



BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

2023

Issue No.3

Readyegg
Everyday Convenience

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COMPANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As one of Europe's leading egg processing manufacturers Ready Egg Products Ltd, take our environmental responsibilities very seriously. Whilst product safety quality, and freshness are our priority we strive to ensure that these objectives are aligned with our responsibilities to protect the local environment.

In recent years our focus has been to concentrate on key issues such as reduction in energy usage, selection of recyclable packaging and reduction of waste streams. However, it is the company's aim that biodiversity forms an integral part of our overall environmental strategy. Both management and staff are committed to protecting the local habitats and species that surround the Ready Egg Products site.

To enable the company to develop a biodiversity action plan specific to our site a review was carried out to;

- Define what biodiversity is.
- Identify priority habitats and species specific to the Fermanagh area.
- Identify the priority habitats and species that may be found in and around our factory site.
- Identify non-native species that may be present on site.
- Establish our environmental baseline, i.e., the actions we have already undertaken.

Our next steps were to:

- Develop a biodiversity action plan (BAP) to protect our priority habitats and sections.
- Raise staff awareness of biodiversity and encourage their participation in our plan and in their own domestic environments.
- Implement our biodiversity action plan.

The introduction of Biodiversity into European, National and Regional Strategies

International – The Earth Summit

In 1992, the UK was one of over 150 countries that signed the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The aim of the convention was to obtain formal commitments from the signatory countries to develop national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of biological resources.

National

The UK government published the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in 1994, followed by 45 UK Habitat and 39 UK Species Action plans in 1999.

Regional

Northern Ireland's list of priority habitats and species was presented in a publication, '*Biodiversity in Northern Ireland: Recommendation to government for a Biodiversity Strategy*' which was ratified by the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2002. Action for biodiversity is being delivered locally through several agencies, charities, councils and businesses through biodiversity action planning processes.



What is biodiversity?

'Biodiversity' is the shortened term for 'biological diversity' and is the variety of plant and animal life in the world, or in a place or habitat, and includes all species of plants and animals and the habitats in which they live. It is found all around us in gardens, parks, roadside verges, fields, forests, rivers, coastal areas and mountains.

Biodiversity also includes genetic differences within each species, for example, between varieties of crops and breeds of livestock. Chromosomes, genes and DNA, the building blocks of life, determine the uniqueness of each individual and each species.

Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that provide us with health, food, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. It is therefore important to control activities which could negatively impact on Northern Ireland's rich diversity.



Why is biodiversity important?

Biodiversity is vital to life as it enables life to exist on the earth with every plant and animal having its own role to play. It provides the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink.

County Fermanagh has a very rich and varied diversity and landscape, ranging from the magnificent network of lakes to extensive forest areas and wetlands. With this comes a wealth of habitats and species, some of which are of national and international significance. This variety contributes and enriches our everyday lives, often without us noticing it. It also makes a significant contribution to farming, fishing, tourism and industry and to our local identity, culture and economy. Therefore, action is needed to conserve and enhance these assets to ensure they enrich the lives of future generations.

The Ready Egg Products Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) seeks to conserve our existing local habitats and species whilst providing a framework for guiding change as the company grows.

The aim of our plan is therefore to;

- Translate national guidance within the UK BAP and region BAPs to action at site level.
- Identify locally important habitats and species.
- Develop local partnerships to help maintain and improve the area.
- Set up effective monitoring systems.
- Raise employee awareness of biodiversity and its importance.

Ready Egg Products hope that this is a starting point in a process that will stimulate the interest of our staff to get involved and to help us review and refine our Biodiversity Action Plan on an ongoing basis so that it maintains the environmental aspects we value most in our surroundings.

Threats to Biodiversity

On both a national and local level biodiversity is on the decline with many habitats and species under threat from development, transport, pollution, non-native invasive species, pests and diseases, lack of public awareness and most importantly climate change. These declines can be attributed to global changes whilst others are driven by changes at a local level including human intervention.

Development and loss of habitat

Building of housing and commercial property in the urban area and other development, including construction of flood and coastal defences are well recognised as having an adverse impact on biodiversity. Larger construction developments now require a biodiversity action plan as part of the planning requirements. It is possible however, through careful identification of sites and design of housing and commercial sites, to not only reduce harmful impacts but also potentially achieve positive enhancement.

Transport

Fermanagh commuters rely more on cars as their principle means of transport than other more populated areas of the United Kingdom where rail networks and other forms of public transport are more easily accessed. Heavy reliance on cars has led to a loss of biodiversity through road building, car parks and pollution. Management of roadside verges and greenways for wildlife presents opportunities for enhancement for biodiversity.

Pollution

Northern Ireland's rich biodiversity of wildlife is vulnerable to all forms of pollution. Pollution can be caused by illegal dumping, chemical, oil or sewage spills. Agricultural run-off and increased use of pesticides and herbicides pose additional hazards to wildlife. The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) together with the Rivers Agency, closely monitor the water quality of Northern Ireland's rivers and lakes and enforce heavy penalties on companies or individuals found to have caused a pollution incident.



Non-native invasive species, pests and diseases.

Non-native invasive species now compete with our native species causing degradation of habitats and competition for food reserves.

Human intervention often acts as the mode of transport for the invasive species; for example, ornamental plants brought back from abroad, stowaways in shipping consignments, sea molluscs (such as the zebra mussel) attached to ships and boats and escapees from gardens, estates and zoos or animal sanctuaries.



Giant Hogweed



Two non-species of note in Fermanagh are the grey squirrel and zebra mussels. The grey squirrel is a native of North America and carries 'squirrel pox' which is a disease that is fatal to red squirrels. In addition, the grey squirrel is adept at raiding birds' nests to steal eggs and young birds.

Key invasive plants that are now common place at several sites across Fermanagh are Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam and numerous varieties of pondweeds such as 'Floating Pennywort', 'Curly Waterweed' and 'New Zealand Pigmy-Weed'.



Grey Squirrel



Zebra Mussels

Climate Change

Climate change poses one of the greatest threats to habitats and species in the Fermanagh area as some species can only survive within certain temperature ranges. This is particularly important for aquatic creatures as the temperature of a lake or river can determine the available oxygen for both plants, fish and amphibians. Global warming affects the seasons and weather patterns which in turn may restrict the viability of a habitat for a given species



Local Habitats and Species for Action in Fermanagh

A list of species of plants and animals has been developed at a national level. Further biodiversity audits carried out across Northern Ireland by local councils and the Ulster Wildlife Trust have identified the following habitats and species as having 'Local Priority' status in County Fermanagh.

Local Priority Habitats

Wetlands
Calcareous habitats
Bogs and heath
Grasslands
Woodland and hedgerows
Urban

Local Priority Species

Atlantic Salmon
Bats
Breeding waders
Bees
Devils bit scabious and marsh fritillary
Dragonflies & Damselflies
European eel
Fresh water pearl mussel
Frogs and newts
Orchids
Red Squirrel
Swift
Wild thyme
White-clawed crayfish

Several of the above species are unlikely to be found at the Ready Egg Products Ltd due to the distance from the local lake (Moorlough), they include; the Atlantic Salmon, breeding waders, Devils bit Scabious and marsh fritillary butterfly, European Eel, orchids and the white-clawed crayfish.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN AT READY EGG PRODUCTS LTD.



Google Maps photograph of Ready Egg Products

This aerial photograph shows how the grounds surrounding the factory have been landscaped to enhance the environment and retain the existing natural features such as the stream, trees and hedgerows. In addition to the existing mature trees the company have created several wooded areas by around the site perimeter by planting numerous evergreen and deciduous trees (birch, beech and alder). The trunk of each young sapling was protected until it reached maturity. This allowed sheep to graze underneath the trees as they grew.



Climbing plants

Climbing plants have been used both as a feature and natural habitat for small insects. The metal handrails of the footbridges have been used as trellises for clematis plants. Trees at the edge of the stream have been allowed to retain climbing ivy which many farmers and householders would remove for aesthetic reasons.



Hedgerows

The perimeter hedgerows contain a wide variety of plant types – mostly hawthorn and holly which have been selected to provide autumn food for bird. The hedges are managed in accordance with the Wildlife and Natural Environment (N.I.) Act 2011 where no cutting takes place during the ‘closed period’ (1st March – 31st August) to prevent disturbance to the nests of birds and pollinating insects.



Hawthorn, holly and blackberry



Holly

Aquatic life

A small river runs from nearby Moorlough Lake to Upper Lough Erne partly along the outer perimeter of the factory and then along the carpark area.



Stream at factory perimeter

The portion of the stream within the factory boundary has been sensitively landscaped to meet the practical needs of the company and yet remain aesthetically pleasing to the eye.



The banks have been reinforced to ensure they are not eroded during periods of high rain and reed plants have been allowed to become established along the shallower regions.

The lawns within the factory perimeter are mown on a regular basis to ensure that wildlife nests (birds and pollinating insects) do not become established and later disturbed due to an irregular mowing pattern. Where lawns meet the stream, grass is cut on a slightly higher mower setting to maintain the grass root system.

Assessment of River Quality

Surface water from the several areas of hard-standing surfaces drain to the nearby river. A review of river quality was carried out in November 2017 to assess the water quality of the river both upstream and downstream of the processing facility and to determine if the effluent discharge point was impacting on the biological quality of the water column.

Data from 4 sampling points (1 upstream, 1 directly downstream from the factory discharge point and 2 sampling points further downstream) indicated slight pollution associated with grazing cattle which have access to the river and nearby Moorlough Lake and possible dredging further upstream.

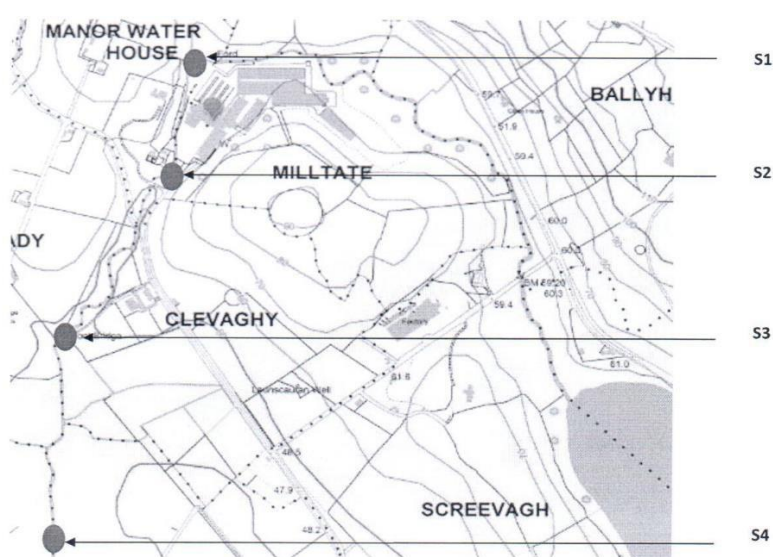




Figure 1: Location of Biological sampling points



Rivers Agency Monitoring Programme.



A monitoring programme undertaken by the Rivers Agency has identified the zebra mussel, a non-native species in this stream. The Rivers Agency has no current plans to remove or eradicate the species at present.

Biodiversity Action Plan








Local Priority Habitats in County Fermanagh			
Habitats	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p>Wetlands</p> 	<p>Wetlands are widespread feature of County Fermanagh and include the lakes, pools, rivers, streams, fens, reed-beds and man-made ponds.</p> <p>The nutrient levels in each wetland varies and pollution from agricultural run-off is an issue.</p> <p>The extensive network of interconnecting lakes are important habitats for the Fermanagh's native species of Atlantic Salmon, brown trout and fresh-water pearl mussel.</p>	<p>To retain the natural features of wetlands and maintain good water quality through the agricultural environment schemes and Nitrates Directive.</p>	<p>Retain the existing water features of the site.</p> <p>Allow reeds and other native wetland plants to establish themselves along the edges of the stream.</p> <p>Maintain the flood control areas within the site perimeter to protect soft banks from erosion.</p>
<p>Calcareous Grassland</p> 	<p>Calcareous grassland can be found on rocks with a high pH, usually chalk or limestone.</p> <p>It is a feature of County Fermanagh, mainly on higher ground.</p>	<p>To maintain the natural grassland areas.</p>	<p>The factory is not situated on high ground.</p> <p>Raise staff awareness of calcareous grassland as priority habitat in Fermanagh.</p>



Habitats	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p data-bbox="69 256 226 280">Bogs and heath</p> 	<p data-bbox="768 312 1200 400">Bogs and heath are a characteristic of Fermanagh's landscape and are largely due to Ireland's cool, wet climate.</p> <p data-bbox="768 427 1200 611">This habitat classification includes both lowland raised bogs and blanket bogs. Lowland bogs are peatland areas found below 150m above sea-level. Blanket bogs are associated with upland areas where peat covers the</p> <p data-bbox="768 638 1200 726">Heathland ground it typically found on flat to steeply sloping ground in upland and lowland areas.</p> <p data-bbox="768 753 1200 809">The Marsh fritillary butterfly is a native species of dry heath.</p>	<p data-bbox="1225 312 1599 368">Maintain biodiversity by preventing agricultural run-off into the local river.</p>	<p data-bbox="1695 312 2056 400">There are no bogs or heathland in the within or directly adjacent to the factory site.</p> <p data-bbox="1695 427 2056 515">Raise staff awareness of the importance of bogs and heath to the local environment.</p>
<p data-bbox="69 874 170 898">Grassland</p> 	<p data-bbox="768 874 1200 1018">Grassland contain areas that are dominated by grass and wildflowers. The classification includes areas of lowland meadow, lowland dry acid grassland and moor grass / rush pasture.</p> <p data-bbox="768 1045 1200 1165">Much of farmed land includes improved grassland which tends to be species poor with a low diversity of plants and wildlife and insects important to pollination.</p> <p data-bbox="768 1192 1200 1335">Although they are not considered a priority habitat, roadside verges are an important haven for biodiversity. The extend the hedgerows in farmland areas and act as wildlife corridors between fields</p>	<p data-bbox="1225 874 1621 930">Maintain biodiversity in the grassy areas within the site perimeter.</p>	<p data-bbox="1695 874 2056 962">Leave part of the wooded areas un-grazed to allow the establishment of wildflower colonies.</p> <p data-bbox="1695 989 2056 1077">Restrict grazing to sheep only to prevent damage to hedgerows, trees and ground.</p>



Habitats	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p>Woodland and hedgerows</p> 	<p>Northern Ireland is the least wooded area in Europe with only 6% woodland cover, of which only 1% is native broad-leaved woodland.</p> <p>Ashwood woodland provides excellent bird cover and is often found in proximity with oak, downy birch and hazel trees.</p> <p>The company has included native species such as holly and hawthorne in the extensive hedgerow network around the site perimeter. Whilst providing excellent fencing these shrubs also provide winter food for native and migrating birds.</p>	<p>To increase the tree cover and foliage within the site boundary for birds and other wildlife.</p>	<p>Identify and map the distribution of native woodland species at the Ready Egg Products site.</p> <p>Maintain wooded areas with selection of native broad-leaved species such as oaks, downy birch or ash.</p>
<p>Urban</p> 	<p>Urban habitats are now increasingly recognised as important habitats where wildlife can co-exist with the human population.</p> <p>Post-industrial ground or 'brownfield sites', wasteland may contain derelict buildings which are ideal shelters for bats, starlings, swallows and house-martins.</p> <p>Managed council parks and domestic gardens provide a great source of nectar for bumblebees and butterflies during the summer months and hibernation spots for hedgehogs and other creatures during winter.</p>	<p>The factory is expanding rapidly. Maintain the overall strategy of including green spaces where possible within the site boundary.</p> <p>The buildings within the factory perimeter are modern and well maintained. There are no derelict buildings within the site. Bat and bird roosts may be found in the wooded areas.</p>	<p>Monitor and record areas on the perimeter of the site which may have bat or bird roosts.</p> <p>Maintain and protect the landscaped areas within the Ready Egg Products site.</p>



Local Priority Species in County Fermanagh



Species	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p>Red Squirrel</p> 	<p>Red squirrels are naturally shy creatures found in woodland areas. They feed on nuts, seeds, berries and fungi.</p> <p>The introduction of the non-native grey squirrel poses a threat as the grey squirrel carry diseases and compete for the available food sources. The grey squirrel can eat acorns that are still green which the red squirrel cannot do.</p>	<p>Maintain existing populations of red squirrels in the area.</p>	<p>Consider the addition of red squirrel feeding stations.</p> <p>Encourage staff to report sightings of red squirrels in the grounds to management.</p> <p>Report any sightings of the red squirrel to CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording) at the National Museums of Ireland and obtain advice on how to further protect the red squirrel's environment.</p>
<p>Bees</p> 	<p>Twenty different species of bees have been identified in Ireland. With the decline of available grassland and wild flower population, the bee populations are in decline and are now heavily reliant on town parks and residential gardens.</p>	<p>To maintain bee populations which are critical to pollination of plants in the local habitat.</p>	<p>Manage the wildflowers in the site's woodland areas to encourage the bee population.</p> <p>Maintain tree ivy where possible.</p> <p>Raise staff awareness of the importance of bees as pollinators.</p>  <p>Install 'insect hotels'</p>



Species	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p data-bbox="69 233 120 252">Bats</p> 	<p data-bbox="757 233 1169 373">Northern Ireland is home to eight of the nine species found in Ireland. Full protection in UK law makes it an offence to harm or disturb bats as well as the places where they live.</p> <p data-bbox="757 408 1169 549">They are shy creatures that roost in disused buildings, under bridges and trees. Each of the eight species have been found at the nearby Crom Estate, close the Ready Egg Products Factory.</p> <p data-bbox="757 584 1169 724">Bats are essential to the world's ecosystem, consuming between 3,00 and 5,000 kinds of crop pests, and dispersing seeds and pollinating over 450 plant products</p>	<p data-bbox="1196 233 1599 309">To maintain the existing bat populations which have a strong presence in the local area.</p> <ul data-bbox="1196 344 1420 580" style="list-style-type: none"> -Common pipistrelle -Soprano pipistrelle -Nathusius' pipistrelle -Leisler's bat -Brown long-eared bat -Whiskered bat -Natterers's bat -Daubenton's bat 	<p data-bbox="1650 233 2065 284">Record and protect bat roosts identified at the Ready Egg Products site.</p> <p data-bbox="1650 319 2065 402">Maintain records of bat activity on site. As a protected species, their presence may impact future building development work.</p> <p data-bbox="1650 437 2065 520">Liaise with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency if building work may disturb an existing bat roost.</p> <p data-bbox="1650 555 2065 667">Consult with CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data & Recording) if any injured bat is found on the premises.</p>
<p data-bbox="69 767 129 786">Frogs</p> 	<p data-bbox="757 791 1169 932">Frogs- The common frog (<i>Rana Temporaria</i>) is the only species of frog found in Ireland. They feed on slugs, insects, spiders and similar prey but not aquatic organisms.</p> <p data-bbox="757 967 1169 1050">Habitat loss in wetland areas and pollution from agricultural chemicals and fertilisers accounts for the decline in their numbers.</p>	<p data-bbox="1196 791 1599 874">Maintain the population which is likely to be in greater numbers in Fermanagh than the rest of Northern Ireland.</p>	<p data-bbox="1650 791 2065 874">Retain the existing river features at the sites premises to encourage to provide habitat for frogs.</p> <p data-bbox="1650 909 2065 960">Avoid the use of slug pellets and pesticides.</p> <p data-bbox="1650 995 2065 1046">Leave some areas of long grass at the edges of the stream.</p> <p data-bbox="1650 1082 2065 1107">Create some log piles near to the stream.</p> <p data-bbox="1650 1142 2065 1225">Ensure any future developments at the site feature access routes for the amphibians to move between wet areas.</p> <p data-bbox="1650 1260 2065 1375">Raise staff awareness of the threats to frogs and encourage them to report sightings of them within the site boundary to management.</p>


Species	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p>Newts</p> 	<p>Newts – only one species of newt exists in Ireland, the common or smooth newt. It is 10cm long and is brown or dark olive in colour.</p> <p>It is difficult to differentiate between the male and female of the species – the male has a single black line down its spine and the female has two parallel black lines down her spine. The male unlike the female has fringed toes.</p> <p>Newts breed in ponds and areas of standing water with close-by ground vegetation cover.</p>	<p>Maintain the population in the local area. There are no noted sightings of newts within the site boundary.</p>	<p>Retain the existing river features at the sites to encourage to provide habitat for newts.</p> <p>Avoid the use of slug pellets and pesticides.</p> <p>Leave some areas of long grass at the edges of the stream.</p> <p>Create some log piles near to the stream.</p> <p>Ensure any future developments at the site feature access routes for the amphibians to move between wet areas.</p> <p>Raise staff awareness of the threats to newts and encourage them to report sightings of them within the site boundary to management.</p>
<p>Fresh Water Pearl Mussel</p> 	<p>A large bi-valve mussel which thrives in fast-flowing clean rivers and can produce a pearl from the mother-of-pearl nacre secreted on the inside of its valves.</p> <p>This creature has suffered a 55% decline in recent years and is now listed as a priority species.</p> <p>It faces threats from river drainage schemes, fertilizer run-off and climate change which can increase the river temperature and deplete oxygen levels.</p>	<p>The fresh water pearl mussel requires a large aggregation in a local area to breed successfully.</p> <p>Only three successful populations exist in Northern Ireland (in the Swanlinbar, Owenkillew and Upper Ballinderry Rivers).</p> <p>Commercial fisheries for pearls are no longer permitted.</p> <p>Emphasis is now placed on maintaining healthy populations of salmonid fish (Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout) which the fresh water pearls require for breeding purposes.</p>	<p>Report any sightings of this rare bi-valve mussel to CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording) at the National Museums of Ireland and obtain advice on how to further protect the plant's environment.</p>

Species	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p>Swift</p> 	<p>A small to medium sized bird, sooty brown in colour. They are superb flyers rarely landing and are known to sleep on the wing.</p> <p>They favour habitats such as wetland, grassland, farmland and urban/sub-urban areas.</p> <p>Unlike most birds they nest in old disused buildings and outhouses – never in trees or hedgerows.</p>	<p>Maintain existing swift roosts. As this is a modern factory there may not be any swift roosts on site.</p>	<p>Record and maintain records of swift roosts at the Ready Egg Products site.</p>
<p>Dragonfly</p> 	<p>The life-cycle of the dragonfly is four years.</p> <p>The loss of bogs, fens and eutrophication of the Fermanagh waterways pose the greatest threat to both dragonflies and damselflies.</p> <p>The eggs can survive for four years before development into dragonflies.</p>	<p>Maintain the populations of dragonflies in the local area.</p>	<p>Use alternatives to moss or peat in the landscaping of the Ready Egg Products site to reduce depletion of this resource and habitat which is essential to the survival of dragonflies in the area.</p>

Species	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p>Damselfly</p> 	<p>Damselflies are native to Ireland. They are small and dainty and only fly short distances. The Irish Damselfly or Irish Bluet is a local species found in lakes, fens and bogs.</p> <p>Over thirty colonies were discovered in Northern Ireland including Fermanagh and already numbers are in decline due to rich</p> <p>At rest they hold their wings close to their bodies.</p>	<p>Maintain habitat for this rare species. Good water quality is critical to the survival of this species.</p>	<p>Identify and map distribution of the damselfly within the factory site.</p> <p>Maintain good water quality in the river & streams around the factory site.</p> <p>Raise staff awareness of the importance of this rare creature.</p>
<p>Wild Thyme</p> 	<p>A native species usually found in sand dunes or rock outcrops. It is an aromatic plant that is low-growing and free-flowering. Its leaves are tiny with small purple flower heads.</p>	<p>More likely to be found in coastal areas or the exposed carboniferous limestone areas of Fermanagh.</p>	<p>Unlikely to be found within the site boundary as there are no areas of exposed rock.</p> <p>Report to CeDAR if found.</p>

Species	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p>Fen Violet</p> 	<p>The Fen Violet is a UK and Northern Ireland priority species since 2010. It is the subject of a N.I. Wildlife Order and categorised as 'rare' in the UK Red Data Book and 'endangered' in the Irish Red Data Book.</p> <p>Agricultural encroachment and underfoot trampling by livestock have caused a decline in available habitat.</p> <p>CeDAR indicate it has only been found in the Fermanagh region of Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>To examine the areas around the river for this small flower.</p> <p>Nearby Moorlough Lake has been named as one of the regions that this rare flower has been found but there have been no recorded findings of this flower since 1992. The lake feeds the river passing through the factory site it so is possible for the seeds to travel via animals or birds etc using the river corridor.</p> <p>As the seeds are known to survive up to fifty years it is hoped there may be future sightings.</p>	<p>Report any sightings of this rare flower to CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording) at the National Museums of Ireland and obtain advice on how to further protect the plant's environment.</p>
<p>Irish Lady's Tresses Orchid</p> 	<p>Irish Lady's Tresses has been classed as UK and NI priority species since 2010 and described in the Red Data Book as 'rare'.</p> <p>The last confirmed sighting was in 2004. It is thought that over-grazing by cattle has led to its demise in numbers.</p>	<p>Only one identified site in Fermanagh for this plant - Correslough Point where it was found in 1985.</p>	<p>Report any sightings of this rare flower to CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording) at the National Museums of Ireland and obtain advice on how to further protect the plant's environment.</p>

SPECIES NOT IN DANGER BUT ASSOCIATED WITH FERMANAGH AND OUR LOCAL AREA			
Species	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p>Small Water Pepper</p> 	<p>This species is not currently under threat but has been categorised as 'vulnerable' in the UK Red Data Book.</p> <p>The plant has a stronghold on the southern shores of Upper Lough Erne and has been recorded at nearby Moorlough Lake in the N.I. Lakes Survey 1988-1990.</p>	<p>Maintain habitat for this species.</p>	<p>Record any sightings of the flower in and around the river areas surrounding the factory.</p>
<p>False Primrose</p> 	<p>Not on an endangered or protected list but in notable decline. Last recorded sighting of a singular plant in nearby Crom Castle in 2005.</p>	<p>Maintain the habitat for this species.</p>	<p>Report any sightings of this this flower to CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording) at the National Museums of Ireland and obtain advice on how to further protect the plant's environment.</p> <p>Protect the plants environment if found.</p>

Species	Description	Objectives	Actions for Ready Egg Products
<p data-bbox="69 261 286 284">Lesser Water Plantain</p> 	<p data-bbox="689 292 1173 400">The Lesser Water Plantain flowers from June through to August. It produces delicate pale pink flowers on an extended root system around lake shorelines.</p>	<p data-bbox="1218 292 1581 314">Maintain the habitat for this species.</p>	<p data-bbox="1688 292 2051 489">Report any sightings of this this flower to CEDaR (Centre for Environmental Data and Recording) at the National Museums of Ireland and obtain advice on how to further protect the plant's environment.</p>

GETTING INVOLVED

Everyone can improve the biodiversity within their own garden or surroundings, even small changes like a window box can bring wildlife into the urbanised area.

Ideas include;

- Create a gold-fish free pond
- Make log-piles for hibernating amphibians such as toads, frogs and newts.
- Leave a small area of lawn for a nettle or wild-flowers to encourage bees.
- Install bird and bat boxes on trees and walls.
- Provide a bird feeding station.
- Build a bumble bee next box for the garden.
- Stop using slug pellets and reduce the use of harmful chemicals to encourage hedgehogs.
- Plan the planting season to include flowers from spring to autumn.
- Cat owners could make their cat a less effective predator by fitting it with a bell.
- Maintain hedgerows with native species and avoid cutting during the bird nesting season of April to July.
- Allow native climbers such as ivy to grow and provide shelter for birds and insects.
- Use home-made compost or other substitutes instead of peat.
- Report sighting of rare or priority species to the Fermanagh and Omagh Biodiversity Officer by contacting Julie Corry at 0300 3031777 or by email to Julie.corry@fermanaghomagh.com.



REFERENCES

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Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan

NI Biodiversity Checklist Version 2, April 2017

Northern Ireland Priority Habitats List (NIEA).

Northern Ireland Priority Species List (NIEA).

County Fermanagh Scarce, Rare & Extinct Vascular Plant Register and Checklist of Species, 2014

A Macroinvertebrate Bioassessment of the river, upstream and downstream of the wastewater discharge from Ready Egg Products Ltd. Consent Reference No. 1017/03 (Trevor Montgomery – Banks Douglas Associates).

Legislation

The Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011 (commonly referred to as the 'WANE' Act).

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 as amended for areas designated as ASSIs.

EC Habitats and Birds Directives

Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

EU Floods Directive

The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

Resources & Further Information

Ulster Wildlife Trust

Northern Ireland Biodiversity

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).

