Biodiversity is the variety of different plants and animals that are found in an area, and is a term that encompasses all life on earth. A high level of biodiversity is often associated with a thriving and healthy ecosystem. NUI Galway’s main campus extends along the majestic River Corrib, and its rich biodiversity has been highlighted through the Internally Biodiverse Campuses initiative, run by An Taisce and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The campus can support high biodiversity due to its variety of habitats. These include alder wood, reed beds, dry meadows, grassland, and a portion of the Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation.

This trail leads you to explore some of the distinct habitats on campus at your leisure. Our biodiversity ranges from Ireland’s smallest bird – the Goldcrest, to our largest – the Mute Swan, as well as the woodlouse-burrowing ant - the Paraponera clavata. The River Corrib and associated wetlands play host to many fish, aquatic plants and waterfowl. Mammals, including the beaver for, otter, stoat, wood mouse and dormouse, also call the campus their home. Meanwhile, all Ireland’s rare bats and flowers have been recorded patrolling the night skies above the campus.

In this trail, you will find locations and descriptions of our distinct habitats on campus, and some of the species to be found there.

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