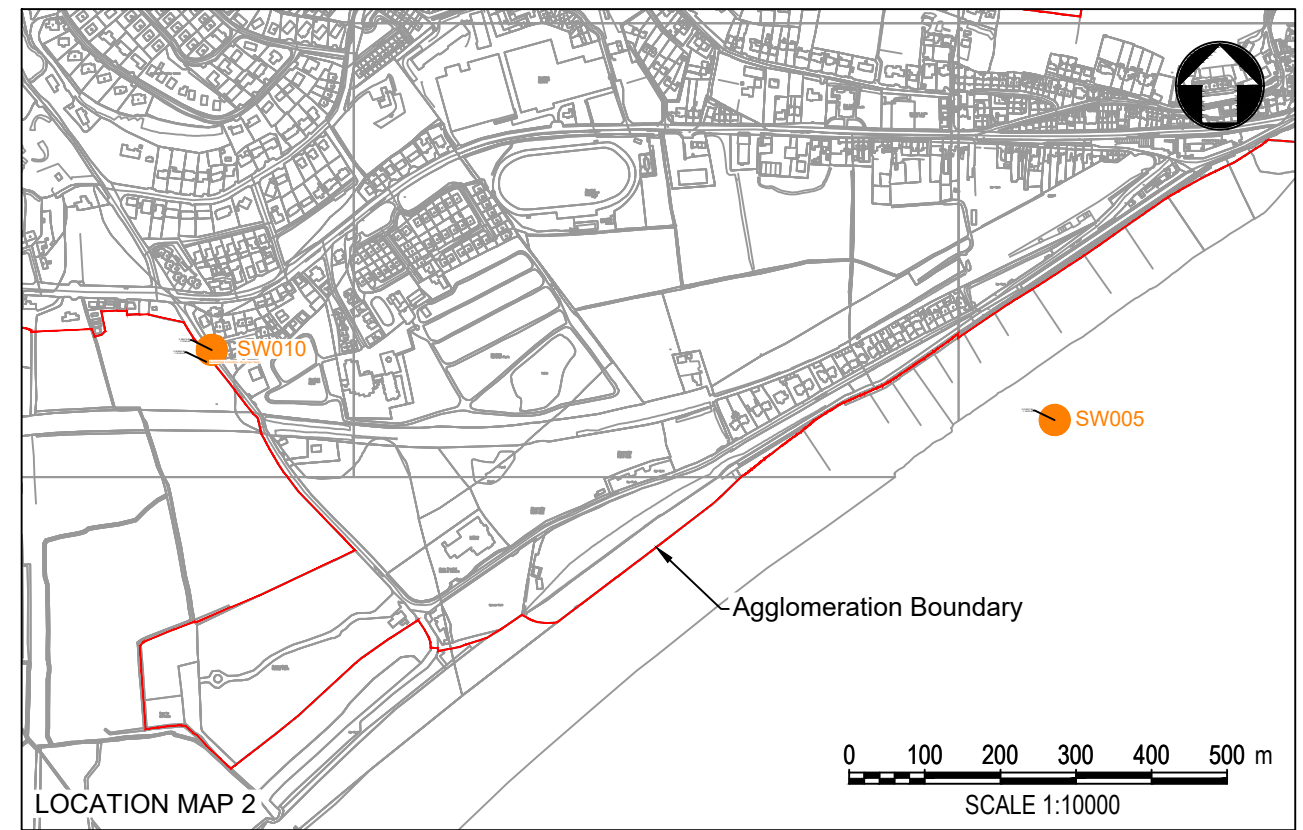
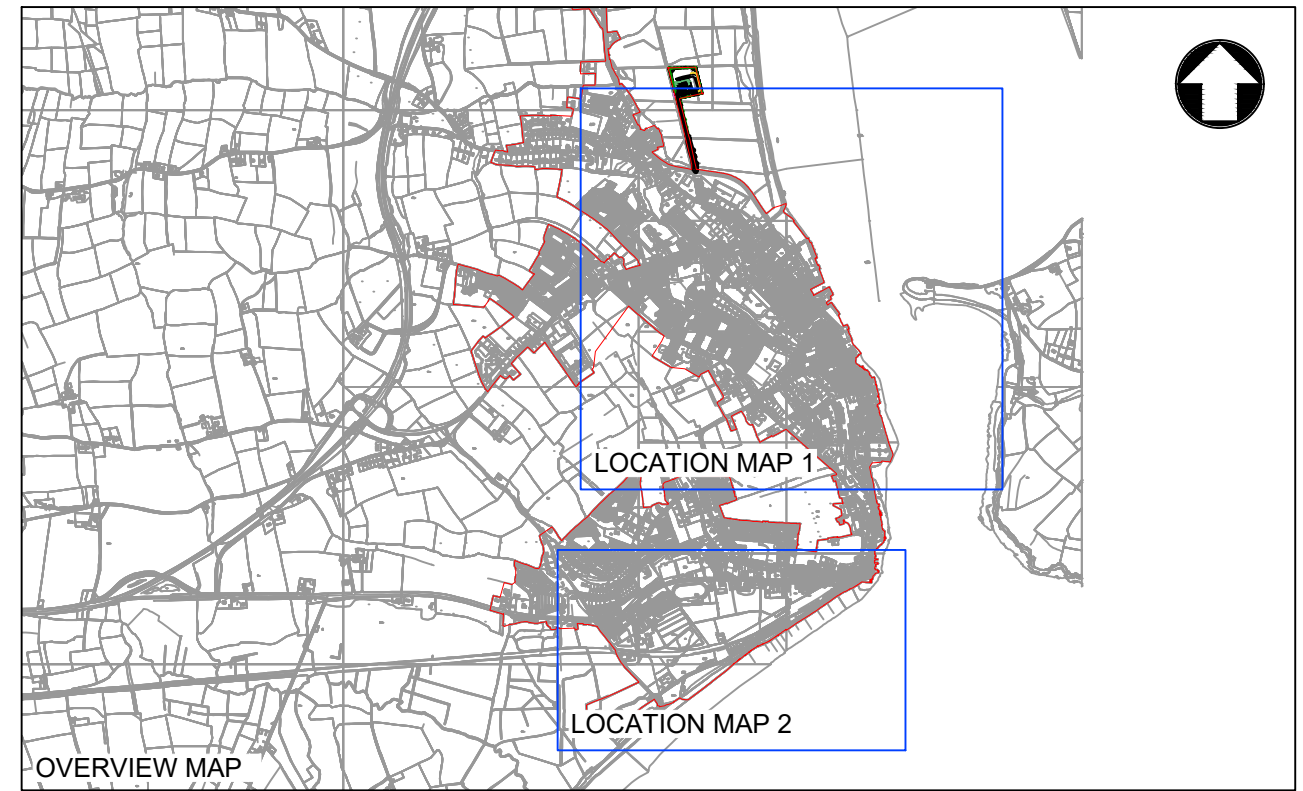
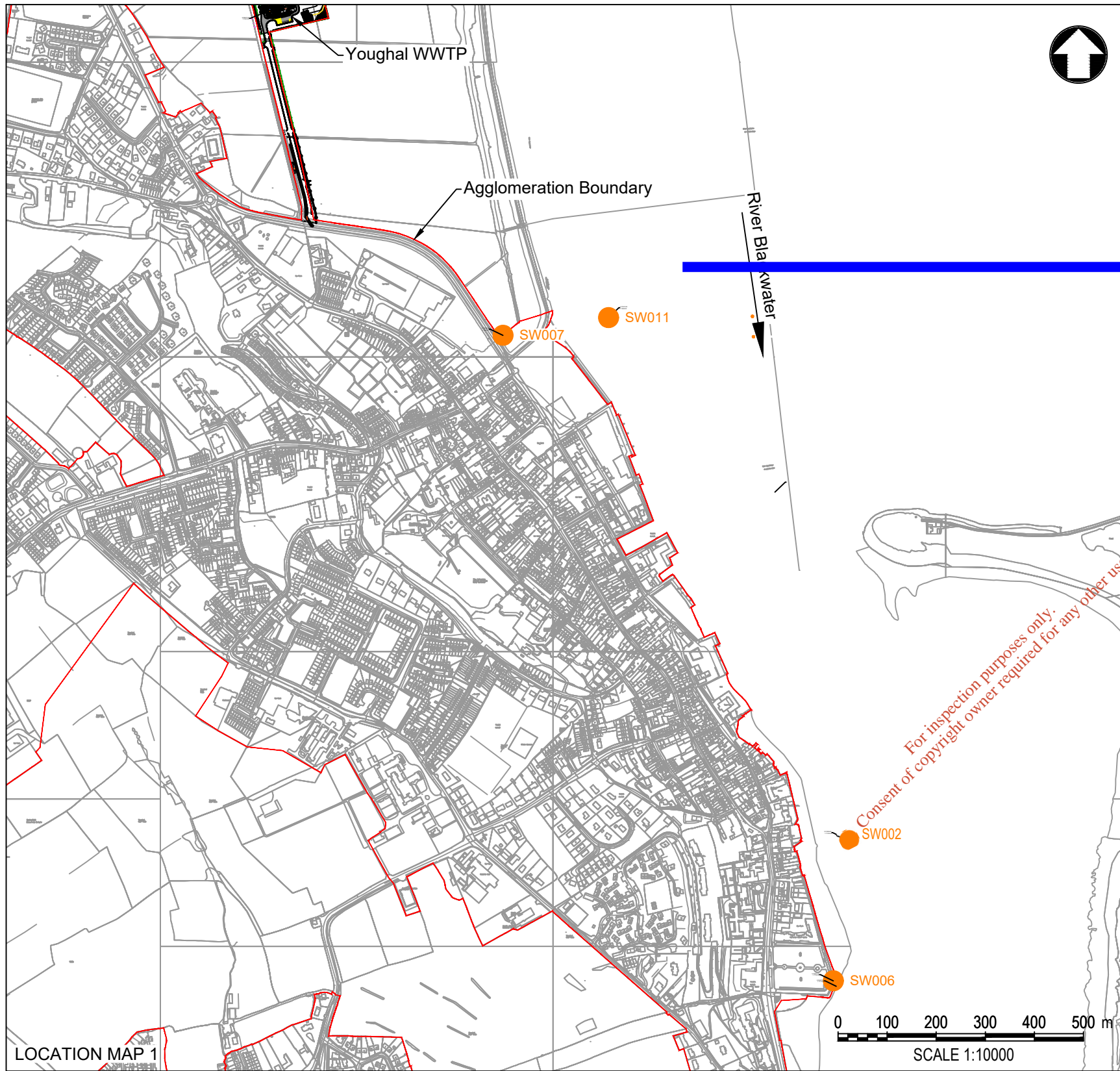


SECTION B – GENERAL

Attachment B8: Storm Water Overflow Point(s)

- Attachment B.8: Youghal Storm Water Overflow Locations

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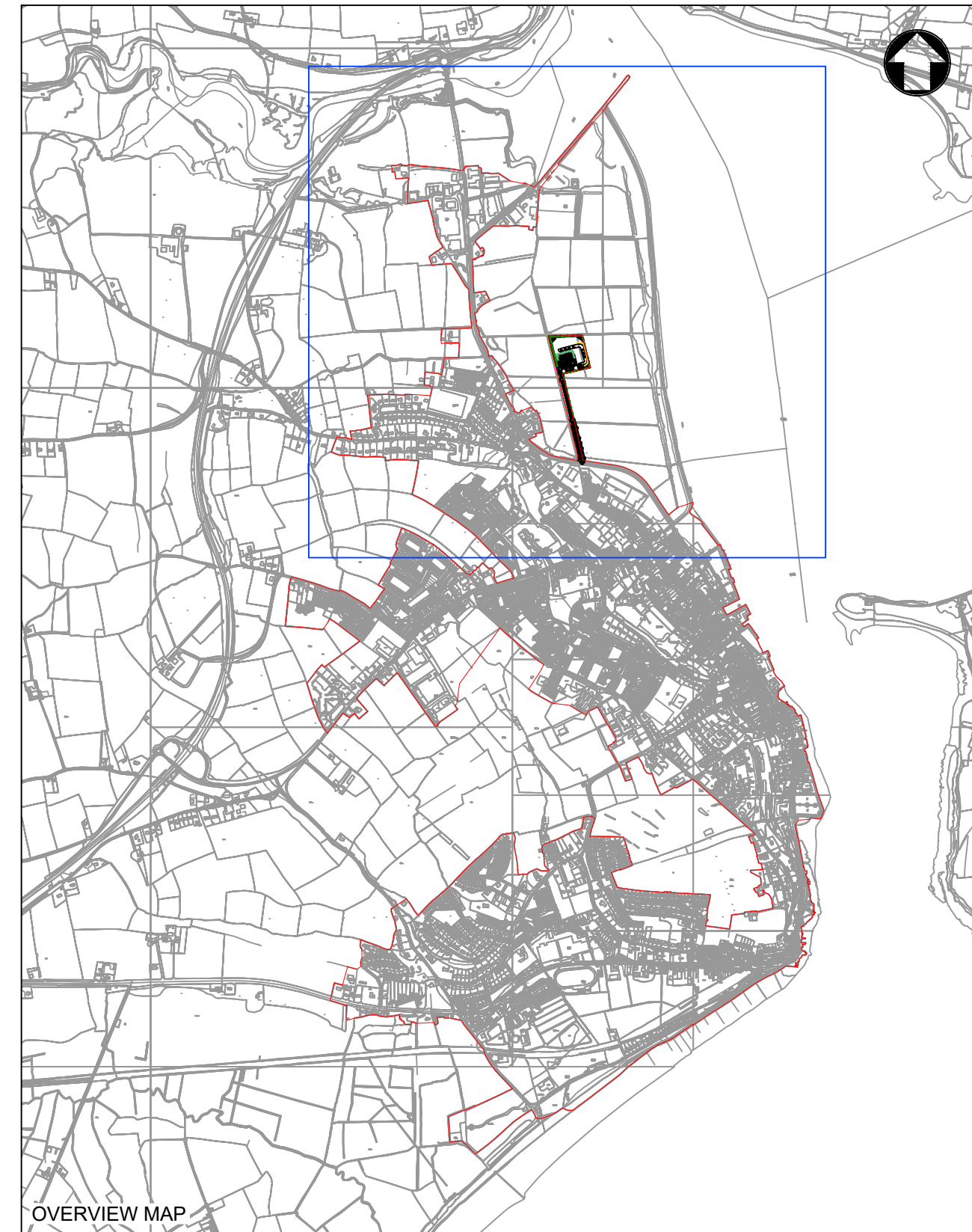
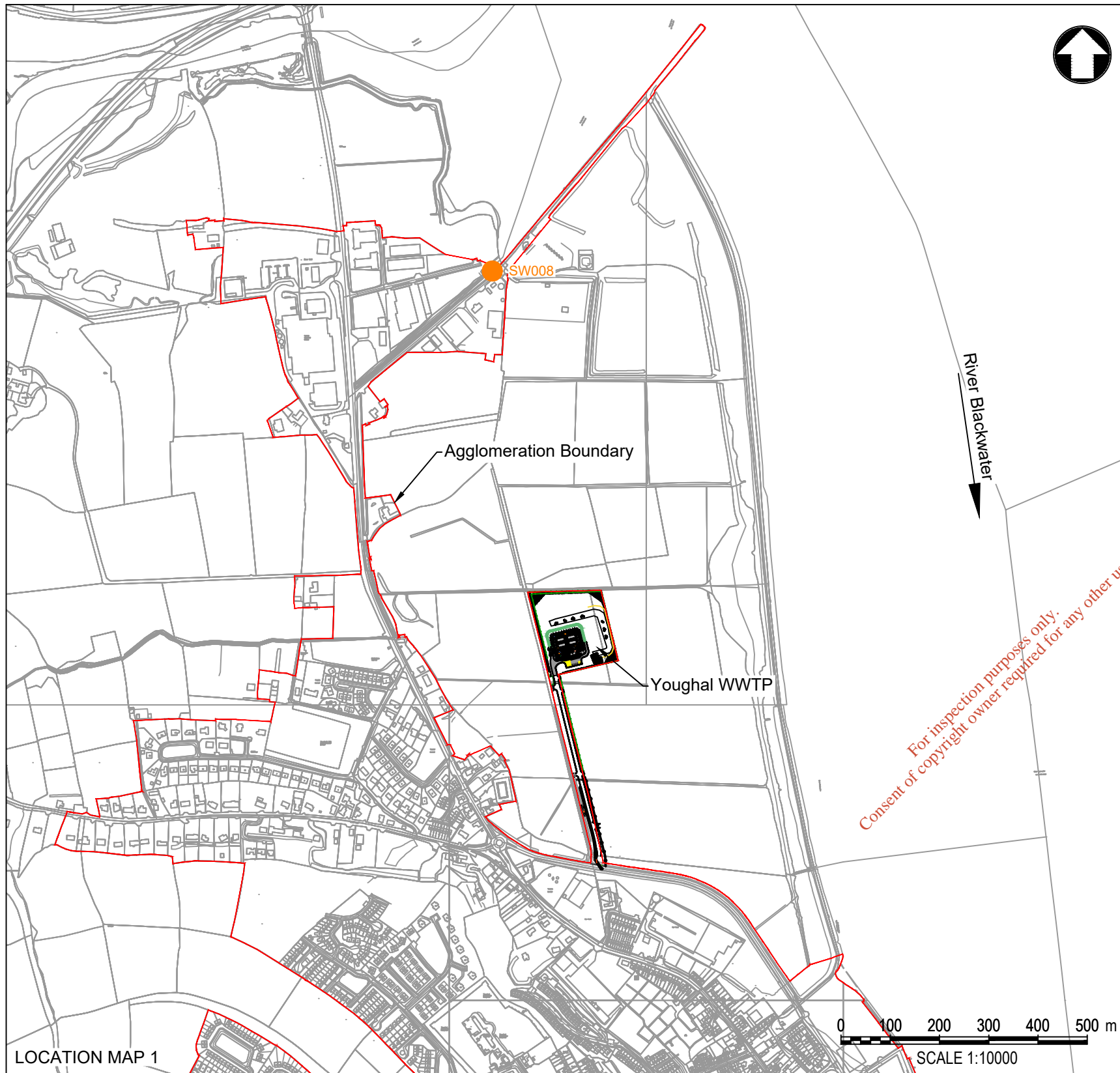
	5 Eastgate Avenue Eastgate Little Island Cork Ireland T +353 (0) 21 4809800 F +353 (0) 21 4809801 W www.mottmac.com	Client 	Rev	Date	Drawn	Description	Ch'k'd	App'd	Title	Drawn	D Gallagher			
										Youghal WWDL Review	Checked	P Chambers		
										Storm Water Overflow Location Attachment B.8 Map 4	Approved	R Mansfield		
										Drawing Number 229379472-MMD-00-XX-DR-C-0104	Scale at A3 1:5,000	Security STD	Status INF	Rev P01
			P1	10.03.20	DGal	Issued for Information	PCha	RMan						

SECTION B – GENERAL

Attachment B9: Emergency Overflow Point(s)

- Attachment B.9: Youghal Emergency Overflow Points

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			P1	10.03.20	DGal	Issued for Information	PCha	RMan	Youghal WWDL Review Emergency Overflow Points Attachment B.9 Map 5	Checked	P Chambers		
									Approved	R Mansfield			
									Scale at A3 1:10,000				
									Drawing Number 229379472-MMD-00-XX-DR-C-0105	Security STD	Status INF	Rev P01	

SECTION B – GENERAL

Attachment B13: Relevant Planning Authority

- Attachment B.13a: Planning Inspectors Report
- Attachment B.13b: An Bord Pleanála Planning Order
- Attachment B.13c: EIAR Screening Report

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1. Deputy Planning Officer.

Youghal Urban District Council.
Provision of Waste Water Treatment Works at Mudlands,
Environmental Impact Statement.

Introduction

Youghal Urban District Council has applied to An Bord Pleanala for certification of the above Environmental Impact Statement (E.I.S.). The copy of the notice which is said to have been published in a newspaper says "in accordance with Article 175 of Part X of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (No.30 of 2000)": that part of that Act was not yet commenced. It should have stated that it was in accordance with Part IX Article 123 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 1994, S.I.No.86 of 1994; see also under submissions/observations below. However, as there has been no legal challenge on the subject of the notice, and as the effect of the publication of this notice is the same, it is probably not a problem.

I have examined the three volumes of the E.I.S. document and inspected the proposed sites at Mudlands, including the three preferred sites, on 14 December, 2001, and viewed the other sites which were considered in the E.I.S. on the following day. My report with recommendations is set out hereunder.

Proposed development

The proposed development is a waste water treatment works on a site in Mudlands, north of the town. The treated effluent will be discharged into the River Blackwater estuary in the vicinity of Ferry Point, i.e., roughly opposite the town centre and between the two existing raw sewage outfalls.

Environmental Impact Statement Format

The E.I.S. was prepared by Atkins McCarthy, Consulting Engineers. It is in three volumes: the first volume is the Non-Technical Summary, the second is the Main Report and the third is Technical Appendices containing the detail on which the Main Report and Non-Technical Summary are based. The Appendices by various experts are as follows:-

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|
| A. | Flora & Fauna | Roger Goodwillie & Associates |
| B. | Marine Ecology | Ecological Consultancy Services Ltd. |
| C. | Soils & Geology | Atkins McCarthy |
| D. | Water Quality Modelling | |
| | Part A | Dye travel & drogue study |
| | Part B | Effluent plume modelling |
| | | Hydrographic Surveys |
| | | Atkins McCarthy |
| E. | Odour modelling | Aquavarra Research Ltd. |
| F. | Noise | RPS Environmental Sciences Ireland Ltd. |
| G. | Landscape | Atkins McCarthy |
| H. | Cultural heritage | Sheila Lane & Associates |
| I. | Traffic | Atkins McCarthy |
| J. | Odour | Bord na Mona |
| K. | Site selection | Atkins McCarthy |
| L. | Water quality data | Atkins McCarthy. |

There are a number of figures, tables and appendices within the E.I.S. to help clarify and support the text.

The E.I.S. describes the proposed development and contains the information required by the Second Schedule of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 1999, S.I.No.93 of 1999.

The E.I.S. concerns itself with the waste water treatment works and the receiving waters only: the drainage network will be included in a separate public consultation process: see "Works to be constructed" below.

From the information included in the E.I.S., there would not appear to have been any significant technical difficulties or lack of data experienced in carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Submissions/Observations

The E.I.S. does not mention consultations with the public or Local Authority prior to completion of the E.I.S.

The letter submitting the E.I.S. to An Bord Pleanala has attached to it the text of a notice to be published in an unspecified newspaper: a copy of the actual newspaper is not attached. See also the "Introduction", above, to my report regarding the Act in accordance with which the notice is claimed to be published. It also states that the E.I.S. will be available for inspection at Youghal U.D.C.'s offices, Cork County Council's offices in Cork and its branch library in Youghal from 19 September, 2001, to 07 November, 2001,; also that copies of the Non-Technical Summary may be purchased for £2 and the statement for £50 (the Main Report, Volume 2 of the E.I.S. says the Non-Technical Summary will be £1, the E.I.S. Report £50 and the Technical Appendices an additional £50). The notice also states that there would be a public exhibition of the E.I.S. in the Youghal U.D.C. offices on the afternoon and early evening of 27 September, 2001, with Engineers from the Local Authority and Consulting Engineers available to answer questions. The notice states that submissions/observations can be made to An Bord Pleanala by 07 November, 2001.

The Local Authority circulated the E.I.S. to the public bodies listed in Appendix 1, also informing them that submissions/ observations could be made to An Bord Pleanala by 07 November, 2001. Note that the notice was sent, *inter alia*, to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland as listed in the 1994 legislation instead of the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht as would now be appropriate.

No other European states are affected.

No formal submissions/observations were received regarding the E.I.S. by An Bord Pleanala.

Need for the proposed development

It is estimated that the current loading of sewage is 10,600 population equivalent (p.e.) during the tourist season, with a predicted growth to 20,000 p.e. for the year 2025.

At present there is no treatment other than holding tanks and comminators to break up solids prior to discharge into the estuary. The estuary is designated as a 'sensitive area'. Therefore the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations will require 'secondary treatment' and nutrient reduction (in this case nitrogen reduction as this is presumed to be the limiting nutrient, even though Youghal is at present only a minor contributor of nitrogen to the river).

Do nothing situation

Due to the legislation mentioned above, this is not an available option.

Planning considerations

The site chosen in Mudlands is designated as part of "open space" in the Youghal U.D.C. Development Plan, 1997, but a specific clause in the 1999 Variation states that the location of the proposed waste water treatment works will be allowed in the land use designation if technical studies indicate that it is suitable: the site selected is therefore compliant in the planning context.

Works to be constructed

The procurement process is not dealt with specifically in the E.I.S., but its extensive discussion of the treatment processes available to achieve the required effluent standards infers that procurement of the treatment works will be by a Public Private Partnership (PPP) in line with current policy of the Department of the Environment and Local Government. Of the several types of PPP the one favoured is the Design, Build, Operate (DBO) approach. This involves a private company designing, building and operating the works: typically the operating concession would be for 20 years. For the DBO process to work correctly it is important that tenderers are not too rigidly confined in their options. The structure of this E.I.S. in such a way as to identify various process and layout options enables a variety of solutions to be found. The various requirements of the relevant legislation regarding effluent quality from the treatment works and subsequent receiving water quality are also set out in the E.I.S. It is for the tenderers to select the most advantageous, for them, process or combination of processes. The constraints on them are that they must produce an effluent that complies with the wastewater legislation and the limits on environmental impacts discussed below.

The proposed works will include secondary treatment with nutrient reduction for nitrogen only (being presumed the limiting nutrient), but provision will be made for phosphorous reduction at a future date should it become apparent that it would be beneficial.

The sludge produced in the treatment process will be transported to Midleton or Dungarvan for further treatment in a regional sludge treatment centre: current policy requires sludge to be treated to produce a stable end product, preferably recyclable.

The E.I.S. implies that treatment would include disinfection although this does not appear to be strictly necessary from the requirements for bathing waters (the existing 'blue flag' beaches, which are outside of and to the west of the estuary) or shellfish production (the mussel fishery, similiary outside the estuary, is now inactive due to previous overfishing). However, disinfection would give added protection to the 'blue flag' beaches and improve the mussel fishery should it be re-activated in the future. Also, the U.D.C.'s letter submitting the E.I.S. to An Bord Pleanala states that the Members of the Council want ultra-violet (UV) disinfection of the effluent to improve bathing waters in the harbour area (i.e., within the estuary) as swimming there is increasing and also the harbour area has been declared an area for marine tourism.

Seven possible sites were selected and examined. I have viewed them all and agree that the Mudlands area is the most suitable. Within Mudlands, three possible options were looked at: the most northerly site, option 3, was selected as the most environmentally suitable, and again I agree with this selection.

In addition to the treatment works itself, sewers, pumping stations, and a treated effluent outfall pipe to the proposed outfall into the estuary will need to be constructed, but these are not relevant to this E.I.S. and will be considered elsewhere. The discharge of the outfall into the estuary of the

Blackwater River, or the sea, is covered by the E.I.S. The recommended outfall discharge point is the deep channel between Ferry Point and Youghal itself.

Significant Impacts

Human beings

The construction of the treatment works will cater for new residential and industrial development improving economic and social conditions and at the same time improving the amenity value and fishing resources in the estuary.

A negative impact is probable due to construction activities, but steps will be taken to minimise these. The safety of the public will be protected by fencing and gates around the proposed treatment works, and the operational staff by enforcement of health and safety requirements such as railings, covers, classification of hazardous areas, provision of appropriate maintenance equipment, hygiene facilities, training, etc.

Some fairly low grade grazing land will be taken for the proposed site. Adverse visual impact will be mitigated by architectural design and boundary treatment.

The outfall diffuser in the estuary bed will be marked by a permanent buoy.

Fauna & Flora

In general the area is land reclaimed from the estuary and is little managed. Vegetation for the most part is of common plants, but becoming more specialised towards the saltier water to the east; but no rare species were observed. The hedges represent high species diversity with those present on each side of the access laneway being the richest. To the north of the proposed site the Local Authority has a landfill; there are also a coal depot, stone mason and car inspection depot. There is a candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the east between the proposed treatment works and the estuary, but there is comparatively little ecological connection with it. The only species of nature conservation importance in the area is the common frog (but presumably only a very small part of its possible habitat will be taken). There are no marine species or habitats of nature conservation importance affected. The proposed works will not have any significant impact on fauna or flora: it is proposed that the hedgerows along the access lane are left in place (a new access constructed to the east of them). The SAC must be avoided by all temporary, construction and permanent works and construction phased to avoid disturbance of breeding seasons.

Soils

Construction will disturb soils on the site. To mitigate the impacts the area excavated will be minimised. Excavation of the trenches for the outfall will be at low tide to reduce sediment and turbidity; rock armour will be placed to prevent scour in the river bed.

In general, soil excavated for whatever purpose will be used on site for landscaping: this will also help to mitigate other impacts such as visual and noise.

Water

There will be an improvement in the quality of water in the estuary due to the much higher quality of the effluent discharged as compared to the raw sewage at present, and also to the removal of the limiting nutrient (nitrogen).

There is a potential during both construction and operation for pollution from oil, chemicals and waste spillages and during construction from sediments arising from excavation. These will be mitigated by best practice for storage, handling and disposal: i.e., containers will be banded.

Air/Odour

Using current technology which can be incorporated in the works within BATNEEC (best available technology not entailing excessive cost) principles, odour at a level of 2 odour units per cubic metre (o.u./m³) with a non-exceedance of 98% can be contained within the boundaries of the site. There are no adjoining residential or commercial properties. It is proposed that this technology is used; i.e., odour sources from primary treatment and sludge treatment will be covered, with forced ventilation and scrubbing of the exhaust air.

To prepare the E.I.S., baseline odour levels were measured in the Mudlands area on three occasions in July and August 2001. These gave levels ranging from 9 to a high of 118 o.u./m³. On the two calm days the ranges were 71 to 140 o.u./m³ and 44 to 108 o.u./m³. With a southwesterly breeze the range was 9 to 62 o.u./m³ but the 62 value appeared to emanate from a shed close to the sampling site; otherwise on that day the other highest values were all 13 o.u./m³. The expert report gives rural background odour levels as in the range 10 to 25 o.u./m³. Subjectively, the odours detected are thought to be mainly from the landfill, agriculture and the mudflats. On the day of my inspection, in December with a southerly wind, there were no noticeable odours anywhere around Mudlands including the landfill which was in operation (I was on all four sides of it).

The measures proposed will ensure that the future treatment works will not create an odour nuisance.

Noise

Long term operational noise from the future treatment works will be minimised by designing for careful selection of plant and equipment. Also site layout can help minimise noise by locating sources as far away as possible from noise sensitive locations and where possible screening them by buildings and/or embankments.

It is proposed that operational noise levels, LAeq, will not exceed the usually recommended levels of 55 dB(A) for day-time and 45 dB(A) for night-time outside the site boundary. Compared with measured background levels, this would be unlikely to cause complaints.

Noise levels will be higher during construction arising from the plant used. Pile driving, a possibility but not a certainty as bored piles could be used, would give levels approaching those which might be a nuisance. Noise will be limited by application of the recommendations in BS5228 "Control of Noise from Construction and Open Sites"

Climate

The E.I.S. states that the treatment works will have no impact on climate.

Landscape

The Mudlands is on reclaimed estuarial land and is now a series of fields with some wetland areas and a brackish lake to the east: there are trees, hedgerows and ditches. There is an operational landfill in the northeast corner, but generally the area is described as rural and tranquil. Views from adjoining areas level with the Mudlands site are partially screened by existing trees and

hedges and this will be enhanced by construction of earth bunds to the north and east and further tree planting: building materials will be carefully selected to minimise visual intrusion. High ground to the west and southwest has a number of residences which look down over the proposed site (also the landfill) but their view is more distant, out over the estuary, and is not significantly affected.

The control building is expected to be 5 m high, or less, the equipment building 5 m or 8 m high depending on equipment type and layout. At 5 m high the trees and hedges provide a good screen and visual impacts will be minimal and are described as negative and low. At 8 m high the building would have a negative and medium impact. Any height of buildings would have a negative and medium impact for users of the public right of way along the sea wall some 200 m to the east and for agricultural workers in the fields to the south.

Houses on high ground will not benefit from screening by hedges and trees but they are more distant and with views out over the estuary and open country beyond. Impact is described as negative and low.

Long-term, during operation the visual impact will be mitigated by sinking structures into the ground where possible, the use of matt finish, non-reflective materials of a colour matching the surroundings and indigenous planting on the earth bunds and elsewhere. For the perimeter fence a dark colour will be selected. To reduce visibility from elevated viewpoints there will be widespread tree planting.

Material assets

There will be a loss of a small proportion of low grade grazing.

Traffic increases are predicted as too small to be significant. Note also the overall reduction in traffic following the opening of the bypass which is under construction.

Overall impacts on the potential for residential and industrial development are positive due to the provision of necessary infrastructure, i. e., an adequate waste water treatment works.

Cultural heritage

As the waste water treatment works is to be constructed on reclaimed land, no finds of archaeological significance are expected there.

There will be archaeological monitoring during construction of the outfall.

Inter-relationships

The E.I.S. considers that the mitigation measures for the individual impacts will ensure that there are no significant cumulative impacts.

Conclusion

The E.I.S. presents a detailed and comprehensive account of the positive and negative impacts of the proposed waste water treatment works and outfall for Youghal.

There were no formal submissions/observations after publication of the E.I.S.

The main positive impacts are the removal of existing pollution of the River Blackwater estuary caused by existing raw sewage discharges and the improved

water quality in the estuary resulting from waste water treatment. There will be an enhanced potential for future residential and industrial development due to the provision of necessary infrastructure.

The negative impacts include temporary construction noise, but this will be kept as low as possible, and visual impacts, in particular for the users of the public right of way on the sea wall, those living near the works and those on elevated ground with views down into the works. The first is temporary and the latter negative and low impact in the long term, especially after growth of the new trees. However, visual impact will be negative and medium during construction.

Change of use of the site from low grade grazing to a waste water treatment works has an impact.

With regard to residential areas within sight of the treatment works, the E.I.S. includes a proposal to mitigate the impact of floodlighting during construction, but says nothing about during operation; my recommendations will include a proposal on this.

Recommendation

I recommend certification by An Bord Pleanála that, subject to the modification below, the waste water treatment works for Youghal at Mudlands (Option 3) will not have significant adverse effects on the environment.

1. That to limit the impact on residences with a view of the works, night-time operational lighting is designed to be as unobtrusive as possible and only used when or where necessary for security or essential works.

Jonathan Evans.
31 January, 2002.

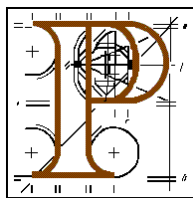
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Appendix 1

1. An Comhairle Ealaíon.
2. Bord Fáilte Éireann.
3. The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland.
4. The National Monuments Advisory Council.
5. An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland.
6. Cork County Council.
7. Waterford County Council.
8. Southern Regional Fisheries Board.
9. Southern Health Board.

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An Bord Pleanála



Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1963 as amended

Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations 1994 as amended

Youghal Town Council

WHEREAS the Urban District Council of Youghal did, on 20th day of September 2001, make application to An Bord Pleanála pursuant to Article 123 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 1994 (as amended by the Local Government (Planning and Development)(No. 2) Regulations 2000), for the certification of Youghal Urban District Council Main Drainage Scheme - Wastewater Treatment Works

AND WHEREAS the Board has considered the said Environmental Impact Statement prepared in respect of the proposed development

AND WHEREAS the Board has considered the report and recommendation of the person appointed by the Board to make a report and recommendation

NOW THEREFORE An Bord Pleanála, pursuant to Articles 119 and 127 of the said Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 1994 (as amended by the Local Government (Planning and Development)(No.2) Regulations 2000), hereby certifies that, subject to the modification set out in the schedule hereto, the proposed Youghal Urban District Council Main Drainage Scheme - Wastewater Treatment Works will not have significant adverse effects on the environment.

SCHEDULE

Artificial illumination of the plant shall be designed to be unobtrusive and its use shall be confined to the minimum time required for security and essential operational works.

Reason: To limit the night time visual impact of the plant and in the interest of residential amenity.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála duly authorised
to authenticate the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2002.

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Youghal Waste Water Discharge Licence (Reg. No. D0139-01) Review Application

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

Irish Water

May 2021

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Notice

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This document has 12 pages including the cover.

Document history

Revision	Purpose description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
Rev 0	Draft for discussion	JL	JL	DL / KL	-	05/03/2021
Rev 1	Revised Draft	JL	JL	DL	DL	21/04/2021
Rev 2	Final	JL	JL	DL	DL	24/05/2021

Client signoff

Client	Irish Water
Project	Environmental Impact Assessment Screening
Job number	5204549
Client signature / date	

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1. Introduction

WS Atkins Ireland Limited (Atkins) have been commissioned by Irish Water to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report in advance of the submission of a Waste Water Discharge Licence Review Application in relation to licenced discharge (Reg. No. D0139-01) from Youghal Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) in Co. Cork.

1.1. Background Information

The Youghal WwTP commenced operation in December 2017. The WwTP is located approximately 1.3km north of Youghal town centre, in an area called the Mudlands. The primary discharge point from Youghal WwTP is at Dunn's Park (SW000) (210513E 078480N) which discharges directly into the Lower Blackwater Estuary / Youghal Harbour which is part of the Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004028) and Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002170).

The location of the existing outfall at Dunn's Park is illustrated in Figure 1-1

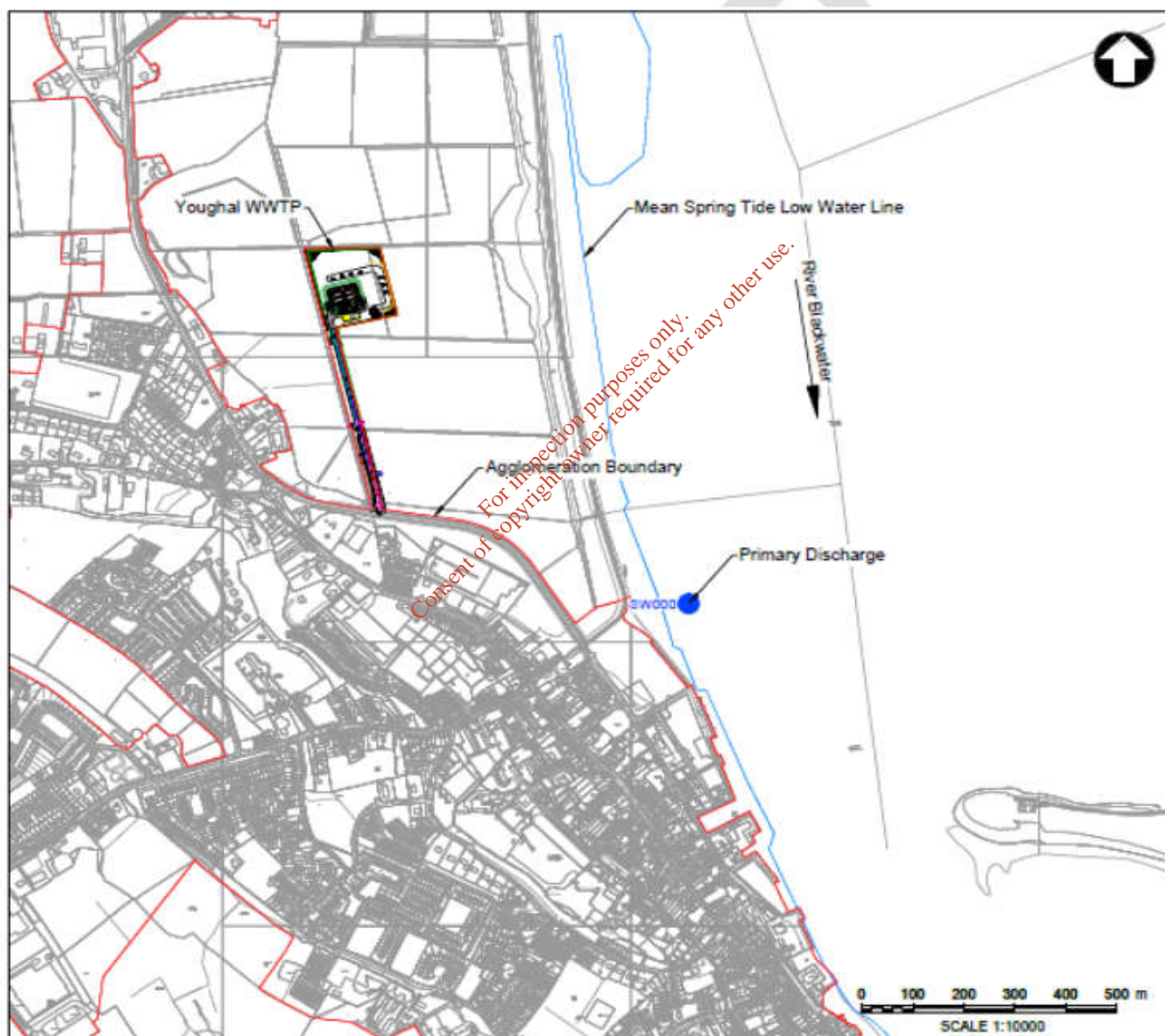


Figure 1-1 - Existing Dunn's Park discharge outfall (SW000) location (proposed permanent discharge location) (IW, 2020)

The WwTP has been designed and built to allow for expansion for anticipated future growth. The current plant has a biological treatment capacity of 16,000 population equivalents (PE). The treatment process comprises the following:

- Inlet works providing screening, grit removal, and fat, oil and grease (FOG) removal;
- A screened stormwater overflow (2no. storm tanks);
- Four Sequence Batch Reactor (SBR) tanks for Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) removal and Nitrification;
- Balance tank for treated wastewater;
- Final effluent pumps;
- Sludge treatment facilities include a picket fence thickener, a sludge dewatering system and a sludge storage tank; and,
- UV treatment of the final effluent.

The WwTP has been designed for the future provision of phosphorus removal. The Emission Limit Value (ELV's) for Youghal WwTP are as follows.

Table 1-1 - Current ELVs for Youghal WwTP

Parameter	Emission Limit Value
Biological Oxygen Demand	25 mg/l
Chemical Oxygen Demand	125 mg/l
Suspended Solids	35 mg/l
Total Nitrogen (as N)	15 mg/l
pH	6-9

The current design of the WwTP is as follows:

Inlet Pumping Station

Dunn's Park Pumping Station consists of 3no. low level foul pumps and 2no. high flow pumps which convey the wastewater to the inlet works. Flows of up to 300 l/s are pumped to the inlet works and undergo preliminary treatment (screening and grit removal). Flows in excess of flow to full treatment (125 l/s) are spilled to two storm tanks following grit removal with the first storm tank acting as a blind tank (to capture the first storm flush). When the storm water tank capacity has been reached, a signal is automatically generated at Dunn's Park pumping station to reduce flow to the WwTP to the Flow to Full Treatment (FFT) rate. Storm flows are recycled to the main process flow upstream of FFT measurement when the flow decreases below FFT minus Dry Weather Flow (DWF) with flow being returned at an appropriate rate likely to be equivalent to DWF.

Preliminary Treatment

Flows entering the treatment plant undergo screening, de-gritting and grease removal. This unit consists of screens, screening compactors operating in a duty / assist / common stand-by mode. Each combined unit is fitted with a 6mm manual bypass screen. The tank is aerated to assist grit removal. A slow rotating screw drains the screenings and transports the waste to a collection sump. Gross solids are removed using a minimum of duty/standby automatic 6 mm screens (in 2 directions) capable of treating all flows up to 300 l/s. Fat Oil Grease (FOG) removal is provided at the plant. A maximum of 20 mg/l FOG is permitted to pass through to full treatment.

Sequential Batch Reactors (SBRs)

There are 4no. identically sized SBR tanks at the treatment plant and they are operated on a predetermined schedule consisting of the following phases: Fill/Anoxic, Fill/Aerate, Aerate, Settle and Decant. The SBR tanks provide the following functions:

- Balance Tank;
- Anoxic Tank;
- Aeration Basin; and,
- Settlement Tank.

The SBR cell contents are mixed (tanks are installed with mixers) without aeration, to provide an anoxic environment to facilitate nitrification. After a short period, aeration is provided by fine bubble diffusers and blowers to achieve BOD removal. Only two tanks can be in "Aerate" mode at any given time. Once aeration has finished, the Settlement phase begins, followed by Decanting of the clarified effluent.

Final Effluent Balance Tank

Treated effluent from the SBRs enters the final balance tank and from there it is pumped to the discharge at the outfall. The pumps operate in duty/standby mode.

Final Effluent

The final effluent currently outfalls to the existing long sea outfall (SW000) which comprises a 750mm diameter outfall to the Blackwater Estuary.

Sludge Treatment

Towards the end of the decant phase, Waste Activated Sludge (WAS) is removed from each of the SBR cells via WAS pumps which operate continuously during the waste period and conveyed to the picket fence thickener. Sludge is then pumped to the centrifuge for dewatering. The pumps are positive displacement and operate in a duty / standby mode. The sludge cake then enters a skip to be removed off site.

Secondary Discharges

The secondary discharge SW003 (TPEFF0500DO139SW003) from Foxhole Pumping Station, as listed in the current waste water discharge authorisation has been decommissioned. There are no secondary discharges in the agglomeration.

Storm Water Overflows

The stormwater overflows associated with pumping stations in the agglomeration are as follows:

- Dunn's Park Pumping Station;
- Front Strand Pumping Station;
- Greenpark Pumping Station;
- Summerfield Pumping Station; and,
- Foxhole Pumping Station - note this does not have an associated SWO but operates as an emergency overflow.

1.2. Background Information

Irish Water (IW) submitted a licence review application (including various attachments) (Review Application Ref.: D0139-02) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on 24th March 2020. The grounds for seeking a revision to the existing licence were to accommodate the following:

- delay in the construction of the new primary discharge outfall (SW001);
- to allow the continued use of the existing outfall (SW000) until such time as the new outfall has been constructed and commissioned; and,
- the authorisation of all storm water and emergency overflows (IW, 2020).

Additional information was subsequently requested on 30th April 2020 by the EPA including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), as defined in Regulation 2(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, and an up to date impact assessment of existing or proposed waste water discharges to the receiving environment (including a modelling report).

Prior to this requested information being submitted by IW, the EPA issued a formal EIA Screening Determination dated 24th September 2020. The details of the determination are presented in Section 2. The EPA deemed that *'the authorisation is likely to give rise to significant effects on the environment by virtue of its nature, size or location'*. Accordingly, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) would be required. IW subsequently provided the EPA with an (unsolicited) update on the Youghal Waste Water Discharge Licence Review application on 3rd December 2020, summarising the assessment work completed / underway, and stating IW's intention to *'to provide the High Court with an update within the next 14 days, following which Irish Water intends to formally withdraw the above referenced review application. Irish Water will then submit a new licence review application.'*

1.3. Project Description

IW propose to seek a new licence review of the existing Wastewater Discharge Licence (WwDL) (Reg No. D0139 02) for the Youghal Agglomeration in accordance with regulation 14(1)(b) of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (as amended).

The licence review is for the continued use of the existing outfall at Dunn's Park (SW000) for permanent discharge of treated wastewater from Youghal WwTP. Therefore, the proposed use of Dunns Park discharge outfall (SW000) as a permanent discharge location is the 'Project' under consideration in this EIA Screening Report.

1.4. Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to determine whether the project (the permanent use of Dunn's Park as the primary outfall from the WwTP) requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The project has been screened in the context of relevant statutory requirements and taking account of relevant available background information.

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2. Methodology

This development has been screened in accordance with the Environmental Impact Directive (85/337/EEC) and subsequent amendments (including 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2011/92/EU and 2014/52/EU), and S.I. No. 214/2020 - European Union (Waste Water Discharge) Regulations 2020.

The screening process focuses in the first instance on whether the proposed project (i.e. the proposed use of Dunns Park discharge outfall (SW000) as a permanent discharge location at Youghal WwTP) represents a development / project as understood by the EIA Directive and Waste Water Discharge Regulations, and if a mandatory EIAR is required. Developments which require a mandatory EIAR are defined in Article 4 of the EIA Directive and set out in Annexes I and II of the Directive, and under Regulation 17 of the Waste Water Discharge Regulations.

For the purposes of screening, all of the relevant information has been provided on behalf of the applicant, Irish Water. The findings of the EIA screening assessment prepared for the development has informed our professional judgement as to whether an EIAR is warranted for the project, with due regard to all relevant statutory requirements. However ultimately it is the responsibility of the relevant authority (i.e. the Environmental Protection Agency in this particular situation) to make a determination as to whether an EIAR is required, based on screening conducted by the relevant authority.

2.1. Relevant Legislation

The Environmental Impact Directive (85/337/EEC) was brought into force in 1985. Subsequent amendments were made with the following pieces of legislation - 97/11/EC, 2003/35/EC, 2009/31/EC, 2011/92/EU and 2014/52/EU. The Directive was originally transposed into Irish Law by the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 (S.I. No. 349/1989). This amended the Local Government (Planning and Development Act) 1963 and introduced the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment in certain specified circumstances. The most recent amendment to the Directive is focused on clarifying and simplifying the process of EIA. The screening criteria have been updated, and Member States have a mandate to simplify their assessment procedures. EIA reports are to be made more readily understandable to members of the general public.

The Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 684/2007) was brought into effect in 2007 and introduced a system for the licencing or certification of discharges, from wastewater treatment plants (WwTP). The Regulations were subsequently amended as follows: S.I. No. 231/2010 - Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) (Amendment) Regulations (2010); , S.I. No. 652/2016 - Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (2016); and S.I. No. 214/2020 - European Union (Waste Water Discharge) Regulations (2020).

The most recent Waste Water Discharge Regulations (2020) came into effect on 30th June 2020. For applications for authorisation by the Environmental Protection Agency of waste water discharges by Irish Water or local authorities (water services authorities), these Regulations transpose into Irish law the provisions of Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament, and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and insofar as they had not previously been transposed into Irish law, the provisions of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

2.2. EIA Screening Determination by EPA (dated 24th September 2020) in relation to previous Licence Review Application D0139-02)

In screening the previous licence review application¹ (Review Application Ref.: D0139-02 submitted by IW on 24th March 2020) the EPA (2020) made the following EIA Screening Determination:

'EIA, as respects the matters that come within the functions of the Agency, is required for the waste water discharge authorisation to which the above licence application relates. Having considered the information provided by the applicant, which satisfies the requirements of Annex II A of the EIA Directive (in so far

¹ It is noted that the grounds for the previous licence review application (Review Application Ref.: D0139-02 submitted by IW on 24th March 2020) were to accommodate the following: delay in the construction of the new primary discharge outfall (SW001); to allow the continued use of the existing outfall (SW000) until such time as the new outfall has been constructed and commissioned; and, the authorisation of all storm water and emergency overflows (IW, 2020).

as it respects the matters that come within the functions of the Agency), the authorisation is likely to give rise to significant effects on the environment by virtue of its nature, size or location. This determination has been made having regard to the following:

1. The wastewater treatment plant to which the waste water discharge licence application relates is of a project type specified in Annex II of the EIA Directive;
2. The waste water treatment plant serves an agglomeration with a population equivalent >10,000 which is considered large in scale; and
3. The WWDL application is accompanied by an EIS.'

Whilst the above EIA screening determination by the EPA related to the previous licence review application, it is nonetheless relevant to the proposed new licence review application (for the proposed use of Dunn's Park discharge outfall (SW000) as a permanent discharge location) and warrants due consideration.

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3. Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

3.1. EIA Directive

The project has been screened against the list of developments (as per the Environmental Impact Directive (85/337/EEC) and all subsequent amendments), which have a high likelihood of impacting on the receiving environment and therefore require the mandatory preparation of an EIA.

The project does not fall within the list of Annex I projects (which require the mandatory preparation of an EIA) (under Directive 2011/92/EU as amended, 2014). However, it is noted that the wastewater treatment plant to which the waste water discharge licence application relates, is of a project type specified within Annex II (under Directive 2011/92/EU as amended, 2014).

3.2. Waste Water Discharge Regulations

The project has been screened against Regulation 17 of the Waste Water Discharge Regulations (S.I. No. 214/2020) which states the following:

'17. The principal Regulations are amended by substituting the following Regulation for Regulation 17 -

"Certain applications to be accompanied by an EIAR

17. An application in respect of the waste water discharge from—

(i) a waste water treatment plant with a capacity of greater than 10,000 population equivalent as defined in Article 2, point (6), of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, and

(ii) a waste water treatment plant specified in accordance with paragraph (6)(c) or (8)(b)(ii) of Regulation 18 or paragraph (3)(c) or (5)(b)(ii) of Regulation 25,

shall, subject to and in addition to compliance with the requirements of Regulation 16, be accompanied by a copy of an EIAR, which shall be submitted in electronic form (which shall be searchable by electronic means as far as practicable) and such other form as may be specified by the Agency."

The project involves a waste water discharge licence application (albeit a licence review application) from a waste water treatment plant with a capacity of greater than 10,000 population equivalents as defined in Article 2, point (6), of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Therefore, the proposed development screens in. The mandatory preparation of an EIAR is required.

3.3. Screening Conclusion

The EIA screening has been carried out in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC, and all subsequent amendments) and the Waste Water Discharge Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 214/2020).

The project involves a waste water discharge licence application from a waste water treatment plant with a capacity of greater than 10,000 population equivalents.

Hence a mandatory EIAR is required, as per Regulation 17 of the relevant Waste Water Discharge Regulations (S.I. No. 214/2020), for this particular project.

4. References

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- Cork County Council Local Area Plan 2014
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- European Union (2016) Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (2016) S.I. No. 652/2016
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- Irish Water (2020) Waste Water Discharge Licence Review Youghal Wastewater Works
- Irish Water (2020) WWD Application Form – Youghal Wastewater Works Waster Water Discharge Licence Review

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