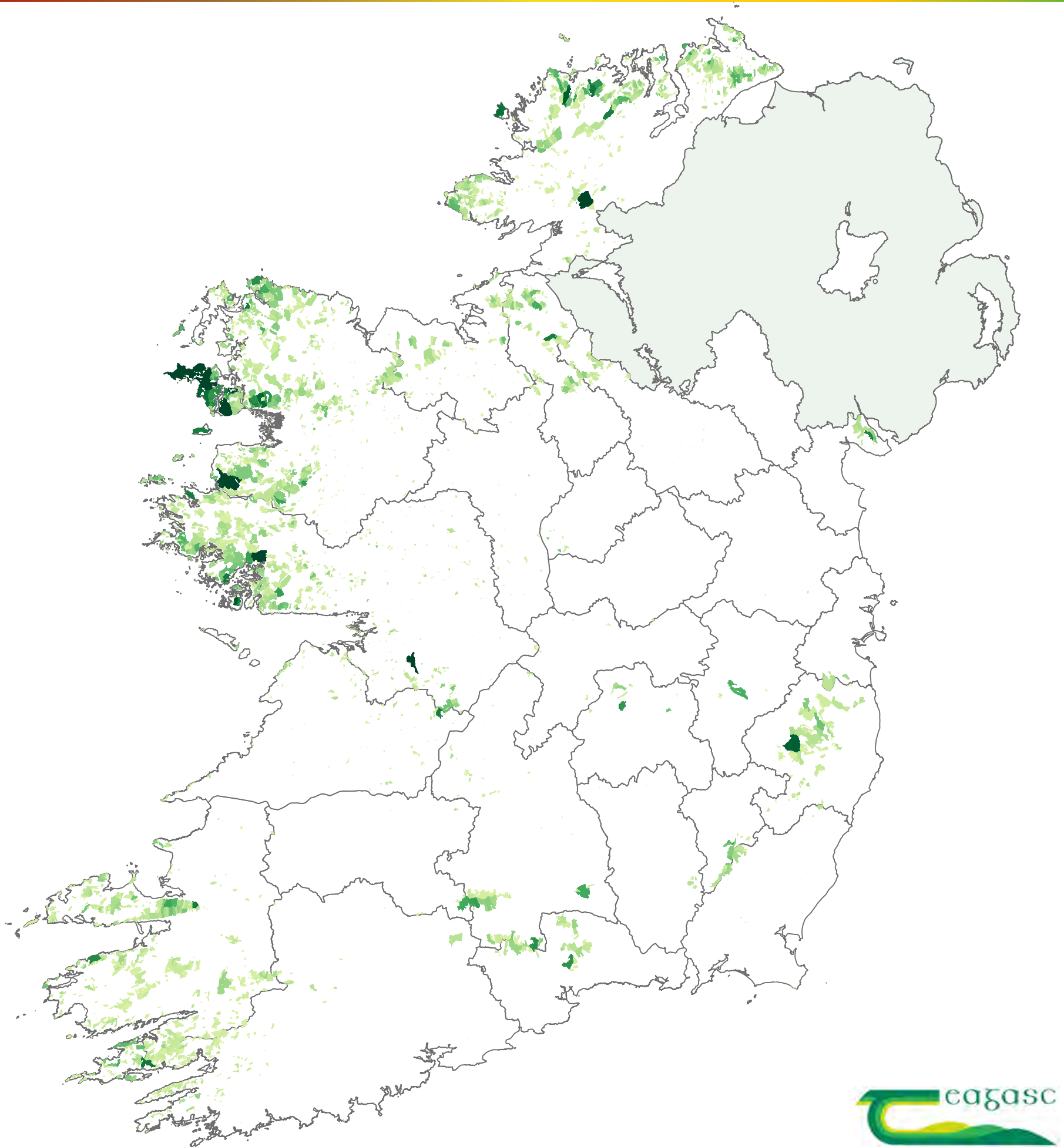


Sharing the land: Commonage in Ireland



In this Map of the Month, we are looking at the current geography of commonage, based on 2022 data from the Irish Land Parcel Information System, which is available on data.gov.ie. The information in this large geographical database allows not only to identify the parcels registered as commonage but also the number of farmers having rights to each parcel, providing some interesting insights into the current state of commonage in Ireland. In total 8,849 parcels are marked as commonage in 2022 with 15,107 farmers as identified by the anonymised Herd Number having rights to these parcels. As expected, commonage is most prominent in the west of Ireland, with the pockets in the east and midlands limited to peats and upland areas. The size of the parcels ranges from below one to over 2,000 ha (the largest parcel is an upland area in County Donegal). In general, the larger areas are found in the well-known uplands in West Cork, Kerry, Wicklow, Galway and Mayo. The colour indicates the number of farmers having rights to each commonage parcel. The distribution numbers is much more localised than the farm size, with small distinct pockets clearly visible. The parcel with the largest number of associated Herd Numbers is located on Achill Island with 231 different Herd Numbers making claims. This is likely linked to turbary rights rather than grazing. County Mayo, and Achill in particular, are also in general the with the largest number of farmers holding rights to commonage parcels.

Projection: Irish Transverse Mercator

Datasets used:
Land Parcel Identification System
Tailte Éireann National Statutory Boundaries 2019 Counties
OSNI Statutory Boundaries

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