

Comhairle Chontae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Oifig an Innealtora Ceantair,
An Loiste, Bothar Eochalla,
Mainistir na Corann, Co.Chorcaí.
Fon:(021)4631554, Faics: (021)4632023



Waste Water, Treatment & Pumping,
Zone 3,
The Lodge, Youghal Road,
Midleton, Co.Cork
Tel: (021)4631554,Fax: (021)4632023



Administration,
Environmental Licensing Programme,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Inniscarra,
County Cork.

15th May 2012

Register No. D0426-01 Dripsey WWTP

I enclose a submission to the Agency in response to the requirement for a Habitats Directive Assessment (Screening Report) for Dripsey WWTP.

This information is supplied in the form of two originals plus two electronic copies in PDF format as requested.

Yours Sincerely,

Roger O'Donnell,
Wastewater Treatment & Pumping - Zone 3,
The Lodge,
Youghal Road,
Midleton,
Co. Cork.

**Question : Assess the likelihood of significant effects
of the waste water discharge on the relevant
European sites.**

Habitats Directive Assessment (Screening Report) in respect of

Application by Cork County Council to the EPA

for Wastewater Discharge License

for Dripsey's WWTP.

Licence Register Number D0426- 01

May, 2012

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1 Introduction

1.1 Dripsey is a village approximately 19 km west of Cork City and 3km north-east of Coachford off the R618 Cork to Macroom Road. Dripsey consists of three nodes of development, namely Model Village, Upper Dripsey and Lower Dripsey. The settlement is located on the east bank of the Dripsey River, which ultimately flows into the River Lee. The WWTP serves the Model Village area only.

The WWTP is located below the public road in the townland of Agharinagh, west of the Model Village. The plant is adjacent to the Dripsey River. The site is located well below road level.

A gravity combined sewer discharges to the waste water treatment plant. There is a significant amount of infiltration into the system.

The WWTP was built in the early 1990's and has a design PE of 600. Currently the WWTP is receiving flows of approximately 88m³/day, based on a daily demand of 225l/head/day and a PE of 390.

The wastewater enters the plant via a gravity sewer of diameter 225mm. The wastewater firstly enters a primary settlement tank. This was originally functioning as a septic tank before the plant was upgraded in the early 1990's. From here it flows through a Rotating Biological Contactor where aeration takes place. It then flows into a final settling tank and the treated effluent discharges from here to the river.

It is proposed that the replacement of the RBC will be an interim measure as an upgrade to the plant is being advanced under the Water Services Investment Programme.

The upgrade scheme was being progressed as a Serviced Land Initiative. The Preliminary Report was approved by the DoEHLG in September 2006. Cork County Council subsequently submitted a construction budget in July 2007 and has not received a reply to date. Approval for all SLI schemes was withdrawn by the DoEHLG as per Circular L3/09 issued in April 2009. A scheme to upgrade the WWTP is currently being progressed by the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) Office and it is currently at the planning stage.

It is proposed that the upgrade works will be carried out in two phases. Phase 1 will include modifications to the design and layout of the existing plant to facilitate future expansion and Phase 2 will provide for the expansion of the plant from 600PE to 1,200PE. As the project is likely to be a Design and Build Contract detailed design details are not available at this stage.

The WWTP is inspected twice weekly by a Curator.

The pollution load for the Dripsey agglomeration arises from the following areas:

Domestic population

Non-domestic users

Infiltration and storm water

The non-domestic loading is minimal and consists of loadings from the public house and shop.

The sewage from all commercial activities is collected via the public sewer and treated in conjunction with the domestic waste at the septic tank.

The capacity of the treatment plant is approximately 600PE. At design capacity the plant would discharge 135m³/day (DWF) to the River Lee based on 225l/head/day. Analysis of the discharge has shown compliance with the Urban Wastewater Directive.

The waste water works is inspected twice weekly to ensure that no significant pollution is caused. Sampling of the effluent is carried out on occasions and monitoring of the Dripsey River upstream and downstream of the plant is carried out in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. An appendix is attached detailing the compliance level with the EQS standards for a number of parameters as set in SI 272 of 2009 . The river downstream of the plant is compliant with Good/High status limits for the following parameters.

BOD, Ammonia ,Orthophosphate ,Dissolved Oxygen (both Upper & Lower limits) and pH.

Therefore it is reasonable to assume that there are no long-term adverse impacts on water quality as a result of the discharge to this river.

Sludge storage is not provided in the plant and the plant is de-sludged on a regular basis. The proposed primary discharge point, SW01-Dripsey, is the main outlet from Dripsey Wastewater Treatment Plant. The point of discharge is a 100mm pipe, which discharges directly to the Dripsey River at a point approx 32km upstream of the Cork Harbour SPA. Further downstream the Dripsey River joins with the River Lee and flows into the Cork Harbour at the north western end of the Lough Mahon Estuary.

1.2 The plant is located approx. 32km upstream from the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area which is designated under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) as transposed into Irish Law under the European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations SI 94/1997. As this is the case, and in accordance with requirements under this Directive, the potential impacts of proposed developments that have the potential to impact on Special Protection Areas must be assessed. The procedure to do this is called a Habitats Directive Assessment. The purpose of such an assessment is to identify whether there may be potential for elements of the project to have a significant impact on nature conservation sites within its impact zone, and if so, to predict the potential for such impacts to affect the overall integrity of such nature conservation sites. The European Union has provided guidance as to how to make a Habitats Directive Assessment which identifies four main stages in the process as follows:

Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, whether alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage Two: Appropriate assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain.

An assessment of compensatory measures, where in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

1.3 This document brings together all of the information necessary to make determination as to whether there are likely to be significant impacts arising from the discharge from Dripsey WWTP on the adjacent Cork Harbour Special Protection Area and represents the first stage of this process (Screening).

Step 1:

Provide a description of the plan and other plans and projects that, in combination, have the potential to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites within the potential impact zone;

Step 2:

Identify Natura 2000 sites which may be impacted by the plan, and compile information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives;

Step 3:

Determine whether the plan needs to be screened for potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites;

Step 4:

Carry out an assessment of likely effects – direct, indirect and cumulative – undertaken on the basis of available information as a desk study or field survey or primary research as necessary;

Step 5:

Assess the significance of any such effects on the Natura 2000 sites within the impact zone.

1.4 The assessment has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

European Commission (2000) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities. Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009.

2 Appropriate Assessment Screening Matrix

2.1 Description of project	
Location	Dripsey WWTP, Dripsey, County Cork.
Description of the key components of the project	<p>The WWTP is located below the public road in the townland of Agharinagh, west of the Model Village. The plant is adjacent to the Dripsey River. The site is located well below road level.</p> <p>A gravity combined sewer discharges to the waste water</p>

	<p>treatment plant. There is a significant amount of infiltration into the system.</p> <p>The WWTP was built in the early 1990's and has a design PE of 600. Currently the WWTP is receiving flows of approximately 88m³/day, based on a daily demand of 225l/head/day and a PE of 390.</p> <p>The wastewater enters the plant via a gravity sewer of diameter 225mm. The wastewater firstly enters a primary settlement tank. This was originally functioning as a septic tank before the plant was upgraded in the early 1990's. From here it flows through a Rotating Biological Contactor where aeration takes place. It then flows into a final setting tank and the treated effluent discharges from here to the river.</p> <p>The replacement of the Rotating Biological Contactor is intended to be an interim measure as an upgrade to the plant is being advanced under the Water Services Investment Programme. The upgrade scheme was being progressed as a Serviced Land Initiative. The Preliminary Report was approved by the DoEHLG in September 2006. Cork County Council subsequently submitted a construction budget in July 2007 and has not received a reply to date. Approval for all SLI schemes was withdrawn by the DoEHLG as per Circular L3/09 issued in April 2009. A scheme to upgrade the WWTP is currently being progressed by the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) Office and it is currently at the planning stage.</p> <p>Currently the WWTP is receiving flows of approximately 88m³/day, based on a daily demand of 225l/head/day and a PE of 390.</p> <p>Sludge storage is not provided in the plant and the plant is de-sludged on a regular basis. The point of discharge is a 100mm pipe, which discharges directly to the Dripsey River at a point approx 32km upstream of the Cork Harbour SPA. Further downstream the Dripsey River joins with the River Lee and flows into the Cork Harbour at the north western end of the Lough Mahon Estuary.</p>
<p>Distance from designated sites in potential impact zone*</p>	<p>Approx. 32 Km distance from the Discharge point to the Cork Harbour SPA.</p>

2.2 Description of the Natura 2000 sites within the potential impact zone ¹	
Name	Cork Harbour Special Protection Area
Site Code	4130
Site Description	<p>The Cork Harbour SPA is an estuarine complex which is primarily comprised of intertidal habitats, mainly mudflats as well as some other coastal and marine habitats. These habitats support very high numbers of wintering waterfowl that feed on the macro invertebrates inhabiting the mudflats. The Harbour regularly supports in excess of 20,000 wintering birds, making it an internationally important site and the fifth most important wintering waterfowl site in the country.</p> <p>Dripsey WWTP discharges to the Dripsey River at a point approx 32Km upstream from the Cork Harbour SPA.</p> <p>The Dripsey River joins with the River Lee which is a salmonid river and flows into the Cork Harbour SPA at the North Western end of the Lough Mahon estuary where the main habitats of importance are intertidal mudflats.</p> <p>More information on the Cork Harbour SPA is contained in appendix 1 of this document. Bird count data is provided in appendix 4.</p>
Qualifying Interests of Cork Harbour SPA.	<p>Internationally important numbers of Black-tailed Godwit and Redshank; Nationally important numbers of Cormorant, Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Dunlin and Curlew; 20,000 wintering water birds. Source – National Parks and Wildlife Service</p> <p>See appendix 4 for bird count data for Cork Harbour 1998/2000 – 2007/2008.</p>
Other Notable Features of Cork Harbour SPA	<p>Little Grebe, Great-crested Grebe, Grey Heron, Wigeon, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, Grey Plover, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, wetland and water birds. Source – National Parks and Wildlife Service</p> <p>See appendix 4 for bird count data for Cork Harbour 1998/2000 – 2007/2008.</p>

¹ Natura 2000 sites within the potential impact zone of the proposed development have been identified in accordance with guidance provided in the NPWS circular L8/08.

Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species and species of special conservation interest, or significant disturbance to these species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained.</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species and species of special conservation interest that the following are maintained in the long-term.</p> <p>the population of the species as a viable component of the site; the distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species; the structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species;</p> <p>Source – National Parks and Wildlife Service</p>
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2.3 Assessment Criteria

Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.	<p>Discharge from Dripsey WWTP. The treated effluent discharge from the WWTP to the Dripsey River which combines with the River Lee. The Cork Harbour SPA is approx 32 km from the point of discharge.</p> <p>The discharge consists of treated effluent from the WWTP and while the UWW regulations do not set statutory limits for plants below 2000PE the discharge results for 2011 and 2012 to date are compliant with the UWW regulation limits for BOD/COD and Suspended Solids.</p> <p>Other Significant Discharges between Cork Harbour SPA and Dripsey WWTP:</p> <p>Treated Wastewater from the Ballincollig agglomeration discharges to the river Lee approx 13Km upstream of the Cork Harbour SPA. It should be noted that this facility has a Waste Water Discharge Licence (D0043-01).</p> <p>Treated Wastewater from the Blarney agglomeration discharges to the Shournagh River which combines with the River Lee approx 19Km upstream of the Cork Harbour SPA. It should be noted that this facility has a Waste Water Discharge Licence (D0049-01).</p> <p>Treated Wastewater from Coachford discharges to the River Lee approx 32Km upstream of the Cork Harbour SPA.</p>
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<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site taking into account the following:</p> <p>Size and scale Land-take Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site: Resource requirements (water abstraction etc.) Emissions (disposal to land, water or air) Excavation Requirements Transportation Requirements Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning Other.</p>	<p>Discharges could give rise to elevated nutrients entering the Western portion of Cork Harbour. Increased nutrient levels may impact on the ecology of an area by changing the composition of floral communities and reducing the ability of less robust plants to survive. Increased nutrient levels may also result in increasing the invertebrate populations in the estuary, thereby increasing bird population levels.</p> <p>However the potential for the WWTP discharge to result in elevated nutrients within the harbour is reduced by the following factors:</p> <p>The quality of the effluent is good. From the monitoring data available there is no significant deterioration in water quality in the rivers downstream of the discharge. The discharge from the plant is approx 32Km upstream from Cork Harbour SPA and the River Lee enters the Cork Harbour SPA at the North Western end of Lough Mahon which is a large and well exchanged body of water with unlimited dilution capacity.</p> <p>1 Dripsey WWTP is currently being operated by Cork County Council. The site is visited at least twice per week for inspection and maintenance.</p> <p>Note 1: See appendix 3 for effluent quality results for 2011 and 2012 to date</p> <p>Note 2: As overflows occur in times of heavy rain the assumption must be made that what is discharged is diluted.</p> <p>2 No deterioration in water quality in the Rivers downstream. According to the upstream and downstream monitoring carried out there is no significant deterioration in water quality associated with the Dripsey WWTP discharge.</p> <p>Note 1: See appendix 3 for upstream and downstream monitoring data for 2011.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the Dripsey river is classified as Good status in the WFD status report on the EPA envision map scheme.</p> <p>Treated effluent discharges into Harbour body The treated effluent enters the Cork Harbour SPA at the North Western End of the Lough Mahon Estuary which is a large and well exchanged body of water with unlimited dilution capacity. The endless dilution capability of the harbour body of water means that the discharge is properly diluted once within the SPA.</p>
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	<p>The point of discharge is also approx 32km upstream of the Cork Harbour SPA.</p>
<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <p>Reduction in habitat area Disturbance to key species Habitat or species fragmentation Reduction in species density Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc) Climate Change</p>	<p>Reduction in habitat area: Effluent is discharging to a large well-exchanged body of water where dilution and dispersion potential is high. No significant impacts are evident or predicted on habitats within the Cork Harbour arising from the operation of this facility.</p> <p>Disturbance to key species: The operation of the WWTP does not cause any disturbance to species within the SPA.</p> <p>Habitat or species fragmentation: No habitat fragmentation has been caused as a result of the operation of this facility.</p> <p>Reduction in species density: Effluent is discharging to a large well-exchanged body of water where dilution and dispersion potential is high. No significant impacts are evident or predicted on species for which the SPA is designated.</p> <p>Changes in key indicators of conservation value e.g. water quality: Monitoring of the rivers water quality indicates that there is no significant deterioration in water quality associated with the Dripsey discharge. See appendix 3 for upstream and downstream monitoring data.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the Dripsey river is classified as Good status in the WFD status report on the EPA envision map scheme</p>
<p>Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:</p> <p>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site</p>	<p>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site: The structure of the SPA is not impacted by the operation of this facility.</p> <p>Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site: The function of the SPA is not impacted by the operation of this facility.</p>
<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project of plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or</p>	<p>No significant impacts are predicted.</p>

magnitude of impacts is not known.	
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Finding of No Significant Effects Report Matrix
Cork Harbour Special Protection Area

Name of project or plan	Dripsey WWTP.
Name and location of Natura 2000 site	Cork Harbour Special Protection Area
Description of the project or plan	<p>The WWTP is located below the public road in the townland of Agharinagh, west of the Model Village. The plant is adjacent to the Dripsey River. The site is located well below road level. A gravity combined sewer discharges to the waste water treatment plant. There is a significant amount of infiltration into the system. The WWTP was built in the early 1990's and has a design PE of 600. Currently the WWTP is receiving flows of approximately 88m³/day, based on a daily demand of 225l/head/day and a PE of 390. The wastewater enters the plant via a gravity sewer of diameter 225mm. The wastewater firstly enters a primary settlement tank. This was originally functioning as a septic tank before the plant was upgraded in the early 1990's. From here it flows through a Rotating Biological Contactor where aeration takes place. It then flows into a final setting tank and the treated effluent discharges from here to the river. The replacement of the Rotating Biological Contactor is intended to be an interim measure as an upgrade to the plant is being advanced under the Water Services Investment Programme.</p> <p>Currently the WWTP is receiving flows of approximately 88m³/day, based on a daily demand of 225l/head/day and a PE of 390.</p> <p>Sludge storage is not provided in the plant and the plant is de-sludged on a regular basis. The point of discharge is a 100mm pipe, which discharges directly to the Dripsey River at a point approx 32km upstream of the Cork Harbour SPA. Further downstream the Dripsey River joins with the River Lee and flows into the Cork Harbour at the north western end of the Lough Mahon Estuary.</p>
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?	No

The assessment of significance of effects	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 Site.	<p>Discharges from Dripsey WWTP either alone or in combination with discharges from other sources could give rise to elevated nutrients entering the Western portion of Cork Harbour. Increased nutrient levels may impact on the ecology of an area by changing the composition of floral communities and reducing the ability of less robust plants to survive. Increased nutrient levels may also result in increasing the invertebrate populations in the estuary, thereby increasing bird population levels.</p> <p>Effluent discharged from Saleen Septic tank or from the discharge points from the Whitegate/Aghada agglomeration may be having a negative impact on the Cork Harbour SPA, it is considered that the discharge from Dripsey WWTP is not contributing to this impact because of its distance from Cork Harbour SPA and because of the large dilution capacity of the River Lee.</p>
Explain why these effects are not considered significant.	Treated effluent discharges approx 32Km upstream of the SPA and the river discharges to a large well-exchanged body of water where dilution and dispersion potential is high. No significant impacts are evident or predicted on species for which the SPA is designated.
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or email address	<p>National Parks and Wildlife Service –(previously re Cork Harbour SPA) Natureconservation@environ.ie, cyril.saich@environ.ie</p> <p>Birdwatch Ireland – Data request.</p>
Response to consultation	<p>Draft Conservation Objectives and a copy of Intention to Designate Cork Harbour as SPA was received previously from the NPWS.</p> <p>Bird count data was received previously from Birdwatch Ireland.</p>

Data collected to carry out the assessment			
Who carried out the assessment	Sources of data	Level of assessment completed	Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed
Roger O'Donnell, Cork County Council	IWebs Bird Data supplied by BirdWatch Ireland; Water Quality Monitoring Data CCC;	Desktop review of cited data.	This report.

APPENDIX 1

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Dripsey Flow Chart – D0426-01

Is the development in a nature conservation site - **No**



Is the development in the surface water catchment of a nature conservation site (or part of such a site) - **Yes**



Are the qualifying habitats and species of the site water dependent - **Yes**



Is there a WFD sub basin plan for the site or its protected habitats /species - **Yes**



Does the plan cover all potential receptors (habitats /species) - **No**



Assess Impacts

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APPENDIX 2

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SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CORK HARBOUR SPA

SITE CODE: 004030

Cork Harbour is a large, sheltered bay system, with several river estuaries - principally those of the Rivers Lee, Douglas and Owenacurra. The SPA site comprises most of the main intertidal areas of Cork Harbour, including all of the North Channel, the Douglas Estuary, inner Lough Mahon, Lough Beg, Whitegate Bay and the Rostellan inlet.

Owing to the sheltered conditions, the intertidal flats are often muddy in character. These muds support a range of macro-invertebrates, notably *Macoma balthica*, *Scrobicularia plana*, *Hydrobia ulvae*, *Nephtys hombergi*, *Nereis diversicolor* and *Corophium volutator*. Green algae species occur on the flats, especially *Ulva lactuca* and *Enteromorpha* spp. Cordgrass (*Spartina* spp.) has colonised the intertidal flats in places, especially where good shelter exists, such as at Rossleague and Belvelly in the North Channel. Salt marshes are scattered through the site and these provide high tide roosts for the birds. Salt marsh species present include Sea Purslane (*Halimione portulacoides*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Lax-flowered Sea-lavender (*Limonium humile*) and Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*). Some shallow bay water is included in the site. Cork Harbour is adjacent to a major urban centre and a major industrial centre. Rostellan lake is a small brackish lake that is used by swans throughout the winter. The site also includes some marginal wet grassland areas used by feeding and roosting birds.

Cork Harbour is an internationally important wetland site, regularly supporting in excess of 20,000 wintering waterfowl, for which it is amongst the top five sites in the country. The five-year average annual core count for the entire harbour complex was 34,661 for the period 1996/97-2000/01. Of particular note is that the site supports an internationally important population of Redshank (1,614) - all figures given are average winter means for the 5 winters 1995/96-1999/00. A further 15 species have populations of national importance, as follows: Great Crested Grebe (218), Cormorant (620), Shelduck (1,426), Wigeon (1,750), Gadwall (15), Teal (807), Pintail (84), Shoveler (135), Red-breasted Merganser (90), Oystercatcher (791), Lapwing (3,614), Dunlin (4,936), Black-tailed Godwit (412), Curlew (1,345) and Greenshank (36). The Shelduck population is the largest in the country (9.6% of national total), while those of Shoveler (4.5% of total) and Pintail (4.2% of total) are also very substantial. The site has regionally or locally important populations of a range of other species, including Whooper Swan (10), Pochard (145), Golden Plover (805), Grey Plover (66) and Turnstone (99). Other species using the site include Bat-tailed Godwit (45), Mallard (456), Tufted Duck (97), Goldeneye (15), Coot (77), Mute Swan (39), Ringed Plover (51), Knot (31), Little Grebe (68) and Grey Heron (47). Cork Harbour is an important

site for gulls in winter and autumn, especially Common Gull (2,630) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (261); Black-headed Gull (948) also occurs.

A range of passage waders occur regularly in autumn, including Ruff (5-10), Spotted Redshank (1-5) and Green Sandpiper (1-5). Numbers vary between years and usually a few of each of these species over-winter.

The wintering birds in Cork Harbour have been monitored since the 1970s and are counted annually as part of the I-WeBS scheme.

Cork Harbour has a nationally important breeding colony of Common Tern (3-year mean of 69 pairs for the period 1998-2000, with a maximum of 102 pairs in 1995). The birds have nested in Cork Harbour since about 1970, and since 1983 on various artificial structures, notably derelict steel barges and the roof of a Martello Tower. The birds are monitored annually and the chicks are ringed.

Extensive areas of estuarine habitat have been reclaimed since about the 1950s for industrial, port-related and road projects, and further reclamation remains a threat. As Cork Harbour is adjacent to a major urban centre and a major industrial centre, water quality is variable, with the estuary of the River Lee and parts of the Inner Harbour being somewhat eutrophic. However, the polluted conditions may not be having significant impacts on the bird populations. Oil pollution from shipping in Cork Harbour is a general threat. Recreational activities are high in some areas of the harbour, including jet skiing which causes disturbance to roosting birds.

Cork Harbour has is of major ornithological significance, being of international importance both for the total numbers of wintering birds (i.e. > 20,000) and also for its population of Redshank. In addition, there are at least 15 wintering species that have populations of national importance, as well as a nationally important breeding colony of Common Tern. Several of the species which occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Whooper Swan, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruff and Common Tern. The site provides both feeding and roosting sites for the various bird species that use it.

4.7.2004

APPENDIX 3

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Dripsey D0426-01 Discharge Outlet 2011							mean value	UWW Reg Limits
Sample Date	10/02/2011	03/03/2011	12/05/2011	21/07/2011	17/08/2011	01/11/2011		
Sample	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent		
Sample Code	GV074	GV162	GV393	GV646	GV738	GV1052		
Flow M ³ /Day	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Suspended Solids mg/L	11	8	6	13	20	23	14	35
BOD mg/L	6.8	8	20	7.6	12	15	12	25
COD mg/L	24	32	67	25	40	49	40	125

exceeds Urban Wastewater Regulations Limits
 half of LOD for statistical purposes
 Unapproved Results

Dripsey D0426-01 Discharge Outlet 2012								Mean value	UWW Reg Limits
Sample	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent		
Sample Code	GW173	GW195							
Sample Date	29/03/2012	04/04/2012							
Sample Type	Grab	Grab							
Flow M ³ /Day	*	*							
BOD mg/L	7.8	1.6						4.7	25
COD mg/L	47	35						41	125
Suspended Solids mg/L	10	9						10	35

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exceeds Urban Wastewater Regulations Limits
 half of LOD for statistical purposes
 Unapproved Results

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Cork County Council Water Quality River Data for the Dripsey River Lee catchment 2011

Location Details Upstream

Station	Dripsey br u/s
Station Reference	RS19D060150
Station Easting	146122
Station Northing	79628

Parameter	Molybdate	Alkalinity	Appearanc	Chloride	Ammonium	Conductivi	Dissolved Oxyg	Dissolved	Nitrate	Nitrite	pH	BOD	Temperatu
	P	CaCO3		Cl	NH4		O2	O2	NO3	NO2		O2	
	0.03	--	--	--	0.5	--	150	15	25	0.05	9	5	--
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--	--	50	5	--	--	6	--	--
	mg/l	mg/l	Descriptive	mg/l	mg/l	µS/cm	% O2	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	pH units	mg/l	Degrees C
2010/2374	0.02		Clear		< 0.006	156	102	10.1	13.4	< 0.013	7.6	0.6	15.1
2010/2711	0.023		Clear		0.008	154	96.6	9.5	10.7	< 0.013	7.4	0.9	14.6
2011/0847	< 0.006		Clear	14	< 0.006	152	110	13	15.1	0.015	7.7	< 1	8.5

Sample Reference	Sample Date
2010/2374	18-Aug-10
2010/2711	08-Sep-10
2011/0847	23-Mar-11

Location Details Downstream

Station	Dripsey Br.
Station Reference	RS19D060400
Station Easting	148760
Station Northing	73864

Parameter	Hardness	Molybdate	Alkalinity	Appearanc	Chloride	Colour	Ammonium	Conductivity @	Dissolved	Dissolved	Nitrate	Nitrite	pH	BOD	Temperatu
	CaCO3	P	CaCO3		Cl	Hz	NH4		O2	O2	NO3	NO2		O2	
	--	0.03	--	--	--	--	0.5	--	150	15	25	0.05	9	3	--
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	50	5	--	--	--	--	--
	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	Descriptive	mg/l	Hazen	mg/l	µS/cm	% O2	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	pH units	mg/l	Degrees C
2010/2373	72	0.026	50	Clear	15.4	37	0.022	163	103	10.2	12.8	< 0.013	7.9	1.1	15.5
2010/2712	66	0.028	52		15.5	44	0.025	163	98.5	9.6	12.6	0.016	7.6	1	15.2
2011/0846	64	0.003	34	Clear	14.1	11	0.003	158	99	12.1	5	0.018	7.8	0.5	7.4
2011/1214	59	0.003	40	clear	12.9		0.003	151	117	11.7	11.9	0.04	7.9	0.8	12.5
2011/2245	54	0.048	52	Clear		22	0.031	146	94.2	9.3	12.93	0.028	7.6	1	16.6
2011/3131		0.034	48	clear		32	0.003	151	99	10.8	11.2	< 0.013	7.6	1.7	11.2
2011/4001	65	0.029	52		14.2	9	0.019	161			15.8	0.028	7.6	1	
Mean EQS value		0.024429					0.015143							1.014286	
95% EQS value		0.0438					0.0292							1.52	

Half of LOD for statistical purposes

APPENDIX 4

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Cork Harbour

Species	1% National	1% International	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Mean (03-07)	Peak (03-07)
Mute Swan	110	110	46	42	25	15	42	56	71	54	73	68	64	73
Bewick's Swan	20	200	6					2					0	2
Whooper Swan	130	210			12	14	12	15	7			3	5	15
Black Swan			3								2		0	2
Pink-footed Goose		2,250			1							2	0	2
Greenland White-fronted Goose	110	270			1								0	0
Greylag Goose	50	870			3	4	4	1	1	3	1	6	2	6
Canada Goose			10	6	13	8	2	21	23	11	13	22	18	23
Light-bellied Brent Goose	220	260			4		6	12	16	26	11	17	16	26
Feral/hybrid Goose									2			5	1	5
Shelduck	150	3,000	1,875	1,870	722	1,108	1,903	1,946	1,391	1,350	918	823	1,286	1,946
Wigeon	820	15,000	1,683	1,402	1,272	1,519	1,931	2,926	2,043	2,332	1,492	1,259	2,010	2,926
Gadwall	20	600	4		6	8	6	17	13	13	7		10	17
Green-winged Teal					1	1							0	0
Teal	450	5,000	778	1,214	1,139	1,079	1,492	1,611	1,169	1,302	667	644	1,079	1,611
Mallard	380	20,000	671	572	431	362	489	539	628	406	423	484	496	628
Pintail	20	600	52	41	2	7	73	46	20	14	2		16	46
Shoveler	25	400	103	148	74	48	103	33	24	45	62	51	43	62
Red Crested Pochard			1										0	0
Pochard	380	3,500	38	11	19	21	27	18	7	7	2	3	7	18
Ring-necked Duck							1						0	0
Tufted Duck	370	12,000	34	20	46	36	29	33	14	14	19	16	19	33
Scaup	45	3,100	2							2			0	2
Long-tailed Duck		20,000					2						0	0
Eider	30	12,830						1		15	1		3	15
Common Scoter	230	16,000		2			1	1	3	7		1	2	7
Surf Scoter			2										0	0
Velvet Scoter												3	1	3
Goldeneye	95	11,500	18	14	18	28	11	14	7	10	5	14	10	14
Red-breasted Merganser	35	1,700	110	128	64	77	95	88	85	80	68	72	79	88
Red-throated Diver	20	3,000								1	1		0	1
Black-throated Diver		3,750											0	0
Great Northern Diver		50	1	8	3	1	1	1			4	3	2	4
Pied-billed Grebe			1										0	0

The counts presented in the table refer to the peak counts of species in each I-WeBS season.

Site peak and mean are calculated as the peak and mean of peak counts respectively over the seasons specified. Blank cells within columns which contain positive values for one or more species constitute zero for those species.



Little Grebe	25	4,000	56	50	58	59	60	88	80	69	58	65	72	88
Great Crested Grebe	55	3,600	166	218	171	287	240	132	105	137	63	106	109	137
Slavonian Grebe		55	4		1			3	1	2			1	3
Black-necked Grebe			3	3	2	2							0	0
Cormorant	140	1,200	283	556	244	392	326	357	370	308	163	285	297	370
Shag									2		2	8	2	8
Little Egret		1,300	20	18	27	39	61	83	166	126	143	151	134	166
Grey Heron	30	2,700	54	61	114	57	97	68	135	76	84	72	87	135
Spoonbill												1	0	1
Water Rail			3	3		1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Moorhen	20		28	21	21	19	24	46	24	33	55	25	37	55
Coot	330	17,500	34	96	24	13	26	31	23	16	19	7	19	31
Oystercatcher	680	10,200	1,584	1,421	1,698	1,061	1,570	2,021	1,857	2,076	1,061	1,590	1,721	2,076
Ringed Plover	150	730	59	52	78	66	28	68	25	67	17	27	41	68
Golden Plover	1,700	9,300	3,000	3,432	4,009	6,888	4,262	5,102	6,200	3,002	3,266	5,232	4,560	6,200
Grey Plover	65	2,500	72	44	5	6	108	37	4	24	12	39	23	39
Lapwing	2,100	20,000	4,386	4,116	7,267	2,816	4,176	4,864	4,133	4,096	3,321	3,321	3,947	4,864
Knot	190	4,500	16	17	80	79	306	114	85	117	124	111	110	124
Sanderling	65	1,200					135	350		33			77	350
Curlew Sandpiper				15		2	1		3	4	1		2	4
Dunlin	880	13,300	8,277	8,240	6,632	5,755	3,979	4,785	4,325	3,874	4,456	3,579	4,204	4,785
Ruff		12,500		1			1	1		1		3	1	3
Snipe		20,000	43	47	5	20	20	54	14	49	32	75	45	75
Long-billed Dowitcher						1	1						0	0
Black-tailed Godwit	140	470	2,508	1,692	1,615	2,128	3,162	1,518	2,937	3,337	1,433	2,823	2,410	3,337
Bar-tailed Godwit	160	1,200	16	52	351	419	477	405	298	218	383	257	312	405
Whimbrel		2,000	2	1		1	1	3	1	4	1	1	2	4
Curlew	550	8,500	2,927	2,223	1,297	1,329	1,817	1,083	2,317	1,809	1,363	1,607	1,636	2,317
Common Sandpiper			3	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	4	2	4
Green Sandpiper			2	1		1	1	1	1	1			1	1
Spotted Redshank		900	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Greenshank	20	2,300	46	61	31	25	60	47	83	68	72	71	68	83
Redshank	310	3,900	2,243	2,269	1,005	1,138	2,170	1,591	2,295	1,543	1,459	1,725	1,723	2,295
Turnstone	120	1,500	166	146	93	66	145	131	161	136	129	214	154	214
Mediterranean Gull			5	7	1	2	12	11	13	15	24	48	22	48
Sabine's Gull								1					0	1
Bonaparte's Gull											1		0	1
Black-headed Gull		20,000	2,493	1,609	2,288	1,180	1,811	2,954	2,170	2,627	2,010	2,103	2,373	2,954

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Ring-billed Gull		2	3	2	1		1	1				0	1
Common Gull	16,000	676	378	1,264	1,725	459	200	290	188	214	207	220	290
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4,500	753	118	177	106	63	254	496	31	630	72	297	630
Herring Gull	13,000	53	68	36	16	37	32	36	40	123	51	56	123
Iceland Gull			1	1								0	0
Glaucous Gull											1	0	1
Great Black-backed Gull	4,800	120	238	141	76	110	150	385	157	137	98	185	385
Unidentified gull					2,123							0	0
Sandwich Tern		2	12	2	34	5		2	225	2	17	49	225
Common Tern			18			2	1		1	1	1	1	1
Arctic Tern											1	0	1
Unidentified Tern							3					1	3
Kingfisher			1	1	2	1	3	3	3	1	2	2	3

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Saleen

Species	1% National	1% International	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Mean (03-07)	Peak (03-07)
Mute Swan	110	110	1	2	2	2	1	1		3			1	3
Canada Goose									13				3	13
Light-bellied Brent Goose	220	260			4								0	0
Shelduck	150	3,000	59	75	42	52	30	41	60	44	34	29	42	60
Wigeon	820	15,000	129	95	122	73	173	102	97	179	149	124	130	179
Green-winged Teal							1						0	0
Teal	450	5,000	72	101	81	168	199	223	188	248	184	226	214	248
Mallard	380	20,000	29	26	28	56	41	46	39	46	91	82	61	91
Shoveler	25	400					4	7		4			2	7
Goldeneye	95	11,500		2									0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	35	1,700			2	8	8	9	2	1	2		3	9
Red-throated Diver	20	3,000								1			0	1
Black-throated Diver		3,750											0	0
Little Grebe	25	4,000	11	13	9	11		9	5	8	14	8	9	14
Great Crested Grebe	55	3,600	13	6	5	8	6	16	7	13	4	5	9	16
Slavonian Grebe		55			1								0	0
Cormorant	140	1,200	7	7	6	4	6	3	6	6	7	7	6	7
Little Egret		1,300	9	4	7	10	10	10	23	17	17	18	17	23
Grey Heron	30	2,700	7	4	8	6	5	7	6	6	4	5	6	7
Moorhen	20						2			1			0	1
Oystercatcher	680	10,200	129	172	136	150	175	147	135	137	94	176	138	176
Ringed Plover	150	730	14		14		19		13	41			11	41
Lapwing	2,100	20,000	36	8	7	2		2	12		1		3	12
Knot	190	4,500								5		1	1	5
Curlew Sandpiper				9									0	0
Dunlin	880	13,300	256	31	26	10	164	28	64	6	37	54	38	64
Ruff		12,500										1	0	1
Snipe		20,000						2	6	2	5	1	3	6
Long-billed Dowitcher							1						0	0
Black-tailed Godwit	140	470	61	22	16	55	75	52	121	72	129	101	95	129
Bar-tailed Godwit	160	1,200	1	2	4	4	2	1	13	5	1	1	4	13
Whimbrel		2,000				1	1						0	0
Curlew	550	8,500	121	81	82	89	96	91	103	90	115	152	110	152
Common Sandpiper										1	1		0	1

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Spotted Redshank		900	3	2							1	0	1	
Greenshank	20	2,300	8	10	13	11	12	4	9	12	8	10	9	12
Redshank	310	3,900	123	106	135	129	116	116	144	126	173	161	144	173
Turnstone	120	1,500	61	26	52	33	35	12	26	73	54	17	36	73
Mediterranean Gull						1		4	4	5	6	48	13	48
Bonaparte's Gull											1		0	1
Black-headed Gull		20,000	190	177	167	107	176	57	187	184	221	212	172	221
Ring-billed Gull					1								0	0
Common Gull		16,000	7	47	41	88	264	39	103	21	65	84	62	103
Lesser Black-backed Gull		4,500	7	42	3	77	1	1	2	1	5	9	4	9
Herring Gull		13,000	2	3	4	1	6	3	7	3	5	3	4	7
Great Black-backed Gull		4,800	1	4	1	14	4	9	8	4	3	4	6	9
Sandwich Tern				2		22			2	6		3	2	6
Kingfisher					1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1

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Owenboy Estuary

Species	1% National	1% International	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Mean (03-07)	Peak (03-07)
Mute Swan	110	110	5	2	2				2			4	2	4
Feral/hybrid Goose									2				1	2
Shelduck	150	3,000	111	122	97		167	206	141	76		45	117	206
Wigeon	820	15,000	13										0	0
Teal	450	5,000	88	50	5		80	50	75	29		25	45	75
Mallard	380	20,000	58	49	36		51	115	77	18		49	65	115
Red-breasted Merganser	35	1,700	15	5			12	12	7	9		3	8	12
Little Grebe	25	4,000					1					7	2	7
Great Crested Grebe	55	3,600						1				1	1	1
Cormorant	140	1,200	10	38	20		9	8	6	1		5	5	8
Little Egret		1,300		1				1	6			8	4	8
Grey Heron	30	2,700	4	6	18		6	13	12	6		11	11	13
Oystercatcher	680	10,200	119	54	40		91	80	82	27		105	74	105
Ringed Plover	150	730			6								0	0
Golden Plover	1,700	9,300	450	60	1,050								0	0
Lapwing	2,100	20,000	426	200	150		150	30	117	73		94	79	117
Knot	190	4,500			1				16			10	7	16
Curlew Sandpiper									1				0	1
Dunlin	880	13,300	460	115	55		120	63	170	107		125	116	170
Snipe		20,000		8				3		10		1	4	10
Black-tailed Godwit	140	470	75	194	146		210	100	233			250	146	250
Curlew	550	8,500	98	85	99		54	39	51	31		83	51	83
Common Sandpiper								1	1			2	1	2
Greenshank	20	2,300	4	9	2		30	12	23	17		11	16	23
Redshank	310	3,900	138	92	152		150	148	280	120		370	230	370
Turnstone	120	1,500	10	4			20	20	76	10		10	29	76
Black-headed Gull		20,000	397	156	147		80	200	226	253		305	246	305
Common Gull		16,000	82	90	65		80	50	50	90		183	93	183
Lesser Black-backed Gull		4,500	158	15					40			51	23	51
Herring Gull		13,000	6		1		5		2			17	5	17
Iceland Gull					1								0	0
Great Black-backed Gull		4,800	5	1	2		8		20			3	6	20
Sandwich Tern												2	1	2
Kingfisher							1						0	0

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Douglas Estuary

Species	1% National	1% International	2001/02	2000/01	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Mute Swan	110	110	3	0	2	2	1	6	2	
Greylag Goose	50	870								5
Canada Goose					1					
Shelduck	150	3000	200	192	370	200	107	155	132	134
Wigeon	820	15000	388	280	380	550	310	386	322	295
Green-winged Teal			1	1						
Teal	450	5000	182	400	282	400	168	113	80	55
Mallard	380	20000	55	83	30	73	65	14	65	26
Shoveler	25	400	14	9	8	8	2			
Pochard	380	3500								2
Tufted Duck	370	12000	23	31	25	1				
Scaup	45	3100								
Goldeneye	95	11500	28	17	5	8	7	3		
Red-breasted Merganser	35	1700	8	4	13	2	8	5	4	8
Great Northern Diver		50							2	
Little Grebe	25	4000	4	8	9	8	8		3	5
Great Crested Grebe	55	3600	100	4	16	18	20	5	5	5
Cormorant	140	1200	15	14	6	24	18	27	14	9
Little Egret		1300	7	2		15	21	19	16	27
Grey Heron	30	2700	8	10	12	7	13	11	6	4
Water Rail							1			1
Moorhen	20		2	5	3	6	6		2	1
Coot	330	17500							2	
Oystercatcher	680	10200	136	100	560	391	340	380	243	380
Golden Plover	1700	9300	3700	4000	3500	4700	6200	2500	2850	5000
Grey Plover	65	2500		1	17		1	2	1	1
Lapwing	2100	20000	600	1200	1210	1750	1360	1355	450	1325
Knot	190	4500	70	80	116	105	85	107	120	101
Curlew Sandpiper			1				2	1		
Dunlin	880	13300	2000	1500	1650	2600	1850	2500	2400	1600
Ruff		12500								1
Snipe		20000	2	1	1	6	8	3	1	12
Black-tailed Godwit	140	470	259	200	1006	568	303	490	484	660
Bar-tailed Godwit	160	1200	270	350	460	400	297	218	335	242
Curlew	550	8500	278	271	460	382	497	606	270	430
Common Sandpiper						2	1	1		1
Spotted Redshank		900	1		1		1		1	
Greenshank	20	2300	7	6	7	6	18	11	9	11
Redshank	310	3900	120	234	610	542	864	420	351	440
Turnstone	120	1500							2	
Mediterranean Gull								1	1	
Laughing Gull										
Black-headed Gull		20000		0	400	811	300	312	258	300
Ring-billed Gull			1							
Common Gull		16000		0	12	25	15		142	30
Lesser Black-backed Gull		4500		0	4	10	3		6	15
Herring Gull		13000	1	0					12	1
Iceland Gull										
Great Black-backed Gull		4800	2	0		2	9	1	12	12
Sandwich Tern										2
Common Tern					1	1				
Kingfisher			1			2	1	1	1	

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