

Proposed Expansion of Midleton Distillery, Midleton, Co. Cork

Environmental Impact Statement Volume 1 & 2



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1 Introduction

Irish Distillers Limited (IDL) is seeking a 10 year planning permission to expand its facility in Midleton, to cater for increased international demand for Jameson and Irish Whiskey.

The distillery is expected to produce 33.5 million litres of alcohol (MLA) in 2011. In order to meet market demand and continue to expand its business an increase in the production facilities and plant capacity on site at Midleton is required.

The objective of this project is to increase production capacity in the distillery to 64 million litres of alcohol. The increase in capacity will be achieved on a phased basis by installing new process plant to either supplement or replace the existing production plant.

The justification and need for the scheme is outlined in detail in Chapter 2. Chapter 5 details the alternatives considered for the proposed development. The chapter concludes that, taking account of sustainable development, economies of co-location with the existing distillery and operational logistics, the current proposal is the most suitable in terms of location and layout.

1.1 Overview of IDL & Distillery History

Irish Distillers Limited

The old Midleton Distillery was founded in 1825 and operated as a private company until 1966 when Cork Distilleries Co., John Power & Sons and John Jameson & Sons amalgamated to form Irish Distillers Limited (IDL). This brought together Jameson, Paddy, Powers Gold Label and Cork Dry Gin, long established brands in the Irish Spirits' market.

In 1988 Irish Distillers became a wholly owned subsidiary of Pernod Ricard. Irish Distillers operates from a number of locations around the country. The head office is at Simmonscourt Road, Dublin. The primary bottling plant for all IDL spirits is at Fox and Geese Dublin. There are visitor centres in Smithfield at the Bow Street Distillery and in Midleton at the original Midleton Distillery. The distillery for IDL spirits including Jameson, Paddy, Powers and Midleton Very Rare Irish Whiskey is located in Midleton, County Cork.

The present Distillery at Midleton was built in 1975.

Pernod Ricard

Pernod Ricard is the world's co-leader in wines and spirits, with consolidated sales of € 7,643 million in 2010/11. Created in 1975 by the

merger of Ricard and Pernod, the Group has undergone sustained development, based on both organic growth and acquisitions: Seagram (2001), Allied Domecq (2005) and Vin Spirit & Spirit (2008). Pernod Ricard holds one of the most prestigious brand portfolios in the sector: Absolut Vodka, Ricard Pastis, Ballantine's, Chivas Regal, Royal Salute and The Glenlivet Scotch whiskies, Jameson Irish whiskey, Martell cognac, Havana Club rum, Beefeater gin, Kahlúa and Malibu liqueurs, Mumm and Perrier-Jouët champagnes, as well Jacob's Creek, Brancott Estate, Campo Viejo and Graffigna wines.

Pernod Ricard employs a workforce of nearly 18,000 people and operates through a decentralised organisation, with 6 "Brand Companies" and 70 "Market Companies" established in each key market. Pernod Ricard is strongly committed to a sustainable development policy and encourages responsible consumption. Pernod Ricard's strategy and ambition are based on 3 key values that guide its expansion: entrepreneurial spirit, mutual trust and a strong sense of ethics.

Pernod Ricard is listed on the NYSE Euronext exchange (Ticker: RI; ISIN code: FR0000120693) and is a member of the CAC 40 index.

1.2 Midleton Distilleries

The distillery complex (as shown in Figure 1.1 – Site Location) occupies a 45 hectare site on the outskirts of Midleton town. The site lies outside the Midleton Urban fringe to the east of the town, mainly in a semi rural area. To the east and south of the site the landscape is dominated by extensive farmlands. To the west of the site are primary and secondary schools and their playing fields. The Old Midleton Distillery, now a Heritage Centre, known as the Jameson Experience Midleton, is located immediately to the southwest of the current distillery. The nearest houses to the site are located on the north western boundary behind the weighbridge control room.

Originally a woollen mills and later a barracks it became a distillery in 1825. Renowned for the quality of its whiskey, Paddy became the most well known brand emanating from Midleton in the early 20th century. In early 1975 when IDL consolidated distillation into one facility, the Bow Street (Jameson) and John's Lane (Powers Gold Label) distilleries were shut down and all production was moved to the "new distillery" adjacent to the original Midleton distillery. The "new distillery" produces both Pot Still and Grain Whiskey and is recognised worldwide for craftsmanship and innovation. In 1999 "Malt Advocate" awarded Midleton "World Distillery of the Year".

111 people are employed at the "new Midleton distillery", production operations run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for an average of 47

weeks a year. Annual spend on cereals, energy, capital projects and payroll exceeds €60m.

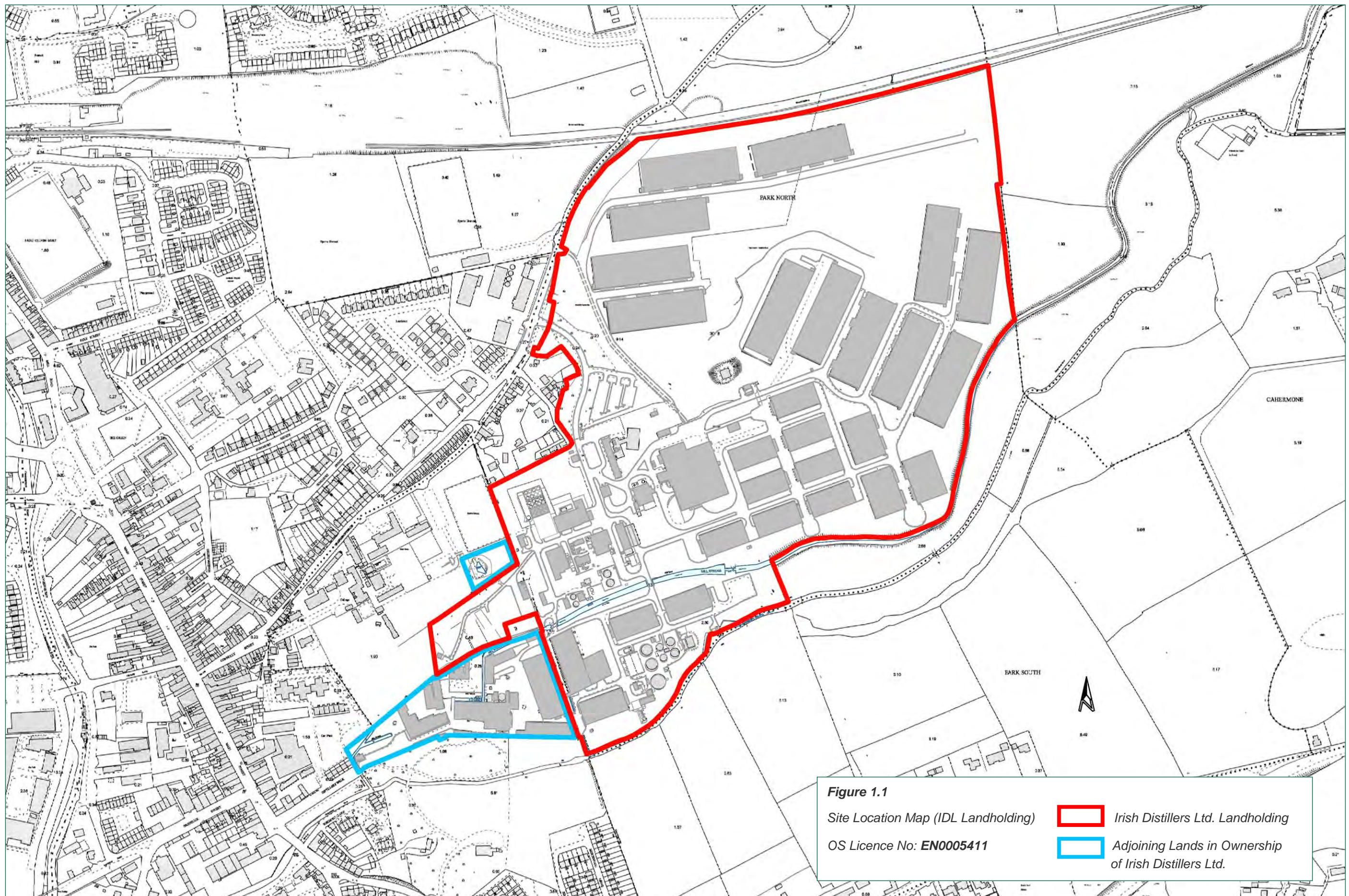
In 1992 the original Midleton distillery was reopened as the Jameson Heritage Centre. The Jameson Heritage Centre has contributed significantly to the rejuvenation of the eastern end of Midleton town, with approximately 100,000 visitors every year. More than 37 people are employed in the visitor centre at peak season.

Today Jameson is the key brand distilled and matured in Midleton and it is the world's largest selling Irish Whiskey, Paddy, Powers Gold Label, Crested Ten and Midleton Very Rare are also distilled and matured in Midleton.

Midleton Distilleries is also renowned for its Irish Pot Still Whiskey of which Redbreast and Green Spot are the most well known. In 2011 the Pot Still range was augmented and re-launched.

In addition to the Irish Distillers' brands, Midleton also supplies bulk whiskey for blending in many other well known Irish Whiskey brands and Irish Cream Liqueurs.







1.3 Distillery & Irish Whiskey Production

The site comprises a number of distillery process buildings with associated large scale warehousing. The main buildings as outlined in Figure 1.4 consist of the brew house, still house, feeds recovery house, vat house, bonded spirit store, offices, canteen and warehouses. The main utilities on site consist of the process water treatment, cooling tower, ESB sub-station, gas supply station (AGI owned and operated by Bord Gáis Networks) and a waste water treatment plant (WWTP).

The whiskey manufacturing process is most easily divided into two distinct phases:

1. The Production of spirit from cereals (distillation).
2. Spirit Ageing in oak casks over time into whiskey (maturation).

The production flow and stages of whiskey production in Midleton is illustrated on Figure 1.3.

Phase 1 is essentially the conversion of sugars naturally present in cereals (barley, malt and maize) into a potable alcohol. The unit processes involved include:

- *Brewing: (Milling; Mashing / Cooking)*
- *Fermentation*
- *Distillation*

This process takes approximately four days after which the newly made spirit is filled into oak casks of approximately 200 litres in capacity.

Phase 2 is the maturation of the immature spirit into Irish Whiskey over time in oak casks (by law a minimum of three years). This typically takes five years. Aged premium whiskeys can take 12 years, 18 years or even longer to mature.

During the maturation period the casks of whiskey remain undisturbed in a maturing warehouse. A complex interaction develops between the spirit, oak wood and oxygen from the air to produce the unique flavour and colour associated with a mature Irish Whiskey.

This EIS encompasses the process relating to Phase 1 only, i.e alcohol production. The maturation process takes place in warehousing, which has up to present been provided on-site. To accommodate the additional maturation requirement from the increased production a new satellite warehousing site was granted permission in May 2011 at Ballynora North, Dungourney, Co. Cork.

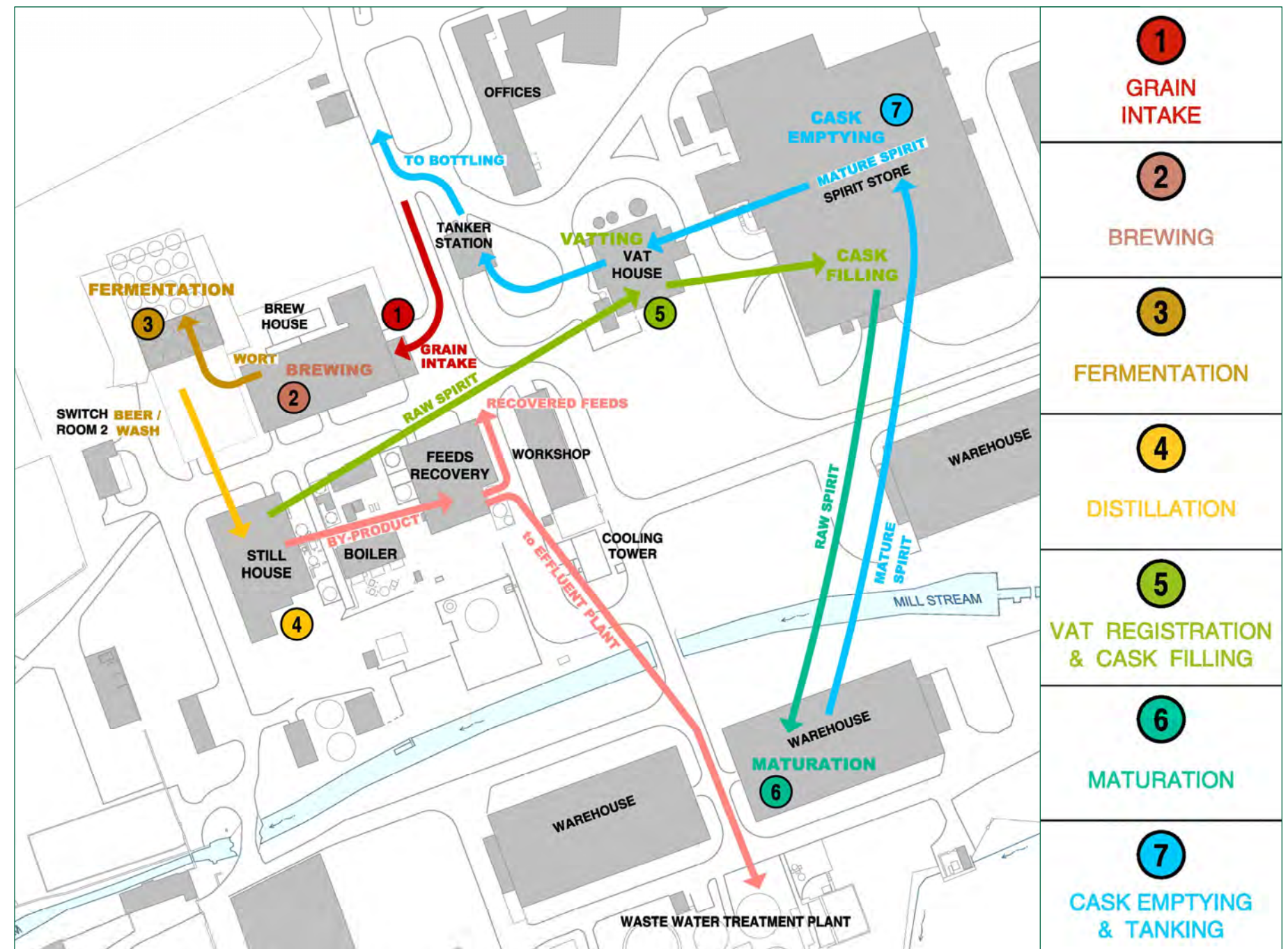


Figure 1.3 - Production Flow/Stages of Production at Midleton Distillery

1.4 Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of a number of new process buildings and expansions to existing buildings in the different production areas of the plant. Figure 1.4 provides an overview of the proposed development in the context of the overall Midleton Distillery site.

As highlighted on Figure 1.4 the proposed expansion will include the construction of 10 distinct elements consisting of process buildings and

infrastructure. These will be concentrated to the west of the site where the majority of the process takes place.

In addition to this there will be a requirement for additional sources of water and it is proposed that this will be provided by 8 new wells. These are located to the east of the site.

The nature and extent of proposed development works are illustrated in Figure 1.4 in the context of the existing buildings and infrastructure. A more detailed description of the proposed development and process is outlined in Chapter 4.



1.5 Purpose of the EIS

It has been determined that the proposed development falls within the scope of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 to 2001 and Part 10 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 2001.

Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (SI No. 600 of 2001) sets out a comprehensive list of project types and development thresholds that are subject to Environmental Impact Assessment. The proposed capacity expansion project at IDL Midleton comes under paragraphs 13 (a) and 10 (I) of Part 2, Schedule 5, which applies to:

"Changes, extensions, development and testing

(a) Any change or extension of development which would:-

(i) result in the development being of a class listed in Part 1 or paragraphs 1 to 12 of Part 2 of this Schedule, and

(ii) result in an increase in size greater than –

- 25 per cent, or

- an amount equal to 50 per cent of the appropriate threshold,

whichever is the greater."

and

10. Infrastructure projects"

(I) Groundwater abstraction and artificial groundwater recharge schemes not included in Part 1 of this Schedule where the average annual volume of water abstracted or recharged would exceed 2 million cubic metres."

As the proposed capacity expansion project (as detailed in Chapter 4) will result in an increase in size/quantity greater than 25% and the proposed future increase in groundwater abstraction from the aquifer beneath the site is likely to exceed 2,000,000m³ / annum (~5,479m³ / day), an Environmental Impact Statement is required to accompany the planning application.

IDL currently abstract groundwater from the Cavern supply on-site, abstraction is in the region of 776,500 m³ per annum. The proposed expansion plan will provide the capacity to exceed the threshold of 2 million cubic meters per annum, reducing reliance on the use of water from the Dungourney River. Details of the groundwater abstraction project and analysis of the full water balance and impact assessment are outlined in Chapter 10.

1.6 Structure of the EIS

The primary objective of the EIS is to identify baseline environmental and socio-economic conditions in the area of the proposed facility, predict potential beneficial and/or adverse effects of the development during both construction and operational phases and propose appropriate mitigation measures where necessary.

In preparing this Environmental Impact Statement, the following regulations and guidelines were taken into account:

- *The requirements of EC Directives and Irish Regulations regarding Environmental Impact Assessment*
- *"Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements" (EPA, 2002) and*
- *"Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements" (EPA, 2003)*

This EIS is being prepared according to the "Grouped Format Structure" as outlined in the EPA's Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2002). This means that each topic is considered as a separate section and is drafted by relevant specialists. Chapter 18 provides an analysis of the interaction of impacts.

The EIS is divided into a Non-Technical Summary and 18 chapters as outlined in the Table of Contents.

PM Group (PM) is the Lead Consultant for the front end design of the expansion project and McCutcheon Mulcahy (MCM) is the Lead Consultant for the Planning Application and Project Coordinator for the EIS.

PM and MCM were directly responsible for the preparation of a number of chapters namely,

- *Chapter 1 (Introduction),*
- *Chapter 2 (Need for the Scheme),*
- *Chapter 3 (Planning and Development Context),*
- *Chapter 4 (Project Description),*
- *Chapter 5 (Alternatives Considered),*
- *Chapter 6 (Construction Activity),*
- *Chapter 9 (Water & Aqueous Emissions),*
- *Chapter 17 (Human Beings) and*
- *Chapter 18 (Cumulative Impacts and Interaction of Impacts).*

Specialist contributions to the Environmental Impact Statement were made as follows:

- *Chapter 7 (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment): ForestBird Design*
- *Chapter 8 (Traffic Impact Assessment): ARUP Consulting.*
- *Chapter 9 (Soils & Geology): WYG Ireland.*
- *Chapter 10 (Hydrology): WYG Ireland.*
- *Chapter 11 (Hydrogeology): WYG Ireland.*
- *Chapter 13 (Ecology and Natura Impact Statement): Sweeney Consultancy.*
- *Chapter 14 (Noise & Vibration Impact Assessment): Awn Consulting Ltd.*
- *Chapter 15 (Air Quality & Climate): Odour Ireland Ltd.*
- *Chapter 16 (Material Assets incl. Archaeology): Purcell Lane Archaeologists*



1.7 Scoping of the EIS

The information to be contained in the EIS was scoped with Cork County Council's Planning Department during pre-planning meetings. The content and scope of the traffic and transportation, archaeology, hydrology and ecology chapters were also discussed with the relevant departments of Cork County Council and prescribed bodies. Details of the pre-planning discussions held with the relevant departments and prescribed bodies are outlined in detail in the relevant chapters.

In addition to the planning process and the preparation of the EIS, other processes and licences that will be required in accordance with legislation include the following:

- Requirement for Review of IPPC Licence
- Review of impact on Seveso

1.8 Public Consultation

A public information meeting was held on November 10th, 2011 in the Jameson Experience Midleton to inform interested parties about the proposed development. A public notice outlining details of the information meeting was published in the East Cork Journal for the 2 weeks preceding the event.



Representatives from IDL and members of the project design team attended the information meeting and discussed details of the project with interested parties. Although the meeting was well advertised there was a relatively low turnout. Three Council Representatives were in

attendance to review the proposal and reflect the concerns of their constituents. There was support for the economic growth that the proposed development would bring to Midleton and no additional issues of concern were raised, over and above those being addressed within the EIS.

Direct contact was made with those most immediately impacted by the proposed development, including Midleton College and St John the Baptist National School.

In addition to this, pre-planning consultation was held with An Taisce and Inland Fisheries Ireland to discuss the nature and scale of the project.

