



PRESS RELEASE

Making Wildlife Count!

Fingal's Biodiversity Weekend featuring the National BioBlitz

From Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd May, the 7th Fingal County Council Biodiversity Event will take place, this year running over a full weekend and incorporating the only Dublin venue participating in the first National BioBlitz. Historic Newbridge Demesne is the venue for an action-packed programme of events starting with a Friday night Bat Walk from 9pm to 11pm in Newbridge Demesne.

Saturday and Sunday activities will run from 11am to 4pm and include marine touch pools, falconry display, guided walks, farm animals, face painting, bird and bat box making and much, much more.

Hans Visser, Fingals' Biodiversity Officer, outlined the importance of taking the time to consider the importance of biodiversity in our natural environment. "2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity, and although these events are scheduled around just one weekend, it gives members of the public a valuable insight into the critical importance of our natural biodiversity here in Fingal. It is recognised that loss of biodiversity from our surroundings has a huge impact on our day to day lives, and that we have a responsibility to protect our precious natural heritage for future generations. This year we are delighted to participate in the first National BioBlitz, and need as many volunteers to help us survey and record all wildlife present at Newbridge Demesne. "

The first National BioBlitz competition takes place on over 24 hours starting on Friday 21st May at 5pm and finishing on Saturday 22nd May at 5pm. Newbridge Demesne is one of five locations where expert scientists, recorders and volunteers will spend 24 hours counting and logging plants, birds, mammals, fish and many other creepy crawlies. The

National Biodiversity Data Centre hope that by pitting the five venues against each other, comparisons may be made between the sites, allowing us to gain further insights into the relative biological richness of the different habitats. BioBlitz starts at 5pm on Friday evening, and will run through to 5pm on Saturday, and the winning location will be announced at 6pm.

Fingal Biodiversity Weekend is organised by Fingal County Council in association with the National Biodiversity Centre, Bat Conservation Group, Birdwatch Ireland, Conservation Volunteers Fingal, Dublin Naturalists Field Club, Fingal Beekeepers Association, OWLS, Irish Hawking Club, Irish Seal Sanctuary, and Irish Wildlife Trust

For more information on Biodiversity Action in Fingal or on Fingal Biodiversity Weekend, or the National BioBlitz, please contact Hans Visser, Fingal County Council Biodiversity Officer on 01-890 5605 / 087 121 4641 or email hans.visser@fingalcoco.ie

ENDS 13/05/10

Editors Notes

The five locations participating in the first National BioBlitz, arranged by the National Biodiversity Centre, in conjunction with the Irish Parks and Wildlife Service and Fingal County Council are:

- Glenveagh National Park, Co. Donegal,
- Connemara National Park, Co. Galway,
- Coole Park, Co. Galway,
- Wicklow Mountains National Park, Co. Wicklow
- Newbridge Demesne, Co. Dublin.