

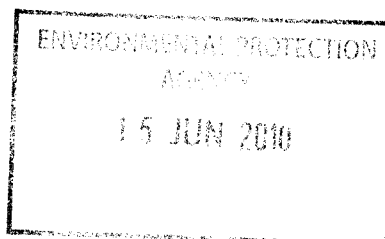
Meath County Council
Water Services, Infrastructure,
Units 41-42, Navan Enterprise Centre,
Trim Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Tel: 046 - 9067455



Meath County Council
Water Services, Infrastructure,
Units 41-42, Navan Enterprise Centre,
Trim Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Fax: 046 - 9067454

Infrastructure
Our ref:GC/JW
9th June 2010

Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Administration
PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co Wexford



Re: Sixteen Waste Water Discharge Certificates of Authorisation Applications for County Meath and subsequent EPA Notice in accordance with Regulation 25(c)(ii) of the Water Discharge Authorisation Regulation 2007

Dear Administrator,

Please find enclosed assessments as per Circular L8/08 "*Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes*" and requested by the EPA in the letter to us dated 07th April 2010. Meath County Council indicated the assessments would be forthcoming in our letter to the EPA dated 19th April 2010.

Robinstown	A0016-01	Carnaross	A0043-01
Ardcath	A0017-01	Castletown	A0044-01
Clonalvy	A0018-01	Hill of Tara	A0048-01
Dunderry	A0019-01	Lobinstown	A0052-01
Kilberry	A0021-01	Lloyd Kells	A0053-01
Cortown	A0023-01	Skreen	A0055-01
Bohermeen	A0028-01	Ballinabrackey	A0062-01
Bellewstown	A0041-01	Batterstown	A0063-01

An assessment of the likelihood of significant effects of the waste water discharges from the above agglomerations on relevant natural heritage and European sites has been carried out in accordance with **Circular L8/08** and in particular the flow diagram in **Appendix 1**.

Circular L8/08 requires that where initial screening reveals, or cannot exclude with certainty, a likely significant ecological impact, an assessment of impacts will need to be

undertaken. For natural heritage in general, this will involve an ecological impact assessment. In the case of potential impacts on Natura 2000 or European sites (SACs and SPAs, including any candidate sites), appropriate assessment is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

The results of the L8/08 assessment for each agglomeration is summarised in Table 1 below together with recommendations for further assessment of impacts where deemed necessary.

TABLE 1.

Agglomeration	EPA Ref No.	Potential Impact on:	No Further Action Required	Assess Impacts	Recommendation:
Robinstown (300 p.e.)	A0016-01	River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC's		√	Appropriate Assessment
Ardcath (60 p.e.)	A0017-01	Cromwells Bush Fen pNHA	√		
Clonalvy (23 p.e.)	A0018-01	Cromwells Bush Fen pNHA	√		
Dunderry (200 p.e.)	A0019-01	River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC's		√	Appropriate Assessment
Kilberry (80 p.e.)	A0021-01	River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC's	√		
Cortown (100 p.e.)	A0023-01	River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC's and Jamestown Bog and Girley Bog NHA's	√		
Bohermeen (100 p.e.)	A0028-01	River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC's	√		
Bellewstown (49 p.e.)	A0041-01	Cromwells Bush Fen & Duleek Commons pNHA's	√		
Carnaross (150 p.e.)	A0043-01	River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC's		√	Appropriate Assessment
Castletown (200 p.e.)	A0044-01	N/A	√		
Hill of Tara (100 p.e.)	A0048-01	River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC's	√		
Lobinstown (60 p.e.)	A0052-01	N/A	√		
Lloyd Kells (400 p.e.)	A0053-01	River Boyne & River Blackwater SAC's		√	Appropriate Assessment
Skreen (80 p.e.)	A0055-01	N/A	√		
Ballinabrackey (60 p.e.)	A0062-01	River Boyne SAC	√		
Batterstown (60 p.e.)	A0063-01	N/A	√		

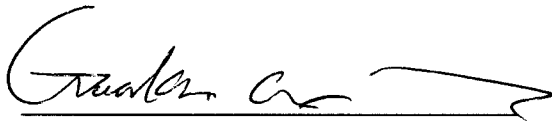
Based on this assessment, four agglomerations have potential for significant impact on relevant European sites and will require an Appropriate Assessment. The other twelve agglomerations have been assessed as not having significant effects and no further action is required in respect of these.

Meath County Council will arrange to have AA's conducted for the four agglomerations in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and will notify the EPA of our anticipated submission date for the reports once we select our Consultant.

The preparation of an Appropriate Assessment must consider the in combination effects of other projects or plans. As all four agglomerations requiring an Appropriate Assessment are in the River Boyne Catchment or the River Boyne & Blackwater SAC, we plan to carry out one appropriate assessment that will consider all four agglomerations.

We enclose two hard copies of the L8/08 assessment and one PDF file format on CD-ROM.

Yours sincerely,



Geraldine A. Cusack
Executive Engineer, Water Services

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Waste Water Discharge Certificate of Authorisation for
Ardcath Sewerage Scheme
Assessment of Likelihood of Significant Impact of Discharge on Relevant European Sites

Consideration	Response
1. Is the development in or on the boundary of a nature conservation site NHA/SAC/SPA?	No
2. Will nationally protected species be directly impacted? Wildlife Acts (1976 and 2000), Flora Protection order (S.I. 94 of 1999)?	No
3. Is the development a surface water discharge or abstraction in the surface water catchment or immediately downstream of a nature conservation site with water dependant qualifying habitats/species?	No
4. Is the development a groundwater discharge or abstraction in the ground water catchment or within 5km of a nature conservation site with water-dependant qualifying habitats/species?	Yes (see note 1 below) – the water discharge is to the Duleek ground water body. Cromwells Bush Fen pNHA is located 3.8 km north east of the discharge point.
5. Is the development in the surface water or groundwater catchment of salmonid waters?	No – The ground water discharge is to the Delvin River. The Delvin River is not designated as salmonid water.
6. Is the treatment plant in an active or former floodplain or flood zone of a river, lake, etc?	No.
7. Is the development a surface discharge or abstraction to or from marine waters and within 3km of a marine nature conservation site?	No.
8. Will the project in combination with other projects (existing and proposed) or changes to such projects affect the hydrology or water levels of sites of nature conservation interest or the habitats of protected species?	No.

Note 1 - Further screening of likely impact on Cromwells Bush Fen pNHA
(Refer to Drg. No. 4654/OL/01/06 attached)

The WWTW serving Ardagh serves a small agglomeration of 49p.e. and discharges just 11.0m³/day to ground in the Duleek groundwater body which has an overall risk category under the Water Framework Directive of 2a, Water Body probably not at significant risk. The overall status of the Duleek groundwater body is "Good Status".

Ardcath is in the catchment of the Delvin River whilst the Cromwells Bush Fen is in the catchment of the River Nanny, hence the discharge from the Ardcath WWTW will not drain towards the Fen or impact on it.

It is therefore assessed that due to the size of this agglomeration and that the discharge will not drain into the ground water of the Fen then there will be no significant impact on the Cromwells Bush Fen pNHA and there is no further assessment of impacts required.

Ardcath Sewerage Scheme