

## Points of Local Interest

Map 1 illustrates the biodiversity study area and the following locations, as indicated on the map, may be of interest to the local community:

- **A - Watercourses** – The site at Ballynacorra is associated with a number of watercourses. These watercourses are known to support a variety of fish species including salmon, brown trout and stone loach amongst others, as well as a wide range of aquatic insects. Aquatic invertebrates such as mayfly play an important role in the food chain for a wide array of faunal species, including fish.
- **B – Agricultural Grassland:** The grassland habitats on site comprise mainly of improved agricultural grassland. Although these habitats are often of relatively low biodiversity value, they do provide some supporting habitat for foraging faunal species locally including mammals such as badger. Field boundary hedgerows and treeline provide important foraging resources and habitat connectivity for a variety of wildlife including bats.
- **C - Conifer forestry:** This habitat is often relatively low in biodiversity value due to the density of trees planted and the monoculture nature of the species composition. Nonetheless a variety of species can be found utilising the cover provided by this habitat here, including the pine marten and a variety of bird species, including goldcrest and song thrush.



## Useful sources of information

BirdWatch Ireland <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie>  
Bat Conservation Ireland [www.batconservationireland.org/](http://www.batconservationireland.org/)  
Irish Wildlife Trust [www.iwt.ie](http://www.iwt.ie)



**MAP 1 – BALLYNACORRA STUDY AREA AND ASSOCIATED POINTS OF INTEREST**

If you would like further information, please contact MKO: [info@mkoireland.ie](mailto:info@mkoireland.ie)

# Ballynacorra Biodiversity

Information Leaflet  
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(Pine marten (credit: WILDLIFE GmbH / Alamy Stock Photo)

## Local Biodiversity

### What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a term given to the variety of life on earth, including all species and ecosystems.

A wide variety of specialist ecological surveys are being undertaken at Ballynacorra and the surrounding area by MKO, with the project designed to avoid sensitive ecological receptors. These surveys have targeted a wide variety of species and habitats with the aim of determining their distribution in the area. Species recorded in the study area to date include pine marten and a number of bat species.

This leaflet provides a brief overview of a variety of habitats and species of interest with potential to occur within the site as well as some interesting facts for the reader.



## Habitats and Species

### Mammals

A number of mammals including badger and the elusive pine marten have been recorded in the area. Although this species is rarely seen, preferring to be most active at dawn and dusk, tracks and signs of the species can frequently be found in the field, and confirmation of the species can be achieved using remote cameras or through DNA analysis of droppings.

There are nine bat species in Ireland, and a number of these species have been recorded foraging within and around the Ballynacorra study area, including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, *Myotis* species, Leisler's bat, and brown long-eared bat. Ireland's smallest bat is the soprano pipistrelle, which weighs as much as a €1 piece. Each bat can eat over 3000 midges in one night! Ireland's largest bat, Leisler's bat, has also been recorded.

### Bird species

A wide variety of common and widespread bird species typical of farmland habitats have been recorded in the study area. Of particular local interest include sparrowhawk, buzzard and kestrel.

### Hedgerow and trees

The agricultural fields that comprise the majority of the study area are bounded by a network of hedgerows that provide an important refuge for wildlife. Hawthorn that forms the primary hedgerow species here provides dense cover and abundant flowers in spring that are important for pollinating insects as well as berries in autumn that many birds depend on. Many mature ash trees are present within the hedgerows.



## Site Biodiversity



Ballynacorra is situated within an agricultural grassland landscape with a small area occupied by commercial forestry. This leaflet provides an overview of the main habitats and species of local interest recorded during ecological surveys of the area. These include:

### Habitats

- Agricultural Grassland
- Hedgerow and treelines
- Conifer plantation
- Watercourses

### Species of interest

- Bats
- Pine marten
- Kestrel

