

Workshop on River Basins Management Plans: Cross-Border Cooperation and the Role of Spatial Planning

BRA & ICLRD meeting, Monaghan: 17th October 2012

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RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS & COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

THEMES

- ✘ Key issues for planning emerging from the RBMPS;
- ✘ How these issues are being incorporated into Development Plans (or not & why);
- ✘ What are the opportunities for planning to deliver on RBMPs Implementation?
- ✘ What is needed from the DoEC&LG and DoENI (Guidance, Resources, finance etc.) to assist in the implementation process; and
- ✘ What lessons are to be learned for the next cycle of RBMPs

RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS IN LEITRIM

- ✘ County Leitrim falls into 3 of these River Basin Districts as follows:
 - + The Shannon *International* RBD covering all of the River Shannon and its tributaries;
 - + The North Western International RBD covering the River Erne(part of the Shannon/Erne Waterway, Cullies River, Lough McNeen) and its tributaries and Lough Melvin catchment area;
 - + The Western RBD covering the Bonet River and Lough Gill catchment.

The ERNE International Catchment Area

A Catchment Area Is a Type of Functional Area for Water





THE CHALLENGE

- All waters, surface, ground, coastal and estuarine, are to be brought to “good” status by **2015**
- All waters which were “good” or better in the **1995 & 1997** monitoring period are to be restored to that status by **2015**.

Table : Summary of the water quality data for rivers in Leitrim

Category	% of River Stations
Satisfactory	85 %
Slightly polluted	10 %
Moderately polluted	5 %
Seriously polluted	0 %
Overall compliance rate with Phosphorus Regulations, 1998 Standards	71%

Source: Leitrim County Council

THE CHALLENGE ~CONTINUED

Table : Unsatisfactory Lake Water Quality 2003-2005

Locations	<u>Satisfactory Quality</u>
Acres	No (Highly-Eutrophic)
Donagher	No (Strongly-Eutrophic)
Gangins	No (Hypertrophic)
Gulladoo	No (Hypertrophic)
Rowan	No (Mesotrophic)
Scur	No (Moderately Eutrophic)

- 82% of the lakes monitored in Co. Leitrim are satisfactory water quality.
- Out of the 27 lakes monitored 8 No. lakes improved in water quality since 1995-1997 and are now in compliance with the Phosphorus Regulations 1998.

Source: Leitrim County Council

THE TOOLS

GSI National Draft Bedrock Aquifer Mapping

GSI Source Protection Area Mapping

RBMP's and CDP's

Implementation of RBMP's through Development Management:

- **Planning Applications**
- **Reports from Council's Environment Department regarding**
 - Water Quality and**
 - Risk of Pollution.**

Incorporation of RBMP's into CDP's: See ISSUES including

- Views of Council Members regarding RBMP's & Reserve Function/CDP's**
- Accessibility of Information to applicant within RBMP or CDP.**
- Difficulty assessing prospects of obtaining permission for project.**

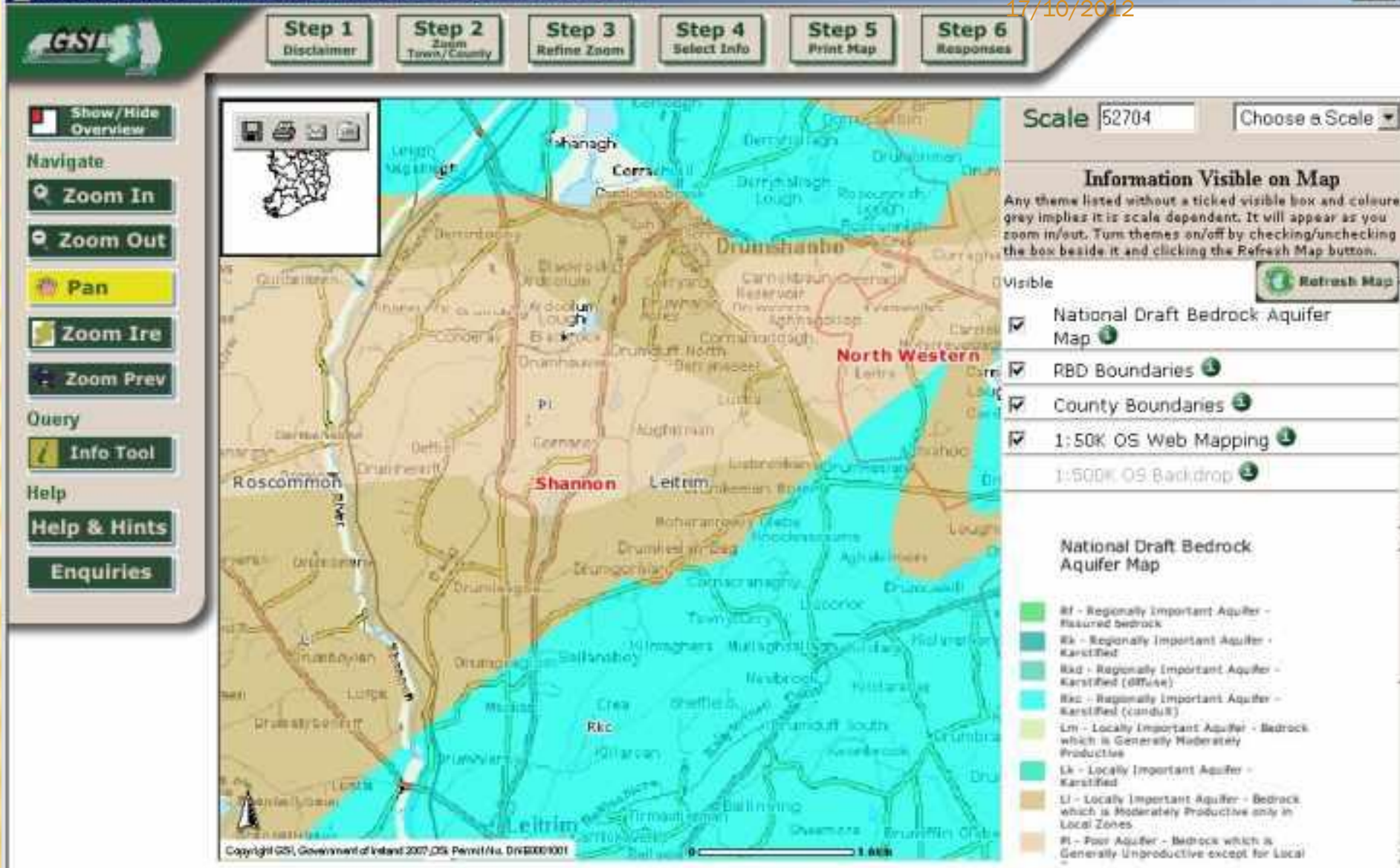


Figure: National Draft Bedrock Aquifer Map

THE TOOLS

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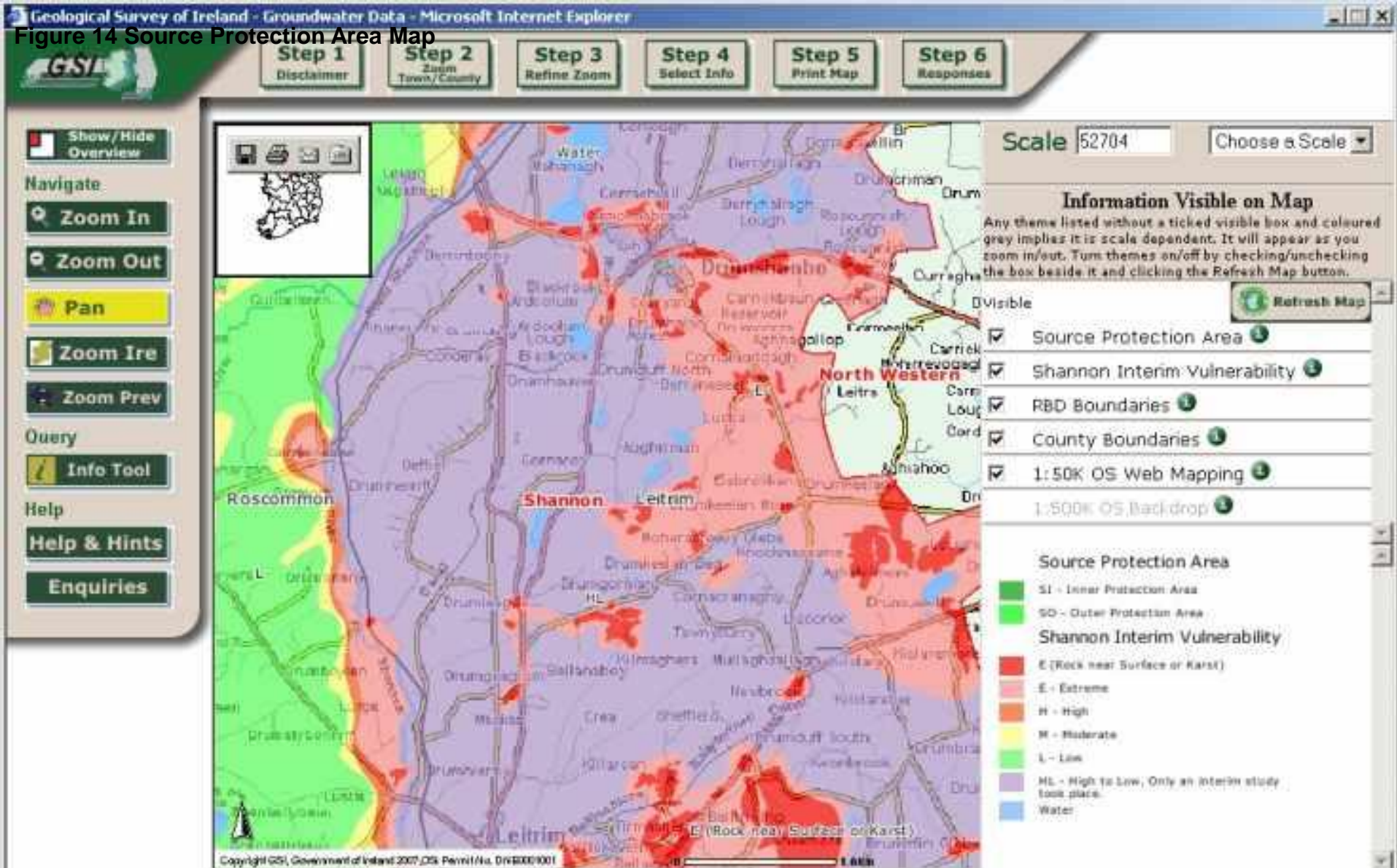


Figure : ~ Source Protection Area Map

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THE ISSUES

- Need for consistency within and between RBMP and within and between CDP's
- Need to arrive at a range of policies based on the Water Quality Vulnerability Categorisations within the RBMP's.
- Vulnerability Categorisations to be simplified / rationalised into 3 categories ~ High / Medium & Low within the CDP's
- Need to identify the sectors which are causing or have the potential to cause the "Big" damage to water quality / get a handle on where the risks arise
 - Farming,
 - Forestry
 - Households on WWTP's
 - Municipal waste treatment and Disposal
 - Industry
- Are Existing / Older WWTP a greater risk than the new systems which may be installed to EPA standard 2009? Registration and identification
- Monitoring and Follow Up probably most important
- Need to target Resources to where they will be the most effective

Thank You for your Attention