



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Urban Water Quality Policy

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28th May 2024

Urban Water Quality Policy - Agenda



- River Basin Management Plan
- Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive
- Nature-based solutions



Photo: Avonmore River, Waters of LIFE project

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland

2022 - 2027

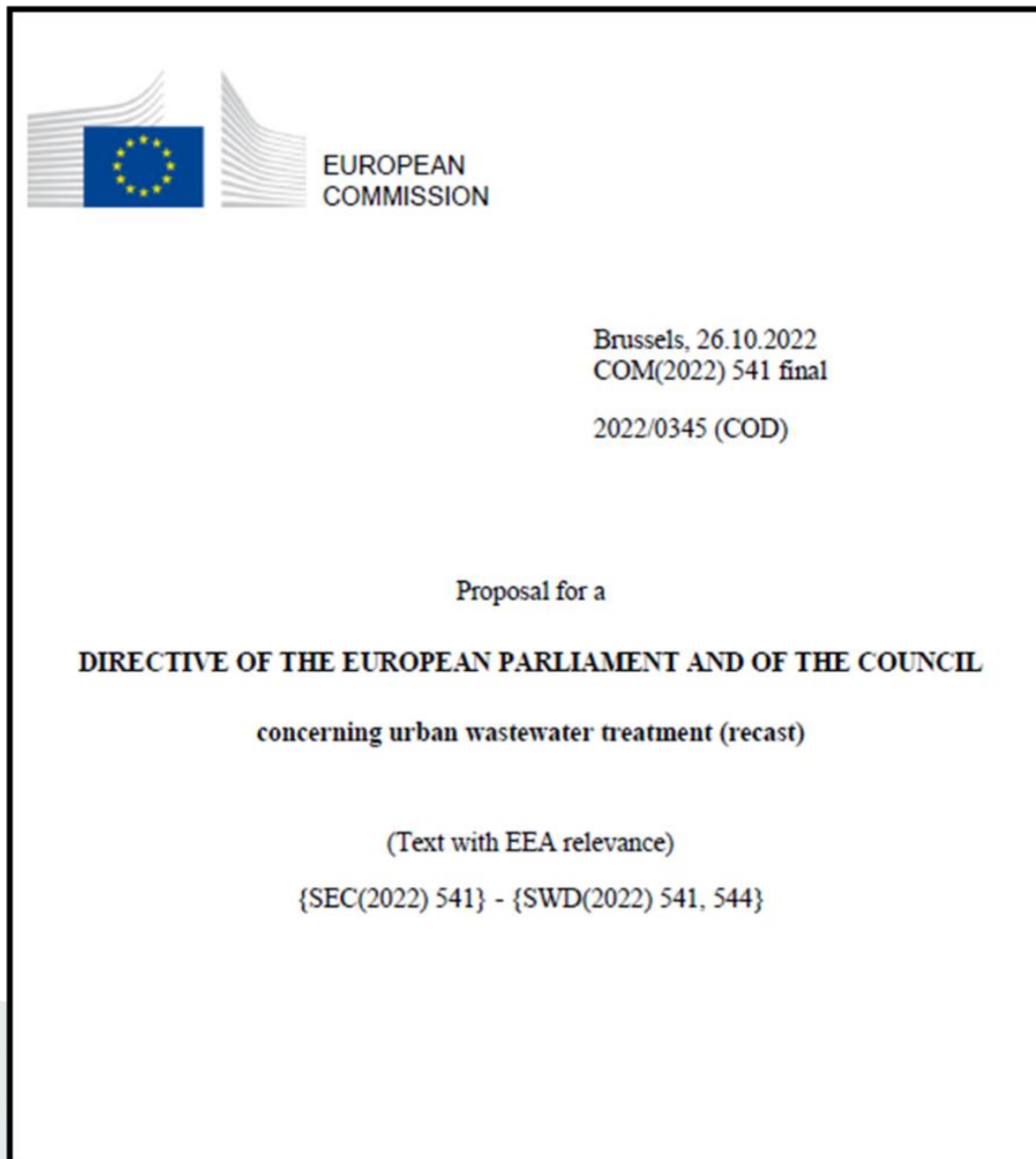


River Basin Management Plan



- Water Policy Advisory Committee for comments
- Bilateral with key stakeholders
- Text and programme of measures has now been finalised
- Appropriate Assessment, Graphic design and Irish translation underway
- Intention to launch Q2 2024

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive



- Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive proposal published by EU Commission October 2022.
- Existing Urban Wastewater Treatment legislation is over 30 years old.
- Member States and Commission: Started working party level meetings from January 2023.
- Final agreed Council text in September 2023

European Parliament



- Current MEPs are elected from July 2019-2024
- Rapporteur and shadow rapporteur were appointed on the file in Q1 2023
- European Parliament agreed their text on October 2023
- New European Parliament election in June 2024



Image by European Parliament

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive- next steps



- Technical trilogue started in November 2023.
- A compromised text was agreed in March 2024
- European Parliament voted on compromised text in March and April 2024
- European Council of Environment Ministers will vote on compromised text in the autumn
- Final European Parliament vote in autumn, after translation and with new Parliament.
- Entry into force expected to be Q4 2024
- Member states have 2.5 years to transpose into national legislation



Image of Berlaymont Building by Wikipedia

Irelands Actions:



- Urban Wastewater Expert Group was established Q1 2023
- Membership include representatives from:

Uisce Éireann	CRU	NSAI	Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications
CCMA	GSI	Dept. of Health	Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
EPA	HSE	SEAI	LAWPRO

- Ireland engaged fully with the Negotiations process with assistance from the national expert group
- The relevant Government scrutiny committee was briefed
- The Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been briefed on the file and Water Finance Section, who will brief the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
- DHLGH met Representatives from the Pharma and Cosmetics industry

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive – Overview



- High level of ambition in the proposal – scale of facilities covered and level of treatment applied
- Extremely tight timeframes for all measures
- Widening scope of Directive to include smaller agglomerations
- Includes a provision of extended producer responsibility for specific micro-pollutants
- Requirements for energy neutrality for urban wastewater treatment plants and collections systems
- Significant policy and budgetary implications arising from the proposed Directive.



Ringsend Wastewater Treatment plants: image by Uisce Éireann

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive – Main points in Commission text



1. Requirement to provide and connect to networks in small agglomerations

All agglomerations above 1,000 p.e. to be provided with a collection systems and all their sources of domestic wastewater are connected to this collection system.

2. Justification to be provided if, **septic tanks** are used for greater than 2% of the reported load treated in agglomerations of 2,000pe

3. Higher levels of treatment standards

Secondary treatment for agglomerations greater than 1,000pe
Stricter Nitrogen and Phosphorus limits – tertiary treatment
4th stage of treatment – quaternary treatment for larger plants

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive – Main points in Commission text



4. **Extended Polluter Responsibility** for specific micro pollutants (pharmaceuticals and cosmetics) – to pay for all aspects of quaternary treatment

Obligation for producers (including importers) to contribute to the costs of the quaternary treatment in cases where they place on the national market of the Member States products, which at the end of their life lead to the pollution of urban wastewater by micro-pollutants.

5. **Energy neutrality** – places an obligation to achieve energy neutrality at national level in all treatment facilities above 10,000p.e.

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive – Main points in Commission text



6. Integrated Urban Wastewater Management Plans –

To include information on the network, urban wastewater and urban runoff.

There is also the inclusion of an indicative objective that storm water overflow, represents no more than 1 % of the annual collected urban wastewater load calculated in dry weather conditions.

7. **Urban wastewater surveillance** to monitor specific public health parameters

Establishes a national urban wastewater monitoring system to monitor relevant public health parameters in urban wastewater

8. Inclusion of **risk assessment and risk management**

There is the inclusion of an article on risk assessment and risk management in certain circumstances

Recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive



Summary

The current Commission text has high ambition levels and tight timelines with numerous new measures.

Requirement for collaboration required between all stakeholders to achieve targets and infrastructural planning of investments.

To note, the Commission text is not the final text of the Directive, so there will definitely be some changes to what I have presented today

New Directive will probably enter into force by Q4 2024

Nature-based Solutions Update



- Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas - Interim Guidance Document
- DMURS Advice Note 5: Road and Street drainage using nature-based solutions
- National Implementation Strategy
- Rainwater Management Planning – Guidance for Local Authorities
- Implementation Phase – ongoing Projects



Image: Cork County Council

Interim Guidance Document



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas

Water Sensitive Urban Design

Interim Guidance Document

Published Nov 2021

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
gov.ie/housing

- Definition and concepts
- Managing Rainfall through Three-Dimensional Planning & Design
- A Plan and Design-Led Multidisciplinary Approach
- Multiple Use of Urban Spaces, Public Realm, Open Spaces, Amenity Areas, Car Parks
- Climate Adaptive and Resilient Urban Design

Information Webinars

- Launch of **Interim Guidance Document** - Nov 2021 Approx. 500 attendees
- Project Managers in **URDF** and **RRDF** schemes – March 2022. Approx. 300 attendees
- **Active Travel** teams – May 2022. Approx. 230 attendees
- CPD presentation for **DHLGH Planners** – May 2022 –approx. 20 attendees
- **Engineers Ireland Webinar series** – May 2023 – 4 webinars with over 1200 registered for each webinar. 1st webinar attended by over 1500 people



DMURS Advice Note 5 – Road and Street Drainage using nature-based solutions



Published August 2023

Section 1 – Background

Section 2 – Introduction

Section 3 – Integration with DMURS

**Section 4 – Design Issues in Context of
DMURS and DMURS Advice Notes**

**Section 5 – Implementing Nature-
based Solutions as part of an Urban
Project through Integrated Planning &
Design**

Section 6 – Care and Maintenance

**Appendix 1 –
Water Sensitive Urban Design**



Image: South Dublin County Council, Chris Galvin

Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) Advice

Note 5 – Road and Street Drainage using nature-based solutions



Advice Note 5 Road and Street Drainage using Nature Based Solutions

Design Manual for
Urban Roads and Streets



Published August 2023

National Implementation Strategy for Urban Nature-based Solutions



Measure in the Water Action Plan 2022-2027



Image by Jason Taylor, Sydney

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Nature Based Management of Urban Rainwater and Urban Surface Water Discharges

A National Strategy

2024

Published May 2024

Prepared by the Department of
Housing, Local Government and Heritage
gov.ie



Working Group members:

Dept. Environment, Climate and Communications,
Dept. of Transport,
NTA
Uisce Éireann,
LAWPRO,
Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
(Planning and Water Advisory Unit)
EPA

Commenced Q4 2023

- **Climate Adaption**
- **Planning**
- **Uisce Éireann**
- **Roads, Streets and Transportation**
- **Funding and Capital Appraisal**
- **Education and Training**
- **Community Engagement and Communications**
- **Public Health and Wellbeing**

8 Proposed Strategies



Image: Front of St Peter and Pauls Church, Clonmel, Fran Igoe



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Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Rainwater Management Plans

Guidance for Local Authorities

2024

Published May 2024



Rainwater Management Plan – Guidance for Local Authorities

Rainwater Management Planning - Guidance for Local Authorities



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LIST OF FIGURES

- Data gathering
- Stakeholder engagements
- Developing a rainwater Management plan
- Rainwater Management techniques
- Inclusion of Carrigtwohill Rainwater Management Plan in Appendix for information

Rainwater Management Plan – Guidance for local Authorities



Identifying subcatchments and storage locations

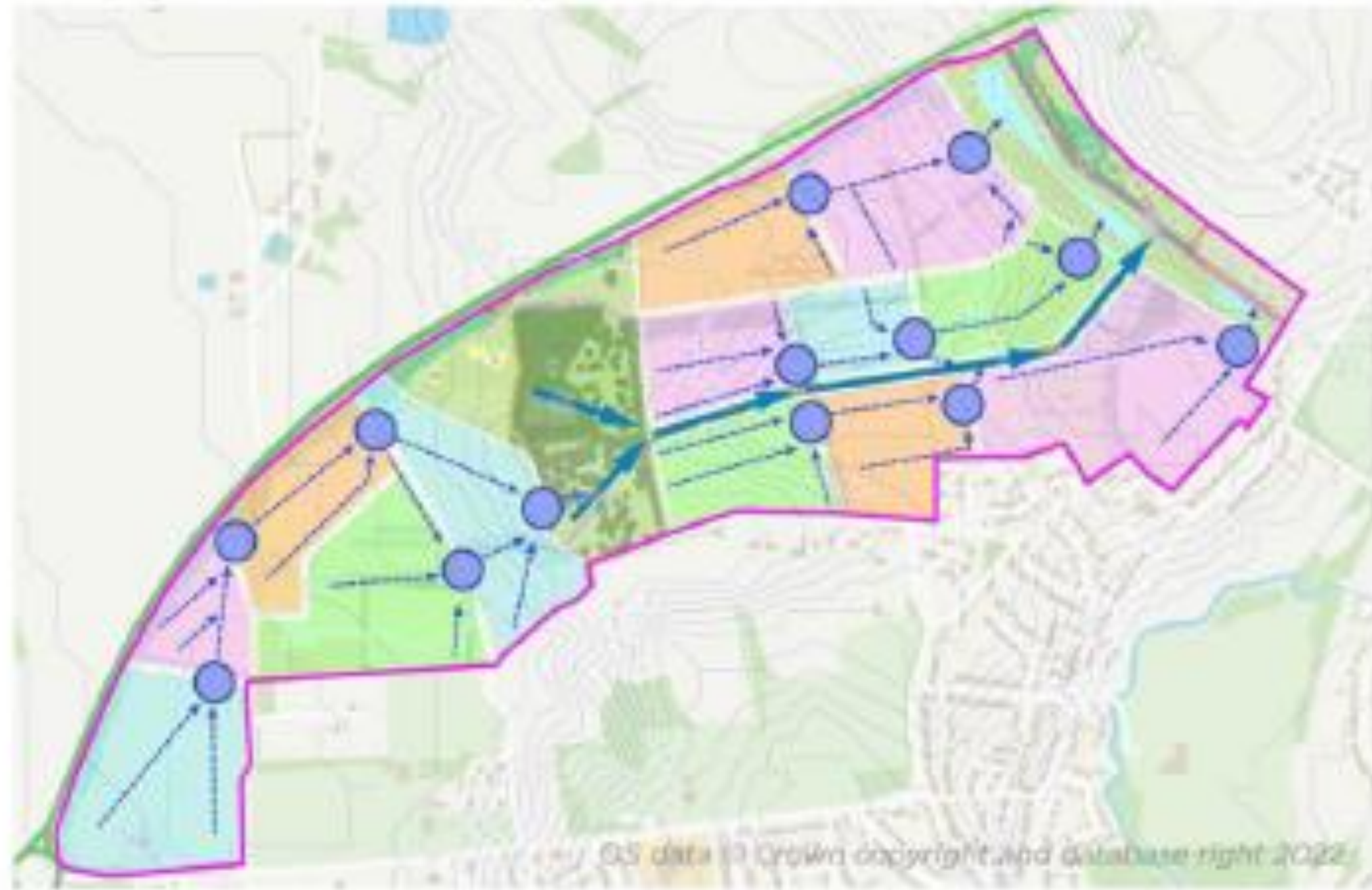
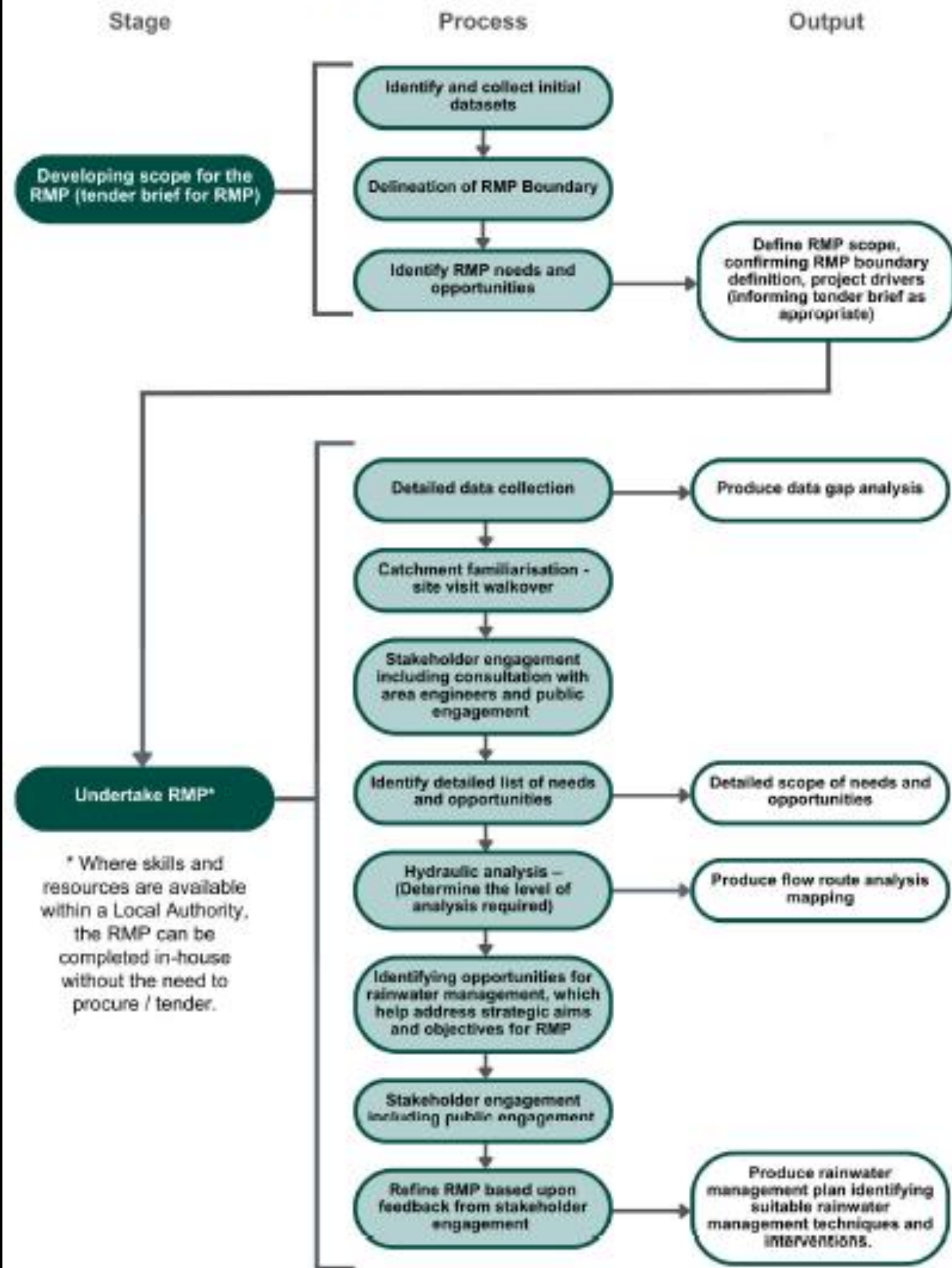


Figure 1-3: Example RMP Output

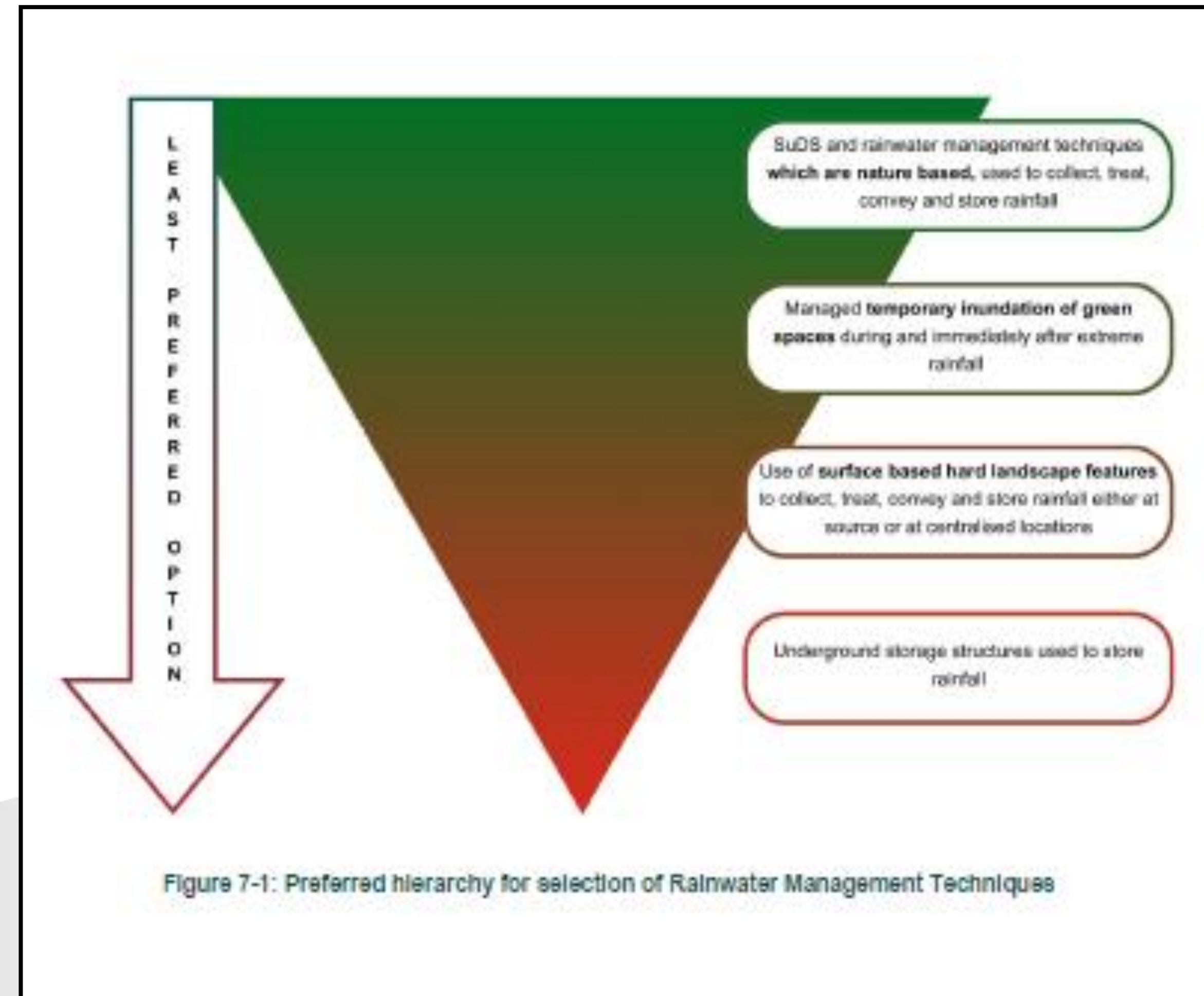
- Follow water across the development landscape.
- Integration of water sensitive urban design concepts

1.3 The RMP Process

The following chart indicates the typical processes for undertaking an RMP.



RMP Process and Hierarchy



LAWPRO NBS Conference May 2024 in DKIT



Themes:

- Urban, Rural, Coastal, Riverine NBS
- Including ResiRiver Life project

Launched the

- National Strategy for Urban NBS
- Rainwater Management Plan - Guidance Document for Local Authorities

LAWPRO NBS Conference May 2024 in DKIT



Attendance:
170 people in
person 200 online

Nature-based solutions – example of multiple benefits





1



Collapsed underground attenuation chamber

2



Nature-based Solutions Pilot Projects



- 3rd River Basin Management Plan – measure includes two pilot projects in Dublin City and Cobh, Co. Cork to look at Nature-based Solutions in Ireland
- Research including monitoring into NBS infrastructure in Ireland
- These projects commenced in 2023

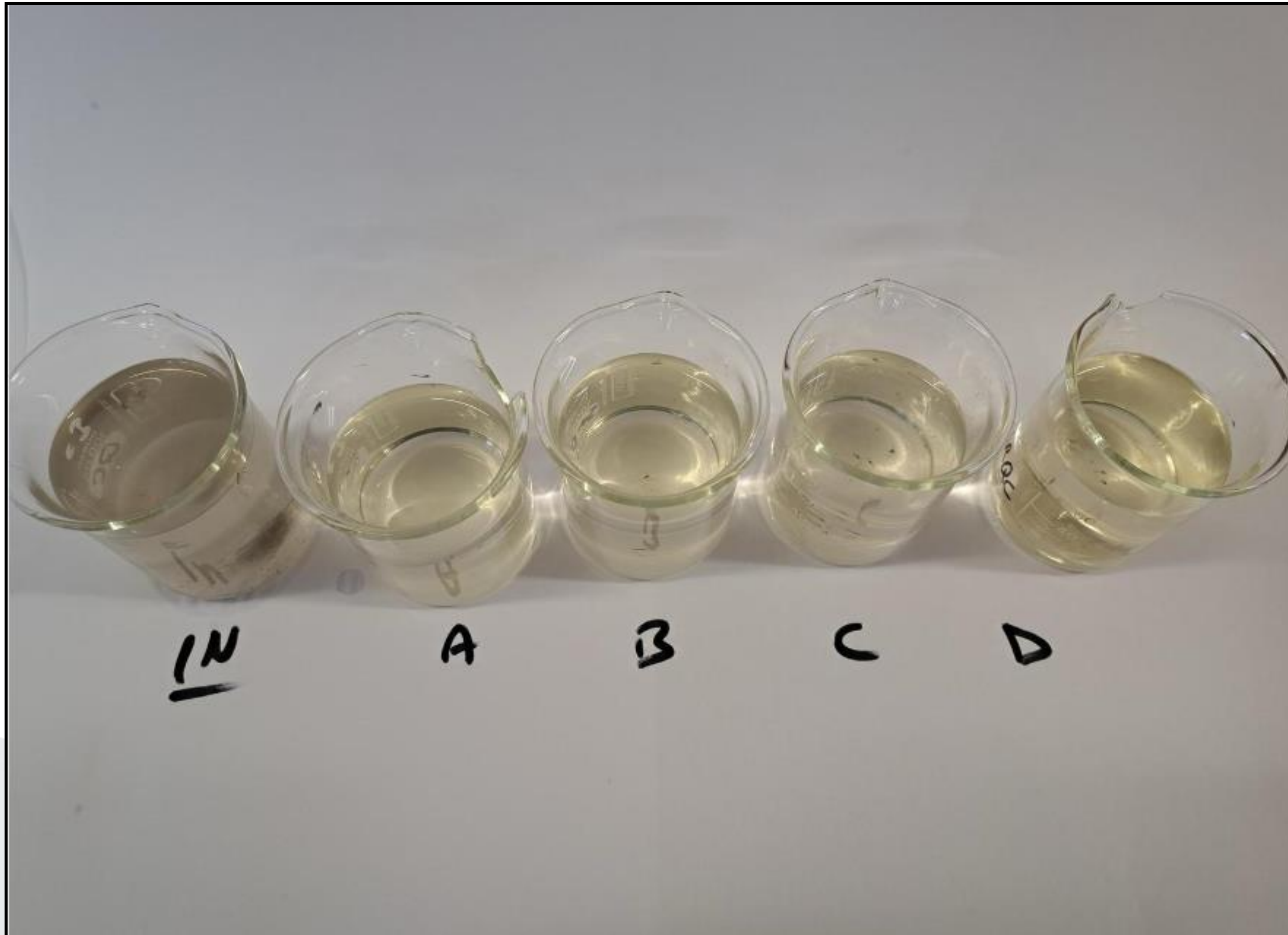


Nature-based Solutions Pilot Projects



- Monitoring different soil types and different plant types to determine best combination in Irish context
- Using this information to design rain gardens and tree pits in larger public realm scheme

Nature-based Solutions Pilot Projects



Nature-based Solutions Pilot Projects



Images: Ribh Road, Rainscapes Project, Dublin City Council



Inclusion of
rain gardens,
permeable
paving and
tree pits after
consultation
and
monitoring

Images from Rainscape project: Ribh Road and McAuley Park, Santry, Dublin



Example of project delivery by a Local Authority using the supports / training



Bioretention Areas (Rain Gardens) – Pollerton Road/Green Lane Junction

Courtesy P. Gorman, Carlow CoCo



Before and after picture



Courtesy P. Gorman, Carlow CoCo



Thank you

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