



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

**ACRES**  
Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme



Funded by  
the European Union

# Developing RBPS delivery capacity

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BREIFNE

# Key components to deliver RBPS at scale

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1. Identify objectives (Local Action Plan)
2. Scorecards to assess the land that can deliver these objectives
3. An app that works with no connection to the internet to fill out scorecards
4. An assessor to assess and submit the field scores
5. CRM software to receive the data and allow it to be easily analysed



# Key components to deliver RBPS at scale

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6. A payment system to issue RBPS payment
7. A relevant body to interrogate and advise on the scorecard signals
8. Ideally, actions that are funded/co-funded that would address scorecard issues
9. A system that allows for these to be applied for, screened to ensure no negative consequences, verified as delivered and paid
10. A review of the scheme effectiveness

# Key components to deliver RBPS at scale

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A review, feedback and update loop

This applies to scorecards, actions and framework

A flexible system will work best for the farmer



# RBPS at scale-Ireland

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Even at scale, first three years should be treated as a pilot that can change in response to needs

Build on skills base

Build scheme in parallel if time is tight

Ensure that Ministry have necessary capacity

Ensure that scheme goals align with wider Ministry goals



# RBPS at scale-Ireland

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# Capacity of Advisors

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Advisory network in Ireland is extensive

137,000 farms

>700 Farm Advisory Service (Ministry approved) approved advisors

Existing resource for scoring fields present

Significant upskilling challenges



# Capacity of Farmers

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This approach suits farmers

Know the goal, arrive at result your own way

Providing full flexibility and no stick will yield scheme objectives

Providing relevant advice for bespoke issues will be seen favourably

Openness to this approach in Ireland was excellent

Does require a strong ground-work campaign





# Capacity in Ministry

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Understanding the approach is key

Irish Ministry have taken a number of brave steps in the recent past (some pushes before that)

EIPs at scale with results-based approach

Pilot at scale (Rural Environment Agricultural Pilot REAP)

Tender process for CP teams could have been done differently

Talk to them about mistakes to avoid

Serious challenges resulted/ing from poor planning of IT capacity



# CP teams

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A number of small projects yielded good experience in advance of scale-up

Not essential though. Clear understanding of approach is enough

Doesn't need to be a CP team mechanism

**Good advice and farmer support is key**

In Ireland there was some reservations about ability to scale up

Capacity is there

Teams on the ground went from ~15 to >100 in 18 months



# Roll out steps-recap

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Design scorecards to deliver for local objectives

Provide information meetings on RBPS to local farmers

Training for advisors/inspectors

Training for participants

Finalising IT systems

- Scoring fields
- Providing scores and guidances for farmers
- Applying for/screening/approving actions

Score fields and pay for the baseline results (Scorecard data will direct suitable actions *and* monitor improvements over the course of the scheme)

Implement actions

Improve scores





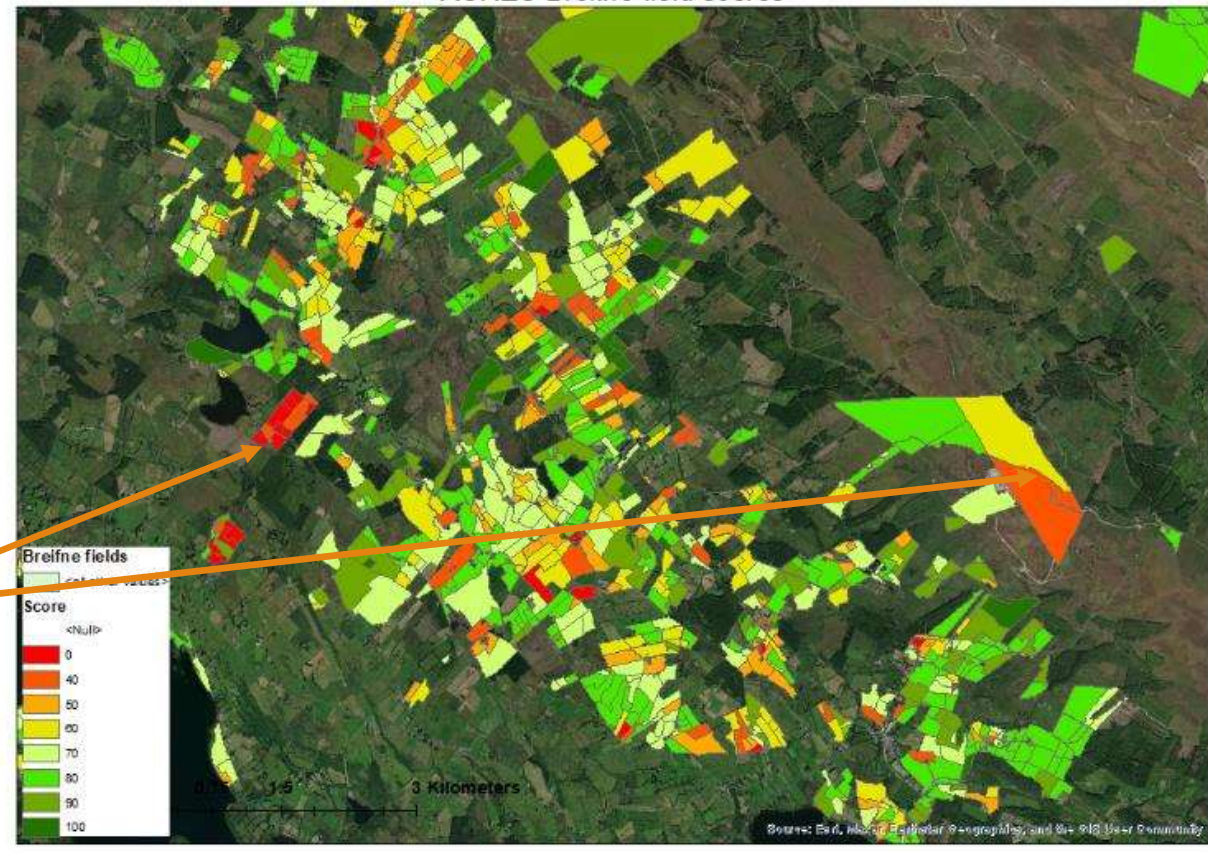
# Field-scale data

30,000 fields with scorecards assigned

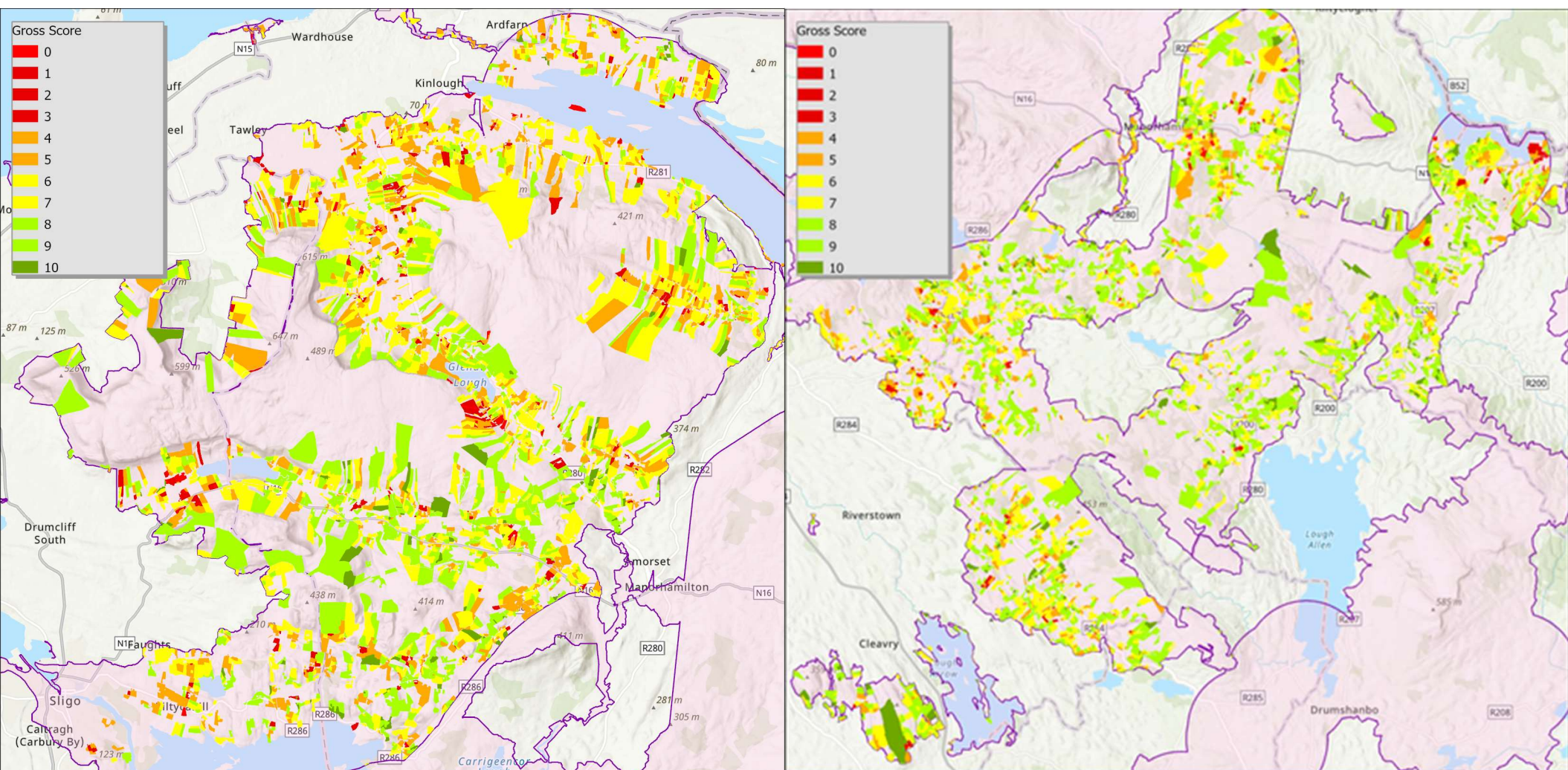
Baseline data identifies areas that need attention

Score	Count	%
100	1485	5.0
90	4536	15.2
80	6842	22.9
70	5401	18.1
60	4392	14.7
50	3226	10.8
40	2277	7.6
0	1660	5.6

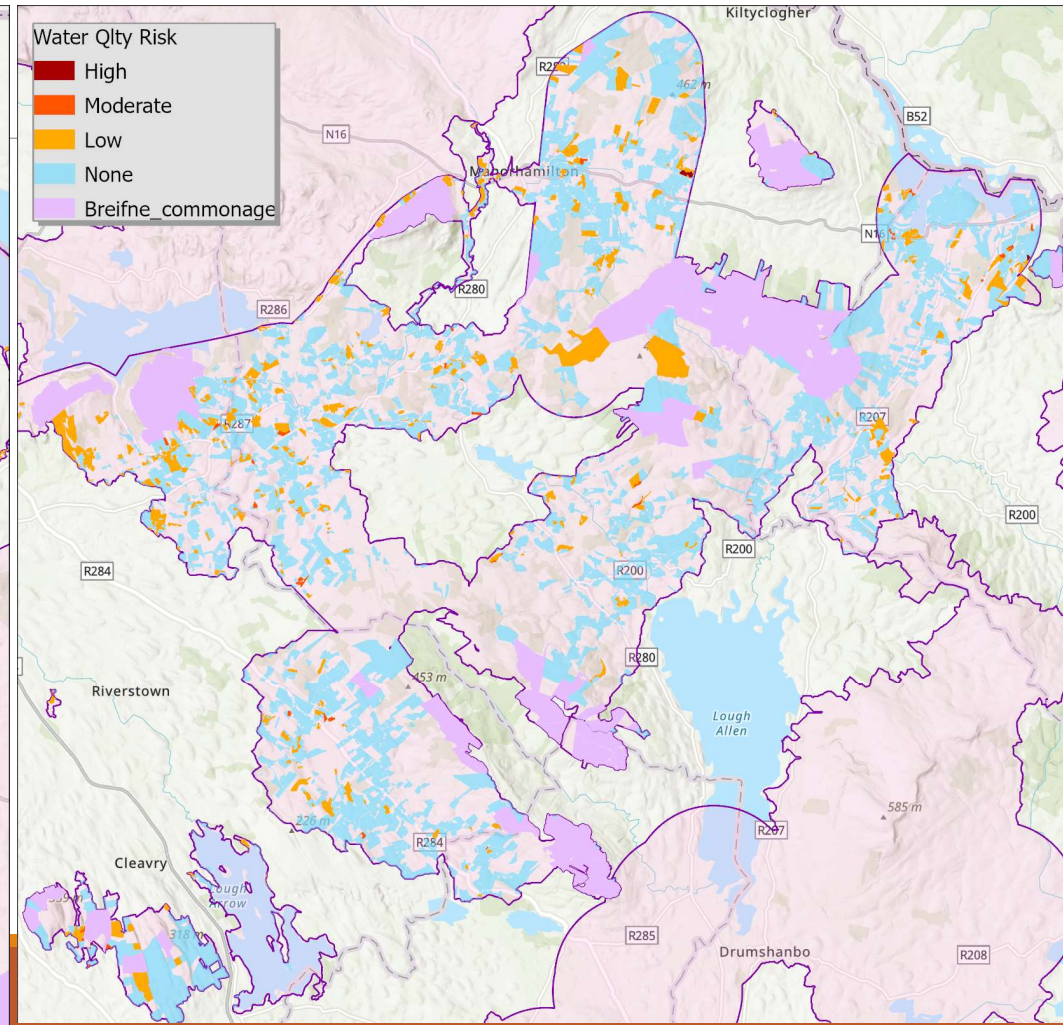
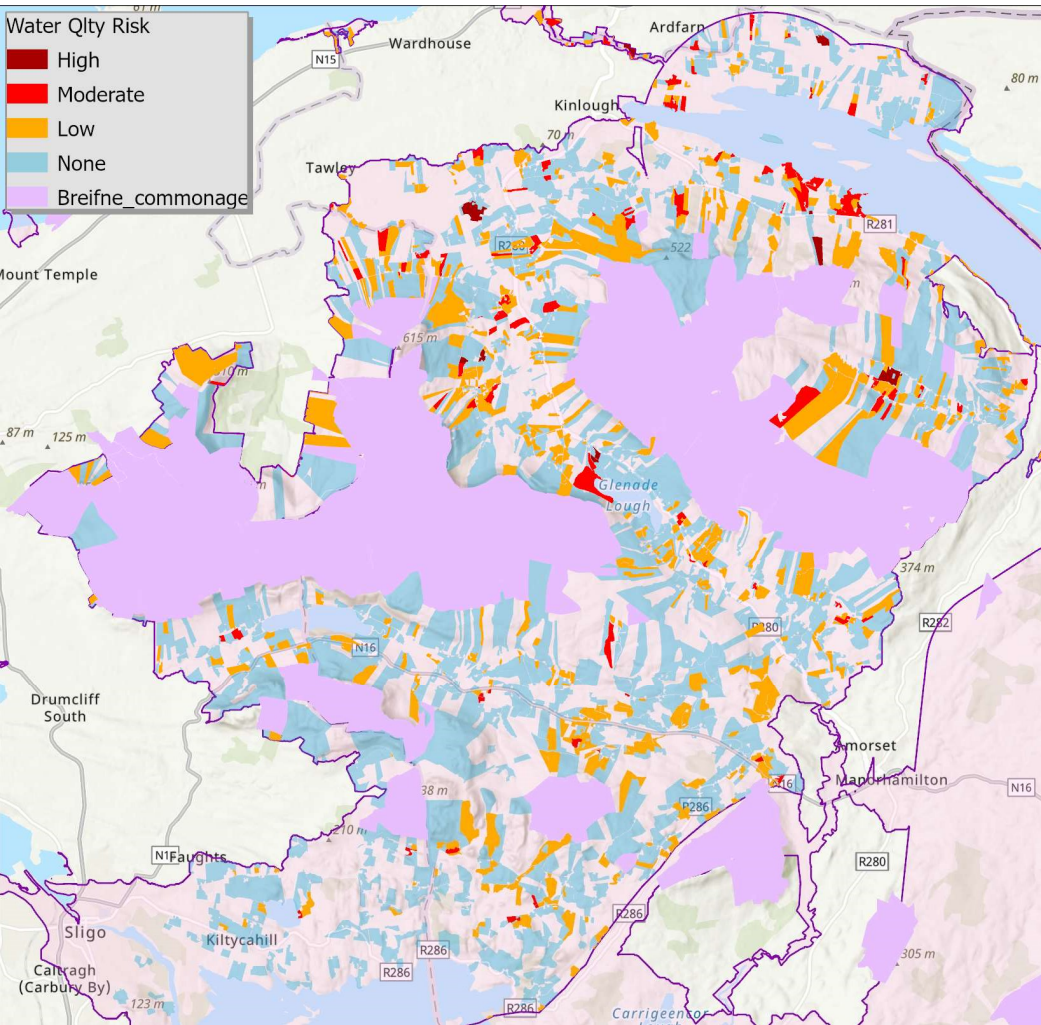
ACRES Breifne field scores



# Scorecard results



# Risk to water quality



# Results-based scheme design

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Make sure the farmer is front and centre at all times

Keep things simple and enjoy the process

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