

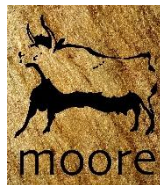
# Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening

as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive  
(Council Directive 92/43/EEC)

## Indaver Ireland Carranstown Proposed Application for Retention of Waste Acceptance Limit

Prepared by: Moore Group – Environmental Services

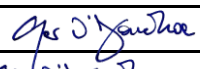
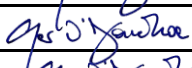
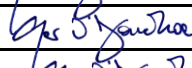
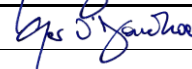
10<sup>th</sup> December 2018



On behalf of Indaver Ireland

|                          |                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project Proponent</b> | Indaver Ireland                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Project</b>           | Indaver Ireland Carranstown<br>Proposed Application for Retention of Waste Acceptance Limit                                                                |
| <b>Title</b>             | Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening<br>Indaver Ireland Carranstown<br>Proposed Application for Retention of Waste Acceptance Limit |

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| <b>Moore Archaeological and Environmental Services Limited</b> |                          |                                                                                                   |                                         |

## Table of Contents

|                                                                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1. Introduction .....</b>                                                        | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1. General Introduction.....                                                      | 1         |
| 1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives .....               | 2         |
| <b>2. Methodology.....</b>                                                          | <b>3</b>  |
| 2.1. Guidance .....                                                                 | 3         |
| 2.2. Data Sources .....                                                             | 4         |
| <b>3. Description of the Project.....</b>                                           | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites .....</b>                                 | <b>8</b>  |
| 4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Affected .....                         | 8         |
| 4.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites .....                          | 11        |
| <b>5. Identification of Potential Impacts &amp; Assessment of Significance.....</b> | <b>11</b> |
| 5.1. Potential Impacts .....                                                        | 11        |
| 5.2. Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects.....                            | 12        |
| <b>6. Conclusion.....</b>                                                           | <b>13</b> |
| <b>7. References .....</b>                                                          | <b>14</b> |

### Appendix A – Finding of No Significant Effects Report

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. General Introduction

This report contains information required for the competent authority to undertake screening for the Appropriate Assessment (AA) process on the potential for proposed retention of the waste acceptance limit of 235,000 tonnes beyond 2019 at the Indaver Ireland Waste Management Facility at Carranstown, Co. Meath (hereafter referred to as the Project), to significantly affect European sites.

Screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3):

- i) whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site, and
- ii) whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain, or the screening process becomes overly complicated, then the process must proceed to Stage 2 (AA). Screening should be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation. If potential impacts clearly can be avoided through the modification or redesign of the plan or project, then the screening process is repeated on the altered plan or project.

When screening the project, there are two possible outcomes:

- the project poses no risk of a significant effect and as such requires no further assessment; and
- the project has potential to have a significant effect (or this is uncertain) and AA of the project is necessary.

This report has been prepared by Moore Group - Environmental Services for Indaver Ireland and An Bord Pleanála and assesses the potential for the Project to impact on sites of European-scale ecological importance in accordance with Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. The report was compiled by Ger O'Donohoe (B.Sc. Applied Aquatic Sciences (GMIT, 1993) & M.Sc. Environmental Sciences (TCD, 1999)) who has over 20 years' experience in environmental impact assessment and has completed numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements on terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

The report assesses the potential for the Project to impact on sites of European-scale ecological importance. It is necessary that the Project has regard to Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (referred to as the Habitats Directive). This is transposed into Irish Law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (referred to as the Habitats Regulations).

## 1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives

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 European Union (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 EU context.

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC), is concerned with the long-term protection and management of all wild bird species and their habitats in the EU. Among other things, the Directive requires 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.

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. These sites are also referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirements for an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (Appropriate Assessment (AA)):

**Article 6(3):** *“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In 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.”*

**Article 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 a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the 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 the beneficial*

*consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”*

## 2. Methodology

The Commission’s methodological guidance (EC, 2002) promotes a four-stage process to complete the AA and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

Stages 1-2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3). Stage 3 may be part of Article 6(3) or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

**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, there is a consideration of the impact of the project with a view to ascertain whether there will be any adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are predicted impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

**Stage 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions:** This stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid any adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

**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 sites will be necessary.

To ensure that the Project complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Moore Group compiled this report to inform the screening for AA of the Project to be undertaken by the competent authority to determine if the next stage (Stage 2) of AA is required.

### 2.1. Guidance

This report has been compiled in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 rev.).

- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- 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 Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article Guidance Document.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018).

## 2.2. Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites, and the environment within which they are located, are listed below:

- The following mapping and GIS data sources, as required:
  - NPWS protected site boundary data;
  - Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography;
  - OSI/EPA rivers and streams, and catchments;
  - Open Street Maps;
  - Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM);
  - Google Earth and Bing aerial photography 1995-2018;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) including: the Natura 2000 network Data Form; Site Synopsis; Generic Conservation Objective data;
  - Online database of rare, threatened and protected species;
  - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets.
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013); and
- Relevant Development Plans and Local Area Plans in neighbouring areas.

### 3. Description of the Project

This report presents a screening assessment on the effects of the proposed application for a retention of the waste acceptance limit of 235,000 tonnes beyond 2019 at the Indaver Ireland Waste Management Facility at Carranstown, Co. Meath (Figure 1).

An assessment of impacts on water quality has previously been undertaken in the EIA submitted with previous planning and the environmental report (2018). Much of the site is paved. Storage and transport routes have a closed drainage system which ultimately discharges to surface water through a class 1 interceptor system to an attenuation pond (with a shut off valve) located in the north west of the site. The stormwater discharges in compliance with EPA licence requirements. The discharge is monitored continuously for TOC, pH and conductivity and as outlined in the annual environmental report discharge quality has complied with licence requirements since operation commenced.

The current drainage system allows for the monitoring of the storm water discharge at two locations in order to prevent any uncontrolled water discharges from oil leakages, spillages etc. entering the watercourses. The parameters to be monitored and resultant trigger level limits including flow have been agreed with Meath County Council and the EPA. All storm water passes through a class 1 interceptor. After this the water meets the first monitoring point which is located prior to the attenuation pond. Should the storm water be below the set trigger levels the water enters the pond. There is a second monitoring point at the outfall of the pond and again the water must be within agreed trigger levels in order to be discharged. The discharges are checked daily by production staff.

If the water, at the first monitoring point is outside of agreed trigger levels, it is diverted to an underground storage (firewater) tank. At this point, the reason for the divert will be investigated. After the investigation, the water is either collected for disposal at an authorised facility or if the water was diverted because of technical error e.g. blocked filter, then the water is put back into the surface water network for testing again prior to entry to the pond.

Should the underground storage tank be full, the monitoring chamber will go into overflow mode and allow water to pass into the attenuation pond at the outfall of which it will be further sampled by a second monitoring chamber located prior to the outfall pumps. Should suspect water be detected at this monitoring chamber, the discharge pumps will shut down and the attenuation pond will be allowed to fill with no discharge. If water cannot be discharged it is disposed of to a licenced contractor.

The 'undeveloped' part of the site is drained naturally. Stormwater will continue to be collected by the existing system of field boundary ditches for ultimate outfall to the River Nanny. Similarly, infiltration trenches have been installed to intercept overland stormwater flow from the undeveloped areas before reaching any of the



proposed areas of roads and hardstanding. This intercepted flow is directed to the original field ditch boundary drainage system.

The site storm water drainage system has been designed in accordance with the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) principles. The storm water drainage system will collect rainwater from all roofs, hardstands, roads and grassed areas which fall naturally towards these areas. The total area (developed and undeveloped) amounts to approximately 5.2Ha. The attenuation storage requirements (including allowance for climate change) is 1063 m<sup>3</sup> and the capacity of the existing attenuation system of 2846 m<sup>3</sup>. The provision of the above system allows the maintenance of the current discharge characteristics to the ditches serving the site. This prevents downstream flooding due to “flash flooding” from the site and serves to add water to the ditch system in a similar manner as currently exists under agricultural usage.

Details of the site location are presented in Figures 1 and 2 and site layout in Figures 3.

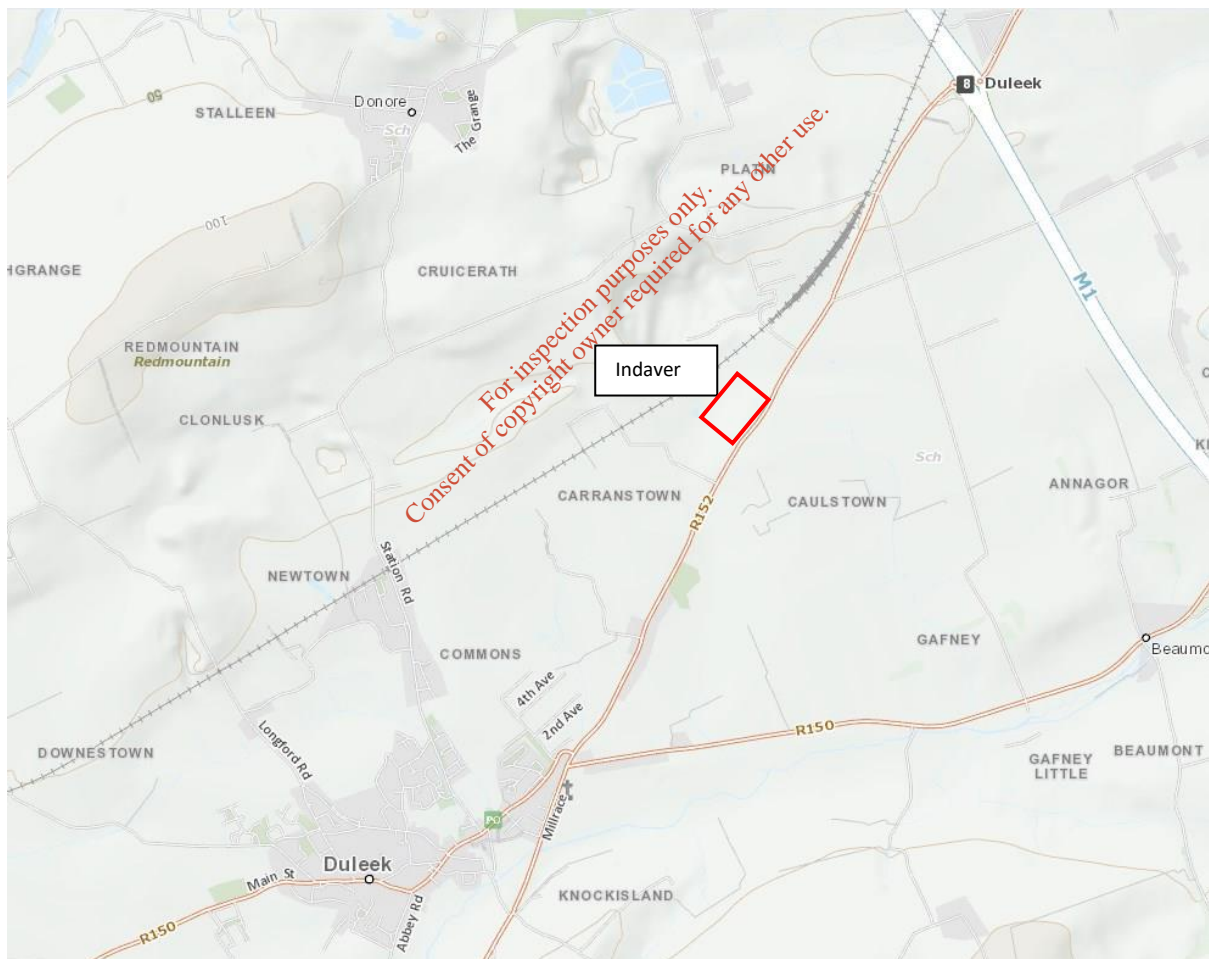


Figure 1. Showing the Project at Carranstown, County Meath.



*Figure 2. Showing the Project site on Google Earth aerial photography 12/10/2018.*

## 4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

### 4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Affected

Departmental guidance suggests an assessment of European sites within a zone of impact of 15 km. This distance is a guidance only and the zone of impact has been identified taking consideration of the nature and location of the Project to ensure all European sites with connectivity to it are considered in terms of a catchment-based assessment.

The zone of impact may be determined by connectivity to the Project in terms of:

- Nature, scale, timing and duration of works and possible impacts, nature and size of excavations, storage of materials, flat/sloping sites;
- Distance and nature of pathways (dilution and dispersion; intervening 'buffer' lands, roads etc.); and
- Sensitivity and location of ecological features.

European sites located within 15 km of the Project are presented in Table 1 and Figure 4.

*Table 1 European Sites located within the potential zone of impact of the Project.*

| Site Code | Site name                            | Direct Distance (km) |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 001957    | Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC          | 7.5                  |
| 002299    | River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC | 3.3                  |
| 004080    | Boyne Estuary SPA                    | 6.4                  |
| 004158    | River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA    | 8.4                  |
| 004232    | River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA | 3.4                  |

The project site has no hydrological connectivity and no relevant biological connectivity to the River Boyne to the north and therefore no relevant connectivity to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC & SPA or to the Boyne Estuary SAC and these sites are excluded at this preliminary screening stage, see Figure 3.

The site is located within the catchment of the River Nanny. The existing surface water design is a closed system which is collected in an attenuation pond which occasionally discharges to a semi-dry drainage ditch to the west. The drainage ditch leads to the Cruiserath Stream c. 130m further west and this leads to the River Nanny c. 2.2 km downstream. The River Nanny discharges to the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA c. 9.1 km downstream, see Figure 4.

The Project site operates a contained drainage system and stormwater is only be released into the main drainage network after local assessment confirms that there is no contamination. There is no direct pathway to a surface

water body from this site i.e. without attenuation and therefore there is highly unlikely that an adverse impact on surface water would occur.

Given the Project design which includes existing attenuation and monitoring with only occasional discharge to a semi-dry ditch and the distance of removal from the Project site to the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA, it can be stated with confidence that there would be no significant impact on this European site or on any other European site within the potential zone of impact of the Project.

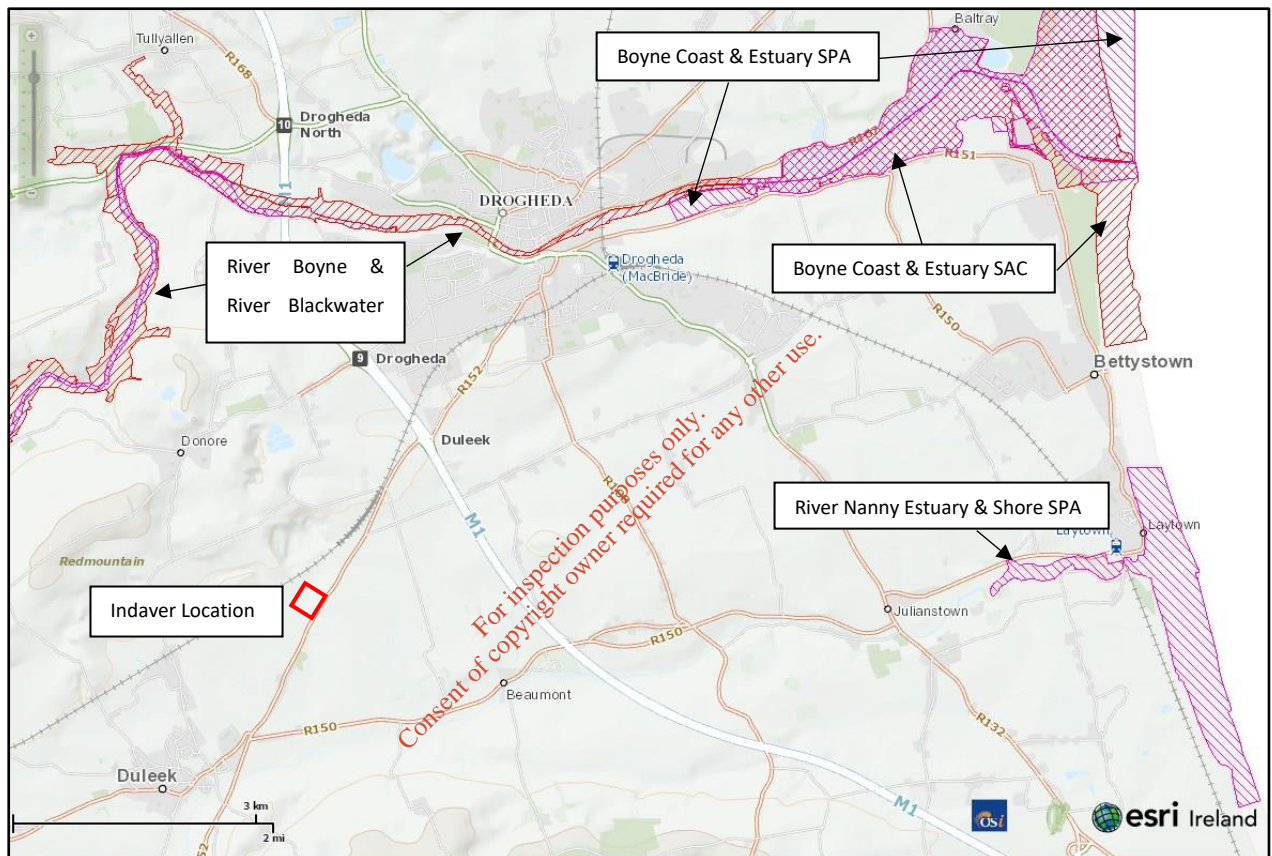


Figure 3. Showing European sites and NHAs/pNHAs in the vicinity of the Project.



Figure 4 Detailed view of the distance measured from the Cruiserath Stream to the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA.

## 4.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites

An analysis of the proposed Natural Heritage Areas and designated Natural Heritage Areas in terms of their role in supporting the species using Natura 2000 sites was undertaken. It was assumed that these supporting roles mainly related to mobile fauna such as mammals and birds which may use pNHAs and NHAs as “stepping stones” between Natura 2000 sites.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 place a high degree of importance on such non-Natura 2000 areas as features that connect the Natura 2000 network. Features such as ponds, woodlands and important hedgerows were taken into account during the rest of the AA process.

The following proposed NHAs are located in the vicinity of the proposed application:

- 001578 Duleek Commons c. 2.0 km SW
- 001804 King William’s Glen c. 5.8 km NW
- 001861 Dowth Wetland c. 3.8 km NW
- 001682 Boyne River Islands c. 4.6 km N

There is no relevant connectivity with these sites and there are no other conservation sites with biological connectivity to the subject site that would be affected by the proposed application.

- 000554 Laytown Dunes/Nanny Estuary c. 7.3 km E

This site is an integral part of the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA and is considered under the higher European conservation status as such.

## 5. Identification of Potential Impacts & Assessment of Significance

The Project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites considered in the assessment and therefore potential impacts must be identified and considered.

### 5.1. Potential Impacts

There would be no direct impacts and no habitat fragmentation in the Natura 2000 sites considered in this assessment. None of the qualifying habitats or species occur under the footprint of the proposed application. Having considered direct impacts and ruling them out, indirect impacts are then considered.

The Project site operates a contained drainage system and stormwater is only be released into the main drainage network after local assessment confirms that there is no contamination. There is no direct pathway to a surface water body from this site i.e. without attenuation and therefore there is highly unlikely that an adverse impact on surface water would occur.

Given the Project design which includes existing attenuation and monitoring with only occasional discharge to a semi-dry ditch and the distance of removal from the Project site to the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA, it can be stated with confidence that there would be no significant impact on this European site or on any other European site within the potential zone of impact of the Project.

The likely significant effects of the Project are presented in Table 2, both in isolation and potentially in combination with other plans and projects.

## 5.2. Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects

Cumulative impacts or effects are changes in the environment that result from numerous human-induced, small-scale alterations. Cumulative impacts can be thought of as occurring through two main pathways: first, through persistent additions or losses of the same materials or resource, and second, through the compounding effects as a result of the coming together of two or more effects.

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment in addition to the Project, other relevant plans and projects in the area must also be considered at this stage. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination effects of the proposed development with other such plans and projects on European sites.

A search of the Meath County Council Planning webpage revealed that there have been seven other planning applications in the past three years for the Carranstown area. Two of these applications refer to additional buildings on the Indaver site. Given the type of application proposed and no predicted impacts on flora and fauna, there are no predicted in-combination impacts.

The adjacent site at Platin Quarry was considered and given the type of application proposed on the subject site with no predicted impacts on flora and fauna, there are no predicted in-combination impacts.

The Meath County Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of influence of the project site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way, any in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the areas in which the site is located, would be avoided.

Any new applications for the project area will be initially assessed on a case by case basis by Meath County Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

*Table 2 Outlining the potential impacts in the absence of mitigation of the Project.*

| Site                                        | Potential Direct Impacts<br>e.g. Habitat Loss | Potential Indirect Impacts<br>e.g. alteration to hydrological regime | Surface or Groundwater Contamination | Disturbance to Protected Species<br>(Habitats Directive Annex II & IV) | Stage 2 AA Required |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 004158<br>River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA | No                                            | No                                                                   | No                                   | No                                                                     | No                  |

## 6. Conclusion

Were the Project to proceed, there would be no direct impact on the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA and so potential indirect impacts are then considered.

The Project site operates a contained drainage system and stormwater is only be released into the main drainage network after local assessment confirms that there is no contamination. There is no direct pathway to a surface water body from this site i.e. without attenuation and therefore there is highly unlikely that an adverse impact on surface water would occur.

Given the Project design which includes existing attenuation and monitoring with only occasional discharge to a semi-dry ditch and the distance of removal from the Project site to the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA, it can be stated with confidence that there would be no significant impact on this European site or on any other European site within the potential zone of impact of the Project.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The Project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Project, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.
3. It is possible to rule out likely significant impacts on any European sites considered in the assessment.
4. It is possible to conclude that there would be no significant effects, no potentially significant effects and no uncertain effects if the Project were to proceed.



It is the view of Moore Group Environmental Services that it is not necessary to undertake any further stage of the Appropriate Assessment process.

A finding of no significant effects report is presented in Appendix A in accordance with the EU Commission's methodological guidance (European Commission, 2001).

## 7. References

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (as amended February 2010).

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

European Commission Environment DG (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, Brussels.

European Commission (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 interests, compensatory measures, overall coherence and opinion of the Commission. European Commission, Brussels.

NPWS (2013) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

# Appendix A

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT

### Finding no significant effects report matrix

#### Name of project or plan

Indaver Ireland Carranstown Application for Retention of the Waste Acceptance Limit of 235,000 tonnes beyond 2019.

#### Name and location of the Natura 2000 site(s)

The project site has no hydrological connectivity and no relevant biological connectivity to the River Boyne to the north and therefore no relevant connectivity to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC & SPA or to the Boyne Estuary SAC and these sites are excluded at a preliminary screening stage.

The site is located within the catchment of the River Nanny. The existing surface water design is a closed system which is collected in an attenuation pond which occasionally discharges to a semi-dry drainage ditch to the west. The drainage ditch leads to the Cruiserath Stream c. 130m further west and this leads to the River Nanny c. 2.2 km downstream. The River Nanny discharges to the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA c. 9.1 km downstream.

#### Description of the project or plan

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Should the underground storage tank be full, the monitoring chamber will go into overflow mode and allow water to pass into the attenuation pond at the outfall of which it will be further sampled by a second monitoring chamber located prior to the outfall pumps. Should suspect water be detected at this monitoring chamber, the discharge pumps will shut down and the attenuation pond will be allowed to fill with no discharge. If water cannot be discharged it is disposed of to a licenced contractor.

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The site storm water drainage system has been designed in accordance with the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) principles. The storm water drainage system will collect rainwater from all roofs, hardstands, roads and grassed areas which fall naturally towards these areas. The total area (developed and undeveloped) amounts to approximately 5.2Ha. The attenuation storage requirements (including allowance for climate change) is 1063 m<sup>3</sup> and the capacity of the existing attenuation system of 2846 m<sup>3</sup>. The provision of the above system allows the maintenance of the current discharge characteristics to the ditches serving the site. This prevents downstream flooding due to "flash flooding" from the site and serves to add water to the ditch system in a similar manner as currently exists under agricultural usage.

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**Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site(s)**

No

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**Are there other projects or plans that together with the projects or plan being assessed could affect the site**

A search of the Meath County Council Planning webpage revealed that there have been seven other planning applications in the past three years for the Carranstown area. Two of these applications refer to additional buildings on the Indaver site. Given the type of application proposed and no predicted impacts on flora and fauna, there are no predicted in-combination impacts.

The adjacent site at Platin Quarry was considered and given the type of application proposed on the subject site with no predicted impacts on flora and fauna, there are no predicted in-combination impacts.

The Meath County Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same zone of influence of the project site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way, any in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the areas in which the site is located, would be avoided.

Any new applications for the project area will be initially assessed on a case by case basis by Meath County Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

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## THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

**Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site.**

There would be no direct impacts and no habitat fragmentation in the Natura 2000 sites considered in this assessment. None of the qualifying habitats or species occur under the footprint of the proposed application. Having considered direct impacts and ruling them out, indirect impacts are then considered.

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**Explain why these effects are not considered significant.**

The Project site operates a contained drainage system and stormwater is only be released into the main drainage network after local assessment confirms that there is no contamination. There is no direct pathway to a surface water body from this site i.e. without attenuation and therefore there is highly unlikely that an adverse impact on surface water would occur.

Given the Project design which includes existing attenuation and monitoring with only occasional discharge to a semi-dry ditch and the distance of removal from the Project site to the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA, it can be stated with confidence that there would be no significant impact on this European site or on any other European site within the potential zone of impact of the Project.

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**List of agencies consulted: provide contact name and telephone or e-mail address**

The requirement for Appropriate Assessment Screening was determined during informal consultation with Meath County Council.

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**Response to consultation**

The requirement for Appropriate Assessment Screening was determined during informal consultation with Meath County Council.

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## DATA COLLECTED TO CARRY OUT THE ASSESSMENT

### Who carried out the assessment

Moore Group Environmental Services.

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### Sources of data

NPWS database of designated sites at [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

National Biodiversity Data Centre database <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

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### Level of assessment completed

Desktop Assessment.

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### Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed

Meath County Council Planning Section.

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## OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

Were the Project to proceed, there would be no direct impact on the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA and so potential indirect impacts are then considered.

The Project site operates a contained drainage system and stormwater is only be released into the main drainage network after local assessment confirms that there is no contamination. There is no direct pathway to a surface water body from this site i.e. without attenuation and therefore there is highly unlikely that an adverse impact on surface water would occur.

Given the Project design which includes existing attenuation and monitoring with only occasional discharge to a semi-dry ditch and the distance of removal from the Project site to the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA, it can be stated with confidence that there would be no significant impact on this European site or on any other European site within the potential zone of impact of the Project.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The Project is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Project, alone or in combination with other projects, is not likely to have significant effects on the European sites considered in this assessment in view of their conservation objectives.
3. It is possible to rule out likely significant impacts on any European sites considered in the assessment.
4. It is possible to conclude that there would be no significant effects, no potentially significant effects and no uncertain effects if the Project were to proceed.

It is the view of Moore Group Environmental Services that it is not necessary to undertake any further stage of the Appropriate Assessment process.