



National Rural Network

Commonage





## What is a Commonage?

Commonage is land owned by more than one person. Typically each shareholder will own a fraction of the entire area, with grazing allocations typically made based on the percentage share. Over the years many commonages have been split up among shareholders. However, some 421,287 hectares of commonage still exist in Ireland (Census of Agriculture 2020, Preliminary Results).

Much of the commonage throughout Ireland is used for grazing, with many areas of turbary rights.

Examples of commonages across Ireland include Owenduff in Co. Mayo, Twelve Bens/Maumturks in Co. Galway, Caha mountains in West Cork, the Galtees in Tipperary and Limerick, the Cooley peninsula in Co. Louth, the McGillicuddy Reeks in Co. Kerry.





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## Commonage Management

In the 1980's & 1990's Commonages were overgrazed. Commonage framework management plans were put in place to protect the commonages. Over 4,500 commonage framework management plans are in place.

Commonage framework management plans assess:

- Grazing levels- Plant litter levels, damage around feed sites & water troughs
- Stocking levels
- Conservation value (Burren lowland grasslands)
- Any damaging activity to habitat such as burning, dumping.

