



## Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment (BRIDE)

<b>Geographical Location</b>	IE 053 South-West Region
<b>Keywords</b>	Results-based Schemes, Farmland, Sustainability, Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity, Wildlife, Hedgerows, Birds, Invertebrates, Pollinators, Vertebrates, Mammals
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<b>Project Type</b>	Operational Group
<b>Starting Date</b>	January 2018
<b>End Date</b>	December 2022
<b>Project Status</b>	Ongoing
<b>Main Funding Source</b>	Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020
<b>Total Budget</b>	€1,100,000



### Project Rationale

Intensively managed farmland throughout Ireland has had relatively low participation rates in agri-environment schemes (and associated wildlife options). Nevertheless, it is this farmland that is most frequently represented in Quality Assurance and Sustainability Schemes, and is most likely to require a customised plan to maintain and enhance farmland wildlife habitats.



### Project Aims & Objectives

The project aims to design and implement a cost effective, results-based approach to conserve, enhance and restore habitats in lowland intensive farmland, and to improve national awareness of the options that are available in an effort to maintain and enhance farmland wildlife on intensively managed farmland without unduly affecting agricultural production.

To achieve these goals, the project will pursue the following specific objectives delivered over a five-year period to a group of up to fifty farmers in the River Bride Valley, Co. Cork, which constitutes part of the River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation:

- (i) Explore an innovative implementation of a results-based approach for wildlife on intensively managed farmland;
- (ii) Develop, implement and assess innovative options to restore, preserve and enhance farmland habitats;
- (iii) Improve communication and dissemination about the contribution of Irish farmland to the conservation of biodiversity, especially in intensively managed grasslands &
- (iv) Facilitate the creation of a market-based demand by the agri-food industry for supply of ecosystem services from farmers.

### Project Activities

- Produce a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) in consultation with participating farmers that identifies priority actions for the maintenance/enhancement of farmland wildlife. Farm-based actions will target farmland habitats such as: hedgerow management, field margins, retention of winter stubble on cereal farms, skylark plots, riparian buffer strips, creation of a permanent pond, conservation of existing farm habitats, native woodlands, nest-box and bat-box installation, rodent control and control of invasive species.
- Monitor the diversity of vegetation types, plants, bird, bats and pollinators, using a baseline and ongoing surveys.
- Disseminate lessons learned from the project to a wide variety of stakeholders via multiple methods.

