



Submission

Submitter:	Dept of Comms, Climate Action & Env - Sp Bd(1)
Organisation Name:	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Submission Title:	Submission Dept of Communication, Climate Action and Environment
Submission Reference No.:	S006044
Submission Received:	20 April 2020

Application

Applicant:	Westland Horticulture Limited
Reg. No.:	P0914-01

See below for Submission details.

Attachments are displayed on the following page(s).

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Attachments: 20_81 EPA Licence Westland Horticulture.pdf

From: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@DCCAE.gov.ie>
Sent: 20 April 2020 15:30
To: Licensing Staff <licensing@epa.ie>
Cc: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@DCCAE.gov.ie>
Subject: Fw: EPA Notification – Licence Application/Review Received - P0914-01

Good afternoon,

Please see below and attached a reply from Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) a division of the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment to a request for submissions from the EPA for licence reference P0914-01. Please forward an acknowledgement of receipt to CorporateSupport.Unit@DCCAE.gov.ie at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

Enda Brady,

Corporate Support Unit,

Dept. of Communications, Climate Action and Environment,

01 678 2308

From: Emily Murray Farrugia
Sent: 20 April 2020 14:40
To: CorporateSupport.Unit
Subject: EPA Notification – Licence Application/Review Received - P0914-01

Dear Corporate Services

With respect to the urgent request for a response to the EPA

Industrial Emissions (IE) licence reference P0914-01, please find attached the response of Geological Survey Ireland.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Regards

Emily Murray Farrugia

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

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Environmental Licensing Programme
Office of Environmental Sustainability
Environmental Protection Agency
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
County Wexford
Y35 W821

20 April 2020

RE: EPA Correspondence Ref# LACT00005114 EIS/EIAR - Further Specified Body Notification.

Your Ref: P0914-01

Our Ref: 20/81

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) is the national earth science agency and has datasets on Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources and the Irish Seabed. These comprise maps, reports and extensive databases that include mineral occurrences, bedrock/mineral exploration groundwater/site investigation boreholes, karst features, wells and springs. Please see our [website](#) for data availability and we recommend using these various data sets, when undergoing the EIAR, planning and scoping processes. Geological Survey Ireland should be referenced to as such and should any data or geological maps be used, they should be attributed correctly to Geological Survey Ireland.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your correspondence which was received by Geological Survey Ireland on 17 April 2020. With respect to the submitted EIAR by OES Consulting on behalf of Westland Horticulture Ltd., Geological Survey Ireland would like to make the following comments.

Geoheritage

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs) to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Irish Geoheritage Programme (IGH) of GSI, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.

County Geological Sites (CGS), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan are now included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#). The audit for Co. Westmeath was completed in 2019. The full report details are available here [Report](#).

Geological Survey Ireland would like to draw your attention to the following CCGs.

There are two audited county geological sites in close proximity, to the north west and north east of the proposed Clonsura Harvesting area.

Firstly, Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough are located north west. Both have been studied extensively by the Lake Settlement Project of the Discovery Programme, which was funded by the Heritage Council, in the early 2000's. The lakes provide for good environmental information and Lough Kinale had previously been shown to have Mesolithic remains, and the lake has three fine crannogs within.



Full details of the report can be viewed here, [Report](#).

The next audited site to the North West of the proposed Clonsura harvesting area is the audited site of 'Finnea-Murrens Esker'. The esker ridge is a striking feature, standing proud of the flat landscape on which it was deposited. Intact portions crossing the main R394 road southeast of Finnea, and within Tonashammer Townland, are especially impressive. In both localities the esker is comprised of a raised, elevated ridge of sands and gravels. A full report can be downloaded here, [Report](#).

To the south of the second proposed harvesting area at Coole and again within close proximity is the audited county geological site of Lough Derravaragh.

The bedrock geology at and around Lough Derravaragh is all of Lower Carboniferous limestone, with the Derravaragh Cherts being a dominant formation across the site and the wider terrain to the northeast. The chert concentrations may have contributed to the resistance of the enclosing hills to erosion. The chert in this area is sometimes known as 'festoon' chert, comprising multiple concentric thin bands of chert rock. Its distinctive character is seen in many prehistoric tools found in archaeological excavations in the region. Specific minor excavations of individual beds of chert are found on the top of Knockeyon. These are believed to be from quarrying in the Mesolithic (9,000 to 5,000 years ago). Full report details can be found here, [Report](#).

Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)

Geological Survey Ireland is of the view that the sustainable development of our natural resources should be an integral part of all development plans from a national to regional to local level to ensure that the materials required for our society are available when required. Geological Survey Ireland highlights the consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process. Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our [Minerals section](#) of the website.

Groundwater

Groundwater is important as a source of drinking water, and it supports river flows, lake levels and ecosystems. It contains natural substances dissolved from the soils and rocks that it flows through, and can also be contaminated by human actions on the land surface. As a clean, but vulnerable, resource, groundwater needs to be understood, managed and protected. Through our [Groundwater Programme](#), Geological Survey Ireland provides advice and maps to members of the public, consultancies and public bodies about groundwater quality, quantity and distribution.

Geological Survey Ireland monitors groundwater nationwide by characterising aquifers, investigating karst landscapes and landforms and by helping to protect public and group scheme water supplies. With regard to Flood Risk Management, there is a need to identify areas for integrated constructed wetlands. We recommend using the GSI's National Aquifer and Recharge maps on our [Map viewer](#) to this end.

I hope that these comments are of assistance and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Emily Murray-Farrugia (EmilyMurray.Farrugia@dcaae.gov.ie) or my colleague, IGH Programme Lead, Dr. Clare Glanville (clare.glanville@dcaae.gov.ie)

Yours sincerely

Emily Murray Farrugia
Planning and Geoheritage Programmes