

The Duncannon Blue Flag Farming & Communities Scheme EIP



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



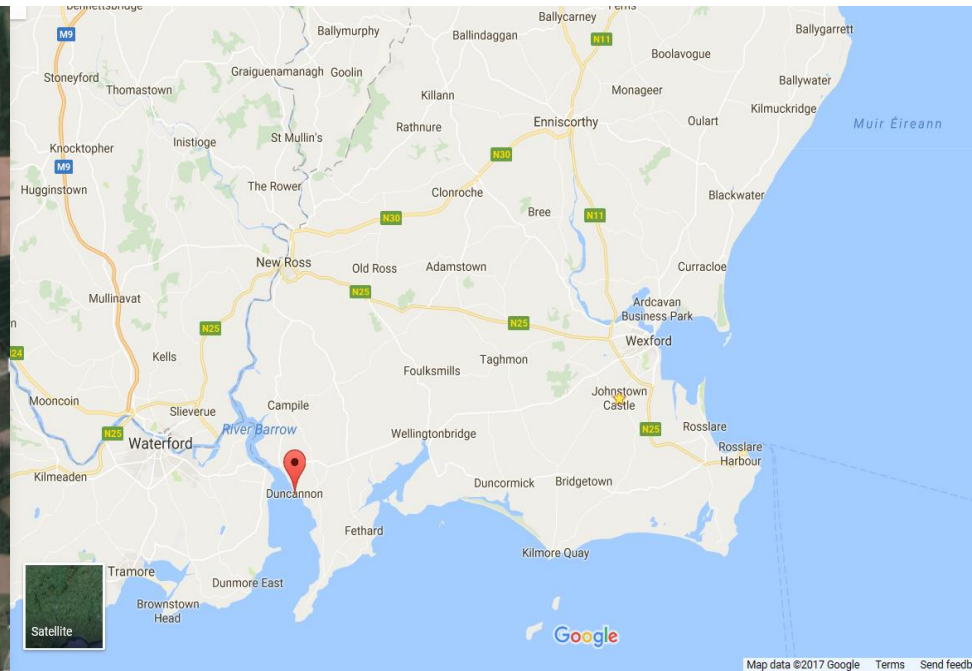
Teagasc Signpost Series

27th May 2022

Project Manager: Eoin Kinsella

Duncannon Beach

- River Barrow & Nore SAC
- Designated bathing water & shellfish water
- Local tourism and economy
- Lost Blue Flag in 2007
- Four main pressures



Investigations prior to EIP


Farmyards: 16 inspections – 3 direct discharges

Domestic Waste Water: 40 septic tank inspections – 16 failed, 6 directly discharging

Limitations to these inspections: Top-down, management etc



Multiple Different Pressures



Duncannon Blue Flag Farming & Communities Scheme

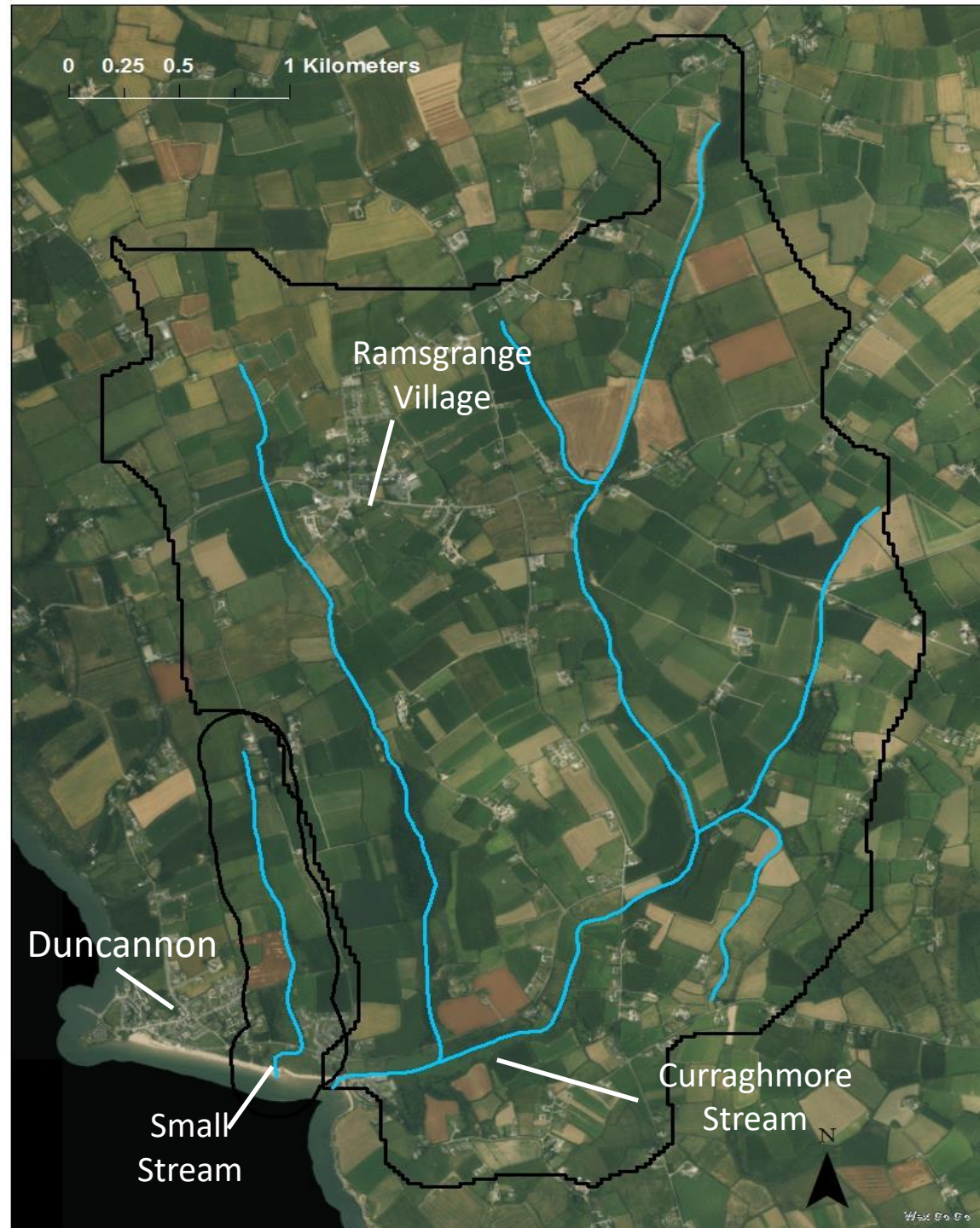
- **Sustainably restore, protect & enhance water quality**
- **Develop an effective model for the future catchments**
- **Foster positive relations between farmers and households**

Our Operational Group (17)



Catchment Area

- 1400 ha (<3500 acres)
- 16km watercourse
 - Curraghmore 010
 - Small stream
- 41 eligible farmers
- Free draining soils
- Ramsgrange village






Results based reward scheme

1. **RISK** - the ***number*** of PPZ's (pollution potential)
2. **RESULTS**: Overall Farm-level ***status*** assigned (red, yellow, green)- management

Farm-level PPZ Status	No. of farm PPZ's		
	High	Moderate	Low
Red	€0	€0	€0
Yellow	€2,000pa	€1,500pa	€1,000pa
Green	€4,000pa	€3,000pa	€2,000pa

PPZ Survey (Scorecard)

PPZ	Condition Assessment	Management Assessment	Reason	Recommendations
Slurry storage capacity	Pass	Green	Sufficient storage in good condition and well managed	No action required.
Soiled Water	N/A	N/A		
Farmyard Manure	Pass	Red	FYM allowed to build up under cattle - no effluent channels and high risk of seepage in sheds 1 & 5 where cattle are fed.	Effluent channel in front of sheds 1 & 4 - piped to slatted tank in shed.
Silage Pits	Pass	Yellow	No silage pit - bagged silage stored 50m away from water course 3-4 high. Hard core access to storage area showing signs of wear & tear.	Increase the area for storing baled silage so that stored only 2 high. Apply gravel hard-core to access area.
Clean water	Pass	Green	No issues to address	None
Cow path / farm road	N/A	N/A		
Land - spreading management	N/A	Yellow	Has a NMP but not using risk maps provided.	Follow advice from NMP and risk maps
Drinking access point on stream	N/A	N/A		
Hydrologically Sensitive Areas (HSAs)	N/A	N/A		

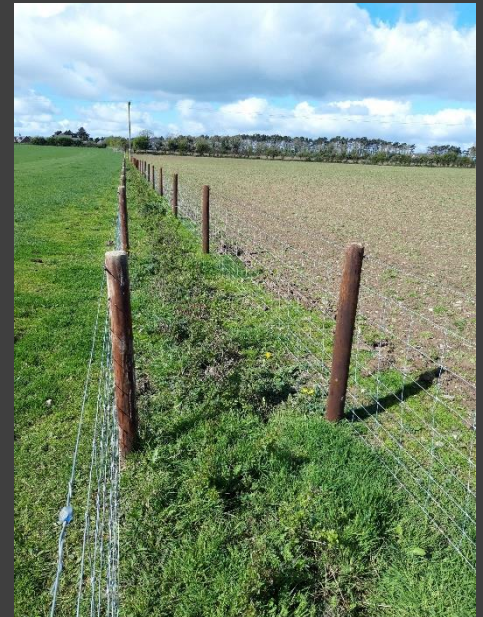
-  Poorly managed - posing a mod/high risk
-  Well managed – but still posing a low risk
-  V. well managed – no/minimal risk

OVERALL FARM PPZ STATUS



To date...

- Application period
– May 2019
- 35 farmers
 - 4 dairy
 - 8 tillage
 - 23 drystock
- >975ha
- 70% - GLAS



Water Protection Improvement works



- Watercourses (15.5km)
- Drinking points
- Water troughs (20m)
- Soil sampling & NMP (100%)
- Buffer zones (10m)
- Sediment traps
- Farm roadways
- LESS
- Riparian zones (native)
- Hedgerow planting
- Arable Grass margins (1.2km)
- Winter cover crops



“No fine line”

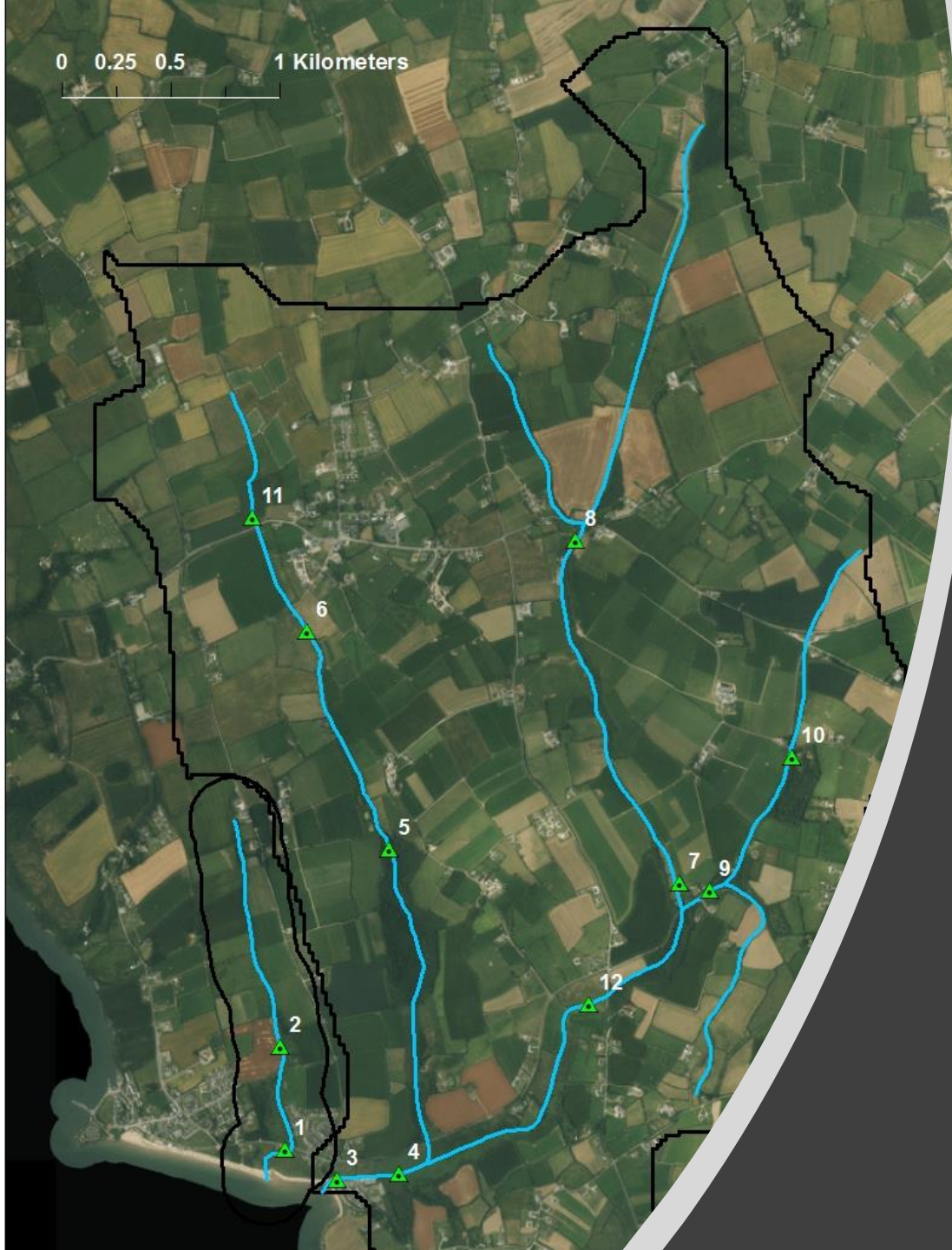
- Lime advice
- Storage requirements
- Water quality
- Soils P & K
- Reseeding
- Farmyard design
- Hedgerow options
- Enterprises
- Organics
- MSS
- Native woodland planting



Community engagement

- Local Schools
 - Tidy towns
 - Village renewal
 - Coastwatch
 - LAWPRO
 - IFI
 - EPA
-
- Seal Rescue Ireland
 - Ramsgrange Tidy Towns
 - National Inspection Plan





Stream water quality

Water Quality update

- Bathing water status

2021	2020	2019	2018
Sufficient Quality	Sufficient Quality	Good Quality	Good Quality

- 2021- Sufficient

- EIP catchment

- Ecology reports – Q value assessments

	Site 2	Site 5	Site 7	Site 8	Site 9	Site 12
• 2018	N/A	Q3	Q3-4	Q3	Q3	Q3-4
• 2020	Q3-4	Q3-4	Q4-5	Q3	Q4	Q4-5
• 2021	Q3	Q4	Q4-5	Q4	Q4	Q4-5



Arthurstown wastewater treatment plant

- Irish Water
- Wexford County Council
- €12.5 million investment
- Ballyhack, Arthurstown and Duncannon
- Builders SISK contractors



Expected Results, return and performance

Reduction in Bacterial Pollution

Improvement in Ecological quality

Compliance above Nitrates Directive

Efficiencies on catchment farms

Reduction in septic tank failures

Local ownership, responsibility and
appreciation for local water environment

Learnings

- Role of Project manager
 - Advisors – “buy in”
 - Management is key
 - Existing pressures
 - Collaboration as a “Community”
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- What does the future hold?

Thank you!



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