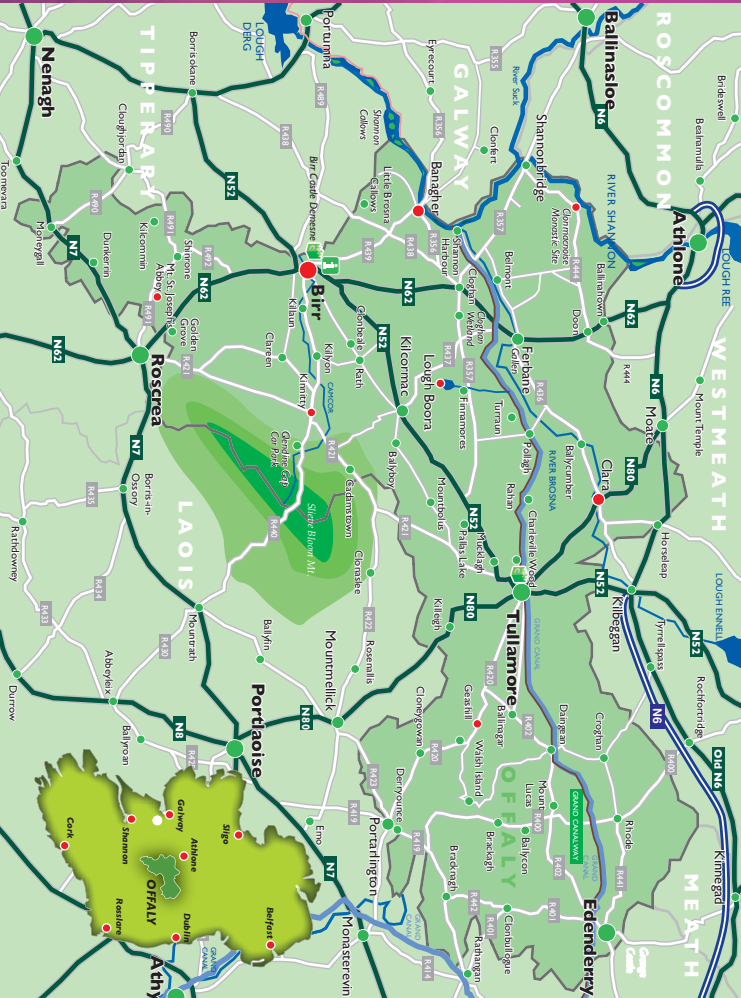


Event guide 2019




INFORMATION

- Individuals and families are welcome. No experience required. Please dress appropriately for outdoor activities and bring your own refreshments.
- No dogs at events please.
- For further details contact the Heritage Office in Offaly County Council on **057 9346839** or email **heritage@offalycoco.ie**
- Please email **heritage@offalycoco.ie** if you would like reminders about events or if you would like to be notified about other Offaly heritage events.



Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí

The Offaly Naturalists' Field Club Programme is an initiative of the Offaly Heritage Forum.

 www.offaly.ie/heritage

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council





OFFALY NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

Event Guide 2019

SATURDAY 27 APRIL

Richard Heaton, Mount Saint Joseph & its Plants

11am: Meet at the church in Mount Saint Joseph.

Leader: Fiona Devery, BSBI recorder for Offaly

SUNDAY 5 MAY

A Geological Odyssey/Silver River

10.30am: Meet at Kinnitty Community Centre.

10km walk – part of the 25th Annual Slieve Bloom Walking Festival (4-5 hours). Bring change of footwear as walk will be in river bed. Fee of €8 payable to Slieve Bloom Walking Festival.

Leader: John Feehan

SATURDAY 11 MAY

Flowers and Birds of Clonmacnoise

11am: Meet at new graveyard Clonmacnoise, narrow road in by Cluain Chiaráin Prayer House. Chance to see Green Winged Orchids. Bring picnic, bonus of great birdwatching area.

Leaders: Fiona Devery & Tim O'Rourke

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY

Exploring Dippers in Birr

International Biodiversity Day

6pm: Meet at the Camcor Park adjacent to the weir.

Leader: Alex Copland

WEDNESDAY 29 – THURSDAY 30 MAY

Geashill Village Bioblitz

Noon to Noon: Based in the Old School House, the Green.

Contact geashilltowns@gmail.com for updates.

All welcome to submit records!

SUNDAY 9 – THURSDAY 13 JUNE

Federation of Field Clubs

Based in Birr for the 4 days. Email: honorary.secretary@dnfc.net for full programme and booking details.

SATURDAY 15 JUNE

National Biodiversity Centre Workshop

Get to Grips with Grasslands! – Identifying Grassland Habitats (in conjunction with Birr Castle Gardens and Science Centre)

10am-4pm: includes field work. Standard places will cost €30 whilst student rates will cost €20. Book on www.biodiversityireland.ie/events/

If you are a regular species recorder and wish to be able to enrich your record submissions with supplementary information on habitats then this is a workshop you'll be interested in. Focusing on grassland habitats, the main theme revolves around recognising key plants, including grasses, which can assist you in determining habitat type, based largely on the broad classifications of various wet and dry grassland types in Fossitt's Guide to Habitats in Ireland.

MONDAY 1 JULY – FRIDAY 5 JULY

The Wild World of Hedges and Walls

Exploring the ecology and cultural significance of these boundary features.

Booking with heritage@offalycoco.ie. Places limited. €150.

Based in Birr Community School.

Leader: John Feehan

WEDNESDAY 3 JULY

The Swifts of Birr Town

8pm: Meet outside Dooly's Hotel for a walk around Birr

Leader: Ricky Whelan, BirdWatch Ireland

SATURDAY 13 JULY

Explore the Biodiversity of this Developing

Cutaway Derries Bog, Lough Boora Discovery Park

11am-1pm: Meet at Turraun car park, Lough Boora Discovery Park. Bring appropriate footwear (we will stay out of the wetter ground!) Booking with heritage@offalycoco.ie essential

Leader: Mark McCorry, Bord na Móna Ecology Team

THURSDAY 22 AUGUST

Bus Tour of Offaly LIFE Raised Bog Projects

The Living Bog is an EU-funded LIFE project restoring 12 of Ireland's oldest near-natural ecosystems – raised bog. Six are in Offaly. This tour will view restoration works and trails on a number of these sites, taking in the peatlands story past, present and future.

10am-3pm: Meet at Clara Bog Visitor Centre. Bring picnic and wellies. Booking essential with ronan.casey@chg.gov.ie

SATURDAY 31 AUGUST

International Bat Night

8.30pm: Meet at reception Birr Castle Gardens and Science Centre. Booking essential with reception@birrcastle.com. €5 per person.

Leader: Alison Delaney, Education Development Officer

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

Conifer Ramble

2.30-4.30pm: Meet at Kinnitty Castle. A ramble along the trails in Kinnitty Forest looking at the planted and self-seeded species of conifer present. Bring suitable clothing for the weather.

Leader: Charles Shier, Dublin Naturalists' Field Club

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER

Mosses and Liverworts in Glenafelly

11am-mid pm: Meet at the car park at the head of Glenafelly, south of Kinnitty. Bring lunch, wellies and hand lens if you have one.

george.smith@blackthornecology.ie

Leader: George Smith

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Wintering Birds at Boora

11am: Meet at the Bird Hide at Boora

Leader: Alex Copland

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2020

Winter Waterbirds on the Little Brosna

11am: Meet at Crank House car park, Banagher.

Chance to see large flocks of winter waterbirds, including Greenland White-fronted Geese, Black-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover, Pintail and swans.

Leader: Brian Caffrey, BirdWatch Ireland

Please submit your records to the National Biodiversity Data Site. This centre collates and monitors national information but also keeps your records for you!
www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/ or download the Biodiversity Data Centre Free App.

