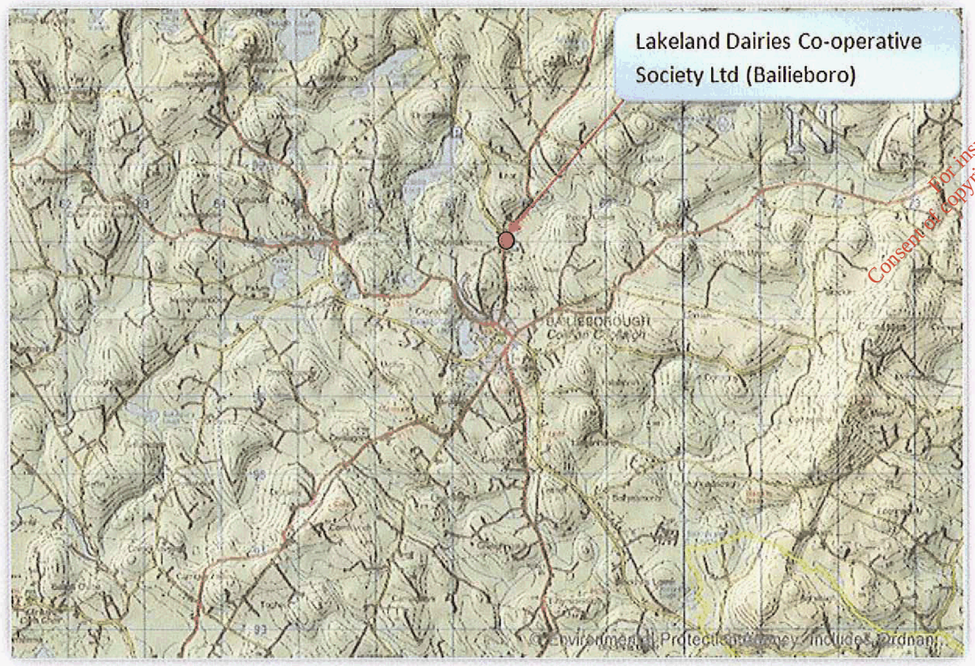
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared to address the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of a proposed extension to the dryer facility at Lakeland Dairies Bailieboro. The proposed works will include an extension to the existing dryer facility to contain a new dryer plant with a total floor area of 3,516m^2. The dryer building will incorporate 2 new evaporators, an extension to the milk storage area, a new bagging area, new car parking spaces, revised traffic arrangements, new security hut and all associated local underground drainage and miscellaneous site works. The proposed extension to the existing site at the rear of the existing Facility which is located approximately 1km Northeast of Bailieborough town on the R178 Shercock Road. The plant operates year round, processing approximately 500 million litres per year in the production of butter and milk powder.

Figure 1.1 Site Location Map



1.2 Overview Of Lakeland Dairies Co-Operative Society Ltd

Lakeland Dairies Co-operative Society Limited, Ireland's third largest dairy processing co-operative, was formed as a result of the merger of Killeshandra and Lough Egish Co-operatives in 1990. The Killeshandra Co-operative was founded in 1896 with the Lough Egish Co-operative founded in 1901. The Co-operative acquired the Bailieborough Milk Drying Facility from the Kerry Group in 2001 and a Milk Drying Facility at Omagh from Nestle In 2003. The Pritchitts Foodservice Business at Newtownards was acquired in 2004. The facility at Omagh was closed as part of a rationalisation programme in 2008.

The business is owned by approximately 2000 farmers / shareholders, who supply milk to the Co-operative. It operates in the northern half of the Island of Ireland and processes approximately 750 million litres of milk annually taken from the company's shareholders and third party sources. It is expected that milk processed will increase to over 1 billion litres annually by 2020. The shareholders elect a group of fourteen farmers to sit on the Board of Directors. There is one 'non-farmer' director on the Board. These directors appoint a Chief Executive Officer to manage the business.

There are three Business Units or Divisions within Lakeland Dairies, all managed by General Managers, who are members of the Executive Team. The other members of the Executive Team are the Group Financial Controller and the Group Head of Human Resources.

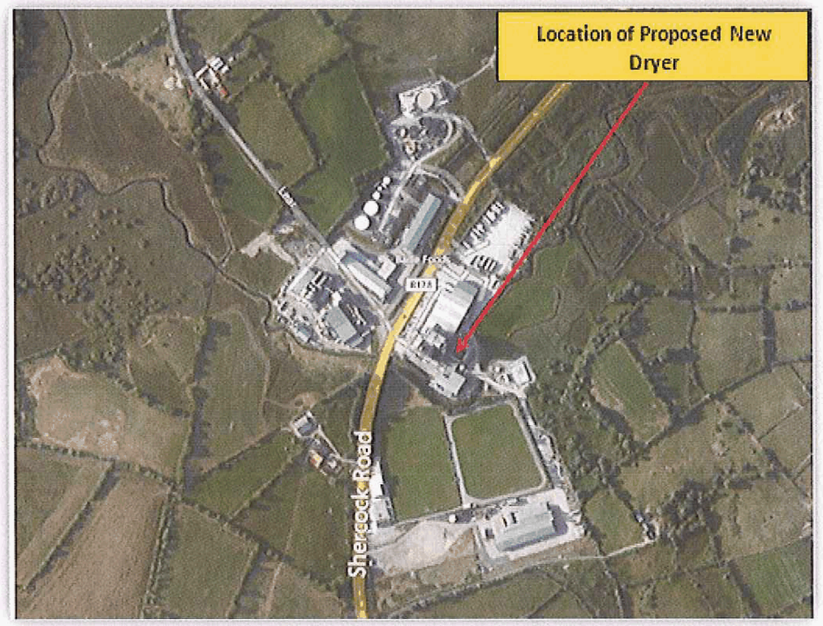
The Food-Service Division manufactures food-service products, such as Ultra High Temperature (UHT) or long-life milks, ice-cream and butter portions which are supplied into foodservice businesses and trades these globally. The Food-Ingredients Division manufactures a range of milk powders, including skim milk powder, whole milk powder and 'fat-filled' powders which are traded globally and the 'Agri-Trading' Division supplies feed and other provisions to suppliers and other famers, while also looking after the interests of the suppliers/shareholders. Sales and marketing personnel are predominantly based at Killeshandra, Bailieborough, and Bromley in the UK.

With the removal of milk quotas in the European Union from 2015 onwards, Lakeland Dairies expects to receive up to 40% more milk from its suppliers by 2020. Lakeland Dairies currently has manufacturing sites at Killeshandra and Bailieborough in County Cavan and Lough Egish in County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland and at Newtownards in Northern Ireland.

The Killeshandra Site carries out operations across two Business Units. The Casein, Whey and Lactose Powder operations on the site sit within the Food Ingredients Division while the UHT, Ice-cream and Butter Portion Operations sit within the Food Services Division. The butter process involves packing of 'bulk butter' into mini-packs.

The great majority of the milk powder and bulk butter for the Food Ingredients Division is manufactured at Bailieborough while the greatest volume of UHT products is manufactured at Newtownards. Animal feeds for the 'Agri-Trading' Division are manufactured at Lough Egish.

Figure 1.2 Location of New Dryer Building



1.3 Need for the Project

A milk quota is a measure used to bring rising milk production under control. Milk quotas are attached to land holdings, and they represent a cap on the amount of milk that a farmer can sell every year without paying a levy. Milk quotas were first introduced on 2nd April 1984 under the European Economic Community now the European Community's Common Agricultural Policy. Originally they were to run until 1989, but they have been extended several times, and now will continue until the 31st March 2015.

Each member of the European Economic Community was allowed to produce dairy products up to a cap, which was based on each state's 1981 production, plus 1%. The cap was designated the "reference quantity". A levy to the EEC was due on production in excess of the reference quantity. This levy was then to be recovered from the farmers or dairies involved.

When the quota system expires in 2015, a significant increase in milk production is expected from Irish farms. To cater for this increase, additional milk processing capacity is required. This project represents a major investment in the dairy industry by Lakeland Dairies.

1.4 Harvest 2020

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food presented a strategy policy document to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in 2010, entitled "Harvest 2020". Grounded in facts and a careful analysis of industry, consumer and global trends, Harvest 2020 identified the opportunity for a dynamic, forward looking agri-food industry. It envisaged a sector that can reap considerable rewards if it works and acts 'smartly' so as to make the most productive use of Ireland's rich natural 'green' resources in a way that is both economically viable and sustainable in the future.

Processing of milk into powdered products and infant formula is part of the "Value- Added" Food and Beverage Sector programme of Harvest 2020. Two of the three pillars of the Department's strategy for growth in this sector are

- 40% growth in Value Added Output;
- Market Retention and Expansion.

According to Harvest 2020's recommendations for future strategy in the dairy sector:

"Prospects for the dairy sector in the medium to long term are positive. Given projections for significantly increased demand, the abolition of EU milk quotas in 2015 presents a real opportunity for the Irish dairy sector, with a significant potential for increased milk production. The sector also possesses a significant cost advantage in the form of an environmentally sustainable rain fed grass based production system, which allows milk to be produced efficiently for much of the year.

However, for the sector to flourish at optimum level, efficiency gains will be crucial at primary and processing level, as, while prices are expected to rise, simultaneous increases in the costs of agricultural production are also projected. The achievement of a significant increase in milk output requires in the first instance a milk price level and farm cost structure that will provide viable farm incomes and sustain the family farm model. Effective measures at EU level to mitigate price/income volatility will also be important, while at a national level, the issues of land availability and optimum processing capacity will have to be addressed. On the basis of available data the Committee believes that a target of a 50 per cent increase in milk production by 2020 (using the average of the years 2007 to 2009 as a baseline) would be realistic and achievable, and that this will set the foundation for further expansion in subsequent years.

This 2.75 billion litre increase would enhance the primary output value of the sector by about €700 million with further downstream benefits in the form of increased dairy product values, export earnings and employment. The report recommendations are designed to support the realisation of this potential growth and to provide a sustainable return for competitive producers and processors."

Milk Processing Recommendations

- The processing industry must move towards a small number of scaled operators who have the scale and culture to drive efficiency and value added in line with key international competitors who have already achieved consolidation.

- The processing sector must ensure that processing capacity meets the expected increased milk supply post quotas.

- Given that indicative costings are believed to be in the region of €400m, the industry at all levels must engage on alternative options for financing the expansion in capacity to process anticipated volume growth, including investigating efficient solutions to the processing of milk during the period of peak seasonal milk supply.

1.5 Project Overview

Lakeland Dairies Bailieboro is proposing to build an extension to the existing facility. The development is described in the statutory notices as follows:

- An extension to the existing Dryer facility to contain a new Dryer Plant with a total floor area of 3,516m^2 on 5 floors with a total height above ground level of 40.00m.
- The new dryer building will incorporate a full height fire escape stairs and full height lift shaft.
- An extension to the existing Dryer building to contain 2 no. Evaporators with a total floor area of 1,325m^2 on 3 floors and occasional access platforms, with a total height above ground level of 31.27m.
- An extension to the existing milk powder silo area to incorporate new milk powder silos and milk powder handling with a total floor area of 387m^2 on 3 floors, with a total height above ground level of 24.21m.
- An extension to the existing Bagging Area to contain additional bagging area and electrical control panels with a total floor area of 170 m^2 on two floors, highest height above ground level of 10.96m.
- All associated local underground drainage and miscellaneous site works including a 480m^3 covered water tank.
- The external metal cladding of all new construction will match the existing colour and type of existing metal cladding.
- New additional car parking spaces
- New Security hut
- Revised Traffic Arrangements

There are two stages which have been assessed as part of this development, the site preparation and construction phase and the operational phase of the development. During the construction phase there will be all associated site works to facilitate construction. The proposed development is anticipated to be constructed over a 18 - 24 month period. Subject to a successful grant of planning, the works will commence in early 2015 (although the start date may be later depending on the final date of grant of permission and confirmation from the client to commence development works).

1.6 Timing of the Project

It is intended that the facility will be operational for peak milk production in April 2016 to accommodate the increased milk supply resulting from removal of milk quotas. In order to reach this target, the following schedule is proposed:

- The Planning Application and application for an IED licence are to be submitted to Cavan County Council in July 2014.
- If Planning Application successful an application for a new IED licence will be submitted to the EPA in October 2014.
- Construction work on the site is scheduled to run from October 2014 to April 2016.
- Commissioning is scheduled to start on all Utilities and processing in November 2015.
- The proposed facility is required to be fully commissioned and up and running for April 2016.

1.7 SCREENING FOR EIS

The proposed Lakeland Dairies Bailieboro extension to the existing facility at Lear, Bailieborough, Co. Cavan comes under the Fifth Schedule of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (SI No. 600 of 2001) which applies to:

"Part 2: 7 Food Industry: Installations for manufacture of dairy products, where the processing capacity would exceed 50 million gallons of milk equivalent per annum".

It is clear by reference to these provisions that the proposed development is of a nature and scale that exceeds the statutory threshold for which an Environmental Impact Statement is required. It is for this reason that a full EIS has been carried out in respect of the proposed development and is submitted with the planning application.

1.8 SCOPING FOR EIS

The information to be contained in the EIS was discussed with the Planning and Environmental departments of Cavan County Council in the course of a number of preplanning meetings. The content and scope of the Traffic and Transportation, Flora and Fauna, Noise, Landscape and Visual Impact chapters were also discussed with the relevant departments of Cavan County Council and prescribed bodies. Details of the preplanning discussions held with the relevant departments and prescribed bodies are outlined in detail in the relevant chapters. In addition to the planning process including the preparation of this EIS, the following permits/licences will also be required in due course in accordance with planning and environmental legislation and these include:

- Industrial Emissions Licence from the EPA – EPA Licence P0406-04
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Permit from the EPA – IE-GHG-015-10345-1

1.8.1 Notification and Consultation

Pre-application consultation is an informal means of ensuring that all relevant issues are addressed. Consultation offers the opportunity to gain advice from a wide range of state bodies, organization, individuals, local communities and interest groups on a formal and informal basis.

Public notification helps to avoid requests for additional information at a late stage in the process, tests acceptability of residual impacts and mitigation proposals, and helps to discover interactions or conflicts which may not have been evident in the earlier scoping stage. Early, open and constructive engagement allows concerns to be incorporated into the design process.

1.8.2 Consultation with Agencies

The content of the EIS was discussed with the planning authority of Cavan County Council. The site is subject to the Cavan County Development Plan and the Bailieborough Local Area plan.

The following are some of the bodies which were consulted in the preparation of this EIS and the Planning. A full list of all agencies consulted is outlined in the Appendices of the EIS Application:

- Cavan County Council;
  - Planning Department,
  - Roads and Traffic Department,
  - Water Services,
  - Environmental Department,
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- Department of Environment Community and Local Government;
- The Office of Public Works;
- An Taste;
- Geological Survey of Ireland;
- The Heritage Council;
- Bird Watch Ireland;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht;
- Bat Conservation Ireland;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS);
- The Irish Wildlife Trust;
- Cavan County Development Board;
- An Board Pleanala;
- Waterways Ireland Headquarters;
- Inland Fisheries Ireland;
- The Institute of Geologists of Ireland.

1.8.3 Public Consultation

A meeting with local residents was held where Kathryn O' Flynn from Lakeland Dairies gave a presentation in relation to the proposed development. Topics including noise, air, landscape and visual, traffic, waste water treatment, and employment levels. Invitees were:

- Bailieborough Regeneration Group - Kevin Smith
- Bailieborough Development Association - The Secretary
- Bailieborough Community Alert - Niamh Smyth
- Bailieborough Shamrocks GAA CLUB - The Secretary

1.8.4 EIS Specialist Consultants Process

In carrying out this EIS, a number of specialist consultants were retained to carry out surveys and impact assessments. These consultants are outlined in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1: Specialist Consultants

EIS Section	Area of Expertise	Company
Introduction Proposed Development Alternatives Considered Human Environment Soils, Geology & Hydrogeology Noise & Vibration Water Waste Management Material Assets Interaction Between Environmental Factors	Leading Environmental Specialists	Traynor Environmental Ltd.
Study Consultant / Address		
Mr Nevin Trayynor *BSc. Env, H.Dip I.T, Cert SHWW, EPA/FAS Cert.* of Traynor Environmental Ltd **Add:** Belturbet Business Park, Creeny, Belturbet, Co. Cavan **Tel :** (087) 412724 **Email:** noreen.mcloughlin@gmail.com **Web:** www.traynorenvironmental.com		

EIS Section	Area of Expertise	Company
Landscape & Visual Assessment	Architectural Services	Michael Fitzpatrick Architects Ltd.
Study Consultant / Address		
Mr. Michael Fitzpatrick *BA(Hons) Arch, Dip Arch.* MRIAI, of Michael Fitzpatrick Architects Ltd. **Add:** Clones Road, Butlersbridge, Co Cavan **Tel :** 049 4365800 / 086 6039689 **Email:** info@mfarchitects.ie		

EIS Section	Area of Expertise	Company
Climate & Air Quality	Engineering and Environmental Consultants	awnconsulting
Study Consultant / Address		
Dr. Edward Porter - AWN Consulting Ltd. **Add:** The Tecpro Building, Clonshaugh Business Park, Dublin 17. **Tel :** (01) 1 847 4220		

EIS Section	Area of Expertise	Company
Water	Flood Risk Assessment	ENVIROLOGIC HYDROGEOLOGICAL · HYDROLOGICAL CONSULTING
Study Consultant / Address		
Dr. Colin O'Reilly BAgrSc PhD, of Envirologic Ltd **Add:** Cootehill, Co. Cavan. **Tel :** 087 2024695 / 01 8323004 **Email:** info@envirologic.ie		

EIS Section	Area of Expertise	Company
Flora & Fauna	BAT Survey	BAT ECO SERVICES
Study Consultant / Address		
Dr Tina Aughney of BAT Eco Services **Add:** Ulex House, Drumheel, Lisduff, Co. Cavan **Tel :** 086 4049468 **Email:** info@batecoservices.com		

EIS Section	Area of Expertise	Company
Services	Engineering	MDR MALONE O'REGAN
Study Consultant / Address		
Mr. Noel Dillon of Malon O' Regan **Add:** 2B Richview Office Park, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14. **Tel :** 01 2602655 **Email:** info@morce.ie		

EIS Section	Area of Expertise	Company
Flora and Fauna	Ecological Specialist, Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecology	Whitehill Environmental
Study Consultant / Address		
Ms. Noreen Mc Loughlin MSc. of Whitehill Environmental Ltd **Add:** Whitehill, Edgeworthstow Co. Longford **Tel :** (087) 412724 **Email:** noreen.mcloughlin@gmail.com		

EIS Section	Area of Expertise	Company
Cultural Heritage	Archaeology and Cultural	WOLFHOUND ARCHAEOLOGY Nationwide Archaeology and Heritage Consultancy Services
Study Consultant / Address		
Mr. Mick Drumm BA, MIAI Director of Archaeological Services Wolfhound Archaeology **Add:** Killag, Duncormick, Co. Wexford **Tel :** (087) 1689599 **Email:** wolfhoundarchaeology@gmail.com		

EIS Section	Area of Expertise	Company
Traffic & Transport	Traffic Transport and Road Safety Associates	RSTTA Traffic Transport and Road Safety Associates Ltd.
Study Consultant / Address		
Mr. Matt Steele of Traffic Transport and Road Safety Associates Ltd. **Add:** Barran, Blacklion, Co Cavan **Tel :** (089) 4209704 / 071 9853847 **Email:** info@ttrsa.com		

1.9 GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION/STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

1.9.1 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process for anticipating the potential environmental effects of a development. EIA requirements arise from the European Communities Directive 85/337/EEC, as amended, on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The approach adopted in the Directive is that EIA is mandatory for all projects listed in Annex I of the Directive, i.e. those which will always have significant environmental effects, while projects listed in Annex II of the Directive are determined on a case-by-case basis.

The EC Directive is implemented in Ireland by the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 to 2001. In addition to implementing the mandatory requirements of Annex I, these Regulations set thresholds for each of the project classes in Annex II. The Irish EIA system is implemented primarily through integration of the requirements into the land-use planning consent system.

Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, SI No. 600 of 2001, sets out a comprehensive list of project types and development thresholds that are subject to Environmental Impact Assessment. It has been determined that the proposed development falls within the scope of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 to 2001, and Part 10 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 2007.

Under the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (Schedule 5, Part 2, 7.2) and the EIA Regulations 1989 (as amended), the proposed development, being an 'Installation for manufacture of dairy products where the processing capacity exceeds 50 million gallons of milk equivalent per annum', requires an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The function of the EIS is to:

Establish the existing environmental characteristics of the proposed site;

- Provide details on the proposed development, its emissions and discharges;
- Predict the likely significant effect(s) of the development on the environment.

This EIA has taken into account the (Best Available Technology (BAT) Guidance Note for the Dairy Sector with regard to the environmental issues relevant to the sector, i.e.

- Water consumption;
- Volume of wastewater generated;
- Energy consumption, and
- Air emissions from drying operations.

The EIS will be submitted as part of the planning application in order to provide information to the local authority (Cavan County Council) on likely environmental impacts.

1.9.3 Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Regulations

The IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) was transposed into Irish law by the Protection of the Environment Act, 2003, and a system of IPPC licensing came into effect on July 12th 2004 which replaced Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) as the licensing regime applicable to certain industrial activities in Ireland.

Under the First Schedule of the EPA Act, 1992 (as amended), the proposed facility requires an Integrated Pollution Control (IPPC) licence under Class 7.2, 'the manufacture of dairy products where the processing capacity exceeds 50 million gallons of milk equivalent per year'. Additionally, the facility comes under the requirements of the EC Directive 96/61/EC Concerning Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, for an Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) licence.

Granting of the IPPC Licence is not normally required before commencement of construction, but is needed before commencement of any discharge, including during commissioning.

Lakeland Dairies will apply to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for an IPPC/IED licence prior to commencement of operation of the extension subject to planning permission granted by Cavan County Council. The EPA BAT (Best Available Technology) Guidance Note for the Dairy Sector and the EC BAT Reference Document (BREF) for the Food, Drink and Dairy Industry will be referred to during the detailed design of this expansion and during the licence application process.

1.9.4 Appropriate Assessment and Natura Impact Statement

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) are designated under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Relevant legislation requires the protection of certain habitats (listed on Annex I of the Directive) and/ or species (listed on Annex II). Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). This allows for the protection of areas containing protected species (listed on Annex I of the Directive), regularly occurring populations of migratory species (such as ducks, geese or waders), or areas of international importance for migratory birds.
One of the requirements of the relevant legislation offering protection to cSAC and SPA sites, requires that all developments must be assessed for their potential to impact on the integrity of these sites prior to granting consent, and that furthermore if this assessment cannot rule out a likelihood of such impact then the development must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment as part of the consent process.

In accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, a list of Natura 2000 sites within 10km of the proposed development have been identified and described according to their site synopsis, qualifying interests and conservation objectives. These guidelines give a recommended distance of 15 km for plans whilst the distance between Natura 2000 sites and proposed projects can be much less.

There are no Natura 2000 sites within 10 Km of the proposed development. However, the proposed development affects a water body which eventually becomes a Natura 2000 site. A screening report for Appropriate Assessment was carried out by Whitehill Environmental Ltd. The screening report focussed on two Natura 2000 sites (one site with two designations), i.e., the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (SAC 002299) and SPA (004232). At the closest direct point,

these sites are approximately 16.5 km south of Lakeland Dairies Co-operative Society Limited (Bailieboro), however a more accurate measurement of distance is the downstream distance along the river and this is 26km.

Following the statement of Screening for Appropriate Assessment, it was concluded that the proposed development will have no impact upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites and therefore a full Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement) is not necessary.

1.9.5 Trade Effluent Discharge Licence

Lakeland Dairies site at Lear, Bailieborough Co. Cavan does not require a trade effluent discharge licence as the discharge of effluent to their on-site WWTP will be subject to the requirements of the site's IED licence.

1.9.2 COMAH (Seveso) Regulations

EU Directive 96/82/EC on the control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances (Serveso II Directive) came into force in 1997 and has been implemented into Irish law under EC (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances) Reulations, 2000, S.I. 476 of 2000. These regulations were updated to S.I. 74 of 2006. The EU directive will be replaced in 2014 by the Seveso III Directive. Under current regulations, the proposed development is not classified as a Seveso site, and therefore the Seveso II regulations do not apply to this site.

1.9.6 Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)

The European Commission has recently recast a number of existing Directives, covering emissions from industrial operations, into a new Directive on Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) (Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control), also termed the IED. This new Directive incorporates substantial elements from, and changes to, existing Directives on:

- Integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC);
- Limitations on VOC emissions from use of organic solvents (Solvents Directive);
- Emissions from large combustion plants (≥50MWth);
- Waste incineration and waste co-incineration plants;
- Waste from the titanium dioxide industry.

The range of industrial activities requiring permits (e.g. IPPC and waste licences) has been expanded slightly in the IED but the descriptions and thresholds for the vast majority of licensable activities are unchanged. However, Waste Management activities that are subject to permitting are now set out in much more detail. There will be no activities at the proposed facility for which a waste licence would be required. Most of the provisions of the new Directive are to be brought into force by Member States by January 2013, with the remaining provisions to be enforced by January 2016.

The new Directive contains special provisions for large combustion plants with a total rated thermal input of ≥50 MW, irrespective of the type of fuel used. Most of the emission limit values are the same as those in the exiting Directive 2001/80/EC, but there are changes in emission limit values for SO_2, NO_x and dust, with reduced values coming into force for new plants from January 2013. There is also the option for Member States to apply minimum rates of desulphurisation in special circumstances, and the Commission will, by end of 2019, review the possibility of applying minimum rates of desulphurisation taking into account BAT and the benefits obtained from reduced sulphur dioxide emissions. The proposed facility will have a maximum rated thermal input of 40 MW and thus will be exempt from this requirement. The role of the Competent Authority (the EPA in Ireland) in licensing and enforcement is set out in more detail in the IED. One of new requirements is that within 4 years of the publication of decisions on BAT conclusions relating to a particular activity, the Competent Authority must ensure that all the permit conditions for the installations concerned are reconsidered and, if necessary, updated. This could lead to an increased frequency of licence reviews. There is an increased emphasis on the protection of soil and groundwater, and on the requirements on licensed operators to protect and remediate soil and groundwater at the time of site closure.

Lakeland Dairies Bailieboro was granted a new Industrial Emissions Licence on 18th July 2014. The licence was granted in accordance with Regulation 37 of the EPA (Industrial Emissions) (Licensing) Regulations 2013.

1.9.7 Large Combustion Plants Directive

Directive 2001/80/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on the Limitation of Emissions of Certain Pollutants into the Air from Large Combustion Plants, known as the Large Combustion Plants Directive, was transposed into Irish Law through the Large Combustion Plants Regulations 2003. These Regulations specify emission limits for emissions of sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and dust from large combustion plant with a rated thermal input equal to or greater than 50 MW.

1.9.8 Greenhouse Gas Permitting

Directive 2003/87/EC establishes a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community in order to promote reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in a cost-effective and economically efficient manner. Lakeland Dairies Bailieboro have an existing greenhouse gas permit issued by the EPA Licence No. IE-GHG015-10345-1.

1.9.9 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is a legally enforced assessment procedure required by Directive 2001/42/EC (known as the SEA Directive). The SEA Directive aims at introducing systematic assessment of the environmental effects of strategic land use related plans and programs. It typically applies to regional and local, development, waste and transport plans, within the European Union. Some plans, such as finance and budget plans or civil defence plans are exempt from the SEA Directive. It also only applies to plans that are required by law, which interestingly excludes national government's plans and programs, as their plans are 'voluntary', whereas local and regional governments are usually required to prepare theirs.

1.9.10 Existing Planning Permissions and EISs

The lands upon which the development is proposed to be sited are currently in the ownership of Lakeland Dairies Ltd. There is no current planning permission or EIS for development on the subject lands.

1.9.11 Fire Safety Certification

In accordance with the Building Regulations 1997 – 2012, a Fire Safety Certificate is required in respect of all buildings, with the exception of houses and certain agricultural buildings, and also for material changes of use and certain alterations and extensions to buildings. A Fire Safety Certificate reference number is required for the Commencement Notice, and construction of the development cannot start until the certificate has been received.

The Fire Safety Certificate application for the proposed development will be submitted to Cavan County Council at a future date when sufficient detailed design has been completed. Fire Certificate Approval is anticipated from Cavan County Council two months from the date of application.

1.10 Methodology - EIS Structure

This EIS takes into account the provisions of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001- 2012. Schedule 6 of these Regulations sets out

1. *"Information to be contained in an Environmental Impact Statement"* which includes as follows: -

(a) A description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design and size of the proposed development.

(b) A description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse impacts.

(c) The data required to identify and assess the main effects which the proposed development is likely to have on the environment.

(d) An outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for his/her choice, taking into account the environmental effects.

2. *Further information by way of explanation or amplification of the information referred to in paragraph 1, on the following matters: -*

(a) (i) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;

(ii) a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used;

(iii) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (including water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation) resulting from the operation of the proposed development;

(b) a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development, including in particular:

- *human beings, fauna and flora,*
- *soil, water, air, climatic factors and the landscape,*
- *material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, and the cultural heritage,*
- *the inter-relationship between the above factors;*

(c) a description of the likely significant effects (including direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative) of the proposed development on the environment resulting from:

- *the existence of the proposed development*
- *the use of natural resources,*
- *the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances, and the elimination of waste and a description of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment:*

(d) an indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the developer in compiling the required information".

In addition this EIS has been prepared having regard to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines on Environmental Impact Statements outlined in *"Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"* and also *"Advice Notes on Current Practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements"*, published in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

A schematic structure is proposed in this EIS in order to provide a coherent documentation of the varied aspects of the environment considered. This EIS has been prepared according to the Grouped Format Structure as outlined in the EPA's Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2002). The EIS is divided into 15 chapters as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Description of Project
- Chapter 3: Alternatives Considered

Chapters 4 – 15 deal with topics including those set out in the Second Schedule of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999 (S.I. No 93 of 1999) as follows:

- Chapter 4: Human Environment
- Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual
- Chapter 6: Roads and Traffic
- Chapter 7: Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology
- Chapter 8: Flora and Fauna
- Chapter 9: Noise

- Chapter 10: Water
- Chapter 11: Air Quality
- Chapter 12: Waste Management
- Chapter 13: Material Assets
- Chapter 14: Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 15: Interaction between environmental Factors.

The Subsections of each chapter are outlined below:

1) **Introduction**

A brief overview of what aspect of the environment is being considered and details of the author of the chapter.

2) **Methodology**

Details of how the Environment has been assessed and relevant descriptive standards.

3) **Description of the Receiving Environment**

A description of the specific environment into which the proposed development will fit, taking account of other developments likely to occur. The particular aspects of the environment are discussed in terms of their context, character, significance and sensitivity.

4) **Characteristics of the Proposed Development**

A projection of the specific impacts on the particular aspects of the environment, which the proposal would be likely to generate.

5) **Potential Impacts**

The potential impact of the proposal comprises a general description of the possible types of impacts which proposals of this kind would be likely to produce before proposed mitigation measures become fully effective.

6) **Mitigation Measures**

A description of any specific remedial or reductive measures considered necessary and practicable resulting from the assessment of potential impacts described above.

7) **Predicted Impacts with Mitigation**

A description of the final or intended impact is what occurs after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect as planned.

8) **The "Do-Nothing" Scenario**

All components of the environment are constantly changing due to a combination of natural and human processes.

When predicting likely impacts, it is important to remember that there are two baselines available for comparison: the existing environment and the environment as it would be in the future if no management or development of any kind were to take place.

9) **The "Worst-Case" Scenario**

Where the failure of the project or its mitigation measures, could lead directly to profound, irreversible or life threatening consequences, then this scenario is described.

10) **Monitoring**

A description of any post development monitoring of effects on the environment which might be necessary, covering the monitoring methods, and the agencies responsible for their implementation.

1.11 References

- *Environmental Protection Agency (2002) Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements*
- *Environmental Protection Agency (2003) Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements.*
- *The European Communities Environmental Impact Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 1999,SI No 93 of 1999*
- *Planning and Development Regulations 2001, S.I. No. 600 of 2001.*
- *www.bingmaps.com*