

Introduction

RBPS in Ireland began with **Burren Programme**. 2004-2009 EU LIFE project R&D; 2010-2015 Development and Expansion; 2015-2020 Established RDP Agri-environment scheme. Uses a hybrid RBPS model with accompanying payment for complementary actions.

Recent years, several **pilot projects** were funded and implemented based on the Burren Model, such as the DG Environment (2015-2018) Results Based Agri-environment Payment Pilot Scheme (RBAPS) in Ireland and Navarra; and AranLIFE (2014-2018)

Funding via European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) operational groups in Ireland enables **further testing and development** of the Burren approach (hybrid model) across diverse agricultural and landscape contexts. 9 out of 23 EIPs in Ireland further developing RBPS approach.

National agri-environment programme 2014-2020. Green, Low Carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) is action/prescription based. Budget = €1.4 billion

1 The Burren Programme (2010-2021)



Target Area: The Burren region 720km², Includes Natura 2000 site. Calcareous grassland and heath, limestone pavement, wetlands

Ecosystem Services: Biodiversity/habitat quality; water quality; landscape and cultural heritage

Indicators: 10 point scoring system. 9 different criteria indicative of overall "health" of ecosystem. Include vegetation structure/grazing levels, plant litter, bare soil and erosion, negative plant indicators, scrub encroachment, damage to natural water features, evidence of other damaging activities and overall ecological integrity based on visual assessment of plant community.

Scope: RDP 2014-2020 budget €12.9 million + funding for local team under technical assistance. 350 farmers; 25,000 Ha

Website: <http://burrenprogramme.com/>

2 Pearl Mussel (2018-2023)



Target Area: Natura 2000 Sites for the protection of Freshwater Pearl Mussel. Peatlands, scrub/woodlands and grasslands.

Ecosystem Services: Biodiversity/habitat quality; water quality and quantity; Carbon storage

Indicators: 10 point scoring system. Ecosystem specific scorecards of ecosystem "health". Indicators include positive and negative plant indicator species, vegetation structure/grazing levels, soil integrity, hydrological integrity and evidence of other damaging activities. Overall farm score for watercourse condition, farm nutrient balance and farmyard management used to weight final results based payment (e.g. poor x 0.3; excellent x 1.2)

Scope: EIP budget €10 million. RPBS hybrid model with complementary supporting actions. 350 farmers; 21,500 Ha.

Website: <http://www.pearlmusselproject.ie>

3 Hen Harrier (2017 – 2022)



Target Area: Natura 2000 Sites for the protection of Hen Harrier. Peatland, heathland, scrub/woodland and semi-natural grassland.

Ecosystem Services: Biodiversity/habitat quality; water quality and quantity; Carbon storage

Indicators: 10 point scoring system. Ecosystem specific scorecards of ecosystem "health". Indicators include positive and negative plant indicator species, vegetation structure/grazing levels, soil integrity, hydrological integrity and evidence of other damaging activities. Population of Hen Harrier monitored and used to calculate additional Hen Harrier bonus payment

Scope: EIP budget €25 million. RPBS hybrid model with complementary supporting actions. Includes additional innovations on meat marketing, animal nutritional, use of technology (HH project app) to aid RBPS administration and monitoring 1500 farmers; 38,000 Ha 65% of farmland in target Natura area.

Website: <http://www.henharrierproject.ie/>

4 Blackstairs Farming Futures (2018 – 2022)



Target Area: Upland heathland, peatland and grassland includes Blackstairs Mountain Natura 2000 site. Common land and privately owned High Nature Value farmland.

Ecosystem Services: Biodiversity/habitat quality; water quality and quantity; Carbon storage; cultural/landscape.

Indicators: 10 point scoring system. Upland scorecards of ecosystem "health". Indicators include positive and negative plant indicator species, vegetation structure/grazing levels, bare soil/erosion, hydrological condition, cultural/archaeological features and evidence of other damaging activities.

Scope: EIP budget €1.5 million. RPBS hybrid model with complementary supporting actions. Common land governance structure to enable RBPS and engagement, education, training farmers and wider community. Overall size of area is 5,000ha but RBPS tested with approximately 50-75 farmers on 1,000-1,500 Ha

Website: facebook.com/blackstairsfarming/

5 Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairy Environment (BRIDE) (2018 – 2022)



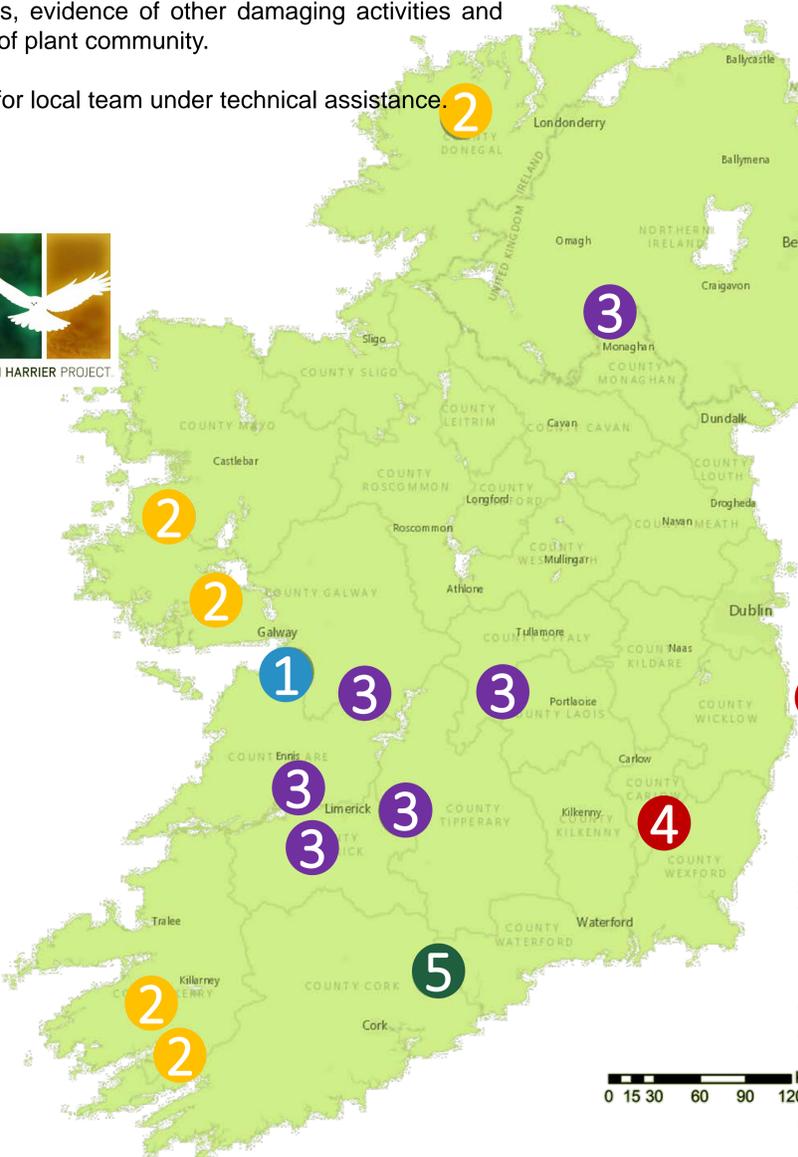
Target Area: Intensive Dairy Farming area in River Bride Valley, Co Cork. Targets High Nature Value features e.g. fields margins, hedgerows, ponds

Ecosystem Services: Landscape scale approach to Biodiversity/habitat quality

Indicators: Indicators and scoring system under development for HNV features on farms

Scope: EIP budget €1.1 million. Design and implement a RBPS to conserve, enhance and restore habitats in lowland intensive farmland RPBS hybrid model with complementary supporting actions. Includes communication and dissemination activities plus facilitation/creation of market demand for ecosystem services in agri-food industry. RBPS tested with approximately 50 farmers

Website: <https://www.thebrideproject.ie/>



BRIDE Project
Farming with Nature

