



REPORT

Green Foundation Ireland joins with Farming for Nature in inviting you to a

FARM WALK

hosted by Donna Mullen



**Venue: Golashane Nature Reserve, Tierworker, Kells, Co Meath
(Eircode: A82 VE86)**

**Sunday 11 September 2022
14:00 – 16:30**

Green Foundation Ireland wishes to acknowledge with thanks that this event has been made possible with the support of The Heritage Council's Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme, and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Farm Walk

This farm walk at Golashane Nature Reserve near Kells in County Meath was hosted by GFI's Chair, DONNA MULLEN.

Farming for Nature, which was established in 2018, is an independent, not-for-profit initiative which aims to support high nature value farming in Ireland.

These farm walks are an opportunity for the Farming For Nature farmers to showcase their contribution to nature and good farming practices on their land.

*This event was part of BurrenBeo Trust's
[Farming for Nature](#) farm walks*

ABOUT OUR HOST

Donna Mullen:

Chair of Green Foundation Ireland, Donna is an environmentalist and works as an ecologist, drawing up nature trails and sustainability plans. Her work involves spending many happy hours surveying buildings for bats, and she helped draw up the guidelines on bat surveys for the Heritage Council (Traditional Farm Building Scheme). She is a founder member of both Bat Conservation Ireland and the Irish Environmental Network, and has also served on the board of the Irish Wildlife Trust.



ABOUT OUR FARM WALK

The weather was terrible, with howling winds and rain, yet several intrepid visitors made it to the walk, complete with wellies and raingear. We started with tea and cakes while we discussed each visitor's plans for enhancing nature in their own areas. Then we went out to look at the habitat enhancement measures on the farm.



The farm buildings are being restored under the Heritage Council's Traditional Farm Building Scheme, and as part of that Scheme, measures for bats are being incorporated into the buildings, including a stone bat box, which is built into the wall. We looked at the large barn which has special rafters in place for hibernating bats, then we walked through the forest, discussing the effects of ash dieback, and looking at the bat house.

Next we moved on to pine martens, and looked at the pine marten box. As we walked through the farm we looked at the barn owl boxes (currently being used by kestrels), the hedgerow and the biomass willow. There was much interest in the use of willow for biodiversity.

We also discussed the importance of ponds. We have three ponds currently and have plans to add a fourth this year.

We also looked at the orchard and fruit area, which is fenced for birds and now has attracted jays to the farm.

The afternoon ended with more tea and cakes, and will be followed up by a day in December when some of the participants will come back to take cuttings of plants for use in their own biodiversity projects.

Green Foundation Ireland

26 September 2022