



Bailieborough-Cootehill MD
Community Information Meeting
Le Cheile, Cootehill, Co. Cavan
21st April 2026

Blackwater (Kells)_050

Meeting structure

- Presentation
 - 15 - 20 minutes
- Questions and Answers
- Tea and Coffee

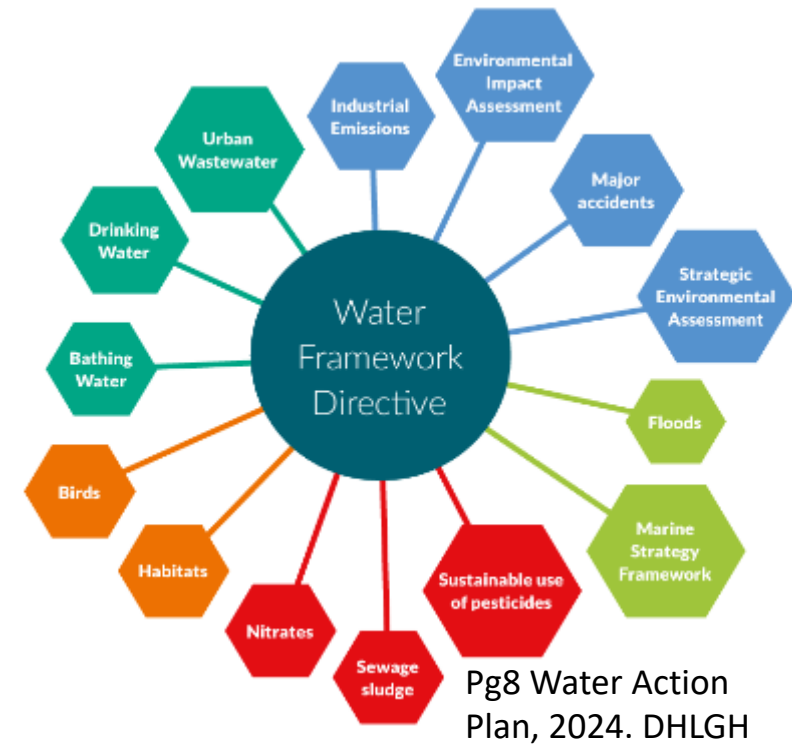
We have a **sign-up** sheet at the LAWPRO table if you want to be kept up to date with our work e.g. newsletter



About LAWPRO

LAWPRO's three core functions:

- 1. Coordination** on behalf of local authorities and public bodies.
 - *Regional Committees (incl. cross-border representation).*
 - *Nationwide Catchment Management Plan Template*
- 2. Catchment science and management** to inform decision making:
 - *Working in Priority Areas for Action (PAA)*
 - *Building capacity within Local Authority sector through knowledge sharing and training.*
- 3. Community engagement** at a local level and nationwide.
Advocating for a healthy water environment to deliver multiple benefits for health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate, and local communities.



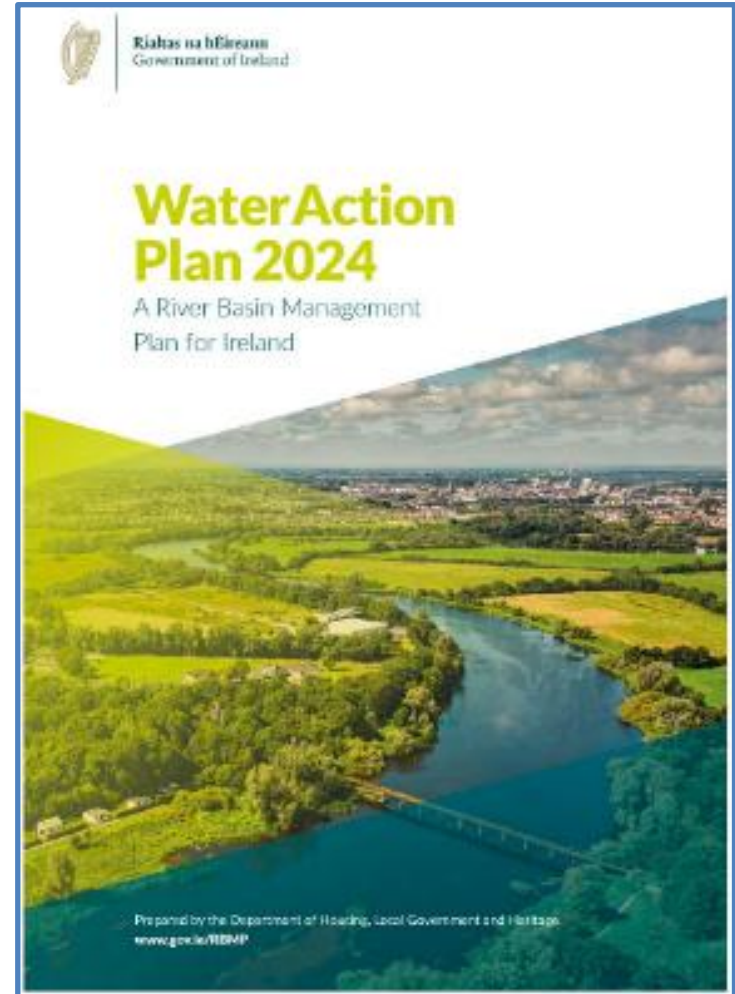
Water Action Plan 2024

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

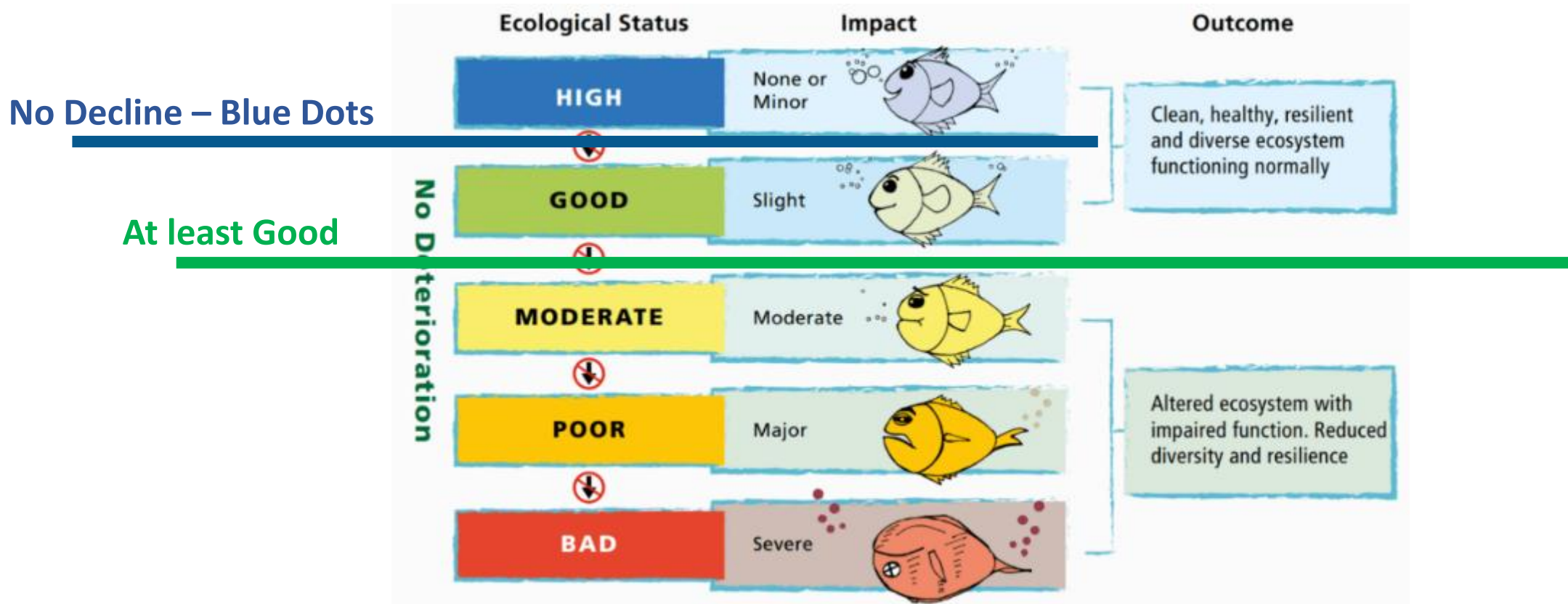


“Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such” WFD, 2000/60/EC



What do we mean by water quality?

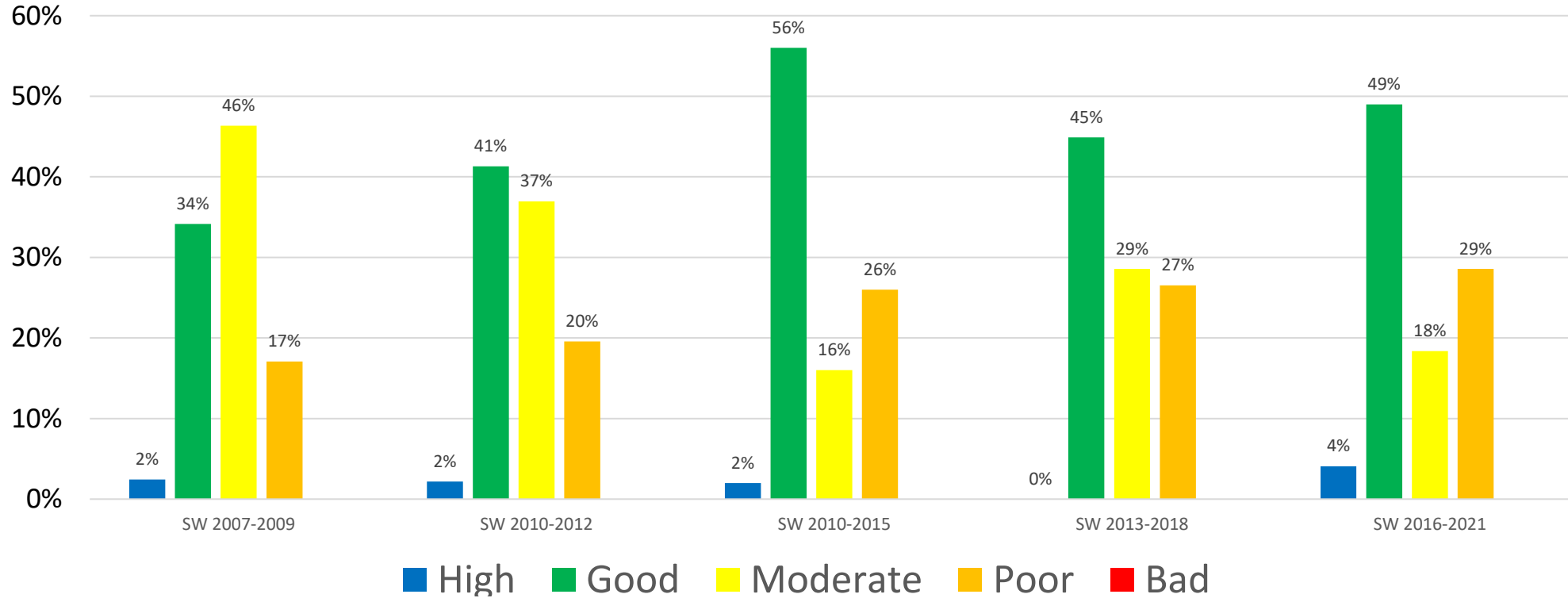
EU Water Framework Directive



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

Water quality in Bailieborough-Cootehill MD

WFD Status (%) of Rivers in Municipal District of Bailieborough-Cootehill - Monitored only



Co Cavan
2019-2024



What impacts our water?



Water Catchments

WHERE WE LIVE, WORK & PLAY

Agricultural Pressures

Forestry Pressures

Urban Run-Off Pressures

Drinking Water Abstraction

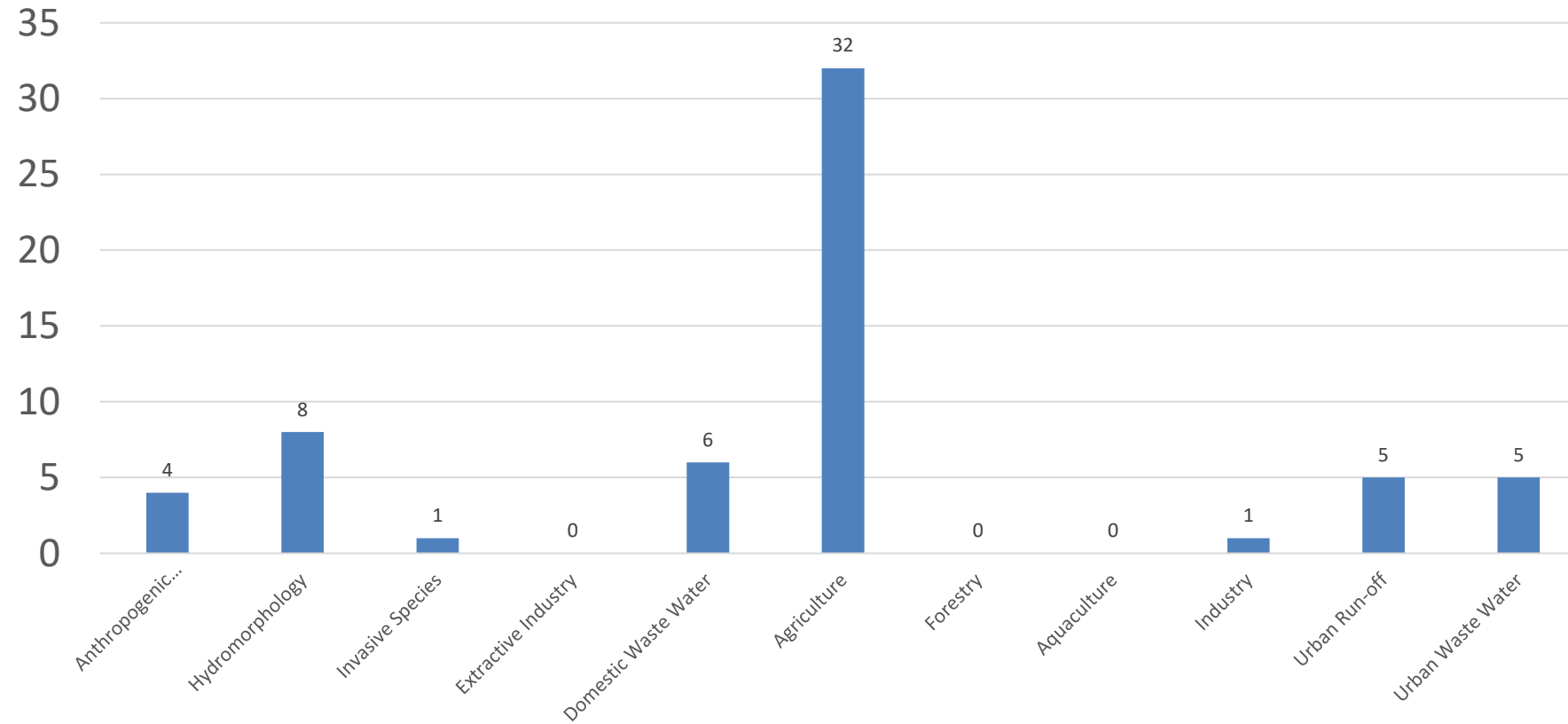
Rural Dwelling Pressures

Waste Water Pressures

Recreation Pressures

EPA preliminary assessment of likely pressures impacting *At Risk* waterbodies in the Bailieborough-Cootehill MD

Significant Pressure in At risk waters in Municipal District of Bailieborough-Cootehill



- Agriculture
 - Most common land use
- Anthropogenic Pressures
 - Unknown in most cases
- Hydro-morphology
 - Shape and flow of river. LAWPRO will assess for all sections

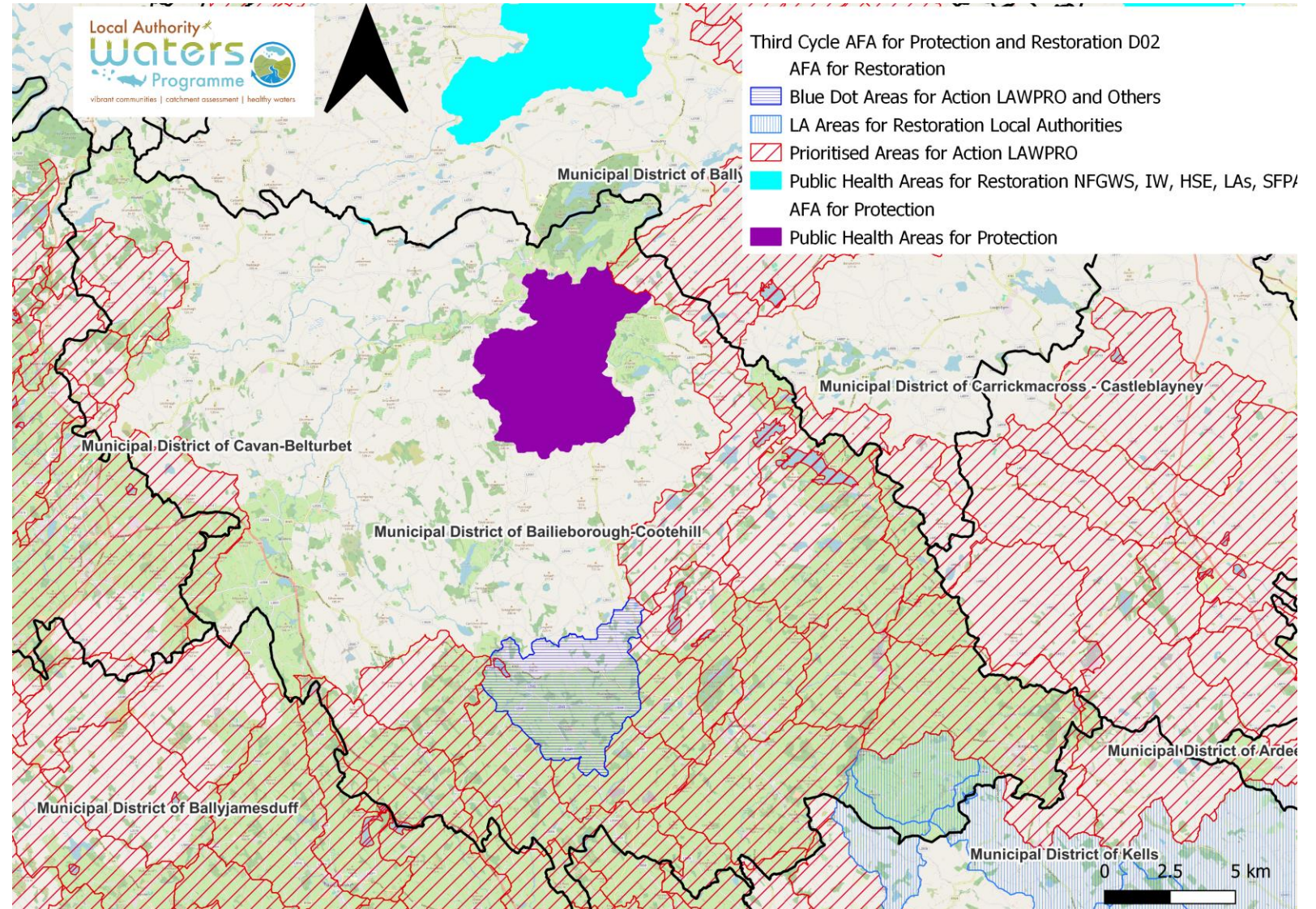
What are we are doing



Areas for Action in the Bailieborough-Cootehill MD

- 53 River waterbodies
- 20 Lake waterbodies

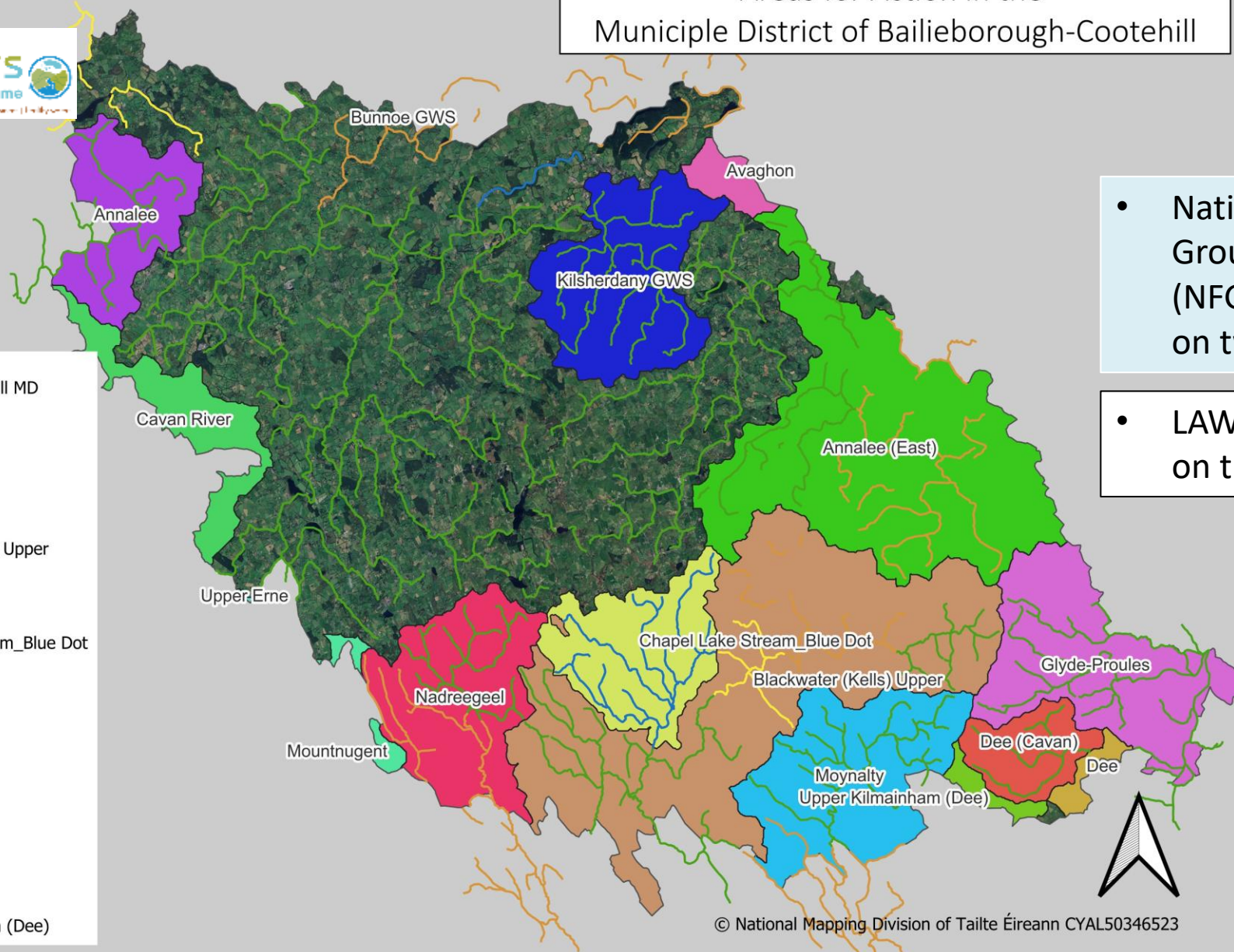
That intersect with or are contained within the Bailieborough-Cootehill MD



Areas for Action in the
Municipal District of Bailieborough-Cootehill



- Bailieboro-Cootehill MD
- Areas for Action**
- Annalee
- Annalee (East)
- Avaghon
- Blackwater (Kells) Upper
- Bunnoe GWS
- Cavan River
- Chapel Lake Stream_Blue Dot
- Dee
- Dee (Cavan)
- Glyde-Proules
- Kilsherdany GWS
- Mountnugent
- Moynalty
- Nadreegeel
- Upper Erne
- Upper Kilmainham (Dee)



- National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) lead organisation on two AFAs

- LAWPRO lead organisation on thirteen PAAs



© National Mapping Division of Tailte Éireann CYAL50346523

Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) in the Bailieboro-Cootehill MD

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



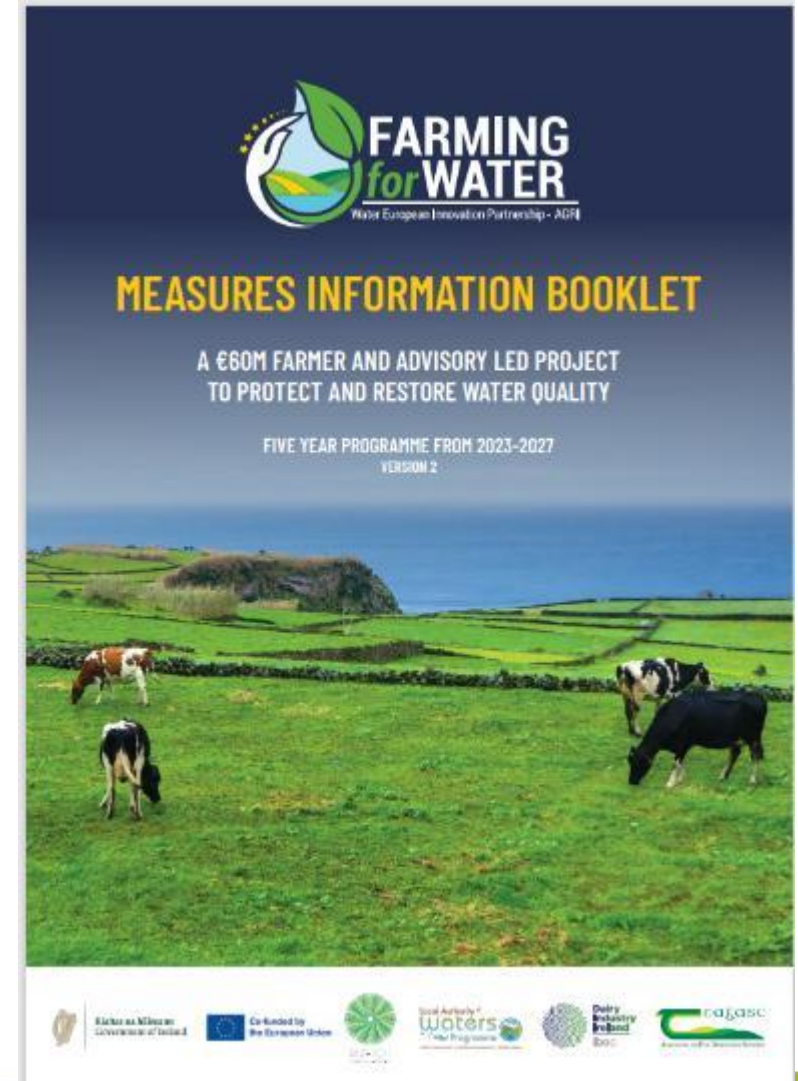
An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



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.

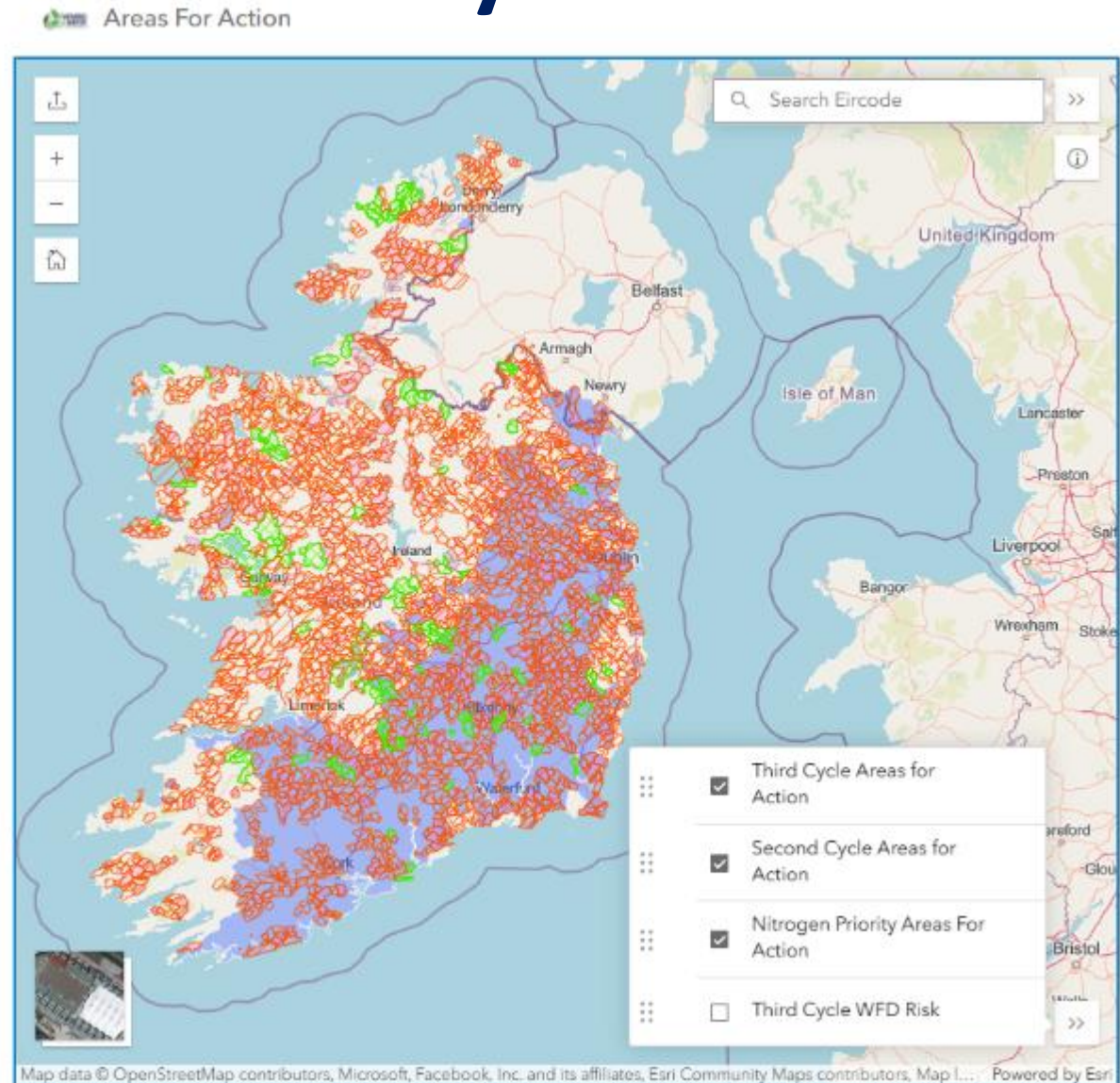
- **Collaboration & Innovation:** The project brings together farmers, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to co-develop practical, scalable solutions that go beyond regulatory requirements.
- **Funding & Support:** With €50 million from DAFM and the European Commission for farmer payments 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.



Key Points

- **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.

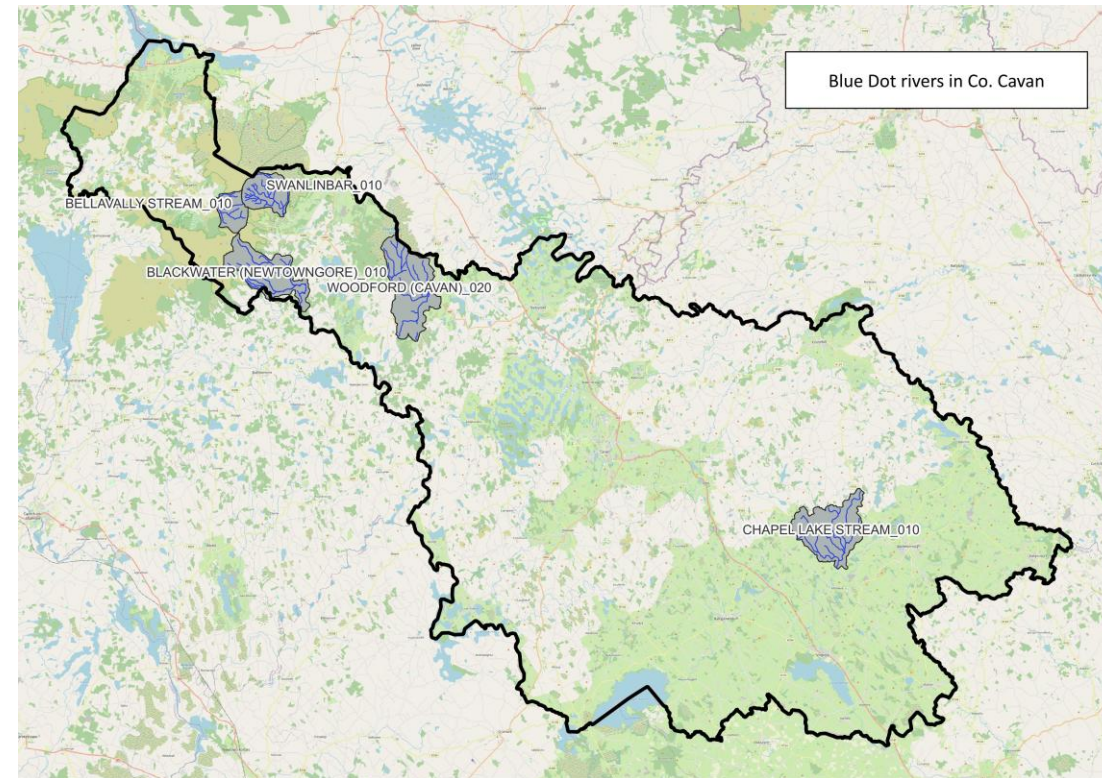
<https://farmingforwater.ie/>





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
 - There are 5 Blue Dots in County Cavan (Swanlinbar, Blackwater (Newtowngore), Woodford (Cavan), Bellavalley Stream & Chapel Lake Stream)
- 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/>

Community Engagement

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

 - Capacity Building
 - Project Delivery
 - Citizen Science Stream Index



Community Actions in Cavan

- St Bricin's 'Environmental Science' Lecture
- Mullagh Sports Partnership
- West Cavan Bog Association
- Virginia Town Team

Sinead Finn

sfinn@lawwaters.ie

Community Actions in Cavan

- Friends of Castle Lake
- Friends of the Upper Annalee
- Lough Oughter Invasive Species Removal Project

Sinead Finn

sfinn@lawaters.ie

June 2026 National NbS Conference

The 2-day Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Conference will take place in **Dundalk Institute of Technology** on the **10th and 11th June 2026**.

More details to follow shortly, including registration.

All information will be available on our website <http://lawaters.ie> shortly

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

TO PROTECT AND RESTORE URBAN, RURAL, COASTAL AND RIVERINE



10th & 11th of
June 2026



Dundalk Institute of Technology

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)
 - Sinead Finn (Senior Community Water Officer)
 - Eoghan Connaughton (Community Water Officer)
 - Vicky Veerkamp (Technical Lead)
 - Aileen Owens (Catchment Scientist)
 - Patrick Rafferty (Catchment Scientist)
- **ASSAP**
 - Domhnall Kennedy

www.lawwaters.ie

www.catchments.ie

