

Clarecastle  
Ballyea  
Heritage &  
Wildlife Group



# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan & Report 2019 to 2025 Rev 03 April 2023



*Bee Orchid, Port of Clare, Clarecastle*

**Biodiversity Team:** Joan McCarthy, Catherine O'Connor,  
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**Plan / Report Rev 01 Author:** Jean Ryan 16 June 2021

**Plan / Report Rev 02 Author:** Christy Leyden 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 ( stepping in  
for Jean with a summary Update for work completed since June 2021)

**Plan/Report Rev 03 Authors:** Joan McCarthy, Eric Shaw , Christy Leyden

# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

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Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage and Wildlife Team is a sub-committee of Clarecastle Community Development - their aim is to source, collect & publish Cultural, Historical, Wildlife and Natural Amenities material in order to raise awareness and to aid preservation of knowledge and amenities. The Group work in tandem with Clarecastle Tidy Towns under the overall umbrella of Clarecastle Community Development CLG.

The initial plan (Rev 0), was documented, post team attendance of the CLDC & Burren-Beo Biodiversity course held at CLDC Centre Ennis 2019 and has since been updated to report on action items. This Plan / Report has also been updated to include a specific Biodiversity plan for the People's Park by Mary Dillon and a subsequent revised version of this plan (to reflect latest thinking on biodiversity), in conjunction with CLDC 'Training to Develop a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for an Outdoor recreational Space in Your Community' Biodiversity course May to October 2021 (Dr Fran Giaquinto & Linda Gilsean).

This document shall now serve as a plan / report of all actions completed and status of actions pending to show progress made in real time, throughout project lifecycle.

## **Biodiversity in Clarecastle, Co Clare.**

Clarecastle village is situated beside the River Fergus and for this reason has estuarine, wetland & mudflat habitats, which is excellent for bird watching -particularly migrants (Lapwing, Shelduck, Curlew, Teal, Widgeon, Sand martins, Whooper Swan etc). Due to its geological make up (limestone bedrock), the land is calcareous and for this reason tends to have similar flower (Bee Orchid, Bird Foot Trefoil, Yellow Rattle, Quaking Grass, Crow Garlic etc), bush and tree species (Ash, Willow, Hazel, Holly etc), to that found in the Burren Co Clare.

The village is mostly surrounded by farmland, where ample biodiversity can be found in hedgerows, particularly around Lissane and Island McGrath areas, where Blackberry, Crab Apple, Hawthorn, Hazel and Elderflower support pollinators, small mammals, and many birds.

As the Clarecastle was the Port of Clare, there is a substantial amount of built heritage in the area, which now supports roosting & nesting birds and bats. The Port of Clare, at the New Quay location is home to an untouched wildflower meadow, where different species of Orchid and wild grasses can be seen. A large variety of pollinators (Butterflies, Bees, Hover flies & Dragon flies), can be seen benefitting from this habitat.

Clarecastle now being largely a residential area, has many garden and parkland habitats, which support garden wildlife. There are also woodland areas such as Ballybeg Woods and Killone Abbey which support woodland animals and forest birds. Local lakes & ponds in the area, support nesting water birds such as Coots, Duck, Great-crested grebe, Newts & Common Frog etc.

# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

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The purpose of this Biodiversity Plan / Report is to bring awareness and to preserve and promote existing wildlife in the Clarecastle area. The plan / report will focus on the natural and built heritage in the village, with the involvement of community groups and local school, where possible.

The plan / report shall be rolled out using a phased approach, over 5 years. All actions shall be reported on in table 1 through subsequent revision update, to show project progress in real time within proposed seven-year timeframe from 2019 to 2025.

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Left to right: Lapwing, Birds-foot trefoil, Knapweed, The New Quay Clarecastle

## Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

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Left to right: Marsh Orchid, Cowslip, Harts Tongue Fern found in Clarecastle.

# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

**Table 1: Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan & Report.**

**Note: Colour key: amber – in progress, Green - complete & Red – action has ceased / no longer required.**

No:	Action:	Lead Partner:	Other Partners:	Timeframe & Status update April 2022:	Approx. Cost:
1.	<p>1(a): Create a mapped looped walk around Clarecastle village with enhanced signage (to include QSR code), taking into account the biodiversity found at both the built and natural heritage habitats</p> <p>1(b): Outside village environs: Clare Abbey, Killone Abbey &amp; Killoo Church signage installation. Bluetooth &amp; software set up to relay QSR information</p> <p>1(C) Generation and installation of Biodiversity signage at the Quay (species at the Quay), Clarecastle playground (wildlife through the seasons) and Community Garden (Hand illustrated germination &amp; pollinator signage)</p>	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group.	Clare County Council, Leader.	<p>2019- 2025</p> <p>2022 Heritage signs Purchased</p> <p>2023 – new Heritage signage for items in 1B installed street corner Clarecastle QSR code for Biodiversity detail has been assessed and found to be unsuitable for signage currently ordered. The Biodiversity / Heritage looped walk map shall be the focus going forwards, timeframe: 2025</p> <p>2022 Replacement Signage purchased Update 2023 above signs installed Clarecastle Quay and Seating and SEW and new paving incorporated in the project</p>	<p>Heritage signage cost: TBD</p> <p>Loop walk map cost: TBD</p> <p>1000 euro</p>
2	<p>Seek preservation of biodiversity and access to the Famine Relief road from Lissane to the Port of Clare, where a section is found on the grounds of Roche* Ireland. *Note: Roche plant is due to be turned back into a brown field site. Mount signage to detail the history of the famine road and the biodiversity that can also be found at this location.</p>	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group.	Clarecastle / Roche Liaison Group.  Clarecastle Tidy Towns.  Dermot Kelleher (Graphic Designer)	<p>2019-2025</p> <p>2022 Demolition works completed at Roche, Action Map of Old Road forwarded to Roche and request as far as possible to include in new plans for Site Copy also included in CC TT submission to County Dev plan 2023 update Roche EPA license to save crushed concrete on site that will reduce HGV movements through CC Village Traffic Plan agreed with CLG to minimize impact on village</p>	Signage Cost: TBD
3	Seek the retention / handover of existing Roche biodiversity signage.	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group.	Clarecastle / Roche Liaison Group.	<p>2019-2025</p> <p>2022 Request sent to Roche but most likely signage will be used again post demolition &amp; remediation of the Site</p>	N/A
4	Wildflower meadow at the Quay, Port of Clare.	Clarecastle &	Burren-Beo & CLDC	<p>2019-2021</p> <p>Complete May 2022 - Green spaces</p>	

## Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

	<p>Preservation, maintenance &amp; enhancement of this area. Assess &amp; develop wildflower meadows / areas at other locations within Clarecastle (Peoples Park - tree planting etc)</p> <p>Green Corridor – Reduce grass cutting on entrance roads to Clarecastle. Work with Council to schedule full cut in September</p> <p>Quadrants at Clare Abbey roundabout – to follow planting and grass cutting management as seen at Clare Abbey side.</p> <p>Designate areas for Biodiversity within community such as St Joseph’s Terrace, Maddens Terrace, Conduct Habitat and Biodiversity study of Peoples Park and the Quay, Ballybeg &amp; Peoples Park</p> <p>Annual Check of Tree stock in CC</p>	Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group.	Wildflower Meadow training Dr Janice Fuller Andrew St Ledger	<p>were left to turn into wildflower meadow at Peoples Park, GAA Pitch and in the Clare hill Graveyard.</p> <p>Complete 2021 – reduction of mowing on the entrance roads and in the village green areas to allow Dandelions and other early flowers flourish &amp; seed for pollinators</p> <p>Complete 2021 – Reduction of grass cutting for pollinators to allow wildflowers to bloom and seed Complete 2021: Grass cutting was reduced to allow for flowers to bloom and seed for pollinators Complete 2021: Habitat survey was conducted of the Quay, Ballybeg, Peoples Park and school wildflower meadow</p> <p>Complete 2022: CCC group. replaced trees St Josephs &amp; Quay Update 2023 letter sent to CCC to replace removed tree at end of the quay with a Oak Tree and damaged tree in st joseph’s also to ack that CC Tree audit survey now completed and that will dictate all future tree planting &amp; Maintenance in CC – Copy sent to CCC to adopt</p>	
5.	Nest boxes and bird signage at the Peoples Park	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	Burren-Beo & CLDC Training  Clarecastle Men’s shed  Clarecastle Tidy towns	<p>2019-2025 9 2022: 9 Bird boxes fabricated by Men’s shed put up on the trees at entrance and inside Peoples park</p> <p>Swift box with electronic caller mounted on the community hall gable end.</p> <p>Signage for People’s park pending draft review and fabrication Update 2023 Mock up of new signage for Peoples Park and Day care centre prepared &amp; Costed and awaiting CCC approval</p>	300 euro
6.	Ennis to Clarecastle River Fergus Greenway  Feasibility study – what pollinator friendly planting to go in over the next 3 years	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	Clare County Council, Leader. OPW	<p>2019-2025: In progress 2021 Greenway Opened April 2022 Update 2023 - delighted to update that signage erected in the new River Fergus walk / Cycle &amp; contributions from CC TT &amp; Heritage ack with our logos on the signage note sent to CCC to look at 3 sections</p>	200K

## Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

				that flood during heavy rain ( accepting it is a flood plain ) , request to address Dog poo , Litter , Parking , CCTV Re extending the walk to Clarecastle ORIS funding of 50K Granted CC TT awaiting update re this key project	
7.	Community Orchard in Clarecastle People's Park  Build stone wall to enclose tree's  Develop wheelchair access to the Peoples Park  Carry out Clarecastle Tree Audit & have a annual scheduled maintenance programme for Clarecastle Village & Clare Abbey included	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group  CC Tidy towns	Clarecastle Tidy Towns, Men's shed, Clarecastle Scouts, Clarecastle Community garden, Clarecastle NS, Seed Savers, & Burren-Beo & CLDC orchard Training  nicholas-de-jong	Complete 2021: Apple tree saplings have been planted in the orchard at the people's Park. Feb 2022 8 More Apple trees were planted in the Peoples Park Orchard areas part of the Hares Corner Project (Burren Beo)  Stone wall has been built  2019 new Tarmacadam Paths to allow for easier access for wheelchair users, buggies etc Community Orchard – Hares Corner 8 new apples trees installed feb 2022 Update 2023 Hares Corner 4 Hazel trees added (as per Tree audit report) Also Scouts considering new Mini Orchard close to scout Hall Update 2023 Clarecastle Tree Audit funded by Heritage Council took place from May to sept 2022 & published oct 2022 <a href="https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/10/Final-Report-for-web-2.pdf">https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/10/Final-Report-for-web-2.pdf</a>	500 euro
8.	Invasive species mapping & control	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	Clarecastle Tidy Towns, Clarecastle Community garden, BurrenBeo & CLDC Invasive weed training, Invasive Species Contractor, Clare Co Council Signage.	partially complete 2021:  Knot weed has been identified and treated by council at Lissane and other locations around village. Travellers Joy has also been found covering an extensive area of Ballybeg woods. Invasive weed training is pending  2023 Update CLDC funded CLDC- funded "Invasive Alien Species Training Programme" three month training programme that started on the 8 March and will finish with a practical session in mid-May. Joan McCarthy (Heritage & Wildlife) and Martin McNamara (Clarecastle GAA ) are attending the weekly seminar sessions	TBD
9.	Community Composting for community garden, school & local housing estates, where possible.	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage	Clarecastle Community garden, Resident	2019-2023 Action pending on this 2021 2022 Disposal of Grass from open spaces as	TBD

## Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

		& Wildlife group	committee's, Greener Clare Composter Pigs Burren-Beo & CLDC	we try to implement Mow & Lift policy is proving problematic with CCC Update 2023 have made further communication to local reps and CCC to bring their landscaping grass cutting in line with Best practise from National Pollinator Plan to support long & short meadows	
10.	Clarecastle Biodiversity & Heritage Visitor Centre  Approach Roche regarding old Cottage near site entrance location. Update 2022 preference is now to have Office in centre of Village or new Community Hub	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	Shannon Estuary Way Reps, Burren-Beo & CLDC training, Leader & Clare Co Council. Business / commercial property. Roche Ireland.	2019-2025  2022 Update Long term but CC TT & Heritage Group have promoted the Idea at every opportunity including the SEW Destination project	TBD
11	Community Training: Dr Janice Fuller & Andrew St ledger to provide talk to Clarecastle community regarding Biodiversity  Mini BioBlitz (Ballybeg Woods / The Quay Clarecastle, School wildflower meadow & People's Park) with local school children & community groups  Bumblebee study	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	Dr Janice Fuller  Andrew St ledger  Jean Ryan  Christie Leyden	Complete 2021 Community training was rolled out.  Mini BioBlitz have been conducted at Quay, Ballybeg woods, School wildflower meadow and peoples Park – see attachments for survey sheets. Study was to determine how many species could be found and in what habitats do they favour.  Bumblebee Study ongoing monitoring populations post since cease of pesticide use in Clareabbey transect	500 euro
12	Website training	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	Burren-Beo training contacts & CLDC	Complete 2020: ICan website in conjunction with National History Museum. Clarecastle now has its own Heritage and Wildlife website with regular postings and publications. Update 2023 Eric Shaw has attended iCan training and as well as website we now have a very popular facebook & Instagram social media presence	TBD
13	Specific Biodiversity Plan for Peoples Park development	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	Mary Dillon  2021 April to sept	Initial Plan created in 2020: Plan actions partially complete and shall continue until 2025.  Some actions may change to suit community needs based on team review & feedback Update 2023 Project to install Lighting carried out in the park late 2022 totally unexpected and not requested by CC TT – our longstanding request was only for cctv and if low lighting required that would be only light considered as eco friendly	500 euro



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				CC TT have requested “Leave no trace” status for the Park and have requested CCC to reconsider the Lighting project in the park and the fact that no prior knowledge of the project and that heavy Machinery actually dug up some of our heritage bulbs in the process	
1.3.1	CLDC Training to develop a biodiversity enhancement plan for an outdoor recreational space in your community, running May to October 2021	Heritage & Wild life Group & CC TT  Jean Ryan & Joan McCarthy attended sessions from April till sept	Webinar & Onsite Training The programme delivered by Dr Fran Giaquinto, an; Linda Gilsenan, and Phoebe O’Brien, a local	Outcome Peoples Park Biodiversity plan updated Nov 2021  Update 2023 Joan MCarthy (Heritage & Wildlife) and Martin McNamara (Clarecastle GAA ) are attending the weekly seminar sessions	
1.3.2	2023 CLDC- funded “Invasive Alien Species Training Programme” March to mid-May.				
14	Change to Perennial planting in shrub beds instead of Annuals throughout Clarecastle village.  Spring Bulbs in front of stone wall at entrance  Look to reduce number of flower beds to limit water wastage throughout village. Baskets and planters to be upgraded to self-watering grade.  Baskets & planters to be planted with pollinator friendly plants as per Dr Janice Fuller  Cease use of herbicide by the Council as a means of weed control – CCC still use herbicide on paths	Tidy Towns group	N/A	Spring bulbs planted (Autumn 2020), in the Peoples park to promote early pollinators Update 2023 Spring Bulbs planted in front of stone wall at entrance to Peoples park Nov 2022 – Beautiful array of daffodils on view Feb & March 2023 2 Flower Boats ( Main st and the Quay) taken out in 2021  Self watering Baskets for Main street  2022 New Shrub Bed at entrance to peoples park with lots of heathers and perennials No annuals included  Clarecastle Tidy towns have stopped using herbicide and advised CCC & TII that our preference is that Herbicides are not used in Clarecastle Area 2022 Seeking alternatives to Hoeing as this is so time consuming	1000 euro

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15	Biodiversity Mural to be generated by local school children at entrance to building site near Clarecastle bridge	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	Heritage & Biodiversity talk provided to local school children.  Mural artist to liaise with local school children	Complete: 2020 Two murals produced and mounted at entrance to site	500 euro
16	Recorded Biodiversity talk to be used to highlight local biodiversity at Clarecastle & Ballyea aimed for use in local schools and scouts	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	N/A	Complete 2021: Recorded talk with PPT slides has been sent on and used by both Clarecastle & Ballyea National Schools	N/A
17	CLDC 'Training to Develop a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for Outdoor recreational Space in Your Community'  Actions from this Training:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update People's park Plan to include new actions as a result of this training.</li> <li>2. Create a set of procedures for managing different areas of the People's Park</li> <li>3. Survey Trees in peoples Park to determine how much Carbon is stored in them. Survey soil type.</li> <li>4. Conduct Quadrat Survey of People's park to determine number of species within People's park</li> <li>5. Check online resources to determine areas of Conservation and species recorded in the Clarecastle area</li> <li>6. Create 2 raised borders for pollinator friendly plants</li> <li>7. Generate signage to explain the</li> </ol>	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group, Tidy Towns & Men's Shed	CLDC Dr Fran Giaquinto & Linda Gilsenan	In progress 2021: Course running May to Oct 2021  Action status:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completed</li> <li>2. Completed</li> <li>3. 2023 Update now included in Clarecastle Tree Survey</li> <li>4. To be completed Local children</li> <li>5. completed</li> <li>6. To be assessed and costed</li> <li>7. To be assessed and costed</li> </ol>	N/A for Course  Action s: Cost TBD

## Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

	management & re-wilding project being actioned. 8. 8 Years worth of Biodiversity data to be compiled and sent to National Biodiversity data centre			8. To be compiled	
18	Signage at the Quay to be replaced due to dampness	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group		2022 New signage purchased and new plan for all the Quay signage and awaiting grant confirmation to proceed with installation 2023 Completed	400 euro
19	Seek consultation with landowners at Killone Abbey with view to preserving Bluebell wood	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	N/A	Under review 2021/22	N/A
20	Assess and review temporary barriers around wildflower meadow at the quay to reduce compaction of soil and hence protection of flower species such as bee & Marsh orchid etc. We have lost some species to heavy footfall	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	N/A	Under review 2021/22	TBD
21	Postcard competition – people and place with local schools	Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife group	ICan	Completed and very successful project with both Clarecastle & Ballyea NS	200 euro

### 2. Ensuring Success

The successful implementation of the Biodiversity plan / report requires commitment from the community to support the projects, activities and / or events outlined in the plan. The Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & wildlife group shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of the ‘Clarecastle Biodiversity plan / report 2019-2025’. The group shall meet at least twice a year in order to set annual goals and to review progress to date.

### 3. Table 2 Resources for implementing the Biodiversity Plan:

No:	Action:	Resources:
1.	1(a): Create a mapped looped walk around Clarecastle village with enhanced signage	<a href="http://www.irishtrails.ie">www.irishtrails.ie</a> <a href="http://www.clarelibrary.ie">www.clarelibrary.ie</a> <a href="http://www.heritagecouncil.ie">www.heritagecouncil.ie</a>

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	<p>(to include QSR code), taking into account the biodiversity found at both the built and natural heritage habitats</p> <p>1(b): Outside village environs: Clare Abbey, Killone Abbey &amp; Killoo Church signage installation. Bluetooth &amp; software set up to relay QSR information</p> <p>1(c): Biodiversity signage at the Quay, Clarecastle playground &amp; Community garden</p>	<p><a href="http://www.geohive.ie">www.geohive.ie</a> <a href="http://www.heritagemaps.ie">www.heritagemaps.ie</a> <a href="http://www.mapsbiodiversityireland.ie">www.mapsbiodiversityireland.ie</a> Dermot Kelleher signage 2022 Mapped looped walk cannot be finalised until location of Mounting Block confirmed - either put it back in Barrack st or relocate to new plaza area 2023 CC TT have again brought this to the attention of Local reps and CCC</p>
2	<p>Seek preservation of biodiversity and access to the Famine Relief road from Lissane to the Port of Clare, where a section is found on the grounds of Roche* Ireland.</p> <p>*Note: Roche plant is due to be turned back into a brown field site. Mount signage to detail the history of the famine road and the biodiversity that can also be found at this location.</p>	<p>Roche Ireland &amp; Clarecastle Liaison group</p> <p>2022 Map of Old Road prepared post Roche demolition and overlaid over newly demolished site The completed Map presented to Roche &amp; Clare Co Co Dev plan as part of CC TT submission to County dev plan</p>
3	<p>Seek the retention / handover of existing Roche biodiversity signage.</p>	<p>Roche Ireland &amp; Clarecastle Liaison group</p> <p>2022 Roche aware of the Request but signs will most likely be put back up once demolition phase completed</p>
4	<p>Wildflower meadow at the Quay, Port of Clare. Preservation, maintenance &amp; enhancement of this area.</p> <p>Development of wildflower meadows / areas at other locations within Clarecastle (GAA Grounds - tree planting etc)</p> <p>Green Corridor – Reduce grass cutting on entrance roads to Clarecastle. Work with Council to schedule full cut in September</p> <p>Quadrants at Clare Abbey roundabout – to follow planting and grass cutting management as seen at Clare Abbey side.</p> <p>Heritage or art installation to be considered for Clare Abbey round about.</p> <p>Designate areas for Biodiversity within community such as St Joseph's Terrace, Maddens Terrace,</p> <p>Conduct Habitat and Biodiversity study of GAA complex, Parish Graveyard, Scout site, Peoples Park and Riverbank.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.butterflyconservation.ie">www.butterflyconservation.ie</a> All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. <a href="http://www.rhs.org.uk">www.rhs.org.uk</a> Janice <a href="mailto:Fuller@eircom.net">Fuller@eircom.net</a> Andrew StLeger Positive response from GAA re allowing the 10 acre site to go into meadow until June (Ground required for annual Horse show)</p> <p>Clarecastle Tidy Towns cut a 22" edge on approach road from Limerick and leave the rest to go wild - Unfortunately Clare Co Council do not have capability to lift &amp; cut in September 2023 Note to CCC &amp; Local reps to get CCC landscaping to take on board best practise from National pollinator plan re Long &amp; short wildflower management for Community/open spaces</p> <p>No Response re This request</p> <p>Clareabbey Taskforce group set up and Clarecastle members have brought this to the attention of the Group and have in fact offered some historically based options to consider - This will be Long term project</p> <p>Small section in St Joseph's Tce</p> <p>Outstanding</p>
5.	<p>Nest boxes and bird signage at the Peoples Park</p>	<p><a href="http://www.birdwatchireland.ie">www.birdwatchireland.ie</a> Tralee Wetlands Centre Vincent Wildlife Trust</p>

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		Men's shed Swift group Ireland Local Camera Club Clarecastle 2022 Nest Boxes put Up in the Peoples park Feb 2022
6.	Ennis to Clarecastle River Fergus Greenway  Feasibility study – what pollinator friendly planting to go in over r the next 3 years	Greenway opened April 2022 - CC TT had input into CCC Plan to sow pro Biodiversity planting to shield the steel Barrier from View
7.	Community Orchard in Clarecastle People's Park  Build stone wall to enclose tree's  Develop wheelchair access to the Peoples Park  Acquire services of Andrew St ledger to advise on tree planting and further developing Orchard.	Seed Savers All Ireland Pollinator Plan <a href="http://www.onetreeperchild.com">www.onetreeperchild.com</a> 2022 Burren Beo & Seed Savers & Clarecastle Tidy towns involved in Hares Corner Mini orchard project - 8 new native Irish apple trees sources from seed Savers and planted in the community orchard with input from School , neighbours , pre school
8.	Invasive species mapping & control	Biodiversity data centre Clare Co. Council
9.	Community Composting for community garden, school & local housing estates, where possible.	Greener Clare Composter Pigs. Noted problem re Grass removal by CCC for our Long meadow project – we did eventually in October 2021 get the grass cut & removed
10.	Clarecastle Biodiversity & Heritage Visitor Centre 2022 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thoughts on This preference now is for a centre of Village premises or part of a community Hub complex	Clare Co. Council Shannon Estuary Way Leader SEW & Clare Co Council
11.	Community Training: Dr Janice Fuller & Andrew St ledger to provide talk to Clarecastle community regarding Biodiversity Mini BioBlitz (Ballybeg Woods / The Quay Clarecastle, Peoples Park & Clarcastle NS wildflower meadow) with Local School Children & community groups.  Bumblebee study completion	Dr Janice Fuller Andrew St ledger Old School Clarecastle Kristy Leyden Completed
12.	Website training	ICan training completed - 2022 website up & running
13.	Specific biodiversity plan for Peoples Park	Mary Dillon Burren Beo & outcomes from CLDC Training April to Sep 2021
14.	CLDC Training to Develop a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for an Outdoor Recreational Space in Your Community'	Dr Fran Giaquinto & Linda Gilsenan
15.	Peoples Park Ash Die Back	During their visit to Clarecastle May 2021 Dr Fran Giaquinto & Linda Gilsenan pointed out to Clarecastle Tidy towns that the beautiful ash trees in the Peoples park had Ash Die Back disease and that plans should be put in place for succession planning - This will be addresses in the Clarecastle Tree audit Project due to take place during summer of 2022

# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

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## 4. Clarecastle Natural Heritage Habitats



From left to right: Port of Clare, Ballybeg Bluebell woods, The New Quay



From left to right: Residential garden areas, Fergus River, People's Park

## 5. Clarecastle Built Heritage Habitats



From left to right: The Market House, Bannatyne's Corn store & Miller House, Scott's Corn Store, Clarecastle castle.



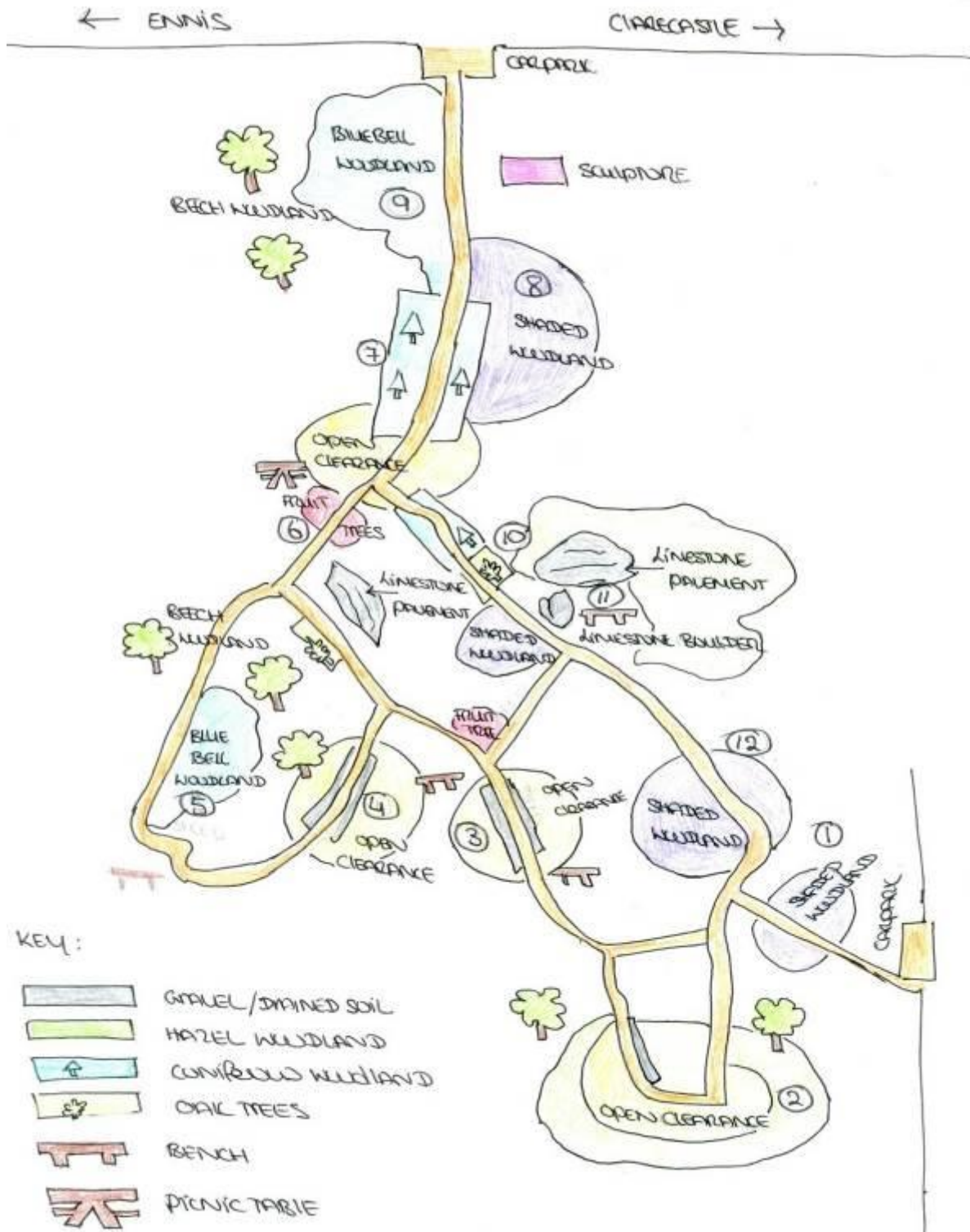
From left to right: Port of Clare, Clare Abbey, Killone Abbey.

6. Port of Clare Habitat Map

7. Ballybeg Woods Habitat Map



# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan





# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

## 8. (A) Clarecastle Community Garden



From left to right: Community garden water harvesting shed (made from recycled water bottles) & Bug Hotel.

A photograph showing several people working on raised garden beds. They are using wheelbarrows and shovels to move soil. The beds are made of wooden planks.	<p>New raised beds May 2022</p>	A photograph showing a larger garden area with several people working. There are raised beds and a fence. A logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.

## 8. (B) Clarecastle -Community Orchard






From left to right: Apple Trees and apples growing in the Community Orchard  
At the Peoples Park in Clarecastle

### Hares Corner Project Feb 2022



**8 irish native apple trees sourced from Seed savers and funded by Burren Beo School & pre school and GAA and neighbours involved in sowing**



 <p>April 2023 Tidy up of Mini orchard trees sowed in 2020</p>	 <p>blossoms Galore and Bumble bees</p>	 <p>Addition of Hazel trees to orchard</p>

# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

## 8. (C) Clarecastle Community Signage – The Quay Biodiversity Signage






From left to right: Clarecastle Quay Biodiversity signage, which will be replaced with Ecodura versions of the same signs (2022) Seasons signage (x 4 panels) Clarecastle Playground.

## 8. (D) Clarecastle Community Signage – Community Garden Signage



From left to right: Clarecastle Community Garden signage: Seed Dispersal, Germination & Pollinator – Honeybee.

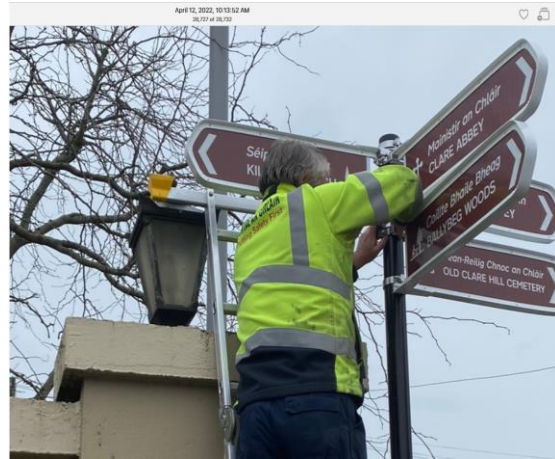
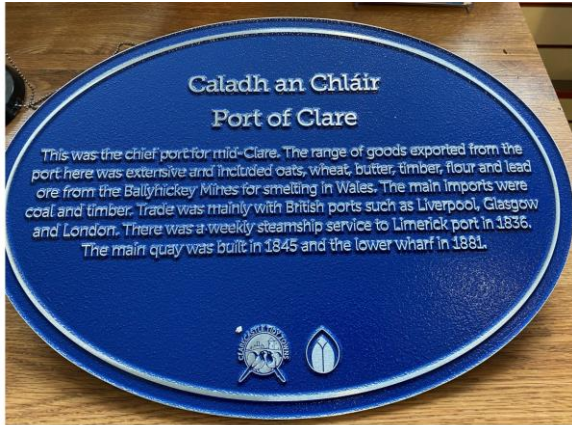
### Clarecastle Quay Signage replacement & relocation project July /Sept 2023

 <p>Replacement of old Heritage signage with new signage to match finish of SEW sign</p>	 <p>Relocated to new position close to seating and edge with disabled access</p>	 <p>New Dromoland Road sign sadly stolen some weeks later</p>

# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

## 9. Proposed Looped Walk & Heritage Signage

Where appropriate, biodiversity information of flora and fauna, bird activity, bats etc. to be incorporated into a looped walk map



### Heritage signage.

2022/2023

Heritage Signage purchased for Village heritage trail Planning permission sought & Granted for a signage pole at the street corner that will hold the brown heritage signage for Killoo Church facing down the main st , Ballybeg woods & Clareabbey point up Barrack st



(ennis dir) and Killone Abbey & Clare Hill Cemetry point up Patrick st.- Heritage Plaques also purchased and these will be installed in due Course – The Clarecastle Heritage Trail cannot be finalised until a section of Footpath installed in the old road and decision made re location of the Mounting Block and then we can finalise Heritage Map that will be located somewhere in or close to new Plaza area

The Streetcorner traffic calming project ( July to Nov 2021) has transformed the Village centre with the Cavity block trip Hazards removed and new footpaths and a lovely new Village plaza that will hopefully provide the platform for community events as well as hosting some of our treasured Heritage artifacts - we are working with CCC Planning dept to plan out the plaza and suitable street furniture. And a heritage map once plaza plan agreed ( big issue is the location of the Mounting Block stone) , Traffic Calming measures bt substantially narrowing the road at the street corner while very welcome is causing problems for HGv's & Coaches and the new Shallow shrub beds are being overrun on a regular basis – we are working with CCC to resolve this issue and Clarecastle Tidy towns will not put any planting on the shallow bed at the Car park side until the traffic management problem is resolved



Also worth noting that Roadworks in Patrick street that will involve removal of OH wires and poles and new Footpath have commenced since march 2022 and will continue till June /July 2022 – **Note 2023 Patrick St Project Completed**

# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

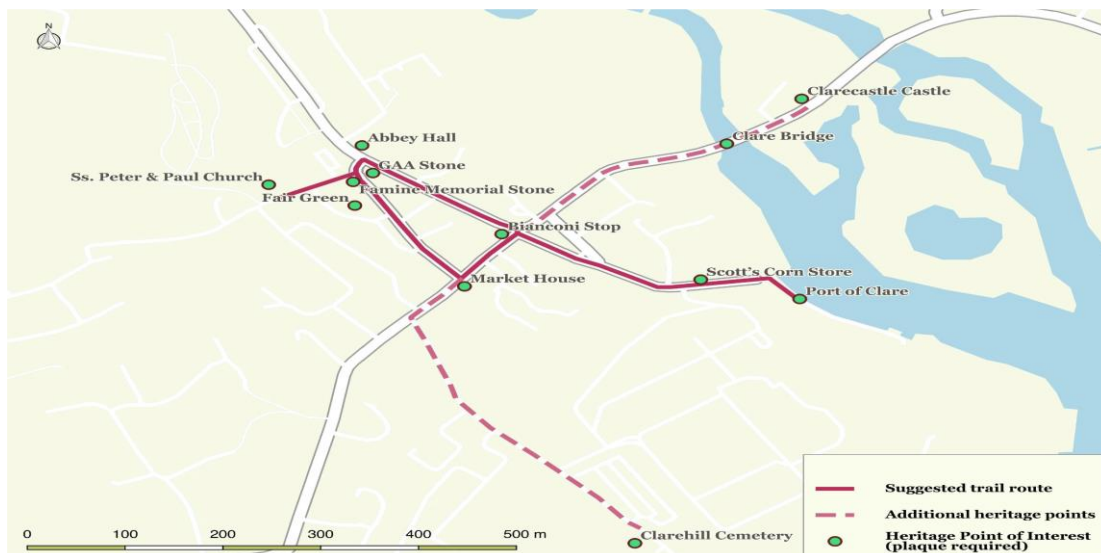
## 10. Annual Mini Bio Blitz Surveys conducted between 2019 to 2021

The Mini Bio Blitz surveys are conducted with local Clarecastle National School children by Jean Ryan with help from Clarecastle Heritage and Wildlife Team

Survey sheets and habitat maps have been generated (see above & attached), where colour copies were printed and assembled onto recycled clipboards (made from old advertising corrugated plastic), and the children were tasked with filling these out in the field. The purpose of the survey sheets were as follows:

- To identify species that are in the chosen area for survey.
- To highlight species found with focus on positive & negative indicator plants
- To show the different habitats and varying species that are found in each
- To show children how to conduct a survey
- To show the importance of re-wilding of areas - no matter how small
- To look for signs of animals as evidence that they are in the area

Most importantly for the children to have fun with Biodiversity & Science and to identify some new plants / animals / birds / insects that are not listed in the survey sheets.



**Clare Abbey, Killone Abbey, Ballybeg Woods, Killoo Church, St. John's Well to be included in an expanded Map.**

### **11. CLDC Training Programme for the identification, control and management of invasive plant species**

The Clare Local Development Company (CLDC) launched a training programme in March 2023 for the identification, control and management of invasive plant species. The aim of the course was to help people living in County Clare to better understand the devastating impact of invasive species on the local environment. The programme consisted of ten weekly online webinars combined with workshops where field-based practical work would be completed. The programme was undertaken by members of Clarecastle Tidy Towns and Clarecastle G.A.A. More details of the programme can be found in Attachment 9.

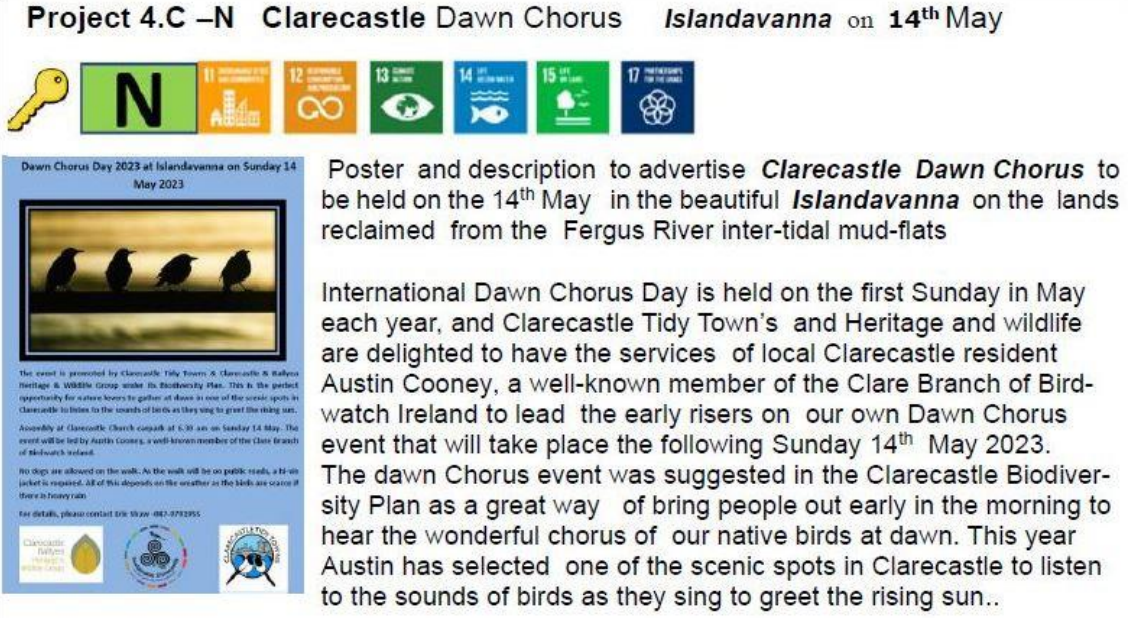
# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

## 12. Attachments:

1. Mini BioBlitz Surveys – used with local primary school, scouting and wider community, to survey local wildlife and to enter findings onto National Biodiversity centre website:  
(A) Mini Bio-Blitz the Quay Clarecastle  
(B) Mini Bio-Blitz Ballybeg woods Clarecastle.
2. Bumble Bee survey – Survey of Bumble Bee’s found in the Clarecastle area.
3. Abbey to Abbey Walk – Clare Abbey to Killone Abbey Biodiversity walk
4. Peoples Park Biodiversity Plan – Mary Dillon
5. Mini BioBlitz survey conducted with first class students of Clarecastle National School on 24th May 2021, Wildflower meadow and Peoples Park were the areas focused on.
6. Clarecastle & Ballyea Biodiversity Talk Slides
7. CLDC ‘Training to Develop a Biodiversity Enhancement Plan for An Outdoor Recreational Space in Your Community’ Report 04 June 2021 for the People’s Park Clarecastle. Linda Gilsenan & Fran Giaquinto

8.

**Project 4.C –N Clarecastle Dawn Chorus Islandavanna on 14<sup>th</sup> May**



Dawn Chorus Day 2023 at Islandavanna on Sunday 14 May 2023

Poster and description to advertise **Clarecastle Dawn Chorus** to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May in the beautiful **Islandavanna** on the lands reclaimed from the Fergus River inter-tidal mud-flats


International Dawn Chorus Day is held on the first Sunday in May each year, and Clarecastle Tidy Town's and Heritage and wildlife are delighted to have the services of local Clarecastle resident Austin Cooney, a well-known member of the Clare Branch of Bird-watch Ireland to lead the early risers on our own Dawn Chorus event that will take place the following Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The dawn Chorus event was suggested in the Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan as a great way of bring people out early in the morning to hear the wonderful chorus of our native birds at dawn. This year Austin has selected one of the scenic spots in Clarecastle to listen to the sounds of birds as they sing to greet the rising sun..

The event is presented by Clarecastle Tidy Towns & Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife Group under its Biodiversity Plan. This is the perfect opportunity for nature lovers to gather at dawn in one of the scenic spots in Clarecastle to listen to the sounds of birds as they sing to greet the rising sun.

Assembly at Clarecastle Church courtyard at 6.30 am on Sunday 14 May. The event will be led by Austin Cooney, a well known member of the Clare Branch of Bird-watch Ireland.

No dogs are allowed on the walk. As the walk will be on public roads, a hi-vis jacket is required. All of this depends on the weather as the birds are scarce if there is heavy rain.

For details, please contact Dick Slavin 082-972295



### **9. CLDC TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES**

The Clare Local Development Company (CLDC) launched a training programme in March 2023 for the identification, control and management of invasive plant species. The aim of the course was to help people living in County Clare to better understand the devastating impact of invasive species on the local environment. The programme consisted of ten weekly online webinars combined with workshops where field based practical work would be completed.

The educational workshops were held in Ennis, Kilrush, Lisdoonvarna, Scariff and Shannon and were open to all communities and individuals with an interest and motivation to learn more. The weekly webinars provided in-depth information to equip individuals with the tools to deal with invasive species in their own gardens and communities. The summary of this information is as follows:

- Invasive species in gardens – identifying what garden species become invasive, invasive soil species and managing green waste.
- Guest speaker Phoebe O'Brien -a botanist and BSBI County recorder to assisting with the identification of invasive species.
- The importance of native species in gardens- how to stop invasive plants arriving in gardens and how to keep gardens healthy and resilient to reduce the risk of invasive species becoming established.
- Discussion of the '4 pillar approach' method providing a step-by-step approach to tackle any invasive species identified.
- Learning about the dispersal mechanisms of invasive alien species to prevent and control their establishment.
- Overview of the devastating impact of alien invasive species on native trees and actions that can be taken to protect our native species and ecosystems.
- Review of case studies and information on how to access online resources on invasive species.



# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

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## **Attachment 1(A)**

Mini Bioblitz – The Quay Clarecastle

<https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/topics/biodiversity/the-quay-mini-bioblitz-2>

## **Attachment 1(B)**

Mini Bioblitz – Ballybeg Woods Clarecastle

<https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/topics/biodiversity/ballybeg-woods-bioblitz>

## **Attachment 2**

Bumble Bee survey – Survey of Bumble Bee’s found in the Clarecastle area.

<https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/topics/biodiversity/clare-abbey-bumble-bee-transect>

## **Attachment 3**

Abbey to Abbey Walk – Clare Abbey to Killone Abbey Biodiversity walk

<https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/topics/biodiversity/biodiversity-on-the-abbey-to-abbey-walk> OK

## **Attachment 4**

Peoples Park specific Biodiversity Plan

Mary Dillon

<https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/topics/biodiversity/the-peoples-park-clarecastle>

## **Attachment 5**

Mini BioBlitz Clarecastle NS, Wildflower Meadow & Peoples Park

<https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/08/Clarecastle-Biodiversity-Plan-Report-Rev-02-27th-May-2022-.pdf>

## **Attachment 6**

Clarecastle & Ballyea Biodiversity Talk Slides

<https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/topics/biodiversity-gallery> **Attachment 7**

CLDC ‘Training to Develop a Biodiversity Plan for an Outdoor Recreational

Space in Your Community’ Report 4 June 2021 Dr Fran Giaquinto & Linda Gilsean

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vvJ19kodpYMtGATocEtiYE6yOPOhYPaF/view?usp=sharing>

<https://vimeo.com/817068037/382e37289c>

## **Attachment 7**

Tree Survey

<https://clarecastleballyea.clareheritage.org/topics/biodiversity/clarecastle-tree-survey-report-2022>

# Clarecastle Biodiversity Plan

## People's Park - Daffodil Planting

