

Site Visit Report

The site visit process is a sample on a particular day of an installation's compliance with some of its licence conditions. Where non-compliance against a particular condition has not been reported, this should not be construed to mean that there is full compliance with that condition of the licence.

Instructions and actions arising from the visit shall be addressed, or where applicable noted, by the licensee in order to ensure compliance, to improve the environmental performance of the installation and to provide clarification on certain issues.

The licensee shall take the actions specified to close out the non-compliances and observations raised in this Site Visit Report.

Licensee	
Name of Installation	Cork city
Licensee	Irish Water
Licence Register No.	D0033-01
CRO Number	
Site Address	Cork
Site Visit Reference No.	SV09830

Report Detail	
Issue Date	14/09/2016
Prepared By	Patrick Chan

Site Visit Detail					
Date Of Inspection	29/07/2016	Announced	No		
Time In	17:10	Time Out	17:55		
Agency Personnel On Site	Patrick Chan				
Licensee Personnel and Role	N/A				
Photo Taken	Yes	Samples Taken	No	Video Taken	No

> Scope

Inspection of the Curraheen River in response to a call from the public about an alleged fish kill in the Curraheen River, which was being impacted by an overflow from the Curraheen Estate Pumping station.

> Media

Water, waste water.

> Site Areas Inspected

Curraheen River, Curraheen Estate Pumping station.

> Documents Inspected

N/A

At 16.15 on Friday the 29th July I received a call from a member of the public regarding pollution in the Curraheen River. The caller believed there was dead fish in the river. I emailed Irish Water to inform them of this and told them to treat the issue as high priority. There was strong reason to believe that the pollution was linked to an overflow from the Curraheen Estate pumping station following a previous complaint that had been received on the 27th of July.

I started my inspection of the Curraheen River from Rossbrook Estate on the Model Farm Road and travelled upstream. I noted strong discolouration of the Curraheen River adjacent to the Cork Institute of Technology Sports Centre and followed the discolouration up to the discharge pipe north of the pumping station, a distance of 1 kilometre. The discharge pipe was the only source of this discolouration. I travelled 200 metres upstream of the discharge pipe to confirm that there was no other source of discharge. I did not see any dead fish during my inspection of the Curraheen River.

I went to the pumping station where I met staff from Cork City Council who were in the process of repairing the pumping station. I was informed that they had stopped the overflow and had repaired the two pumps but that the non-return valves had become clogged due to ragging. They informed me that Munster Drains had been called to clear the blockage and that they would also tanker waste water away from the pumping station until it was fully operational. The operators also confirmed that the discharge pipe I saw on the Curraheen River was the overflow pipe for the pumping station.

After confirming the pumping station overflow had creased and was being repaired, I left the site at 17.55.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

You are required to complete the instructions and actions, as outlined in this report, within the specified timeframe. Where required, you shall respond to actions specified in Compliance Investigations within the required timeframe. The licensee shall maintain documentary evidence, for review by the EPA, that the prescribed corrective actions were completed within the required timeframe.

You are not required to respond directly to items contained in this EPA site visit report; where an issue requires a direct response, the EPA will generate a Compliance Investigation through the EDEN system. You will receive notification when a Compliance Investigation instruction or action is generated.

Please note that this Site Visit Report will be made available for public viewing via the EPA's Licence Enforcement Access Portal within one day of the issue date and will be published on the Licence Details Page of the EPA's website, www.epa.ie, that relates to your licence 60 calendar days after the issue date.

You may if you choose submit, within 45 calendar days of the issue date of this Site Visit Report, a Licensee Public Response that will be published alongside the Site Visit Report. This Response, should you wish to avail of it, provides you with an opportunity to inform the public about how you are implementing the actions set out in the report, activities underway, timescales and target completion dates. Please be aware that the content of your Licensee Public Response must be factual and should not breach the EPA's stated online publication standards.

If you wish to submit a Licensee Public Response to an EPA Site Visit Report, you should do this by clicking on the 'Make a Response' link on the Site Visits page in EDEN. A .pdf document containing your response can be attached and submitted from here.

Please note that you are required to comply with the conditions of your licence at all times, and where noncompliance occurs you must restore compliance within the shortest possible time. These actions will be verified during subsequent EPA visits.

Please quote the above Inspection Reference Number in any future correspondence in relation to this Report.

Photo 1. Discolouration in the Curraheen River, opposite the Cork Institute of Technology Sports Ground.



Photo 2. Discolouration in the Curraheen River, at the footbridge by Bishopstown House.



Photo 3. Discharge pipe from the Curraheen Pumping Station. Low flows at the time the photo was taken.



Photo 4. Curraheen Pumping station repairs, pump raised to replace seal.

