

Habitats for Wildlife in Stradbally, Co. Waterford

Hedgerows and roadsides

Stradbally's hedgerows and roadsides provide food and shelter for birds, insects and wildflowers as well as pathways for foxes, bats, hedgehogs, butterflies, and bees.

Stone walls and gardens

Stone walls are habitats for many species of plants that prefer dry conditions. They also provide shelter for small birds and mammals. Old buildings may be breeding habitats for bats and birds.

Gardens can be a haven for wildlife, offering shelter and food sources. Trees and shrubs give shelter, flowers and fruit, as well as dead leaves and wood for fungi. flowers provide food for hoverflies, butterflies, bees and other flying insects.

Woodland

The river valleys around Stradbally are covered in planted and semi-natural woodland. As well as a wide range of tree and shrub species, the flora at ground level is rich in bluebells, violets, pignut and wood anemones. The mature planted woods have numerous old and dead trees that are a habitat for dozens of species of beetles and snails and many other invertebrates.

Coastal heath and cliffs

Shallow soils and exposure to wind mean that only very hardy plants can thrive in the coastal heath along the cliff tops while the cliffs themselves provide nesting places for birds such as fulmar, chough, and peregrine falcon.

Rivers and streams

Rivers are habitats for the otter, a range of fish species and many types of aquatic invertebrates such as aquatic snails, mayflies, caddisflies. The riverbanks are often sheltered by willow and alder trees and are habitats for wet loving plants and animals

Marine

The marine habitats off the Stradbally coast are teeming with wildlife from dolphins to leatherback turtles, from jellyfish to sea anemones. The sea stacks are of particular interest as they are breeding grounds for cormorants and guillemots that feed on fish.

