



Carrickmacross-Castleblayney - Community Information Meeting

The Workhouse

13th May 2025




Co-funded by
the European Union



Waters of **LIFE**

Meeting structure

- Presentation
 - 15 - 20 minutes
 - Questions and Answers
 - 10 - 20 minutes
 - Stand Engagement
 - 30 - 60 minutes
 - We have a **sign-up** sheet at the LAWPRO table if you want to be kept up to date with our work e.g. newsletter
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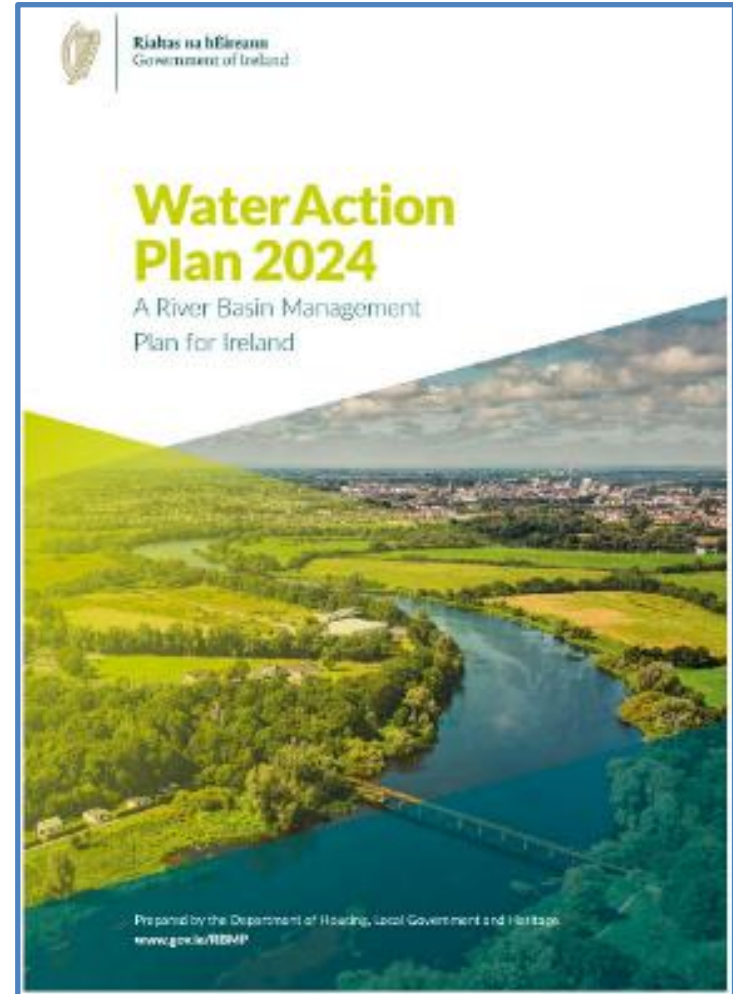
Water Action Plan 2024

Launched September 2024

- Government commitment to protecting & restoring Ireland's natural waters by complying with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
- Accelerate the identification and implementation of the **right measures in the right places** to both restore and protect all water bodies



“Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such” WFD, 2000/60/EC



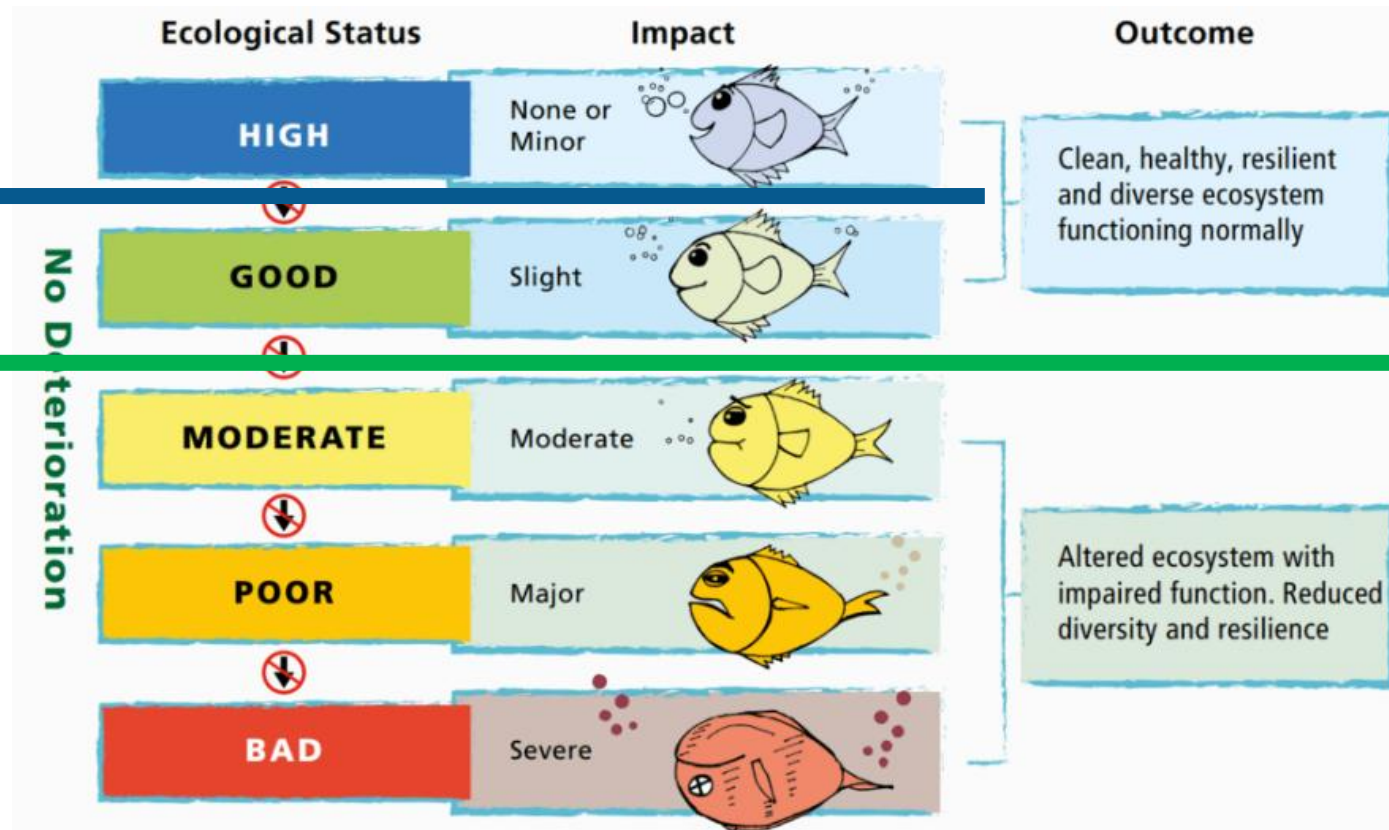
[gov.ie - River Basin Management Plan 2022 - 2027](http://gov.ie/WBMP)

What do we mean by water quality?

EU Water Framework Directive

No Decline –
Blue Dots

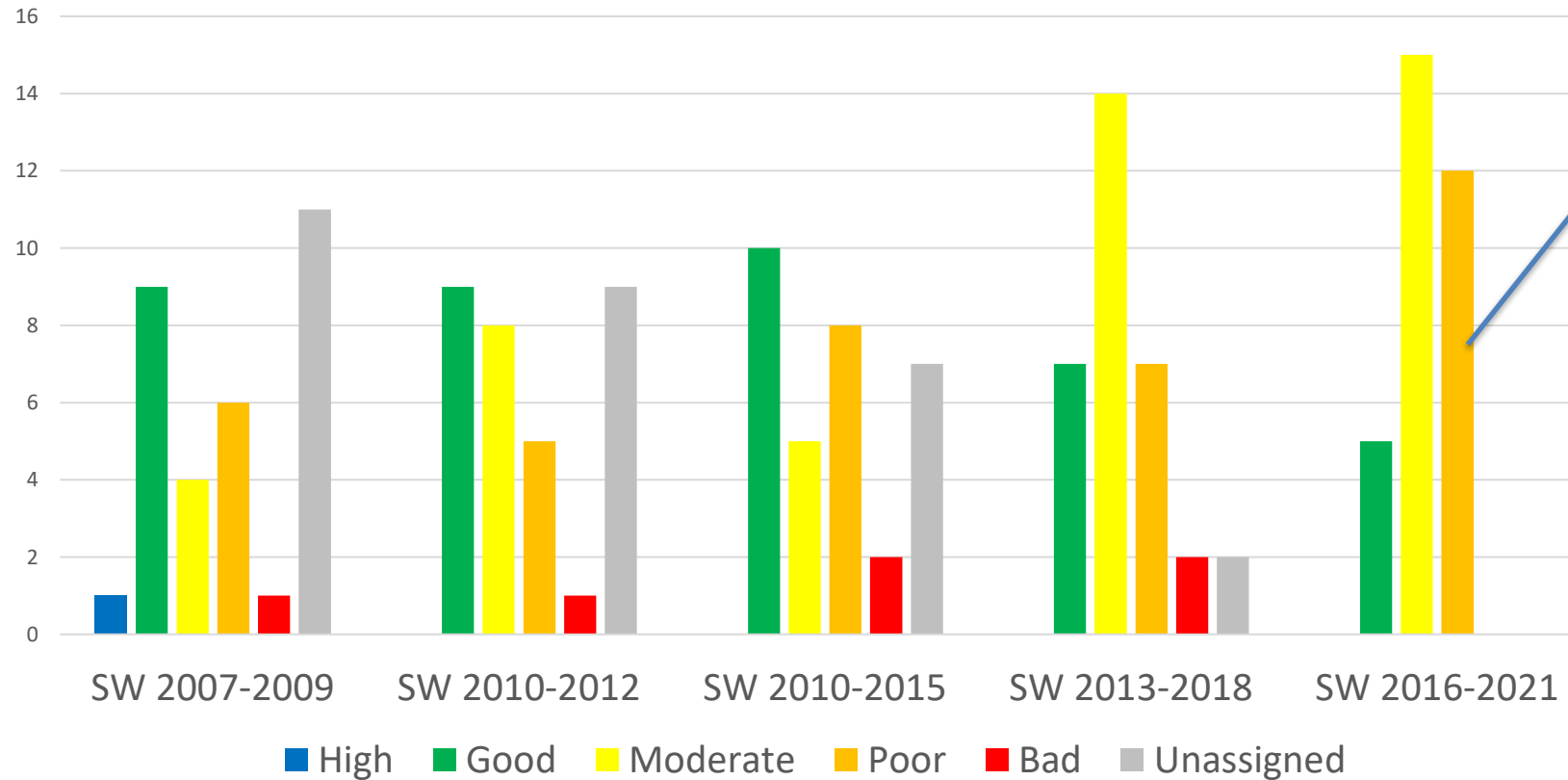
At least Good



All surface waters must achieve at least Good Ecological Status by 2027

Water quality in Carrickmacross – Castleblayney MD

Ecological Status of Rivers & Lakes in Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD over time



Most recent WFD Status Assessment (2016-2021) of river waterbodies in the Carrickmacross-Castleblayney MD 32 Waterbodies (WBs) (24 Rivers + 8 Lakes)

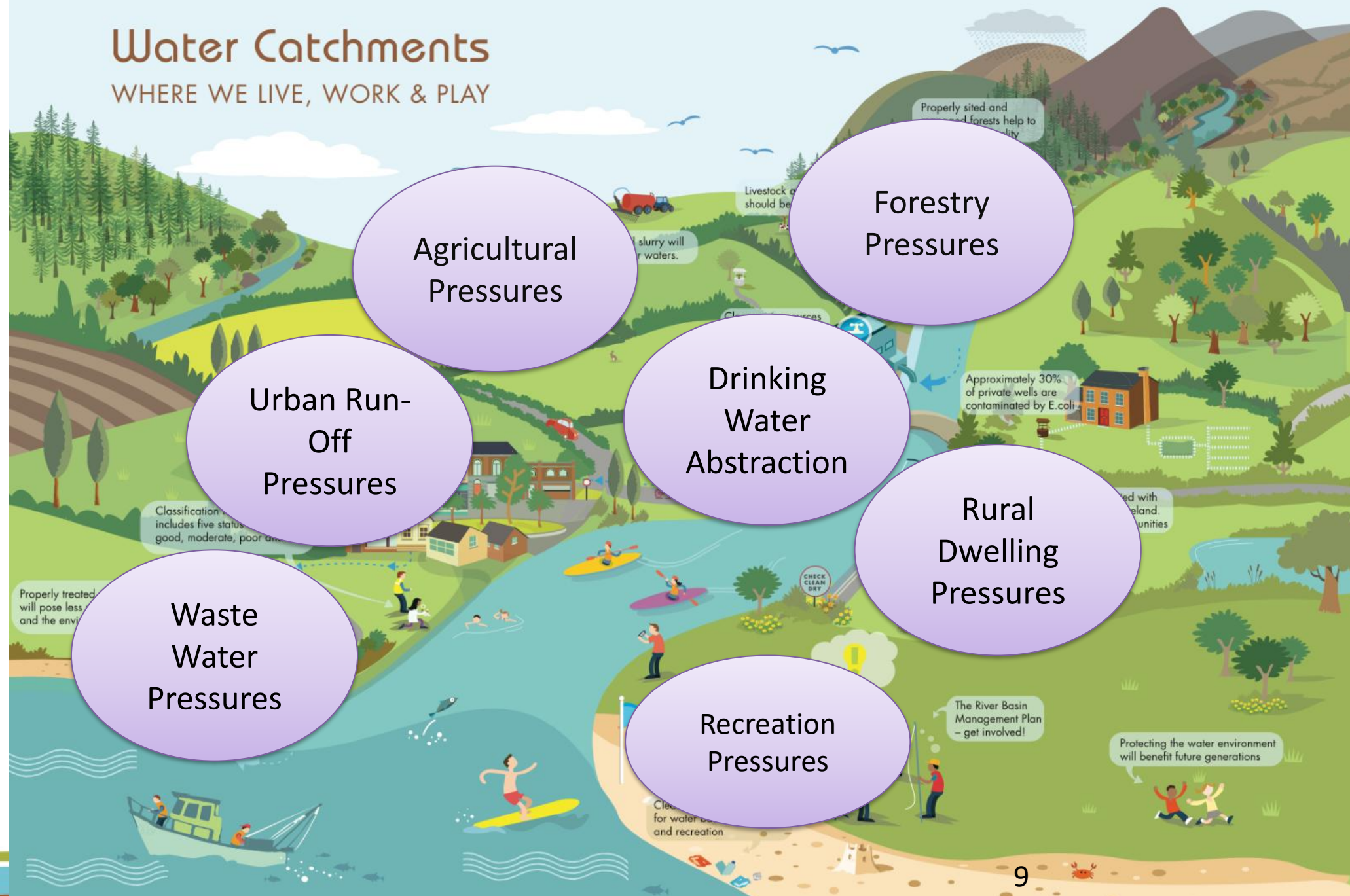
- **Good** – 5 WBs
- **Moderate** – 15 WBs
- **Poor** - 12 WB's

What impacts our water?



Water Catchments

WHERE WE LIVE, WORK & PLAY



Agricultural Pressures

Forestry Pressures

Urban Run-Off Pressures

Drinking Water Abstraction

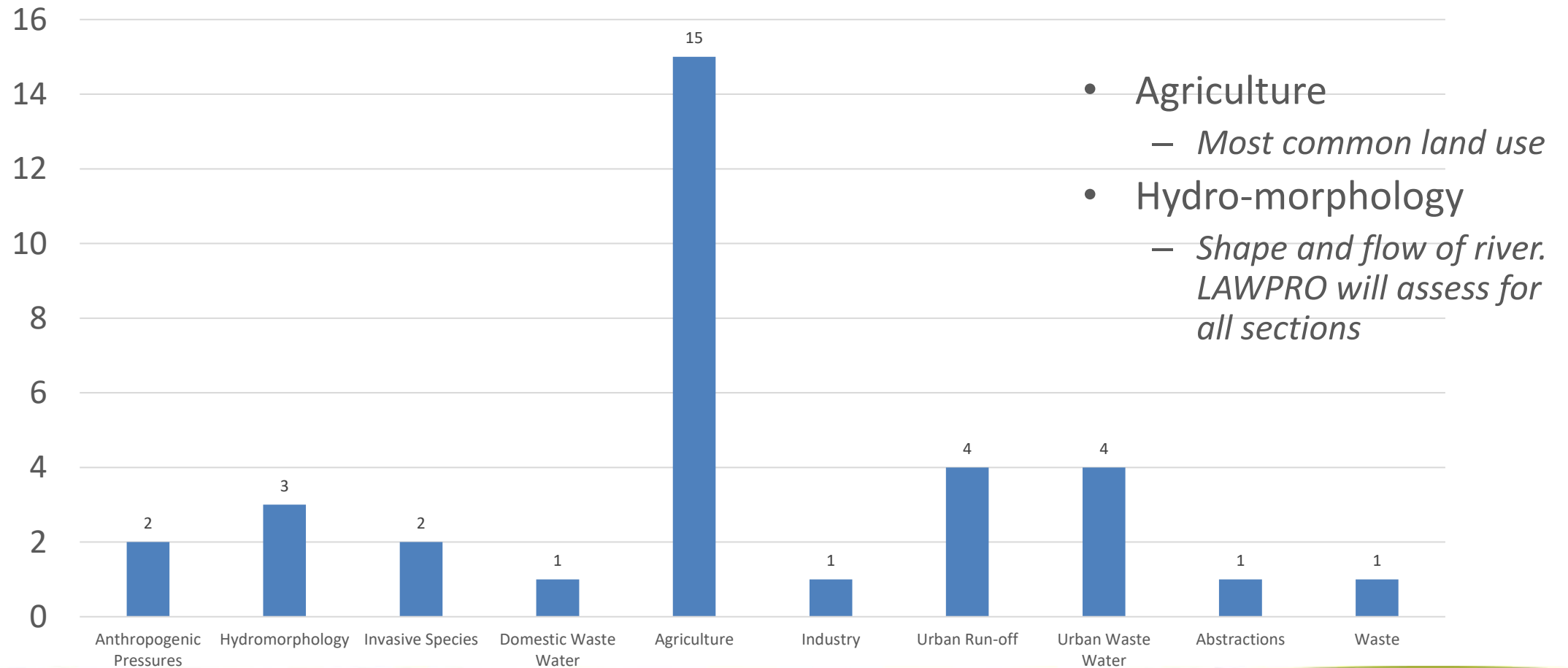
Rural Dwelling Pressures

Waste Water Pressures

Recreation Pressures

Preliminary Assessment of likely Pressures in the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney MD

Significant Pressure in **At risk** waters in Municipal District of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney



What are we are doing



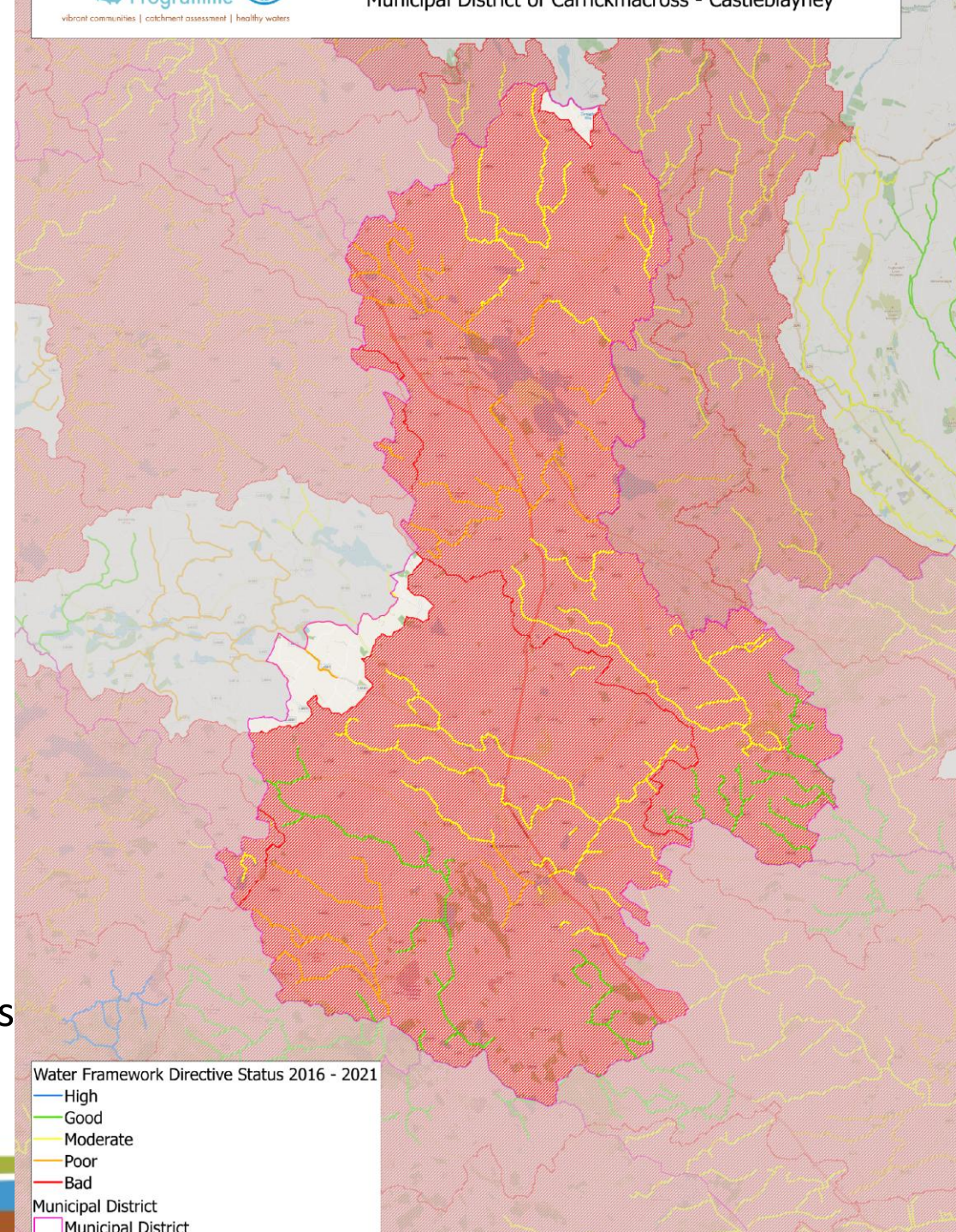
Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) in the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District (MD)

- 24 river waterbodies intersect with or are contained within Carrickmacross - Castleblayney MD
- 8 lake waterbodies also sit within the MD Boundary



Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) in the Carrickmacross - Castleblayney Municipal District (MD)

- 24 river waterbodies intersect with or are contained within Carrickmacross - Castleblayney MD
- 8 lake waterbodies also sit within the MD Boundary
- LAWPRO are the lead organisation on two Priority Areas for Action including:
 - Glyde Proules – 19 waterbodies covering southern half of MD and extending into Louth
 - River Fane - 15 waterbodies also extending into Louth through northern half of MD
- Monaghan CoCo are the lead organisation in the upper reaches of River Fane around and upstream of Lough Muckno



Local Catchment Assessment

Finding issues on the ground



Field chemistry and field observations



Biological sampling - invertebrates



River walks



Urban assessments



Chemistry sampling



Biological sampling - vegetation



Referrals Process

- When we find issues, we let people know
 - Agriculture, we refer to ASSAP
 - Forestry, we refer to Forest Service
 - Licensed discharges, we refer to Local Authority or Environmental Protection Agency etc.
- Measures can be used then to address the impact

What is The ASSAP?

- Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme
- Focus is on improving water quality in Priority Areas for Action (PAA)
- Provides free & confidential farm advice and acceptance is voluntary
- Industry, government, farm orgs collaboration
- 44 Advisors - 20 Teagasc, 24 from Dairy Co-ops
- Work in collaboration with Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)
- LAWPRO – scientific investigation; LCA, desk study, chemical, biological, hydro morphology etc., assess streams
- Provide referrals to advisors to focus farm visits



CARBERY



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



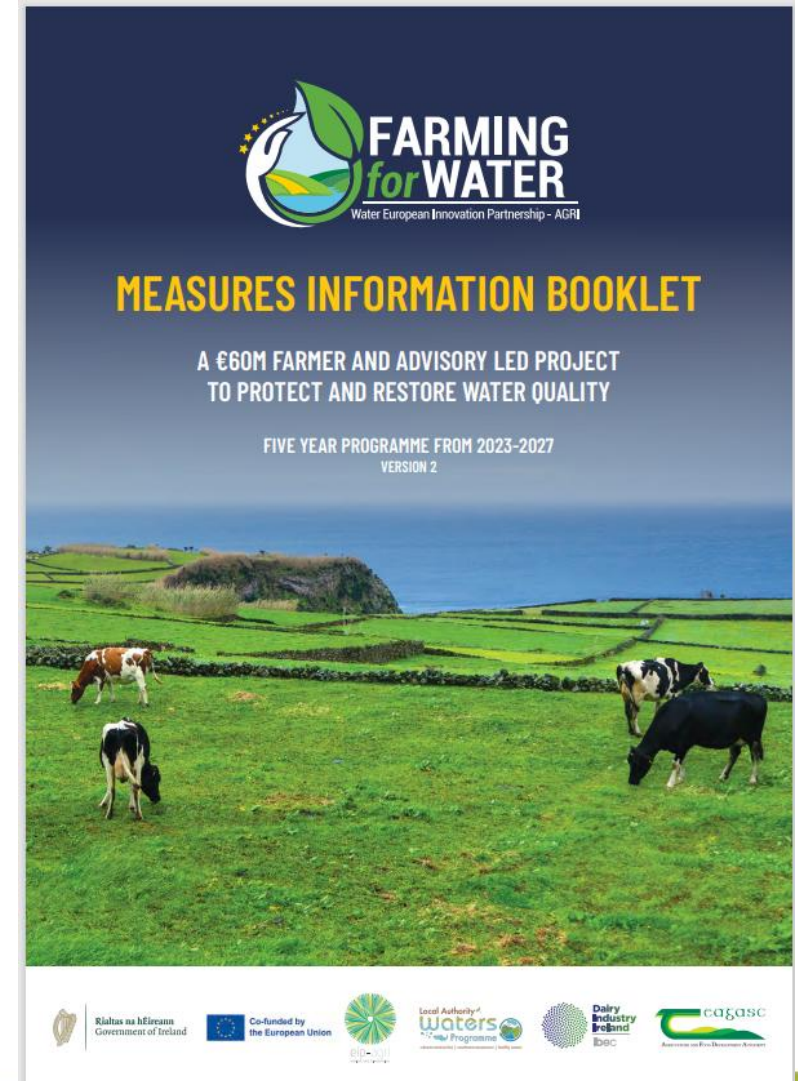
An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



What is the Farming for Water EIP?

The Farming for Water project, aims to tackle water quality issues while promoting sustainable agricultural practices and delivering environmental benefits.

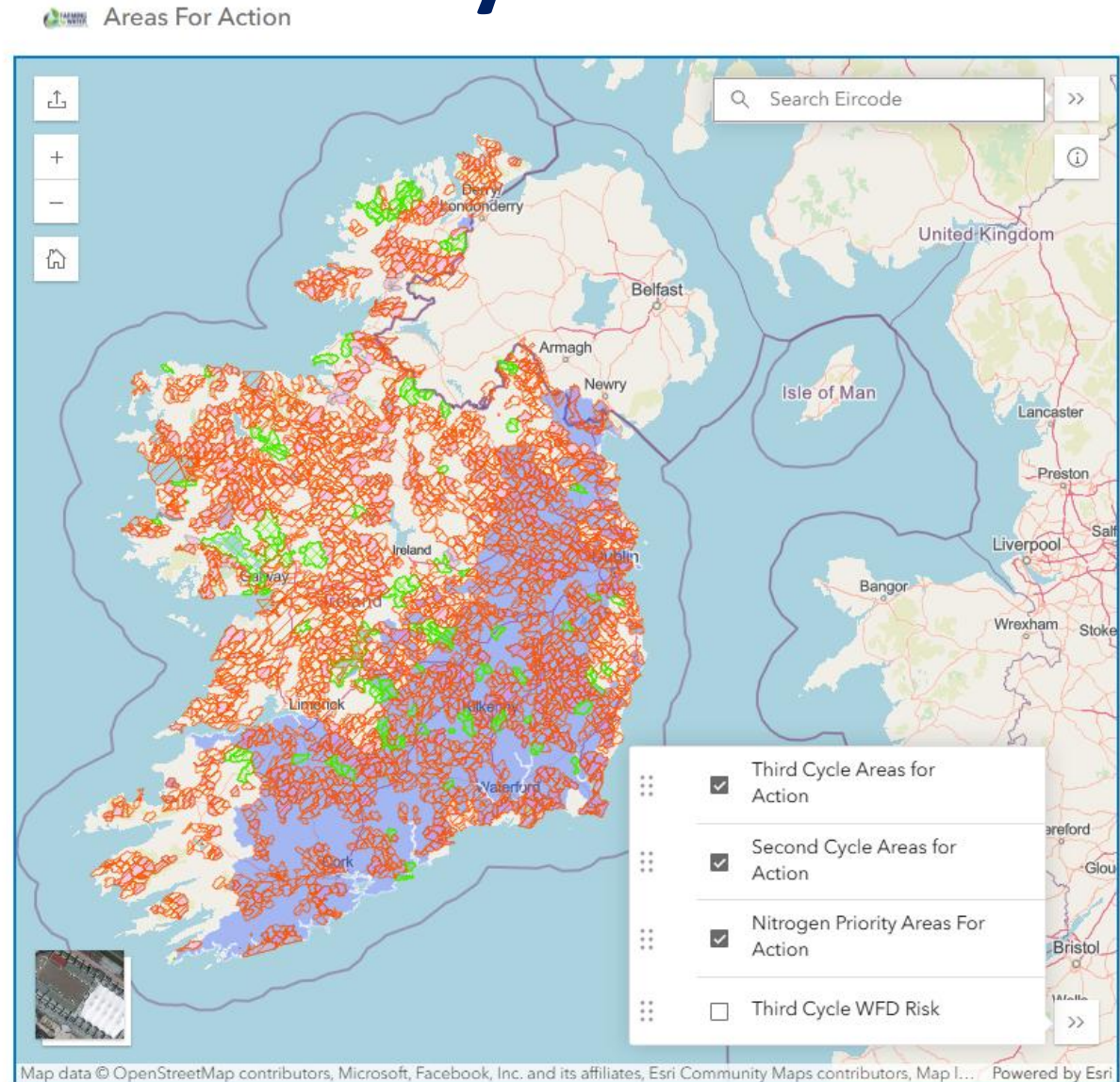
- **Collaboration & Innovation:** The project brings together farmers, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to co-develop practical, scalable solutions that go beyond regulatory requirements.
- **Funding & Support:** With €50 million from DAFM and the European Commission for farmer payments and €10 million in administrative support from DHLGH, the initiative is well-funded to support on-the-ground actions.
- **Leadership & Timeline:** Led by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) in partnership with Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland, the programme launched in March 2024 and will run until 2027, engaging a wide network of collaborators including other supporting stakeholders.



- **Prioritisation of Entry into the Project**
 - focus on specific areas based on risk levels.
- **Mapped Areas for Action:** Selected areas [Farming for Water website](https://farmingforwater.ie/).
- **Risk-Based Selection:** Entry into the project is guided by the ASSAP Advisor and is based scientific assessments of agricultural pressures on water bodies.
- **Research projects** being developed which will validate the measures being tested as part of the Farming for Water EIP.

<https://farmingforwater.ie/>

Key Points





Blue Dot Catchment Programme

- Blue Dot waters are our best quality waters
- Blue Dots = High Ecological Status Objective
- Currently there are 402 Blue Dots
 - Majority along the Western seaboard, Wicklow and upland areas of the Midlands and South
- Why Should we Protect Blue Dots?
 - Protect some of our most iconic and threatened species Salmon, Arctic Char, Freshwater Pearl Mussels among many others
 - Act as an arc, sensitive species can recolonise other waterbodies as we improve water quality
 - Societal wellbeing, ecosystem services like clean water or vital natural sites for recreation

<https://lawaters.ie/blue-dot-programme/>

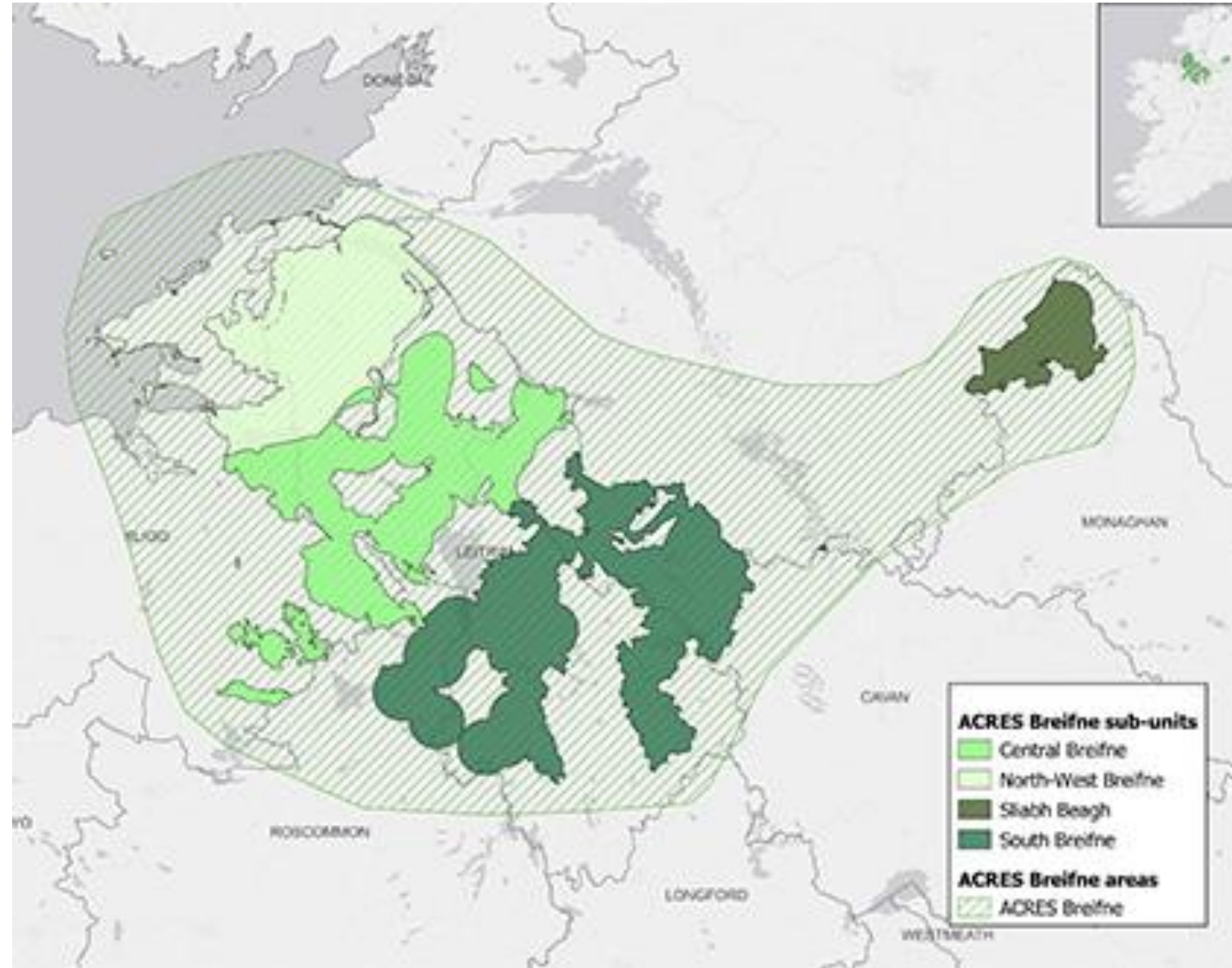




ACRES: General and CP

- [ACRES Co-operation approach](#): available to farmers in eight high-priority geographical areas, who opt to undertake measures, as well as bespoke farm, and landscape actions (No overlap here – closest is ACRES Breifne)
- [ACRES General](#): available nationally (outside of the high priority geographical area defined for the ACRES Co-operation approach) and offers a range of actions for individual farmers, both targeted and general.

<https://acresireland.ie/breifne/>



Community Engagement

- Eoghan Connaughton is the Community Water Officer for the Border Region covering counties Cavan, Monaghan and Louth
- Our work with Communities
 - Funding Community Water Development Fund
 - Catchment Support Fund
 - Small Grants

 - Capacity Building
 - Project Delivery
 - Citizen Science Stream Index

 - Talk to Eoghan for more info



Greenan's Cross for Cashlan Lough

- Between Newbliss – Monaghan Town
- Greenan's Cross Development Committee
- Landowners around Cashlan Lough
Lake outside WFD Monitoring Programme
- Community Water Development Fund
- Water Quality and Habitat Survey 2022



Cashlan Lough Habitat Map

Legend

-  Wet Grassland
-  Scrub
-  Wet Heath
-  Improved Agricultural Grassland
-  Riparian woodland
-  Hedgerow
-  (Mixed) Broadleaved Woodland
-  Conifer Plantation
-  Reed and Large Sedge Swamp



Disclaimer: This map has been prepared in accordance with the scope of services described in the contract or agreement between Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants and the Client. Any findings only apply to the aforementioned circumstances and no greater reliance should be assumed or drawn by the Client.

Greenan's Cross for Cashlan Lough

- Existing trail 215m loop established by the Committee
- New trail development could buffer waterbody from farm activity.
- **New amenity + Biodiversity + Water Quality !**



Greenan's Cross for Cashlan Lough

- New Community Water Development Fund 2025 **Success**
- **Plus:** Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for Trail Development Plan **Pending**
- Synergise funding streams.



Greenan's Cross for Cashlan Lough

- Capitalising on ecosystem services for multiple benefits.
- Community at the centre of planning.
- Supported by LAWpro.
- Opportunity:
 - New 2km looped walk of Cashlan Lough.
 - Buffer for lakeshore habitat to develop.
 - Amenity connecting communities.
 - Improved water quality and habitat.
 - New sense of community custodianship.



Special thank you to Leona Galligan, Rural Recreational Officer.
And the Greenan's Cross and Lissarley Communities.

June 2025 National NbS Conference

- **2-day Conference - 4th and 5th of June 2025**
- Day 1 - Upscaling and Mainstreaming Nature Based Solutions to Protect and Restore Urban, Rural, Coastal and Riverine Environments
- Day 2 – Masterclass Workshops with the following themes: Urban NbS, River Restoration and Coastal / Sea Grass Restoration.
- Including practical approaches to protecting urban, rural, coastal and riverine environments.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS
 TO PROTECT AND RESTORE URBAN, RURAL, COASTAL AND RIVERINE ENVIRONMENTS

ENGINEERS IRELAND
 CPD APPROVED EVENT 2025

Dundalk Institute of Technology
 4th-5th June 2025

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS
 ECOSYSTEM SERVICES | CLIMATE RESILIENCE | BIODIVERSITY | WATER QUALITY | SOIL HEALTH | AIR QUALITY | URBAN WELL-BEING

SPONSORS: LGMA, Lár Balle ar d'Úis Town Centre First, CARO, OPR, An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtas Árainn agus Oidhreacht, An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtas Árainn agus Oidhreacht, Department of Knowledge, Local Government and Heritage, OPW, CIVIC ENGINEERS, Dundalk, Local Authority Waters Programme, interreg North-West Europe, An Roinn Ceanbhail, An t-Áras Ceannairde, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Uisce Éireann, FARMING for WATER.



Follow QR Code for Registration Options or see front page of LAWPRO Website <https://lawaters.ie>

Collaborative multi-agency approach to improve Water Quality



“Water is the driving force of all nature”

Leonardo da Vinci



Collaboration is key to success!!



Q and A



Meet the room

- LAWPRO –
 - Andy Hallewell (Senior Community Water Officer)
 - Gary O’Connell (Catchment Science Manager)
 - Eoghan Connaughton (Community Water Officer)
 - Vicky Veerkamp (Technical Lead)
 - Patrick Rafferty (Catchment Scientist)
 - Aileen Owens (Catchment Scientist)
- ASSAP/Farming for Water EIP
 - Domhnall Kennedy (Teagasc)
 - Barbara Olwill (FFW EIP)
 - Padraig Rafferty (FFW EIP)
- ACRES

www.lawwaters.ie

www.catchments.ie

