

Blackwater (*Lough Neagh-Lower Bann*) Catchment  
2010-2015  
Assessment (HA 03)



Catchment Science & Management Unit

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## Preface

This document provides a summary of the characterisation outcomes for the water resources of the Blackwater (Lough Neagh-Lower Bann) Catchment, which have been compiled and assessed by the EPA, with the assistance of local authorities and RPS consultants. The information presented includes status and risk categories of all water bodies, details on protected areas, significant issues, significant pressures, load reduction assessments, recommendations on future investigative assessments, areas for actions and environmental objectives. The characterisation assessments are based on information available to the end of 2015. Additional, more detailed characterisation information is available to public bodies on the EPA WFD Application via the EDEN portal, and more widely on the catchments.ie website. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the situation in the catchment and help inform further action and analysis of appropriate measures and management strategies.

This document is supported by, and can be read in conjunction with, a series of other documents which provide explanations of the elements it contains:

1. An explanatory document setting out the full characterisation process, including water body, subcatchment and catchment characterisation.
2. The Final River Basin Management Plan, which can be accessed on: [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie).
3. A published paper on Source Load Apportionment Modelling, which can be accessed at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3318/bioe.2016.22>
4. A published paper on the role of pathways in transferring nutrients to streams and the relevance to water quality management strategies, which can be accessed at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.3318/bioe.2016.19.pdf>
5. An article on Investigative Assessments which can be accessed at: <https://www.catchments.ie/download/catchments-newsletter-sharing-science-stories-june-2016/>

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# 1 Introduction

This catchment includes the area drained by the River Bann and by all streams entering tidal water between the Barmouth and Ballyaghan Point, Co. Derry. This is a cross border catchment with a surface area of 5,787km<sup>2</sup>, 374km<sup>2</sup> of which is located within the Republic of Ireland (RoI). The largest urban centre in the catchment is Monaghan town. There are no other large towns in this catchment and the total population (in the RoI) is approximately 20,500 with a population density of 55 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

The Annaghroe Blackwater River rises in County Tyrone flowing southeast along the border. The Mountain Water River drains the northern part of this catchment in County Monaghan, flowing past Emy Vale and Glaslough, before joining the Annaghroe Blackwater at the border of Tyrone and Monaghan. The Monaghan Blackwater flows east from the border near Scotstown, after which it is joined by the Conawary and the Shambles Rivers, the latter of which drains the area around Monaghan Town.

The Monaghan Blackwater then joins the Cor River south of Glaslough. An arterial drainage scheme was completed on the Monaghan Blackwater by the OPW between 1984 and 1992. The Cor River is fed from the south by the Clontibret, Six Mile Lake and Greaghglass Rivers and by the Mullamurphy River which drains the area east of Monaghan Town and which forms part of the Ulster Canal. The Cor River crosses the border and flows into the Annaghroe Blackwater east of Glaslough which then continues towards Lough Neagh, Ireland's largest lake, from where the River Bann outflows to the sea from the northern end of the lough to the sea at Castlerock to the north of Coleraine on the northern Irish coast.

Groundwater in the catchment flows through a range of aquifer types, from poorly to moderately productive, with the central part of the catchment underlain by a karst limestone. Due to the relatively thick glacial deposits covering the bedrock in the catchment, groundwater and surface water interactions are well buffered and the groundwater resource is well protected.

The Blackwater catchment comprises six subcatchments (Table 1, Figure 1) with 27 river water bodies, six lakes and six groundwater bodies. There are no Transitional and Coastal (TraCs) in this catchment. There are no designated heavily modified or artificial water bodies in the catchment.

Table1 List of subcatchments in the Blackwater catchment

| Subcatchment ID | Subcatchment Name           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 03_1            | CallanRiver[Tassagh]_SC_010 |
| 03_2            | Mountain[Water]_SC_010      |
| 03_3            | BlackwaterTrib_SC_010       |
| 03_4            | BlackwaterTrib_SC_020       |
| 03_5            | Clontibret[Stream]_SC_010   |
| 03_6            | Blackwater[Monaghan]_SC_010 |

## Overview

### Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Catchment (03)

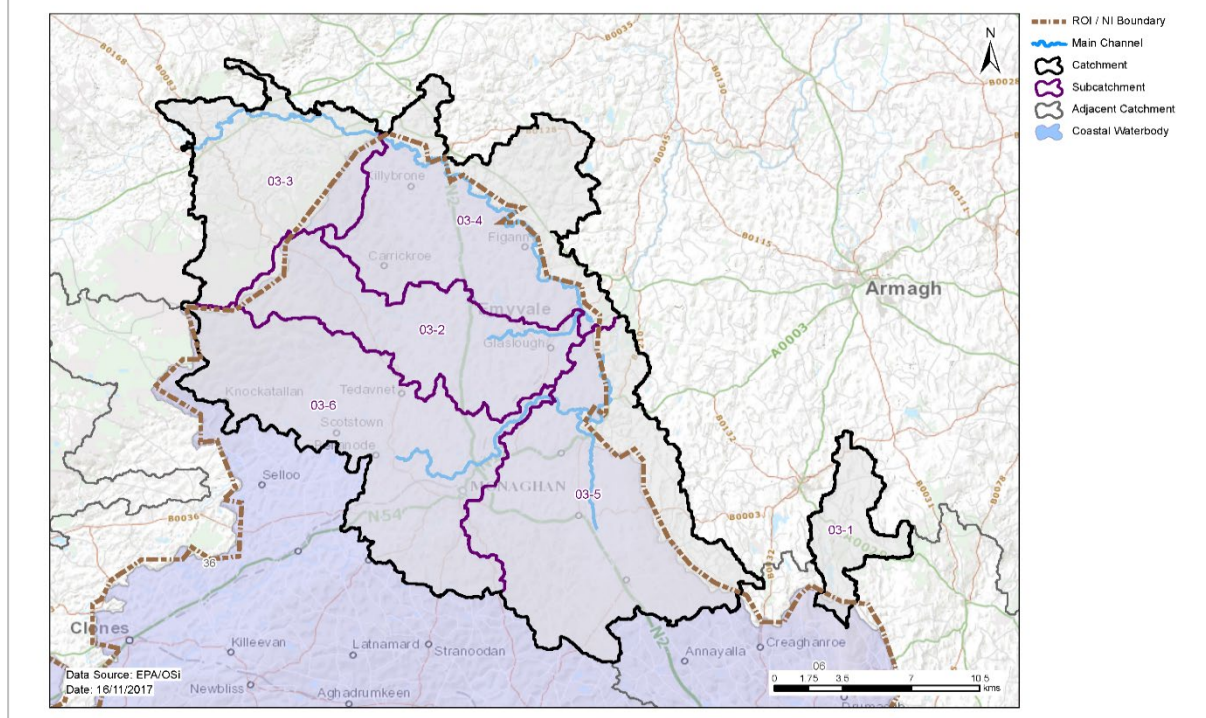


Figure 1. Subcatchments in the Blackwater catchment

## 2 Water body status and risk of not meeting environmental objectives

### 2.1 Surface water ecological status

#### 2.1.1 Rivers and lakes

- ◆ There were nine (27%) water bodies at Good or High status, and nine (27 %) at less than Good status in 2015 (Table 2 and Figure 2). Fifteen (46%) water bodies are unassigned.
- ◆ There is one river water body the Mountain Water\_010, which has a high status environmental objective and which achieved this objective in 2015 (Appendix 1).
- ◆ The numbers of water bodies at each status class in 2007-09 and 2010-2015 are shown in Figure 3 for rivers and Figure 4 for lakes.
- ◆ Since 2007-09 when WFD monitoring began, seven river water bodies have improved and one river water body has deteriorated. One lake water body improved also (Figure 5).
- ◆ The variation in nutrient concentrations and loads in the Blackwater (Monaghan) and Mountain Water main channel is illustrated in Appendix 2.

Table 2. Summary of surface water body status and risk categories

|        | Number of water bodies | 2010-2015 Status |      |     |      |     |              | Risk        |        |         |
|--------|------------------------|------------------|------|-----|------|-----|--------------|-------------|--------|---------|
|        |                        | High             | Good | Mod | Poor | Bad | Un-monitored | Not at Risk | Review | At Risk |
| Rivers | 27                     | 4                | 4    | 1   | 7    | 0   | 11           | 10          | 6      | 11      |
| Lakes  | 6                      | 0                | 1    | 1   | 0    | 0   | 4            | 1           | 4      | 1       |

## WFD Surface Water Body Status 2010 - 2015

Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Catchment (03)

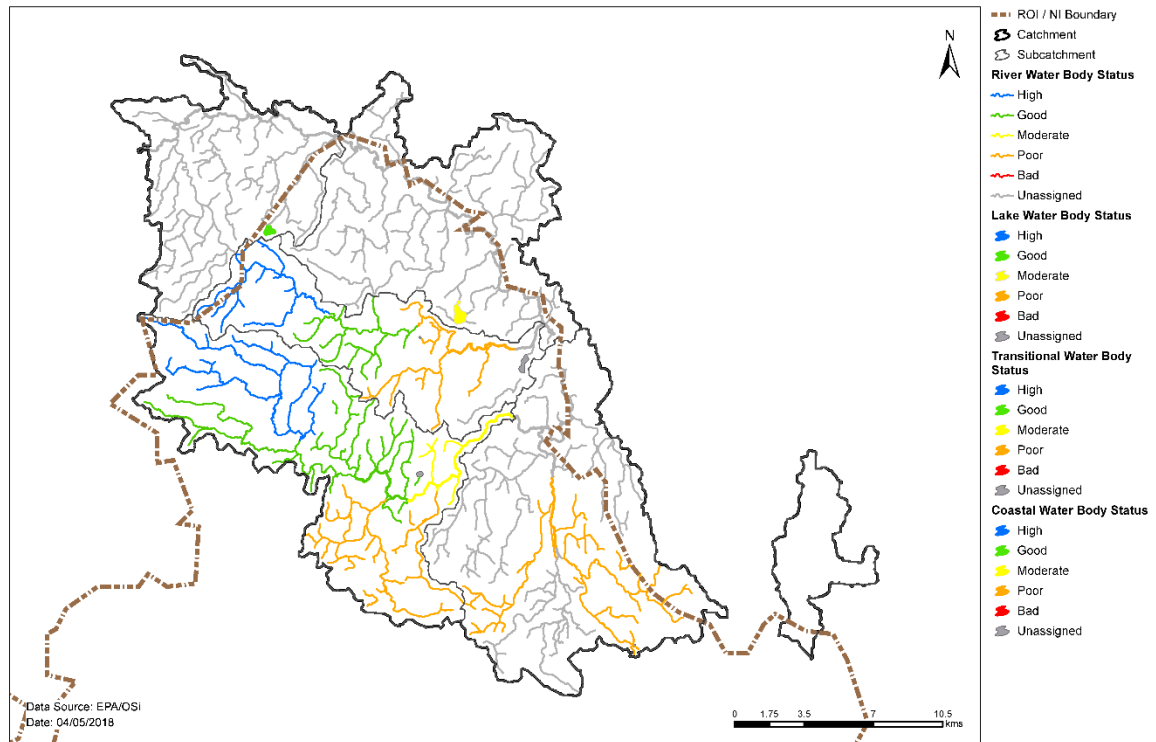


Figure 2. Surface water ecological status.

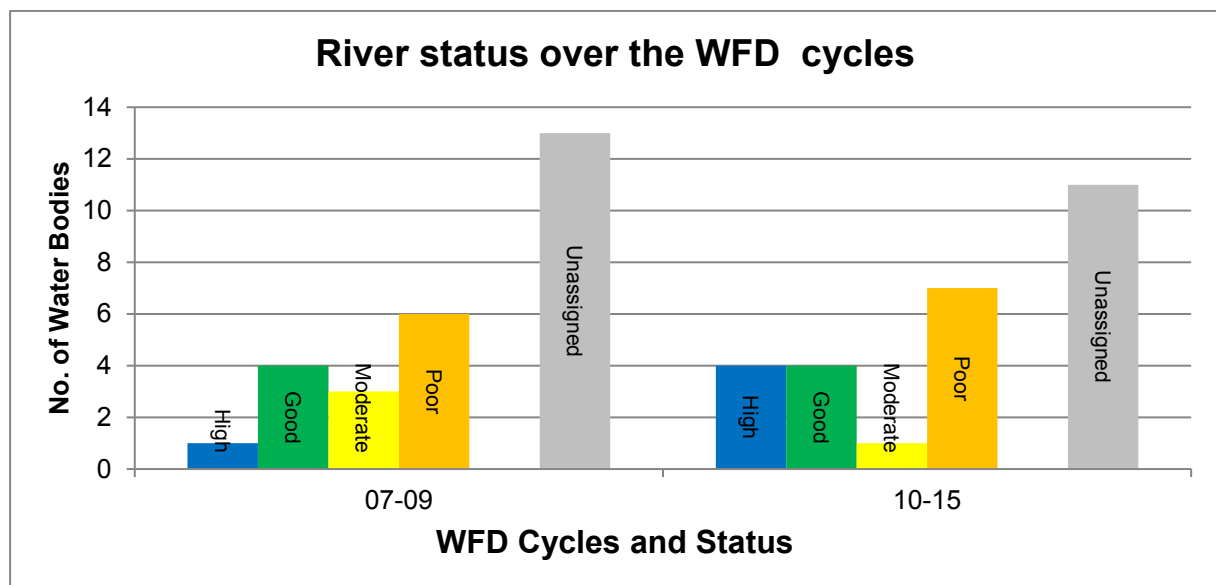


Figure 3. Number of rivers at each status class in 2007-09 and 2010-2015

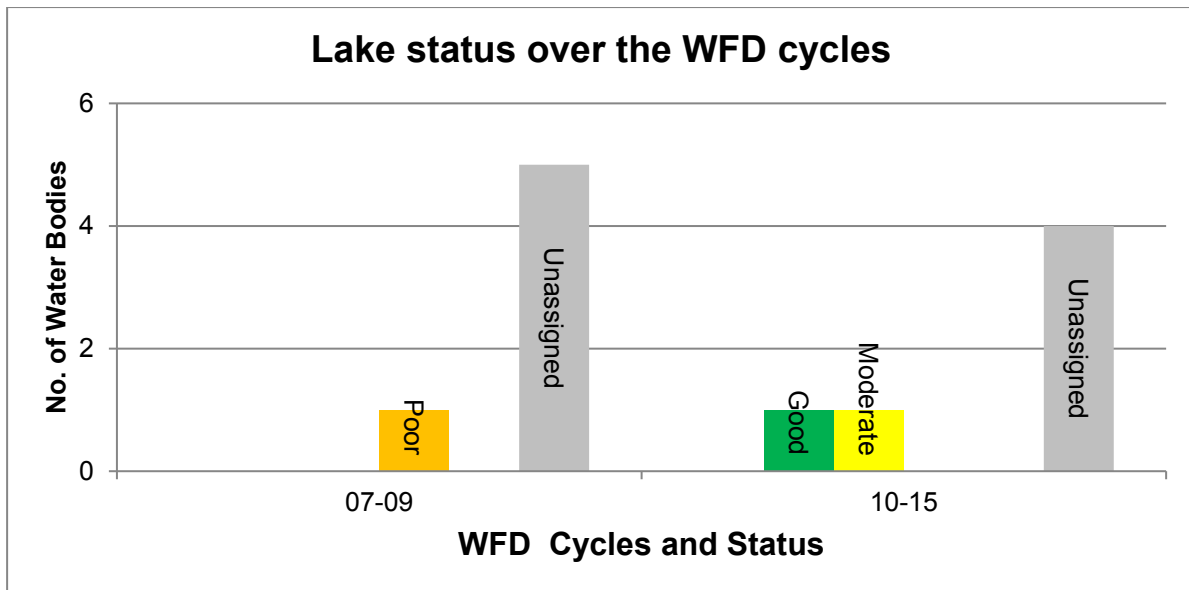


Figure 4. Number of lakes at each status class in 2007-09 and 2010-2015

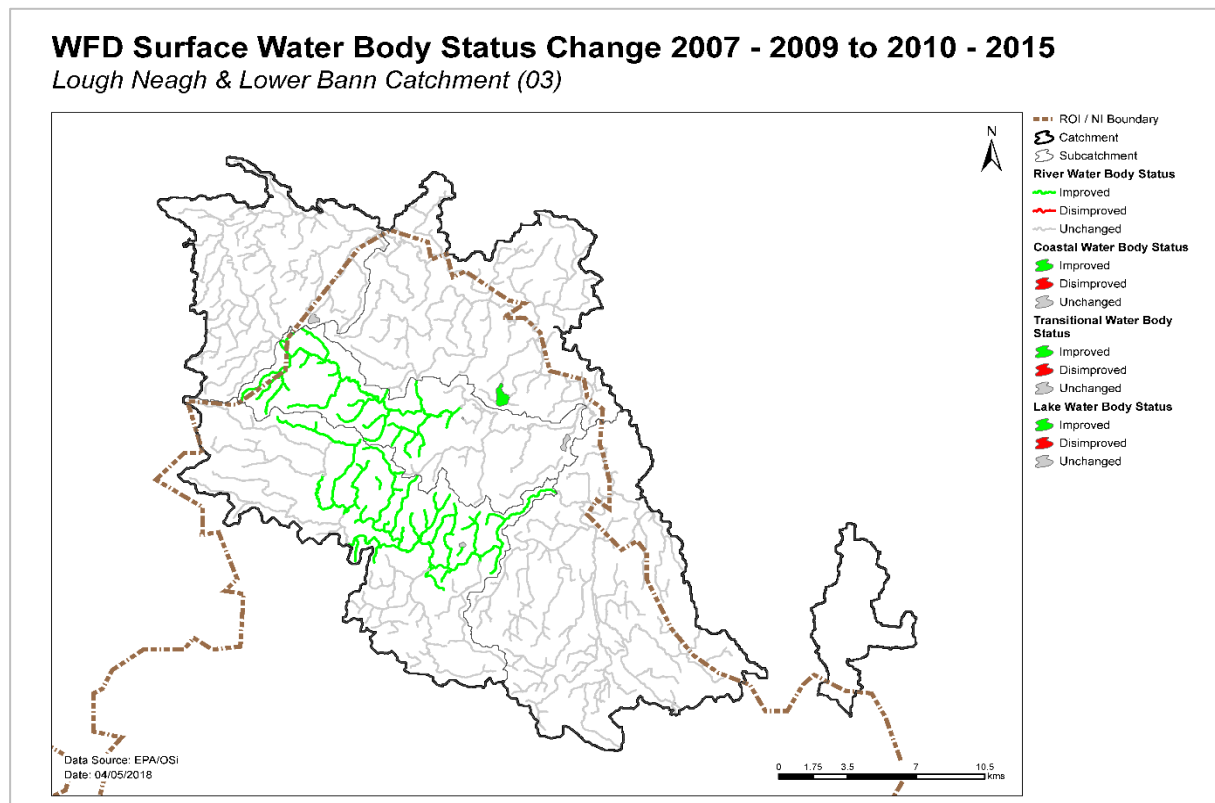


Figure 5. Surface water body status change from 2007-09 to 2010-15.

## 2.2 Groundwater Status

- ◆ There were five (83%) groundwater bodies at Good status, and one (17%) at Poor status in 2015 (Table 3 and Figure 6 and 7).



Table 3. Summary of groundwater body status and risk

|             | Number of water bodies | 2010-2015 Status |      | Risk        |        |         |
|-------------|------------------------|------------------|------|-------------|--------|---------|
|             |                        | Good             | Poor | Not at Risk | Review | At Risk |
| Groundwater | 6                      | 5                | 1    | 4           | 1      | 1       |

Figure 6. Number of groundwater bodies at each status class in 2007-12 and 2010-2015

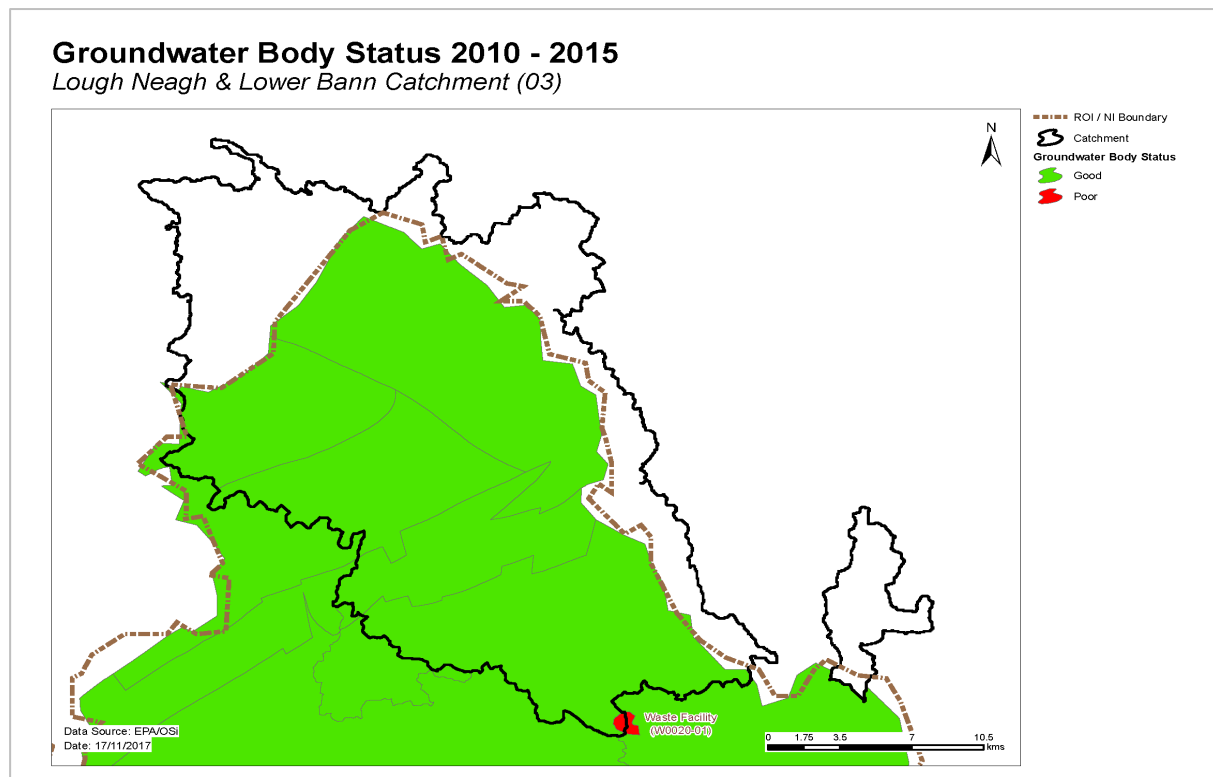
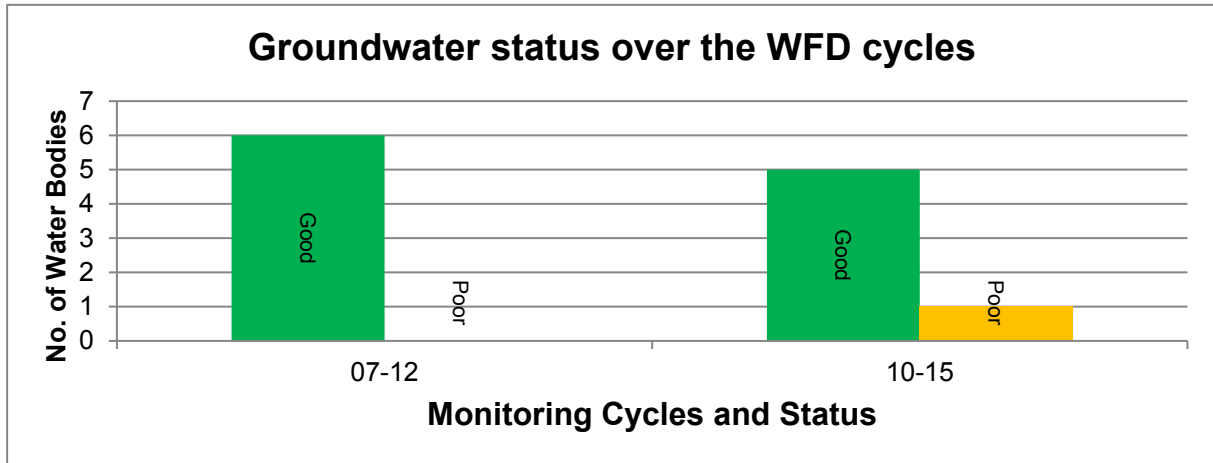


Figure 7. Groundwater body status

## 2.3 Risk of not meeting surface water environmental objectives

### 2.3.1 Rivers and Lakes

- ◆ Ten river water bodies and one lake water body are *Not at Risk* (Figure 8, Table 2) and require no additional investigative assessment or measures to be applied, other than those measures that are already in place.
- ◆ Six river water bodies and four lake water bodies are in *Review*. This applies to five river water bodies where more information is required and two where measures have recently been implemented and improvements have not yet been realised. In the case of lakes there are four where more information is required.
- ◆ Eleven river water bodies and one lake water body in the catchment are *At Risk* of not meeting their water quality objectives. Measures will be needed in these water bodies to improve the water quality outcomes. Summary information for the *At Risk* water bodies is given in Appendix 3.

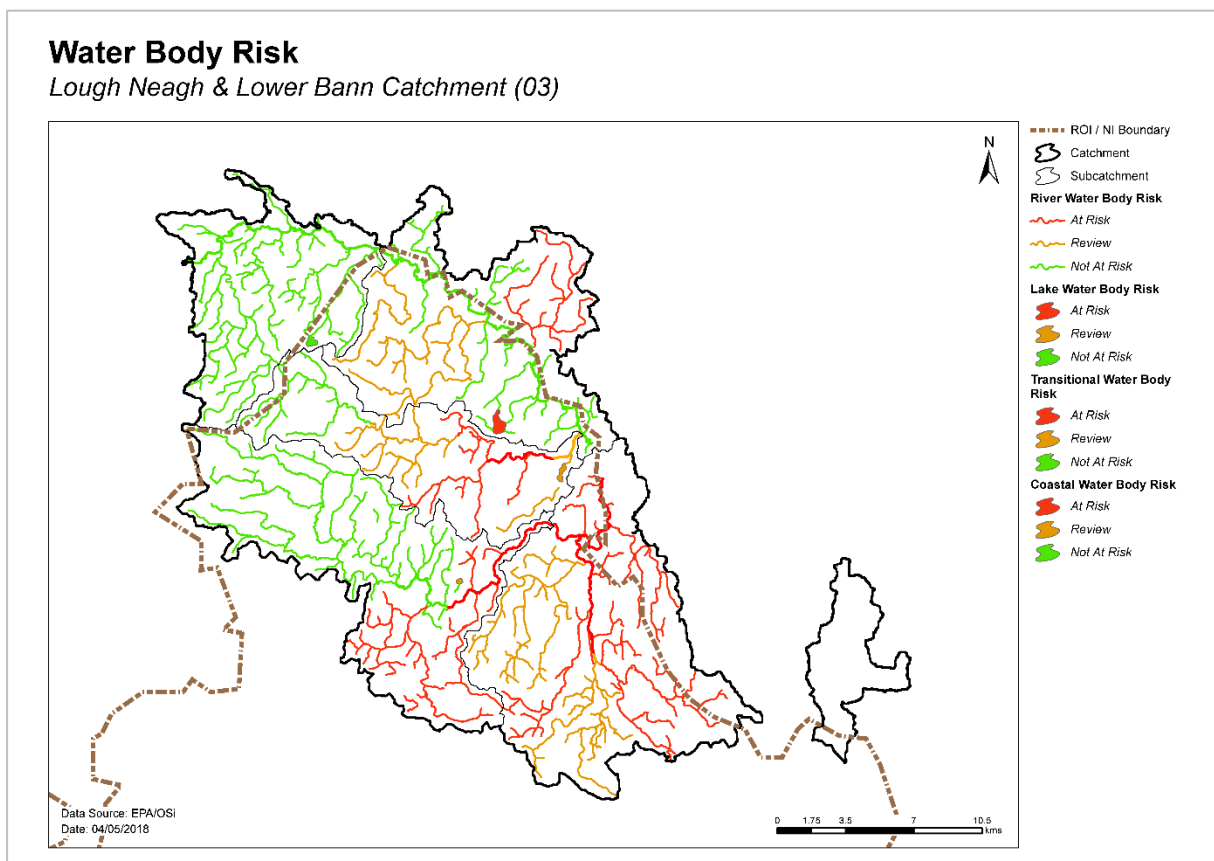


Figure 8. Surface water body risk.

## 2.4 Risk of not meeting groundwater body environmental objectives

- ◆ Four groundwater bodies are *Not at Risk* (Figure 9, Table 3) and require no additional investigative assessment or measures to be applied, other than those measures that are already in place.
- ◆ One groundwater body are in *Review* because they are hydrologically linked to surface waters that are not meeting water quality objectives where it is considered likely that groundwater is a contributing source of nutrients; three have elevated nitrates and one is considered to be contributing to surface water phosphate concentrations.

- ◆ There is one groundwater body IE\_NB\_G\_026 Waste Facility (W0020-01) which is *At Risk* of not meeting its water quality objectives due to ammonia issues. Measures will be needed in this water body to improve the water quality outcomes.

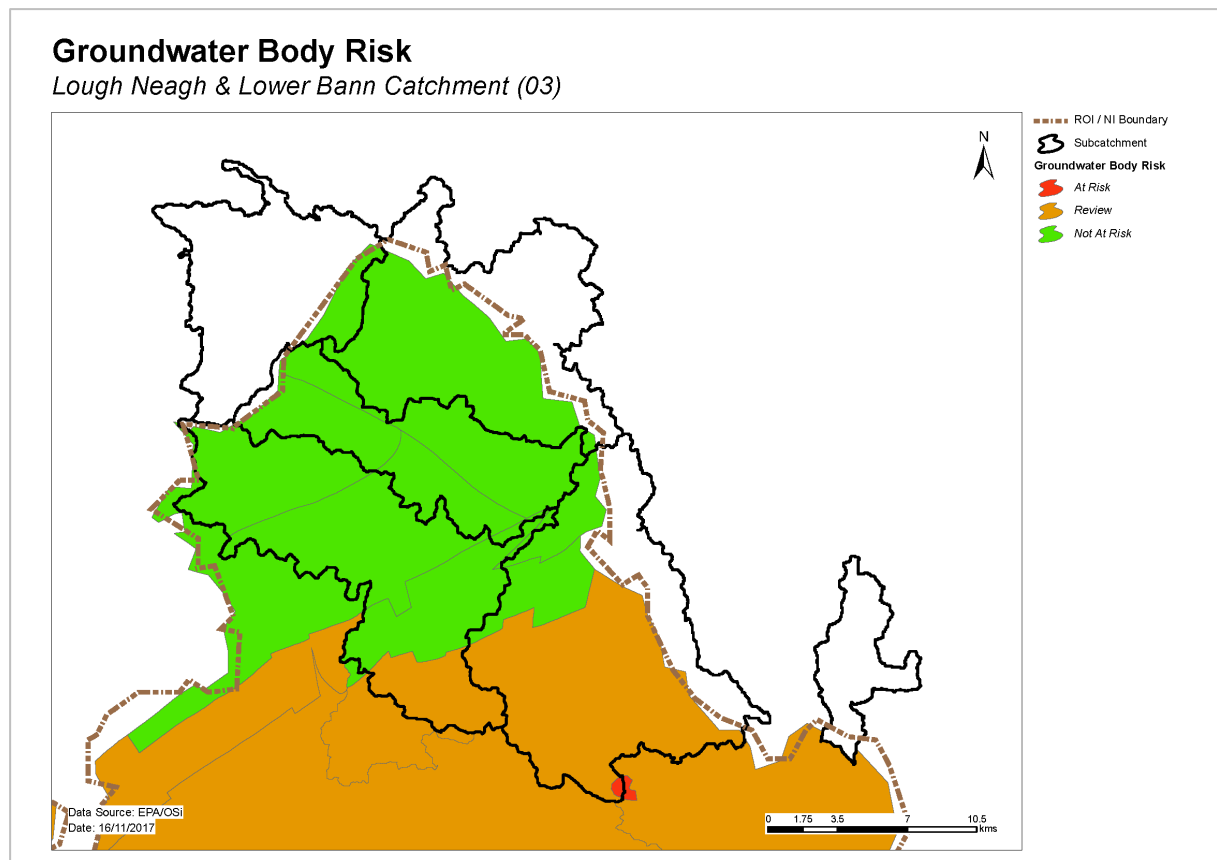


Figure 9. Groundwater body risk

## 2.5 Protected Areas

### 2.5.1 Drinking Water Protected Areas

- ◆ There are 19 abstractions in the Blackwater Monaghan Catchment comprising three group water schemes (Glaslough and Tyholland GWSS, Truagh GWSS and Tydavnet GWSS) and the Monaghan public supply.
- ◆ Sixteen of the abstractions are from three groundwater bodies (Tydavnet GWB, Knockatallon GWB and Monaghan Town GWB), two are from lakes (Emy Lough and Lough More), and one is from a very small lake (Lough Antraicer) at the headwaters of the Scotstown\_010 river water body. The list of the public supplies and the associated water bodies is provided in Appendix 4.
- ◆ All sources were compliant with the standards for nitrate in 2015.
- ◆ All sources were compliant with the standards for pesticides in 2015.
- ◆ All six-drinking water protected areas had therefore met their objectives in 2015.

### 2.5.2 Bathing Waters

- ◆ There are no designated bathing waters in the catchment.

### 2.5.3 Shellfish Waters

- ◆ There are no designated shellfish areas in the catchment.

### 2.5.4 Nutrient Sensitive Areas

- ◆ There is one designated (in 2010) nutrient sensitive area (NSA) in the Blackwater catchment. The NSA is meeting its environmental objective because tertiary treatment is in place at the relevant waste water treatment plant. The NSA and its associated waste water agglomeration is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4. Nutrient Sensitive Areas in the catchment

| Nutrient Sensitive Area |                       | Agglomeration |       | Objective met? |    | Comment                                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------|----------------|----|---|
| Name                    | Code                  | Name          | Code  | Yes            | No |   |
| Blackwater (River)      | IEGBNIRI_NB_2001_0011 | Monaghan      | D0061 | ✓              |    | Tertiary treatment is already in place. |

### 2.5.5 Natura 2000 Sites

- ◆ There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the catchment.
- ◆ There is one Special Protected Areas (SPA) in the catchment:
  - Slieve Beagh SPA

As there are no specific water quality and quantity supporting conditions identified in the site-specific conservation objectives for this SPA, the intersecting water bodies are not assigned priority action for WFD protected area purposes in the second cycle.

## 2.6 Heavily modified water bodies

- ◆ There are no designated heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs) in the catchment.
- ◆ There are no designated artificial water bodies (AWB) in the catchment.

## 3 Significant issues in *At Risk* water bodies

- ◆ Excess phosphorus is the dominant issue in rivers and lakes for the catchment. Excess ammonium is also a concern in a limited number of water bodies. Hydromorphological issues are noted for a limited number of rivers, arising from activities such as channelisation and drainage. The consequences are poor habitat quality including the impact of high levels of fine sediment.
- ◆ High ammonia is present in one groundwater body IE\_NB\_G\_026.

## 4 Significant pressures

### 4.1 Water bodies

- ◆ Where water bodies have been classed as *At Risk*, based on water quality or survey data, significant pressures have been identified.
- ◆ Figure 10 shows a breakdown of the number of *At Risk* water bodies in each significant pressure category.

#### 4.1.1 River and lakes

- ◆ Significant pressures have been identified by the initial characterisation process in 11 river water bodies, nine of which have multiple pressures. Significant pressures have also been identified for

one lake water body, which has multiple pressures. The significant pressures will be refined as further characterisation is carried out.

- ◆ The significant pressure affecting the greatest number of water bodies is agriculture, followed by hydromorphological pressures, diffuse urban, domestic waste water, urban waste water and other.

#### 4.1.2 Groundwater

- ◆ The significant pressure affecting the IE\_NB\_G\_026 groundwater water body is a waste facility. The key parameter of concern is ammonia.

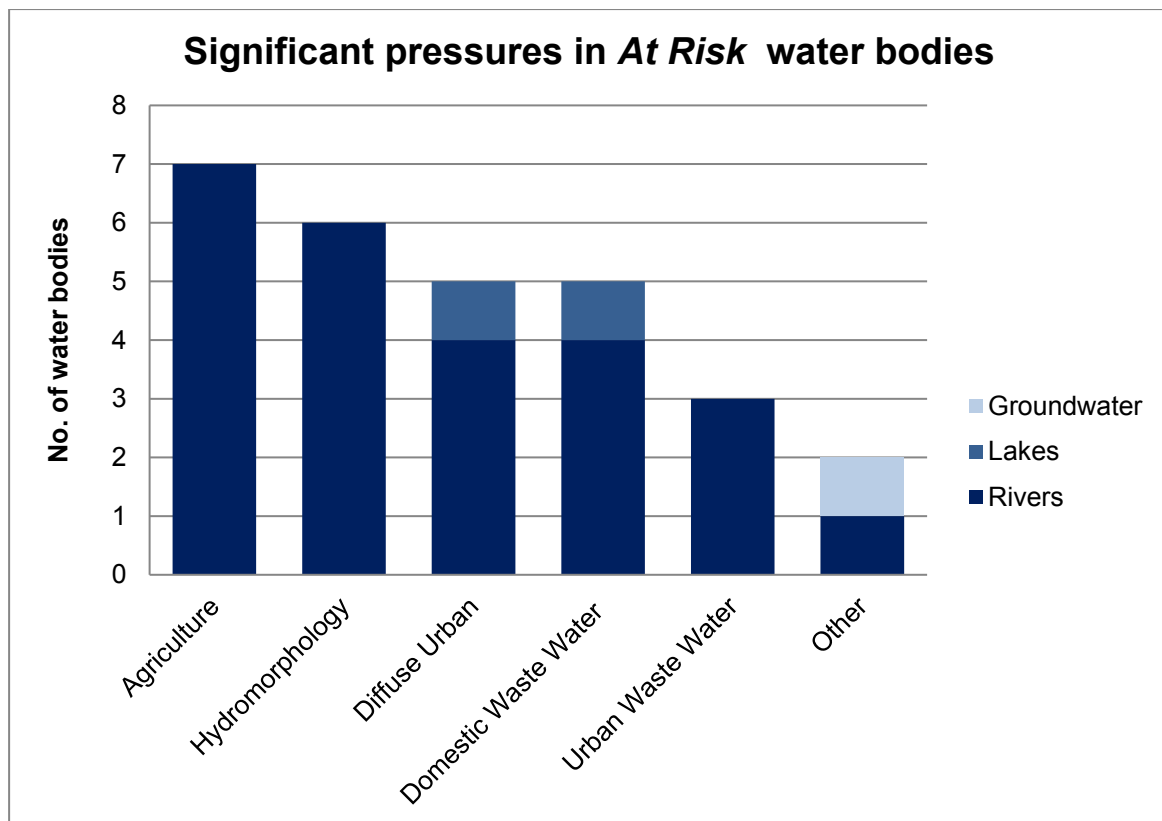


Figure 10. Significant pressures impacting on *At Risk* water bodies.

## 4.2 Pressure type

### 4.2.1 Agriculture

Agriculture is a significant pressure in seven river water bodies; the water bodies affected by farming are shown in Figure 11. The impact of the pressure includes phosphorus loss to surface waters from, for example, direct discharges; or runoff from yards, roadways or other compacted surfaces, or runoff from poorly draining soils. Sediment can also be a problem from land drainage works, bank erosion from animal access or stream crossings. The pollution impact potential map showing areas of relative risk for phosphorus loss from agriculture to surface water is given in Appendix 5.

### 4.2.2 Hydromorphology

- ◆ River water bodies within the Mountain Water, Clontibret Stream and Blackwater [Monaghan] subcatchments are subject to extensive modification (Figure 12 and Table 4a). Drainage schemes exist which have led to altered flow, high levels of siltation and habitat degradation. A weir was

recorded on a river water body within the Mountain Water subcatchment which impacts on hydromorphological conditions downstream.

Table 4a – Water bodies impacted by hydromorphological pressures

| Pressure  | Sub-Catchment               | Water body Code       |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Modification due to Drainage Schemes (Channelisation) | Mountain[Water]_SC_010      | Mountain Water_040    |
|   | Mountain[Water]_SC_010      | Mountain Water_050    |
|   | Clontibret[Stream]_SC_010   | Clontribet Stream_030 |
|   | Clontibret[Stream]_SC_010   | Clontribet Stream_010 |
|   | Clontibret[Stream]_SC_010   | Cor River             |
|   | Blackwater[Monaghan]_SC_010 | Conawary(lower)_010   |
| In River Structures                                   | Mountain[Water]_SC_010      | Mountain Water_040    |

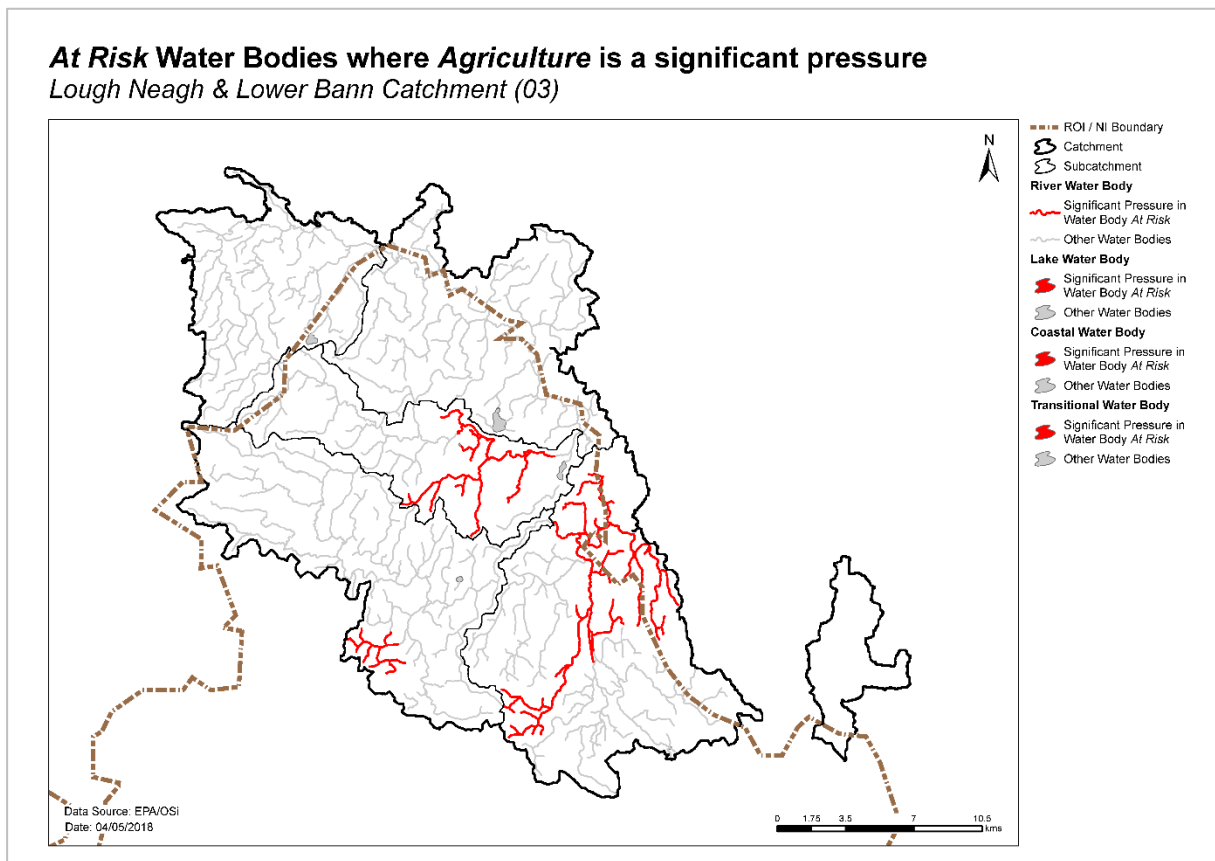


Figure 11. Water bodies that are *At Risk* and are impacted by agricultural activities

## At Risk Water Bodies where Hydromorphology is a significant pressure

Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Catchment (03)

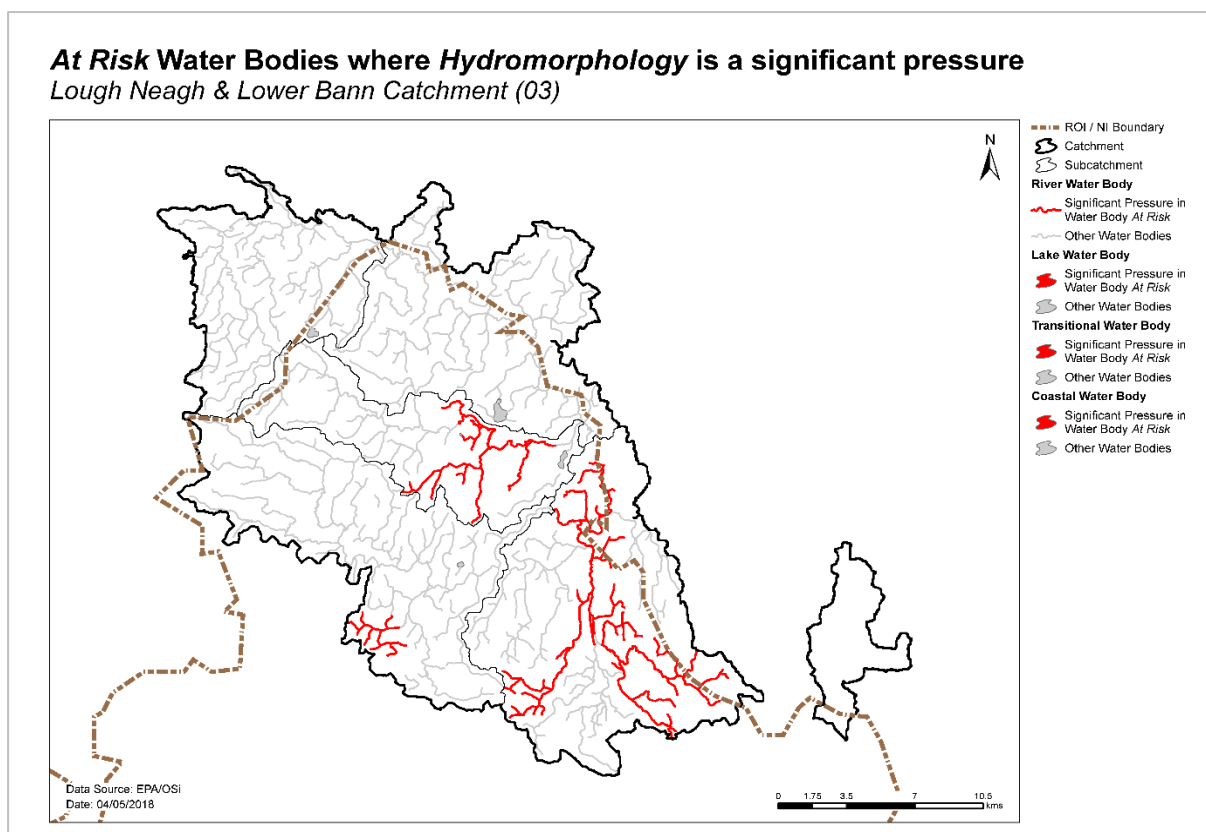


Figure 12. Water bodies that are *At Risk* and are impacted by hydromorphological impacts

### 4.2.3 Diffuse urban

- ◆ Diffuse urban pressures (resulting from misconnections, leaky sewers and runoff from paved and unpaved areas) have been identified as significant for one lake and four river water bodies (Figure 13).

### 4.2.4 Domestic Waste water

- ◆ Domestic waste water has been identified as a significant pressure in four rivers and one lake (Figure 14). The impacts are associated with inadequate treatment systems, and unsuitable percolation areas and/or direct pipe discharges, usually in areas of poorly draining soils and subsoils, resulting in elevated nutrient concentrations.

### 4.2.5 Urban Waste water Treatment Plants

- ◆ Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs) have been identified as a significant pressure in three *At Risk* water bodies, Blackwater (Monaghan)\_040, Shambles\_010 and Mountain Water\_040; details are given in Table 5 and Figure 15. The two WWTPs impacting these three water bodies, Monaghan and Emyvale, are currently not specified in improvement plans.

Table 5. Waste Water Treatment Plants identified as Significant Pressures in *At Risk* water bodies.

| Facility name  | Facility Type       | Water body                | 10-15 Ecological Status | Expected Completion Date |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monaghan D0061 | > 10,000 p.e.       | Blackwater (Monaghan)_040 | Moderate                | N/A                      |
| Monaghan D0061 | > 10,000 p.e.       | Shambles_010              | Poor                    | N/A                      |
| Emyvale D0346  | 1,001 to 2,000 p.e. | Mountain Water_040        | Poor                    | N/A                      |

#### 4.2.6 Other Significant Pressure

- ◆ Waste
- ◆ Waste (poultry litter) has been identified as a significant pressure in one river water body – Clontibret Stream\_010. Elevated organics and phosphorous are the significant issues arising from waste.
- ◆ One groundwater body IE\_NB\_G\_026, is impacted by a waste facility.

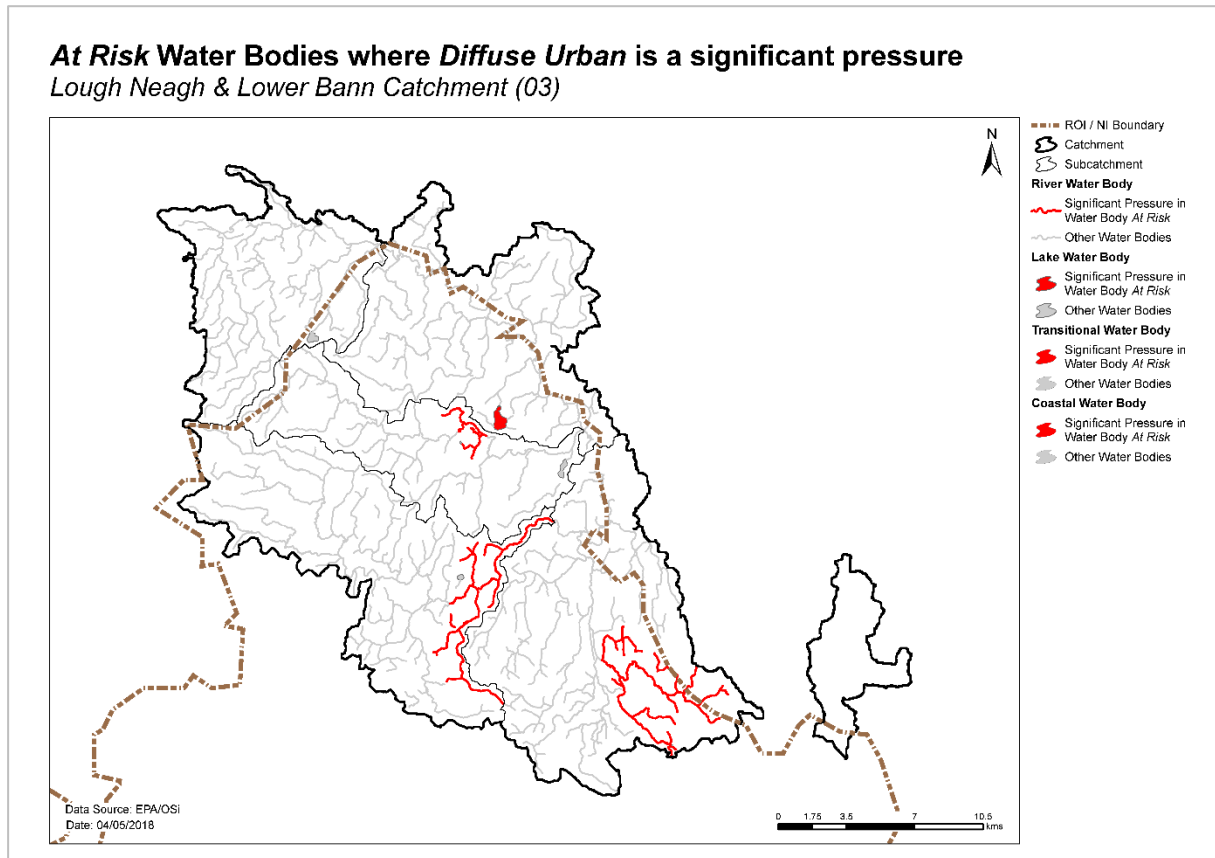


Figure 13. Water bodies that are *At Risk* and are impacted by diffuse urban pressures



**At Risk Water Bodies where Domestic Waste Water is a significant pressure**  
 Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Catchment (03)

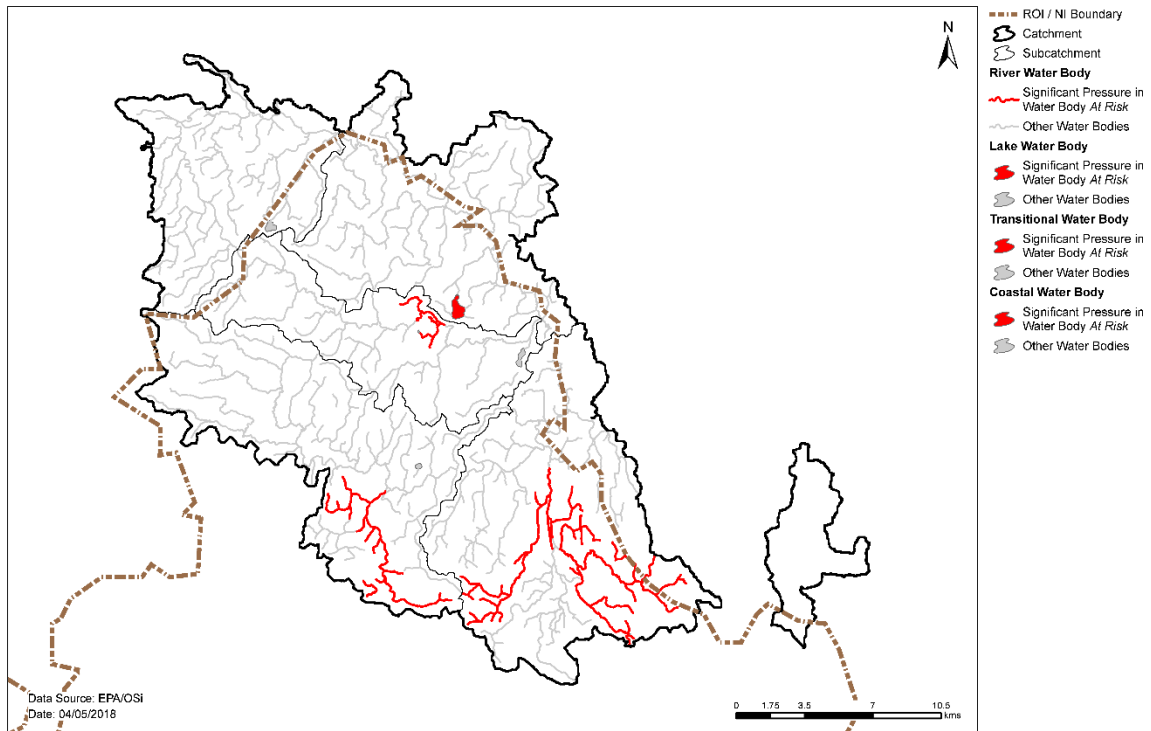


Figure 14. Water bodies that are *At Risk* and are impacted by domestic waste water pressures

**At Risk Water Bodies where Urban Waste Water is a significant pressure**  
 Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Catchment (03)

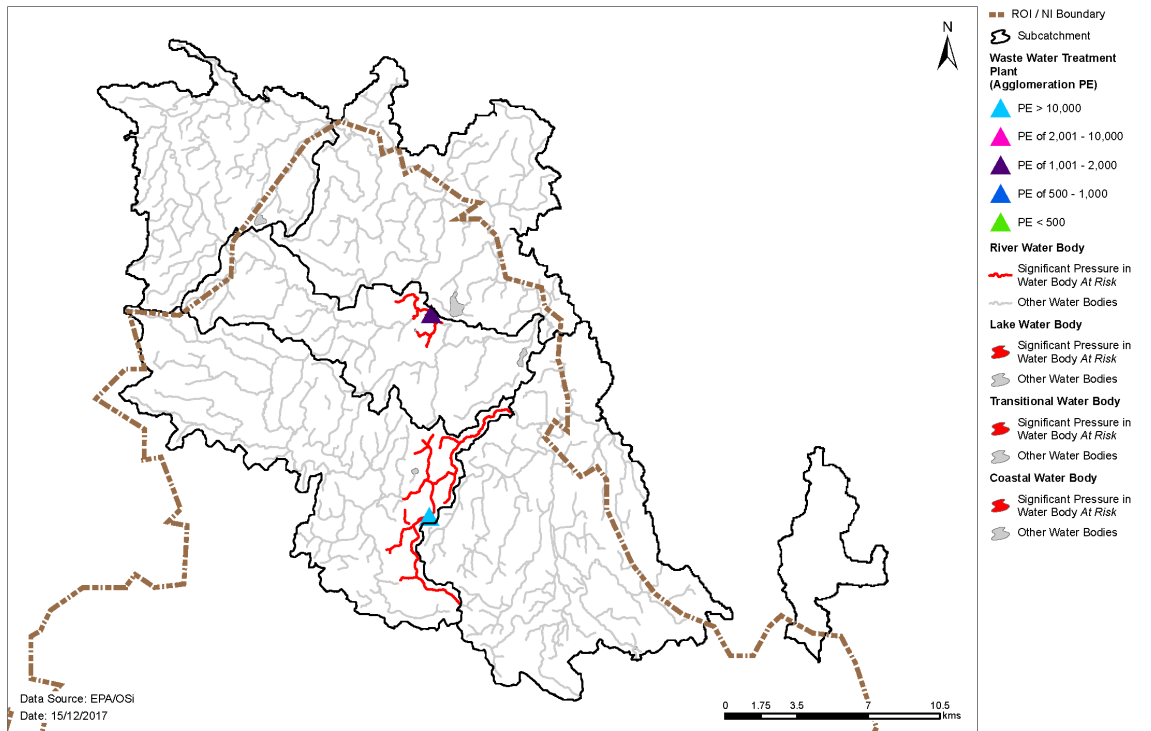


Figure 15. Water bodies that are *At Risk* and are impacted by urban waste water pressures

## 5 Load reduction assessment

### 5.1 River water body load reductions

- ◆ Phosphorus is the main parameter influencing water quality in rivers in the catchment.
- ◆ For water bodies where phosphorus monitoring data are available, the reduction in P load that would be required to bring the mean concentration back to the EQS of 0.035 mg/l as P, can be estimated using a simple method based on the average 2013 to 2015 concentration and the average flow, or the estimated 30<sup>th</sup> percentile flow (Q30) where flow data are not available. The relative load reductions are ranked on a national scale from Very High (>1 kg/Ha/y), to High (0.5-1 kg/Ha/y), to Medium (0.25-0.5 kg/Ha/y) to Low (<0.25 kg/Ha/y). Note that P load reductions may also be required in other water bodies, but without chemistry monitoring data a quantitative estimate cannot be calculated.
- ◆ Based on the available water chemistry data, load reductions are required in at least four river water bodies (Table 6). The largest reductions will be needed in the Clontibret Stream\_030, Blackwater (Monaghan)\_040 and Shambles\_010 water bodies. The load reduction needed in the Mountain water\_050 is low.

Table 6. Relative load reductions required in monitored water bodies that are *At Risk*.

| WATER BODY                | P Load Reduction Required |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| CLONTIBRET STREAM_030     | High                      |
| BLACKWATER (MONAGHAN)_040 | High                      |
| SHAMBLES_010              | High                      |
| MOUNTAIN WATER_050        | Low                       |

## 6 Further characterisation and local catchment assessments

- ◆ Further characterisation through local catchment assessments is needed in 12 *At Risk* water bodies to refine the understanding of the significant pressures at the site/field scale so that specific and targeted measures can be identified.
- ◆ Further characterisation through local catchment assessments is needed in 10 of the water bodies in *Review* to refine the understanding of the significant pressures at the site/field scale so that specific and targeted measures can be identified.

Table 7: Local Catchment Assessment Allocation for *At Risk* and *Review* River and Lake Water bodies in the Catchment.

| Risk           | IA 1 | IA 2 | IA 3 | IA 5 | IA 7 | Total |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| <b>At Risk</b> | 8    | 2    | 3    | 2    | 5    | 21    |
| <b>Review</b>  | 2    | 0    | 6    | 0    | 1    | 13    |

Note water bodies may have multiple categories of Local Catchment Assessments

## 7 Catchment summary

- ◆ Of the 27 river water bodies in the catchment, 11 are *At Risk* of not meeting their WFD objective.
- ◆ Only one out of six lake water bodies is *At Risk* of not meeting their WFD objective.
- ◆ One of the *At Risk* water bodies is a High Ecological Status (HES) objective water body that is failing to meet High status.
- ◆ The significant issue in the surface water bodies is excess nutrient loss, mainly phosphorus, leading to eutrophication. The significant pressures relating to excess nutrients are primarily agricultural (diffuse and point), but also diffuse urban and waste water (urban and domestic).
- ◆ One of the groundwater bodies in the catchment is *At Risk*. The significant pressure in this groundwater body is a waste facility.

## 8 Areas for Action

The characterisation outcomes described above have highlighted that there is significant work to do in the catchment to protect and restore water quality, and meet the objectives of the WFD. During the development of the draft river basin management plan it became apparent that there would be a need to prioritise areas for collective action so that the best return on investment could be achieved. 190 Areas for action have been selected nationally in a process as described below. There is one area for action in the Blackwater (Neagh-Bann) catchment.

### 8.1 Process of Selection

Following the publication of the draft river basin management plan in early 2017, the EPA and the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office (LAWCO) jointly led a collaborative regional workshop process to determine where, from a technical and scientific perspective, actions should be prioritised in the second cycle. The prioritisation process was based on the priorities in the draft river basin management plan, the evidence from the characterisation process, and the expertise, data and knowledge of public body staff with responsibilities for water and the different pressure types. The recommended areas for action selected during the workshops were then agreed by the Water and Environmental Regional Committees.

The recommended areas for action are an initial list of areas where action will be carried out in the second cycle. All water bodies that are *At Risk* still however, need to be addressed. As issues are resolved, areas for action will be removed from the list and new areas will be added. If additional monitoring shows that new issues have arisen, new areas may become a priority and may need to be added to the work programme.

The initial list of areas for action is not therefore considered as a closed or finite list; it simply represents the initial areas where work will be carried out during the second WFD planning cycle from 2018 to 2021.

## 8.2 Outcomes of process

The outcomes for the Blackwater (Lough Neagh-Lower Bann) catchment are summarised below.

- ◆ One recommended area for actions (Table 8, Figure 16) was selected.
- ◆ It is Mountain (water) & Emy Lake.
- ◆ This includes three *At Risk* and four *Review* river and lake water bodies.
- ◆ There are no groundwater bodies that are *At Risk* or *Review* due to groundwater contribution of nutrients to surface water bodies.

A remaining fifteen *At Risk* and *Review* surface water bodies were not included in the recommended areas for action for the second cycle. The distribution of these is presented in Figure 17.

These include fifteen river and lake water bodies, nine *At Risk* and six *Review*.

Table 8. Recommended Areas for Action in the Blackwater (Lough Neagh-Lower Bann) Catchment

| Recommended area for action | Number of water bodies | SCs        | Local authority | Reason for Selection   |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|--|
| Mountain (water) & Emy Lake | 7                      | 3_2<br>3_4 | Monaghan        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on improvements in two water bodies.</li> <li>• Rivers Trust in operation.</li> <li>• Group water scheme present.</li> <li>• Communities project in Mountain Water _040 which is looking at the hydromorphology issue.</li> </ul> |

## 9 Environmental Objectives

The environmental objectives are the target status for each *At Risk* or *Review* water body and the date by which that status is expected to be achieved (Appendix 3). Where a water body is *Not at Risk* and is already at its target status, the environmental objective is deemed to have been met.

### 9.1 Surface Water

- ◆ Assuming resources are available and actions are taken in the recommended areas for action, of the three *At Risk* surface water bodies, it is predicted that all three (100%) will achieve their objective by 2027. For the four *Review* surface water bodies, the absence of information on these water bodies means that there is no scientific basis to quantify an environmental objective date, and therefore a 2027 date is set for these water bodies, see Table 9.

Table 9. Environmental objective dates for water bodies in the Areas for Action

| Risk Category  | No. of Water Bodies | No. of WBs for 2021 Improvement | No. of WBs for 2027 Status Improvement |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Rivers</b>  |                     |                                 |  |
| <i>At Risk</i> | 2                   | 0                               | 2                                      |
| <i>Review</i>  | 2                   | 0                               | 2                                      |
| <b>Lakes</b>   |                     |                                 |  |
| <i>At Risk</i> | 1                   | 0                               | 1                                      |
| <i>Review</i>  | 2                   | 0                               | 2                                      |
| <b>Total</b>   | 7                   | 0                               | 7                                      |

- ◆ Eleven water bodies have met their 2015 environmental objective.
- ◆ As action is not yet planned to be taken in the remaining nine *At Risk* surface water bodies, a 2027 date is applied to all nine water bodies.
- ◆ For the six *Review* surface water bodies, the absence of information on these water bodies means that there is no scientific basis to quantify an environmental objective date and therefore a 2027 date is applied, see Table 9.

Table 9. Environmental objectives dates in the *At Risk* and *Review* surface water bodies not included in Areas for Action

| Risk Category  | No. of Water Bodies | No. of WBs for 2021 Improvement | No. of WBs for 2027 Status Improvement |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Rivers</b>  |                     |                                 |  |
| <i>At Risk</i> | 9                   | 0                               | 9                                      |
| <i>Review</i>  | 4                   | 0                               | 4                                      |
| <b>Lakes</b>   |                     |                                 |  |
| <i>At Risk</i> | 0                   | 0                               | 0                                      |
| <i>Review</i>  | 2                   | 0                               | 2                                      |
| <b>Total</b>   | 15                  | 0                               | 15                                     |

## 9.2 Groundwater

- ◆ Five of the six groundwater bodies are currently Good status and, therefore, have met their environmental objectives.
- ◆ The one groundwater body, IE\_NB\_G\_026 in the Blackwater catchment that is less than Good status has an environmental objective date of 2027.

# Recommended Areas for Action

## Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Catchment (03)

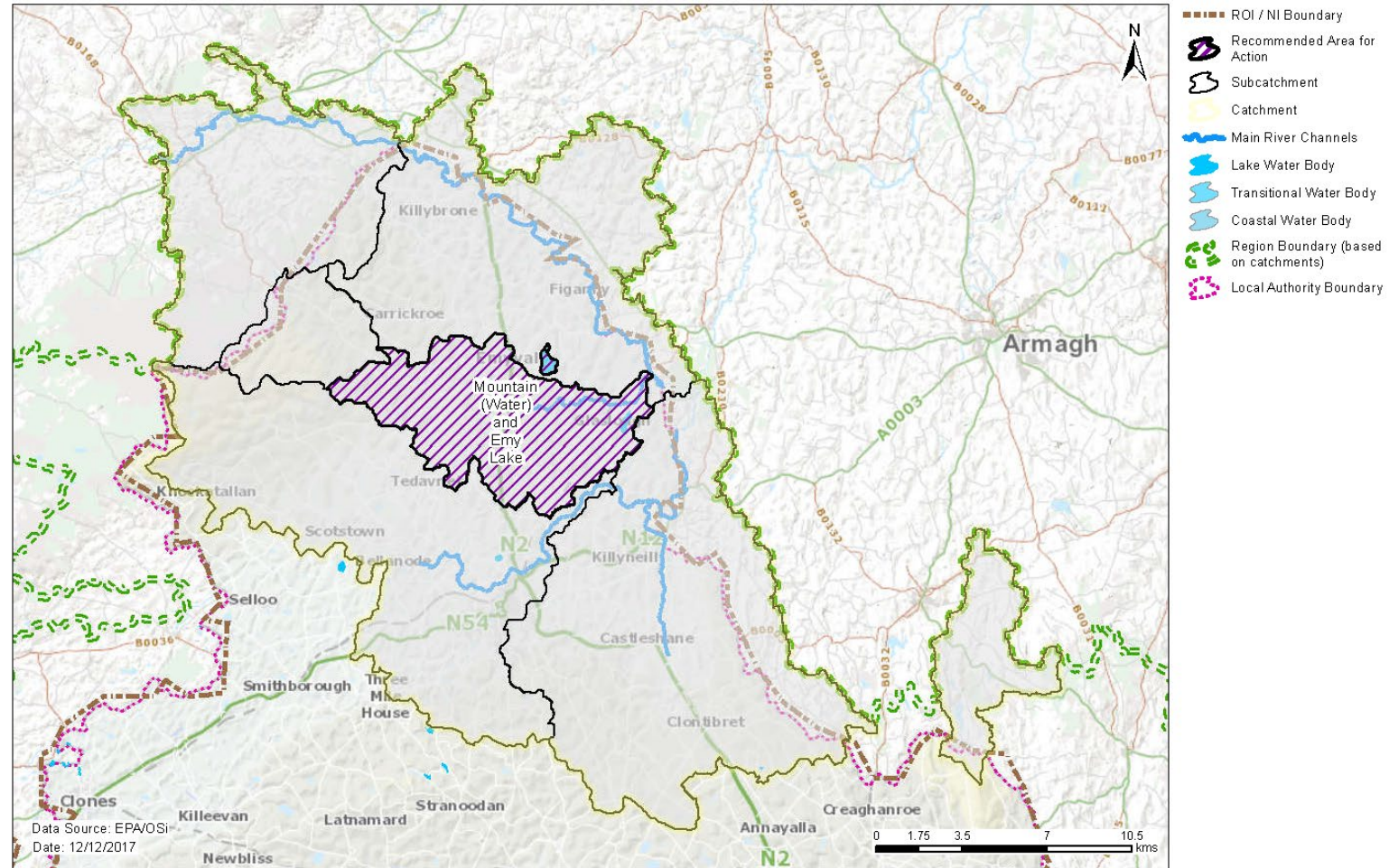


Figure 16. Location of Recommended Areas for Action in the Blackwater Catchment



## Remaining *At Risk* and *Review* Water Bodies Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Catchment (03)

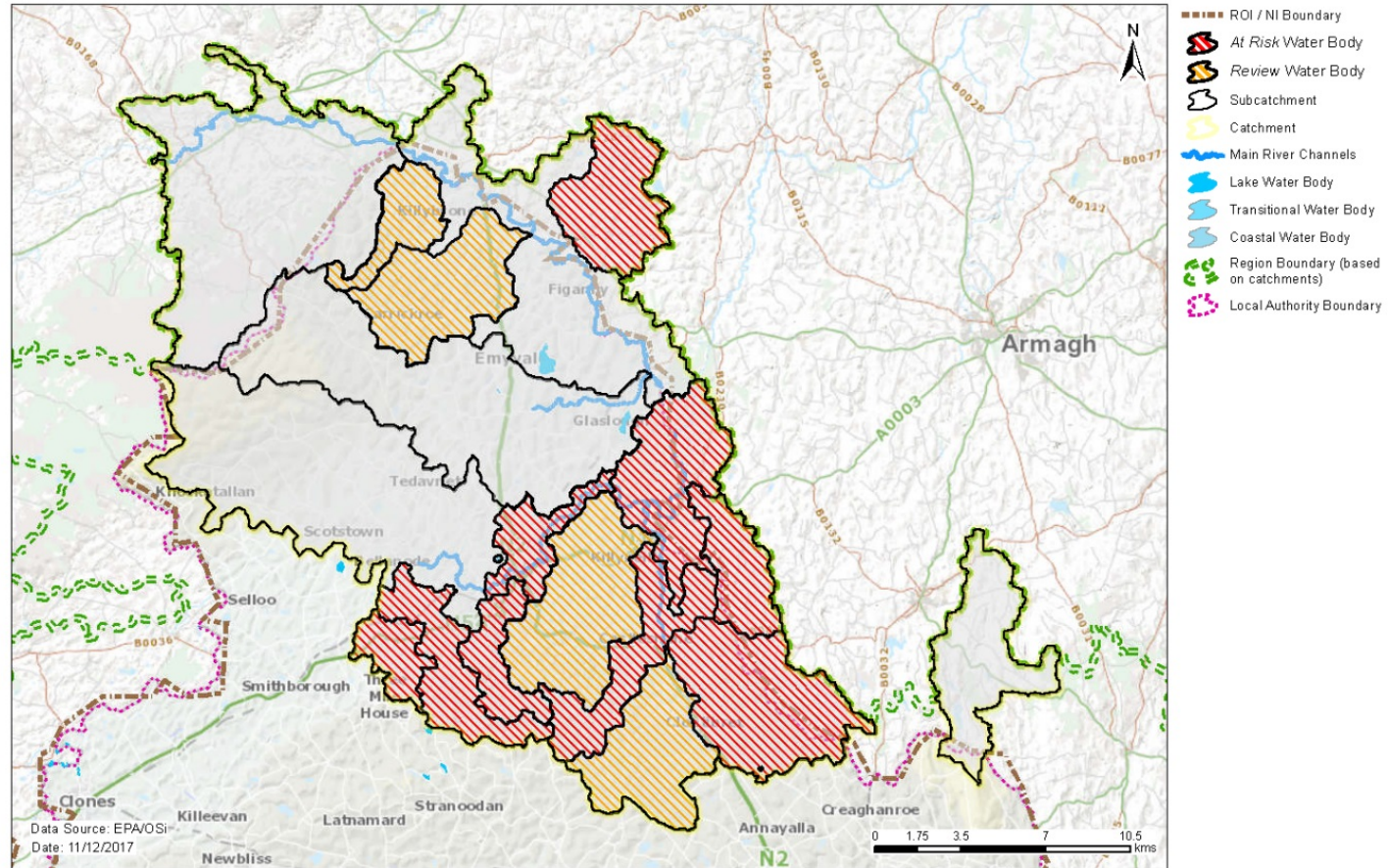


Figure 17. Location of *At Risk* and *Review* water bodies located outside Recommended Areas for Action in the Blackwater Catchment

## 10 Acknowledgements

This Blackwater (Lough Neagh-Lower Bann) Catchment Assessment (Version 3) has been produced by the Catchment Science & Management Unit, EPA, with the assistance of the following:

- Monaghan County Council.
- Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- Local Authorities Waters & Communities Office.
- Irish Water.
- RPS Group.
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency.
- Ecological Monitoring & Assessment Unit, EPA.
- Hydrometric & Groundwater Section, EPA.
- Informatics Section, EPA.
- Laboratories, EPA.
- Office of Environmental Enforcement, EPA.
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency.
- DAFM Agriculture.
- DAFM Forest Service.
- Coillte.
- Teagasc.
- Health Service Executive.
- National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Loughs Agency.
- National Federation of Group Water Schemes.
- Office of Public Works.



## Appendix 1 High ecological status objective water bodies

| Water body/ Site   | Type  | Codes              | 2015 Status |
|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------------|
| Mountain water_010 | River | UKGBNI1NB030308254 | High        |

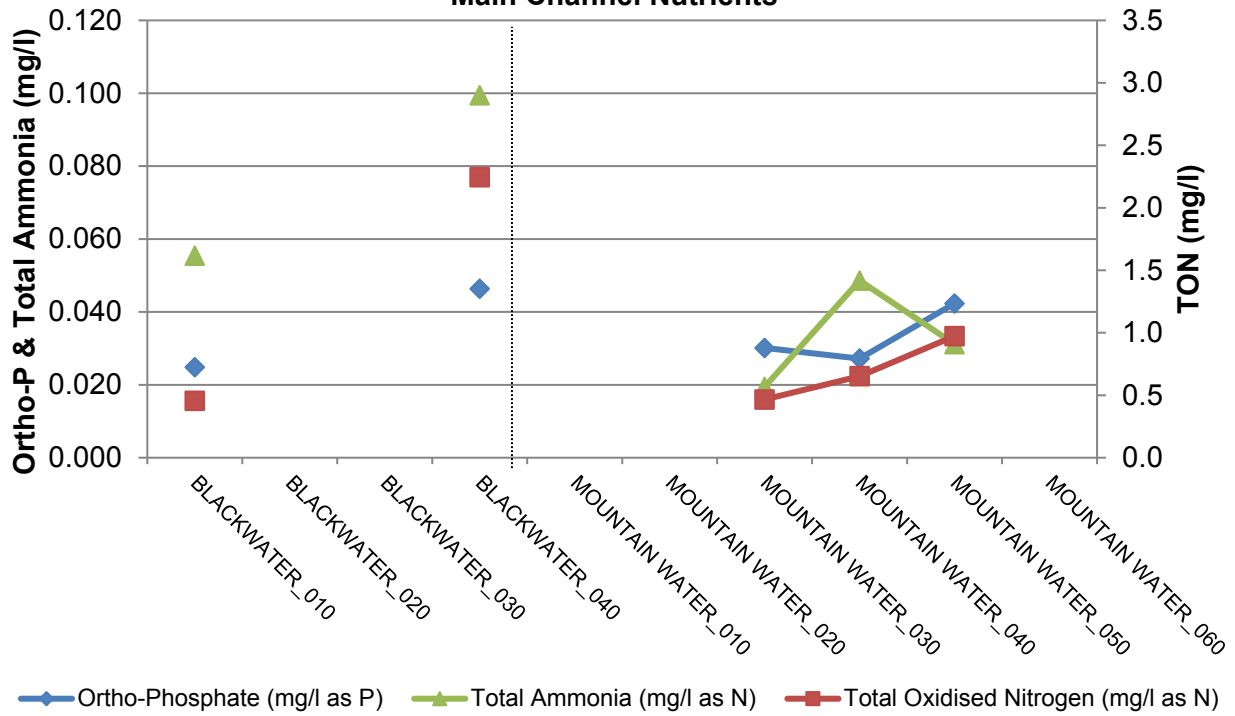
## Appendix 2 Catchment Scale Nutrient concentrations and in-stream loads

The results of the water quality assessment for the Blackwater (Monaghan) and the Mountain Water channels are illustrated in Chart 1. For the Blackwater (Monaghan) monitoring data are available for the Blackwater (Monaghan)\_010 and Blackwater (Monaghan)\_040. The 2010-2015 baseline orthophosphate concentrations increased along the main channel ranging from 0.025 to 0.046 mg/l. An exceedance of the Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) for good status (0.035mg/l) was evident at Blackwater (Monaghan)\_040. Similarly, ammonia concentrations increased from 0.055mg/l to 0.099mg/l, the latter exceeding the EQS for good status (0.065mg/l). Total oxidised nitrogen (TON) concentrations in the river headwaters (Blackwater (Monaghan)\_010) were relatively low (0.46mg/l). TON however increased markedly downstream to a concentration of 2.24 mg/l in Blackwater (Monaghan)\_040.

The increase in orthophosphate, ammonia and TON concentrations in Blackwater (Monaghan)\_040 may relate to the emergency overflow from the Monaghan Town WWTP (PE >10,000) and the primary discharge from the Knockaconny WWTP (PE 500-1,000). Given that no water chemistry data is available for Blackwater (Monaghan)\_020 and 030, it is likely that the Ballinode and Tydavnet WWTP's also contributed to the general increase in nitrogen (N) and P progressing downstream. Other significant pressures affecting the river are urban runoff from Monaghan Town and licenced discharges from the Monaghan Co-op.

The Mountain Water has data available for three monitoring locations along its course which show an increase in the concentration of all parameters moving downstream. TON and total ammonia were below relevant EQS standards, whereas the EQS for orthophosphate was marginally exceeded at Mountain Water\_050. Upstream of Mountain Water\_050, Mountain Water\_040 receives the primary discharge from the Emmyvale WWTP (PE 2000). At Mountain Water\_050, intensive agriculture is the dominant pressure with pasture (91%) making up the bulk of the total P load. N & P stream concentration maxima are likely related to a combination of agricultural practises and upstream urban waste water discharge.

### BLACKWATER (MONAGHAN) / MOUNTAIN WATER Main Channel Nutrients



### Appendix 3 Summary information on *At Risk* and *Review* surface water bodies

| Subcatchment code | Water body code    | Water body name           | Water body type | Risk    | Ecological Status 07-09 | Ecological Status 10-15 | High Ecological Status Objective Water Body Y/N | Significant Pressures | Date to Meet Environmental Objective | Recommended Area for Action Name |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 03_2              | IE_NB_03_3         | Grove                     | Lake            | Review  | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   |                       | 2027                                 | Mountain (water) & Emy Lake      |
| 03_2              | IE_NB_03_79        | Glaslough                 | Lake            | Review  | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   |                       | 2027                                 | Mountain (water) & Emy Lake      |
| 03_2              | IE_NB_03M010700    | Mountain Water_060        | River           | Review  | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   |                       | 2027                                 | Mountain (water) & Emy Lake      |
| 03_2              | IE_NB_03M010400    | Mountain Water_030        | River           | Review  | Moderate                | Good                    | N   |                       | 2027                                 | Mountain (water) & Emy Lake      |
| 03_2              | IE_NB_03M010500    | Mountain Water_040        | River           | At risk | Poor                    | Poor                    | N   | Ag,DU,DWW,Hymo,UWW    | 2027                                 | Mountain (water) & Emy Lake      |
| 03_2              | IE_NB_03M010650    | Mountain Water_050        | River           | At risk | Unassigned              | Poor                    | N   | Ag,Hymo               | 2027                                 | Mountain (water) & Emy Lake      |
| 03_4              | IE_NB_03L100990    | Lisavargy_010             | River           | Review  | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   |                       | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_4              | IE_NB_03T170930    | Tireran_010               | River           | Review  | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   |                       | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_4              | UKGBNI1NB030307042 | Crilly Feeder             | River           | At risk | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   | Other                 | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_4              | IE_NB_03_102       | Emy                       | Lake            | At risk | Poor                    | Moderate                | N   | DU,DWW                | 2027                                 | Mountain (water) & Emy Lake      |
| 03_5              | IE_NB_03_86        | White Annayalla           | Lake            | Review  | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   |                       | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_5              | IE_NB_03C011200    | Clontibret Stream_020     | River           | Review  | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   |                       | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_5              | IE_NB_03M050960    | Mullamurphy_010           | River           | Review  | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   |                       | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_5              | UKGBNI1NB030307096 | Cor River Tributary       | River           | At risk | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   | Ag                    | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_5              | UKGBNI1NB030308245 | Cor River                 | River           | At risk | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   | Ag,Hymo               | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_5              | IE_NB_03C011400    | Clontibret Stream_030     | River           | At risk | Poor                    | Poor                    | N   | Ag,DWW,Hymo           | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_5              | UKGBNI1NB030308202 | Clontibret Stream_010     | River           | At risk | Poor                    | Poor                    | N   | DU,DWW,Hymo           | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_6              | IE_NB_03_90        | Lambs                     | Lake            | Review  | Unassigned              | Unassigned              | N   |                       | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_6              | IE_NB_03B010800    | Blackwater (Monaghan)_040 | River           | At risk | Poor                    | Moderate                | N   | DU,UWW                | 2027                                 |                                  |

| Subcatchment code | Water body code | Water body name      | Water body type | Risk    | Ecological Status 07-09 | Ecological Status 10-15 | High Ecological Status Objective Water Body Y/N | Significant Pressures | Date to Meet Environmental Objective | Recommended Area for Action Name |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 03_6              | IE_NB_03C021100 | Conawary (Lower)_010 | River           | At risk | Unassigned              | Poor                    | N   | Ag,Hymo               | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_6              | IE_NB_03C021300 | Conawary (Lower)_020 | River           | At risk | Poor                    | Poor                    | N   | Ag,DWW                | 2027                                 |                                  |
| 03_6              | IE_NB_03S010500 | Shambles_010         | River           | At risk | Poor                    | Poor                    | N   | DU,UWW                | 2027                                 |                                  |

**Ag:** Agriculture

**DWW:** Domestic Waste Water

**For:** Forestry

**Hymo:** Hydromorphology

**Ind:** Industry

**Note:** Significant Pressures for Review water bodies have not been included as they will need to be confirmed as part of an Investigative Assessment.

**M+Q:** Mines and Quarries

**Peat:** Peat Drainage and Extraction

**DU:** Diffuse Urban

**UWW:** Urban Waste Water

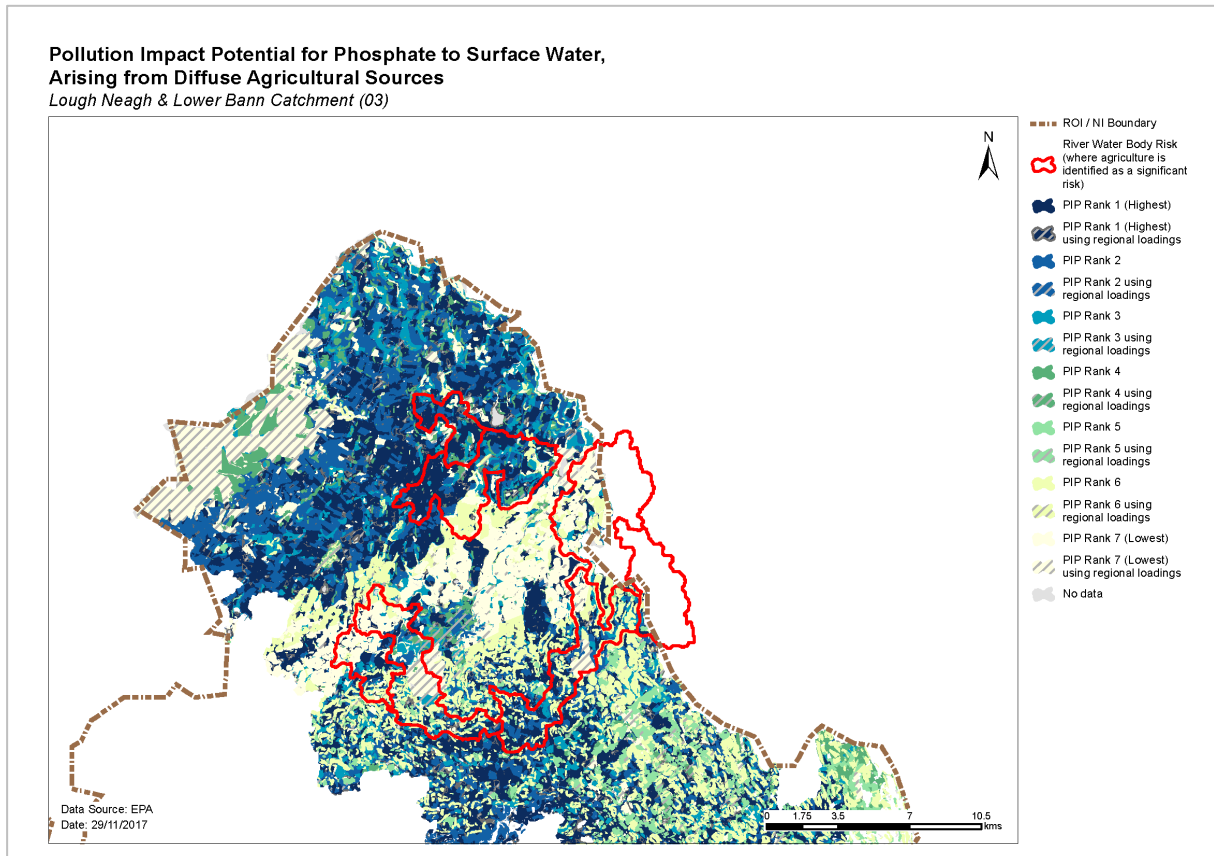
**Protected Area:** If a water body is one or more of the following: Drinking Water Protected Area; Bathing Water; Shellfish Area; Nutrient Sensitive Area or; a Natura 2000 site with a water dependent qualifying interest with a water quality and/or quantity conservation objective, then it has been highlighted as a protected area in this table.

## Appendix 4 Drinking water supplies in the catchment

| Scheme Code | Scheme Name                                    | Water body        | Water body Code    |
|-------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2400PRI2017 | Glaslough & Tyholland GWSS                     | Emy Lough         | IE_NB_03_102       |
| 2400PRI2022 | Truagh GWSS                                    | Lough More        | IE_NB_03_87        |
| 2400PRI2023 | Tydavnet GWSS<br>Well No 1 Corlat Borehole     | Knockatallon GWB  | IEGBNI_NB_G_014    |
|             | Tydavnet GWSS<br>Well No 2 Barrytoppy Borehole | Knockatallon GWB  | IEGBNI_NB_G_014    |
|             | Tydavnet GWSS<br>Well No 3 Vinny McCaffreys    | Knockatallon GWB  | IEGBNI_NB_G_014    |
|             | Tydavnet GWSS<br>Well No 4 Jimmy McElwins      | Knockatallon GWB  | IEGBNI_NB_G_014    |
|             | Tydavnet GWSS<br>Well No 5 Eddie McKennas      | Knockatallon GWB  | IEGBNI_NB_G_014    |
|             | Tydavnet GWSS<br>Lough Antraicer               | Scotstown_010     | UKGBNI1NB030308255 |
| 2400PUB1024 | Monaghan<br>Kilnadreen Borehole                | Tydavnet GWB      | IE_NB_G_013        |
|             | Monaghan<br>Drumreask Borehole                 | Tydavnet GWB      | IE_NB_G_013        |
|             | Monaghan<br>Crosses Borehole                   | Monaghan Town GWB | IEGBNI_NB_G_012    |
|             | Monaghan<br>Telaydan Borehole                  | Monaghan Town GWB | IEGBNI_NB_G_012    |
|             | Monaghan<br>Mullaghmore East Borehole          | Monaghan Town GWB | IEGBNI_NB_G_012    |
|             | Monaghan<br>Knockaconny Borehole               | Monaghan Town GWB | IEGBNI_NB_G_012    |
|             | Monaghan<br>Coolkill East Borehole             | Monaghan Town GWB | IEGBNI_NB_G_012    |
|             | Monaghan<br>Roosky No 1 Borehole               | Monaghan Town GWB | IEGBNI_NB_G_012    |
|             | Monaghan<br>Roosky No 2 Borehole               | Monaghan Town GWB | IEGBNI_NB_G_012    |
|             | Monaghan<br>Drumbenagh Borehole                | Monaghan Town GWB | IEGBNI_NB_G_012    |
|             | Monaghan<br>Cavanreagh Borehole                | Monaghan Town GWB | IEGBNI_NB_G_012    |

## Appendix 5 Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) Map for Phosphorus

For areas where agriculture is deemed as the significant pressure, areas of high risk to surface water can be targeted. The map below shows relative risk of loss of phosphorus to surface water. The risk of phosphorus losses is strongly correlated on whether the land is poorly draining or free draining and the loadings applied i.e. significant loadings applied on poorly draining areas result in a high potential risk to surface water. However, this figure does not imply that actual losses from these areas are occurring but is a useful tool for informing where resources should be focused (i.e. by allowing high risk areas to be identified and prioritised for further investigation). PIP maps are available online at a scale of 1:20,000 and can be accessed by public bodies via the EDEN process.



## Appendix 6 Local Catchment Assessment Categories

| Category | Assessment & Measures Evaluation Details  |
|----------|---|
| IA1      | Further information provision (e.g. from IFI, LAs, EPA)   |
| IA2      | Point source desk-based assessment  |
| IA3      | Assessment of unassigned status water bodies, requiring field visit(s)  |
| IA4      | Regulated point sources, requiring field visit/s  |
| IA5      | Stream (catchment) walk to evaluate multiple sources in a defined (1 km) river stretch (used as the basis for estimating resource requirements) |
| IA6      | Stream (catchment) walk in urban areas  |
| IA7      | Stream (catchment) walk along >1 km river stretches   |
| IA8      | Stream (catchment) walk along high ecological status (HES) objective rivers   |
| IA9      | Lakes assessment, requiring field visits  |
| IA10     | Groundwater assessments, requiring field visits   |