



IDENTIFY:

THE GAA AND ITS WATERWAYS

Ireland has been shaped by its waterways – geographically, economically and also culturally, in our songs, stories, writing and oral traditions. Some of Ireland’s most well-known rivers – including the Shannon, the Erne, the Boyne, the Liffey – are named after the Celtic goddesses who were the guardians of their catchment areas.

Consider planning your Green Club water quality actions around the river and waterway heritage of your community. Follow the three simple steps below to create an action plan that celebrates the water heritage of your community and protects the water quality in your catchment area.

1. Map your club

Some club grounds are located directly beside or within view of a river or waterway. For other clubs, the link between their club and waterways might not be so visible. Using a catchment mapping tool is an easy and very effective way of bringing these links to life .

Use the Catchment Mapping Tools below to situate your club within your local catchment area and to identify any local water features of interest.

- <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water> (choose ‘River Waterbodies’ from the ‘Water, Land & Soil’ menu and zoom into your club location).
- <https://gis.daera-ni.gov.uk/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=16fddc459bd04d64b9e8f084f3a8e14a> (Choose ‘Rivers’ from the ‘Layers’ menu and zoom in to your club location).

Use the other menu options to identify other characteristics, e.g., the flow direction of the nearby rivers and waterways and to establish whether or not your club is in or near a protected area or a drinking water supply area.

2. Explore your local water heritage and history

- Consult your local history group for information on any history or folklore related to the water heritage of your local area (e.g., relating to rivers, wells, lakes, bogs) or of significant historical water-related events (e.g., floods, river pollution) that have had an impact on the local community.
- Use the placenames list below to identify whether the name of any townlands or areas around your club and community are linked to rivers, waterways or water heritage.



3. Take action to celebrate your water heritage

- Use the Water Quality resources at <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/water> to develop an action plan structured around your local water heritage.
- Consider including in your action plan at least one 'Prevent & Protect' action to reduce your club's impact on waterways in your catchment area and one 'Celebrate' action to highlight your club's links to local rivers and biodiversity. See the 'Celebrate' action sheet at <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/water> for funding opportunities.
- If you have developed a water action plan for your club or area and need further guidance, contact your Community Water Officer (26-counties - <https://lawaters.ie/team/communities-team/>) or local authority point of contact (see <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub>).

Exploring Water Heritage through Local Placenames

Gaeilge	Béarla
ABHAINN	RIVER
ÁTH	FORD
BÁ	BAY
BÉAL	OPENING, MOUTH (E.G. OF RIVER)
BUN	(RIVER-)MOUTH, BOTTOM(-LAND)
CAOL	A NARROW; MARSHY STREAM
COMAR	CONFLUENCE; MEETING-PLACE
CORA	WEIR, STONE-FENCE, FORD
CUAN	BAY, HARBOUR, RECESS
EANACH	MARSH
FEADÁN	WATERCOURSE, STREAM
GAOTH	WIND OR INLET, ESTUARY
GLAS	GREEN OR STREAM
INIS	ISLAND; RIVER MEADOW
LÉANA	WATER-MEADOW
LOCH	LAKE; INLET
LUACHAIR	RUSHES, RUSHY PLACE
MÓIN	BOGLAND
MÓINÍN	SMALL BOGLAND