



Planning for the final year of Atlas 2020!

Deadline for recording, record
submission, *and* record validation, is
31st December 2019!

'Aquatic Plants Project 2019'



#AquaticPlants2019

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- Large, one-year project for 2019
- Funded by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), in Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (CHG)
- Aimed at increasing capacity in Ireland for identifying a range of aquatic species, and at bringing in much needed records for this often over-looked and broad group

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Two main elements:

1. **Training and mentoring** – at a range of levels (beginner, improver, expert), at a variety of locations
2. **Recording and field trips** – gap filling, targeted recording, general increase in recording



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1. Training and mentoring – at a range of levels (beginner, improver, expert), at a variety of locations.

- Increase skill level, across a range of people and abilities, in identification of aquatic plants.
- Increase skill and provide practice at botanical recording more generally - from ID to data entry to record submission, leading to a legacy of botanical recorders with increased capacity and ability to record.
- Focus of more advanced workshops will be in upskilling a self-selected group of strong botanists to become skilled at difficult groups (e.g. *Callitriche* – water-starworts, *Potamogeton* - pondweeds, charophytes - stoneworts, etc.).
- Mentoring of improvers by experts, typically in the field while recording, will further reinforce learning and help build confidence and capacity.

2. Recording and field trips – gap filling, targeted recording, general increase in recording

- Bring in records for aquatic plants from all across RoI – including common species and difficult/uncommon species (which are typically under-recorded)
- As well as an increase in recording of aquatic plants in general, a suite of sites/areas/vice-counties will be chosen for targeted recording. This recording will be done by botanists skilled in recording aquatics, and will include certain SACs where data are lacking, as well as areas chosen by BSBI as being weakest for aquatic plant records.
- Mentoring of improvers by experts, typically in the field while recording, will also be a significant factor in this section, helping to enhance and build on skills already gained.

What types of things will the grant be spent on?

- Fees for expert trainers (teaching courses, mentoring in the field, targeted recording, ID/verification of specimens collected by others) [lion's share!]
- Consumables – disinfectant (biosecurity), grapnels, bags, books, hooks, printing, trays, etc.
- Small number of small grants to BSBI recorders to help with accommodation/travel costs associated with the project and its events
- Project and data manager, event co-ordinator
- Catering, room hire, etc. for events
- BSBI overheads, central support and administration

Who's involved so far?

- Maria Long, Robert Northridge, Áine O'Connor, Cilian Roden, Nick Stewart
- Hopefully very many of you in this room!...
- Expect to hear plenty more about this project soon!



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