



News Update Sent by Email to the LCCA mailing list on 15 April 2021

Dear Friends of Lough Carra,

We have 3 very interesting events coming up :

1) Citizen Science Project 'Water Blitz' sampling for nitrates/phosphates with DCU & Earthwatch Europe

We have put the LCCA forward for this project which involves taking water samples from 5 locations to analyse them for phosphates and nitrates. The locations identified are :

1) Annie's river 2) Castle Burke bay 3) Keel river 4) Moore Hall bay 5) Burriscarra bay

The sampling should take place between 7-10 May. We will receive kits for sampling each location. When you carry out the test, you will see a colour change in the vial which will correspond with the amount of nitrate/phosphate in the water sample. This can be determined by the colour charts which will be sent with the kits, so we will know straight away the analysis of the samples. DCU will also send out a report in the weeks after the Blitz with the nationwide results.

If you would like to carry out the sampling for one of the locations listed above please email loughcarraca@gmail.com. First come first served.

2) A Date for your Diary - Zoom talk on 27 April at 7.30pm for LCCA by National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) on the new Source Protection Project

Lough Carra has been chosen by the NFGWS for the Source Protection Project. They will give presentation by Zoom for LCCA on 27 April at 7.30pm to tell us what the project will involve. **We will send a link so that you can attend this on-line talk a couple of days before.**

DAFM are providing €500,000 funding to the NFGWS to implement targeted water source actions in group water scheme catchments as part of the NFGWS source protection strategy. This approach is seen as a ground-breaking move towards protecting drinking water sources in advance of the development of a new agri-environmental scheme under CAP and the enforcement of the new recast Drinking Water Directive. (see below press release)

3) Another Date for your Diary - Zoom talk on 26 April at 2.20pm by Dr Cilian Roden

As part of the International Association of Hydrogeologists 4th Annual Groundwater Conference, Cilian Roden who is a member of the LCCA Technical Group and Ireland's foremost expert on marl lakes, will be giving a presentation 'Marl Lakes on Karstic Limestone Bedrock - A Special Irish Habitat'.

Below is a poster with the full programme and registration is free at this link <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/41st-annual-iah-irish-group-online-conference-tickets-142144346567>

If you no longer wish to receive emails from the Lough Carra Catchment Association please inform us by return email.

Best regards
Lynda Huxley
Secretary LCCA

From: Mark <mark@nfgws.ie>

Sent: Thursday 25 March 2021 15:56

Subject: Press Release: DAFM Provides Funding to Target Agricultural Pressures in GWS Drinking Water Catchments

Press Release

Immediate: 25th March 2021

DAFM Provides Funding to Target Agricultural Pressures in GWS Drinking Water Catchments

The National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) has secured funding of €500,000 from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) to implement targeted drinking water source protection actions in group water scheme catchments as part of the NFGWS source protection strategy.

Funding has also been sought from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to commence the development of Integrated Source Protection Plans on community-owned group water schemes under the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme.

This approach is seen as a ground-breaking move towards protecting drinking water sources in advance of the development of a new agri-environmental scheme under CAP and the enforcement of the new recast Drinking Water Directive.

Drinking water sources are coming under increased pollutant pressures as a result of agricultural practices, insufficient wastewater treatment and domestic pesticide use among other causes. Many contaminants pose a danger to aquatic life and require expensive treatment in order to meet drinking water standards and eliminate threats to public health.

Integrated Source Protection Plans are scientifically based, scheme specific plans which provide a framework for communities to work together to help protect or improve their local drinking water source.

Following the DAFM announcement, Chairperson of the NFGWS (and dairy farmer), Vincent Farrelly, said 'This funding will build on the groundwork laid by the NFGWS Source Protection Pilot Projects to date, which has captured the public imagination with initiatives such as the award winning 'Let It Bee' project.^[1] The pilots have demonstrated how communities — including farmers — are willing to play their part in changing their practices to reverse negative impacts on drinking water sources and the wider environment.

The funding will be focused on seven group water schemes catchments that fall within, or close to, current Priority Areas for Action defined within Ireland's 2nd River Basin Management Plan. These catchments are largely impacted by agricultural pressures and the funding will help implement targeted measures, such as the creation of smart buffer zones in targeted areas along water courses, the promotion of alternatives to



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS
IRISH GROUP

41st Annual Groundwater Conference

**Catchment Science and Management – The Role of Geoscience and
Groundwater**

Monday 26 &
Tuesday 27
April, 2021



Free Online Event

SPEAKER PROGRAMME

HALF DAY 1:
Monday, 26 April 2021
13:30 – 17:30

13:00 Conference Log in Open

SESSION 1: Catchments and the Environment

- 13:30 Welcome & Introduction: Philip Maher (EPA), Conference Secretary, IAH (Irish Group)
- 13:40 **Gretta McCarron** (An Foras Uisce): A Framework for Integrated Land and Landscape Management (FILLM), a systems-based approach to environmental management.
- 14:00 **Patrick Morrissey** (EPA): Nature-based Catchment Management - opportunities to restore our waters whilst also achieving multiple benefits.
- 14:20 **Cilian Roden** (Consultant): Marl lakes on karstic limestone bedrock - a special Irish habitat?
- 14:40 Q&A
- 15:00 Early Career One-minute Poster Presentations**
- 15:10 Breakout Rooms for Poster Q&A
- 15:20 Break
- SESSION 2: Investigating and Assessing Catchment Water Quality**
- 15:35 Introduction & chair: Alison Orr (Arup)
- 15:40 **Marie Archbold** (EPA): The scientific evidence-base underpinning the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan.
- 16:00 **Per-Erik Mellander** (Teagasc): The Agricultural Catchments Programme: a decade of agro-environmental studies.
- 16:20 **Eoin McAleer** (LAWPRO): Local Catchment Assessment: From Deskstudy to Referral.
- 16:40 **Caoimhe Hickey** (GSI): The CatchmentCARE Project
- 17:00 Q & A
- 17:30 End of Day 1**

HALF DAY 2:
Tuesday, 27 April 2021
09:30 – 13:20

09:00 Conference Log in Open

SESSION 3: Insights on Water Flow in Catchments

- 09:30 Introduction & chair: Laura McGrath (Tobin)
- 09:35 **Alan McDonald** (BGS): Investigating the role of groundwater in catchment functioning in the Eddleston research catchment, Scotland.
- 09:55 **Ray Flynn** (QUB): Blanket bogs and streamflow - the underappreciated role of groundwater.
- 10:15 **Suzanne Tynan** (Consultant): Characterisation of flows in a western karst terrain, using combined hydrological and hydrogeological methods.
- 10:35 Q&A
- 11:00 Break
- SESSION 4: Managing Drinking Water with a Catchment Based Approach**
- 11:15 Introduction & chair: TBC
- 11:20 **Lorraine Gaston** (Irish Water): The Recast of the Drinking Water Directive - Challenges and opportunities for protecting our sources.
- 11:40 **Patrick McCabe** (NFGWS): Determining mitigation actions using the pollutant transfer continuum.
- 12:00 **Gerry Baker** (Arup): Catchment Modelling of Orthophosphate Leakage from Drinking Water Mains.
- 12:20 **Coran Kelly** (Tobin): Challenges and opportunities for catchment management in a karst environment - insights from a work in progress in Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon.
- 12:40 Q & A
- 13:10 Closing Address – Niamh Rogan (EPA), Secretary, IAH (Irish Group)
- 13:20 End of conference**

Register for free here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/41st-annual-iah-irish-group-online-conference-tickets-142144346567>

Bound copies of the conference proceedings can be ordered online when registering.