

Hen Harrier Project — Results-Based Agri-Environment Payments in Six Irish Special Protection Areas

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Ireland

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Ireland's largest European Innovation Partnership paid 1,600+ farmers on 46,000+ ha in six hen harrier SPAs by annual habitat scorecard, plus a population bonus. Breeding pairs held near 62, but recruitment and forestry pressure persist.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-10-05

[Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine \(Ireland\) / Hen Harrier Project EIP](#) — accessed 2026-10-05

[CAP Network Ireland — Final report](#) — accessed 2026-10-05

[Irish Wildlife Trust — critique](#) — accessed 2026-10-05

[Hen Harrier Project](#) — accessed 2026-10-05

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