

**Helen Carty- FMP ambassador for:
Co. Galway (Ireland), Shannon Callows.
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? About me:

I am working as a Conservation Ranger with the National Parks and Wildlife Service since 2008, having graduated in Environmental Science from NUI, Galway. I enjoy working in the outdoors and engaging with landowners and local communities.

? About the site:

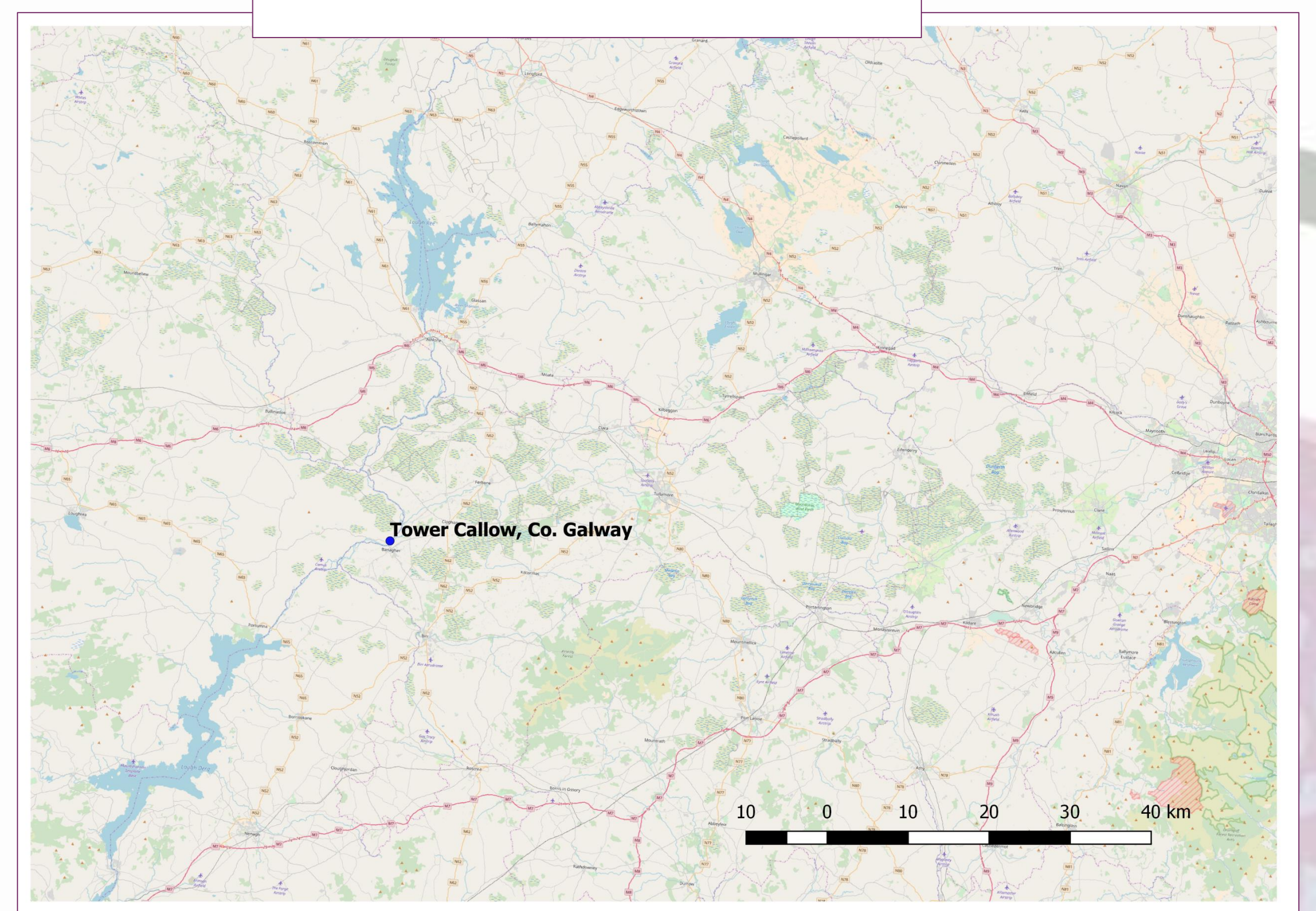
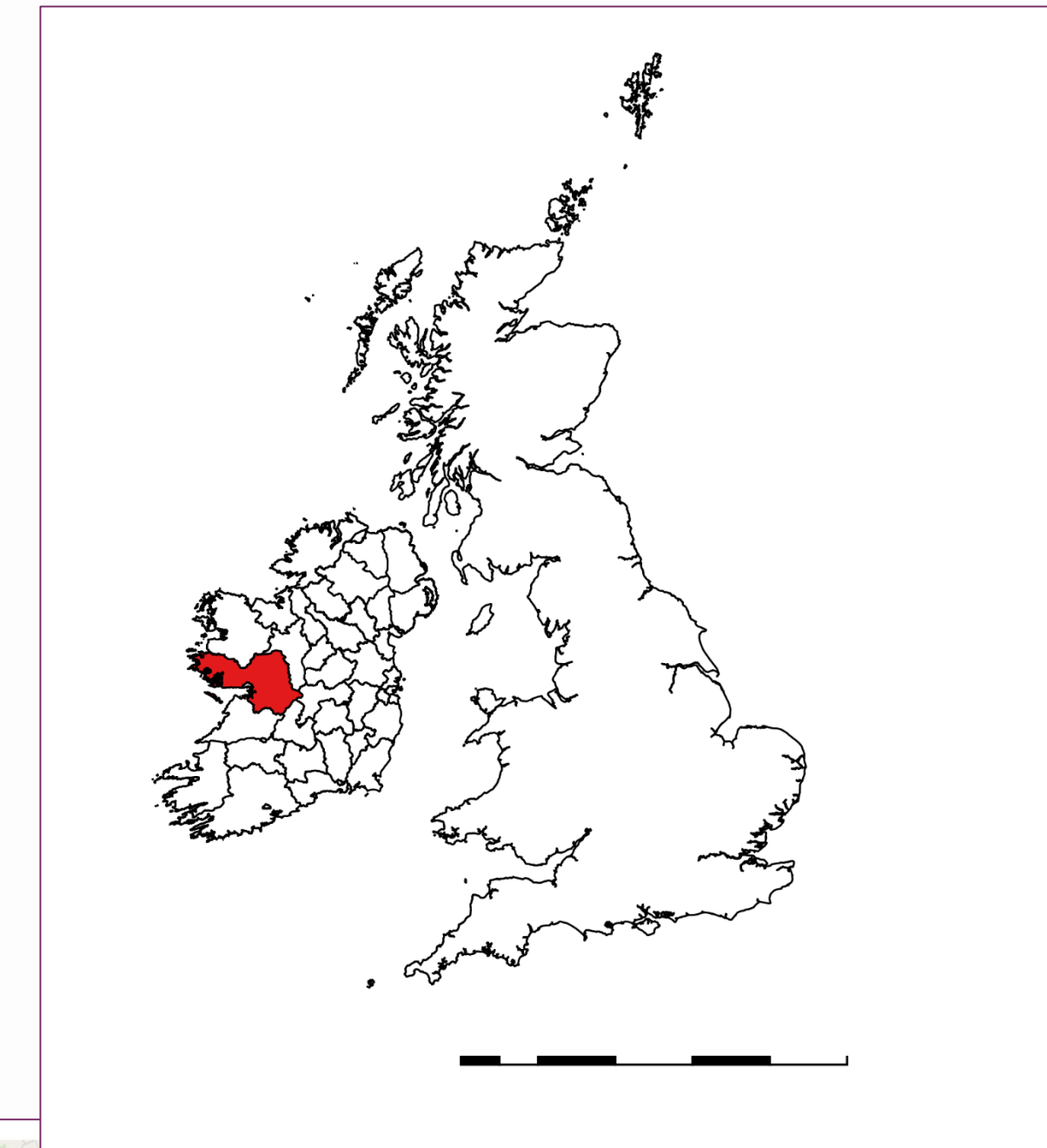
My study plot is a relatively small strip (2.7 ha) within Tower Callow, which is in the River Shannon Callows system, a large floodplain system (5,856 ha) in central Ireland. Much of the area is designated as SAC and SPA. Tower Callow (80 ha) is managed as a hay meadow, with about 12 landowners and 36 unfenced plots. The site obtains its name from the Martello Tower at its entrance.



? Site monitoring:

I am monitoring plant communities within the plot and have established five 'monitoring' quadrats, for repeat survey. In September 2015, I installed three dipwells throughout the plot and I continue to take regular readings from these, to understand the water table within the plot. Also, observations on management are made. Longterm monitoring will be hugely beneficial as it is generally lacking in such sites in Ireland.

? Site location:



? My ambassadorial role:

As an Ambassador, I intend to raise the profile of floodplain management and restoration in Ireland, with colleagues and communities. I would like to disseminate information and promote further research on the callows, through academic institutes and experts. I am keen to identify an inventory of sites with conservation interest and to liaise with colleagues and land managers in those areas.

