



“Restoration of the Lower Shannon SAC (Mulkear River) for Sea Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon and the European Otter”

Press Release

23rd May 2013

The Secret Life of the Shannon on RTE 1 TV

Bats, squirrels and the humble Irish pike are getting set for the Hollywood treatment in a ground-breaking documentary to hit RTE One this weekend on Sunday 26th May at 6.30pm.

The documentary, sponsored by the ESB, explores the little-known islands, lakes and tributaries of the Shannon River. The two-part film follows the river from dawn to dusk through four seasons and captures the changing moods and atmosphere of the river – as well as the acrobatic antics of our red squirrels, magnificent whooper swans ending their migration and the exquisite orange tipped butterfly.

Using new slow motion technology an intimate portrait of Irish wildlife is shown. The new technology allows the detail of snapping kingfishers and dragonflies at 1000 frames per second to be shown. The show also uncovers surprising secrets about the private lives of Ireland’s wildlife. The series reveals new animal behaviour, including bats hunting over water at night and remarkable underwater footage of pike and kingfisher.

Programme one (which broadcasts this Sunday evening – 26 May @ 18.30hrs on RTE 1) opens with early morning mist rising off the Shannon river, viewers will be transported to a world few ever see. Close-ups of riverside wildflowers revealing the minutiae of river life give way to massive aerial shots of the river as it flows to the sea. Kingfishers are filmed crashing into the river on their relentless hunt for fish while the Daubenton’s Bat is filmed at night scooping insects from the water’s surface.

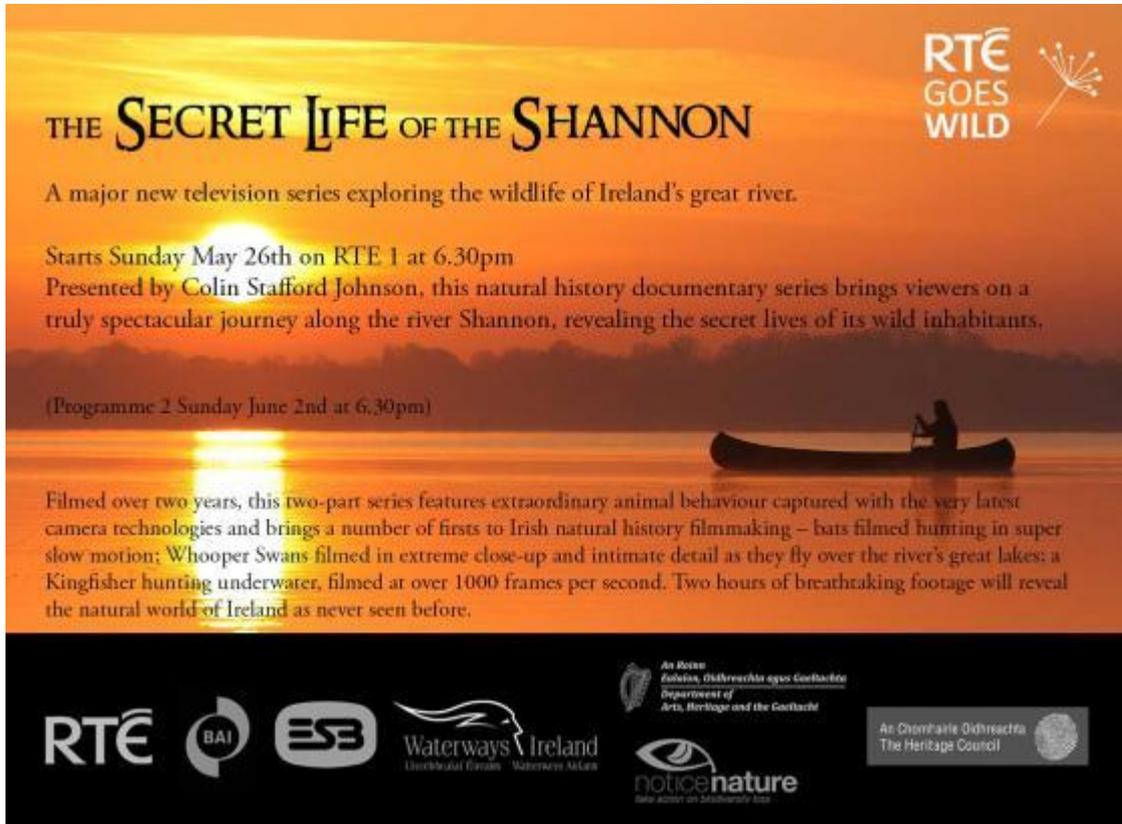
Programme two (which will broadcast Sunday week – 2 June) brings us to the source of the mighty Shannon river and its unassuming beginnings. From here, it is a non-stop journey through breath taking encounters with beautiful wildlife, including the migrant Whooper Swans and Great Crested Grebes and Cormorants.

Notes for Editors

1. High Resolution Digital Images are available to accompany this Press Release.
2. Interviews can be arranged with the Project Manager by using the contact details below.
3. MulkearLIFE is a new €1.75 million European Commission funded LIFE Nature project working on the restoration of the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation (with a focus on the Mulkear River catchment) for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey and European Otter. Further details may be viewed on the project website www.mulkearlife.com
4. Inland Fisheries Ireland (Limerick) is lead partner together with the OPW and Limerick County Council. Additional funding support comes from National Parks and Wildlife Service. Other supporters include Teagasc, IFA, ICMSA, and local angling groups.
5. The project is one of the first and most important integrated catchment management projects in Ireland. It is a flagship EU LIFE Nature project –covering some 650 sq km which contain a variety of habitats and protected species. Much of the area is designated as a Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EU Habitats Directive and forms part of the Natura 2000 Network.

Issued by:

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THE SECRET LIFE OF THE SHANNON

RTE GOES WILD

A major new television series exploring the wildlife of Ireland's great river.

Starts Sunday May 26th on RTE 1 at 6.30pm
Presented by Colin Stafford Johnson, this natural history documentary series brings viewers on a truly spectacular journey along the river Shannon, revealing the secret lives of its wild inhabitants.

(Programme 2 Sunday June 2nd at 6.30pm)

Filmed over two years, this two-part series features extraordinary animal behaviour captured with the very latest camera technologies and brings a number of firsts to Irish natural history filmmaking – bats filmed hunting in super slow motion; Whooper Swans filmed in extreme close-up and intimate detail as they fly over the river's great lakes; a Kingfisher hunting underwater, filmed at over 1000 frames per second. Two hours of breathtaking footage will reveal the natural world of Ireland as never seen before.

RTE **BAI** **ESB** **Waterways Ireland**
Uisce Éireann / Máistiríocht Ailse

As Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachtaí agus Gaeltachta
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

notice nature
New Action on Biodiversity 2004

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council