

Non-Technical Summary of
Environmental Impact Statement
for proposed
Abbott Ireland Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plant
Sligo, Ireland

prepared for

Abbott Ireland
by

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1. INTRODUCTION

This summary is provided to allow a non-technical reader to understand how the proposal will fit into the local environment. It provides a summary of the main findings. The summary is laid out in the same way as the main report.

2. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The site of the project is on lands that are owned by Abbot Ireland near the Manorhamilton Road, where the red circle is shown on the map above. The fields lie to the north of the old District Mental Hospital and are west of the existing Abbot Ireland Ballitvnan operation. In the main EIS the existing environment is described under a number of headings that are required by the Regulations.

The following is a summary of principal findings about the existing environment:

Human Beings

Yeats' Height is the nearest housing and there are a small number of roadside houses on the Manorhamilton road to the east and also across a low hill on the smaller local road to the north. The majority of the other landuses in the area is grass-based agriculture.

Flora and Fauna

The mammals, birds, fish, insects and plants of the site and the surroundings were thoroughly examined. A badger sett and freshwater spring, with a small area of surrounding wetland plants, were the principal features noted on the land. Attention was also drawn to the stream that flows through the site which, while unimportant in its' own right, does connect into the nearby Doonally River which is an important ecological and fisheries feature.

Water and Geology

The groundwater below the site and the stream that flows through the site were examined and found to have good water quality.

Air Quality

Air quality was found to be relatively good with any detectable traces being from local home heating and passing road traffic.

Noise

A survey of noise found that maximum recorded levels were due to passing traffic and local activity. The existing plant at Ballytivnan was also audible.

Landscape

The nearby Manorhamilton road is a recognised local tourist route offering fine views across towards Ben Bulbin.

Roads and traffic

The N16 Sligo to Enniskillen road passes the site and has sufficient spare capacity.

Cultural Heritage

The site is the location of where Marlbrook House once stood. There are no archaeological remains on the development site.

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3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General

Abbot Laboratories is one of the world's leading healthcare companies. Abbott Ireland will be carrying out the project. The Company has been established in Ireland since 1975 with over 1600 employees working at plants in Sligo, Cavan and Donegal.

The project will be used for making active pharmaceuticals, in small batches, that are used for treating illnesses such as cancer. There will be three main buildings that will be used as follows:

- Administration and Laboratory Building
- Drug Product Building
- Bulk Manufacturing Building
- Utilities Building Tanks and Storage

The project will be in operation by early summer 2003. It will cost approximately IR£45 million to build and construction employment is expected to peak at about 150. Initially up to 50 people will be employed and this will increase to about 150 people over the following six years.

Operations and Processes

The project will operate independently of the existing Abbott Ireland, Sligo facilities. It will have its own workforce, management and all necessary support services.

The project is a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant. Its' processes and operations will be examined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and they will need to issue an Integrated Pollution Control License before production can begin. The project is intended to make a range of products that will vary over the coming years, each new product or change of production process will also need to be licensed by the EPA.

In general the processes will be similar throughout. Raw materials are placed into sealed vessels where they are mixed, and sometimes heated, until the required reactions have taken place. After this step the material follows several purification stages before being finally isolated as a pharmaceutical ingredient. These stages take place in a number of sealed and separated spaces. The isolation is very important to maintain the purity of the product. All of these processes take place within the Bulk Manufacturing Building. After purification some products will be sent off-site to be further processed but most will be mixed and filled into capsules or pressed into tablets and packaged. These latter processes will take place in the Secondary Manufacturing Building. Air and water emissions from these processes will be captured and treated to the standards set and monitored by the EPA.

4. IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS

The project has been carefully examined since the beginning of the design to ensure that adverse impacts were anticipated and avoided or minimised. Nonetheless it is a requirement of the EIA Regulations that a description must be provided of the effect on every one of the following topics.

Human Beings

The creation of up to 150 new jobs and the spending of up to IR£45 million on construction will be positive impacts on the local economy. No adverse impacts are anticipated.

Flora and Fauna

There will be a loss of some hedgerows and established trees though most will be retained. A small spring and associated wetland vegetation will be a local loss and care will have to be taken to minimise disturbance of a large local badger sett which will be near the building works. The North-Western Regional Fisheries Board will be consulted to avoid any threat to spawning fish. The EPA licence limits will ensure that there will be no effects from operations.

Soil

The soils and geology that lie under the site are vulnerable to water pollution. All pipes and outdoor areas where spills or leaks could occur will be built and monitored to prevent or quickly capture any spill. No adverse impacts are anticipated.

Water

There will be no discharges of effluent to local streams or rivers. The wastewaters from the development will be treated as part of the process, the remaining waters together with wastes from toilets and canteens will go to the new local authority wastewater treatment plant. Discharges to water form part of the EPA licence. No adverse impacts are anticipated.

Air

Emissions to air will be treated prior to release to air using a thermal oxidiser and a scrubber. Discharges to air form part of the EPA licence. No adverse impacts are anticipated.

Landscape

The project will be visible from the Manorhamilton Road. It will not interrupt the view towards the mountains and will only be visible for a very short length of the road. The effects will be localised. As time passes the extensive new planting will further reduce the visibility and the effect.

Material Assets

There will be no adverse effects on the traffic or roads.

Cultural Heritage

The archaeology of the site and the surroundings have been carefully examined. While there is known to be nearby remains – none have been recorded or noticed on the site. No adverse effects are anticipated.

The Interaction of Topics

The interaction of topics have been evaluated and no adverse interactions are anticipated.

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