



APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR TIER II RISK ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC LANDFILL AT OLDCASTLE, CO. MEATH

CLIENT: MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

JULY 2013



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Abstract: This document comprises an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the unauthorised Oldcastle Town Landfill, County Meath. Appropriate Assessment is required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive for any project or plan that may give rise to significant impact(s) upon a Natura 2000 site. This assessment follows the methodological guidelines set out in the document 'Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites' (2001) and 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities' issued by the DoEHLG in December 2009.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 BRIEF INTRODUCTION	1
1.2 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS	1
2 OBJECTIVES OF APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT	3
2.1 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	3
2.2 SCREENING METHODOLOGY.....	3
3 STAGE ONE SCREENING	5
3.1 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE	5
3.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURA 2000 SITES	5
3.3 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	10
4 REFERENCES	11

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 3.1: LOCATION OF OLDCASTLE TOWN LANDFILL IN RELATION TO THE NATURA 2000 SITES WITHIN 10 KM	7
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LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 3.1: SUMMARY OF THE NATURA 2000 SITES WITHIN 10 KM OF OLDCASTLE TOWN LANDFILL	8
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Brief Introduction

Meath County Council is required to identify and risk assess all closed landfills within its functional area, as required under the Waste Management (Certificate of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008. Fehily Timoney & Company (FTC) has been appointed by the Council to carry out a Tier II Risk Assessment of Oldcastle Town Landfill in County Meath in accordance with the EPA *Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites*.

In tandem with the Tier II risk assessment, an Appropriate Assessment of Oldcastle Town Landfill must also be made by Meath County Council. Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required under Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). It is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed plan or project, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, on one or more Natura 2000 sites (Special Protection Areas (SPA) for birds, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for habitats and species).

Screening is the first stage of the AA process, in which the likely impacts of a project or plan on a Natura 2000 site are assessed, and whether or not they are significant. If likely significant impacts are identified then the second stage of the process, and production of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is carried out. The NIS considers the impact of a project or plan on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site and on its conservation objectives, and where necessary, draws up mitigation measures to avoid impacts.

The Oldcastle site is located within the village of Oldcastle, County Meath and is 0.9 ha in size. Interviews suggested that the site had been used as a waste landfill from the mid 1960's until possibly the early 1980's. It has been restored with soil and grass seeded and Meath County Council has constructed an access road through the site to a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

A Tier I investigation was completed by Meath County Council in 2007. The Tier I conceptual model for the site has classified it as Class C – 'low risk'.

Oldcastle Town Landfill is situated within 10 km of five Natura 2000 sites:

- Lough Bane & Lough Glass SAC (002120) – 8 km to the south
- White Lough, Ben Loughs & Lough Doo SAC – 7 km to the south
- River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC (002299) – 8 km to the east
- Moneybeg & Clareisland Bog SAC (002340) – 9 km to the west
- Lough Sheelin SPA (004065) – 9 km to the west

This AA Screening Report assesses the likely impacts of the Oldcastle site on these Natura 2000 sites and draws a conclusion as to whether Stage 2 of the Appropriate Assessment process should be carried out. The information contained in this report will be used by the competent authority, Meath County Council, in carrying out Appropriate Assessment of the site.

1.2 Legislative Requirements

Appropriate Assessment is a requirement of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, also known as the Habitats Directive which states:

6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the sites conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national 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.

6(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

The statutory agency responsible for Natura 2000 sites is the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG). The European Court of Justice, on December 13 2007, issued a judgement in a legal case against Ireland that found Ireland had failed in its statutory duty to confer adequate protection on designated areas. In December 2009 "Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government" was published. This guidance document was prepared jointly by the NPWS and Planning Divisions of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), now DAHG, with input from local authorities.

The Habitats Directive formed a basis for the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Similarly, Special Protection Areas are legislated for under the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds). Collectively, SACs and SPAs are referred to as Natura 2000 sites. In general terms, they are considered to be of exceptional importance in terms of rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats and species within the European Community.

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2 OBJECTIVES OF APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

1. The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures to be addressed in the AA process.
2. Firstly, a project should aim to avoid any negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites by identifying possible impacts early in the project, and should design the project in order to avoid such impacts.
3. Secondly, mitigation measures should be applied during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain.
4. Under a worst-case scenario, a project may have to undergo an assessment of alternative solutions. Under this stage of the assessment, compensatory measures are required for any remaining adverse effects, but they are permitted only if (a) there are no alternative solutions and (b) the project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (the 'IROPI test'). European case law highlights that consideration must be given to alternatives outside the project area in carrying out the IROPI test. It is a rigorous test which projects are generally considered unlikely to pass.

2.1 Appropriate Assessment Methodology

There are 4 stages in an Appropriate Assessment as outlined in the European Commission Guidance document (2001). The following is a brief summary of these steps.

Stage 1 - Screening: This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in combination with other projects upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant.

Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment: In this stage, a Natura Impact Statement is prepared, in which the impact of the project on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site is considered with respect to the conservation objectives of the site and to its structure and function.

Stage 3 - Assessment of Alternative Solutions: Should the Appropriate Assessment determine that adverse impacts are likely upon a Natura 2000 site, this stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid these adverse impacts.

Stage 4 - Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain: Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the Natura site will be necessary.

In the preparation of this assessment, therefore regard has been given to the Habitats Directive and the European Communities (birds and natural habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. no. 477 of 2011) and with reference to the relevant guidance, in particular:

- *Assessment of Plans and Projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites:* Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission 2001.
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites:* The Provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC, European Commission, 2000.
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities.* National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin 2009.

2.2 Screening Methodology

The first step in the screening process is to describe the project or plan and to develop a 'long list' of Natura 2000 sites potentially affected by the project. Each Natura 2000 site is reviewed to establish whether or not the project is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of the site, as defined by its structure and function, and its conservation objectives.

The qualifying interests of each Natura 2000 are identified and the potential threats are summarised into the following categories for the screening process, and described within the screening matrix:

Direct impacts refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from land-take requirements for development or agricultural purposes. Direct impacts can be as a result of a change in land use or management, such as the removal of agricultural practices that prevent scrub encroachment.

Indirect and secondary impacts do not have a straight-line route between cause and effect, and it is potentially more challenging to ensure that all the possible indirect impacts of the plan – in combination with other plans and projects - have been established. These can arise when a development alters the hydrology of a catchment area, which in turn affects the movement of groundwater to a site, and the qualifying interests that rely on the maintenance of water levels. Deterioration in water quality can occur as an indirect consequence of development, which in turn changes the aquatic environment and reduces its capacity to support certain plants and animals. The introduction of invasive species can also be defined as an indirect impact, which results in increased movement of vectors (humans, fauna, surface water), and consequently the transfer of alien species from one area to another.

Disturbance to fauna can arise directly through the loss of habitat (e.g. bat roosts) or indirectly through noise, vibration and increased activity associated with construction and operation.

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3 STAGE ONE SCREENING

3.1 Brief Description of the Site

The Oldcastle site is located within the village of Oldcastle, County Meath. Interviews suggested that the site had been used as a waste landfill from the mid 1960's until the possibly the early 1980's, though there is still evidence of landfilling/fly-tipping at the site.

The site is 0.9 ha in size and contains primarily scrub with randomly maturely seeded willow growing in places, and rushes in parts. The site is not grazed by livestock. The site is bordered to the east by a row of houses, and to the north by a scrub area with a number of vegetated spoil heaps believed to be the clearance from a nearby housing development. Lands to the south and west are primarily agricultural land of low value. To the far south west of the site there is a WWTP for the village. Meath County Council has constructed a road through the southern end of the site for access to the WWTP.

There is no open watercourse or drainage ditches evident on or around the site. The site drains via infiltration to lands to the southwest. These lands in turn drain south to the Upper Inny River which flows in a northwesterly direction to Lough Sheelin. The Upper Inny River is a tributary of the Upper River Shannon.

A Tier I investigation was completed by Meath County Council in 2007, which classified it as Class C – 'low risk'.

A Tier II assessment was subsequently conducted which included the excavation of trial pits, to provide an assessment of the extent and quality of waste buried at the site and to determine if the soil surrounding the waste was contaminated. This assessment would indicate that the infilled waste is C&D type waste i.e. predominantly inert, with a low biodegradable fraction and/or small industrial waste fraction, classifying the site as a Class C – 'low risk'. This site is therefore not considered to pose a significant risk to the environment or human health.

3.2 Brief Description of the Natura 2000 Sites

There are six Natura 2000 sites within 10 km of Oldcastle Town Landfill (see Figure 3.1). Four of these are SACs and two are SPAs:

- Lough Bane & Lough Glass SAC (002120) – 8 km to the south
- White Lough, Ben Loughs & Lough Doo SAC – 7 km to the south
- River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC (002299) – 8 km to the east
- River Boyne & River Blackwater SPA (004232) – 8.5 km to the east
- Moneybeg & Clareisland Bog SAC (002340) – 9 km to the west
- Lough Sheelin SPA (004065) – 9 km to the west

The White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC is the closest Natura 2000 site to the Oldcastle site, lying some 7 km to the south. This site is of considerable conservation significance for its four hard water lakes and for the occurrence of White-clawed Crayfish.

Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC is 8 km to the south and comprises three lakes situated in a shallow valley. This is a fine example of a hard water marl lake system with good *Chara* (stonewort) communities. This is an important habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

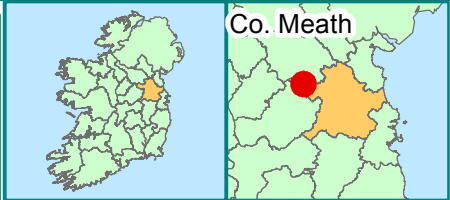
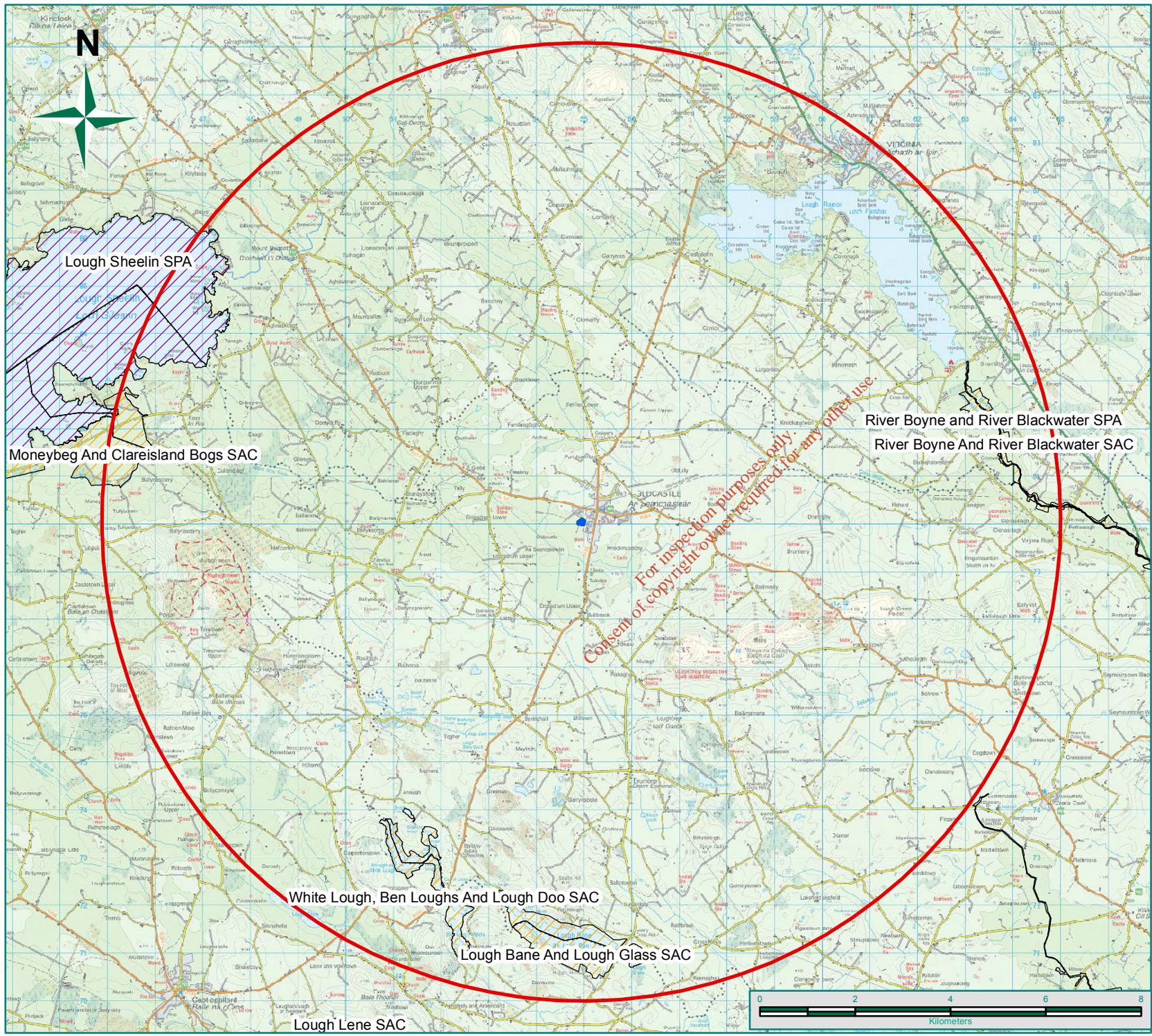
The upper reaches of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC rise to the east and southeast of the Oldcastle site, at a distance of approximately 8 km away. This site comprises the freshwater element of the River Boyne as far as the Boyne Aqueduct, the Blackwater as far as Lough Ramor and the Boyne tributaries including the Deel, Stoneyford and TremblesTown Rivers. These riverine stretches drain a considerable area of Meath and Westmeath and smaller areas of Cavan and Louth. The site is an SAC selected for alkaline fen and alluvial woodlands, both 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 – Atlantic Salmon, Otter and River Lamprey.

The River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA overlies much of the SAC and is of special conservation interest for Kingfisher.

Moneybeg and Clareisland Bogs SAC lie 9 km to the west of the Oldcastle site. This SAC is selected for active raised bog, degraded raised bog and *Rhynchosporion*, habitats that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The southern part of Lough Sheelin SPA borders this SAC. Lough Sheelin SPA is a medium- to large-sized lake, which lies near the top of the catchment of the Inny River. It is a nationally important site for four species of wintering wildfowl and is one of the main Midlands lakes sites for wintering birds.

Table 3.1 summarises the characteristics of each of the Natura 2000 sites, and the qualifying features for which the sites are designated. Figure 3.1 shows the location of these sites in relation to the Oldcastle site. The full site synopses for the Natura 2000 sites are available on www.npws.ie.

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Legend

- Oldcastle Town Landfill
- 10km Buffer Of Site
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Special Protection Areas

Date 08/04/2013

Name Of Client
Meath County Council

Name Of Job
Tier II Risk Assessment
for Oldcastle Town Landfill, Co. Meath

Title Of Figure
Location of Oldcastle Town
Landfill in relation to the
Natura 2000 sites within 10 km

Scale Used 1 : 110,000 @ A4

Figure No. 3.1	Rev B
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Table 3.1: Summary of the Natura 2000 sites within 10 km of Oldcastle Town Landfill

Designated Site	Site Code	Qualifying features	Conservation objectives	Threats	Distance from site (km)
White Lough, Ben Lough & Lough Doo SAC	001810	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140] 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Attempts at agricultural improvement, which have already occurred on a small scale, are the main threat to this site. Recurrence of crayfish plague could have serious impact on the population of that species.	7 km to the south
Lough Bane & Lough Glass SAC	002120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140] 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	The site is vulnerable to eutrophication, mainly by run-off from surrounding agricultural fields. Some afforestation is occurring near the site - should this increase, water quality could be affected. Increased use of lake for boating could cause physical damage to <i>Chara</i> communities.	8 km to the south
River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC	002299	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099] Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355] Alkaline fens [7230] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Main threats to the ecological interests of this site are further drainage schemes and water pollution. A reduction in the input of pollutants to the system is required to preserve the important aquatic interests in this site.	8 km to the east and southeast

Designated Site	Site Code	Qualifying features	Conservation objectives	Threats	Distance from site (km)
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	004232	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229] 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	There are no known threats.	8.5 km to the east
Moneybeg and Claireisland Bogs SAC	002340	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150] 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	The main threats to the site are peat-cutting and associated activities such as drainage and burning. It must be noted however that the intensity of such damages appears to be relatively low at present in comparison to many other Irish raised bog sites. Agricultural reclamation and afforestation are potential threats to cutover areas of bog within the site.	9 km to the west
Lough Sheelin SPA	004065	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) [A059] Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067] Wetlands & Waterbirds [A999] 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.	The lake is still considered to be vulnerable to pollution and there is a need to reduce the phosphorus inputs to the feeder streams entering the lake. Recreational and wildfowling activities currently cause some disturbance to the birds and any increase in such activities would be of concern.	9 km to the west

3.3 Assessment Criteria

3.3.1 Description of the likely impact of the project on the Natura 2000 sites

The Oldcastle site is some 7 km away from the nearest Natura 2000 site (White Lough, Ben Lough and Lough Doo SAC to the south) and thus does not have a direct impact on the size and scale of any Natura 2000 site or result in any land-take from a Natura 2000 site. There are no excavation or resource requirements from any Natura 2000 sites as a result of the landfill. There are no direct emissions from the Oldcastle site to any Natura 2000 site.

The main element of Oldcastle site that could potentially indirectly impact on the Natura 2000 sites within 10 km would be contamination of surface water and groundwater from leachate that may arise from the waste deposited at the Oldcastle site. However, given the nature of the material, mainly C&D type waste (i.e. predominantly inert, with a low biodegradable fraction and/or small industrial waste), this is unlikely. In addition, drainage from the site is hydrologically linked only to Lough Sheelin SPA, and Moneybeg and Clareisland Bog SAC, and given their considerable distance downstream and the classification of the Oldcastle site as 'low risk', potential impacts are considered low. The remaining Natura 2000 sites do not have a direct hydrological link with the Oldcastle site and therefore there is no potential for any impacts on water quality.

Thus the infill material at the Oldcastle site is not significantly impacting on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, and there are no impacts on the key relationships that define the structure and function of any Natura 2000 site. Any potential impacts from the Oldcastle site on the Natura 2000 sites are screened out at Stage 1. A Natura Impact Statement, or Stage 2 of the Appropriate Assessment process, is not required.

3.3.2 Cumulative impacts

The Oldcastle WWTP is situated to the south of the Oldcastle site (EPA Envision maps, www.epa.ie). It discharges via an unnamed stream to the Upper River Inny. This plant was granted a Waste Water Discharge Licence from the EPA in 2011, and meets the requirements of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007. The Inspectors Report noted the need to reduce phosphorus inputs to feeder streams entering Lough Sheelin SPA, and set limits on total phosphorus loadings from the current treatment plant. It also required the licensee to have ongoing reviews of phosphorus loadings. There are plans for a new WWTP to be situated to the southwest of the current plant.

There is one licensed IPPC facility in the Town of Oldcastle (Gleneagle Woodcrafts Ltd.). This was licensed in 2001 and did not have any emissions or discharges of trade effluent to waters associated with operation of the activity. It is not known if this site is still operational.

There are no planning applications for industrial or other significant developments in the vicinity of the Landfill (Meath County Council Planning website: <http://www.meath.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning>).

As the WWTP and Oldcastle site are not currently impacting on water quality in the Upper River Inny, there will be no cumulative impacts site on any Natura 2000 site.

3.3.3 The likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole

There are no impacts on the key relationships that define the structure and function of Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC, White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC, River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC, River Boyne & River Blackwater SPA, Moneybeg & Clareisland Bog SAC or Lough Sheelin SPA as a result of the Oldcastle site.

A 'Finding of No Significant Effects Report' has been completed and is included in Appendix 1 of this Screening Report.

4 REFERENCES

DoEHLG, 2009. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, 2009 (now Department of Environment, Community and Local Government).

EPA, 2007. Code of Practice – Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites. Published by the Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland.

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

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

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APPENDIX 1

Finding of No Significant Effects Report

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Finding of no Significant Effects Report

<p><i>Name and location of the Natura 2000 sites</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lough Bane & Lough Glass SAC (002120) – 8 km to the south of Oldcastle Town Landfill • White Lough, Ben Loughs & Lough Doo SAC – 7 km to the south of Oldcastle Town Landfill • River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC (002299) – 8 km to the east of Oldcastle Town Landfill • River Boyne & River Blackwater SPA (004232) – 8.5 km to the east of Oldcastle Town Landfill • Moneybeg & Clareisland Bog SAC (002340) – 9 km to the west of Oldcastle Town Landfill • Lough Sheelin SPA (004065) – 9 km to the west of Oldcastle Town Landfill
<p><i>Description of the project or plan</i></p>	<p>Oldcastle Town Landfill is located within the village of Oldcastle, County Meath. Interviews suggested that the site had been used as a waste Landfill from the mid 1960's until the possibly the early 1980's. Though there is still evidence of landfilling/fly-tipping at the site.</p> <p>The site is 0.9 ha in size and contains primarily scrub with randomly maturely seeded willow growing in places, and rushes in parts. The site is not grazed by livestock.</p> <p>There is no open water course or drainage ditches evident on or around the site. The site seems to drain via infiltration to lands to the southwest.</p> <p>A Tier II assessment was conducted by FTC. This assessment would indicate that the in filled waste is best described as C&D type waste i.e. predominantly inert, with a low biodegradable fraction and/or small industrial waste. The results of the Tier 2 assessment indicate that the site is a Class C - low risk.</p>
<p><i>Is the Project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><i>Are there other projects or plans that together with the project of plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<h3>The Assessment of Significant Effects</h3>	
<p><i>Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site</i></p>	<p>The main element of the Oldcastle site that could potentially indirectly impact on the Natura 2000 sites within 10 km would be contamination of surface water and groundwater from leachate from the waste body in the landfill. Contaminated surface or groundwater could eventually enter the aquatic systems in a Natura 2000 site and have a negative impact on aquatic habitats and species, and the qualifying features of the sites.</p> <p>However, given the nature of the material, mainly C&D type waste (i.e. predominantly inert, with a low biodegradable fraction and/or small industrial waste), this is unlikely.</p>

The Assessment of Significant Effects

Explain why these effects are not considered significant

Drainage from the site leads only to Lough Sheelin SPA, and Moneybeg & Clareisland Bog SAC, which are both 9 km (direct line measurement) to the west of the Landfill. Both sites are at a downstream distance of approximately 11 km from the Landfill. The remaining Natura 2000 sites: Lough Bane & Lough Glass SAC, River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC and SPA, White Lough, Ben Loughs & Lough Doo SAC could not be indirectly impacted by Oldcastle Town Landfill as it does not drain into any of these sites.

The results of the Tier II risk assessment carried out by FTC indicate that the site is a Class C - low risk. Thus, it is not considered that the landfill is impacting on surface water quality in this stretch of the river. For this reason, it is not likely that the Landfill is significantly impacting on water quality in Lough Sheelin SPA (or in any watercourses in Moneybeg & Clareisland Bog SAC). In addition, these sites are at a downstream distance of approximately 11 km from the Oldcastle site, which is a significant distance in terms of dilution of potential contaminants in surface or groundwater.

Name of Agency or Body Consulted		Summary of Response	
DAU/NPWS – consulted on 04.04.2013		Response received on 27.05.2013 - no comments were made.	
Data Collected to Carry out the Assessment			
Who carried out the assessment	Sources of Data	Level of assessment completed	Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed
This assessment was completed by Fehily Timoney and Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier II risk assessment carried out by FTC. Tier I risk assessment carried out by Meath County Council. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) map viewer and site synopsis www.npws.ie EPS Envision maps (www.epa.ie) Meath County Council Planning website: http://www.meath.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning. 	Stage One Screening for Appropriate Assessment	Meath County Council

Overall conclusions

Any potential impacts from Oldcastle Town Landfill on Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC, White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC, River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC, River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA, Moneybeg and Clareisland Bog SAC or Lough Sheelin SPA have been screened out at Stage 1 of the AA process. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) is not required.