

Planning Section,
Offaly County Council,
Aras an Chontae,
Charleville Road
Tullamore,
County Offaly

29th November 2012

**Re: Planning Application: Materials Recovery Facility, Bogtown, Cappancur,
Tullamore Your Ref PL2/12/269,**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Advanced Environmental Services (Ireland) Limited (AES) waste recovery and transfer facility at Cappancur operates under the current planning permission issued by the Council (08/852) and a Waste Licence (W0104-02) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), both of which restrict the amount of waste that can be accepted annually to 50,000 tonnes.

AES has applied for planning permission (PL2/12/269) to increase the amount of waste accepted annually to 60,000 tonnes. A decision on the application is due by 2nd January 2012. AES is preparing an application to revise the Waste Licence to approve the proposed increase in waste inputs and intends to lodge this in December 2012.

The EPA has recently amended the Licence Application Form to take account of the requirements of European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2012 (SI No 282 of 2012); in terms of Environmental Impact Assessment under the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (Council Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment).

Section B 3 (c) of the application form relates to facilities for which planning permission is under consideration. It requires that

*“where the new activity or changes to the existing activity which require this licence/review application involves development or proposed development that requires a grant of planning permission, and the relevant planning application is under consideration by the planning authority or An Bord Pleanála, the following should be included in **Attachment N^o B.3** (of the licence application):*

- *confirmation in writing from a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála, as the case may be, that an application for permission comprising or for the purposes of the activity to which the application for a licence relates, is currently under consideration, and either:*

Cont'd

Attachment B.8 Seveso II Directive

The EC (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2000 (SI No. 476 of 2000) do not apply to this facility.

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Attachment B.7 Type of Activity

The principal activity will be Class 3 of the Fourth Schedule. Ancillary activities include

- A) the recovery of metals from incoming waste which are sent off site for recycling,

- B) processing of C + D wastes to segregate inert and non inert materials that are sent off site for recovery.

- C) Storage of recyclable and non recyclable materials pending consignment to off site recovery and disposal facilities

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SITE NOTICE

APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR

A REVIEW OF A WASTE LICENCE

Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Ltd is applying to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a review of its Waste Licence for its existing Materials Recovery Facility at Cappancur, Tullamore, County Offaly, which is located at National Grid References:E2356 N2256. The purpose of the review is to increase the amount of waste accepted annually from 50,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes, remove the approval to accept 200 tonnes of hazardous waste and to facilitate the future connection to the municipal foul sewer of treated effluent from the existing on-site wastewater treatment plant and floor washwater and contaminated rainwater run-off. The proposed changes do not require the construction or provision of any new buildings/structures or any alteration to the current site layout and operations, with the exception of installing a connection to the municipal foul sewer. The relevant waste disposal and waste recovery activities, as per the Third and Fourth Schedules of the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2011, and the Waste Management (Licensing) Regulations 2004, (S.I. No. 395 of 2004) to which this application relates are: -

Third Schedule – Waste Disposal Activities

- D 13: Blending or mixing prior to submission to any of the operations numbered from D 1 to 12 (if there is no other D code appropriate, this can include preliminary operations prior to disposal including pre-processing such as, amongst others, sorting, crushing, compacting, pelletising, drying, shredding, conditioning or separating prior to submission to any of the operations numbered D1 to D12)
- D 14 Repackaging prior to submission to any of the operations numbered D 1 to D 13
- D 15 Storage pending any of the operations numbered D 1 to D 14 (excluding temporary storage (being preliminary storage according to the definition of 'collection' in section 5(1)), pending collection, on the site where the waste is produced).

Fourth Schedule – Waste Recovery Activities

- R3: 'Recycling /reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (including composting and other biological transformation processes), which includes gasification and pyrolysis using the components as chemicals'. (P)
- R4: 'Recycling or reclamation of metals and metal compounds'.
- R5: 'Recycling or reclamation of other inorganic materials, which includes soil cleaning resulting in recovery of the soil and recycling of inorganic construction materials'
- R12: 'Exchange of waste for submission to any of the operations numbered R 1 to R 11 (if there is no other R code appropriate, this can include preliminary operations prior to recovery including pre-processing such as, amongst others, dismantling, sorting, crushing, compacting, pelletising, drying, shredding, conditioning, repackaging, separating, blending or mixing prior to submission to any of the operations numbered R1 to R11).'
- R13: 'Storage of waste pending any of the operations numbered R 1 to R 12 (excluding temporary storage (being preliminary storage according to the definition of 'collection' in section 5(1)), pending collection, on the site where the waste is produced).'

A copy of this application for a Waste Licence as well such further information relating to the application as may be furnished to the Agency in the course of the Agency's consideration of the application will, as soon as is practicable after receipt by the Agency, be available for inspection or purchase at the headquarters of the Agency at P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle, County Wexford.

Attachment B.6 Notices and Advertisements

Drawing No. 16705-01 shows the Location of the Site Notice, the text of which is included in this attachment. A copy of the newspaper advertising the application for the Waste Licence and a copy of the letter informing the Planning Authority (Offaly County Council) of the intention to apply for a review of the Waste Licence are also included in this Attachment.

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**APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY FOR
A WASTE LICENCE**

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- D 15 Storage pending any of the operations numbered D 1 to D 14 (excluding temporary storage (being preliminary

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storage according to the definition of 'collection' in section 5(1)), pending collection, on the site where the waste is produced).

Fourth Schedule – Waste Recovery Activities

R3: 'Recycling /reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents (including composting and other biological transformation processes), which includes gasification and pyrolysis using the components as chemicals'. (P)

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R5: 'Recycling or reclamation of other inorganic materials, which includes soil cleaning resulting in recovery of the soil and recycling of inorganic construction materials'

R12: 'Exchange of waste for submission to any of the operations numbered R 1 to R 11 (if there is no other R code appropriate, this can include preliminary operations prior to recovery including pre-processing such as, amongst others, dismantling, sorting, crushing, compacting, pelletising, drying, shredding, conditioning, repackaging, separating, blending or mixing prior to submission to any of the operations numbered R1 to R11).'

R13: 'Storage of waste pending any of the operations numbered R 1 to R 12 (excluding temporary storage (being preliminary storage according to the definition of 'collection' in section 5(1)), pending collection, on the site where the waste is produced).'

A copy of this application for a waste licence, as well such further information relating to the application as may be furnished to the Agency in the course of the Agency's consideration of the application will, as soon as is practicable after receipt by the Agency, be available for inspection or purchase at the headquarters of the Agency at P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford.

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Attachment B.5 Other Authorities

The proposed activity is not located within the Shannon Free Airport Development Company area.

The only other authority is

Health Service Executive (Midland Area)
Central Office
Arden Road,
Tullamore,
County Offaly

Tel: 057-9321868

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Attachment B.4 Sanitary Authority

The Sanitary Authority is: -

Offaly County Council,
Aras an Chontae,
Charleville Road,
Tullamore,
County Offaly.

Tel : 057 9346800

Fax : 057 9346868

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Comhairle Chontae Uibhí Fhailí

Tel: 057 9346800 • Fax: 057 9346868

Website: www.offaly.ie

email: secretar@offalycoco.ie

Offaly County Council

Áras an Chontae,
Charleville Road,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly.



RECEIVED 05 FEB 2013

ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (IRELAND) LTD.,
O'CALLAGHAN MORAN & ASSOCIATES
GRANARY HOUSE
RUTLAND STREET
CORK

04/02/2013

Re: PL2/12/269

Dear Sir/Madam,

I enclose herewith, Grant of Planning Permission in the above.

For your information, the following leaflets are also enclosed, the contents of which should be strictly adhered to.

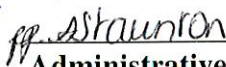
1. Safety and Health on Construction Projects - The Role of Clients.
2. Guide to Building Control.
3. Commencement Notice.
4. Copy of Chief Fire Officer's report (where applicable).

Please note:-

- (a) All **Development Contributions must be paid before development commences**, otherwise development will be unauthorised.
- (b) A Waste Permit may be required for certain developments. Further information in relation to this is available from the Environment Section, Offaly County Council on (057) 9346895.

Please remove site notice erected in respect of the above planning application.

Yours sincerely,


Administrative Officer (Planning)

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 - 2011
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 - 2012

NOTIFICATION OF GRANT

Planning Section
Áras an Chontae
Charleville Road
Tullamore
Co. Offaly

TO: ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (IRELAND) LTD.,
O'CALLAGHAN MORAN & ASSOCIATES
GRANARY HOUSE
RUTLAND STREET
CORK

Planning Register Number: 12/269
Application Receipt Date: 30/10/2012
Further Information Received Date:

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by the above-mentioned Acts, Offaly County Council has by order dated 20/12/2012 GRANTED PERMISSION to the above named, for the development of land, in accordance with the documents lodged, namely:-

DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL CONSIST OF AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF WASTE ACCEPTED ANNUALLY FROM 50,000 TONNES TO 60,000 TONNES. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL REQUIRE A REVISION OF THE WASTE LICENCE GRANTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY. THE PROPOSED INCREASE DOES NOT REQUIRE THE CONSTRUCTION/PROVISION OF ANY NEW BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES OR ANY ALTERATIONS TO THE CURRENT SITE LAYOUT AND OPERATIONS AT CAPPANCUR, TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY

Subject to the 2 conditions set out in the Schedule attached.

In deciding the planning application, the Planning Authority had regard to submissions or observations received in accordance with the Regulations.

Signed on behalf of said Council

Date: 1/2/2013

P. O'Leary
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

OUTLINE PERMISSION is subject to the permission consequent on the grant of outline permission of the Planning Authority. Until such permission has been obtained to the detailed plans, the proposed development is not authorised.

NOTE: The permission herein granted shall, on the expiration of the period of **FIVE YEARS** beginning on the date of the granting of permission, cease to have effect as regards:-

- 1 In case of the development to which the permission relates is not commenced during the period, the entire development
- and
- 2 In case such development is so commenced, so much thereof as is not completed within that period.

File Reference: PL2/12/269

Application for permission for development which will consist of an increase in the amount of waste accepted annually from 50,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes. The development will require a revision of the Waste Licence granted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The proposed increase does not require the construction/provision of any new buildings/structures or any alterations to the current site layout and operations at Cappancur, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. - Advanced Environmental Services (Ireland) Ltd.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Having regard to the nature and scale and intended use of the development, the issues raised in the planning assessment, referral reports, site inspection, existing pattern of development in the vicinity, and the current Development Plan, it is considered that, subject to the conditions in the Second Schedule, that the development would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would not be prejudicial to public health and would otherwise accord with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

SECOND SCHEDULE

1. The development shall be carried out and retained in accordance with plans and particulars submitted to the Planning Authority on the 30/10/2012 except where altered or amended by conditions in this permission.

Reason: To define the scope of permission, in the interest of orderly development.

2. The developer shall submit for the written agreement of the Planning Authority a copy of the maintenance records for the existing wastewater treatment unit and a copy of the records to date for removal of the wastewater off site for further treatment.

Reason: In the interests of public health and orderly development.



**Central Fire Station
Tullamore**

Tel: 0506 - 21441
Fax: 0506 - 51524

Our Ref: dc/NICK SMYTH.

01/11/2012

The Planning Officer,
Offaly County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
Charleville Road,
Tullamore.

RE: 12/269 - PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL CONSIST OF INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF WASTE ACCEPTED ANNUALLY FROM 50,000 TONNES ETC.,
AT: BOGTOWN, CAPPANCUR, TULLAMORE,,
APPLICANT: ADV . ENVIRONMENTAL SERV (IRE) LTD

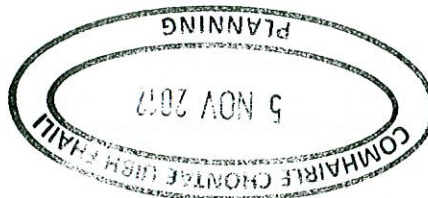
A Chara,

With reference to yours received on the 31/10/2012 concerning the above, I have no objections to the GRANTING of planning permission to this development.

Please let me have a copy of the Councils final decision.


Eoin O'Ceilleachair
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

cc. Administrative Officer, Building Control, Roads Section.



NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT
STAGE 1 SCREENING
PROPOSED INCREASE IN WASTE ACCEPTANCE
MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY
CAPPANCUR
COUNTY OFFALY

Prepared For:

Advanced Environmental Services (Ireland) Ltd,
Bogtown,
Cappancur,
County Offaly.

Prepared By: -

O' Callaghan Moran & Associates,
Granary House,
Rutland Street,
Cork.

September 2012

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1. INTRODUCTION

Advanced Environmental Services (Ireland) Ltd (AES) intends to apply to Offaly County Council for planning permission to increase the amount of waste accepted at its Materials Recovery Facility at Cappancur, Tullamore from 50,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes annually.

The European Union (EU) Habitats Directive (92/43/EC) and the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) identify designated areas (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) respectively) that are collectively known as Natura 2000 Sites. The Habitats Directive, which is implemented under the European Communities Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No 477 of 2011), requires an “appropriate assessment” of the potential impacts any proposed development that may have an impact on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site.

Article 6(3) of the Directive stipulates that *any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon...shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.*

Guidance documents issued by Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Parks and Wildlife Services recommend that the assessment be completed in a series of Stages, which comprise:

Stage 1: Screening

The purpose of this Stage is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in respect of the site’s conservation objectives.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

This Stage is required if the Stage 1 Screening exercise identifies that the project is likely to have a significant impacts on a Natura 2000 site.

Stage 3 : Assessment of Alternative Solutions.

If Stage 2 determines that the project will have an adverse impact upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, despite the implementation of mitigation measures, it must be objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist before the plan can proceed.

Stage 4 : Compensatory Measures:

Where no alternative solutions are feasible and where adverse impacts remain but imperative reasons of overriding public interest require the implementation of a project an assessment of compensatory measures that will effectively offset the damage to the Natura site 2000 is required.

AES commissioned O'Callaghan Moran & Associates (OCM) to complete a Stage 1 Screening to determine the effects of the proposed increase in the amount of waste accepted on the nearby Natura 2000 sites.

1.1 Methodology

The Stage 1 Screening was based on a site inspection and the scope of the proposed development. It was conducted in accordance with the guidance presented in the “Assessment of Plans and Projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC” (2001); The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009, revised February 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Services (2010) Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities.

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2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The facility operates under planning permission issued by Offaly County Council (08/852) and a Waste Licence (W0104-02) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (Agency), both of which restrict the amount of waste that can be accepted annually to 50,000 tonnes. AES intends to apply for planning permission to increase the amount of waste accepted annually to 60,000 tonnes annually. A separate application to revise the Waste Licence will be submitted to the Agency.

Operations at the facility include the receipt of domestic, commercial, industrial and construction waste, which is sorted and segregated for onward recycling / recovery in accordance with the recycling potential. Waste deemed unsuitable for recycling / recovery is segregated and compacted for disposal off-site.

The facility is located in an area zoned for industrial development and has the capacity to process and recover more wastes than currently authorised. Surface water run-off from the site passes through an oil interceptor and enters a drain at the southern site boundary. The drain joins the Tullamore River, which is approximately 750 km south of the site. Sanitary wastewater is treated in an on-site wastewater treatment plant before it is tankered off site for further treatment.

The proposed increase in the annual waste throughput will not require the expansion of the site, the construction/provision of any new buildings/structures, or any alteration to the existing site layout and operations. There will be no change to the waste acceptance and operational hours. It will not give rise to any new emissions to surface water or sewer, nor will it contribute to increased noise, dust and odour emissions.

3. NATURA 2000 SITES

A list of designated Natura 2000 sites within 15 km of the facility is given in Table 3.1 and the locations are shown on Figure 3.1

Table 3.1. Natura 2000 Sites Within 15 km of the AES Facility

Site	Code	Distance
SAC		
Charleville Wood	000571	3 km South West
Clara Bog	000572	10km North West
Raheenmore Bog	000582	12km North East
Clonsalee Eskers and Derry Bog	000859	12km South West
SPA		
Slieve Bloom	004160	15kmSouth

SACs are selected for the conservation and protection of habitats listed on Annex I and species (other than birds) listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, and their habitats. The habitats on Annex I require special conservation measures. SPAs are selected for the conservation and protection of bird species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive and regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats, particularly wetlands

Copies of the site Synopses for the Charleville Wood, Clara Bog, Clonsalee Eskers and Derry Bog, and the Rheenmore Bog SACs and the Slieve Bloom SPA are included in Appendix 1.

3.1 Conservation Objectives

A statement of Conservation Objectives is prepared for each designated site which identifies the qualifying interests or conservation features. The Conservation Objectives are intended to ensure that the relevant habitats and species present on a site are maintained, and where necessary restored, at a Favourable Conservation Status.

Favourable Conservation Status of a habitat, as defined in 2011 Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, is when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable

Figure 3.1 Natura 2000 Sites



	O'Callaghan Moran & Associates, Granary House, Rutland Street, Cork, Ireland.
	Tel: (021) 4321521 Fax: (021) 4321522
	email: info@ocallaghanmoran.com
	<p>This drawing is the property of O'Callaghan Moran & Associates and shall not be used, reproduced or disclosed to anyone without the prior written permission of O'Callaghan Moran & Associates and shall be returned upon request.</p>

Conservation Status of a species is when:

- The Favourable population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats,
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Copies of the Conservation Objectives for the Charleville Wood, Clara Bog and Raheenmore Bog SAC and the Slieve Bloom SPA are included in Appendix 2, with the site specific objectives presented below.

Charleville Wood SAC

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [1016] *Vertigo moulinsiana* (Snail)
- [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex*(Holly) and *Blechnum* (Fern)

Clara Bog SAC

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [1065] *Euphydryas* (*Eurodryas*, *Hypodryas*) *aurinia* (Butterfly)
- [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*)(*important orchid sites)
- [7110] * Active raised bogs
- [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* habitat
- [91D0] * Bog woodland

Raheenmore Bog SAC

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [7110] * Active Raised Bogs

- [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- [7150] depressions on peat substrates of the rhynchosporion

Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog 00859 Qualifying Interests

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [1013] *Vertigo geyeri* (Snail)
- [7230] Alkaline fens

Slieve Bloom SPA

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA:

- *Circus cyaneus* (Hen Harrier) [breeding]

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4. LIKELY EFFECTS

4.1 Setting

The facility is not located in or adjacent to a Natura 2000 Site. The closest Natura 2000 Site is Charleville Wood SAC, which is 3km southwest of the facility, with the other Sites being between 10 and 15 km from the facility.

Stormwater run-off from the facility discharges via an oil interceptor to a tributary of the Tullamore River. The Tullamore River is 750m south of the site and, as it flows west to join the River Brosna, it passes through the northern section of the Charleville Wood SAC. The Conservation Objectives for this SAC are:

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [1016] *Vertigo moulinsiana* (Snail)
- [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* (Holly) and *Blechnum* (Fern)

These animal and plant species are non-aquatic and do not inhabit the Tullamore River.

4.2 Proposed Development

The proposed increase in the annual waste throughput will not require the expansion of the site, the construction/provision of any new buildings/structures, or any alteration to the existing site layout and operations. There will be no change to the waste acceptance and operational hours. It will not require the use of any new raw materials that have the potential to cause contamination. It will not give rise to any new emissions to surface water or sewer, nor will it contribute to increased noise, dust and odour emissions or illumination. Therefore the development does not require the provision of additional emission mitigation measures.

4.3 Assessment of Effects

Given the nature of the change and the distance from the Natura 2000 Sites, the proposed development will not have any perceptible effect on any of the Conservation Objectives for the Natura 2000 Sites.

5. SCREENING CONCLUSION & STATEMENT

The proposed increase in the annual waste throughput will not result in any new or additional emission/disturbance that could present a significant risk to the Conservation Objectives of any of the Natura 2000 Sites within 15km of the MRF. Therefore Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

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APPENDIX 1

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SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLARA BOG

SITE CODE: 000572

Clara Bog is situated some 2 km south of Clara village. Much of it is state-owned and designated a statutory Nature Reserve.

Clara Bog has long been regarded as one of the most important lowland raised bogs in the country, being the largest remaining example of the true Midland sub-type. It has well developed hummock and hollow complexes and one of the few remaining soak systems. The bog vegetation has been much studied and is well known. Variations in the proportions of Bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Cottongrass (*Eriophorum* spp.) has been related to ecological features such as pools, soaks and ridges.

Several rare invertebrate species are associated with the soak, including the midge, *Lasiodiamesa sphagnicola*, for which Clara Bog is its only known Irish site, a click beetle, *Ampedus pomorum* and another midge, *Parhelophilus consimilis*. The bog is also important for the rare moss, *Tetraplodon angustatus*, at its only known Irish station here.

Clara Bog supports breeding Merlin (12 pairs), a scarce species in Ireland and one that is listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. Red Grouse also breeds, along with other common bogland species such as Meadow Pipit and Skylark.

To the east the transition into calcareous woodland, and to the north the transition to the esker ridge have been retained and some excellent examples of esker grassland occur in the site. Some peripheral reclaimed farmland is also included in the site, because management undertaken in these areas can have a profound effect upon the rest of the bog.

The site has been divided into a western and an eastern section by a road. The eastern part of the site has been damaged by previous drainage attempts, however, restoration work is in progress. Continuing peat extraction from the southern margins is also damaging and has potential effect upon much of the internal bog, including the soak system. Ideally the whole bog should be managed as a hydrological unit.

Active raised bogs, once characteristic of central Ireland, are now rare and vulnerable, and have been recognised by the European Union as a habitat of international importance. Ireland has a special responsibility to conserve the best of its remaining bogs. Further drainage, peat extraction, burning or attempted land reclamation is not consistent with this responsibility.

25.2.1999

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: RAHEENMORE BOG

SITE CODE: 000582

This raised bog developed in a small basin in the catchment of two major river systems i.e. the Brosna and the Boyne. It is situated about 5 km from Daingean. The peat is very deep, being up to 15 m in places. The bog has a well-developed hummock and hollow system.

The hummocks are often colonised by the mosses *Sphagnum imbricatum* and *S. fuscum*. Pool areas support Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*), the moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and the liverwort (*Cladopodiella fluitans*). In places, moss lawns of *Sphagnum magellanicum* have infilled the pools. Overall, the cover of *Sphagnum* moss on the bog is very good. Away from the dome summit, Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) flats dominate the peat surface.

Some sections of old cutaway bog has narrow strips of Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) woodland developing. Much of the rest of the cutaway is now unimproved pasture and wet grassland, rich in Rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*). Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*) can also be found in fields at the bog margins. In 1959, the very rare Rannock Rush (*Scheuchzeria palustris*), found only in its only Irish Station in a nearby bog, was transplanted to Raheenmore Bog. However, it has not been recorded recently and may be now extinct.

Raheenmore Bog is within the breeding territory of a pair of Merlin, a scarce species in Ireland and one that is listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. Other typical bogland birds which breed include Red Grouse and Snipe.

The margins of the bog have been arterially drained in connection with the previous Boyne Drainage Scheme. This could result in desiccation of the bog. However, the majority of the bog dome is undrained and peat extraction has substantially discontinued. On the western side, mineral springs feeding the lagg zone still survive. (The lagg zone is the natural marginal drainage channel circumscribing the bog and receiving water from the bog and adjacent mineral soil). Although the north-eastern section suffered from burning in the past, the majority of the site is relatively unaffected by this practice at present.

Raheenmore Bog is a classical example of a Midland Raised Bog and the deepest remaining in Ireland. This habitat is increasingly under threat in this country and worldwide. The site is remarkably intact and is one of the few raised bogs where restoration of the lagg zone is feasible.

10.1.1997

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLONASLEE ESKERS AND DERRY BOG

SITE CODE: 000859

Located approximately 5km west of the town of Clonaslee, this site consists of a series of morainic hills and esker ridges which are the legacy of the last period of glaciation. To the north-west the Derry Hills are two isolated hills situated in a bog, which forms part of the site. The main esker ridge runs along the southern part of the site. The site contains a population of the rare snail *Vertigo geyeri*, a species listed under Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

An unusual assemblage of plants is found on the western part of the esker and on the Derry Hills. Calcicole species such as Mountain Everlasting (*Antennaria dioica*), Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*), Autumn Gentian (*Gentianella amarella*) and Carlina Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*) grow with species more typical of acid heaths. These include Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*), Goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*) and Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*). Wood Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*) and Bitter-Vetch (*Lathyrus montanus*) occur in limestone heath on the Derry Hills. These species are very restricted in their distribution in Ireland. Blue Moor-grass (*Sestera albicans*) has also been recorded, a rare occurrence of this species in a location east of the River Shannon.

Small disused gravel pits occur within the site, which are vegetated by species such as Field Madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), Common Whitlowgrass (*Erophila verna*) and Thyme-leaved Sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*).

Both the southern esker and the Derry Hills support patches of woodland. In some areas, an open canopy of Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) occurs. Beneath this, the ground flora includes Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*). In the southwestern part of the site, woodland dominated by Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is more common. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) also occur, with Oak and Birch.

To the east of the road water percolates down through the glacial material of the esker ridge and emerges in a series of small, calcium-rich springs which flow into cutaway bog to the north. This results in the creation of a species-rich alkaline fen, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) dominates the vegetation here. Also present are Pale Butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*), Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*), Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and the distinctive Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*). The latter species is confined to parts of the west and Midlands, where it occurs only occasionally. Derry Bog, which is a cutaway raised bog, lies to the north-west of the site. This supports a typical range of bog mosses and flowering plants, such as Ling Heather and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*).

The rare snail *Vertigo geyeri* was recorded from the fen area at this site in 1998. This species is a glacial relic with a disjunct European population, which is considered vulnerable due to loss of habitat, particularly through drainage. It is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Two plant species, protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, occur within the site. Wood Bitter-Vetch (*Vicia orobus*) occurs in quantity among Oak/Birch scrub on Derry Hills. This species has declined due to land reclamation and has only been seen at one other location since 1970. Basil Thyme (*Acinos arvensis*) occurs in a disused gravel pit and has been seen at only three other sites since 1970. This species favours open gravel and has declined due to the agricultural use of herbicides. Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*) had been recorded with Basil Thyme at this site. This species is rare and threatened in Ireland and is listed in the Red Data Book as a species confined mostly to open gravel habitats in central and south-eastern Ireland.

A significant landuse practice within the site is the extraction of gravel. One quarry west of the road is currently being worked. This activity leads directly to destruction of the esker and irreparable damage to the site. Some of the esker grasslands (mostly at the western end) are variously improved either for pasture or for arable farming.

This site is of conservation importance for the presence of alkaline fen vegetation and is considered one of the best sites in the south-east region for this habitat. Also of interest is the extremely unusual assemblage of plants associated with the esker ridges, which includes three rare plants, two of which are legally protected in Ireland. Of further conservation importance is the presence of the rare snail *Vertigo geyeri*.

24.10.2006

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SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CHARLEVILLE WOOD

SITE CODE: 000571

Charleville Wood is a large Oak woodland surrounded by estate parkland and agricultural grassland located about 3 km south-west of Tullamore. The site, which is underlain by deep glacial deposits, includes a small lake with a wooded island, and a stream runs along the western perimeter. The woodland is considered to be one of very few ancient woodlands remaining in Ireland, with some parts undisturbed for at least 200 years.

Some 10% of the woodland has been underplanted with conifers and other exotic trees, but the rest of the area is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Apart from Oak, there is much Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and scattered Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*), while Birch (*Betula* spp.) is a feature of the boggy margins. The shrub layer is composed largely of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The ground layer is varied, including damp flushed slopes with Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and drier, more open areas with a moss sward composed largely of *Rhytidiadelphus triquetris*. The fungal flora of the woodland is notable for the presence of several rare Myxomycete species, namely *Hemitrichia calyculata*, *Perichaena depressa*, *Amaurochaete atra*, *Collaria arcyronema*, *Stemonitis nigrescens* and *Diderma deplanata*. A number of unusual insects have also been recorded in Charleville Wood, notably *Mycetobia obscura* (Diptera), a species known from only one other site in Ireland. The site is also notable for the presence of a large population of the rare snail species, *Vertigo moulinsiana*.

Extensive swamps of Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) have developed in the lake shallows. The lake is an important wildfowl habitat - it supports populations of Mute and Whooper Swan and a number of duck species, including Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Pochard and Tufted Duck. The wooded island at its centre is famed for its long history of non-disturbance. Hazel, Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) reach remarkable sizes here.

Charleville Wood is one of the most important ancient woodland sites in Ireland. The woodland has a varied age structure and is relatively intact with both areas of closed canopy and open areas with regenerating saplings present. The understorey and ground layers are also well represented. Old Oak woodland is a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, while the rare snail species, *Vertigo moulinsiana*, is listed on Annex II of this directive. The wetland areas, with their associated bird populations, the rare insect and Myxomycete species contribute further to the conservation significance of the site.

6.12.1999

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: SLIEVE BLOOM MOUNTAINS SPA

SITE CODE: 004160

The Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA is situated on the border between Counties Offaly and Laois, and runs along a north-east/south-west aligned ridge for approximately 25 km. Much of the site is over 200 m in altitude, rising to a maximum height of 527 m at Arderin. The mountains are of Old Red Sandstone, flanked by Silurian rocks. Several important rivers rise within the site, including the Barrow, Delour and Silver.

The site has a near continuous ridge of mountain blanket bog, with wet and dry heaths also well represented. Species present in these habitats include Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Cottongrasses (*Eriophorum* spp.), Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*). Much of the slopes are afforested, and overall coniferous plantations account for c. 60% of the site. The forests include first and second rotation plantations, with both pre-thicket and post-thicket stands present. Substantial areas of clear-fell are also present at any one time. The principal tree species present are Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*). The remainder of the site is mostly rough grassland that is used for hill farming. This varies in composition and includes some wet areas with rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and some areas subject to scrub encroachment. Some stands of deciduous woodland also occur, especially within the river valleys.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for Hen Harrier.

This SPA is one of the strongholds for Hen Harrier in the country and, indeed, is the most easterly regular population. A survey in 2005 resulted in five confirmed and three possible breeding pairs, whereas ten confirmed pairs and one possible pair had been recorded in the 1998-2000 period. These numbers represent c. 5% of the national total. The mix of forestry and open areas provides optimum habitat conditions for this rare bird, which is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The early stages of new and second-rotation conifer plantations are the most frequently used nesting sites, though some pairs may still nest in tall heather of unplanted bogs and heath. Hen Harriers will forage up to c. 5 km from the nest site, utilising open bog and moorland, young conifer plantations and hill farmland that is not too rank. Birds will often forage in openings and gaps within forests. In Ireland, small birds and small mammals appear to be the most frequently taken prey.

The site is also a traditional site for a breeding pair of Peregrine. Several pairs of Merlin are known to breed within the site but further survey is required to determine the exact status of this small falcon. Both of these species are also listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Red Grouse is found on many of the unplanted areas of bog and heath – this is a species that has declined in Ireland and is now Red-listed.

The main threat to the long-term survival of Hen Harriers within the site is further afforestation, which would reduce and fragment the area of foraging habitat, resulting in possible reductions in breeding density and productivity. The observed decline between the 1998-2000 and 2005 surveys may be real and due to habitat change as a result of maturation of conifer plantations. Much of the unplanted blanket bog is a Statutory Nature Reserve.

Overall, the site provides excellent nesting and foraging habitat for breeding Hen Harrier and is among the top five sites in the country for the species. It is also likely to be of national importance for breeding Merlin.

APPENDIX 2

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Conservation Objectives for Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA [004160]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:

- ◆ *Circus cyaneus* [breeding]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA [004160]. Generic Version 4.0.
Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning



Conservation Objectives for Raheenmore Bog SAC [000582]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- ◆ [7110] * Active raised bogs
- ◆ [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- ◆ [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Raheenmore Bog SAC [000582]. Generic Version 3.0. Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning



Conservation Objectives for Charleville Wood SAC [000571]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- ◆ [1016] *Vertigo moulinsiana*
- ◆ [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Charleville Wood SAC [000571]. Generic Version 3.0. Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning



Conservation Objectives for Clara Bog SAC [000572]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- ◆ [1065] *Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia*
- ◆ [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*)(* important orchid sites)
- ◆ [7110] * Active raised bogs
- ◆ [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- ◆ [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*
- ◆ [91D0] * Bog woodland

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Clara Bog SAC [000572]. Generic Version 3.0. Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning



Conservation Objectives for Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC [000859]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- ◆ [1013] *Vertigo geyeri*
- ◆ [7230] Alkaline fens

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC [000859]. Generic Version 3.0.
Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT
STAGE 1 SCREENING
PROPOSED INCREASE IN WASTE ACCEPTANCE
MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY
CAPPANCUR
COUNTY OFFALY

Prepared For:

Advanced Environmental Services (Ireland) Ltd,
Bogtown,
Cappancur,
County Offaly.

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September 2012

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1. INTRODUCTION

Advanced Environmental Services (Ireland) Ltd (AES) intends to apply to Offaly County Council for planning permission to increase the amount of waste accepted at its Materials Recovery Facility at Cappancur, Tullamore from 50,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes annually.

The European Union (EU) Habitats Directive (92/43/EC) and the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) identify designated areas (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) respectively) that are collectively known as Natura 2000 Sites. The Habitats Directive, which is implemented under the European Communities Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No 477 of 2011), requires an “appropriate assessment” of the potential impacts any proposed development that may have an impact on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site.

Article 6(3) of the Directive stipulates that *any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon...shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.*

Guidance documents issued by Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the National Parks and Wildlife Services recommend that the assessment be completed in a series of Stages, which comprise:

Stage 1: Screening

The purpose of this Stage is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in respect of the site’s conservation objectives.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

This Stage is required if the Stage 1 Screening exercise identifies that the project is likely to have a significant impacts on a Natura 2000 site.

Stage 3 : Assessment of Alternative Solutions.

If Stage 2 determines that the project will have an adverse impact upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, despite the implementation of mitigation measures, it must be objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist before the plan can proceed.

Stage 4 : Compensatory Measures:

Where no alternative solutions are feasible and where adverse impacts remain but imperative reasons of overriding public interest require the implementation of a project an assessment of compensatory measures that will effectively offset the damage to the Natura site 2000 is required.

AES commissioned O'Callaghan Moran & Associates (OCM) to complete a Stage 1 Screening to determine the effects of the proposed increase in the amount of waste accepted on the nearby Natura 2000 sites.

1.1 Methodology

The Stage 1 Screening was based on a site inspection and the scope of the proposed development. It was conducted in accordance with the guidance presented in the “Assessment of Plans and Projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC” (2001); The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009, revised February 2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Services (2010) Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities.

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2. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The facility operates under planning permission issued by Offaly County Council (08/852) and a Waste Licence (W0104-02) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (Agency), both of which restrict the amount of waste that can be accepted annually to 50,000 tonnes. AES intends to apply for planning permission to increase the amount of waste accepted annually to 60,000 tonnes annually. A separate application to revise the Waste Licence will be submitted to the Agency.

Operations at the facility include the receipt of domestic, commercial, industrial and construction waste, which is sorted and segregated for onward recycling / recovery in accordance with the recycling potential. Waste deemed unsuitable for recycling / recovery is segregated and compacted for disposal off-site.

The facility is located in an area zoned for industrial development and has the capacity to process and recover more wastes than currently authorised. Surface water run-off from the site passes through an oil interceptor and enters a drain at the southern site boundary. The drain joins the Tullamore River, which is approximately 750 km south of the site. Sanitary wastewater is treated in an on-site wastewater treatment plant before it is tankered off site for further treatment.

The proposed increase in the annual waste throughput will not require the expansion of the site, the construction/provision of any new buildings/structures, or any alteration to the existing site layout and operations. There will be no change to the waste acceptance and operational hours. It will not give rise to any new emissions to surface water or sewer, nor will it contribute to increased noise, dust and odour emissions.

3. NATURA 2000 SITES

A list of designated Natura 2000 sites within 15 km of the facility is given in Table 3.1 and the locations are shown on Figure 3.1

Table 3.1. Natura 2000 Sites Within 15 km of the AES Facility

Site	Code	Distance
SAC		
Charleville Wood	000571	3 km South West
Clara Bog	000572	10km North West
Raheenmore Bog	000582	12km North East
Clonsalee Eskers and Derry Bog	000859	12km South West
SPA		
Slieve Bloom	004160	15kmSouth

SACs are selected for the conservation and protection of habitats listed on Annex I and species (other than birds) listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, and their habitats. The habitats on Annex I require special conservation measures. SPAs are selected for the conservation and protection of bird species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive and regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats, particularly wetlands

Copies of the site Synopses for the Charleville Wood, Clara Bog, Clonsalee Eskers and Derry Bog, and the Raheenmore Bog SACs and the Slieve Bloom SPA are included in Appendix 1.

3.1 Conservation Objectives


A statement of Conservation Objectives is prepared for each designated site which identifies the qualifying interests or conservation features. The Conservation Objectives are intended to ensure that the relevant habitats and species present on a site are maintained, and where necessary restored, at a Favourable Conservation Status.

Favourable Conservation Status of a habitat, as defined in 2011 Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, is when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable

Figure 3.1 Natura 2000 Sites



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Conservation Status of a species is when:

- The Favourable population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats,
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Copies of the Conservation Objectives for the Charleville Wood, Clara Bog and Raheenmore Bog SAC and the Slieve Bloom SPA are included in Appendix 2, with the site specific objectives presented below.

Charleville Wood SAC

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [1016] *Vertigo moulinsiana* (Snail)
- [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex*(Holly) and *Blechnum* (Fern)

Clara Bog SAC

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [1065] *Euphydryas* (*Eurodryas*, *Hypodryas*) *aurinia* (Butterfly)
- [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*)(*important orchid sites)
- [7110] * Active raised bogs
- [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* habitat
- [91D0] * Bog woodland

Raheenmore Bog SAC

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [7110] * Active Raised Bogs

- [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- [7150] depressions on peat substrates of the rhynchosporion

Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog 00859 Qualifying Interests

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [1013] *Vertigo geyeri* (Snail)
- [7230] Alkaline fens

Slieve Bloom SPA

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA:

- *Circus cyaneus* (Hen Harrier) [breeding]

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4. LIKELY EFFECTS

4.1 Setting

The facility is not located in or adjacent to a Natura 2000 Site. The closest Natura 2000 Site is Charleville Wood SAC, which is 3km southwest of the facility, with the other Sites being between 10 and 15 km from the facility.

Stormwater run-off from the facility discharges via an oil interceptor to a tributary of the Tullamore River. The Tullamore River is 750m south of the site and, as it flows west to join the River Brosna, it passes through the northern section of the Charleville Wood SAC. The Conservation Objectives for this SAC are:

To maintain or restore the favorable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- [1016] *Vertigo moulinsiana* (Snail)
- [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* (Holly) and *Blechnum* (Fern)

These animal and plant species are non-aquatic and do not inhabit the Tullamore River.

4.2 Proposed Development

The proposed increase in the annual waste throughput will not require the expansion of the site, the construction/provision of any new buildings/structures, or any alteration to the existing site layout and operations. There will be no change to the waste acceptance and operational hours. It will not require the use of any new raw materials that have the potential to cause contamination. It will not give rise to any new emissions to surface water or sewer, nor will it contribute to increased noise, dust and odour emissions or illumination. Therefore the development does not require the provision of additional emission mitigation measures.

4.3 Assessment of Effects

Given the nature of the change and the distance from the Natura 2000 Sites, the proposed development will not have any perceptible effect on any of the Conservation Objectives for the Natura 2000 Sites.

5. SCREENING CONCLUSION & STATEMENT

The proposed increase in the annual waste throughput will not result in any new or additional emission/disturbance that could present a significant risk to the Conservation Objectives of any of the Natura 2000 Sites within 15km of the MRF. Therefore Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

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APPENDIX 1

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SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLARA BOG

SITE CODE: 000572

Clara Bog is situated some 2 km south of Clara village. Much of it is state-owned and designated a statutory Nature Reserve.

Clara Bog has long been regarded as one of the most important lowland raised bogs in the country, being the largest remaining example of the true Midland sub-type. It has well developed hummock and hollow complexes and one of the few remaining soak systems. The bog vegetation has been much studied and is well known. Variations in the proportions of Bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Cottongrass (*Eriophorum* spp.) has been related to ecological features such as pools, soaks and ridges.

Several rare invertebrate species are associated with the soak, including the midge, *Lasiodiamesa sphagnicola*, for which Clara Bog is its only known Irish site, a click beetle, *Ampedus pomorum* and another midge, *Parhelophilus consimilis*. The bog is also important for the rare moss, *Tetraplodon angustatus*, at its only known Irish station here.

Clara Bog supports breeding Merlin (12 pairs), a scarce species in Ireland and one that is listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. Red Grouse also breeds, along with other common bogland species such as Meadow Pipit and Skylark.

To the east the transition into calcareous woodland, and to the north the transition to the esker ridge have been retained and some excellent examples of esker grassland occur in the site. Some peripheral reclaimed farmland is also included in the site, because management undertaken in these areas can have a profound effect upon the rest of the bog.

The site has been divided into a western and an eastern section by a road. The eastern part of the site has been damaged by previous drainage attempts, however, restoration work is in progress. Continuing peat extraction from the southern margins is also damaging and has potential effect upon much of the internal bog, including the soak system. Ideally the whole bog should be managed as a hydrological unit.

Active raised bogs, once characteristic of central Ireland, are now rare and vulnerable, and have been recognised by the European Union as a habitat of international importance. Ireland has a special responsibility to conserve the best of its remaining bogs. Further drainage, peat extraction, burning or attempted land reclamation is not consistent with this responsibility.

25.2.1999

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: RAHEENMORE BOG

SITE CODE: 000582

This raised bog developed in a small basin in the catchment of two major river systems i.e. the Brosna and the Boyne. It is situated about 5 km from Daingean. The peat is very deep, being up to 15 m in places. The bog has a well-developed hummock and hollow system.

The hummocks are often colonised by the mosses *Sphagnum imbricatum* and *S. fuscum*. Pool areas support Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*), the moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and the liverwort (*Cladopodiella fluitans*). In places, moss lawns of *Sphagnum magellanicum* have infilled the pools. Overall, the cover of *Sphagnum* moss on the bog is very good. Away from the dome summit, Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) flats dominate the peat surface.

Some sections of old cutaway bog has narrow strips of Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) woodland developing. Much of the rest of the cutaway is now unimproved pasture and wet grassland, rich in Rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*). Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Brown Sedge (*Carex disticha*) can also be found in fields at the bog margins. In 1959, the very rare Rannock Rush (*Scheuchzeria palustris*), found only in its only Irish Station in a nearby bog, was transplanted to Raheenmore Bog. However, it has not been recorded recently and may be now extinct.

Raheenmore Bog is within the breeding territory of a pair of Merlin, a scarce species in Ireland and one that is listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. Other typical bogland birds which breed include Red Grouse and Snipe.

The margins of the bog have been arterially drained in connection with the previous Boyne Drainage Scheme. This could result in desiccation of the bog. However, the majority of the bog dome is undrained and peat extraction has substantially discontinued. On the western side, mineral springs feeding the lagg zone still survive. (The lagg zone is the natural marginal drainage channel circumscribing the bog and receiving water from the bog and adjacent mineral soil). Although the north-eastern section suffered from burning in the past, the majority of the site is relatively unaffected by this practice at present.

Raheenmore Bog is a classical example of a Midland Raised Bog and the deepest remaining in Ireland. This habitat is increasingly under threat in this country and worldwide. The site is remarkably intact and is one of the few raised bogs where restoration of the lagg zone is feasible.

10.1.1997

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLONASLEE ESKERS AND DERRY BOG

SITE CODE: 000859

Located approximately 5km west of the town of Clonaslee, this site consists of a series of morainic hills and esker ridges which are the legacy of the last period of glaciation. To the north-west the Derry Hills are two isolated hills situated in a bog, which forms part of the site. The main esker ridge runs along the southern part of the site. The site contains a population of the rare snail *Vertigo geyeri*, a species listed under Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

An unusual assemblage of plants is found on the western part of the esker and on the Derry Hills. Calcicole species such as Mountain Everlasting (*Antennaria dioica*), Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*), Autumn Gentian (*Gentianella amarella*) and Carlina Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*) grow with species more typical of acid heaths. These include Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*), Goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*) and Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*). Wood Vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*) and Bitter-Vetch (*Lathyrus montanus*) occur in limestone heath on the Derry Hills. These species are very restricted in their distribution in Ireland. Blue Moor-grass (*Sestera albicans*) has also been recorded, a rare occurrence of this species in a location east of the River Shannon.

Small disused gravel pits occur within the site, which are vegetated by species such as Field Madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), Common Whitlowgrass (*Erophila verna*) and Thyme-leaved Sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*).

Both the southern esker and the Derry Hills support patches of woodland. In some areas, an open canopy of Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) occurs. Beneath this, the ground flora includes Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*). In the southwestern part of the site, woodland dominated by Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is more common. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) also occur, with Oak and Birch.

To the east of the road water percolates down through the glacial material of the esker ridge and emerges in a series of small, calcium-rich springs which flow into cutaway bog to the north. This results in the creation of a species-rich alkaline fen, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) dominates the vegetation here. Also present are Pale Butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*), Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*), Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and the distinctive Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*). The latter species is confined to parts of the west and Midlands, where it occurs only occasionally. Derry Bog, which is a cutaway raised bog, lies to the north-west of the site. This supports a typical range of bog mosses and flowering plants, such as Ling Heather and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*).

The rare snail *Vertigo geyeri* was recorded from the fen area at this site in 1998. This species is a glacial relic with a disjunct European population, which is considered vulnerable due to loss of habitat, particularly through drainage. It is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Two plant species, protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, occur within the site. Wood Bitter-Vetch (*Vicia orobus*) occurs in quantity among Oak/Birch scrub on Derry Hills. This species has declined due to land reclamation and has only been seen at one other location since 1970. Basil Thyme (*Acinos arvensis*) occurs in a disused gravel pit and has been seen at only three other sites since 1970. This species favours open gravel and has declined due to the agricultural use of herbicides. Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*) had been recorded with Basil Thyme at this site. This species is rare and threatened in Ireland and is listed in the Red Data Book as a species confined mostly to open gravel habitats in central and south-eastern Ireland.

A significant landuse practice within the site is the extraction of gravel. One quarry west of the road is currently being worked. This activity leads directly to destruction of the esker and irreparable damage to the site. Some of the esker grasslands (mostly at the western end) are variously improved either for pasture or for arable farming.

This site is of conservation importance for the presence of alkaline fen vegetation and is considered one of the best sites in the south-east region for this habitat. Also of interest is the extremely unusual assemblage of plants associated with the esker ridges, which includes three rare plants, two of which are legally protected in Ireland. Of further conservation importance is the presence of the rare snail *Vertigo geyeri*.

24.10.2006

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SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CHARLEVILLE WOOD

SITE CODE: 000571

Charleville Wood is a large Oak woodland surrounded by estate parkland and agricultural grassland located about 3 km south-west of Tullamore. The site, which is underlain by deep glacial deposits, includes a small lake with a wooded island, and a stream runs along the western perimeter. The woodland is considered to be one of very few ancient woodlands remaining in Ireland, with some parts undisturbed for at least 200 years.

Some 10% of the woodland has been underplanted with conifers and other exotic trees, but the rest of the area is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). Apart from Oak, there is much Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and scattered Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*), while Birch (*Betula* spp.) is a feature of the boggy margins. The shrub layer is composed largely of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). The ground layer is varied, including damp flushed slopes with Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and drier, more open areas with a moss sward composed largely of *Rhytidiadelphus triquetris*. The fungal flora of the woodland is notable for the presence of several rare Myxomycete species, namely *Hemitrichia calyculata*, *Perichaena depressa*, *Amaurochaete atra*, *Collaria arcyronema*, *Stemonitis nigrescens* and *Diderma deplanata*. A number of unusual insects have also been recorded in Charleville Wood, notably *Mycetobia obscura* (Diptera), a species known from only one other site in Ireland. The site is also notable for the presence of a large population of the rare snail species, *Vertigo moulinsiana*.

Extensive swamps of Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) have developed in the lake shallows. The lake is an important wildfowl habitat - it supports populations of Mute and Whooper Swan and a number of duck species, including Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler, Pochard and Tufted Duck. The wooded island at its centre is famed for its long history of non-disturbance. Hazel, Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) reach remarkable sizes here.

Charleville Wood is one of the most important ancient woodland sites in Ireland. The woodland has a varied age structure and is relatively intact with both areas of closed canopy and open areas with regenerating saplings present. The understorey and ground layers are also well represented. Old Oak woodland is a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, while the rare snail species, *Vertigo moulinsiana*, is listed on Annex II of this directive. The wetland areas, with their associated bird populations, the rare insect and Myxomycete species contribute further to the conservation significance of the site.

6.12.1999

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: SLIEVE BLOOM MOUNTAINS SPA

SITE CODE: 004160

The Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA is situated on the border between Counties Offaly and Laois, and runs along a north-east/south-west aligned ridge for approximately 25 km. Much of the site is over 200 m in altitude, rising to a maximum height of 527 m at Arderin. The mountains are of Old Red Sandstone, flanked by Silurian rocks. Several important rivers rise within the site, including the Barrow, Delour and Silver.

The site has a near continuous ridge of mountain blanket bog, with wet and dry heaths also well represented. Species present in these habitats include Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Cottongrasses (*Eriophorum* spp.), Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*). Much of the slopes are afforested, and overall coniferous plantations account for c. 60% of the site. The forests include first and second rotation plantations, with both pre-thicket and post-thicket stands present. Substantial areas of clear-fell are also present at any one time. The principal tree species present are Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*). The remainder of the site is mostly rough grassland that is used for hill farming. This varies in composition and includes some wet areas with rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and some areas subject to scrub encroachment. Some stands of deciduous woodland also occur, especially within the river valleys.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for Hen Harrier.

This SPA is one of the strongholds for Hen Harrier in the country and, indeed, is the most easterly regular population. A survey in 2005 resulted in five confirmed and three possible breeding pairs, whereas ten confirmed pairs and one possible pair had been recorded in the 1998-2000 period. These numbers represent c. 5% of the national total. The mix of forestry and open areas provides optimum habitat conditions for this rare bird, which is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The early stages of new and second-rotation conifer plantations are the most frequently used nesting sites, though some pairs may still nest in tall heather of unplanted bogs and heath. Hen Harriers will forage up to c. 5 km from the nest site, utilising open bog and moorland, young conifer plantations and hill farmland that is not too rank. Birds will often forage in openings and gaps within forests. In Ireland, small birds and small mammals appear to be the most frequently taken prey.

The site is also a traditional site for a breeding pair of Peregrine. Several pairs of Merlin are known to breed within the site but further survey is required to determine the exact status of this small falcon. Both of these species are also listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Red Grouse is found on many of the unplanted areas of bog and heath – this is a species that has declined in Ireland and is now Red-listed.

The main threat to the long-term survival of Hen Harriers within the site is further afforestation, which would reduce and fragment the area of foraging habitat, resulting in possible reductions in breeding density and productivity. The observed decline between the 1998-2000 and 2005 surveys may be real and due to habitat change as a result of maturation of conifer plantations. Much of the unplanted blanket bog is a Statutory Nature Reserve.

Overall, the site provides excellent nesting and foraging habitat for breeding Hen Harrier and is among the top five sites in the country for the species. It is also likely to be of national importance for breeding Merlin.

APPENDIX 2

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Conservation Objectives for Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA [004160]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:

- ◆ *Circus cyaneus* [breeding]

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA [004160]. Generic Version 4.0.
Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning



Conservation Objectives for Raheenmore Bog SAC [000582]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- ◆ [7110] * Active raised bogs
- ◆ [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- ◆ [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Raheenmore Bog SAC [000582]. Generic Version 3.0. Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning



Conservation Objectives for Charleville Wood SAC [000571]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- ◆ [1016] *Vertigo moulinsiana*
- ◆ [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Charleville Wood SAC [000571]. Generic Version 3.0. Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning



Conservation Objectives for Clara Bog SAC [000572]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- ◆ [1065] *Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia*
- ◆ [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia*)(* important orchid sites)
- ◆ [7110] * Active raised bogs
- ◆ [7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
- ◆ [7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*
- ◆ [91D0] * Bog woodland

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Clara Bog SAC [000572]. Generic Version 3.0. Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning



Conservation Objectives for Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC [000859]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

- ◆ [1013] *Vertigo geyeri*
- ◆ [7230] Alkaline fens

Citation:

NPWS (2011) Conservation objectives for Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC [000859]. Generic Version 3.0.
Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

For more information please go to: www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning

Attachment B.3 - Planning Authority

The planning authority is: -

Offaly County Council
Aras An Chontae,
Charleville Road,
Tullamore,
County Offaly.

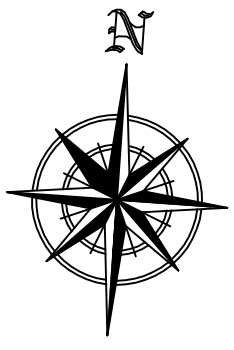
Tel : 057 9346800

Fax : 057 9346868

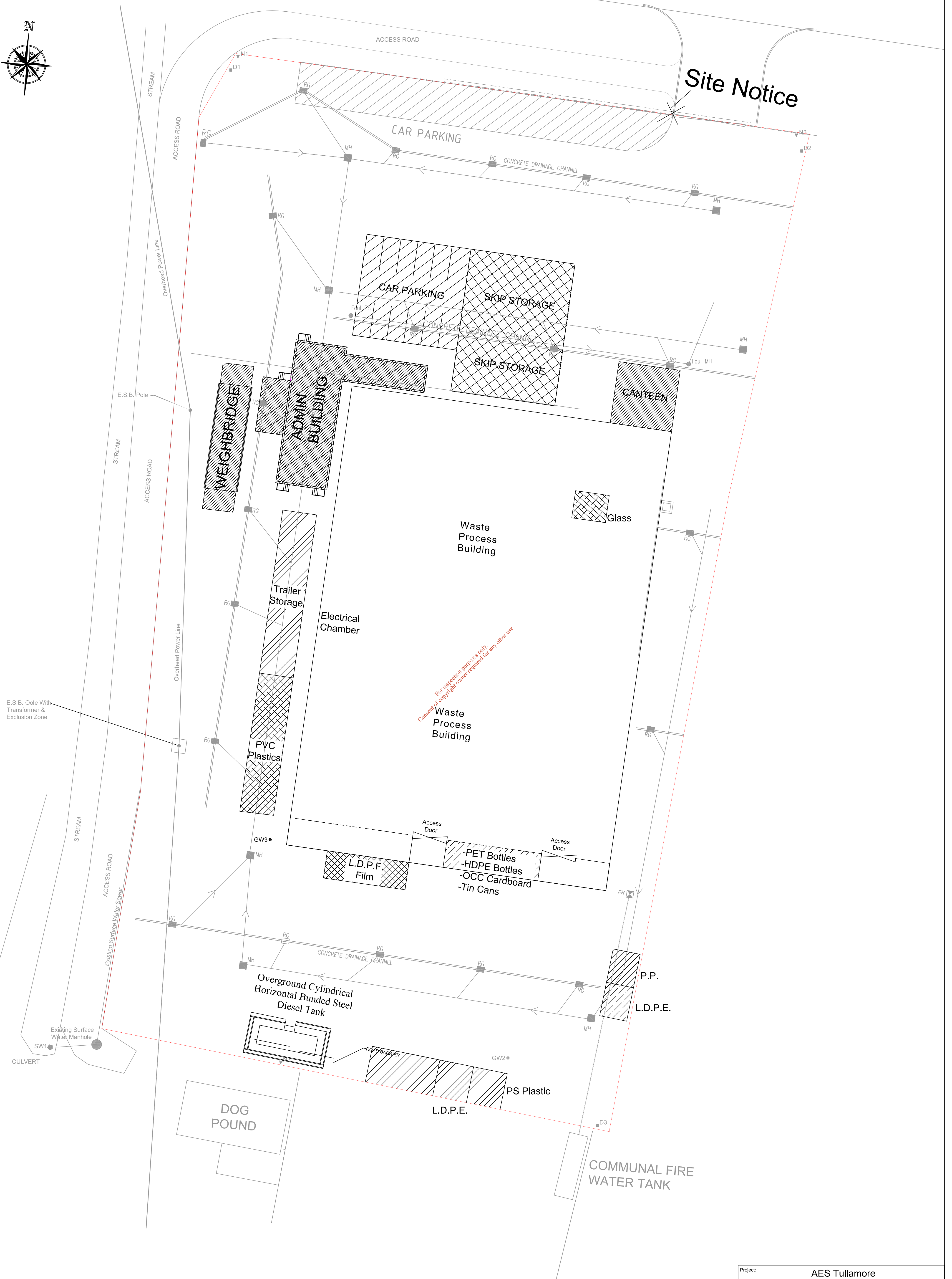
The site has been used as a Waste Management Facility since 2007. A copy of the current planning permission (Ref PL 2/12/269) for the facility is included in Attachment B3 (b). The permission authorises the acceptance of 60,000 tonnes of waste annually. Written confirmation from Offaly County Council that an Environmental Impact Assessment was not required under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended is also included in Attachment B.3 (c).

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) Stage 1 Screening Report was submitted with the planning application and a copy is included in Attachment.

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Site Notice



NOTES
 1. All levels refer to Ordnance Survey Datum, Malin Head.
 2. All dimensions in millimeters unless noted otherwise.
 3. Dimensions are not to be scaled off drawings

LEGEND
 ● Surface Water Monitoring Location
 ● Ground Water Monitoring Location
 ■ Dust Monitoring Location
 ▲ Noise Monitoring Location

REVISION	By	Date	Chk'd
A	M.G.	Nov. '10	
B	M.G.	Nov. '10	
C	M.G.	Mar. '11	
D	PON	Jan. '12	
E	M.H.	Apr. '12	

Project: **AES Tullamore Materials Recovery Facility**

Title: **Site Layout**

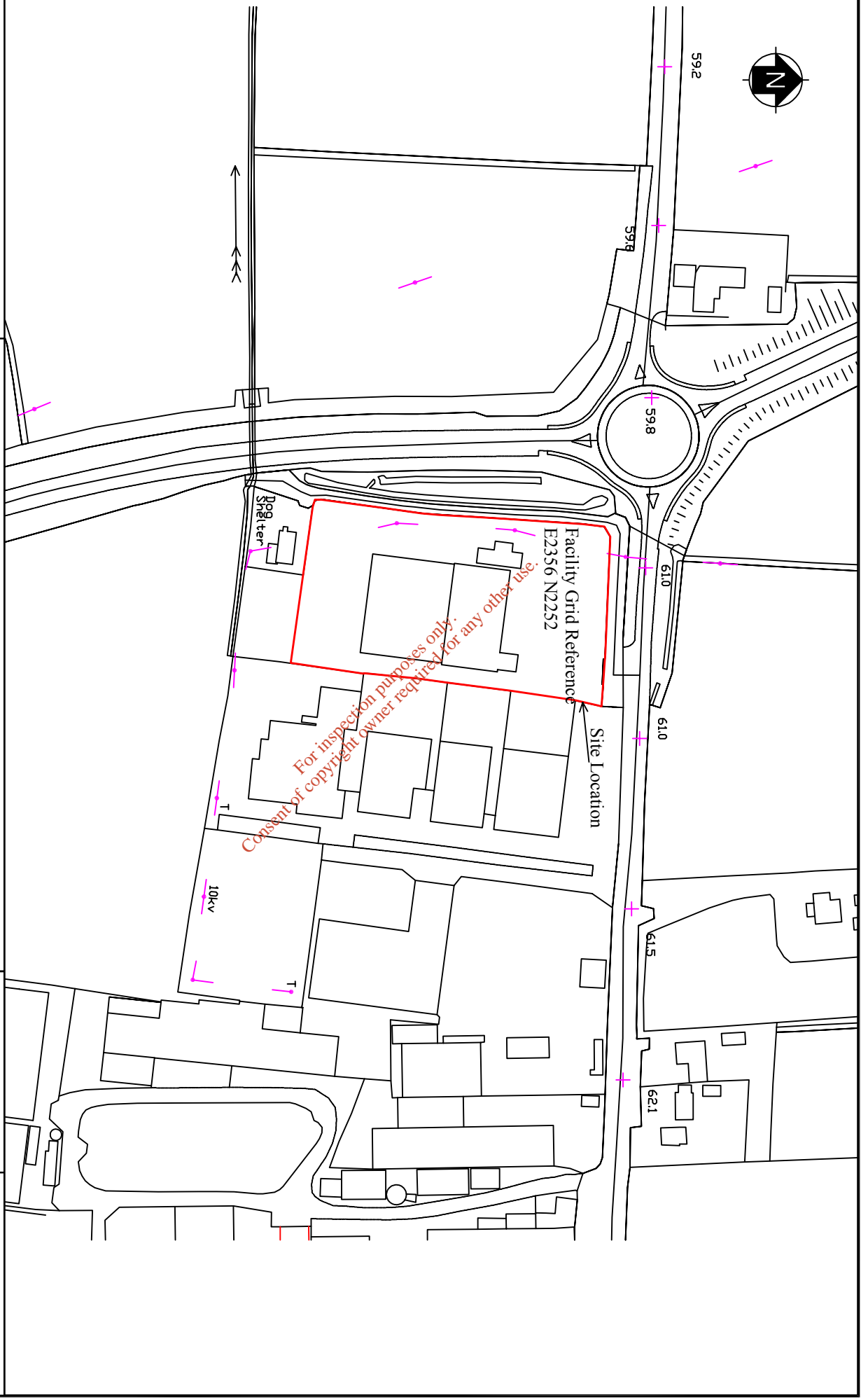
Dimensions in: mm
 Scale: 1:500 (A3 Paper Size)

Drawn By: M.H. 23/04/11
 Checked By:
 Approved By:

Revision: D
 Sheet 1 of 1

BORD NA MÓNA
 ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
 LEABEG, TULLAMORE CO. OFFALY
 Tel: 057 9345900 Fax: 057 9345160

Drawing No: CW-AEST-08



O' Callaghan Moran & Associates,
 Granary House, Rutland Street,
 Cork, Ireland.
 Tel. (021) 4321521 Fax. (021) 4321522
 email : info@ocallaghanmoran.com

This drawing is the property of O'Callaghan Moran & Associates and shall not be used, reproduced or disclosed to anyone without the prior written permission of O'Callaghan Moran & Associates and shall be returned upon request.

CLIENT	Advanced Environmental Solutions Ltd
TITLE	SITE LOCATION 1:2500 SITE BOUNDARY IN RED

Details
 Ordnance Survey
 Ireland
 Digital Planning Pack
 25139454

FIGURE No.	16705-01
SCALE	1:2500
REV.	A

Attachment B.2 Location of Facility

The facility is located in the townland of Cappancur, Tullamore, Co. Offaly . The National Grid Reference is E2356 N2252

The location map is Drawing No 16705-01, which is included in this Attachment.

The site services are shown on Drawing No.CW-AEST-08.

The boundary of the application area is marked in red on Drawing No.CW-AEST-08

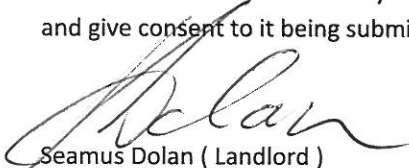
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Cloonagh, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Tel: 057 93 21218
Mob: 087 273 8808 / 087 851 9649
Email: joeyseamus@hotmail.com



To whom it concerns,

It has come to my attention that Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Ltd (who is the leaseholder of lands at Cappancur, Tuiamore, Co. Offaly) intends to apply for planning permission to increase the amount of waste accepted at the above mentioned site from 50,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes annually. We understand that the proposed increase does not require the construction/provision of any new buildings/structures or any alteration to the current site layout and operations. I am writing to state that I am aware of this application and give consent to it being submitted by AES for the above purpose



Seamus Dolan (Landlord)

September 24th 2012

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Short Certificate of Incorporation of a Company

I hereby certify,

that company number **224173,**
ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS (IRELAND) LIMITED
was Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1963 to 1990,
as a Limited Company

On
Thursday, the 3rd day of November, 1994.

Given under my hand at Dublin, this
Wednesday, the 16th day of January, 2008.

for Registrar of Companies

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'U. Ke.', written over a horizontal line.

Companies Act, 1963, sec. 370(1)

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Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.*

Attachment B.1 Applicants Details

The Applicant Details are:

Name:	Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Ltd
Registered Address:	Cappancur Industrial Estate
	Cappancur
	Tullamore
	Co. Offaly
Tel:	057 9321755
Fax:	057 9651628
e-mail:	info@aesirl.ie

AES Ltd - Company Reg. No. 224173. A copy of the Certificate of Incorporation is included in this Attachment.

The Company Directors are:

Mr. Gabriel D'Arcy
Mr. Michael Barry
Mr. James Ryan
Mr. Emer Moran

Drawing No 16705-01, shows the Licence Area outlined in red ink. The land on which the current facility is located is leased. All the lands leased by AES are within the red line and are therefore not shown in green. The landowner is Mr. Seamus Dolan. A copy of the lease agreement is provided in this attachment.

Consent of copyright owner required for any other use.

- (a) *the required number of copies of the EIS relating to that application for permission, where one is required by or under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;*

OR

- (b) *confirmation in writing from the planning authority or An Bord Pleanála that an environmental impact assessment is not required by or under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.*

AES considers that the proposed changes do not require an environmental impact assessment. The grounds for this are presented in the planning application documentation and reiterated below.

Environmental Impact Assessment

EU Directive 2011/92/EU of 13 December 2011 on the Assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive), specifies the classes of projects for which an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be completed. Annex I lists the classes of development for which an EIA is mandatory and Annex II lists those for which an EIA is required based on thresholds or criteria set by Member States.

Annex I and II have been transposed into Irish Law by Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (S.I. No 600 of 2001) (Regulations) and are contained in Parts 1 and 2 respectively of Schedule 5 of the Regulations. The proposed development is not one that is listed in Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Regulations and therefore an EIA is not mandatory.

The Annex II thresholds that currently apply in Ireland are listed in Part 2 of Schedule 5. Section 11 (b) of Part 2 refers to '*Installations for the disposal of waste with an annual intake greater than 25,000 tonnes*'. For the purpose of the EIA Directive the term 'disposal' must be interpreted to include 'recovery'.

In relation to changes or extensions to projects, the thresholds set in Section 13 (a)(ii) are either an increase in size greater than 25%, or an amount equal to 50 % of the appropriate threshold.

The planning application relates solely to increasing the amount of wastes accepted annually from 50,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes, which will not result in any change to either the size of the application area or any structures. The additional amount of waste (10,000 tonnes) is significantly less than the 50% of the threshold (12,500 tonnes). As the proposed development will not result in any increase in the size of the facility and is below the amount threshold, an EIA is not required.

A planning authority can request an EIA for a sub threshold development if it is of the opinion that the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment. The criteria used to determine whether a development is likely to have significant environmental effects are set out in Annex III of the EIA Directive and Schedule 7 of 2001 Regulations.

Cont'd

These are:

- The characteristics of the proposed development
- The location of the proposed development, and
- The characteristics of potential impacts.

The proposed changes to the amount of waste accepted will not result in any increase in the size of the site, will not be a source of new emissions of potential pollutants and will not increase the risk of accidents. While there will be a slight increase in the energy consumption, this will be negligible in the context of current usage. The processing will have a positive impact in that it will increase the overall amount of waste recovered at the facility.

The landuse surrounding the site is a mix of industrial and agricultural. There are industrial units on the eastern site boundary and the local authority dog pound adjoins the southern boundary. The nearest residential dwellings are approximately 150m to the northwest and northeast of the site.

Processing the increased amount of wastes will not result in any new potential sources of impacts. There will be no change to either the waste acceptance or operational hours and no additional contribution to noise and odour emissions. There will be an increase in traffic and the associated increase in vehicle exhaust gases, however the road network in the environs has the capacity to accommodate the increased traffic and the exhaust emissions will have an imperceptible impact on air quality in the area.

Given the characteristics of the proposed development, its location and the associated impacts, the development will not have significant impacts on the environment and therefore an EIA is not required.

OCM requests the Council to review the planning statement that accompanied the application and which is enclosed and, if it concurs with the assessment that an EIA is not required, provide written confirmation that the planning permission is under consideration and that an environmental impact assessment is not required. The confirmation, if provided, should be issued to the applicant for inclusion in the Waste Licence Review application.

Yours Sincerely,

Jim O' Callaghan

Encl.