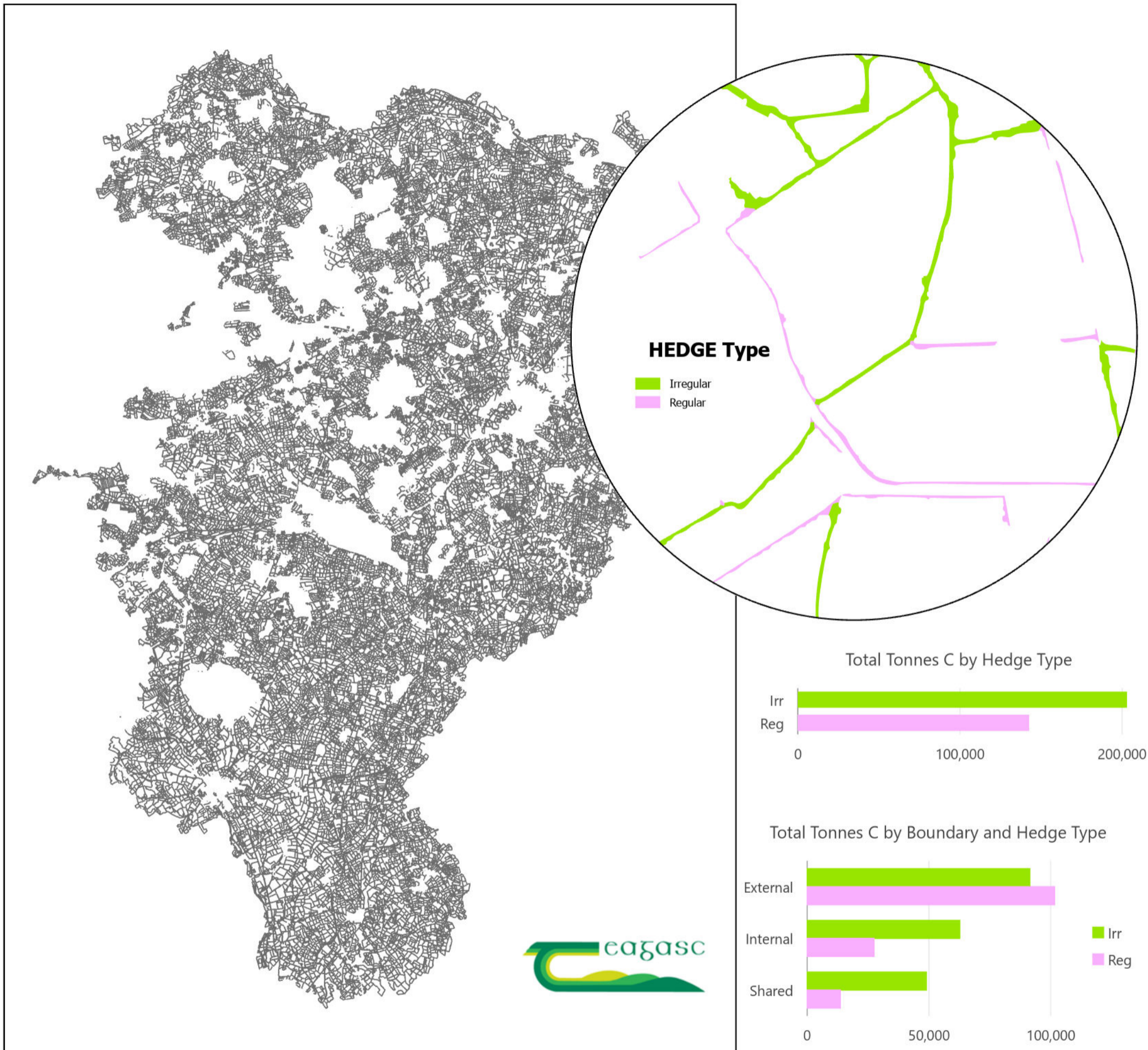


Hedgerow Carbon of County Kildare



The TE National Land Cover Map (2018) digitises the footprint of all the hedgerows in the country.

The recent Farm-Carbon Report from the EPA on research work done in Teagasc gives us data on the amount of carbon stored, per ha, in typical hedgerows. The report breaks down hedgerows into two basic types (once mature)- regular, tightly cut annually and irregular, less tightly cut and “bushier”. The amount of carbon stored per Ha is not too dissimilar but the amount of carbon stored by length is much higher for the irregular. Importantly the biodiversity value of irregular hedgerows is much higher than regular.

The NLC map doesn't distinguish between hedges in this way, so we have developed a way to characterise the hedgerow based on the shape of its footprint. We use spatial analytical methods to breakdown the hedgerow area in the NLC into individual hedgerows and then characterise as irregular and regular. We also label the hedgerow as internal to the farm, external boundary of the farm or a hedgerow shared between two farmers.

Here we present the map for County Kildare with the total above ground carbon stored in the hedgerows for both types and the distribution of types across the three different boundary classes.