

Responding quickly but effectively to opportunities



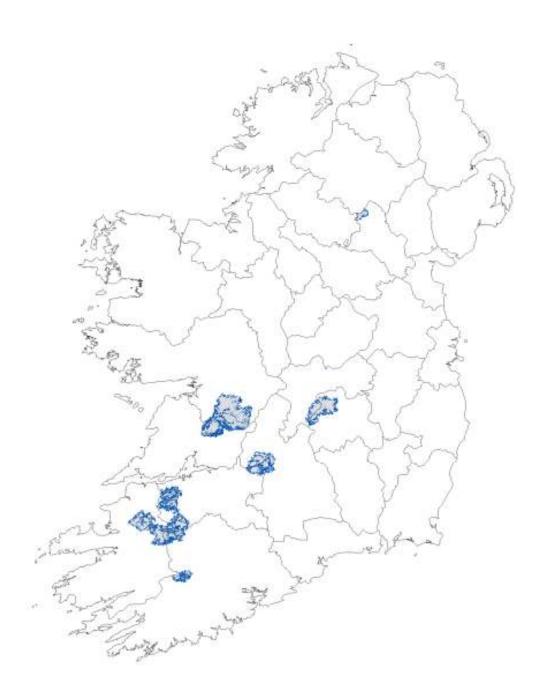
- Response to potential legal action from EU if Irish government didn't do something for the Hen Harrier
- Hen Harrier is a threatened bird species
- ~150 breeding pairs
- Breeding Hen Harrier SPAs established in 2008

# Hen Harrier





HEN HARRIER PROJECT





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#### Hen Harrier



- 82 confirmed breeding pairs in the SPAs in 2005
- 50 confirmed breeding pairs in the SPAs in 2015
- 58 confirmed breeding pairs in the SPAs in 2017 (HHP)
- Loss of habitat
- 50% of the SPA land is forestry
- Habitat quality compromised

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- Is a European Innovation Partnership (EIP)
- These EIPs aim to stimulate innovation across Europe.

European Innovation Partnership Active & Healthy Ageing European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Sustainability and Productivity European Innovation
Partneship
on Smart Cities and
Communities



European Innovation Partnership Raw Materials



- Hen Harrier Project is an EIP and a national pilot project
- Hen Harrier Project Team
  - Project Manager-Fergal Monaghan (Agricultural advisor)
  - Assistant Manager- Caroline Sullivan (Farmland ecologist)
  - Agriculture Specialist- Eoin McCarthy (Agriculture advisor)
  - Raptor Specialist- Ryan Wilson-Parr (Ecological consultant)
  - Project Officer-Evelyn Joyce (Environmental Scientist)
- Hen Harrier monitoring carried out by the Golden Eagle Trust
- Project Accountants—Brendan O Gorman Accountants
- Design and administer the Hen Harrier Programme

### Results-based programme



- Payment contingent on the delivery of something tangible
- Ecosystems approach
- Hen Harrier is a flagship species
- If it is doing well, the ecosystems it relies on are also doing well
- A rising tide lifts all ships
- Plant communities and the habitats they comprise are key building blocks

- Modelled on the Burren approach
- Adapted for a very different objective
- Adapted for very different lands
- Sustainable upland farmland is a key focus





- Awarded contract in May 2017
- Fergal Monaghan in place
- Monitoring team immediately began work (a month later than ideal)
- C Sullivan, E McCarthy and R Wilson-Parr in place by June
- Programme launched Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2017
- 6 months after contract awarded

- Knew the results-based approach was desirable
- Focused on not re-inventing the wheel
- Adapted carefully for Hen Harrier objective
- Farming needed to be central



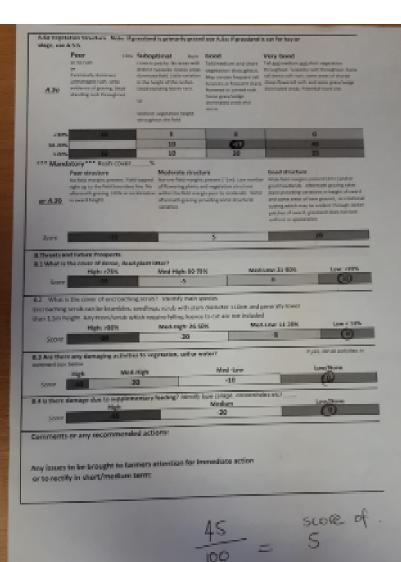
#### Scorecards



- To improve the habitat quality we needed to identify the key habitats
- Peatland-bog/heath
  - Essential nesting and foraging habitat
- Wet grassland
  - Foraging habitat
- Scrub/woodland
  - Foraging and nesting

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#### Payments



- Payments were calculated on the basis on costs incurred and income foregone
- Challenging for peatlands in particular
- More biodiversity-focus would allow more freedom
- Compatible with existing AE schemes
- EIP requirement that it not be area-based
- Developed a points-based system with area as an element



- This work was carried out in June-Sept
- Farmer input also vital
- 12 development farmers
- Across the 6 SPAs
- Nominated by the main farming organisations
- Had to have land in the area
- Represented a range of enterprises and habitats
- First point of contact between the Project and the farmer



- Communication of the project ideas and goals to the target audience is extremely important
- SPA designation was fiercely opposed in 2008
- Still vigorously opposed in some areas
- Want compensation for designation
- Needed to clearly communicate what this Programme was about



- Also carried out farmer consultations
- 31 meetings
- 500 farmers attended
- Gauged attitudes and gained Programme input





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- Farmers wanted something flexible
- Wanted compatibility with existing AE schemes
- Wanted meaningful payments
- Terms and conditions drawn up
- Development farmer opinions NB
- Think we delivered these to the best of our ability



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- Hitting milestone
  - Scorecards
  - Payments
  - Launch date
  - Advisor training
  - 1300 applications since Dec 8<sup>th</sup>
  - First 160 farmers selected
- Future milestones
  - First contract signed
  - Farmer training

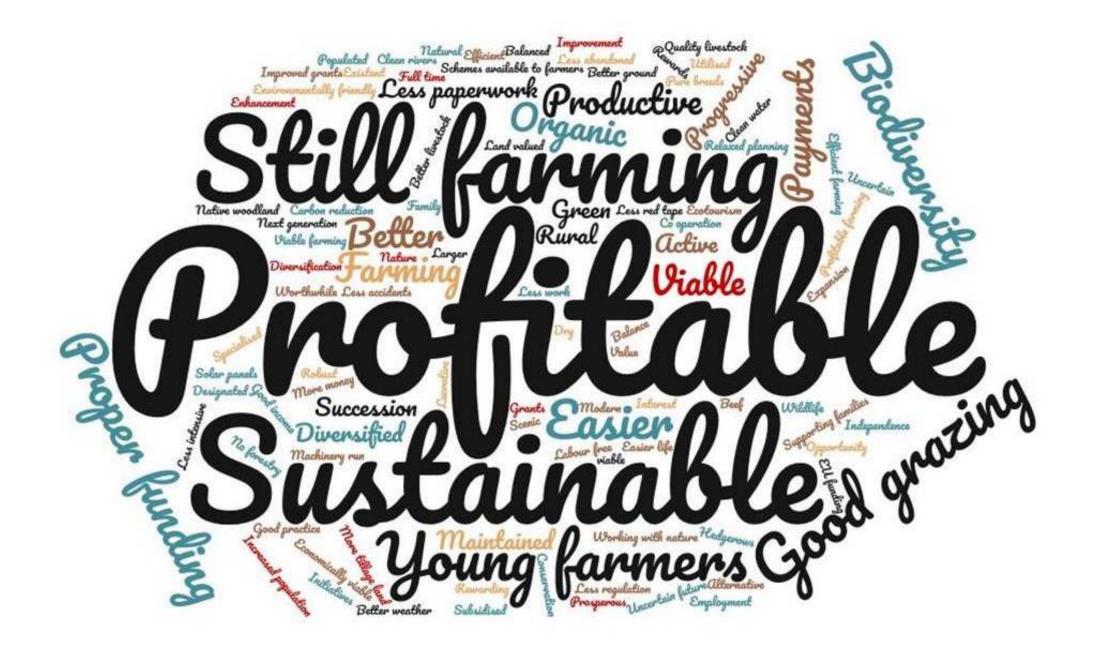


- Key elements
  - Good mix of skills
  - Clear objective
  - Good framework to build on
  - Flexibility
  - Adaptability
  - Good relationship with DAFM



- Things to monitor
- Media
- Farmer feedback
- Progress
- Habitat quality





- A lot done, a LOT more to do
- www.henharrierproject.ie
- @HenHarrierProj
- Hen Harrier Project-Facebook
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