

Tory Island Landowners: Call out for engagement and Capital Actions Proposal

The Breeding Waders EIP project aims to secure the remaining populations of Ireland's breeding waders and support their recovery through targeted landscape management and informed policy development. This five-year, €25 million national initiative is co-funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).

The Breeding Waders EIP Project is inviting additional expression of interest from commonage holders and private landowners on Tory Island.

Following multiple community consultations, the Breeding Waders EIP Project is proposing the following capital actions for Tory Island. These actions are designed to protect vulnerable wader populations during the 2026 breeding season and to support the local community in raising awareness of the island's unique avian fauna, particularly ground-nesting birds.

The proposed measures aim to reduce disturbance to wader birds during the breeding season, supporting successful breeding outcomes. They also seek to protect existing wet features, improve water table conditions where appropriate, raise awareness of breeding bird presence, and support ongoing habitat maintenance and enhancement on the island.

For the 2026 breeding season, the Breeding Waders EIP proposes the following actions on Tory Island to achieve the goals set out above:

- Temporary Fencing during the breeding season as outlined on the map below to reduce disturbances to nesting birds.
- Assessment of wetlands, existing drainage and habitat conditions in relevant areas on the island to determine further management actions.
- Explore the building of relevant infrastructure, i.e. bird hide. Location to be determined in collaboration with the local community.
- Information signage during the breeding season.

The selection of the above actions was informed and guided by the local community through previous meetings. These measures are designed to benefit wader populations while minimising potential impacts on residents.

The project will carry out formalised wader surveys during the breeding season, alongside habitat assessments. The findings from this work will inform any further actions relating to habitat and water management on Tory Island, where appropriate.

Collaborative conservation and community involvement are central to the work of the Breeding Waders EIP team. Interested landowners are encouraged to contact the Donegal Project Officer for further information on available farm plans. Feedback from residents on the proposed actions outlined above is also very welcome.

Contact details:

Alena Kunkel

Email: alena.kunkel@breedingwaders.ie

Phone: 0874902445



— Fence boundaries

0 0.5 1 Km



— Fence boundaries

0 0.15 0.3 Km

(proposed area for temporary fencing during the breeding season 2026, length of the fence: approximately 1.8km)