

A Groundwater Monitoring Station on your Land?



What is a groundwater monitoring station?

It is a collection of one to three vertical boreholes in the ground of varying depths installed using a drilling rig. Each borehole allows water from a specific level in the ground to enter it. Samples of water can then be collected from it and other monitoring equipment can be installed to see how the water table changes over time.



**British
Geological Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Catchment CARE
Community Actions for Resilient Ecosystems



Geological Survey

Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
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What is CatchmentCARE?

CatchmentCARE (Community Actions for Resilient Eco-systems) is a €14m project funded under the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme and aims to improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins across three cross-border catchments. To help achieve this, a network of 50 groundwater monitoring stations is being installed in the region. These will reveal how water underground travels through catchments and how best to improve freshwater quality. Knowing this can make a big difference to protecting the life in our rivers and improving the quality of the water we use.

How much land is required?

Once completed a borehole will take up no more than 6 square metres, as shown in the picture on the front of this leaflet. Each borehole will have a length of steel casing protruding less than knee height above the ground sealed with a tamper proof cap. The area around each station will be fenced off. Stations will be constructed with respect to existing land use. Normally this means installing them in the corners of fields or somewhere that is not going to impede the land owners.

How long do they take to install?

Each station can be constructed within a couple of weeks. This will be done in the summer months to avoid churning up ground and will avoid any fields being used for crops. Any ground disturbance will be reinstated.

How often will the stations be sampled?

Equipment will be installed that will be monitoring water levels all the time. This data will be collected remotely and only requires periodic visits to check the equipment is working. Samples will be collected four times per year but this frequency will reduce over the years to twice a year. Sampling will take about three hours to complete.

How long will the station remain for?

This project is funded to 2022, however it is hoped that this network will be a cross border asset, used to monitor groundwater for many years.

Are there any costs involved?

There will be no costs to landowners.

What are the benefits of having a station on your land?

All the information collected will be made available to you. This will help inform issues such as land drainage, fertiliser and pesticide usage and whether there is a viable groundwater source that you could tap in to. You will also be helping improve the condition of the water quality in the river catchment and help safeguard it for future generations. You will also be helping local children with studying the natural environment.



Interested?

If you would be willing to consider having a groundwater monitoring station installed on your land and would like further information, please contact:
Taly Hunter Williams, GSI on: +353 (0)1 678 2780 or +353 (0)87 993 8901,
or **Paul Wilson, BGS** on (028) 9038 8469