

# **Ardstraw River Development Project - Brief Overview- Margaret Gourley NIEA (Sam Atcheson and Sharon Watson - Ardstraw and District Community Development Association)**

# Introduction

- The ARD Ardstraw River Development was project proposal to reclaim and restore access to River Derg at Ardstraw Bridge
- The Derg River is an SAC (Special Area of Conservation) – habitat for salmon, otters
- Area overgrown and colonised by alien species – Himalayan Balsam
- Grows in dense clusters and prevents smaller native plants from growing
- Project benefit river wildlife and open up Derg landscape

# Project Objectives

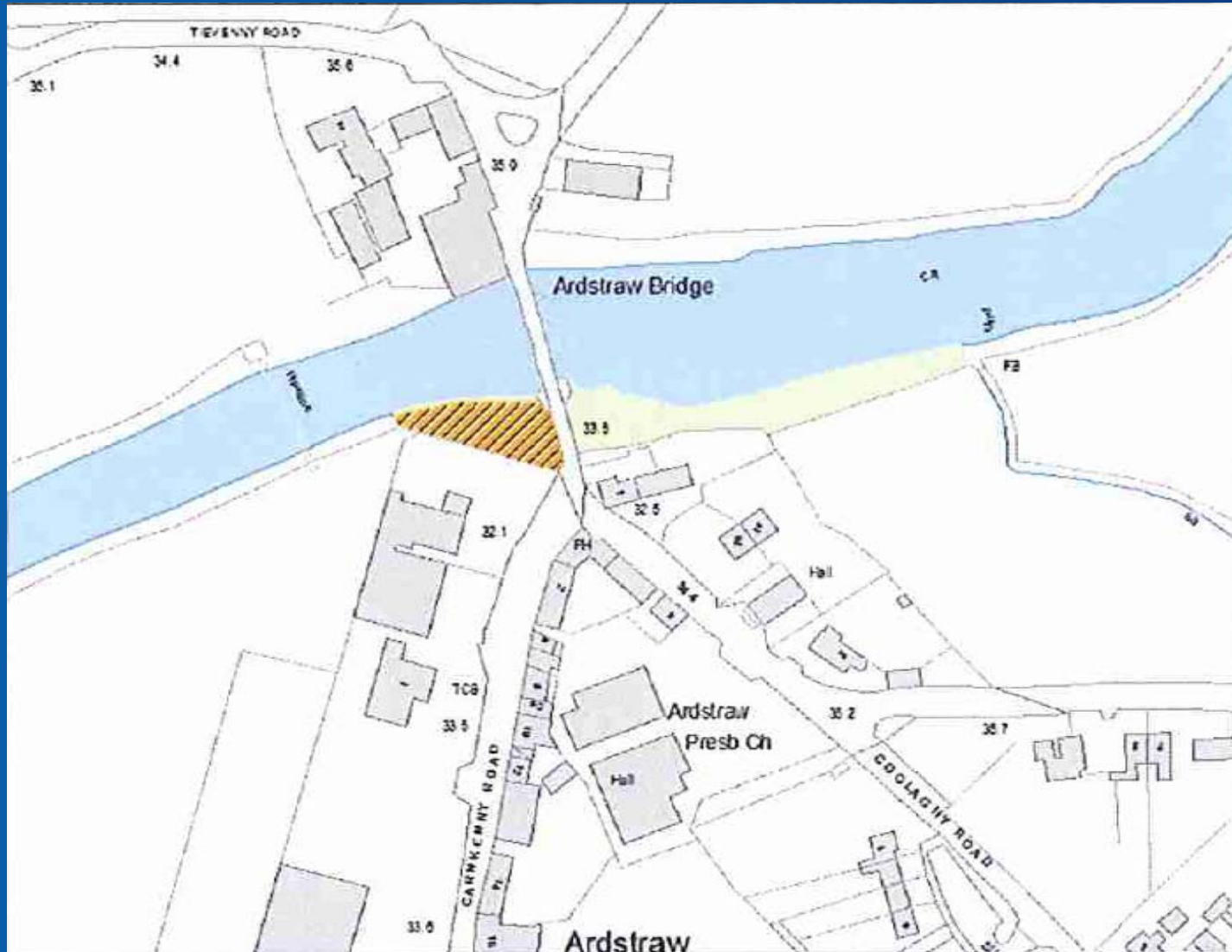
- Inspire and encourage community to appreciate River Derg
- Educate and encourage people living in community
- Safeguard and improve existing river environment
- Provide a welcome amenity area for community

- NIEA funding
- Ardstraw Community Development Association partnered with local landowners, angling groups and schools
- Drew on expertise of Conservation Volunteers NI, Rivers Agency, NIEA and Strabane District Council

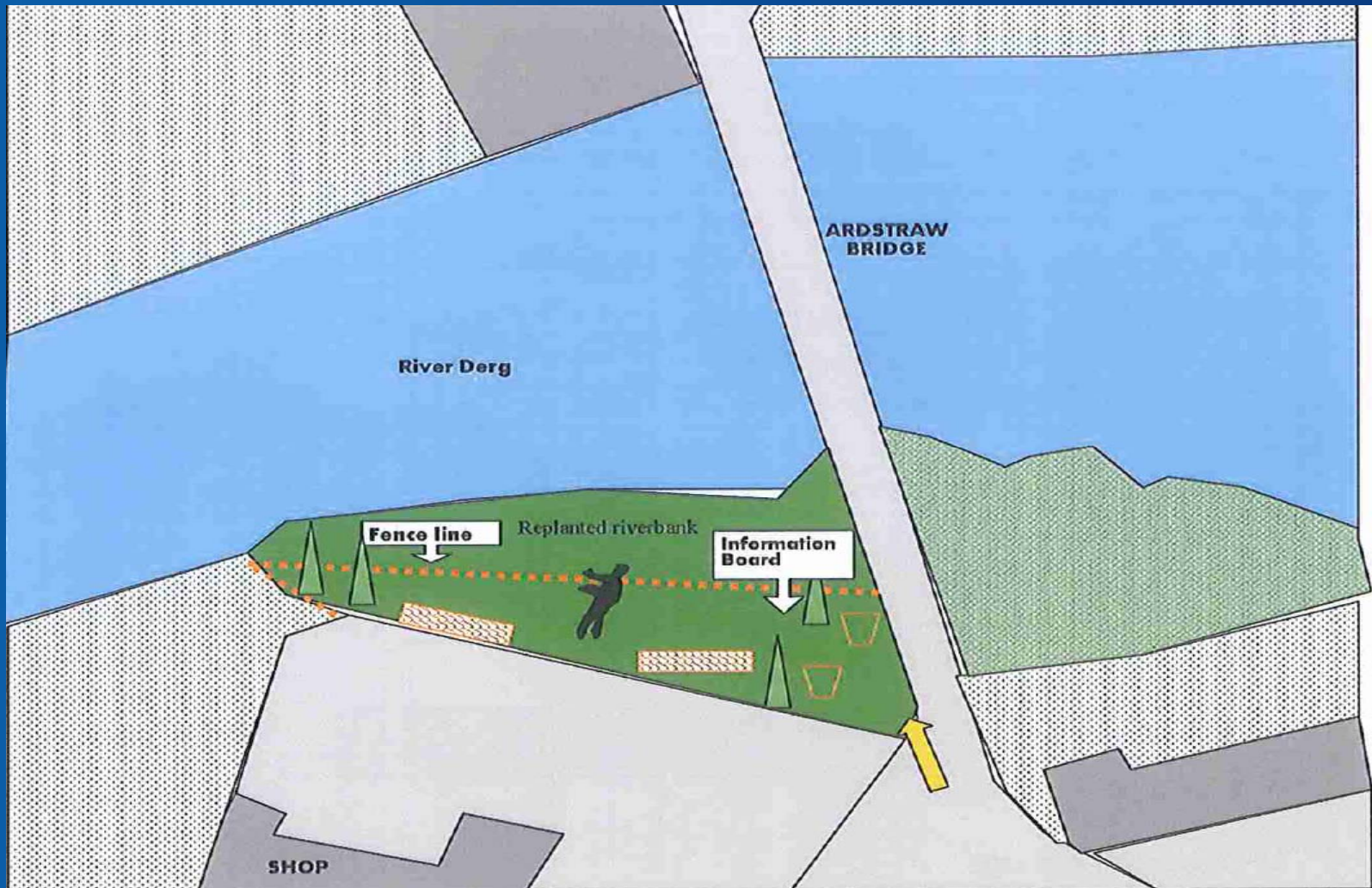
# Site Location



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# Project Feb/March 2012

- Assent from Natural Heritage to undertake strimming
- Proposed to open amenity at the “Life Under the Bridge” event



# Site on Event Day



# Site Before and After





# Ardstraw "Life Under the Bridge"

