



Transition Kerry

Biodiversity & Climate

Community Leadership Programme

Biodiversity is the foundation of all life on earth and its interconnections

Biodiversity Site Assessment



Biodiversity Site Assessment

- An Introduction to Planning & Design -

Habitats, Biodiversity & Growing Local Food

This document aims to help you assess your community spaces in simple practical steps.

Maps and Sketches

If possible, try to get a map of the site. You can also look for an aerial view on Google Maps or Ordnance Survey Maps. Local Council will have maps of community spaces and Areas Managed for Biodiversity.

Or

Draw your own sketch to get an idea of what is currently there.

Draw a plan of your site/grounds as they are now. Include buildings

- *Include area that is covered in concrete/tarmac*
- *Include any existing features i.e. trees, hedges, river, ponds, greenhouse/polytunnel*
- *Include any playground areas, ie. seating, car park, bike stands*

You have to take into account the following elements:

- *Mark in north, south, east, west*
- *Make a note of the path of the sun from east to west*
- *Make a note of the prevailing wind (usually south-west in Ireland)*
- *Is there a slope and which direction is it facing?*
- *Is the site at the bottom of a hill, or in the shadow of any forestry or mountains?*
- *Is any of the land liable to flooding?*
- *Gather any other observations and local knowledge that would be useful to know!*

Using the Above Information:

Using the information assess which areas on your map could be used for biodiversity and planting projects? Remember this is only a wish list, so don't let barriers stop you from adding the elements, (eg. pond, tunnel).

Apply all the elements

Apply all the elements of the site audit and don't forget to use your imagination to think of any other potential ideas:

- *Projects based around our local Placenames/Ainm Áit/Logainm and what these names as Gaeilge tell us about the land and ecosystems*
- *Exotic useful plants (make sure they are not on the invasive list!)*
- *Outdoor performance areas*
- *Sensory spaces*
- *Quiet spaces*
- *Other ideas.....*

Nature, Biodiversity & Wellbeing Trails:

Connect the habitats together with a simple nature trail, so that locals and visitors can enjoy the living landscape and nature in your community. Integrate this nature trail to be part of the local 'Slí na Sláinte' health & wellbeing walks. This could also be put together as a simple leaflet to help communicate and raise awareness of the nature/ biodiversity projects that are happening and invite others to join to help and get involved.

What
FUTURE
Do We Want?



Checklist: Biodiversity Site Assessment

Do you have a native hedgerow or a natural stonewall ?	YES / NO	Notes:
Do you have a native woodland (small or large)?	YES / NO	
Do you have a dead hedge habitat ?	YES / NO	
Do you have a vegetable areas/community garden/allotments ?	YES / NO	
Do you have any compost system ?	YES / NO	
Do you have an orchard and/or fruit bushes ?	YES / NO	
Do you have any herbs growing? Culinary or medicinal	YES / NO	
Do you have a flower garden? Are there pollinator friendly plants growing?	YES / NO	
Do you have a lawn/playing pitch/grassy area ?	YES / NO	
Do you have wild areas e.g. wild flower meadows, long grass, log piles etc?	YES / NO	
Do you have a wildlife pond ? Ephemeral or seasonal ponds? Wetland areas, floodplains?	YES / NO	
Do you have a polytunnel or glasshouse ?	YES / NO	
Do you have any domestic farm animals ?	YES / NO	
Do you have a willow or hazel coppice ?	YES / NO	
Do you have a hazel coppice ?	YES / NO	
Do you have a native tree nursery ?	YES / NO	
Do you have a living willow fence/dome/tunnel/archway ?	YES / NO	
Do you have any bat boxes or bird boxes ?	YES / NO	
Do you have a wetland, pond or bog habitat ?	YES / NO	
Do you have outdoor seating ? Formal benches or logs?	YES / NO	
Do you have a trellis/climbing area for climbing plants?	YES / NO	
Do you have water collectors/harvesters ?	YES / NO	
Do you have an adequate sewage system ? Or a reedbed system ?	YES / NO	
Do you have alternative energy sources or Building Energy Ratings (BER) ?	YES / NO	
Do you have a shed/storage space ?	YES / NO	
How is waste separated and disposed of in the local family resource centre/parish centre, etc?	YES / NO	

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tionscail Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTíorthaí
Tuathie
Our Rural
Future



Comhairle na Párlaí
Kerry County
Development Committee



NEW KD

