



RIVER

See
Water
Differently



#EUWaterWise

Since joining the ‘See Water Differently’ Campaign

Galway Atlantaquaria has set out to rediscover these resources in a new way. Over the last few weeks we have visited a variety of lakes, rivers, across Galway to rediscover their importance.

To make things easier we selected the Middle River, as an area of study. So, let's discover the river, and how it has shaped our culture, and our life.

What Is a River?

Rivers are natural flowing watercourses, typically freshwater, that flow towards an ocean, sea, lake, or another river. They play a crucial role in the Earth's hydrological cycle and have significant geographical, ecological, and cultural importance.

Rivers are formed from precipitation, such as rain or snow, which collects in watersheds. Watersheds are land areas where water drains into a common watercourse. Rivers can also originate from springs, melting glaciers, or lakes.

The Corrib River, also known as the River Corrib (Irish: Abhainn na Gaillimhe or An Ghailimh), is a significant river in Galway, Ireland. Here are some key points about the Corrib River.

Geography and Course of the Corrib River

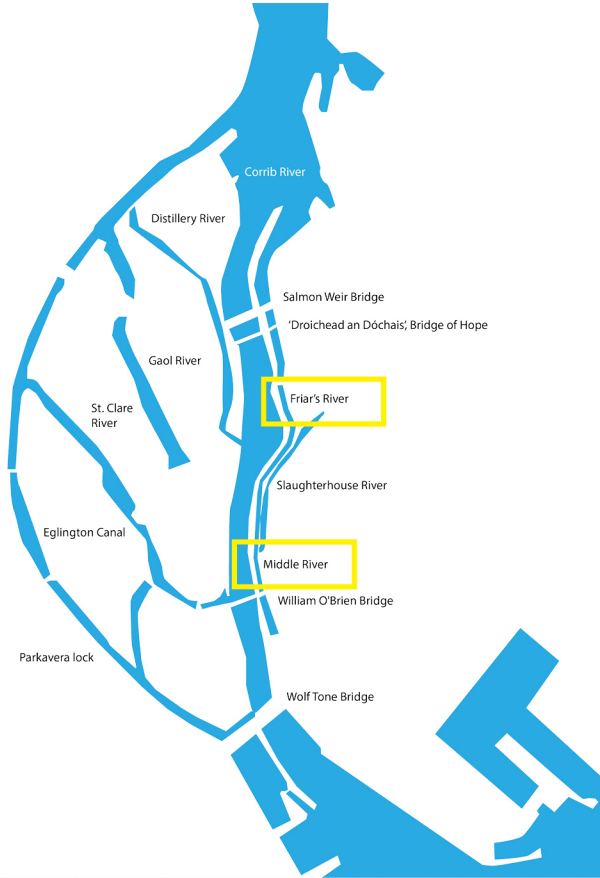
Source: The Corrib River flows out of Lough Corrib, which is one of the largest lakes in Ireland.

Length: It is one of the shortest major rivers in Europe, with a length of about 6 kilometers (approximately 4 miles).

Flow: Despite its short length, the river has a very strong and fast flow. The water level and flow rate can vary significantly due to rainfall and the regulation of water levels in Lough Corrib.

Mouth: The river empties into Galway Bay, which connects to the Atlantic Ocean.

Friar's River and Middle River were chosen as the primary survey site.



No person ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and they are not the same person.
– Heraclitus



Friar's River, Study Area



The route has some very interesting interpretation about Salmon, and fish traps which were a huge part of Galway fishing culture and history.



Rianta Uiscebhail na Gaillimhe
Galway Waterway Trails

GAISTE EISC

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FISH TRAPS

Salmon traps were used to catch salmon in the river. They were made of stone and wood. They were used to catch salmon in the river. They were made of stone and wood.

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SALMON WEIR, 1818

The weir has been a crucial part of Galway's fishing industry for centuries.

The structure and the fishery it supports have a long history, deeply embedded in the local culture and economy. The Salmon Weir plays an essential role in the life cycle of Atlantic salmon. It is designed to help manage the passage of salmon as they migrate upstream to their spawning grounds in Lough Corrib.

During the salmon run, which typically occurs in late spring and early summer, large numbers of salmon can be seen navigating the weir, attracting both locals and tourists.

The Weir beat, which comprises the short stretch from the Weir to the bridge at the cathedral, called Salmon Weir Bridge. There are a maximum of 6 rods allocated on this beat.

This is one of the most prolific salmon fisheries anywhere, with an average annual catch of 7-800 fish for just a short 200 meter stretch of water. The gradient and current means that many fish hold in this stretch of water, which is of exceptional clarity.

Typical Biodiversity that can be found in the river Corrib

Given the clarity and water quality of the river there is a host of freshwater species to be found. From Salmon, River eels, Perch, Rudd, Trout, and Roach.





Persse's Whisky Distillery, 1815

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River Economies - Persse Distillery of Nun's Island Galway.

At the height of its fame Persse Whiskey was considered 'of the finest quality & highest order' and reached a global sales audience through shipping out of Galway Docks.

Persse's Whisky Distillery was established in 1815 at Newcastle by Henry Stratford Persse (c. 1769-1833). In 1847, the distillery was relocated to the Nun's Island premises.

By 1908, falling whisky consumption and competition from the larger distilleries in Dublin led to the closure of the Persse Distillery with the loss of over 50 jobs.



Persse's Whisky Distillery, 1815

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Middle River, Study Area

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Friar's River is in actuality a canal and probably the first that was constructed in Galway. Older maps show what seem to be channels that were made by piling up stones in order to divert water through the first mills that were in operation in Galway.

The River divides at the wooden footbridge crossing over it. One channel flows by Newtownsmith. The other flows to the right of the buildings in the area, and becomes the Middle River.

The channel that flows under Newtownsmith drove the first electricity generating turbine which was established by the Perry family later taken over by the ESB.

The Middle River is a section of the Eastern Mill Conduit that runs along the east side of the River Corrib. It was extended and consolidated around the middle of the nineteenth century to improve the provision of water power to the mills located along its course.

River, See Water Differently

As we walked from the Weir to O'Brien's Bridge, we learned about how the river has been integral to Galway's growth. Galway City derives its name from the river, the Gaillimh, which means "stony" or "stony river," a name that dates back over 800 years.

William O'Brien Bridge, Galway. built c.1880.

The river has supported our community, culture, and traditions for centuries.

Why is Biodiversity & The See Water Differently Campaign so Important?

Freshwater ecosystems are some of the most threatened habitats on Earth due to pollution, habitat destruction, over-extraction of water, and climate change. Protecting and conserving freshwater biodiversity is crucial for maintaining the overall health of the planet's ecosystems.

By collaborating with the **#EUWaterWise** Campaign, we aim to deepen our understanding of the river and share its beauty, in doing so help preserve its biodiversity.

One of the key outcomes of this project will be:

1. Recording Images and footage of the river
2. Creating educational content about pollution, the water cycle, biodiversity (loss or discovery)
3. Creating signage
4. Creating a bespoke tour

Our YouTube channel features a fantastic playlist, a growing resource where we share both the river's beauty and the challenges it faces.

Can you See Water Differently?

Learn about the Campaign:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-wise-eu_en

Follow the story on **www.nationalaquarium.ie**

Some of the species that were discovered during the survey





www.nationalaquarium.ie

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LITTER IN THE RIVER





RIVER



You can watch the ‘See Water Differently Playlist on our YouTube Channel. /GalwayAquarium

Sources

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www.nationalaquarium.ie

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