From: Nally Environmental [mailto:info@nallyenvironmental.ie]
Sent: 24 April 2013 16:47
To: Brian Meaney
Subject: KMK - NIS

Hi Brian,

as discussed, I attach the NIS in pdf format.

best regards

Niall

Niall Nally
Nally Environmental
T: 044 96 66773
M: 086 8547071
E: info@nallyenvironmental.ie
W: www.nallyenvironmental.ie

NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

(NIS)

FOR

KMK METALS RECYCLING LTD

FACILTY

AT

CAPPINCUR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

AUGUST 2012

Prepared by:
Kenneth Goodwin BSc, AMIOA, AIEMA
ENVIROCO Management Ltd
Bow House
O'Moore Street
Tullamore,
Co Offaly
w) www.enviroco.ie

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1: NPWS Objectives for Designated Sites
2: Appropriate Assessment Screening Criteria
3: Correspondence with National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS)

All OSI maps are printed under licence from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland by ENVIROCO Management Ltd:

1 Introduction

ENVIROCO Management Ltd were requested to conduct a survey and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the planning application at Cappincur Industrial Estate Tullamore, Co. Offaly by KMK Metals Recycling Ltd (KMK) for '*change of use of 7 no. permitted industrial buildings from warehouse storage use to use for the processing of waste metals and metallic based materials, as follows: Building A, Total Gross Floor Area 473 sq m, Building B, Total Existing Gross Floor Area 473 sq m; Building C, Total Gross Floor Area 473 sq m; Building D (Hanger) Total Gross Floor Area 927 sq m; Building D (WEEE) Total Gross Floor Area 1,841 sq m; Building D 4 Total Gross Floor Area 920 sq m (comprising Central Area 391 sq m, D4-R Area 318 sq m and D$-L Area 211 sq m),and; Building E Total Gross Floor Area 1,120 sq m. Other works are proposed to building E including a new ESB substation (24.5 sq m),an ESB switch room (14.4 sq m) and ancillary accommodation (33.1 sq m) on ground floor and first floor open plan offices (82 sq m). The upgrading of the effluent treatment system involves the proposed installation of an additional waste water treatment tank with a subsequent sand filter unit covering an area of 95 sq m. The proposed development including the increase in the annual waste intake to 35,000 tonnes is the subject of a current EPA waste license review application ref. W0113-4*'.
Stage I Screening, under Part 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, will be conducted by Offaly County Council as the competent authority under the regulations. This NIS is submitted to establish the likely risks this development may have, to assess these risks in a logical and scientifically sound manner, to enable the competent authority to establish whether the development can proceed.

The site is located within the Cappincur Industrial Estate, Tullamore. **Figure 1** gives a general site location of the development, located east of Tullamore Town on the L-2025 local road. This NIS will review National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) listed habitats within a 15 km radius of this development address, to consider if there is a potential risk to sites of European importance. This NIS will accompany an EIS and planning application. The KMK Metals facility is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is subject to a Waste Licence (W0113-03)

1.1 Background: Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and Natura 2000 Sites

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the EU. Under the Directive member States are obliged to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which contain habitats or species considered important for protection and conservation in a European Union context. The Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds), is concerned with the long-term protection and management of all wild bird species and their habitats in the EU. The Directive requires '*inter alia*' that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) be established to protect migratory species and species which are rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or otherwise require special attention.

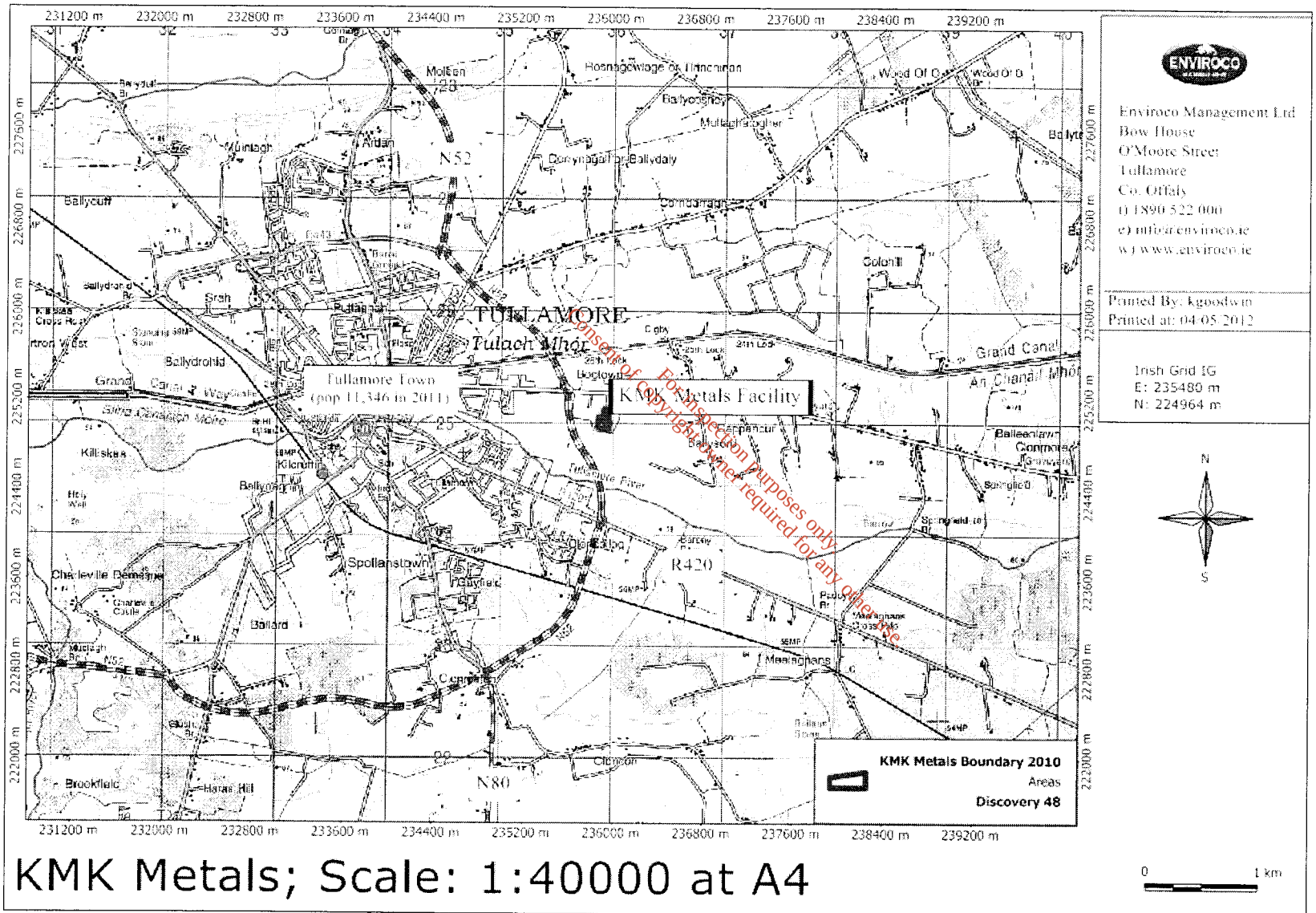


Figure 1: Site Location of the proposed Development

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas, designated under the Birds Directive, form a pan - European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive sets out a unified system for the protection and management of SACs and SPAs.

1.1.1 Article 6 (3) Assessment

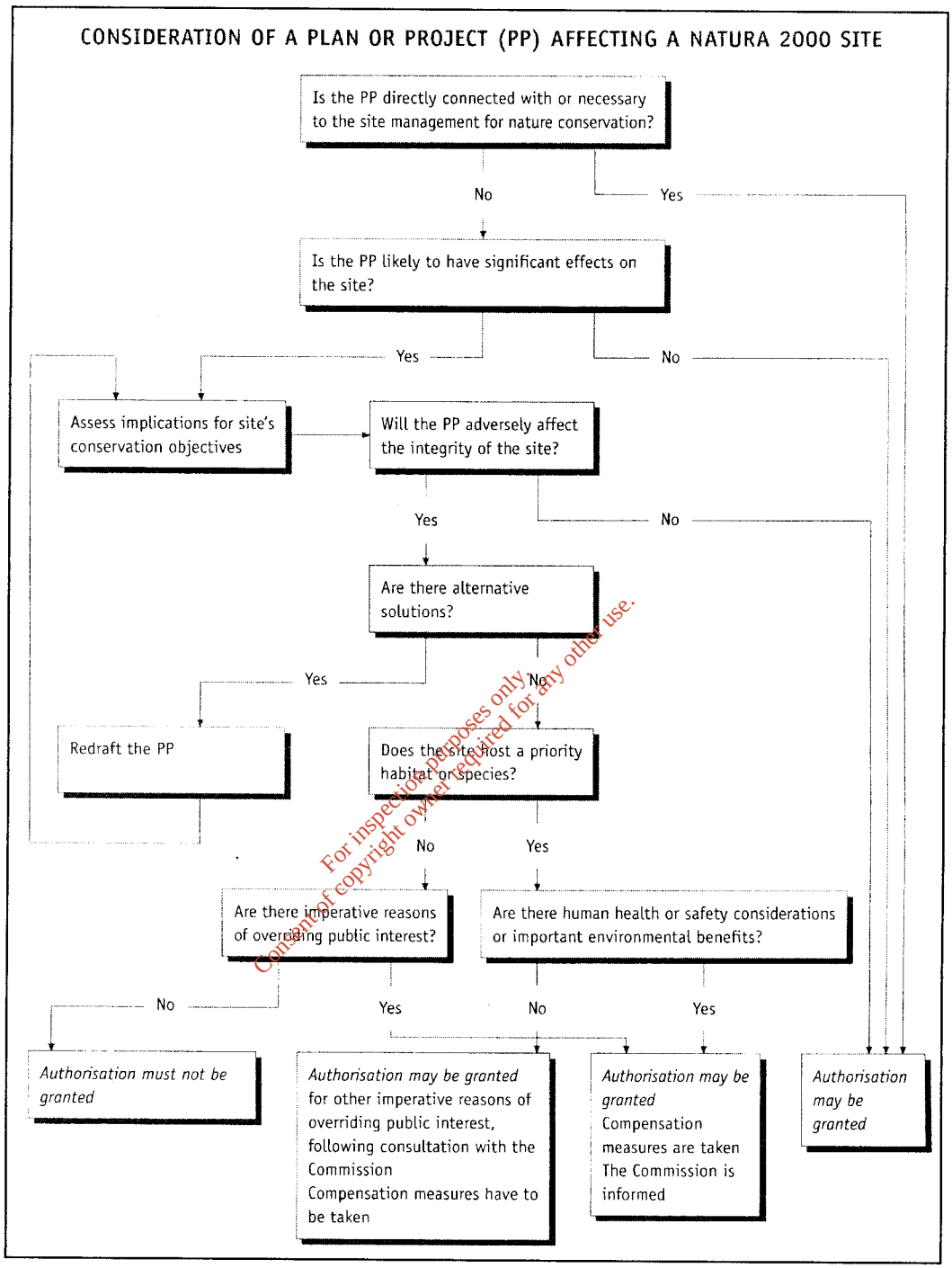
An Article 6 Assessment refers to paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive [Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/42/EEC)]. It sets out key elements of the system of protection including the requirement for Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects (see Appendix I of the Directive). Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an appropriate assessment of any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on an SAC or SPA. The recent ECJ ruling against Ireland in Case 418/04 EC Commission V Ireland found that Ireland had incorrectly transposed the Habitats Directive by not providing explicitly for appropriate assessment of land use plans, (as opposed to projects), in the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997. The effect of the judgment is that there is now a requirement for screening and possible appropriate assessment of all land-use plans, including local area plans.

The legal requirements of Article 6 were transposed into domestic legislation and are implemented in Ireland by Article 31 of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997) as amended in 1998 and 2005. An appropriate assessment must be undertaken prior to the adoption or implementation of any plan or programme, not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. This is done to enable both the Local Planning Authority and the Development Applications Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to assess if the proposed development is likely to have a significant impact on the Natura 2000 site.

The appropriate assessment examines the implications of proceeding with the plan or project in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site, the local authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

If the assessment concludes that the plan or project will have a negative impact on the site, it may only proceed and be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest as outlined in the Directive and the member state concerned shall take all compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 site is protected. The European Commission must be informed where this occurs.

Article 6 (3) assessment comprises four stages. Each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. If, for example, the conclusions at the end of Stage One are that there will be no significant impacts on a Natura 2000 site, there is no requirement to proceed further. The relationship of the four stages with the overall procedure established by Article 6(3) and (4) is illustrated in the flow chart below (MN2000 and EC, 2002 page 10).



1.2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Screening has been undertaken in fulfilment of the requirements of the Habitats Directive and taking into account the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Circular Letter to all planning authorities dated 15th February 2008 which states the following in relation to the screening stage of Appropriate Assessment:

"*Any draft land use plan (development plans, local area plans, regional planning guidelines, schemes for strategic development zones) or amendment/variation to it proposed under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) must be screened for any potential impact on areas designated as Natura 2000 Site (normally called Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs). This screening should be based on any ecological information available to the authority and an adequate description of the plan and its likely environmental impacts. This should take into account any policies that will set the terms for future development. Up to date maps of Natura 2000 Site, or areas proposed for designation, are available on www.npws.ie.*

The results of the screening should be recorded and made available to the public. In any case where, following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting a precautionary approach, an appropriate assessment of the plan must be carried out and in any case where a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out."

1.3 Methodology

This NIS followed the necessary screening methodology to ascertain likely risks and establish the local environmental landscape. This was undertaken in accordance with:

- MN2000. Managing Natura 2000 Site: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC. ISBN 92-828-9048-1. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

- EC. 2002. Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 Site: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Report prepared for the European Commission, Environment DG, by the Impacts Assessment Unit, School of Planning, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP, United Kingdom. ISBN 92-828-1818-7. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the EC.

- EC. 2007. Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC: Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the commission. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009 and EPA Ireland Guidelines

1.3.1 Consultation

A letter of consultation was sent with regards to the proposed development to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Development Applications Unit of the NPWS on the 21st March 2012. This letter has been included as Appendix 3 to this report.

To date no correspondence has been received from the NPWS. It is envisaged that further contact will be made with the NPWS through the submission of this planning application with associated EIS and NIS reports.

Direct consultation was had with the planning consultants on the application and its scope, the engineers regarding site layouts and emission points and the firm contracted for the improvement works to the existing waste water treatment plant on site.

1.3.2 Data consulted to carry out the NIS

The level of this assessment is a desktop and field walkover study based on existing data from NPWS and the Offaly County Development Plan 2009-2015.

1.4 The Proposed Development

The development at the KMK Metals site is a waste management facility for hazardous and non-hazardous metals, including Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). No new buildings will be developed or lands altered through this planning application. The planning and associated EIS and NIS are submitted in relation to the increase in annual throughput of material from 20,000 tonnes per annum to approximately 35,000 tonnes per annum, which will exceed the requirement for a development requiring an EIS.

No additional virgin land encroachment is proposed under this planning application. No significant alterations to current activities on site are proposed.

This report has utilised the drawings submitted by the applicant to assess the likely impacts the development could have.

The site lies within an industrial park area, with existing linear housing visible along the Country Road to the north and industrial and commercial development throughout the industrial park.

2 Local Area

The site lies within the confines of an established industrial park of Tullamore Town. The primary activity within the park is industrial / commercial. No additional virgin land (Greenfield space / agricultural lands) are to be affected by this application.

A Guide to Habitats in Ireland, by the Heritage Council (Fossit, J.A, 2000) is used, where applicable, for the identification of habitats observed during a site visit on the 30th March and 15th May 2012.

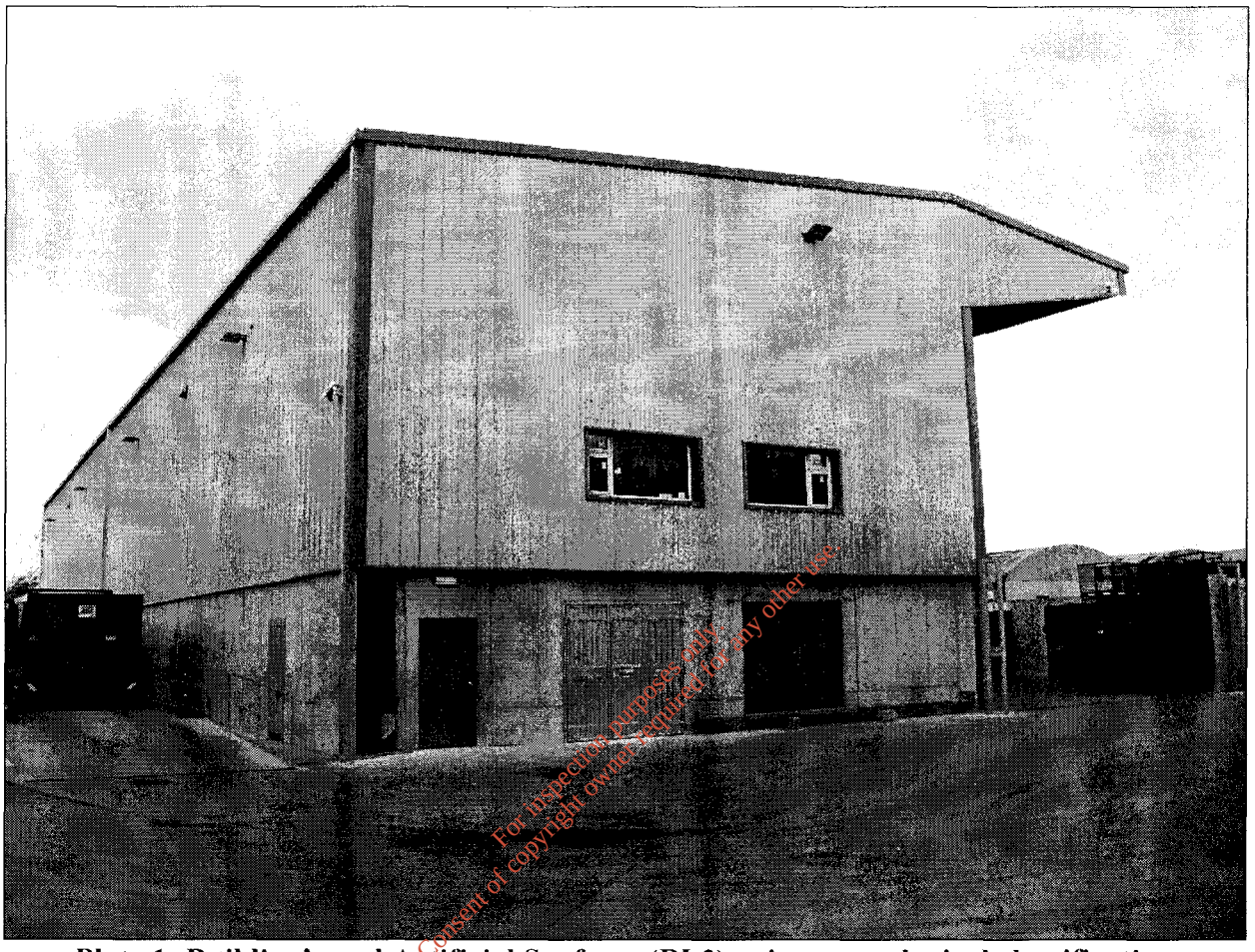


Plate 1: Building's and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) primary ecological classification

The site is within the industrial park zone of the Cappincur Industrial Estate. As can be seen from plate 1, this development zone is completely covered with a concrete pavement, with treated drainage towards local land drain. All domestic effluent is treated by the facility wastewater treatment system and associated percolation area.

Plate 2: Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) primary ecological classification

Plate 2 looks from the opposite direction as plate 1, showing the main operational and administrational buildings located at the site.

No notable ecological systems were identified on the site or within the Cappincur Industrial Estate during the site visits.

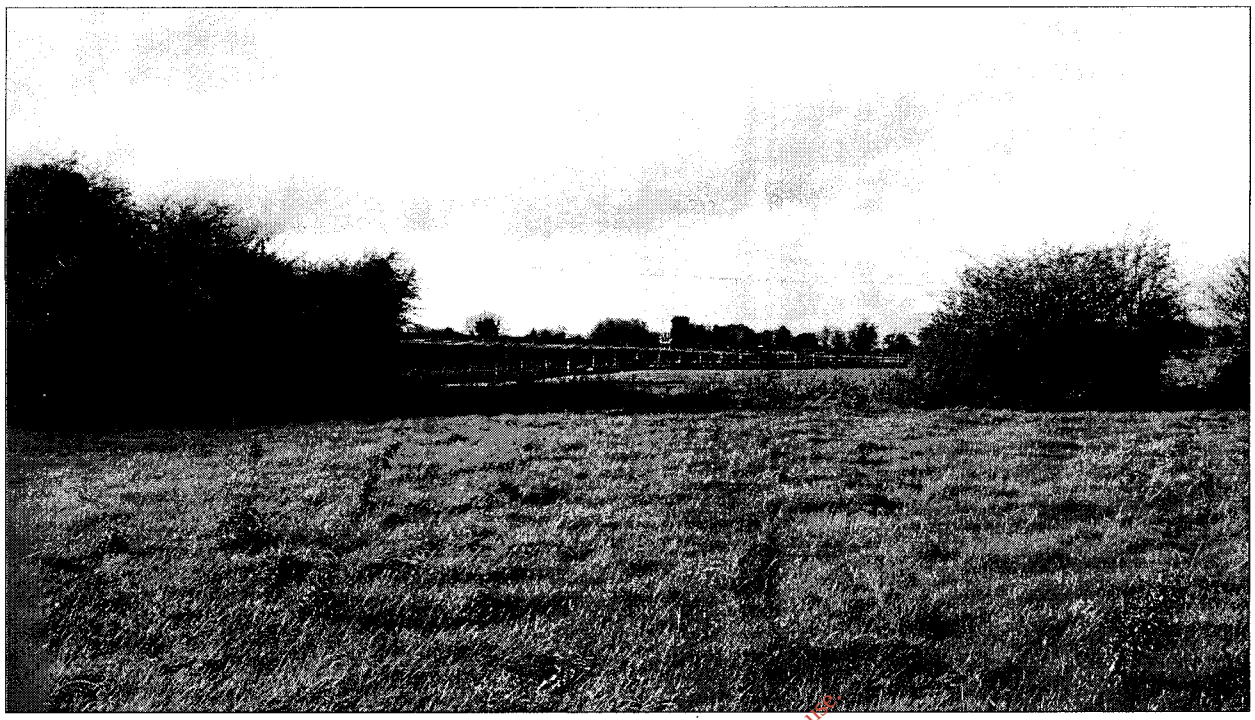


Plate 3: Agricultural land (GA1) and hedgerows (WL1)

To the south of the KMK Metals facility and the Cappincur Industrial Estate there are located agricultural lands. These lands, though zoned industrial, have not to date seen notable construction or development. The land is still maintained by the owner for agricultural purposes, with mature hedging in place along field boundaries. Livestock are maintained on these lands when grass is not been grown for cutting purposes.

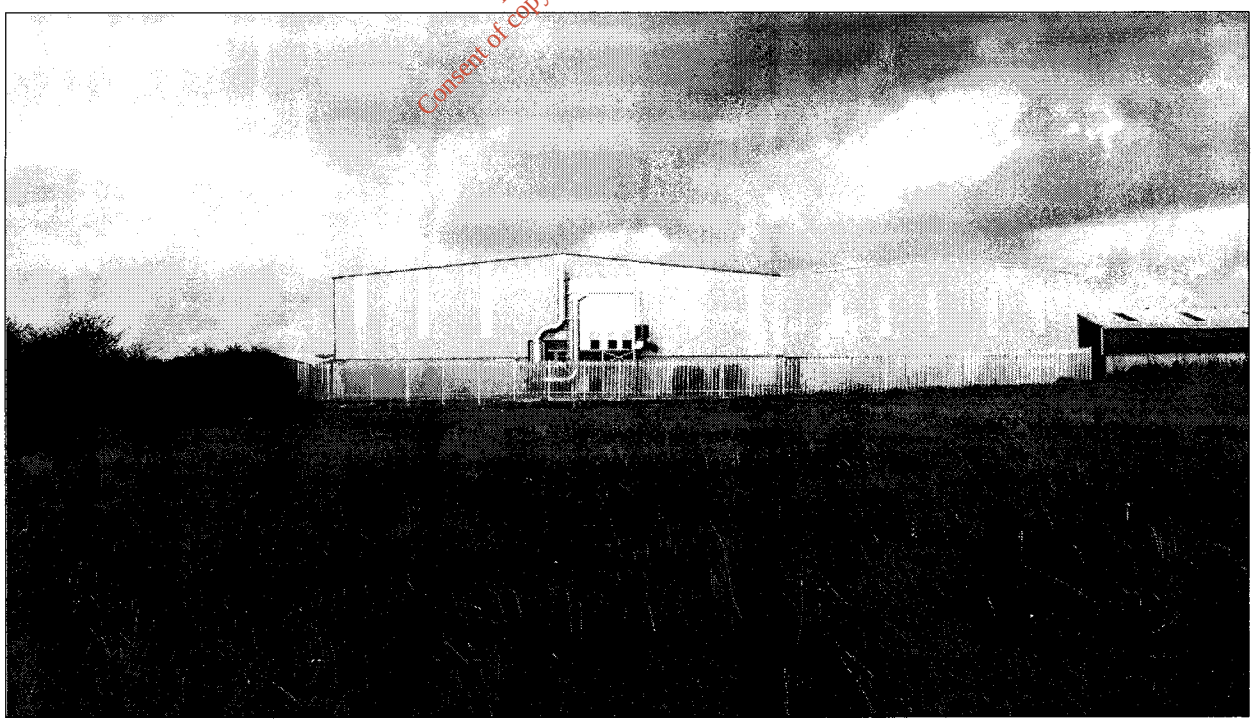


Plate 4: Agricultural land (GA1) and Built Environment (BL3)

Plate 4, is taken from a similar location as Plate 3. This view is north towards the Cappincur Industrial Estate and the rear boundary of the KMK Metals buildings. The field boundary hedgerows continue up to the boundaries of the KMK Metals site.

3 Natura 2000 Sites

The proposed development site is not on or adjacent any Natura Protected sites, nor is there any National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) sites on or adjacent it.

Figure 2 to Figure 4 give a 15km grid centred on the KMK Metals site, and identifying all NPWS and Natura 2000 sites in this locality. The maps show that there are no Special Protected Areas (SPA's) within 15km, though the Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (code 004160) is on the border of this buffer zone. Due to its distance and nature, and the low likely impacts arising from this development, the Slieve Bloom Mountains are not further analysed in this document. Several closer proximity protected sites are present and this NIS will evaluate whether the development has a likely chance of impact upon these.

Within Figure 3 the 15Km grid identifies 6 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), these are identified in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Proximity to Natura 2000 Sites

Name of Site	Code	Distance (Km)
Charleville Wood SAC	000571	3.20
Raheenmore Bog SAC	000582	9.71
Clara Bog SAC	000572	9.80
River Barrow & River Nore SAC	002162	10.01
Split Hill and Long Hill Esker SAC	001831	11.3
Clonaslee Esker and Derry Bog SAC	000859	14.8

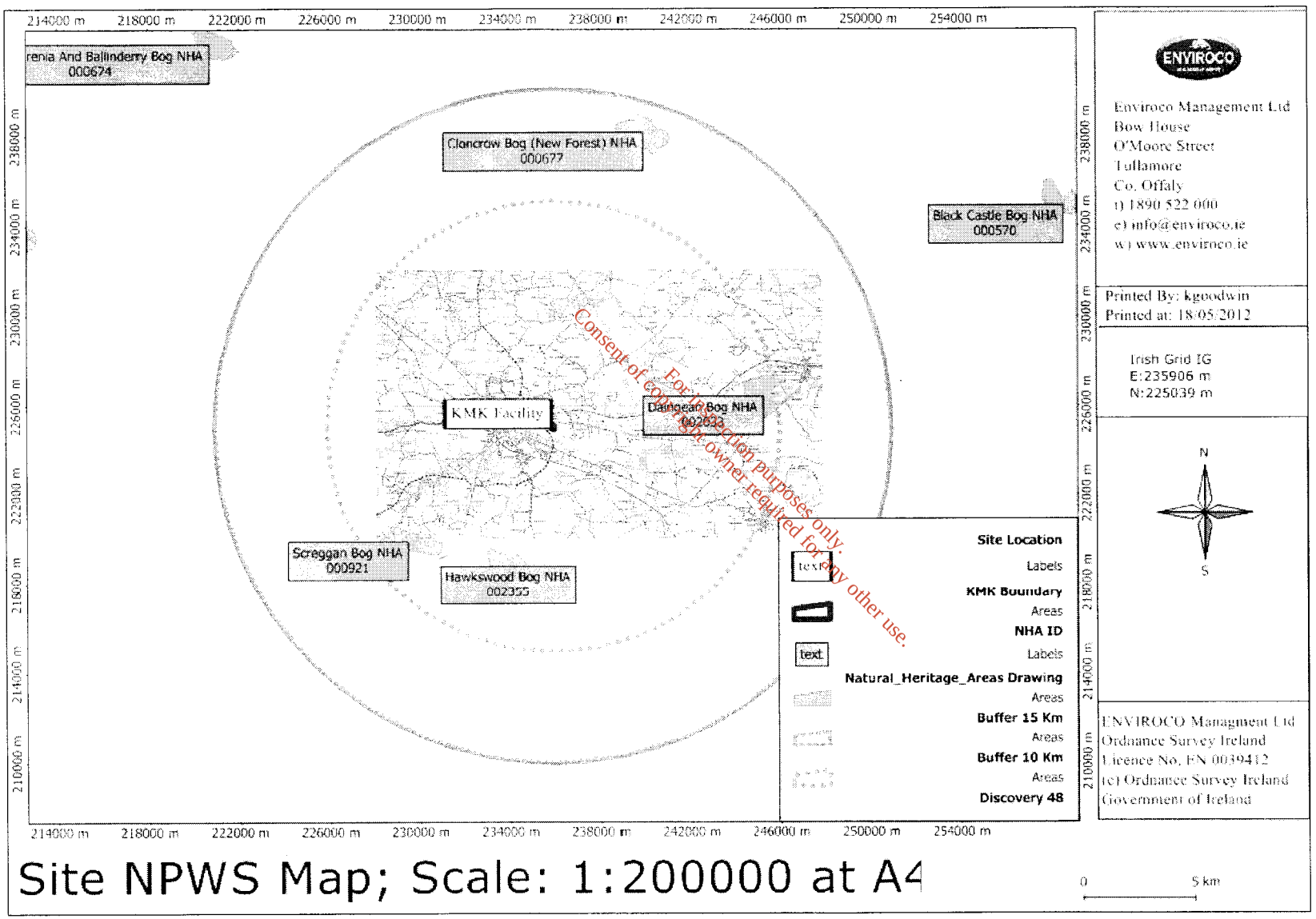


Figure 2: 1 is 200,000 Overview Natural Heritage Areas (NHA's) within 15Km of the KMK Metals Site

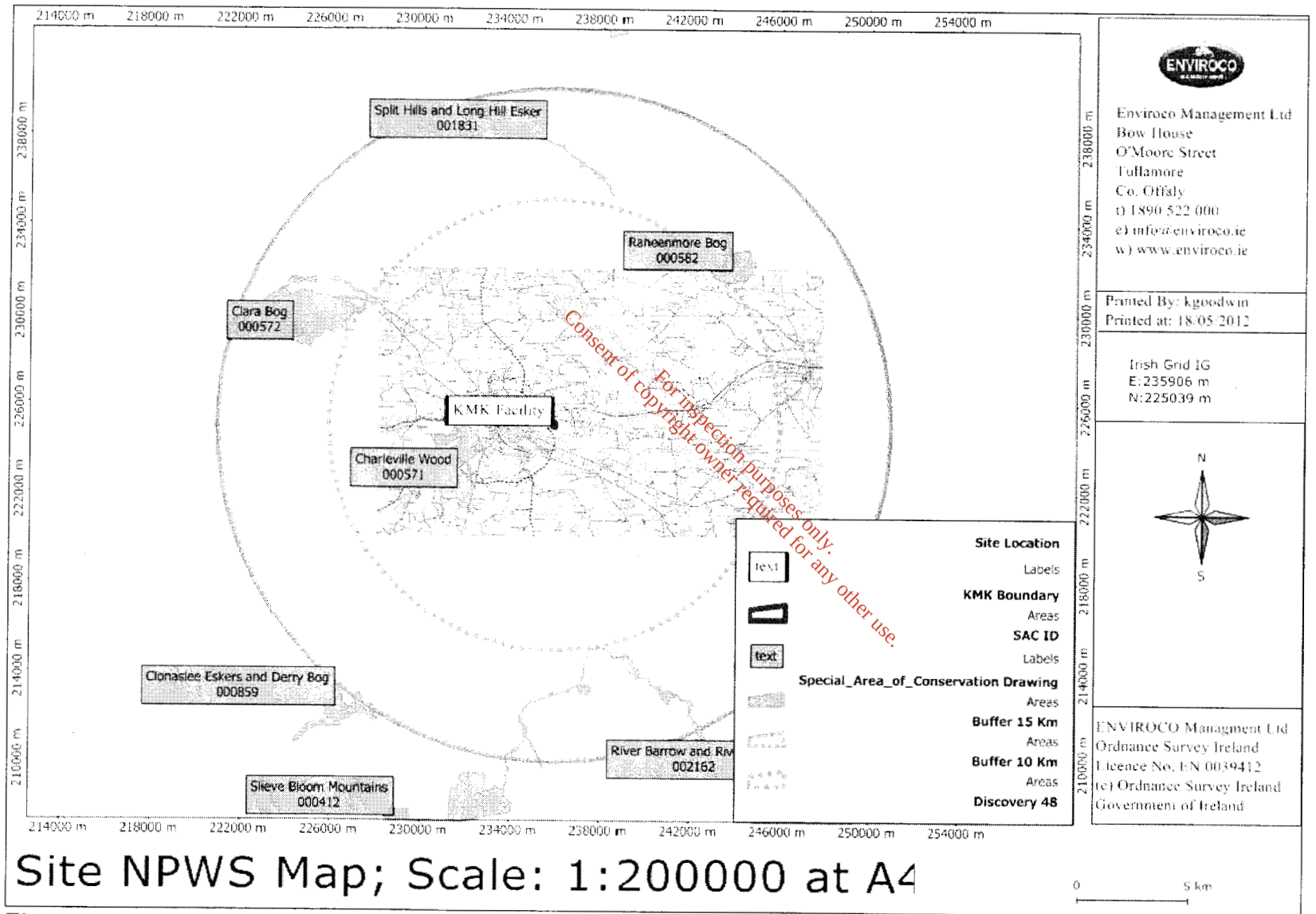


Figure 3: 1 is 200,000 Overview Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within 15Km of the KMK Metals Site

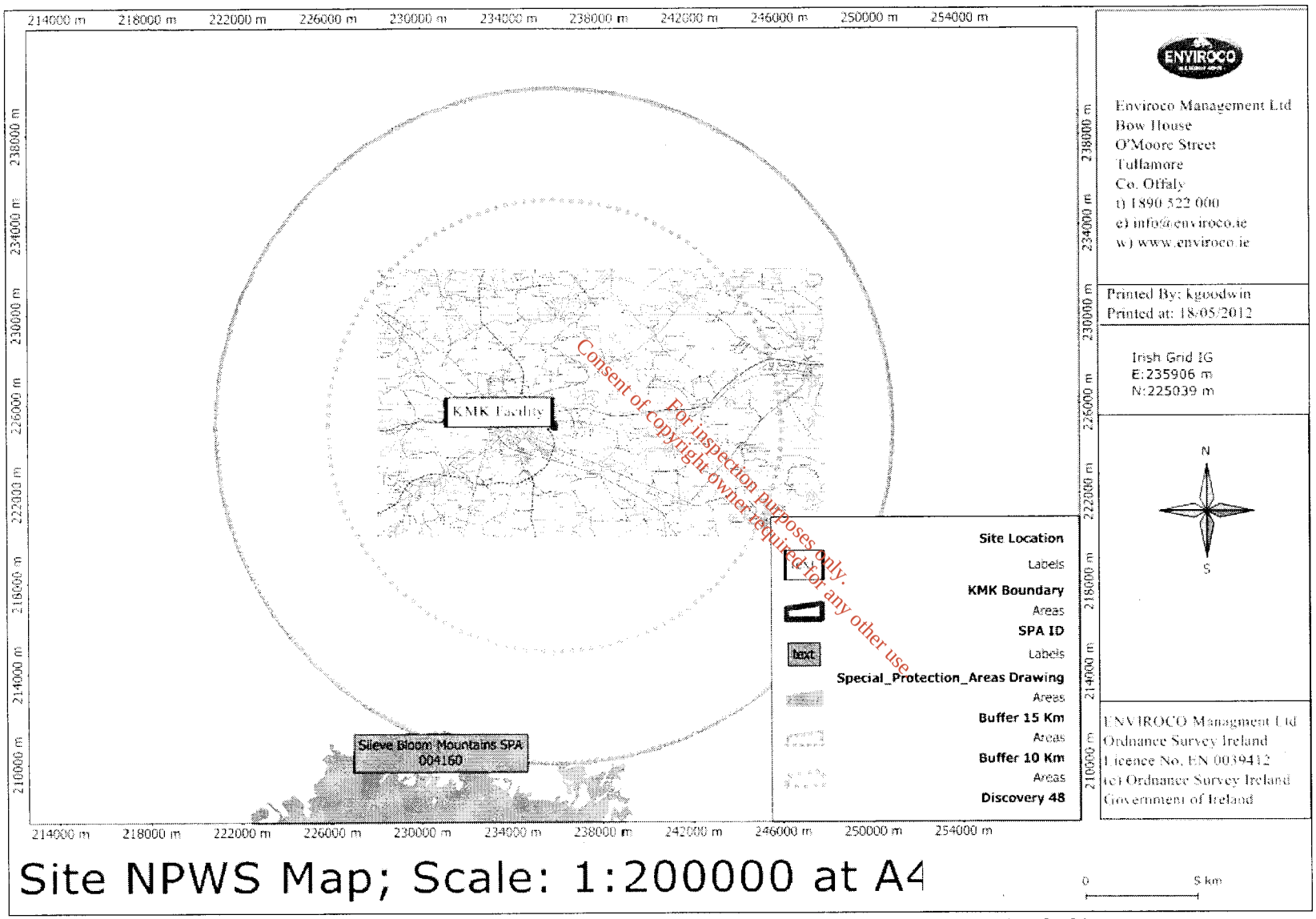


Figure 4: 1 is 200,000 Overview Special Protected Areas (SPA) within 15Km of the KMK Metals Site

3.1 Natura Site Objectives

The objectives of the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) on these sites are maintained for public file on www.npws.ie a summary of the designated area is within Appendix 1 of this report.

The Conservation Objectives for the listed SACs are issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS). This chapter will utilise excerpts from the NPWS Conservation Objectives.

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest.

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.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing
- 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
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable

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
Natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future
Sufficiently large habitat to maintain its population on a long-term basis

Within the 15Km radius of the site, there are 4 distinct Natura 2000 environments, marsh/bog at Clara Bog and Raheenmore Bogs, woodland at Charleville Wood, glacial deposit at Split Hills and Long Hill Esker, aquatic at the River Barrow and River Nore.

Of these 4 protected environments, only Charleville Wood SAC is within 5km of the site, and is therefore the highest potential risk environment due to proximity to the development. Table 2 to Table 7 identify the species or habitats that are under protection for each of the primary identified Natura 2000 sites. This information has been sourced from the NPWS database, and is as extensive as outlined in the relative Conservation Objectives for each site.

Table 2: Conservation Objectives of the NPWS at site 002162 (R Barrow & R Nore SAC)

ID	Species / Habitat	Conservation policy	Likely impact from this development
1016	Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsianna*	To maintain the favourable conservation condition within the River Barrow and River Nore SAC	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1029	Freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*	Currently under review (2011)	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact

1092	White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*	To maintain the favourable conservation condition within the River Barrow and River Nore SAC	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1095	Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	To restore favourable conservation condition	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1096	Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1099	River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1103	Twaite shad *Alosa fallax*	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1106	Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* (only in freshwater)	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1130	Estuaries	To maintain favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	To maintain favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	To maintain favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1355	Otter *Lutra lutra*	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1410	Mediterranean salt meadows *Juncetalia maritime*	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1421	Killarney fern *Trichomanes speciosum*	To maintain favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
1990	Nore freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera durrovensis*	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels	To maintain favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
4030	European dry heaths	To maintain favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities	To maintain favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation	To maintain favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
91A0	Old sessile oak woods	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
91E0	Alluvial forests	To restore favourable conservation conditions	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact

Table 3: Conservation Objectives of the NPWS at site 000571 (Charleville Wood SAC)

ID	Species / Habitat	Conservation policy	Likely impact from this development
1016	Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsianna*	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact

Table 4: Conservation Objectives of the NPWS at site 000572 (Clara Bog SAC)

ID	Species / Habitat	Conservation policy	Likely impact from this development
1065	*Euphydryas* (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) *aurinia*	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
6210	Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco Brometalia)(*important orchid sites)	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
7110	*Active raised bogs	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
91D0	*Bog woodland	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact

Table 5: Conservation Objectives of the NPWS at site 000582 (Raheenmore Bog SAC)

ID	Species / Habitat	Conservation policy	Likely impact from this development
7110	*Active raised bogs	To maintain and, where possible, enhance the quality of the active raised bog (64% of the site).	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	To restore areas of lagg vegetation around the raised bog	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*	To restore areas of lagg vegetation around the raised bog	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact

Table 6: Conservation Objectives of the NPWS at site 001831 (Split & Long Hill Esker SAC)

ID	Species / Habitat	Conservation policy	Likely impact from this development
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous susbstrates (*Festuco Brometalia)*(*important orchid sites)	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact

Table 7: Conservation Objectives of the NPWS at site 000859 (Clonaslee Esker & Derry Bog SAC)

ID	Species / Habitat	Conservation policy	Likely impact from this development
1013	*Vertigo geyeri* (small land snail)	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact
7230	Alkaline fens	-	No likely direct, indirect or cumulative impact

Conservation policies are included where they have been specifically dealt with by the NPWS, where they have not, the general terminology listed in the opening paragraphs of this chapter take precedence (favourable conservation status of habitats or species).

The risk of impact from this development is considered from an impact matrix, assessing likely emissions from the development, pathways for those emissions to the conservation sites and the possible effect they may have upon the habitat or species. These sources and pathways are discussed further in the next chapter.

4 Likely Effects on Designated Sites from Proposed Development

The site is not adjacent to, bordering upon or immediately upstream of any designated site. The closest concern area is Charleville Woods SAC, located about 3km southwest of Tullamore Town centre. The woods are protected primarily arising from the old oak trees growing towards the heart of the woodland. The KMK Metals development does not impinge upon this site. There are no air emissions of likely effect to this woodland originating from the KMK Metals business. There are no identified likely pathways through water or groundwater or soil that could result in a detrimental effect on this woodland from the proposed increase in activities at the KMK Metals facility.

4.1 Direct Impacts

Direct impacts covers all potential impacts from a proposed development that could have an immediate or long lasting effect upon a designated site. All potential direct impacts are covered.

4.1.1 Light

The development is located to the northeast of Tullamore town. Lighting of the outdoor area will occur both to ensure safe working environments during dusk and early mornings, and during low light days. Security lighting is also present in and around the facility. The location of Tullamore Town between KMK and the protected site, the distance of over 3km from KMK to the protected site and the directionality of all light fixtures towards the KMK's development rather than away from it, will remove any possible impact this may have upon the protected habitat.

The lighting of the premises is not likely to have any effect upon species habituating this designated habitat i.e. Charleville Woods SAC.

4.1.2 Compaction/Fragmentation/Habitat Loss

The development is not seeking to expand its concrete footprint. All grounds currently under concrete or building structures will remain, or be improved upon. There is a portion of hard-standing area remaining to be concrete surfaced for vehicle turning and a portion for tarmac surfacing to be used for car park use.

The development will not have any effect upon the designated habitat, in relation to compaction of soils, fragmentation or habitat loss associated with this designation arising from the facts that it is not in proximity to any designated site and no further expansion of the physical development area will occur.

4.1.3 Noise

The construction phase of previous planned developments will come to a finish this year (2012). During the operation of the activities on site, noise will be produced in line with light industrial activities (a $L_{AeqT(1hour)}$ of 60-75dB at boundary points). Noise expands as a wave formation, and is subject to a reduction of approximately 6dB with doubling of distance. The closest Natura 2000 site is about 3km from the site, with the town of Tullamore of a similar distance away. From these facts it is not envisaged that any activity at KMK Metals could cause a disturbance to Natura 2000 locations.

4.1.4 Water/Wastewater

Direct impacts from water abstraction or water discharge from paved or roofed areas refer to the possible removal of water from a nearby aquatic environment or the flooding of a nearby or hydrological connected protected area. KMK Metals is not adjoining or in such close proximity to any protected site that either water abstraction or water overflow from storm events will have an effect upon them.

Waste-water includes both treated sewerage water discharges and trade water / contaminated water from a site that may have a biological or chemical impact upon a protected site. The primary pathways for such impacts are through nearby surface waters or close proximity of the site to a protected habitat. KMK Metals is not in close proximity to a protected habitat that any discharges from the site will affect. The proposed outflow of treated waste waters from the up-graded on-site WWTS will be discharged to a nearby land drain, which has is connected, through

a network of tributaries to the Tullamore River. All surface or yard water run-off from the KMK site is diverted through an interceptor system prior to discharge to the land drain and is subject to regular monitoring and reporting. The proposed discharges from KMK are not seen as likely to cause a notable impact on the land drain and following dilution through the connection of the other tributaries, the impact upon the Tullamore River is seen as negligible. The Tullamore River is not a protected habitat under the Natura 2000 system.

The plans reviewed for this application show that a new waste water treatment system (WWTS) is proposed for the site. The existing waste water treatment tank on site with be amended with an additional sequencing batch reactor (SBR) tank with dosing for ortho-phosphate and nitrogen removal with the effluent directed towards a sand filter prior to discharge to the land drain adjoining the KMK Metals site. This process will enable regular monitoring of the discharge to ensure treatment is occurring and the level of treatment proposed shows a quality of discharge to the land drain that is minimal in impact. It is not likely that the discharge from this sand filter will have an effect on the identified protected habitats.

4.2 Indirect Impacts

A development may, due to its construction, bye-products or location result in an impact to a designated site. Indirect impacts could result from extraction of waters, resulting in lower water supplies within an aquifer, increases in traffic movements adjacent to a designated area from employees or vehicular transport, etc.

The KMK Metals development is fully constructed (apart from final works at a portion of the site) under previous grants of planning permissions. The application that this NIS is accompanying is focused on the increase in tonnage to a level requiring planning and an EIS i.e. >25,000 tonnes per annum. However, the NIS must cover the full potential of indirect impacts, including those that are due to the existing development.

The KMK Metals development is Ireland's most technically advanced in terms of WEEE recycling, with a work force of 55 full time staff (operators are employed on a two shift basis). This can lead to several potential indirect impacts that need to be examined.

4.2.1 Impact pathways through Groundwater

Groundwater can move in directions apparently irrelevant to landscape or topography. Should a development cause pollution or loss of quality to the groundwater, this could result in disamenity to protected areas many kilometres distant.

Possible impacts on groundwater from typical developments can be through leaks on site or through insufficient waste water treatment with discharge to ground.

To ensure the KMK site is environmentally sound all activities occur upon a concrete surface. Regular maintenance of the concrete surface and associated surface water gullies is conducted. Groundwater monitoring is carried out annually via two individual boreholes on site and the interpretation of the data is sent to the EPA as part of the waste licence maintenance. To date no notable indicators of pollution have been identified apart from slightly elevated levels of nickel in one of the boreholes which is attributed to natural occurrence in the localised rock.

The existing wastewater treatment plant and associated percolation area on-site has been appraised and now requires a new waste water treatment system (WWTS) for the site. The existing waste water treatment tank on site with be amended with an additional sequencing batch reactor (SBR) tank with dosing for ortho-phosphate and nitrogen removal with the effluent directed towards a sand filter prior to discharge to the land drain adjoining the KMK site. These upgrade works will be carried out through the grant of this planning application. This proposal is considered an investment for the long term to cater for a sustainable management of domestic effluent and also to greatly reduce any impacts to ground from the site.

The KMK facility extracts groundwater for use on site (mostly sourced from one groundwater well). Groundwater supply has been augmented by the installation of rain water harvesting tanks along the southern side of the D-WEEE Plant building. Water extraction could conceivably reduce water capacity for plants – specifically local deep rooted trees. The groundwater extraction volume used is relatively low circa 1.8m^3/day, due to the fact that the waste recycling processes are dry and there is no industrial/commercial trade effluent being generated. The rainwater harvesting tanks will act as a water supply for general purpose yard dampening measures. Therefore daily water uses are low and are mostly based on 'domestic' use by employees on-site. The estimated water usage on-site (as measured by a temporary flow meter) for domestic purposes is 1,800litres/day. There are typically 38 employees on-site at any one time.

Day to day extraction of water is therefore not notable, and the distance to the closest Natura 2000 sites are significant enough to reduce the potential risk from water use on site to have any probable effect.

Transportation of employees, goods and services personnel can potentially lead to the increase in movement of traffic in close proximity to or through protected habitats. The KMK facility is located on the northeast of Tullamore Town, and is connected to all major goods suppliers and markets via established national roads, beginning with the N52 By-Pass of Tullamore. This road does go through the Charleville Wood SAC, but has been designed to ensure that existing and future traffic flows on this national route would not have a negative impact on this or any other protected habitat. It is not likely that the current or increased traffic requirements by the expansion of the KMK facility will see potential risk to protected habitats.

4.2.2 Impact pathways through Surface water

The development currently has two separate surface water discharge points to a local land drain along the western boundary of the site. These points are known as CX and DX and service 'C' yard area and 'D' yard areas. The proposed increase in waste acceptance, will not lead to any significant increase in discharge to the land drain at the existing two points. Nevertheless, there will be a proposed new discharge point from a section of the site where final development is occurring (called E area). This discharge point will be accommodated by robust treatment of the surface water run-off by means of silt trap, attenuation tank and interceptor unit. The proposed treated domestic waste water effluent from the up-graded WWTS will also be discharged to the local land drain.

In terms of treatment of the discharges on site (arising due to surface water drainage from outside yard areas) the following applies;

Existing yard surface water discharges from 'C' yard is treated by a Class 2 interceptor unit with final discharge to the land drain. The discharge from 'D' yard is treated by a Class 1 interceptor unit with final discharge to the same land drain.

E area; surfaced with concrete. Therefore, run-off from the proposed surfaced areas of E will be directed via a combination of a silt trap, followed by a storm water attenuation tank system (all located at the north part of E area). The outfall from the attenuation system will be treated by a Class 1 hydrocarbon interceptor unit prior to connection to the existing shared drain in the industrial estate which serves to remove surface water run-off from a number of commercial businesses with final discharge to the local land drain.

The KMK Metals application includes the upgrading of the existing waste water treatment plant on site from a single chamber treatment and discharge to percolation to a double chamber unit including SBR and resultant effluent pumped through a sand filter prior to discharge to the local land drain. The level of treatment from a sequential batch reactor is been shown to significantly reduce the chemical and biological levels from the facility waste waters. The design for the sand filter is identified as a biological treatment process capable of reducing the discharge from the premises to levels acceptable for surface waters.

The pathway from the local land drain along the western boundary of the site has been identified as leading towards the Tullamore River, and eventually the protected waters of the Shannon Callows (SAC 000216) approximately 36 km from Tullamore Town.

The local land drain is also connected by a land drainage network prior to joining the Tullamore River. This is not a priority habitat.

There is no likely impact on Natura 2000 sites through the pathways of surface waters.

4.2.3 Impact pathways through Transport

A plan or project will likely see the introduction of or the increase of, vehicular movement on road infrastructure. Where these roads come into close proximity to Natura 2000 sites, they have the potential to result in disamenity to the site, increased noise or vehicular lights startling or disturbing protected species, or the drainage of vehicular fluids such as oil, into the protected habitats.

This plan will see an increase in transportation needs, both from increased workforce and from a requirement for more Heavy Goods Vehicles movements to and from the development. The development is positioned within close proximity to the N52, a national route. This route connects the site to the main M6 at Kilbeggan, linking Dublin and Galway, and to the M7 for Limerick. Through this network of National Roads, goods and services can be supplied to and from the facility with ease and without a notable percentage increase requirement on such heavy volume routes.

The development will not therefore result in a likely impact due to increase of traffic movements on local infrastructure. This is based upon the quality and connectivity of the local roads.

4.3 Cumulative Impacts

A cumulative impact takes into account all existing and proposed developments currently within planning in the local area, to ascertain if together, the small potential impacts from each could result in an impact upon a designated site.

The development is in the townland of Cappancur, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The KMK Metals facility is located within an industrial estate with surroundings agricultural lands also designated/zoned industrial.

Within the industrial estate planning permissions for changes, alterations and retentions have been sought, particularly in the era of 2003 to 2008. Each of these can be seen as a blue square on the gPlan map from Offaly County Council (reference Figure 5). To the north, along the L2025, several dwelling houses are also built or amended through proper planning.

The high density of industrial units within the industrial estate and dwellings along the L2025 road lead to a potential increase in the likelihood of cumulative impacts.

A potential for impact could arise from the combined pollution impact of increased and/or poorly maintained septic tanks within an area. The primary influencing factor for treatment of waste from rural houses is the septic tank which will begin a biological breakdown of matter within the waste and stop larger solids from passing through. This is then followed by a 'soak pit' (older dwellings) or percolation area (circa 1990's). The percolation area operates by dispersing the polluted liquid over a large area of land, reducing the pollution impact on the underlying soil (by dispersal) and over time, allowing for a local biological treatment 'mat' to develop, which further treats the discharge liquid.

Of concern is where the ground is unsuitable for treating sewage waste, or where an area becomes 'over-developed' and loadings to the underlying soil becomes too high. The industrial nature of the Cappincur Industrial Estate reduces the potential loading for a treatment system, as typically staff are present only during the working hours, reducing the need for toilets, as compare to a domestic dwelling. The large concrete covering occupied by the KMK Metals in combination with the small area available on-site for percolation, has thus prompted KMK Metals to pursue the route of discharge of treated effluent from the proposed WWTS to land drain as opposed to ground.

Figure 5 shows the planning history, as extracted from the Offaly County Council website, for the local area. This is a freely available resource and is displayed here for informational purposes.

The gPlan map shows several planning applications in the area. The most recent applications were submitted by KMK Metals. Reviews of the remaining applications showed that they occurred prior to 2010 and are likely to have been acted upon at this stage.

Figure 5: Extract from Offaly County Council GPlan

There are no known other significant developments proposed or planned for the Cappincur area. The potential for the existing developments to develop a cumulative impact upon any of the Natura 2000 sites is not likely as these impacts, most likely, would arise from physical environment and the distance to the closest sites is too distant to register an effect.

5 Concluding Statement

Based upon the plans submitted, review of the Natura 2000 sites within 15 Km of the development, the Tullamore Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016, it is not thought that this development is likely to cause significant effect on any identified Natura 2000 site.

This conclusion takes into account that the facility buildings/structures and activities proposed are currently in operation on site with no notable detraction to noted Natura 2000 sites and that the proposed increase in production i.e. waste acceptance and processing on site will be

controlled through the planning department of Offaly County Council and the granting and enforcement section of the EPA as required in the Waste Licence.

It is therefore the view of this NIS that there is no likely impact upon local protected environments, and it is not necessary to proceed with Stage II of the Appropriate Assessment.

Appendix 1:

NPWS Site Synopsys for Designated Sites

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 boggier 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, Arcyria atra, Collaria arcyrionema, Stemonitis nigrescens* and *Didermia 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: 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 un-improved 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 Rannoch 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: 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 (1-2 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 calcarous 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: RIVER BARROW AND RIVER NORE

SITE CODE: 002162

This site consists of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow/Nore River catchments as far upstream as the Slieve Bloom Mountains and it also includes the tidal elements and estuary as far downstream as Creadun Head in Waterford. The site passes through eight counties – Offaly, Kildare, Laois, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford. Major towns along the edge of the site include Mountmellick, Portarlington, Monasterevin, Stradbally, Athy, Carlow, Leighlinbridge, Graiguenamanagh, New Ross, Inistioge, Thomastown, Callan, Bennettsbridge, Kilkenny and Durrow. The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr, Fushoge, Mountain, Aughavaud, Owenass, Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow and the Delour, Dinin, Erkina, Owveg, Munster, Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains before passing through a band of Carboniferous shales and sandstones. The Nore, for a large part of its course, traverses limestone plains and then Old Red Sandstone for a short stretch below Thomastown. Before joining the Barrow it runs over intrusive rocks poor in silica. The upper reaches of the Barrow also runs through limestone. The middle reaches and many of the eastern tributaries, sourced in the Blackstairs Mountains, run through Leinster Granite. The southern end, like the Nore runs over intrusive rocks poor in silica. Waterford Harbour is a deep valley excavated by glacial floodwaters when the sea level was lower than today. The coast shelves quite rapidly along much of the shore.

The site is a candidate SAC selected for alluvial wet woodlands and petrifying springs, priority habitats on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected as a candidate SAC for old oak woodlands, floating river vegetation, estuary, tidal mudflats, *Salicornia* mudflats, Atlantic salt meadows, Mediterranean salt meadows, dry heath and eutrophic tall herbs, all habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected for the following species listed on Annex II of the same directive - Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* and the Killarney Fern.

Good examples of Alluvial Forest are seen at Rathsnagadan, Murphy's of the River, in Abbeyleix estate and along other shorter stretches of both the tidal and freshwater elements of the site. Typical species seen include Almond Willow (*Salix triandra*), White Willow (*S. alba*), Grey Willow (*S. cinerea*), Crack Willow (*S. fragilis*), Osier (*S. viminalis*), with Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*), Pendulous Sedge (*C. pendula*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) and the Red Data Book species Nettle-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*). Three rare invertebrates have been recorded in this habitat at Murphy's of the River. These are: *Neoascia obliqua* (Diptera: Syrphidae), *Tetanocera freyi* (Diptera: Sciomyzidae) and *Dictya umbrarum* (Diptera: Sciomyzidae).

A good example of petrifying springs with tufa formations occurs at Dysart Wood along the Nore. This is a rare habitat in Ireland and one listed with priority status on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. These hard water springs are characterised by lime encrustations, often associated with small waterfalls. A rich bryophyte flora is typical of the habitat and two diagnostic species, *Cratoneuron commutatum* var. *commutatum* and *Eucladium verticillatum*, have been recorded.

The best examples of old Oak woodlands are seen in the ancient Park Hill woodland in the estate at Abbeyleix; at Kyleadohir, on the Delour, Forest Wood House, Kylecorragh and Brownstown Woods on the Nore, and at Cloghristic Wood, Drummond Wood and Borris Demesne on the Barrow, though other patches occur throughout the site. Abbeyleix Woods is a large tract of mixed deciduous woodland which is one of the only remaining true ancient woodlands in Ireland. Historical records show that Park Hill has been continuously wooded since the sixteenth century and has the most complete written record of any woodland in the country. It supports a variety of woodland habitats and an exceptional diversity of species including 22 native trees, 44 bryophytes and 92 lichens. It also contains eight indicator species of ancient woodlands. Park Hill is also the site of two rare plants, Nettle-leaved Bellflower and the moss *Leucodon sciuroides*. It has a typical bird fauna including Jay, Long-eared Owl and Raven. A rare invertebrate, *Mniostoma chrysomelas*, occurs in Abbeyleix and only two other sites in the country. Two flies *Chrysogaster virescens* and *Hybomitra muhlfeldi* also occur. The rare Myxomycete fungus, *Licea minima* has been recorded from woodland at Abbeyleix.

Oak woodland covers parts of the valley side south of Woodstock and is well developed at Brownsford where the Nore takes several sharp bends. The steep valley side is covered by Oak (*Quercus* spp.), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Birch (*Betula pubescens*) with some Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). All the trees are regenerating through a cover of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) Wood Rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*).

On the steeply sloping banks of the River Nore about 5 km west of New Ross, in County Kilkenny, Kylecorragh Woods form a prominent feature in the landscape. This is an excellent example of a relatively undisturbed, relict Oak woodland with a very good tree canopy. The wood is quite damp and there is a rich and varied ground flora. At Brownstown a small, mature Oak-dominant woodland occurs on a steep slope. There is younger woodland to the north and east of it. Regeneration throughout is evident. The understorey is similar to the woods at Brownsford. The ground flora of this woodland is developed on acidic, brown earth type soil and comprises a thick carpet of Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum* spp.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Borris Demesne contains a very good example of a semi-natural broad-leaved woodland in very good condition. There is quite a high degree of natural re-generation of Oak and Ash through the woodland. At the northern end of the estate Oak species predominate. Drummond Wood, also on the Barrow, consists of three blocks of deciduous woods situated on steep slopes above the river. The deciduous trees are mostly Oak species. The woods have a well established understorey of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and the herb

layer is varied, with Brambles abundant. Whitebeam (*Sorbus devoniensis*) has also been recorded.

Eutrophic tall herb vegetation occurs in association with the various areas of alluvial forest and elsewhere where the flood-plain of the river is intact. Characteristic species of the habitat include Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Marsh Ragwort (*Senecio aquaticus*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*). Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), an introduced and invasive species, is abundant in places.

Floating River Vegetation is well represented in the Barrow and in the many tributaries of the site. In the Barrow the species found include Water Starworts (*Callitriche* spp.), Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*), Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*), Milfoil (*Myriophyllum* spp.), *Potamogeton* x *nitens*, Broad-leaved Pondweed (*P. natans*), Fennel Pondweed (*P. pectinatus*), Perfoliated Pondweed (*P. perfoliatus*) and Crowfoots (*Ranunculus* spp.). The water quality of the Barrow has improved since the vegetation survey was carried out (EPA, 1996).

Dry Heath at the site occurs in pockets along the steep valley sides of the rivers especially in the Barrow Valley and along the Barrow tributaries where they occur in the foothills of the Blackstairs Mountains. The dry heath vegetation along the slopes of the river bank consists of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) species with patches of acidic grassland vegetation. Additional typical species include Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Bent Grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*). On the steep slopes above New Ross the Red Data Book species Greater Broomrape (*Orobanche rapum-genistae*) has been recorded. Where rocky outcrops are shown on the maps Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and Wood Rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) are present. At Barrack a small area of dry heath is interspersed with patches of lowland dry grassland. These support a number of Clover species including the legally protected Clustered Clover (*Trifolium glomeratum*) - a species known from only one other site in Ireland. This grassland community is especially well developed on the west side of the mud-capped walls by the road. On the east of the cliffs a group of rock-dwelling species occur, i.e. English Stonecrop (*Sedum anglicum*), Sheep's-bit (*Jasione montana*) and Wild Madder (*Rubia peregrina*). These rocks also support good lichen and moss assemblages with *Ramalina subfarinacea* and *Hedwigia ciliata*.

Dry Heath at the site generally grades into wet woodland or wet swamp vegetation lower down the slopes on the river bank. Close to the Blackstairs Mountains, in the foothills associated with the Aughnabrisky, Aughavaud and Mountain Rivers there are small patches of wet heath dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) with Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*) and Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*).

Saltmeadows occur at the southern section of the site in old meadows where the embankment has been breached, along the tidal stretches of in-flowing rivers below Stokestown House, in a narrow band on the channel side of Common Reed (*Phragmites*) beds and in narrow fragmented strips along the open shoreline. In the larger areas of salt meadow, notably at Carnekeloney, Ballinlaw Ferry and Rochestown on the west bank; Fisherstown, Alderton and Great Island to Dunbrody on the east bank, the Atlantic and

Mediterranean sub types are generally intermixed. At the upper edge of the salt meadow in the narrow ecotonal areas bordering the grasslands where there is significant percolation of salt water, the legally protected species Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*) and Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) (Flora Protection Order, 1987) are found. The very rare Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*) is also found. Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*) is also present. Other plants recorded and associated with salt meadows include Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Sea Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Couch (*Elymus pycnanthus*), Spear-leaved Orache (*Atriplex prostrata*), Lesser Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia marina*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*) and Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*).

Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand are found in the creeks of the saltmarshes and at the seaward edges of them. The habitat also occurs in small amounts on some stretches of the shore free of stones.

The estuary and the other Habitats Directive Annex I habitats within it form a large component of the site. Extensive areas of intertidal flats, comprised of substrates ranging from fine, silty mud to coarse sand with pebbles/stones are present. Good quality intertidal sand and mudflats have developed on a linear shelf on the western side of Waterford Harbour, extending for over 6 km from north to south between Passage East and Creadaun Head, and in places are over 1 km wide. The sediments are mostly firm sands, though grade into muddy sands towards the upper shore. They have a typical macro-invertebrate fauna, characterised by polychaetes and bivalves. Common species include *Arenicola marina*, *Nephtys hombergii*, *Scoloplos armiger*, *Lanice conchilega* and *Cerastoderma edule*.

The western shore of the harbour is generally stony and backed by low cliffs of glacial drift. At Woodstown there is a sandy beach, now much influenced by recreation pressure and erosion. Behind it a lagoonal marsh has been impounded which runs westwards from Gaultiere Lodge along the course of a slow stream. An extensive reedbed occurs here. At the edges is a tall fen dominated by sedges (*Carex* spp.), Meadowsweet, Willowherb (*Epilobium* spp.) and rushes (*Juncus* spp.). Wet woodland also occurs. This area supports populations of typical waterbirds including Mallard, Snipe, Sedge Warbler and Water Rail.

The dunes which fringe the strand at Duncannon are dominated by Marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) towards the sea. Other species present include Wild Sage (*Salvia verbenaca*), a rare Red Data Book species. The rocks around Duncannon ford have a rich flora of seaweeds typical of a moderately exposed shore and the cliffs themselves support a number of coastal species on ledges, including Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Rock Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*) and Buck's-horn Plantain (*Plantago coronopus*).

Other habitats which occur throughout the site include wet grassland, marsh, reed swamp, improved grassland, arable land, quarries, coniferous plantations, deciduous woodland, scrub and ponds.

Seventeen Red Data Book plant species have been recorded within the site, most in the recent past. These are Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*), Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*), Clustered Clover (*Trifolium glomeratum*), Basil Thyme (*Acinos arvensis*), Hemp nettle (*Galeopsis angustifolia*), Borrer's Saltmarsh Grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*).

Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Opposite-leaved Pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*), Autumn Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*), Wild Sage (*Salvia verbenaca*), Nettle-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*), Saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*), Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*), Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*), Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*), Broomrape (*Orobanche hederae*) and Greater Broomrape (*Orobanche rapum-genistae*). Of these the first nine are protected under the Flora Protection Order 1999. Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*) was thought to be extinct but has been found in a few locations in the site since 1990. In addition plants which do not have a very wide distribution in the country are found in the site including Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*), Field Garlic (*Allium oleraceum*) and Summer Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*). Six rare lichens, indicators of ancient woodland, are found including *Lobaria laetevirens* and *L. pulmonaria*. The rare moss *Leucodon sciuroides* also occurs.

The site is very important for the presence of a number of EU Habitats Directive Annex II animal species including Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera* and *M. m. durrovensis*), Freshwater Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), Salmon (*Salmo salar*), Twaite Shad (*Alosa fallax fallax*), three Lamprey species - Sea (*Petromyzon marinus*), Brook (*Lampetra planeri*) and River (*Lampetra fluviatilis*), the marsh snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* and Otter (*Lutra lutra*). This is the only site in the world for the hard water form of the Pearl Mussel *M. m. durrovensis* and one of only a handful of spawning grounds in the country for Twaite Shad. The freshwater stretches of the River Nore main channel is a designated salmonid river. The Barrow/Nore is mainly a grilse fishery though spring salmon fishing is good in the vicinity of Thomastown and Inistioge on the Nore. The upper stretches of the Barrow and Nore, particularly the Owenass River, are very important for spawning.

The site supports many other important animal species. Those which are listed in the Irish Red Data Book include Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), Badger (*Meles meles*), Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) and Frog (*Rana temporaria*). The rare Red Data Book fish species Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*) occurs in estuarine stretches of the site. In addition to the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, the site also supports two other freshwater Mussel species, *Anodonta anatina* and *A. cygnea*.

The site is of ornithological importance for a number of E.U. Birds Directive Annex I species including Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Bewick's Swan, Bar-tailed Godwit, Peregrine and Kingfisher. Nationally important numbers of Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit are found during the winter. Wintering flocks of migratory birds are seen in Shanahoe Marsh and the Curragh and Goul Marsh, both in Co. Laois and also along the Barrow Estuary in Waterford Harbour. There is also an extensive autumnal roosting site in the reedbeds of the Barrow Estuary used by Swallows before they leave the country.

Landuse at the site consists mainly of agricultural activities – many intensive, principally grazing and silage production. Slurry is spread over much of this area. Arable crops are also grown. The spreading of slurry and fertiliser poses a threat to the water quality of the salmonid river and to the populations of Habitats Directive Annex II animal species within the site. Many of the woodlands along the rivers belong to old estates and support many non-native species. Little active woodland management occurs. Fishing is a main tourist attraction along stretches of the main rivers and their tributaries and there are a number of Angler Associations, some with a number of beats. Fishing stands and styles

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME : SPLIT HILLS AND LONG HILL ESKER

SITE CODE : 001831

Split Hills and Long Hill Esker is a 5km long site which crosses the main Galway-Dublin road mid-way between Kilbeggan and Tyrrellspass in Co. Westmeath. It is a very prominent feature on the local landscape.

The main habitat is of semi-natural woodland dominated by Hazel (Corylus avellana), Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), and Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna). Oak (Quercus robur), Wych Elm (Ulmus glabra) and Irish Whitebeam (Sorbus hibernica) are important constituents. There are very fine examples of these trees throughout the site: some Hazel trees, in particular, are impressive. The ground flora is species-rich and includes Primrose (Primula vulgaris), Enchanter's Nightshade (Circaea lutetiana), Golden Saxifrage (Chrysosplenium oppositifolium), Bluebell (Hyacinthoides non-scripta), Ground Ivy (Glechoma hederacea), Sanicle (Sanicula europaea) and other typical woodland plants. The scarce woodland grass, Wood Fescue (Festuca altissima), is present, and the scarce Bird's-nest Orchid (Neottia nidus-avis) has also been recorded here. The presence of Wych Elm is interesting in view of its decline due to Dutch Elm Disease.

Several areas of species-rich calcareous grassland occur, with typical calcicole species such as Yellow-wort (Blackstonia perfoliata), Carline Thistle (Carlina vulgaris), Mountain Everlasting (Antennaria dioica) and Early-purple Orchid (Orchis mascula). These occur on unstable old and active quarry faces, and on cleared woodland areas. Areas of scrub with Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) and Gorse (Ulex europaeus) occur, and regenerating Hazel (Corylus avellana) scrub exists in some areas where woodland has been cleared. Other habitats in the site include a small lake and freshwater marsh with Slender Sedge (Carex lasiocarpa).

Narrow-leaved Bittercress (Cardamine impatiens) occurs among the woodland flora at this site. It is an annual or biennial, whose populations are known to 'disappear' in some years only to 'reappear' again. The species is protected under The Flora Protection Order (1999), and this is its only known location in Ireland. Another protected species, Hemp Nettle (Galeopsis angustifolia), occurs on more open ground on the esker.

The main threat to the esker is quarrying for sand and gravel: this activity already occurs on the site at several locations. Grazing is a critical factor affecting esker habitats. The presence of too many grazers causes damage to the ground vegetation in both woodlands and grasslands and prevents regeneration of woody species. If the grazing level is too low, grasslands are vulnerable to the encroachment of scrub at the expense of species which require open conditions. Fertiliser application, associated with agricultural

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 Carline 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 (*Sesleria 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

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 conifereous 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.

16.5.2007

Appendix 2

Appropriate Assessment Screening Criteria
- prepared by ENVIROCO Management Ltd to establish content of this NIS

Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site	No likely impacts on Natura 2000 sites. Aspects of the development inspected include: Increase in activity (waste acceptance and processing) from 20,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) to approximately 35,000 tpa All site buildings in place with full planning permission for their construction. All activities to be maintained to the current floor space and all emissions controlled and reported to the national environmental authority (Environmental Protection Agency – EPA).
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on Natura 2000 site by virtue of:	
a) Size, scale, area, land-take distance from NATURA 2000 site or key features of the site	The development will not see an increase in floor space, internally or externally from existing development. All existing structures and work areas are on impermeable concrete surfaces with drainage to specified interceptors. The closest Natura 2000 site is located over 3km from the site – Charleville Wood (000571)
b) Plan sector	The development application is for the increase in tonnages to be processed on site, from below threshold levels (<25,000 tpa) to a level requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment/Statement, and associated improvements to site welfare facilities to accommodate the increase in employee numbers.
c) Physical changes that will flow from the project or plan	No notable physical changes will occur on site through this application. Up-grade works to the existing waste water treatment plant and percolation design are required, but not seen as detrimental as the footprint of the system will not alter significantly.
d) Resource requirements	Groundwater and rainwater collection for water supplies, energy from the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), diesel fuel for vehicles, heating oil, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), metals, metal based materials for the operation of onsite activities.
e) Emission and waste	Air emissions from on-site vehicles and one stack emission point, noise from site equipment and operations, domestic wastes from administration and welfare areas to proposed improved wastewater treatment plant and percolation area, internally generated refuse waste (employee and office generated materials) to incinerator off-site, residual wastes from imported materials for further processing off-site, onward transport of processed WEEE and metals for recovery off-site.
f) Excavation requirements	No notable expansion of the concrete footprint is required on site. The improvement to the wastewater treatment plant will require alterations to the lands in and around the existing percolation and treatment unit. There will be an estimated removal of 100tonnes of soil/stone materials.
f) Transportation requirements	The development requires good road infrastructure, for the access of employees and the delivery and removal of waste materials and processed waste materials. This is accommodated by the close proximity of the National Road system (<0.5Km from industrial park entrance).
g) Duration of construction,	The development is currently built and in full operation. This plan is for the increase in tonnages to a level that requires an EIA/S. The NIS is therefore

operation, decommissioning etc	concerned with the increase in operations, including cumulative impacts from the existing activity. No closure life span has been identified for the site, decommissioning procedure was identified in the EIS.
h) Plan implementation period	The plan is to go to the competent authority – Offaly County Council for permission to accommodate operations to 35,000 tonnes per annum of waste materials. If granted, a licence review from the Agency (EPA) will regularise the operations on-site including the proposed increase in tonnages.
i) Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site	The closest Natura 2000 site from the proposed development is Charleville Wood SAC, located about 3km to the southwest.
j) Cumulative impacts with other projects or plans	No major construction, industrial, commercial or agricultural developments are proposed in the local area. The development is located within an existing industrial park, with further industrial zoned land to the south and west. The controls on emissions from the site is well documented with reports to the EPA and no likely cumulative impacts with neighbouring industries are likely to effect the identified Natura 2000 sites.
k) Other projects/plans that might act in combination	No significant plans or projects are proposed in the vicinity of this development. There are no other WEEE processors in the local area that would have similar emissions. Other industrial and commercial enterprises are present, but from the large footprint of this development, enabling control of emissions within this area, no combination influences on Natura 2000 sites are likely.
l) Impact identification	Potential for increases in; light, noise, traffic, air emissions, from this plan. Overall, no impact to the nearest SAC.
m) Boundaries for assessment	Physical emissions from the operational phases of the developments, within the site area, and in cumulative scenarios with surrounding developments
n) Pathway identification	The most likely pathway for impact from the site to a Natura 2000 site is through the groundwater via percolation, through surface water land drains from discharges, from air movements for stack and ambient air emissions and from topography enabling light or noise impacts
o) Prediction of the extent or magnitude of the identified cumulative effects	Groundwater impacts are not identified from a review of results submitted to the EPA. Surface water impacts are low, impacting no further than the local land drain Noise is masked by local road infrastructure (traffic movements on infrastructure) Light is masked by local road infrastructure lighting and lighting from Tullamore Town
p) Assessment of the potential cumulative impacts which are likely to be significant	The distances to the closest Natura 2000 sites are relatively large and the emissions from the development are unlikely to have potential impact on the sites.
Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:	No potential impacts are likely to any recorded Natura 2000 site from the proposed development.

Reduction in habitat areas, disturbance to key species, habitat or species fragmentation, reduction in species density, changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.) climate change	The development will not increase its concrete footprint through the granting of this plan. No direct impacts, cumulative impacts or combination impacts are likely to effect any identified site.
Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of: interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site and/or interference with key relationships that define the function of the site	No likely impacts on any noted Natura 2000 site is likely from this proposed development – see main report for full discussion.
Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of: loss, fragmentation, disruption, disturbance, change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc)	The site will not impinge, cover, adjoin, cause direct, indirect or cumulative impact upon any recognised Natura 2000 site.
Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant to where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.	As discussed in the main report, no impacts upon any noted Natura 2000 site is likely from this proposed plan. The application is for an increase in waste handling capacity to levels greater than 25,000 tpa.

"Finding of No Significant Effects" Report Matrix

The format of this report follows that set out in the Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 Site: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Report prepared for the European Commission, Environment DG, by the Impacts Assessment Unit, School of Planning, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP, United Kingdom. ISBN 92-828-1818-7. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the EC.

Name of Project or Plan	Planning permission to Offaly County Council for a change of use of the existing premises from storage/ warehousing use to use for the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), waste metals and metallic based materials, an increase in the annual waste intake to 35,000 tonnes, the provision of a new esb substation, switch rooms and ancillary accommodation, new open plan offices, the upgrading of the existing effluent treatment system, a revised percolation area and all associated site works at Cappincur, Tullamore, County Offaly. The existing site measures 1.29 hectares.
Name and location of Natura 2000 site	Charleville Wood (000571); Raheenmore Bog (0005820); Clara Bog (000572); Split Hills And Long Hill Esker (001831); River Barrow and River Nore (002162)
Description of the Project or Plan	Increase in tonnage limit from 20,000 tpa to approximately 35,000 tpa, with associated improvements to welfare facilities
Is the Project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the site management for nature conservation?	No. The development will not see any benefit or improvement management to any of the identified Natura 2000 sites.
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the site?	No. There are no identified cumulative or combination plans or projects that assessed with this plan will deliver positive or negative outcomes for any of the identified Natura 2000 sites.
The Assessment of Significance of Effects	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site	No likely affects noted.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant	The controls on site, regular reporting to the national authority (EPA) and the distances and nature of conservation at the identified sites are seen as more than sufficient to reduce likelihood of affects from the development.
Data collected to carry out the assessment	
Who carried out the assessment?	ENVIROCO Management Ltd email info@enviroco.ie

Sources of data	Desk studies by the assessor and consultation with relevant agencies. Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy. European Commissions, (2002) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Office for Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Site Synopsis for River Barrow and River Nore SCI. SI No. 272 of 2009- European Communities Environmental Objectives Surface Water Regulations 2009
Level of assessment completed	Desktop study, field studies, consultation, etc. A high degree of confidence can be attributed to the results of the assessment.
Where can the full results of the assessment be assessed or viewed?	This document. Further information may also be had from the assessor: ENVIROCO Management Ltd, info@enviroco.ie
Overall conclusions	
Explanation of how the overall conclusion was arrived at	Following the review of the proposed development in accordance with the "Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43 and The Guidance Document "Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009)" a screening Matrix and Findings of No significant Effects Matrix have been completed. This screening process was carried out to ascertain if the Development/Project was likely to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 Sites. The development has selected a location significantly removed from local Natura sites and will be serviced by ground well and up-graded waste water treatment system complete with biological treatment via a sand filter system. It was concluded that the development will not have a significant impact or impact directly on the integrity of any of the identified Natura Sites, either directly, indirectly or in conjunction with other developments in the area. The development is not located within a Natura 2000 Site There will be no disturbance of habitat, loss of habitat, or fragmentation of existing habitat to any Natura 2000 site. All construction and ancillary improvement works as proposed will ensure that there will be no significant impacts on the local water courses. It was concluded that the development will not impact directly or indirectly in a cumulative manner with any other plans or projects in the area on any of the Natura 2000 Sites as considered in detail above because there will be no discharge of water, effluent, hazardous waste and/or silt from the site, light, noise emissions or visual intrusiveness onto the Natura 2000 Site from the development. Therefore, the screening report finds that the development does not require further appropriate assessment.

Appendix 3

Correspondence with the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS)

ENVIROCO MANAGEMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
LoCall 1890 522 000

National Parks and Wildlife Service
7 Ely Place
Dublin 2

21st March 2012

RE: Scoping for Proposed Planning Application and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in relation to a Waste Licence Review Application (W0113-04) to the Environmental Protection Agency for KMK Metals Recycling Ltd, Cappincur Industrial Estate, Daingean Road, Tullamore, Co Offaly.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in relation to an existing waste licence review application for KMK Metals Recycling Ltd, submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency on the 20-10-2009. This waste licence review is for an existing hazardous and non hazardous metals and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) waste management facility at Cappincur Industrial Estate, Daingean Road, Tullamore Co. Offaly. KMK Metals is operating at its Cappincur facility since 1985 and has waste licenses for this facility since 2002.

Offaly County Council planning authority has deemed that a planning application together with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for the waste license review application on the basis of a proposed increase in annual tonnages from 20,000 to 35,000 tonnes at the facility.

ENVIROCO Management Ltd, an environmental consultancy company in Tullamore, is working with KMK Metals on the preparation of the Planning Application and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for submission to Offaly County Council.

The KMK Metals waste licence facility site location is indicated on the attached location map. KMK Metals, is operating as an existing hazardous and non hazardous metal waste and electrical and electronic waste transfer facility in accordance with their existing waste licence (ref: W0113-03) and wishes to have their existing licensed annual waste acceptance tonnage increased from 20,000 tonnes to 35,000 tonnes per year in order to provide for future business growth and expansion.

BOW HOUSE O'MOORE STREET TULLAMORE CO. OFFALY
T: 057 935 2200 • F: 057 935 2342 • email: info@enviroco.ie • www.enviroco.ie
Registered in Ireland, Number 297801 • Directors: A. Fahey. D. Fahey

The types of waste will remain the same i.e. metallic wastes and waste electrical & electronic equipment (WEEE). All waste accepted to the site is for recycling and recovery only.

The site covers an area of approximately 1.27 Ha (12,733m^2). The site yard areas contain industrial buildings and are covered with concrete. The waste management facility is located in an existing Industrial Estate and is approximately 1km east of Tullamore town. The Industrial Estate is surrounded by zoned industrial land with some once off rural housing close by along the Daingean road.

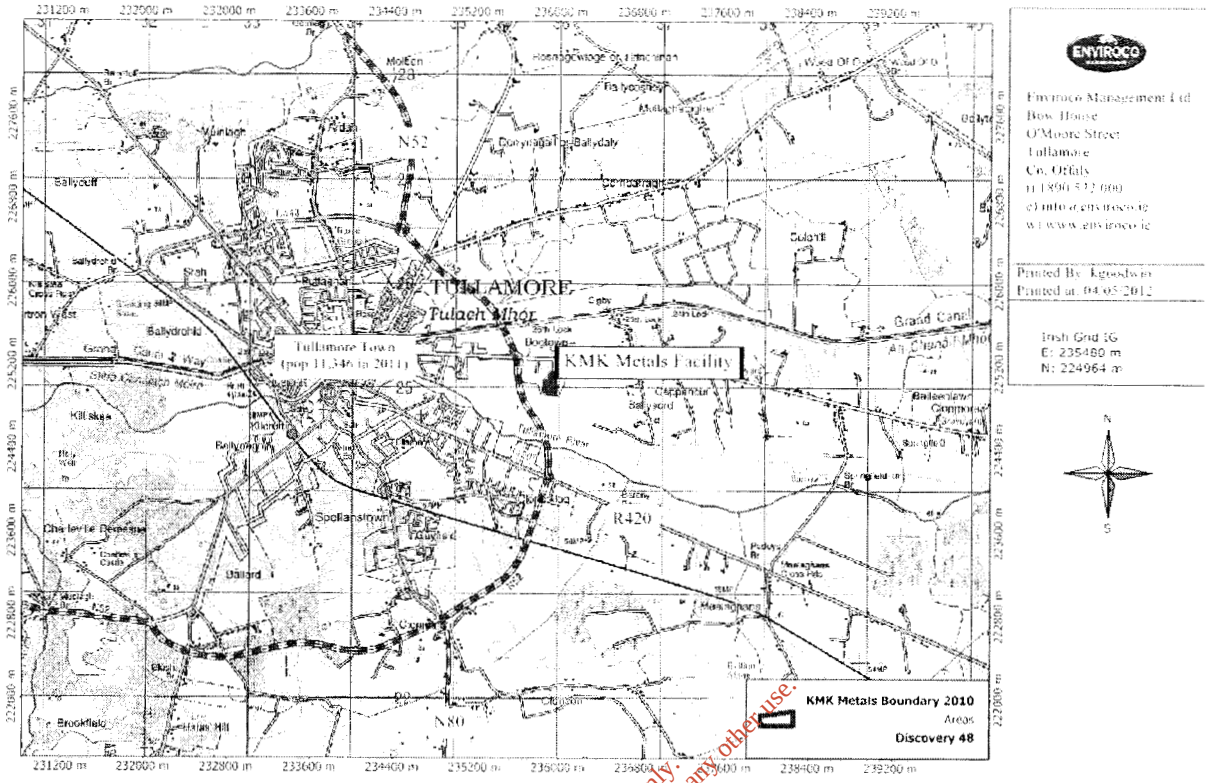
As part of the scoping process for this application we wish to inform you of the application and address any queries that you may have in relation to the proposed site activities.

The Environmental Impact Statement will thoroughly address all possible environmental impacts of the proposed development may have on the surrounding environment. We would welcome any input or comments that the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) may have in relation to this application, to ensure that these can be addressed prior to submission to the Planning Authority as part of the proposed planning application.

Yours Sincerely

Niall Nally

Niall Nally
Senior Environmental Consultant.
B.Sc, M.Sc, AIEMA, MCIWM



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