

# IRD Duhallow RaptorLIFE Newsletter – Autumn 2019



*With our summer visitors the Swifts, Swallows and Martins gone, Autumn has well and truly arrived. With it the RaptorLIFE team are seeing the fruits of their work with all the project actions.*

### Hen harrier monitoring

There were healthy clutch sizes at the successful nest sites, making all the hours of monitoring worthwhile.

### Invasive species control

Treatment of the invasive plant species, **Japanese Knotweed** is now complete for another year. This year has shown a dramatic reduction of the 300 road network sites and the 83.3km of riparian knotweed on the River Araglin and the River Blackwater. Many sites have now no sign of the virulent knotweed, whilst others have been drastically reduced. These sites will continue to be monitored and treated in the AfterLIFE stage of the project.

The infestation of the Upper Blackwater with **Himalayan balsam** is also showing the evidence of the many hours of balsam pulling, with a visible reduction. Work was carried on from the confluence of the Araglin to the Blackwater up to where the River Allow joins it.



*Original stand*



*Stand showing dramatic dieback*



*Stand show revegetation of native species*

## Project DVD

The project has captured some nice footage of the harriers for the Project DVD, so everyone can enjoy what a truly wonder bird the Hen harrier is. The DVD contains some drone footage of the project area, interviews with some of the project farmers and some of our actions on the ground. Keep an eye on our website and facebook page for the link to view it online once it becomes available.

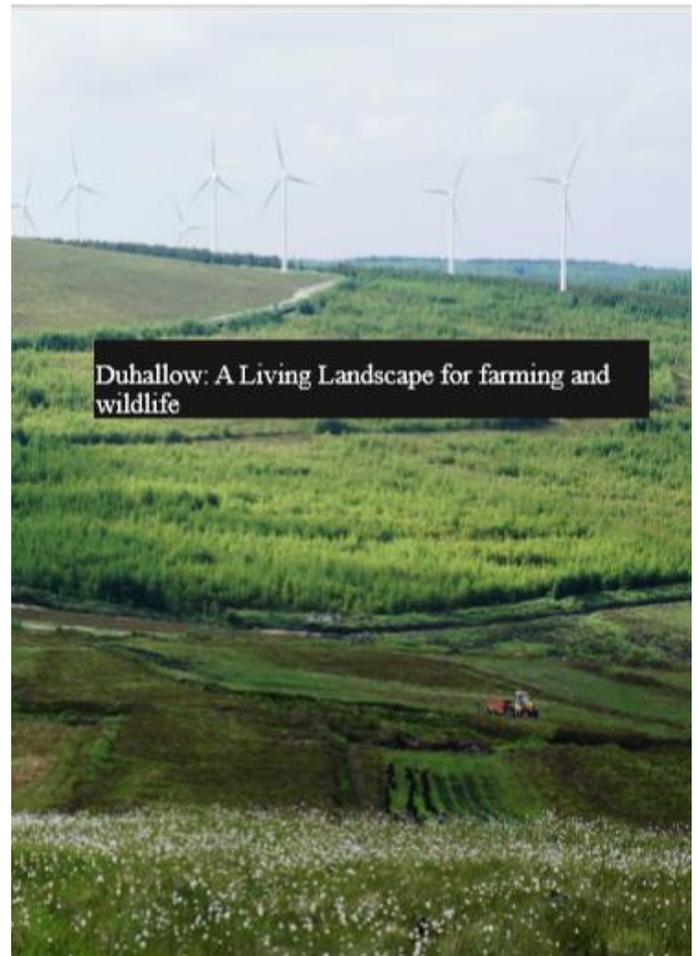
## End of Project Conference

The project is now preparing for a great line up of speakers at its end of project conference on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. With guest speakers from a variety of backgrounds: UCC, Birdwatch Ireland, NPWS, Kerry Co Co to some of the Project's farmers. There will be a line-up of some of the project team giving presentations on some of the project work: with Dr Allan Mee talking about our raptor and Hen harrier conservation work and outcomes, Dr Darren Reidy with news on our riparian actions and outcomes, also Tomasz Siekaniec discussing our community awareness and engagement.

The launch of the book 'Duhallow: A living landscape for farming and wildlife' will also take place on the day. This publication is a result of a survey of farmers in designated land, undertaken by RaptorLIFE through IRD Duhallow, thus giving the farmers a voice.

## Further information

Make sure to keep an eye out for future events hosted at IRD Duhallow in Newmarket. You can find out what's on by checking our Facebook and website pages.



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IRD Duhallow's LIFE projects would like to acknowledge and thank all of the landowners, supporters and volunteers for their assistance with the projects to date.

