

"Biodiversity" Areas - Letterkenny

The intention of this information is to form a basis for debate and further investigation. "Scrub" in the text beneath is not a pejorative term - scrub is a highly prized for biodiversity. A subjective **biodiversity score** (ranging from 0 to 4) is provided in **column titled "Value"**. It is influenced by an impression of "naturalness", size of the area, and its connectivity value with other habitats. **Column titled "Owner"**: Score 3 is for Co Council, 2 is for other public bodies such Dept of Ed, Church?, 3 is for private.

Location	Description	Value	Owner	Remarks
Along the Swilly	The Swilly has connectivity value and much naturalness along most of its length. It has the combination of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The portion in Letterkenny connects the upstream (freshwater) countryside to the tidal portion and is a protected European Habitat from the Port Bridge to Bunrana (Site Code SAC 002287). It may be worth exploring the nature value of the narrow strip along its immediate banks.	4	Varies	A neglected "biodiversity jewel"?
Rodgers Burn- Mass Rock Area/Glenoughty Close + Elms side	Rodgers Burn has connectivity value and much naturalness along most of its length. It has the combination of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. This portion comprises old hazel scrub and veg plus an additional portion that has been colonised by 20 year old alder.	4	3	An informal recreation area - subject to littering.
Sentry Hill	Whins, scrub, ivy, etc	4	3	Highlighted by Gerard McCormick, LK Tidy Towns
Beside cathedral car	Whins, scrub, ivy, etc	4	2	Co-chairperson
Above the old mart	Small area of semi natural scrub	2	1	Small area
Bishop's land opposite Scoil	Small area of mature woodland	3	2	Small area
Convent Rd, above Tony Murrays	Semi mature birch tree line that seems to naturally acquiring a woodland herb vegetation - e.g. blue bells. Perhaps could be augmented with primroses, wood anemone, wood sorrel?	3	2	Small area
Loreto Convent "former sports area" that adjoins the	This area has benefitted from benign neglect from the biodiversity point of view and has now become a wild area.	3	2	Perhaps some or all of its wildness can be preserved?
Ballymacool Woods	Mature woodland. Likely to be a habitat for bats. (contains a grave - Boyd?)	4	3	Worth a biodiversity survey .
Church Lane - between Church of Ireland and Main	An area that has not been developed for housing/commercial and presumed to have some wild area characteristics.	2	1	PRIVATE LANDS
From Joe Bonners/ALDI to the Public Services Centre.	A habitat that was much changed in the past 20 years by the deposition of fill (stones and clay) over what may have been a flood plain. It has now been colonised by a mix of shrubs, principally by sallows and some buddleia plus others. The area also contains a large drain/canal that is worth some exploration. Perhaps some of current biodiversity value can be retained in the process?	3	1	An intriguing area from the biodiversity viewpoint.
Between Public Services Centre and LIDL	An "undeveloped" area - mature trees and the seeming remnant of the former flood plain. Out of sight of the public	4	1	PRIVATE LANDS
	An area that has been colonised by alder. Landscape value as well as biodiversity.	3	3	
Kellys former coal yard/port, Port Bridge	Probably has historical/industrial archaeological value as the site of the port. Is now becoming colonised by scrub	2	1	PRIVATE LANDS
Between Calhame Road and St. Conals Grounds and	Small area of birch/sallows	1	1	PRIVATE LANDS
LYIT car park opposite the LYIT campus	Mature woodland. Likely to be a habitat for bats.	3	2	Historical interest also
	Has very little biodiversity value currently. However there are 2 corridors (1 beside Quickfit & Irwins and another beside KFC that have the potential to be managed for biodiversity. Also noted was a planning notice for development of photovoltaic panels - could this be combined with the introduction of increased grassland species?	1	2	
Grianan Theatre Car Park	Steep slope in front of the cultural centre offers an opportunity for grassland meadow - limited mowing	1	2	
Grianan Theatre Car Park	Steep slope and tree line near the Court House - an opportunity for grassland meadow - limited mowing	2	2	
Ballybo/Glenear Town park	Focus on the old hedgerow, the stream and the small areas of woodland plus the maturing trees.	2	3	

Location	Description	Value	Owner	Remarks
Field behind the Fire Station	Benign neglect has allowed the establishment of native trees, under utilised grassland, maturing trees and mature hedgerows/tree lines	3	1	
Wood at LYIT Campus	The wooded areas consist of immature woodland and comprise small to medium specimens of alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>), willows (<i>Salix</i> sp.) and birch (<i>Betula</i> sp.). Other species recorded are: hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>), sitka spruce (<i>Picea sitchensis</i>), holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>), blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) and ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>). A row of poplar (<i>Populus tremula</i>) is present at the mid-western border. The understorey is comprised mostly of ivy (<i>Hedra helix</i>), bramble (<i>Rubus</i> sp.) together with small patches of mosses (mostly <i>Racomitrium</i> sp.) and ferns (<i>Pteridium</i>).	2	2	
Wood at LYIT Campus	A band of dead (herbicide sprayed) non-native invasive species Himalayan Balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>) was recorded. The northern part of the site is less wooded except for clumps of tall alder. A mosaic of habitats is present with a small marsh area around the origin of the stream; with disturbed ground containing rushes (<i>Juncus effusus</i> and <i>Juncus articulatus</i>), whins (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>) and broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>), together with thistle (<i>Cirsium</i> sp.), dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>) and common grass species; Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>) and red fescue (<i>Rubra festuca</i>).	2	2	