



THE NATIONAL REPTILE ZOO

CONSERVATION | EDUCATION | EXPLORATION

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It is essential for sustaining the natural living systems or ecosystems that provide us with food, clean water, fuel, health, wealth, and other services we take for granted in our everyday life.



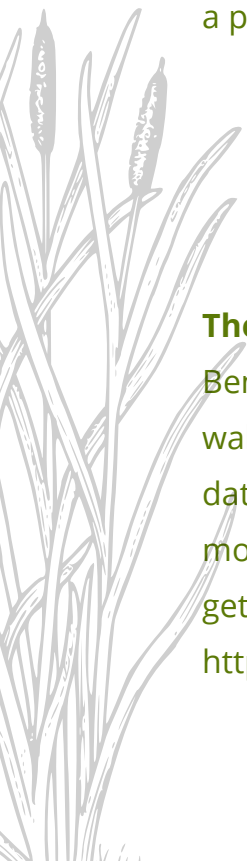
WHAT'S BIODIVERSITY WEEK?

Welcome to National Biodiversity Week, Ireland!

This is the beginning of your journey to celebrate the rich variety of life in Ireland this May and learn more about our local habitats and species. Explore, document and be a part of a large citizen science movement!

THE NRZ NORE VALLEY SURVEY - KILKENNY

The National Reptile Zoo is leading a biodiversity survey along the Kilkenny - Bennettsbridge segment of the Nore Valley trail. As a participant, you are invited to walk and document sightings along this entire loop or any section you choose. Your data sheet will be compiled with all the NRZ documentation as part of a larger annual monitoring program to track changes in our local biodiversity. All your data will also get uploaded to the National Biodiversity Data Centre and can be viewed on <https://biodiversityireland.ie>



WHAT DO INDICATOR SPECIES TELL US?

Some birds & insects **indicate** to us that the water quality is good!



...they depend on good water quality for:

- their food (birds)
- refuge for their eggs (insects)

Some plants are very sensitive to changes in water quality: Water crowfoot, particularly *Ranunculus aquatilis*, is often associated with clean, well-oxygenated water and can be a good sign of a healthy river or stream. Dropwort, depending on the species, can tolerate a wider range of conditions, including slightly polluted or nutrient-rich water.



Water Crowfoot



Water Dropwort

& others are **invasive**, which means they may negatively impact the growth of native plants

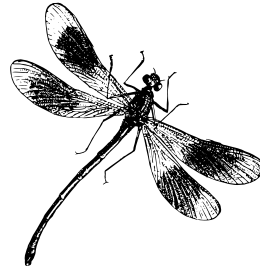
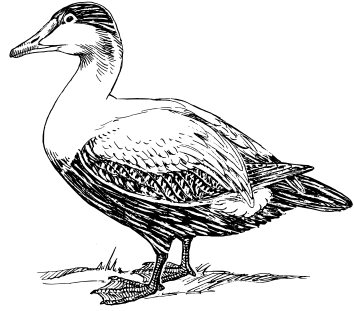
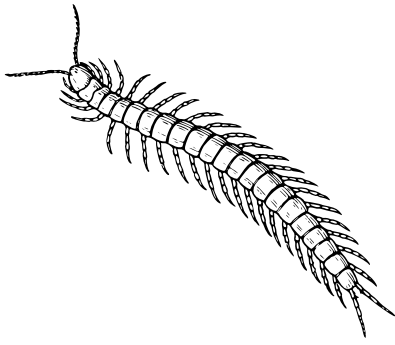


Japanese knotweed



Himalian Balsam

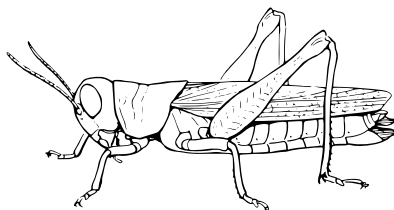
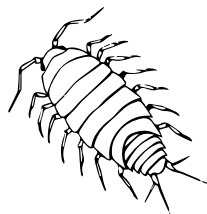


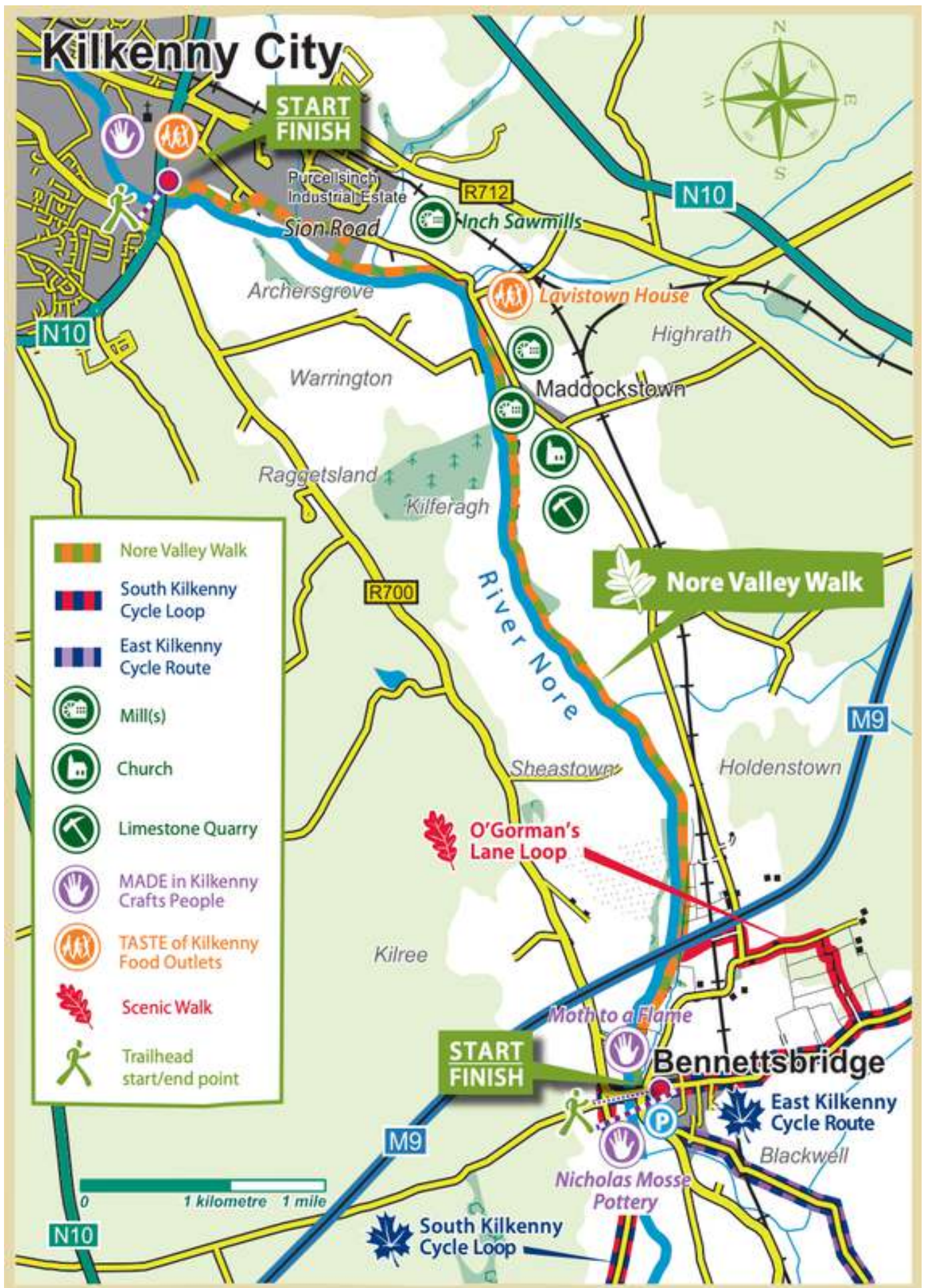


HOW TO USE THE DATA SHEET:

1. Take a few minutes to go through all the creatures on the sheet, so you know what to look out for.
2. These species have been selected as indicators for our river habitat, their absence or presence helps us build a complete picture of the status of biodiversity.
3. Walk slowly, observe carefully
4. Make a tally mark for each plant or animal you spot, in the "how many" box beside the picture and name (*see example below*)
5. Don't forget to hand your sheet back in to us at The National Reptile Zoo, or follow the link on our Events page at NRZ.ie!

 snail		3
 butterfly		6
 bee		8





CITIZEN SCIENTIST (your name as the observer):

DATE:

START TIME:

END TIME:

WEATHER (Please Circle):

SUNNY | CLOUDY | RAINY

LOOK OUT FOR

WHAT ITS CALLED
(english & irish)

HOW MANY?



Common frog
Frog choiteann



Viviparous lizard
Earc Luachra



Smooth newt
Núit



Natterjack toad
Buaf



Bee
Beach



LOOK OUT FOR

WHAT ITS CALLED (english & irish)

HOW MANY?



Hoverfly
Cuileog
Only 2 wings, hovers in place



Damselfly
Béchuil



Butterfly
Feileachán



Millipede
Mílechosach



Otter
Dobhurchù



Pine martine
Cat crainn



Stoat
Easóg

LOOK OUT FOR

WHAT ITS CALLED (english & irish)

HOW MANY?



Brown trout
Breac donn



Crayfish
Piardóg



Water crowfoot
Néal uisce



Bramble
Dris



Dandelion
Caisearbhán



Red Clover
Seamair dhearg



Vetches
Peasair

LOOK OUT FOR

WHAT ITS CALLED (english & irish)

HOW MANY?



Thistle
Feochadán



White Clover
Seamair bhán



Knapweed
Mínscóth



Heron
Corr réisc



Kingfisher
Cruidín



Swan
Eala



Duck
Lacha



Nature observations by



Nature observations by

