



**Report of short biodiversity survey of Ciaran Sheehan's farm on
Carlingford Mountain, Cooley Peninsula, Co. Louth by staff of the
National Biodiversity Data Centre.**



4th June 2023

Background

The National Biodiversity Data Centre hosted a month-long (virtual) Festival of Farmland Biodiversity in May 2023. The purpose of the Festival was to encourage a more positive engagement around the topic of biodiversity and farmland, and to highlight some of the ways that farmers can work to support biodiversity. It invited farmers to share content on social media about biodiversity features on their own farms.

There was good engagement with this year's Festival of Farmland Biodiversity. As part of the Festival, the National Biodiversity Data Centre offered a prize of a biodiversity survey by its staff to a farmer who shared content using the #FarmlandBiodiversity hashtag. Ciaran Sheelan, @c_sheepdog, a hill farmer on Carlingford Mountain on the Cooley Peninsula, Co. Louth, was the lucky winner.

The mountain is grazed as commonage and is within the 'Carlingford Mountain' Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The area consists of Wet Heath, Dry Heath, Alpine and Boreal Heaths, Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, Blanket Bog, Transition Mires, Alkaline Fens, Siliceous Scree and Siliceous Rocky Slopes.

Achieving Favourable Condition Objective (FCO) is the overall objective for the habitat types, such that a habitat type or species must be prospering and have good prospects of continuing to do so.

Ciaran farms with his father Owen and brother Oisín. They can trace back to at least five generations of hill sheep farming on the Cooley mountains.

The farm consists of 180 ha of commonage and 10 ha of enclosed land. They keep a flock of 100 Hill North Country Cheviot ewes. They are in the National Parks and Wildlife Service Farm Plan Scheme, with an agreed plan to control bracken.

Five staff of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Owen Beckett, Oisín Duffy, Liam Lysaght, Niamh Phelan and Ruth Wilson visited the farm on 4th and 5th July 2023, and completed the survey.

About the survey

Moth traps were placed overnight on the farm to investigate what moths were present. One mains-powered Robinson Mercury Vapour 125W trap was set up at the farm house and enclosed fields. Three LedEmmer moth traps were located on the Carlingford Mountain site.

On the 5th of June the five strong survey team members focussed most of their survey efforts on the Carlingford Mountain commonage grazing area of the farm.

The survey team recorded the diversity of species only, abundance was not included in the methodology. A small number of insect specimens were collected, for identification using a microscope, as 3 pan traps were set on the day of the survey. The survey team spent about four hours surveying the farm, so this is only a small snapshot of the biodiversity of the farm, from a

short time window. A more detailed survey, using some specialised survey techniques would undoubtedly generate a longer species list, as would additional survey work at other times of the year.



National Biodiversity Data Centre staff on Carlingford Mountain.

Findings

The survey identified 223 different species. As would be expected, plants comprised the largest number of species, followed by moths, birds, bees, hoverflies and butterflies. A breakdown of the number of species in the different groups is provided in the table below (Table 1). Details of the species seen are also presented below.

Taxonomic group	No. of species
Plants	80
Moths	68
Birds	20
Bees	15
Hoverflies	9
Butterflies	9
Ants	6
Wasps	3
Grasshoppers	3
Bugs and Beetles	7
Mammals	1
Fungi	1
Total	223

Table 1: Number of species of the different taxonomic groups recorded during the survey.

Species list

Plants

80 different plant species were recorded during the survey. Many species are typical for mountain heath habitat.

Species of interest included Lesser Clubmoss *Selaginella selaginoides* and one solitary Irish Whitebeam *Sorbus hibernica*.

Ciaran Sheelan, the farmer, spotted the Irish Whitebeam during the survey, it was the first time he had noticed it growing on the mountain.



Lesser Clubmoss *Selaginella selaginoides* (left) and Irish Whitebeam *Sorbus hibernica* (right).

The full species list of plants found is:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera hibernica</i>	Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia</i> agg.
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Common Mouse-Ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Procumbent Pearlwort	<i>Sagina procumbens</i>
Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>
Cat's-Ear	<i>Hyopcharis radicata</i>	Heath Milkwort	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>
Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Soft Brome	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Mouse-Eat Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Annual Meadow Grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	Common Dog-Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>
Bird's-Foot Trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Slender St John's-Wort	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Round-leave Sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>

Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Sticky Mouse-Ear	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>
Broad Leaf Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>
Rose-bay Willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Wood Sage	<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>
Wall-Rue	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplanatus</i>
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Cross-leaved Heath	<i>Erica tetralix</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium Vulgare</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium Arvense</i>
Reed-Canary Grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>

Common Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>
Bog Asphodel	<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>
Bell Heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>
Bog Cotton	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>
Carnation Sedge	<i>Carex panicea</i>
Jointed Rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
Sharp-flowered Rush	<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>
Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>
Bog-pimpernel	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Lesser Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>
Irish Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus hibernica</i>
Hard Fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
Fairy Flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>
Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>
Heath Bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>
Flea Sedge	<i>Carex pulicaris</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>
Perennial Rye Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Western Gorse	<i>Ulex gallii</i>
Lesser Clubmoss	<i>Selaginella selaginoides</i>

Moths

At least 68 different species of moth were recorded. Most of the species recorded are widespread and generalist species that you would expect to find. However, there were also some more localised species trapped that are associated with heathland habitat and some associated with heather, gorse and bramble. There were also some migrant species found as you would expect given the location of the farm close to the coast.



Survey team setting a LedEmmer moth trap on the mountain.

The species found are listed below.

1. Six-spot Burnet *Zygaena filipendulea*

A conspicuous dayflying moth of grasslands. The larvae feed on bird's-foot trefoil but adults can be seen feeding by day on a wide variety of flowers, in particular common knapweed. It has one generation each year, flying from late-May to late-September. It can be found throughout Ireland, but it is particularly common in coastal areas.



2. Peach Blossom *Thyatira batis*

A moth of woodland and scrub areas. Its larval food plant is bramble. It has one generation each year and can be seen from May to early September. It is widely distributed in Ireland.



3. Buff Arches *Habrosyne pyritoides*

Common in open woodland habitats including farmlands where there are good stands of bramble which seems to be its main food plant, though raspberry is also used. One generation flying from late-June to early-August.



4. Common Emerald *Hemithea aestivaria*

Found in woodland, hedgerows, scrub on heathland and downland and occasionally on roadside verges, parks and gardens. The caterpillar food plant includes Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, oaks, willows, birches and other woody plants.

5. July Belle *Scotopteryx luridata*

Found in a variety of open, scrubby places including heathland and moorland, open woodland and shingle beaches. It is easily disturbed from the heather and gorse by day and is perhaps partly diurnal. The caterpillar food plant is gorse.



6. Dark Arches *Apamea monoglypha*

Occurs in a wide variety of habitats. It feeds from grasses, including Common Couch and Cock's-foot. It flies between June and August and has a single generation. It is a common species widely distributed across Ireland.



7. Heart and Dart *Agrotis exclamationis*

Occurs in a wide range of habitats but seems to be most abundant in lowland arable farmland, grassland pastures and gardens. It uses a wide range of herbaceous plants, including Ribwort Plantain and Fat-hen as food plants. It has two generations, flying between mid-May and late-August. It is very widespread and common species throughout Ireland.



8. Brussels Lace *Cleorodes lichenaria*

Their caterpillars resemble the lichen they consume on the branches and stems of woody plants and sometimes on rocks and walls.

9. The Uncertain *Hoplodrina alsines*

Occurs in a wide variety of habitat types and feeds on a range of herbaceous plants. It has a single generation flying from mid-June to mid-August. It is a widespread and common species in Ireland.



10. Clouded Border *Lomaspilis marginata*

Found in woodlands, wetlands and heathland. It's caterpillar food plant includes Aspen, poplars, willows and Hazel.

11. Buff Ermine *Spilosoma luteum*

Occurs in a wide range of habitats including gardens, parks woodlands and along hedgerows. It's food plants include Common nettle, Honeysuckle, Wild Plum and Birch. It flies from mid-May to July and is easily attracted to light. It is a widespread and common species throughout Ireland.



12. **Map-winged Swift** *Pharmacis fusconebulosa*

Often associated with heathland and areas where Bracken is plentiful. The larvae live underground and feed on the roots of Bracken.



13. **Flame** *Axylia putris*

Usually found in woodland edges, hedgerows and flies mainly in June and July, sometimes with a partial second generation in the autumn. The adults rest with the wings wrapped around the body, closely resembling a broken piece of twig. The caterpillars feed at night on various low-growing herbaceous plants, including dock and bedstraw.



14. **Garden Grass-veneer** *Chrysoteuchia culmella*

This is one of the commonest moths occurring on farmland. It is the small moth that is easily disturbed from grassland by day when walking across meadows. Its larvae feed on a variety of grasses. It flies principally in June and July. It is a common and widespread species in Ireland.

15. **Small Magpie** *Anania hortulata*

A species of micro-moth. Occurs in a wide variety of habitats, including gardens, waste ground and along hedgerows. Its food plant is the Common Nettle and some of the species of woundworts. It flies from May to September and has a single generation. It is widely distributed across Ireland.



16. True Lover's Knot *Lycophotia porphyria*

Associated with heathland. The caterpillar food plant is Heather (Common (Ling), Bell and possible Cross-leaved heath). It has a single generation each year and flies between June and August. It is a common and widely distributed species in Ireland. There is evidence from Britain that the population of this species is declining since the 1970s.



17. Marble Minor *Oligia strigilis*

Found in grassland, woodlands and heathland. The caterpillar food plant for this species is various grasses.

18. Bright-line Brown-eye *Lacanobia oleracea*

Found in most habitats. The caterpillar food plant ranges from nettles, fat hen, willowherbs to St. John's wort.



19. Burnished Brass *Diachrysia chrysitis*

A common and widespread moth. Found in hedgerows, ditch-banks, marshes, fens and wood edges. The caterpillar food plant is most usually nettle.



32. The Spectacle *Abrostola tripartita*

Occurs in a wide range of habitats including gardens, rough pastures, disturbed ground and along ditches and hedgerows. Common Nettle is its food plant, and it has one generation each year, flying from late-May to mid-July. It is a common and widespread species throughout Ireland.



50. Mottled Beauty *Alcis repandata*

They fly in June and July. They're found in woodland, gardens and bushy localities, the larval foodplants are a number of different plants and trees.

51. Light Brown Apple Moth *Epiphyas postvittana*

A common moth, found in most habitats. The caterpillar feeds on a wide range of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.



52. Early Thorn *Selenia dentaria*

A common moth found in a wide range of habitats. It holds its wings up over its back like a butterfly. The caterpillar feed on a variety of deciduous trees.



53. Brimstone *Opisthograptis luteolata*

A common and widespread moth. The caterpillar foodplant is a range of trees and shrubs, including Blackthorn, Hawthorn/Whitethorn and Rowan.



54. Barred Straw *Gandaritis pyraliata*

This moth is easily identified due to its unique resting posture with the forewings held extended and covering the hindwings. It's found in hedgerows, woodland rides, scrubby grassland. The caterpillar feed on various Bedstraws, overwintering as an egg, pupates among plant debris.



55. Shaded Broad-bar *Scotopteryx chenopodiata*

Found in acid heathland, grasslands, woodland rides, road-side verges, sand-dunes and gardens. The caterpillar feed on Vetch and Clover.

56. Large Fruit-tree Totrix *Archips podana*

More common on the east and south west of Ireland. The caterpillar feed on foliage, flowers and fruit of a wide variety of deciduous trees, including apple, plum, sloe and cherry.

57. Common Footman *Eilema lurideola*

Found in most lowland habitats including farmland, woodlands, wetlands, gardens and on the coast. They overwinter as small larvae so the caterpillars can be seen from August to the following May. The caterpillar feed on lichens and algae on trees, bushes, walls and rocks as well as leaves of Hawthorn/Whitethorn, Blackthorn and Bramble.

58. Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae*

Frequent in open grassy habitats including waste ground, railway banks, gardens and woodland rides but perhaps most frequent on well drained rabbit-grazed grassland, mature sand-dunes and heathland. The caterpillar feeds on the leaves and flowers of Ragwort.



59. Barred grass veneer *Agriphila inquinatella*

Prefers dryer grassy areas. Heathland, grassland, woodland, fens and gardens. Fairly common and widespread.

60. Ingrailed Clay *Diarsia mendica*

A common moth found in heathland and woodland. The caterpillars hibernate and feed in the spring on a variety of shrubs and plants, including bramble and bilberry.

61. Common Rustic agg. *Mesapamea secalis*

Found in a wide range of grassy places including gardens, farmland, heathland, calcareous grassland and woodland. Caterpillar food plants are a range of grasses including Cock's-foot, Tall Fescue, Tufted Hair-grass and cereal crops.



62. Common Pug *Eupithecia vulgata*

A common and widespread moth. The caterpillar feed on a range of trees and plants, including willow and Whitethorn/Hawthorn.

63. Single-dotted Wave *Idaea dimidiata*

Usually found in damp conditions, such as marshy woodland, fens and river banks. The caterpillars feed on Cow Parsley and Burnet-saxifrage from autumn through the winter.

64. Oak Lantern (or Long-horned Flat-body moth) *Carcina quercana*

A smallish, brightly coloured moth with noticeably long antennae. The caterpillar food plant is various deciduous trees, including Oak.

65. Muslim Footman *Nudaria mundana*

Found in a range of habitats, occurs in scattered locations across Ireland. The overwintering larvae feed on lichens growing on bushes, fences and gateposts, and dry-stone walls.

66. Bramble Shot Moth *Notocelia uddmanniana*

A common and widely distributed species, occupying woodland and hedgerows where bramble occurs. The foodplants are bramble, and other *Rubus* species, and the adult is on the wing in June and July.

67. Small Angle Shades *Euplexia lucipara*

A common and widespread moth species, associated with woodland and parkland. The caterpillars feed at night on bracken and other ferns, as well as other plants and trees.

68. Oak Eggar *Lasiocampa quercus*

Spotted as a caterpillar further up the mountain. They are usually found in a range of open scrubby habitats, particularly heathland, but also along woodland edges, hedgerows, fens, sand-dunes and sea cliffs. The caterpillar food plant includes Heathers and Bilberry but it also feeds on Bramble, Blackthorn, willows, hawthorn/whitethorn, Hazel and other woody plants.



Birds

20 different bird species were recorded. This is a good cross section of the species that are likely to breed or pass over the mountain. It was nice to see Whitethroat and Linnet on the mountain.

The full list of species seen is included below:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>

Hoverflies

Hoverflies, sometimes also called 'flower flies' are a group of insect that can be found hovering or nectaring at flowers. The adults mainly feed on nectar and pollen, and they're one of Ireland's most important insect groups for pollination. At least 180 different species have been recorded in Ireland. Some of the more conspicuous species are relatively easy to identify in the field, but many need to be captured and identified using a microscope to identify to the species level.

9 different species of hoverfly were recorded during the survey, mostly of common and widespread species associated with flower-rich areas.

Volucella bombylans a bumblebee mimic, was recorded. It comes in two forms, one with a white tail and the other with an orange tail depending on which species it mimics. Always a nice species to see.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
	<i>Melanostoma mellinum</i>		<i>Volucella bombylans</i>
	<i>Eupeodes luniger</i>		<i>Eristalis arbustorum</i>
	<i>Eupeodes corollae</i>	Drone Fly	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>

Pied Hoverfly	<i>Scaeva pyrastris</i>
	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>

Marmalade hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>

Bees

There are over 100 species of wild bee found in Ireland. This includes 21 species of bumblebee and 80 species of solitary bee. There is only 1 species of Honeybee. Some of the bee species are relatively easily identified in the field, whereas others need to be captured and examined under a microscope to identify them to a species level.

15 species of bee were recorded during the survey, eight species of bumblebee and six species of solitary bee. The Honeybee was also recorded.

The Flat-ridged Nomad Bee *Nomada obtusifrons* was the most notable bee to have been recorded. Red Lists are an internationally recognised methodology for assessing conservation status. An Irish Bee Red List was published in 2006. It found that the Flat-ridged Nomad Bee *Nomada obtusifrons* was endangered. Based on the Red List it is 'Threatened' with extinction from the island of Ireland.



Male and female Grey-banded Mining Bee *Andrena denticulata*.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Small-flecked Mining Bee	<i>Andrena coitana</i>	Northern White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus magnus</i>

Grey-banded Mining Bee	<i>Andrena denticulata</i>
Common Furrow Bee	<i>Halictus rubicundus</i>
Brown-footed Leafcutter Bee	<i>Megachile versicolor</i>
Black-horned Nomad Bee	<i>Nomada rufipes</i>
Flat-ridged Nomad Bee	<i>Nomada obtusifrons</i>
HoneyBee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>

White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>
Heath Bumblebee	<i>Bombus jonellus</i>
Garden Bumblebee	<i>Bombus hortorum</i>
Early Bumblebee	<i>Bombus pratorum</i>
Common Carder Bumblebee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>
Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>

Butterflies

Nine species of butterfly were recorded. This includes Ringlet, Speckled Wood and Meadow Brown which are some of the commonest and widespread species at this time of the year.

At least eight individuals of the Dark Green Fritillary were seen the farm. They occur mainly around the coast of Ireland and the caterpillar food plant is species of violets.

The national population of Dark Green Fritillary has been listed as “Vulnerable” as through the Irish Red List of Butterflies (2010). The status of this butterfly is strongly linked to the decline of the habitats that it relies on: sand dunes, extensive calcareous grasslands and marginal heath and grasslands on open hillsides



Dark Green Fritillary *Speyeria aglaja*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris naps</i>
Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>

Ants

There are 22 species of ant on the island of Ireland. 6 species were recorded on the mountain.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Black Ant	<i>Formica lemani</i>
Red Ant	<i>Myrmica scabrinodis</i>
Yellow Meadow Ant	<i>Lasius flavus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Red Ant	<i>Myrmica sabuleti</i>
Red Ant	<i>Myrmica rubra</i>
Red Ant	<i>Myrmica ruginodis</i>

Grasshopper

There are 20 species of grasshoppers, crickets, and related insects in Ireland. Three were recorded during the survey.



Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestus viridulus*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Common Green Grasshopper	<i>Omocestus viridulus</i>	Common Grounhopper	<i>Tetrix undulata</i>
Field Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus brunneus</i>		

Flys

Three species of fly were recorded on the mountain. An interesting common and widespread bee grabber *Sicus ferrugineus* was recorded. It's found in flowery habitats, where bumblebees are numerous. Females pounce on worker bumblebees and inject an egg into the bee abdomen. Hosts include Buff-tailed bumblebee *Bombus terrestris*, Common Carder Bee *B. pascuorum*, Garden bumblebee *B. hortorum* and Red-tailed Bumblebee *B. lapidarius*.

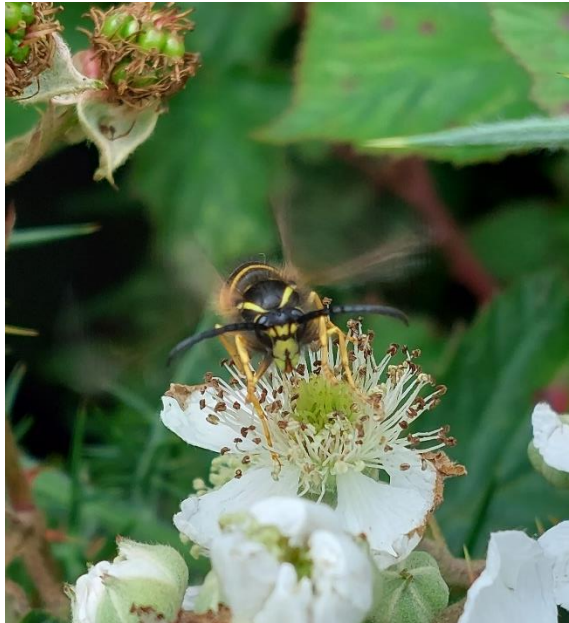


Bee grabber *Sicus ferrugineus*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yellow Dung Fly	<i>Scathophaga stercoraria</i>	Red-flanked Tachinid	<i>Eriothrix rufomaculata</i>
Bee grabber	<i>Sicus ferrugineus</i>		

Wasps

In Ireland, there are over 120 of what are known as the aculeate or 'stinging' wasps, which are closely related to both bees and ants. This total includes our familiar black and yellow social wasps, as well as other lesser-known solitary species, such as the various ruby-tailed and spider-hunting wasps. Three wasps were recorded during the survey.



Norwegian wasp *Dolichovespula norvegica*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Red Wasp	<i>Vespula rufa</i>	Tree Wasp	<i>Dolichovespula sylvestris</i>
Norwegian Wasp	<i>Dolichovespula norvegica</i>		

Bugs and Beetles

Several bugs and beetles were recorded during the survey.



Dung Beetle *Aphodius rufipes* associated with horse or cow dung.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Mirid Bug	<i>Stenotus binotatus</i>	Mirid Bug	<i>Leptopterna ferrugata</i>
7-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Brown Chafer	<i>Serica brunnea</i>
Dung Beetle	<i>Aphodius rufipes</i>	Heather Beetle	<i>Lochmaea suturalis</i>
Common Red Soldier Beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>		

Mammals

Irish Hare *Lepus timidus hibernicus* was recorded further up the mountain.

Surveying for mammals would require setting traps for the smaller mammals or checking for bats using a bat detector. Neither of these was done, so the mammals present were not surveyed.

Fungi

Turkey tail fungi was recorded growing on gorse.



Turkey tail fungus *Trametes versicolor*

Overall impression

We were pleasantly surprised by the diversity of species found during such a brief survey of the mountain.

The ongoing management on the mountain to tackle bracken and gorse encroachment, through a Farm Plan with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, will benefit some of the more delicate flora and fauna.



Ciaran Sheelan looking out to the area where manual bracken control is taking place on the mountain.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre would like to thank Ciaran for allowing us to survey the farm and we hope that these results provide inspiration to him and other farms to make their farms more biodiversity friendly.