

# CARROWMONEASH CATCHMENT ORANMORE

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"Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development"



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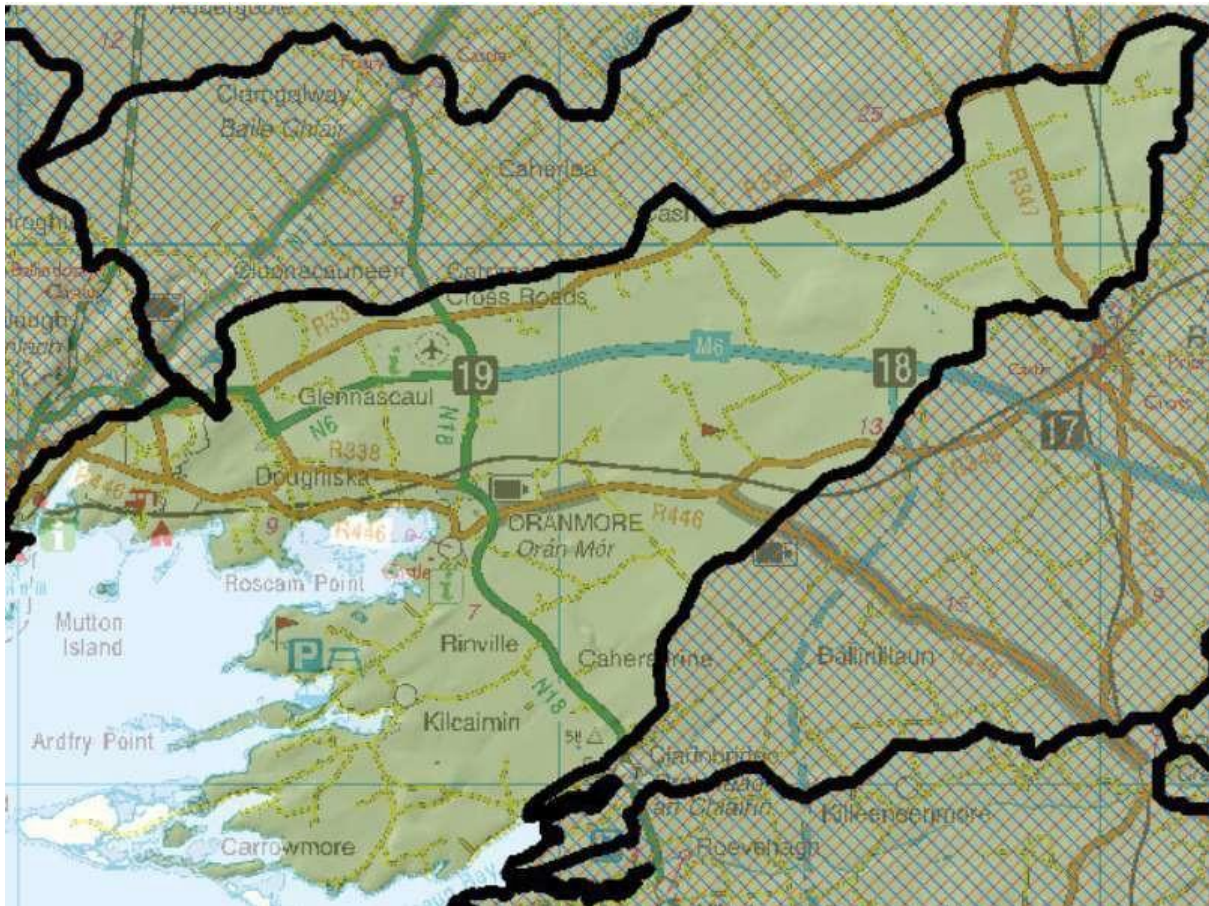


### Version

Version	Author	Status
1.0	Eoin Butler	Plan Complete

## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to start the process of highlighting the issues and problems facing our local river in Oranmore. It will also highlight the biodiversity that exists on the river and how we many help the wildlife by reducing the current pollution and pressures on the catchment.



*Subcatchment CARROWMONEASH [Oranmore]\_SC\_010 | [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)*

## Background

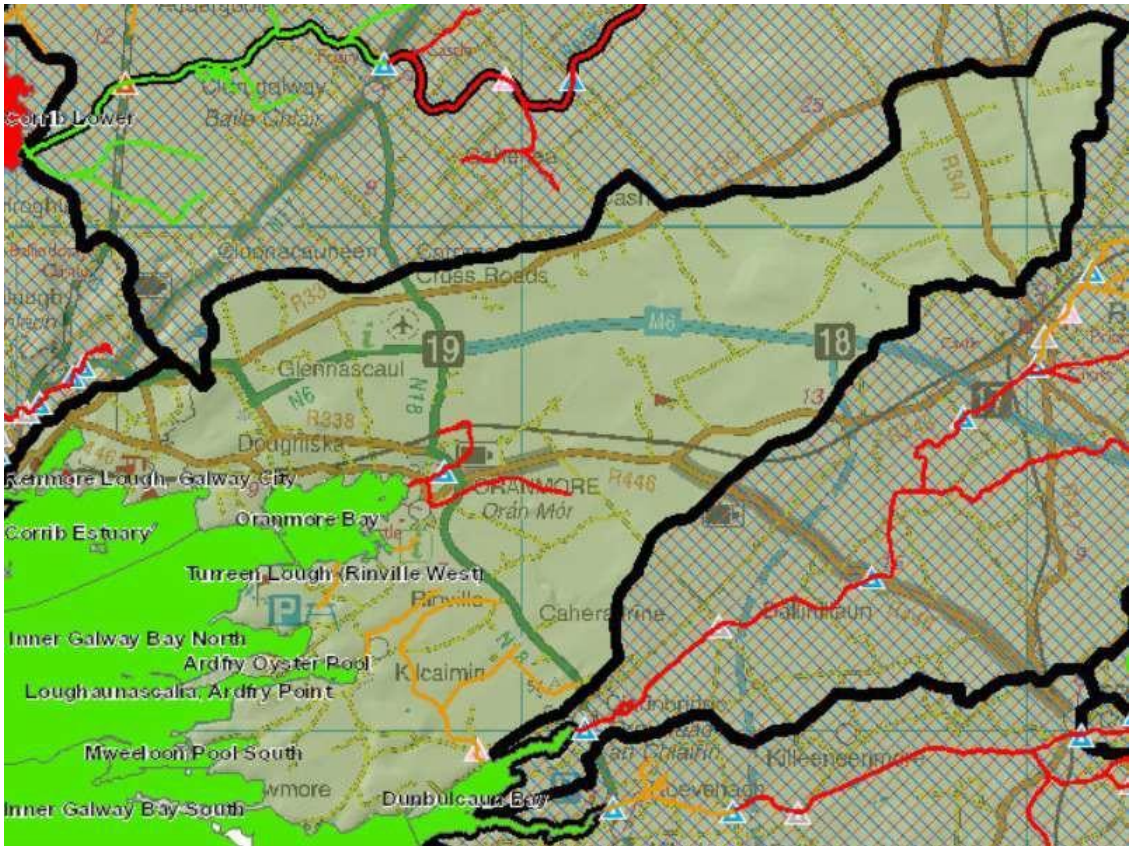
The Carrowmoneash catchment flows through Oranmore village into Galway Bay and is part of the Galway Bay South Catchment. The Carrowmoneash catchment connects Galway Bay SAC and Galway Bay Inner SAC. The main river flows from Frenchfort connect numerous underground water sources. To the south a man-made drain was create in the late 1800s to power a mill. This has since been channelised with the development or Oranmore and the OPW has over the last 20 years added in the region of 10km of drain ditches to the original drain.



## Water Quality & Pressures

### Water Quality

There is only chemistry data for Carrowmoneash (Oranmore)\_010, however elevated concentrations of phosphate and ammonia are a significant issue. In the lower reaches, urban diffuse and wastewater are a significant pressure. In the middle and upper reaches of the sub catchment septic tanks are a significant pressure. There are no biological or water quality data for Rockhill 29\_010. Due to the presence of potential pressures, septic tanks and agriculture, the RWB is revised to review. A local catchment assessment to determine water quality will be undertaken



*2019 red status*

## Oranmore Sewerage Scheme

In the early 2000 the Oranmore Sewerage Scheme was started and caused untold damage to the river. Not only does the pipe network cross under the river manhole chambers exist in a low lying area that floods over 50 times a year with high tides. Galway County Council have confirmed sea water is entering the system so sewerage can also exit the system. The situation is ongoing.



*Open soil which was washed out numerous times by high tides during construction works*



*In river works, connecting new roadside drainage directly to the river*



*Oranmore Pump House Overflow pipe – May 2021*



*Oranmore Pump House Overflow pipe – May 2021*

### Housing Development Pressure

In recent years' developers have tried numerous times to get planning permission on the Carrowmoneash wetlands. This has resulted in numerous illegal constructions works as developers look to clean and infill land before applying for planning permission.

Currently the area has numerous planning enforcements in place. Three failed attempts at planning have occurred in recent years although one of which residents had to take to An Bord Pleanála.

The most recent planning application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála under the Strategic Housing Development (Dec 2021) and is ongoing.





*Illegal site clearing Aug 2020*

### OPW Drainage

To the south of the catchment the OPW continue to expand the drainage system. This add huge volumes of water to the catchment. Culverts crossing the N67 currently limit the amount of water that can flow into the catchment. This causes water levels to rise sharply during heavy rainfall as the south side of the catchment drains.





*Aerial view looking west of Oranmore Village (south)*



*Aerial view looking west of Oranmore Village (south) highlighting the water drainage network*



*Aerial view looking north of Dublin Road \ N67*



*Bog Road, Oranmore*



*Bog Road, Oranmore*

## River Biodiversity

The catchment is extremely rich in biodiversity. Back in the 1980s the river had an extremely healthy population of Sea trout and eels with the occasional salmon seen. After numerous years of pollution and run off the fish stocks have returned. Not to the levels of 1980s but they are moving in the correct direction.

We have breeding otters on the catchment and otters can be viewed on the river during the year.



*Female otter and two cubs May, Carrowmoneash Wetland May 2021*

Numerous bird species are also present on the system from Kingfishers, yellow wagtails, egrets, herons as well as a nesting pair of swans.

The swans are someone famous after years of falling to raise chicks due to high tides destroying their nest the Galway Conservation Group created a nest platform which has allowed the pair to raise chicks successfully for the last 3 years.



## Actions \ Projects

Discovery	Kick Sampling	To select 6 sites within the catchment and record kick sampling records at numerous times of the year	Spring 2022 – Autumn 2022
	Outfall Safari	To document and record all open drains into the river	Spring 2022 – Autumn 2022
Community	Litter Pick	Work with Tidy Towns to complete a litter pick of the river and promote locally to show the impact	Spring 2022 – Autumn 2022
	Signage	New sign at the bridge educating people of the biodiversity within the river	2023
Enhancement	Otter Holt	Work with NPWS in regard to creating an Otter holt on the catchment.	2023
	Spawning Beds	Work with Inland Fisheries, NPWS and LAWPRO to create additional spawns beds within the catchment	2023