



BREEDING WADERS

— E I P —

‘Wetlands, Collaboration and Innovation- the fundamentals of Breeding Wader conservation in Ireland’

Owen Murphy

Senior Project Manager

Voices and Visions for Ireland's Wetlands

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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Background

- Since the 1970s, Ireland's breeding wader populations have suffered dramatic declines in population size and national breeding range. Many of these declines are so significant that the remaining breeding populations are teetering on the brink of extirpation, functional extinction, or both. Many factors have driven or been involved in these dramatic declines but changes in land use is an overarching theme in most.
- Intensification of Agriculture; conversion of traditional hay meadows to silage, drainage, reseeding, reduction in farming diversity, pesticide, herbicide, artificial fertilizer use.
- Afforestation
- Commercial and Residential Development
- Recreation
- Arterial Drainage Act 1945
- Commercial Peat Production



What are European Innovation Partnership's (EIP)

European Innovation Partnership (EIP) projects are locally-led initiatives which are designed and implemented by collaborative groups involving farmers, scientists, ecologists and other experts to deliver specific goals.



Aim of the EIP-Agri Project

The Breeding Waders EIP project aims to secure existing Breeding Wader populations and support population recovery through landscape management and policy development.

This EIP-Agri project is a €25 million nationwide project, co-funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Long term aim: the restoration of wader populations to favourable conservation status.

Short-term aim: To halt the current annual declines in these breeding populations. Create the foundations for future conservation roadmap.

☐ **Functioning Wetlands are a fundamental for Wader recovery**



Species



Wetland Relevance:

- Seasonality:
 - Wintering
 - Breeding
 - (migratory)
- Feeding
 - Insectivores
- Safety:
 - Roosting
 - Nesting
 - Chick rearing
- Predation
- Disturbance

Wetlands and Waders

- Intrinsically linked
- Functioning wetlands are key to recovery
- Wetland Paradox:
 - Drainage upstream
 - Prolonged levels downstream
 - Both can be unsuitable!!
- Water Quality impacts
 - Changing assemblages
- Catchment level planning
 - Allows holistic approaches



Payment Design:

- Valuing Wetlands by isolating the payment

Five Components of Breeding Wader Participant Payment

1. Collaboration Payment
2. Management Tasks' Payment
3. Wetlands for Waders Payment
4. Actions Payment
5. Habitat Bonus Payment

1. Collaboration payment

- Annual Payment for all Participants
- Payment for engagement, basic record keeping, access, facilitation of Nest Protection, training/workshop attendance, agreement to T&C's
- €1,250 p/a (x2 for Development Farms)

2. Management Tasks' payment

- All fields Graded Initially (from poor - fair - good - very good – excellent)
- Suite of appropriate Management Tasks allocated by Project team, (Land Management Agreement)
 - Verification of Task completion
 - Annual Payment (€2,500-€3,000)

3. Wetlands for Waders Payment

- Payment for Bespoke water feature creation
- Ambition in extent and complexity to be rewarded
 - Maintenance Regime initiated
 - Annual Payment (€500-€2,400)

4. Actions Payment

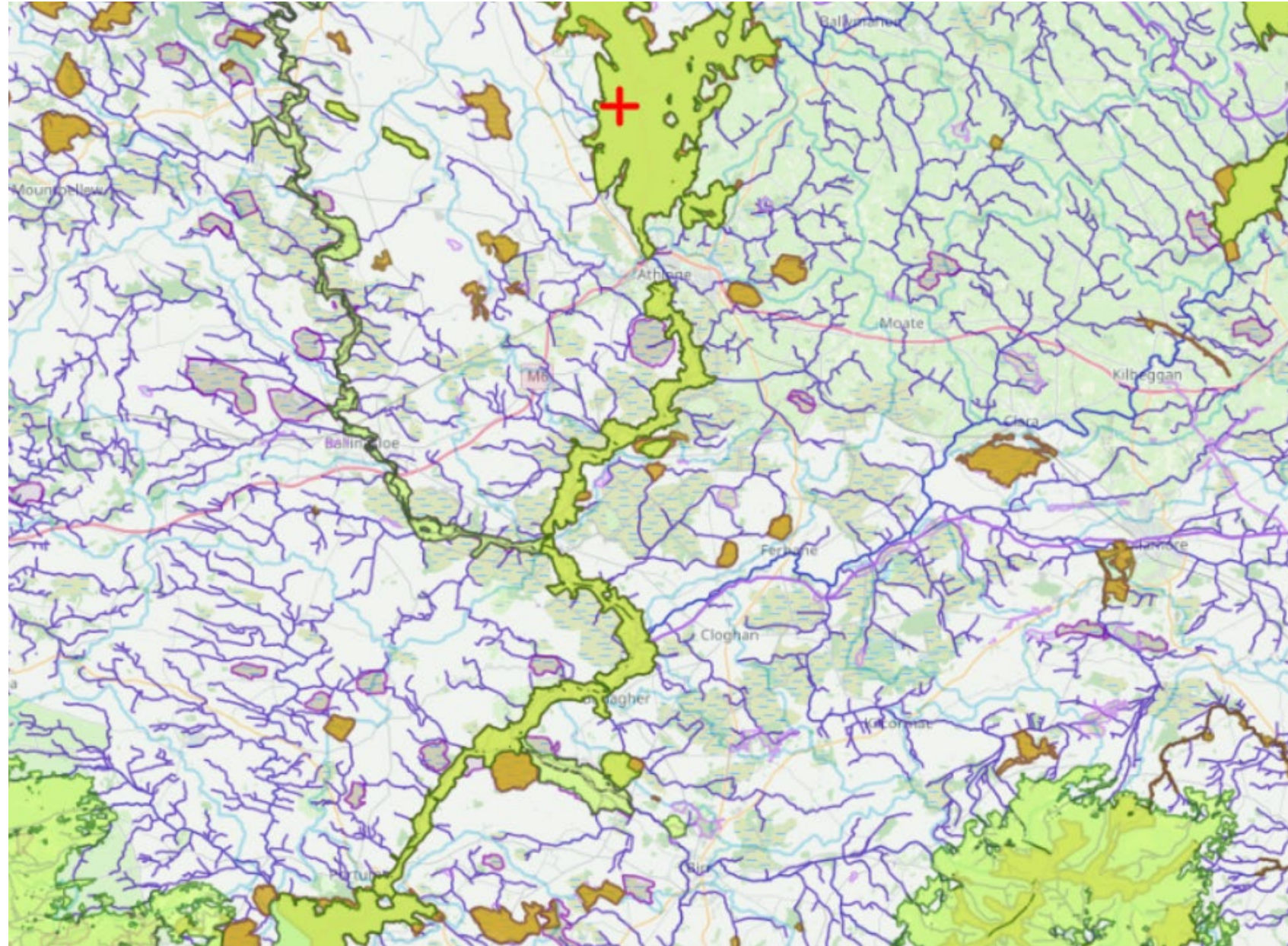
- Wader Action Plan developed
- Suite of Appropriate Actions allocated
 - Verification of Action completion
 - Payment

5. Habitat Bonus Payment

- Annual Payment for 'good', 'very good', & 'excellent' habitat.
- Good = €20 p/ha
- Very Good = €40 p/ha
- Excellent = €50 p/ha

Catchment level planning:

- Essential for meaningful change
- Pilot – Mainstreaming
- Local actions:
 - Limited impacts
 - Many uncontrollable
- Mid-Shannon
 - Bogs
 - Rivers
 - Lakes
 - Callows
 - SAC, SPA, NHA
 - Barrier, Drainage





‘Collaborative Conservation’

[Complicated but Essential!!]



NPWS:

- The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) heavily co-funded this EIP-Agri project.
- The NPWS brings an abundant amount of knowledge in the field that this project will need.
- The information provided by both NPWS and this EIP-Agri project could also enhance future work.

Organisations & NGO's:

- Teagasc
- NARGC
- Irish Grey Partridge Trust
- BWI
- IFA
- WWT
- RSPB
- Curlew Action
- CWF

Farmers and Landowners

Research, Data and Innovation:

- New Ideas and techniques
- Data Integration
- Policy
- New Funding models

DAFM:

- Co-funding the EIP
- ACRES General, ACRES CP, in-house knowledge
- Private landowners are key to delivering long-term change

Plans & Policies

- RBMP (EU Water Framework Directive)
- CFRAM (EU Floods Directive)
- NRP (EU Nature Restoration Regulation)
- Arterial & Land Drainage Acts

Projects/Programmes:

- Corncrake LIFE
- LIFE on Machair
- Wild Atlantic Nature
- LAWPRO

State, Semi-State

- EPA
- Bord na Mona
- Coillte
- ESB
- An Taisce
- OPW
- Dept. of Defence
- Local Authorities

ALSO:

- Local Action Groups
- Citizen Science
- Schools & Colleges

Collaboration is essential in EIP-Agri projects.

Through knowledge transfer, knowledge exchange and problem-solving, efficiency is increased and innovation promoted. This allows common goals to be achieved.

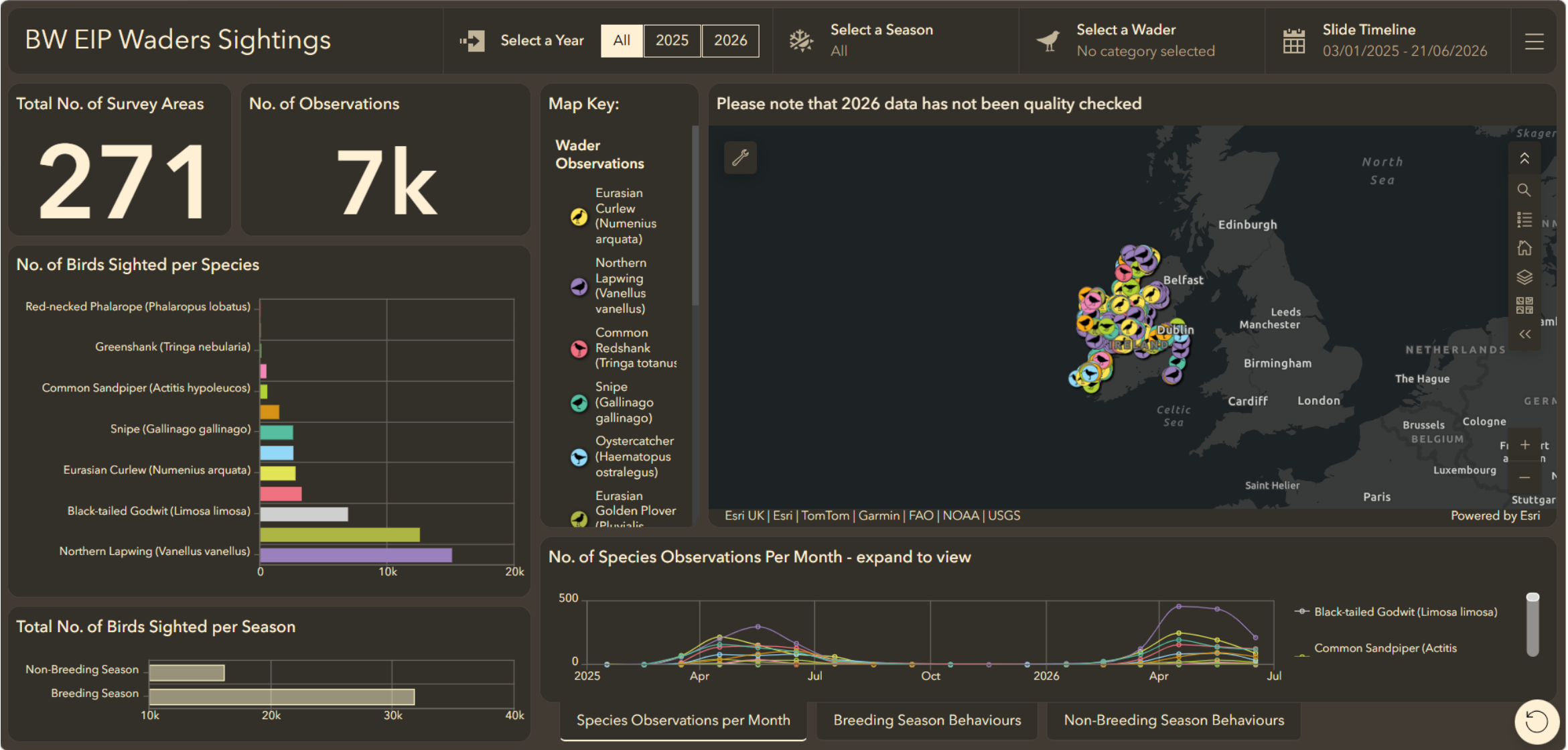
Innovation

- Headstarting and GPS tracking
- PRM :
 - Trap design
 - Data collection
 - Accreditation and qualifications
- Research:
 - Invert populations monitoring
 - Predator tracking
 - Genetics
- Communications
- Data collection:
 - App Development
 - Mapping and Dashboards



Dashboard – Survey data

BW EIP Waders Sightings - SOC



Waders need:

- Wise Use of Wetlands
- Effective Management at catchment scale
- Collaboration across Governmental Departments and society
- Wetland 'experts' included in decision making
- Policy that includes protection as well as ambitious restoration
- Public opinion!!





BREEDING WADERS
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Thank You

Owen Murphy

Senior Project Manager

owen.murphy@breedingwaders.ie



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