

River View

The latest news from the Inishowen Rivers Trust

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River Guardians Training Programme for Summer 2021

The Inishowen River Guardians Programme for 2021 began back in March with two webinars with geographer Dr. Peter Wilson, Ulster University. Peter is a keen climber and his extensive knowledge of the geology and formation of features in Donegal, led to some fascinating insights into how rivers in Donegal have formed. As a nice follow on to this, Daragh McDonough from Donegal County Council's mapping section gave a talk on the uses of maps and 16 River Guardians are currently engaged in a three session programme with Fiona Stapleton of Peasy Maps to learn how to use the free mapping software QGIS.



This summer there will be lots of courses to choose from which offer a range of practical skills and advice. Upcoming webinars include weather patterns, water chemistry, nature based solutions on the farm and fish passage. Training courses include riverfly sampling, willow spilling, woody debris and developing a catchment restoration plan. Some dates for these events are provided below but please note that due to the current restrictions we may need to reschedule courses.

We've also got a few fieldtrips arranged including walks and talks with Peter Wilson, Tomas Lawrence talking about eels on the Mill River in Buncrana and a day with the Field Studies Centre.

Each course will be advertised on Facebook and emails sent to registered volunteers. If you would like to get involved, sign up using our **Volunteer Registration Form** (see Downloads section of our website).

Upcoming Schedule W = Webinar, T = Training

- (W) May 11th 2021 - Nature based solutions for Farm Water Quality
- (W) May 20th - Weather Webinar with Joanna Donnelly - Met Eireann
- (T) May 22nd - Riverfly Monitoring Training with Ballinderry Rivers Trust
- (T) May 29th/30th - Wilderness First Aid (sold out)
- (T) June 4th & 6th - Willow Spilling on Rivers
- (W) June 10th - An Introduction to Water Chemistry for Rivers
- (T) June 12th/13th - SSIS - Advanced Riverfly Training
- (T) June 26th/27th - Safe Working in Water (sold out)
- (W) End June - Fish Passage
- (Walk) Start July - Walk with Dr. Peter Wilson
- (T) July 9th - Developing a Catchment Restoration Plan (RRC)
- (T) July 18th - Field Studies Council



iCatch - A new national network for Rivers Trusts

Rivers Trusts are forming all over Ireland and we are delighted to partner with the Maigne Rivers Trust in establishing a network to encourage collaboration between these new trusts. All trusts have the same aim of protecting, restoring and improving our local waterbodies but there can be many challenges in forming a trust. In particular, trusts are run by voluntary boards and there are many administrative and governance related tasks to fulfil, as well as securing funding and managing projects effectively.

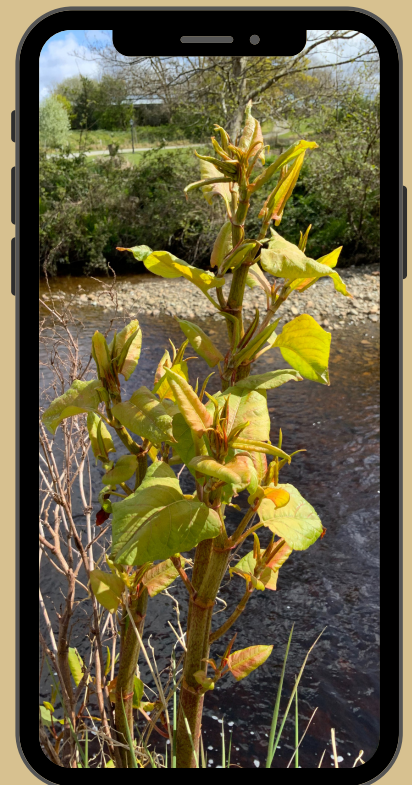
iCatch aims to enhance the leadership and management skills of these boards, providing opportunities to train and learn together, and to share best practice on river projects. The network has been kindly funded by The Wheel under their Training Links Programme and by LAWPRO.



Invasive Species on the Glennagannon River

We are delighted to announce that the Trust has been awarded funding under **Donegal County Council's Development Fund Initiative** for 2021. This funding will support a project to investigate the extent of the highly invasive **Japanese Knotweed** on the river and possible non-chemical approaches for control. If you live on the Glennagannon we would love to hear from you. You can submit records of JK on our Invasive Species form. Simply scan the QR code below with your smartphone and start recording. You can also visit the link below or call us and we can come to examine the extent of the invasion!

<https://arcg.is/HreHv>

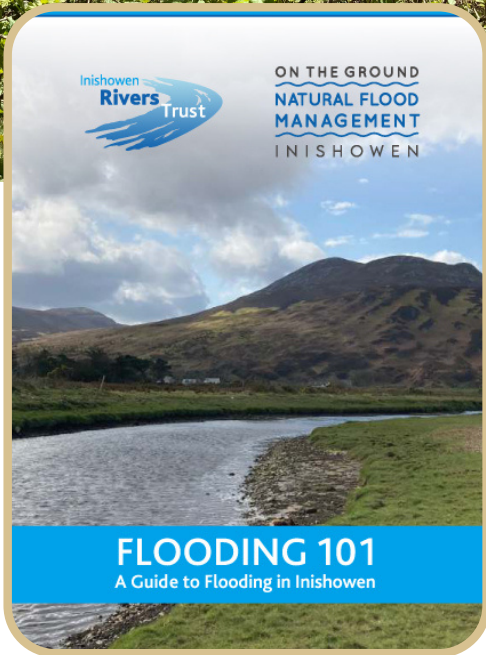
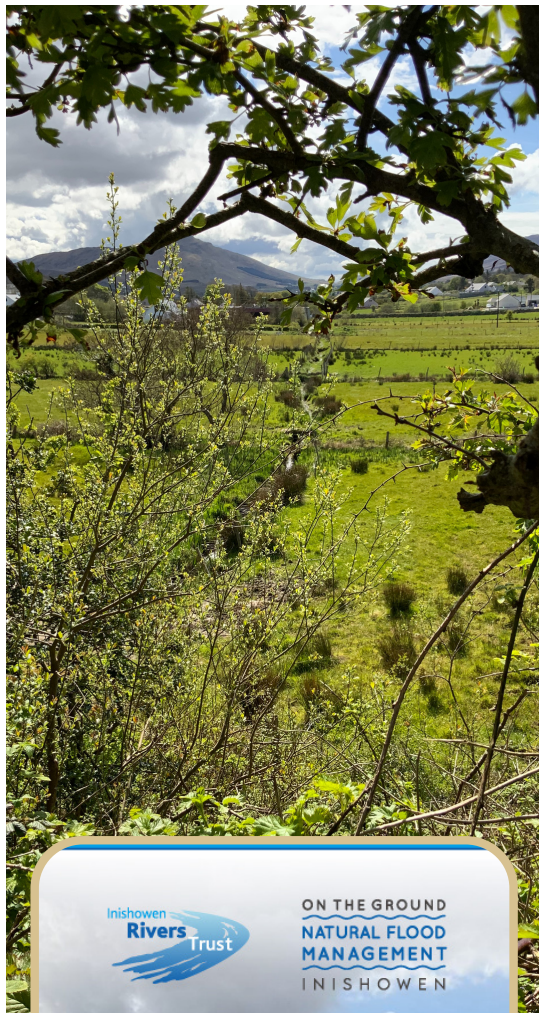


NFM Clonmany Updates

The natural flood management project in Clonmany is progressing and we are busy out **On the Ground** visiting landowners. We recently held a **Meet The Flood Team** online where the community had the chance to ask the flood expert (McCloy Consulting) any questions about flooding, what are natural flood measures and how do they work. The Trust have prepared a guide to flooding called **Flooding 101** and this will be out in the local shops soon, where you can pick up a free copy.

So far we've also produced two videos with MacRuari Audio & Film Services who are recording the project on film. You can see the videos on Facebook or go to our YouTube channel (link on our website).

If you want to get involved or would like to meet with our Landowner Liaison Officer please contact Mark@inishowenriverstrust.com or call him on 083 812 3218.



Leaky dam slowing the flow

Thanks to our funders

The IRT is a charity and relies fully on funding and donations from the public. Our one staff member is funded through the Resilience Pilot Project funded through the Local Authority Waters Programme by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and managed by The Rivers Trust (UK).

