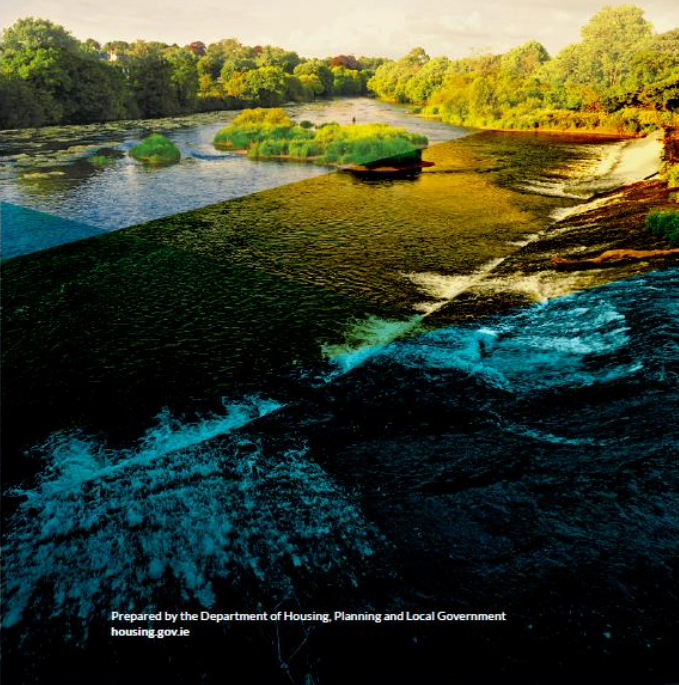




Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

**River Basin Management Plan
for Ireland**
2018 - 2021



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

What does the River Basin Management Plan say about Natural Water Retention Measures?

Natural Water Retention Measures RBMP p91

Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs) could potentially be used as **mitigation measures** to address water-quality problems as part of the second RBMP programmes of measures. They could be used in a similar manner to the measures described in the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes (TAMS) and the DAFM Native Woodlands Schemes, providing **multiple benefits** in relation to water quality, biodiversity, climate-change adaptation, fisheries, landscape-amenity objectives and flood attenuation.

- NWRM could be mitigation measures that provide multiple benefits for potential inclusion in schemes.

Natural Water Retention Measures RBMP p91

The Potential Role of Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs) as Part of the Suite of RBMP Mitigation Measures for Cycle 2

A number of submissions to the RBMP consultation strongly supported the use of Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs) as part of the RBMP programme of measures, recognising the potential for multiple benefits. In December 2017, the Water Policy Advisory Committee requested the National Technical Implementation Group (NTIG) to **develop a proposal** for including NWRMs as part of a broader suite of mitigation measures that could contribute to the achievement of environmental objectives set out in the second RBMP.

- **NTIG to develop a proposal for inclusion of NWRM as part of suite of mitigation measures to help achieve Environmental Objectives.**

Natural Water Retention Measures RBMP p91

The EPA intends to fund further research on NWRM by prioritising a research project in the 2018 Water **Research** Call. The project proposal was developed in collaboration with the OPW. The purposes of the project are:

- ▼ To **explore new measures**
- ▼ To **consider how existing measures can be adapted** to achieve multiple benefits in an Irish setting. The UK Environment Agency's "Working with Natural Processes" Framework and the European Commission's NWRM project are examples of such measures

- 2018 research call to help explore new measures / adapt existing measures

Natural Water Retention Measures RBMP p91

Measures in Flood Risk Management Plans signpost the need for the OPW to work with the EPA, local authorities and other agencies to identify, where possible, measures that will have benefits for both WFD and flood risk management objectives. This collaboration will take place during the project-level assessments of physical works and, more broadly, at a catchment level. The measures, which include NWRMs, could have significant synergies across a number of areas, including biodiversity and potentially other objectives, including the use of pilot studies and applications, where possible.

- EPA, OPW, LAs and other agencies to work together to find synergies for WFD and flood risk management

Points from RBMP for terms of reference?

- 2018 research call to help explore new measures / adapt existing measures (Consider the incorporation of findings into policy)
- Define how NWRM could be mitigation measures that provide multiple benefits & their potential inclusion in schemes.
- Develop a proposal for inclusion of NWRM as part of suite of mitigation measures to help achieve Environmental Objectives.
- EPA, OPW, LAs and other agencies to work together to find synergies for WFD and flood risk management.