

SITE OPERATION REPORT

**TULLEKA TRADING UNLIMITED,
GRAIGUE,
BALLINAKILL,
CO. LAOIS**

2025

ATTACHMENT 4.8.1.

CURRENT LICENCE REF: P0710-03

Application Ref: LA015950

1.0 Introduction

The site of the proposed development is located in the rural townland of Graigue in Co. Laois (Eastings 248372 Northings 183209).

The piggery location is c. 3.1 km north-east of Ballinakill town, c. 4.9 km south-east of Abbeyleix town and c. 15.0 km south of Portlaoise.

The current pig farm houses 650 sows, 120 maiden gilts, 4,300 weaners and 4,800 production pigs. As per the proposed development, there will be no changes to pig numbers.

Planning permission has been sought to extend an existing pig farm consisting of five modern animal house units, three feed silo's, together with all ancillary site works (Laois Co Co Planning File Reference No: 2460311).

2.0 Description of the Site

The site will comprise pig houses, ancillary structures and equipment necessary for the accommodation, management and husbandry of pigs, and the administration of the enterprise.

The pig houses have been designed for the industry. Structures of this type are common in Ireland and the best available techniques to minimise emissions and to maximise welfare conditions for animals and staff alike are standard. When construction is complete, four of the pig houses will measure 51.0m x 15.0m, and the fifth will measure 76.68m x 41.0m. This extension will add 6,208m² to the existing pig house accommodation area.

The new meal bins would be installed northwest of the proposed fattening house 14 and would have the dimensions of 4.0m wide, 4.0m long and 11.2m high.

The design of the pig houses complies with BAT housing systems for sows and weaners as identified in the IPPC Reference Document on BAT for Intensive Rearing of Poultry and Pigs (July 2003).

Walls would be constructed from pre-cast concrete with 80mm dark green insulated panels and roofs would comprise of insulated cement fibre sheeting.

The slurry tanks beneath this extension would be constructed from reinforced mass concrete.

The interior design of the buildings would be industry standard for pigs and include a state-of-the-art ventilation system, suspended ceiling, heating system, insulated internal walls and stainless steel / PVC finishes.

3.0 Description of Proposed Operations

A brief description of the main processes carried out at the rearing site:

Sow Cycle

- Following farrowing, the suckling period for the sow is 28 days on average.
- At weaning, the sow is moved back into the service area where she is fed ad lib until she returns to cycle at approximately 5-7 days.
- After a gestation period of c. 114 days within the loose sow rooms, the pre-farrowing sow is moved to the farrowing rooms 4-5 days before farrowing.
- Sows will normally have anywhere from 11 to 13 pigs per litter. The national average for sow farrowing is 2.32 to 2.38 litters per sow per year (Teagasc, 2019).

Weaner Production

- Piglets are born in farrowing rooms. Approximately 28 days after farrowing the piglets, at c. 6 to 8 kg, would be weaned and placed in the 1st stage weaner house for approximately 4 weeks.
- At c. 18 to 20 kg the pigs are moved on to the 2nd stage weaner house. The pigs would stay here for about six to eight weeks or until the pigs weigh approximately 32-40 kg.
- At the last stage of production, the pigs would spend approximately 16 weeks in a finishing unit until they reached a market weight of c. 112 kg or are returned to the breeding herd as replacement sows.

The main input materials to be used in the proposed development would be the same as the inputs for the current site, for example, water, animal feed, and electricity. The pig feed is industry standard pig rations, appropriate to the nutritional requirements of the pigs. Electricity (Eirgrid) is used to power 78% of the processes and services on the site with the remaining 22% supplied from recently installed 100kVa of solar panels.

There are also small inputs of veterinary medicines administered in accordance with relevant regulations (e.g. injectable iron, vaccines, anthelmintics and antibiotic). Other small inputs include detergents, disinfectants, and pest control products.

To ensure the health of stock, all new pigs entering the site are vaccinated (i.e. vaccinated against *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* which causes pneumonia in pigs) on arrival and again three weeks later. New-born piglets are often vaccinated early too.

Health of stock and the potential threat of animal disease is a key management issue in the pig production process. To that end, protocols are in place to minimise the risk of disease.

All staff entering the site must shower in and have a change of clothing.

Non-essential personnel are restricted from entering the site and persons that have recently visited another pig farm (last 4 days) are prohibited from entering the site.

Vehicles such as delivery trucks and on-site vehicles are cleaned regularly to minimise the chance of transferring diseases between sites.

Farrowing houses are washed after each weaning on average every four weeks. First stage weaner houses are washed after each batch, on average every four weeks. Second stage weaners and finisher pens are washed three times a year (March/April, June/July and September/October). Loading yard is washed each week after pigs are sold and walkways are washed after pigs are moved. All rooms are disinfected after washing. This procedure would

be the same in the proposed new buildings. Soiled water generation is minimised through the efficient use of wash-water during cleaning.

The principal animal welfare protocols practiced on the site include:

Dry Sow / Gilt House(s)

- ensure all sows/gilts have adequate feed and water;
- check health status and treat accordingly;
- check sows/gilts returning to cycle after service;
- scrape excess faeces from behind sows/gilts.

Farrowing House(s)

- ensure all sows have adequate feed and water;
- check the health status of this area and treat as required;
- check house temperature and heat pad temperature;
- check and record births and deaths;
- remove excess faeces, farrowing debris, dead and mummified pigs at the time of farrowing for hygiene purposes;
- manually remove all faeces at weaning to reduce water waste at power washing.

Weaner House(s)

- ensure all pigs have adequate feed and water;
- check the health status of this area;
- check temperature and ventilation rates;
- check for water wastage via drinkers.

The enterprise on the site produces pigs and produces pig slurry as a co-product. Washings from pig pens would go directly into the slurry tanks. Slurry volume would also be derived from washings and rainfall on “dirty yard” areas around the buildings.

The use of pig slurry from this installation on lands owned by other farmers is required to be in accordance with the terms prescribed in the Fertilisers and Soil Improvers Order (S.I. 253 of 2008) and the Nitrates Regulations (S.I. 113 of 2022).

There is one surface water monitoring point at the farm; SW1 is an inspection sump before rainwater is discharged to a percolation area, infiltrating to ground. Under Schedule C.2.3. of the sites EPA IE licence (P0710-03), these surface water monitoring sites are visually inspected weekly and sampled quarterly for COD.

The onsite borewell is also monitored (GW1). Under Schedule C.6.1. of the site’s EPA IE licence (P0710-03), GW1 is monitored annually for Nitrate, Total ammonia, Faecal coliforms, and Total coliforms.

4.0 Summary

The main activities on the site are summarised as follows:

- Breeding and rearing of pigs;
- Delivery of feed to farm;
- Feeding and watering of pigs;
- Removal of pig slurry from slurry tanks periodically;
- Removal of fallen animals when required;
- Cleaning/disinfecting of pig pens between batches.