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Meteorological and Hydrological Data Report

Comprehensive Analysis of Publicly Available Weather, Rainfall, River, Groundwater, and Tidal Data Information

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Issue and Revision Record

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Executive Summary

Meteorological and Hydrological Data for Flood Awareness in Ireland

Ireland has numerous providers of hydrometric (i.e. water related) and meteorological (i.e. weather related) data, each supplying information that supports flood-risk awareness and management. These include national agencies such as Met Éireann, the OPW, the EPA, and local authorities, as well as crowdsourced platforms such as Met Éireann's WOW. This range of sources gives users access to real-time weather observations and rainfall measurements alongside river, groundwater, and tide levels. However, the number of providers can make it difficult to locate and use the most relevant information, as data is spread across multiple platforms with different formats and access points.

Met Éireann provides comprehensive meteorological observations and forecasts, while the OPW and EPA specialise in hydrological and water-level data. Local authorities and the TII network contribute additional rainfall and weather-station information, and crowdsourced platforms such as WOW improve local data coverage.

This document identifies the various data provider platforms and provides links to the data. It explains how the data collected from these different providers can be effectively used to enhance flood awareness and preparedness.

Overall, the document underscores how the integration of professional and crowdsourced data points—including rainfall, river levels, groundwater, and tides—empowers communities to detect early warning signs and implement preventive flood defences effectively.

Data limitations and disclaimer

The data sources referenced in this report are provided by third parties and are publicly accessible at the time of writing. Availability, timeliness, accuracy, calibration status, and presentation may change without notice. Users should consult each provider's guidance and notes on limitations, including quality flags and operational status of stations.

This report is for general flood-awareness and situational context only. It does not replace official warnings, professional judgement, or emergency management procedures. Where decisions may have safety, operational, or legal implications, rely on official communications and the relevant competent authority

1.0 Meteorological Data

Regularly reviewing meteorological (i.e. weather related) observations and forecasts is an important part of flood-risk awareness. By tracking rainfall predictions, storm warnings, and temperature trends, people can anticipate weather conditions that may contribute to flooding. For example, forecasts showing prolonged heavy rain or intense downpours can indicate an increased likelihood of rising river levels, saturated ground, and elevated tides. When rainfall accumulates faster than the ground or drainage systems can absorb, groundwater may rise, rivers can swell, and tidal surges may increase flood risk. Monitoring these interconnected factors—rainfall, river levels, groundwater, and tides—helps communities and authorities recognise warning signs early and take preventive action, such as deploying flood defences.

This document outlines the various data provider platforms available and provides links to the data. It explains how the data collected from these different providers can be effectively used to enhance flood awareness and preparedness. It is important to note that many of the data providers also present details as to the limitations on the data provided (e.g. the accuracy of the data, limitations on calibration, restrictions on the usage of the data, etc).

1.1 Weather Observations

1.1.1 Met Éireann Observed Data Points - www.met.ie/latest-reports/observations (Select appropriate location from Map)

Met Éireann operates a comprehensive network of weather stations strategically located across Ireland to monitor and record meteorological conditions. These stations measure key variables such as temperature, rainfall, wind speed, humidity, and atmospheric pressure, providing high-quality data for both real-time observation and long-term climate analysis. The information gathered forms the backbone of Ireland's official weather reports and forecasts, ensuring that the public and authorities can access reliable meteorological data.

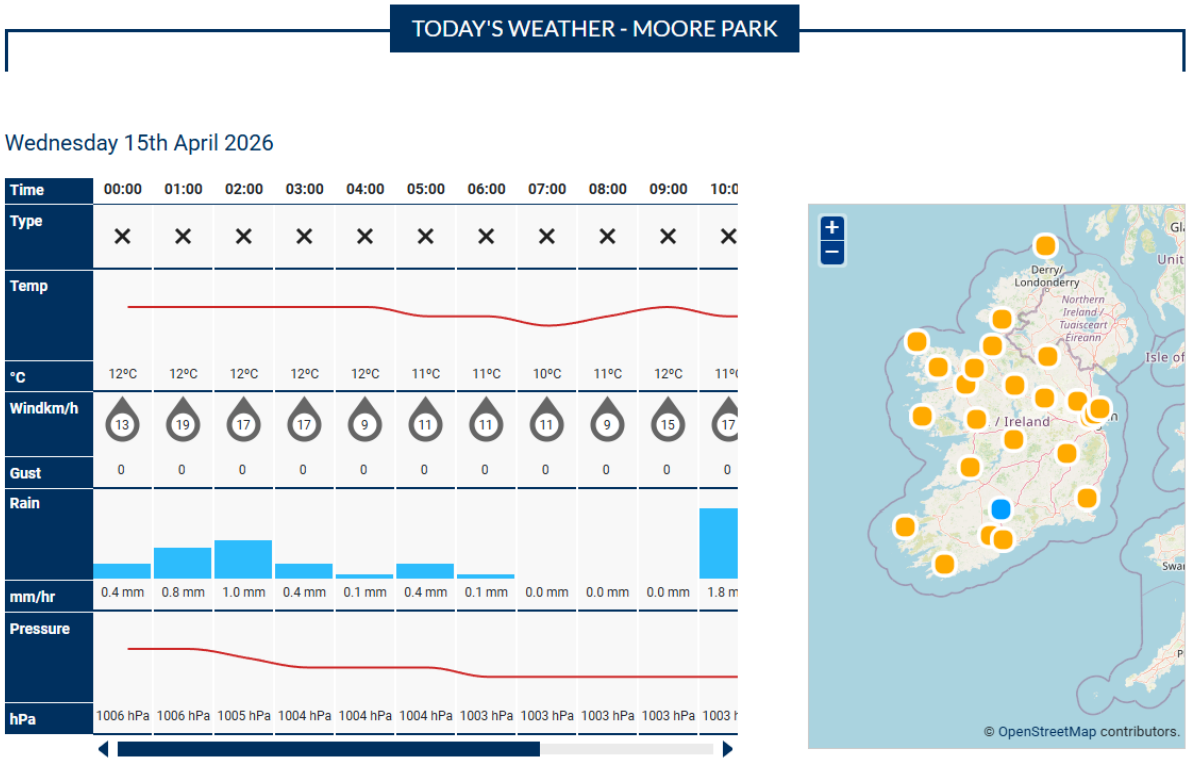

Figure 1 – Met Éireann observed data points (screenshot)

1.1.2 Met Éireann – WOW Crowd Observations Data Points (retiring in 2026)

https://wow.met.ie/

WOW (wow.met.ie) is Met Éireann's Weather Observations Website—a platform that allows members of the public, schools, and amateur meteorologists to share real-time observations from across Ireland. WOW displays data such as temperature, rainfall, wind speed, and atmospheric pressure collected from personal weather stations and other contributors. This crowdsourced information supplements official observations and can provide a more detailed picture of local conditions, which is useful for flood awareness and community monitoring.

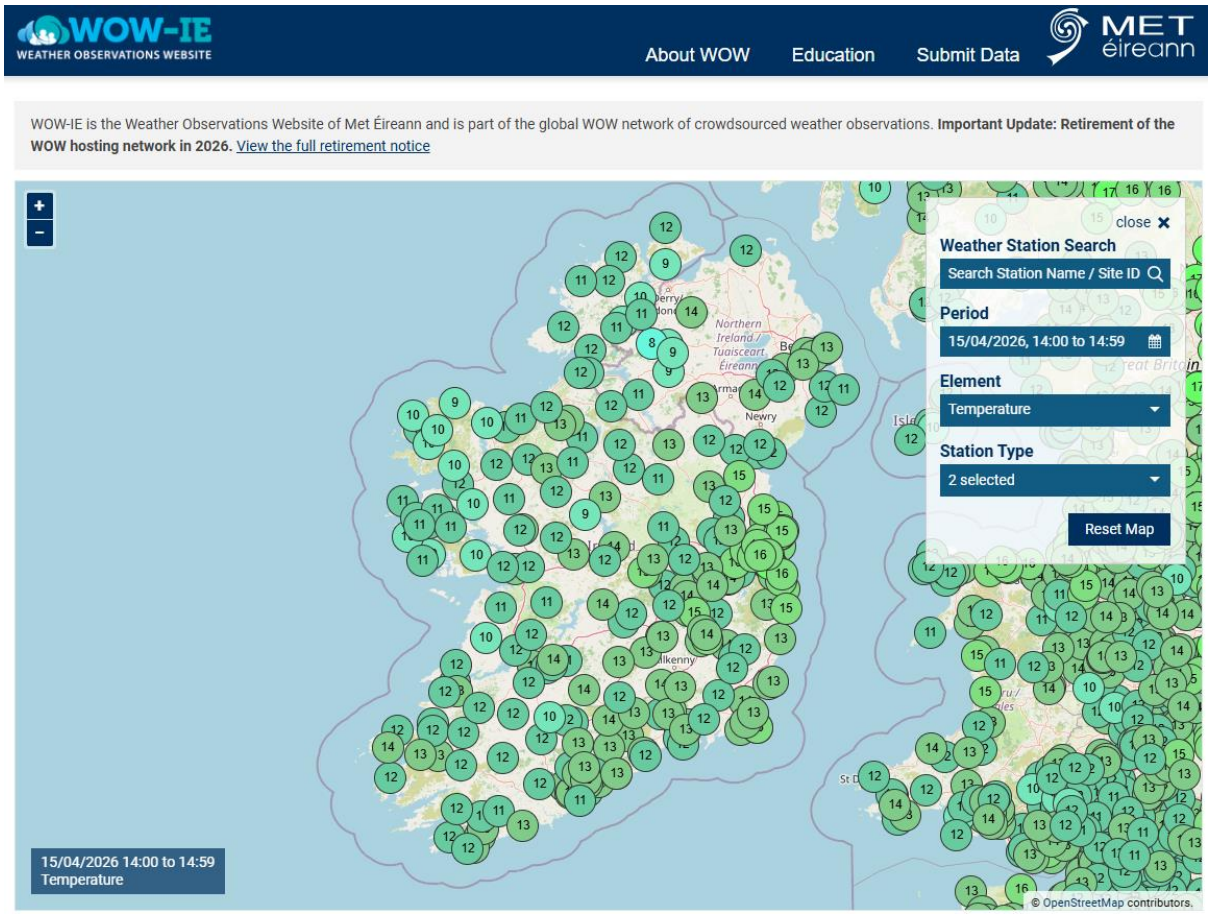

Figure 2 – Met Éireann WOW crowd observations data points (screenshot)

1.2 Weather Forecast Information and Charts

1.2.1 Met Éireann Warnings and Advisories Map - www.met.ie/warnings-today.html

The Met Éireann Warnings and Advisories Map features an interactive map of Ireland designed to provide users with up-to-date information on weather warnings and advisories. Users can click on different regions of the map to view specific alerts—such as warnings for heavy rainfall, wind, or other severe weather events—currently affecting those areas. The interface makes it easy to see which counties or regions are under advisory, allowing individuals, communities, and local authorities to quickly access relevant details and prepare accordingly.

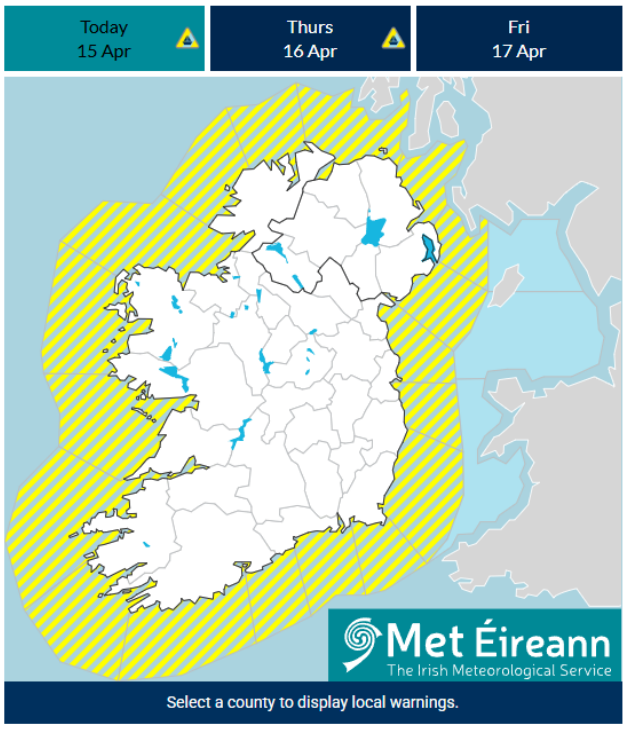

Figure 3 – Met Éireann warnings and advisories map (screenshot)

1.2.2 Met Éireann Forecast Charts

24-hour precipitation charts - www.met.ie/forecasts/ensemble-maps/24-hour-precipitation

24-hour precipitation ensemble forecast probability maps are generated by running multiple weather model simulations (ensembles), which provide a range of possible outcomes for precipitation. These maps display the likelihood of different rainfall scenarios occurring over the next 24 hours. By analysing these outcomes, the maps show areas where there is a high or low probability of receiving certain amounts of rain (or snow) helping users to assess the risk of heavy rainfall or potential flooding in specific regions.

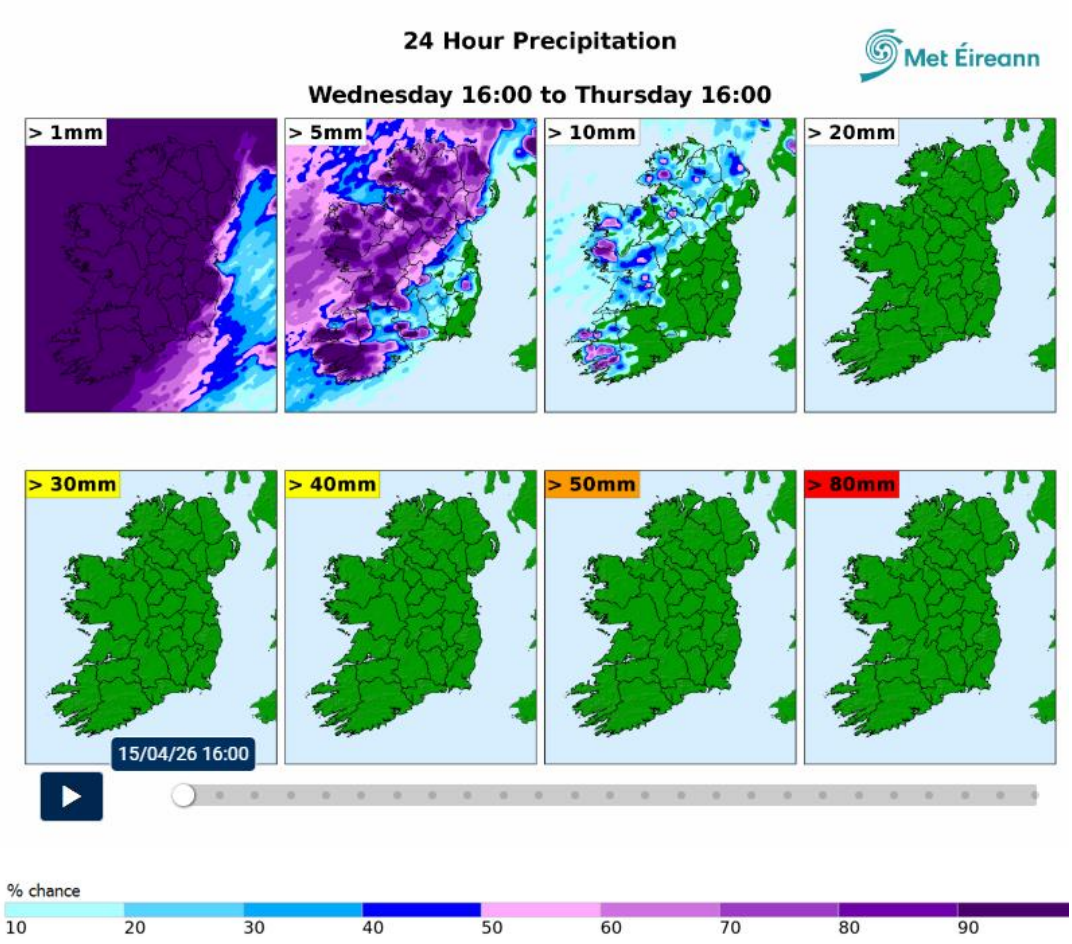

Figure 4 – Met Éireann 24-hour precipitation charts (screenshot)

1.2.3 ECMWF Forecast Charts – Medium Range (15 days)

https://charts.ecmwf.int/

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) is an international organisation that produces detailed forecasts up to 15 days ahead. ECMWF uses advanced numerical models and large volumes of meteorological data to predict temperature, precipitation, wind, and other atmospheric conditions across Europe and globally. These forecasts are widely used by meteorologists and emergency services to anticipate severe weather, including storms and heavy rainfall, and therefore support flood-risk management.

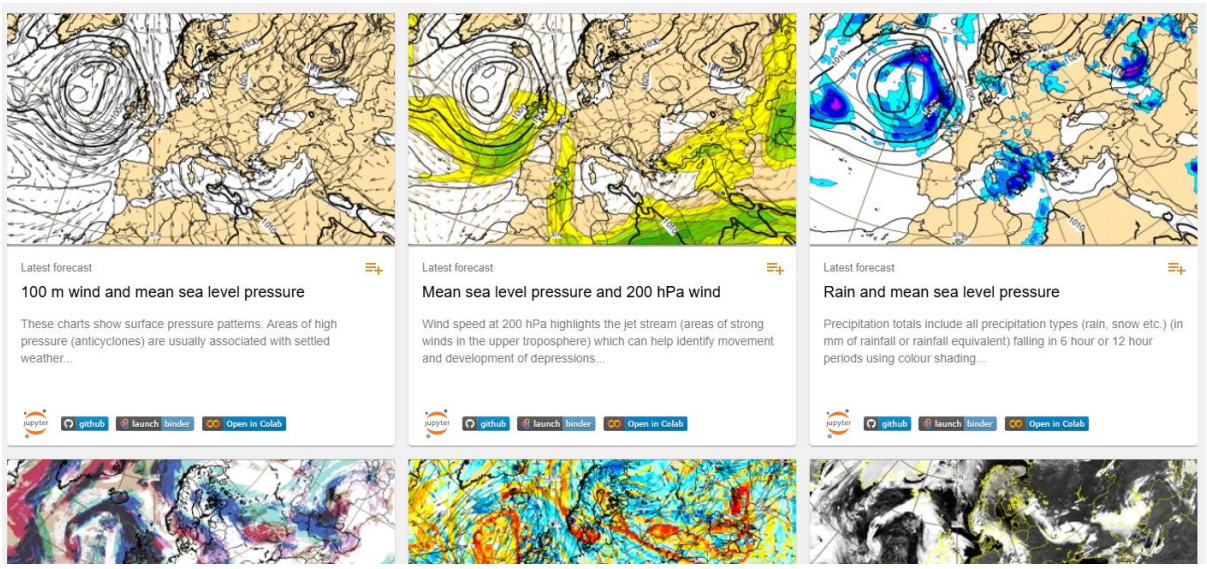

Figure 5 – ECMWF forecast charts (medium range) (screenshot)

2.0 Precipitation Depth/Rainfall

Rainfall data is central to flood awareness and preparedness. Monitoring rainfall intensity and accumulation—particularly over 24-hour periods—helps identify patterns that can precede rising river levels and surface flooding. Access to timely, accurate rainfall information supports practical decisions, such as protecting property, planning safer travel routes, and taking early action to reduce risk.

2.1 Rainfall Observations

2.1.1 OPW HydroData - https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Rainfall?period=P7D&filter=%7B%7D

The OPW HydroData link provides access to rainfall gauge data from stations across Ireland. By clicking into each station on the map, users can view detailed information on rainfall intensities and total accumulations for various time frames, including weekly, monthly, and yearly periods. This interactive feature allows individuals to monitor local rainfall patterns and track trends over time. The data is presented in Heat Maps which is a data visualisation tool that uses colour to represent the magnitude or density of values in a dataset.

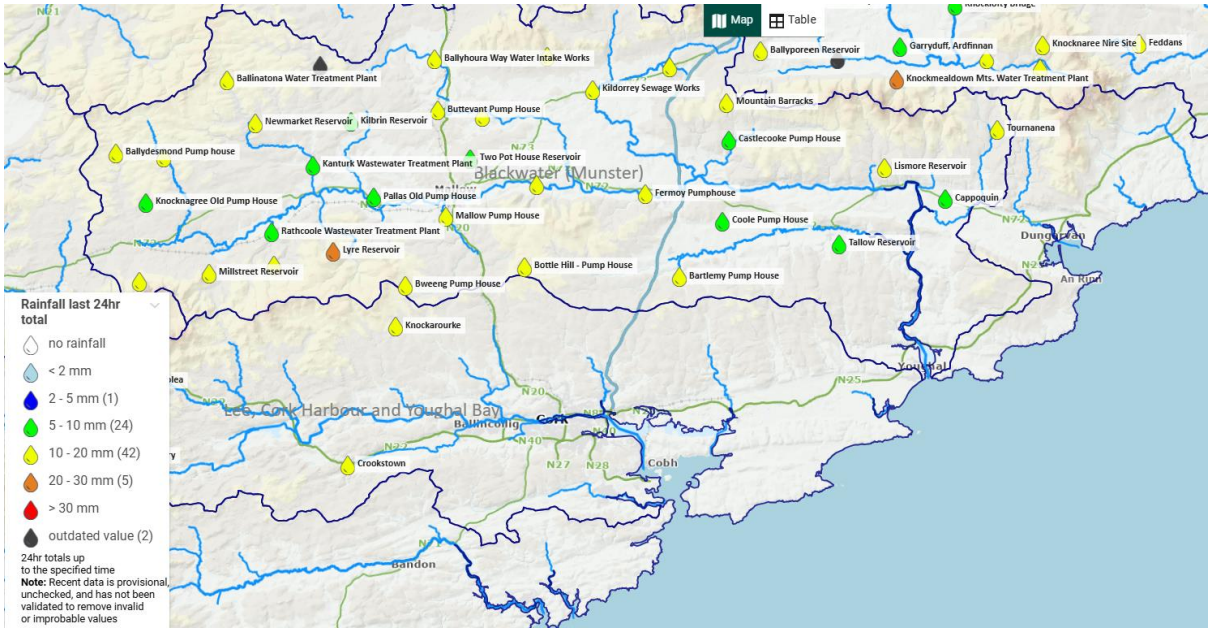

Figure 6 – OPW HydroData rainfall heat map overview (screenshot)

2.1.2 Cork County Council Weather Stations- WeatherLink Air Quality & Temperature Map **and** **https://wow.met.ie/**

Cork County Council has procured and installed weather stations at six primary schools in and around the Owenacurra catchment. The locations (with links to the available information) are:

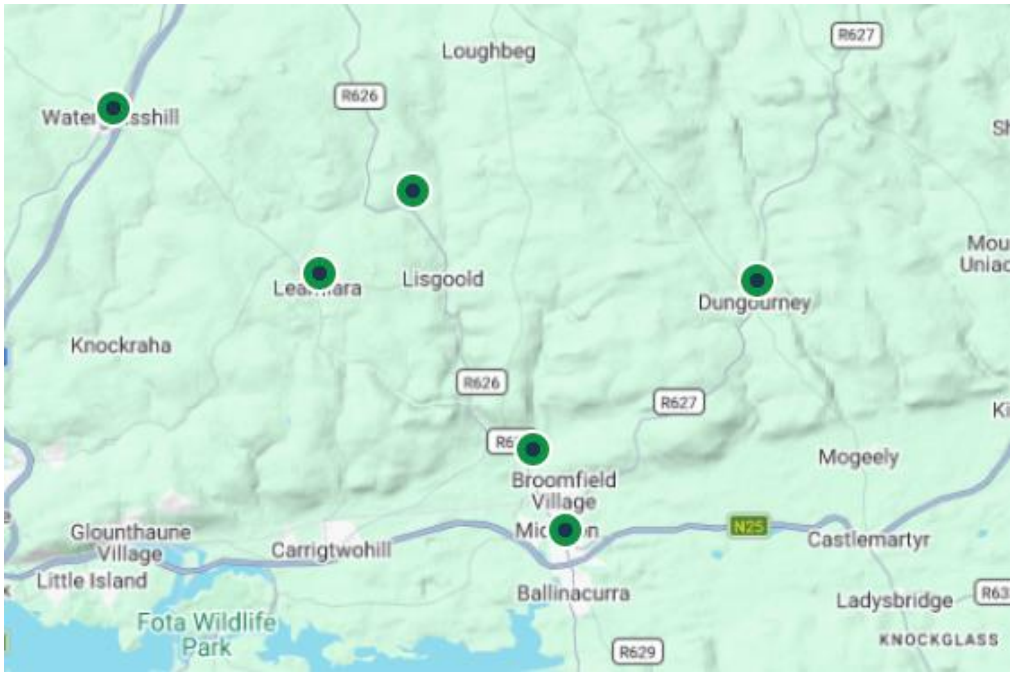

Figure 7 – Cork County Council school weather stations (map)

1. Watergrasshill National School Weather Station Weather Conditions - Watergrasshill National School
2. Leamlara National School Weather Station Weather Conditions – Leamlara
3. Ballincurrig National School Weather Station Weather Conditions - Ballincurrig NS
4. Dungourney National School Weather Station Weather Conditions – Dungourney
5. Midleton ETNS Weather Station Weather Conditions - Midleton Educate Together National School
6. Midleton CBS NS Weather Station Weather Conditions - Midleton CBS National School

2.2.3 TII Weather Stations and Rain Gauges - https://www.tiitraffic.ie/@-8.55057,51.95682,10?show=roadReports,roadwork,weatherWarningsAreaEvents,stationsAlert,stationsNormal,mileMarkers

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) operates a national network of weather stations that provides live data on precipitation and other meteorological variables via the link above. Access to near real-time rainfall information supports situational awareness and can help inform timely decisions during heavy rainfall and potential flood events.

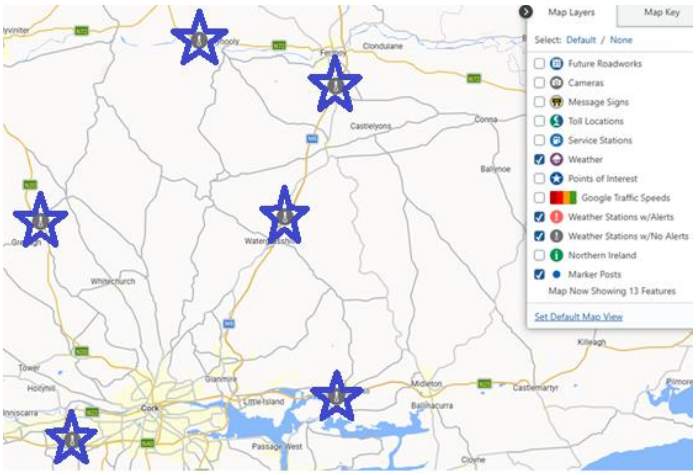

Figure 8 – TII weather stations and rain gauges (screenshot)

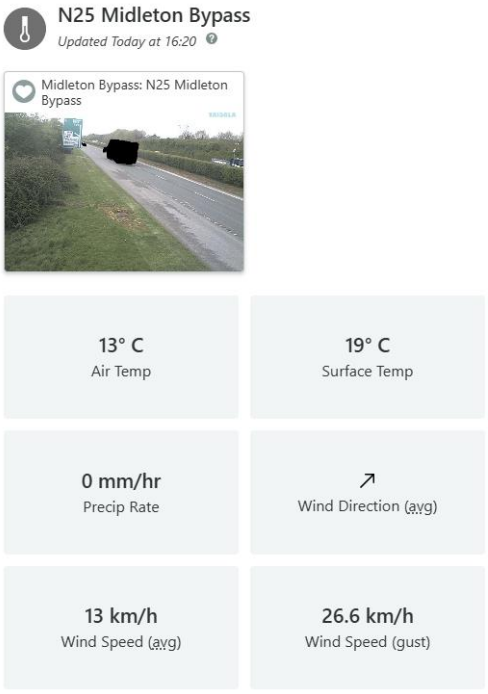

Figure 9 – TII station detail / Information panel (screenshot)

3.0 River Level

Monitoring river levels is vital for raising awareness about flooding, as it provides real-time information on how close water bodies are to breaching their banks. By regularly tracking water level data from gauges situated at key points along rivers, such as those listed for Ballyedmond (on the Owenacurra river) and the Dungourney river, patterns can be observed that indicate rising trends. When the river level approaches or exceeds threshold values historically associated with past floods, or when there is a rapid increase following heavy rainfall, this signals a heightened risk. Analysing these readings alongside recent precipitation data allows individuals and authorities to anticipate potential flooding and take necessary protective measures.

3.1 Observed River Levels

3.1.1 OPW HydroData- https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel?period=P7D

The OPW HydroData website now offers an improved user interface, integrating raw data from waterlevel.ie. This upgrade enables enhanced statistical analysis and gives users access to a wider range of observation data and visualisation tools. These tools include colour coded points to provide a visual overview of river levels across an area at a glance.

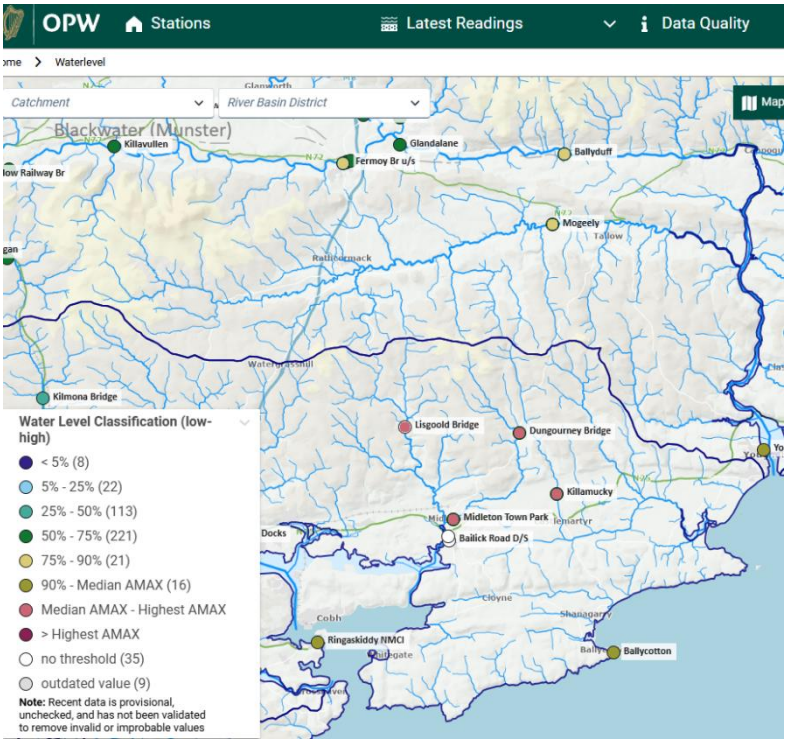

Figure 10 – OPW HydroData Water Level heat map overview (screenshot)

Available Water Level Gauges (East Cork Area):

1. 19117 Midleton Town Park- Dungourney (Office of Public Works)
2. 19119 Lisgoold Bridge- Owenacurra (Office of Public Works)
3. 19116 Dungourney Bridge- Dungourney (Office of Public Works)
4. 19115 Killamucky- Kilta (Office of Public Works)
5. 19165 Bailick Road U/S (Office of Public Works)
6. 19166 Bailick Road D/S (Office of Public Works)

3.1.2 OPW Waterlevel.ie- https://waterlevel.ie

Waterlevel.ie provides a simpler, station-focused view of OPW water-level data. It can be useful for quickly checking current levels and recent trends at individual gauges, while HydroData provides additional analysis and visualisation options.

Available Water Level Gauges (East Cork Area):

1. 19020 Ballyedmond- Owenacurra (Midleton) (Realtime waterlevel)
2. 19118 Ballyedmond Backup- Owenacurra (Realtime waterlevel)
3. 19119 Lisgoold Bridge- Owenacurra (Realtime waterlevel)
4. 19117 Midleton Town Park- Dungourney (Realtime waterlevel)
5. 19116 Dungourney Bridge- Dungourney (Realtime waterlevel)
6. 19115 Killamucky- Kilta (Realtime waterlevel)
7. 19165 Bailick Road U/S (Realtime waterlevel)
8. 19166 Bailick Road D/S (Realtime waterlevel)

3.1.3 EPA Hydronet- EPA - WISKI Web Public

The EPA Hydronet platform offers a user-friendly interface that brings together raw data from multiple sources, such as ESB, GSI, Marine Institute, Waterways Ireland, and EPA monitoring stations.

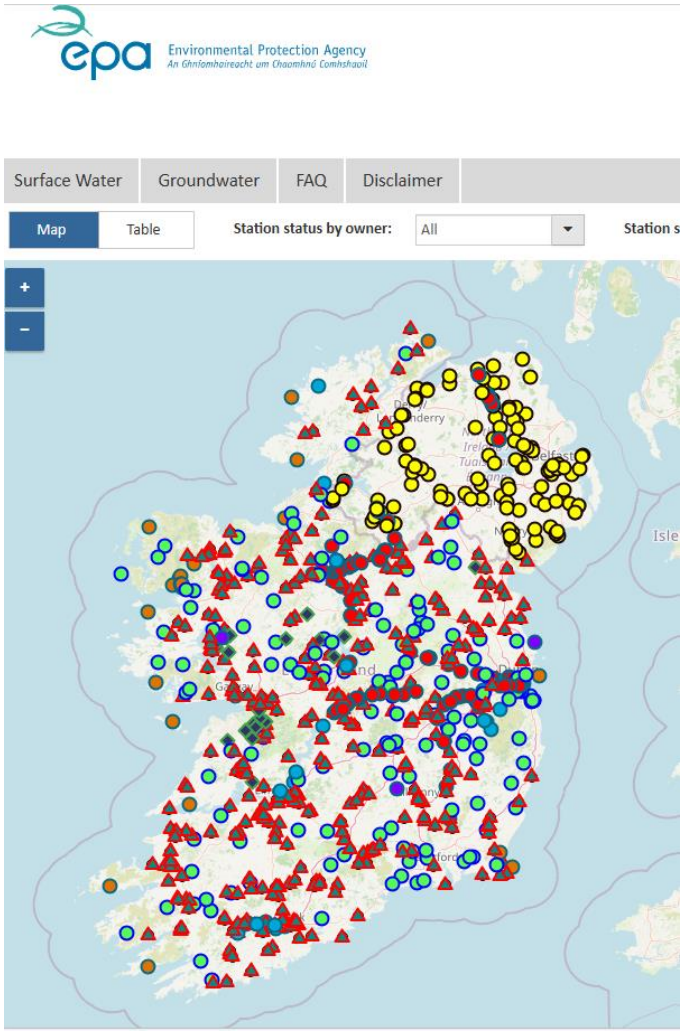

Figure 11 – EPA Hydronet water levels interface (screenshot)

4.0 River Flow Data

River flow data measures the volume of water moving through a river channel over a set period, typically expressed in cubic metres per second (m^3/s), whereas river level data simply records the height of the water surface at a specific point. The distinction is important for flood risk management, as flow data reveals how much water is actually passing downstream, helping authorities to assess the potential for flooding more accurately than with level data alone.

4.1 Observed Flow

4.1.1 EPA Hydronet

https://epawebapp.epa.ie/hydronet

The EPA Hydronet site presents comprehensive flow information for a network of monitoring stations across Ireland, allowing users to access up-to-date data on river flows nationwide. In County Cork, for example, flow data is available for stations such as Ballyedmond on the Owenacurra River and various locations on the Blackwater River (Munster) and the River Lee. These sites provide valuable insight into local river conditions, supporting flood risk management and environmental monitoring efforts throughout the region.

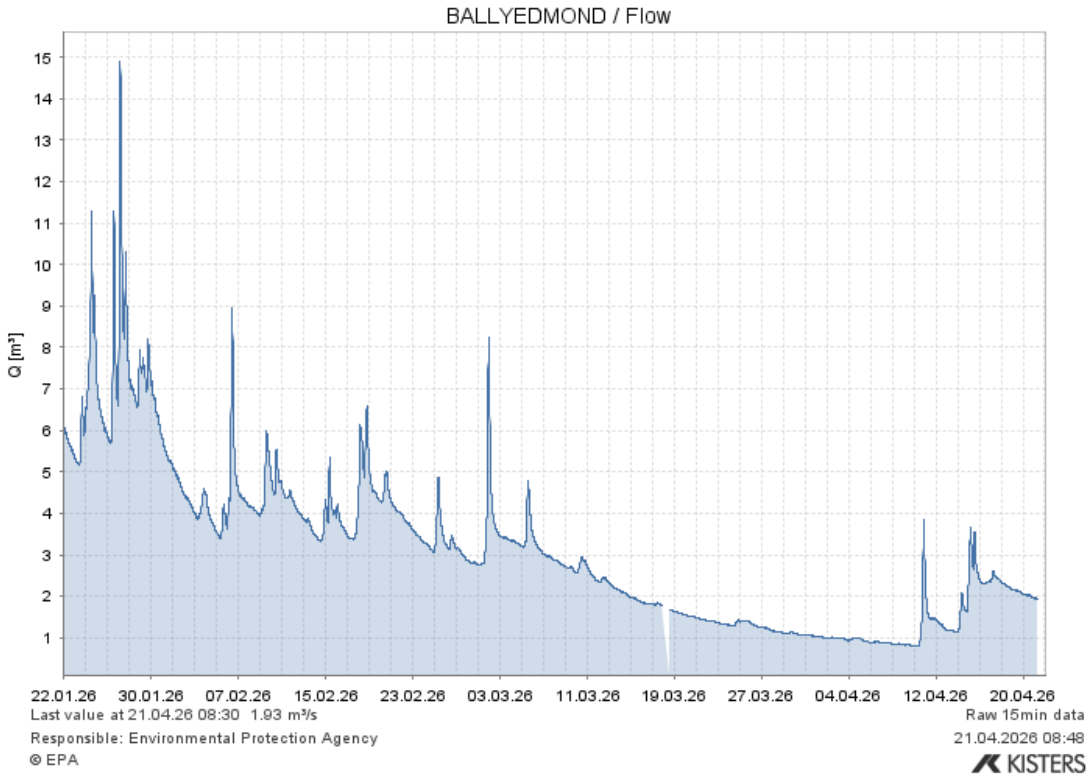

Figure 12 – EPA Hydronet Observed flow (screenshot)

4.1.2 OPW HydroData

https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Flow?period=P7D

The OPW provides observed flow information for a range of OPW-owned sites where sufficient flow gaugings have been collected. Spot flow gaugings are performed by OPW staff, who visit the site to measure the river flow and match this measurement with the current water level, thereby creating a relationship curve between flow and level. Once this curve is established, observed flow data are published and made available on the

OPW HydroData website, enabling users to access reliable flow information for these monitored locations.

5.0 Groundwater Level

Monitoring groundwater levels is essential for raising flood awareness because it offers crucial insight into the behaviour of water below the ground surface, which can contribute to flooding, especially after prolonged periods of rainfall. When groundwater levels rise significantly, particularly approaching or exceeding historical thresholds, it indicates that the soil and aquifers are saturated and less able to absorb additional rainfall. By examining trends in groundwater data—such as consistently high readings or rapid increases following heavy precipitation—individuals and authorities can recognise signs of increased flood risk. These patterns signal that the ground is unable to soak up more water, making surface flooding or rising river levels more likely.

5.1 Groundwater Observations

Available Data Sources:

5.1.1 EPA Hydronet-

https://epawebapp.epa.ie/hydronet/#Groundwater

Groundwater Gauges (Midleton catchment):

Midleton Rugby Club (https://epawebapp.epa.ie/hydronet/#BH104)

The EPA operates and publishes data from a network of over 300 groundwater gauges across Ireland, providing extensive coverage of subsurface water conditions nationwide. Groundwater monitoring is invaluable for flood risk management because it helps to detect early signs of rising water tables, which can signal that the ground is becoming saturated and less able to absorb further rainfall.

6.0 Tide/Coastal Level

Tide information is available from several sources, including the Office of Public Works (OPW), the Irish National Tide Gauge Network, and the Commissioners of Irish Lights. These organisations publish tide tables and real-time tidal observations, supporting monitoring and planning for changing coastal water levels. The Marine Institute and Met Éireann also provide marine information and forecasts relevant to tidal and coastal conditions.

For official and reliable tide predictions, you can consult the following sources:

6.1 Tidal Observations

6.1.1 OPW Observed Tide Gauges and Data

The OPW operates and publishes data from approximately 10 tide gauges across Cork. The gauges in East Cork include:

1. 18061- Youghal Quays: https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/stations/station/197284/Youghal%20Quay/stationInfo
2. 19068- Ballycotton: Https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/stations/station/161492/Ballycotton/stationInfo
3. 19165- Bailick Road U/S: Https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/stations/station/208017/Bailick%20Road%20U%2FS/stationInfo
4. 19166- Bailick Road D/S: https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel/station/208012/Bailick%20Road%20D%2FS/stationInfo

6.1.2 Marine Institute Tide Data

The Marine Institute operates and publishes data from approximately four tide gauges across Cork. The gauge in East Cork is at Ballycotton Harbour - https://www.marine.ie/site-area/data-services/real-time-observations/tidal-observations-1?instrumentname=Ballycotton%20Harbour

6.2 Tidal Predictions

6.2.1 Predicted Tide Tables

A full list of tidal predictions for County Cork is available at: County Cork Tide Times, High & Low Tide Table, Fishing Times | IE

Tidal Predictions for Midleton: https://www.tideschart.com/Ireland/Munster/County-Cork/Midleton/Weekly/

Tidal Predictions for Whitegate, Co. Cork-
https://www.tideschart.com/Ireland/Munster/County-Cork/Whitegate/Weekly/

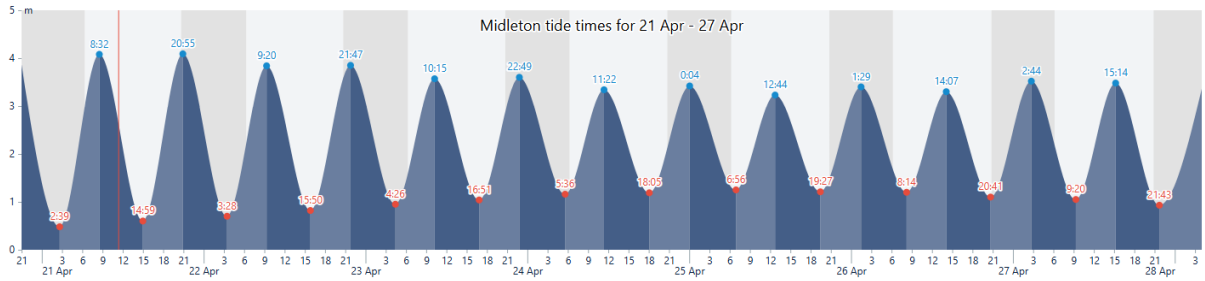

Figure 13 – Tide table example (screenshot)

Tides can be predicted by using harmonic analysis, a method where the complex movement of the tides is broken down into smaller wave patterns caused mainly by the Moon and the Sun. By adding up these wave patterns, scientists can accurately forecast when high and low tides will happen at different places and times. Spring tides occur when the Sun, Moon, and Earth are in a line, creating especially high and low tides. Neap tides happen when the Sun and Moon are at right angles to the Earth, resulting in milder and less extreme tides. This approach helps us understand and plan for the regular changes in sea level.

Spring tides have a significant impact on flood risk because they produce the highest high tides and the lowest low tides, resulting in greater fluctuations in sea level. When spring tides coincide with storm surges or heavy rainfall, the likelihood of coastal flooding increases as water can inundate low-lying areas. Monitoring tides is crucial in flood risk management because it allows authorities to anticipate periods of heightened risk and plan protective measures.

6.2 Wave Forecast

6.2.2 Met Éireann Wave Forecasts

https://www.met.ie/forecasts/marine-inland-lakes/waves

Met Éireann and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ECMWF | Charts both provide 7-day wave forecast information, offering detailed predictions of wave height, direction, and period for coastal areas. These forecasts are based on advanced meteorological models that incorporate wind, atmospheric pressure, and sea conditions to deliver accurate and timely updates.

Wave forecast data is particularly valuable in flood risk management because it helps authorities anticipate periods of increased wave activity that may coincide with high tides or storm surges. By understanding when large waves are expected, planners can better prepare for potential coastal flooding.

6.3 Wave Buoy Observations

6.3.1 Commissioners for Irish Lights

The Commissioners for Irish Lights publish lighthouse monitoring information and real-time wave buoy observations: https://cilpublic.cil.ie/MetOcean/MetOcean.aspx

The Commissioners for Irish Lights provide real-time wave buoy information, including data on wave height, wave period, and wave direction. These buoys are strategically positioned around the Irish coast and continuously transmit measurements that reflect current sea conditions. The information is accessible to the public, supporting a variety of maritime activities.

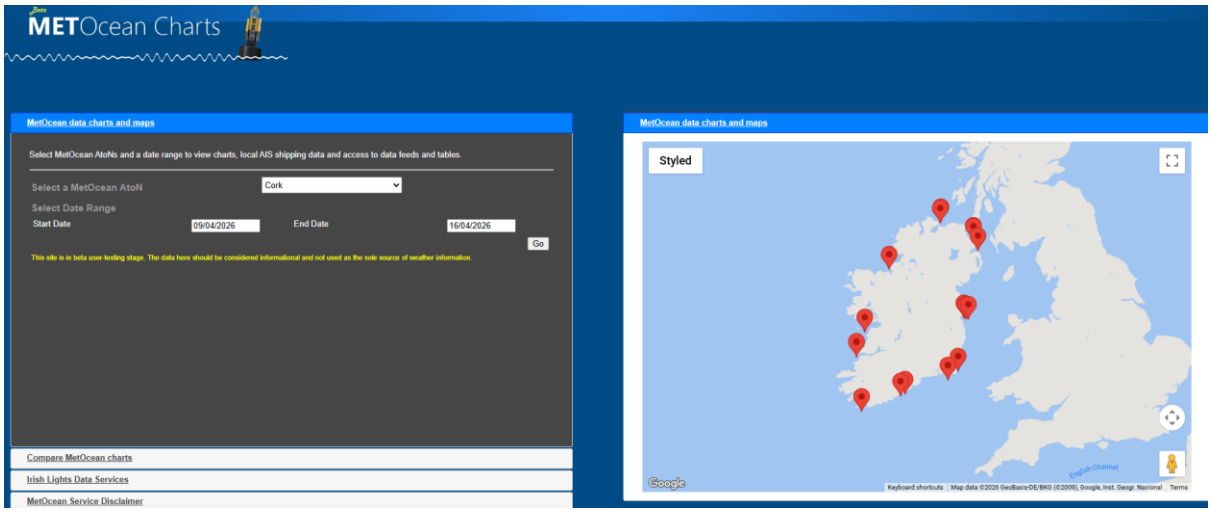

Figure 14 – Commissioners for Irish Lights MetOcean interface (screenshot)

7.0 Additional Supports

7.1 MapAlerter - www.mapalerter.ie

MapAlerter (mapalerter.ie) is a free online platform that allows users to subscribe to real-time alerts and updates on a variety of local issues, including severe weather, road closures, and other public safety notices.

The service displays geographically referenced information, allowing users to view alerts for specific areas on interactive maps. In the context of flood risk management, MapAlerter helps the public stay informed about potential or ongoing flooding. By setting up notifications and accessing up-to-date information on affected areas, stakeholders can take proactive measures to reduce flood impacts and enhance community preparedness.

Setting up river level alerts:

To set up a river level alert on MapAlerter, visit www.mapalerter.ie and create a free account, or log in if you already have one. Once logged in, go to the alert subscription section and select the relevant river or geographic area you wish to monitor. You can then customise your alert preferences, setting a river level height to track and your preferred notification method (SMS, email, or push notification).

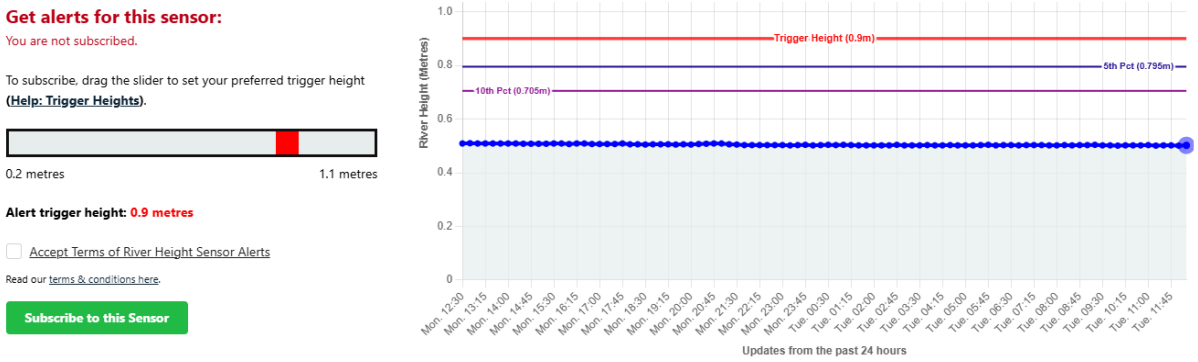

Figure 15 – MapAlerter.ie alert subscription (screenshot)

After saving your settings, MapAlerter will automatically notify you when river level thresholds are reached and when flood-risk information is updated for your selected area. This helps you stay informed and take timely action as river conditions change.

Appendix A – Data sets and links referenced

This appendix summarises the data sources referenced in this report and the corresponding access links.

Data set / source	Link	Type
Met Éireann – Observed Data Points	www.met.ie/latest-reports/observations	Weather observations
Met Éireann – WOW Crowd Observations (retiring in 2026)	https://wow.met.ie/	Crowdsourced weather observations
Met Éireann – Warnings & Advisories Map	www.met.ie/warnings-today.html	Weather warnings
Met Éireann – 24-hour precipitation charts (ensemble maps)	www.met.ie/forecasts/ensemble-maps/24-hour-precipitation	Weather forecast (precipitation)
ECMWF – Forecast charts (medium range, 15 days)	https://charts.ecmwf.int/	Weather forecast
OPW HydroData – Rainfall overview (heat map)	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Rainfall?period=P7D&filter=%7B%7D	Rainfall observations
Cork County Council – Weather stations (WeatherLink map)	WeatherLink Air Quality & Temperature Map	Local weather observations
Watergrasshill National School – Weather Station	Weather Conditions – Watergrasshill National School	Local weather observations (school station)
Leamlara National School – Weather Station	Weather Conditions – Leamlara	Local weather observations (school station)
Ballincurrig National School – Weather Station	Weather Conditions – Ballincurrig NS	Local weather observations (school station)
Dungourney National School – Weather Station	Weather Conditions – Dungourney	Local weather observations (school station)
Midleton Educate Together National School (ETNS) – Weather Station	Weather Conditions – Midleton Educate Together National School	Local weather observations (school station)
Midleton CBS National School – Weather Station	Weather Conditions – Midleton CBS National School	Local weather observations

		(school station)
TII Traffic – Weather stations & rain gauges	https://www.tiitraffic.ie/@-8.55057,51.95682,10?show=roadReports,roadwork,weatherWarningsAreaEvents,stationsAlert,stationsNormal,mileMarkers	Weather observations (roads network)
OPW HydroData – Water level overview	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel?period=P7D	River level observations
OPW HydroData – Water level station (Midleton Town Park)	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel/station/226484/Midleton%20Town%20Park/Waterlevel?period=P7D	River level (station)
OPW HydroData – Water level station (Lisgoold Bridge)	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel/station/230163/Lisgoold%20Bridge/Waterlevel?period=P7D	River level (station)
OPW HydroData – Water level station (Dungourney Bridge)	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel/station/226482/Dungourney%20Bridge/Waterlevel?period=P7D	River level (station)
OPW HydroData – Water level station (Killamucky)	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel/station/226128/Killamucky/Waterlevel?period=P7D	River level (station)
OPW HydroData – Water level station (Bailick Road U/S)	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel/station/208017/Bailick%20Road%20U%2FS/Waterlevel?period=P7D	River level (station)
OPW HydroData – Water level station (Bailick Road D/S)	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel/station/208012/Bailick%20Road%20D%2FS/Waterlevel?period=P7D	River level (station)
OPW Waterlevel.ie (station view)	https://waterlevel.ie	River/tide observations
OPW Waterlevel.ie– Water level station (Ballyedmond)	https://waterlevel.ie/0000019020/0001/week/	River level (station)
OPW Waterlevel.ie– Water level station (Ballyedmond Backup)	https://waterlevel.ie/0000019118	River level (station)
EPA Hydronet / WISKI Web Public – Water levels	EPA - WISKI Web Public	River level observations
EPA Hydronet – Observed flow	https://epawebapp.epa.ie/hydronet	River flow observations

OPW HydroData – Flow overview	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Flow?period=P7D	River flow observations
EPA Hydronet – Groundwater	https://epawebapp.epa.ie/hydronet/#Groundwater	Groundwater observations
EPA Hydronet – Groundwater gauge (BH104, Midleton Rugby Club)	https://epawebapp.epa.ie/hydronet/#BH104	Groundwater (station)
OPW HydroData – Tide gauge station info (Youghal Quay)	https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/stations/station/197284/Youghal%20Quay/stationInfo	Tide observations (station info)
OPW HydroData – Tide gauge station info (Ballycotton)	Https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/stations/station/161492/Ballycotton/stationInfo	Tide observations (station info)
Marine Institute – Tidal observations (Ballycotton Harbour)	https://www.marine.ie/…Ballycotton%20Harbour	Tide observations
Tideschart – County Cork tide times (full list)	County Cork Tide Times, High & Low Tide Table, Fishing Times | IE	Tide predictions
Tideschart – Midleton weekly tide predictions	https://www.tideschart.com/…/Midleton/Weekly/	Tide predictions
Tideschart – Whitegate weekly tide predictions	https://www.tideschart.com/…/Whitegate/Weekly/	Tide predictions
Met Éireann – Wave forecasts	https://www.met.ie/forecasts/marine-inland-lakes/waves	Marine forecast
ECMWF – Medium wave period (product page)	ECMWF | Charts	Marine forecast
Commissioners for Irish Lights – MetOcean (wave buoy observations)	https://cilpublic.cil.ie/MetOcean/MetOcean.aspx	Wave buoy observations
MapAlerter – alerts subscription	www.mapalerter.ie	Alerts / notifications