

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

09/06/2020

IW ref: LT0492

Re: Millstreet Waste Water Discharge Licence Review Application (D0332-02)

Uisce Éireann
Teach Colvill
24-26 Sráid Thalbóid
Baile Átha Cliath 1
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Éire

Irish Water
Colvill House
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Dear Inspector,

It has come to Irish Water's attention that the Planner's Report which was submitted as part of the licence review application was not the final Planner's Report which had been issued by Cork County Council as part of the Millstreet upgrade planning permission. For completeness, please find attached (attachment 1) a copy of the final Planner's Report as required by Section B.13 of the licence review application form.

For completeness, please also find attached (attachment 2) a copy of the Appropriate Assessment carried out by Cork County Council in respect of the Millstreet upgrade.

Yours sincerely,



Niall Horgan

Environmental Regulation

Attachment 1: Final Planner's Report

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PLANNER'S REPORT
FURTHER INFORMATION ASSESSMENT

APPLICATION NO.	04490/17
APPLICANT	Irish Water
DESCRIPTION	The upgrading/replacement and extending of the existing waste water treatment plant and installation of a new outfall pipe. The upgrading/replacement includes the extending of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) from a capacity of 1,600 population equivalents to 2,210 population equivalents. The development includes the construction of a control building, extended access road, improvements to gates and fencing, new preliminary treatment works (including screening, grit removal and storm water storage), new secondary treatment tanks, chemical dosing tanks, sludge handling facilities and tanks, pipework, mechanical and electrical plant, landscaping and associated ancillary works at the site. A new underground treated effluent outfall pipeline to the River Finnow, approximately 1.3km to the North West of the existing plant, laid along Station Road (L1115). The demolition/disposal of the existing settlement tanks, sludge beds and tanks, control building, chemical storage and reinstatement of the area is to be included in the development. The existing oxidation ditch will be retained for future use. A Natura Impact Statement will be submitted as part of this planning application.
LOCATION	Millstreet Waste Water Treatment Plant Station Road (Drominahilla and Coomlogane) Millstreet Co. Cork
DUE DATE	22/11/2017

Response to R/L received.

EO Report

The EO outlines the applicant has responded to the Planning Authority's concerns that the volumetric discharge at the consented emission limit values (WWDL D0332-01) could result in deterioration from "high" status to "good" status, and revised expected flow.

EO outlines discharging at 1.2 DWF (0.014m³/sec) should see existing status/water quality maintained.

In concluding the EO outlines they have no objection to a grant of permission on environmental grounds subject to conditions.

Heritage Office Report

HO outlines there is no objection to permission being granted with the attachment of a condition. HO recommends conditions as per previous report.

Contributions

Proposed control building 64.77 sq m - Existing control building 12.6 sq m = 52.17 sq m
X 16.32 e = 851.41 e

Conclusion

The relevant CDP and LAP policies are noted and also of note is Section 3.2.20 of the 2011 LAP which outlines that *'the waste water treatment plant in Millstreet is at capacity and the Water Services Investment Programme 2010-12 / Assessment of Needs 2009 has identified the need to augment treatment capacity. However work is not scheduled to commence until post 2012. This lack of capacity at the treatment plant is likely to be a significant impediment to development at least during the early phase of the lifespan of*

this plan'. Also of note are sections 3.4.28 and 3.4.29 and policy objective MS – GO-02 of the 2017 LAP.

Given the details submitted and the siting and location of the proposed upgrade site at and adjacent to the existing facility which is zoned as an existing built up area in the LAP, it is considered that the upgrade development can be accommodated at this location from a policy viewpoint. The location of the proposed pipeline which utilises the L-1115 is also noted.

The reports and recommendations of the EO and HO as outlined are noted. Taking into account the above, previous reports, the information submitted, the existing development and history onsite, the stated requirement for the proposed development and that the proposed development will enable the upgrade of the existing WWTP to meet Millstreets current and additional loading and capacity requirements and will lead to a removal of a significant infrastructural impediment to development within the town, that the accommodation of additional loading will reduce the risk of odours, that the development will lead to an improvement in local water quality in the Tanyard stream, and taking into account the nature of the proposal and the relevant CDP and LAP policies applicable and the objectives of the LAP & the internal reports and recommendations, it is considered that the proposed development can be accommodated at this location.

Permission is recommended subject to the outlined conditions.

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Conclusion

Grant

Conditions/Reasons

No.	Condition	Reason
1	The proposed development shall be carried out in accordance with plans	In the interests of clarity.

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	and particulars lodged with the Planning Authority on 3/3/17, as amended on 13/4/17, 31/5/17, 18/10/17 & 26/10/17, including the recommendations contained in the Natura Impact Statement, save where amended by the terms and conditions herein.	
2	All mitigation measures set out in the Natura Impact Statement shall be implemented in full to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.	In the interest of clarity, and to safeguard the amenities and heritage of the area.
3	<p>A final CEMP shall be submitted for approval by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development. The CEMP shall be based on the Outline CEMP submitted with the planning documentation, and shall include details of all measures to be implemented on site to provide for the protection of water quality as set out in the NIS and shall also include details of any measures required to control and manage invasive alien species within the site. Prevention and control measures shall be outlined on site layout plans. The CEMP shall also be revised to detail a summary of mitigation measures as outlined in the Planning and Environment Report.</p> <p>The plan shall include programmes for environmental and ecological monitoring and supervision. The plan shall be prepared to accord with recognised standard best practice - CIRIA Guidance No C532 - Control of Water Pollution From Construction Sites. All works on site shall be implemented in accordance with the final agreed plan.</p>	In the interests of ensuring the protection of water quality in the receiving environment.
4	All mitigation measures (Appendix A1 "Environmental Measures", Outline CEMP) shall be incorporated into a contract CEMP, and fully implemented in accordance with any and all	To prevent water pollution

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	agreements/recommendations with or by Inland Fisheries Ireland.	
5	<p>Prior to any construction work (including site clearance, grading, well boring, levelling etc.) at the proposed development site, appropriate surface water management controls shall be in place to prevent the discharge of sediment contaminated water to adjacent water courses.</p> <p>Unvegetated slopes shall be temporarily scarified during construction to minimise runoff velocities.</p> <p>Controls shall be inspected daily and maintained regularly, and achieve a discharge standard of less than 25mg/l suspended solids.</p>	To prevent water pollution
6	The site shall be landscaped and planted in accordance with the scheme submitted. Planting shall be carried out in the first planting season following completion of the upgrade to the WWTP.	In the interests of visual amenity.
7	The existing sight lines currently available at the existing entrances shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Council	To provide proper sight distance for emerging traffic in the interests of road safety
8	Any damage to the public road or footpath during the construction of the proposed development by machinery or otherwise, the repairs of same shall be carried out by the developer to the satisfaction of Cork County Council.	In the interests of orderly development
9	Any part of the public road interfered with during the proposed works shall be resurfaced by the developer to the satisfaction of Cork County Council.	In the interests of orderly development.
10	All vehicles removing or delivering materials to the site shall comply with the relevant weight restrictions.	In the interest of orderly development.
11	During demolition and construction the wheels of all trucks shall be washed prior to their exit from the site in a wheel wash facility. Details of the construction, installation and operation of this facility shall be	To safeguard the amenities of the area

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	agreed in writing with the Planning Authority prior to commencement of any development.	
12	No dust, mud or debris from the site shall be carried onto or deposited on the public road/footpath. Public roads and footpaths in the vicinity of the site shall be maintained in a tidy condition by the developer during the construction phase.	To protect the amenities of the area and in the interests of road safety.
13	The developer shall clean any spillages on the public roads arising from the development, as the need arises or when requested to do so by the Planning Authority.	In the interests of traffic safety.
14	<p>Before development commences the applicant's contractor shall apply to the Council for a road opening licence. The following documents are to be submitted with the road opening licence:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Management Plan incorporating a traffic signage layout plan in accordance with the revised chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual • A Safety Statement and risk assessment • Road closure details. • Insurances and appropriate fee. 	In the interests of orderly development.
15	Surface water shall not be permitted to flow onto the public road from the site.	To prevent the flooding of the public road.
16	Existing inlets or drains taking surface water from the public road into the site shall be preserved and maintained.	To prevent flooding of the public road.
17	The developer shall consult with the County Council in regard to any proposed off site disposal of excavated soil or other construction and demolition waste and shall submit details of proposed disposal sites prior to commencement of construction activities on site. This plan shall inter alia, include the information recommended in sections 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 of the document titled "Best Practise Guidelines on the preparation of	In the interests of orderly development and to prevent unauthorised dumping.

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	<p>Waste Management Plans for Construction and Development projects" published by the Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government in September 2004.</p> <p>Recyclable materials will be segregated and made available for recovery where possible.</p>	
18	<p>There shall be no interfering with bridging, piping, draining, or culverting of any watercourse, its banks or bankside vegetation to facilitate the development without the prior approval of the Planning Authority.</p>	<p>To safeguard the amenities, prevent pollution and/or erosion.</p>
19	<p>Any and all demolition and/or tree felling work shall only be carried out in the period from September to February (inclusive). Prior to demolition or felling, a bat survey shall be carried out by a bat specialist, in respect of ascertaining the presence, if any, of bats or bat habitats within the structure or tree.</p> <p>Should any bats or bat habitat be found, NPWS shall be notified and appropriate mitigation (removal/roost replacement) measures implemented in accordance with their guidelines and under licence. No demolition or felling shall take place without this survey.</p>	<p>In the interests of sustainable and orderly development, and to protect endangered species.</p>
20	<p>Noise levels emanating from the proposed development when measured at Noise Sensitive Locations shall not exceed:</p> <p>55dBA (30 minute LAR) between 0700 and 1900 hours 50dBA (30 minute LAR) between 1900 and 2300 hours 45dBA (15 minute Leq) between 2300 and 0700 hours</p> <p>All sound measurements shall be carried out in accordance with ISO Recommendations R 1996 - "Acoustics-Description and Measurement of Environmental</p>	<p>In the interest of protecting amenities</p>

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	<p>Noise”</p> <p>Noise Sensitive Location : Any dwelling house, hotel or hostel, health building, educational establishment, places of worship or entertainment, or any other facility or area of high amenity which for its proper enjoyment requires the absence of noise at nuisance levels.</p>	
21	<p>The site layout and plans for the proposed development shall be amended in the following respects:-</p> <p>a) details of trench backfill and bedding with a nominal depth of cover of 1m for the pipe shall be submitted, b) the proposed layout at outfall at Finnow Bridge drawing shall be revised to detail the existing bridge profile, c) the location of the overflow downstream location shall be clearly outlined, d) the site layout plan shall be revised to detail all power lines onsite and, before any development commences, or, at the discretion of the Planning Authority, within such further period or periods of time as it may nominate in writing, revised drawings at relevant scales making provision for the above requirements shall be submitted to and agreed with the Planning Authority.</p>	<p>In the interests of proper planning.</p>



David Ryan
01/11/2017

Attachment 2: Cork County Council's Appropriate Assessment Report

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ECOLOGIST - FURTHER INFORMATION RESPONSE

APPLICATION NO.	17/04490
APPLICANT	Irish Water
DESCRIPTION	The upgrading/replacement and extending of the existing waste water treatment plant and installation of a new outfall pipe. The upgrading/replacement includes the extending of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) from a capacity of 1,600 population equivalents to 2,210 population equivalents. The development includes the construction of a control building, extended access road, improvements to gates and fencing, new preliminary treatment works (including screening, grit removal and storm water storage), new secondary treatment tanks, chemical dosing tanks, sludge handling facilities and tanks, pipework, mechanical and electrical plant, landscaping and associated ancillary works at the site. A new underground treated effluent outfall pipeline to the River Finnow, approximately 1.3km to the North West of the existing plant, laid along Station Road (L1115). The demolition/disposal of the existing settlement tanks, sludge beds and tanks, control building, chemical storage and reinstatement of the area is to be included in the development. The existing oxidation ditch will be retained for future use. A Natura Impact Statement will be submitted as part of this planning application.
LOCATION	Millstreet Waste Water Treatment Plant Station Road (Drominahilla and Coomlogane) Millstreet Co. Cork
DECISION DUE DATE	25/07/2017

Assessment

This report relates to an application by Irish water to upgrade / replace and extend the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Millstreet, and to install a new outfall pipe discharging to the Finnow River at Finnow Bridge, just west of its confluence with the main channel of the Blackwater River. The planning application was deferred for further information in April 2017 and the applicants responded in May. I did not report on the initial file due to pressure of other work. The following constitutes the **Appropriate Assessment Report** of the Planning Authority in respect of the application. Regard has been had in the completion of the assessment to the original application documents including the Natura Impact Statement, Planning and Environment Report and Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan, as well as to the material submitted by way of further information, the reports of other professional officers and to the submissions which have been made in respect of the proposal.

Project Details

In summary and as per planning documents, the project comprises of the following:

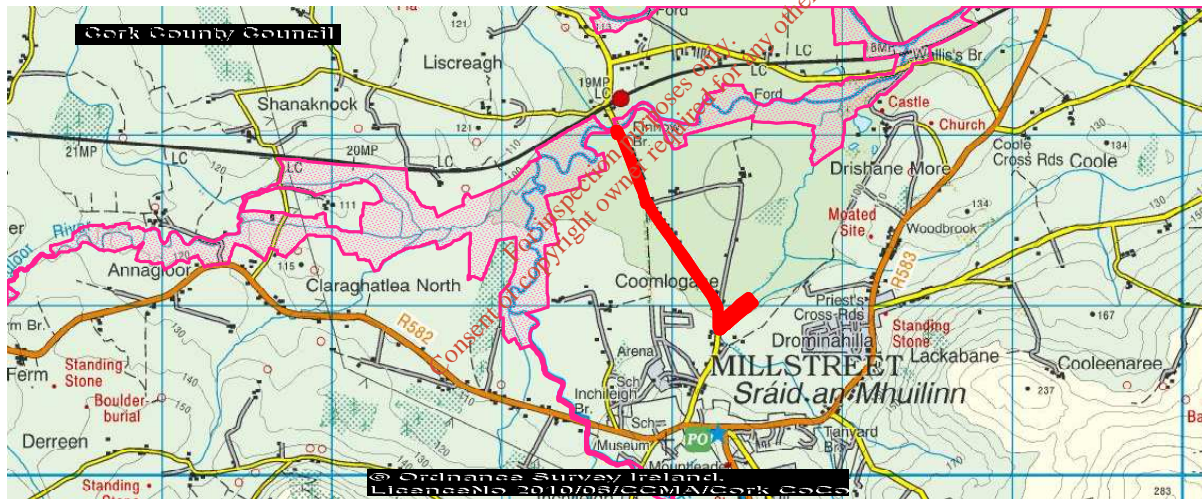
Upgrade of the public WWTP for Millstreet, to provide for secondary treatment with chemical dosing (nutrient removal), increased design capacity (from 1,600 PE to 2,210 PE) and a new effluent discharge point which requires the installation of a new effluent outfall pipeline to the River Finnow approximately 1.3km North West of the existing plant. The upgrade will require the extension of existing buildings at the existing WWTP and will also require the demolition and disposal of existing settlement tanks, sludge beds and tanks, control building, chemical storage and reinstatement of the area. Surface water is to be discharged to the local storm water outfall, while surface water from the area to be used by sludge tankers is to be directed into a sump connecting into the treatment plant itself. Existing storm water overflow pipes are to be connected to the preliminary treatment works at the WWTP and a new stormwater overflow chamber is to be constructed. A description of the physical works is included in the Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan which has been submitted. This

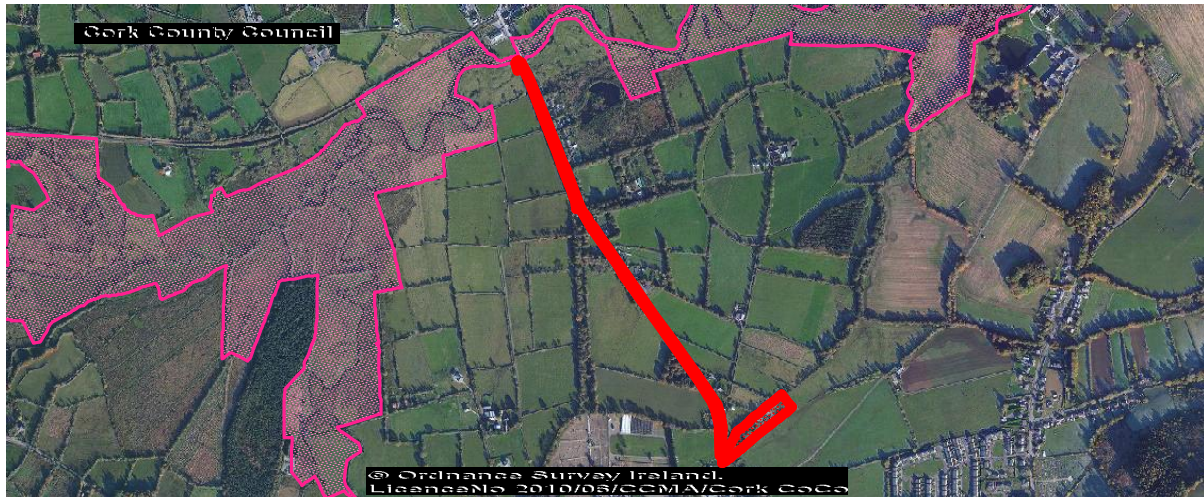
document also includes details of environmental measures to be implemented during the works phase which are designed to prevent water pollution in particular during the construction phase.

Site Details

The works are to take place on the site of the existing WWTP located at Station Road, Millstreet. The project will require the construction of a new outfall pipeline extending northwards along the L1115 to the Finnow Bridge and a new discharge outfall to the Finnow River at the Finnow Bridge. Treated effluent from the WWTP is currently discharged to the Tanyard Stream which is located on the northern boundary of the WWTP site and which flows north to meet the Finnow River south and west of Wallis’s Bridge just before its confluence with the Blackwater. The Tanyard Stream does not have assimilative capacity to accept current effluent loadings. It is stated in the planning documents, that the Finnow River has sufficient assimilative capacity to accept the new proposed discharge.

The WWTP site is described in the NIS to comprise built land and managed areas of amenity grassland. The site is bounded to the north by the Tanyard Stream and currently treated effluent discharges directly to this stream. The site is identified not to be within a flood risk area. The proposed new pipeline is to be installed under local road L115. The outfall is to the Finnow River which forms part of the **Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation**. The creation of the new outfall will require instream works and some disturbance along the tree lined river bank.





Natura 2000 Sites Which Could be Impacted By the Development

The proposed project is directly linked to and requires works within the Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation (2170). Other Natura 2000 sites located within 15km of the proposed project are

- St. Gobnet's Wood SAC (106)
- Killarney National Park, , Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (0365)
- Mullaghanish Bog SAC 1890
- Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, Mount Eagle Bog and West Limerick Hills SPA (4161)
- Mullaghanish to Musheramore SPA (4162)

No physical, hydrological or other ecological connectivity is identified between the project site and these sites, accordingly, potential for the development to give rise to negative impacts on same is screened out. The focus of the submitted NIS is solely on possible impacts of what is proposed on the Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation.

The NIS provides a general description of the SAC and lists its qualifying features which are as follows:

- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]
- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]
- Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]

- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]
- **Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]**
- *Austropotamobius pallipes* (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]
- **Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]**
- **Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]**
- **Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099]**
- *Alosa fallax fallax* (Twaite Shad) [1103]
- **Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]**
- **Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]**
- *Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney Fern) [1421]

The focus of the NIS is on freshwater habitats and species for which the SAC has been designated and which are known to occur in the Finnow River. These are highlighted in bold above.

Possible risk of impact on the freshwater habitat *Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation* was screened out in the NIS on the basis of survey work, as the habitat was not recorded in the area of the outfall.

Possible risks of impact on estuarine habitats (estuaries, mudflats, vegetated stony banks and salt marsh habitats) and species (Twaite Shad), for which the SAC is designated, were screened out on the basis of distance of the estuary from Millstreet.

Possible risks of impact on White-clawed Crayfish were screened out on the basis of lack of connectivity to the Awbeg River where this species is known to occur.

Possible risks of impact on woodland habitats (Alluvial woodland, Oak woodland and Yew Woodland and on the Killarney Fern) were screened out on the basis of lack of any connectivity between the works site and areas of the SAC where these habitats and species are known to occur.

The Conservation Objectives which apply to those habitats and species for which the SAC is designated and which are known to occur within the potential impact zone of the WWTP are as follows:

Freshwater Pearl Mussel	Restore favourable conservation condition*
Sea Lamprey	Restore favourable conservation condition
Brook Lamprey	Maintain favourable conservation condition
River Lamprey	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Salmon	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Otter	Maintain favourable conservation condition

*All of these species are known to occur in the Finnow River and/or in the Blackwater River downstream of the effluent discharge point. In relation to the Lamprey species, Salmon and Otter the Conservation Objectives apply to the receiving waters downstream of the discharge point. In relation to Freshwater

Pearl Mussel, the NPWS informed Cork County Council of its intention to alter the Conservation Objective for this species, so that it applies in the Allow River upstream of Kanturk only (Feb 2016). While this alteration has not been effected to date, Cork County Council is operating on the understanding that the Conservation Objective for Freshwater Pearl Mussel no longer applies in the main channel of the Blackwater at this point.

Attributes and targets which define favourable conservation condition of each of these features are included in the NPWS publication – Conservation Objectives, Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation, Version 1.0 (31 July 2012). In summary, the minimum water quality standards required to be met to protect fish species listed above for which Conservation Objectives apply in this portion of the SAC (Lamprey and Salmon) is **Q4 – Good Status**. It is also required to maintain a stable hydrological regime, open river channels and to protect the natural extent and quality of riverbed habitats with low levels of sediment and algal and macrophyte growth, to ensure compatibility with Conservation Objectives which apply to the above listed species. The protection of high water quality standards, freshwater habitats and fish populations, and relatively undisturbed riparian habitat is required to ensure that the Otter population in the river is protected.

Current water quality standards in the Finnow River upstream of the proposed discharge point are understood to be reaching **Q5 High Status**. Water quality in the section of the river downstream of the discharge point is given to be reaching **Q4 Good Status** (Environment Officers Report). It is understood that the plant has been designed to ensure compliance with Emission Limit Values set on the discharge license by the EPA will be met. These standards will ensure that **Q4 Good Status** water quality standards will be maintained in the river.

Possible Impacts

Activities associated with both the construction and post construction phases of this project which could affect water quality or cause damage to freshwater or riparian habitats, disturbance to protected species at their breeding sites or resting places, or availability of food (fish biomass) for Otter could have the potential to interfere with the achievement of the Conservation Objectives for the species of particular focus identified above. In particular the following is of concern in relation to this project:

- Activities associated with the demolition and construction phases of this project could pose a risk to water quality - including increasing risk of release of silt or toxic contaminants to adjoining watercourses. Pollution events could impact on the quality and/or extent of freshwater habitats and could also have direct effects on fish stocks, including populations of protected species. Impacts on food availability for Otter could arise as an indirect impact of pollution events in the river.
- In stream works associated with the creation of the new outfall could have the potential to cause damage to fishery habitats and/or disturbance to fish species.
- Physical works at the new outfall point could cause direct disturbance of / damage to riverside areas used by Otters.
- The discharge of treated effluent on an ongoing basis in the post construction period, could have the potential to impact on water quality in the Finnow River – and could thereby have the potential to long term impacts on the quality of freshwater habitats and on the prospects for protected freshwater species including fish and Otter.

All of these issues have been identified in the submitted NIS.

Assessment of Likely Significance of Identified Impacts On Natura 2000 Sites Taking Account of Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Risks to water quality associated with demolition and construction activities:

Risks to water quality associated with the demolition and construction phases including the construction of the outfall are to be controlled and managed via the implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (outline submitted).

The Outline Plan sets out details of measures to be implemented control release/mobilisation of sediments and to prevent accidental spills or releases of hydrocarbons, cementitious material and other toxic contaminants to either the Tanyard Stream or to the Finnow River. These measures are also included in sections 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 of the NIS. The conclusion of the NIS is that with the implementation of these prescribed measures will ensure that lamprey and salmon populations in the River Finnow will not be impacted by the proposed works.

Risk of works causing significant disturbance or damage to fisheries habitat

Survey work completed for this project identified suitable fisheries habitat including lamprey spawning habitat within the vicinity of the location for the outfall of the proposed discharge pipe. The Finnow River is an important spawning and nursery area for Salmon. However, works are to be timed to avoid the Salmon and Lamprey spawning seasons, and the precise location for the outfall is to be located in association with IFI to minimise impacts on fisheries habitats and river bed habitat is to be restored post the construction. In addition, instream works are to be carried out under the supervision of Inland Fisheries Ireland and in accordance with the CEMP which sets out best practise methods to minimise risk of mobilisation or release of sediments or toxic contaminants to the freshwater environment. Measures to be implemented include monitoring by an ecologist who will examine all river bed material removed for the presence of juvenile lamprey which will be collected and returned to the river.

The extent of fisheries habitat which will be affected by the physical construction works which are required is insignificant, relative to the scale of availability of this habitat type within the SAC. The conclusion of the NIS is that with the implementation of these prescribed measures will ensure that there will be no net loss of spawning habitat and that lamprey and salmon populations in the River Finnow will not be impacted by the proposed works.

Risk of works causing significant disturbance to Otter:

Survey work was completed for Otter. While this work identified that Otter are using the River Finnow, no Otter holts or couches were identified within the vicinity of the works area. Construction activities may interfere with movement of Otter in the short term during the construction phase, however, this is not predicted in the NIS to cause significant impacts on the Otter population. Risk of indirect impacts on Otter associated with loss of availability of fish prey is ruled out in the NIS on the basis that the project will not result in any impacts on fish populations.

Risk of spread of invasive species:

Survey work completed for the project identified a large stand of Japanese Knotweed on the northern bank of the Finnow River. Disturbance of this stand of Knotweed during construction works could result in inadvertent spread of this species along the river course. No mitigation is prescribed in the NIS or in the Outline CEMP to address this issue.

Possible impacts to water quality associated with effluent discharge associated with the operation of the WWTP in the post construction phase:

It is contended in the NIS that the establishment of a new plant with improved treatment standards and greater capacity, providing for reduced overflows of untreated waste waters to the freshwater environment and discharge of treated effluent to the Finnow River which has a greater assimilative capacity than the current receiving waters (Tanyard Stream), are predicted to result in an overall improvement in water quality standards in the receiving catchment. Calculations are presented in the NIS which demonstrate that the Finnow River has sufficient assimilative capacity to receive the proposed discharge, in combination with other inputs to that river from the Drishane Castle WWTP, without impacting on water quality. The plant has been designed to ensure that **Q4 Good** water quality standards will be met. This standard is sufficient to comply with the ELV which has been set by the EPA.

Assessment

Risks to water quality, protected habitats and species associated with construction related activities

I consider that the applicants have identified and addressed possible risks of this project to the SAC associated with the demolition and construction phase. I consider the mitigation measures which are described in the NIS to be adequate and appropriate to the site. I do note however, that the issue of Japanese Knotweed, while raised in the body of the NIS, is not dealt with in the CEMP and no mitigation is proposed. While, I note that the stand of Knotweed is on the north bank of the river, presumably away from the main area of excavation, none the less this issue was raised and should have been dealt with more completely in the NIS and Outline CEMP. The Outline CEMP, sets out general principles but no details in relation to proposed approach to works. Should it be decided to grant permission for this project, I recommend that a condition would be placed on the grant requiring the applicants to submit the final CEMP prior to commencement of works, and that this would incorporate all measures set out in the NIS, and would also make provision for management of invasive species (see below).

Risks to water quality, protected habitats and species associated with ongoing operations

I note the report of the Environment Officer in relation to risks of impact on water quality associated with the treated effluent discharge - and I particularly note his concern that the proposed discharge might not be compliant with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. I concur with his recommendations relating to amendments to the ELVs to ensure compliance with this Directive.

In relation to the Habitats Directive, I am satisfied on the basis of the information presented and the report of the Environment Officer, that the proposed discharge can be accommodated without interfering with the achievement of the Conservation Objectives which have been set for the Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation. I concur therefore with the conclusions of the NIS in respect of the proposed discharge.

Conclusion

There is no objection to permission being granted with the attachment of the following condition(s):

Conditions/Reasons

No.	Condition	Reason
1	<p>A final CEMP shall be submitted for approval by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development. The CEMP shall be based on the Outline CEMP submitted with the planning documentation, and shall include details of all measures to be implemented on site to provide for the protection of water quality as set out in the NIS and shall also include details of any measures required to control and manage invasive alien species within the site. The plan shall include programmes for environmental and ecological monitoring and supervision. The plan shall be prepared to accord with recognised standard best practice - CIRIA Guidance No C532 - Control of Water Pollution From Construction Sites. All works on site shall be implemented in accordance with the final agreed plan.</p>	<p>In the interests of ensuring the protection of water quality in the receiving environment.</p>



Sharon Casey

21/07/2017

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ECOLOGIST - FURTHER INFORMATION RESPONSE

APPLICATION NO.	17/04490
APPLICANT	Irish Water
DESCRIPTION	The upgrading/replacement and extending of the existing waste water treatment plant and installation of a new outfall pipe. The upgrading/replacement includes the extending of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) from a capacity of 1,600 population equivalents to 2,210 population equivalents. The development includes the construction of a control building, extended access road, improvements to gates and fencing, new preliminary treatment works (including screening, grit removal and storm water storage), new secondary treatment tanks, chemical dosing tanks, sludge handling facilities and tanks, pipework, mechanical and electrical plant, landscaping and associated ancillary works at the site. A new underground treated effluent outfall pipeline to the River Finnow, approximately 1.3km to the North West of the existing plant, laid along Station Road (L1115). The demolition/disposal of the existing settlement tanks, sludge beds and tanks, control building, chemical storage and reinstatement of the area is to be included in the development. The existing oxidation ditch will be retained for future use. A Natura Impact Statement will be submitted as part of this planning application.
LOCATION	Millstreet Waste Water Treatment Plant Station Road (Drominahilla and Coomlogane) Millstreet Co. Cork
DECISION DUE DATE	22/11/2017

Assessment

Conclusion

There is no objection to permission being granted with the attachment of the following condition(s):

Recommended conditions as per my previous report.

Conditions/Reasons



Sharon Casey

31/10/2017

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