



Job Announcement

(updated 11th January, 2021)

Farmland Pollinator Officer

A post funded by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Background

Pollination is a free service provided by nature, that delivers a healthy environment and landscape. It also improves the quality and diversity of agricultural produce that a region can grow, thus underpinning sustainable agriculture and a vibrant rural community. Unfortunately, pollinators are in decline, with one third of Ireland's wild bee species threatened with extinction.

The first *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020* was published to build upon grassroots support and provide a framework through which all sectors could come together to better protect pollinators for future generations. Implementation of the Plan is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The Plan is voluntary but has been endorsed by more than 100 governmental and non-governmental across the island of Ireland and has seen continually increasing levels of interest and support since publication.

To build on the success of the first phase, the Steering Group have agreed a new and more ambitious version of the Plan for 2021-2025. This will be published in early 2021. Objective 1 in the new Plan aims to make farmland more pollinator friendly. This objective has five targets and 26 actions.

Farmland targets for 2021–2025:

1. Increase the amount of farmland that is managed in a pollinator-friendly way
2. Encourage the sustainable use of agricultural pesticides
3. Provide training and clear information on pollinators to the farming community
4. Celebrate pollinator diversity on Irish farmland
5. Track changes in pollinators on farmland.

Thanks to the generous support of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the National Biodiversity Data Centre is seeking to appoint a full-time Project Officer to assist in implementation of the farmland actions in the new Pollinator Plan. A specific work programme will be developed to support delivery of the actions and to safeguard pollinators on farmland. Pollinators play a key role in our ecosystems and actions to protect them will benefit biodiversity generally and provide a vehicle for direct engagement with the farming community.

The post

The Farmland Pollinator Officer will support and oversee successful implementation of the Farmland actions in the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025*. This is an exciting opportunity for a suitable candidate who:

- Can demonstrate a track record in project delivery,
- Has a track record in networking and collaborative working,
- Has some knowledge of farmland biodiversity,
- Is self-motivated, and
- Is committed to nature conservation.

The post holder will be working with the team at the National Biodiversity Data Centre, under the direction of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Chair and Project Manager, Dr Úna FitzPatrick. They will provide support to a large network of organisations and individuals across the farming sector.

The post holder is expected to:

- Oversee the provision of comprehensive and freely available online resources for the farming sector at www.pollinators.ie/farmland
- Establish and support a network of stakeholders, including agri-business who agree to manage and promote their own farms or test sites in a pollinator-friendly way.
- Engage with farming organisations to encourage them to promote evidence-based actions.
- Work with partners to develop and publish new evidence-based guideline documents for the farming sector e.g., pollinator-friendly guidelines for forestry.
- Promote pollinators/biodiversity annually at key agricultural events e.g., NPC, Smart Farming, regional events.
- Carry out scoping studies on initiatives that would celebrate the diversity of pollinators on farmland e.g., farmland meadow competition.
- Provide support for an All-Ireland farming advisory group to advise on pollinator actions from the farmers' perspective.
- Run a dedicated awareness raising campaign (in collaboration with the Data Centre's Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP project) to celebrate pollinators and biodiversity on Irish farmland.
- In accordance with normal AIPP reporting, collate and publish an annual review of the farmland actions under Objective 1 of the Plan.
- Develop a simple, tailored Citizen Science scheme for farmers to enable them to track changes in common pollinators and other biodiversity on their land
- Contribute to general Data Centre duties as required

Duration

The appointment is for initially for two years, to the end 2022. There is the possibility of extension, subject to satisfactory progress and availability of funding.

Location

This is a full-time post based in the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Waterford. While Covid-19 restrictions apply, the successful candidate will be largely working remotely.

Travel

The post will involve travel across Ireland.

Salary

The salary is €36,500 (gross) per annum.

Minimum requirements

- ✓ BSc or equivalent experience in a relevant field
- ✓ Full clean driving licence – travel will be necessary to promote the Plan & support those in the farming sector
- ✓ Excellent interpersonal and oral communication skills
- ✓ Proven track record in written communication (reports, articles, web, social media)
- ✓ Track record in project delivery
- ✓ Keen knowledge and interest in Ireland's biodiversity

Desirable requirements

- ✓ Experience in building partnerships
- ✓ Knowledge of farming and biodiversity issues
- ✓ Knowledge and experience of pollinators

To apply

To apply, please complete the application form and send together with a one-page Curriculum Vitae to the National Biodiversity Data Centre at admin@biodiversityireland.ie. Please mark your applications: Project Officer (*Pollinators*). The closing date for applications is 17:00hr Friday 22nd January 2021. It is anticipated that shortlisted candidates will be invited for a remote interview on the 28th or 29th January 2021.

Further information

Information on the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan can be found here: www.pollinators.ie

If you have questions about the position, please contact:

Dr Úna FitzPatrick

Project manager & Chair of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Steering Group

National Biodiversity Data Centre

ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie

Financial support for the Pollinator Project Officer post is kindly provided by The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a programme of the Heritage Council and is operated under a service level agreement by Compass Informatics. The Biodiversity Data Centre is funded by the Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

APPLICATION FORM: Project Officer (Pollinators)

Complete this form and email it to admin@biodiversityireland.ie along with a one-page CV. The closing date for applications is 17:00hr Friday 22nd January 2021.

1. Please provide evidence of your track record in oral communication (200 words)
2. Please provide evidence of your track record in written communication (200 words)
3. Please outline projects that you have managed successfully (300 words)
4. Please outline what appeals to you about the post and how you can contribute to the Pollinator Plan (300 words)
5. Please outline your interest in biodiversity and whether you participate in any related initiatives (200 words)
6. Please summarise any other skills that would make you particularly suited to the post (200 words)