



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

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

- Policy Context

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Water Quality: our most significant pressures

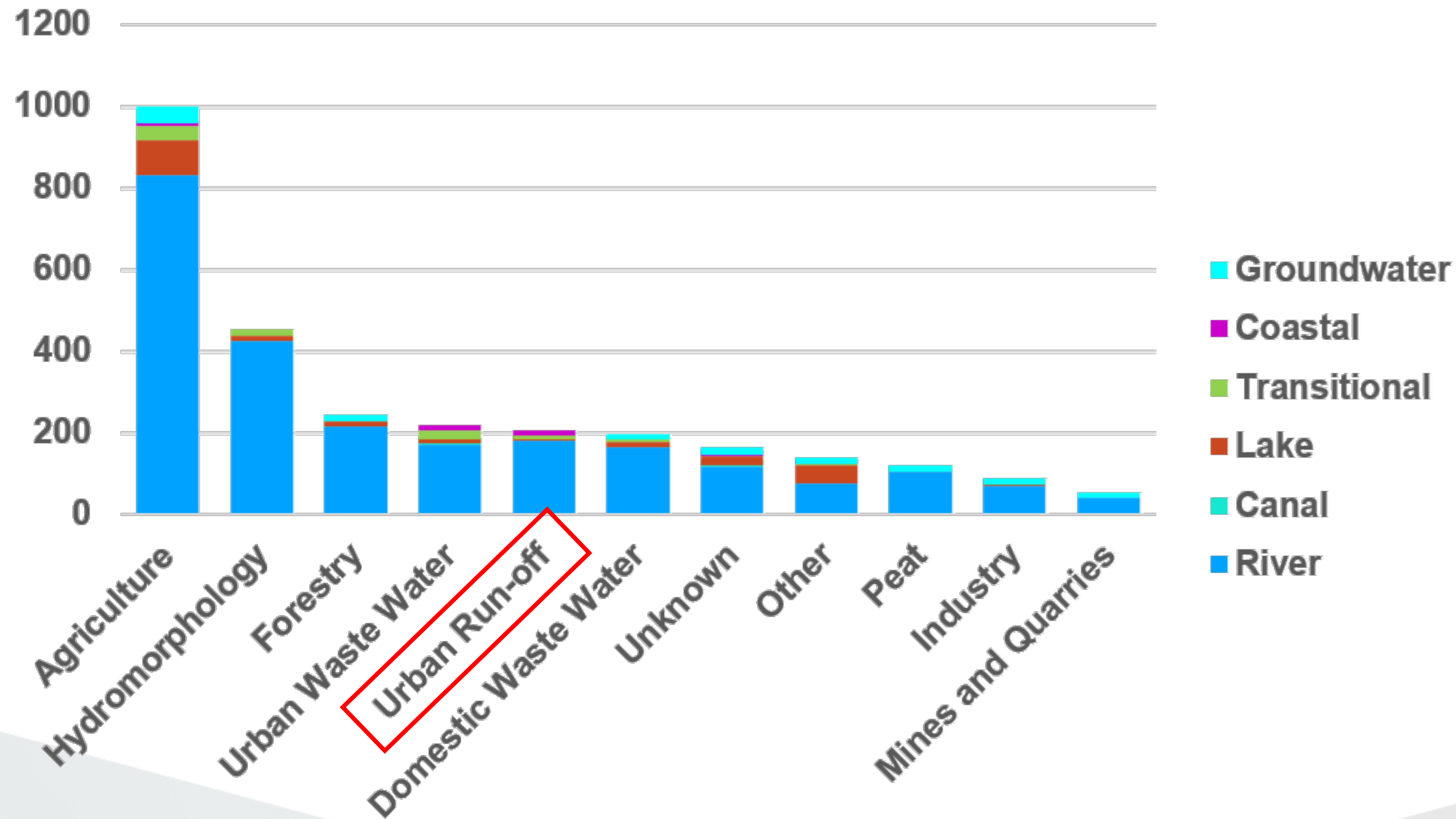


Table 6. Number of waterbodies in each waterbody type per significant pressure category.

Significant pressure category	Waterbody Type						Total
	River	Canal	Lake	Transitional	Coastal	Groundwater	
Agriculture	831		84	35	6	44	1,000
Hydromorphology	424		14	4			442
Forestry	215		14			4	233
Urban Waste Water	172	1	10	22	3		208
Urban Run-off	179		3	11	3		196
Domestic Waste Water	163		13	6		6	188
Unknown	118	1	22	2	3	18	164
Other*	75		45	2	1	16	139
Peat	103		2			1	106
Industry	70		1			18	89
Mines and Quarries	41					4	45
Total Significant Pressures	2,391	2	208	82	16	111	2,810

*Includes a range of other smaller pressures such as aquaculture, historically polluted sites and invasive species.

River Basin Management Plan & Nature-based Solutions



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland

2022 - 2027



Draft RBMP out for consultation

One of the key principles:

Deliver integrated, multiple policy objectives for water, biodiversity and climate, wherever possible (Reflecting the FILLM concept)

River Basin Management Plan: Programme of Measures



Issue: Implementation / Governance



Action: A multiagency group under the NTIG to continue a forum to co-ordinate efforts for implementation of Nature-based Catchment Management.

Issue: Urban Runoff Pressures



Action: Develop recommendations for an implementation strategy for nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems on a national scale.



Action: Provide interim guidance documentation to the Local and Planning Authorities on measures to be implemented to support the delivery of a greater focus on nature based solutions in advance of a national implementation strategy.

Further Policy Context



Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

- Impact assessment
- Focus on nature-based solutions for urban runoff
- New standards for CSOs

National Adaptation Framework

Climate change sectoral adaptation plans:

- Water Quality & Water Services Infrastructure
- Flood Risk Management
- Biodiversity

National Planning Framework

National Policy Objective 57

Enhance water quality and resource management by:

- Ensuring flood risk management informs place-making by avoiding inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities.
- Ensuring that River Basin Management Plan objectives are fully considered throughout the physical planning process.
- Integrating sustainable water management solutions, such as Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS), non-porous surfacing and green roofs, to create safe places.

National Policy Objective 58

Integrated planning for Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services will be incorporated into the preparation of statutory land use plans.

Next steps towards implementation



- Implementation roadmap and timeline
- Quick wins
- Implementation strategy
- Webinar
- Feedback



Swale Source: C Galvin, South Dublin CoCo



Grasscrete Source: D Joyce, Cork City CoCo



Multi-disciplinary coordination is key to achieve maximum co-benefits:

- Water quality
- Slowing the flow / flood mitigation
- Climate change
- Biodiversity
- Reduced load on CSOs
- Greening of urban areas / place-making