

A toolkit to guide & enable communities to help
care for the heritage of their local waterways



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

FOR INLAND WATERWAYS

PREFACE

This Toolkit was researched and developed by Robert Kelly as part of a Master of Science in Sustainable Resource Management (Policy and Practice) from the National University of Ireland, Galway and the University of Limerick.

Waterways Ireland, through their Heritage Plan 2016–2020, recognised the need of community groups to acquire knowledge and guidance on how best to leverage the rich natural and built asset of their local waterway to animate their local community.

In 2018, Waterways Ireland entered into a collaborative research project to develop this toolkit which we hope will aid communities across the Island of Ireland in maximising the potential of their local waterway resource.

“Only through this coordinated approach can we ensure that the waterways remain strong, vibrant places to live, each with its own local distinctiveness, offering a space for the public to stand and appreciate living heritage in all its forms.”

**Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan
2016-2020**

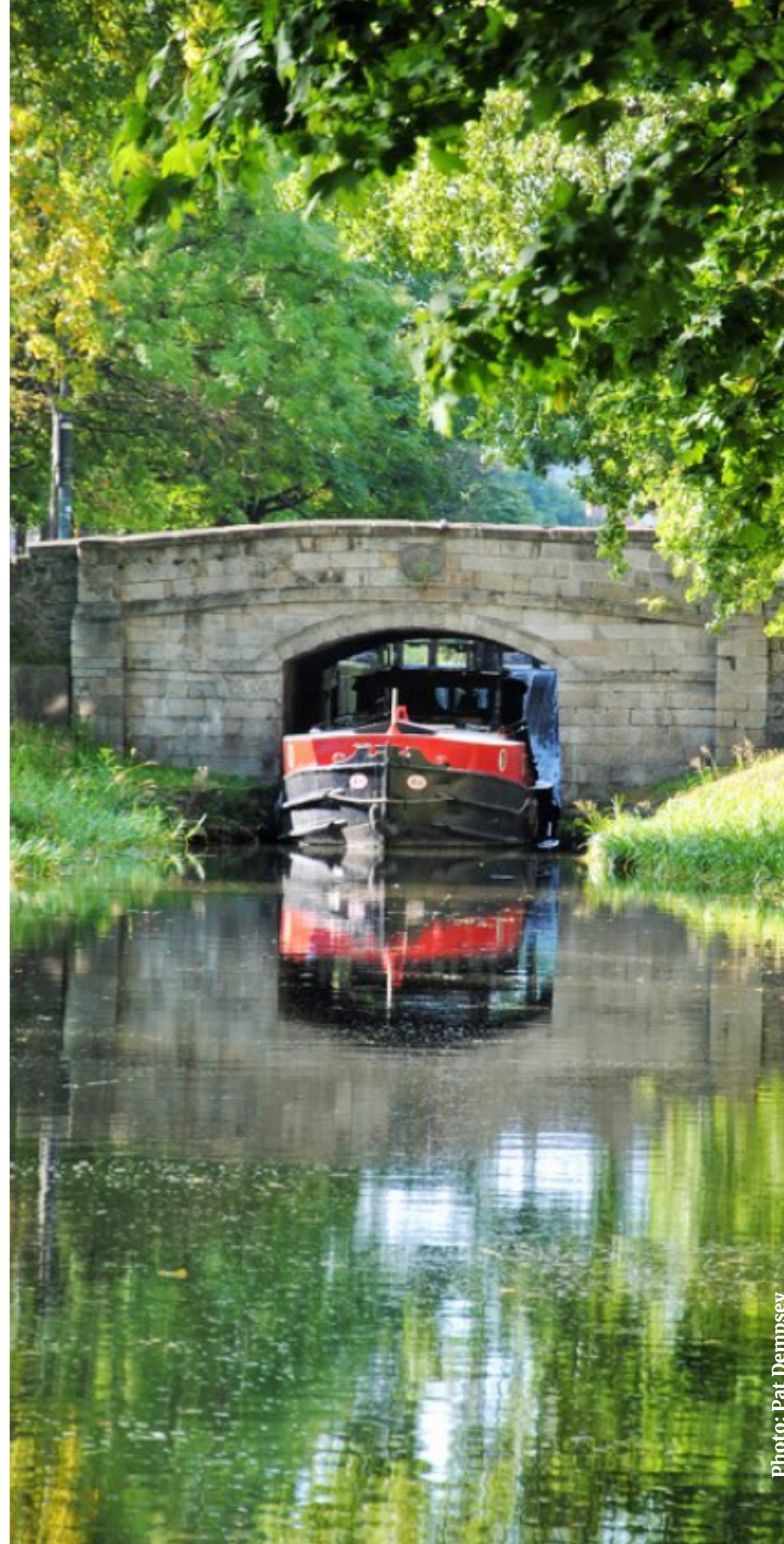


Photo: Pat Dempsey

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Photo: Eoghan Lynch

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS TOOLKIT?

This toolkit has been developed to equip community organisations with the tools and knowledge they will require to help care for the cultural and natural heritage of their local waterways.

It is a source of practical information and guidance for community groups who wish to undertake cultural, environmental and heritage projects within their community.

WHAT DOES IT AIM TO DO?

The content of this toolkit has been developed in collaboration and consultation with community groups so as to address issues, challenges and barriers.

It also aims to inspire groups to engage with their inland waterway and to take positive action to contribute to and improve their local area.



GETTING STARTED

WHO IS THIS TOOLKIT AIMED AT?

This toolkit can be used by existing community groups to advance to the next level, or by those wishing to set up a new group. It has been developed to give guidance to groups who wish to undertake projects along their waterway. It will also give advice on the resources that are available from Waterways Ireland and other organisations that engage with community groups.

HOW SHOULD I USE THIS TOOLKIT?

It is not necessary to read this toolkit from cover to cover. Each section is a standalone element; some sections may be more relevant for your group depending on what you are aiming to do and what stage of the project you are at. Each section has a short introduction explaining the overall aim and at the end you will find links to external websites, organisations or other sources of information.

The toolkit aims to increase your knowledge of the heritage components of inland waterways so that you will be better able to develop projects of shared community interest. It should be a source of information and inspiration, increase your knowledge of your waterway and help answer any questions you may have.

Ultimately, the goal of this toolkit is to help you develop, manage and complete projects which will benefit your local community.

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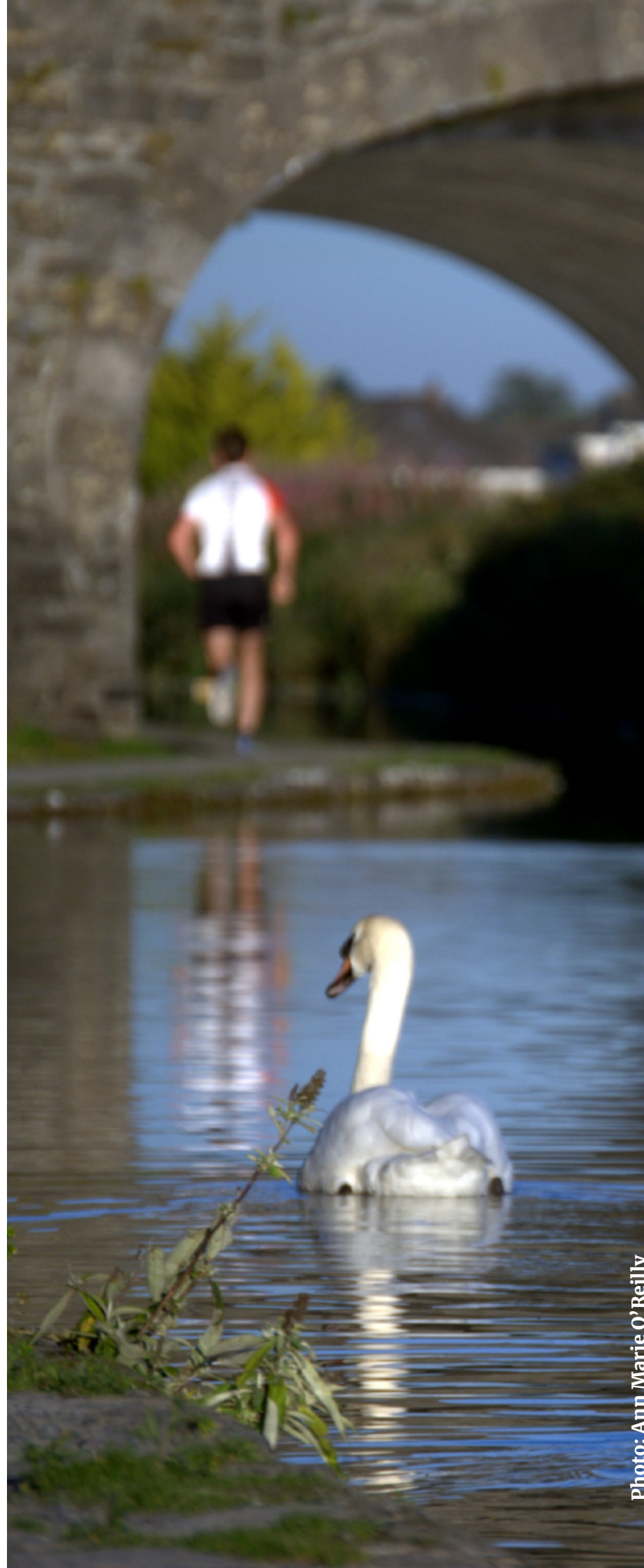


Photo: Ann Marie O'Reilly

GETTING PEOPLE INVOLVED

The aim of this section is to give some practical tips and advice on how to get a community group and project started. Getting people involved, and to commit their time, can be one of the most challenging aspects of a community project. However, it is also one of the most important aspects as the members of the community are one of the most important resources available to any group.

ADVERTISING YOUR GROUP

It is important to advertise your group so that the wider community knows about its presence and its activities. It is a good idea to advertise in different places as this will help you to reach a wider section of the community and people of different interests, ages and skillsets. Different members of the community will bring different strengths to the group.

PLACES TO ADVERTISE YOUR GROUP:

- Local newspaper, radio or the parish newsletter.
- Place posters in schools, libraries, doctors' surgeries, sports clubs or other public spaces.
- Create a social media page for your group. [Facebook](#) can help you to advertise activities, share photographs and discuss ideas. [MeetUp](#) can be a useful way to gain new members by targeting people who want to meet like-minded individuals and are actively looking to get involved with organisations.
- E-mail services such as [Mailchimp](#) allow you to easily send e-mails to large groups of people. This could be useful for sending a monthly newsletter to members who have subscribed.
- Other existing community groups or clubs. You may be able to share skills or collaborate on a project.
- Become a member of your County PPN (Public Participation Network).

GETTING STARTED (continued)

IDENTIFY A PROJECT

Once a group is established, the next step is to decide what types of projects or activities to undertake. It is a good idea to arrange a meeting in a public space where everybody can attend. Your local library, community centre, place of worship, sports hall or school might be able to facilitate this. This meeting can be a good opportunity to:

- Get to know one another.
- Find out what the interests of the group are.
- Find out what skills are in the group.
- Take a walk around your local area and establish what is important or unique about your area.
- Establish what areas or activities people are enthusiastic about.

SKILLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Once your project or strategy has been agreed upon, it is useful to decide what kind of skills may be required. There may already be a wide range of skills available amongst the members of your community. Often, the trick is to ask the right question of the right person. It is useful to create a list of people who are willing to volunteer. Take note of any special skills that people may have, and their level of time commitment e.g. trades people and craftsmen, artists, teachers or web designers. People with expertise in a certain area may be able to take responsibility for a certain part of a project.

TIP

Connect with other groups. It can be useful to connect with similar community groups in other areas of the county or country so that you can share ideas and knowledge. A Facebook page for your group is a useful tool for this. Make sure to make your Page 'public' – in this way people can see what work you do without having to be invited! A good resource to help those new to social media is available [here](#).



PERMISSION

Before you undertake a project, it is important to obtain permission from the landowner to do so. You should identify the owner of the land upon which you wish to undertake a project (this could be the local authority, Waterways Ireland, or a private owner), outline what you intend to do, and explain the benefits of the project to the landowner and the wider community.

TIP

There are many other handbooks that will give you guidance on setting up a community group.

Two useful resources are: *The Tidy Towns Handbook* and *Community-Led Village Design Statement Handbook* from the Heritage Council.

ADVERTISING YOUR ACTIVITIES

Once you have decided on activities or projects to undertake, it is important to advertise them to the wider community and those who have not been involved in the planning stage. It is a good idea to advertise at different stages of a project:

- At the beginning – to inform people of your intentions.
- During the project – to get more volunteers on board.
- Once the project is complete – celebrate your project!

People thrive on positive feedback, and this may also encourage more volunteers in the future!

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF VOLUNTEERS

- Be mindful that people will have different levels of commitment and enthusiasm depending on their individual circumstances. Try to have a range of tasks so that people can be more, or less, involved depending their level of commitment. This will make it easier for more people to get involved.
- Start new volunteers with easier tasks and slowly work up to tasks that might require more skill or commitment – this will help build confidence, and will hopefully generate enthusiasm for further tasks.
- Partner less-skilled volunteers with more-experienced people – this is an opportunity for people to mentor and pass on new skills.
- If resources allow and your volunteer group is large enough, you can split your group into sections like history and cultural heritage, biodiversity and wildlife etc. This can help attract people with a wider range of interests.

TIP

Volunteers Ireland and the associated regional volunteer offices can be a useful resource for community and not-for-profit organisations. They offer training and online guides on how to engage with and manage volunteers, and also host a [database](#) of organisations for people who wish to volunteer.

GETTING STARTED (continued)

FUNDING

Once a group of volunteers has been established and projects identified, finding funding to finance a project can be a challenge for community groups. Waterways Ireland have a number of programmes for which you may apply. There are also many external sources of funding, some of which are identified below.

HERITAGE IN THE COMMUNITY GRANTS

This fund is available to help community heritage projects related to inland waterways and that create a link between the heritage of the inland waterways and communities. It is an annual Grant Scheme run as part of the Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan.

More information on this grant is available [here](#).

THE WATERWAYS IRELAND EVENTS PROGRAMME

A source of support and assistance for communities and organisations who wish to organise events along their local waterway. The support can be in the form of assistance running an event, promoting of the event, or financial aid. Find further information [here](#).

Waterways Ireland also offer non-monetary supports in the form of operational assistance, specialist environment and heritage advice, as well as affording communities the opportunity to lease lands and properties.

You can always contact the Environment & Heritage Section based in Scarriff, Co. Clare and they will help connect you with the right department.

Call: 061-922141 or e-mail: heritageplan@waterwaysireland.org

THE WATER AND COMMUNITIES AWARD

This is a Tidy Towns Special Award to recognise communities who have undertaken work to raise the profile of their local waterway. It is a collaboration between Waterways Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office. It is awarded to communities who undertake projects to raise awareness of and protect their local waterway and water heritage.

Examples include: canal clean-ups, upgrading of facilities, and projects that support biodiversity and heritage. See [Tidy Towns](#) or [Waterways Ireland](#) for more information.

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund

This helps small-scale environmental projects run in partnership between local authorities and voluntary groups such as community groups, schools, or environmental NGOs.

Heritage Council Funding

The Heritage Council has a range of funding programmes aimed at community heritage groups for projects relating to heritage research, education and management.

Corporate Social Responsibility

At times, local businesses will support an organisation to make a positive impact in the area. This can be by giving financial aid to a group, or by encouraging its employees to volunteer in social and environmental projects. For example, Intel Ireland and Regeneron release employees to assist local community groups.

FURTHER READING

- The Environmental Protection Agency have put together a useful handbook to help community groups explore areas of funding: "Sustainable Communities: A Funding Handbook for Community-Led Groups" is available [here](#).

- The Heritage Council has also put together a useful [list of funding sources](#) for community groups.

- Finally, [The Wheel](#) has developed a range of resources on fundraising, governance, and marketing which is available [here](#).

In addition, they host a database of all available grants and funding schemes in the country.

A NOTE ON STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

It is important that all members of the community, including local business and other community groups, are aware of your activities and are given the opportunity to have an input.

Involving and informing the wider community from an early stage can help reduce the potential for conflict later on, can ensure things run smoothly and increase the likelihood that the project will be a success.

It is vitally important that the project should be in the ownership of the whole community, not just a small group.

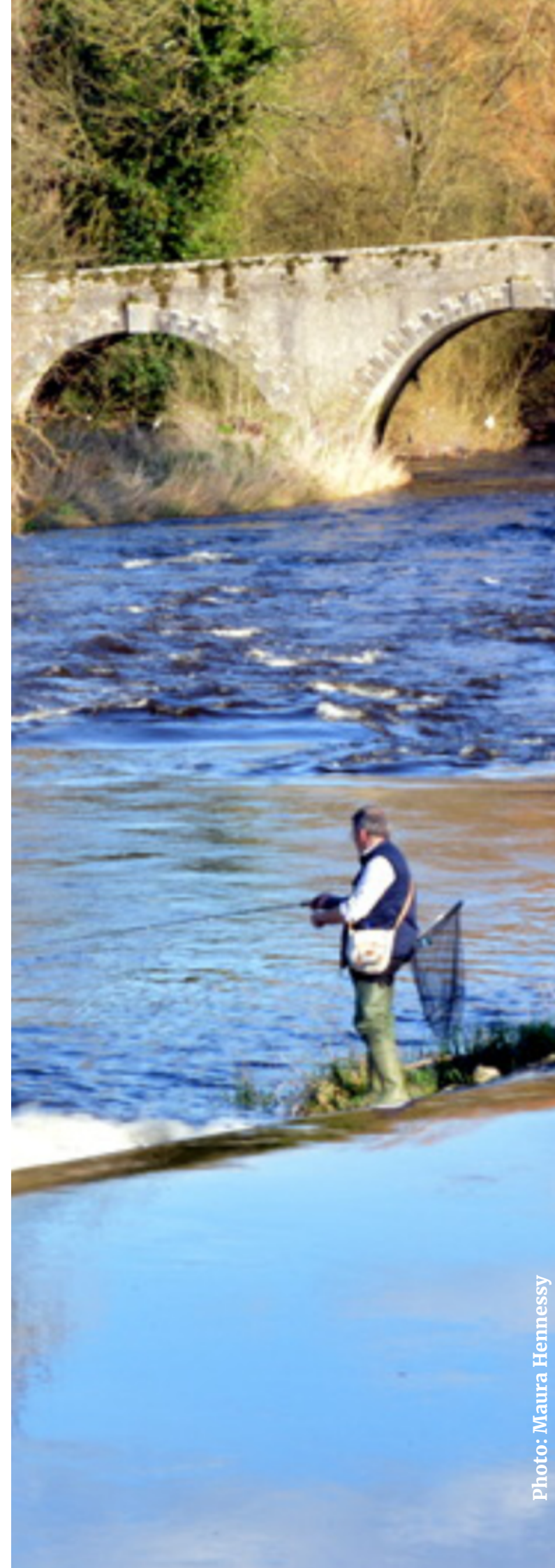


Photo: Maura Hennessy



NATURAL HERITAGE

This section of the toolkit will make you more familiar with the various parts of the canal, the types of habitats they contain and what kind of wildlife they support.

It will also explain the value of these habitats, the importance of managing habitats correctly to promote wildlife and biodiversity, and give you ideas of how you can help to care for these areas to increase levels of biodiversity.

Due to their linear, uninterrupted nature, canals are considered to be very important wildlife corridors. The grassy towpaths, canal verges, tree-lines and hedgerows provide a home, a source of food and a safe way for many species to travel from one area to another.

The diagram on the following page identifies different areas which are common to many of our canals, and describes what types of habitats you might expect to find.

Photo: Dariusz Raduszewski

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NATURAL HERITAGE

(continued)

GET TO KNOW YOUR CANAL

THE TOWPATH

A grassy track, gravelled track or roadway.

THE CANAL VERGE

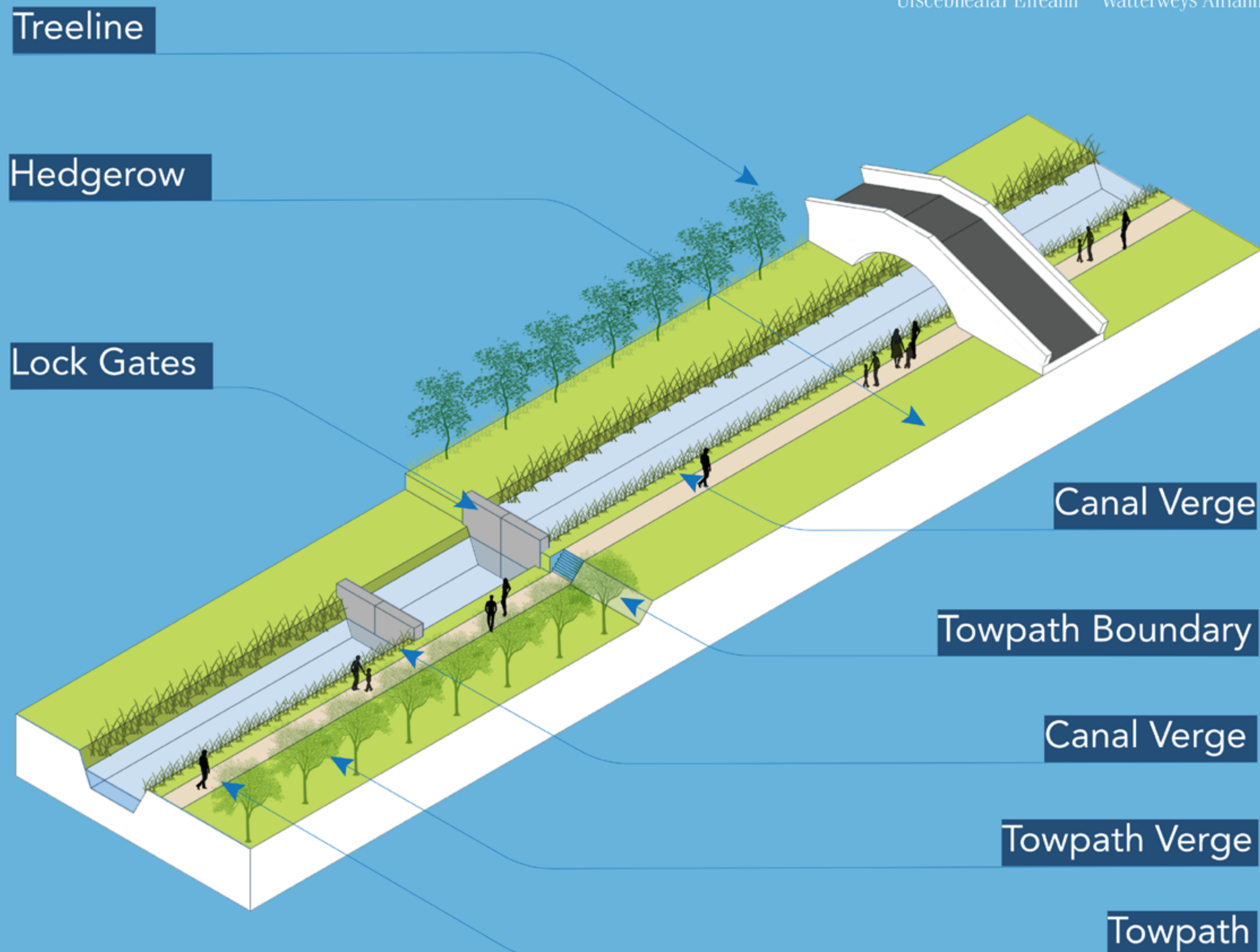
The area between the water and the edge of the towpath.

THE TOWPATH BOUNDARY

The area on the outer edge of the canal bank – usually a linear habitat (hedgerow or tree-line) separating the canal from adjacent fields.

THE TOWPATH VERGE

The area between the towpath and the boundary – usually a grassy verge or scrub habitat.



NATURAL HERITAGE

(continued)

HABITAT TYPES

TOWPATH MOSAIC

This is one of the most common habitats along the canal. It is the cluster of habitats that occur close together along the canal verge and towpath. There are usually reed-beds at the edge of the water, moving into wet grassland, and then drier grassland closer to the towpath. The towpath is considered to be mown amenity grassland.

GRASSY VERGE

Typically found along the towpath verge or within the towpath mosaic, these are areas of grass that are occasionally mown. When left to grow they usually contain tall coarse grasses such as false-oat grass, cock's-foot or yorkshire fog.

TREE-LINES

Along the canal line, the tree-lines are important linear habitats, providing corridors for wildlife such as birds, bats and small mammals to travel along. Planted tree-lines are regularly found along the towpath verge and contain trees such as ash, elm, sycamore and poplar.

HEDGEROWS

Hedgerows are also an important part of the linear habit found along the canal. As well as providing shelter and protection from predators, plants like hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle, and bramble are an important source of food for wildlife.

SCRUB

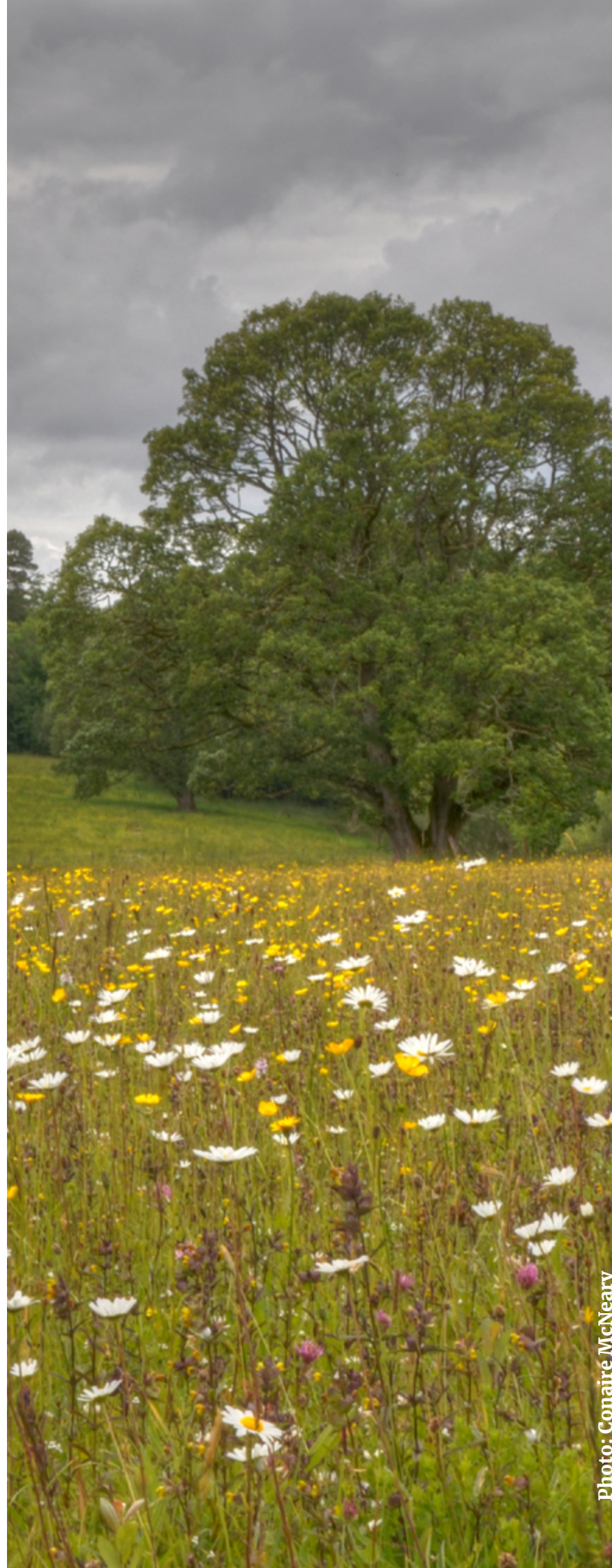
Most usually found along the towpath verges. It often contains low-lying bramble and bracken, and can occur at the edge of a reeling or hedgerow.

WETLANDS

This type of habitat is typically found along the water edge of the canal verge. Typically, this zone can contain stands of common reed, reed sweet grass, or common club rush.

WET GRASSLAND

Wet grassland can occur along the canal verge, and can overlap with reed-bed habitats. It can also be found close to areas of peatland. Wet grassland will contain a mixture of rushes and grasses such as yorkshire fog, purple moor grass, reed sweet grass, reed canary grass, and common reed.



CANAL

The canal is home to many submerged plants, the most common being whorled water milfoil and various types of pondweed. Other plants can be seen on the surface of the water such as water plantain, arrowhead, and yellow water lily.

The plants that grow in the canal are carefully managed by Waterways Ireland using weed-cutting boats to ensure navigation is maintained as well as promoting a sustainable fishery and aquatic environment.

DRY CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND

This type of habitat can be found on the inner edge of the canal verge or on the towpath boundary. It is a zone of grass that contains a wide variety of species. Common species of grass that may be found in this zone include:

- Lady's bedstraw
- Cowslip
- Yellow rattle
- Red clover
- Ribwort plantain
- Wild carrot
- Yarrow

In some cases, more species-rich areas may also include common spotted orchid, yellow-wort, or fragrant orchid.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ecological surveys of the plants and animals have been carried out along many sections of the waterways.

These surveys are available for everybody to view on the [Waterways Ireland website](#).



NATURAL HERITAGE

(continued)

IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY ACTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY

- Erect bird boxes or swift boxes along the canal or on a suitable building in your area.
 - Install bat boxes to encourage bats to roost.
 - Create biodiversity-enhanced flowerbeds.
 - Plant wildflower meadows; plant and manage for pollinators.
 - Plant native trees.
 - Change grass mowing regime of the grass verges to encourage the growth of wildflowers.
 - Reduce use of pesticides.
 - Engage in a wildlife monitoring citizen science project.
- See section 5 for more details.*

PLANT AN ORCHARD OF NATIVE IRISH FRUIT TREES

Not only do the flowers of fruit trees provide pollen for bees and other pollinators, when grown close to a village or urban area, harvest season can be a great time to come together as a community to pick and share the fruit amongst the volunteers. It could be a good opportunity to have a community festival based around your local waterway.

The Edible Landscape Project is a community-led project in Co. Mayo. A community planted fruit trees along the Great Western Greenway as a way to show how food could be re-introduced into the urban and rural landscape.

The Irish Seed Savers have [useful information](#) on planting an orchard.

THE ALL-IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN

Local Communities Actions to Help Pollinators is an excellent [resource](#) for communities who wish to increase biodiversity in their area.

LEARN MORE

For more information on Wildlife along the waterways, take a look at the [Waterways & Biodiversity guide](#) produced by Waterways Ireland.

Photo: Conaire McNeary

CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY UNDERSTAND THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF YOUR WATERWAY'S HERITAGE

Sometimes we take for granted what is on our doorstep. A key outcome of the public consultation process for this toolkit was a perceived under-appreciation of a valuable resource such as your local waterway. At times, people may need a little help to change their perceptions and value a local amenity.

One possible way of doing this is to create a series of events or activities focused on the canal. For example, you could have a 'Canal Day' or weekend, where you have a series of events centred on the canal. This can be a great way to enhance awareness of your waterway and change perceptions in a positive way. This can also help to foster a sense of ownership of the waterway in the community, and people will be more inclined to take care of it once they have developed this association.

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CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

(continued)

LECTURES

Organise a lecture or a talk on the history of the waterway. Invite a local historian to explain the historical significance of the waterways in your area.

HERITAGE BOATS

Invite the Heritage Boats to visit your area; this can create a sense of anticipation and excitement on the waterway. Events such as ‘[Walk with the Big Boats](#)’ engage people with the barges, towpaths, and water environment.

STREET ART AND MURALS

Identify an area where you could work with local artists to create an area of street art. Blank walls, shop-fronts, electricity boxes have been used quite effectively in the past to transform an area. Make sure you ask permission of the owner before you do this.

WALKING TRAIL

Create a Heritage Trail or a Biodiversity Trail. This could be a signposted walk in your area highlighting areas of cultural or natural importance, or a simple A4 map with sites of interest marked on it. You could get tech-savvy people on board to develop an online trail using a free mapping tool like Google Maps.

DID YOU KNOW?

As well as ecological surveys, built heritage surveys have been carried out on many of the Waterways Ireland navigations.

These surveys are available to view on the [Waterways Ireland website](#).

TIP

Use these events to promote your community group’s wider activities.

This could be a good opportunity to engage new volunteers!



ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people are inherently curious. Once you have their attention and interest they can bring a huge amount of enthusiasm for a project, and they may even pass on their knowledge and enthusiasm to their parents! For Primary Schools, try to link it with the Green Flag initiative. Each school has a Green Flag coordinator who can give you more information on this scheme.

- It is possible to arrange a school visit with Waterways Ireland to a local waterway to learn about the historical buildings, locks and wildlife. Check the [Waterways Ireland website](#) for more information.
- You can also approach heritage professionals who partake in the Heritage in Schools scheme, and arrange for them to visit your school and conduct a workshop. Find a heritage expert in your area [here](#).
- Encourage secondary school and transition year students to organise activities or to volunteer. Many schools participate in the ‘[Gaisce Presidents Award](#)’. Community Involvement is a key component of this scheme, and students are required to donate their time to a local cause.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Heritage Council have created a useful document with interesting examples of how to draw attention and explain Heritage sites in your area. ‘[Bored of Boards](#)’ gives examples of method other than interpretive panels to highlight key areas of an area.



CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen Science is the involvement of volunteers in a science project such as gathering data on wildlife in your area.

A citizen science project can be an excellent, hands-on way to learn more about aspects of the waterway in your area that you may not have been aware of. It can be a great way to draw awareness of your waterway, change public perceptions, and get people involved.

There are many nature, wildlife, and environmental organisations that are actively looking to engage with community groups to conduct citizen science projects. Previously, community groups have successfully taken part in bat walks, bumble bee monitoring and bird counts, and have submitted their findings to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) and the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CeDAR).

Check out the list on the following pages for some environmental groups you could get in contact with to carry out a citizen science project in your community.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

(continued)

CITIZEN SCIENCE EXAMPLES

WATERWAYS FOR WILDLIFE

The Irish Wildlife Trust, in association with Waterways Ireland, have organised a series of events along the canal lines every year during which Irish Wildlife Trust staff and volunteers undertake a survey of wildlife along a designated stretch of the canal. Members of the local community play an active part in helping record the species of wildlife found. The programme succeeds not only in documenting wildlife on the canal corridor, but also highlights the value of waterways as areas of biodiversity and natural heritage. Importantly, it also passes on important skills and knowledge to members of the community. Find more information on this project [here](#).

ALL-IRELAND DAUBENTON'S BAT WATERWAYS SURVEY

Hundreds of volunteers along waterways throughout Ireland have participated in an annual survey of the Daubenton's bat since 2006. With a little training, volunteers learn how to identify bat species using bat detectors, and use these new skills to check for bat activity along a stretch of river or canal in August of every year. All information, training, and equipment is supplied by Bat Conservation Ireland. Find more information on this project [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Being involved in a citizen science project not only benefits you and your community, but your actions are part of a national and global effort to gather information and scientific data. This information can help scientists and policy makers take action in areas that need it most!



OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

BUTTERFLY MONITORING

Take part in a butterfly monitoring workshop and help record endangered species such as the Marsh Fritillary butterfly.

BUMBLEBEE MONITORING

Count and record bumblebees between March and October.

ALL-IRELAND LADYBIRD SURVEY

Submit your sightings of ladybirds to help improve the knowledge of the distribution of ladybirds in Ireland.

REPORT ALIEN OR INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species such as knotweed and rhododendron are a threat to our native species and can damage the existing habitats.

BIRD SURVEYS

Spring Alive is an international project to get children interested in nature and bird conservation. By recording the first sighting of migratory birds such as swallows, cuckoos and swifts, a real-time map is created of the bird's migration every spring.

MEITHEAL DÚCHAS

This scheme allows users to volunteer to transcribe stories that were collected as part of the Irish Folklore Commission Schools' Collection (1937-1939). You can choose your local school, and in doing so can learn about local history. Increased community participation in the project will allow increased access to this invaluable material.

WIKI LOVES MONUMENTS

Submit a photograph of a heritage site or monument that you have taken so that there is an online database of photographs of heritage sites that can be freely used by everybody.

LEARN MORE

For more information:
<https://iwt.ie/what-we-do/citizen-science/>

<http://www.epa.ie/irelands/environment/getinvolved/citizenscience/>

CONTACTING WATERWAYS IRELAND

Occasionally, you or somebody in your community may spot something along the canal line that needs attention or maintenance. In these situations, it is not always obvious who should be contacted.

Waterways Ireland has a number of dedicated teams who manage, maintain, and promote the waterways. The full spectrum of functions is outlined on the left.

Please feel free to contact the Environment & Heritage Section who will ensure you are connected with the correct staff member.

OUR CONTACT DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SENIOR ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE OFFICER

Dr. Paula Treacy – paula.treacy@waterwaysireland.org

ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE OFFICERS

Cormac McCarthy – cormac.mccarthy@waterwaysireland.org

Eamonn Horgan – eamonn.horgan@waterwaysireland.org

CLERICAL SUPPORT

Sabine Browne – sabine.browne@waterwaysireland.org

You can also ring us on +353-61-922141 or +353-61-922149

GLOSSARY

Biodiversity (2)

A short form of the phrase 'biological diversity', which means the variety of life on this planet and how it interacts within habitats and ecosystems.

Biodiversity covers all plants, animals and micro-organisms on land and in water.

Character (4)

Character is the unique identity of a place. It can be enhanced by taking into account and reinforcing local distinctive patterns of development, landscape and culture.

Collaborative Planning (4)

Collaborative planning is an inclusive and integrative process aiming to bring as many stakeholders and groups together as possible in order to overcome institutional barriers and to create synergies.

Community (1)

All the people living in a particular area or place or sharing the same interest.

Conservation (3)

The management of human use of nature so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to current generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.

County/City

Heritage Plans (4)

County / City Heritage Plans set out how local authorities, in association with other stakeholders, will identify, manage, and conserve heritage for the benefit of all.

Ecosystem (2)

A community of organisms that depend on each other and the environment they inhabit.

Ecosystem services (1)

The outputs of ecosystems from which people obtain benefits.

Environmental impact statement (2)

A statement about the expected effects on the environment of a proposed project or development such as a new road or waste water treatment plants.

Flora and fauna (2)

The plants and animals that are native to a particular area or period of time.

Grassroots [organizations or movements] (3)

People or society at a local level, rather than at the center of major political activity.

Green Infrastructure [GI] (4)

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned and managed network featuring

areas with high-quality biodiversity (uplands, wetlands, peatlands, rivers and coast), farmed and wooded lands and other green spaces that conserve ecosystem values to provide essential services to society.

Greenways/

Community Greenways (4)

Greenways, also known as Community Greenways, are multifunctional trails, developed in both urban and rural areas, for non-motorised users. Typically, they lead along linear green corridors, historic trade routes, rivers and disused railways.

Habitat (2)

The area occupied by a community or species (group of animals or plants), such as a forest floor, desert or sea shore.

Habitat degradation (3)

The diminishment of habitat quality, which results in a reduced ability to support flora and fauna species. Human activities leading to habitat degradation include polluting activities and the introduction of invasive species.

Habitat fragmentation (3)

Fragmentation of habitats occur when a continuous habitat has become divided into separate, often isolated small patches interspersed with other habitats. Small fragments of habitats can only support small

populations of fauna and these are more vulnerable to extinction.

Habitat loss (3)

The outcome of a process of land use change in which a 'natural' habitat-type is removed and replaced by another habitat-type, such as converting natural areas to production sites. In such processes, flora and fauna species that previously used the site are displaced or destroyed. Generally this results in a reduction of biodiversity.

Heritage (4)

Under Section 6 of the Heritage Act, 1995 our National Heritage is defined as including: monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora and fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks, and inland waterways.

Inland Waterways (4)

Inland waterways are canals, canalised sections of rivers and lakes, navigation channels in rivers and lakes, and their associated navigational features.

Natura 2000 [Network] (4)

A collective reference for the sites that have been designated for protection under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (i.e. SACs and SPAs).

Renewable resource (2)

A resource that can be used again and again without reducing its supply because it is constantly topped up, for example, wind or sun rays.

Restoration (3)

The return of an ecosystem or habitat to its original community structure, its natural complement of species, and functions.

River basin (2)

The portion of land drained by a river and the streams that flow into it.

Sense of place (1)

The characteristics that give a place its unique identity; especially those that foster a sense of human attachment and belonging.

Sustainable development (2)

Development using land or energy sources in a way that meets the needs of people today without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Useful links to other terms

These definitions have been selected from the following sources; for a more comprehensive list of terms check out the links below:

1. [Scottish Natural Heritage](#)
2. [Environmental Terms](#)
3. [Biodiversity Glossary](#)
4. [Heritage Useful Terms](#)





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Ms Nessa Winder and Ms Laura McQuaid of the Royal Canal Clean-up Group.

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