

Stillorgan/Kilmacud, Dublin, Co. Dublin

Biodiversity Action Plan

Report Prepared for Kilmacud Community Men's Shed
with funding from The Community Foundation for Ireland



DRAFT REPORT

31 August 2026



Faith Wilson
ECOLOGICAL CONSULTANT

Faith Wilson Ecological Consultant BSc (Hons) CEnv MCIEEM

Kestrel Ridge, Tigroney West, Avoca, Co. Wicklow

Stillorgan/Kilmacud, Dublin, Co. Dublin

Biodiversity Action Plan

Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT	4
1.1.	Why Biodiversity is Essential to Our Community	4
1.2.	Background	5
2.	METHODOLOGY	5
3.	STUDY AREAS	6
3.1.	Kilmacud and Stillorgan	6
3.2.	Church of St Laurence O'Toole, Kilmacud	7
3.3.	Kilmacud Crokes Grounds	7
3.4.	St Brigid's Church and St Brigid's National School, Stillorgan	8
4.	BIODIVERSITY WITHIN STILLORGAN AND KILMACUD	9
4.1.	Birds	9
4.1.1.	Brent Geese	12
4.2.	Invertebrates	12
4.3.	Mammals	14
4.3.1.	Bats	15
4.3.2.	Hedgehogs	16
4.4.	Plants, Lichens and Mosses	18
4.4.1.	Lichens and Mosses	19
4.4.2.	Invasive and Undesirable Plant Species	19
5.	BIODIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS	20
5.1.	Grassland and Meadow Management	22
5.1.1.	Mowing Regimes	22
5.1.2.	Pesticides	25
5.2.	Enhancing Biodiversity Through Trees and Plants	26
5.2.1.	Suitable Plant and Tree Species	26
5.2.2.	Ornamental Pollinator Planting	27
5.2.3.	Invasive and Undesirable Species	29
5.2.4.	Native Hedgerow Establishment	30
5.2.5.	Tree Care	32
5.2.6.	Ivy	34
5.2.7.	Ash Dieback Management	35
5.2.8.	Recommended Plants	36

5.3.	Providing for Wildlife	38
5.3.1.	Birds.....	38
5.3.2.	Amphibians	39
5.3.3.	Invertebrates.....	41
5.3.4.	Bats	42
5.3.5.	Other Mammals.....	43
5.4.	Stone Wall and Gravestone Management	44
5.4.1.	Conservation of Lichens	45
5.4.2.	Conservation of Mosses and Ferns	45
5.5.	Lighting	47
5.5.1.	Kilmacud Crokes Floodlighting	48
5.6.	Community Engagement.....	49
5.6.1.	Events and Activities	50
5.6.2.	Signage.....	51
5.6.3.	Educational Resources.....	52
5.6.4.	Engaging Children with Nature.....	52
5.7.	Citizen Science.....	53
5.7.1.	Bird Surveys	53
5.7.2.	Invertebrate Surveys	54
5.7.3.	Map Your Actions for Pollinators	55
6.	MEASURING SUCCESS.....	55
6.1.	Monitoring Progress.....	56
6.2.	Suggested Indicators of Success.....	56
6.3.	Reviewing the Plan	56
7.	USEFUL RESOURCES	57
8.	REFERENCES.....	58
9.	APPENDICES.....	59
9.1.	Appendix 1.....	59

All Ordnance Survey Ireland Mapping presented in this report are copyright Ordnance Survey Ireland and Government of Ireland and are protected under the terms of the Copyright Acts.

They are reproduced here under licence CYAL50183710
© Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland.

Stillorgan/Kilmacud, Dublin, Co. Dublin

Biodiversity Action Plan

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Kilmacud and Stillorgan contain a rich network of small green spaces that support wildlife and contribute to the character, wellbeing and environmental resilience of the local community. Through this Biodiversity Action Plan, we aim to strengthen and connect these valuable habitats, creating a more wildlife-friendly landscape that supports biodiversity, community wellbeing, environmental education and climate resilience.

By inspiring residents to engage with nature in their everyday lives, whether through gardening, wildlife recording, habitat creation or community projects, this plan builds a shared commitment to protect the area's natural environments and foster a greater appreciation of local biodiversity and inspire collective action to protect and enhance it for future generations.

1.1. Why Biodiversity is Essential to Our Community

Biodiversity refers to the entire range of plants, animals, fungi and other living things sharing our local environment, alongside the habitats and natural systems that sustain them.

When these natural systems are healthy, the benefits extend directly to the local community. Local ecosystems quietly support daily life by filtering air and water, enriching soils, pollinating crops and fruit trees, managing pests naturally, and absorbing excess rainwater during storms.



Beyond these practical functions, accessible green spaces offer places to unwind, stay active, and connect with neighbours, bringing the sights and sounds of Irish nature into everyday life. Looking after these local habitats ensures Kilmacud and Stillorgan remain attractive, healthy, and resilient places to live.

1.2. Background

Faith Wilson Ecological Consultant was commissioned by Kilmacud Community Men's Shed to prepare a Community Biodiversity Action Plan for three locations within the Stillorgan and Kilmacud area of Dublin.

Supported by funding from The Community Foundation for Ireland, this plan provides a practical framework for protecting and enhancing local biodiversity. It identifies key habitats and species within the study areas, and sets out actions that residents, community groups and other stakeholders can take to support nature and contribute to wider biodiversity goals over the coming years.

2. METHODOLOGY

This Community Biodiversity Action Plan was developed using a combination of site surveys, habitat assessments, and background research. The project also benefitted from the local knowledge and experience of Kilmacud Men's Shed, whose members provided valuable insights into the area's wildlife, habitats, and environmental challenges.

Information was gathered from a range of sources, including the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS), the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), published reports, and existing ecological records. This information helped build an understanding of local biodiversity and identify priorities for action.

The Biodiversity Action Plan was developed through three main steps:

- **Habitat Mapping**
Identifying and describing the habitats present within the study areas, using the Fossitt Habitat Classification System (Fossitt, 2000).
- **Biodiversity Inventory**
Compiling information on local plants, animals, and existing wildlife records.
- **Action Planning**
Developing practical measures to protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity, and encourage community participation and long-term stewardship of local green spaces.

3. STUDY AREAS

3.1. Kilmacud and Stillorgan

Both Kilmacud and Stillorgan benefit from a rich patchwork of suburban green areas, ranging from public parks and church grounds to private gardens, playing fields, mature trees, and traditional hedgerows. These varied habitats offer essential food and shelter for native Irish wildlife, including birds, bats, and vital pollinating insects. Because these spaces sit close to one another, they act as natural stepping stones that allow wildlife to move safely across the landscape. Preserving and strengthening these connections ensure that local nature continues to thrive right alongside the everyday life of the neighbourhood.



Study locations within the context of south Dublin City (Google Earth, 2026).



Study locations in Kilmacud and Stillorgan (Google Earth, 2026).

3.2. Church of St Laurence O'Toole, Kilmacud

The church grounds include lawns, ornamental planting, boundary hedgerows and mature trees that provide habitat for a range of wildlife. Birds such as robins, blackbirds, tits, house sparrows and woodpigeons regularly use the site; flowering plants also provide food for bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

As a prominent community space, the church grounds offer excellent opportunities to showcase biodiversity-friendly management and inspire local action for nature.



Mature tree avenue leading to Church of St Laurence O'Toole carpark.

3.3. Kilmacud Crokes Grounds

While much of the site is covered by buildings and hard surfaces such as concrete and tarmac, the Kilmacud Crokes grounds also provide wildlife stepping stones through their playing fields, landscaped areas and mature trees. In particular, the mature tree lines around parts of the site form important ecological corridors, providing shelter, nesting opportunities and foraging habitat for birds, bats and invertebrates, and help to connect the grounds with surrounding green spaces.

The extensive grassed areas have the potential to support greater biodiversity through targeted habitat enhancement, particularly along boundaries, verges and underused areas. Opportunities exist to further enhance biodiversity through pollinator-friendly planting, native hedgerows, meadow strips, bird and bat boxes, and reduced pesticide use. These actions can increase habitat diversity as it strengthens ecological connections between Kilmacud Crokes and the wider network of green spaces and tree cover across Kilmacud and Stillorgan.



Mown verge along driveway into Kilmacud Crokes carpark.

3.4. St Brigid's Church and St Brigid's National School, Stillorgan

St Brigid's Church and the adjoining National School form an important green space within the heart of Stillorgan. The site contains a diverse range of habitats, including mature trees, grassland, a woodland trail, wildlife pond, vegetable gardens and recreational open spaces.

This variety of habitats supports a wide range of plants and animals and makes the site one of the area's most valuable community spaces for biodiversity. In addition to serving as places of worship, learning and recreation, the church and school grounds demonstrate how nature can thrive within an urban environment and provide an excellent opportunity for community engagement with biodiversity.



A) St Brigid's Church and churchyard, and B) Community Garden in St Brigid's National School.

4. BIODIVERSITY WITHIN STILLORGAN AND KILMACUD

The variety of natural settings found throughout Kilmacud and Stillorgan creates a vital haven for wildlife. Together, these green spaces offer essential food, nesting sites, and natural pathways that allow plants and animals to move through an otherwise busy suburban landscape.

Although much of this wild activity happens quietly in the background, the area supports a surprising variety of pollinating insects, birds, bats, amphibians and small mammals. The three central locations focused on within this plan are especially valuable ecological resources for both common and locally important species. They offer ideal spots for residents to encounter everyday Irish wildlife, particularly the birds and insects that keep the local ecosystem working properly.

A review of historical records from the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) identified more than 2000 reports of 529 different species within the 2 km square centred on the three study sites. These records span more than a century, dating back to 1897, and include observations of plants, birds, insects, fungi and mammals. However, biodiversity records rely heavily on voluntary sightings reported by the public, so it is likely that these figures likely represent only a fraction of what lives nearby, demonstrating that the true biodiversity of Kilmacud and Stillorgan is far richer than official records currently show.

4.1. Birds

Across Kilmacud and Stillorgan, local green spaces offer vital sanctuary for a wide variety of bird species, including well-known garden visitors like the robin, blackbird, house sparrow, starling and goldfinch. National biodiversity data shows 58 bird species have been recorded in the immediate two-kilometre area, including several species that hold protected status or are flagged for national or international conservation concern.

In urban areas such as Kilmacud and Stillorgan, green spaces provide essential refuges for birds, offering food, shelter and nesting areas within an otherwise heavily developed landscape. The mature trees at St Laurence O'Toole Church, the tree lines and open grassland at Kilmacud Crokes, and the diverse habitats within St Brigid's Church and National School all contribute to a network of habitats that support feeding, nesting and roosting opportunities for a wide range of bird species.

Simple interventions can make a significant difference in replacing lost natural habitats. Installing nest boxes, such as the homemade boxes already in place around St. Brigid's National School, help address the natural cavity shortage for small birds within urban environments and offer a fantastic way for school children and residents to get involved in local conservation.



Nest boxes, even homemade ones like those in St Brigid's National School, can help address the shortage of natural nesting sites within urban environments.

Taller structures and buildings present a specific opportunity to help swifts, a declining migratory species that depends on high building crevices for nesting. Swifts spend virtually their whole lives on the wing, returning from Africa to the exact same Irish nesting spots every summer. Adding specialised swift boxes to high stone walls like those at St Laurence O'Toole Church protects existing colonies, creates new breeding space, and invites the wider community to take part in national swift monitoring projects.

Protected/threatened bird species recorded within 2km² encompassing the study areas.

Species Name	Protected	Threatened
Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	✓	✓
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	✓	✓
Goldcrest (<i>Regulus regulus</i>)	✓	✓
Greenfinch (<i>Chloris chloris</i>)	✓	✓
Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)	✓	✓
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)		✓
House Martin (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	✓	✓
House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)		✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)		✓
Linnet (<i>Linaria cannabina</i>)	✓	✓
Little Egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	✓	
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	✓	✓
Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>)	✓	✓
Mediterranean Gull (<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>)	✓	✓
Mistle Thrush (<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>)	✓	
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	✓	✓
Redwing (<i>Turdus iliacus</i>)	✓	✓
Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>)	✓	
Rock Dove (<i>Columba livia</i>)	✓	
Shag (<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>)	✓	✓
Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	✓	✓
Sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>)	✓	
Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)		✓
Stock Dove (<i>Columba oenas</i>)	✓	✓
Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	✓	✓
Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)	✓	✓
Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)	✓	
Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>)	✓	
Willow Warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>)	✓	

4.1.1. Brent Geese

Recent observations indicate that Brent Geese occasionally use the Kilmacud Crokes pitches as a winter-feeding area, despite relatively few formal records for the site. The birds are likely moving between a network of feeding grounds in south Dublin, including the nearby Naomh Olaf grounds.



An example of urban habitat adaptation, Brent Geese increasingly use managed grasslands, including parks and playing fields across Dublin, as winter feeding grounds.

Recording future sightings will help improve understanding of the importance of local sports pitches and other green spaces for this internationally important migratory species.

4.2. Invertebrates

Invertebrates such as bees, butterflies, beetles, spiders and worms, are essential for healthy ecosystems. Invertebrates are essential for pollination, nutrient cycling and as a food source for many other animals.

The study area supports a diverse range of bees, butterflies, hoverflies, moths, beetles and other invertebrates, with pollinators particularly well represented in local records. In the 2km² area around the study sites, 894 records of 122 invertebrate species have been submitted, including 15 bee species.

The area's ponds, gardens, hedgerows, mature trees and flowering species provide important resources and habitat for pollinators and many other invertebrates, with further species likely to be present but not yet recorded.

Butterflies are an important part of local biodiversity and act as useful indicators of habitat quality. In addition to nectar-rich flowers, butterflies require shelter for roosting and overwintering. Areas of long grass, dense vegetation, hedgerows and uncut meadow provide essential habitat, particularly in urban landscapes where suitable refuges can be limited. Butterflies often roost on the underside of leaves, within long grass and among dense vegetation, where they are protected from predators and adverse weather.

Several recorded species are threatened or of conservation concern, highlighting the importance of local green spaces for wildlife. Records also include two invasive non-native species, the Harlequin Ladybird and New Zealand Flatworm, which can harm native wildlife and emphasise the need for ongoing biodiversity monitoring.

Threatened and invasive invertebrates recorded 2km² encompassing the study areas.

Species Name	Threatened	Invasive
Buffish Mining Bee (<i>Andrena nigroaenea</i>)	✓	
Gypsy Cuckoo Bee (<i>Bombus bohemicus</i>)	✓	
Harlequin Ladybird (<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>)		✓
Moss Carder Bee (<i>Bombus muscorum</i>)	✓	
New Zealand Flatworm (<i>Arthurdendyus triangulatus</i>)		✓
Red-tailed Bumblebee (<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>)	✓	



Red-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*), a pollinator of conservation interest recorded within the study area, foraging on Spear Thistle.

4.3. Mammals

Records for mammals in the area include hedgehog, red fox, and squirrel species. These records provide a useful snapshot of local wildlife, demonstrating the importance of local green spaces for mammals within an urban environment>

However, the low number of records is unlikely to capture the full diversity of mammals present. Many mammals are active at night or are naturally difficult to observe, meaning they often go unrecorded. The variety of habitats across the study sites, including mature trees, gardens, grasslands and hedgerows, is likely to support a wider range of species than current records indicate.

Mammal species recorded within the 2km² encompassing the study areas.

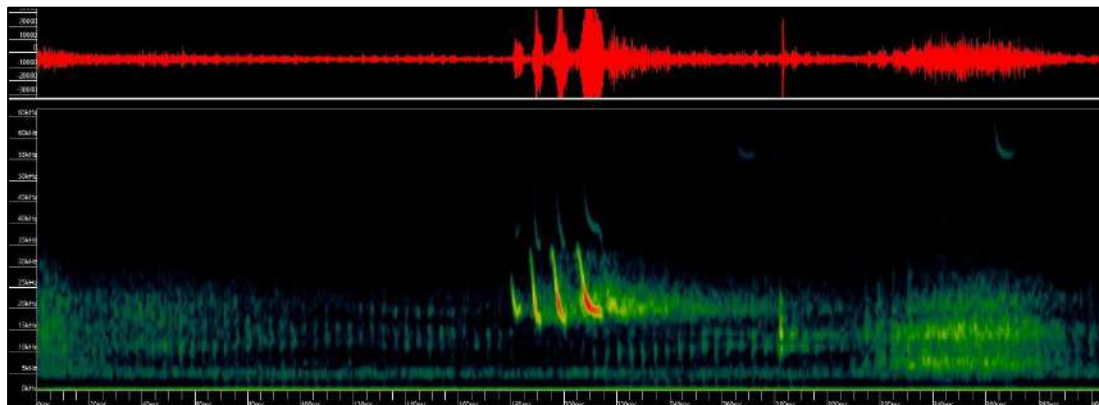
Species Name	Threatened	Invasive
Grey Squirrel (<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>)		✓
Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato</i>)	✓	
Hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>)	✓	
Red Squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>)	✓	
Red Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>)		
Irish Hare (<i>Lepus timidus</i> subsp. <i>hibernicus</i>)		



Grey Squirrels are widespread in urban green spaces but can outcompete native Red Squirrels and alter woodland ecosystems.

4.3.1. Bats

Several bat species were recorded in the study areas during surveys, including Brown Long-eared Bats, and both Common and Soprano Pipistrelle Bats.



The distinctive echolocation signature of a Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*) recorded during our surveys. This species relies on mature trees, sheltered habitats and insect-rich environments.

All bat species have full legal protection in Ireland and rely on mature trees, older buildings, hedgerows and water sources to roost, hunt, and travel safely around the landscape. Because bats are particularly sensitive to artificial lighting and divided landscapes, they depend on sheltered corridors such as tree lines, hedges and woodland edges, using these corridors to move between their roosts and feeding areas. In built-up suburban areas like Kilmacud and Stillorgan, retaining mature trees and maintaining connected vegetated pathways is essential, as these features form some of the last remaining dark routes through the landscape.

Protecting local bat populations relies heavily on maintaining dark, connected travel routes across Kilmacud and Stillorgan. Simple adjustments, such as turning off excessive outdoor lighting near mature trees, makes a real impact on their survival. Preserving natural features like hollow trunks and loose bark offers shelter, while filling gaps within existing tree lines helps maintain continuous pathways. Adding more native hedgerows and putting up specialised bat boxes further increases available roosting and shelter spaces and helps these nocturnal mammals move safely through the neighbourhood.

Particularly valuable are the mature tree avenues and boundary trees within the grounds of St Laurence O'Toole Church, which form a continuous corridor of vegetation through an otherwise built-up area. These tree lines may be used

by bats when commuting between feeding areas, allowing them to remain sheltered from wind, predators and artificial lighting.

Within St Brigid's Church and National School, mature trees, the woodland trail and the wildlife pond provide both shelter and a rich supply of insect prey. Together, these habitats form part of a wider network of green spaces that supports bat populations across Kilmacud and Stillorgan.

At Kilmacud Crokes, the mature Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) trees and established boundary planting provide valuable habitat in an otherwise biodiversity-poor area. Older trees often develop cracks and areas of loose bark that can offer roosting opportunities for bats and other wildlife. The mature beech and ash trees, along with the established Monterey Cypress tree line, create an important wildlife corridor for bats, supporting both movement through the landscape and access to insect-rich feeding habitat.



The large mature trees are the most important biodiversity assets within the Kilmacud Crokes grounds, providing habitat features that can take decades to develop and supporting a wide range of wildlife.

4.3.2. Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are one of Ireland's most recognisable mammals, but their populations have declined in many areas due to habitat loss, increased urbanisation, road mortality and the fragmentation of green spaces. As hedgehogs can travel considerable distances each night in search of food and nesting sites, connected habitats such as hedgerows, gardens, grasslands and wildlife-friendly boundaries are particularly important for their survival.

Although often associated with rural areas, hedgehogs can thrive in towns and suburbs where suitable habitat is available. Urban green spaces can provide valuable refuge if they contain areas of long grass, dense vegetation, log piles and undisturbed corners that offer nesting, feeding and hibernation

opportunities. Creating small gaps in fences and walls can also help hedgehogs move safely between gardens and other green spaces.

Hedgehogs are protected under the Wildlife Acts, making it illegal to intentionally harm or kill them. Community awareness and wildlife-friendly management can therefore play an important role in supporting local populations and maintaining habitat connectivity throughout Kilmacud and Stillorgan.

The hedgehog house within the grounds of St Brigid's National School provides an excellent example of a simple conservation measure that can benefit urban wildlife. When combined with nearby cover such as long grass, leaf litter, shrubs and log piles, features such as these can provide valuable shelter and hibernation sites, helping to engage children and the wider community with biodiversity conservation.



The hedgehog house at St Brigid's National School shows how easy it is to build a cozy home for local wildlife.

4.4. Plants, Lichens and Mosses

Plants form the foundation of healthy ecosystems, providing food and shelter for wildlife and contribute to the character and attractiveness of local green spaces. Trees, wildflowers, hedgerows and grasses support pollinators, birds and mammals, helping to create connected and resilient habitats throughout Stillorgan and Kilmacud.

Biodiversity records show a rich variety of plant life within and around the study sites, including native woodland species, grassland wildflowers, mature trees and ornamental garden plants. Notable records include native species such as Bluebell, Primrose, Ramsons, Hawthorn, Oak, Ash, Bird's-foot-trefoil, Oxeye Daisy and Bee Orchid, all of which contribute to local biodiversity and provide valuable resources for wildlife.

The study areas contain a range of grassland habitats, from intensively managed lawns and sports pitches to areas with potential for more biodiversity-friendly management. Simple changes to grassland maintenance, even in small areas, can provide significant benefits for pollinators, birds and other wildlife, while maintaining the recreational and amenity value of these spaces.

The diversity of habitats across the study area, including mature trees, hedgerows, grasslands, ponds, gardens and woodland areas, is likely to support many more plant species than have currently been recorded. Continued surveying and community recording will help build a better understanding of the area's botanical diversity over time.



Thyme-leaved Speedwell

Even small wildflowers such as this Thyme-leaved Speedwell, found in the grounds of the Church of St. Laurence O'Toole, play an important role in supporting biodiversity.

Flowers provide nectar and pollen for insects; their leaves, seeds and structure help support a wide range of invertebrates that in turn provide food for birds, bats and other wildlife.

4.4.1. Lichens and Mosses

Lichens are remarkable organisms formed by a partnership between fungi and algae. They grow slowly on stone, bark and other surfaces, and are often indicators of good air quality and environmental health.

Churchyards, stone walls and mature trees can support a rich diversity of lichens, many of which may have taken decades to establish. Churchyards can act as refuges for lichens and other specialised species that depend on long-established stonework and undisturbed habitats.

Like lichens, many mosses and ferns thrive on old stone walls, gravestones and shaded boundary features. These plants add to the biodiversity value of churchyards and stone structures, providing microhabitats for insects and helping to create the distinctive character of historic sites.

4.4.2. Invasive and Undesirable Plant Species

A small number of invasive non-native plant species have also been recorded, including Japanese Knotweed, Three-cornered Garlic and Cherry Laurel. These species can spread rapidly and may outcompete native vegetation if left unmanaged, highlighting the importance of ongoing monitoring and appropriate control measures where necessary.

Invasive plant species recorded within 2km² encompassing the study areas.

Species Name	Invasive
Water Fern (<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>)	✓
Three-cornered Garlic (<i>Allium triquetrum</i>)	✓
Himalayan Honeysuckle (<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>)	✓
Black Currant (<i>Ribes nigrum</i>)	✓
Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)	✓
Butterfly-bush (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>)	✓
Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>)	✓
Japanese Knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>)	✓

Some other non-native plants, such as Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), are not considered invasive but can become locally dominant. Their ability to spread quickly and establish dense colonies can reduce plant diversity and limit opportunities for native species to thrive.



If left unchecked, Red Valerian can become dominant and outcompete native plants.

5. BIODIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations in this Biodiversity Action Plan are designed to build upon existing habitats and biodiversity features within the study areas. While many actions can be applied generally across the sites, Figures XX to XX identify specific locations where biodiversity enhancements could be implemented, helping to guide future management, community projects and habitat creation initiatives.



Kilmacud Crokes grounds showing habitat types and the locations of key biodiversity recommendations.



Church of St Laurence O'Toole grounds showing habitat types and the locations of key biodiversity recommendations.



St Brigid's Church and National School grounds showing habitat types and the locations of key biodiversity recommendations.

5.1. Grassland and Meadow Management

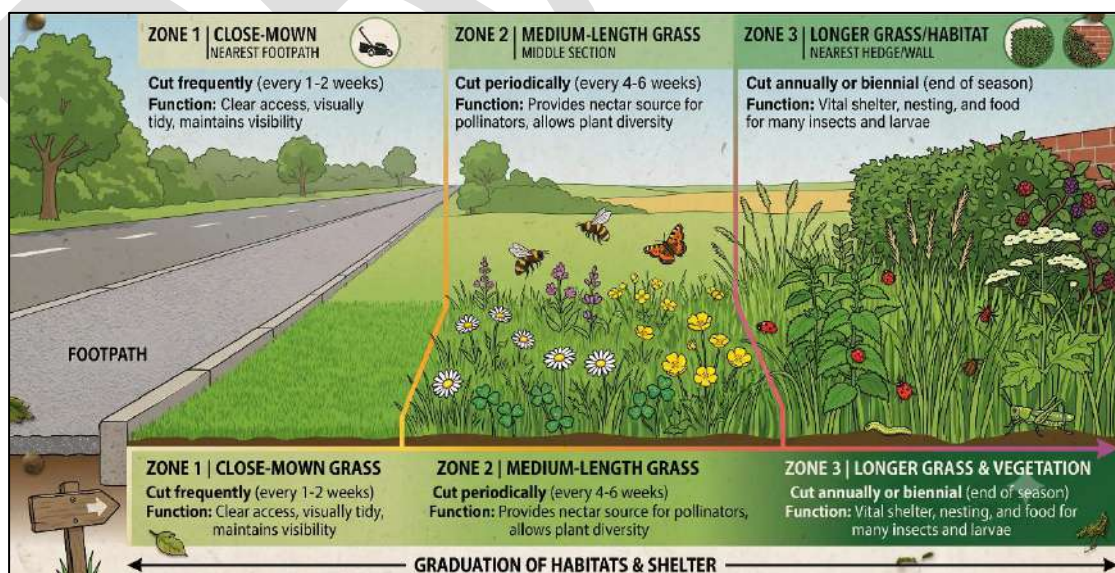
Opportunities exist at all three sites to increase the diversity of flowering plants, improve habitat connectivity, and enhance food sources for insects and birds. Areas around field margins, fence lines, boundaries and less frequently used grassed spaces, are particularly suitable for biodiversity-focused management.

5.1.1. Mowing Regimes

Frequent mowing can reduce the diversity of wildflowers and limit the availability of nectar and pollen for pollinators. Adopting a varied mowing regime will help create richer, more resilient habitat in the green spaces.



A suitable meadow space within Kilmacud Crokes grounds.



Graduated mowing regimes on grass verges can provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife and maintaining accessibility and a tidy appearance. Leaving some longer grass uncut ensures insects always have refuge when other areas are being mown.

Recommendations for Mowing Regimes

Action	What To Do	Biodiversity Benefits	Suitable Locations
Create short-flowering mini-meadows on roadside/ entrance verges and grass margins	Cut every 6 weeks throughout the growing season	Supports pollinators and improves habitat connectivity	- Long grass verge along rear entrance to Kilmacud Crokes - Grass verges at rear of St Laurence O'Toole Church
Stagger mowing regimes	Mow different areas of grass on different weeks, rather than all together	This allows displaced insects to avail of other nearby green spaces and prevents widespread habitat loss on "mowing day"	- All mown spaces within each site
Leave a no-mow strip	Leave an unmown strip of 1-2 metres along the base of walls and hedges, allowing taller grasses, nettles, and brambles to take root	This creates essential shelter and foraging grounds for local wildlife, protecting their movement along the wall or hedgerow	- Boundary walls and hedgerows within St Laurence O'Toole Church - Along walls in St Brigid's National School - Under tree lines within Kilmacud Crokes
Create long-flowering mini-meadows in larger areas that are mown just once per year	Allow designated grass areas to bloom throughout the main growing season without being mown, allowing native wildflowers and grasses to bloom and set seed. Cut in late August or September after seeds have dropped. Mow paths through it to encourage residents to use the space without trampling longer grasses.	Leaving mowing until autumn helps supply essential nectar and pollen for pollinators as well as vital shelter for insects	- Large green area to front of St Laurence O'Toole Church
Mow a short border along paths	Maintain short mown paths and edges around meadow areas to retain access and signal area is managed with intent and is not neglected. Where possible, use curved or wavy edges rather than harsh straight lines.	Naturally guides foot traffic across the shorter grass, protecting the deeper habitat from trampling. Wavy boundaries lengthen the border zone and create varied microclimates with alternating pockets of shade.	- All mown spaces within each site

Action	What To Do	Biodiversity Benefits	Suitable Locations
Remove grass clippings to prevent nutrient build-up	Rake and remove the clippings after mowing	Lowers soil fertility by removing nutrients from decomposing clippings. This helps encourage a more diverse range of native wildflowers and grasses.	- All short- and long-flowering mini-meadows within each site
Retain areas of long grass and uncut vegetation over winter	Keep areas of unmown grass and dead plant stems standing over winter. Cut back in early spring before new growth begins	Provides hibernation spaces and shelter for insects, spiders and other wildlife during the colder months. These areas act as important overwintering habitats.	- Under treelines and on slope beside All Weather Pitch in Kilmacud Crokes - Behind treelines and around compost bays in St Laurence O'Toole Church - Within Community Garden and under mature trees in St Brigid's National School - Along boundary walls and low-traffic plots in St Brigid's Church
Monitor meadow areas	Monitor meadow areas each year and review how they are developing over time. Adapt management as needed to encourage a diverse range of wildflowers and address any emerging issues.	Continued assessment helps maximise benefits for pollinators and other wildlife.	- All mown spaces within each site
Targeted Actions for Kilmacud Crokes	Manage the grass bank and unused area to the south/southwest of the former swimming pool area as a pollinator habitat through reduced mowing and, on the sunny bank, supplementary sowing of native wildflowers.	The bank has the potential to provide valuable feeding, shelter and roosting habitat for butterflies and other invertebrates while the area to the rear of the swimming pool is relatively undisturbed and has potentially high biodiversity value.	- Grass bank alongside All Weather pitch - Unused area to rear of swimming pool/ All Weather pitch
Targeted Actions for St Brigid's Church and School	Expand existing biodiversity areas and manage suitable grassland to support wildflowers and pollinators. Create a meadow around the margins of the playing field, retaining the central grassed area for recreation.	This provides both wildlife habitat and opportunities for outdoor learning and play.	- Margins of playing field

5.1.2. Pesticides

Pesticides, herbicides and insecticides can have unintended impacts on wildlife, particularly pollinating insects and the plants they rely upon. Reducing chemical use can improve biodiversity by supporting healthier soils and ecosystems. These standards should be implemented throughout the three locations this plan focuses on.

Recommendations for Pesticides (all areas)

Action	Biodiversity Benefits
Avoid the routine use of herbicides and insecticides wherever possible. Use non-chemical approaches such as hand weeding, mulching and habitat management where practical	These chemicals can have unintended impacts on pollinators, other wildlife and soil health, as well as on people.
Adopt an integrated pest management approach that prioritises non-chemical control methods, such as habitat management, hand weeding and encouraging natural predators, before considering chemical treatments.	This approach can help maintain healthy green spaces, minimising impacts on pollinators, other wildlife and the wider environment.
Tolerate low levels of naturally occurring flowering plants such as clover, selfheal and dandelion in appropriate areas.	These species provide valuable nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators and can contribute significantly to local biodiversity at little cost.
Use manual removal or targeted treatment only where invasive species, public safety issues or significant maintenance concerns require intervention.	Limiting treatment to specific problem areas will reduce impacts on pollinators, other wildlife and surrounding habitats but ensure management remains effective.
Avoid spraying flowering plants when bees and other pollinators are active, particularly during warm, sunny weather when insects are most likely to be foraging.	Where treatment is necessary, it should be carefully timed and targeted to minimise impacts on pollinators and other beneficial insects.
Raise awareness among grounds staff, volunteers and community groups about the biodiversity benefits of reducing pesticide use.	Providing information, training and practical guidance can help encourage wildlife-friendly management practices that support pollinators, birds and other wildlife across the study sites.
Record and monitor the occurrence of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Three-cornered Garlic and Cherry Laurel.	This helps ensure that pesticide control measures can be used effectively and in a targeted manner where necessary.

5.2. Enhancing Biodiversity Through Trees and Plants

Thoughtful planting can significantly enhance biodiversity across the study areas by providing food, shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife throughout the year. Planting schemes should prioritise native species where possible, while also incorporating carefully selected ornamental plants that benefit pollinators and are well suited to community spaces.

5.2.1. Suitable Plant and Tree Species

Native trees, shrubs and wildflowers are particularly valuable because they support a wide range of Irish wildlife, including birds, bees, butterflies and other insects. Existing records show that species such as oak, ash, hawthorn, holly, alder and wildflower species already occur within the wider area and should be encouraged where appropriate.

Hazel, rowan and hawthorn are among the most suitable species for community sites because they are relatively compact, wildlife-friendly, attractive and manageable in urban settings.



Hazel is an excellent tree for urban biodiversity, helping to support pollinators, birds and other wildlife throughout the year. Hazel catkins release pollen in late winter and early spring, providing an important food source for pollinators when few other plants are flowering.

Recommendations for Suitable Plant and Tree Species (all areas)

Action	Biodiversity Benefits
Prioritise native species in all new planting projects. Wherever possible, select species that offer food and refuge for birds, pollinators and other wildlife throughout the year.	Native tree species provide the greatest benefits for local wildlife and are well adapted to Irish conditions.
Increase the diversity of flowering plants across the sites to provide a continuous source of nectar and pollen from early spring through to late autumn.	A wider range of flowering species will support bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other pollinators throughout their active season.
Incorporate berry- and seed-producing trees, shrubs and wildflowers into planting schemes to provide an important food source for birds throughout the year.	Species that produce fruit, berries or seeds can help support both resident and migratory birds, particularly during autumn and winter when food is less abundant.
Use species that are well suited to local soil, drainage and growing conditions to improve establishment and long-term survival.	Selecting the right plant for the right place will reduce maintenance requirements and create healthier, more resilient habitats for wildlife.
Create a dispersed orchard across the three areas by encouraging planting of small fruit trees such as apples and plums in residents' gardens as well as within each focus area. Provide educational signage to explain the project at each of the three areas.	Creates an interconnected food and wildlife haven, creating stepping stones for pollinators and birds moving between larger spaces. Also collectively boosts the urban tree canopy cover, which will help improve local air quality as well as providing residents with home-grown fresh fruit.

5.2.2. Ornamental Pollinator Planting

As community sites that are regularly used and highly visible, the church grounds, school grounds and club facilities can combine attractive planting with biodiversity benefits. Pollinator-friendly ornamental beds can enhance the appearance of these spaces, providing valuable food resources for bees, butterflies and hoverflies.

There are opportunities to incorporate biodiversity-friendly planting throughout all three study areas. At the Church of St Laurence O'Toole, pollinator-rich borders could enhance entrances, pathways and seating areas. Ornamental planting around club buildings, car parks and spectator areas could provide additional habitat for pollinators at Kilmacud Crokes and soften the built environment. Within St Brigid's Church and National School, pollinator-friendly planting can complement the existing community garden, wildlife pond and woodland trail, supporting outdoor learning opportunities.

By selecting plants that flower at different times of the year, these planting schemes can provide a continuous source of nectar and pollen, demonstrating

how attractive landscaping and biodiversity enhancement can work together in community spaces.



Nectar-rich plants such as lavender help support bees, butterflies and other pollinators throughout the summer months.

Recommendations for Ornamental Pollinator Planting (all areas)

Action	Biodiversity Benefits
Establish pollinator-friendly planting borders near entrances, seating areas and pathways.	Provides nectar and pollen for wildlife, enhances the appearance of the site and raises awareness of biodiversity.
Select plants with different flowering periods to provide nectar and pollen from early spring to late autumn.	This supports pollinators throughout the year and help create a more resilient planting scheme.
Choose single-flowered varieties wherever possible.	The nectar and pollen of single-flowered species are more accessible to bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Double-flowered varieties may be attractive but often provide little or no food value for wildlife.
Avoid heavily modified ornamental varieties and choose pollinator-friendly plants such as lavender, salvia, catmint, verbena and single-flowered roses.	These provide valuable nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other pollinators.
Install simple interpretation signage explaining the benefits of pollinator-friendly planting for birds, bees, moths and butterflies.	This can help raise awareness of local biodiversity and encourage wildlife-friendly gardening and management practices.

5.2.3. Invasive and Undesirable Species

Around Kilmacud and Stillorgan, invasive plants currently exist only in small pockets rather than large, dominant thickets. The main priority for the area is preventing non-native species from taking over green spaces and crowding out indigenous flora. Protecting local plant life is vital, as non-native species often fail to support the full life cycle of Irish wildlife, which rely on native trees and flowers for breeding and survival – especially during their earlier, less obvious life stages.

Recommendations for Invasive and Undesirable Species (all areas)

Action	Biodiversity Benefits
Survey the sites annually for invasive plant species to identify new infestations at an early stage.	Regular monitoring will help prevent their spread and allow appropriate management measures to be implemented before significant impacts on native habitats occur.
Prevent the spread of invasive plant species through appropriate management and the careful disposal of plant material. Cuttings, soil and other contaminated materials should not be moved or composted on site where there is a risk of spreading invasive species to new areas.	Helps to prevent the spread of invasive species which can dominate the area and out-compete native plants. Such monocultures may not cater to all the needs of our native insects – for example, they might provide nectar for adult butterflies but no habitat or food source for the caterpillars.
Avoid planting invasive or potentially invasive ornamental species that may spread beyond planting areas and negatively affect native habitats.	Where ornamental planting is required, favour non-invasive, pollinator-friendly species and native alternatives that provide benefits for wildlife without posing a risk to local biodiversity.
As opportunities arise over time (e.g. when a hedging plant or tree has died), replace invasive and undesirable species with native alternatives to improve habitat quality and support local wildlife.	Species such as hawthorn, hazel, holly and rowan can often provide similar screening or ornamental value to beech or laurel hedging, delivering greater benefits for biodiversity.
Seek specialist ecological or invasive species management advice where significant infestations are identified.	Professional guidance can help ensure that control measures are effective, comply with relevant legislation and minimise the risk of further spread to nearby habitats.
Engage residents and volunteers in monitoring for invasive species and encourage the reporting of sightings through appropriate biodiversity recording schemes.	This can improve local knowledge and support rapid action where required.
Targeted Action for St Brigid's Church Remove Snowberry from flower beds and Red Valerian from graves	Neither species support the full life cycle of native Irish insects in the same way as local flora. Red Valerian roots damages fragile stonework, leading to cracking, damage, and costly repairs, while Snowberry creates dense thickets that spread persistently by runners.

5.2.4. Native Hedgerow Establishment

Well-designed native hedgerows provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities for birds, pollinators and small mammals, helping to connect habitats across the wider landscape.

There are opportunities to establish or enhance hedgerows around the boundaries of Kilmacud Crokes, St Laurence O'Toole Church and St Brigid's Church and School.



A recently planted native hawthorn hedge in the Church of Saint Laurence O'Toole grounds.

As it matures, this hedgerow will provide shelter, food and nesting opportunities for a wide range of birds, insects and other wildlife.

There are opportunities to add more native hedgerows, especially along boundary walls, throughout the Church grounds.

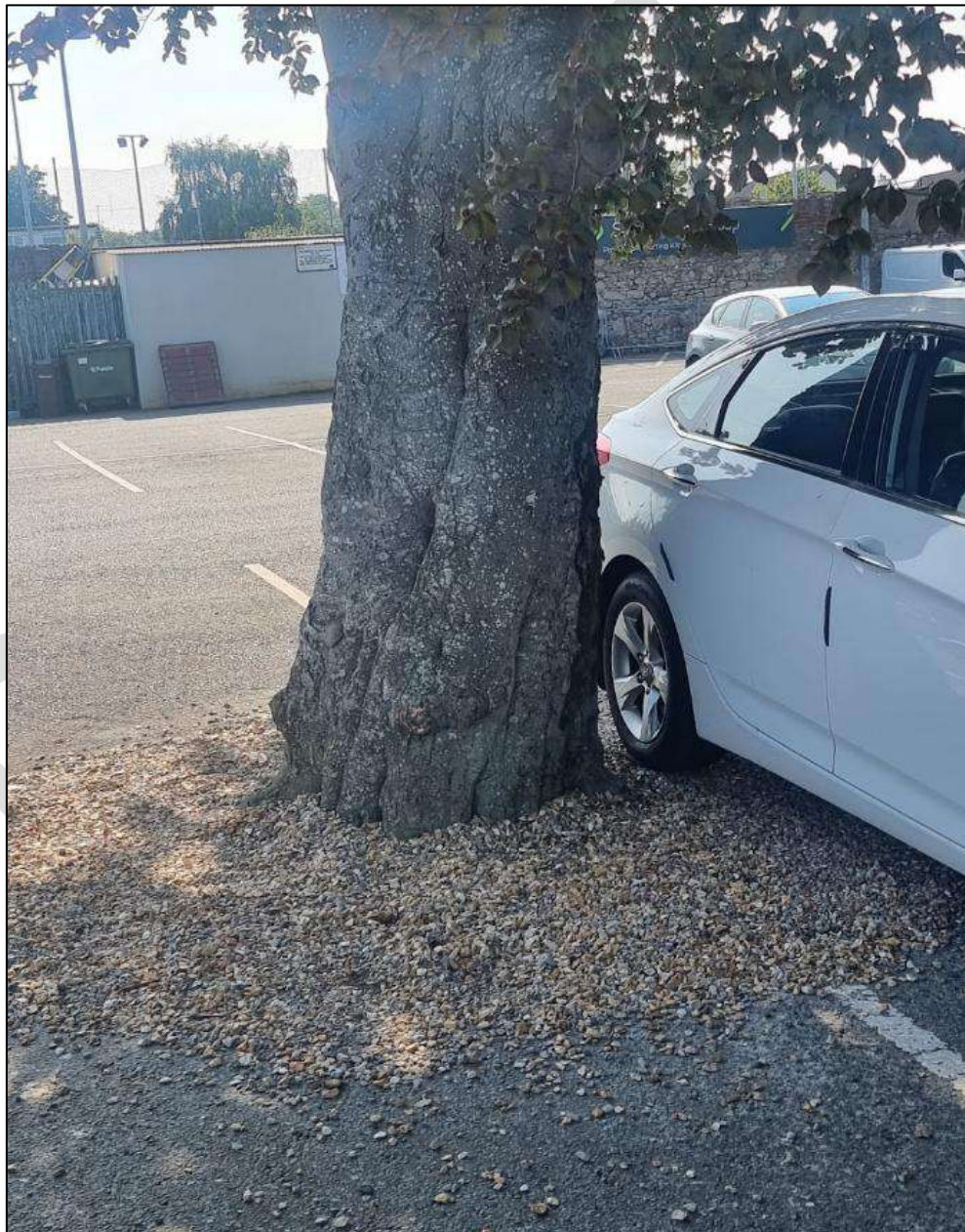
Recommendations for Native Hedgerow Establishment

Action	Biodiversity Benefits	Suitable Locations
Plant mixed native hedgerows along suitable site boundaries	Creates valuable wildlife corridors and natural screening. Where possible, select locations that strengthen links between existing trees, grasslands and other biodiversity features.	- Along boundary wall near composting area of St Laurence O'Toole Church
Plant a diverse range of native hedgerow species	This maximises biodiversity value and provides year-round food and shelter for wildlife and creating a more resilient habitat.	- All areas where hedgerows are being planted or added to.
Allow hedgerows to flower and produce berries before undertaking any trimming or cutting	This provides spring nectar and pollen for insects, followed by an important food source for birds and small mammals during autumn and winter.	- All areas where native hedgerows exist or are being planted.
Avoid unnecessary removal and use gap planting with native species	This helps to improve structure, connectivity and long-term ecological value.	- Existing native and beech hedges in St Laurence O'Toole Church - All locations where hedges exist or are added in the future
Retain cover at the base of hedges	Maintaining vegetation right down to the soil line traps humidity and lowers ground-level wind speeds, creating a dark, sheltered layer where wildlife can forage and move safely. Clearing or lifting the base of a hedge destroys this essential microclimate, leaving ground-dwelling creatures exposed to harsh weather, artificial light and predators.	- Existing native and beech hedges in St Laurence O'Toole Church - Newly planted hedges in all locations
Prioritise the protection of mature hedgerows and incorporate them into future site management plans.	Protecting these fully developed habitats within future management plans prevents irreversible ecosystem loss that newly planted shrubs would take decades to recover.	- All sites

5.2.5. Tree Care

Mature trees are among the most valuable biodiversity features within the study areas. They provide nesting and roosting opportunities for birds and bats, support a wide range of insects and fungi, and contribute to local climate resilience through shading, carbon storage and flood attenuation.

Mature trees support far more biodiversity than newly planted trees and should be retained and protected wherever possible; protecting existing trees should be a priority within all community green spaces.



Soil compaction and accidental damage from parked vehicles can threaten the health of mature trees. Retaining an undisturbed area around tree trunks supports both tree health and biodiversity.

Recommendations for Tree Care (all areas)

Action	Biodiversity Benefits	Suitable Locations
Retain mature and veteran trees wherever possible. Incorporate them into future site and management plans rather than removing them unnecessarily.	Mature trees provide irreplaceable habitat for wildlife and should be. Large trees such as Ash and Monterey Cypress provide habitat and safe passageways for bats and many species of birds.	- Mature tree lines along avenue in St Laurence O'Toole Church - Mature beech, ash and Monterey Cypress in Kilmacud Crokes - Small woodland area behind St Brigid's National School - Mature cherry and Monterey Cypress in St Brigid's Church grounds
Avoid parking, material storage or construction activities beneath tree canopies, and maintain a protected area around tree bases wherever possible. Mulch exposed roots with tree bark to protect them from further damage. Reconfigure parking spaces around affected trees to create a larger protected root zone.	Protect tree roots from soil compaction, excavation and vehicle traffic. By reducing the risk of trunk damage, soil compaction and root disturbance from parked vehicles, this will help safeguard the long-term health and biodiversity value of important mature trees.	- Large beech in centre of Kilmacud Crokes grounds - Monterey Cypress in Kilmacud Crokes and St Brigid's National School - Broadleaved trees to the north side of St Laurence O'Toole Church where heavy foot traffic occurs from neighbouring businesses.
Undertake regular inspections to identify safety issues, disease or storm damage.	Routine inspections by suitably qualified personnel can help identify problems early and allow appropriate management before significant decline occurs.	- All sites
Avoid unnecessary pruning and retain deadwood habitat where it does not pose a risk to public safety.	Where safe to do so, retain dead branches, standing deadwood or fallen timber in less-used areas as refuge for insects, birds and fungi.	- All sites - Along east wall of carpark in St Laurence O'Toole Church (trees within the new wildflower strip)
Replace any trees lost through disease or safety concerns with suitable native species.	Species such as oak, rowan, hazel, birch and wild cherry can help maintain canopy cover and support local biodiversity.	- All sites
Maintain a diversity of tree species and age classes, and plant a mixture of species and regularly establish new young trees	Ensures a continuous supply of habitat as older trees mature and decline and improves long-term resilience.	- All sites

5.2.6. Ivy

Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is often misunderstood and removed unnecessarily from trees. Ivy provides valuable habitat and food resources for a wide range of wildlife including birds, bees and other insects - particularly in urban areas where natural habitats may be limited.



Ivy can transform walls, fences and trees into valuable wildlife habitats, offering shelter, nesting opportunities and protection from the elements.

Recommendations for Ivy (all areas)

Action	Biodiversity Benefit
Retain ivy on healthy trees wherever it does not create a safety concern.	Ivy is a natural part of many habitats and should not be removed unnecessarily.
Recognise ivy as an important late-season food source for pollinators.	Its autumn flowers provide nectar and pollen when few other plants are in bloom.
Preserve ivy-covered trees where possible.	Ivy provides valuable shelter and nesting habitat for birds, bats and other wildlife throughout the year.
Only remove ivy where it causes structural damage or management issues.	Where removal is necessary, retain ivy elsewhere on the site to maintain its biodiversity value, or cut one-third per year over 3 years.
Targeted actions for St Brigid's National School Retain ivy growth along wall in community garden. Install bird boxes within the ivy.	The ivy growth provides excellent habitat for nesting birds, overwintering insects, and other animals. Adding nesting boxes within the ivy cover will provide extra nesting opportunities and privacy for wildlife.

5.2.7.

5.2.8. Ash Dieback Management

Ash Dieback is a serious fungal disease affecting ash trees throughout Ireland. Caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, the disease can lead to crown dieback, branch loss and, in some cases, the death of affected trees. Ash trees support a wide range of birds, insects, lichens and fungi, making their conservation and careful management an important biodiversity objective.

Several ash trees occur within the wider study area and should be monitored as part of ongoing tree management. While some trees may decline, others may show signs of natural tolerance to the disease and could contribute to the long-term survival of ash within the landscape.



This mature ash tree is one of the most valuable biodiversity features within the Kilmacud Crokes grounds.

In a landscape dominated by buildings, car parks and sports facilities, the mature Ash in Kilmacud Crokes carpark provides food, shelter and habitat for hundreds of species of insects, birds, lichens and fungi, and offer potential roosting and foraging habitat for bats. Although replacement planting is important, it would take many decades and numerous young trees to replicate the wildlife value, canopy cover and ecological functions currently provided by a single mature tree such as this.

Recommendations for Ash Dieback Management

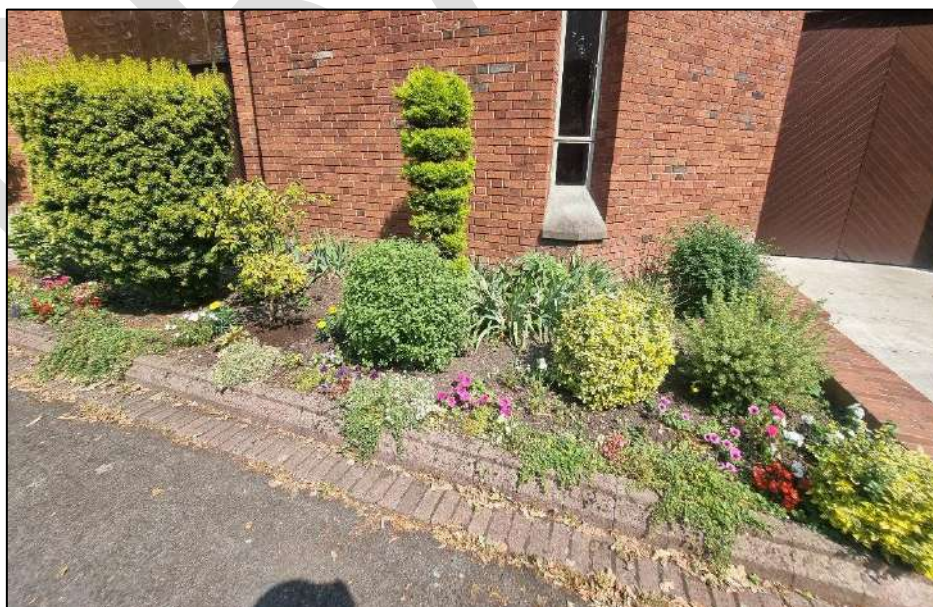
Action	Biodiversity Benefits
Monitor ash trees annually for signs of dieback, including thinning crowns, dead branches and leaf loss.	Early identification can help inform future management decisions.
Retain ash trees that remain healthy or show signs of tolerance to the disease wherever it is safe to do so.	These trees may contribute to future ash populations.
Undertake tree works only where necessary to address genuine safety concerns.	Retaining standing deadwood and veteran tree features where safe can continue to provide habitat for wildlife.
Replace any ash trees lost to disease with a diverse range of native species, such as oak, rowan, hazel, birch and wild cherry.	Diversifying replacement planting helps to maintain habitat continuity and increase resilience to future pests and diseases.
Record significant cases of Ash dieback and review affected trees as part of routine tree inspections.	Facilitates monitoring for safety purposes and also contributes to national data and understanding of the disease.

5.2.9. Recommended Plants

These beneficial trees, wildflowers and biodiversity-friendly ornamental plants should be encouraged or used within planting schemes or sowing mixes.

Native trees	
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)	Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)
Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)	Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)
Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	Wych Elm (<i>Ulmus glabra</i>)
Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)
Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)	Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)
Pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Crab Apple (<i>Malus sylvestris</i>)

Wildflowers to be encouraged	
Bird's-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>)	Oxeye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)
Common Knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>)	Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>)
Selfheal (<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>)	Yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>)
Cuckooflower (<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>)	Meadow Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>)
Biodiversity-friendly ornamental plants Including these in planting schemes would be particularly suitable around church entrances, seating areas, car parks and school gardens.	
Lavender	Verbena
Salvia	Nepeta (Catmint)
Echinacea	Alliums
Achillea	Sedum
Hardy Geraniums	Crocus and Snowdrops for early-season pollinators



Consider replanting ornamental displays with biodiversity-friendly plants to increase the value to wildlife within the same space.

5.3. Providing for Wildlife

The study areas support many wildlife species, including birds, bats, mammals, amphibians and invertebrates. Simple measures such as installing nest boxes, retaining natural habitats, and improving connectivity between green spaces, can significantly enhance their value for biodiversity, and encourage community engagement with nature.

5.3.1. Birds

These recommendations aim to enhance habitat quality, provide additional nesting and feeding opportunities, and support a diverse range of bird species across the three study areas. Many of these actions can be implemented through simple management changes and community involvement, helping to create a more bird-friendly landscape throughout Kilmacud and Stillorgan.

Recommendations for Birds

Action	Biodiversity Benefit	Suitable Locations
Install bird nesting boxes on suitable mature trees and buildings. Provide a range of box types and position them away from heavy disturbance and direct sunlight where possible.	Different birds have differing needs for nesting sites, including entrance size and shape, height from the ground, and preferences for cover or open entrances	- Throughout the woodland and on high walls of St Brigid's Church and National School - House Sparrow nesting boxes on buildings throughout Kilmacud Crokes grounds
Retain berry-producing trees and shrubs such as hawthorn, rowan and holly.	These species provide an important source of food during autumn and winter, particularly for thrushes, finches and other garden birds.	- All sites
Maintain dense hedgerows and shrubbery - where possible, allow hedgerows to develop a varied structure and avoid cutting during the bird nesting season.	Thick hedges of varied sizes and tree species allow a greater variety of nesting and shelter for different wildlife species.	- All sites - New and established hedges in St Laurence O'Toole Church
Install swift nest boxes on suitable buildings. Schools, churches and other tall buildings	This can provide valuable nesting opportunities for this declining species.	- At height on the walls of St Laurence O'Toole Church
Encourage residents, schools and community groups to submit sightings to national recording schemes	Helps the local community to improve understanding of local bird populations and engage with nature.	- All sites

5.3.2. Amphibians

Although records of just two frog sightings have been submitted for the area, the wildlife pond at St Brigid's National School provides an important habitat for Common Frog and other aquatic wildlife. Amphibians play a valuable role in controlling insects and are sensitive indicators of environmental quality.

Small ponds can be biodiversity hotspots, providing food, shelter and breeding areas for many species within urban environments. Several birds were observed using the pond during our surveys.



The wildlife pond at St Brigid's National School provides valuable breeding habitat for frogs and supports insects, birds and a wide range of aquatic life.

A garden wildlife pond is a great way to attract wildlife. Something as small as 1-2m² with a minimum depth of 60cm of water present all year round, can provide frogs with somewhere to breed.

It is also recommended to create frog hibernaculums, by making a pile of stones or logs with gaps between them in a mound in an undisturbed part of the property – preferably near a pond/water feature that could be used for breeding.



The open green space in front of the Church of St Laurence O'Toole presents an opportunity to create a small wildlife pond that would significantly enhance biodiversity within the site. Even relatively modest ponds can support a remarkable range of wildlife, including frogs, aquatic invertebrates, birds and pollinating insects, also providing an attractive feature for the wider community.

A carefully designed pond with gently sloping edges, native aquatic plants and surrounding wildflower planting could create a valuable ecological resource within an area that is currently dominated by amenity grassland. Locating the pond within the existing green space would also complement the proposed pollinator-friendly grassland management and tree planting measures, creating a more diverse and interconnected habitat network.

Recommendation for Amphibians

Action	Biodiversity Benefit
Protect and enhance existing ponds habitats. Maintain a range of aquatic and marginal vegetation while ensuring ponds retain areas of open water.	Established ponds are providing valuable breeding sites for frogs, as well as supporting insects, birds and mammals for water sources and hunting grounds.
Create additional pond habitat where opportunities arise.	Even small wildlife ponds can provide valuable breeding habitat for frogs and a wide variety of aquatic invertebrates.
Design ponds with shallow, gently sloping edges.	This allows amphibians and other wildlife to enter and leave the water safely.
Retain long grass, log piles and vegetation around ponds.	These features provide shelter, feeding opportunities and overwintering habitat for amphibians.
Avoid introducing fish into wildlife ponds.	Fish can reduce biodiversity by feeding on amphibian eggs, tadpoles and aquatic invertebrates.
Encourage community involvement in pond monitoring.	Schools and local groups can help record frogs and other wildlife as they learn about freshwater habitats.
Targeted Actions for St Laurence O'Toole Church Consider creating a native-planted wildlife pond in the green space in front of the church.	This would boost local biodiversity, supporting amphibians, invertebrates and birds, while serving as an engaging educational focal point for the community. Child safety can be addressed by installing wildlife-accessible fencing around the area.

5.3.3. Invertebrates

Actions that can be taken to support invertebrates within the study areas are simple to implement and can make a significant contribution to supporting the insects that form the foundation of healthy ecosystems.

Recommendations for Invertebrates (all areas)

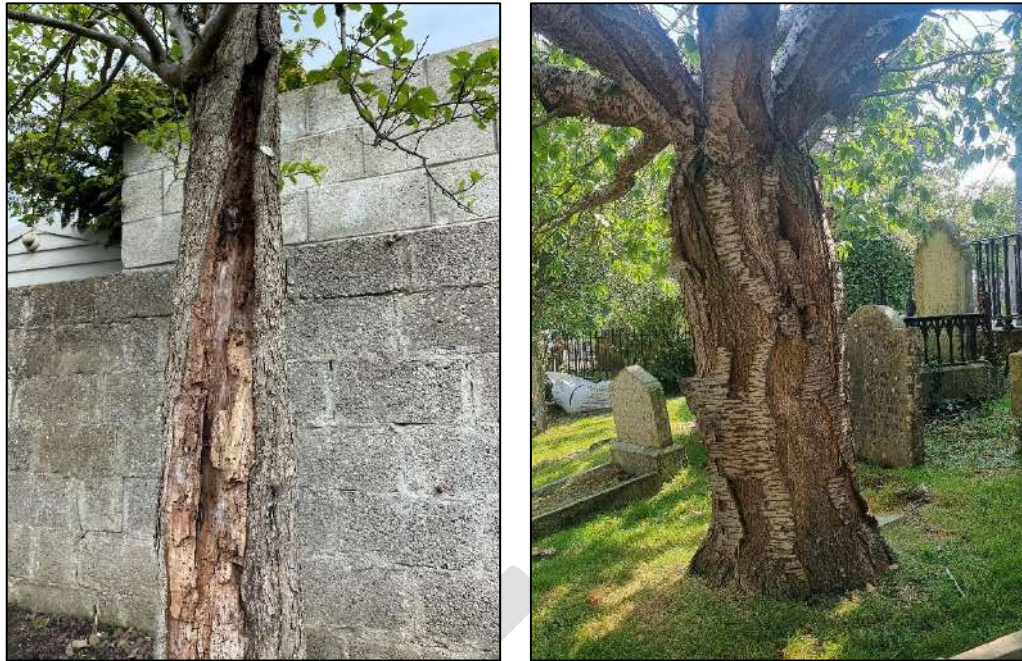
Action	Biodiversity Benefit
Expand areas of wildflower-rich habitat across all three sites.	Creating nectar-rich meadows, flowering borders and grass margins provides food for pollinators throughout the growing season.
Avoid managing all grassland areas at the same time.	Leaving patches of longer vegetation throughout the site ensures butterflies and other insects always have places to feed, shelter and roost.
Plant native and ornamental nectar-rich species with staggered flowering periods.	Aim to provide a continuous supply of nectar and pollen from early spring through to late autumn.
Allow some seed heads, nettles and less-managed vegetation to remain in suitable locations.	These areas can provide important habitat for butterflies and their caterpillars, which often have very specific plant requirements.
Retain some seed heads, long grass and dead vegetation over winter.	These features provide shelter and overwintering habitat for many beneficial insects.
Create insect hotels and bee banks in suitable locations.	Position them in sunny, sheltered areas and use natural materials such as logs, stems and bare soil.
Leave small log piles, branches and leaf litter in low-maintenance areas.	These habitats are important for beetles, spiders, solitary bees and other invertebrates.
Reduce pesticide use wherever possible.	Wildlife-friendly management practices will help protect pollinators and maintain healthy invertebrate populations.
Promote citizen science and biodiversity monitoring through citizen science programmes.	Activities such as pollinator counts and wildlife surveys can improve local knowledge and encourage community participation. Recording species and numbers can help track the effectiveness of meadow creation and wildlife-friendly management over time.
Targeted action for Church of St. Laurence O'Toole Continue to create sunny, sheltered wavy habitat edges along hedgerows and walls.	These transitional habitats are particularly attractive to butterflies for feeding, basking and shelter.
Targeted action for Kilmacud Crokes Manage the grass bank to the south-west of the former swimming pool as a pollinator habitat by reducing mowing frequency and encouraging a diverse range of native wildflowers.	Retaining areas of longer grass and flowering plants will provide feeding, shelter and roosting habitat for butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects.

5.3.4. Bats

Supporting bats within the study area will require the protection and enhancement of suitable roosting, feeding and commuting habitat. The following recommendations focus on retaining mature trees and dark wildlife corridors, reducing the impacts of artificial lighting, and creating additional opportunities for bats to thrive within this highly urbanised landscape.

Recommendation for Bats

Action	Biodiversity Benefits
Install bat boxes on suitable mature trees. Add boards to building overhangs to create crevices bats can use for shelter	A mixture of box designs placed at different heights and orientations will provide a range of roosting opportunities for bats.
Retain mature trees with cavities, cracks or loose bark where safe to do so	These features can provide important natural roost sites that may take decades to develop.
Avoid excessive lighting of trees, hedgerows and wildlife corridors	Use downward-facing, warm-coloured lighting and minimise light spill in areas used by wildlife.
Increase night-scented and pollinator-friendly planting	Species such as honeysuckle and evening-primrose can attract moths and other insects that form an important food source for bats.
Consider bats before undertaking building works	Specialist advice should be sought if maintenance works may affect potential roosting sites.
Retain habitat connections between trees, hedgerows and gardens	Continuous green corridors help bats move safely through the landscape as they feed and move through the landscape.



As trees age or take on damage, features such as cavities and peeling bark become increasingly important for wildlife. These natural roosting sites are often used by bats for resting, shelter and breeding.

5.3.5. Other Mammals

The following recommendations aim to improve habitat connectivity, shelter and foraging opportunities for mammals such as hedgehogs, foxes and squirrels. By maintaining connected green spaces and providing areas of refuge, the three study sites can play an important role in supporting mammal populations within an otherwise urban landscape.

Urban foxes are a regular feature of suburban Dublin and can play an important ecological role by helping to control rodents and other small animals. Although highly adaptable, foxes still rely on connected green spaces, dense vegetation and undisturbed areas for shelter, resting and movement through the landscape.

Recommendations For Mammals

Action	Biodiversity Benefits
Maintain and enhance habitat connectivity between green spaces.	Tree lines, hedgerows and vegetated boundaries help foxes and other wildlife move safely through the urban landscape. Use hedgerows, native planting and wildlife-friendly boundaries to help mammals move safely through the area.
Create log piles, leaf piles and undisturbed corners for shelter.	These features can provide nesting and hibernation sites for hedgehogs and other small mammals.
Avoid impermeable fencing where possible.	Small gaps at ground level can allow hedgehogs and other wildlife to move between gardens and green spaces.
Retain dense shrubbery and areas of vegetation cover.	These habitats provide shelter, feeding opportunities and safe movement routes for mammals.
Encourage the recording of mammal sightings.	Community observations can help build a better understanding of species distribution and habitat use within the area.
Raise awareness of protected and priority mammal species.	Community events, signage and educational activities can encourage wildlife-friendly practices and greater appreciation of local biodiversity.
Targeted actions for Kilmacud Crokes and St Brigid's Church and School Retain areas of dense boundary planting, mature trees and less intensively managed vegetation	These features provide shelter and movement corridors for urban foxes and other mammals and help connect local green spaces within the wider Kilmacud and Stillorgan area.

5.4. Stone Wall and Gravestone Management

Stone walls and gravestones can provide important habitats for wildlife, particularly in urban areas where natural rocky habitats are scarce. The stone walls, boundary features and gravestones within St Laurence O'Toole Church and St Brigid's Church grounds support a variety of mosses, lichens, ferns and invertebrates, while also contributing to the historic character of these sites.

Management of these features should seek to balance biodiversity conservation with heritage protection, visitor access and routine maintenance requirements.

5.4.1. Conservation of Lichens

Excessive cleaning, power washing or the application of chemicals can damage or destroy these important communities.



The stone surfaces of older gravestones provide important habitat for lichens and mosses, demonstrating the close relationship between cultural heritage and biodiversity.

5.4.2. Conservation of Mosses and Ferns

Ferns growing from historic stonework highlight the importance of retaining natural vegetation on walls where it does not threaten the structural integrity of the feature. Stone walls can act as valuable refuges for biodiversity, supporting specialised plants and providing shelter for invertebrates and other wildlife.



Mature stone walls support a rich variety of mosses, ferns and lichens, demonstrating how built heritage can also contribute to local biodiversity.

Recommendations For Stone Wall and Gravestone Management

Action	Biodiversity Benefit
Retain existing stone walls and historic gravestones wherever possible.	These long-established features provide valuable habitat for wildlife and contribute to the character and heritage of the site.
Avoid unnecessary cleaning of stone walls and gravestones.	Natural weathering, lichens, mosses and ferns are often important components of the site's biodiversity and heritage value.
Avoid the use of power washers, bleach and chemical treatments on stonework.	Such treatments can damage historic fabric and destroy slow-growing communities of lichens, mosses and other specialised species.
Use sensitive management techniques where vegetation control is required.	Hand removal of problematic vegetation should be favoured over routine chemical treatment.
Retain older stonework and boundary walls where safe to do so.	Mature stone surfaces often support the greatest diversity of lichens, mosses and ferns.
Include historic stone features within biodiversity surveys and interpretation materials.	This can help raise awareness of the links between cultural heritage and wildlife conservation.
Avoid routine removal of lichens, mosses and ferns from boundary walls and less-sensitive gravestones.	These plants can provide habitat and shelter for a variety of small wildlife.
Allow lichens to remain on gravestones and stone walls wherever possible	Lichens rarely cause significant damage and are often indicators of environmental quality.
Protect shaded and damp areas around walls and monuments.	Such conditions are often essential for the survival of specialised moss and fern communities.
Use manual methods where management is required.	Careful, targeted intervention can protect heritage features as well as retaining biodiversity value.
Highlight mosses and ferns through interpretation signage or educational activities.	These often-overlooked plants can help demonstrate the rich biodiversity supported by historic stonework.
Consider carrying out a lichen survey within church grounds.	Citizen science projects or guided surveys can help record and celebrate local biodiversity.

5.5. Lighting

Managing artificial light at night is an important part of biodiversity conservation, helping to protect wildlife and maintain the functionality of community spaces. Artificial lighting can have significant impacts on wildlife, particularly bats, moths and other nocturnal species. Excessive lighting can disrupt feeding, breeding and movement patterns, as well as reducing the ecological value of otherwise suitable habitats.

The mature trees, hedgerows, church grounds and school habitats within the study area provide important wildlife corridors that should remain as dark as possible at night. Any future lighting upgrades should seek to balance public safety with biodiversity considerations.

Particular consideration should be given to the extensive floodlighting associated with the sports facilities at Kilmacud Crokes, where lighting is necessary for evening training and matches but may also affect nearby habitats and commuting routes used by wildlife.

By adopting wildlife-friendly lighting practices, the study areas can continue to provide safe and welcoming community spaces as well as protecting the nocturnal species that depend on them.



Floodlighting and excessive light spill can affect feeding and movement patterns of bats, moths and other night-active wildlife. Thoughtful lighting design can help minimise these impacts.

Recommendations For Lighting

Action	Biodiversity Benefit
Avoid unnecessary lighting of trees, hedgerows, ponds and wildlife corridors.	Maintaining darker areas will help protect habitats used by bats, moths and other nocturnal wildlife.
Use warm-coloured lighting where illumination is required.	Warm white LED lighting is generally less disruptive to wildlife than cooler blue-rich lighting.
Direct lighting downward and away from habitats.	Shielded fittings can reduce light spill onto trees, hedgerows and other sensitive biodiversity features.
Install lighting only where there is a clear operational need.	Timers, dimming controls and motion sensors should be considered in lower-use areas to reduce unnecessary illumination.
Retain dark commuting routes for bats.	Hedgerows, mature tree lines and other habitat corridors should remain connected by areas of darkness where possible.
Review existing lighting across all three study areas.	Opportunities may exist to reduce light spill without reducing safety and accessibility for site users.

5.5.1. Kilmacud Crokes Floodlighting

The sports pitches at Kilmacud Crokes require floodlighting to support training and recreational activities, particularly during the winter months. However, floodlights can create substantial light spill beyond playing surfaces, potentially affecting nearby trees, boundary vegetation and wildlife habitats.



Floodlighting and excessive light spill can affect feeding and movement patterns of bats, moths and other night-active wildlife. Thoughtful lighting design can help minimise these impacts.

Recommendations For Kilmacud Crokes Floodlighting

Action	Biodiversity Benefits
Regularly review floodlight positioning and beam angles.	Ensure lighting is focused on playing surfaces and does not unnecessarily illuminate surrounding trees, hedgerows or neighbouring habitats.
Switch off floodlights as soon as activities have concluded. Check and adjust timers and user needs throughout the year. Avoid leaving lights operating when pitches are not in use.	Artificial lighting at night severely disrupts nocturnal creatures by casting harsh glare across their natural feeding grounds and travel routes. Switching off sports floodlights immediately after use preserves essential dark skies, allowing bats to forage safely and navigate through urban areas without fear of predators.
Consider adopting modern LED systems with improved directional control.	Newer technologies can often reduce light spill without lowering required lighting standards for sport.
Identify opportunities to maintain dark refuges around the site boundary.	Less disturbed areas, particularly along hedgerows and mature tree lines, can continue to function as wildlife habitat even where sports facilities are illuminated.
Monitor future lighting upgrades with biodiversity in mind.	Consultation with ecological specialists may help identify opportunities to reduce impacts on bats and other nocturnal wildlife yet still maintaining the club's operational requirements.

5.6. Community Engagement

Community engagement is central to the success of this Biodiversity Action Plan. The three study areas provide excellent opportunities for residents, schools, sports clubs and community groups to engage with nature, develop new skills, and contribute to the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity.

By encouraging participation in biodiversity initiatives, the community can help create a stronger connection with the natural environment and build a greater understanding of the wildlife that share these spaces with us.

Each of the study areas offers unique opportunities for community involvement. The Church of St Laurence O'Toole provides a highly visible setting for pollinator-friendly planting, wildlife interpretation and community gardening projects. Kilmacud Crokes offers opportunities to engage club members, families and young people through meadow creation, tree planting, and box installation for birds and bats. At St Brigid's Church and National School, existing features such as the wildlife pond, woodland trail, vegetable gardens and mature trees provide an ideal outdoor classroom where children and adults can learn about local wildlife through hands-on activities, citizen science programmes and guided nature walks.

Making biodiversity in these sites a visible and accessible part of everyday community life can help inspire a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility for local nature. Small actions undertaken by many people can collectively make a significant contribution to protecting and enhancing biodiversity across Kilmacud and Stillorgan for future generations.

5.6.1. Events and Activities

Community events can play an important role in raising awareness and encouraging local action for nature. Activities should be practical, inclusive, and suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

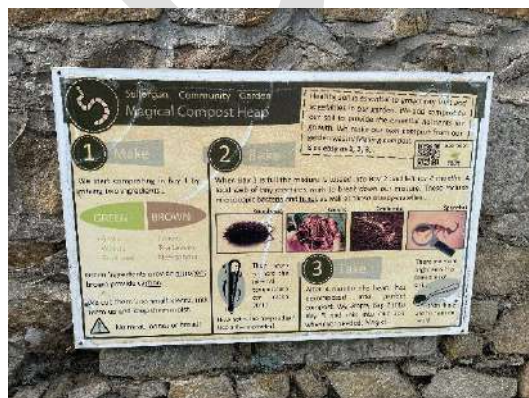
Recommendations For Events and Activities
Organise annual biodiversity events such as pollinator walks, birdwatching mornings, bioblitzes and nature discovery days.
Hold seasonal wildlife surveys to record birds, mammals, plants, bats and pollinators across the study areas.
Establish volunteer habitat management days involving hedge planting, wildflower sowing, pond maintenance and invasive species control.
Participate in national initiatives such as National Biodiversity Week, Bee Day and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
Encourage collaboration between Kilmacud Community Men's Shed, local schools, residents' associations and sports clubs on biodiversity projects.
Promote citizen science projects through the National Biodiversity Data Centre to increase local wildlife recording.
Targeted actions for Church of St Laurence O'Toole Host community planting days and seasonal wildlife walks.
Targeted actions for Kilmacud Crokes Develop biodiversity events linked to club activities, including family nature trails and pollinator projects.
Targeted actions for St Brigid's Church and School Use the woodland trail, pond and gardens for guided biodiversity events and community learning opportunities.



Community bat walks, like that held in XX, are a great way to get residents interested in biodiversity in the area.

5.6.2. Signage

Interpretation signage can help visitors understand and appreciate local biodiversity and encourage wildlife-friendly behaviours. Well-designed signs can transform everyday green spaces into outdoor learning environments. There are already some excellent examples of educational signage throughout the Community Garden in St. Brigid's National School.



Educational signage, like these used in Stillorgan Community Garden, can help visitors understand local biodiversity and conservation projects.

Recommendations For Signage
Install interpretation panels highlighting local habitats, wildlife and biodiversity projects.
Provide signage explaining the purpose of meadow areas and reduced mowing regimes.
Install species identification signs near ponds, native hedgerows and pollinator planting areas.
Use QR codes linking visitors to additional online biodiversity resources and recording schemes.
Highlight actions people can take at home to support biodiversity, such as planting pollinator-friendly flowers or creating hedgehog access points.
Ensure signage is attractive, accessible and updated as projects develop.

5.6.3. Educational Resources

The study areas offer valuable opportunities for environmental education and lifelong learning. Biodiversity projects can help build ecological knowledge and encourage a sense of stewardship for local green spaces.

Recommendations For Educational Resources
Develop simple educational materials on local wildlife, habitats and seasonal nature observations.
Create biodiversity information packs for community groups, schools and volunteers.
Promote the use of smartphone apps and online resources for species identification and recording.
Share biodiversity stories, survey results and conservation successes through community newsletters, websites and social media.
Encourage partnerships with local ecological experts, conservation organisations and educational institutions.

5.6.4. Engaging Children with Nature

Providing opportunities for children to experience nature is essential for fostering future generations of environmental stewards. The church grounds, school campus and sports club facilities offer ideal locations for hands-on biodiversity learning.

Through education, participation and community-led action, the three study areas can become important centres for biodiversity awareness and environmental stewardship within the Kilmacud and Stillorgan community.

Recommendations For Engaging Children with Nature
Support nature-based learning through pond dipping, bug hunts, bird surveys and wildflower identification activities.
Involve children in practical conservation projects such as hedge planting, creating bird boxes and installing insect hotels.
Establish dedicated nature observation areas where children can safely watch wildlife.
Organise annual school and community competitions focusing on wildlife photography, nature art or biodiversity recording.
Targeted actions for St Brigid's Church and School Build upon the existing woodland trail, wildlife pond and garden areas as outdoor classrooms.
Targeted actions for Church of St Laurence O'Toole Use church grounds for seasonal nature walks and pollinator projects. Develop wildlife trails like the one within St Brigid's National School, with simple interpretation features and species information.
Targeted actions for Kilmacud Crokes Engage youth members in habitat creation projects, tree planting and biodiversity monitoring as part of community outreach activities.

5.7. Citizen Science

Citizen science allows local communities to make a direct contribution to biodiversity conservation by recording wildlife and monitoring changes over time. The three study areas provide excellent opportunities for residents, school pupils, parish groups, sports club members and volunteers to participate in national biodiversity recording programmes while developing a greater understanding of local wildlife.

Regular participation in biodiversity monitoring projects can help build a valuable evidence base for future biodiversity initiatives and contribute to national conservation efforts.

5.7.1. Bird Surveys

The [Countryside Bird Survey \(CBS\)](#) is one of Ireland's longest-running bird monitoring programmes and helps track changes in breeding bird populations.

The Irish Garden Bird Survey provides a simple way for people of all ages to record birds visiting gardens and community green spaces during the winter months. The survey provides an accessible introduction to citizen science and can help identify common and declining bird species using the local area.

Recommendations For Bird Surveys
Encourage experienced birdwatchers within the community to participate in the survey and record birds using the study areas and surrounding neighbourhoods.
Use the mature trees, hedgerows and green spaces at St Laurence O'Toole Church, Kilmacud Crokes and St Brigid's Church and School as regular bird monitoring locations.
Share survey results through parish newsletters, school projects and community events to increase awareness of local birdlife.
Encourage residents, parishioners and school pupils to participate in the survey from their homes and community sites.
Establish winter bird feeding and observation areas at St Brigid's Church and School and St Laurence O'Toole Church to support survey participation and wildlife education.
Display survey results on community noticeboards, websites and social media to promote interest in local biodiversity.

5.7.2. Invertebrate Surveys

The [Flower-Insect Timed Count](#) is a simple citizen science activity that involves observing a patch of flowers for ten minutes and recording all visiting pollinating insects. This activity requires little specialist knowledge and provides an excellent introduction to biodiversity recording.

The [Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme](#) records butterfly numbers across Ireland and provides information on population trends and habitat quality.

Recommendations For Invertebrate Surveys
Encourage community groups, school classes and sports club members to complete timed counts during the flowering season.
Carry out surveys in pollinator-friendly planting areas, meadow sections and flowering hedgerows across the three study sites.
Compare results annually to measure changes in pollinator activity and habitat quality.
Establish butterfly monitoring routes through suitable areas of the study sites, particularly around wildflower meadows, pollinator planting and woodland edges.
Encourage volunteers, school pupils and residents to record butterflies regularly between spring and autumn.
Use results to assess the success of habitat enhancements such as meadow creation and pollinator-friendly planting.

Targeted actions for St Brigid's Church and School Monitor butterflies along the woodland trail and around the wildlife pond.
Targeted actions for St Laurence O'Toole Church Record species visiting pollinator-friendly borders and grass margins.
Targeted actions for Kilmacud Crokes Survey meadow strips and flowering boundary areas created as part of biodiversity enhancement works.

5.7.3. Map Your Actions for Pollinators

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan encourages communities to map actions that support pollinators, helping to demonstrate the collective impact of local biodiversity projects.

These can be logged here: <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>

Recommendations For Mapping Your Actions for Pollinators
Register pollinator-friendly actions undertaken at all three study sites, including meadow creation, reduced mowing, native planting and pollinator borders.
Encourage neighbouring schools, churches, residents' groups and businesses to record their biodiversity actions on the pollinator map.
Use mapped actions to showcase community achievements and identify opportunities for future habitat creation.

6. MEASURING SUCCESS

The success of this Biodiversity Action Plan will depend on the continued involvement of the local community and the implementation of practical actions across the three study areas. Monitoring progress will help demonstrate the positive impact of biodiversity enhancements, identify areas for improvement and maintain momentum over the lifetime of the plan.

Many of the actions recommended in this document can be tracked using simple indicators that are easy for community groups, schools and volunteers to record. Monitoring does not need to be complex; even basic records and photographs taken over time can provide valuable information on how habitats and wildlife are responding to management changes.

6.1. Monitoring Progress

Photographs taken from fixed locations can provide a simple way to document habitat improvements over time. For example, annual photographs of meadow areas, hedgerow planting, pollinator beds and wildlife ponds can help demonstrate how sites develop and mature.

Citizen science projects also provide an effective method of monitoring biodiversity. Engagement activities such as the Irish Garden Bird Survey, Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, Flower-Insect Timed Count and Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme can help track changes in wildlife.

6.2. Suggested Indicators of Success

Theme	Indicator
Grassland Management	Area of meadow or reduced-mowing habitat created (m ²)
Tree Planting	Number of native trees planted and successfully established
Hedgerows	Length of native hedgerow planted or enhanced
Pollinator Planting	Area of pollinator-friendly planting established
Wildlife Features	Number of bird boxes, bat boxes, insect hotels and hedgehog houses installed
Ponds and Wetlands	Number of ponds created or enhanced
Community Engagement	Number of biodiversity events, workshops and volunteer days held
Education	Number of participants involved in educational activities and school projects
Citizen Science	Number of records submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre and other recording schemes
Wildlife Monitoring	Number of species recorded within the study areas
Partnerships	Number of local groups, schools and organisations participating in biodiversity activities

6.3. Reviewing the Plan

The Biodiversity Action Plan should be reviewed periodically to assess progress and identify new opportunities for action. A simple annual review by the Kilmacud Community Men's Shed and project partners could record completed actions, highlight successes and identify priorities for the following year.

By tracking progress and celebrating achievements, the community can demonstrate the positive impact of its efforts and help ensure that biodiversity continues to flourish across Kilmacud and Stillorgan.

7. USEFUL RESOURCES

The following resources provide practical advice, educational materials and opportunities to get involved in local biodiversity projects and citizen science programmes. Whether you are interested in wildlife gardening, recording species or managing habitats for nature, these resources can help support your biodiversity journey.

Please note: Website addresses were correct at the time of publication. As websites are updated from time to time, some links may change. If a link is no longer available, searching for the resource or organisation name will usually help you find its current location online.

Resource	Website
National Biodiversity Data Centre	www.biodiversityireland.ie
Ireland's Citizen Science Portal	www.records.biodiversityireland.ie
All-Ireland Pollinator Plan	www.pollinators.ie • Info for Schools: www.pollinators.ie/schools/ • Info for Sports Clubs: www.pollinators.ie/sports-clubs/ • Info for Faith Communities: www.pollinators.ie/faith-communities/
Pollinator Resources and Signage	www.pollinators.ie/resources
Actions for Pollinators Mapping Tool	www.pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie
BirdWatch Ireland	www.birdwatchireland.ie
Bat Conservation Ireland	www.batconservationireland.org
Request a Bat Walk or Talk	www.batconservationireland.org/get-involved/request-bat-walk-talk-event
National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	www.npws.ie

Actions for Biodiversity Resource Library	www.actionforbiodiversity.ie/resources
DarkSky Ireland Environmentally Friendly Lighting Guide	www.darksky.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/DSI-Environmentally-Friendly-Lighting-Guide-4.pdf

Monitoring Schemes	Website
Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme	www.biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/bumblebee-monitoring-scheme
New Year Plant Hunt	www.bsbi.org/new-year-plant-hunt
Spring Flowering Plants Project	www.biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/spring-flowers
Irish Hedgehog Survey	www.biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/irish-hedgehog-survey
Countryside Bird Survey (CBS)	https://countrysidebirdssurvey.ie/
Irish Garden Bird Survey	www.birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/surveys-research/research-surveys/irish-garden-bird-survey
Garden Butterfly Monitoring Scheme	www.biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/garden-butterfly-monitoring-scheme
Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme	www.biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/butterfly-monitoring-scheme
Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT Count)	https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/fit-counts/

8. REFERENCES

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). <https://www.epa.ie>
- Fossitt, J. (2000). A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. Heritage Council, Kilkenny.
- Gilbert, Stanbury & Lewis (2021). Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026
- Heritage Council (2026). Havens for Nature: Supporting Biodiversity in Faith Grounds
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC). <https://biodiversityireland.ie> and All-Ireland Pollinator Plan <https://pollinators.ie>
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). <https://www.npws.ie>

9. APPENDICES

9.1. Appendix 1

Species records for this Community Biodiversity Action Plan were downloaded from <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie> for the four 1km squares that surround the three study areas; O1928, O1927, O2028 and O2027.

