland, species-rich grasslands and its rich network of wetlands, including its reputed 365 lakes. It outlines many of the species present in the county, including birds, insects and mammals. Several species and habitats are now under threat, not only in Cavan, but also nationwide. EU protected, Natura 2000 sites – that is, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - and nationally protected Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) in the county are listed and briefly described. However, there is also much emphasis throughout the Plan on sites and habitats which are not officially protected and introduces the concept of County Biodiversity Sites or Areas (CBAs) which have local biodiversity significance and nature value such as potentially Fartrin Bog. West Cavan boasts the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, which it shares with Co. Fermanagh. The Geopark is a UNESCO Global Geopark and is one of the jewels in County Cavan's crown. It is given particular attention in this Plan due to its unique geology, habitats and associated flora and fauna.

Based on analysis of the desk research collated, site visits and feedback from the consultation process, a set of 10 Strategic Themes were developed for the Cavan Biodiversity Action Plan. Each Strategic Theme comes with a set of Actions, which are tied in with expected Outcomes, Impacts and suggested Partner Organisations. Targets are also set for each Action within the 5-year timeframe of the plan – that is, whether they are estimated to be Short-term, Medium-term or Long-term. Actions are aimed at being practical and achievable, yet effective. Case studies are presented along with each Strategic

Theme and have been subsequently updated in this iteration where possible. These provide examples of what has already been done or is currently being done to enhance and conserve aspects of biodiversity within County Cavan. These examples are aimed at providing inspiration to all readers, whether it be stakeholders or the general public, to take action for biodiversity. The success of the County Cavan Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 is dependent not only on the work of the Cavan Heritage and Biodiversity Office as well as overall Cavan County Council. It will also be very dependent on the groups and agencies listed within it as vital partner agencies, as well as assisting the wider citizens of County Cavan to achieve their biodiversity targets and important qualifying interests for doing so and protecting the essential local biodiversity of County Cavan we all have.

Strategic Themes and Actions:

The finalized strategic themes and actions are listed below for review with the final plan currently in draft form for the final screening as mentioned. Note the dates for target periods (Short term, medium term and long-term).

1. Biodiversity in Communities

1. Actions to support Biodiversity Initiatives in Communities across County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner Organisations	Targets
1.	Aid the progression of existing biodiversity action plans (BAPs) and associated training courses for community groups across County Cavan.	Progression and implementation of plans and training in biodiversity for key communities across the county.	Putting biodiversity at the top of the agenda and increasing awareness of nature in local communities.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Heritage Council, Cavan County Local Development (CCLD), Tidy Towns groups, sports clubs, etc.	Support the development and progression of BAPs and associated training courses for community groups across County Cavan. 2025 - 27
2.	Expand on biodiversity training & workshops for Cavan County Council staff, including County Councillors.	Increased awareness of and respect for biodiversity and its protection across all sectors of Cavan County Council.	Incorporating biodiversity into a range of plans and activities across the various sectors in the County Council.	All departments of Cavan County Council, ecologists and other relevant experts.	Biodiversity training course completed by all Cavan County Council departments. 2025 - 27
3.	Annual County Cavan Biodiversity Conference to be hosted in the county.	Conference on various biodiversity themes each year in County Cavan. Potential for networking and knowledge sharing.	Greater awareness of biodiversity among the public and across organisations.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Heritage Council.	Annual conference to commence in 2026. 2025-27

4.	Establish Citizen Science Network and annual conference for Cavan-Monaghan. This network will aim to cohesively collect data, foster biodiversity interest and help inform policy.	Network and conference established to encourage and promote citizen science and recording across Counties Cavan & Monaghan.	Improved knowledge and skills in citizen science across Counties Cavan & Monaghan. Increase in NBDC records for each county.	Cavan Heritage Biodiversity Office, Monaghan Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Monaghan Co Co, NBDC, Heritage Council.	Network to be established in 2026. Annual Citizen's Science Conference to commence. 2026-2028
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5.	Update of Cavan Co Co Heritage Office website to include a more extensive Section on Biodiversity. To include 'story mapping' - GIS.	Creating a 'go-to' section of the site for information on biodiversity within the county, and an inventory of community groups from across Cavan.	Developing a useful, 'one-stop-shop' source of information on biodiversity in the county with links to other useful resources and websites.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office and Cavan Co Co Communications Office, GIS Officer.	Complete Biodiversity webpage update, with ongoing maintenance from then on. 2026 -28.
6.	Promoting biodiversity via the Arts, e.g. b o o k l e t s , nature-themed murals in towns/villages, biodiversity themes incorporated into Arts events & festivals. Team up with local artists.	Featuring biodiversity themes via Arts events and projects throughout Co. Cavan would highlight biodiversity in a fun and positive way.	Encouraging local people to think about biodiversity and appreciate the beauty of nature in both urban and rural settings.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Cavan Arts Office, Tidy Towns groups, Town Teams, Community and Sports Clubs, Local/Irish artists, Climate Action Team.	Host/complete at least one biodiversity-themed event or project in County Cavan each year via the Arts, e.g. murals, sculptures, art exhibitions, etc. Ongoing, 2025-2030.
7.	Promotion of biodiversity via events and an enhanced communications presence, e.g. 'Bioblitzes', 'walks & talks', social media, radio slots, short films, etc.	Increased interest and enthusiasm, especially among young people, to take an interest in biodiversity, and to recognise and record various species.	Getting people, especially young people, more involved. Improve biodiversity interest, species identification and recording.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Tidy Towns groups, Geopark, BWI, WCBA, LAWPRO, AIPP, The Anglo Celt, Northern Sound, Facebook, Instagram, etc.	Events and promotion during Biodiversity Week and Heritage Week each year. Ongoing, 2025-2030.

2. Protecting Lakes, River Systems and water quality

2. Actions to help protect Lakes, River Systems and Water Quality in County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Form practical working group systems and have regular correspondence with a range of related groups focused on water quality projects.	Facilitate and improve communication and coordination between groups and individuals involved with projects on maintaining water quality.	Improved communication will lead to greater efficiency of groups, collaborators and hopefully better Water quality achievements.	Cavan Biodiversity & Heritage Office, Cavan Co Co Environment Section, NFGWS, LAWPRO, Uisce Éireann, IFI, IFA, ASSAP (Teagasc), Farming for Water, ACRES.	Form Targeted Water Quality Working Group system. Annual or biannual meet- up/s with specific focus. 2025-2027
2.	Public awareness campaigns on water usage, chemicals, septic tanks and pesticide use. (e.g. video campaign on pesticides)	Wider public awareness of water quality issues in the county and how everyone's actions can have an effect on local water supply, lakes & rivers, etc.	Ultimately, people taking action to Improve water quality in households and businesses across County Cavan.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co Water Section, Cavan Co Co Environment Section, EPA, NFGWS, LAWPRO, Uisce Éireann.	Organise campaign to encourage improved water practices in the home/business. 2026 - 28
3.	Citizen science training and awareness raising events on water quality – linking in with relevant organisations, e.g. Citizen Science Network events. See Biodiversity and Communities.	Equipping individuals and community groups with the skills to monitor water quality in their area through online, visual and on-site training.	Increasing knowledge on water quality, providing valuable skills in the community to help protect local rivers and lakes.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, LAWPRO, Cavan Libraries, NFGWS, Irish Water, Cavan Co Co Water Section, Cavan Co Co Environment Section, EPA, Geopark.	Aid organisation and promotion of events each year, e.g. LAWPRO events/ training, Cavan-Monaghan Science Festival. Ongoing 2025-2030.
4.	Support Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and green infrastructure such as riparian buffer zones, wetlands projects, rain gardens and SuDs (Sustainable urban drainage systems) features where appropriate for biodiversity enhancement.	Helping projects with NBS/SuD features and supporting knowledge sharing where appropriate to aid water quality and monitoring so building on existing knowledge in space.	Increasing knowledge and capacity in the NBS space for Cavan County Council. Support projects where possible that aid water quality such as flood alleviation or improving water quality aligned to water action plan.	Cavan Heritage and Biodiversity Office, LAWPRO, NFGWS, Irish Water, Cavan CoCo Water Section, Roads section, EPA, Geopark, Cavan Climate Action Team.	Deliver training and advice capacity in supporting NBS projects or helping with such projects to aid water quality. Ongoing – 2025-2030.

5.	Explore opportunities for implementing actions on farms to protect water quality and biodiversity, e.g. creating riparian buffer zones, wetlands, Fencing, Willow Spiling, etc.	Encouraging the farming community to conserve biodiversity by taking action to protect local water quality.	Better results in terms of reducing water pollution and improving water quality across County Cavan.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Teagasc Ballyhaise, LAWPRO, NFGWS, ASSAP, NPWS, IFA, ACRES Breffne, Farming for Water.	Incorporate topics related to improved water practices on the farm into biodiversity communications, events and campaigns, involving partner organisations. Ongoing, 2025-2030.
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3. Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark

3. Actions to protect and support Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Support Biodiversity Management Plans for various public facing Cavan County Council-owned sites across the Cavan side of the Geopark, e.g. CBAs, Shannon Pot, Moneygashel, Whitefather's Cave, Lower Lough MacNea Park.	Develop and support biodiversity action/management plans for various council owned sites in terms of grass maintenance, tree planting, pollinator friendly planting, etc.	Encourage more biodiversity into Cavan County Council owned areas that will enhance public areas around the Geopark.	Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Cavan Co Co, Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, AIPP, NPWS.	Develop targeted Biodiversity Management Plan for Cavan Co Co-owned sites across the Geopark. 2025-27.
2.	Assist with a volunteering programme to ensure a regular team is available to help maintain and enhance biodiversity at the Geopark.	Foster culture of regular volunteers available to carry out activities such as litter picking, path maintenance, and invasive species removal via appropriate training.	Increasing manpower to maintain the Cavan side of the Geopark, as well as encouraging local interest and a sense of 'ownership' at the park.	Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Heritage Office, Cavan Co Co, Cavan Volunteer Centre, LAWPRO, local volunteer groups and clubs.	Aid Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark to establish an active volunteering programme. 2025-27

3.	Develop a Conservation Project for the Geopark, with a focus on conserving its unique habitats and species.	Tailored project for biodiversity rich habitats and species, e.g. grasslands, boglands, lakes, butterfly and bird species.	Protect the habitats & species that have managed to be conserved to date and ensure they will be protected into the future.	Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Cavan Co Co, Heritage Office, AIPP, NPWS.	Develop a Conservation Project for threatened and unique habitats and species across the Geopark. 2026 - 2028
4	Support development of partnerships, funding opportunities, research studies and conservation actions on the ground.	More support in terms of people and resources to implement conservation projects as well as aiding ecological and digital literacy.	Ensure that conservation projects can be carried out in a targeted, effective way.	Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Cavan Co Co, Heritage Office, AIPP, NPWS, private farmers/landowners, Teagasc (Ballyhaise).	Partnerships developed and funding opportunities developed for Conservation Projects. 2026 - 2028
5.	Regular eco-themed events and programmes that incorporate citizen science network events at Geopark.	Demonstrate why the Geopark is so important to conserve and protect in terms of biodiversity (along with its archaeological, physical and cultural features).	Greater knowledge about the Geopark within County Cavan and a greater willingness to protect and understand its significance, including its unique biodiversity.	Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, Cavan Co Co, Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Sports Partnership, Cavan PPN, NPWS, UNESCO.	One biodiversity-themed walk at the Geopark in conjunction with Cavan Heritage Office each year. Ongoing, 2025-2030.

4. Protecting Bogs & Wetlands

4. Actions to protect and enhance Cavan's Bogs & Wetlands					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organizations'	Targets
1.	Install educational signage at key bog and wetland sites – seek support from conservation groups to identify key sites and suitable locations.	Signage with information on bog & wetland biodiversity, especially at unprotected bog and wetland sites.	Informing locals and visitors about the rich biodiversity present in our remaining bogs and wetlands will help to raise their profile and encourage conservation.	Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, WCBA, Killyconny Bog Project, Environmental Consultancies, Cavan Climate Action Team.	Install biodiversity signage on at least two key County Cavan bog & wetland sites. 2025-27.

2.	Influencing the Green Cert Curriculum - Explore potential for establishing lectures within modules at Teagasc (Ballyhaise) on bogs and wetlands.	Developing modules at Teagasc Agricultural College, Ballyhaise, along with conserving the on-site wetland. Raise the profile and importance of managing bogs and wetlands for biodiversity, flood management, etc.	Farmers emerging from the agricultural college, Ballyhaise may be encouraged to put what they have learned about bogs and wetlands into practice.	Heritage Office, NPWS – Waterlands Project, Cavan Co Co, Heritage Council, WCBA, Killyconny Bog Project, Environmental Consultancy, Teagasc (Ballyhaise), Climate Action Team, ACRES Breffni.	Work to establish module or support Training on Bogs and Wetlands at Teagasc. 2025-27.
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3.	Promotion of wetlands, wetland studies and related education programmes.	Complete Phase III study report and share all wetland studies online and across the public domain.	Increased knowledge of Cavan's bogs and wetlands will help support their protection and potentially future funding opportunities.	Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Irish Wetland Surveys, Killyconny Bog Project, WCBA, NPWS, Geopark, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Irish RAMSAR Wetland Committee, Climate Action Team, Cavan Arts Office.	Promotion of Phase II of Cavan Wetlands Survey, plus completion and promotion of Phase III. 2026 - 28
4.	Include 'Wetland Ambassador Programme' as a component of the Citizen's Science Network.	Recognition of landowners striving to protect wetlands in Co. Cavan.	Educating the farming community and wider public about the types and value of wetland habitats being conserved.	Geopark, Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Heritage Office, Irish Wetland Surveys, Farming for Nature, Burren Beo, DAFM, ACRES-Breifne, Geopark, NBDC, Climate Action Team.	Promotion and launch of Wetland Ambassador Programme within Citizens' Science Network. 2026-28
5.	Increased support for communities involved with bog restoration and CBA sites, e.g. funding or resources clinics and inclusion within the Citizen Science Network.	Raising awareness among the public of the importance of bogs and wetlands in the county in terms of biodiversity, climate change, flood protection, etc.	Greater awareness in the public domain could mean better understanding and protection measures, especially for those bogs not currently protected under legislation.	Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Killyconny Bog Project, WCBA, NPWS, LAWPRO, Geopark, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Irish RAMSAR Wetland Committee, Climate Action Team.	At least one event per year focusing on bogs & wetlands, e.g. on World Wetlands Day. Ongoing 2025-2030.

5. Biodiversity Focus on Forest Parks

5. Actions to help encourage more biodiversity in Forest Parks in County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Raising awareness of biodiversity within forest parks, e.g. walks & talks and Citizen Science events.	Holding events involving the public, e.g. Bioblitzes, Bird Surveys, Fungi foraging.	Gathering of important data each year, recording of various species present in forest parks, encouraging people to get involved and have fun while learning about biodiversity.	Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Coillte, local Volunteer and community groups, e.g. Tidy Towns, Heritage groups, Geopark, Climate Action Team.	Hold at least one forest park related event each year during Biodiversity Week or Heritage Week. 2025-27
2.	Supporting Coillte and forest park managers with biodiversity actions plans in its forest parks across County Cavan. Discussion, sharing and collaboration on biodiversity plans for forest parks where possible.	Increasing knowledge and discussion around biodiversity for County Cavan's Forest parks.	Increasing the effectiveness of biodiversity action plans across forest parks in County Cavan.	Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Coillte, public, Geopark, Climate Action Team.	Contact with Coillte on a yearly basis to discuss and contribute to biodiversity plans for Cavan's Forest parks. 2026-28.
3.	More information signs on tree, flora and fauna species are present in forest parks.	Highlighting key tree, flora and fauna species Around forest parks, how they interact and benefit biodiversity.	Creating an understanding and appreciation of the species present in County Cavan's forests and encouraging their protection.	Heritage Office, Cavan Co Co, Coillte, private landowners (where necessary), Geopark.	Install relevant biodiversity signage in at least three of Cavan's key forest parks. Ongoing 2025-30.

6. Native Hedgerows & Woodlands

6. Actions to conserve and expand hedgerows and woodland cover in County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Launch and promote the County Cavan Hedgerow Survey 2023-24.	The county hedgerow survey 2023-24 is shared and promoted with Council staff, relevant organisations with guidance video.	The current state of County Cavan's hedgerows is determined. Recommendations should address the key issues identified, to protect and enhance hedgerows across the county.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co. Council, Hedgerows Ireland, Climate Action Team.	Launch & promote County Cavan's second hedgerow survey (2023-2024). Publicise findings and devise follow-up actions. 2025-27
2.	Collaborative dispersed Urban Orchard Project for Cavan Town (and potentially other urban centres in Co. Cavan).	Establish an Urban Orchard Project for Cavan town, following best practice examples in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.	A Dispersed Urban Orchard will ensure that fruit trees are planted across Cavan town, encouraging pollinators while educating people about the importance of trees and biodiversity.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Heritage Council, Tree Council of Ireland, Native Woodland Trust, Tidy Towns, Wild Work, Climate Action Team.	Create a Dispersed Urban Orchard project for Cavan Town (and potentially other urban centres in Co. Cavan). 2025 - 27.
3.	Explore opportunities with Teagasc Ballyhaise and agri-environment schemes regarding more eco-friendly hedge & tree management and planting on farms.	Explore potential for talks, demonstrations and modules to encourage management of hedgerows and native tree planting on Farmland for biodiversity.	Most hedgerows are situated on farmland throughout the county, so any modules and training for young farmers and land management advisers could have a positive effect on hedgerows managed for biodiversity across the county in future.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Heritage Council, Hedgerows Ireland, Teagasc (Ballyhaise), A C R E S - B r e i f n e , Climate Action Team.	Hold at least one hedgerow workshop/course at Teagasc, Ballyhaise. By 2026-28

4.	Provide training and develop Tree & Hedgerow Conservation Strategy and/or guidance material for County Council staff, e.g. Planning & Roads Dept and hired contractors to ensure ecologically sensitive hedge cutting.	Prepare guidance document or focused management plan for Cavan Co Co Planning & Roads Dept with clear instruction on eco-friendly hedge cutting for new developments and Council-managed hedges.	A guidance document or conservation strategy on hedge cutting will help to ensure Council-owned and roadside hedgerows are conserved. This will help to conserve hedgerows during development and hedge-cutting periods.	Cavan Heritage Office, Heritage Council, Hedgerows Ireland, Teagasc (Ballyhaise), hired hedge-cutting contractors, Climate Action Team. e.g. Work with farmers and landowners to promote good practices for hedgerow management and to create awareness of ash dieback	Provide training and guidance for relevant Cavan Co Co staff (e.g. Planners, Road Engineers) on hedgerow maintenance and conservation. 2026-28.
5.	Devise Ash tree management guidelines within a native tree strategy (N16 Action in County Climate Action Plan) to aid awareness and assist with replacement strategy on Cavan County Council lands.	Plan ahead for Ash Dieback, e.g. planting a mix of suitable native trees and careful Ash tree management on Council lands in place of Ash trees affected by Ash Dieback (ADB) Disease and promote awareness.	Working with farmers and landowners to promote good practices for hedgerow management and creating awareness of ash dieback will help support a wider strategy with national remit.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Heritage Council, Tree Council of Ireland, Native Woodland Trust, Tidy Towns, Geopark, Climate Action Team.	Include guidance on managing Ash trees affected by Ash Dieback disease during hedgerow conservation workshops, Research days and guidance for Cavan Co Co staff. Ongoing 2025-2030
6.	Educating the public on native hedge and tree planting and maintenance via workshops, events and other awareness projects, e.g. digital resources.	Organise workshops in planting, laying and maintenance of hedgerows during Heritage Week, Hedgerow Week, etc.	Raise awareness of the importance of hedgerows for biodiversity through the planting and maintenance of native hedges through hands-on demonstrations each year.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Heritage Council, Hedgerows Ireland, Teagasc (Ballyhaise), National Tree Council, Native Woodland Trust, Tidy Towns, Climate Action Team.	Hold native hedgerow maintenance and planting workshops/courses with the public each year. Ongoing 2025-30

7.	Identify, survey and map native long-established (LEW) woodland sites in the County (Some within CBAs). Make LEW a priority to ensure their conservation with support of National project in space (Early 2026 update)	Create maps of native LEW sites across County Cavan that still exist. e.g. Bellamont, Kingscourt, Deerpark Forest Parks, Dunaweel, etc. Areas of woodland that once existed (according to historical OSI maps) could also be included.	The creation of native woodland maps would help to record those that currently exist across County Cavan and help to ensure their protection. Include comparative study with OSI maps.	Cavan Heritage Office, Heritage Council, OSI, Coillte, private landowners, Tree Council of Ireland, Native Woodland Trust.	Complete map of County Cavan's Long-Established Woodlands (LEW) but avoiding duplication with national project underway with Maynooth University. Ongoing 2025-30
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7. Conserving High Nature Value Farmland

7. Actions to Conserve High Nature Value (HNV) Farmland in County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Promotion of HNV farming practices, e.g. local farm walks and talks and guidance materials.	Demonstrate examples of good HNV practices and associated cost benefits on the ground and how these can be implemented on farms across the county.	Encourage and inspire farmers and landowners across the county to adopt various practices to support biodiversity on their farms.	Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, NPWS, Geopark, Teagasc Ballyhaise, IFA, Farming for Nature, interested farmers/ landowners and agri-environmental consultants.	Promote HNV practices via guidance materials and walks and talks with landowners taking action for biodiversity on their farms. 2025-27
2.	Establish pilot project with landowner/s aiming to protect local HNV grassland habitats.	Set up pilot projects with interested farmer/s in an area of species-rich grassland with support of partner agencies.	Establishing species-rich grassland projects with farmer/s in HNV farmland areas will help to encourage conservation of semi-natural grasslands in County Cavan.	Cavan Heritage Office, Cavan Co Co, NPWS, Geopark, Irish Grasslands Project, Teagasc Ballyhaise, IFA, interested landowners and agri-environmental consultants, Climate Action Team.	Establish one small pilot project with the aim of protection and enhancement of semi-natural grasslands on HNV farmland. 2026-28

3.	Undertake a semi-natural grassland survey in Co. Cavan. (Comparative survey with 2009 study).	A follow-up report, similar to the 2009 Irish Semi-natural Grasslands Survey (by BEC Consultants), with a focus on County Cavan, should be carried out across the county.	A study of the species-rich grasslands remaining in the county would build up data and help to identify sites requiring protection.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Heritage Council, Cavan Co Co, NPWS, Geopark, Irish Grasslands Project, Climate Action Team, GIS Officer.	Complete and launch a follow-up semi-natural grassland survey for Co. Cavan. 2028-30
4.	Provide Digital and ecological literacy guidance for landowners in Biodiversity Space and HNV farming i.e. schemes, legislation, funding, concepts, etc.	Demonstrate efforts and hopefully results of engagement with landowners in terms of funding clinics, legislation, biodiversity literacy for HNV, etc. (Also open to communities and staff)	Landowners will be empowered to protect their local biodiversity, understand the mechanisms for doing so and be knowledgeable of the designations/ legislation that affects them.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Heritage Council, Cavan Co Co, NPWS, Geopark, ACRES Breffni, Climate Action Team, GIS Officer, Environmental consultancies.	Host at least one event focused as an ecological and digital literacy clinic in space targeted at landowners and HNV farming during the duration of the plan. 2026-2028

8. Pollinator Initiatives across County Cavan

8. Actions to encourage and support Pollinators across County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner Organizations.	Targets
1.	Further promotion of All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP). Ensure AIPP key measures within the guidelines are followed by Cavan County Council.	As a partner organisation of the AIPP, Cavan County Council must comply with its policy guidelines.	Being signed up to the AIPP as a Partner means that AIPP measures must be adhered to, e.g. 'low-mow' regimes. It highlights the AIPP throughout County Cavan, encouraging other groups to sign up too.	Cavan County Council, Cavan Heritage Office, AIPP, Council maintenance contractors, TÚS, CE Scheme, Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Tidy Towns groups.	Further promotion of AIPP within Cavan County Council and to the public i.e. guidance and training. 2025-27

2.	Develop a biodiversity management plan for Cavan Town grounds and public spaces.	Develop a biodiversity management plan with partners to implement measures throughout Cavan town and county on council lands, e.g. 'low-mow' regimes in parks, verges, vacant spaces.	A biodiversity management plan for council lands would help to ensure that a set biodiversity standard would have to be adhered to around the county.	Cavan County Council, Cavan Heritage Office, AIPP, Geopark, Council maintenance contractors, TÚS, CE Scheme, Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Tidy Towns group, CCLD, Climate Action Team.	Complete a biodiversity management plan for Cavan Co Co grounds and public spaces. 2026-28
3.	Extend the Pollinator friendly towns & villages initiative out across Co. Cavan.	Increased awareness of and respect for biodiversity and its protection across local communities in County Cavan. Could empower strong church network and local biodiversity plans.	Giving individuals and groups the knowledge to implement projects locally.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Tidy Towns groups, sports clubs, residents' associations, community gardens, Church and Graveyard Network, etc.	Extend Pollinator friendly towns & villages initiative out across County Cavan. 2026-28
4.	Incorporate biodiversity projects into County Council heritage conservation projects.	Ensure biodiversity elements are included in all community and Council led conservation projects.	Space for nature will be included in the conservation of old buildings and spaces across the county which are council or community led.	Cavan County Council, Cavan Heritage Office, AIPP, Council maintenance contractors, TÚS, CE Scheme, Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Tidy Towns groups, community groups, ecologists.	Biodiversity initiatives are incorporated into conservation projects. Ongoing 2025-30
5.	Strongly influence reduction of pesticide use by County Council as a statutory requirement of the National Biodiversity Action Plan by supporting development of policy for council.	Reduce pesticide use by Cavan County Council on council grounds and across all settings, including footpaths, roadsides, housing estates and parks working with Climate Action Team (Action N3 in Climate Action Plan).	Cavan Co Co must lead the way in reducing pesticide use. Weedkiller is toxic to wildlife and banning its use on council lands may encourage community groups and households to avoid it too.	Cavan County Council, Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, AIPP, Council maintenance contractors, TÚS, CE Scheme, Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Tidy Towns groups, community groups, Geopark, Cavan Climate Action Team, Roads section.	Influence reduction in pesticide use on lands maintained by Cavan Co Co via Pesticide Training and other initiatives stressing national remit. Ongoing 2025-2030.

9. Targeting Invasive Alien Species (IAS):

9. Actions to target Invasive Alien Species (IAS) across County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Promote issue of IAS and the importance of biosecurity across the county, e.g. via evolving Citizen Science Network, training, workshops.	Greater awareness among groups and public around invasive species and adopting biosecurity measures.	Reduce and avoid spread of invasive species in County Cavan's lakes and rivers.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, NFGWS, LAWPRO, angling clubs, Teagasc, IFI, NPWS, NBDC, IFI, Tidy Towns, TÚS, CE Schemes, Tourism Office, CCLD, Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Invasive Species Ireland.	County-wide Campaign and signage on relevant IAS affecting key lakes and river systems. 2025-27
2.	Encourage the use of native plants for amenity planting and Stocking in communities across the county.	Greater awareness among the public that planting native tree & hedge species over non-native is best and what plants to avoid.	Reduce and avoid spread of IAS in local communities across the county. Greater awareness of species to avoid and species that are best for biodiversity.	Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, angling clubs, local volunteer and community groups, e.g. Tidy Towns, TÚS, CE Schemes, Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Local suppliers, Cavan Climate Team.	Strategic Campaign to promote native plant species and to avoid invasive species. 2026-28
3.	Biosecurity and invasives species training for Council planners, engineers and Contractors developing a biosecurity code of practice.	Greater awareness and knowledge among Co Co staff to avoid introduction and spread of IAS during construction and development.	Reduce and avoid spread of IAS during development of Council projects throughout County Cavan.	Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co Planning & Environment, IAS Working Group NBDC.	Training for relevant Cavan Co Co staff to avoid spread and transfer of IAS during their work. NBDC support to help aid knowledge for legislation and enforcement. 2026-28

4.	Support actions arising from IAS studies with partner agencies. Linked to IAS working group.	Targeted projects to eradicate IAS, e.g. Nuttall's Waterweed trial studies.	Reducing and eradicating the spread of damaging aquatic IAS across County Cavan to protect native habitats and species.	Aquatic Invasive Alien Species Working Group - Cavan Heritage Office, Cavan Co Co, LAWPRO, Biosecurity Consultant, NPWS, NBDC, IFI, BSBI, Invasive Species Ireland, local angling groups, This is Cavan, etc.	Support trials proposed for Nuttall's Waterweed at specific locations across Co. Cavan and build capacity for tackling I.A.S projects in the county. Ongoing 2025-30
5.	Campaign to monitor and record non-native mammal species, utilizing the Citizen Science Network, e.g. White-toothed Shrew, Voles.	Link in with citizen scientists and community groups across Co. Cavan to monitor and record the spread and range of invasive mammals with the NBDC.	Helping to track the spread of invasive mammal species across County Cavan.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, LAWPRO, WCBA, NPWS, NBDC, Invasive Species Ireland.	Monitoring and recording of invasive mammal species is boosted across the community. Ongoing 2025-30
6.	Create a map of IAS 'hotspots' in specific areas.	Map of existing IAS locations that is dynamic and can be updated to include sightings. This will help with ground truthing reporting of invasives.	Knowledge of exact locations of IAS will assist the relevant bodies to keep track of where IAS 'hotspots' are, making it easier to prevent their spread and undertake targeted projects.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Coillte, LAWPRO, angling clubs, local volunteer and community groups, e.g. Tidy Towns, Heritage groups, TÚS, CE Scheme, Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Invasive Species Ireland. GIS Officer.	Create a dynamic mapping project of key IAS hotspots throughout Co. Cavan. Ongoing 2025-30
7.	Targeted IAS removal programmes for terrestrial invasives, e.g. Himalayan Balsam, Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel.	Gradual removal of invasive species from forest parks, several of which have issues with Rhododendron and Laurel, which are harmful to native biodiversity.	Removal of invasive species will allow native species to prosper. Involving local volunteers and community groups will enhance the process.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan County Council, Coillte, community groups, e.g. Tidy Towns, TÚS, CE Schemes, Rural Social Scheme (RSS), NBDC, Invasive Species Ireland, Cavan Volunteer Centre.	Hold Volunteer IAS removal events once a year, with a focus on Targeted species in Forest Parks or other suitable sites. Ongoing 2025-30

10. Targeted Projects for Vulnerable Species

10. Actions to help conserve vulnerable Bird Species in County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Curlew (Red List species). Identify sites along the border with Leitrim and Fermanagh where the Curlew has been sighted (e.g. Lough Macnean). Potential for cross-border project.	Team up with groups trying to save the Curlew from extinction, e.g. Lough Macnean. Establish projects to protect the species building on Curlew conservation programme. Ask the public to report sightings.	Assist in the movement to save the Curlew from extinction and help protect those that survive, e.g. at Lough Macnean along the border with Counties Leitrim and Fermanagh.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, BWI Cavan Branch, NPWS, RSPB NI, BTO, Breeding Waders EIP, Citizen Science Network.	Establish cross-border project to protect Curlew at Lough Macnean and/or another location where Curlews are known to remain in Co. Cavan/Lough MacNean area. 2026-2028
2.	Swift (Red List species). 'Swift Streets' - bricks/boxes in new builds or established buildings and promotion, led by recommendations from County Swift Surveys.	Swift Streets will be established across County Cavan. Led by findings from the Cavan Swift Surveys. Tied to Swift Ambassador programme.	Swift populations will be protected and supported. Projects will also raise awareness of their plight and local businesses will be championed.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, BWI Cavan Branch, NPWS, Swift Conservation Ireland, NBDC, Citizen Science Network.	Establish and promote 'Swift Streets' across County Cavan, guided by the County Swift Surveys and highlighting local businesses who partake. 2026-28
3.	Barn Owl (Red List species). Ongoing monitoring, awareness and promotion, led by recommendations from County Barn Owl Surveys.	Greater monitoring and awareness of Barn Owls across the county, including main threats, e.g. rodenticide use, habitat loss.	Protect and strengthen barn owl populations across Co. Cavan.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, BWI Cavan Branch, Teagasc (Ballyhaise), NBDC, Citizen Science Network.	Awareness raising and promotion of Barn Owl conservation, guided by the County Barn Owl Surveys. 2026-28
4.	Accommodation of wildlife during Council conservation projects, e.g. for old bridges and buildings. Include wildlife-friendly lighting, Dark Skies	Ensure that nest sites and habitats of vulnerable species are accommodated during conservation projects e.g.	Conserving and/or replacing suitable nest sites and habitats ensures species are less likely to abandon areas	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, Heritage Council, BWI Cavan Branch, Bat Conservation Ireland, Dark Skies Ireland, Tidy Towns groups,	Ensure wildlife is accommodated by conserving and/or replacing nest sites and habitats for all Council-led conservation projects.

	initiatives, etc.	Sand Martins, Dippers, Daubenton's Bats, etc.	during/after conservation projects.	hired contractors, NBDC, Citizen Science Network.	Ongoing 2025-30.
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Actions to help conserve vulnerable Invertebrate Species in County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Awareness raising of native bee species – Honeybee, Bumblebees, Solitary and Mining Bees.	Sign up to and implement measures of the AIPP to increase habitats and food sources for our struggling native bees.	Greater awareness and protection of native bee species across County Cavan.	Cavan Heritage Office, Cavan Co Co, contractors, TÚS, Tidy Towns groups, AIPP, Climate Action Team, Cavan Beekeepers, NBDC, Citizen Science Network.	Workshops & events to promote native bee species monitoring & recording in Cavan. 2026-28
2.	Awareness raising and habitat protection for Butterfly & Moth species.	Support projects to conserve threatened Moths and Butterflies and raise their profile in the public eye.	Supporting initiatives to protect threatened butterflies and moths in County Cavan will help to conserve the species, their habitat and inform the public.	Cavan Heritage Office, Cavan Co Co, NPWS, Geopark, Marsh Fritillary Monitoring Scheme, Butterfly Conservation Ireland, Moths Ireland, NBDC, Citizen Science Network.	Hold at least one butterfly/moth themed event during Biodiversity or Heritage Week. 2026-28

Actions to help conserve vulnerable Mammal Species in County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Otter awareness regarding protection of Otters and their habitats, informed by the National Otter Survey completed in 2023/24.	Supporting awareness, ongoing monitoring and protection of Otters and their habitat in Co. Cavan informed by soon to launched National Otter Suvery.	Ensure the survival of Otters and their wetland habitats across County Cavan into the future.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, NPWS, IWT, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Coillte, Teagasc Ballyhaise, IFA, ACRES-Briefne, NBDC, Citizen Science Network, Nature Network Ireland.	Support Otter awareness, monitoring and protection across County Cavan. 2026-28

2.	Promotion and protection of bat species e.g. lighting guidance, conservation of roosts & foraging habitat.	Ensure bat roosts and habitats are protected and consider lighting schemes guided by Dark Skies Lighting Guidance.	Increased awareness, appreciation and protection for bats and their habitats across County Cavan.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, County Council, NPWS, IWT, Bat Conservation Ireland, NBDC, Citizen Science Network.	Ensure bat protection measures are included in council planning and development processes. Raise awareness of bats across the county. 2025-27
3.	Raise awareness regarding protection of badgers and their habitats, based on scientific facts.	Support for Badger conservation in County Cavan, e.g. habitat protection and support for TB vaccination programmes.	Ensure the survival of Badgers and their habitats across County Cavan into the future.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, NPWS, IWT, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Coillte, Teagasc Ballyhaise, IFA, ACRES-Breifne, NBDC, Citizen Science Network.	Awareness programme for Badger protection across County Cavan, among public and farming community with research support. Ongoing 2025-30
4.	Monitoring trends of threatened mammals – e.g. Red Squirrel, Pine Marten, Stoat, Irish Hare.	Ensure that native mammal populations are monitored and recorded so that any issues of conservation concern are raised.	Conservation of and appreciation for native mammal species across Co. Cavan and their conservation.	Cavan Heritage & Biodiversity Office, Cavan Co Co, NPWS, IWT, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Coillte, Teagasc Ballyhaise, IFA, ACRES-Breifne, NBDC, Citizen Science Network.	Promotion of monitoring and recording of threatened native mammals across Co. Cavan. Ongoing 2025-30.

Actions to help conserve vulnerable Amphibian and Reptile Species in County Cavan					
	Action	Outcome	Impact	Partner organisations	Targets
1.	Frogs & Newts – Support awareness raising of amphibians and their habitats, e.g. wetlands, bogs, ponds, ditches, quarries.	Greater understanding of amphibians, their populations and their habitats across Co. Cavan.	Ensure the conservation of amphibians across the wetland habitats of Co. Cavan.	Cavan Heritage Office, Cavan Co Co, NPWS, NBDC, IWT, WCBA, The Herpetological Society of Ireland. Citizen Science Network.	Hold at least one amphibian themed event during Biodiversity or Heritage Week. 2025-27
2.	Support awareness raising of common lizards and their habitats, e.g. scrub, stone walls, peat bogs, dry grasslands and heathlands.	Greater understanding of lizards, their populations and their habitats across Co. Cavan.	Ensure the conservation of lizards across The scrub, grassland, limestone and bog habitats of Co. Cavan.	Cavan Heritage Office, County Council, NPWS, NBDC, IWT, WCBA, the Geopark, The Herpetological Society of Ireland, Citizen Science Network.	Hold at least one reptile(lizard) Themed event during Biodiversity or Heritage Week. 2025-27

