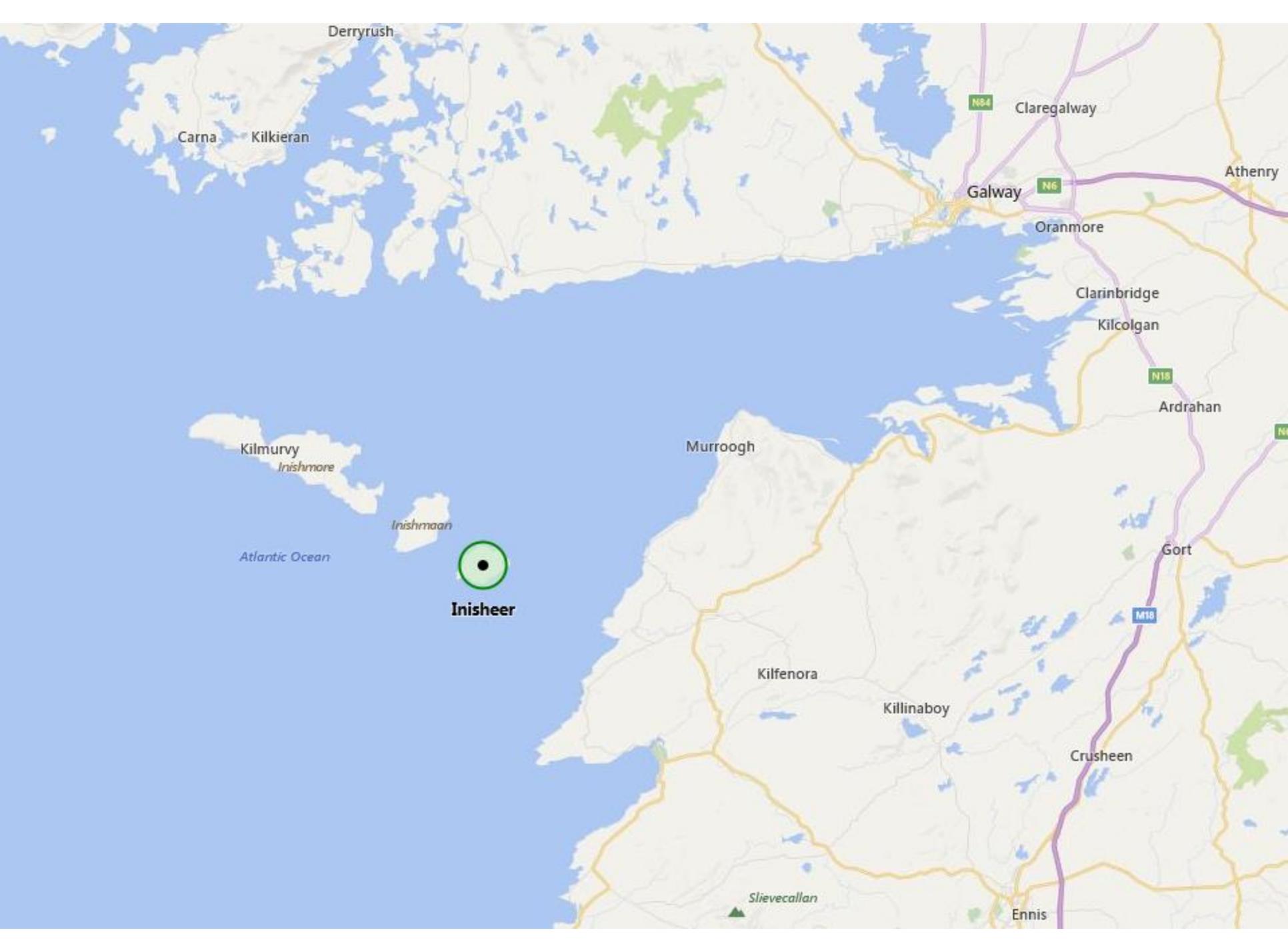


Dr Amanda Browne
Scientific & Technical Officer
AranLIFE Project





Derryrush

Carna

Kilkieran

Galway

Claregalway

Athenry

Oranmore

Clarinbridge

Kilcolgan

Ardrahan

Kilmurvy

Inishmore

Murroogh

Inishmaan

Atlantic Ocean



Inisheer

Gort

Kilfenora

Killinaboy

Crusheen

Slievecallan

Ennis







Molloy, K. and O'Connell, M. (2007) Fresh insights into long-term environmental change on the Aran Islands based on palaeoecological investigations of lake sediments from Inis Oírr, *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society*, 59, 1-17.



Wedge tombs
4000BC

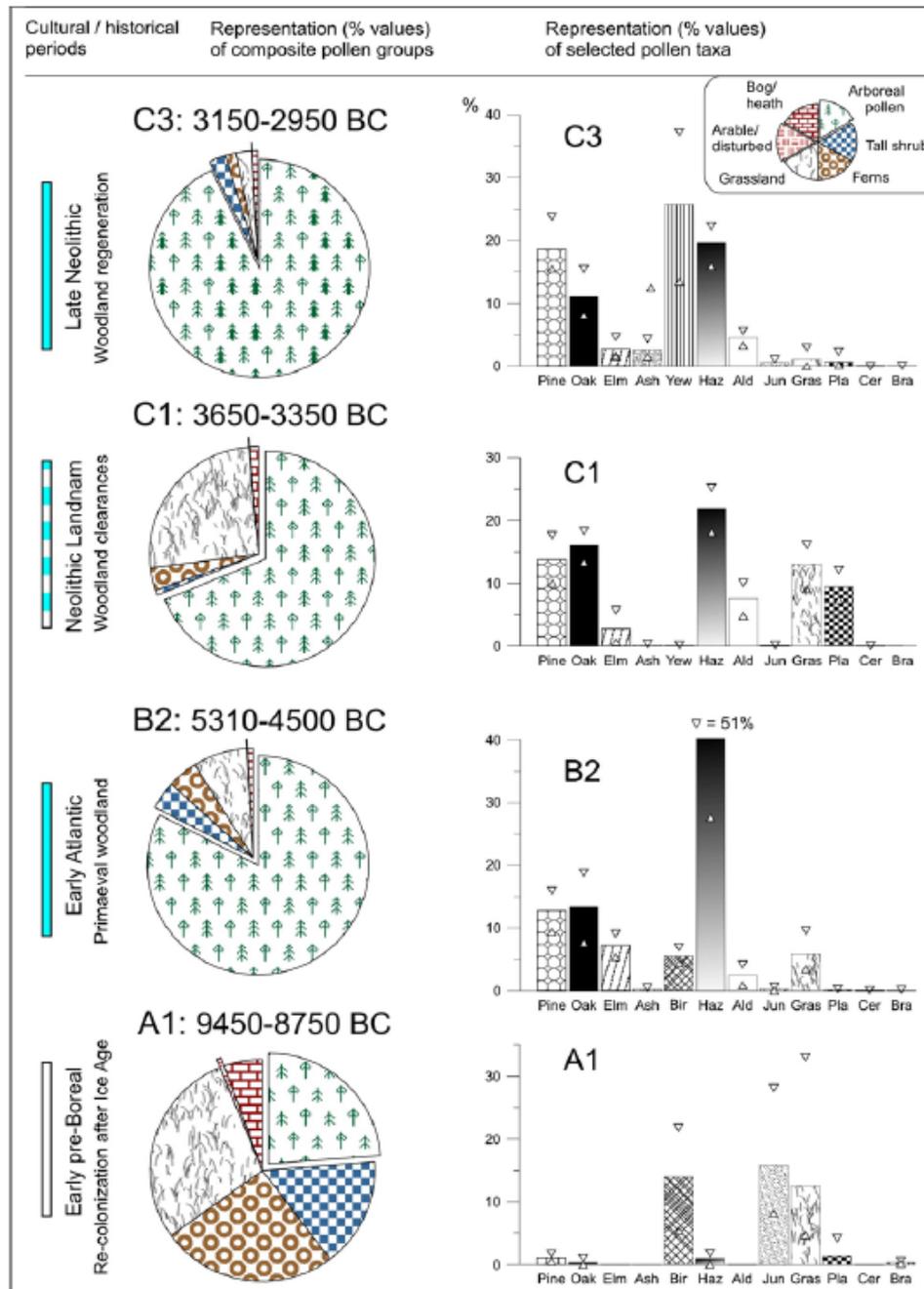


Fig. 2: Percentage pollen data from An Loch Mór, Inis Oirr (early and mid Holocene, including the Neolithic)¹

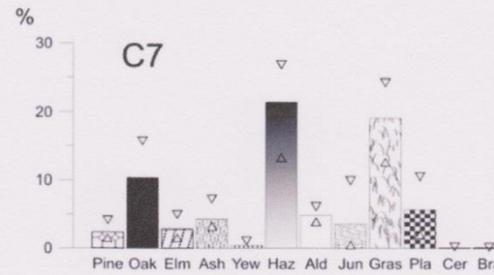
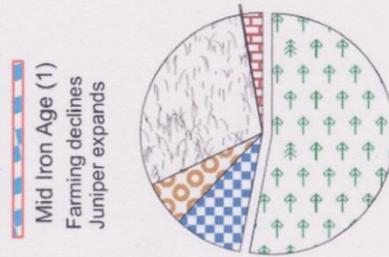
Dún Aengus

Cultural / historical periods

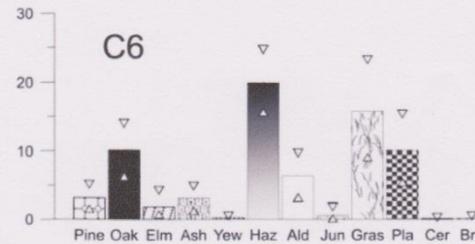
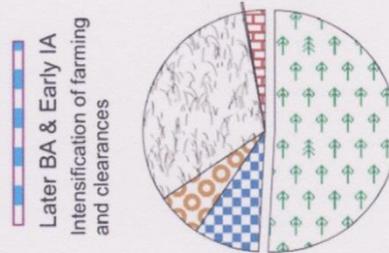
Representation (% values) of composite pollen groups

Representation (% values) of selected pollen taxa

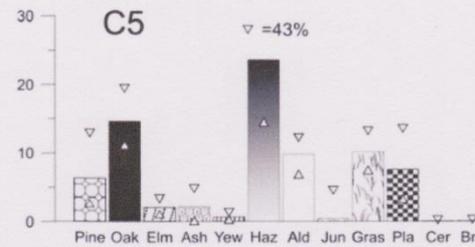
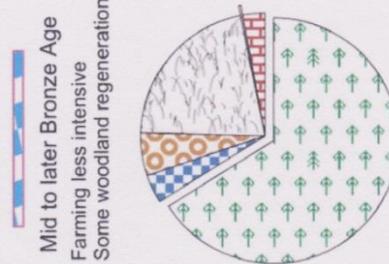
C7: 400-150 BC



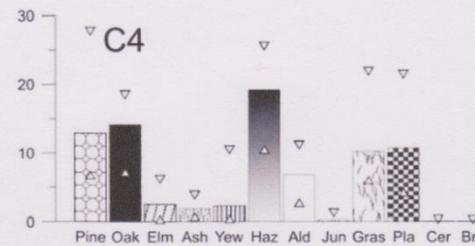
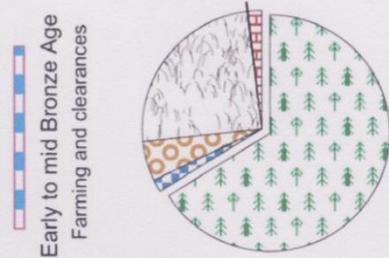
C6: 1050-400 BC



C5: 1750-1050 BC



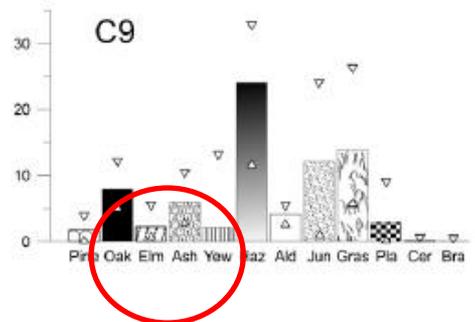
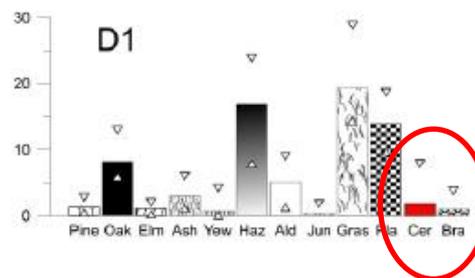
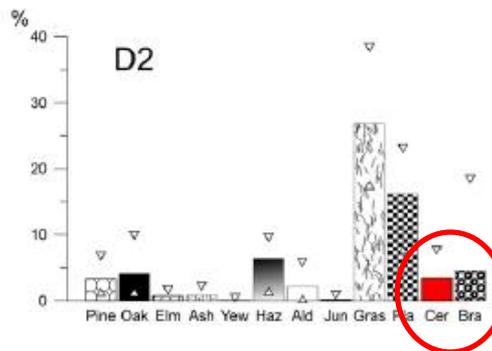
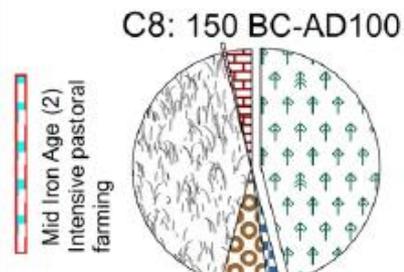
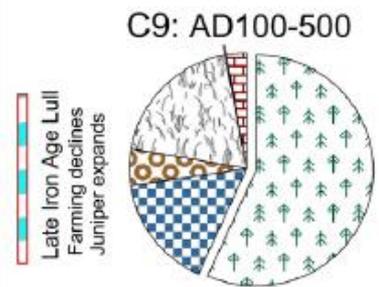
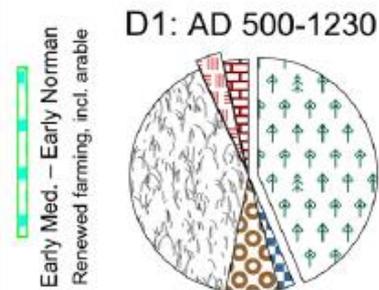
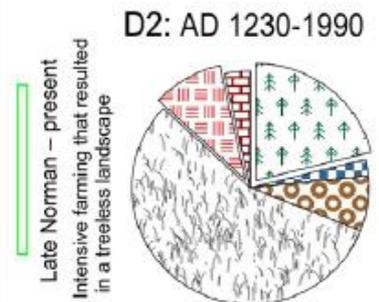
C4: 2950-1750 BC



Cultural / historical periods

Representation (% values) of composite pollen groups

Representation (% values) of selected pollen taxa



- Beginning at about AD 500 or possibly somewhat earlier, the landscape as we know it today began finally to take shape. There is renewed woodland clearance in the context of an upsurge in farming that affected at first mainly yew (more or less totally cleared), hazel scrub and ash. As before, farming was initially mainly pastoral based but, with the introduction of rye in the late 8th century AD, arable farming assumed importance for the first time.
- Beginning in the 1500s, there is further intensification of farming and clearing of remaining woodland fragments, though the treeless aspect of today probably did not come about until the late 18th/early 19th century when population expanded considerably (the population was 3339 in the 1851 census of the Islands; in 1996 and 2002, it was 1303 and 1280, respectively).
- The walls, in their present form, are probably no older than the 17th century, i.e. broadly corresponding to the last major phase of wall construction in the Burren (Drew 1994; Plunkett Dillon 1985). They were probably constructed in the context of increased emphasis on farming, and especially arable farming, as population expanded in the post medieval period.
- Government Policy, grants for land reclamation and wall building





National monuments on Inis Mór



1995



2013









Hay

Throughout the Aran islands Hay is made in the traditional way using hand tools or strimmer only. The nature of the small fields and the rocky terrain makes the use of machinery prohibitive



Traditional farming practices in decline



Rye is grown to thatch sheds and cottages.
The crop is harvested and threshed by hand







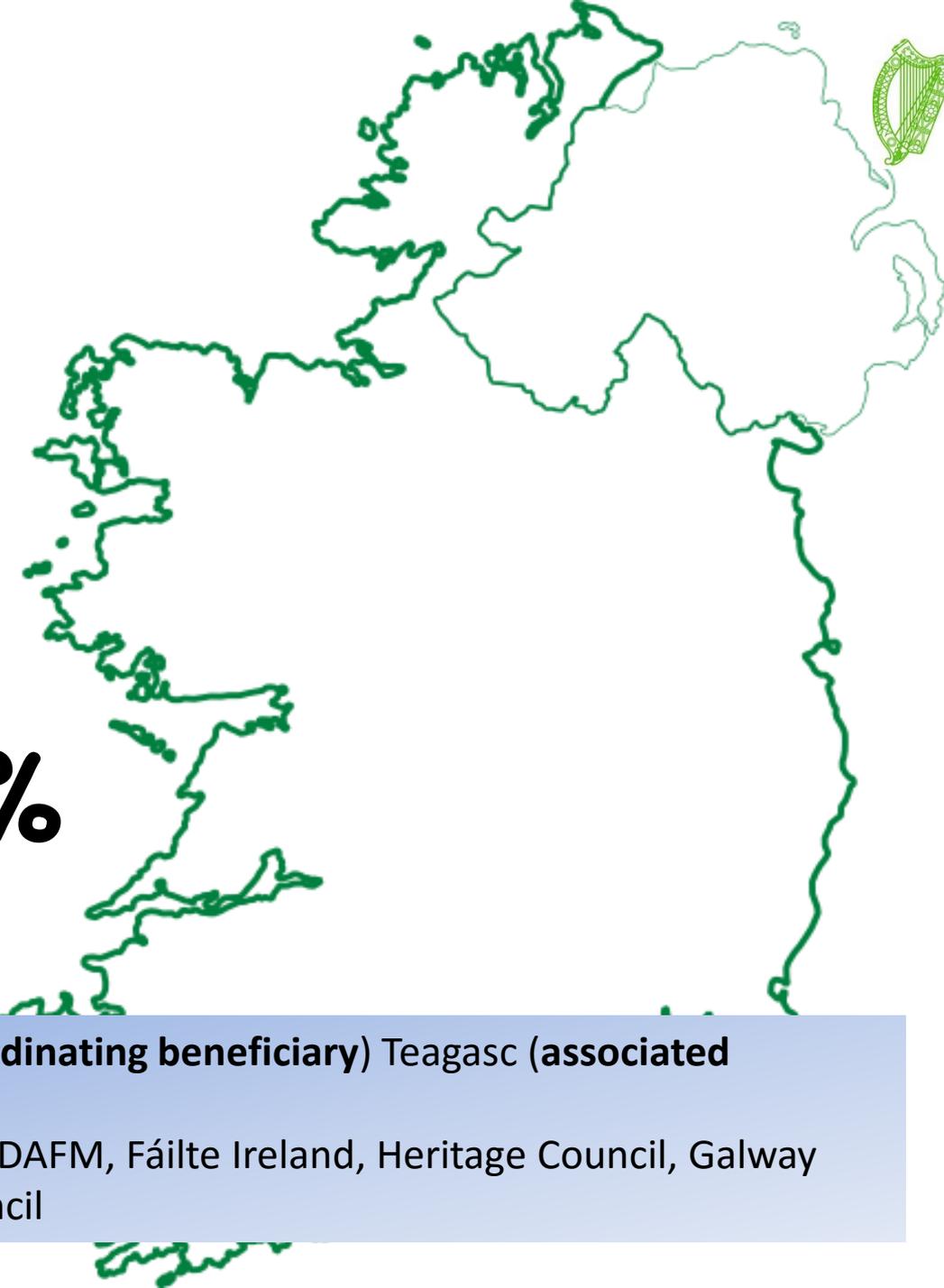
AranLIFE project

2014 to 2017

The sustainable management of the priority
terrestrial habitats of the Aran Islands



25%



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Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**
An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



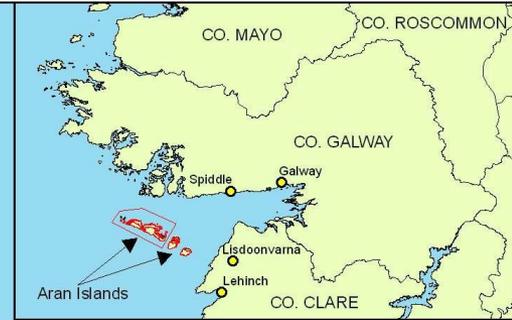
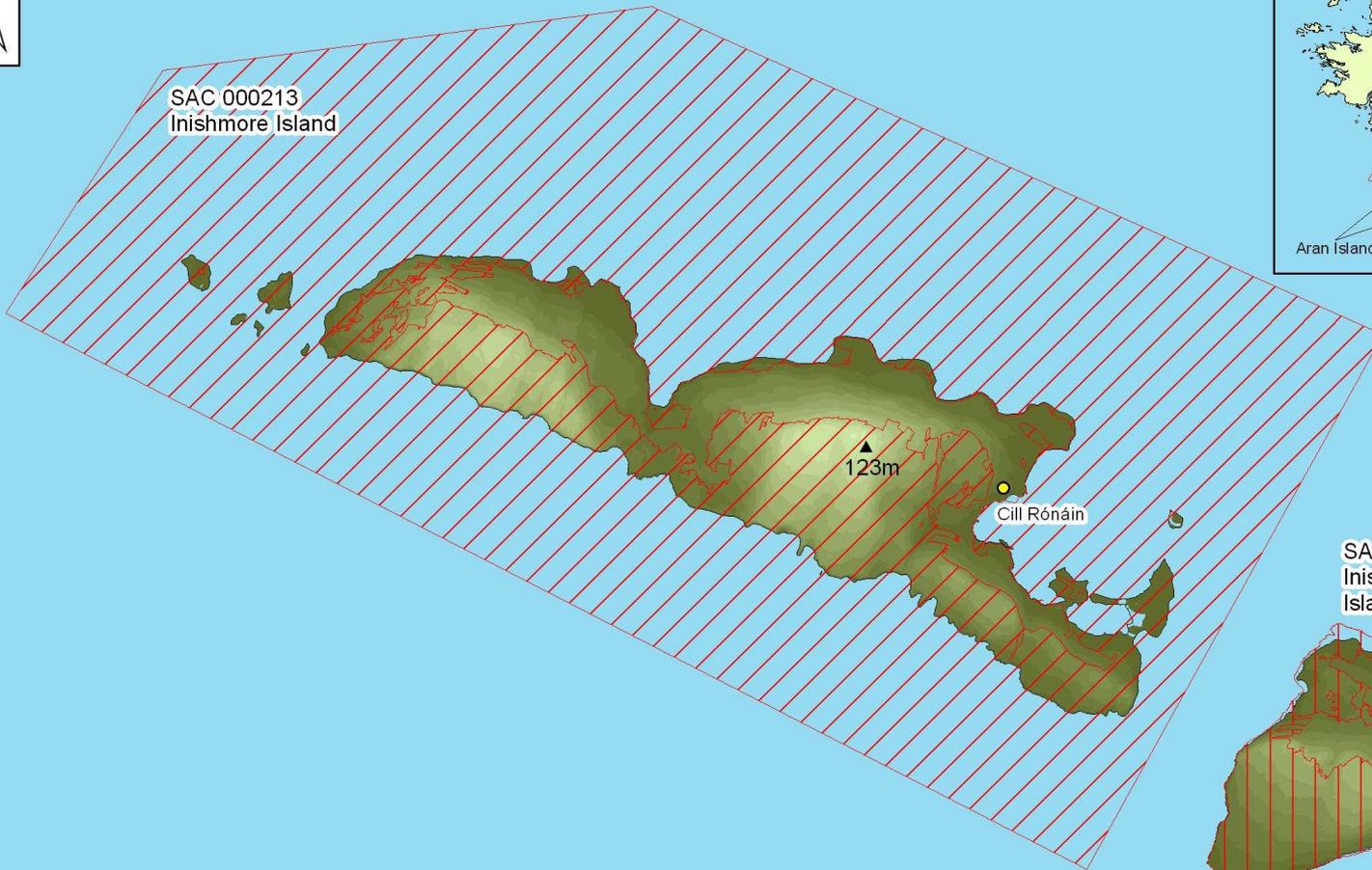
Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

DAHG (co-ordinating beneficiary) Teagasc (associated beneficiary)

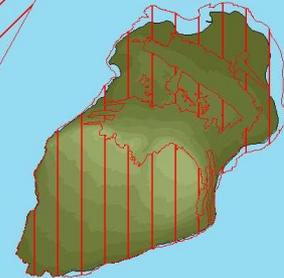
Co-funders: DAFM, Fáilte Ireland, Heritage Council, Galway County Council



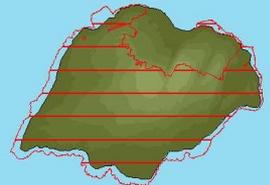
SAC 000213
Inishmore Island



SAC 000212
Inishmann
Island



SAC 001275
Inisheer
Island



Legend

-  000212 Inishmann Island
-  000213 Inishmore Island
-  001275 Inisheer Island

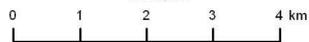
 **An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

**MAP 2:
ARANLIFE
ARAN ISLANDS
SAC DESIGNATIONS**

Map to be read in conjunction with the AranLIFE Technical Application Forms.

SITE CODE: SAC 000212 version 1.02
SITE CODE: SAC 000212 version 1.04
SITE CODE: SAC 001275 version 1.02

1:100,000



The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey material by permission of the Government (Permit number EN 0059208).

Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuíomhach ginearálta. Féadfar athbhríthriú a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaíthe. Macasamhail d'áthar na Súrthéarachta Ordonáis le chead ó Rialtas (Ceadaíonn Uimh. EN 0059208)



Map Version 1
Date: Sept 2012

Farm Structure and System

- Small Farms (IO: 6ha; IM: 11ha; IMR: 20ha)
- Small herd size (<10)
- Highly Fragmented farm structure



Network of small fields and boreens





0 0.45 0.9 Kilometers





Winterages

Plant diversity resource

450 plant species (approx.) (total Irish flora 900+)

- Most northerly limit of their distribution in Ireland
- Mediterranean-Atlantic plants



Neotinea maculata
Dense flowered orchid



Rubia peregrina
Wild madder



Ophrys apifera
Bee orchid

- Arctic-Alpine Plants? Restricted distribution within Britain and Ireland



Sedum rosea
Rose root



Euphrasia salisburgensis
Salzburg eyebright



Gentiana verna
Spring gentian



Saxifraga rosacea
Irish saxifrage

Limited distribution within Ireland and Britain



Astragalus danicus
Purple milk vetch



Helianthemum oelandicum
Hoary Rock Rose



Allium babingtonii
Babington's leek





21 species of butterfly
(31 nationally)



Diversity of fauna



Limestone pavement-8240



Orchid-rich Calcareous grasslands-6210



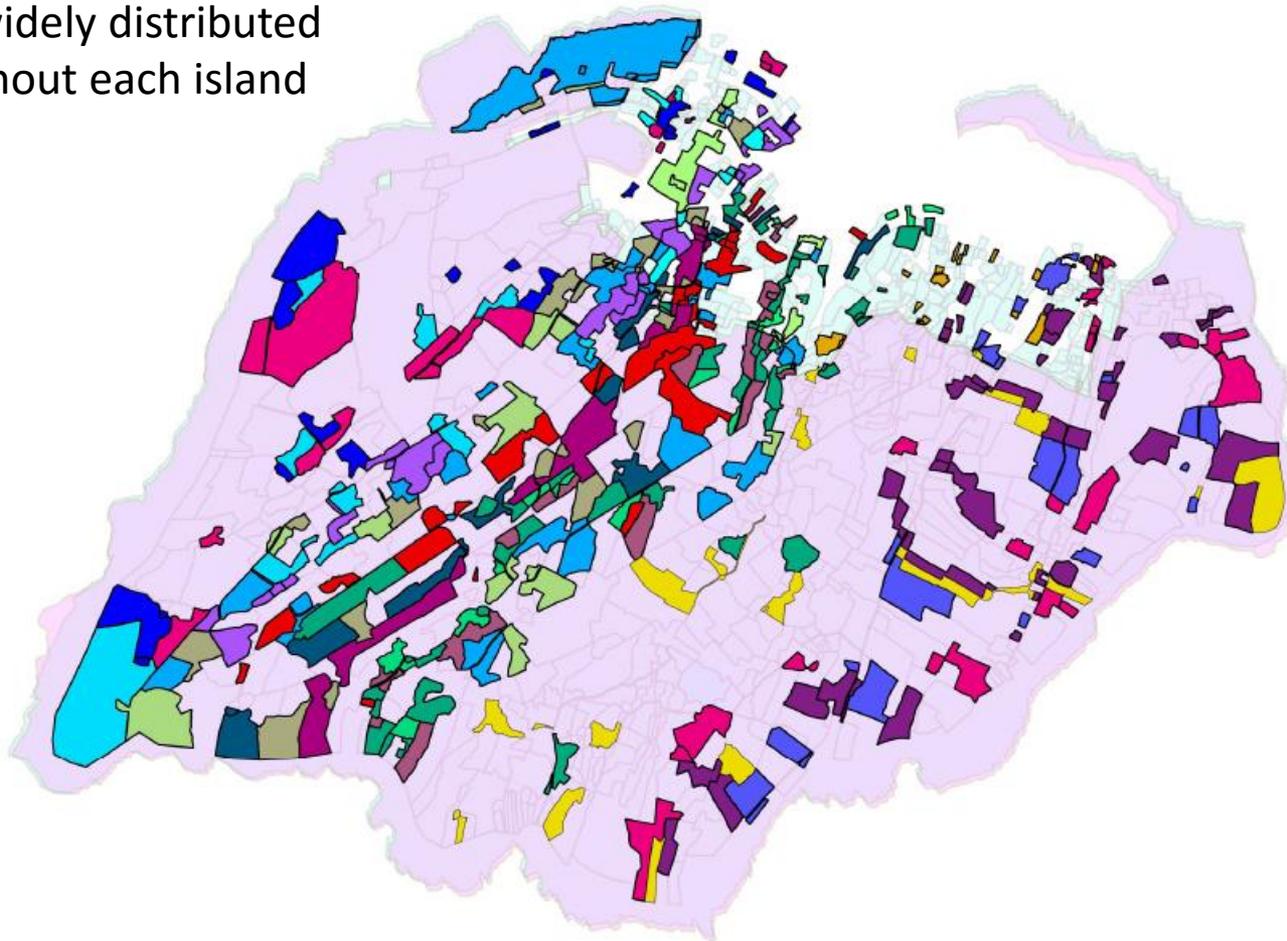
Orchid-rich Calcareous grassland/Limestone pavement mosaics-6210/8240



Machair-21A0

LIFE12 NAT/IE/00095 Inis Oírr Expressions of Interest
19th Feb 2014

Farms widely distributed
throughout each island



AranLIFE project - Inis Oírr Expressions of Interest



Farm selection based on suitability of the land for the project
Questionnaire



- Working with 68 project farms
- Inis Oírr (12); Inis Méain (17); Inis Mór (39)
- 1011ha of priority habitat into favourable conservation status





Farm Plans December 2014

Scrub areas to be cleared, boreens to be cleaned, new water infrastructure, optimal grazing plans



Scrub clearing methods. Blackthorn and Brambles



Before



After



Before



After



Provision of sustainable water infrastructure



Insufficient water supply



Transient water supply from springs





07/19/2014 01:06

4. Implementation of optimal grazing plans



Highly positive indicator species



Positive Indicator Species



5. Health supplements for grazing animals





Cattle Performance



Determine nutrient value of grasslands to improve animal performance



Nutrient management









Vertigo survey of Inis Meáin and Inis Mór machair

Monitoring and evaluation







Further reading



Drystone Walls of the Aran Islands.

Mary Laheen (2010).

Stones of Aran: Pilgrimage.

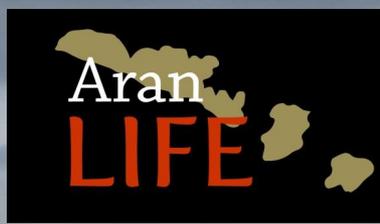
Tim Robinson (1986).

The Book of Aran.

J. Waddell, J.W. O'Connell, A. Korff (Eds) (1994)

The Nature Guide to the Aran Islands.

Con O'Rourke (2005)



AranLIFE Project 2014-2017

www.aranlife.ie

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<https://twitter.com/AranLIFE>



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**An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council**

