



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE INTENSIFICATION & DEVELOPMENT**  
**OF THE**  
**AES LTD. WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY**  
**AT**  
**CAPPANCUR, TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY**  
**Volume 1 of 3 – Non-Technical Summary**

**ORIGINAL**

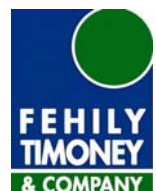
**Prepared for:**

Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Ltd  
Unit 1 Monread Commercial Park  
Monread Road  
Naas  
Co. Kildare

**Prepared by:**

Fehily Timoney & Co.  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork.

**September 2008**



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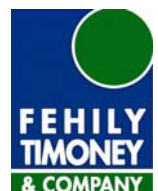
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User is Responsible for Checking the Revision Status of this Document

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*Client:* Advanced Environmental Solution (Ireland) Limited

*Keywords:* household, commercial, construction and demolition, waste licence

*Abstract:* This document comprises part of the EIS for the proposed expansion of the AES Ltd. waste management facility at Cappancur, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The site operates under a Waste Licence from the Environmental Protection Agency (Ref No; 104-1). This document forms the non-technical summary to the main body of the EIS - Volume 2.

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## PREAMBLE

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Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Ltd. (AES) proposes to intensify activities at their existing waste management facility at Cappancur Industrial Estate, Tullamore. Co. Offaly increasing their waste intake to 50,000 tonnes per year. The development falls under the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2006.

Other associated activities as part of the development include the revision to the existing site boundary, the relocation and extension of the existing administration building, the re-location and upgrading of the on-site package wastewater treatment plant and associated infrastructure, the construction of an effluent holding tank, an extension to facility opening hours and a revision of onsite car parking arrangements.

The site currently operates under a waste Licence (104-01) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. A review of this licence will be required as part of the proposed development.

As part of these works, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required to be submitted to Offaly County Council to accompany a planning application. An EIS is a report that contains the information required so that the environmental impacts of a project can be assessed. It describes the proposed development, predicts the relevant possible or certain impacts of the proposal on the environment and outlines safeguards to mitigate or otherwise control any impacts that may be significant. It forms a sub-set of the Environmental Impact Assessment process, a procedure which entails the systematic consideration of the impacts of a proposed project on the environment and human beings.

AES has appointed Fehily Timoney & Company (FTC) to prepare the EIS for submission to Offaly County Council. The services of Bord Na Mona Environmental Consultants were retained for the hydrogeological assessment of the site.

This EIS has been prepared in accordance with the following legislation and guidance documents:

- Council Directive 85/337 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment (as amended by Directive 97/11)
- The Planning and Development Acts 2000-2006
- *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements* (EPA, 2002)
- *Advice notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* (EPA, 2003).

This EIS has been prepared using the grouped format structure recommended in the *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements*. It comprises three volumes:

Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary  
Volume 2: Main Report  
Volume 3: Appendices

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 The Applicant

AES was established in 1996 as Waste Recycling Ireland and commenced trading as AES Ltd in July 2001, through the acquisition of a number of waste facilities and operating companies. An existing waste contracting business, Rentabin, which was operating from the Cappancur site, was purchased by AES Ltd. in 2002. AES Ltd. continues to operate as a leasee of the Cappancur site. In May 2007, AES Ltd. was acquired by Bord na Mona PLC but continues to operate as an independent company.

AES Ltd. also operates EPA waste licensed facilities in Navan (Waste No. 131-02) and Kyletalesha (Waste No. 194-02) and Local Authority permitted facilities in Athlone, Nenagh and Mullingar. The company services both household and commercial customers throughout the Midlands Region.

### 1.2 The Need for the Development

The intensification of waste acceptance activities at the Tullamore facility is a key strategic move for AES (Ireland) Ltd. As part of a rationalisation of company operations, AES Ltd. has recently ceased operations at its Athlone facility which operated under a local authority permit. Waste materials collected in the Athlone region, which had previously been processed in the Athlone facility, will now be processed at the AES Ltd. Cappancur facility.

The intensification of waste acceptance activities at the Cappancur facility has been identified within the Midlands Waste Management Plan 2005 – 2010 as an expected development and this intensification fits in with the AES Ltd. strategy for the development of centres of excellence within the midlands region i.e. a centre dedicated to the treatment of biodegradable waste at Kyletalesha and a centre for the processing of dry recyclables at Tullamore.

### 1.3 Pre-submission Consultations

A number of statutory and non-governmental bodies were consulted during the preparation of this EIS, including Offaly County Council and the Environmental Protection Agency. Letters were also sent to 19 statutory bodies, non-government organisations and public representatives to inform them of the proposal. A number of submissions were received in relation to the proposed development. The issues raised have been addressed, where practicable, in the relevant sections of the main volume of this EIS.

### 1.4 Alternatives Sites and Alternative Design

Alternatives to the existing site and the design of the facility were examined as part of the EIS preparation.

The relocation of waste acceptance activities to an alternative site was considered by AES Ltd. as part of its operational strategy. It was decided that the Cappancur site provided the best option to AES Ltd. as the facility has the capacity to process the additional waste tonnage, is located in proximity to the majority of their customers and will have an excellent road network.

Consideration was given to the internal layout of the facility including the location of the weighbridge, the administration building and the wastewater treatment plant in terms of the operation of the facility and environmental performance (i.e. traffic management).

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## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT

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### 2.1 Existing Development

The existing site occupies an area of 1.11 hectares within the Cappancur Industrial estate, some 2km east of Tullamore Town. Access to the site is via the Daingean Road.

The facility was licenced in 2003 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to accept 24,000 tonnes per annum of household, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition (C&D) wastes as well as small quantities on household hazardous waste. This waste is processed at the facility using a combination of hand sorting and mechanical plant. Recyclable materials are transported to approved reprocessing facilities, while non-recyclable material is transported to landfill for disposal.

The site has been subject to a Compulsive Purchase Order (CPO) from Offaly County Council to facilitate the construction of the new N52 Tullamore bypass. Under this process Offaly County Council has received permission to:

- purchase approximately 0.12 hectares of the northern portion of the site, altering the existing red line boundary of the facility
- close the existing entrance and construct a new site entrance and security gate in the north east corner of the site
- allow the temporary re-location of the administration building to facilitate works

At the time of writing, works on the new bypass have commenced in the vicinity of the AES Ltd. facility, requiring the re-location of the administration building from the northern boundary of the facility (the lands subject to the CPO order) to a location adjacent to the waste processing building on the western boundary of the facility (Refer to Figure 2.2 – Drawing No. CE08-628-01-100-007).

### 2.2 Proposed Development

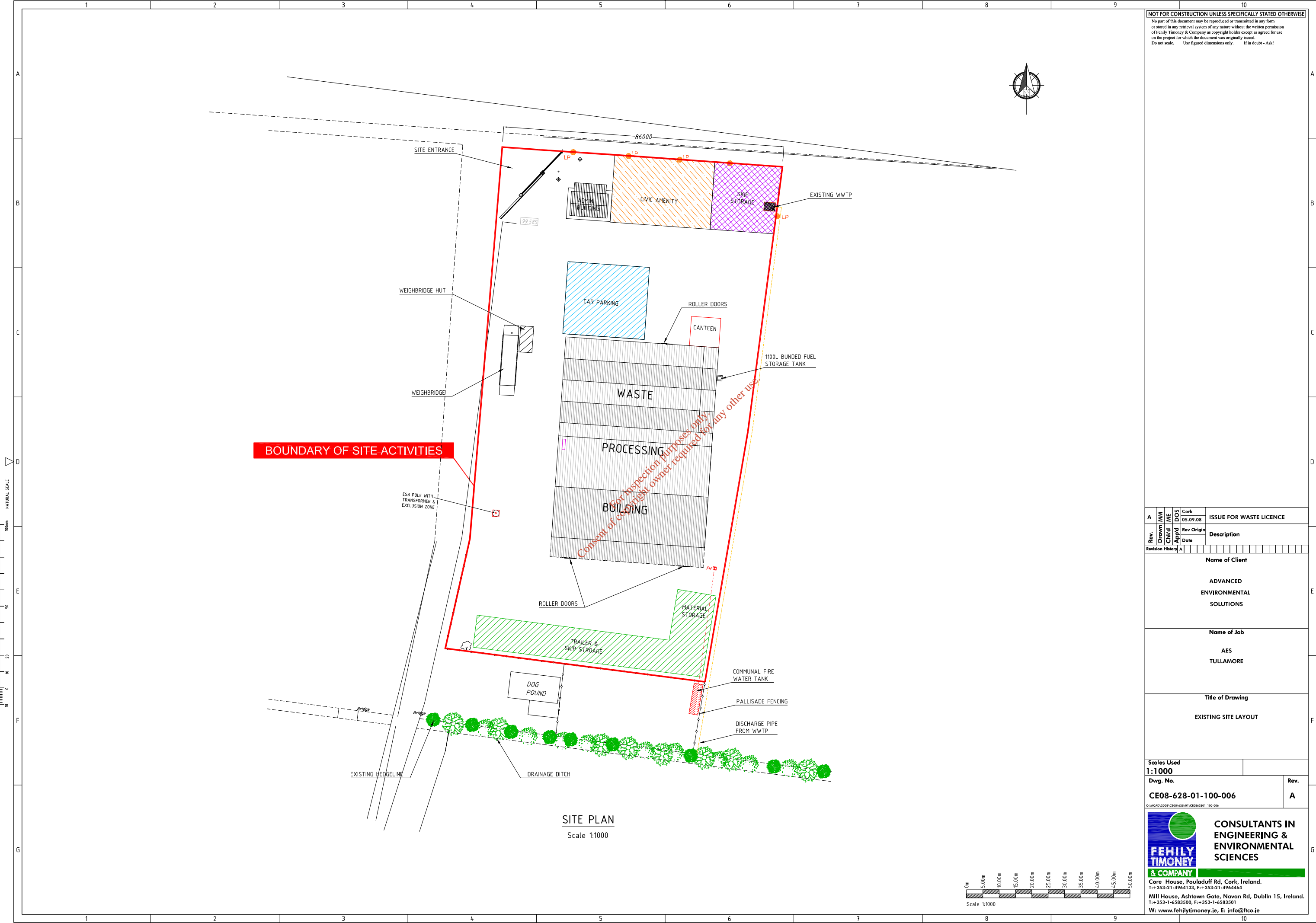
The proposed development consists of the following elements:

- revision to existing site boundary to facilitate the construction of the N52 Tullamore bypass
- intensification of waste acceptance from 24,000 tonnes per annum to 50,000 tonnes per annum of non-hazardous municipal solid waste, construction & demolition and small quantities of household hazardous waste
- re-location and extension of the existing administration building
- re-location and upgrade of the on-site package wastewater treatment plant and effluent management system
- extension to facility opening hours from 06:00 to 00:00
- revision of onsite car parking

The civic amenity which currently operates at the site will be removed as part of the proposed development due to restrictions in terms of the size of the site. Figures 2.1 (Drawing No. CE08-628-01-100-006) and Figure 2.2 (Drawing No. CE08-628-01-100-007) illustrate the existing and proposed site layouts.

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**BOUNDARY OF SITE ACTIVITIES**

**SITE PLAN**  
Scale 1:1000

Rev.	Drawn	Checked	App'd	Rev Orig'n Date	Description
A	JMM	JME	DOS	Cork 05.09.08	ISSUE FOR WASTE LICENCE

Revision History A

**Name of Client**  
ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

**Name of Job**  
AES TULLAMORE

**Title of Drawing**  
EXISTING SITE LAYOUT

**Scales Used**  
1:1000

**Dwg. No.**  
CE08-628-01-100-006

**Rev.**  
A

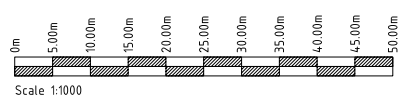
**CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

**FEHILY TIMONEY & COMPANY**

Core House, Pouladuff Rd, Cork, Ireland.  
T: +353-21-4964133, F: +353-21-4964464

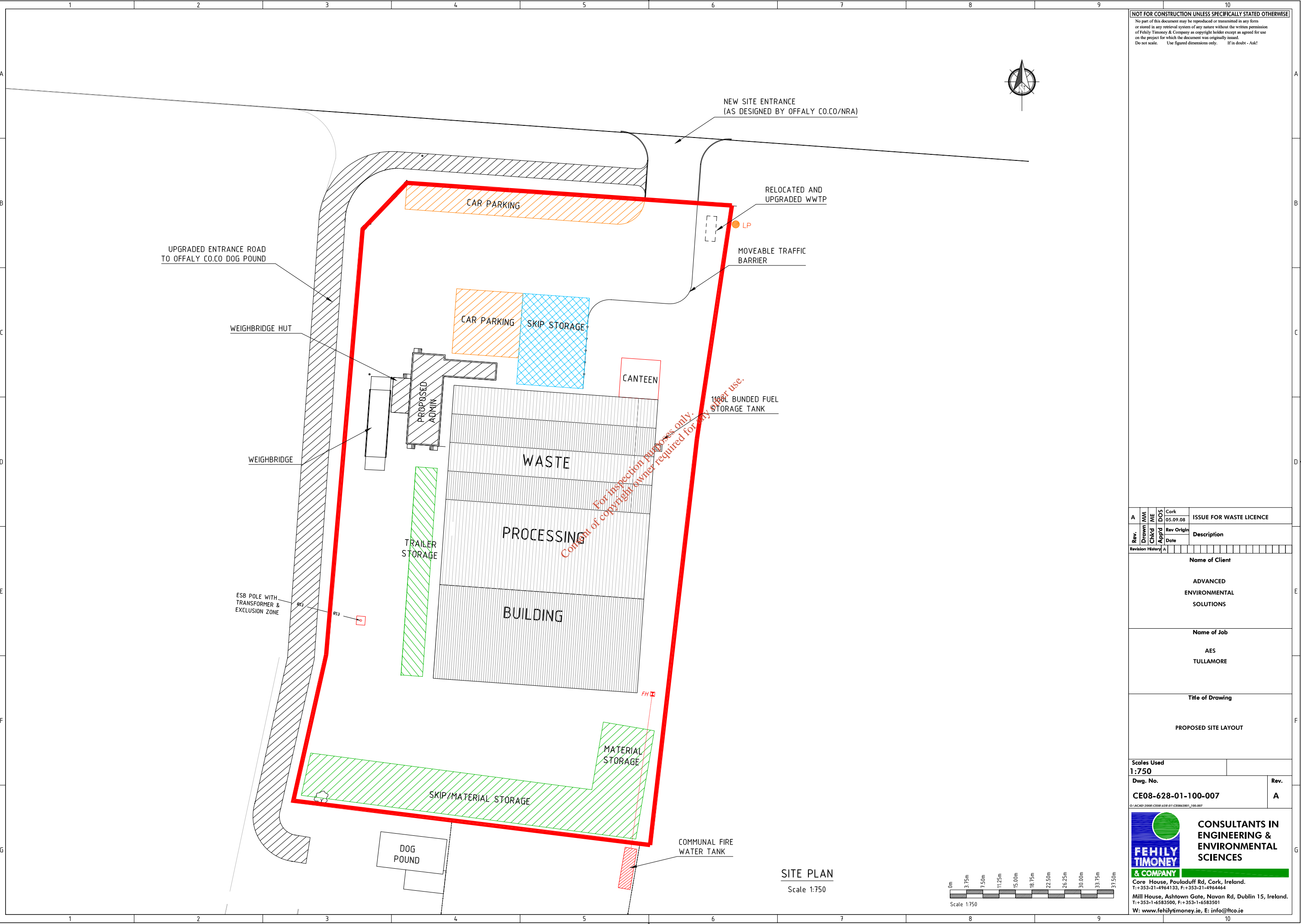
Mill House, Ashtown Gate, Navan Rd, Dublin 15, Ireland.  
T: +353-1-6583500, F: +353-1-6583501

W: www.fehilytimoney.ie, E: info@ftco.ie





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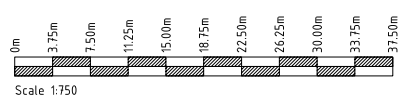


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MATERIAL SCALE  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100m

NATURAL SCALE  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100m

**SITE PLAN**  
Scale 1:750



Rev.	Drawn	Checked	App'd	Rev Orig'n Date	Description
A	MM	ME	DOS	Cork 05.09.08	ISSUE FOR WASTE LICENCE

Revision History A	
Name of Client	
ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS	
Name of Job	
AES TULLAMORE	
Title of Drawing	
PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT	

Scale Used	1:750
Dwg. No.	CE08-628-01-100-007
Rev.	A

**FEHILY TIMONEY & COMPANY**  
 CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
 Core House, Pouladuff Rd, Cork, Ireland.  
 T: +353-21-4964133, F: +353-21-4964464  
 Mill House, Ashdown Gate, Navan Rd, Dublin 15, Ireland.  
 T: +353-1-6583500, F: +353-1-6583501  
 W: www.fehilytimoney.ie, E: info@ftco.ie

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### 3. THE MAIN EFFECTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR MITIGATION

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The main environmental impacts (both positive and negative) associated with the development at the AES facility are outlined below.

#### 3.1 Impacts on the Human Environment

The site is located on the western edge of the existing Cappancur Industrial Estate which comprises of a number of industrial buildings with various industrial activities occurring within these buildings. Agricultural land borders the facility to the north and to the south. There are 7 buildings of industrial use within 150 metres radius of the facility. The nearest residential dwelling is approximately 200 metres to the north of the facility (See Figure 3.1). The N52 Tullamore Bypass (currently under construction) will run directly along the western flank of the facility once completed.

There will be positive and negative socio-economic impacts from the proposed development. These may affect properties in the vicinity of the development, other built development, agriculture and employment.

##### 3.1.1 Noise Impacts

The existing noise environment is heavily influenced by traffic along the Daingean Road. There will be no additional plant required as part of the proposed intensification at the facility. It is considered that the impact of the N52 Tullamore bypass development between the AES Ltd. facility and the noise sensitive location (NSL) will have a greater impact on the NSL than any potential impact from the facility as a result of increase operating hours.

##### 3.1.2 Traffic Impacts

The intensification of the facility will result in an additional 7 trucks per day which represents a 7% increase on existing levels on the Daingean road. Following completion of the N52 Tullamore Bypass (approximately 2010) trucks accessing the AES Ltd. site will do so via the new Bogtown roundabout on the bypass. It is anticipated that the increased traffic movements at the facility will increase traffic movements at the Bogtown roundabout by 0.5% in 2010 and therefore there will be no significant impact on traffic volumes in the vicinity of the site. The proximity of the N52 bypass to the AES Ltd. facility will also divert traffic travelling to or from the facility away from Tullamore town centre.

##### 3.1.3 Impacts on Air & Climate

The proposed development will have no significant impact on local air or climatic conditions. While dust may be a problem at sites of this nature, the site will be managed to ensure that emissions will not cause a nuisance. A number of new dust abatement control systems will be installed within the waste processing building. These include dust curtains at the three main entrances, a misting system and an air extraction system. Regular monitoring of dust emissions will be carried out in accordance with the waste licence for the facility.

Due to the nature of the waste that is accepted at the site odour has not been a problem at the facility, with no complaints for odour in 2006 and 2007.

### **3.2 Impacts on Geology, Hydrogeology and Hydrology**

A hydrogeological assessment has been conducted at the site. This study concluded that the AES Ltd. facility is not impacting on the geology or hydrogeology in the area.

As part of this development, it is proposed to enhance the environmental performance of the facility by installing a new wastewater treatment facility for the treatment of foul water generated at the site. Treated effluent from the wastewater treatment plant will be directed to a holding tank for treatment off site at an appropriate facility.

### **3.3 Impacts on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**

There are no archaeological sites or upstanding monuments within 1 km of the site boundary. The nearest site/monument to the facility is some 1.2 km to the south west of the facility. Therefore, there will be no impact on archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage within or adjacent to the facility.

### **3.4 Impacts on Ecology**

A detailed ecological assessment was conducted of the entire site. As the proposed development is contained within the footprint of the existing industrial facility which consists of one large hardstanding area, the potential ecological impacts of the proposed development are minimal. No habitats of high ecological or of conservation importance were found at the site and no designated sites will be impacted by the proposed development.

### **3.5 Landscape Impacts**

The proposed development will have some minor impacts on the visual landscape. These will largely be restricted to road users along the Tullamore bypass and the Daingean road, where views of the new administration office will be available. When considered in the context of the overall industrial estate and the construction of the bypass, the visual impacts from the proposed development will be negligible.

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## 4. THE DEVELOPMENT AND ITS IMPACTS IN CONTEXT

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The proposed development at the AES Ltd. facility has the potential to have positive and negative impacts on the receiving environment.

### Potential Negative Effects

- increase in noise levels during construction (short-term) and operation
- potential for a decrease in local air quality, due to dust emissions
- visual impact of new administration office
- slight increase in traffic levels

### Potential Positive Effects

- secure long-term employment for workers at the facility
- promotion of economic development in the Tullamore area through the provision of waste management facilities in keeping with the objectives of the regional waste management plan
- the upgrading of environmental controls to minimise emissions from the existing site and proposed site.

Mitigation measures to eliminate or minimise the potential negative effects outlined above have been identified and suggested in the relevant sections of Volume 2 of the EIS.

In general, the continued operation of this existing facility will have a positive impact on the socio-economic situation in the area as it will ensure continued employment and provision of waste management services for the Tullamore and wider Midlands region.