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South Dublin County Council

Dublin Urban Rivers *LIFE*

South Dublin/Dun Laoghaire Rathdown

LIFE 17 ENV/IE/000281

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dlr
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Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE

- SDCC: Co-ordinating Beneficiary

  DLR: Associated Beneficiary

- 12,000 (7k SDCC & 5k DLR) door-to-door drainage assessments

- Install 5 wetlands in strategic areas (SDCC area only) and assess areas for future potential

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EU LIFE Application Lead-Up

- Water quality data gathering, environmental assessment, water pollution load modelling from storm water outfalls to rivers and streams in the county since 2014

- This work provided credible scientific information to support our successful EU LIFE application

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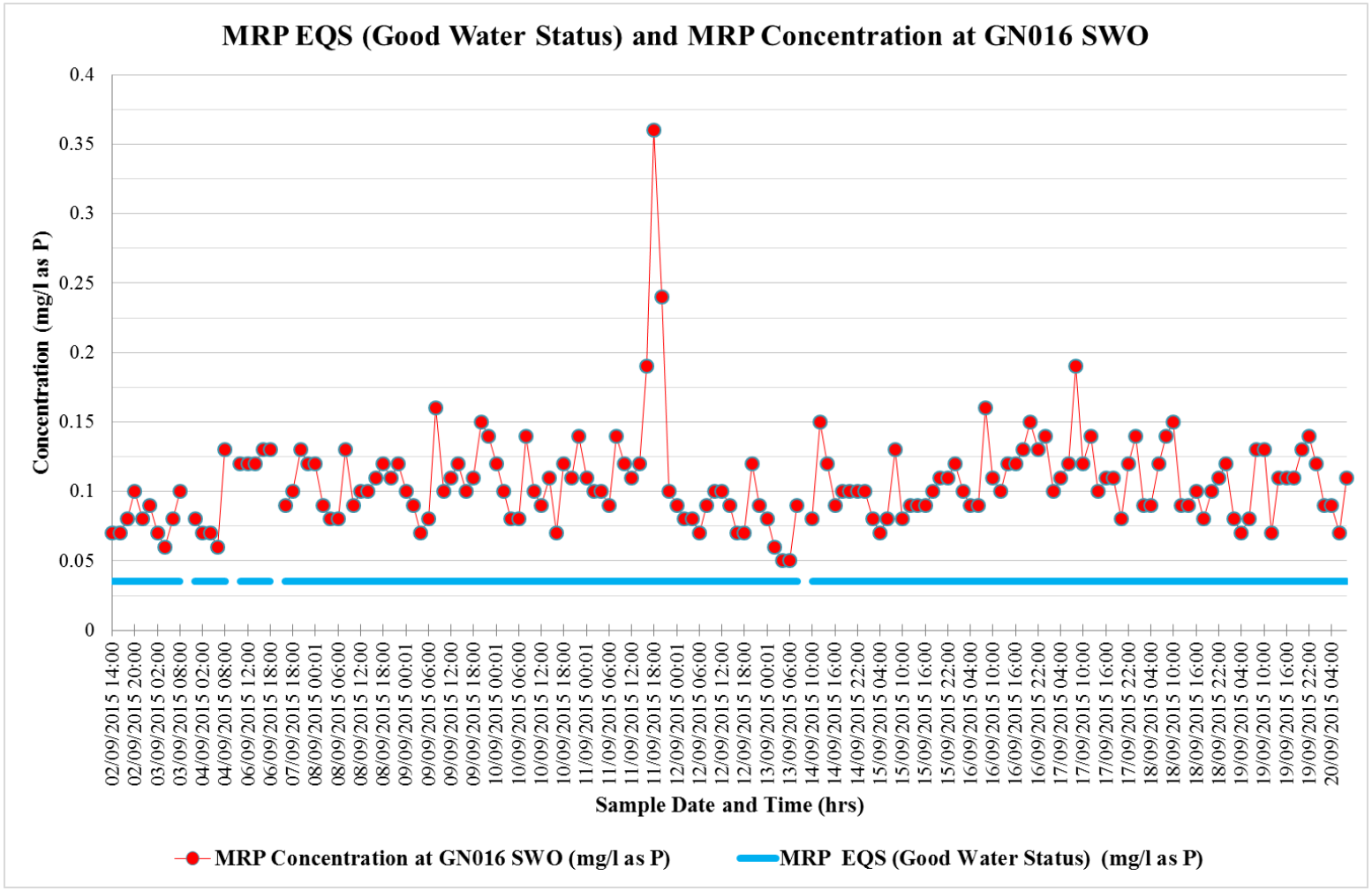
Water Quality Assessment



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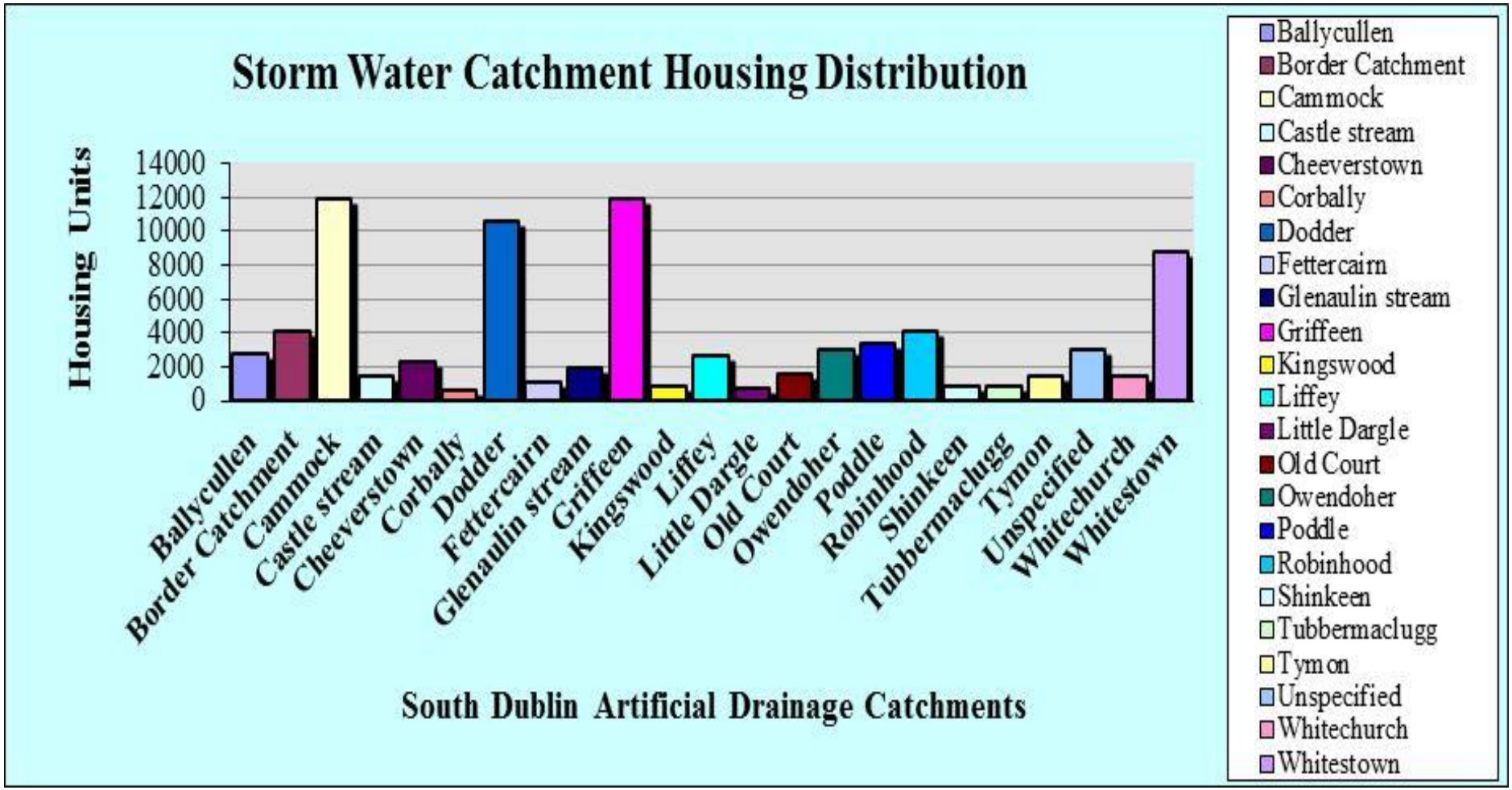
SDCC Geo-Directory Housing Distribution



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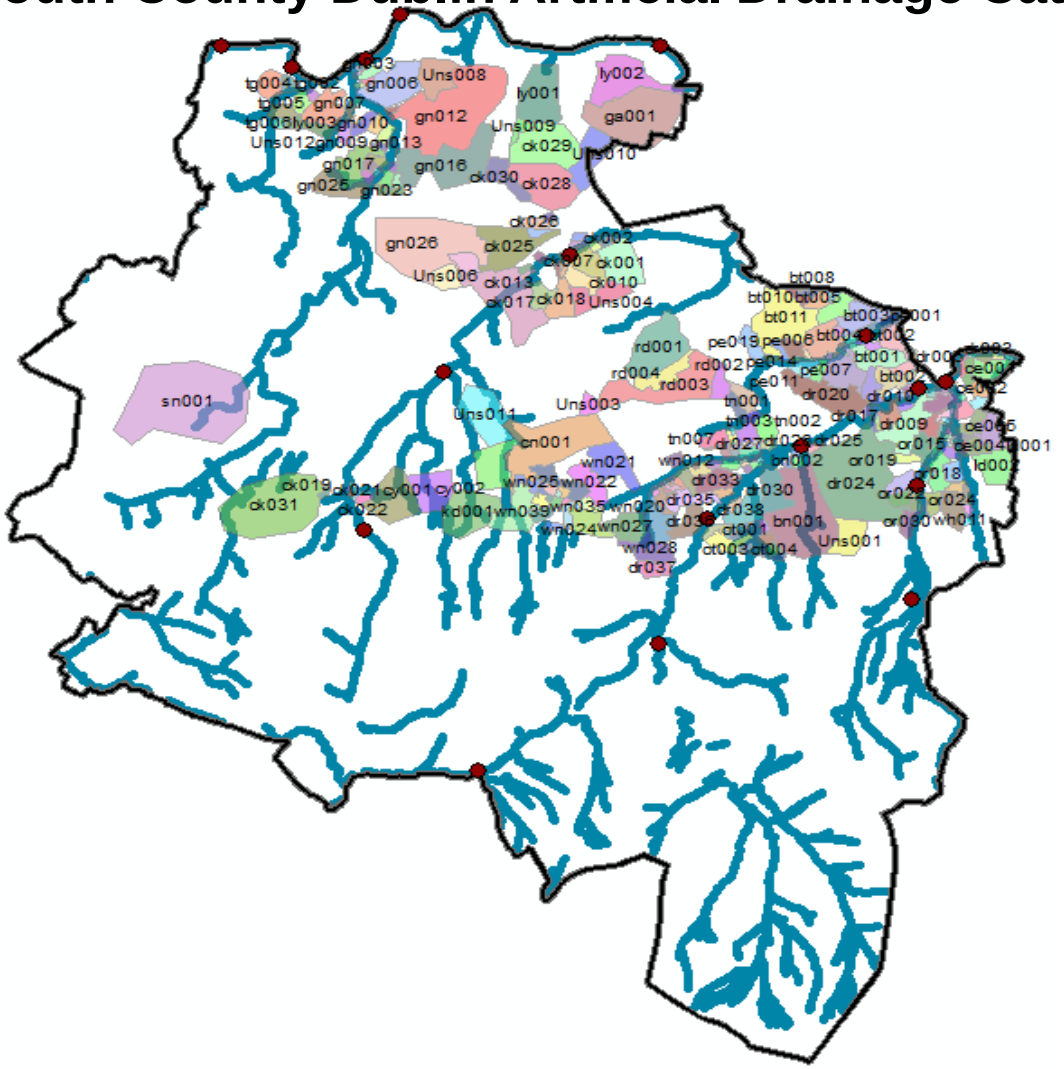
South County Dublin Artificial Drainage Catchments



Identified for:

- Door-to-door assessment
- Wetland installation

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Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE

- Launched 17th September 2018
- Total cost €2.53M over 4 years
  (EU - €1.3M, SDCC - €1.0M and DLR - €243k)
- Removal of estimated 960 misconnections
  - DLR 400 and SDCC 560 (plus pollution removed using wetlands)

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Project Outcomes

- Removal of estimated 960+ water pollution sources in SDCC and DLR areas combined
- Reduced pollution in these two rivers by on average 30%
- Knock-on benefits for other rivers and streams.
- Significant increase in River Health and potential use

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continued

- Fast tracking WFD requirements for 2018-2021 River Basin Management Plan
- A 1st for SDCC and DLR and Ireland for such a project. DLR/SDCC will be leading the way for urban authorities
- Roadmap for future sustained progress

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Workshop specific

For you starting out a LIFE application:

- Have a very clear understanding of what the problem it is you are trying to solve.
- Have robust and relevant data to support your decision making and your application.
- Be able to define at the start of the process what the main demonstrable benefits of the project will have for the environment.
- Understand the timelines for application and for implementation of the project.
- Are there any show stoppers to your proposal – Risks?

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Getting the sequence of the application process right – questions to answer

1. Data based application
2. Have you got the finance?
3. Risks that could prevent the implementation of a project
    1. Internal (recruitment/IR/precedence)
    2. Councillor's/public opinion/legal & policy barriers/representative groups
4. Is the organisation bought into 'your' project (enough)?
5. Making time to make the application?

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Some of those explored

- Finance
  - Capital or Revenue source (LAs)?
  - Is it committed or in place (all parties)?
  - If in-kind contribution from Associate Beneficiaries – explore that fully (do timesheet staff know they are being put to the project?)
  - Capital aspects of a project are subject to market forces in the tendering process – have you budgeted enough?
  - What's your plan if you go over budget?
  - What's the cash flow structure of your project?

Risks to project

- Recruitment
  - Get job descriptions sorted at the time of application
  - If you need a business case for positions get them approved before you apply (conditional on project approval)
  - Understand the timelines – give yourself 6 months to get core staff in place. So don't commence your project until October or November [check with LIFE on this]
  - Are there industrial relation issues to address
  - Projects frequently turnover staff – have you considered the implications for project delivery? Each position may take 4-6 months to fill.
  - Structure your project to deliver the bulk of the work in the early part and consider a period towards the end to mop up tasks/issues

- External
  - Is your project going to annoy people? Likely to be both – especially if you don't manage your message well. So, I'd suggest pre-project consultation and smooth the way.
  - Are stakeholders represented by an Agency/Group/Entity? Are they onboard?
  - Have you designed the project to reduce these risks? Have you costed those risks?
  - Can you legally implement all Actions of the project?
  - Timelines in your project for Actions subject to planning process. Have you considered the implications of delays in the planning process to your whole project? Can you design your project to reduce these risks?

- Making time to make a quality application
  - The higher the quality of the application the better the project implementation and outcomes
  - I'd suggest it's a 1-year process to make an application – while also doing your exiting job.
  - Can you find a resource in your organisation to do some of the heavy lifting? Graduate? This is especially good for the data and reasoning for your project.

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- Summary
  - Is your project accepted by others as having value under the EU Fund theme? Has it a wow factor?
  - Are you the appropriate person to make the application?
  - Have you the time, resources and finance?
  - Are your Beneficiaries as committed as you?
  - Do you understand the risks in a project, and can you manage them?
  - Have you built-in timeline contingencies?

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- Project management
  - A quality application will pave the way for a quality project.
  - There will be problems at the application and implementation stages but don't let them stop you.
  - There are always solutions to your problems.
  - We all feel very lost at the beginning of the process – talk to others.
  - Read the guidance and work to them. There is a general formulae to applications as prompted by the application form.

Go for it!

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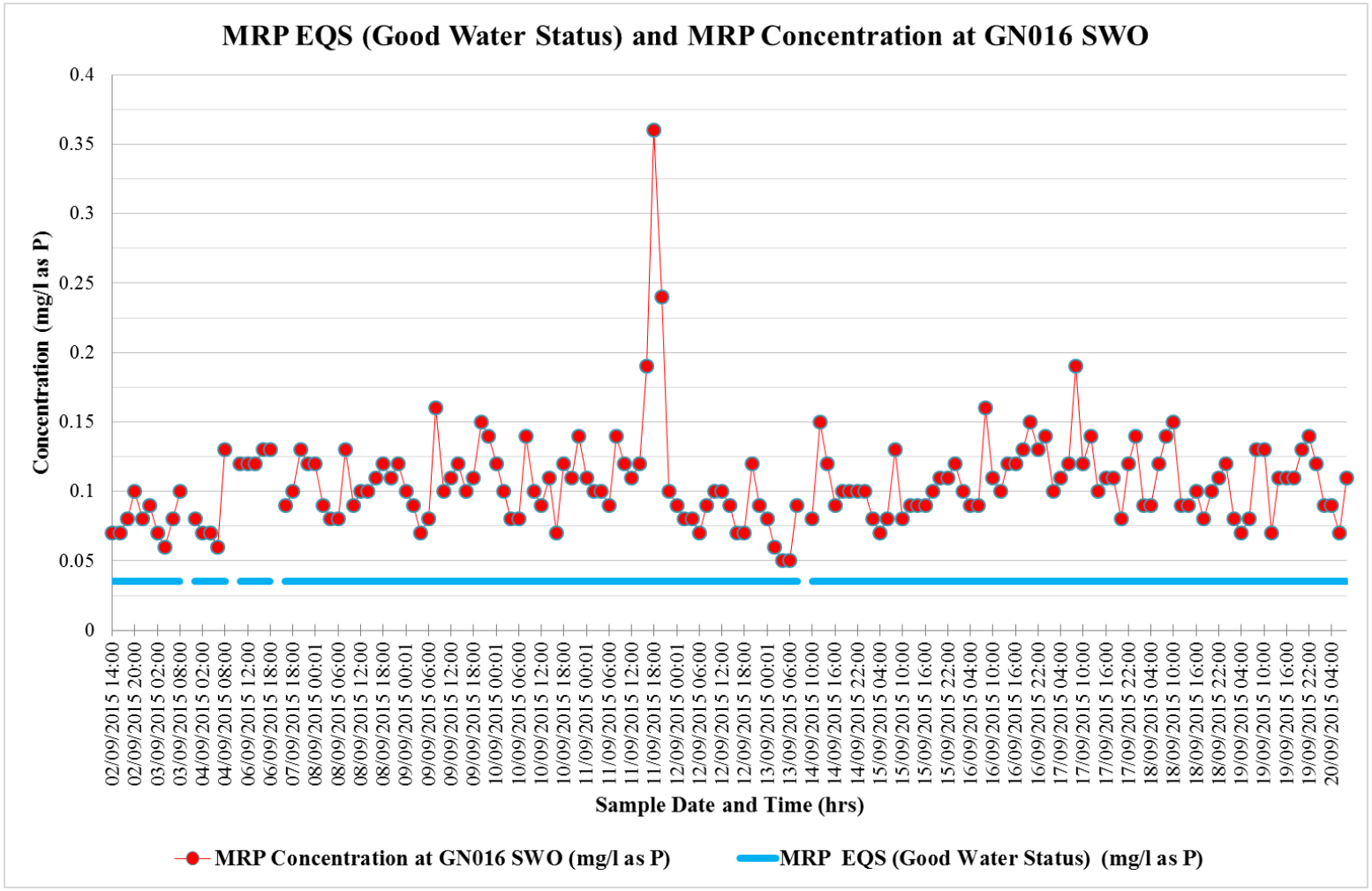
Stormwater outfall before



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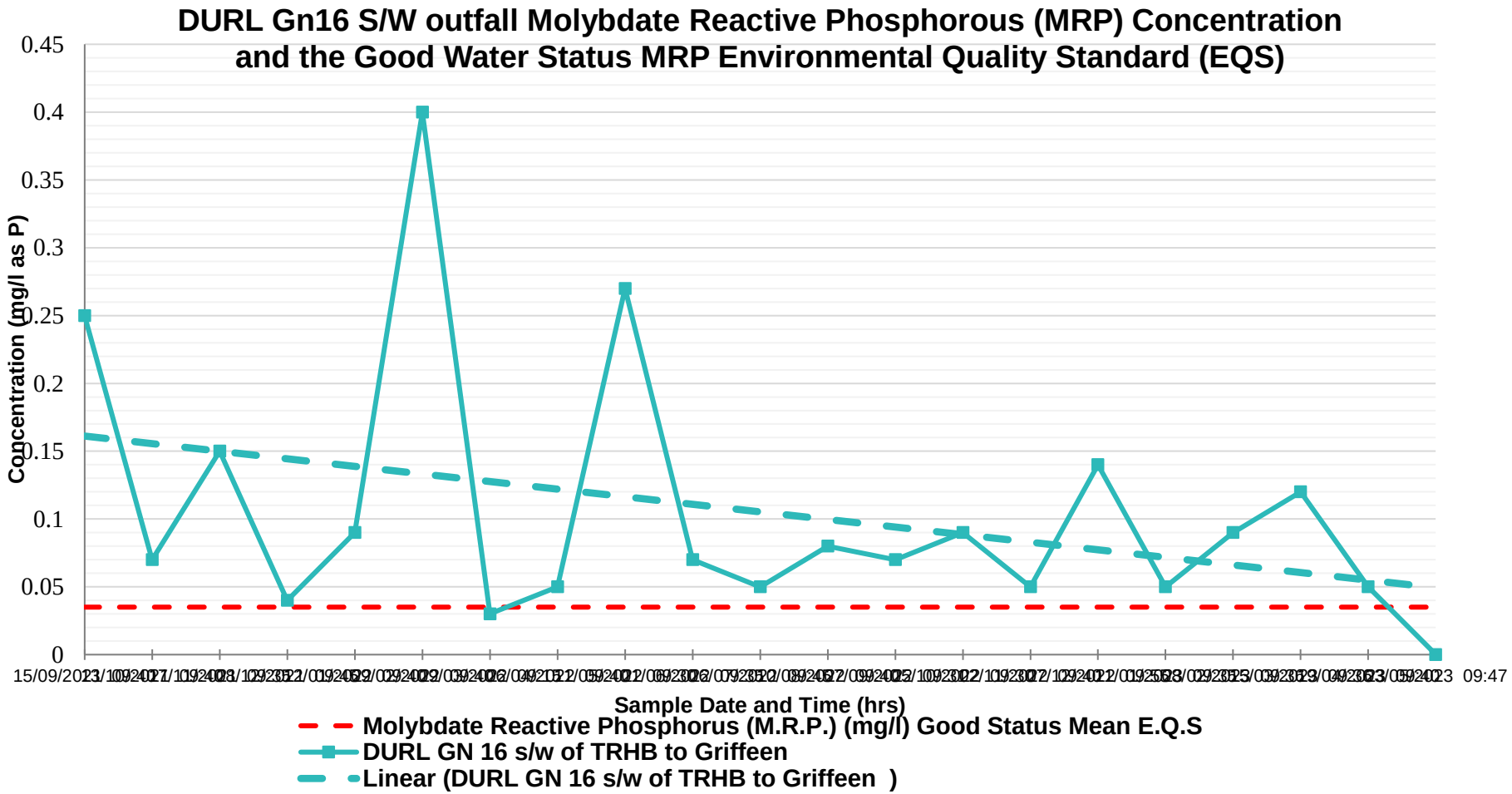
Stormwater Outfall after



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Thank You