



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



**Shared Island
Initiative**



**An tIonad Náisiúnta
Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta**
National Biodiversity
Data Centre



**Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency**

**Request for Quotation: Upland Heath and Bog Insect Pollinator Priority Species
Surveys in Northern Ireland**

Survey rare pollinator species across upland heath and bog habitats

May 2026

Introduction to the National Biodiversity Data Centre

The National Biodiversity Data Centre was established as a company limited by guarantee in December 2022, following a decision of Government to put the initiative on a more secure footing, to empower and better resource the Centre to support Ireland's collective national effort to reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to nature restoration. The primary role of the Centre is to contribute to building the knowledge base on biodiversity and track how it is changing in Ireland. It works to ensure that data and information on Ireland's biodiversity is more freely available and accessible for use in research, conservation management and decision-making. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a predominantly publicly funded entity, rather than a public sector body. The Centre formally became a registered charity in November 2025.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre manages thematic work programmes to support the monitoring and tracking of change for several biodiversity groups. One of the key work programmes is the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) which is a voluntary framework bringing together different sectors across the island to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. The next phase of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2026-2030 will be published in Summer 2026. It will consist of ten work packages including one on protecting rare pollinator species across the island and a second on island-wide monitoring to underpin the Plan. Implementation of the AIPP is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The next phase will be supported through funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Government of Ireland's Shared Island Fund, and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Introduction to Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has responsibility for food, farming, environment, fisheries, forestry and sustainability policy and the development of the rural sector in Northern Ireland. DAERA comprises five groups and two Agencies; one of which is the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Within NIEA; Natural Environment Division (NED) and specifically Biodiversity and Conservation Science Branches; generates, gathers, evaluates, interprets, and makes available the environmental data and scientific information required to underpin the work of conserving natural heritage including designation and monitoring of terrestrial protected areas; surveillance of protected habitats and species; conserving biodiversity and geodiversity through informed advice and influence within other departments, agencies, other public bodies and stakeholders.

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (WANE) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 places a duty on DAERA to publish a list of the species of flora and fauna and types of habitats which in the Department's opinion are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

Northern Ireland public bodies must take these habitats and species into consideration and further their conservation as far as is reasonably practicable as part of their biodiversity duty under the WANE Act. Priority species require conservation action because of their decline, rarity and importance in an all-Ireland and UK context. NI Priority Species (NIPS) list is currently under review. Due to the complex nature of available data, species group expertise and published works of evidence, each species group is being reviewed to assess

declines, risks and threats. In addition, species which we do not hold sufficient data on to include in the selection criteria, are being listed as 'data deficient'. Large gaps in knowledge around status and distribution of invertebrate species groups, including pollinators, are now being highlighted through this process.

Requirements

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is seeking a quote from suitably qualified and experienced professionals or/and companies to conduct surveys of rare and under recorded pollinator species on upland heath and bog habitats in Northern Ireland. This work will support two of the work packages in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026-2030 – protecting rare pollinators, and island-wide monitoring to track changes in pollinator abundance and diversity.

The specific requirement is to produce a report presenting the findings of these pollinator surveys. The objective of this report is to address knowledge gaps in the distribution to generate baseline information on under recorded pollinator species.

Provision of outsourced pollinator surveys to include, but not limited to the remit provided below:

- Provide a list of upland heath and bog sites suitable for monitoring based on pollinator distribution records and known ecological requirements of each species (i.e. floral associations, habitat associations and nesting requirements). The minimum number of sites to be surveyed is 15 and should be agreed with the National Biodiversity Data Centre before surveys commence.
- Conduct focused surveys for target pollinator species at these sites, focusing on bees and butterflies (see Table 1) using appropriate survey methods for example spot-sweeping surveys, pan traps, malaise traps and random searches/observations. The surveys should aim to determine presence/absence and estimated abundance of a list of target species consisting of rare and/or under-recorded.
- Photos or specimens of rare, under-recorded or difficult to identify species must be retained for verification purposes.
- Incidental recordings of by-catch and other encountered pollinator species (e.g. wasps) will be welcomed to support ongoing NIPS list reviews and conservation actions.
- Provide high-quality species records.
- Note observations regarding habitat, foraging and/or nesting preferences when possible.

Table 1. List of target pollinator species associated with upland heath and bog habitats. The Irish Red conservation status of each species is recorded: CR (Critically endangered), DD (Data deficient), EN (Endangered), LC (Least concern), NT (Near threatened), VU (Vulnerable), NA (No Irish red list published), and if the species is listed on Northern Ireland's priority species list.

Pollinator species associated with upland heath and bog habitats				
Pollinator group	Species Name	Common Name	Irish Red list status	NI Priority Species (Yes/No)
Bumblebee	<i>Bombus jonellus</i>	Heath bumblebee	LC	No
Bumblebee	<i>Bombus monticola</i>	Bilberry bumblebee	LC	No
Bumblebee	<i>Bombus muscorum</i>	Moss-carder bee	NT	Yes
Solitary bee	<i>Andrena fuscipes</i>	Heather mining bee	VU	Yes
Butterfly	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>	Large heath	VU	Yes
Widespread but uncommon pollinator species that can be found on upland heath and bog habitats				
Pollinator group	Species Name	Common Name	Irish Red list status	NI Priority Species (Yes/No)
Bumblebee	<i>Bombus bohemicus</i>	Gypsy cuckoo bee	NT	No
Bumblebee	<i>Bombus (P.) barbutellus</i>	Barbut's cuckoo bee	EN	Yes
Bumblebee	<i>Bombus (P.) campestris</i>	Field cuckoo bee	VU	Yes
Bumblebee	<i>Bombus sylvestris</i>	Forest cuckoo bumblebee	LC	No
Solitary bee	<i>Andrena barbilabris</i>	Sandpit mining bee	NT	No
Solitary bee	<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>	Buffish mining bee	VU	Yes
Solitary bee	<i>Andrena semilaevis</i>	Shiny-margined mini-miner	VU	Yes
Solitary bee	<i>Colletes daviesanus</i>	Davies' colletes	DD	No
Solitary bee	<i>Hylaeus brevicornis</i>	Short-horned yellow-faced bee	EN	Yes
Solitary bee	<i>Lasioglossum rufitarse</i>	Rufous-footed furrow bee	VU	Yes
Solitary bee	<i>Nomada striata</i>	Blunt-jawed nomad bee	EN	Yes
Solitary bee	<i>Sphecodes gibbus</i>	Dark-winged blood bee	CR	Yes

Project Timeline

The task should be completed by Friday the 13th November 2026.

Tenders should prepare and submit a draft Gantt chart as part of your proposal.

Once the supplier has been appointed, it is proposed that a kick-off meeting on MS Teams will be scheduled within two weeks of entering into an agreement with the supplier.

Maximum Budget Available

It is estimated that the maximum expenditure on the services to be covered by the RFQ will not exceed €15,000 (ex VAT) over the term of the contract. This indicative budget reflects the sources of information already available to support for this output.

However, tenders should prepare their proposal and quote both to represent the most economic advantages tender and ensure that we achieve an authoritative output.

Reporting Requirements

Results of the survey should be submitted in a scientific report by Friday the 13th November 2026. The report should be accompanied by maps and spreadsheets indicating sites surveyed and species lists for each site.

Spreadsheets should be arranged by site containing species, dates, associated species (if relevant) and behavior/habitat notes. Species records locations collected with GPS recording equipment to at least 8 figure grid reference. Data will also be provided in a GIS format. Ownership of the data will belong to NBDC and NIEA.

Additionally, all species records will be submitted to Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) and NBDC.

Proposal

Submissions should contain the following:

1. The overall cost of the service being provided. The quote should outline proposed solution to meet the insect pollinator survey requirements. It should include the proposed approach taken and indicative number of hours per month, and the hourly rate. All prices should be stated ex Vat with the rate of VAT payable (where applicable) clearly stated separately.
2. Experience of recent and similar work in the provision of outsourced insect pollinator surveys.
3. Relevant qualifications and skillset to provide outsourced pollinator insect pollinator surveys.

Award Criteria

The contract will be awarded from tenders evaluated based on the most economically advantageous tender consistent with the following award criteria:

Criteria	Max. Marks Available	Min Mark
Overall cost of service	400	N/A
Experience of recent and similar work in the provision of insect pollinator surveys.	300	250
Relevant qualifications and skillset to provide outsourced insect pollinator surveys	300	150

GENERAL TERMS

Information Supplied

The National Biodiversity Data Centre reserves the right to seek clarification or verification of any information supplied.

Confidentiality

The National Biodiversity Data Centre undertakes to use its best endeavours to hold confidential any information provided in quotations submitted, subject to the National Biodiversity Data Centre's obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Should any of the information supplied in the tender not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, then this should be stated, with the reasons for its sensitivity. The National Biodiversity Data Centre will then consult with the Proposer about sensitive information before deciding on any Freedom of Information request received.

All information provided by the National Biodiversity Data Centre within this document, or in the course of preparing tenders, or subsequent to a successful tender being adopted, is provided in the strictest confidence, and must not be passed to third parties, except bona-fide partners of the proposer to enable the preparation of the tender requested. If there is any doubt, prior permission should be obtained from the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Conflict of Interest

Any conflicts of interest involving a contractor must be fully disclosed.

Tax Clearance

It will be a condition of any Goods/Service Contract pursuant to this Competition that the successful supplier shall, for the term of such contract(s), comply with all EU and domestic tax laws. Prior to the award of any Goods/Service Contract arising out of this Competition, the successful Tenderer shall be required to provide evidence of tax compliance

Insurance

The successful tenderer will be obliged to satisfy to the National Biodiversity Data Centre that they have adequate public and employer's liability insurance in place. The successful suppliers will be required to provide copies of all relevant Insurance Policy documents.

Payment

Payment for all services covered by this Request for Quotations will be on foot of appropriate invoices. Invoicing arrangements will be agreed with the successful supplier following the award of contract.

Under the Finance Act 1987, withholding tax must be deducted from payments for professional services.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre reserves the right to withhold payment where a contractor has failed to meet contractual obligations in relation to the provision of goods or services to an acceptable level of quality.

Submissions

Submissions should be marked "RFQ for NI Upland heath and Bog Insect Pollinator Survey" and sent via e-mail to:

ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie

Submissions should be received no later than 5.00 p.m. on Friday the 29th of May 2026

Late Submissions will not be considered.

The Request for Quotations contains no contractual offer of any kind. Any quotation will be regarded as an offer by the contractor and not as an acceptance by the applicant of an offer made by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. No contractual relationship will exist except pursuant to a written agreement signed by a representative of the National Biodiversity Data Centre and any successful contractor for the specified services.

Please note that the National Biodiversity Data Centre is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.