National Biodiversity Data Centre

Annual Report

2025

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee.
Company Registration Number: 730718
Charity Registration Number: 20206927

An tIonad Náisiúnta Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta
National Biodiversity Data Centre

National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)

Directors'/Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements 2025

Covering the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

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Message from the

Chairperson

On behalf of the Board and staff of the National Biodiversity Data Centre CLG, I am delighted to present the Centre's 2025 annual report.

2025 was the third year since our incorporation as a CLG and it was a very busy year for us, marked by significant growth and development. In what was the second year of implementation of our Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028, we secured a very significant increase in funding for an expanded programme of activity across all of the Plan's six Strategic Objectives, supported by a considerable increase in the Centre's staff complement. Among the many significant achievements during the year were the closing out of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2020-2025 and the substantial completion of a draft of the next Plan for the period to 2030, the development of a new National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme that will address reporting requirements flowing from the Nature Restoration Regulation, foundational work on the development of a National Habitat Map and work undertaken in partnership with the Heritage Council and local authorities on County Biodiversity Areas. The development of our digital infrastructure was also the focus of continued attention and progress during the year, given the essential cross-cutting role it plays in supporting virtually everything that we do. In addition, the final significant piece in our corporate governance framework was completed late in the year, with the Centre being successful in securing charitable status from the Charities Regulator.

Expanding our capacity in relation to Invasive Species has been the focus of particular attention for the Centre over the last few years, working in partnership with colleagues in Northern Ireland. The value attaching to this capacity-building was brought into sharp relief during the summer of 2025 when the Asian hornet was discovered at a number of locations across the island, with the Centre being well positioned to respond resourcefully to the call for support for the National Parks and Wildlife Service-led effort to address the threats arising. It also highlighted again the invaluable role our citizen science community play in supporting the Centre's programme of work. Our capacity in this area has since been strengthened through the establishment of a dedicated Invasive Species Bureau within the Centre and we will report more fully on this initiative in our annual report for 2026.

We had a number of changes to our Board membership during 2025. Professor Willie Donnelly joined the Board in February, replacing Geraldine Tallon, who had come to the end of her term in late 2024. In December, Professor Yvonne Buckley resigned from the Board due to work commitments, and was replaced early in 2026 by Professor Mary Kelly-Quinn.

December also saw Dr Micheál Lehane resigning from the Board following his retirement from his position in the EPA, with an EPA colleague, Dr Darragh O'Neill, appointed to replace him. I would like to record the Centre's appreciation to Micheál and Yvonne for their three years of active membership of the Board, during which they contributed so effectively to the collective effort to lay solid foundations for the Centre's growth and development. Indeed, in Micheál's case, his involvement with the Centre stretches back over a much longer period, through many years when it operated as a funded programme of the Heritage Council.

2025 was also a year of change in terms of the political leadership in the biodiversity area, with the formation of a new Government early in the year. There was, however, no change in commitment to the Centre, with the new Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr James Browne, TD, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Mr Christopher O'Sullivan, TD, continuing the strong political support we have been fortunate to enjoy since our establishment. I know I speak for everyone in the Centre when I say how much we appreciate both that support and the very productive relationship we continue to have with officials in the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and with our counterparts in the Heritage Council, who provide the first line of oversight of the Centre, on behalf of the NPWS.

The core funding we receive from Government, via the Heritage Council, provides the lifeblood that supports the Centre's programme of work, with additional project-specific funding coming from a number of other public bodies. To all of our funders, I say a very big "thank you" and I reiterate our commitment to continuing to deliver high-quality, timely outputs from the resources provided to us. We are only in a position to make that commitment because of the time and expertise my Board colleagues give so generously and because of the hard work and passionate dedication which the team in the Centre, led by our CEO Dr Liam Lysaght, bring to their work on a daily basis, for which I am very grateful.

In conclusion, I would remind you of the core of the Centre's mission, which is "... to make data and information on Ireland's biodiversity more easily accessible to better understand and inform its protection and restoration". The strides forward we have made in 2025, as set out in this annual report, provide concrete evidence of the progress we have made towards delivering on that mission, progress which we will continue to build on in 2026 and beyond, playing our part in realising our overall vision of "an Ireland where biodiversity is understood, appreciated and valued, and decisions that impact on biodiversity are informed by evidence and knowledge".



John McCarthy

Chairperson

Message from the

Chief Executive Officer

It is a great pleasure for me as Chief Executive Officer to present the 2025 Annual Report.

2025 was another year of growth for the Centre, with an increase in our core budget allowing us to grow the staff complement to 25 and to deliver on an expanded work programme. We established a Marine Biodiversity Unit to advance knowledge and increase awareness of Ireland's wonderful coastal biodiversity. This complements the other staff units working on Invasive Species, Pollinators and Digital Services. The benefits of the Centre having a dedicated Invasive Species Unit were demonstrated by our expertise and capacity to provide rapid and effective support to the National Parks and Wildlife Service on the first incursion of Asian hornet into Ireland in 2025. The team working on implementation of the second phase of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 were able to report that the Pollinator Plan framework continues to deliver remarkable success in mobilising collective action across Ireland to address pollinator declines. 2025 was a formative year for the newly established Digital Services Unit, yet it was able to report on significant progress on delivery of the Centre's Digital Infrastructure Plan and assisted the Heritage Council in developing the methodology for identifying County Biodiversity Areas.

Our office accommodation at Beechfield House was upgraded and modernised to provide better equipped office space and accommodate more staff. We held staff training days to assist the new staff to integrate into and to understand the culture of the Centre. We also made significant progress with development of a Communications Strategy and implementation of an Irish Language Plan.

During the year, we continued to demonstrate the value of our work to a wider audience, with increased engagement across the public, private and community sectors. We now have strong networks of professional and voluntary partners, from local communities, NGOs, Government Departments, public bodies and local authorities. I am thankful to the many individuals and organisations that are willing to work with us, often in a voluntary capacity, to help deliver on significant aspects of our work. The ability of the Centre's staff to establish and maintain strong partnerships across all sectors, all working towards a common goal, is one of the characteristics of the Centre of which I am most proud. I am also very grateful for the support we have received from the Heritage Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Shared Island Programme of the Department of the Taoiseach to enable us to deliver on our mandate.

Providing and promoting easy access to high-quality biodiversity data remains a key objective of our work. Publishing more than 2.2 million new occurrence records in 2025 through Biodiversity Maps, Ireland's data and mapping portal, made a significant contribution towards meeting that objective. More than 9,600 individual observers submitted a total of 173,000 new records through Ireland's Citizen Science Portal, all helping to improve our knowledge on how species are distributed. This activity is supplemented by a growing network of surveyors who generate systematic counts from more than 3,500 locations across the island as part of the monitoring programmes managed by the Centre. This is a remarkable level of activity motivated by the desire to improve the conservation of biodiversity. Generating empirical evidence of this kind to improve our knowledge of biodiversity and to track population change underpins all aspects of biodiversity conservation and policy implementation. The Centre's success in providing support to this network helps us to achieve our vision statement:

"An Ireland where biodiversity is understood, appreciated and valued, and decisions that impact on biodiversity are informed by evidence and knowledge."

The Centre is fortunate to have a team of professional and highly motivated staff. They are excellent colleagues and I appreciate their positive, enthusiastic attitude to their work. Our Board, led by John McCarthy as Chair, provided valuable experience and advice to ensure that the Centre remained focussed on key priorities and continued to operate to a high standard. On behalf of the Senior Management Team, I want to acknowledge the support and guidance the Board provide.



Liam Lysaght

Chief Executive Officer

Highlights from 2025

Grew the organisation

- Our core budget increased from €1.1 million in 2024 to €1.8 million in 2025, with our staff compliment increasing from 21 to 25. An additional €586,000 was secured for the delivery of additional project work.
- Appointed a Marine Biodiversity Programme Manager to lead a newly established Marine Biodiversity Unit within the Centre to provide a dedicated focus on coastal and marine biodiversity.

Improved knowledge on biodiversity

- Improved knowledge of Ireland's biodiversity by publishing 2,249,945 new occurrence records, adding data from 15 new species and 13 new datasets to Biodiversity Maps. Many of the new datasets compiled data on the more taxonomically challenging insect groups.
- Grew the National Biodiversity Database to publish more than nine million occurrence records.
- Managed an online Tracker on behalf of the NPWS to track progress on delivery of the 194 actions contained in the *Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030.*
- Published *An Atlas of Butterflies in Ireland 2010-2021,* which provides a comprehensive baseline on the state of knowledge on Ireland's butterflies

Assisted better evidence-based actions for conservation

- Supported the Heritage Council in the development of a methodology for identifying County Biodiversity Areas, and piloting the methodology with Waterford City and County Council.
- Delivered the final year of the second All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021-2025). Of the 186 actions, 172 were completed (92%), nine were ongoing (5%), with just five not progressed (3%).
- Published a celebratory booklet – *One Hundred Tales of Hope: Stories of pollinator conservation from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025.*
- Secured funding for the next All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (2026-2030) from the Government of Ireland Shared Island Initiative, NPWS and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- Managed the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme, with 42 sites monitored in 2025.
- Provided support to the NPWS and other partners for a coordinated rapid response to the arrival of the Asian hornet in Ireland.
- Organised the second Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Forum in Belfast, attended by 115 delegates.
- Managed the Action for Biodiversity website, ActionforBiodiversity.ie, as a resource for local action.

Promoted the use of biodiversity data

- Hosted the annual meeting of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) European and Central Asian Regional Nodes Group in Waterford in May.
- Published 193,109 new occurrence records to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.
- Endorsed Trinity College Dublin Herbarium to publish >70,000 herbarium records from across the world to GBIF.
- Endorsed UCD School of Veterinary Medicine to publish a vector dataset via VectorNet.

Strengthened the citizen science and research networks

- Supported a network of over 9,600 citizen scientists who generated 173,873 new occurrence records.
- Managed a network of 321 monitoring transects, 2,767 point-counts, 190 site surveys and 273 monitored plant populations.
- Reported on the trends of Ireland's butterfly and bumblebee populations by managing the Irish Butterfly and All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Schemes. The results show that the populations of Ireland's 15 commonest butterfly species experienced a strong decline (-66%) over the period 2008 to 2024. The populations of the eight commonest bumblebee species had a moderate decline (-22%) since 2012.
- Progressed our Training and Engagement Programme, with 216 attendees registering for in-person workshops; 767 participants joining four webinars; and 2,821 students signing up for 14 courses through our eLearning programme.
- Delivered 25 Explore Your Shore! training sessions, workshops and talks, engaging 316 participants.

Communicated biodiversity

- Published two issues of *Biodiversity Ireland*, the Centre's bi-annual magazine.
- Published monthly eNewsletters providing updates on the Centre's activities.
- Produced a suite of new resources to improve knowledge of, and provide advice on, different aspects of Ireland's biodiversity. This included three evidence-based guidelines, three new how-to guides, 20 new flyers, and four new rare species guides under by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan..
- Produced a joint publication with the *Irish Examiner*, '*Biodiversity in Action*', a special report on invasive species.
- Published the third edition of the *Identification Guide to Ireland's Regulated Invasive Alien Plant Species*.

Grew the National Biodiversity Database to publish more than **nine million occurrence records**

Trained over 4,000 recorders to build capacity for quality recording from the citizen science network

Developed five new online courses in taxa identification and evidence-based action

Monitored a network of **321 transects, 2,767 point-counts and 190 site surveys**

An tIonad Náisiúnta Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta
National Biodiversity Data Centre

Supported **9,600 citizen scientists** who generated 173,873 new occurrence records

OUR Achievements IN 2025

Managed the hugely successful ***All-Ireland Pollinator Plan***

For 20 years, the National Biodiversity Data Centre has been a core component of Ireland's natural heritage infrastructure.

By making biodiversity data and information freely available to public and private sectors, we provide essential services that enhance understanding and support the conservation of Ireland's biodiversity.

Improved knowledge of Ireland's biodiversity by publishing **2,249,945 new occurrence records**

Reported on population trends from the ***Irish Butterfly*** and ***All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Schemes***

Established a new **Marine Biodiversity Unit**

Grew our **Invasive Species Unit**

Published 10 new guides and 20 new flyers on how to take evidence-based action for biodiversity.

193,109 occurrence records were published to the **Global Biodiversity Information Facility**

SUMMARY OF THE

Organisation's Purpose and Activities

Our Constitution

The main role of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, as set out in our Constitution, is to acquire, collate, manage, validate and make available data in respect of Ireland's biodiversity in order to document wildlife resources and monitor and record changes over time. In discharging that role, the Centre aims to support national initiatives to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including recording of species and habitat information relating to the terrestrial, freshwater, marine and wetland environments.

Our Strategic Plan

The National Biodiversity Data Centre published its first five-year Strategic Plan for the period 2024 to 2028 in February 2024. The Strategic Plan was developed by the Board and the staff during 2023, framed by the company's role as set out in its constitution, and benefiting from an extensive consultation exercise that sought input from the Centre's key partners. The Strategic Plan aims not only to frame the work priorities for the Centre over its five-year horizon, but also sets out how the Centre intends to conduct its business.

Our vision

Our vision is an Ireland where biodiversity is understood, appreciated and valued, and decisions that impact on biodiversity are informed by evidence and knowledge.

The context for our work

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth and encompasses the diversity that occurs at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels.

Human activity influences biodiversity, ecosystem function and the quality of ecosystem services that biodiversity supports. Climate change and biodiversity loss are global crises posing an existential threat to humanity.

In Ireland, the evidence shows that the complexity of our ecosystems is declining, and many species found in our country are endangered or under threat of extinction. Of the 3,466 species assessed under the Red List conservation assessment process, almost 24% are considered under threat of extinction.

The understanding, conservation and restoration of Ireland's biodiversity are key concerns for all sectors of society. Our work aims to improve knowledge of Ireland's biodiversity and assist different sectors of society to understand better which evidence-based actions they can take to help its conservation.

- Our work complements the policy, reporting and conservation role of National Parks and Wildlife Service and contributes to implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Specifically, it assists implementation of actions in the *Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030*, and contributes to the delivery of the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2023-2028 – '*Our Place in Time*'.

Our values

There are six values which guide the Centre's work:

Evidence

We recognise that biodiversity conservation is a science-based discipline and that best outcomes for conservation result from evidence-based actions based on accurate and accessible open data.

Innovation

We accept that new and innovative approaches to biodiversity data and information can help build societal support for the conservation of biodiversity.

Collaboration

We understand that initiatives co-designed and delivered in partnership, or with community involvement, can have the most enduring impacts.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We commit to work with a diverse and inclusive network of individuals and organisations to promote engagement, appreciation and conservation of biodiversity.

Professional Integrity

We commit to operate to the highest standards of professional integrity, quality, transparency and accountability so as to maintain the trust of all stakeholders.

Sustainability

We recognise the need to act with responsibility and a duty of care to ensure all activities of the National Biodiversity Data Centre minimise any adverse environmental impacts and contribute positively to delivering on the societal, economic and environmental pillars of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Our strategic objectives

We have identified six strategic objectives as priorities for our work between 2024 and 2028;

Objective 1

Improve knowledge on Ireland's biodiversity: Serve as the national centre for acquiring, collating, managing, validating and making available data on Ireland's biodiversity, and track how biodiversity is changing over time.

Objective 2

Assist better evidence-based actions for biodiversity conservation and restoration: Promote the use of genetic, species and habitat data and biodiversity informatics in partnership with other organisations, to better inform best practice, policy and decision-making through innovative data analysis, interpretation and reporting.

Objective 3

Promote the use of biodiversity data for science and decision-making: Support biodiversity data and informatics needs at the national, EU and international levels, particularly for research, policy development and decision-making.

Objective 4

Strengthen the citizen science and research network: Build capacity within the citizen science network to foster enjoyment, engagement with and appreciation of local biodiversity, promote lifelong learning, and improve the quantity and quality of citizen science generated data on Ireland's biodiversity.

Objective 5

Communicate biodiversity: Communicate the value of Ireland's biological diversity and support positive evidence-based conservation and land-use actions across Irish society.

Objective 6

Build an innovative, agile and accountable National Biodiversity Data Centre to enable it to respond to emerging public policy needs and to strengthen the state's ability to address the biodiversity crisis.

OUR 2025

Achievements and Performance

Each year, an Implementation Plan tracks progress in delivery of the *Strategic Plan 2024-2028*. The Implementation Plan for 2025 identified 58 separate actions, grouped under the six strategic objectives, to help deliver on the Strategy.

Strategic Objective 1

Improved knowledge: 11 actions

Strategic Objective 2

Assist conservation: 16 actions

Strategic Objective 3

Science and decision-making: 4 actions

Strategic Objective 4

Strengthen networks: 17 actions

Strategic Objective 5

Communication: 2 actions

Strategic Objective 6

Organisation and Governance: 8 actions

Of the 58 actions identified for delivery in 2025, 49 were fully delivered; 7 actions were progressed but more work is needed to achieve full delivery; and two actions were not progressed as they were ultimately considered unnecessary.

The Centre's main achievements during 2025 are presented on pages 12-30, grouped under the six Strategic Objectives set out in our Strategic Plan.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 01

Improve knowledge on Ireland's biodiversity

Action: *Management of the National Biodiversity Database*

Expected benefit: *Having more and better-quality data freely available based on FAIR principles*

2025 saw a large growth of the National Biodiversity Database. A total of 2,249,945 new occurrence records of 15 additional species were added during 2025, and 13 new datasets. The increase in the number of records was mainly driven by the addition of a new eBIRD dataset. This dataset is derived from bird species records for Ireland that were recorded on the eBird platform and were accessed via the GBIF dataset EOD – eBird Observation Dataset.

Action: *Update the State of Knowledge on Ireland's Biodiversity*

Expected benefit: *Produce a detailed update on the state of knowledge on Ireland biodiversity*

During 2025, work continued on updating the *State of Knowledge on Ireland's Biodiversity*, which was first published by the Centre in 2010. National experts provided updated information on the state of knowledge for 17 different taxonomic groups. Information has been updated on:

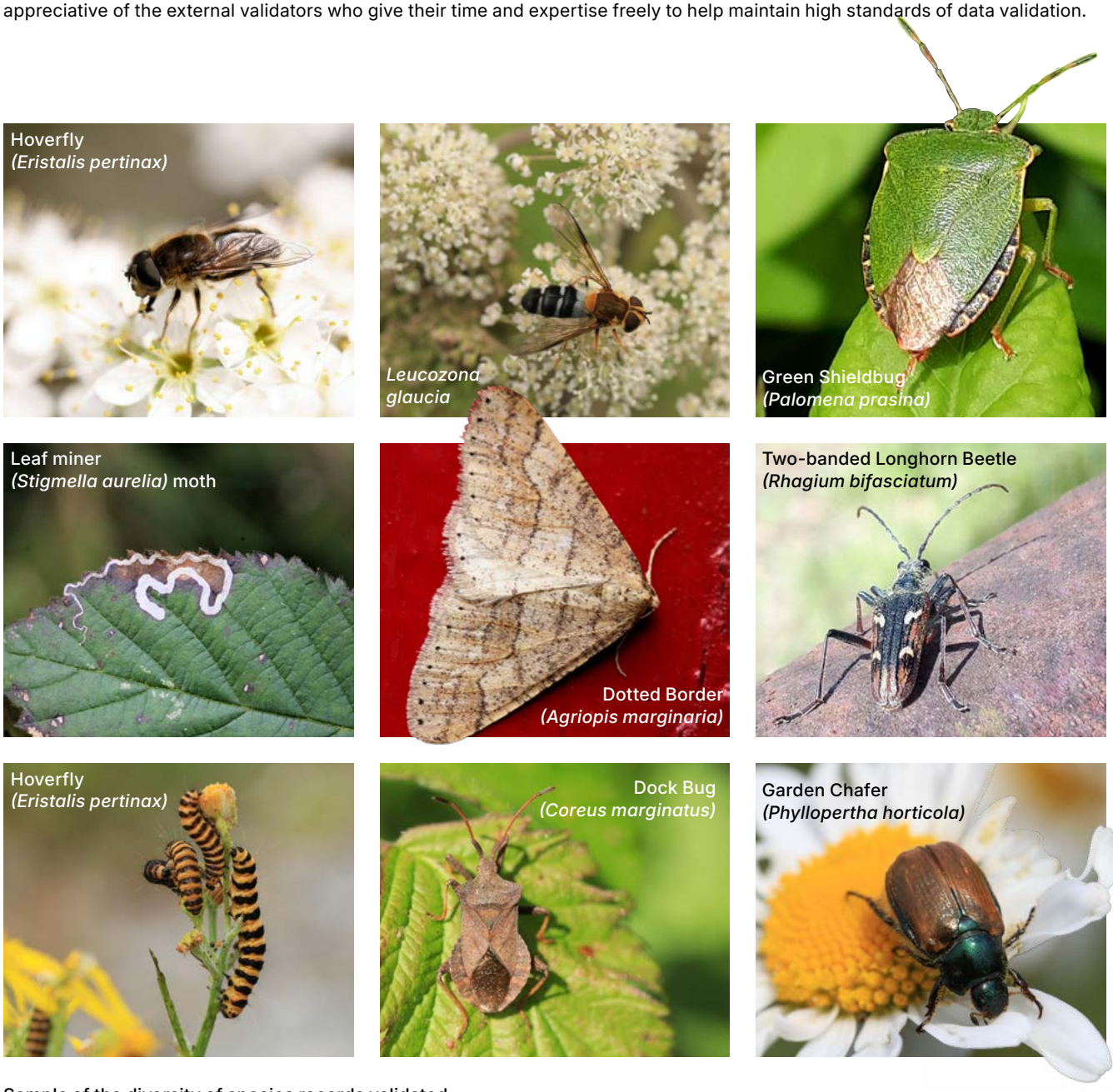
1. the status of the relevant checklist for Ireland
2. the number of confirmed occurring species
3. the primary sources of occurrence data
4. which national conservation assessments have been completed
5. whether there is a national monitoring programme or repeat surveys in place.

Each expert was also asked to identify their key information needs for the next 10 years. These knowledge gaps will be collated and included in the updated *State of Knowledge of Ireland's Biodiversity*, to be completed in 2026.

Action: *Manage a network of experts for data validation*

Expected benefit: *Ensure the quality of data mobilised by the Centre is maintained to the highest standard*

A principal tenet of the management of biological record data is to ensure that the data are reliable. The National Biodiversity Data Centre ensures that all occurrence data published through Biodiversity Maps undergo a validation and verification process. Validation of biodiversity occurrence data is a specialised task and draws on the time and expertise of a network of validators. Validation for most of the record-dense taxonomic groups is done by staff of the Centre who have the necessary expertise; however, much of the highly technical validation is done on a voluntary basis by national experts in their area. The Centre is hugely appreciative of the external validators who give their time and expertise freely to help maintain high standards of data validation.



Sample of the diversity of species records validated

© Liam Lysaght

Action: *Update the National Biodiversity Indicators*

Expected benefit: *Facilitate reporting on Ireland's progress towards attaining national, European, and global biodiversity targets.*

National Biodiversity Indicators are a collection of indicators that monitor changes in Ireland's species, habitats and landscapes, as well as reflecting broader changes relating to biodiversity in Irish society. These indicators provide important evidence for the public and decision-makers on the state, trends, pressures and conservation actions relating to biodiversity. The indicators also facilitate reporting on Ireland's progress towards attaining national, European and global biodiversity targets.

Initiated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2013, the NBDC has been tasked with the collation and reporting of the National Biodiversity Indicators. The data underlying the indicators is provided by a broad range of governmental and non-governmental organisations and represents a collaborative effort across these organisations in developing the current suite of indicators.

Due to changes in national and international biodiversity policy developments, the NPWS issued a Request for Tender for the National Biodiversity Indicators Update in Q4 2025. The tender was awarded to KPMG who, as part of their work, reviewed the current suite of National Biodiversity Indicators to identify any gaps and provide recommendations for the development of new indicators. The final recommendations report 'The Biodiversity Indicators Review for Ireland's 7th National Report' is due to be published in 2026 and the following deliverables will be presented to the Biodiversity Working Group:

1. Comprehensive list of Irish biodiversity indicators mapped to appropriate Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets with associated content for inclusion in Ireland's 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity
2. Technical guidance, data source, and competent authority information for each indicator
3. Recommendations for ensuring alignment with CSO standards
4. Recommendations for new indicators.

Action: *Build capacity on insect taxonomy and recording*

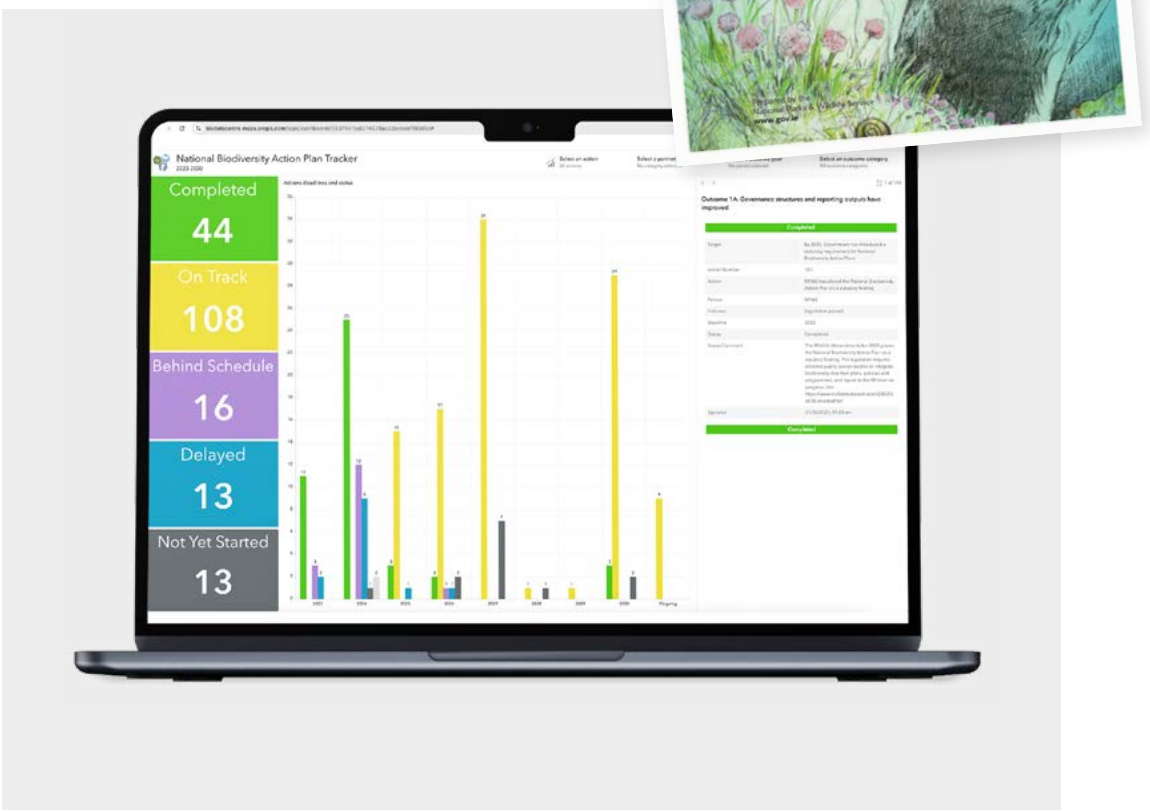
Expected benefit: *Improve knowledge on poorly understood insects*

The National Biodiversity Data Centre appointed a full-time National Insect Database Officer in 2025, to improve knowledge on insect taxonomy and build capacity for more active surveying of different complex and under-studied groups. In 2025, seven new datasets were developed for insect groups by collating existing data, digitising historic records and validating backlogs of records submitted to the Centre. This was carried out in collaboration with the National Museum of Ireland – Natural History and national experts. Knowledge exchange groups were established for ants and wasps, and an updated Checklist of Bees in Ireland was published in collaboration with National Parks and Wildlife Service. Four workshops were held during the year, focusing on specific insect groups (e.g. solitary bees, ladybirds, wasps etc.) as well as microscopy and insect fieldcraft. Four online courses were also developed, again focusing on insect groups such as solitary bees and social wasps. Fieldwork targeting under-recorded insect groups was undertaken across Ireland. This produced notable records of rare or under-recorded species and has resulted in the addition of seven insect species to the Irish checklists.

Action: *Develop a National Biodiversity Action Plan tracker*

Expected benefit: *Improve the reporting of delivery of the Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan*

The National Biodiversity Action Plan Tracker and its associated survey were developed in-house by the team in the Centre using our online GIS platform. The Tracker dashboard and survey were designed to assist the Interdepartmental Biodiversity Working Group, overseen by National Parks and Wildlife Service, to collate and present the progress made by partners on delivery of their assigned actions. Partners submit annual updates on progress on each action for which they are responsible. The NPWS review the collated responses and then the National Biodiversity Data Centre updates the Tracker on their behalf. This is helping everyone, including members of the public, to track progress with delivery of the 194 actions set out in Ireland's *4th National Biodiversity Action Plan* (2023-2030).



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 02

Assist better evidence-based actions for biodiversity conservation and restoration

Action: *Manage delivery of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025*

Expected benefit: *Coordinate actions across the island of Ireland, delivered by different sectors, helping to make the landscape more pollinator-friendly.*

Thanks to the widespread support from all partner organisations, the second phase of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan was successfully delivered. Of the 186 actions, 172 were completed (92%) by end-2025, nine were in train (5%) and five were not progressed (3%). The small number not fully delivered have either been deliberately reallocated to the next phase or were funding dependent. To mark the end of the second phase of the AIPP, four documents were produced:

1. ***Pollinator Plan Final Review – Overview of progress 2021-2025:*** This summarises the short, medium and long-term success of the Pollinator Plan. It critically assesses each objective, flagging highlights and key learnings.
2. ***Pollinator Plan Final Review – Update on each action 2021-2025:*** This is a final update against each of the 186 actions in the Plan, completed by the organisation responsible for each individual action.
3. Infographic: Pollinator Plan key successes 2021-2025.
4. Celebratory booklet – *One Hundred Tales of Hope: Stories of pollinator conservation from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025*, highlighting a random selection of 100 positive actions from across different sectors.



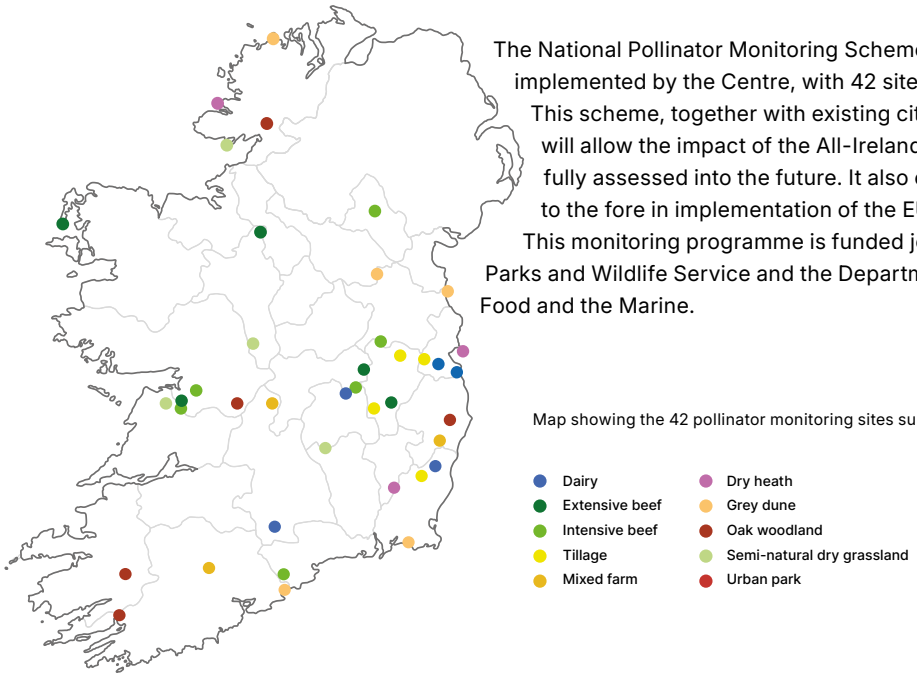
Some key successes from the second phase of the Pollinator Plan include:

- **Councils** - all 42 councils across the island have now formally partnered with the Plan and have committed to taking actions for pollinators and biodiversity.
- **Farming** - An evidence-based whole-farm scoring system that allows farmers to assess how pollinator friendly their farm is, and what actions could be taken to improve their score, was developed.
- **Local communities** – The Local Authority Pollinator Award of the Tidy Towns competition, sponsored by the Heritage Council and the Heritage Officers, continues to promote local community action to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. More than 200 communities have delivered actions under this award. The overall winner of the Award in 2025 was Belmullet Tidy Towns, Co. Mayo.
- **Businesses** - 360 companies have signed up as AIPP Business Supporters and have reported annually on their evidence-based actions.
- **Research** - The number of researchers working on pollinators has increased. Seventy-six scientific papers relevant to Irish pollinator conservation were published by researchers in the Irish Pollinator Research Network (IPRN) between 2021 and 2025.

Across the Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, three new evidence-based guideline documents (for wind farms, solar farms and healthcare sites) and three new how-to guides (creating and restoring meadows in local communities and gardens, protecting nocturnal pollinators, and traditional orchards for pollinators on the farm) were published. Four new rare species guides were also published (on Northern Colletes Bee, Large Carder Bee, Forester, and Shrill Carder Bee). An additional 20 new flyers were produced, and four online training courses were launched.

Action: *Manage the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme*

Expected benefit: *Generate detailed quantitative data on the status of pollinators across the Irish landscape*



Map showing the 42 pollinator monitoring sites surveyed in 2025

The National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme continued to be implemented by the Centre, with 42 sites monitored in 2025. This scheme, together with existing citizen science initiatives, will allow the impact of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to be fully assessed into the future. It also ensures that Ireland is to the fore in implementation of the EU Pollinators Initiative. This monitoring programme is funded jointly by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Action: *Establish an Invasive Species Unit*

Expected benefit: *Increase capacity to deliver an extensive work programme on Invasive Species in support of national and EU policy implementation.*

The Invasive Species Unit, with the full complement of five Officers and a Programme Manager, became operational during the year. The Unit consolidated the invasive species work programmes, funded under the Shared Island Invasive Species and Bio-security Initiative, and the reporting and communications programmes funded separately by the National Parks and Wildlife Service into a consolidated Invasive Species Theme Plan 2025-2029.



Some of the highlights of the work programme during 2025 include:

Alert list

In 2025, there were over 1,400 sightings submitted of 'Alert list' species. These are species of potentially high invasive impact that are either not known to be present in Ireland, or at a very early stage in their invasion. Management of the Alert list system supports early warning for rapid response. Verification of the first Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) sighting in 2025 triggered the Asian hornet rapid response. Subsequent awareness raising of the sighting resulted in a spike of suspected Asian hornet sightings from the public, showing the value and importance of this system as a critical tool in Ireland's approach to priority invasive species.

Asian hornet incursion

Subsequent to the first verified report of an Asian hornet in Cork city on 13th August received through Ireland's Citizen Science portal, the Invasive Species Unit played a central role in guiding and supporting the rapid response. A team from the NPWS and staff of the Centre were quickly deployed to Cork, and extensive surveying was conducted. Following substantial monitoring and targeted efforts, two nests were located and removed: one from Cork city and a second from Cobh, Co. Cork. The team provided additional critical support and guidance to the government's convened Asian Hornet Management Group. Furthermore, the Centre supported the NPWS, DAFM and the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) throughout, providing on-the-ground training and tracking advice; procuring necessary equipment for the safe and legal control of nests; engaging with beekeeping groups; and participating in media interviews during the response.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre also supported the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) throughout their response to the Asian hornet incursion in Dundonald, Co. Down, by sharing lessons from addressing the Cork incursions.

Subsequently, the NBDC commissioned the genetic analysis of the three nests, convened a 'lessons learned' exercise for the response in Ireland in 2025, and held a wrap-up meeting with beekeeping groups. As a result of the overall Government response, supported by the key role played by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, the island of Ireland is better prepared to respond to future incursions of Asian hornet.



Claire Deasy (NPWS), Sam Bayley (NPWS) and David Law (David Law Tree Care) following the removal of one of the Asian hornet nests in Cork.

Species Alerts!

During October, the Invasive Species Unit was alerted to an incursion of the demon shrimp (*Dikerogammarus haemobaphes*) into Lough Derg on the Shannon system. Unlike the Asian hornet, this species will be impossible to control. Therefore, the priority was establishing the extent of spread and supporting biosecurity measures. The NBDC convened a stakeholder meeting and issued a Species Alert. Subsequently, by working with the NPWS, the Marine Institute and Waterways Ireland, an eDNA analysis of samples was commissioned, and new biosecurity signs procured for the Shannon system.

Risk assessment

The Invasive Species Unit maintains the Risk Assessment protocols as part of our Shared Island work. During 2025, the Unit convened the Invasive and Non-native species Risk Analysis panel (IN-RAP) and reviewed the island of Ireland's methods to ensure they meet international standards. These protocols will now be put into use, ensuring that Ireland and Northern Ireland have robust data and evidence underpinning biosecurity and management of invasive species.

Communications and outreach

Key communications activities in 2025 included:

- the Invasive Species Unit contributing to the *Irish Examiner's Biodiversity in Action - a Special Report on Invasive Species*.
- developing a new 'Invasive Species of the Week' feature for social media.
- coordinating Ireland's contribution to Invasive Species Week, the British-Irish Council Non-native Species Group flagship engagement event.
- publishing the third edition of the *Identification Guide to Ireland's Regulated Invasive Alien Plant Species* and making this freely available online.
- significantly growing the number of visitors to the invasives.ie website.
- commissioning the first independent review of the three invasive species campaigns (Check Clean Dry; Be Plant Wise; and Be Pet Wise).



Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Forum

The second Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Forum was held on November 4th in Belfast, attended by 115 delegates. The event brought together representatives from industry, public bodies and non-governmental organisations, to strengthen collaboration on invasive species and biosecurity across the island of Ireland. The programme featured a rich mix of expert presentations, interactive workshops and open feedback sessions. The opening address for the Forum was provided by the Northern Ireland Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Andrew Muir MLA, and the closing address was provided by the Irish Minister of State with responsibility for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan TD.

Action: *Assist the Heritage Council in developing and implementing the County Biodiversity Areas methodology.*

Expected benefit: *The identification of sites of local biodiversity importance to enable them to be afforded additional protection under Ireland's existing national planning law and policy.*

At the county level, local authorities need consistent tools to identify and protect ecologically significant areas in the wider landscape. The proposed County Biodiversity Areas (CBA) methodology aims to fill that gap. It is being developed by the Heritage Council with the support of the Centre.

A County Biodiversity Area is a site that makes a significant contribution to the ecological network of a county or city. The CBA methodology provides an evidence-based approach to identifying the most important features for nature, to help local authorities meet their existing obligations under existing national planning law and policy. They are not a new statutory designation.

There is currently no standard, science-based method for identifying sites of local or regional importance, outside nationally and internationally important areas. The development of County Biodiversity Areas aims to provide a consistent, transparent framework that is based on data to support decision-making that protects local biodiversity.

FME (Feature Manipulation Engine) software is being used by the Digital Services team to apply the devised approach and analyse the data needed to identify the County Biodiversity Areas. The methodology is being trialled for Waterford, and once refined, the Centre will provide standardised and repeatable FME processes that can be used in conjunction with each local authority to spatially interrogate and integrate national and local datasets, to identify candidate County Biodiversity Areas.

Action: *Updating and maintaining the actionforbiodiversity.ie website*

Expected benefit: *Improving the overall quality of biodiversity actions plans produced by local communities, thereby delivering better value for money for the funding partners.*

The actionforbiodiversity.ie website, developed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, is a one-stop shop for information, guidance and other resources that will be of value to local communities in the preparation of their plans. It was developed in partnership with Community Foundation Ireland and the Heritage Council. During the year, the site was updated with any new plans or resources that became available, providing access to 305 Biodiversity Action Plans by the end of 2025. During the year the website was restructured to improve its accessibility and keep the information on the site up to date.

www.actionforbiodiversity.ie



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 03

Promote the use of biodiversity data for science and decision-making

Action: *Serve as Ireland's Node to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility*

Expected benefit: *Ensure Ireland fulfils its obligation as participant to GBIF and contributes data to the global biodiversity data portal*

The National Biodiversity Data Centre serves as Ireland's National Node to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). GBIF is an international network and data infrastructure funded by the world's governments and aimed at providing anyone, anywhere, with open access to data about all types of life on Earth. Data that are licensed as open data under the Creative Commons CC-BY licence are published to GBIF's data portal, gbif.org. In 2025, 193,109 occurrence records were published to GBIF from the NBDC. Two organisations were endorsed as publishers in 2025 - Trinity College Dublin Herbarium published one dataset with over 70,000 herbarium records from across the world and UCD School of Veterinary Medicine published a vector dataset via VectorNet.

NBDC staff also play an active role in GBIF. The Centre's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Liam Lysaght, continued to serve as Chair of the Governing Board of GBIF, having been appointed for a second two-year period in October 2024. Dr Michelle Judge, the Centre's Data Manager, also acts as GBIF's Node Manager for Ireland, and is a member of the European and Central Asian (ECA) Regional Nodes Group. In May, the NBDC hosted the 17th meeting of the GBIF Europe and Central Asia (ECA) regional nodes group. Over 40 attendees from 14 countries attended the meeting, which was held in the ArcLabs Research and Innovation Centre, Carriganore, Co. Waterford. In October, the 32nd meeting of the Governing Board of GBIF was held in Bogota, Colombia, and was attended by Liam Lysaght and Jon Hawkins. The Governing Board meeting was followed by the Living Data 2025 conference, jointly organised by GBIF, the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG), the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) and the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON). The theme of the conference was 'Unified information driving transformation'. Each of these meetings provided excellent opportunities to connect, share knowledge and strengthen our collective efforts in advancing biodiversity data sharing, and many action points were noted for follow-up.



Photograph from the 17th meeting of the GBIF Europe and Central Asia (ECA) regional nodes group, which was hosted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in May 2025.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 04

Strengthen the citizen science and research network

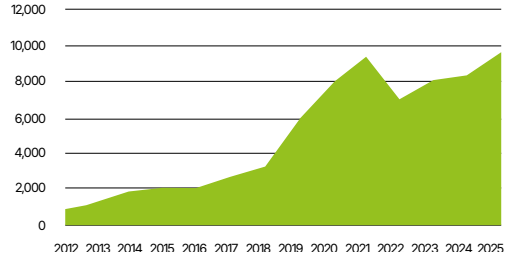
Action: *Manage Ireland's Citizen Science Portal*

Expected benefit: *Improve capacity for high-quality recording from the citizen science network*

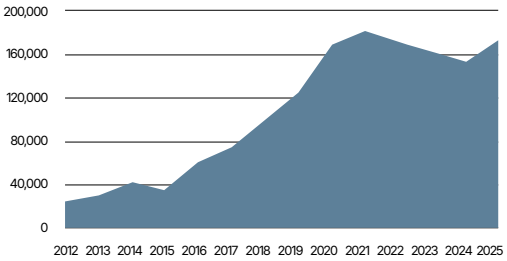
Ireland's Citizen Science Portal provides a readily accessible online system to capture observations from observers. In 2025, 173,873 records were submitted by 9,607 individuals, across all 32 counties on the island. Since it was launched in 2012, the number of records submitted through the portal has increased significantly year on year, reaching a peak of over 180,000 records in 2021, coinciding with COVID-19 lockdown. Recent years have seen the total number of records submitted steadily increasing, bringing it close to the unusually high number in 2021.

In 2025, Birds accounted for 23% of the records submitted, followed by Moths (22.8%), Flowering Plants (19.9%), Butterflies (7%) and Terrestrial Mammals (4.5%). Taken together, these five taxonomic groups accounted for 77% of the records submitted in 2025.

Number of recorders



Number of records



79 of the more active recorders who achieved significant recording milestones were issued with Outstanding Achievement Certificates in 2025.

Bespoke online recording forms are provided as a service to key partner organisations to support national surveys. In 2025, bespoke recording forms were provided to support the following nine recording initiatives:

- *Moth recording* for MothsIreland
- *Swifts recording* for Swift Conservation Ireland
- General recording for Wexford Naturalists' Field Club
- *Wild Honeybee Study Group* for University of Galway
- *Hedgehogs of Ireland Survey* for University of Galway
- *Irish Stoat Survey* for Vincent Wildlife Trust
- *Dublin City Raptors Survey* for Dublin City Council and BirdWatch Ireland
- *Dublin City River Birds* for Dublin City Council and BirdWatch Ireland
- *Urban Fox Study* for University of Galway

Action: *Manage systematic survey and monitoring programmes on aspects of biodiversity*

Expected benefit: *Generate quantitative data on temporal biodiversity and biodiversity change over time.*

The National Biodiversity Data Centre manages an extensive biodiversity monitoring network delivered by professional and citizen scientists. During 2025, different aspects of biodiversity were monitored at 742 different sites, and an additional 2,767 timed counts were completed by the surveyor network.

Monitoring Scheme	Monitoring activity in 2025
Butterfly Monitoring Scheme	148 monitoring transects
Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme	131 monitoring transects
Flower-Insect Timed Counts	1,323 counts
Garden Butterfly Monitoring	1,444 counts
Rare Plant Monitoring	273 populations monitored
ExploreYourShore!	63 sites surveyed
Dragonfly Ireland Monitoring Sites	49 sites surveyed
Irish Pollinator Monitoring Scheme	42 sites monitored
Irish Marsh Fritillary Monitoring Scheme	36 sites monitored

Action: *Manage the transect-based Butterfly and Bumblebee monitoring schemes*

Expected benefit: *Track population trends of widespread butterfly and bumblebee species*

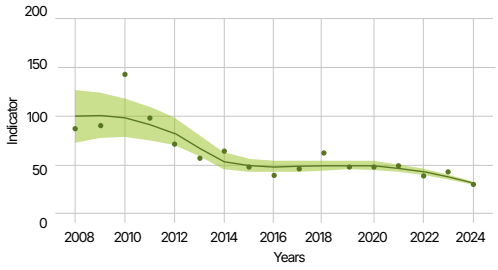
Two transect-based monitoring programmes, the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme, track population trends of our common butterfly and bumblebee species, respectively. The Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme was established in 2008 and is the longest citizen science insect monitoring scheme in Ireland, while the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme has been running since 2012. Monitoring is done by a network of citizen scientists, who walk a fixed route (transect) regularly during the season, to a standardised methodology. In 2025, data were generated from 148 butterfly transects and 131 bumblebee transects, and the analysis of the monitoring scheme trends up to 2024 was published.

Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total number of surveyors	94	88	117	113	112
Total number of transects	143	116	149	143	148
Total number of butterflies	32,608	32,752	39,960	36,961	26,359

Findings

The results of the monitoring scheme up to 2024 were analysed and published in 2025. The published results from the multi-species index of the 15 most common butterfly species show that there was a strong decline (-66%) in butterfly populations over the period from the baseline year of 2008 to 2024. Results from the last 10 years (from 2015 to 2024) show the population has declined at a more moderate rate (-30%).



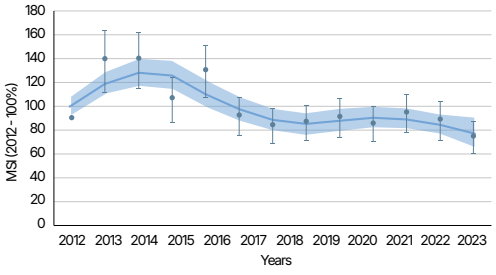
Multi-species Index of the 15 commonest butterfly species

All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of surveyors	74	74	76	86	88
Number of transects	112	104	120	125	134
Number of bumblebees	13,968	17,607	17,980	20,379	16,755

Findings

The results of the monitoring scheme up to 2024 were analysed and published in 2025. The results from the multi-species index of the eight most common bumblebee species show a moderate decline (-22%) in bumblebee populations since 2012.



Multi-species index of the eight most common bumblebee species

Action: *Produce a Training and Engagement Programme for the National Biodiversity Data Centre.*

Expected benefit: *Develop a well-trained and knowledgeable network of recorders with a greater understanding of biodiversity*

A key goal of the Strategic Plan is to provide the citizen science network with an educational structure to facilitate lifelong learning. Another goal is to build expertise in taxonomy, species identification and field skills. It is intended to deliver on these goals through the provision of a multi-annual Training and Engagement Programme, which began in 2025.

The specific target audiences include:

1. Professionals
2. Citizen scientists/general public
3. Third-level students in relevant fields of study.



The structure focused on four high-level learning topics:

- Foundations of biodiversity
- Species identification skills
- Biodiversity survey and assessment techniques
- Evidence-based biodiversity management



In 2025, the Centre delivered a training and engagement programme comprising 15 workshops/field days, four webinars and launched four new online courses. In total, 216 people registered for in-person events, and 767 joined four webinars. The National Biodiversity Data Centre's Learning Platform enrolled 2,821 students across 14 courses in 2025, of which 2,248 were new students to the platform.

The workshops/field days were delivered on the following topics:

- Winter Tree identification
- Garden Moth Workshop
- Solitary Bees
- Insect Field Day
- Social Wasps
- Various plant: Asteraceae (yellow)
- Hoverflies
- Plant Field Day
- Insect Microscope identification
- Summer Grass identification
- Irish Vegetation Classification
- Dragonfly identification



Action: *Manage Dragonfly Ireland and ExploreYourShore! projects*

Expected benefit: *Improve knowledge of biodiversity in freshwater and coastal waters.*

Dragonfly Ireland Project 2019-2024

Data collection for the Dragonfly Ireland 2019–2024 project concluded in 2024. During 2025, datasets from NBDC, CEDaR, and iNaturalist Ireland were validated, quality-checked and combined for analysis. Phase I analysis, funded by CEDaR, with Biospatial Insights Ltd. as statistical consultants, examined species range changes and modelling. Phase II analysis, also undertaken by Biospatial Insights using EPA and UCD/Met Éireann datasets, was completed, with draft results received by year-end.

Project data were also shared with La Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (FRB), France, as part of the EU DRAGON project investigating dragonflies and damselflies as indicators of human impacts on freshwater–terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity trends across Europe. Work also began on the new 'Atlas of Dragonflies and Damselflies of Ireland', with Juanita Browne appointed editor and Vitamin Design appointed as graphic designers. Draft atlas text preparation commenced during 2025.



A National Monitoring Network for Dragonflies and Damselflies was established, with experienced recorders committing to monitor 49 sites on an ongoing basis. The long-term target is two monitoring sites per 50 km square.

Explore Your Shore!

In 2025, Explore Your Shore! received 8,377 new marine species records, bringing the total number of records validated since 2019 to 33,929. Several new marine datasets were secured and integrated into Biodiversity Maps, including Marine Institute Nephrops Survey data and Water Framework Directive Benthos Monitoring data. Additional datasets acquired included ESAS Cetacean and Seabird data, ObSERVE II aerial survey data, and Dublin Port seal survey data. Engagement with the Marine Institute Data Team continued to support the ongoing provision of marine datasets to NBDC.

The NBDC marine validation network expanded further, with Dr Jamie Maxwell of the National Museum of Ireland joining as validator for polychaete records.

A total of 25 Explore Your Shore! events, including training sessions, workshops and talks, were delivered during the year, engaging 316 participants. A Seashore Splash! recording event was held as part of national Biodiversity Week. Cross-border collaboration included participation in a crustacean taxonomy workshop at the QUB Marine Laboratory, Portaferry, Co. Down.

Marine biodiversity citizen science lectures were delivered to undergraduate students at UCC and TCD to promote integration of Citizen Science into third-level education and research. Attendance at the GBIF Europe and Central Asia Nodes Meeting in Waterford and the AZTI Summer School in Spain supported continued professional development in marine biodiversity citizen science and AI applications for biodiversity monitoring.

The NBDC continued to contribute to national and international marine biodiversity policy and research through participation in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive National Steering Group and technical groups, including input to Ireland's Marine Strategy Part II: Monitoring Programme. Contributions also included participation in an EPA Biodiversa+ eDNA project steering group, the Board and editing team of the Irish Naturalists' Journal, the board of the Irish Ocean Literacy Network, and two European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) working groups.

In August 2025, a new role of Marine Biodiversity Programme Manager was established at the NBDC, with Dave Wall appointed to the position. The role leads implementation of the NBDC's Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science Strategy, development of funding opportunities for a dedicated Marine Biodiversity Unit, management of the Marine Invasive Species Programme, and collaboration with partners to promote FAIR marine biodiversity data sharing, and supports delivery of the NBDC Strategic Plan 2024–2028.



Explore Your Shore! training with the Cape Clear Biodiversity Group

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 05

Communicate Biodiversity

Action: *Produce publications and other resources to help communicate the work of the Centre and promote a greater understanding of biodiversity*

Expected benefit: *Raise awareness of the work of the Centre and increase public understanding of biodiversity issues.*

In 2025, the Centre's communications on its varied work programmes reached a broad audience, including public and private sectors, communities and individuals, helping to promote the work on the NBDC, while also increasing understanding of biodiversity, its benefits, and evidence-based actions to conserve it.

The key external communication vehicle is the *Biodiversity Ireland* magazine, of which two issues were published in 2025. The Centre also initiated a monthly electronic newsletter, providing regular updates on the Centre's work programmes.

In addition, many publications and resources were produced as outputs from many of the Centre's thematic work programmes, particularly in relation to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and Invasive Species. Among the main outputs were:

- Business parks for pollinators
- Creating a Pollinator-friendly Rainwater Planter
- Pesticide Alternatives: A Summary
- Online course: Managing Communities for Pollinators
- Online course: Managing School Grounds for Biodiversity
- Online course: Farmland Pollinator-friendly Hedgerows
- Managing Healthcare Sites for Pollinators
- Protecting Pockets of Nature (booklet and signage template)
- Celebrating Native Wildflowers booklet
- Festival of Farmland Biodiversity Calendar 2026
- Irish language version of 'Create a short-flowering meadow' flyer
- Irish language version of 'Pollinator-friendly grass cutting' flyer
- Video: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan: Celebrating 2021-2025
- The Grasslands Trail booklet (third edition)
- Pollinator Lesson Plans: A Resource for Primary Schools (updated)
- Pollinator-friendly management of Transport Corridors (updated)
- All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 'Forever calendar' (for launch in 2026)
- 100 Tales of Hope: Stories of pollinator conservation from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025



Biodiversity Ireland Magazine



Issue 28
Spring/ Summer
2025



Issue 29
Autumn/ Winter
2025

New resources





Series No.39 - Pollinator-friendly management of Healthcare Sites

Project funding

Much of the project work of the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2025 was progressed through project-specific funding provided by partner organisations choosing to avail of the specialist services provided by the Centre. We are particularly grateful to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Government of Ireland Shared Island Programme for funding these projects, which included the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme, the Shared Island Invasive Species and Biosecurity Initiative, and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 06

Build an innovative, agile and accountable National Biodiversity Data Centre

Action: *Ensure the National Biodiversity Data Centre has good governance structures, policies and procedures appropriate for a Company Limited by Guarantee*

Expected benefit: *Enable the National Biodiversity Data Centre to be innovative, agile and accountable in the delivery of its work.*

During 2025, the company undertook further work to develop its governance structures and suite of policies and procedures appropriate for a Company Limited by Guarantee of its size. These were progressed in tandem with building the organisational capacity to enable us to deliver on our Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028, and reviewing the suite of digital services and data products being offered by the Centre. Additionally, the company was successful in securing charitable status from the Charities Regulator in November 2025.



Staff Training and Development

To promote innovation and enable staff to remain agile, the company promotes professional development through provision of ecological and technical training, supports conference attendance and membership of professional bodies. This encourages staff to upskill in emerging technologies and remain aware of developments in their areas of expertise. An anonymised staff survey was carried out during the year to gain insights into staff attitudes to different aspects of employment with the Centre. The results of the survey demonstrate a highly engaged, mission-aligned, and culturally strong workforce, and that employees feel valued, supported by their managers, and connected to the mission of the NBDC. It concluded that "the strongest performance areas reflect deep organisational strengths: purpose, culture, respect, and management support. These underpin a healthy organisational climate and position NBDC strongly for future growth".

To ensure accountability, the company operated and adhered to its Governance and Employee Handbooks in execution of its functions and operations.

Digital Infrastructure Development

A foundational aspect of the Centre is the provision of fit-for-purpose digital infrastructure to support our work programmes. In 2025, a Prioritised Digital Infrastructure Plan was developed and approved by the Board. The plan sets out a roadmap of actions to ensure the Centre has a modern digital infrastructure that enables it to mobilise its data effectively and respond quickly to new initiatives.

Embracing innovation in the delivery of our goals is a central value of the company and is encouraged across all aspects of the Centre's work. It is in the field of technology where innovation is most visible, particularly in biodiversity informatics.

The actions outlined in the plan relate to four broad themes that will shape the Centre's digital infrastructure programme over the next four years.

2025: Set the Backbone and Pilot Services

2026: Mobilise the Data, react quickly to initiatives, embrace AI

2027: Application and Technical Refresh / Rationalisation

2028: Greater independence and flexibility

During 2025, the Centre completed a major update to the Taxonomic Dictionary, which underpins the Biodiversity Maps portal and many of the Centre's core activities. This update provides a robust foundation for the development of new services and enhances the Centre's ability to derive value from the extensive datasets it maintains. Another foundational piece that was put in place during 2025 was the move of the Centre's servers into Walton Institute's hosted environment on the SETU West Campus. Hosting the NBDC server architecture within the Walton Institute's server farm provides many benefits, including scalable high-performance networking, stringent physical security and access control policies, advanced infrastructure cooling and environmental control systems, state-of-the-art fire prevention and management systems, long duration Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) with diesel generator backup. This will result in reduced maintenance and operating costs, and real-time monitoring of all hardware.

In addition to the above the Centre began consolidating and rationalising its application portfolio, moving to Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions where appropriate. The Centre also established new centralised software licensing agreements, leveraging its recently acquired charitable status wherever possible. This has enabled the organisation to achieve cost savings while gaining access to associated online platforms and environments that will support future development and innovation.

Structure, Governance and Management

Board Membership as of 31 December 2025

At 31 December 2025, the National Biodiversity Data Centre had nine directors, three (33%) female and six (67%) male Board members.



John McCarthy

(Chairperson) (Appointed 5 December 2022) is a former Secretary General of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, and has worked in a range of capacities across Government including in the Departments of Social Protection and Finance. He currently holds a number of non-Executive positions, including serving as Chair of the Management Board of the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management and as a member of the Board of the Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority.



Colette Byrne

(Heritage Council Nominee - Appointed 5 December 2022) is a former Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council, having also served as Chief Executive in Offaly County Council. She has worked across all areas of Local Government services with urban and rural authorities and has a particular interest in provision of amenities, and regeneration and repurposing of old buildings.



Ciara Carberry

(Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Nominee - appointed 5 December 2022) is Director of Nature Conservation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. A senior civil servant with extensive experience in policymaking, legislation and governance, Ciara holds primary and postgraduate degrees in Botany and Environmental Science from Trinity College Dublin.



Dr Colm Lordan

(Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine nominee - Appointed 5 December 2022) is Chair of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) Advisory Committee. Previously he was the Integrated Fisheries and Ecosystems Advice manager in the Marine Institute in Galway, Ireland where he worked for over 25 years developing fisheries and marine ecosystem assessments and advice.



Dr James Moran

(Heritage Council nominee - Appointed 5 December 2022) is a senior lecturer in Biology and Ecology in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at the Atlantic Technological University, Galway. He leads the Agro-ecology and Rural Development (ARD) research group. James has worked in the applied ecology and agri-environmental management area for over 20 years as an advisor, researcher and academic, and concentrates on sustainable agricultural systems with a particular focus on the Common Agriculture Policy and improving agri-environment policy and practice.



Maura Brennan

(Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage nominee - appointed 21 December 2022) is CEO of the Acorn Project, a non-profit organisation delivering nature-based learning and wellbeing programmes that empower communities to take action in ecological restoration through reconnection with their local wild spaces. Maura is an educator, forest school practitioner, herbalist, wild food forager and forest therapy guide with a background in public engagement and sociology.



Tom Medlycott

(Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine nominee – appointed 8 October 2024) is a former Senior Inspector with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. He held a wide variety of senior roles in that organisation in areas including Internal Audit, Pesticide Controls Division, Human Resources and Nature and Land Use Division. He now manages a mixed enterprise family farm in County Wicklow. Tom holds primary and postgraduate degrees in Agricultural Science from University College Dublin and also qualified with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.



Professor Willie Donnelly

(Heritage Council nominee – appointed 5 February 2025) is President Emeritus WIT (now SETU). Following retirement from SETU, he was Director of Research and Innovation in the Technology Higher Education Association (THEA), the representative body of the Technological University sector. He was President of Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) between 2014 and 2022. Prior to that, he was the institute's first VP for Research and Innovation (2004 to 2014). He is founder of the Telecommunications Software and Systems Research Group (TSSG), one of Ireland's largest research centres and a global leader in mobile services research and innovation. Prior to entering academia, he worked for 15 years in the telecommunications and utilities industries. Prof. Donnelly has a strong interest in regional economic development, and has been a key driver in the establishment of a cluster of mobile services companies in the south-east of Ireland. He is a founder member of a number of High Potential Start-up Companies including Feedhenry, which was acquired by Redhat in 2014.



Dr Darragh O'Neill

(Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Communications nominee – appointed 17 December 2025), is Programme Manager at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where he leads the Research and Evidence Programme. In this role, he is responsible for the EPA's Research Programme, its Environmental Analytics Team and its Climate Adaptation and Behavioural Insights Team. Across these areas, the Programme aims to provide high-quality evidence to inform national climate and environmental policy. Before joining the EPA, he worked at Science Foundation Ireland (now Research Ireland), where he designed research programmes supporting international collaboration, postgraduate training, and climate-related research. Darragh has a background in the Natural Sciences and holds a PhD in Chemistry. Darragh replaced Dr Micheál Lehane as Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Communications nominee, when Micheál stepped down from the Board on 17 December 2025.

The nine directors listed above were on the National Biodiversity Data Centre Board on 31 December 2025. Two directors stepped down from the Board during the year. Dr Micheál Lehane stepped down on 17 December 2025, and was replaced by Dr Darragh O'Neill on the same day. Additionally, Professor Yvonne Buckley, stepped down from the Board on 17 December 2025, with the process to fill the consequential vacancy underway at year-end.

Committees

In 2025, the National Biodiversity Data Centre Board had four subcommittees - an Audit, Finance and Risk Committee, a Strategy and Governance Committee, a Scientific Advisory Committee, and a Nominations Committee.

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

The directors who served on the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee throughout 2025 (unless otherwise indicated) were as follows:

- Colette Byrne (Chair)
- Micheál Lehane (Resigned 17 December 2025)
- Tom Medlycott

The Committee's role is to support the Board in its responsibilities in relation to audit, finance and risk by reviewing the comprehensiveness of relevant assurances in meeting the Board's assurance needs, and reviewing the reliability and integrity of these assurances. The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee met seven times during 2025. All committee meetings were held virtually.

Strategy and Governance Committee

The directors who served on the Strategy and Governance Committee throughout 2025 (unless otherwise indicated) were as follows:

- Ciara Carberry (Chair)
- John McCarthy
- Maura Brennan
- Willie Donnelly (Appointed 5 February 2025)

The Committee's role is to support the Board in its responsibilities for setting the long-term strategic direction of the company, tracking progress with its delivery, and ensuring that the company adheres to the highest standards of corporate governance. The Strategy and Governance Committee met four times during 2025, with all meetings held virtually.

Scientific Advisory Committee

The directors who served on the Scientific Advisory Committee throughout 2025 were as follows:

- James Moran (Chair)
- Yvonne Buckley
- Colm Lordan

The Committee's role is to identify priorities for evidence and data provision in support of the delivery of the company's Strategic Plan and provide oversight of the scientific content of programme delivery. The Scientific Advisory Committee met five times during 2025, with all meetings held virtually.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee met once in 2025, the inaugural meeting of the Committee. All directors of the National Biodiversity Data Centre are members of the Nominations Committee. The Committee's role is to monitor, evaluate, report on, and make recommendations in relation to the composition of the Board.

Board and committee meeting attendance

A schedule of Directors' attendance at Board and subcommittee meetings, for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025, is set out as follows:

Attendance at Board and Subcommittee Meetings - 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Name	Board	Audit Finance & Risk Committee	Strategy & Governance Committee	Scientific Advisory Committee	Nominations Committee
Number of Meetings	**8**	**7**	**4**	**5**	**1**
John McCarthy	8	N/A	4	N/A	1
Colette Byrne	8	7	N/A	N/A	0
Ciara Carberry	6	N/A	4	N/A	1
Micheál Lehane	7	7	N/A	N/A	0
James Moran	7	N/A	N/A	4	1
Colm Lordan	7	N/A	N/A	4	1
Yvonne Buckley	4	N/A	N/A	4	0
Maura Brennan	5	N/A	2	N/A	0
Tom Medlycott	8	7	N/A	N/A	1
Willie Donnelly	7	N/A	4	N/A	1
Darragh O'Neill	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	0

Notes:	Formal Appointment of Willie Donnelly 5 February 2025
	Formal resignation of Micheál Lehane 17 December 2025
	Formal resignation of Yvonne Buckley 17 December 2025
	Formal Appointment of Darragh O'Neill 17 December 2025

Conflicts of interest

The company has a Conflict of Interest Policy and also requires an annual declaration from each individual director through a Statement of Interest form. Additionally, declarations of any conflicts of interest were sought at the commencement of all Board and Committee meetings throughout the year. No conflicts of interest were noted.

Governance processes

Charity Status

In November 2025, the National Biodiversity Data Centre was granted charity status by the Charities Regulator, following the approval by the Board and the members of a number of minor amendments to the Company's Constitution requested by the Regulator. The Centre's Charities Registration number is 20206927. As required by the Charities Regulator, we have developed a Compliance Record Form, which lists the steps we have taken, or will take, to ensure ongoing compliance with the Charities Governance Code. This is an active document, to be regularly updated to demonstrate the Company's compliance position in relation to each charity standard.

Governance Handbook

While the company's Constitution forms the basis of its governance structure, the National Biodiversity Data Centre also has a Governance Handbook which clearly sets out the key roles, responsibilities and procedures in governing the company, addressing its legal obligations as well as setting out the processes necessary to meet good governance standards. The Governance Handbook is reviewed on a regular basis and updated as required. The subsequent sections below set out some of the main elements pertaining to the Governance Handbook.

Matters reserved for Board decisions

The Company has a Schedule of Matters reserved for Board decisions, which sets out the functions reserved for and to be exercised by the Board of Directors in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements and good governance obligations.

Policy updates

The Company reviews all existing policies on a two-year basis. The following policies were reviewed by the

Board during 2025:

- Revised Time and Attendance Policy
- Revised Reserves Policy

The following new policies were approved by the Board during 2025:

- Anti-Fraud Policy
- Risk Management Policy

Risk Management

In 2025, the Centre placed considerable focus on the development of its risk management framework, including its Risk Management Policy and Risk Attitude Statement.

The Centre's risk register, which sets out risks under the headings of Governance, Strategic, Compliance, Operational, Financial, Environmental or External, and Reputational, was also kept under review, with individual risks assigned an owner at management level. Each risk is evaluated and graded, with relevant mitigating actions identified to minimise any impacts.

The risk register is a standing agenda item on all Audit, Finance and Risk Committee meetings, as well as being tabled at every second Board meeting.

Procurement

The National Biodiversity Data Centre has developed and applied a procurement policy for all levels of purchases. The policy sets out procedures and approval limits ensuring all procurement campaigns comply with current rules and guidelines, as set out by the Office of Government Procurement.

Internal Audit

The National Biodiversity Data Centre engages an external accountancy practice, Gilligan & Co. Chartered Accountants, to provide its internal audit service. The National Biodiversity Data Centre had two internal audit iterations during 2025. The first internal audit was a review of internal controls, governance structure, financial management, and other operational processes. The aim of the audit was to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements for charitable status in Ireland, identify potential areas of improvement, and assess the adequacy of internal controls for managing resources and risks.

The second internal audit focused on compliance across key operational and statutory areas, including staff salary verification against Board-approved pay scales, compliance with Revenue's Enhanced Reporting Requirements (ERR), as well as a review of core governance and compliance documentation, including CRO filings, insurance coverage, safety statement, tax filings, VAT status, and IT support arrangements.

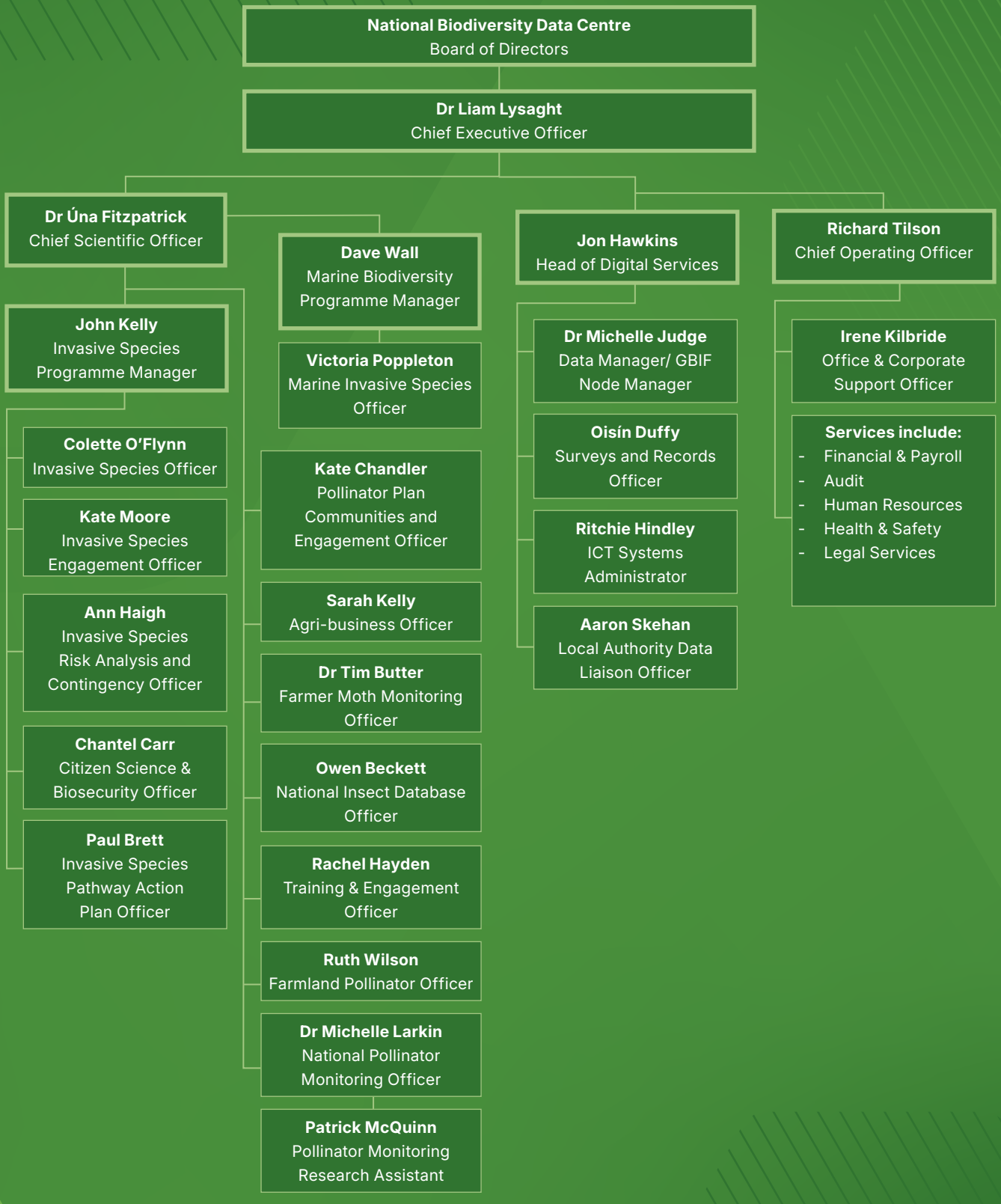
The purpose of these audit reviews was to ensure that the company's administrative, financial, and statutory processes remain accurate, compliant, and aligned with best practice and regulatory standards. Both audit undertakings resulted in positive outcomes and constructive recommendations, which have since been implemented.

Data Breaches

The National Biodiversity Data Centre had no data breaches during 2025.

Organisational structure

The Board-approved organisational structure is designed around the Chief Executive Officer leading a team of three Senior Managers who have responsibility for three directorates - Finance and Governance; Science; and Digital Services; while Programme Managers and Project Officers have responsibility for delivery of the project work of the Centre. The main expansion in the Centre's staff in 2025 was in the development of the Digital Services team and the Invasive Species Unit. At the end of 2025, the National Biodiversity Data Centre staff complement was 25, compared to 21 at the end of 2024.



Staff at the end of 2025

Dr Liam Lysaght
Chief Executive Officer **-** Liam works with the Board to set the strategic direction of the Centre and has overall responsibility for management of operations and delivery of its work programme. He is an active recorder with a particular interest in butterflies, birds and mammals. He also serves as Chair of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The CEO is not a member of the Board.

Dr Úna Fitzpatrick
Chief Scientific Officer **-** Úna is part of the senior management team, having responsibility for oversight and delivery of the scientific content of the Centre's work programme, and she advises on biodiversity science and evidence-based actions. Úna is responsible for the development, and oversees delivery, of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Richard Tilson
Chief Operating Officer **-** Richard is part of the senior management team. He works closely with the Board and the CEO in the development and implementation of business strategies and procedures and ensures adequate design and delivery of all corporate services, including finance, procurement, HR and general Centre operations.

Jon Hawkins
Head of Digital Services **-** Jon joined the senior management team in 2024 and has responsibility for the coordination of the Centre's overall digital technologies development and ICT infrastructure needed to meet the company's data management needs.

Owen Beckett
National Insect Database Officer **-** Owen has responsibility for developing national insect digital databases and building capacity for greater recording of insects in Ireland, to improve our knowledge of Ireland's insect fauna.

Dr Tim Butter
Farmer Moth Monitoring Officer **-** Tim joined the team in September 2024 and is responsible for establishing a national scheme, delivered by farmers, to monitor moths on farmland. This will complement the existing monitoring of Ireland's pollinating insects. Tim's post is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Kate Chandler
Pollinator Plan Communities and Engagement Officer **-** Kate has responsibility for engagement with local communities to support and coordinate community actions for pollinators. Kate's post is funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Oisín Duffy
Surveys and Records Officer. Oisín has responsibility for the management of Ireland's Citizen Science Portal and the data validation processes with partners. Oisín provides active support to the recording network to improve the quality and quantity of data submitted.

Dr Ann Haigh
Invasive Species Risk Analysis and Contingency Officer **-** Ann joined the team in July 2024 and has responsibility for the Shared Island risk analysis and contingency planning work programme. The collaborative approach of this role ensures invasive species risks are addressed from a whole island perspective, ensuring the necessary mitigations are in place to prevent new incursions of high-risk species and robust plans are in place to deal with any that do arrive. Ann's post is funded under the Shared Island Initiative.

Rachel Hayden
Training & Engagement Officer **-** Rachel joined the team in July 2024 and has responsibility for developing an extensive training programme to build capacity across the biodiversity sector, and to improve external engagement activities.

Dr Michelle Judge
Data Manager and GBIF Node Manager **-** Michelle has responsibility for maintaining the National Biodiversity Database and publishing biodiversity data through Biodiversity Maps. In addition, Michelle looks after the National Biodiversity Indicators and the data analysis for the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. Michelle is Node Manager for Ireland of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

John Kelly
Invasive Species Programme Manager **-** John joined the team in June 2024 and has responsibility for overall delivery of the Centre's work programme on invasive species. As part of this, John is developing and overseeing implementation of an extensive work programme including our Invasive Species Theme Plan, the Shared Island Biosecurity and Invasive Species Initiative and the Marine and Coastal Non-indigenous and Invasive Species project.

Sarah Kelly

Agri-business Officer **-** Sarah is working on supporting Origin Green companies to deliver biodiversity measures to support implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Irene Kilbride

Office and Corporate Support Officer **-** Irene joined the team in July 2024 and has responsibility for managing all aspects of office operations, serves as front of house for enquiries from the public, and provides corporate support to the Chair and Board of the Centre.

Dr Michelle Larkin

National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme Officer **-** Michelle is responsible for managing the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. This national monitoring framework collects data on the distribution, conservation status and trends of insect pollinators across Ireland. Michelle's post is funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Kate Moore

Invasive Species Engagement Officer **-** Kate joined the team in May 2024 and has responsibility for the development and delivery of the invasive species engagement programme. This involves engaging with our key partners and different sectors to coordinate actions taken to mitigate the impact of invasive alien species in Ireland. Kate's post is funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Colette O'Flynn

Invasive Species Officer. Colette manages the National Invasive Species Database, provides coordination of invasive species data and information, and contributes advice and policy support at the national and European level. She coordinates reporting for Ireland under the requirements of the EU Invasive Species Regulations.

Victoria Poppleton

Marine Invasive Species Officer **-** Victoria joined the team in July 2024 and is responsible for the Marine and Coastal Non-indigenous and Invasive Species work programme. She is developing a strategic management plan for Ireland and developing a Surveillance and Monitoring programme for marine and coastal areas. Victoria's post is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Dave Wall

Marine Biodiversity Programme Manager **-** Dave has responsibility for overall delivery of the Centre's work programme on marine biodiversity including progressing delivery of the Marine Biodiversity Citizen Science Strategy and development of a Marine Biodiversity Unit at the Centre.

Ruth Wilson

Farmland Pollinator Officer **-** Ruth is responsible for implementing actions in the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan that relate to making farmland more pollinator friendly. Ruth's post is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Patrick McQuinn

Pollinator Monitoring Research Assistant **-** Patrick provides ongoing support to the project manager during the monitoring season, aids in the construction of pollinator monitoring equipment, assists with collation and validation of the pollinator monitoring data and conducts laboratory work for the Scheme. His role is funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Richard Hindley

ICT Systems Administrator **-** Ritchie joined the National Biodiversity Data Centre in July 2025. He has responsibility for development and management of the ICT systems that underpin the business needs of the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Chantel Carr

Shared Island Biosecurity & Citizen Science Officer **-** Chantel joined the National Biodiversity Data Centre in July 2025 and her role is to develop and deliver biosecurity awareness campaigns, providing support and information for our stakeholders. Chantel is developing partnerships with organisations, collaborating with Northern Ireland, to help build effective biosecurity and citizen science projects across our Shared Island.

Paul Brett

Invasive Species Pathways Action Plan Officer **-** Paul joined the National Biodiversity Data Centre in September 2025. As a member of the Invasive Species Unit, he is responsible for providing the evidence base necessary to develop the Invasive Species Action Plan.

Aaron Skehan

Local Authority Biodiversity Data Liaison Officer **-** Aaron is responsible for improving the flow of biodiversity data between the Centre and local authorities, making data more freely available for decision-making.

General Information

Principal Address and Registered Office

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Beechfield House, South East Technological University West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford X91PE03

051-306240
biodiversityireland.ie
Info@biodiversityireland.ie

Company Secretary

Byrne-Wallace Corporate Secretaries Limited
(Appointed 5 December 2022)

Auditors

Doran & Co Chartered Accountants,
Kilpierce, Enniscorthy, Wexford.

Internal Auditors

Gilligan & Co. Chartered Accountants
Silversprings House, St Patrick's Road,
Glenalemy, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
60 Meagher's Quay, Waterford

Solicitors

Byrne Wallace Shields Solicitors,
88 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2

CRO Number - 730718

Appendix 1

Audited Financial Statements

National Biodiversity Data Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

Directors/Trustees Report & Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 December 2025

(Company Limited by Guarantee having no share capital)

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Directors'/Trustees' and Other Information

Directors/Trustees	Mr. John McCarthy Dr James Moran Ms. Colette Byrne Ms. Ciara Carberry Dr Colm Lordan Mr. Tom Medlycott Ms. Maura Brennan Dr Darragh O'Neill Prof. William Donnelly
Secretary	Byrne Wallace Shields Corporate Secretaries Limited
Auditors	Doran & Co. Chartered Accountants Kilpierce Enniscorthy Co. Wexford Y21 Y7 D6
Bankers	Bank of Ireland 60 Meagher's Quay Waterford City
Solicitors	Byrne Wallace Shields Solicitors 88 Harcourt Street Dublin 2
Companies Registration number	730718
Charity Register number	20206927
Registered Office	Beechfield House SETU West Campus Carriganore Waterford X91 PE03

Directors'/Trustees' Report

The directors/trustees present their annual report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

These financial statements are prepared by National Biodiversity Data Centre Company Limited by Guarantee in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (Charities SORP) effective 1 January 2019. The charity has applied the Charities SORP on a voluntary basis as its application is not a requirement of the current regulations for charities registered in the Republic of Ireland however it is considered best practice.

Reference and Administrative Details

The organisation is a charitable company with a registered office at Beechfield House, SETU West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford, X91 PE03. The Charity trades under the name National Biodiversity Data Centre. The company's registered number is 730718.

The charity has applied for charitable tax status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, and is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority. The charity has a total of 10 trustees.

The NBDC's CEO is Dr Liam Lysaght who has 35 years' experience working in the nature conservation sector. He began his career as Park Ranger in the Burren National Park working on Protected Area Management, then worked as Wildlife Officer with the Heritage Council before heading up the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2006. He has served three years as CEO. His primary degree is in Geography and Sociology, and he completed a Ph.D. in Biogeography from Trinity College Dublin.

The day-to-day management of the charity is also directed by the Senior Management Team made up of following individuals:

Chief Scientific Officer:	Dr Úna FitzPatrick
Chief Operating Officer:	Richard Tilson
Head of Digital Services:	Jon Hawkins

Details of the external advisors engaged by the Charity are as follows:

Type	**Name**	**Address**
Bankers	Bank of Ireland	60 Meagher's Quay, Waterford
Solicitors	Byrne Wallace Shields Solicitors	88 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2
Auditors	Doran & Co.	Kilpierce, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

Directors/trustees and secretary

The names of persons who at any time during the financial year and since the year end unless otherwise stated were directors/ trustees of the company are as follows:

Mr. John McCarthy	
Dr James Moran	
Ms. Colette Byrne	
Ms. Ciara Carberry	
Prof. Yvonne Buckley	Retired 17/12/2025
Dr Micheál Lehane	Retired 17/12/2025
Dr Colm Lordan	
Mr Tom Medlycott	
Ms Maura Brennan	
Dr Darragh O'Neill	Appointed 17/12/2025
Prof William Donnelly	Appointed 05/02/2025
Dr Claire Cooper	Appointed 18/02/2026
Prof Mary Kelly-Quinn	Appointed 18/02/2026

Byrne Wallace Shields Corporate Secretaries Limited held the position of company secretary for the duration of the financial year.

There were no changes in shareholdings between 31 December 2025 and the date of the signing of the financial statements. In accordance with the Constitution the directors may be required to resign at the request of his/her nominating body. Changes to the number of Directors or to the composition of the Board may only be made with the approval of the Heritage Council and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Principal Activities and Objectives

The charity has 10 trustees who meet on a regular basis and are responsible for the strategic direction of the charity. The charity is run on a day to day basis by the CEO and Senior Management Team who are responsible for ensuring that the charity meets its long and short term aims and the day to day operations run smoothly.

The charity's objects and principal activities are to:

acquire, collate, manage, validate and make available data in respect of Ireland's biodiversity in order to support national initiatives to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including recording of species and habitat information relating to the terrestrial, freshwater, marine, rivers and wetland environments. The company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital. There have been no significant changes in these activities during the financial year ending 31 December 2025.

The main areas of the company's charitable activity are:

- The protection of the natural environment.
- Support Ireland's collective national effort to reverse biodiversity loss and contribute to nature restoration.
- Gain a better understanding of the natural environment through the collection of empirical data. Work to ensure data and information on Ireland's biodiversity is freely available and accessible for use in research, conservation management and decision-making.
- Ensuring data and information is accessible for communities and individuals to promote an understanding and appreciation of biodiversity.

The company has successfully registered with the Charities Regulator and at the 31st of December 2025 is aiming to secure corporation tax exemption with the Revenue Commissioners.

Business Review and Financial Results

With the aid of sound financial management and the support of both its staff and volunteers generated a very positive financial outcome for the period. The retained surplus for the financial year amounted to €134,415 (2024: €129,434) and this was transferred to reserves at the year end.

The principal source of funding for the charity is the receipt of grant funding from The Heritage Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service,Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, EPA, Northern Ireland Environmental Agency and National Museums' NI (CEDaR). Grants of €2,475,618 were received in the current year.

At the end of the year the company had assets of €1,526,264 (2024: €1,042,798) and liabilities of

€1,050,759 (2024:€701,708). The net funds of the company have increased by €134,415 (2024: €129,434) and the directors are satisfied with the level of retained reserves at the year end. Of the net funds at 31 December 2025 of €1,013,422, €1,012,282 of this is attributable to restricted funds.

Reserves policy

The charity has a reserves policy, that indicates the need for a working capital requirement in the order of €475,000 to be maintained.

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in designated reserves each year, most of the charity's funds will be spent in the short term.

The charity reserves policy is designed to:

- Ensure the charity can continue to provide a stable level of service
- Meet contractual obligations as they fall due
- Meet unexpected costs
- Provide working capital for funding the various projects
- Be adequate to cover 6 months of current expenditure

Based on this, the trustees are satisfied that it holds sufficient reserves to allow the charity to trade successfully.

Going concern

The directors have considered the financial position and performance of the charity, together with the anticipated support from the company's funders and the general public. They are satisfied that the company will show a surplus in the year to 31 December 2026. As a result, the directors are satisfied that the company has the necessary resources to continue trading for the foreseeable future and accordingly they believe that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis.

Achievements and Performance

Our 2025 organisational highlights:

- Continued to grow the organisation, with a staff complement of 25 at the end of 2025.
- Continued to implement the Invasive Species Shared Island and Biosecurity Initiative, including organising the Invasive Species Forum in Belfast.
- Completed delivery of the five-year All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025.
- Managed Ireland's Citizen Science Portal growing the number of observations received by an additional 173,000 records. This brought the total number of records submitted through the portal to over 1.5 million since its launch.
- Continued to manage the All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme tracking population trends in six bumblebee species.
- Continued to manage the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme which generates trend data on the 15 most widely occurring species.
- Published the Atlas of Butterflies in Ireland 2010-2021. Published the Handbook for the Irish Vegetation Classification
- Hosted the Annual meeting of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility's Europe and Central Asia Regional Nodes

Structure, Governance and Management

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding one Euro (€1).

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association/Constitution which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association and managed by a Board of Directors/Trustees.

The charity has 10 trustees who meet on a regular basis and are responsible for the strategic direction of the charity. At these meetings the board of directors/trustees are provided with the key performance and risk indicators.

The charity is run on a day to day basis by the CEO and Senior Management Team who are responsible for ensuring that the charity meets its long and short term aims and the day to day operations run smoothly. The CEO and the Senior Management Team has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance and employment.

There is clear division of responsibility at the company with the Board retaining control over major decisions. The board of directors retain overall responsibility for the strategic development of the company in close liaison with the executive officers.

Future Developments

The directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the business in the near future. The company has successfully registered with the Charities Regulator and at the 31st of December 2025, is aiming to secure corporation tax exemption with the Revenue Commissioners.

Events after the Balance Sheet date

There were no significant events post balance sheet date.

Accounting Records

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities under Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 to keep adequate accounting records for the company.

In order to comply with the requirements of the act, the company engage the services of a Chartered Accountancy practice to provide accounts support and payroll duties. The accounting records of the company are kept at the registered office and principal place of business at Beechfield House, SETU West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford, X91 PE03.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014:

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware; and

Each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

In accordance with Section 383 (2) of the Companies Act 2014, the auditors, Doran & Co. Chartered Accountants, Kilpierce, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford will continue in office.

On behalf of the board

John McCarthy

John McCarthy
Director
17th June 2026

Colette Byrne

Colette Byrne
Director
17th June 2026

Directors'/Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland) as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as to the financial year end and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors' report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the board

John McCarthy

John McCarthy
Director
17th June 2026

Colette Byrne

Colette Byrne
Director
17th June 2026

Independent Auditors Report

to the Members of National Biodiversity Data Centre Company Limited by Guarantee for the year ended 31 December 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Biodiversity Data Centre CLG (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Funds, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable Irish law and Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2025 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard as issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Service Authority ("IAASA") Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 1 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited;
- the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records;
- the information given in the Director's/Trustee's Report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Director's Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

Responsibilities of directors/trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors'/Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 4, the directors/trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors/trustees are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA website at:

https://iaasa.ie/wpcontent/uploads/2022/10/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit. pdf.

This description forms part of our audit report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the company's members as a body in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters that we are required to state to them in the audit report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company or the company's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed by:

Paul Doran

Paul Doran F.C.A
Date: 17th June 2026.
For and on behalf of:

Doran & Co. Chartered Accountants
Kilpierce,Enniscorthy,
Co. Wexford. Y21 Y7D6.

Statement of Financial Activities

(including the Income and Expenditure Account) For the Year ended 31 December 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025	2024
Income from:	**Notes**	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Donations and grants	4/5/6	-	2,386	2,386	1,698
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	7	-	133	133	116
Investments	8	-	-		
Other income	9	-	16	16	-
Total income		**0**	**2,535**	**2,535**	**1,814**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	10	-	199	199	219
Charitable activities	11	-	2,182	2,182	1,448
Other		-	19	19	18
Total expenditure		**0**	**2,400**	**2,400**	**1,685**
Net gain on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income		**-**	**135**	**135**	**129**
Other recognised gains/ (losses):					
Net movement in funds		**0**	**135**	**135**	**129**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		-	341	341	212
Total funds carried forward		**0**	**476**	**476**	**341**

Balance Sheet

For the Year ended 31 December 2025

		2025	2024
Fixed assets	**Notes**	€'000	€'000
Tangible assets	17	133	74
Investments		-	-
		133	**74**
Current assets			
Stocks		49	41
Debtors	18	331	83
Cash at bank and in hand		1,013	845
		1,393	**969**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	**(1,050)**	**(702)**
Net current assets		**343**	**267**
Total assets less current liabilities		**476**	**341**
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		**-**	**-**
Provision for liabilities		**-**	**-**
Total net assets		**476**	**341**
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds (for illustrative purposes only)	22	-	-
Restricted funds	22	476	341
Unrestricted funds	22	-	-
Revaluation reserve (for illustrative purposes only)	22	-	-
Total charity funds	**22**	**476**	**341**

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors/Trustees on 17th June 2026.
They were signed on its behalf by:

John McCarthy

John McCarthy
Director
17th June 2026

Colette Byrne

Colette Byrne
Director
17th June 2026

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

These financial statements are prepared by National Biodiversity Data Centre Company Limited by Guarantee in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019. The charity has applied the Charities SORP on a voluntary basis as its application is not a requirement of the current regulations for charities registered in the Republic of Ireland however it is considered best practice. As noted below, the directors consider the adoption of the SORP requirements as the most appropriate accounting practice and presentation to properly reflect and disclose the activities of the organisation.

National Biodiversity Data Centre is a Company Limited by guarantee and is a public benefit entity incorporated in Ireland with a registered office at Beechfield House, SETU West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford, X91 PE03 and its company registration number is 730718.

(a) Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements are prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, and comply with the financial reporting standards of the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" effective 1 January 2019 and the Companies Act 2014.

Going concern

Given the level of net funds the company holds the directors/ trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the company's ability to continue as a going concern. The validity of this assumption is dependent on achieving sufficient operating cash flows for the future years. The company's principal funder, Department of Heritage and Local Government has not given any indication that it will withdraw its financial support from the company in the foreseeable future. The directors are satisfied that in view of the expected continued financial support from its principal funder the company has the necessary resources to continue trading for the foreseeable future.

The financial statements are prepared in Euro which is the functional currency of the company.

(b) Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and it is probable the income will be received. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' or 'revenue grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised within income from donations and legacies. Grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance and included within income from charitable activities.

Donated services and facilities are included at the fair value to the charity where this can be quantified. Donations in kind are included at their estimated value to the foundation in both revenue and expenditure in the year of receipt. Donated facilities are included as both income and expenses at the value to the charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. Where it is not practicable to measure the value of the resource with sufficient reliability the income is included in the financial period when the resource is sold. An asset is recognised only when those services are used for the production of an asset and the services received will be capitalised as part of the cost of an asset. Where it cannot be quantified the value is recognised when sold. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts. Resources received from non–exchange transactions for which the entity has benefited include online shop stock.

Legacy income is recognised at the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the company that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies

have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Investment income is included when receivable.

Incoming resources from charitable trading activities are accounted for when earned which is usually when the risk and rewards of ownership transfers; the sale can be reliably measured and it is probable there will be future inflows of economic activity.

(c) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, investment management costs and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes including the charity's shop.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees, costs of legal advice for trustees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity including the cost of trustee meetings.

Expenditure in the form of grants to local partners and beneficiaries is recognised as part of the costs of charitable activities.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis e.g. floor areas, per capita or estimated usage as set out in Note 13.

(d) Tangible fixed assets

(i) Cost

Tangible fixed assets are recorded at historical cost or deemed cost, less accumulated depreciation (and impairment losses if applicable). Cost includes prime cost, overheads and interest incurred in financing the construction of tangible fixed assets. Capitalisation of interest ceases when the asset is brought into use.

Freehold premises are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Equipment and fixtures and fittings are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

(ii) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on property, plant and equipment, on a straight-line basis, so as to write off their cost less residual amounts over their estimated useful economic lives.

The estimated useful economic lives assigned to property, plant and equipment are as follows:

Office Equipment, fixtures & fittings	12½ % Straight line on cost
Computer equipment	12½ % Straight line on cost

The company's policy is to review the remaining useful economic lives and residual values of property, plant and equipment on an on-going basis and to adjust the depreciation charge to reflect the remaining estimated useful economic life and residual value.

Fully depreciated property, plant & equipment are retained in the cost of property, plant & equipment and related accumulated depreciation until they are removed from service. In the case of disposals, assets and related depreciation are removed from the financial statements and the net amount, less proceeds from disposal, is charged or credited to the SOFA.

(iii) Impairment

Assets not carried at fair value are also reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. Value in use is defined as the present value of the future pre-tax and interest cash flows obtainable as a result of the asset's continued use. The pre-tax and interest cash flows are discounted using a pre-tax discount rate that represents the current market risk free rate and the risks inherent in the asset. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash-generating units).

If the recoverable amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is estimated to be lower than the carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in the profit and loss account, unless the asset has been revalued when the amount is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation. Thereafter any excess is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA).

If an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the revised carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of depreciation) had no impairment loss been recognised in prior periods. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the SoFA.

(e) Currency

(i) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of the company are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates ("the functional currency"). The financial statements are presented in euro, which is the company's functional and presentation currency and is denoted by the symbol "€".

(ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings and cash and cash equivalents are presented in the statement of financial activity within 'costs of chartable activities'. All other foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in the statement of financial activity within 'expenditure on charitable activities'.

(f) Taxation

At year end the charity has not yet been granted charitable status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, and therefore a charge to tax arises. Tax is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

(i) Current tax

Current tax is calculated on the profits of the period. Current tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

(ii) Deferred tax

Deferred tax arises from timing differences that are differences between taxable profits and total comprehensive income as stated in the financial statements. These timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements.

Deferred tax is provided in full on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. Deferred tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred tax liability is settled. Deferred tax is recognised in the profit and loss account or other comprehensive income depending on where the revaluation was initially posted.

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

(g) Retirement Benefits

Retirement benefits are met by payments to a defined contribution pension fund. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss in the year in which they fall due. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the statement of financial activity and payments made to pension funds are treated as assets or liabilities.

(h) Stocks

Stocks comprise consumable items and goods held for resale. Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where stock is received in a non-exchange transaction, stock is valued at the fair value of the stock received that being the price the entity would have to pay if that stock were purchased on an open market basis. Cost is calculated on a first in, first out basis and includes invoice price, import duties and transportation costs. Net realisable value comprises the actual or estimated selling price less all further costs to completion or to be incurred in marketing, selling and distribution. If goods are held to be distributed freely or for nominal consideration then the carrying amount is adjusted for any loss in service potential.

At the end of each reporting period stocks are assessed for impairment. If an item of stock is impaired, the identified inventory is reduced to its selling price less costs to complete and sell and an impairment charge is recognised in the statement of financial activity. Where a reversal of the impairment is recognised the impairment charge is reversed, up to the original impairment loss, and is recognised as a credit in the statement of financial activity.

(i) Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price (including transaction costs) unless a financing arrangement exists in which case they are measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate. Subsequently these are measured at amortised cost less any provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. All movements in the level of provision required are recognised in the statement of financial activity.

(j) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, demand deposits and other short- term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

(k) Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade payables are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as a finance cost within expenditure on charitable activities.

(m) Fund Accounting

The following funds are operated by the Charity

Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds represent grants, donations and sponsorships received which can only be used for particular purposes specified by the donors or sponsorship programmes binding on the directors/trustees. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the charity.

Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Funds includes general funds and designated funds and it represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the Directors/Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital or capital expenditure.

Designated Funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Directors/Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. The designations have an administrative purpose only and do not legally restrict the Board's discretion in applying the funds.

Endowment Funds

Endowment Funds represent those assets which must be held permanently by the charity, principally investments. Income arising on the endowment funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity and is included as unrestricted income.

(n) Contingencies

Contingent liabilities, arising as a result of past events, are not recognised when (i) it is not probable that there will be an outflow of resources or that the amount cannot be reliably measured at the reporting date or (ii) when the existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the company's control. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources is remote.

Contingent assets are not recognised. Contingent assets are disclosed in the financial statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

(o) Employee Benefits

The company provides a range of benefits to employees, including paid holiday arrangements and defined contribution pension plans.

Short term benefits

Short term benefits, including holiday pay and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

Defined contribution pension plans

The Company operates a defined contribution plan. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate fund. Under defined contribution plans, the company has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

For defined contribution plans, the company pays contributions to privately administered pension plans on a contractual or voluntary basis. The company has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available

(p) Change in accounting policy

The Charity has applied the Charities SORP on a voluntary basis as its application is not a requirement of the current regulations for charities registered in the Republic of Ireland. As permitted by the Companies Act 2014, the charity has varied the standard formats in that act for the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. Departures from the standard formats, as outlined in the Companies Act 2014, are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP and are in compliance with section 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of that SORP. This is the first year that the company has implemented the Charities SORP.

2. Critical accounting judgements and estimates

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

(a) Establishing useful economic lives for depreciation purposes of plant and equipment

Long-lived assets, consisting primarily of plant and equipment, comprise a significant portion of the total assets. The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated useful economic lives of each type of asset and estimates of residual values. The directors regularly review these asset useful economic lives and change them as necessary to reflect current thinking on remaining lives in light of prospective economic utilisation and physical condition of the assets concerned. Changes in asset useful lives can have a significant impact on depreciation and amortisation charges for the period. Detail of the useful economic lives is included in the accounting policies.

(b) Providing for doubtful debts

The company makes an estimate of the recoverable value of trade and other debtors. The company uses estimates based on historical experience in determining the level of debts, which the company believes, will not be collected. These estimates include such factors as the current credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile of debtors and historical experience. Any significant reduction in the level of customers that default on payments or other significant improvements that resulted in a reduction in the level of bad debt provision would have a positive impact on the operating results. The level of provision required is reviewed on an on-going basis. See note 22 for details of this provision.

3. Income

All income derives from activities in the Republic of Ireland. The analysis of income by activity is detailed in notes 4 to 9.

4. Income from Donations & Grants

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Sponsorship	-	-
Government grants (see note 6)	2,386	1,698
Other grants	-	-
Voluntary Donations	-	-
Total income	**2,386**	**1,698**

In 2025 €2,437,887 (2024: €1,757,571) of incoming resources from donations and grants were restricted.

5. Income from charitable activities

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Performance related grants from Government (see note 6)	2,386	1,698
Other performance related grants	-	-
	2,386	**1,698**

In 2025 €NIL (2024: €NIL) of incoming resources from charitable activities were restricted.

6. Government grants

Income from government grants comprise of performance related grants made by Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage / Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to fund the provision of specific charity services. The amount of such grants received in the year amounted to €2,437,887 (2024: €1,757,571). Non-performance related grants to fund the provision of general charity services in the community. The amount of such grants received in the year amounted to €nil (2024: €nil).

Name of grant agency	Type of grant	Restricted	Performance conditions	2025	2024
				€'000	€'000
Department of Heritage		No	Standard	1,800	1,497
DAFM		No	Standard	166	201
NPWS		No	Standard	420	-
				2,386	**1,698**

All grants and income from the government where performance conditions were attached were classified within income from charitable activities in the statement of financial activity. Total grants where performance conditions were imposed was €2,386k (2024:€1,698k). Where the grants have no performance conditions they are classified within income from donations and legacies. The total amount of government grants receivable in the year where no performance conditions were attached was €NIL (2024: €2,386k). The total amount of restricted income from grants in the year was €2,386k (2024: €1,698k).

7. Other trading activities

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Online Shop Income	59	62
Management Fees	74	54
Merchandising income	-	-
Total income	**133**	**116**

In 2025 €Nil (2024: €Nil) of investment income was restricted.

8. Investment income

In 2025 €Nil (2024: €Nil) investment income arose in the year as there are no investments held by the company.

9. Other income

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Insurance claim	16	-
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed asset held for own use	-	-
Gain on disposal of programme related investment	-	-
Transfer of income from endowment funds	-	-
Total income	**16**	**-**

In 2025 €Nil (2024: €Nil) of investment income was restricted.

10. Costs of raising funds

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Marketing, fundraising and publicity costs	-	-
Stock costs	41	37
Property repairs and maintenance costs	-	-
Cost of operating membership fees	-	-
Support costs (note 12)	158	182
	199	**219**

In 2025 €199,000 (2024: €219,000) of the cost of raising funds were restricted.

11. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable Activities	2025	2024
Costs directly allocated to activities	€'000	€'000	€'000
Staff costs	1,166	1,166	914
Staff Pension Cost	49	49	40
Recruitment	60	60	47
Staff training	29	29	12
Support costs (see note 12)	860	860	350
Depreciation	13	13	7
Governance costs (see note 12)	5	5	11
Grant Costs	-	-	-
Total	**2,182**	**2,182**	**1,448**

12. Support costs

Where support costs are attributable to a particular activity the costs are allocated to that activity. Where support costs are incurred to further more than one activity, they are apportioned between the relevant activities based on the below measures:

	Basis of allocation	2025	2024
2025 Costs	€'000	€'000	€'000
General office and finance staff	Staff time	305	92
Communications	Staff Time	333	169
Consultancy	Usage		
Legal	Governance	-	-
Other professional	Usage	183	61
Depreciation	Usage	-	
Audit fees	Governance	5	11
Trustee meeting expenses	Governance	-	
Accountancy fees	Governance	10	10
Annual report	Governance	-	
General office costs	Floor area	1 5	7
Technology costs	Usage	12	10
Bank Charges	Transactions	2	1
Total		**865**	**361**

13. Operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting)

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Impairment/reversal of impairment on tangible fixed assets	-	-
Impairment/reversal of impairment on stocks	-	-
(Profit)/loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(-)	-
Foreign currency exchange (gain)/loss	(-)	-
Interest on all other loans	-	-
Depreciation	13	7
Rentals payable under operating leases	-	-
Auditors' remuneration		
Audit	4	11
Non audit assurance services	-	-
	17	**18**

14. Staff numbers and costs

The average number of full time employees in the year was 25 and the average number of part time employees was nil.
The full time average equivalent of all employees was as follows:

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Management	4	4
Administration	1	1
Service Providers	20	16
Total	**25**	**21**

These numbers include executive directors.The aggregate payroll costs of these employees were as follows:

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Wages & Salaries	1,041	825
Taxes & Social Welfare Costs	115	89
Retirement Benefits – defined contribution scheme	49	40
Other compensation costs – redundancy costs (see (i) below)	-	-
Other compensation costs – ex-gratia payments (see (i) below)	-	-
	1,205	**954**

There were 3 employees (2024:2) whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the year fell within the below categories:

	2025	2024
€70,000-€80,000	2	2
€80,000-€90,000	1	0
€90,000-€100,000 etc. etc.	0	0
	3	**2**

15. Directors remuneration and transactions

No Directors or Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2024: €NIL). Director James Moran and Director Tom Medlycott were reimbursed €184 and €150 in expenses respectively, in 2025. No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year (2024 – Nil).

16. Tax on surplus on ordinary activities

No charge to current or deferred taxation arises as the charity has been granted charitable status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

17. Tangible assets

	Office Equipment	Total
Costs	€'000	€'000
At beginning of year	84	84
Additions in year	73	73
Disposals in year	(2)	(2)
Revaluation	-	-
At end of year	**155**	**155**
Depreciation		
At beginning of year	10	10
On disposals	(1)	(1)
Charge for Year	13	13
Revaluation	-	-
Impairment	-	-
At end of year	**22**	**22**
Net book value		
At 31 December 2025	133	133
At 31 December 2024	74	74

18. Debtors

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Trade debtors	-	14
Other debtors	294	53
Accrued income	-	-
Prepayments	37	16
	331	**83**

The fair values of trade and other receivables approximate to their carrying amounts. Trade debtors are stated after provisions for impairments of €Nil (2024: €Nil).

Other debtors includes Income Receivable €228,760, (2024: €52,556) and Management Fees €54,878 (2024: €Nil).

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

wTrade and other creditors are payable at various dates in the next 3 months in accordance with the usual suppliers usual and customary terms.

Tax and social securities are repayable at various dates over the coming months in line with tax authority guidelines.

Other creditors deferred Income €902,908, (2024: €624,831) less P.S.W.T. held on account.

	Office Equipment	Total
	€'000	€'000
Bank loans and overdrafts	4	2
Trade creditors	85	48
Deferred income (see note 20)	903	624
Accruals	20	18
Other creditors	2	1
Accruals for grants payable	-	-
PAYE/PRSI	25	26
Corporation Tax	11	(17)
	1,050	702

20. Deferred Income

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
At 1 January	624	398
Additions	2,386	1,437
Finance costs charged	-	
Released to the SOFA in the period	(2,107)	(1,211)
At 31 December	**903**	**624**
Split of deferred income:	903	624
Amounts falling due within one year	-	-
Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-
At 31 December	**903**	**624**

The deferred income relates to grants received but the performance conditions have not been met at the reporting date.

21. Analysis of net funds

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
At 1 January 2024	-	-	212	212
Net income for the year	-	-	129	129
Net income/(expense) for the year	**0**	**0**	**341**	**341**
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Gains & Losses	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	0	0	341	341
At 1 January 2025	-	-	341	341
Net income for the year	-	-	135	135
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Gains & Losses	-	-	-	-
31 December 2025 (note 22)	-	-	476	476

The General reserve represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

22. Movements in funds

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Restricted Funds	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Restricted funds:						
Government Grants	341	2,386	2381	0	0	346
Total restricted funds	**341**	**2,386**	**2,381**	**0**	**0**	**346**
Unrestricted funds						
Designated capital refurbishment fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Funds	-	149	19	0	0	130
Total unrestricted funds	**-**	**149**	**19**	**0**	**0**	**130**
Total funds	**341**	**2,535**	**2,400**	**0**	**0**	**476**

Purposes of Restricted Funds

The Restricted Funds reserve represents the restricted funds of the charity which are designated for particular purposes.

Purposes of Designated Funds

The designated funds of the charity are for the furtherance of the objectives if the charity.

General funds

The General reserve represents the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

23. Financial instruments

There were no financial instruments held at year end 31 December 2025 (2024 €nil)

24. Reconciliation of net income to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Net income for the period	135	129
Depreciation	13	7
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(-)	-
(Gain)/loss on investments	(-)	-
Dividends from investments	(-)	(-)
Interest income from investments	(-)	(-)
Rent received from investments	(-)	(-)
(Increase)/decrease in stock	(9)	(21)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	14	(14)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	37	3
Net cash generated from operating activities	190	104

25. Analysis of cash & cash equivalent

	At 31 Dec 2024	Cash flow	Other non-cash items	At 31 Dec 2025
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Cash at bank and in hand	845	168	-	1,013
Bank Overdraft	(2)	(2)-	-	(4)
Obligations under finance leases	-	-	-	-
	843	166	-	1,009

26. Share capital and members liabilities

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding one Euro (€1).

27. Capital and other commitments

There were no capital commitments at the year ended 31 December 2025 (2024: €nil).

28. Retirement benefits information

The charity operates an externally funded defined contribution scheme that covers substantially all the employees of the charity. The assets of the scheme are vested in independent trustees for the sole benefit of these employees.

29. Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting the charity since the year-end.

30. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year that requires disclosure.

31. Parent and ultimate controlling party

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is deemed to be the ultimate controlling party. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has delegated oversight of the company to the Heritage Council. The directors of the company are deemed to be the beneficial owners on the Registrar of Beneficial Owners in their capacity as senior managing officers.

32. Details of Grant and other information

Total funding received from 1st of January 2025 to 31st of December 2025

Name of Agency	Name of grant	Purpose	Date Received	YTD Total 25
Heritage Council	Core Funding	Pay and General Admin	Quarterly	1,800,000.00
DAFM	Farmland Pollinator Officer	Service Provision	Nov-25	54,645.10
DAFM	All Ireland Pollinator Plan Resources	Service Provision	Nov-25	15,000.00
DAFM	Farmer Moth Monitoring	Service Provision	Nov-25	95,756.88
EPA	EPA-Funded Citizen Science Officer	Service Provision	Multiple	32,491.60
EPA	Explore Your Shore! Project	Service Provision	Multiple	2,705.96
EPA	Dragonfly Ireland Project	Service Provision	Dec-25	2,806.89
National Museums NI (CEDaR)	Ladybirds of Ireland	Service Provision	Multiple	5,800.00
NIEA	NIEA Shared Island Invasive Species	Service Provision	Multiple	58,554.87
NPWS	Engagement & Communities Officer	Service Provision	Multiple	43,753.19
NPWS	National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme	Service Provision	Feb-25	14,124.28
NPWS	Invasive Species Engagement Officer	Service Provision	Multiple	37,988.06
NPWS	Marsh Fritillary Monitoring Scheme	Service Provision	Feb-25	2,042.50
NPWS	Citizen Science Rare Plant Monitoring	Service Provision	Feb-25	3,500.00
NPWS	invasive Species Resources Development	Service Provision	Multiple	5,196.75
NPWS	Marine Invasive Species Officer	Service Provision	Multiple	48,602.14
NPWS	Shared Island Invaasive Species	Service Provision	Dec-25	265,000.00
Total Funding				**2,487,968.22**

Term: The terms of all agency grants awarded was on an annual basis.

The Agency acronyms used relate to the following entities

DAFM	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NPWS	National Parks & Wildlife Service

33. Approval of the financial statements

The directors/trustees approved the financial statements on the 17th June 2026.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is based at Beechfield House, SETU West Campus, Carriganore, Co. Waterford. It has an approved staff complement of 21 led by the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Liam Lysaght.

The main role of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, as set out in its Constitution, is to acquire, collate, manage, validate and make available data in respect of Ireland's biodiversity in order to document wildlife resources and monitor and record changes over time. In discharging that role, the Centre aims to support national initiatives to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including recording of species and habitat information relating to the terrestrial, freshwater, marine and wetland environments.

This is the Centre's first Strategic Plan, defining at a high level what it seeks to achieve in delivering on its mandate over the period 2024 – 2028. The Strategic Plan will be supported by a more detailed implementation plan, and progress will be reported in each the of Centre's Annual Reports.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is Ireland's Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Node

GBIF Global Biodiversity Information Facility | Ireland's GBIF Node

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

NPWS An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht