

IRELAND



Source: esri

General

Ireland is separated from Great Britain in the East by the North Channel, the Irish Sea, and St George's Channel. In the West is the northern Atlantic Ocean and in the South is the Celtic Sea. The country has an area of 8.44 Mha (million hectares) with in 2020 a population of 4.9 million, or 0.58 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

Climate and geography

Overall, Ireland has a mild but changeable oceanic climate with few extremes. The climate is typically insular and is temperate, preventing extremes in temperature as in many other areas in the world at similar latitudes. This is a result of the moderating moist winds, which ordinarily prevail from the South-Western Atlantic. Precipitation falls throughout the year, but is light overall, particularly in the East. The West tends to be wetter on average and prone to Atlantic storms, especially in the late autumn and winter months. These occasionally bring destructive winds and higher total rainfall to these areas, as well as sometimes snow and hail. Munster, in the South, records the least snow whereas Ulster, in the North, records the most (source: Wikipedia).

A ring of coastal mountains surround low plains at the centre of the island. The most arable land lies in the province of Leinster. The island's lush vegetation, a product of its mild climate and frequent rainfall, earns it the *Emerald Isle* (source: Wikipedia).

Existing polders

The Group Polder Development (1982) distinguishes three areas where polders are, or were proposed. These are Galway Bay, Shannon Estuary and Lough Foyle. However, the polders proposed in Lough Foyle are located on the eastern side. This is the area of Northern Ireland and therefore in the United Kingdom.

General characteristics of the polders in Ireland are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

References

Crosbie, H., 2019. Polders and the future of Dublin. *The Irish Times*.

Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982. *Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects*. Delft, the Netherlands.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. *World Population Prospects, medium prognosis. The 2019 revision*. New York, USA.

Web site

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/enfo/irelands-environment/county-focus/wexford/wexford-sloblands/>

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Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Ireland

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
North Slob	1847	920	LGS	52° 22' N	6° 24' W	0	Agriculture and nature
Polder in Shannon Estuary	Second half 19 th century	6500	LGS				
Blanket Nook			LGS	55° 0' N	7° 30' W	0	Agriculture and nature
Polders in Galway Bay			LGS				
Total		7420					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake