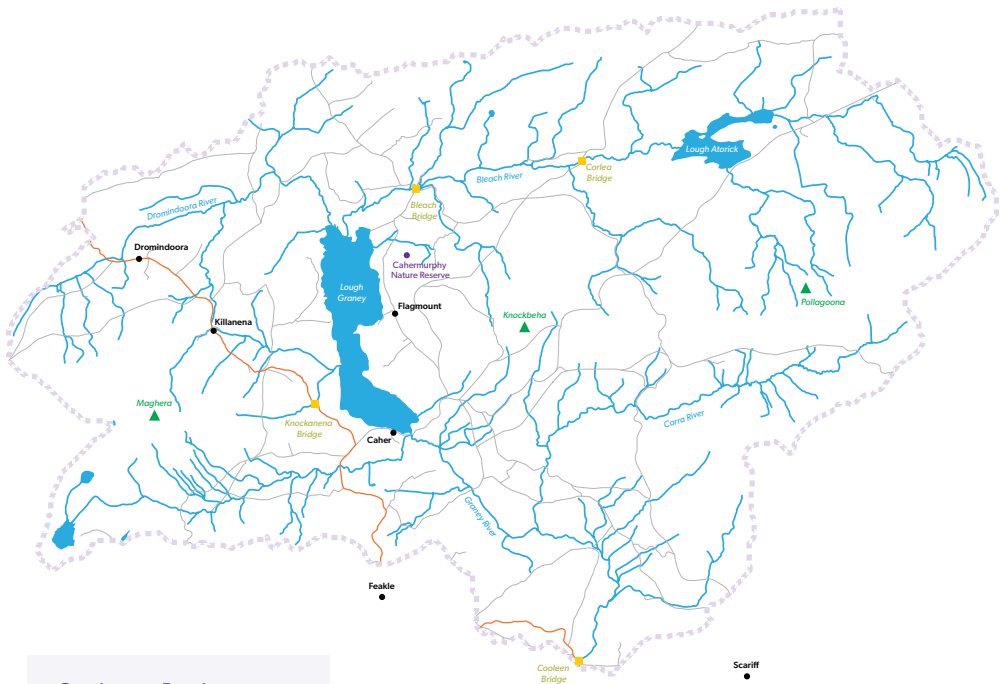


# How's the water quality in your local river?



## Graney Demonstration Sub-catchment



Catchment Border	---
Waterbodies	—
Regional Roads	—
Local Roads	—
Settlement	●
Point of Interest	●
Peak	▲
Bridge	■



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtas Aitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## About this summary

The map on page one shows the Graney demonstration sub-catchment. This is the local area where Waters of LIFE are working with landowners to improve water quality. This summary provides an overview of the issues and pressures facing local water quality. The information is taken from assessments and investigations carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO).

## About the area

The Graney sub-catchment covers an area of 175km<sup>2</sup>. It centres around Lough Graney in east Clare and the source of the Bleach river in south east Galway. We estimate about 1,350 people live here based on the 2022 census.

It is an undulating and upland area with mainly peaty and poorly drained soils. Land-use is mainly forestry and there are also 235 farms.

The sub-catchment is divided into 8 river water bodies and 2 lake water bodies:

- Dromindoorra river
- Bleach river (two sections)

- Graney river (three sections) including the Loughrea river and Caher river
- Corra river (two sections)
- Lakes: Lough Graney and Lough Atorick

## Summary of EPA status

EPA data shows that water quality in the Graney sub-catchment is mixed. The Dromindoorra, Corra and Bleach rivers have good water quality while the Graney is a mix of good and moderate water quality.

All river bodies with moderate water quality need to be restored. We will also be working to restore certain sections of the Bleach, Corra and Graney Rivers to high status water quality.

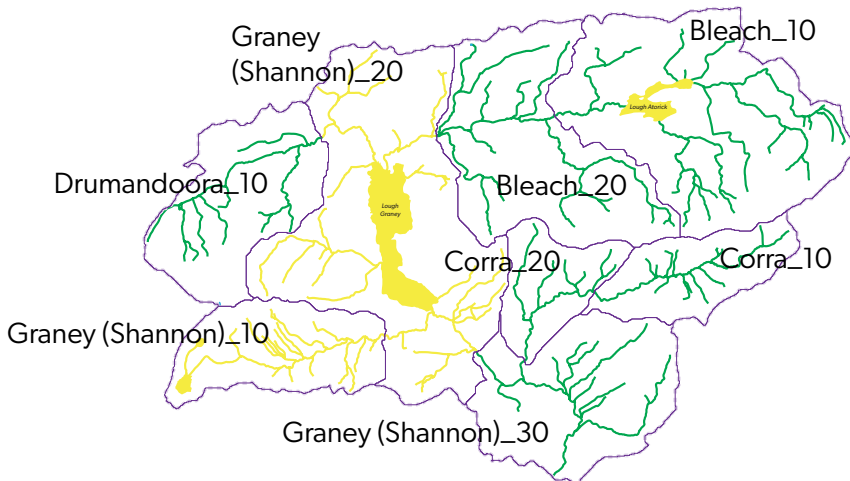
The EPA assigns each water body an ecological status for water quality. They are then given an objective to have good or high status by 2027.

This is based on our Water Framework Directive legal requirements. A risk assessment works out how likely it is for a water body to meet its objective.

Some of these rivers are at risk of not meeting their objectives for water quality.

## Status

Status 2016-2021		EPA status, objective and risk	
Water body	Ecological status of water quality	Water quality objective	Is it at risk of not meeting its objective?
Bleach_10	Good	Protect	Not at risk
Lough Atorick	Moderate	Restore to good	More assessment needed
Bleach_20	Good	Restore to high	At risk
Drumandoora_10	Good	Protect	Not at risk
Graney (Shannon)_10	Moderate	Restore to good	At risk
Graney (Shannon)_20	Moderate	Restore to good	At risk
Lough Graney	Moderate	Restore to good	At risk
Graney (Shannon)_30	Good	Restore to high	At risk
Corra_10	Good	Protect	Not at risk
Corra_20	Good	Restore to high	At risk



## Issues

### LAWPRO's local catchment assessment found the following issues

#### What?

Too much fine sediment

#### How?

Fine sediment occurs in nature, but too much of it in the wrong place can suffocate a river. It clogs up stony riverbeds and stops fish and other animals from feeding and reproducing.

Fine sediment can also carry nutrients that cause eutrophication.



## Pressures

### LAWPRO's local catchment assessment found the following pressures

Where?	What?	How?
Bleach_10 Bleach_20 Graney (Shannon)_10 Graney (Shannon)_20 Graney (Shannon)_30 Corra_20	Forestry	<p>Forestry works, such as planting or felling, can increase soil erosion and the amount of fine sediment and nutrients entering rivers.</p> <p>Water channels running directly into rivers from commercially forested areas can carry excess fine sediment and nutrients.</p> <p>Water channels from peaty areas can also cause higher acidity levels.</p>
Graney (Shannon)_10	Barriers	<p>A man-made barrier across a river channel holds back the flow of water.</p> <p>It changes the river's habitat and can stop fish from moving up and downstream.</p>



## We want to hear from you

We want to hear from people who live in the area and know its rivers. Your local expertise helps us review and update our approach.

Tell us about the changes and pressures you've seen, and how we can support you to look after your local river.

**Residents and landowners:** Come talk to us or email us in confidence.

**Community Groups:** Let us come and meet with your members.

**Everyone:** Attend our regular engagement events.

**Contact us:** [info@watersoflife.ie](mailto:info@watersoflife.ie)

## Further information:

The information in this document is taken from investigations and assessments carried out by the EPA and the Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO).

LAWPRO completed a 2022 desk study and a 2024 field work report of the Graney Sub-Catchment. More information is available at [www.watersoflife.ie/graney](http://www.watersoflife.ie/graney)



The EPA has created a fact sheet with more information on how water is monitored and assessed. You can read the EPA's Plain English summary at [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)



The EPA has created a map to help understand the role of agriculture in protecting and restoring water quality. You can view it at [gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/agriculture](http://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/agriculture)



## How we work

### With public land and utilities

Our project partners include: Local Authorities Water Programme; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Coillte; EPA; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Teagasc; Office of Public Works (OPW) and Forest Service.

Where land and facilities are managed publicly, we work directly with our project partners and other public bodies on measures and referrals.

### With local landowners

Our project features an environmental scheme to support farmers and foresters.

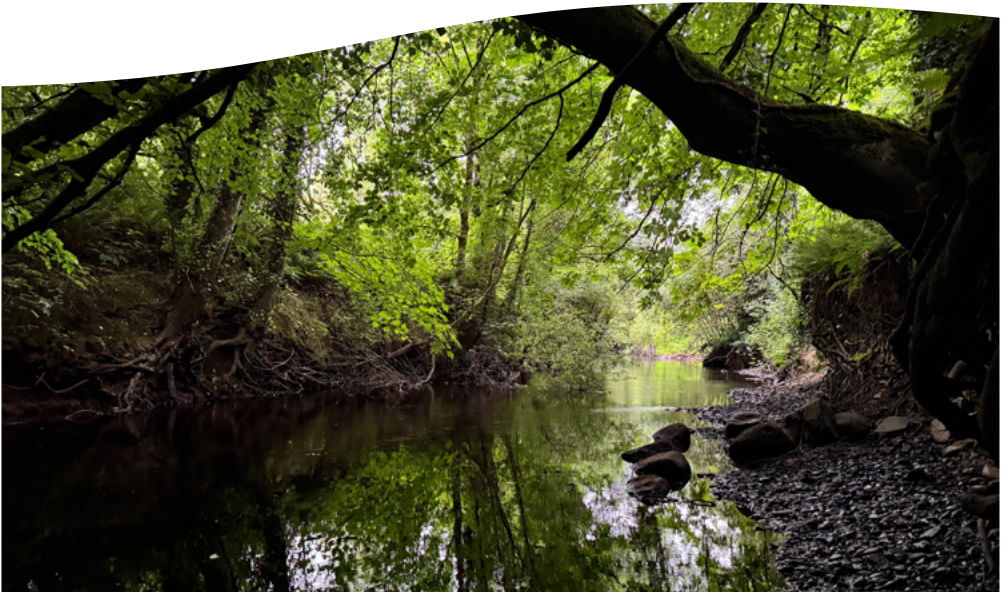
This includes results-based payments for water quality measures. The scheme is voluntary and advice is private and confidential.

We also provide free advice and guidance to non-farming landowners.

### With local communities

We reach out to local communities to share how and why we work to improve water quality. This includes public meetings and information.

We also connect with local schools to help with learning about water and the local environment.



## Waters of LIFE IP – about the project

We trial water quality solutions that work for local landowners and feed into future influence policy at national and EU level. We are an integrated project co-funded by the European Union.

We support LAWPRO's Blue Dot Programme to look after Ireland's best quality waters. These are water bodies with a high-status objective for water quality. Blue Dots represent about 10% of all water bodies in Ireland.



## How do we find solutions for water quality?

1. Support landowners with measures that work both for water quality and their land-use.
2. Help communities understand the importance of water quality.
3. Inform future policy for long-term impact.

## Why is water quality important?

Humans and animals need clean water to survive. Ireland's nature is unique, and it needs healthy rivers to survive. Improving water quality is a challenge, but the solutions are there if we work together. That is our project's purpose.

## Where else does Waters of LIFE work?

We work in five sub-catchments (with a control catchment) to find water quality solutions for a variety of land uses.



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