



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

## Job Announcement

### Project Officer: Pilot National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme

A post funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

#### Background

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) was published in 2015 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. To build on the success of the first phase, the Steering Group have agreed a new and more ambitious version for 2021-2025.

The AIPP identifies a clear need for a comprehensive and robust pollinator monitoring scheme which will deliver key metrics on wild pollinator population status and trends. This is not currently in place, and without it, the impact of the Pollinator Plan cannot be properly assessed.

There have been three significant data collection periods for wild bees in Ireland (1920s, 1970s and 2004-2005). Comparison of the data between these periods has previously allowed the objective assessment of change. This included the 2006 publication of an IUCN Bee Red List which showed that one third of our 98 wild bee species are at risk of extinction from the island of Ireland. Outside bumblebees, wild bee distribution and abundance has not been systematically assessed since 2004-2005. The National Biodiversity Data Centre also maintains an All-Ireland hoverfly database, but changes in the abundance and distribution of hoverflies have never been systematically assessed.

Development of the AIPP was deliberately delayed until there was an established All-Ireland Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme collecting baseline data. This citizen science scheme, established and managed by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, is currently the only mechanism by which changes in wild pollinators are being monitored across the island. The National Biodiversity Data Centre has also been delivering a citizen science butterfly monitoring scheme since 2008.

A future National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme will integrate the valuable data collected by existing citizen science schemes, run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre, into robust models that track trends in all pollinating insect groups.

**A National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme would:**

1. Provide statistically valid trend data on the conservation status of the key wild pollinators (primarily bees and hoverflies) in Ireland.
2. Allow annual reporting on a pollinator indicator both nationally and specifically for Irish agriculture (using methodology in line with EU recommendations).
3. Allow a statistically valid assessment of the impact of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan on wild pollinator populations.
4. Generate data to better enable the development or updating of national conservation assessments for key pollinator groups (Red Lists of Bees and Hoverflies).
5. Build taxonomic capacity in Ireland and contribute to upskilling and knowledge transfer.
6. Using pollinators, establish a national monitoring framework, which could be expanded into a permanent 50-site network for multi-species monitoring in Ireland.

**The post**

This is an exciting opportunity for a suitable candidate to oversee the successful implementation of the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme pilot. The post holder will be working within the team at the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

**Duration**

The appointment is to the end December 2022. It is expected that the contract would be extended beyond this date, 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 €40,000 (gross) per annum.

## Minimum requirements

- ✓ MSc or equivalent experience in a relevant field
- ✓ Full clean driving licence
- ✓ Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- ✓ Track record in project delivery
- ✓ Experience with insect pollinators or quantitative ecology
- ✓ In depth knowledge of an aspect of Ireland's biodiversity

## Desirable requirements

- ✓ PhD or equivalent experience in a relevant field
- ✓ Experience in experimental design and statistical analyses of large biodiversity datasets

## 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](mailto:admin@biodiversityireland.ie). Please mark your applications: Project Officer (*Pollinator Monitoring*). The closing date for applications is 17:00hr Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021. It is anticipated that shortlisted candidates will be invited for a remote interview on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

## Further information

If you have questions about the position, please contact:

Dr Úna FitzPatrick  
Senior Ecologist  
National Biodiversity Data Centre  
[ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie)

Financial support for the Pollinator Project Officer post is kindly provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.



*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: National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme**

Complete this form and email it to [admin@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:admin@biodiversityireland.ie) along with a one-page CV. The closing date for applications is 17:00hr Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

1. Please provide evidence of your track record in communication (200 words)
2. Please outline projects that you have managed successfully (300 words)
3. Please outline how you would approach experimental design and analyses of large biological datasets (300 words)
4. Please outline your experience of pollinators and pollinator identification (200 words)
5. Please summarise any other skills that would make you particularly suited to the post (200 words)