



# Kinsale Community Biodiversity Action Plan

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# Overview

- Aims of the CFI programme
- What's in a cBAP?
- Role of the Ecologist
- Community Involvement
- Timeline
- Sites selected
- Citizen Science
- Site walkovers
- Appeal for further information and ideas



Red Admiral Butterfly

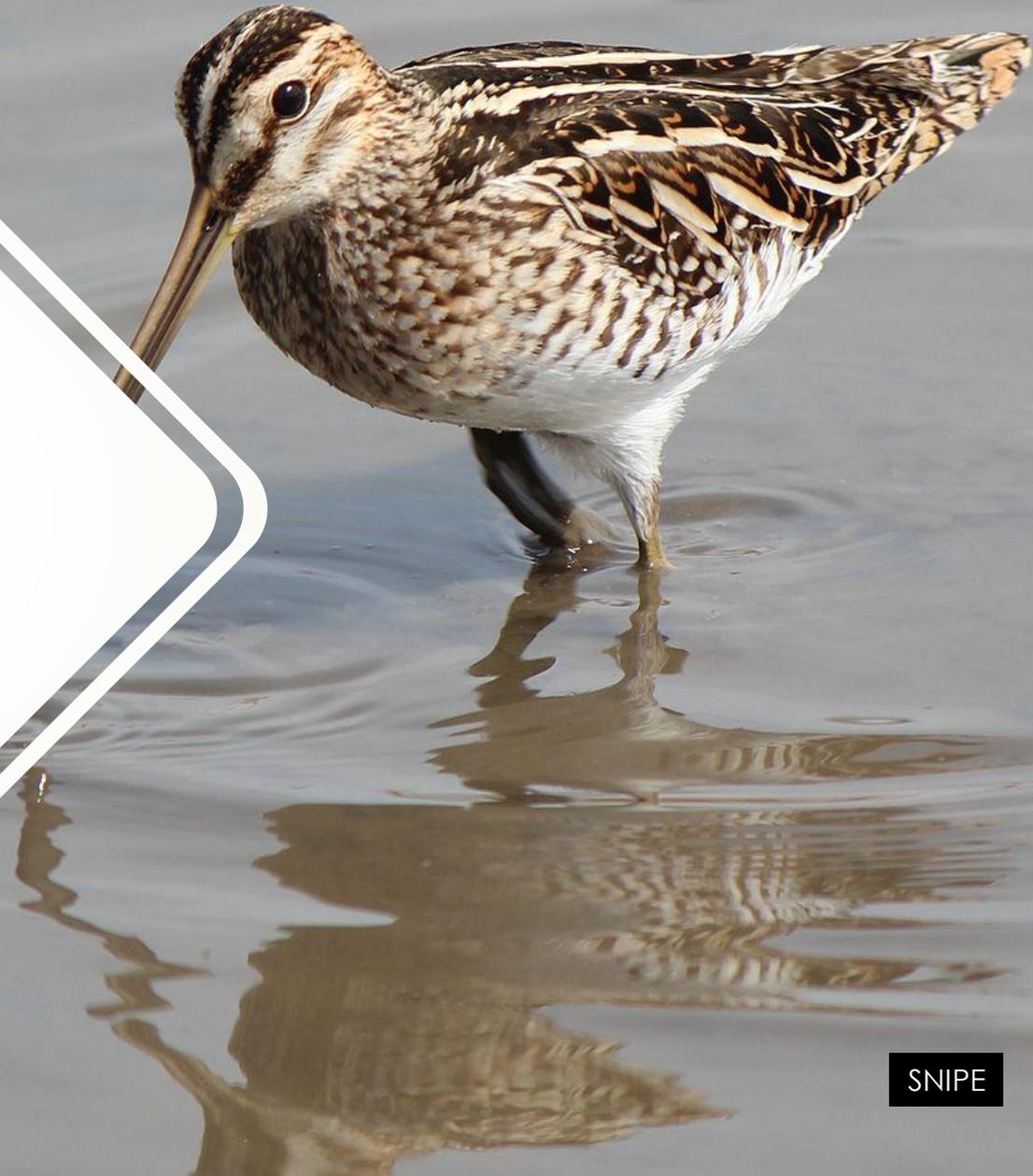


# Community Foundation for Ireland Grant Scheme - Aims

- ▶ “to enhance biodiversity in communities throughout the country by combining the expertise of qualified ecologists with the skills, experience and enthusiasm of local community groups.”
- ▶ Grants were provided to support community group wishing to carry out ecological studies in their local area to develop a community Biodiversity Action Plan, particularly those:
  - ▶ focussing heavily on engaging the wider community, and
  - ▶ Showing the intention to work closely with landowners and with their chosen ecologist
  - ▶ to produce a cBAP that is coherent, accessible and achievable.

# What's in a cBAP?

- ▶ cBAP = community Biodiversity Action Plan
- ▶ Four key aspects in 2 sections:
- ▶ **Descriptive** – including **maps** of the area, photos of sites, land history, survey data forming an **inventory** of species and habitats within the area
- ▶ **Proscriptive** – SWOT analysis, table of **actions** (linked to map), **linkages** to other organisations
- ▶ Detailed data in Appendix



# What the scheme doesn't cover

- The funding for producing the cBAP is not to be used for any actions arising from the cBAP.
- Community Foundation for Ireland are confident that there will be an additional round of grant applications in 2021 to provide funds for carrying out the cBAP actions



Violet flower



# What does an cBAP ecologist do?

- ▶ Provide expert support for communities “to understand local context and determine priorities based on evidence” (CFI Resource Pack)
- ▶ Map and identify habitats and species within the area of the community BAP
- ▶ Encourage communities to gather their own data and engage in citizen science initiatives, provide identification support for sightings
- ▶ Lead community events e.g. site visits
- ▶ Support communities to identify own biodiversity actions and to engage with other stakeholders, e.g. Cork County Council, local businesses, landowners/managers
- ▶ Identify appropriate actions and linkages based on the data gathered



# Community Involvement



- ▶ No-one knows your area better than the people who live there!
- ▶ Existing information – biodiversity, historical, landownership, connections
- ▶ Community ownership of the BAP –
  - ▶ What do you want for Kinsale?,
  - ▶ What is important to you the community?
  - ▶ What do you do well in your community?
  - ▶ Where are the gaps?
- ▶ Each community BAP will be different, responding to the different locality, biodiversity present and community preferences

# Timeline

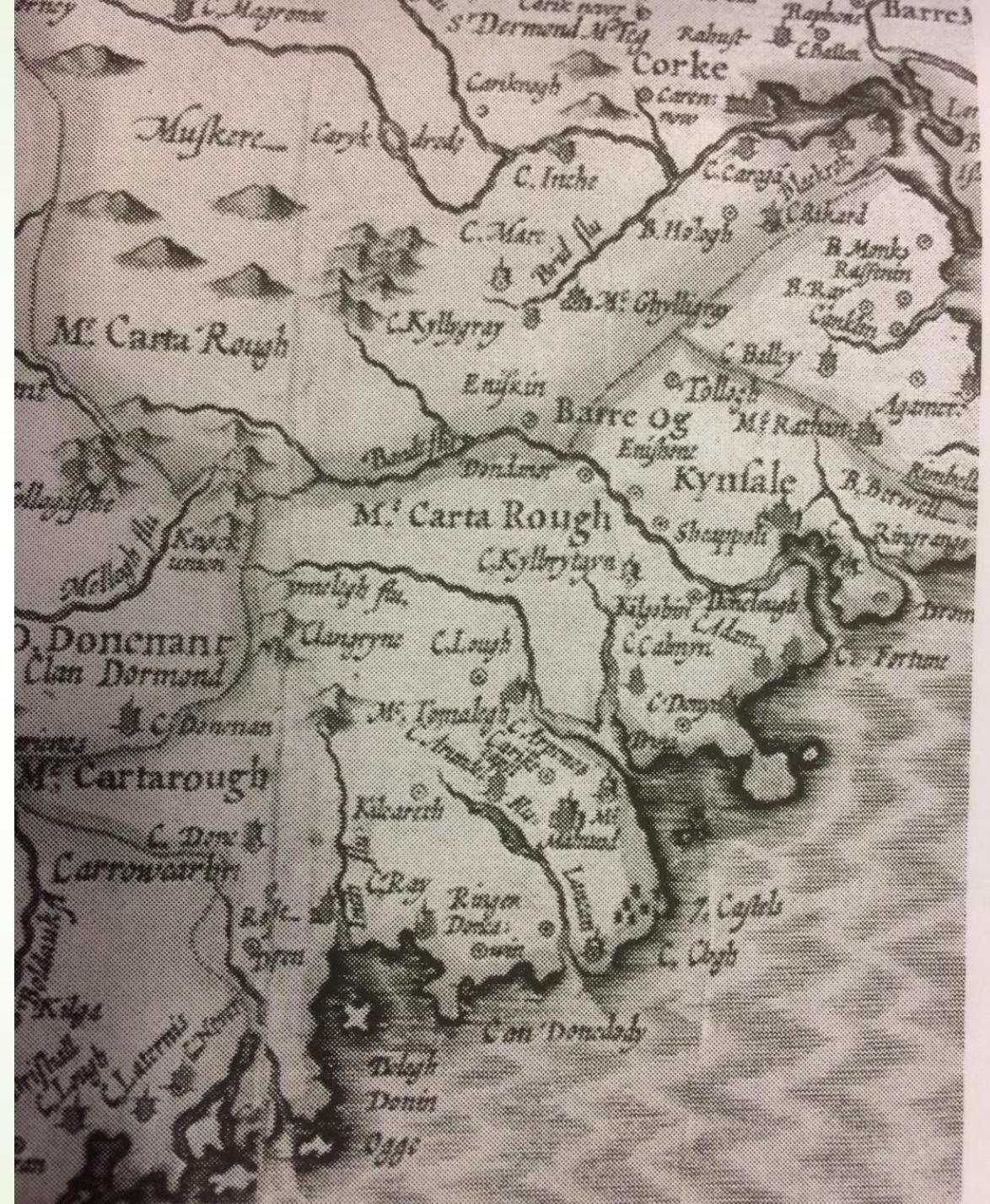
- ▶ **Feb 2020** – initial community meeting, site walkover with landowners, gathering data via desk study
- ▶ **March/April 2020** – initial habitat and mammals surveys
- ▶ **April-September 2020** – CBS breeding bird survey, invertebrate surveys, botanical survey and any specialist survey required
- ▶ **July 2020** – biodiversity walk as part of Kinsale Arts Week
- ▶ **Oct/Nov 2020** – report writing, train the trainer event
- ▶ **Dec 2020** – Submit progress report
- ▶ **March 2021** - Final submission of Kinsale cBAP, Grantee Learning event



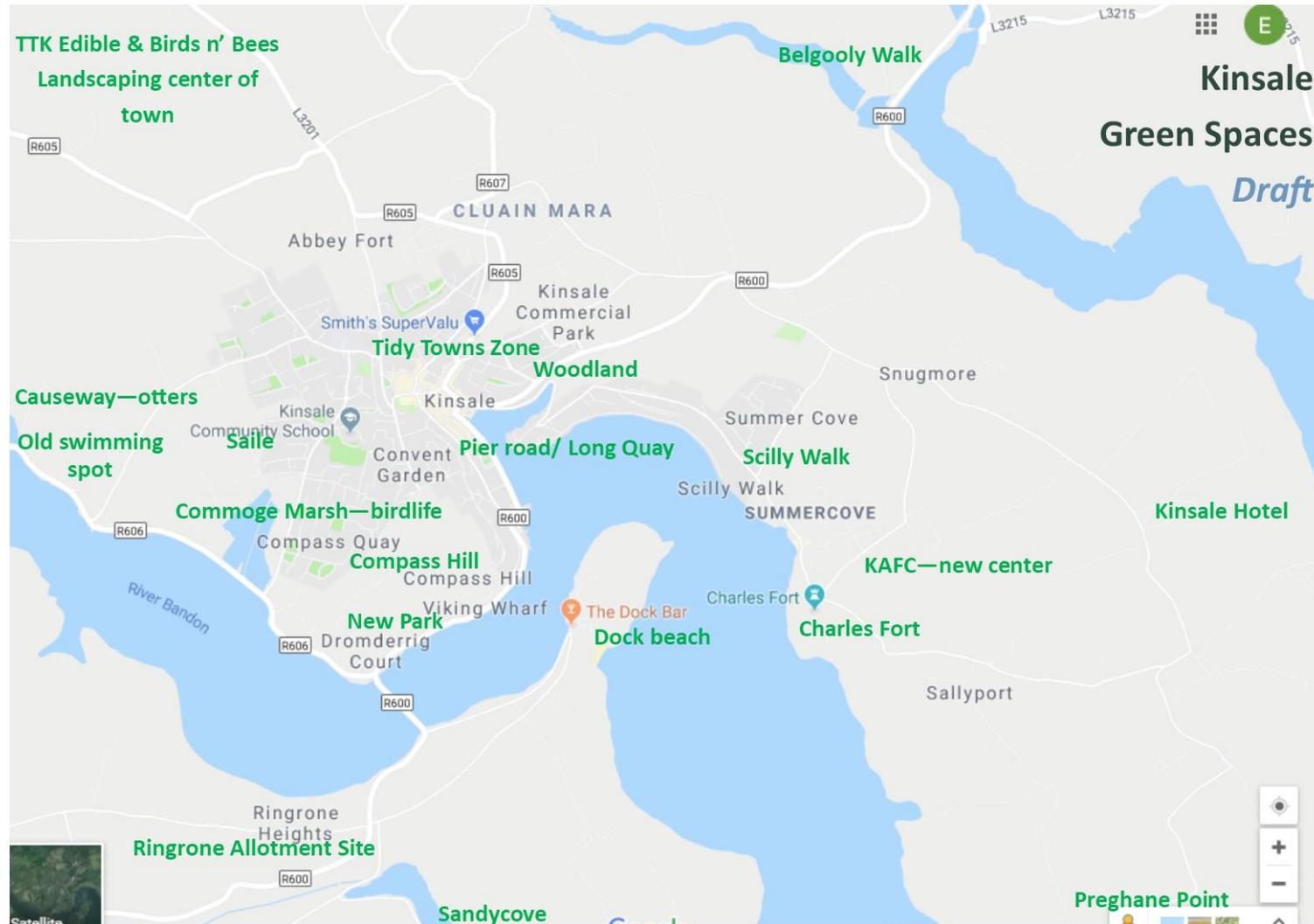
Common Seal

# Desk Study

- ▶ Research into existing data:
- ▶ Historical maps, like this map of Kinsale drawn circa 1611
- ▶ Current mapping and GIS
- ▶ Data held by other bodies:
  - ▶ Marine Institute,
  - ▶ Birdwatch Ireland,
  - ▶ County Council,
  - ▶ Biodiversity Data Centre



# The sites...so far



# Commoge Marsh

A moderate size (12ha), shallow, artificial lagoon created on saltmarsh behind a coastal embankment carrying a road, ranging in salinity at the time of sampling in August and September 2003 from 30.4-33.5psu

([www.irishlagoons.ie](http://www.irishlagoons.ie))

Supports a range of waders and waterfowl, plus saltmarsh vegetation and fringing scrub/woodland



# The Dock Beach

- ▶ Sheltered shoreline with brown and red seaweeds
- ▶ Exposed shoreline with barnacles
- ▶ Blackthorn scrub
- ▶ Adjacent to James Fort
- ▶ Any wildlife sightings? Common shore crab



# Ringrone Allotments/ KAFC/Tidy Towns Zone

➤ Any wildlife sightings?





# Scilly Bog

- Wet woodland area
- Variety of common mammals and birds
- Litter problems? TTK tidy up

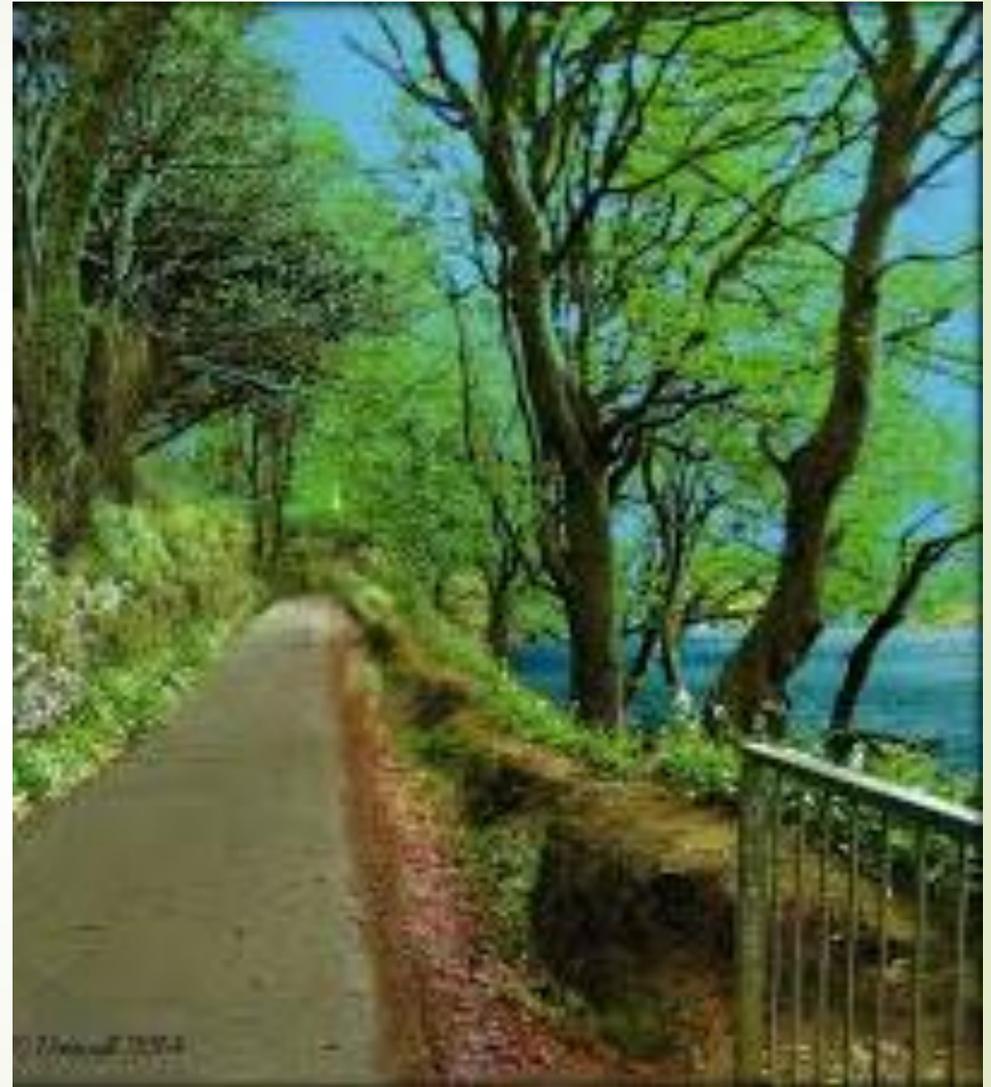
# Rathmore Wood

- ▶ Broad-leaved woodland adjacent to Kinsale Hotel & Spa
- ▶ Spring wildflowers
- ▶ Stream with wetland vegetation
- ▶ Woodland birds
- ▶ Sea shore - seaweeds



## Other sites?

- ▶ Scilly Walk
  - ▶ Madder
  - ▶ Early dog violet
  - ▶ Mullein
- ▶ James Fort
- ▶ Any suggestions?





# Opportunities to get involved

- **Tonight!**
- Submit sightings and records to dedicated **FaceBook page** – there will be a species to look out for each month
- BirdWatch Ireland will be running their **Swift Pint** event in Kinsale Summer 2020 and are looking for volunteers to spot swifts this summer!
- **Biodiversity walk** during Kinsale Arts Week July 2020
- **Train the trainers** event Autumn 2020
- **Public launch** event for cBAP early 2021



# Citizen Science Initiatives



- ▶ Ireland Ladybird Survey 2020 ([www.biology.ie](http://www.biology.ie))
- ▶ Biology.ie supports reporting of multiple sightings - mammals, birds, lizards, wildflowers, lichens
- ▶ Irish Garden Bird Survey plus others ([www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie))
- ▶ Backyard Biodiversity Initiative ([biodiversity.ie/record-biodiversity/backyard-biodiversity/](http://biodiversity.ie/record-biodiversity/backyard-biodiversity/))
- ▶ Bumblebee and Butterfly monitoring schemes ([www.biodiversity.ie](http://www.biodiversity.ie))
- ▶ Invasive Species of Union concern ([www.biodiversity.ie](http://www.biodiversity.ie))
- ▶ Please report all sightings in and around Kinsale to the **TTK Facebook** page!!

# Walkover of sites with landowners

- We hope to organise a date for a walkover site visit tonight
- Enable further exchange of information and ideas
- We can add more sites for walkover, then prioritise



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