

River View

The latest news from the Inishowen Rivers Trust

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t: 083 150 5680 or 083 808 1761

e. info@inishowenriverstrust.com

w. www.inishowenriverstrust.com

a. Ballybrack, Moville, Co. Donegal

CLG 587285 | RCN 20153106 | CHY 22625

WELCOME TO THE TEAM JOHN DOHERTY



We are delighted to announce that John Doherty has joined the Inishowen Rivers Trust team as part of the Farming for Water EIP project, taking on the role of Agricultural Community Animator.

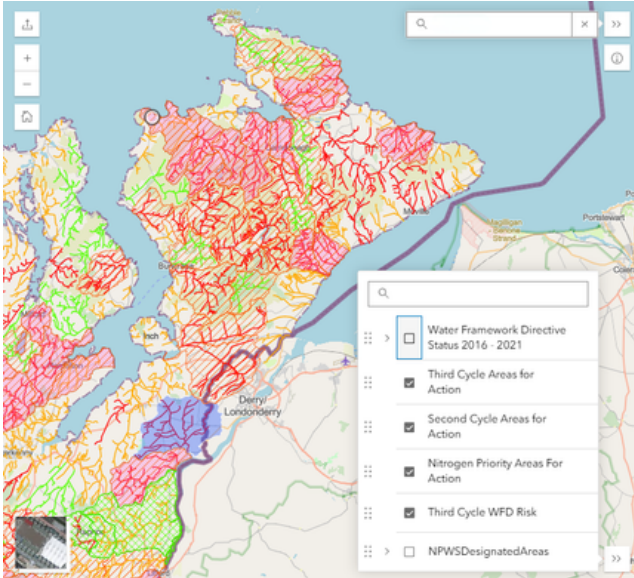
John brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge rooted in his upbringing on a traditional family farm in Malin Head. After completing a B.Sc. (Hons) in Sustainable Agriculture at Dundalk IT, he gained hands-on expertise working on farms across Ireland and New Zealand. Returning to his family farm, John assumed management responsibilities while continuing to deepen his commitment to sustainable agriculture.

In 2022, John became Project Manager for the Inishowen Uplands EIP, where he successfully led the project to completion in 2024. Additionally, he is a certified FAS advisor, further strengthening his ability to contribute to the team and the wider agricultural community.

We warmly welcome John and look forward to his contributions to the Farming for Water EIP project. Continue reading for more information on the Water EIP project.



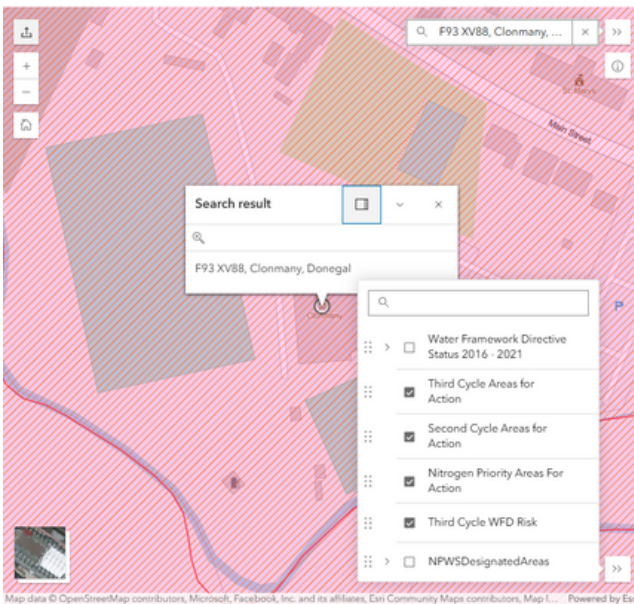
FARMING FOR WATER EIP



The €60 million Farming for Water European Innovation Partnership project aims to enhance water quality while supporting climate action and biodiversity. It promotes innovative nutrient management and natural water retention, collaborating with farmers to address local challenges. By fostering water stewardship and integrating project insights, it strives to deliver sustainable benefits for the environment, aquatic life, and society.

How to check that your farm is within the Priority Area for Action

- Goto: <https://farmingforwater.ie/areas-for-action/>
- Enter your post code into the top right hand side of the screen and select enter.
- If your post code appears in the red grided are you are within the PAA and can proceed with your application.



If your farm is located within a Priority Area for Action (PAA) within Inishowen, the best way to participate in the Farming for Water EIP project is to get in touch with our Agricultural Community Animator John Doherty.



If you are interested in being part of the project please contact John Doherty by emailing johndoherty@inishowenriverstrust.com or calling 083 1505680.

Why would you apply to be part of the Farming for Water EIP?

By participating, you can access funding to implement measures that improve water quality, such as creating riparian buffer zones, planting hedges and trees, or managing rainwater effectively. These actions not only help protect local water bodies but also enhance biodiversity, reduce soil erosion, and support sustainable farming practices.

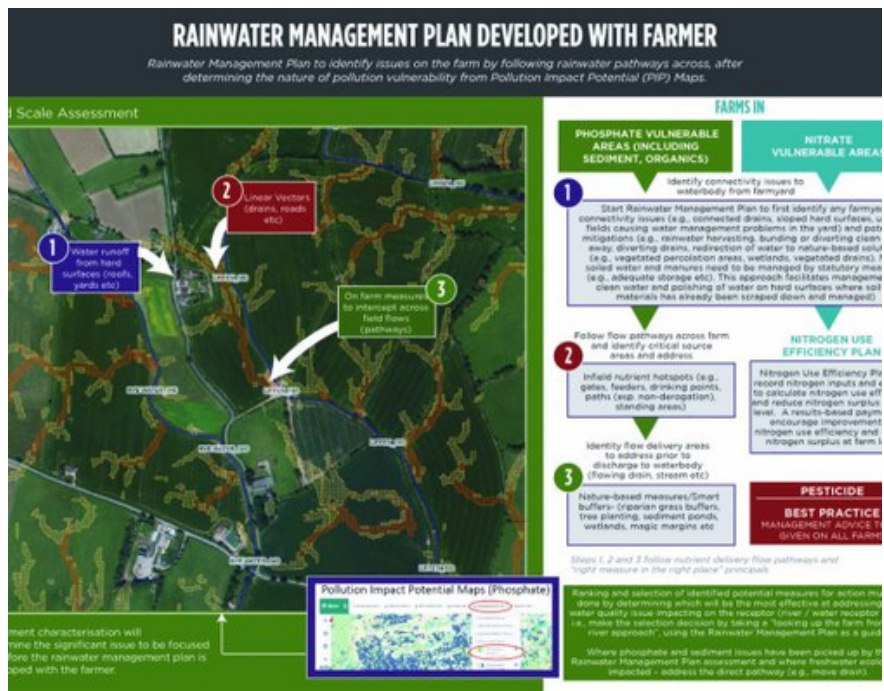
Additionally, the program provides expert advice and guidance tailored to your farm's needs, ensuring that the measures you adopt are effective and beneficial. It's a great opportunity to contribute to environmental conservation while also improving the resilience and productivity of your farm.

How long do I have to get involved in the project?

Applications for the Farming for Water EIP project will remain open until the end of 2027, providing farmers ample time to join and participate in the initiative.

Is this a mandatory Project?

Involvement in this Farming for Water EIP project is totally voluntary and any measures to be implemented are also jointly agreed. However, to sign up for the project, a fully funded Rainwater Management Plan must be drawn up in conjunction with the ASSAP or farm advisor.



This Rainwater Management Plan will then determine what suite of measures, if any, would be advisable for the property and which ones would help to protect and restore water quality. The farmer can then decide what measures they wish to introduce and make the application for funding.

The Farming for Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP) focuses on improving water quality through innovative agricultural practices. Here are some of the key measures implemented under this project:

1. Source Control Measures:

- Rainwater Management Plans: Assessing water flow across farms to identify areas for mitigation.
- Nutrient Management Plans: Helping farmers optimize crop growth while minimizing nutrient loss.
- Catch/Cover Crops: Utilizing residual nutrients in the soil post-harvest.
- Low Drift Nozzles: Reducing spray drift during pesticide application.
- Water Storage Tanks: Preventing direct water extraction from streams or rivers.

2. Pathway Interception Measures

- Rainwater Management Plan
- Farmer Training Course
- Nutrient Management Plan
- Nitrogen Surplus Plan
- Multiple Species Swards
- Catch/Cover Crops
- Low Drift Nozzles
- Mobile drip tray
- Water Storage Tanks
- Retrofit a Clean Water Tank
- Decommission of Sheep Dip Tub
- Submersible Pump

3. Receptor Measures

- Rainwater Management Plan
- Farmer Training Course
- Nutrient Management Plan
- Nitrogen Surplus Plan
- Multiple Species Swards
- Catch/Cover Crops

4. Additional Measures

- Host Farmer Payment
- Contractor Mobilisation Fee- Excavator
- Bespoke Measures



Low drift nozzle

These measures are designed to address local water quality challenges while promoting sustainable farming practices. For more information on the Farming for Water Project and examples of some of the work undertaken and underway click on [Farming for Water](#)

Contact John Doherty: johndoherty@inishowenriverstrust.com / 083 1505680.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED JOINING THE BOARD OF INISHOWEN RIVERS TRUST?

At the Inishowen Rivers Trust, we believe that every skill and perspective brings immense value to our mission of preserving and enhancing the health of our local waterways. Whether you're an accountant, a teacher, a gardener or an artist, there's a place for you here. Your expertise and passion can help shape the future of our rivers and community.



We're looking for people from all walks of life to join our board and help make a tangible difference. No prior experience in environmental work is needed—just a commitment to using your skills to support our mission of protecting our rivers.

By bringing your unique talents to the table, you'll help the Trust build a stronger connection between the community and the natural beauty of our rivers. Together, we can protect these lifelines for generations to come.

Ready to join us? Visit our website or get in touch by emailing

info@inishowenriverstrust.com

Let's combine our strengths and flow toward positive change!

SMALL ACTS, BIG RESULTS: THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF INISHOWEN RIVERS TRUST VOLUNTEERS

Inishowen Rivers Trust volunteers demonstrate how small, local efforts can lead to lasting environmental change. These dedicated individuals, all from the Inishowen area, devote their time to projects that protect and restore local rivers.

Recently, volunteers took part in a brash collection event, gathering fallen branches from trees damaged in the latest storm. The storm affected the whole of Ireland, bringing down trees across the country. Instead of letting this natural debris go to waste, the trust will store the collected brash for future river revetment projects, which help stabilise riverbanks and support healthy ecosystems.

These projects strengthen not only the rivers but also the bond between people and nature. The work of Inishowen Rivers Trust volunteers is a reminder that community action is vital to protecting our landscapes.

As storms and environmental challenges persist, these local volunteers show us the power of hands-on conservation. Their dedication ensures that rivers remain healthy, habitats stay intact, and future generations inherit a thriving natural world.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

10TH MAY 2025 10:30AM - 1:30 PM Peatland Restoration Volunteer Day at Meenletterbale, Merville.

We will be installing wooden dams to block the existing drains on the peatland and reprofiling a small peat hag by hand. The work is likely to be wet and muddy so bring your wellies, gloves and waterproof clothing. We would also recommend bringing your sunscreen and water.

DATE: Saturday, May 10th
TIME: 10:30am - 1:30pm
MEETING POINT: Ballinacrea Chapel F93 VX63

If you are interested in attending to learn more about the project but you are not able to take part in the work, spectators are also welcome. To book your place click [Eventbright Peatland Restoration Volunteer Day](#).

VOLUNTEER DAY
MEENLETTERBALE, INISHOWEN, CO. DONEGAL.
A volunteer day to block internal drains on our peatland and reprofile a peat hag by hand.

Join Green Sod Ireland in collaboration with Inishowen Rivers Trust
A volunteer day to block internal drains as part of our peatland restoration project and to reprofile a peat hag on site by hand.

10:30am
Saturday 10th of May
Ballinacrea Chapel
F93 VX63
Co. Donegal

FARM WALK - GREEN SOD IRELAND MEENLETTERBALE, INISHOWEN, CO. DONEGAL. A Farm walk to learn more about the Peatland Restoration Project

Join us
In Collaboration with
Inishowen Rivers Trust
A farm walk to learn about the restoration of peatlands, installation of internal drains and peat hag reprofiling. We will discuss possible actions that can be implemented to improve scores under ACRES.

3pm
Saturday 10th of May
Ballinacrea Chapel
F93 VX63
Co. Donegal

10TH MAY 2025 3:00PM FARM WALK WITH IRT AND GREENSOD IRELAND

A farm walk to learn about the restoration of peatlands, installation of internal drains and peat hag reprofiling. We will discuss possible actions that can be implemented to improve scores under ACRES.

DATE: Saturday, May 10th
TIME: 3PM
MEETING POINT: Ballinacrea Chapel F93 VX63

To book your place click on the link below [Eventbright Farm Walk and Talk with IRT and Greensod Ireland](#)

Or email Rory at rory@greensodireland.ie

17TH MAY 2025 10AM-5PM THE 20TH GATHERING

This Gathering brings together people from all over the Island of Ireland and beyond who are interested in our natural world. They include activists, environmentalists, artists, fishers, farmers and more, who are passionate about protecting nature and building community.

'From Colonisation to Community through Rights of Nature' is the theme for this 20th Gathering. Our event will engage the mind, heart, and spirit as we learn ways we can integrate the rights of nature in practice. Human rights and nature's rights are one, bound together. As usual, the Gathering will also include live music, a light lunch and refreshments, and many opportunities to chat.

For more details and to book your place please click on the link: [Eventbright The 20th Gathering From Colonisation to Community through Rights of Nature](#)

The 20th Gathering
St. Eugene's Hall, Merville
17 May - 10am-5pm

From Colonisation to Community through the Rights of Nature

EVERYONE WELCOME - JOIN US FOR ALL OR PART OF THE DAY

Water Ceremony
Atrato River Guardians, Colombia
Eamon McCann
Inishowen Rivers Trust
Save Our Sperrins
Local Fishing Community
Save Inishowen from mining
Pupils from Scoil Eoghain
Inishowen Harp Ensemble
The Henry Girls

TEA COFFEE & LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED



This beautiful flower is a Cuckoo Flower (scientific name: *Cardamine pratensis*), also known as Lady's Smock. It's a perennial wildflower often found in damp meadows, grassy areas, and alongside streams. The light purple petals and delicate clustered blooms make it a standout in spring and early summer landscapes. It's also a favorite among pollinators like bees and butterflies. The Cuckoo Flower plays an important role in the life cycle of certain butterflies, particularly the Orange-tip Butterfly (*Anthocharis cardamines*). Here's how their lives intertwine:

1. Egg Stage:

Orange-tip butterflies lay their eggs on the Cuckoo Flower. The flower is ideal because it provides both a safe spot for eggs and nourishment for the caterpillars once they hatch.

2. Larval Stage (Caterpillars):

Once the eggs hatch, the caterpillars feed on the Cuckoo Flower's leaves, buds, and sometimes its seed pods. This stage is critical for their development, as the nutrient-rich flower ensures their survival and growth.

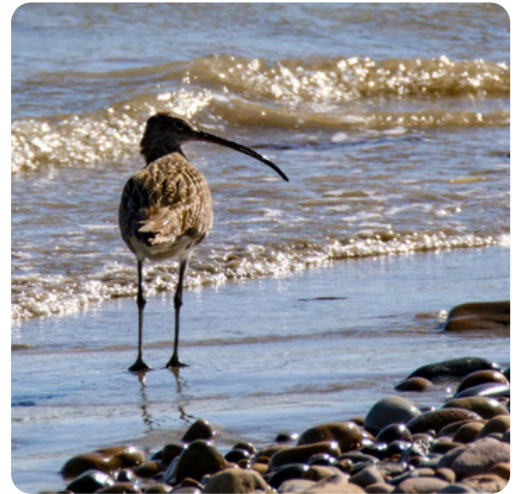
3. Pupal Stage (Chrysalis):

After sufficient growth, the caterpillars form a chrysalis nearby (often on stems or leaves). They undergo metamorphosis during this stage, transforming into butterflies.

4. Adult Butterfly:

As adults, Orange-tip butterflies are attracted to the nectar-rich Cuckoo Flowers, helping with pollination as they feed. The cycle then begins again with new eggs being laid on the flower.

This symbiotic relationship highlights how species like the Cuckoo Flower are vital for butterfly conservation.



From 16th to 25th May, communities across Donegal are coming together to celebrate nature and protect local biodiversity. Events include guided walks, wildlife workshops, and conservation activities.

Highlights include:

Biodiversity Festival at Glenveagh National Park, running all week with events on birds, trees, and wetlands.



River Deele Biodiversity Walk (16th May), exploring local wildlife along the river.

Bat Safaris in Carndonagh, Buncrana, and Donegal Town, with expert-guided walks and bat-detecting equipment.

Whale Watch Ireland (17th May), offering a chance to spot marine life off Inishowen Head.

Pollinator Identification Workshop (24th May), helping participants learn about important insect species.

Birdwatching Events and Sea Life Talks, celebrating the diversity of creatures living in and around Donegal's waterways.

These events provide a fantastic opportunity to learn about local wildlife and get involved in conservation efforts. Find out more about Biodiversity Week at <https://biodiversityweek.ie/>



INISHOWEN RIVERS TRUST DONORS



As a charity, we rely entirely on funding and donations. This year, we are grateful to Inish Pharmacy for their continued generosity in choosing Inishowen Rivers Trust as their chosen charity partner. These funds are invaluable, enabling us to invest in education and organise events.

Thank You

EXPLORE THE INISHOWEN RIVERS TRUST KNOWLEDGE REPOSITORY

KNOWLEDGE REPOSITORY

The Inishowen Rivers Trust Online Knowledge Repository is a central hub for research, conservation strategies, and environmental resources focused on protecting and restoring Inishowen's rivers.

KEY RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- ✓ Scientific Research & Case Studies
- ✓ Instructional Videos
- ✓ Conservation & Restoration Techniques
- ✓ Community Engagement Guidelines
- ✓ Example Policies for Catchment Groups
- ✓ Educational Resources for schools

WHY IT MATTERS

Access to knowledge is essential for fostering sustainable river ecosystems. Whether you're a researcher, community member, or environmental advocate, our comprehensive digital library equips you with the information and insights needed to drive positive change.

www.inishowenriverstrust.com/resources
083 8081761

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

The Inishowen Rivers Trust Knowledge Repository is a great resource for anyone interested in protecting our rivers and local environment. Whether you're a volunteer, student, or simply someone who cares about nature, it's full of useful information to help you get involved.

By using the repository, you can:

- Learn about river restoration, pollution prevention, and biodiversity.
- Take part in citizen science by helping monitor water quality and wildlife.
- Access expert advice and best practices for conservation projects.
- Build on previous work to make future efforts even more effective.

This isn't just a collection of facts—it's a tool to help people take action. Whether you want to restore a riverbank, track environmental changes, or simply understand how nature works, this is the place to start.

Get involved today and help protect Inishowen's rivers for future generations!

We are continually updating the repository with new information as we complete projects, ensuring it remains a valuable resource for the community.

We invite you to explore, learn, and get inspired by the wealth of information available. Together, we can make a positive impact on the natural environment. Welcome to the Inishowen Rivers Trust Knowledge Repository. <https://inishowenriverstrust.com/resources/>

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Bealtaine has peaked (5th May) and so the ancient beginning of Summer is upon us. The warming Sun and the lengthening days should bring a gentle rise in the temperatures of our rivers; a seasonal change shaping the rhythms of fish and insects. In May, the rivers should teem with aquatic activity with Trout feeding on the hatching Stoneflies, Sedges, Olives, Needleflies and Chironomid Midges. The emergence of these insects is finely tuned to both temperature and light. Not only are they important for fish, but also bats and birds who use these river corridors.

In shaded pools on stony beds, the young Salmon and Trout, having hatched in the Spring are now feeding in the shallows, their survival dependent on water quality, oxygen levels and shelter. Alder, Willow and Hawthorn, all with their beautiful fresh leaves offer shade that cools the water. Their roots stabilise the riverbank, preventing erosion and the falling leaves and branches support invertebrates and form the basis of the River Food Web. Trees are also vital in our riparian areas for the buffer they provide, filtering out nutrients and pollutants before they reach the water. Rivers with little tree and vegetation cover are susceptible to algae blooms. This is when too many nutrients from fertilisers and slurry wash into the river and causing the algae to grow very quickly, covering the water with a green toxic slime. As this algae dies, it uses up the oxygen in the water leaving the waterway hostile and uninhabitable for fish and insects. Rivers with bare banks are also prone to high sedimentation levels (when soil from fields and bare riverbanks ends up in the river). This has a smothering effect on aquatic life.

Rivers are not just ecological highways and are far more than just water. They can be cultural lifelines, running through myths and traditions. Rivers were seen as sacred places and Inishowen's rivers have a rich tapestry woven with legends, history and community life.

The Culdaff River was at one time was abundant in Salmon nourishing communities as it flowed through a landscape rich in monastic history. Loch Súilí (Lough Swilly) and An tSúileach (Swilly River) meaning 'the one with eyes' is associated with the legend of the multi eyed Sea Monster and St Colmcille.

Myth and nature intertwine to anchor communities to their sense of place and time, not a linear, industrial society clock based time but a cyclical, nature based understanding.



At this time of year, simply sitting by a river can bring a quiet sense of belonging, while a swim in the sea or a stream offers a kind of healing that words can't always explain.

These flowing waters with their ever present timelessness are part of something far older than ourselves and they remind us that we are not separate from the land and water but part of their ongoing story.

As Bealtaine carries us into Summer, the rivers of Inishowen ask that you listen, protect and remember; to honour not just Nature but the cultural memory.

We need to restore and protect our waters so that they may nourish generations of life to come, both human and our more than human kin.

If you could support the work of IRT by donating, volunteering or joining the board of Trustees, then we'd love to hear from you.

Until next time,

Claire the Chair

