This Report has been cleared for submission to Director by Senior Inspector, Niamh O'Donoghue   ***Signed:*** ***Date: 23 October 2025***

Environmental Protection Agency An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil	**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON AN INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS LICENCE APPLICATION, LICENCE REGISTER NUMBER P1214-01

TO:	Tom Ryan, DIRECTOR
FROM:	Éilis Linehan, Industrial Control and Environmental Regulation (ICER), Inspector
DATE:	23 October 2025
Applicant:	Enfield Broiler Breeders Limited
CRO number:	49365
Location/address:	Gorteen, Broadford, County Limerick
Application date:	16 July 2024

Class of activity (under EPA Act 1992 as amended):	6.1(a): The rearing of poultry in installations where the capacity exceeds 40,000 places.
Category of activity under IED (2010/75/EU):	6.6(a): Intensive rearing of poultry with more than 40,000 places for poultry.
Main CID:	CID (EU) 2017/302 (15 February 2017). Establishing (BAT) conclusions, under Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs. All relevant CIDs, BREF documents and legislation are listed in appendices of this report.
Activity description/background: Expansion of an activity for the rearing of poultry (broiler breeders) in an installation with a capacity increase from 39,000 to 61,800 birds.	
Additional information received:	Yes (19 August 2025, 21 August 2025, 27 August 2025, 05 September 2025 and 17 October 2025)
No of submissions received:	One
Environmental Impact Assessment required: Yes	Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment required: Yes
Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted (EIAR): Yes (26 July 2024)	Natura Impact Statement (NIS) submitted: Yes (21 August 2025)
Site visit: No	Site notice check: 26 September 2024

1 Introduction

This is an assessment of an application for an Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) licence to carry on an activity under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, as amended (hereafter referred to as the EPA Act). The Class of Activity relevant to the operation is 6.1 (a) – The rearing of poultry in installations where the capacity exceeds 40,000 places.

Enfield Broiler Breeders Limited owns and operates a broiler breeder farm at Gorteen, Broadford, County Limerick. The existing installation consists of eight (8) poultry houses. Development of additional poultry houses are not proposed as part of this application. Details of the current and proposed site capacity and infrastructure are provided in **Table 1.1** below.

Table 1.1. Application details.

	Existing	**Proposed**
Bird type	Broiler Breeder	Broiler Breeder
Number	39,000	61,800
No. of animal houses	8	8

The recommended determination (RD) requires that the applicant notifies the Agency one month before the intended date of commencement of the scheduled activity (i.e. operating at a capacity above 40,000 birds).

A map of the site layout is included in Appendix 1 of this report.

2 Description of activity

The installation is located in a rural location, with most development near the installation consisting of dwelling houses and farmyards. The existing poultry houses were built circa 1994/95 and have been in operation since. The poultry farm has been operated by the applicants since 1998. The present enterprise provides employment for two to three people within the community. An additional two to three ongoing positions will occur as a direct result of the proposed application.

Eight existing poultry houses currently house 39,000 birds and the proposal is to increase this to 61,800 birds. The application states that no additional poultry houses are required to accommodate increased bird numbers.

The main activities at this installation occur during normal working hours between 06:00 and 20:00. Stock inspections are and will be carried out every day, including weekends and bank holidays and additional essential activities may be undertaken outside of core working hours. The installation currently operates in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), and under the Bord Bia Poultry Products Quality Assurance Scheme (PPQAS) / Sustainable Egg Assurance Scheme (SEAS).

The process involves the rearing of stock specifically bred for the production of broiler eggs. The stock for this farm will be brought from the hatchery at c. 18 weeks of age. After approximately 44 weeks, the houses are destocked, and the birds are removed from the installation to a processing installation. Once destocked, the houses are physically emptied of all the litter and the house is brushed/blown down to remove as much of the litter and dust as possible, so as to minimise water use thereafter. The house is washed down with a power washer and disinfected. Soiled water collection facilities are available to collect any soiled water arising from this process. The houses are left to dry out before they are restocked with the next batch of birds, up to six weeks after emptying.

The type of poultry house used for this activity is a simple closed building of concrete, steel, and prefabricated panel construction, on an impervious concrete base. The houses are thermally insulated, with a computer-controlled ventilation system and artificial lighting. Automatic feeding and ventilation systems operate on a 24-hour basis. The solid flooring of each poultry house is bedded with wood shavings/chopped straw over its entire area immediately prior to housing each new batch brought from the hatchery. The principal inputs to the operation are bedding, feed, water, veterinary medicines and energy (electricity, diesel for back-up generator). The main by-product of poultry rearing is organic fertiliser (poultry litter and wash water). These are discussed in further detail below.

3 Planning Status

On 16 January 1995, Limerick County Council granted planning permission (Ref: 94/1227) for the construction of eight turkey houses. Details of this planning permission have been provided in the application form. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not submitted in support of this planning application.

No subsequent planning applications were made by the applicant; however, the applicant has provided a letter from Limerick City and County Council, dated the 14 July 2025, stating that they have no objection to the modification of the activity from a turkey rearing unit to a broiler breeder unit.

The planning permission granted for the installation in 1995 does not specify a capacity for birds housed on-site. Schedule A of the RD limits the number of birds housed on-site to 61,800 broiler breeders based on the capacity assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Ammonia Impact Assessment submitted in support of the application for an IE licence.

4 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening

In accordance with section 83(2A) of the EPA Act, the Agency must ensure that before a licence or revised licence is granted, that the application is made subject to an EIA, where the activity meets the criteria outlined in section 83(2A)(b) and 83(2A)(c).

In accordance with the EIA Screening Determination, the Agency has determined that the activity is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, and accordingly has requested an EIAR and is carrying out an assessment for the purposes of EIA.

The activity exceeds the following threshold in Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended:

> 17(a) Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry with more than 60,000 places for hens.

An EIAR was submitted to the Agency in support of the application on 26 July 2024. This is addressed in the 'EIA' Section later in this report.

5 Best Available Techniques and CID

Best Available Techniques (BAT) for the installation was assessed against the BAT conclusions contained in Commission Implementing Decision of 15 February 2017 establishing BAT conclusions for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs (2017/302/EU) and in any other relevant BREF documents specified in the appendices of this report. A detailed BAT assessment was carried out by the applicant and is included in section 4.7 of the application form. Additional conditions have been incorporated into the RD to address BAT Conclusions, and these are detailed

throughout this report. Any relevant emission levels associated with BAT (BAT-AELs) have been specified in the emissions sections of this report.

I consider that the applicable BAT Conclusion requirements are addressed through the technologies and techniques as described in the application, as well as the conditions and limits specified in the RD.

6 Emissions

6.1 Emissions to Air

This section addresses emissions to air from the installation and the environmental impact of those emissions.

6.1.1 Channelled Emissions to Air

There are no main emission points to air from the installation.

6.1.2 Fugitive Emissions

The only fugitive emissions from this sector are dust, odour and ammonia. These are discussed below. The nearest third-party dwellings potentially affected by fugitive emissions are detailed below (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1: **Nearest third-party residential dwellings**

Approximate Distance from Site	**Direction from Site**
130 m	Southeast
180 m	Southeast

6.1.3 Dust

Dust may arise from the expulsion of warm air from ventilation systems on-site, vehicle movements, removal of organic fertiliser, filling of meal storage bins and the loading and unloading of animals during periods of dry weather. Minimal dust impact may occur locally within the installation boundary during site operations.

No complaints or submissions were received in relation to dust for this site by the Agency, the HSE, or by the applicant.

The applicant has stated that good housekeeping at the installation and keeping the concrete surface in a clean condition will minimise dust from the installation.

The RD specifies the following to prevent the generation and emission of dust:

- To use one or a combination of the techniques listed in BAT 11 to prevent or reduce dust emissions from the animal houses (Condition 6).

Dust is not expected to be a significant issue beyond the installation boundary.

6.1.4 Odour

The potential impact from odour from poultry houses is minimal as houses are stocked at optimum levels, adequately ventilated, and the litter kept as dry as possible. Odour may arise when removing the organic fertiliser from the houses and when the houses are cleaned; however, this is deemed to be minor because it is removed off-site every 11 months (approx. once per annum) and takes 4-5 hours to completely remove the organic fertiliser from the houses. All organic fertiliser from the houses will be removed off-site by a registered contractor.

No complaints or submissions relating to odour have been received by the Agency, the HSE, or by the applicant.

In response to BAT requirements for odour (BAT 13), the applicant has stated that a combination of BAT 13b (housing system optimisation) and BAT 13c (optimisation of exhaust air from the houses) will be used. The implementation of BAT on-site will reduce odour emissions. Therefore, odour is not expected to be a significant issue.

The RD specifies the following odour control conditions:

- That odour from the activity shall not result in an impairment of, or an interference with amenities or the environment beyond the installation boundary (Condition 5).
- To use a diet formulation and nutritional strategy to reduce the total nitrogen and phosphorus excreted, as per BAT 3 and BAT 4 (Condition 6).
- To use a combination of the techniques listed in BAT 13 to prevent and reduce odour emissions and impact from the site (Condition 6).
- That carcasses stored on-site will be stored in covered leak-proof containers and transported off-site in covered, leak proof containers at least fortnightly (Condition 8).
- That organic fertiliser shall not be stored in the open pending its collection (Condition 8).

6.1.5 Ammonia

The report '*Ireland's Informative Inventory Report 2025*[1]*'* (EPA, 2025) identifies agriculture as the primary contributor (99.3%) of Irish ammonia emissions in 2023, emitting a total of 115.55 kilo tonnes (kt) of ammonia in that year. According to that report, ammonia emissions from the poultry sector in 2023 were approximately 5.2 kt. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has published a '*Code of Good Agricultural Practice for reducing Ammonia Emissions from Agriculture*[2]*'*, as required by the National Emission Ceiling Directive (NECD).

This installation will emit approximately 17.9 tonnes of ammonia per annum. Ammonia emissions from this activity may have the potential to impact sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the installation. The Agency screened the impact of ammonia emissions and nitrogen deposition at European sites using a screening model (SCAIL Agriculture[3]). Screening model results indicated the potential for the poultry rearing process at the installation to contribute to elevated ammonia emissions and nitrogen deposition at Natura 2000 sites; however, the SCAIL Agriculture screening model is conservative.

The applicant submitted a full site-specific model (not a screen model), as part of the completion of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), using more refined details in accordance with the requirements of AG4[4]. The applicant assessed the modelled results in line with the Agency's '*Licence Application Instruction Note 1 (IN1) Assessing the Impact of Ammonia Emissions and Nitrogen Deposition from Intensive Agriculture Installations on European Sites'* (Version 3, September 2024[5]). The ammonia impact assessment concluded that there would be no significant impacts on sensitive ecological species or habitats within the Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (004161), which is the Natura 2000 site located closest to the installation, as the process contribution at sensitive receptors was less than 1% of the ammonia critical load. This was also the case for the modelled process contribution to nitrogen deposition at sensitive habitats.

[1] https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/air-emissions/IIR_Ireland-2025_web_v2.pdf
[2] https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9a6c6-code-of-good-agricultural-practice-for-reducing-ammonia-emissions-from-agriculture/
[3] Simple Calculation of Atmospheric Impact Limits (SCAIL) Agriculture is a web based screening tool available at http://www.scail.ceh.ac.uk/
[4] Air Dispersion Modelling from Industrial Installations Guidance Note (AG4): https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/air/air-guidance-notes/epa-air-dispersion-modelling-guidance-note-ag4-2020.php
[5] Assessing-the-Impact-of-Ammonia-Emissions-and-Nitrogen-Deposition-from-the-Intensive-Agriculture-Installations-on-European-Sites-(IN1).pdf

Qualifying interests in European sites will not be affected by ammonia emissions from the installation, due to the distance between the installation and the designated sites, the type and physical characteristics of the designated sites, and reduction in the number of birds proposed by the applicant (initially proposed 70,000 birds which was then reduced to 61,800).

The applicant has stated that the design of the buildings, adherence to good management practices, and implementation of the required mitigation measures will reduce ammonia emissions from the installation. The RD specifies the following additional ammonia minimisation conditions:

- To establish, maintain and implement an Ammonia Management Programme prior to commencement of the activity (i.e. operating above the licensable threshold of 40,000 birds) and, in accordance with BAT 23, undertake an estimation/calculation of the reduction in ammonia emissions from the activity achieved by implementing BAT (Condition 5).
- To use a diet formulation and nutritional strategy to reduce the total nitrogen excreted, as per BAT 3 (Condition 6).
- To use one or a combination of the applicable techniques listed in BAT 31 to reduce ammonia emissions to air from each house for broiler breeders (Condition 6).
- To complete an estimation of ammonia emissions from the animal houses in accordance with BAT 25 (Schedule B).

The emission limits in Schedule B.1 are in accordance with those set out in the CID. The ELV applied is based on those modelled in the impact assessment and is towards the upper of the range set out in the CID for laying hens, as BAT-AELs for broiler breeders are not available.

The potential for ammonia emissions from the landspreading of poultry litter is covered in the Organic Fertiliser section later in this report.

6.2 Emissions to Water and Ground

6.2.1 Emissions to Surface Waters

There are no direct process emissions to surface waters from this activity.

6.2.2 Emissions to ground/groundwater

There are no direct process emissions to ground/groundwater from this activity. The applicant states in the application that there has been no historical contamination of groundwater at the site.

6.2.3 Other emissions to ground/groundwater

There is an existing septic tank and percolation area on-site for the treatment of sanitary effluent. The RD includes a standard condition which requires the applicant to provide and maintain a wastewater treatment plant for the treatment of sanitary effluent and that the waste water treatment system and percolation area shall satisfy the criteria set out in '*Code of Practice Waste Water Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. ≤ 10)'* (2009), published by the Environmental Protection Agency.

6.3 Storm Water Discharges

Storm water arises on-site from rainwater collected from clean yards and from the roofs of buildings. All clean storm water is diverted away from soiled areas of the site by a storm water collection system around each poultry house and is diverted by gravity for discharge via two proposed discharge points (SW1 and SW2) into a land drain which

flows east towards the eastern site boundary. All storm water discharges from the installation will pass through a silt trap in advance of discharge.

The table below gives details on the installation's storm water discharges to water, the type of on-site abatement, as well as details of the receiving water.

Table 6.1: Storm water discharge point details

Discharge Reference	Monitored parameters (monitoring frequency)	Abatement	Drainage areas	Discharging to
SW 1 (proposed)	Visual (weekly); COD/BOD (as required by the Agency)	Silt trap	Roofs and clean yards	Field drain >>> Ballintober East Stream
SW 2 (proposed)	Visual (weekly); COD/BOD (as required by the Agency)	Silt trap	Roofs and clean yards	Field Drain >>> Ballintober East Stream

The field drain flows into the Ballintober East Stream located along the eastern boundary of the site. This stream, which flows from south-west to north-east, joins the Bunoke River approximately 4 km downstream of the installation. The Ballintober East Stream and the Bunoke River currently has a WFD status of good (waterbody code: IE_SH_24B060200).

The Bunoke River flows into the River Deel (waterbody code: IE_SH_24D020600) approximately 5 km downstream of the site. The River Deel is a designated Article 7 Abstraction for Drinking Water River.

The storm water discharged from the installation should be uncontaminated and, therefore, should have no qualitative impact on receiving waters.

The only period during which there is potential for contamination of surface waters is during removal of organic fertiliser from the poultry houses and when the houses are washed out. Wash water from the yards at the front of the houses flows into the same collection drains which channel clean storm water to discharge points SW1 and SW2; however, during the wash out of houses, this wash water is diverted by a diversion chamber into wash water tanks for storage via separate soiled water underground pipelines. All wash water will be diverted to three underground wash water storage tanks located at the installation.

The applicant has stated that the proposed infrastructure, adherence to good management practices, and implementation of the required mitigation measures will mitigate the risk of storm water contamination.

The RD requires the following in relation to storm water management:

- That a storm water/rainwater collection and drainage system for all poultry houses on-site be provided and maintained (Condition 6).
- That all uncontaminated storm water be diverted to the storm water drainage system (Condition 6).
- That an up-to-date site drainage map be maintained on-site, and that the storm water drainage system be inspected weekly and always maintained properly (Condition 6).
- That inspection chambers at the outlets of the storm water drainage system be provided and maintained on the storm water discharge points, prior to commencement of licensable activity (operating above 40,000 birds), (Condition 3).

- That prior to commencement of licensable activity (operating above 40,000 birds), silt traps be provided and maintained on the storm water discharge points to ensure that all storm water discharges from the paved areas of the installation, passes through the silt trap in advance of discharge (Condition 6).
- That wash water be diverted to the wash water storage tanks prior to the commencement of poultry litter removal and washing of the houses, until such time that wash down activities are completed, and that a written procedure and records of this are maintained (Conditions 6 and 11).
- That the storm water discharge is visually inspected weekly and monitored for Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) or Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) as required by the Agency, in accordance with *Schedule B.5 Storm Water Discharge Monitoring.*

The RD contains standard conditions in relation to the storage and management of materials and wastes. The RD also requires that accident and emergency response procedures are put in place. The controls pertaining to accidents and emergencies are addressed in the Prevention of Accidents section later in this report.

6.4 Noise

The main sources of noise at the installation include the operation of equipment, ventilation systems, the back-up generator, vehicle deliveries/collections, and animals. Birds will be confined to the poultry houses for the entire poultry rearing cycle. As mentioned earlier, the nearest third-party residential dwelling is approximately 130 m away.

No complaints or submissions were received in relation to noise for this site by the Agency, the HSE, or by the applicant.

Noise emissions will primarily be minimised by implementing good management practices. Noise conditions and emission limit values, which will apply at the noise-sensitive locations, have been included in the RD.

- Noise from the installation shall not exceed the limit values set out in *Schedule B.4 Noise Emissions* of the RD at the noise sensitive locations (Condition 4).
- The use of one or a combination of the techniques listed in BAT 10 to prevent/reduce noise emissions from the site (Condition 6).
- A requirement that a noise survey be carried out of the site operations, as required by the Agency (Condition 6).

7 Waste Generation

Certain wastes will be generated on-site as part of the licensable activity. Waste generated on-site will mainly comprise spent fluorescent tubes, fallen stock (animal carcasses), veterinary/chemical waste containers and general waste. The total quantities estimated to be generated are given in Table 7.1 below. The applicant will employ a number of measures at the installation for the prevention and/or minimisation of waste.

Table 7.1: Estimated waste generation

Waste Type	Estimated quantity (tonnes) per annum
Animal Carcasses	15
Mixed Waste	1
Paper & Cardboard	0.5
Plastics	0.3
Fluorescent Light Tubes	0.05

In accordance with the hierarchy specified in the IED, waste generated at the site will, in order of priority, be minimised, be prepared for re-use, recycling, recovery or disposal. Conditions relating to waste management have been included in Condition 8 of the RD. Carcasses will be stored temporarily on-site in covered, leak proof containers before being transported to an appropriately licensed installation.

A rodent control programme will be developed to cover the installation. The programme as implemented will be in line with Bord Bia and Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine requirements.

Condition 3 of the RD requires the applicant to establish, maintain and implement a pest control programme in accordance with relevant DAFM guidelines. These guidelines take account of the requirements of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (Ireland).

8 Organic Fertiliser

The installation will necessarily generate organic fertiliser (poultry litter and wash water). Details are given in Table 8.1 below.

Table 8.1: Organic fertiliser

	Wash water	Poultry litter
Quantity produced per annum.	180 m^3	5,400 m^3
Number of storage tanks/stores on-site	3	0
Total storage capacity on-site (ex. freeboard)	248 m^3	5,588 m^3
No. weeks storage on-site	71	44
End use off-site	Landspreading by applicant	Landspreading by customer farmer
Contractor Name	N/A	Kellys Bobcat Services
Contractor DAFM No.	N/A	HAC2371

Condition 8 of the RD requires that the applicant maintains a record of organic fertiliser sent off-site for use on land in accordance with the requirements of the Nitrates Regulations[6]. The applicant will be required under the licence to submit to DAFM by the 31st of December annually details in relation to the quantity of organic fertiliser (poultry litter and wash water) exported (Record 3 form) off-site. The record must also be maintained at the installation for inspection by the Agency, local authority or DAFM. DAFM may use the record of export of organic fertiliser to identify the recipient of the organic fertiliser and the quantity received.

The Animal By-product (ABP) Regulations[7] impose legal requirements on the applicant, the 'commercial haulier' and the user of the organic fertiliser. These requirements include use of a 'commercial document' to record details required under the regulations. The applicant will be required to receive a completed copy of the 'commercial document' from the transporter confirming the final destination.

[6] S.I. No. 113 of 2022 European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022.
[7] EU Animal By-Product Regulation (EC) No. 1069 of 2009 and Regulation (EU) No. 142 of 2011, given legal effect by The European Union (Animal By-Product) Regulations 2014 (SI No. 187/2014), laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (Animal By-Products Regulation) as amended.

There will be no landspreading of organic fertiliser conducted or permitted within the installation boundary, and consequently there will be no additional ammonia emissions from landspreading activities within the installation boundary. It is important to note that the IE licence relates to the site of the activity for which the licence application is made and does not extend to the lands on which organic fertiliser may be used as fertiliser. The Nitrates Regulations specify when organic fertiliser can be applied to land and the application rates, and these are enforced by the DAFM and local authorities.

8.1 Organic Fertiliser (Poultry Litter)

Under the ABP Regulations, poultry litter is categorised as a category 2 Animal By-product and the options for its disposal/recovery are set out in Article 13 of Regulation 1069/2009, as amended.

Poultry litter must be transported either by the applicant (or staff member) or by a haulier registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Poultry litter will be moved off-site by an approved and registered contractor for use by other customer farmers for use as an organic fertiliser.

The DAFM provides detailed Codes of Practice for the handling and use of poultry litter, which includes, amongst other things, disease prevention (poultry litter may cause botulism in cattle on the farm on which it is spread and neighbouring farms).

The applicant has identified 1 farmer who is available to accept organic fertiliser from the installation as fertiliser for their farms (in the surrounding area of Castlemagner, Mallow, County Cork). The applicant has calculated that these farms have a need for up to 5,400m^3 organic fertiliser per year based on the nitrogen balance for the farms. This equates to approximately 100 % of the estimated volume of organic fertiliser produced on-site. The applicant has included a letter from Riverfield Farms Ltd with the application, stating their intention to accept the above-mentioned figure of organic fertiliser per year.

The application includes a letter from Kelly's Bobcat Services, confirming they will take poultry litter from the installation (details given in Table 8.1 above).

The Nitrates Regulations (Article 11(1)) require that a minimum of 26-weeks' storage capacity for organic fertiliser is provided. The applicant is exempt from this storage period once there is a contract in place for the removal of poultry litter by a registered contractor, as set out above. Such exemption is provided in accordance with Article 14(1) of the Nitrates Regulations. Condition 3 of the RD requires compliance with the relevant articles of the Nitrates Regulations, i.e. that either such a contract or the required storage is in place.

The quantity of nitrogen and phosphorus generated by the activity at the proposed licence capacity is approximately:

34,608 kg N per year, and

7,416 kg P per year,

based on figures available in the Nitrates Regulations (annual nutrient excretion rates for livestock).

The RD contains the following additional requirements relating to the management of poultry litter:

- To inspect the integrity of the floors of all deep litter houses after each wash down, repair any damaged or cracked floors as necessary, and maintain a record of inspections and any necessary remedial actions taken (Condition 6).
- That any organic fertiliser spilled to ground during loading, shall be collected and returned to storage or to the vehicle into which it was being loaded (Condition 8)

8.2 Wash water

Wash water will be generated by the activity every 48-50 weeks. Prior to washing, the floors will be brushed to reduce the quantity of poultry litter that could potentially enter the wash water system. After washing, the houses are allowed to dry and then disinfectant applied. The wash water may contain insignificant quantities of disinfectant from the previous washing cycle.

Wash water details are given in Table 8.1 above. The total wash water storage capacity is sufficient to meet the 26-week storage capacity requirement in the Nitrates Regulations.

The wash water is considered suitable for use on land as an organic fertiliser and such use is provided for by the Nitrates Regulations and Animal By-product Regulations.

The applicant has identified approximately 10.9 ha of farmland on the applicant's landholding in the vicinity of the activity, outside the boundary to which this licence relates, on which the wash water will be landspread. The applicant has demonstrated in the application that the addition of wash water from the installation will not result in a stocking rate above 170 kg organic nitrogen per hectare stocking rate, the maximum specified in the Nitrates Regulations.

The RD contains the following conditions relating to the management of wash water:

- That wash water storage tanks be fitted with high liquid level indicators prior to the commencement of the activity (Condition 3).
- That all storage tanks are integrity assessed prior to the commencement of the activity for existing tanks and before utilisation for proposed tanks, and at least once every three years thereafter (Condition 6).
- That a combination of the techniques listed in BAT 6 be used to reduce the generation of wash water on-site (Condition 6).
- That one or a combination of the techniques listed in BAT 7 be used to reduce the emissions to water from wash water on-site (Condition 6).
- That a freeboard of at least 200 mm from the top of covered wash water storage tanks and 300 mm from the top of uncovered wash water storage tanks is maintained, as a minimum, at all times and that this is clearly indicated in the tank (Condition 6).
- That the loading and unloading of materials shall be carried out in designated areas protected against spillage and leachate run-off (Condition 8).

9 Energy Efficiency and Resource Use

The operation of the installation involves the consumption of fuel, electricity and resources. The proposed quantities to be used at a capacity of 61,800 birds are given below.

Table 9.1: Estimated resource usage

Resource	Quantity per annum
Electricity	86,000 kWh
Water (on-site well) Water Abstraction registration required:	5,400 m^3/yr No
Feed	3,000 t
Kerosene/Diesel	Back-up generator only

The applicant employs a variety of technologies to maximise the efficient use of energy within the installation, including regular preventative maintenance of equipment, use of energy efficient lighting systems and thermal insulation.

The only source of water for the activity is two on-site bore wells (BW 01 and BW 02) located inside the licensed boundary. The RD requires the applicant to carry out monitoring of these wells annually.

The installation is located on the Shanagolden groundwater body (IE_SH_G_203) which has a WFD status of 'Good'. The site is underlain by a locally important aquifer, limestone bedrock which is moderately productive only in local zones.

In accordance with the Water Environment (Abstractions and Associated Impoundments) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No. 419 of 2024), those who abstract 25 m^3 of water or more per day are required to register or apply for a licence for their water abstraction. As the applicant proposes to abstract approximately 15 m^3 per day, registration / licensing of their abstraction is not required.

The RD specifies that the applicant undertake the following in relation to energy and resource efficiency:

- Annual maintenance of the animal house heating systems and the back-up generator (Condition 3).
- To install and maintain a water meter on all water supplies (Condition 3).
- To use a combination of the techniques listed in BAT 8 (efficient use of energy) and BAT 5 (efficient use of water) (Condition 7).
- To undertake an assessment of the efficient use of resources and energy in all site operations and to undertake an energy audit, repeated at intervals as required by the Agency with the recommendations of the audit being incorporated into the Schedule of Environmental Objectives and Targets as outlined in Condition 2 (Condition 7).

10 Prevention of Accidents

A certain amount of accident risk is associated with the licensable activity. For this installation, potential accidents and measures for prevention/limitation of consequences are given in the table below.

Table 10.1: Potential accidents and measures for prevention/limitation of consequences

Potential accidents and measures to prevent	
Potential for an accident or hazardous/emergency situation to arise from activities at the installation	• Surface water and/or ground/groundwater contamination during poultry removal and washing. • Surface water and/or ground/groundwater contamination by spillage of organic fertiliser, fuel or other polluting materials. • Surface water and/or ground/groundwater contamination due to leaks from tanks. • Accidental diversion of wash water to storm water drainage system. • Accidental emissions of noise, dust or odour such as to cause nuisance outside the site boundary.
Preventative/Mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood of accidents and mitigate the effects of the consequences of an accident at the installation	• The provision and maintenance of adequate wash water storage facilities. • The storage of potentially polluting liquids in bunded areas. • The concreting of yards around houses. • The provision of concrete aprons around wash water areas. • The protection of fuel tanks from accidental damage. • The separation of wash water and clean storm water, including diversion of the storm water collection system to wash water holding tank during cleaning.

Additional measures provided for in the RD	• Integrity assessment and maintenance of the wash water network and poultry house floors as required (Condition 6). • The regular visual examination and inspection of the storm water discharge points and storm water drainage system (Condition 6). • No storage of organic fertiliser (poultry litter) on-site, other than what is in the animal houses during the poultry rearing cycle at the installation (Condition 8). • The provision of more than 26-weeks organic fertiliser (wash water) storage capacity (Condition 3). • Accident prevention and emergency response procedures requirements (Condition 9). • A preventative maintenance programme (Condition 2).

The risk of accidents and their consequences, and the preventative and mitigation measures listed above, have been considered in full in the assessments carried out throughout this report. It is considered that the conditions of the RD and the mitigation measures proposed will significantly reduce the likelihood of accidental emissions occurring and limit the environmental consequences of such an event should it occur.

11 Cessation of Activity

A certain amount of environmental risk is associated with the cessation of any licensable activity (site closure). The applicant has provided a list of measures to be taken in the event of site closure/cessation of activity. These measures are listed in attachment 9.1 of the application form. Condition 10 of the RD requires the proper closure of the activity with the aim of protecting the environment.

Baseline Report

Where an activity involves the use, production or release of Relevant Hazardous Substances, and having regard to the possibility of soil and groundwater contamination at the site of the installation, the IED requires operators to prepare a baseline report. A baseline screening assessment was undertaken by the applicant, in accordance with Stages 1 to 3 of European Commission Guidance[8].

The screening assessment determined that, considering the type and quantity of substances used as part of the activity, the location of these substances on the site, in view of the soil and groundwater characteristics, and the measures to be taken to prevent accidents and incidents, the possibility of soil and groundwater contamination at the site of the installation is considered to be low. I am satisfied that a full baseline report (stages 4 to 8) is not required.

Nonetheless, upon cessation of the activity, Condition 10 of the RD requires the applicant to take certain measures to ensure that there is, to the satisfaction of the Agency, no remaining risk of environmental pollution at the site.

12 Fit and Proper Person

Technical Ability

The applicant has operated a poultry farm at the site for many years. It is considered that the applicant has demonstrated the technical knowledge required to operate this installation.

Legal Standing

[8] European Commission Guidance concerning baseline reports under Article 22(2) of Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions.

Neither the applicant nor any relevant person has relevant convictions under the EPA Act, or under any other relevant environmental legislation.

ELRA, CRAMP and Financial Provision

The licence category and proposed installation were assessed for the requirements of Environmental Liabilities Risk Assessment (ELRA), Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP) and Financial Provision (FP), in accordance with Agency guidance. Under this assessment it has been determined that ELRA, CRAMP and FP were not required.

Fit and Proper Conclusion

It is my view that the applicant can be deemed a Fit and Proper Person for the purpose of this application

13 Submissions

There was one submission made on this application. While the main points raised in the submission are briefly summarised in the table below, the original submission should be referred to at all times for greater detail and expansion of particular points.

The issues raised in the submission are noted and addressed in this Inspector's Report and the submission was taken into consideration during the preparation of the Recommended Determination (RD).

Table 13.1: Submission summary

1.	**Name & Position:**	**Organisation:**	**Date received:**
	Mr. Andrew Curtin, Principal Environmental Health Officer	Environmental Health Service, Health Service Executive (HSE) West	27 September 2024
	Issues raised: *The HSE submission, submitted by Andrew Curtin, is based on a report prepared by Arlene Ward, Environmental Health Officer. The submission makes a number of observations in relation to the licence application, specifically potential environmental health impacts. The issues raised include potential dust, odour and noise nuisances, poultry litter and waste water storage, surface and ground water quality, pest control and waste management. The HSE also confirmed in their submission that they have not received any complaints relating to the existing activity of the installation to date.* *Specific recommendations and observations highlighted by the HSE include:* • *The nearest occupied dwellings are approximately 127 m and 183 m south-east of the poultry houses.* • *The HSE recommends implementation of odour mitigation measures to minimise the impact of odour from the facility in these sensitive receptors.* • *They recommend that a programme for the inspection and maintenance (as required) of ventilation fans to minimise any potential impact of noise from the ventilation fans on sensitive receptors.* • *Water supply is via two on-site wells. They recommend the applicant not use the abstraction wells for both a drinking water supply to the domestic dwelling and for the activities related to poultry rearing.* • *In order to protect groundwater and surface water quality in the vicinity they recommend:* o *High level monitors are installed on the proposed waste water tanks to reduce the risk of accidental overflow.* o *The waste water storage tanks are inspected annually to check for structural integrity.* o *Containers for the storage of broiler casualties have sufficient capacity and that the containers are of steel construction and are water, pest and topple proof.* o *Impervious concrete is provided throughout the site where necessary to enable the full collection of surface water to the surface water collection system.*		

	○ *No contaminated material is stored on site in a fashion that may undermine the environmental security of the collection system* ○ *All drains, guttering and other collection apparatus must be inspected at regular intervals.* ○ *Inspections and maintenance programs for tanks and pipelines should be initiated to mitigate against the risk of leakage.* ○ *High level and overflow collection where applicable – in particular a vacuum tanker should be on site as a back-up during the washing process.* ○ *Valves should be placed at water diversion points to give added protection while unloading soiled water tanks.* ○ *All activities on site to be carried out in accordance with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Bord Bia, EPA and Limerick City & County Council specifications and/or industry standards.* ○ *All organic fertilisers generated on the site to be removed by a registered contractor for use elsewhere.* ○ *All soiled water to be appropriately collected, stored and utilised in accordance with the requirements of S.I. 605 of 2017 (as amended).* ○ *All potentially polluting product (fuels, detergents, etc.) to be stored in appropriately bunded/secured areas.* ○ *Storm water discharge points to be checked and inspected regularly for any sign of contamination.* • *The HSE recommends that a formal complaints procedure should be outlined to resolve any possible issues or community concern in relation to traffic, dust, water, noise, odour or nuisance complaints.* • *The HSE recommends that an Integrated Vector Management approach to pest/vector control, through actions such as good design and construction of infrastructure such as drains, good waste management practices, such as the management of animal tissues and carcasses plus the application of measures to control vectors in all stages of their life cycle.*
	Agency response: The main issues raised in the submission are noted and addressed in the relevant sections of the Inspector's Report. The 'Odour' and 'Noise' sections of this report contains further information in relation potential odour and noise nuisance. The RD includes conditions to minimise nuisance from the activity. In relation to potential impacts to the catchment area, there are no emissions to water from this installation, only clean storm water will be permitted to be discharged from the site. The RD includes a number of conditions in relation to the protection of water quality including conditions relating to wash water storage, tank specifications, integrity assessment, high liquid level indicators, and leak detection. The 'Waste Generation' section of this report contains further information in relation to waste generation and management at the installation, including poultry tissue waste (carcasses). Pest control is also addressed in this section. The RD includes a number of conditions in relation to waste management.

14 Consultations

14.1 Cross Office Consultation

The Industrial Control and Environmental Regulation (ICER) and the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) routinely liaise in relation to the licensing of the intensive agricultural sector. This in part has informed the assessment of this application.

14.2 Transboundary Consultations

There were no transboundary consultations undertaken as there were no transboundary impacts identified.

15 Appropriate Assessment

Appendix 2 lists the European sites assessed, their associated qualifying interests and conservation objectives along with the assessment of the effects of the activity on the European sites.

A screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) was undertaken to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site. In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Sites at the Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (004161), Askeaton Fen Complex SAC (002279), Barrigone SAC (000432), and Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170).

The activity is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site and the Agency considered, for the reasons set out below, that it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any European Site and accordingly determined that an Appropriate Assessment of the activity was required. This determination has been made in light of the following reasons:

- Air emissions of ammonia (and associated nitrogen deposition) from the installation have the potential for effects on qualifying interest habitats and species in the European Sites listed above due to their proximity to the installation.
- The Askeaton Fen Complex has Alkaline Fens [7230] listed as a qualifying interest in the Conservation Objectives documents for this European site, which is particularly sensitive to ammonia.
- Regard has been had to the EPA's Licence Application Guidance (Assessment of the Impact of Ammonia and Nitrogen on Natura 2000 Sites from Intensive Agriculture Installations, Version 2, March 2023) and the online screening tool SCAIL Agriculture (http://www.scail.ceh.ac.uk) as part of this Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination.
- Taking all the foregoing into account it is considered that significant effects on European Sites and their qualifying interests due to emissions to air from the installation cannot be ruled out at the screening stage and based on the precautionary principle this determination is that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

An NIS in support of the application was received by the Agency on 21 August 2025.

An Inspector's Appropriate Assessment has been completed and has determined, based on best scientific knowledge in the field and in accordance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, that the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site, in particular Lower River Shannon SAC (002165), Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (004161), Askeaton Fen Complex SAC (002279), Barrigone SAC (000432), and Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170), having regard to their conservation objectives and will not affect the preservation of these sites at favourable conservation status if carried out in accordance with the RD and the conditions attached hereto for the following reasons:

- The installation is not located within a European site.
- The closest European site is approximately 2.4 km away.

- It is proposed that storm water run-off from the roof and paved areas will be directed into local watercourses. There will be no other direct discharge to surface waters or groundwater within the installation boundary.
- The proposed storm water collection system includes a silt trap on all storm water lines prior to discharge of the storm water from the site.
- The risk of surface water or groundwater contamination because of accidental emissions during washing activities, or from spillage from the wash water tanks, is minimal, given that the downstream distance between the activity and a European site is more than 38 km.
- Waste generated on-site will be handled and stored in a manner which will ensure there is no risk to European sites and will only be sent to appropriately authorised facilities.
- The poultry litter generated at the installation has a high dry matter content.
- The poultry litter remains within the concrete-floored covered poultry houses until all birds are removed at the end of each batch. Therefore, there is no pathway between the poultry litter and surface water/ groundwater while the houses are stocked.
- When the houses are destocked, the poultry litter is removed from the poultry houses and removed off-site.
- It is proposed that wash water will be applied to farmlands in accordance with the Nitrates Regulations. It is proposed that poultry litter will be transported by a contractor to be used as an organic fertiliser on farmlands in accordance with the Nitrates Regulations. The licence, if granted, relates to the site of the activity for which the licence application is made, i.e. the rearing of poultry within the installation boundary, and does not extend to the lands beyond the installation boundary on which wash water may be spread or organic fertiliser may be used.
- Activities which can take place within European sites are restricted by legislation. All persons must obtain the written consent from the relevant Minister before performing particular operations on, or affecting, particular habitats where they occur on lands or waters within the SACs and SPAs.
- The closest European site (Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA) is approximately 2.4 km away from the installation boundary and is considered outside of the zone of influence of noise emissions arising at the installation.
- The installation is in a rural area where the predominant farming activities involve the rearing of livestock. There are eleven other licensed intensive poultry rearing installations within a 5 km radius of the installation. These installations are each required to operate in accordance with the conditions of an EPA licence.
- The applicant has proposed several mitigation measures which comply with BAT to minimise emissions of ammonia and therefore, nitrogen deposition at the designated sites. This includes a commitment to use a low protein feed and forced drying of litter using indoor air.
- Air emissions were modelled by the applicant as part of a NIS requested by the Agency. The modelling concluded that process emissions from proposed bird numbers at the installation will not contribute significantly to ammonia levels at sensitive habitats in the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC, Lower River Shannon SAC and Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA.
- Regard has been had to the Agency's '*Licence Application Instruction Note (IN1) Assessing the Impact of Ammonia Emissions and Nitrogen Deposition from Intensive Agriculture Installations on European Sites*' (Version 3, September 2024).

There were no submissions on this application concerning Appropriate Assessment.

16 Environmental Impact Assessment

16.1 EIA Introduction

This assessment is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

As part of this environmental impact assessment, I have carried out an examination, analysis and evaluation of all the information provided by the applicant (including the EIAR), information received through consultation and the issues that interact with the matters that were considered by that authority and which relate to the activity, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information where appropriate. All of the documentation received was examined and I consider that the EIAR complies with the provisions of Article 5 of the 2014 EIA Directive when considered in conjunction with the additional material submitted with the application.

I am satisfied that the environmental effects arising as a consequence of the activity have been satisfactorily identified, described and assessed.

Having specific regard to EIA, this Inspector's Report as a whole is intended to identify, describe and assess for the Agency the likely significant direct and indirect effects of the activity on the environment, as respects the matters that come within the functions of the Agency, for each of the following environmental factors: population and human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air and climate, the landscape, material assets and cultural heritage.

This Inspector's Report addresses the interaction between those effects and the related development forming part of the wider project. The cumulative effects, with other developments in the vicinity of the activity have also been considered, as regards the combined effects of emissions. In addition, the vulnerability of the activity to risks of major accidents and/or disasters has been considered. The mitigation measures proposed to address the range of predicted significant effects arising from the activity have been outlined. This Inspector's Report provides conclusions to the Agency in relation to such effects.

A summary of the submissions made by third parties has been set out above in the 'Submissions' section of this report.

I am satisfied that the public have been given early and effective opportunity to participate in the environmental decision-making procedure.

16.2 Consultation with Planning Authorities in relation to EIA

Consultation was carried out between Limerick City and County Council and the Agency under the relevant section of the EPA Act.

Limerick City and County Council did not provide any observations to the Agency on the licence application and EIAR.

16.3 Consultation with other competent authorities

There was no consultation with other competent authorities in relation to this application.

16.4 Alternatives

The matter of alternatives is addressed in Chapter 3 of the EIAR. It considers alternative sites and processes.

The proposed site was considered the most suitable due to access and proximity to the existing poultry enterprise. The house design is in line with BAT and scale is sufficient to cover development and operational costs. The process chosen offers the applicant the best fit between proposed and existing enterprises.

In this regard, I consider that the matter of the examination of alternatives has been satisfactorily addressed.

16.5 Likely Significant Direct and Indirect Effects

Likely significant direct and indirect effects of the activity on the following factors as set out in Article 3 of the EIA Directive are considered in this section:

a) *population and human health*
b) *biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC;*
c) *land, soil, water, air and climate;*
d) *material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape;*
e) *the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d).*

16.5.1 Population & Human Health

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

Population and human health are mainly addressed in Chapter 4.2 of the EIAR. The potential direct and indirect effects on population and human health are associated with emissions to air, dust, odour, noise emissions, emissions to water, waste generation, and accidental emissions. Should emissions cause an exceedance of environmental quality standards, this could have implications for population and human health.

The effects identified and described above have been assessed in the following sections of the licence assessment part of this report:

- Emissions to Air,
- Emissions to Water and Ground,
- Noise,
- Waste Generation,
- Organic Fertiliser, and
- Prevention of Accidents.

There is also the potential for accidental emissions to the environment, due to human error or failure of containment infrastructure. Accidental emissions are addressed in the 'Prevention of Accidents' section of this report.

Cumulative effects of the activity in relation to population and human health have been assessed and it is considered that there is not likely to be a significant cumulative effect from the activity and other activities/developments. There are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures and monitoring in relation to population and human health are detailed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Air,
- Emissions to Water and Ground,
- Noise,
- Waste Generation,
- Organic Fertiliser, and
- Prevention of Accidents.

Conclusions

I have examined all the information on population and human health, provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified and

through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects in terms of population and human health.

16.5.2 Biodiversity

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

Biodiversity is mainly addressed in an Ecological Impact Assessment submitted in support of the EIAR. The EIAR describes the habitats and species at and in the vicinity of the installation. Evidence (mammal tracks and badger droppings) of one protected species, the Eurasian Badger was recorded during the on-site survey, which indicates that the site forms part of the foraging territory of the local badger population. There are five Natura 2000 designated sites within 25 km of the application site, the closest being 2.4 km away from the installation. The site of the application is typical of the agricultural nature of the surrounding land and has been characterised as a species-poor wet grassland.

The applicant also submitted a Natura Impact Statement (Refer to the Appropriate Assessment section of this report).

The potential direct and indirect effects on biodiversity are related to effects on aquatic flora and fauna and their habitats due to effects on water quality, disturbance to fauna due to noise emissions, and effects due to air emissions (e.g. ammonia emissions and nitrogen deposition). The effects identified and described above have been assessed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Air,
- Emissions to Water and Ground,
- Storm Water Discharges,
- Waste Generation,
- Noise,
- Organic Fertiliser, and
- Prevention of Accidents.

There is also the potential for accidental emissions to the environment, due to spillages or human error, which may impact on biodiversity. Accidental emissions are addressed in the Prevention of Accidents section earlier in this report. Landspreading of organic fertiliser could impact on water quality, however, this occurs outside of the licensed boundary. This must be carried out in accordance with the Nitrates Regulations and Animal By-product Regulations, which are enforced by DAFM and the Local Authorities. In addition, the Government's Food Vision 2030 was published in August 2021 and sets out four high level mission statements for the Agri-Food sector. This document proposes more targeted agri-environmental schemes under the CAP Strategic Plan to protect Ireland's habitats and species from emissions from the agricultural sector. This Agri-Food Strategy (AFS) also included an Appropriate Assessment (AA) which concluded that "the adoption of the AFS would not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites with the inclusion of the mitigation recommendations."

There is potential for impacts on badger population, however, no badger setts were recorded within the site boundary and the operation of the broiler breeder installation will not result in significant adverse effects on available foraging habitat for badger.

Cumulative effects of the activity in relation to biodiversity have been assessed and it is considered that there is not likely to be a significant cumulative effect from the activity and other activities/developments. There are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures and monitoring in relation to biodiversity are detailed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Air,

- Emissions to Water and Ground,
- Storm Water Discharges,
- Waste Generation,
- Noise,
- Organic Fertiliser, and
- Prevention of Accidents

Conclusions

I have examined all the information on biodiversity, provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified and through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects in terms of biodiversity.

16.5.3 Land and Soil

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

Land and soil are addressed in Chapter 4.3 of the EIAR. The installation is located in a moderately productive agricultural area. This area has a relatively flat to gently undulating topography similar to a significant part of Co. Limerick and surrounding areas. Land use currently in the development area is an existing poultry farm. Any potential contamination issues are dealt with in the 'baseline report' section of this report.

The potential direct and indirect effects on land and soil are associated with emissions to air, emissions to water, and accidental emissions. Should emissions cause an exceedance of environmental quality standards, this could have implications for land and soil. The potential effects identified and described above have been assessed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Air,
- Emissions to Water and Ground,
- Organic Fertiliser,
- Waste Generation,
- Prevention of Accidents, and
- Cessation of Activity.

There is also the potential for accidental emissions to the environment, due to spillages or human error, which may impact on land or soil. Accidental emissions are addressed in the 'Prevention of Accidents' section earlier in this report. Landspreading of organic fertiliser could impact on land or soil, however, this occurs outside of the licensed boundary. This must be carried out in accordance with the Nitrates Regulations and Animal By-product Regulations, which are enforced by DAFM and the Local Authorities.

Cumulative effects of the activity in relation to land and soil have been assessed and is considered that there is not likely to be a significant cumulative effect from the activity and other activities/developments. There are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures and monitoring in relation to land and soil are detailed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Air,
- Emissions to Water and Ground,
- Organic Fertiliser,
- Waste Generation,
- Prevention of Accidents, and

- Cessation of Activity.

Conclusions

I have examined all the information on land and soil, provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified and through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects on land and soil.

16.5.4 Water

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

Water is mainly addressed in Chapter 5 of the EIAR and in the Ecological Impact Assessment submitted in support of the EIAR. The site is above the Shanagolden groundwater body (Ref: IE_SH_G_203) which has a Water Framework Status of 'Good' and a vulnerability of 'Low'.

The site lies within the Shannon Estuary South catchment area and Deel[Newcastlewest]_SC_020 sub-catchment. Storm water from the roof and yard area will discharge via silt traps to a field drain which flows towards the Ballintober East Stream which flows from south-west to north-east along the eastern site boundary.

There are no process emissions to water or ground from the site. The potential direct and indirect effects on water relate to storm water discharges, and sanitary facility emissions. Should the discharges cause an exceedance of Water Quality Standards in the receiving water, this could have potential effects on water quality, aquatic biodiversity and human health. The effects identified and described above have been assessed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Water and Ground,
- Storm Water Discharges,
- Organic Fertiliser, and
- Prevention of Accidents.

There is also the potential for accidental emissions to water or groundwater to occur. The likelihood of accidental emissions to water is considered low in light of the measures outlined in the 'Prevention of Accidents' section above and in light of the conditions in the RD.

The site is in a rural area with most of the developments in the vicinity of the installation being dwelling houses and farmyards. There are 12 other licensed intensive poultry rearing installations within a 5 km radius of the installation and no other significant industrial developments. These installations are each required to operate in accordance with the conditions of an EPA licence and none have emissions to surface water. Due to the nature of those activities and the controls in place, it is considered that there will be no significant cumulative effect from storm water discharges from the activity and from other activities/developments in the area.

Landspreading of organic fertiliser, which occurs outside of the licensed boundary, could cause pollution of surface waters or groundwater. To prevent this, the application of fertilisers to land is controlled by the Nitrates Regulations. These give legal effect in Ireland to the Nitrates Directive and to our Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) and controls the management and application of livestock manure and other fertilisers. The NAP is required to be reviewed every four years. In 2022, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage undertook an Appropriate Assessment of the current NAP (5th NAP 2022-2025), which included a Natura Impact Statement (February 2022) for Irelands NAP and concluded that the NAP would not result in adverse effects on European site integrity either alone or in combination with other plans and programmes.

As mentioned earlier, the AFS sets out four high level mission statements for the sector. One of its mission statements is to become a 'Climate smart, environmentally sustainable Agri-food sector'. This target is underpinned

by seven goals one of which, to “Protect High Status Sites and Contribute to Protection & Restoration of Good Water Quality and Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems”. The report identified five actions under this goal including protecting water from agricultural pollution and reduce use of agricultural pesticides. Its associated AA concluded “the adoption of the AFS would not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites with the inclusion of the mitigation recommendations.”

The National River Basin Management Plan (2022-2027) was published in September 2024. Over the period of this river basin planning cycle, there are measures being undertaken to meet the environmental objectives of the WFD. These include measures such as implementation of the Nitrates Action Programme (Nitrates Regulations) and associated inspection regime. Targeted monitoring as envisaged under the Plan allied with multi-party enforcement (EPA/Local Authority/DAFM) provides an early warning of potential problems/improvements and of the possible need to adapt the Plan to ensure protection of our waters.

Cumulative effects of the activity in relation to water have been assessed and is considered that there is not likely to be a significant cumulative effect from the activity and other activities/developments. There are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures and monitoring in relation to water are detailed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Water and Ground,
- Storm Water Discharges,
- Organic Fertiliser, and
- Prevention of Accidents.

Conclusions

I have examined all the information on water (including Storm Water, Emissions to Water and Groundwater) provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified and through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects on water.

16.5.5 Noise

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

Noise is mainly addressed in Chapter 11 of the EIAR. The installation is located in a rural area. The potential direct and indirect effects of noise associated with the operation of the activity are the potential to cause nuisance for those living near the activity or to affect noise sensitive species near the site. The effects have been assessed in the ‘Noise’ section of this report.

There is also the potential for accidental noise emissions. This is addressed in the ‘Prevention of Accidents’ section of this report.

Cumulative effects of the activity in relation to noise have been assessed and is considered that there is not likely to be a significant cumulative effect from the activity and other activities/developments. There are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures and monitoring in relation to noise are detailed in the ‘Noise’ section of this report.

Conclusions

I have examined all the information on noise provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified and through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects in terms of noise.

16.5.6 Air

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

Air is mainly addressed in Chapter 6 of the EIAR. The potential direct and indirect effects on air are associated with emissions to air of ammonia, dust and odour from the poultry housing, and dust from the installation yard. Should emissions cause an exceedance of air quality standards or critical levels/loads, this could have implications for air quality, human health and biodiversity within and beyond the site boundary. General site dust and odour emissions have the potential to impact human health and cause nuisance.

The effects identified and described above have been assessed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Air,
- Organic Fertiliser, and
- Prevention of Accidents.

There is also the potential for accidental emissions to the environment. This is addressed in the 'Prevention of Accidents' section of this report.

In relation to cumulative effects, it is noted that there are 12 other licensed intensive poultry rearing installations within a 5 km radius of the installation.

Emissions to air from these activities have been considered during the licensing process for each of these installations and as they are required to comply with the conditions of their licences, these installations should not have any significant emissions of odour, dust or ammonia under normal operations. In this assessment, it has already been determined that air emissions from the installation will not significantly affect local air quality.

The applicant submitted a full site-specific model (not a screen model), which took into account the background levels of ammonia, and it is considered that there is not likely to be a significant cumulative effect on sensitive receptors, with the controls in place and controls recommended in the licence, as a result of the ammonia emissions from the installation and those generated by other activities/developments in the area.

As stated previously, the Agency has issued a guidance document to assist applicants in undertaking an assessment of the impacts of ammonia and nitrogen, including cumulative assessments, titled '*Licence Application Instruction Note 1 (IN1) Assessing the Impact of Ammonia Emissions and Nitrogen Deposition from Intensive Agriculture Installations on European Sites'* (Version 3, September 2024). The ammonia impact assessment submitted by the applicant concluded that there would be no significant impacts on sensitive ecological species or habitats within the Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (004161), which is the Natura 2000 site located closest to the installation, as the process contribution at sensitive receptors was less than 1% of the ammonia critical load. This was also the case for the modelled process contribution to nitrogen deposition at sensitive habitats.

According to '*Ireland's Informative Inventory Report 2025'* (EPA, 2025), which contains the most recent data, ammonia emissions in 2023 from the poultry sector were 5.2 kt (or 4.5% of Ireland's National emissions). This installation will emit 17.9 tonnes per annum. In December 2020, the Government issued '*Ag Climatise – A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality*'. This is a roadmap of actions for agriculture to cut GHG emissions as well as ammonia emissions significantly over the next decade, and up to 2050. The road map lists actions aiming to reduce the cumulative impact of ammonia emissions from the sector.

As mentioned earlier, the AFS sets out four high level mission statements for the sector one of which is to become a 'Climate smart, environmentally sustainable Agri-food sector'. Another of its seven goals is to develop a climate neutral food system by 2050 and improve air quality. As stated, its associated AA concluded "the adoption of the AFS would not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites with the inclusion of the mitigation recommendations."

As detailed previously in the 'Emissions to Air' section of this report, Ireland is addressing ammonia emissions (including emissions from landspreading) in accordance with the NECD and S.I. No. 232/2018, European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018. The Code of Good Agricultural Practice as referred to earlier in this report contains guidelines on topics including *inter alia* low emission spreading and fertiliser management, as well as animal feed and housing.

Approximately 3.1% of the ammonia emissions that originate from landspreading in Ireland come from the poultry sector. This equates to 0.8% of Ireland's total ammonia emissions. The organic fertiliser generated by the activity represents a negligible quantity relative to the total quantity of organic fertiliser arising from the livestock sectors in Ireland (cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry).

Cumulative effects of the activity in relation to air have been assessed and is considered that there is not likely to be a significant cumulative effect from the activity and other activities/developments. There are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures and monitoring in relation to air, including ammonia, dust and odour, are detailed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Air,
- Organic Fertiliser, and
- Prevention of Accidents.

Conclusions

I have examined all the information on Air (including ammonia, dust and odour) provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified and through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects in terms of air (including ammonia, dust and odour).

16.5.7 Climate

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

Chapter 7 of the EIAR addresses Climate. Climate change is a significant global issue which affects weather and environmental conditions (air, water and soil) which consequently affects population and human health, material assets, cultural heritage, the landscape and biodiversity. Climate change is caused by warming of the climate system by enhanced levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHG) due to human activities. GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), nitrogen trifluoride (NF_3) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6).

The installation does not operate under a GHG Emissions Permit in accordance with the European Communities (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading) Regulations 2012, (S.I. 490 of 2012 and amendments). Therefore, this site is not subject to the European Communities (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading) Regulations 2012, (S.I. 490 of 2012 and amendments) (the EU ETS). It is therefore a requirement of the IED to investigate how direct emissions of CO_2 might be minimised.

Indirect emissions of CO_2 may arise due to the use of electricity from the national grid. These emissions are covered under the EU ETS at the generating plant, but the applicant is also required to address electricity usage as part of energy efficiency management.

The Irish Government approved "Ireland's Climate Action Plan (CAP24)" on 21 May 2024, which is the third annual update to Climate Action Plan 2019 and the second to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

The potential direct and indirect effects on climate are associated with storage and spreading of organic fertiliser (litter) (nitrous oxide) and usage of fossil fuels (carbon dioxide).

However, any discussion of GHG emissions must be extended to national and global climate impact.

As part of the non-ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme) sector the GHG emissions from this site are covered by Ireland's commitments under the Effort Sharing Decision (Decision No 406/2009/EC) and the Effort Sharing Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/842) from 2021.

Given the small quantity of climate altering substances that could be released from the activity, in a national context, I consider that the impact of any emissions from the installation on climatic considerations should be minimal.

It is considered that the likelihood of accidental emissions occurring which could affect climate is low in light of the measures outlined in the 'Prevention of Accidents' section above and the proposed conditions in the RD. Therefore, there are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures and monitoring in relation to climate are detailed in the following sections of this report:

- Emissions to Air,
- Organic Fertiliser,
- Energy Efficiency and Resource Use, and
- Prevention of Accidents.

Conditions 2 and 7 of the RD deal with energy efficiency matters at the installation.

Conclusions

I have examined all the information on climate provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified and through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects in terms of climatic factors.

16.5.8 Material Assets, Cultural Heritage and the Landscape

16.5.8.1 Material Assets (including resource use and waste generation)

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

Chapter 10 of the EIAR addresses Material Assets, and includes information on traffic, transport, agricultural and non-agricultural property, and resources (both natural and others) such as energy and water. Material assets such as roads and traffic and built services are dealt with in the decision of the planning authority to grant permission for the development and are not controlled by the Agency. The planning authority has considered the effect to be acceptable.

The use of natural resources by the activity will not have significant effects in terms of material assets. There are sufficient supplies of electricity and water to serve the requirements of the installation. These matters are dealt with

in the decision of the planning authority to grant planning permission for the developments on-site. The production of waste by the activity is assessed in the 'Waste Generation' section of this report.

The effects identified and described above have been assessed in the following section of this report:

- Waste Generation, and
- Energy Efficiency and Resource Use.

No significant cumulative effects on material assets have been identified. Therefore, there are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures and monitoring in relation to material assets are detailed in the following sections of this report:

- Waste Generation, and
- Energy Efficiency and Resource Use.

Material Assets Conclusions

I have examined all the information on material assets provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified and through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects in terms of Material Assets.

Material assets such as roads, traffic and built services are dealt with in the decision of the planning authority to grant planning permission for the developments on-site and they have considered the effects to be acceptable.

The RD does not propose to include any additional mitigation measures in relation to material assets.

16.5.8.2 Cultural Heritage

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

Chapter 9 of the EIAR addresses the potential direct and indirect effects on cultural heritage. Any loss of archaeological or architectural heritage could impact negatively on human beings. These matters are dealt with in the decision of the planning authority to grant planning permission for the developments on-site and are not controlled by the Agency. The planning authority has considered the effect to be acceptable.

There are no buildings or features of architectural significance and no known archaeological features at or near the site of the installation. There are two ringforts 0.86 km east of the site. It is very difficult to envisage any pathway by which emissions from the operation of the activity could impact any feature which might be present.

No significant cumulative effects on the cultural heritage have been identified. Therefore, there are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

There are no specific mitigation measures or monitoring proposed in the RD.

Cultural Heritage Conclusions

These matters are dealt with in the decision of the planning authority to grant planning permission for the developments on-site and are not controlled by the Agency. They have considered the effects to be acceptable.

The RD does not propose to include any additional mitigation measures in relation to cultural heritage.

16.5.8.3 The Landscape

Identification, Description and Assessment of Effects

The potential direct and indirect effects on the landscape are described in Chapters 4.1 and 8 of the EIAR. Any disturbance of the landscape has the potential to impact on human beings and their enjoyment of the surrounding area due to visual impacts. These matters are dealt with in the decision of the planning authority to grant planning permission for the developments on-site and are not controlled by the Agency. The planning authority has considered the effects to be acceptable.

The installation is located in a rural, predominantly agricultural area. Emissions from the operation of the activity will not affect the agricultural landscape of the area.

No significant cumulative effects on the landscape have been identified. Therefore, there are no likely significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects identified.

Mitigation and Monitoring

There are no specific mitigation measures or monitoring proposed in the RD.

The Landscape Conclusions

These matters are dealt with in the decision of the planning authority to grant planning permission for the developments on-site and are not controlled by the Agency. They have considered the effects to be acceptable.

The RD does not propose to include any additional mitigation measures in relation to landscape.

16.5.8.4 Overall Conclusions for Material Assets, Cultural Heritage and the Landscape

I have examined all the information on material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects in terms of material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape.

16.5.9 Interactions Between Environmental Factors

Interactions of effects are considered in Chapter 11.11 of the EIAR. The most significant interactions between the factors as a result of the activity are summarised below.

Population and human health, air, and biodiversity

Potential effects from emissions to air may impact on human beings, air quality and flora and fauna as demonstrated in the 'Emissions to Air' section above. As demonstrated such effects are considered not to be likely or significant.

Water, soil, and biodiversity

Accidental discharges of wash water or other substances to ground may directly and indirectly affect soil, groundwater quality, surface water quality downstream, aquatic habitats and aquatic flora and fauna. Indirect effects on soil, groundwater quality, surface water quality, habitats and flora and fauna may arise from landspreading wash water which arises from the activity. As demonstrated in the 'Emissions to Water and Ground' and 'Prevention of Accidents' sections above, such effects are not considered to be likely or significant.

Conclusions

I have considered the interactions between population and human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape, and the interaction of the likely effects identified throughout this report. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures

identified and through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects in terms of the interaction between the foregoing environmental factors.

16.5.10 Vulnerability of the Project to Risks of Major Accidents and/or Disasters

Chapter 11.6 of the EIAR describes the expected effects deriving from the vulnerability of the activity to risks of major accidents and/or disasters that are relevant to the activity.

The potential risk of effects from accidents and/or disasters is limited due to the innate nature of the production system and activities on-site. There are no significant high risk/hazardous products used, produced and/or released by the installation which would pose a risk outside of the site boundary as a result of any accident/disaster.

The Seveso Directive[9] and Regulations are not applicable at the installation. The risks of accidents associated with the activity are dealt with in the 'Prevention of Accidents' and 'Cessation of Activity' sections of this report. The applicant assessed the vulnerability of the project and determined that due to the nature of the processes on-site, no significant risks occur and consequently, no specific mitigation measures have been proposed in relation to these effects.

Mitigation and Monitoring

There are no specific mitigation measures proposed in relation to major accidents and/or disasters at the installation.

Conclusions

I have examined all the information on major accidents and/or disasters provided by the applicant, received through consultations, written submission, as well as considering any supplementary information, where appropriate. I am satisfied that the potential effects identified will be avoided, managed and mitigated by the measures identified and through the proposed conditions of the RD. I am, therefore, satisfied that the operation of the activity is not likely to have any unacceptable direct or indirect effects in terms of major accidents and/or disasters.

16.6 Reasoned Conclusion on the significant effects

Having regard to the examination of environmental information contained above, and in particular to the content of the EIAR and supplementary information provided by the applicant, and the submission from a third party in the course of the application, it is considered that the potential significant direct and indirect effects of the activity on the environment are as follows:

- Emissions to air,
- Noise emissions, and
- Accidental leakages or spills.

Having assessed those potential effects, I have concluded as follows:

- Emissions to air will be mitigated through imposing emission limit values and implementing monitoring, maintenance and control measures,
- Noise emissions will be mitigated through imposing daytime, evening-time and nighttime noise limits at noise sensitive locations, and implementing monitoring, maintenance and control measures, and
- Accidental leakages or spills will be mitigated through inspection and maintenance of bunds and tanks, and accident and emergency requirements specified in the RD.

Having regard to the effects (and interactions) identified, described and assessed throughout this report, I consider that the monitoring, mitigation and preventative measures proposed will enable the activity to operate without

[9] Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC.

causing environmental pollution, subject to compliance with the RD. The conditions of the RD and the mitigation measures proposed will significantly reduce the likelihood of accidental emissions occurring and limit the environmental consequences of an accidental emission should one occur.

17 EPA Charges

The annual enforcement charge recommended in the RD is €2,659 which reflects the anticipated enforcement effort required and the cost of monitoring.

18 Recommendation

The Agency, in considering an application for a licence or the review of a licence, shall have regard to section 83 of the EPA Act. The Agency shall not grant a licence or revised licence unless it is satisfied that emissions comply with relevant emission limit values and standards prescribed under regulation. In setting such limits and standards, the Agency must ensure they are established based on the stricter of either, or both, the limits and controls required under BAT, and those required to comply with any relevant environmental quality standard. The Agency shall perform its functions in a manner consistent with section 15 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 as amended.

The RD specifies the necessary measures to provide that the installation shall be operated in accordance with the requirements of section 83(5) of the EPA Act and has regard to the AA and the EIA. The assessment is consistent with section 15 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 as amended. The RD gives effect to the requirements of the EPA Act and has regard to submissions made.

This report was prepared by Éilis Linehan, Philip Stack, Brian Coffey, and Andrew McCabe.

I recommend that a Proposed Determination be issued subject to the conditions and for the reasons as drafted in the RD.

Signed

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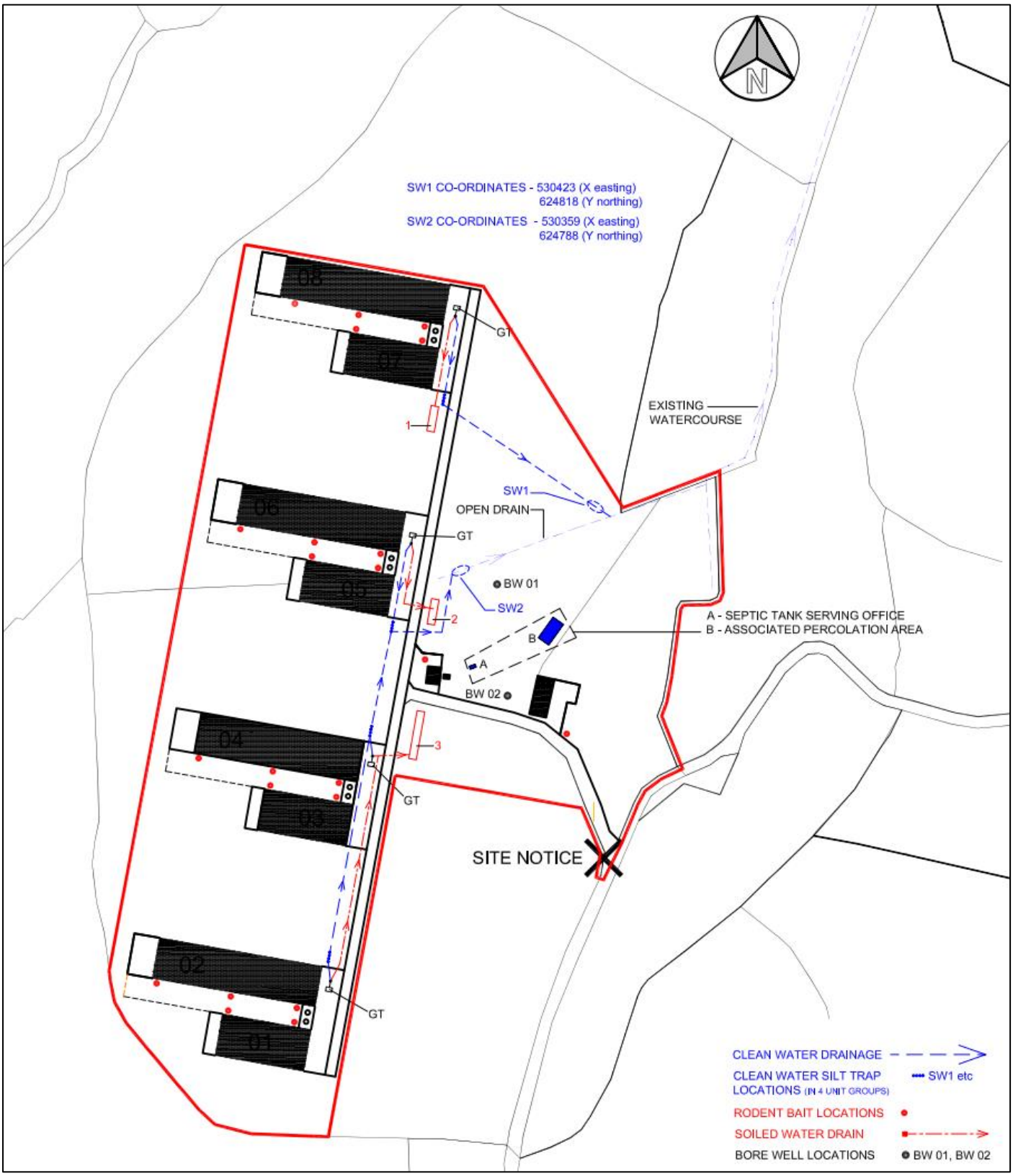
Éilis Linehan, ICER Inspector

Procedural Note

In the event that no objections are received to the Proposed Determination on the application, a licence will be granted in accordance with section 87(4) of the EPA Act, as soon as may be after the expiration of the appropriate period.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Maps/Drawings



Excerpt from the Drawing No. BFIELD-2024-102, Rev. D, entitled ”Site Layout Plan”, received by the Agency in support of the application on 20 October 2025.

Appendix 2 AA table

Table 2A.1: Assessment of the effects of the activity on European sites and proposed mitigation measures.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests *(* denotes a priority habitat)*	Conservation Objectives	Assessment
004161	Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA	**Birds** A082 Hen Harrier *(Circus cyaneus)*	*NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA 004161. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage*	The site is located 2.4 km to the southwest of the installation. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions from the installation will not cause an impact on the qualifying interest for this European Site. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that storm water discharges will not cause an impact on this European Site due to the lack of hydrological connectivity of the project site with the European site. The project site is not located within the vicinity of any known breeding site for Hen Harrier *(Circus cyaneus)* at this European site. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions or storm water discharges from the project site will not cause an impact on the conservation objectives for this European Site.
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	**Habitats** 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time 1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 1150 Coastal lagoons* 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays	*NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC 002165. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service,*	The site is located 4.8 km to the west of the installation. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions from the installation will not cause an impact on the qualifying interest for this European Site.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests *(* denotes a priority habitat)*	Conservation Objectives	Assessment
		1170 Reefs 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) 91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* **Species** 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel *(Margaritifera margaritifera)* 1095 Sea Lamprey *(Petromyzon marinus)* 1096 Brook Lamprey *(Lampetra planeri)* 1099 River Lamprey *(Lampetra fluviatilis)* 1106 Salmon *(Salmo salar)* 1349 Common Bottlenose Dolphin *(Tursiops truncatus)* 1355 Otter *(Lutra lutra)*	*Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*	I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that storm water discharges will not cause an impact on this European Site due to any potential hydrological connectivity of the project site with the European site being more than 38 km. The project site is not located within the vicinity of any known breeding site for Freshwater Pearl Mussel *(Margaritifera margaritifera)*, Sea Lamprey *(Petromyzon marinus)*, Brook Lamprey *(Lampetra planeri)*, River Lamprey *(Lampetra fluviatilis)*, Salmon *(Salmo salar)*, Common Bottlenose Dolphin *(Tursiops truncatus)*, and Otter *(Lutra lutra)* at this European site. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions or storm water discharges from the project site will not cause an impact on the conservation objectives for this European Site.
002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	**Habitats** 1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	*NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater River*	The site is located 6.3 km to the south of the installation.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests *(* denotes a priority habitat)*	Conservation Objectives	Assessment
		1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles 91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* **Species** 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel *(Margaritifera margaritifera)* 1092 White-clawed Crayfish *(Austropotamobius pallipes)* 1095 Sea Lamprey *(Petromyzon marinus)* 1096 Brook Lamprey *(Lampetra planeri)* 1099 River Lamprey *(Lampetra fluviatilis)* 1103 Twaite Shad *(Alosa fallax fallax)* 1106 Salmon *(Salmo salar)* 1355 Otter *(Lutra lutra)* 1421 Killarney Fern *(Trichomanes speciosum)*	*(Cork/Waterford) SAC 002170. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*	I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions from the installation will not cause an impact on the qualifying interest for this European Site. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that storm water discharges will not cause an impact on this European Site due to the lack of hydrological connectivity of the project site with the European site. The project site is not located within the vicinity of any known breeding site for Freshwater Pearl Mussel *(Margaritifera margaritifera)*, White-clawed Crayfish *(Austropotamobius pallipes)*, Sea Lamprey *(Petromyzon marinus)*, Brook Lamprey *(Lampetra planeri)*, River Lamprey *(Lampetra fluviatilis)*, Twaite Shad *(Alosa fallax fallax)*, Salmon *(Salmo salar)*, Otter *(Lutra lutra)*, and Killarney Fern *(Trichomanes speciosum)*at this European site. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions or storm water discharges from the project site will not cause an impact on the conservation objectives for this European Site.
002279	Askeaton Fen Complex SAC	**Habitats** 7210 Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae* 7230 Alkaline fens	*NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives: Askeaton Fen Complex SAC*	The site is located 21.7 km to the north of the installation. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions from the installation will not cause

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests *(* denotes a priority habitat)*	Conservation Objectives	Assessment
			002279. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	an impact on the qualifying interest for this European Site. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that storm water discharges will not cause an impact on this European Site due to the lack of hydrological connectivity of the project site with the European site. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions or storm water discharges from the project site will not cause an impact on the conservation objectives for this European Site.
000432	Barrigone SAC	**Habitats** 5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) 8240 Limestone pavements **Species** 1065 *Euphydryas aurinia* (Marsh Fritillary)	*NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Barrigone SAC 000432. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*	The site is located 25 km to the north of the installation. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions from the installation will not cause an impact on the qualifying interest for this European Site. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that storm water discharges will not cause an impact on this European Site due to the lack of hydrological connectivity of the project site with the European site. The project site is not located within the vicinity of any known breeding site for *Euphydryas aurinia* (Marsh Fritillary) at this European site. I am satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that ammonia emissions or storm water discharges from

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests *(* denotes a priority habitat)*	Conservation Objectives	Assessment
				the project site will not cause an impact on the conservation objectives for this European Site.

Appendix 3 Relevant Legislation

The following European instruments which have been transposed into Irish legislation are regarded as relevant to this application assessment and have been considered in the drafting of the Recommended Determination.
National Emissions Ceilings Directive (2016/2284)
Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) (2010/75/EU)
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as amended & Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) as amended
Water Framework Directive [2000/60/EC]
Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)
Air Quality Directives (2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC)
Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC) and 2006/118/EC
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/CE)
Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, as amended (Animal By-products Regulation)
Nitrates Directive (91/676/ EEC)
Energy Efficiency Directive (2018/2002/EU)

Appendix 4 Other CIDs/BREF/BAT documents relevant to this assessment

Commission Implementing Decisions	Publication Date
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 15 February 2017 establishing best available techniques (BAT) conclusions, under Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs (2017/302/EU)	February 2017
Sectoral BREF	Publication date
Reference Document on the Best Available Techniques for the Intensive Rearing of Poultry or Pigs	July 2017
Horizontal BREF	Publication date
Reference Document on the Best Available Techniques on Emissions from Storage	July 2006
Reference Document on the Best Available Techniques for Energy Efficiency	February 2009