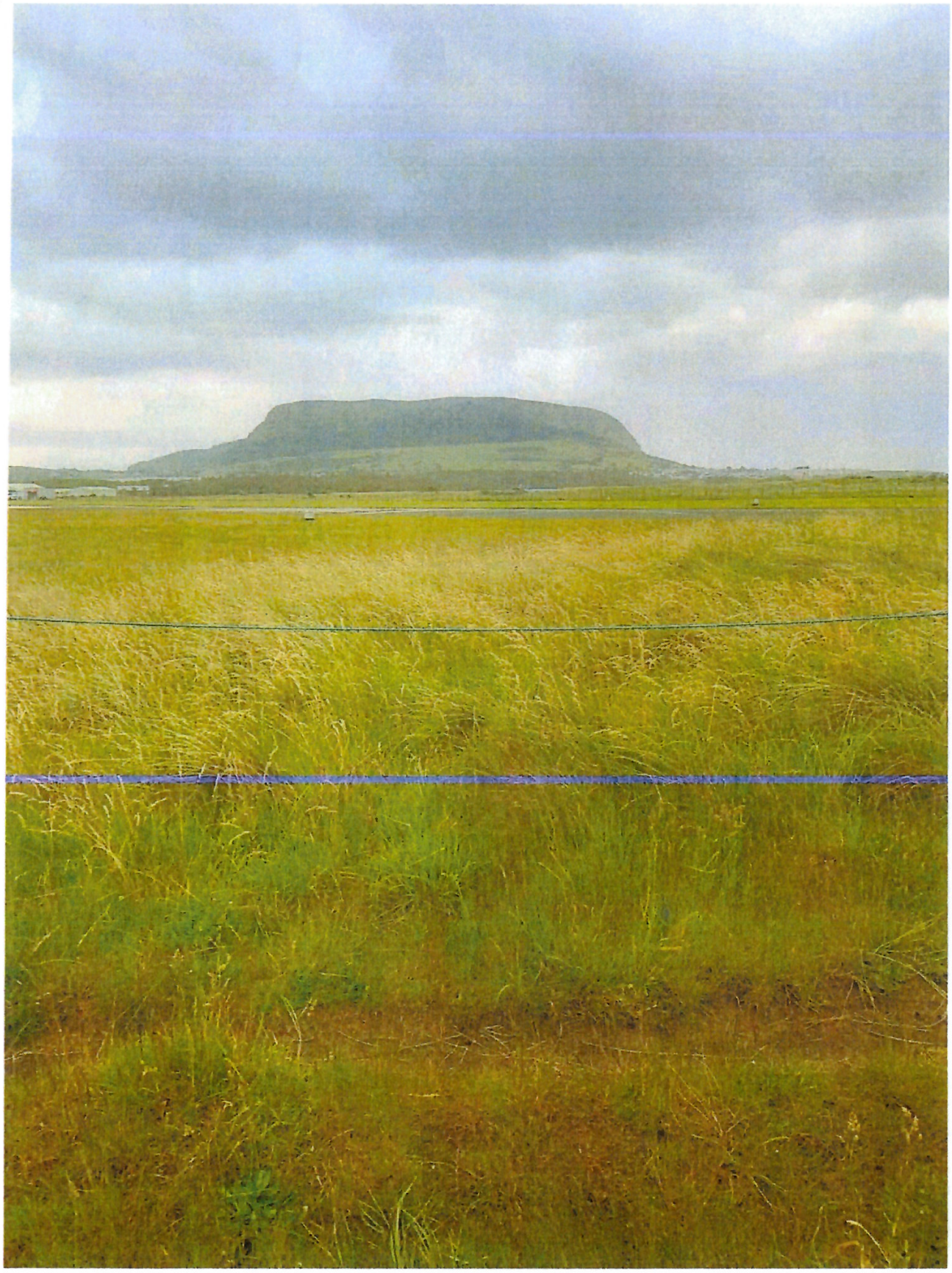


Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Fierce smell of sewage at end of runway and between church and runway. Is there a drain in that area? It is putrid. Please investigate

2 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Sligo Litter Warden <enviro@sligococo.ie>

Sun, Jun 16, 2024 at 9:27 PM

June 16th 2024

Sent from my iPhone

3 attachments



IMG_5097.jpg
378K



IMG_5096.jpg
674K



IMG_5095.jpg
1000K

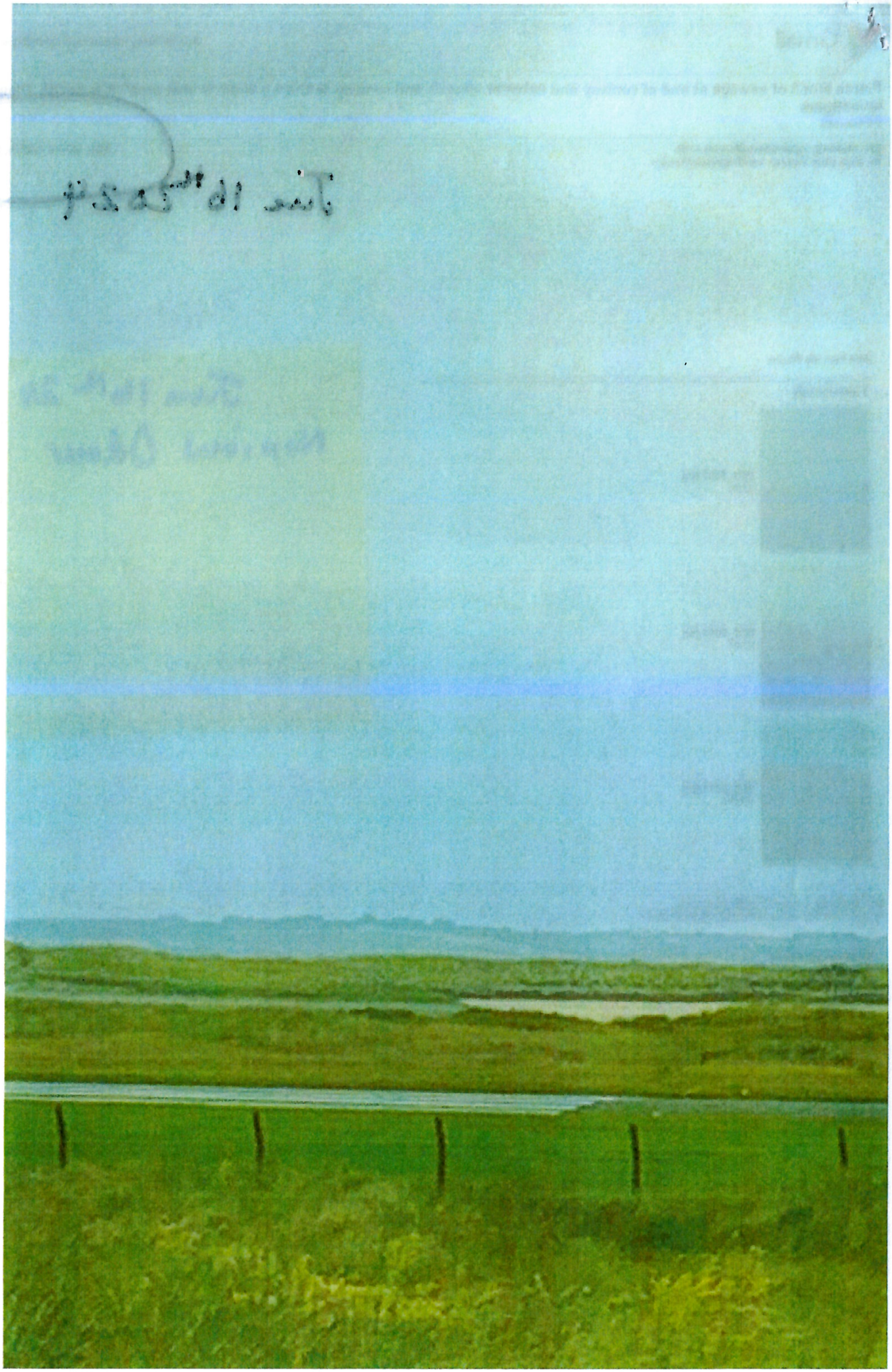
June 16th 24
Noxious Odour

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
Date: 16 June 2024 at 21:27:32 GMT+1
To: Sligo Litter Warden <enviro@sligococo.ie>
Subject: Fierce smell of sewage at end of runway and between church and runway. Is there a drain in that area? It is putrid. Please investigate









Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Second location of noxious sewage smell at end of runway extending to turnstile gate - please investigate and advise

2 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Sligo Litter Warden <enviro@sligococo.ie>

Mon, Jun 17, 2024 at 7:24 PM

June 17th 2024

Sent from my iPhone



IMG_5124.jpg
784K

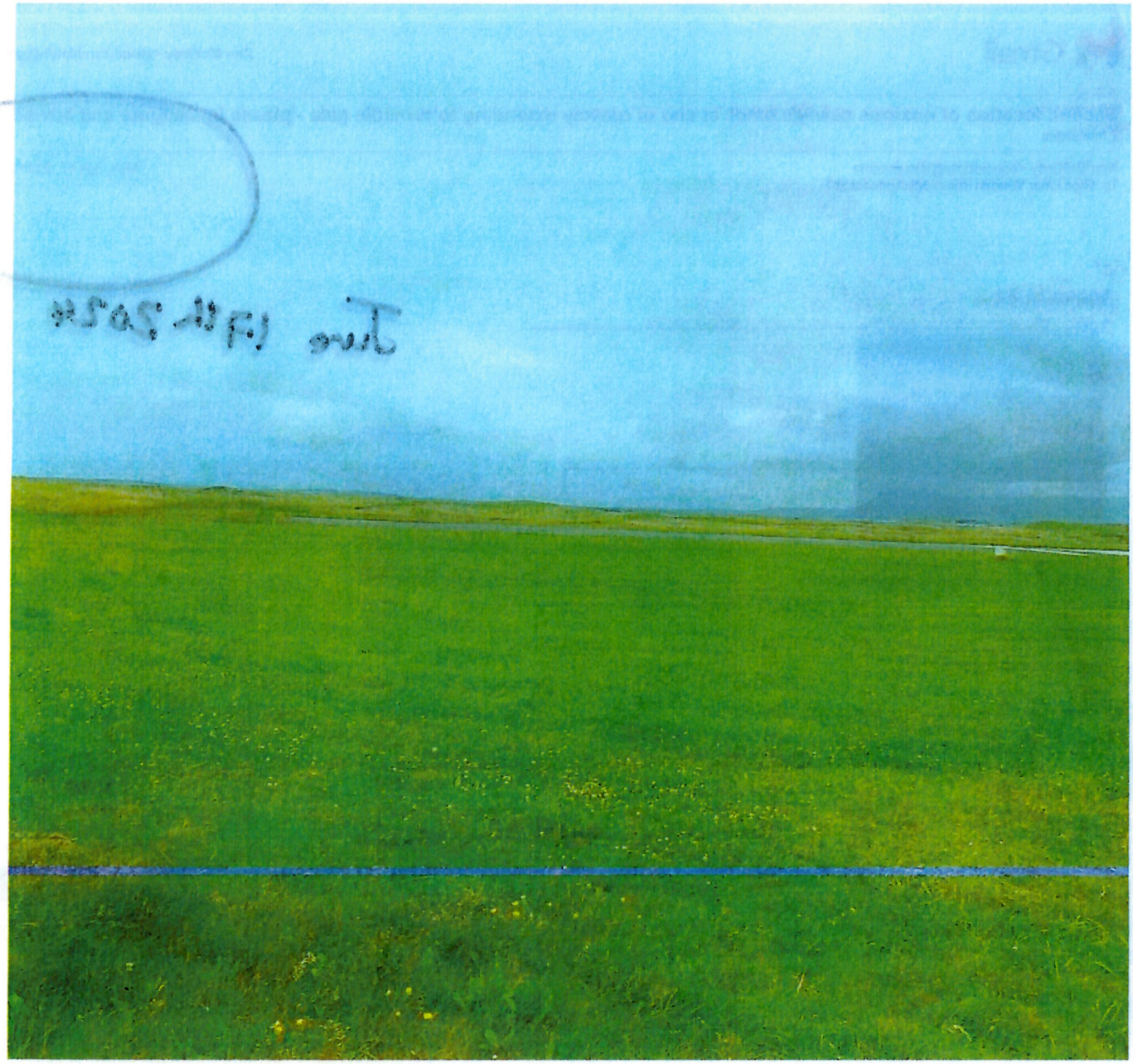
Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
Date: 17 June 2024 at 19:24:55 GMT+1
To: Sligo Litter Warden <enviro@sligococo.ie>
Subject: Second location of noxious sewage smell at end of runway extending to turnstile gate - please investigate and advise

June 17 '24



Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

WWTP Smell

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Noxious sewage smell Strandhill please investigate

2 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Sligo Litter Warden <enviro@sligococo.ie>

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 7:15 PM

Sent from my iPhone

June 20th 2024



IMG_5216.jpg
1009K

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

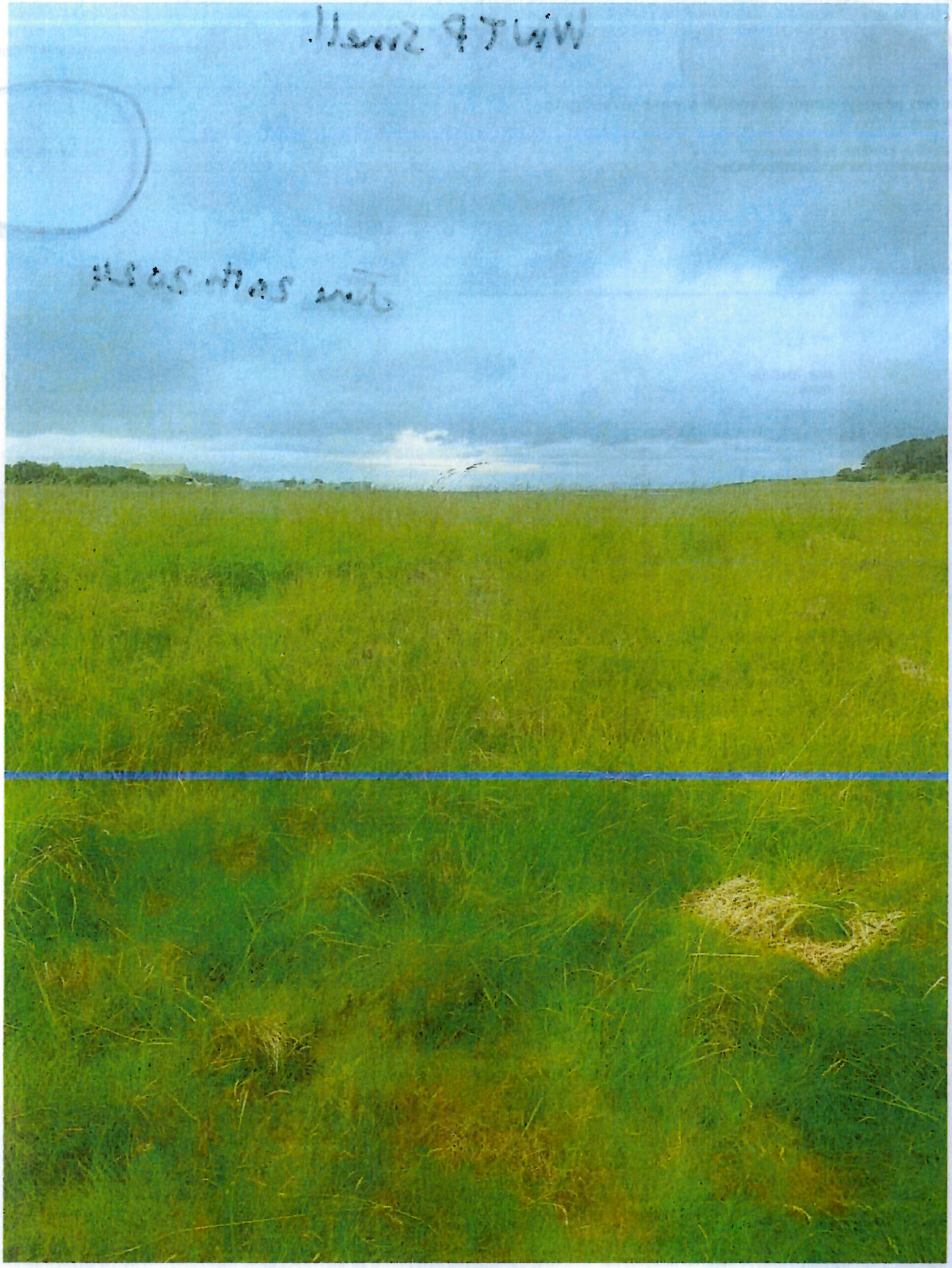
Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 11:31 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
Date: 20 June 2024 at 19:15:36 GMT+1
To: Sligo Litter Warden <enviro@sligococo.ie>
Subject: Noxious sewage smell Strandhill please investigate

WWTP
Noxious Odour
20/June/24



Sent from my iPhone

Gmail

WWTP Smell

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Photo from compass waste sewage noxious smell

June 22nd 2024

2 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Sligo Litter Warden <enviro@sligococo.ie>

Sat, Jun 22, 2024 at 12:27 PM

To whom it may concern,
The shocking fact that the sewage smell continues to pollute the air in Strandhill is not being acknowledged or investigated by Sligo Co Co.
I expect the rezoning for residential development and the reclassification of Strandhill as Satellite Town for development it would be hoover the Sligo Co Co to ignore the fact that the new WWTP is at capacity and the sewage treatment network systems are not working efficiently.
This is part of my formal complaint.
Please investigate fully and advise.
Yours faithfully,
Ann McKirdy

Sent from my iPhone

3 attachments



IMG_5253.jpg
1136K



IMG_5254.jpg
1011K



IMG_5255.PNG
163K

Noxious Odour
June 22nd
Report with
Photos

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 11:31 PM

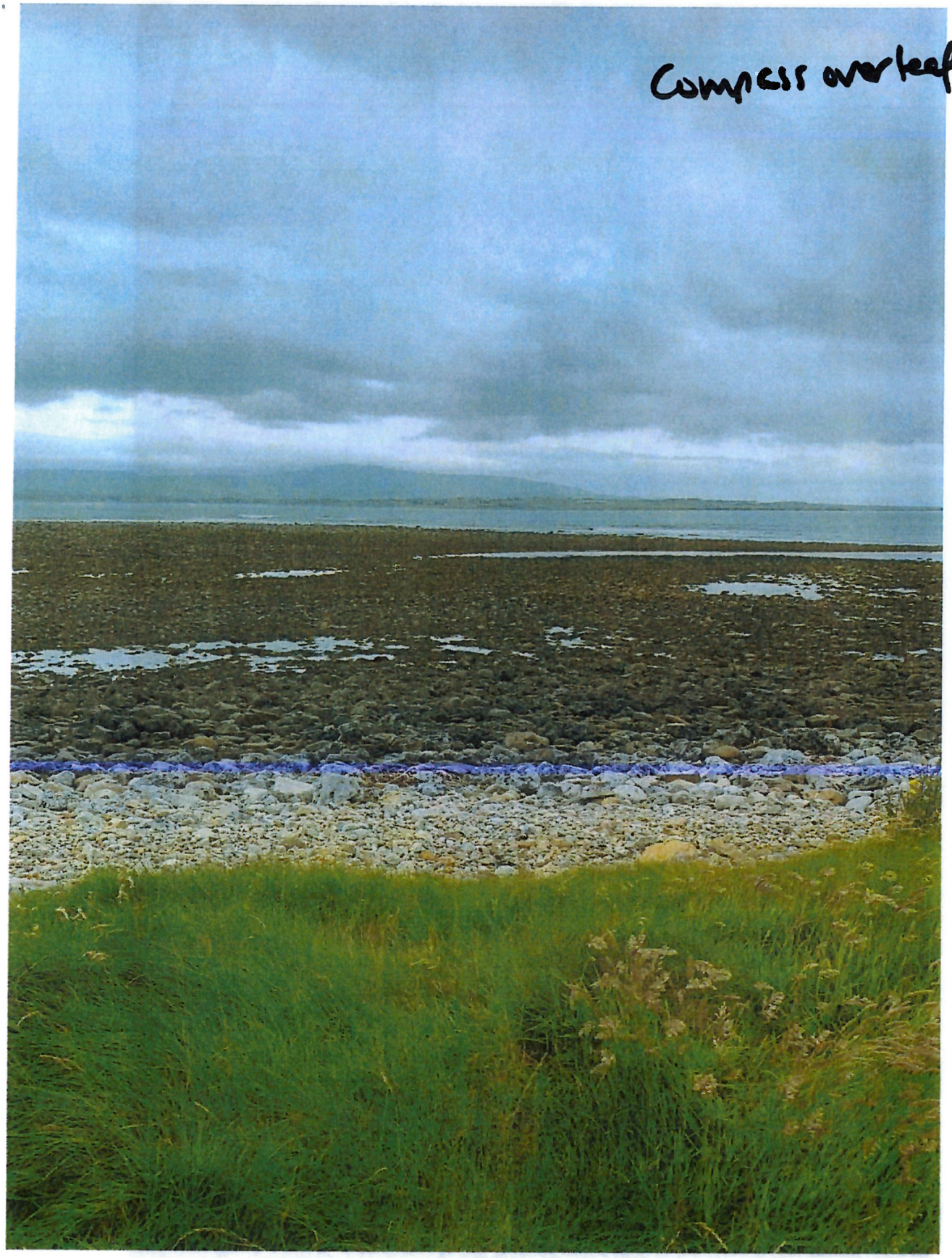
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

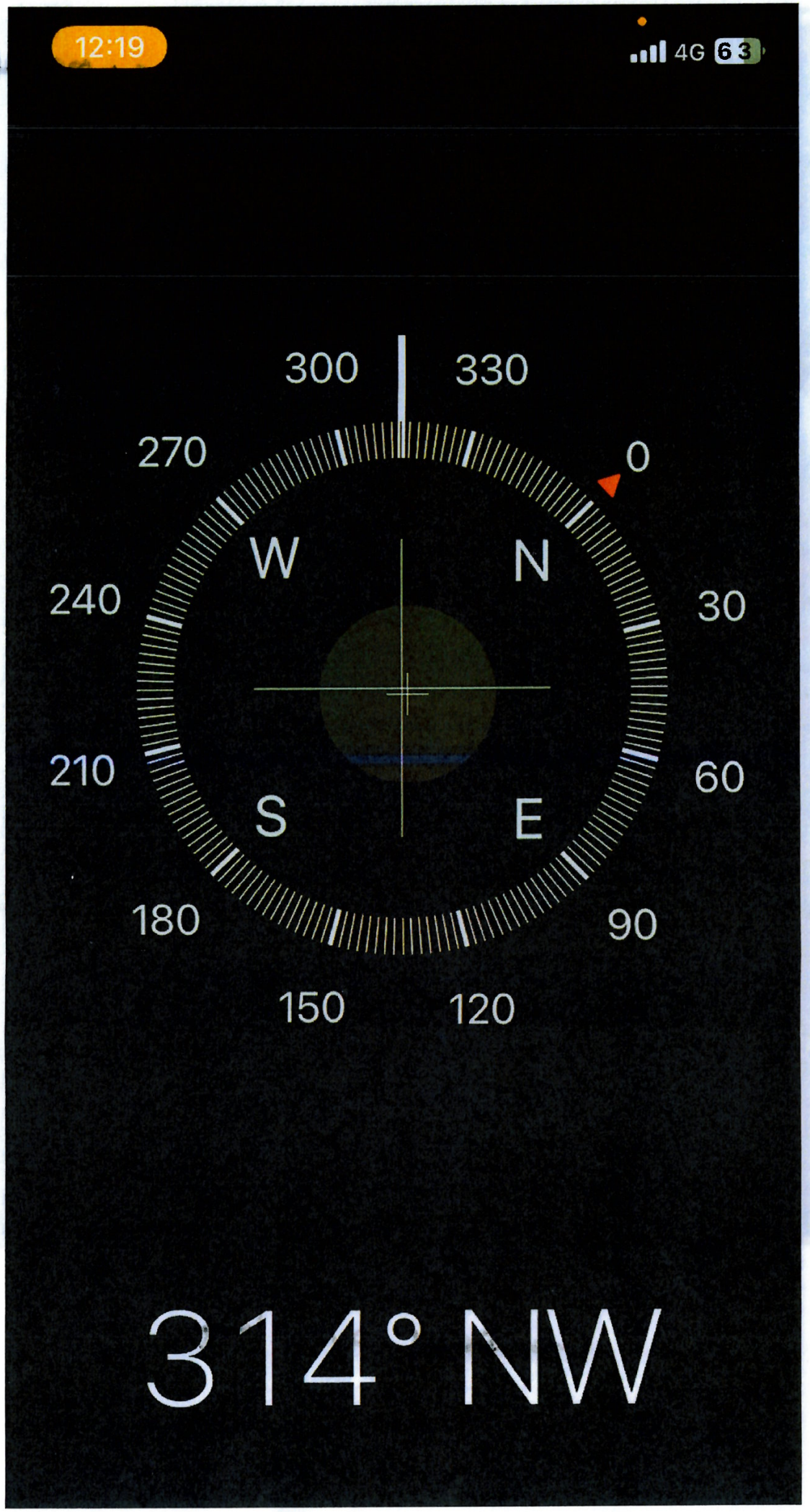
From: Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
Date: 22 June 2024 at 12:27:13 GMT+1
To: Sligo Litter Warden <enviro@sligococo.ie>
Subject: Photo from compass waste sewage noxious smell

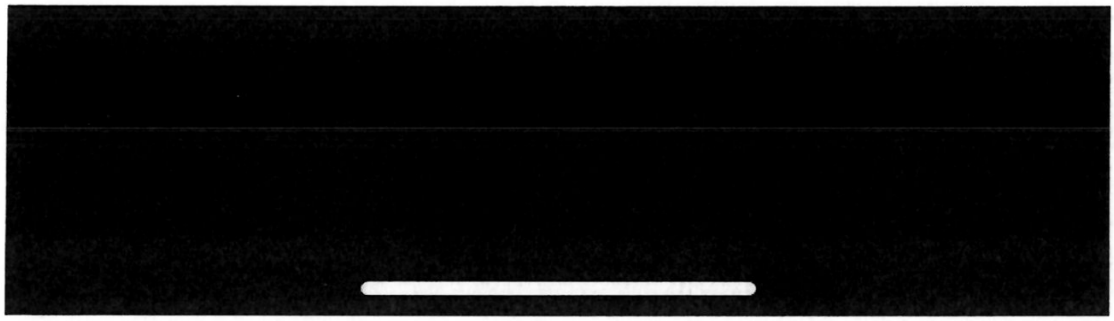
To whom it may concern,
[Quoted text hidden]


Nearest WWTW
noxious smell



Compass overleaf →


12:19
4G
300
330
270
0
W
N
240
30
210
60
S
E
180
90
150
120
314° NW



Sent from my iPhone

WWTP Smell

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

30/12/2019

Putrid smell from sewer treatment plant in Killaspugbrone

3 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 30, 2019 at 5:14 PM
To: enviro@sligococo.ie

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to report an intoxicatingly putrid smell from the sewage treatment plant presently in Killaspugbrone.
It is A Special Area if conservation. This level of toxic odour is unacceptable particularly after the major works undertaken to upgrade the facility.
Please advise what measures are being put in place to combat this.
Yours faithfully,
Ann McKirdy

enviro <enviro@sligococo.ie> Tue, Dec 31, 2019 at 2:43 PM
Reply-To: enviro <enviro@sligococo.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Dear Ms McKirdy

Thank you for your email. I have spoken to Water Services regarding your enquiry and received the following response. I hope that this is of help.

If you have further queries, please contact Mr John Morris at jmorris@sligococo.ie

"SCC can advise that the old overloaded treatment plant at Strandhill is still in operation, that upgrade works at the facility are approaching completion with the new plant programmed to come on stream in Q1 of 2020."

Kind Regards

30 Dec 2019
Noxious Odour
NWTP

Karen Elliott

Environment Section

Sligo County Council | County Hall | Riverside | Sligo.

Direct Tel: +353 71 911 1454 | Email: Kelliott@sligococo.ie | Web: www.slig

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 11:24 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

EPA

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Lee Kelly

1 message

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Mon, Dec 11, 2023 at 10:42 PM
To: sea@epa.ie

WWT P

Dear Mr. Kelly,
I am writing with regards to the upcoming Draft Amendment to the County Sligo Development Plan. I note the EPA has made a submission.

I am requesting herewith for the EPA to make an additional submission regarding the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Strandhill which is located on an SAC and is connected via pipe work to dump into the sea in front of the WWTP which is also an SAC.

The concerns I have are several:
Firstly, No Appropriate Assessment was carried out for this extensive development despite the obvious hazards to human health and the fact that it is located in an area protected under the EU Habitatat Directives with Annex 1 Protected Species.

Furthermore it is build on the Protected Marram Dunes Systems which have a population of Whorl Snail which is endangered

Surfers

It dumps into the area known to local surfers as 'Blackrock', less than 50 metres from the WWTP. This along with the water at the sea front is one of the most popular destinations in Ireland for surfers and has seen the development of the National Surfing Centre a Four Million Euros, Failte Ireland investment.

Shellfish

This WWTP is less than 1 km from Coney Island Shell Fish Farm which provides hundreds of tonnes of Oysters to the Irish and French Markets.

This Waste Water Treatment Plant is adjacent to the historic Killaspugbrone Church where St. Patrick reputedly lost a tooth and the gold shrine from this site is held in the National Museum of Ireland.

Dunes

This WWTP is located on shifting Dunes which are extremely vulnerable due to the high volume of foot traffic generated from the National Looped Trail - which was also developed without an Appropriate Assessment on the SAC, including the development of a semi hard surface and drainage of the Salt Water Marshes SAC at Killaspugbrone, Dorrins Strand. Hundreds of thousands of walkers descend on these walks. I will attach a copy of the FOI I requested from Sligo Co. Co. with details/headcount of visitors to each walk.

These walkers use the facilities in Strandhill and add to the load on the WWTP.

Market

Furthermore, the Sunday Indoor Market at the Airport - which was not approved for a change of function under Planning Law - sees thousands of visitors every week. Again, these people use the facilities adding to the load on the WWTP.

This area is home to dune nesting birds, the impact of anthropologic and canine tramping on this land has been detrimental. Not only is dog faeces a huge contaminant, the dogs destroy the nests and chase the sky lark.

The EU Habitat Directives are in place to ensure that these unique habitats are protected under legislation.

Presently, the Sligo Co. Co. Draft amendment proposes to increase housing and house density significantly.

I trust you will make a submission given that this 'Competent Authority' has flagrantly flouted their mandated duty under EU Law to ensure that no negative impacts of development to SAC

I am adding information regarding the unique landscape, history and biodiversity taken from Sligo County Council's Mini Plan -Variation Report 7/10/23. THE UNIQUE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, VULNERABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY - does not change - this is fact. The Sligo County Council have through their dereliction of duty in undertaking Appropriate Assessments mandated under EU Law decimated this landscape and biodiversity.

I believe that the EPA has a duty to respond to this serious breach of duty.
I look forward to your response.
Yours faithfully,
Ann McKirdy

EPA 2023
Request for
Assessment &
Input
WWTP
Looped Trail

A93

According to the Strandhill Mini Plan - Variation 1 - 7/10/2013

The Strandhill area has a particularly rich archaeological heritage. The Coolera peninsula was one of the major cultural and ritual centres of Neolithic Ireland (Circa 4500-2500BC) and Knocknarea played an important role asa ritual focal point. Today, this is evidenced by a large concentration of passage tombs, an enclosure and a jhut site complex on the mountain.
The peninsula retained its importance during later prehistory and early medieval times. The Giant's Grave Court tomb on the road to the Airport and the kitchen middens in the townlands of Culleenmore and Culleenduff are also indicators of substantial activity from the Neolithic period onwards.
One of Strandhill's archaeological gems is the ecclesiastical sitte at Killaspugbrone, which includes a ruined medieval church and a graveyard used by the local community in modern times.

Natural Heritage
Uniquely positioned at the coast, Strandhill is surrounded by some of Sligo's most valuable natural heritage sites. These sites are protected by European and national legislation, as they support a diversity of natural and semi - natural habitats and a wide range of flora and fauna.

The following areas are protected under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)

Ballisodare Baoy SAC Site Code 000622
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliffe Bay SAC 00627
Cummeen Strand Site Code 004035
Ballysadare Bay SPA site code 004129

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Formal Complaint about Sligo Co. Co. Rezoning -

4 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Jun 19, 2024 at 10:44 PM
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

Dear Office of Planning regulator,
I am hugely concerned about new rezoning submitted by Novot Holdings for Sligo Town in Maugheraboy, Carraroe, Cairns Hill and Strandhill.
It is very questionable the timing of these proposals. This Holding Company Directorship is not available.
It beggars belief that they can purchase agricultural land and then lobby Sligo Co. Co. to Rezone outside the scrutiny of the Planning Regulator.

Novot holdings are building 74 houses on Cairns Hill, pl 2297 this site has not been rezoned, nor do they have a signed Uisce Eireann agreement which is a pre-requisite for commencement as defined by An Bord \Pleanala and Sligo Co. Co. Planner's Report.
It would appear that this company is colluding with Sligo Co. Co. Paul Maguire is a lobbyist and his declarations are available online. The fact that he has lobbied all of the County Councillors and the Senior Management including Dorothy Clarke and the County Manager Martin Lydon and the Minister of Housing Darragh O'Brien.

The lands in Strandhill are under Omincrest, however, they are the same company in a different name.
Altitude Development which has a live planning application for 99 houses and a creche is also a company under this umbrella group. **2460191**
The OPR noted in their submission to Sligo Co. Co. in Dec 2023 that the maximum housing permitted in the life of the plan would be 70. Sligo Co. Co. has now changed Strandhill to a SATELLITE village, it is no longer a 'village with a special tourism function.' According to their Development Plan - What about the hundreds of thousands of visitors that come to the sea and the new tourists using the trails and walks

MKO is the environment assessment company is also the company that made the submissions on behalf of these entities for rezoning. This is a conflict of interest.

Planning application Planning Ref: 2360226 by Carnavron - is underway on the floodplain, 7 m from the SAC in proximity to the Ramsar site, no appropriate assessment was done. No agreement with Irish Water has been signed, yet it is well underway with some houses almost complete.

I am staggered by this blatant abuse of the planning system. One would have to question these rezoning submissions which appear to be based on insider knowledge propelled by lobbyist to leverage the re-zoning of land in Sligo by unfair engagement with the Public Servants of Sligo Co. Co. and the local elected representatives.

I am seeking a response.
Yours faithfully,
Aine Nic Amhlaidh

5 attachments

- **231123- Maguire_Sligo Draft Development Plan Submission - F3_Re**
  9612K
- **Submission on Draft SDP Cairns Road - F- 2023.12.22 (1).pdf**
  2359K
- **Submission on Draft SDP 2024-2030 (Strandhill Golf Course neighb**
  2368K
- **PAZ 58 Omnicrest Ltd Development Plan Submission _ Strandhill.p**
  711K
- **Carnavron Sligo Development Plan Submission.pdf**
  1054K

June 2024
Rezoning by Lobbying
Strandhill
opposed by OPR & Minister
superceded by Councillors

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Jun 19, 2024 at 10:45 PM

To: manager.dau@npws.gov.ie

Dear \Manager,
[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments

231123- Maguire_Sligo Draft Development Plan Submission - F3_Redacted (1).pdf
9612K

Submission on Draft SDP Cairns Road - F- 2023.12.22 (1).pdf
2359K

Submission on Draft SDP 2024-2030 (Strandhill Golf Course neighbour strandhill.pdf
2368K

PAZ 58 Omnicrest Ltd Development Plan Submission _ Strandhill.pdf
711K

Carnavron Sligo Development Plan Submission.pdf
1054K

Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie> Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 1:43 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. McKirdy,

I acknowledge receipt of your email below and attachments. The Development Applications Unit (DAU) co-ordinates heritage related referrals to the Minister in their role as a Statutory Consultee for heritage under the planning legislation. Your email regarding the rezoning of lands in Sligo falls outside the remit of DAU and so I have forwarded your email to the Planning section for their attention.

Kind regards,

Joanne

Joanne Lyons

Higher Executive Officer

___

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt

Development Applications Unit

Oifigí an Rialtais

Government Offices

Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90

Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

___

From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday 19 June 2024 22:46
To: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>
Subject: Fwd: Formal Complaint about Sligo Co. Co. Rezoning -

CAUTION: This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are in any doubt, please contact the OGCIO IT Service Desk.

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:54 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments

231123- Maguire_Sligo Draft Development Plan Submission - F3_Redacted (1).pdf
9612K

Submission on Draft SDP Cairns Road - F- 2023.12.22 (1).pdf
2359K

Submission on Draft SDP 2024-2030 (Strandhill Golf Course neighbour strandhill.pdf
2368K

PAZ 58 Omnicrest Ltd Development Plan Submission _ Strandhill.pdf
711K

Carnavron Sligo Development Plan Submission.pdf
1054K

2016

Gmail

Heritage Council

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Queen Maeve's Cairn, Knocknarea, Sligo

4 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Thu, May 12, 2016 at 1:37 PM
To: idoyle@heritagecouncil.ie

Dear Ian,
I am writing to you to express my grave concern for the recent damage being done to this National Heritage Site since the opening of the National Looped Trail. The Cairn is being damaged by people walking up it and taking stones from it.

It is a very significant cairn on par with Brú Na Boinne.

This requires urgent attention before it is destroyed. The looped trail opened up last year which has seen a huge increase in visitors.

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

Ian Doyle <idoyle@heritagecouncil.ie> Thu, May 19, 2016 at 3:08 PM
To: "annmckirdy@gmail.com" <annmckirdy@gmail.com>

Dear Ann

Thank you for your email. I contacted Siobhain Ryan, the Sligo County Council Heritage Officer, and we spoke about this issue. She is well aware of these ongoing issues and is currently seeking ways to manage it.

We will try assist the Council in addressing this.

Kind regards,

Ian Doyle

Head of Conservation Services and Archaeology Officer

The Heritage Council of Ireland

Aras na hOidhreachta

Church Lane

Kilkenny

Ireland R95 X264

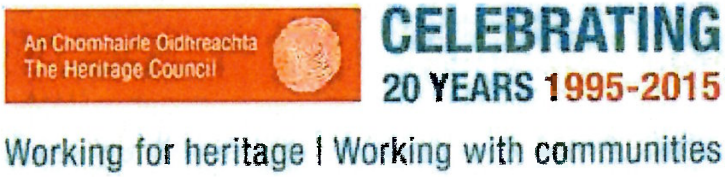
idoyle@heritagecouncil.ie

The Heritage Council

Church Lane, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

Tel:+353(0)56 777 0777 |

www.heritagecouncil.ie | www.heritageportal.eu | www.heritageweek.ie



[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Fri, May 20, 2016 at 4:20 AM
To: Ian Doyle <idoyle@heritagecouncil.ie>

Dear Ian,
Thank you for your reply. It is consoling to know our local heritage officer is aware of this issue given this Neolithic monument dates back to 3400 BC.

Locals speculate that up to 1500 walkers ascend the mountain from the newly opened access on the lower Strandhill side of Knocknarea daily. Their contention is that more damage has been done to the cairn since the opening of this walk than in the previous 5000 years. I am familiar with the walk and believe that the preservation of this cairn merits an urgent archeological conservation assessment.

I assume a heritage conservation assessments was conducted prior to opening this walk, where might I find this assessment?

Many thanks,
Kind regards,

Ann

On 19 May 2016, at 15:08, Ian Doyle <idoyle@heritagecouncil.ie> wrote:

> Dear Ann
>
> Thank you for your email. I contacted Siobhain Ryan, the Sligo County Council Heritage Officer, and we spoke about this issue. She is well aware of these ongoing issues and is currently seeking ways to manage it.
>
> We will try assist the Council in addressing this.
>
> Kind regards,
>
> Ian Doyle
>
> Head of Conservation Services and Archaeology Officer
>
> The Heritage Council of Ireland

Aras na hOidhreachta

Church Lane

Kilkenny

Ireland R95 X264

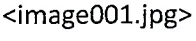
idoyle@heritagecouncil.ie

The Heritage Council

Church Lane, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland

Tel:+353(0)56 777 0777 |

www.heritagecouncil.ie | www.heritageportal.eu | www.heritageweek.ie



[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 8, 2022 at 2:07 PM
To: Aine Nic Amhlaidh <Ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, May 12, 2016 at 1:37 PM
Subject: Queen Maeve's Cairn, Knocknarea, Sligo
To: <idoyle@heritagecouncil.ie>
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

ATT: Simon Dolon - Sligo Planning - concerns - Upcoming Vote Rezoning Strandhill

4 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie

Fri, May 17, 2024 at 11:05 PM

All County Council Elected officials

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 17 Apr 2024 at 23:44
Subject: Upcoming Vote Rezoning Strandhill
To: <TomMacSharry@sligococo.ie>, <dbree@eircom.net>, <ArthurGibbons@sligococo.ie>, <SineadMaguire@sligococo.ie>, <GinoOBoyle@sligococo.ie>, <RosaleenOGrady@sligococo.ie>

Dear Elected Representatives,
I am writing to you with regards to the proposed rezoning of a site for residential development by Scoil Asicus, Strandhill National School, in the village of Strandhill.

- The rezoning of this site will land lock the school.
- It is already at capacity an increase of housing will have to be accommodated in the school which cannot under it's existing footprint and facilities accommodate.
- Currently the children have to alternate play on the pitch as there are inadequate facilities to accommodate the existing enrolled students.
- The road into the school has been a huge concern, it is also the access road for the golf course, the entrance is safe for one vehicle not two way traffic. There is no turning or parking available at the school.
- Children with disabilities have equal rights, these children are being particularly discriminated against, there are no footpaths to connect the school to the residential communities in the village.
- This site rezoning was objected to, it should be designated for sports and recreation as the community does not have a community center.
- The community center that we as a local community fundraised for was sold to Voya. We were promised that we would have be given a community center in the Nation Surf Center, this is NOT the case.
- There is a rumour that there is a proposal to rezone land opposite the Centra Shop in Strandhill - This is adjacent to the County Biodiversity Site at Larass.
- The Appropriate assessment for 51 Homes under Section 179 A beside the school is not correct. This development will require an Environmental Impact Assessment which will stall the process of approval given the FACT that this land is High Ground Water Vulnerable - thus WASTE WATER cannot be disposed of safely without and EIA. The AA states that this site has a status of low ground water vulnerability. This is fact, it can be checked online.
- The AA WWTP assessment for capacity is purposefully misleading giving the Census for residents in Strandhill in 2016 instead of the current census 2022.
- Furthermore the existing waste water treatment plant's Appropriate Assessment was completed in 2007 - this was with a completely different population equivalent.
- moreover, the AA stated that the closest bathing water was Rosses Point - it is in fact 50 meters in front of the WWTP - Blue Rock a popular surfing location.
- The new WWPT was mandated to remain within the footprint of the existing site as the protected whorl snail had been located around the perimeter - the new WWTP is 4-6 times the original footprint
- The bathing waters in Strandhill at the slipway and at Dorrins Strand are evidence that Sligo Co. Co. is aware ot its duty to assess bathing water.

May 2024

All Council officials

Concern

WWTP

Impact of tourism

- Furthermore, the 3 million Euro investment by Failte Ireland and the Sligo Co. Co supports bathing in this water.
- I have been very concerned by the safety of the water at Blue Rock where my children surf, the sewage, maggots and smell from the WWTP prompted my research.
- Under my request for freedom of information in 2021, I discovered that 101,000 visitors used the new looped trails in Strandhill - based on the counters installed in Strandhill prompted by the recorded success by EU Trailblazers.
- The Standhill Market attracts 1500 visitors weekly, thus 60,000 annually
- The Surf Centre attracts 40,000 visitors expected to rise to 50,000 in 2033 per Heather Humphries
- The Caravan Park adds seasonal residents - not included in the Appropriate Assessment of 1,000-1500 residents
- These are just the recorded visitors not including the visitors to the beach. Though visitors are not permanent residents, their presence creates additional strain on the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- So my question to you as our elected representatives, on top of this extra quarter of a million recorded visitors, is it ok to add more sewage waste into a system that is at capacity without an Environmental Impact Assessment?
- The community center that was supposed to be built in Strandhill was rejected because of the Whorl Snail.
- The extension to the Airport Runway was successfully opposed because of the Whorl Snail.
- The WWTP was built based on the false premise that the Whorl Snail was not present.
- The Appropriate Assessment of this proposed residential development 179 a included a walk over to assess the presence of the Whorl Snail - This is inadequate - as these snails are ground dwelling and not visible on a walk over.

In many respects whether this rezoning is approved for development or not the Elected Representatives of Sligo County Council and Sligo County Council Managers will be held responsible for their disregard for the community and the environment.

I am also attaching my submission to the Draft Development Plan which I received confirmation of receipt for but was excluded from the submissions.

Looped Trail

Reference FOi 127/21

Monthly figures: Queen Maeve Trail	**Knocknarea Trail**	**Airport**	**Strandhill Carrowbunnaun**	**Total**
April 2843 May 2911 June 3696 July 4059 Aug 5138 Sept 2500 Oct 1388	April 2238 May 2442 June 3967 July 4343 Aug 5594 Sept 2086 Oct 1133	April 5195 May 4666 June 4533 July 6312 Aug 4700 Sept 2465 Oct 1344	April 7807 May 8449 June 11909 July 14411 Aug 16272 Sept 8813 Oct 4272	April 18,083 May 18,668 June 24,105 July 53,380 Aug 31,704 Sept 15,864 Oct 8,137
			Total Visitors Apr-Oct 2021 Using trails only	**100,697**

3 attachments

Appendix B Strandhill WWTP & Caravan Park PS AA Screening(1.0) (2).pdf
16812K

Ann McKirdy Draft Climate Action Submission.docx
29K

ground water vulnerability.pdf
1274K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Thu, Oct 10, 2024 at 5:58 PM
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

24-105-5-OPR
M
[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

Appendix B Strandhill WWTP & Caravan Park PS AA Screening(1.0) (2).pdf
16812K

Ann McKirdy Draft Climate Action Submission.docx
29K

ground water vulnerability.pdf
1274K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 11:44 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

Appendix B Strandhill WWTP & Caravan Park PS AA Screening(1.0) (2).pdf
16812K

Ann McKirdy Draft Climate Action Submission.docx
29K

ground water vulnerability.pdf
1274K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:39 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Incident 19/10/2022

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Sea swimming prohibition Dorrins Strand

5 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 8:08 AM

Prohibition Sea Swimming Sewage in Sea

Sent from my iPhone

4 attachments



IMG_7793.jpg
1210K



IMG_7801.jpg
653K



IMG_7811.jpg
1347K

Incident 2022 Dorrins Strand



IMG_7825.jpg
1180K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: info@epa.ie

Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 9:00 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to make a FORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINT ABOUT SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL. Sligo Co. Co. did not comply with Mandatory European Planning Legislation and did not undertake an Environmental Assessment prior to upgrading the sewage treatment plant under a €16 Funding Scheme. The Killaspugbrone WWTP is located in a European Designated Special Area of Conservation. Neither did Sligo Co. Co. engage with the public in the Part 8 Process which is also mandatory under Planning Act 2000.

I have reported a foul odor from this facility on numerous occasions.

The below Sample Testing undertaken on behalf of Sligo Co. Co and the Prohibition Notices highlight the problem which is a direct result of untreated sewage flowing into the sea at Strandhill/Killaspugbrone and east to Dorrins Strand.

I would like a full investigation into this breach in Planning Legislation and full accountability. This is the location of the Irish Center of Excellence for Surfing. It is also a sea swimming area in Dorrins Strand.

I expect the EPA has been notified by Sligo Co. Co. of this serious ongoing water contamination.

Please send me the FULL REPORT on the investigation into the source of contamination and the redress.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Yours faithfully,
Ann McKirdy
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 8:08 AM
Subject: Sea swimming prohibition Dorrins Strand
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

---

4 attachments



IMG_7793.jpg
1210K



IMG_7801.jpg
653K



IMG_7811.jpg
1347K



IMG_7825.jpg
1180K

Wexford Receptionist <REC_WEX@epa.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 9:31 AM

A Chara,

Your correspondence on 19/10/2022 has been forwarded for attention. Tá do chomhfhreagras ón 19/10/2022 seolta ar aghaidh le haghaidh aird.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Grace Marshall

Duty Receptionist I Organisational Services Team

Office of Communications and Corporate Services, Wexford

Fáilteoir ar Dualgas I Foireann Seirbhísí Eagraíochtúla

An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,Loch Garman

053-9160600 (Direct dial)

info@epa.ie

www.epa.ie

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 15, 2026 at 2:50 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments



IMG_7793.jpg
1210K



IMG_7801.jpg
653K



IMG_7811.jpg
1347K



IMG_7825.jpg
1180K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:40 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

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4 attachments



IMG_7793.jpg
1210K



IMG_7801.jpg
653K



IMG_7811.jpg
1347K



IMG_7825.jpg
1180K

January 2022

From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday 3 January 2022 02:26
To: Tim Roderick (Housing) <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: Fwd: SERIOUS CONCERN - URGENT- following the Formal Complaint SAC - Dunes Strandhill and proposal for further paths over the SAC

CAUTION: This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are in any doubt, please contact the OGCIO IT Service Desk at help.it@per.gov.ie

[Quoted text hidden]

refuse FOI

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 4, 2022 at 11:17 PM
To: "Tim Roderick (Housing)" <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie>, minister.ryan@decc.gov.ie
Cc: "Donal McWeeney (Housing)" <Donal.McWeeney@housing.gov.ie>

Thank you Tim.
I will follow up as you suggest, however, I am very upset that the Sligo Co. Co. has refused all my recent FOI requests, their reason for refusal was that I had requested too many items this year. The only communication I have succeeded in getting a response to is through FOI, everything else I send goes into the ether, completely ignored.

I recently reported a number of environmental enforcement issues including the draining of Knocknarea mountain on the Rathcarrick side before Christmas 2021, pneumatic drills on a large digger like machine and at least 200 meters of drain piping approximately 30 cm in diameter and 20 feet long. (This is the mountain where the UNESCO world heritage submission is being evaluated. I expect the outcome will be the usual, 'not an enforcement issue.'

Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy
[Quoted text hidden]

Drained Knocknarea mountain SNH

Built New Carport Exempted Dev. per Enforcement

4 attachments



IMG_8639.JPG
1430K



IMG_8633.JPG
1240K

Jan 2022
looped Trail
Drainage of
Knocknarea
for new carpark
Exempted per SligoCoCo



IMG_8635.JPG
1130K

IMG_8637.MOV
8429K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

Sat, Jan 8, 2022 at 11:29 PM

21-253-11-OPR
[Quoted text hidden]

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4 attachments



IMG_8639.JPG
1430K



IMG_8633.JPG
1240K



IMG_8635.JPG
1130K

IMG_8637.MOV
8429K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

Tue, Jan 11, 2022 at 11:28 PM

21-253-11-OPR

This is the reply I received some time ago following my formal complaint stating that the consultation with the NPWS noting that an AA was not required, yet this contradicts the Appropriate Assessment carried out in 2013 advising a stage two AA for any proposal over the SAC.

This is not accurate or true.
I have attached photos of the most recent news report on the decimation of the Dunes.
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

attached is the facebook for the Strandhill village, the community is outraged, photos, videos and commentary link below.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/241460746585403/?hoisted_section_header_type=recently_seen&multi_permalinks=1018262102238593

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 5:57 PM
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 15, 2026 at 2:49 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:46 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

OPR

Strandhill Market

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

May 2024

Controversial Material Contravention of Development Plan Sligo

2 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

Fri, May 17, 2024 at 2:43 PM

To whom it may concern,
I am adding another concern to the items I have requested the OPR to investigate.
The Strandhill Airport is located on the SAC.
In 2015 the Strandhill People's Market began using one of the Hangars. This market is very successful, however, no change of use planning application has been submitted. This Market has benefitted from grant funding through a number of schemes.
The concern I have now is another building has been approved in close proximity/within to the boundary of the SAC in December 2023 which is a material contravention of the Development Plan.

I am so upset on two levels, there is a pattern of controversial planning applications in Sligo being pushed through around so close to Christmas that concerned citizens are not aware given they are otherwise occupied during this busy holiday period.
Secondly, this is not adhering to the Planning Regulations 2000 or the management obligations of a competent authority under the EU Habitats Directives.

I am attaching the DAU's submsssions to the Sligo Co. Co on the Draft Development Plan.
I am also attaching the photos of the site and the approval.
I am attaching the screening for AA which cannot be accepted given that Whorl Snail assessment can only be completed between April and September

I have to reiterate my huge concern for the way planning applications are processed in Sligo.
I am one individual concerned for my environment, concerned for the preservation of heritage and cultural identity and concerned that we as custodians preserve beauty and biodiversity for the future generations.
I am also a teacher of children from disadvantaged communities and an advocate for the vulnerable in our society.

The governance of Planning in Sligo has to be managed, these infractions are indicative of a planning system that is not fit for purpose and not adhering to Planning Regulations.

I really appreciate that this submission will entail a lot of research, however, I feel strongly that there has to be oversight and Sligo Co. Co. is not behaving as a competent authority with regards to their obligations to National and European Planning Policies.
Many thanks
Sincerely
Ann McKirdy

9 attachments

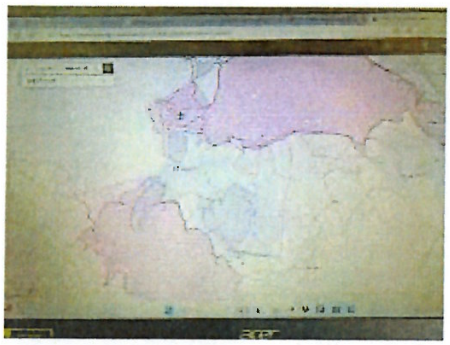


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807K

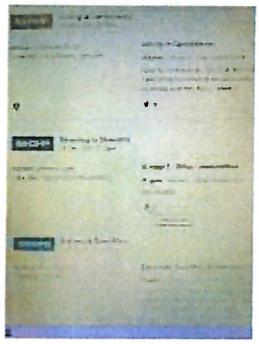
Strandhill Market
May 2024
OPR



IMG_3925 (1).jpg
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IMG_3924 (1).jpg
1064K



IMG_3926.jpg
1252K

Strandhill Airport AA Screening inadequate assesssment of lacunae.pdf
1403K

SCDP Reps on Local Plan Sligo Airport 18 12 2023 Final Letter (1).pdf
2489K

Strandhill Airport Rezoning permission granted Strandhill Peoples Market occupies one hangar no change of use planning application or approval.pdf
2489K

DAU Rezoning Tonahubble Sligo Draft Dev Plan 2024 submission.pdf
380K

DAU submission on Draft Dev Plan Sligo for ecological assessment 2024.pdf
644K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:53 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

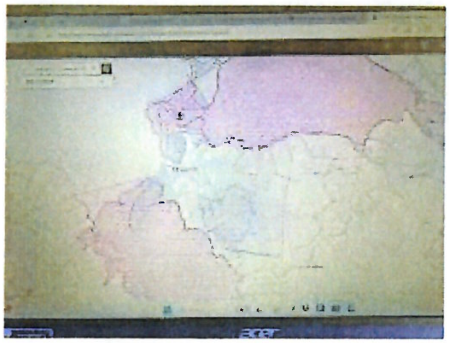
9 attachments



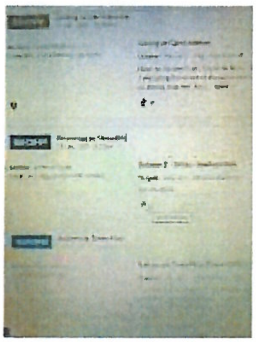
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IMG_3926.jpg
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Strandhill Airport AA Screening inadequate assesssment of lacunae.pdf
1403K

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2489K

DAU Rezoning Tonahubble Sligo Draft Dev Plan 2024 submission.pdf
380K

DAU submission on Draft Dev Plan Sligo for ecological assessment 2024.pdf
644K

Gmail

Camping Tents in Dunes

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Partying in Shelly Valley

2 messages

June 2021

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 11:51 AM
To: sinead maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>

Dear Sinead,
I want to bring to your attention the fact that kids are being dropped off nightly fir parties in the dunes after 10.30 pm.
I sent photos but not sure you received them.
It seems it's a camp site not too with overnight camping every night.

Please follow up to ensure this is stopped.

Many thanks,
Ann



1E7D6540-7C13-4874-B6A4-62B9D13BA5C1.jpeg
1038K

Tents on Dunes
Shelley Valley
June 2021

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 8:09 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]



1E7D6540-7C13-4874-B6A4-62B9D13BA5C1.jpeg
1038K

Gmail

June 2021

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Water Safety - Dorrins Strand and Dune Management

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: sinead maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>

Sun, Jun 27, 2021 at 3:04 PM

Dune Safety

Hi Sinead,
I hope you are well. I'm writing again about water safety and dune management.

I phoned the Gardai today to alert them to the fact that there is major partying on in the dunes by Shelly Valley after 11 pm these past few nights.
Young people are arriving by taxi to the sea front with suite cases, backpacks and surf boards. They are lighting fires and sliding down the dune face.
The garda said I need to report it when I see it and will not be involved otherwise.

The reason I am writing today is we had an emergency today at Dorrins Strand. A swimmer became Hypothermic after coming out of the water.
Unfortunately there is no vehicular access, she was too weak to walk and we could do nothing to help her.
Thankfully the Airport emergency services came to her assistance. I could not even park my car by the gate as the area by the gate has a huge rock to prevent parking. Moveable bollards are required in place of this for emergencies.

I am strongly opposed to any further paths for pedestrian access, the safety assessments have not been completed, nor has any environmental assessment of the proposed or existing paths over the SAC been undertaken.
This is legislated by EU Law.

Has the Sligo Airport been consulted about the proposal? I believe that pedestrian traffic close to the airport is not safe.

I would like this to be re-tabled at the next Biodiversity meeting.

I trust you understand where I am coming from, safety is a priority. Furthermore, we are seeing the shockingly rapid degradation of the delicate dune system in this special area of conservation.
Kind regards,
Ann McKirdy

No HA Safety Assessment

Dorrins Strand - See Swimmer 100m from WWTP 2021

FOI EPA

No environment assessment WWTP.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Schedule of Records

Summary of Decision Making

FOI Request Ref: FOI-0047-2023

Record No.	Brief description of Record	Decision	Basis for refusal – Section under FOI Act	Reason for Decision
1.	Environment Impact Assessment	Refused	Section 15(1)(a)	Record does not exist
2.	Licence	Refused	Section 15(1)(d)	Records is publicly available
3.	Annual Environmental Report 2022	Refused	Section 15(1)(d)	Records is publicly available

Nov 23 EPA No Environment Assessment Prior to WWTP Development

Office of Environmental Enforcement

Headquarters, PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford, Ireland

Ceanncheathrú, Bosca Poist 3000
Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin
Contae Loch Garman, Éire

T: +353 53 916 0600
F: +353 53 916 0699
E: info@epa.ie
W: www.epa.ie

LoCall: 0818 335 599

Ms. Ann McKirdy
Via email: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

09th November 2023

Re: FOI-0047-2023 Decision letter

Dear Ms. McKirdy,

I refer to your request dated 21st October 2023 and received on 23rd October 2023, made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act), for records held by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

P64
FOI Reply attached
Record does NOT exist

Your request sought:

"I am writing to you with regards to the Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant.

I am requesting a copy of the Environment Impact Assessment for the recent upgrade which increased capacity to 3700 PE

I am requesting a copy of the current EPA's WasteWater Discharge Licence for Strandhill WasteWater Treatment Plant.

I am requesting the latest Annual Wastewater Environmental Report relating to Strandhill."

I wish to advise that I, Breege Rooney have made a final decision to refuse your request on 9th November 2023.

SUMMARY OF DECISION
The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision as follows.

1. A schedule listing all the records refused.
2. Fees and
3. Rights of Appeal.

Your request asked for 3 records, and I will address each part separately as follows:

'I am requesting a copy of the Environment Impact Assessment for the recent upgrade which increased capacity to 3700 PE'

The licensee has not submitted an application for increased capacity or an Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to same and so the EPA does not have this record. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under **Section 15(1)(a)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (as amended).

15 (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where-

> *(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken.*

In its search for the record, the EPA has tried to use all practical, possible means for locating the records which you have sought and has taken the steps outlined below to find them:

1. Discussions with individual members of staff who may have dealt with such records.
2. Circulation of an e-mail to all relevant EPA staff, which set out the records you sought and asking staff to check if they had any records or information relating to your request.

The other two parts of your request were:
'I am requesting a copy of the current EPA's WasteWater Discharge Licence for Strandhill WasteWater Treatment Plant.

I am requesting the latest Annual Wastewater Environmental Report relating to Strandhill."

You can find a copy of the waste water discharge licence and any amendments to the licence on the EPA's website in the Leap area (Licence & Enforcement Access Portal) of the site here https://leap.epa.ie/licence-profile/D0107 . After entering the site choose Licence Versions tab, Licensing Documents, View EPA documents and then Final Decision.

The latest Annual Environmental Report(AER) submitted to the EPA is for 2022 and this is available again on the Leap area of the EPA website here https://leap.epa.ie/licence-profile/D0107 under latest compliance records reference LR077805.

As the above 2 records i.e., the licence and the AER are available publicly I am refusing theses parts of your request under **Section 15(1)(d)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (as amended).

15 (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where-

> *(d) the information is already in the public domain.*

1. Schedule of records

Please find at the end of this letter a schedule of records listing all the records the EPA has and is refusing as they either do not exist or are available publicly.

2. Fees

Section 27 of the FOI Act, provides for the charging of fees in relation to costs associated with search, retrieval and copying of records. Fees aree charged in accordance with the details on the EPA's website. Please note that the fee is waived in this case as the cost is less than €100.

3. Rights of Appeal

If you are unhappy with this decision, you may appeal it. In the event that you wish to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, County Wexford or by e-mail to foi@epa.ie.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to Environmental Protection Agency. If you wish to make payment by electronic means please contact Ana Bolger, FOI Officer on 053 9160675.

Publication

All non-personal FOI requests will be recorded on an FOI disclosure log which will be published on the Agency's website in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Breege Rooney

Breege Rooney,
FOI Decision Maker,
Office of Environmental Enforcement.

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

ATT: Simon Dolon - Sligo Planning - concerns - Upcoming Vote Rezoning Strandhill

4 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie

Fri, May 17, 2024 at 11:05 PM

All County Council Elected officials

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 17 Apr 2024 at 23:44
Subject: Upcoming Vote Rezoning Strandhill
To: <TomMacSharry@sligococo.ie>, <dbree@eircom.net>, <ArthurGibbons@sligococo.ie>, <SineadMaguire@sligococo.ie>, <GinoOBoyle@sligococo.ie>, <RosaleenOGrady@sligococo.ie>

Dear Elected Representatives,
I am writing to you with regards to the proposed rezoning of a site for residential development by Scoil Asicus, Strandhill National School, in the village of Strandhill.

- The rezoning of this site will land lock the school.
- It is already at capacity an increase of housing will have to be accommodated in the school which cannot under it's existing footprint and facilities accommodate.
- Currently the children have to alternate play on the pitch as there are inadequate facilities to accommodate the existing enrolled students.
- The road into the school has been a huge concern, it is also the access road for the golf course, the entrance is safe for one vehicle not two way traffic. There is no turning or parking available at the school.
- Children with disabilities have equal rights, these children are being particularly discriminated against, there are no footpaths to connect the school to the residential communities in the village.
- This site rezoning was objected to, it should be designated for sports and recreation as the community does not have a community center.
- The community center that we as a local community fundraised for was sold to Voya. We were promised that we would have be given a community center in the Nation Surf Center, this is NOT the case.
- There is a rumour that there is a proposal to rezone land opposite the Centra Shop in Strandhill - This is adjacent to the County Biodiversity Site at Larass.
- The Appropriate assessment for 51 Homes under Section 179 A beside the school is not correct. This development will require an Environmental Impact Assessment which will stall the process of approval given the FACT that this land is High Ground Water Vulnerable - thus WASTE WATER cannot be disposed of safely without and EIA. The AA states that this site has a status of low ground water vulnerability. This is fact, it can be checked online.
- The AA WWTP assessment for capacity is purposefully misleading giving the Census for residents in Strandhill in 2016 instead of the current census 2022.
- Furthermore the existing waste water treatment plant's Appropriate Assessment was completed in 2007 - this was with a completely different population equivalent.
- moreover, the AA stated that the closest bathing water was Rosses Point - it is in fact 50 meters in front of the WWTP - Blue Rock a popular surfing location.
- The new WWPT was mandated to remain within the footprint of the existing site as the protected whorl snail had been located around the perimeter - the new WWTP is 4-6 times the original footprint
- The bathing waters in Strandhill at the slipway and at Dorrins Strand are evidence that Sligo Co. Co. is aware ot its duty to assess bathing water.

May 2024

All Council officials

Concern

WWTP

Impact of tourism

- Furthermore, the 3 million Euro investment by Failte Ireland and the Sligo Co. Co supports bathing in this water.
- I have been very concerned by the safety of the water at Blue Rock where my children surf, the sewage, maggots and smell from the WWTP prompted my research.
- Under my request for freedom of information in 2021, I discovered that 101,000 visitors used the new looped trails in Strandhill - based on the counters installed in Strandhill prompted by the recorded success by EU Trailblazers.
- The Standhill Market attracts 1500 visitors weekly, thus 60,000 annually
- The Surf Centre attracts 40,000 visitors expected to rise to 50,000 in 2033 per Heather Humphries
- The Caravan Park adds seasonal residents - not included in the Appropriate Assessment of 1,000-1500 residents
- These are just the recorded visitors not including the visitors to the beach. Though visitors are not permanent residents, their presence creates additional strain on the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- So my question to you as our elected representatives, on top of this extra quarter of a million recorded visitors, is it ok to add more sewage waste into a system that is at capacity without an Environmental Impact Assessment?
- The community center that was supposed to be built in Strandhill was rejected because of the Whorl Snail.
- The extension to the Airport Runway was successfully opposed because of the Whorl Snail.
- The WWTP was built based on the false premise that the Whorl Snail was not present.
- The Appropriate Assessment of this proposed residential development 179 a included a walk over to assess the presence of the Whorl Snail - This is inadequate - as these snails are ground dwelling and not visible on a walk over.

In many respects whether this rezoning is approved for development or not the Elected Representatives of Sligo County Council and Sligo County Council Managers will be held responsible for their disregard for the community and the environment.

I am also attaching my submission to the Draft Development Plan which I received confirmation of receipt for but was excluded from the submissions.

Looped Trail

Reference FOi 127/21

Monthly figures: Queen Maeve Trail	**Knocknarea Trail**	**Airport**	**Strandhill Carrowbunnaun**	**Total**
April 2843 May 2911 June 3696 July 4059 Aug 5138 Sept 2500 Oct 1388	April 2238 May 2442 June 3967 July 4343 Aug 5594 Sept 2086 Oct 1133	April 5195 May 4666 June 4533 July 6312 Aug 4700 Sept 2465 Oct 1344	April 7807 May 8449 June 11909 July 14411 Aug 16272 Sept 8813 Oct 4272	April 18,083 May 18,668 June 24,105 July 53,380 Aug 31,704 Sept 15,864 Oct 8,137
			Total Visitors Apr-Oct 2021 Using trails only	**100,697**

3 attachments

Appendix B Strandhill WWTP & Caravan Park PS AA Screening(1.0) (2).pdf
16812K

Ann McKirdy Draft Climate Action Submission.docx
29K

ground water vulnerability.pdf
1274K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Thu, Oct 10, 2024 at 5:58 PM
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

24-105-5-OPR
M
[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

Appendix B Strandhill WWTP & Caravan Park PS AA Screening(1.0) (2).pdf
16812K

Ann McKirdy Draft Climate Action Submission.docx
29K

ground water vulnerability.pdf
1274K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 11:44 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

Appendix B Strandhill WWTP & Caravan Park PS AA Screening(1.0) (2).pdf
16812K

Ann McKirdy Draft Climate Action Submission.docx
29K

ground water vulnerability.pdf
1274K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:39 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Incident 19/10/2022

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Sea swimming prohibition Dorrins Strand

5 messages

Ann McKirdy <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 8:08 AM

Prohibition Sea Swimming Sewage in Sea

Sent from my iPhone

4 attachments



IMG_7793.jpg
1210K



IMG_7801.jpg
653K



IMG_7811.jpg
1347K

Incident 2022 Dorrins Strand



IMG_7825.jpg
1180K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: info@epa.ie

Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 9:00 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to make a FORMAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINT ABOUT SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL. Sligo Co. Co. did not comply with Mandatory European Planning Legislation and did not undertake an Environmental Assessment prior to upgrading the sewage treatment plant under a €16 Funding Scheme. The Killaspugbrone WWTP is located in a European Designated Special Area of Conservation. Neither did Sligo Co. Co. engage with the public in the Part 8 Process which is also mandatory under Planning Act 2000.

I have reported a foul odor from this facility on numerous occasions.

The below Sample Testing undertaken on behalf of Sligo Co. Co and the Prohibition Notices highlight the problem which is a direct result of untreated sewage flowing into the sea at Strandhill/Killaspugbrone and east to Dorrins Strand.

I would like a full investigation into this breach in Planning Legislation and full accountability. This is the location of the Irish Center of Excellence for Surfing. It is also a sea swimming area in Dorrins Strand.

I expect the EPA has been notified by Sligo Co. Co. of this serious ongoing water contamination.

Please send me the FULL REPORT on the investigation into the source of contamination and the redress.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Yours faithfully,
Ann McKirdy
---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <annmckirdy@icloud.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 8:08 AM
Subject: Sea swimming prohibition Dorrins Strand
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

---

4 attachments



IMG_7793.jpg
1210K



IMG_7801.jpg
653K



IMG_7811.jpg
1347K



IMG_7825.jpg
1180K

Wexford Receptionist <REC_WEX@epa.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Oct 19, 2022 at 9:31 AM

A Chara,

Your correspondence on 19/10/2022 has been forwarded for attention. Tá do chomhfhreagras ón 19/10/2022 seolta ar aghaidh le haghaidh aird.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Grace Marshall

Duty Receptionist I Organisational Services Team

Office of Communications and Corporate Services, Wexford

Fáilteoir ar Dualgas I Foireann Seirbhísí Eagraíochtúla

An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha,Loch Garman

053-9160600 (Direct dial)

info@epa.ie

www.epa.ie

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 15, 2026 at 2:50 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments



IMG_7793.jpg
1210K



IMG_7801.jpg
653K



IMG_7811.jpg
1347K



IMG_7825.jpg
1180K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:40 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

---

4 attachments



IMG_7793.jpg
1210K



IMG_7801.jpg
653K



IMG_7811.jpg
1347K



IMG_7825.jpg
1180K

January 2022

From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday 3 January 2022 02:26
To: Tim Roderick (Housing) <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: Fwd: SERIOUS CONCERN - URGENT- following the Formal Complaint SAC - Dunes Strandhill and proposal for further paths over the SAC

CAUTION: This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are in any doubt, please contact the OGCIO IT Service Desk at help.it@per.gov.ie

[Quoted text hidden]

refuse FOI

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 4, 2022 at 11:17 PM
To: "Tim Roderick (Housing)" <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie>, minister.ryan@decc.gov.ie
Cc: "Donal McWeeney (Housing)" <Donal.McWeeney@housing.gov.ie>

Thank you Tim.
I will follow up as you suggest, however, I am very upset that the Sligo Co. Co. has refused all my recent FOI requests, their reason for refusal was that I had requested too many items this year. The only communication I have succeeded in getting a response to is through FOI, everything else I send goes into the ether, completely ignored.

I recently reported a number of environmental enforcement issues including the draining of Knocknarea mountain on the Rathcarrick side before Christmas 2021, pneumatic drills on a large digger like machine and at least 200 meters of drain piping approximately 30 cm in diameter and 20 feet long. (This is the mountain where the UNESCO world heritage submission is being evaluated. I expect the outcome will be the usual, 'not an enforcement issue.'

Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy
[Quoted text hidden]

Drained Knocknarea mountain SNH

Built New Carport Exempted Dev. per Enforcement

4 attachments



IMG_8639.JPG
1430K



IMG_8633.JPG
1240K

Jan 2022
looped Trail
Drainage of
Knocknarea
for new carpark
Exempted per SligoCoCo



IMG_8635.JPG
1130K

IMG_8637.MOV
8429K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

Sat, Jan 8, 2022 at 11:29 PM

21-253-11-OPR
[Quoted text hidden]

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4 attachments



IMG_8639.JPG
1430K



IMG_8633.JPG
1240K



IMG_8635.JPG
1130K

IMG_8637.MOV
8429K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

Tue, Jan 11, 2022 at 11:28 PM

21-253-11-OPR

This is the reply I received some time ago following my formal complaint stating that the consultation with the NPWS noting that an AA was not required, yet this contradicts the Appropriate Assessment carried out in 2013 advising a stage two AA for any proposal over the SAC.

This is not accurate or true.
I have attached photos of the most recent news report on the decimation of the Dunes.
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

attached is the facebook for the Strandhill village, the community is outraged, photos, videos and commentary link below.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/241460746585403/?hoisted_section_header_type=recently_seen&multi_permalinks=1018262102238593

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 5:57 PM
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 15, 2026 at 2:49 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:46 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

OPR

Strandhill Market

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

May 2024

Controversial Material Contravention of Development Plan Sligo

2 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

Fri, May 17, 2024 at 2:43 PM

To whom it may concern,
I am adding another concern to the items I have requested the OPR to investigate.
The Strandhill Airport is located on the SAC.
In 2015 the Strandhill People's Market began using one of the Hangars. This market is very successful, however, no change of use planning application has been submitted. This Market has benefitted from grant funding through a number of schemes.
The concern I have now is another building has been approved in close proximity/within to the boundary of the SAC in December 2023 which is a material contravention of the Development Plan.

I am so upset on two levels, there is a pattern of controversial planning applications in Sligo being pushed through around so close to Christmas that concerned citizens are not aware given they are otherwise occupied during this busy holiday period.
Secondly, this is not adhering to the Planning Regulations 2000 or the management obligations of a competent authority under the EU Habitats Directives.

I am attaching the DAU's submsssions to the Sligo Co. Co on the Draft Development Plan.
I am also attaching the photos of the site and the approval.
I am attaching the screening for AA which cannot be accepted given that Whorl Snail assessment can only be completed between April and September

I have to reiterate my huge concern for the way planning applications are processed in Sligo.
I am one individual concerned for my environment, concerned for the preservation of heritage and cultural identity and concerned that we as custodians preserve beauty and biodiversity for the future generations.
I am also a teacher of children from disadvantaged communities and an advocate for the vulnerable in our society.

The governance of Planning in Sligo has to be managed, these infractions are indicative of a planning system that is not fit for purpose and not adhering to Planning Regulations.

I really appreciate that this submission will entail a lot of research, however, I feel strongly that there has to be oversight and Sligo Co. Co. is not behaving as a competent authority with regards to their obligations to National and European Planning Policies.
Many thanks
Sincerely
Ann McKirdy

9 attachments

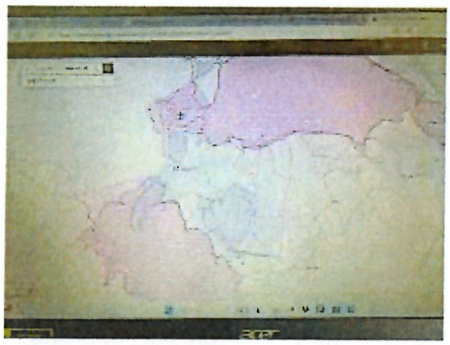


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807K

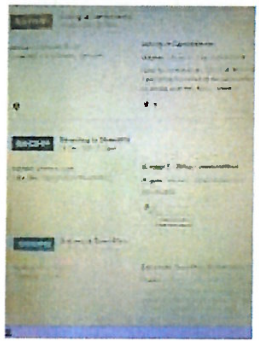
Strandhill Market
May 2024
OPR



IMG_3925 (1).jpg
799K



IMG_3924 (1).jpg
1064K



IMG_3926.jpg
1252K

Strandhill Airport AA Screening inadequate assesssment of lacunae.pdf
1403K

SCDP Reps on Local Plan Sligo Airport 18 12 2023 Final Letter (1).pdf
2489K

Strandhill Airport Rezoning permission granted Strandhill Peoples Market occupies one hangar no change of use planning application or approval.pdf
2489K

DAU Rezoning Tonahubble Sligo Draft Dev Plan 2024 submission.pdf
380K

DAU submission on Draft Dev Plan Sligo for ecological assessment 2024.pdf
644K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 7:53 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

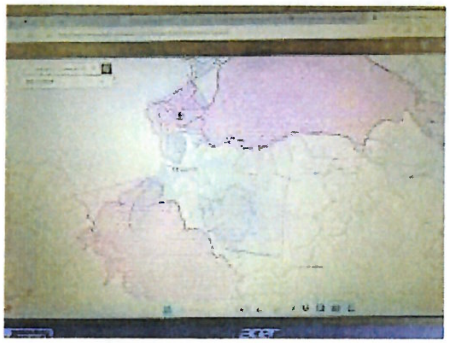
9 attachments



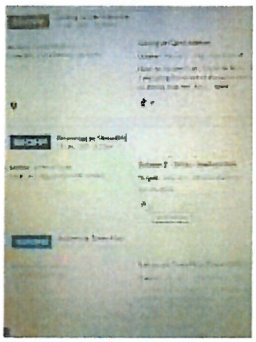
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IMG_3924 (1).jpg
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IMG_3926.jpg
1252K

Strandhill Airport AA Screening inadequate assesssment of lacunae.pdf
1403K

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2489K

DAU Rezoning Tonahubble Sligo Draft Dev Plan 2024 submission.pdf
380K

DAU submission on Draft Dev Plan Sligo for ecological assessment 2024.pdf
644K

Gmail

Camping Tents in Dunes

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Partying in Shelly Valley

2 messages

June 2021

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Wed, Jun 30, 2021 at 11:51 AM
To: sinead maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>

Dear Sinead,
I want to bring to your attention the fact that kids are being dropped off nightly fir parties in the dunes after 10.30 pm.
I sent photos but not sure you received them.
It seems it's a camp site not too with overnight camping every night.

Please follow up to ensure this is stopped.

Many thanks,
Ann



1E7D6540-7C13-4874-B6A4-62B9D13BA5C1.jpeg
1038K

Tents on Dunes
Shelley Valley
June 2021

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 20, 2026 at 8:09 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]



1E7D6540-7C13-4874-B6A4-62B9D13BA5C1.jpeg
1038K

Gmail

June 2021

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Water Safety - Dorrins Strand and Dune Management

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: sinead maguire <sineadmaguire@yahoo.com>

Sun, Jun 27, 2021 at 3:04 PM

Dune Safety

Hi Sinead,
I hope you are well. I'm writing again about water safety and dune management.

I phoned the Gardai today to alert them to the fact that there is major partying on in the dunes by Shelly Valley after 11 pm these past few nights.
Young people are arriving by taxi to the sea front with suite cases, backpacks and surf boards. They are lighting fires and sliding down the dune face.
The garda said I need to report it when I see it and will not be involved otherwise.

The reason I am writing today is we had an emergency today at Dorrins Strand. A swimmer became Hypothermic after coming out of the water.
Unfortunately there is no vehicular access, she was too weak to walk and we could do nothing to help her.
Thankfully the Airport emergency services came to her assistance. I could not even park my car by the gate as the area by the gate has a huge rock to prevent parking. Moveable bollards are required in place of this for emergencies.

I am strongly opposed to any further paths for pedestrian access, the safety assessments have not been completed, nor has any environmental assessment of the proposed or existing paths over the SAC been undertaken.
This is legislated by EU Law.

Has the Sligo Airport been consulted about the proposal? I believe that pedestrian traffic close to the airport is not safe.

I would like this to be re-tabled at the next Biodiversity meeting.

I trust you understand where I am coming from, safety is a priority. Furthermore, we are seeing the shockingly rapid degradation of the delicate dune system in this special area of conservation.
Kind regards,
Ann McKirdy

No HA Safety Assessment

Dorrins Strand - See Swimmer 100m from WWTP 2021

FOI EPA

No environment assessment WWTP.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Schedule of Records

Summary of Decision Making

FOI Request Ref: FOI-0047-2023

Record No.	Brief description of Record	Decision	Basis for refusal – Section under FOI Act	Reason for Decision
1.	Environment Impact Assessment	Refused	Section 15(1)(a)	Record does not exist
2.	Licence	Refused	Section 15(1)(d)	Records is publicly available
3.	Annual Environmental Report 2022	Refused	Section 15(1)(d)	Records is publicly available

Nov 23 EPA No Environment Assessment Prior to WWTP Development

Office of Environmental Enforcement

Headquarters, PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford, Ireland

Ceanncheathrú, Bosca Poist 3000
Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin
Contae Loch Garman, Éire

T: +353 53 916 0600
F: +353 53 916 0699
E: info@epa.ie
W: www.epa.ie

LoCall: 0818 335 599

Ms. Ann McKirdy
Via email: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

09th November 2023

Re: FOI-0047-2023 Decision letter

Dear Ms. McKirdy,

I refer to your request dated 21st October 2023 and received on 23rd October 2023, made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act), for records held by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

P64
FOI Reply attached
Record does NOT exist

Your request sought:

"I am writing to you with regards to the Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant.

I am requesting a copy of the Environment Impact Assessment for the recent upgrade which increased capacity to 3700 PE

I am requesting a copy of the current EPA's WasteWater Discharge Licence for Strandhill WasteWater Treatment Plant.

I am requesting the latest Annual Wastewater Environmental Report relating to Strandhill."

I wish to advise that I, Breege Rooney have made a final decision to refuse your request on 9th November 2023.

SUMMARY OF DECISION
The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision as follows.

1. A schedule listing all the records refused.
2. Fees and
3. Rights of Appeal.

Your request asked for 3 records, and I will address each part separately as follows:

'I am requesting a copy of the Environment Impact Assessment for the recent upgrade which increased capacity to 3700 PE'

The licensee has not submitted an application for increased capacity or an Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to same and so the EPA does not have this record. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under **Section 15(1)(a)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (as amended).

15 (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where-

> *(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken.*

In its search for the record, the EPA has tried to use all practical, possible means for locating the records which you have sought and has taken the steps outlined below to find them:

1. Discussions with individual members of staff who may have dealt with such records.
2. Circulation of an e-mail to all relevant EPA staff, which set out the records you sought and asking staff to check if they had any records or information relating to your request.

The other two parts of your request were:
'I am requesting a copy of the current EPA's WasteWater Discharge Licence for Strandhill WasteWater Treatment Plant.

I am requesting the latest Annual Wastewater Environmental Report relating to Strandhill."

You can find a copy of the waste water discharge licence and any amendments to the licence on the EPA's website in the Leap area (Licence & Enforcement Access Portal) of the site here https://leap.epa.ie/licence-profile/D0107 . After entering the site choose Licence Versions tab, Licensing Documents, View EPA documents and then Final Decision.

The latest Annual Environmental Report(AER) submitted to the EPA is for 2022 and this is available again on the Leap area of the EPA website here https://leap.epa.ie/licence-profile/D0107 under latest compliance records reference LR077805.

As the above 2 records i.e., the licence and the AER are available publicly I am refusing theses parts of your request under **Section 15(1)(d)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (as amended).

15 (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where-

> *(d) the information is already in the public domain.*

1. Schedule of records

Please find at the end of this letter a schedule of records listing all the records the EPA has and is refusing as they either do not exist or are available publicly.

2. Fees

Section 27 of the FOI Act, provides for the charging of fees in relation to costs associated with search, retrieval and copying of records. Fees aree charged in accordance with the details on the EPA's website. Please note that the fee is waived in this case as the cost is less than €100.

3. Rights of Appeal

If you are unhappy with this decision, you may appeal it. In the event that you wish to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, County Wexford or by e-mail to foi@epa.ie.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding, the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body.

Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to Environmental Protection Agency. If you wish to make payment by electronic means please contact Ana Bolger, FOI Officer on 053 9160675.

Publication

All non-personal FOI requests will be recorded on an FOI disclosure log which will be published on the Agency's website in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Breege Rooney

Breege Rooney,
FOI Decision Maker,
Office of Environmental Enforcement.

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

SERIOUS CONCERN - URGENT- following the Formal Complaint SAC - Dunes Strandhill and proposal for further paths over the SAC

10 messages

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: natureconservation@housing.gov.ie

Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 5:57 PM

Killaspugbrone

To whom it may concern,
I am notifying the National Parks and Wildlife of another proposed path in Killaspugbrone, Strandhill. This proposal is to run a path over the SAC by the National Heritage sure to bring people to the Killaspugbrone beach and Dorrins Strand.
This is an SAC. The impact of the paths which have been installed already have caused extensive irreversible damage over these special areas of biodiversity and conservation. The dunes have been decimated by tramping. I have reported adults coming down the dunes on toboggans, up to 20 texts inside the dunes system where revellers come to party. Moreover, the Sligo Co Co gave permission to the film makers of Ireland's Fittest Family to film the challenge of timed running up the dune face in Shelly Valley, Strandhill. This was broadcast several times on National TV. I have intercepted several football teams , squads of young men, from Sligo Leitrim and Roscommon and alerted them to the SAC status of the dunes and the prohibition for tramping.
It's a disgrace that the Sligo Co Co has not done a proper appropriate assessment. They have advised that in the screening process in conjunction with the NPWS this was not seen to have an impact on the SAC due to the limited scope of potential damage to the SAC. This is outrageous.

The Sligo Tourism has campaigned heavily and promoted this area for tourism, the paths are overrun.

This is not a minor scale, this is decimation on a grand scale.

To whom shall I address my concern? Is this within the remit of the NPWS ? An investigation needs to be undertaken urgently. This is an environmental catastrophe.

Please advise,
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

Sent Sligo Co. Co. Formal Complaint July 2021

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Siobhan Gillen** <sgillen@sligococo.ie>
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021
Subject: Formal Complaint SAC - Dunes Strandhill and proposal for further paths over the SAC
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

15th July 2021

By e-mail:

ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Email attached. Sligo Co. Co. Refused all of my future FOI requests

See pg 10/12

RE: Complaint to Chief Executive on 9th July 2021

Dear Ms McKirdy,

I acknowledge receipt of your complaint in relation to the development of the Killaspugbrone Looped Walking Trail. In particular, you question the lack of an Appropriate Assessment being carried out prior to undertaking this project.

Under the Habitats Directive, an appropriate assessment is required if a project has the potential to have a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network of designated sites. As part of the preparation of the Killaspugbrone Looped Trail in 2014, the proposed works were screened by Sligo County Council to determine whether or not they would have significant effects on either the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay SAC or the Cummeen Strand SPA. This screening process was carried out in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and concluded that:

'Having regard to the limited scale of the proposed development and the fact that it will not impact on the qualifying interests of the Cummeen Strand / Drumcliff Bay SAC and the Cummeen Strand SPA, it can be objectively concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites arising from the proposed development.'

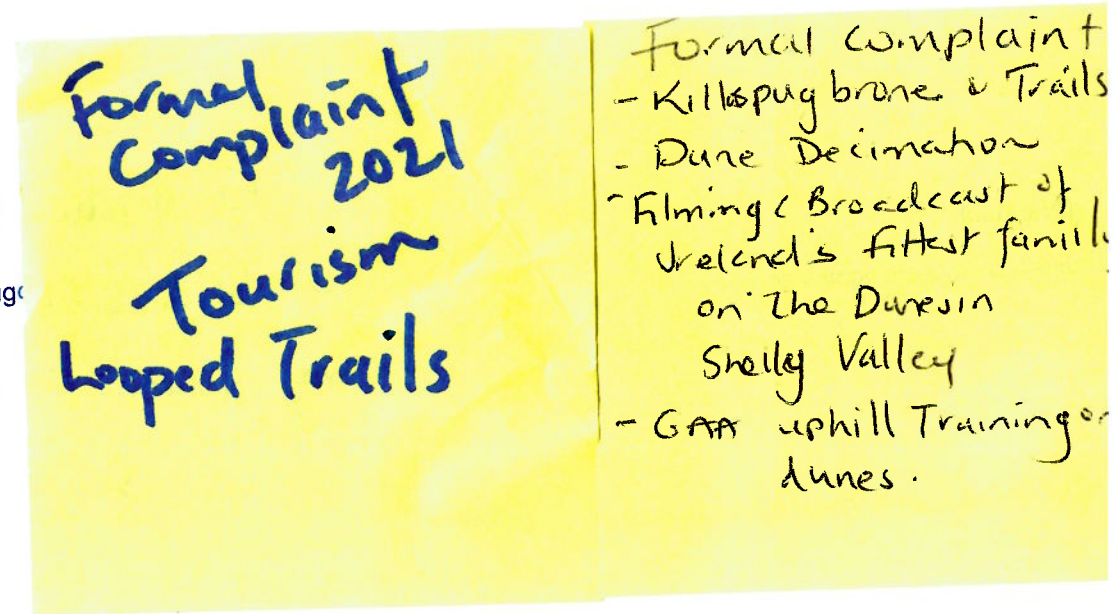
On the basis of the above determination, a full appropriate assessment was not required to be undertaken in respect of the proposed Looped Trail project.

With regard to your wider concerns about the effects of human activities on our sensitive coastal dunes, it is acknowledged that unmanaged trampling by beach visitors places significant pressure on these vulnerable ecosystems. The use of managed trails like the Killaspugprone Looped Walking Trail combined with appropriate signage (both wayfinding and educational) are well accepted measures to reduce the negative impacts associated with the high volume of recreational usage that these areas are going to attract.

We will continue to work closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the design and ecological assessments of all future walking trails and, where planned in areas within or in close proximity to Natura 2000 sites, that we ensure that they are consistent with the conservation objectives for these designated sites.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhán Gillen
Administrative Officer
Planning Section
Sligo County Council,
City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo
+353-71-9114440
+353-872905263
sgillen@sligococo.ie
sligococo.ie | sligo.ie



Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh
Sligo.

From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday 9 July 2021 01:29
To: Tom Kilfeather <tkilfeather@sligococo.ie>
Subject: Formal Complaint SAC - Dunes Strandhill and proposal for further paths over the SAC

Date: 9/7/2021

Dear Mr. Kilfeather,

I am writing to submit a formal complaint to the Sligo Co. Co. with regards to the lack of an Appropriate Assessment for the development of a Lub Naisiúnta over the Strandhill sand dune system is contained within two SACs: Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (627) and Ballysadare Bay SAC (622) protected under **Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)** and the continued pursuit of development further paths over these protected Special Areas of Conservation. A new path has been proposed across the SAC by the Airport to facilitate vehicular parking and pedestrian access to Killaspugbrone Beach.

I alerted the Sligo Co. Co., The Environment Department of the Sligo Co. Co., Bord Failte, and Leader at the time the proposal for a national looped trail first came to my attention prior to the launch. Records of my communications are on file at Sligo Co. Co. My concern for the protection of this dune system has not only been ignored, the campaign to promote the looped trail over the SAC has intensified. National marketing campaigns on T.V., internet, radio in print have shown promoted this area through the depiction of captivating images of this delicate eco system.

I request that you address :

1. Why an appropriate assessment mandated under EU law was not carried out prior to launching this looped trail. The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the associated Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) are transposed into Irish legislation by Part XAB of the 2000 Act and the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011.2 The legislative provisions for appropriate assessment screening for planning applications are set out

2. Why the Sligo Co. Co has proceeded with further plans to launch further trails when the looped trail has had such a devastating impact on the dune system.

3 Why when public pressure increased to protect the dunes a sign was erected by Sligo Co. Co. to point people towards Shelly Valley, an exceptionally important biodiverse site with a steep dune face that has been decimated with large groups of athletes using the dune face for training. Not only athletes and walkers going up but people on toboggans coming down. (I also sent photographs of this to the Sligo Co. Co. to request intervention) This was further exacerbated by

the wide promotion on RTE of Shelly Valley when used for a timed family challenge on *Ireland's Fittest Family.*

4. I would like to know why the objectives outlined below in the NPWS Conservation Document August 2013 (extracts below) have been completely ignored. Clearly, these unique fragile dune systems were identified as being extremely vulnerable to human tramping.

5 I would like an explanation as to why the recommendations in the The Draft Amendment to the Strandhill Development Plan adopted in October 2013 have been flagrantly ignored. The NPWS Dune Report, August 2013 publication was concurrent with the timing of the Draft Amendment to the Strandhill Development Plan. This would suggest that the precautionary principle has been ignored. (Likely to have a Significant Effect The triggers for appropriate assessment are based on a 'likelihood' (read as 'possibility') of a potential significant effect occurring and not on certainty. This test is based on the precautionary principle.)

Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (site code 627) Conservation objectives supporting document -coastal habitats NPWS

The distribution of sand dune habitats within Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC is presented in Appendix I. As part of the Coastal Monitoring Project (CMP) detailed individual reports and habitat maps were produced for each sub-site and these are included in a set of Appendices to this document (Appendices II to V).

Strandhill sand dune system is contained within two SACs: Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC (627) and Ballysadare Bay SAC (622).

This complaint deals with the northern section of Strandhill dune system, which is contained within Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay SAC. This northern part of Strandhill also contains an airport, a sewage treatment plant and a low density plantation on fixed dunes.

In Ireland, there are nine sand dune habitats (including annual vegetation of drift lines) listed under **Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)** (* denotes a priority habitat): Annual vegetation of drift lines (1210) Embryonic shifting dunes (2110) Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (2120) Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) (2130) *

The EU Annex I sand dune habitats recorded at Strandhill by the CMP include, **Fixed dunes, Dune slack, Dunes with Salix repens, Mobile dunes, Embryonic dunes, Perennial vegetation of stony banks and Annual vegetation of driftlines.**

The dunes at Strandhill in particular are important as they support a population of the Annex II species Vertigo angustior. A species listed on the Flora (Protection) Order 1999 - round leaved wintergreen (Pyrola rotundifolia) has also been recently recorded from the site (K. Gaynor, pers. comm.).

1 Overall objectives The overall objective for 'Embryonic shifting dunes' in Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC is to **'maintain the favourable conservation condition'.**

2 The overall objective for 'Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria' in Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC is to **'restore the favourable conservation condition'.**

3 The overall objective for 'Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation' in Cummeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC is to **'restore the favourable conservation condition'**. These objectives are based on an assessment of the recorded condition of each habitat under a range of attributes and targets. The assessment is divided into three main headings (a) Area (b) Range and (c) Structure and Functions.

At the Strandhill sub-site the extent of mobile dunes is considered unfavourable-inadequate owing to the impacts of natural erosion which is **compounded in places by human disturbance mainly from trampling.** Mobile dunes are almost absent from the northern section of the site where fixed dunes are fronted by a steep eroding ridge (Ryle et al., 2009).

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

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natureconservation <natureconservation@housing.gov.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 8:47 AM

Hi Ann,

Thank you for your email. I have forwarded it to the District Conservation Officer for that area.

Regards,

Michael.

Michael O'Donnell

Designations Unit

Seirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta & Fiadhúlra

National Parks & Wildlife Service

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtas Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

90 Sráid an Rí Thuaidh, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 N7CV.

90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV

www.gov.ie

[Quoted text hidden]

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Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvíorais chun víorais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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Tim Roderick <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie> Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 10:05 AM
To: "ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com" <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Cc: Miriam Crowley <Miriam.Crowley@housing.gov.ie>

Good morning Anne

Thank you for your e mail.

I note the reply to your initial complaint from Sligo County Council.

With regard to future plans for this area, Sligo County Council are generally, a regulatory body for such developments and a competent authority under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. This means that the provisions of that Directive should be fully implemented including the requirement for screening for Appropriate Assessment. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is available to provide advice in such cases but the ultimate responsibility lies with the Council.

I advise that you contact the local Conservation Ranger for this area, Miriam Crowley on 085 853 5823 to discuss your concerns and clarify what future plans you refer to.

Kind regards, Tim Roderick

Tim Roderick

District Conservation Officer

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Ballinafad

Co. Sligo

F52 K752

Tel: 076 100 2512

Mob: 087 6184827

www.npws.ie

From: natureconservation
Sent: Friday 16 July 2021 08:47
To: Tim Roderick <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: SERIOUS CONCERN - URGENT- following the Formal Complaint SAC - Dunes Strandhill and proposal for further paths over the SAC

Hi Tim,

Please see below for your attention and direct reply.

Regards,

Michael.

Michael O'Donnell

Designations Unit

Seirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta & Fiadhúlra

National Parks & Wildlife Service

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtas Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

90 Sráid an Rí Thuaidh, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 N7CV.

90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV

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www.gov.ie

From: Ann McKirdy [mailto:ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday 15 July 2021 17:57
To: natureconservation <natureconservation@housing.gov.ie>

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[Quoted text hidden]

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Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

[Quoted text hidden]

Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 7:57 PM

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
To: Tim Roderick <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie>
Cc: Miriam Crowley <Miriam.Crowley@housing.gov.ie>

Dear Tim,
Thank you very much for your prompt reply. I am very concerned by the lack of concern shown by the Sligo Co. Co for the Special Areas of Conservation and the National Heritage Sites at this location.
Recently an extension of 3 meters was approved by the Sligo Co. Co. Signal Communications felled approximately 100 trees at the site without a felling permit, yet, Sligo Co. Co. response was that no trees were felled on site. They identified the 'site' as the slab where the antennae mast is installed. This is exactly 80 meters from a standing stone neolithic monument in Killaspugbrone.
In 2013 the Sligo Co. Co. did an appropriate assessment in that same area to assess the viability of a community centre, the report said the felling of trees would have an injurious affect on the SAC.
No appropriate assessment was undertaken. I tried unsuccessfully to petition every government agency I could to get an appropriate assessment of this site. They were granted planning permission. Incredibly a condition of planning is that the new mast must have a light at the very top (this is a hugely visually vulnerable area) AND THE CABLE FOR THE ELECTRICITY MUST RUN UNDERGROUND. This is at the site of a neolithic monument. (You can look at this grant for planning in Sligo Co. Co. website, Signal Communications, Killaspugbrone, Sligo) This is a disgrace, this is an archaeological site.

The Killaspugbrone Looped trail current in high usage is completely underwater during high and neap tides. The stone wall to the left of the path which stood for centuries has completely been demolished by walkers walking on the wall to avoid the flooded path (approx 3-4 feet of sea water on this path)

The Sligo Co. Co. is claiming that they did not need an appropriate assessment. This path, the one that floods is ON a SALTMARSH. It is designated as a SAC.

I will send you the FOI's I have received. The Sligo Co. Co mandate for Strandhill would appear to be tourism at all costs.
This is against their legislative mandate to appropriately assess these sites for potential damage.

This is a very serious concern, I will forward the Senior Planner, Frank Moylan's reply to my concern.
Yours sincerely,
Ann McKirdy
[Quoted text hidden]

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4 attachments

FOI 20_21 Ann McKirdy.docx
2494K

FOI 59_21 Ann McKirdy.docx
2493K

58_21 Ann McKirdy.docx
2493K

FOI 57_21 Ann McKirdy.docx
2493K

Mon, Jan 3, 2022 at 2:25 AM

To: "Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie" <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie>

Freedom of Information request - to NPWS

Dear Tim
I am writing under FOI to request a copy of the:

submission by Sligo Co. Co. to NPWS for the proposed trail development is passing through and adjacent to any of the designated SAC's and NHA areas in the development of the Lub Naisiunta Killaspugbrone, Queen Maeve's Cairn and Knocknarea.

I understand the NPWS must be consulted and permission to proceed with the development must be sought. According to
A Guide to Planning and Developing Recreational Trails in Ireland From The National Trails Office , depending on the nature of the proposed trail and the designation of the area concerned, the NPWS may: a. authorise the development of a trail with no conditions, b. authorise the development of a trail with specific conditions or c. prohibit the development of the trail.

I would also like to see your (NPWS) feedback and authorisation of the above mentioned trails and the appropriate assessments for each including the area over the saltwater marsh in Dorrins Strand which floods on high tide.

Many thanks,
[Quoted text hidden]

Tim Roderick (Housing) <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie> Tue, Jan 4, 2022 at 10:45 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Cc: "Donal McWeeney (Housing)" <Donal.McWeeney@housing.gov.ie>

Good morning Anne

I do not have any of the information you refer to. For clarification, with regard to works potentially affecting Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (the natura 2000 network), Sligo County Council are a competent authority as identified in the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and must ensure that any work they carry out, implements the provisions of those Regulations. The National Parks and Wildlife Service does not consent or approve the work of another competent authority.

I would advise that you contact Sligo County Council to establish what procedures they followed in carrying out these works and what formal consultation took place with other bodies.

Subsequent to that, if you wish to make a request to NPWS for information on this matter, please revert to me and I will advise you of the procedure.

Regards, Tim

Tim Roderick

District Conservation Officer

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Mobile: 087 618 4827

From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday 3 January 2022 02:26
To: Tim Roderick (Housing) <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: Fwd: SERIOUS CONCERN - URGENT- following the Formal Complaint SAC - Dunes Strandhill and proposal for further paths over the SAC

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[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 4, 2022 at 11:17 PM
To: "Tim Roderick (Housing)" <Tim.Roderick@housing.gov.ie>, minister.ryan@decc.gov.ie
Cc: "Donal McWeeney (Housing)" <Donal.McWeeney@housing.gov.ie>

Thank you Tim.
I will follow up as you suggest, however, I am very upset that the Sligo Co. Co. has refused all my recent FOI requests, their reason for refusal was that I had requested too many items this year. The only communication I have succeeded in getting a response to is through FOI, everything else I send goes into the ether, completely ignored.

I recently reported a number of environmental enforcement issues including the draining of Knocknarea mountain on the Rathcarrick side before Christmas 2021, pneumatic drills on a large digger like machine and at least 200 meters of drain piping approximately 30 cm in diameter and 20 feet long. (This is the mountain where the UNESCO world heritage submission is being evaluated. I expect the outcome will be the usual, 'not an enforcement issue.'

Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy
[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments



IMG_8639.JPG
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IMG_8633.JPG
1240K



IMG_8635.JPG
1130K

IMG_8637.MOV
8429K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Sat, Jan 8, 2022 at 11:29 PM
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

21-253-11-OPR
[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments



IMG_8639.JPG
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1240K



IMG_8635.JPG
1130K

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8429K

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Tue, Jan 11, 2022 at 11:28 PM
To: "Info@opr.ie" <info@opr.ie>

21-253-11-OPR

This is the reply I received some time ago following my formal complaint stating that the consultation with the NPWS noting that an AA was not required, yet this contradicts the Appropriate Assessment carried out in 2013 advising a stage two AA for any proposal over the SAC.

This is not accurate or true.
I have attached photos of the most recent news report on the decimation of the Dunes.
Sincerely,
Ann McKirdy

attached is the facebook for the Strandhill village, the community is outraged, photos, videos and commentary link below.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/241460746585403/?hoisted_section_header_type=recently_seen&multi_permalinks=1018262102238593

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ann McKirdy** <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 5:57 PM
[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com> Sun, Mar 15, 2026 at 2:49 PM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

RE: WWTP for Strandhill Info Initial Assessment

Licensing Staff <licensing@epa.ie>
To: "ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com" <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Cc: FoI Officer <foi@epa.ie>

Mon, May 12, 2025 at 12:55 PM

Good afternoon Ms McKirdy,

Please find attached the response to your query (that was allocated to be handled outside of the FOI process), thank you for your cooperation.

Kind regards

Peak 2458 pe
2023
remain
1242 pe

Demetra O'Farrell

OES AIE FOI Research Officer

Office of Environmental Sustainability, Wexford

An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil, Loch Garman

epa
Environmental Protection Agency

053 9160600 (Reception)

oesaiefoi@epa.ie

www.epa.ie

2025.05.01_WWET Response_Final.pdf
322K

Reporting Cond' 6.1 of licen

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Peak 2023 = 2458 pe.

remaining capacity 1242 pe.

RE: WWTP for Strandhill D0107-01.

Dear Ms McKirdy, Pg 4/6 - In 2013 the PE of WWTP 1887 pe and estimated would grow to 1700 pe by 2017

Further to your query received on 31 March 2025, the following sets out the answers in this regard:

1. *How is the calculation for PE for the Waste Water Treatment plant in Strandhill, Sligo calculated?*

   The Glossary of Terms of Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL)) Register Number D0107-01 describes population equivalent as:

   A measurement of organic biodegradable load and a population equivalent of 1 (1 p.e.) means the organic biodegradable load having a five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) of 60g of oxygen per day; the load being calculated on the basis of the maximum average weekly load entering the waste water works during the year, excluding unusual situations such as those due to heavy rain.

   WWDL Register No. D0107-01 can be found at the following link: WWDL Register No. D0107-01

2. *What is the current PE rate?*

   The 2023 Annual Environmental Report (AER) for WWDL Reg. No. D0107-01 states that the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was constructed to service 3,700 p.e., that the collected load in the peak week in 2023 was 2,458 p.e. and that the remaining p.e. capacity at the plant is 1,242 p.e.

   The AER for 2024 will be submitted by Uisce Éireann to the EPA and this will be made available on Leap Online at the following link: Licence Profile | LEAP Online

3. *Why has the EPA sanctioned an unlicensed contractor, Wimsey to service this plant?*

   The EPA has not sanctioned any contractors to service the WWTP. The operation and maintenance of the WWTP is the responsibility of the licensee, Uisce Éireann.

   The EPA confirmed to you on the 31/07/2024 that Uisce Éireann had provided the following information on the 26/07/2024:

   "Sludge management at the wastewater treatment plant. Strandhill WwTP is a DBO (Design, Build, Operate) plant, which is operated on behalf of Uisce Éireann by Coffey Water. Coffey Water in turn has a commercial agreement in place with a contractor engaged for the purposes of sludge movements out of the Strandhill Plant. All sludge generated at the Strandhill WWTP is transported to the Sligo Sludge Hub Centre for treatment."

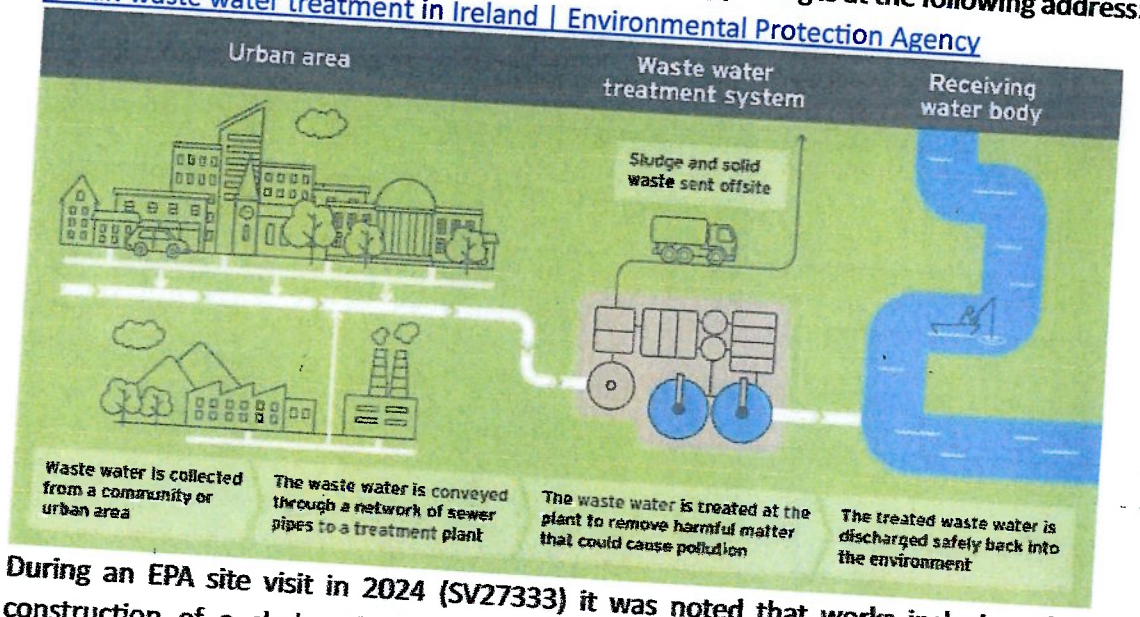
   Please contact Uisce Éireann with regard to any data sought regarding contractors that may operate at the works.

4. *Is the EPA aware that there are two truckloads of sludge/waste removed weekly?*

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Uisce Éireann report on the sludge accepted at any plant as part of their AER. Uisce Éireann can remove sludge as part of the operation process to ensure excess sludge is removed from the treatment system. Please note the "Sludge and solid waste sent off-site" in the diagram below. Link to the diagram and supporting is at the following address: Urban waste water treatment in Ireland | Environmental Protection Agency



During an EPA site visit in 2024 (SV27333) it was noted that works inclusive of the construction of a sludge thickening facility were completed (Site Visit Report No. SV27333).

5. *Is this normal standard operating procedure for the efficient disposal of waste?*

Sludge removal is part of the operation of a WWTP. Please refer to the above flow chart. If sludge was not removed from a WWTP the system would contain excess sludge and the treatment process would be compromised. The volume and frequency of sludge removal varies at each plant as it is dependent on the inputs into the treatment system and the type of WWTP.

6. *What is the risk to human life of the high levels of Ammonia in the waste disposed to sea?*

Schedule A of the WWDL (WWDL Register No. D0107-01) states that the discharge from the WWTP shall be below the Ammonia Emission Limit Value (ELV) of 0.85mg/l (as N).

- The 2023 AER states that out of 13 wastewater discharge samples were tested in 2023 and 2/13 samples failed the ELV for Ammonia. The annual mean of Ammonia of the 13 samples tested was reported as 0.410mg/l (as N).
- The 2023 AER states that two ambient Strandhill coastal samples taken in July and November 2023 resulted in Ammonia levels of 0.44mg/l and 0.51mg/l respectively.
- The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, as amended, does not provide a limit on the nutrient conditions relating to Total Ammonia (mg N/l) for coastal or transitional waters.

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Condition 6.1 of licence Reporting

7. *Trace metals and chemicals, what are the pollutants which are dangerous to human health that are currently being monitored at this WWTP and in the waters around this plant?*

Condition 4.19 Priority Substances and Schedule B: Ambient Monitoring of the WWDL (WWDL Register No. D0107-01) describes the parameters that are required to be tested in the receiving waterbody, Sligo Bay.

required to take samples

8. *Who is the contractor monitoring this?*

Uisce Éireann are required to take samples in accordance with the licence and report on the results of these samples as part of the AER they submit annually. Where any exceedances of the ELV occur Uisce Éireann submit incidents to the EPA. Both AERs and Incidents are available online using the Leap Online portal: Licence Profile | LEAP Online

9. *At what point will the public be informed of the dangerous levels of toxins?*

All monitoring data required by the WWDL is reported to the EPA as part of the AER submitted annually by Uisce Éireann. All AERs submitted by Uisce Éireann are available to the public online using the LEAP Online portal.

Report incidents

Where an incident has occurred due to the breach of an ELV, Uisce Éireann are required to follow Condition 6.1 of their licence and report this incident to the EPA. These incidents are also available to the public via the Leap Online portal. Condition 6.1 requires Uisce Éireann to report incidents to other state bodies are also required to be notified inclusive of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Martine Institute, the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and an Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

10. *How is the results recorded, reported and monitored?*

As described above, results are reported via Uisce Éireann's submission of AERs which are available on LEAP Online and via incident reports where exceedances have occurred, also available on LEAP Online.

11. *How is the designation of SAC around the WWTP and the receiving sea water at Killaspugbrone impact the assessment of PE?*
12. *There was no Whorl Snail Assessment done on the SAC site in spite of the fact that this was clearly outlined, please explain how this was sanctioned without an Environmental Assessment?*

Response to Queries 11 and 12:

receiving waters

The p.e. relates to the of organic biodegradable load being collected and routed to the WWTP for treatment. The ELVs set out in Schedule A of the WWDL take into consideration the p.e. and the nature of the load during the application assessment process. The ELVs are put in place to project the receiving waters and any associated sensitive areas. Compliance with EU Directives is discussed as part of the Inspector's Report that accompanied the recommended licence. Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,

Shellfish & Bathing Exceeded.

inclusive of the narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail, and Cummeen Strand SPA formed part of this assessment.

13. How is the tourism influence, daily visitors and overnight visitors factored in?
14. How is the most popular surfing site, 'Bluerock' 100 m from the new WWTP factored in?
15. How are the Shellfish Waters, for the Coney Island Shellfish farm 200m from the facility factored in?
16. Surfer visitors at the National Surf Centre particularly those from the four surf schools in Strandhill getting lessons at the seafront and directly in front of the WWTP (less than 100m) factored in?
17. The hugely popular Killaspugbrone Looped trail is bringing in excess of 500,000 visitors per year to Strandhill across the sensitive SAC and Salt-marshes, how are these visitor numbers factored or considered?
18. The Sligo Strandhill Golf club visitors, how are these visitors factored in? I'm excess of 70,000 visitors per year?
19. The very popular Strandhill Sunday Market at the Airport in Strandhill brings in excess of 200,000 visitors to the village each year, how are these visitors considered?
20. The Strandhill Caravan park caters for in excess of 100 caravans and approximately 50 tents, how are these seasonal visitors factored into the WWTP treatment capacity?
21. The Warriors Run Brings 50,000 +visitors to Strandhill in August each year, how is this catered for?
22. The hotels, B&B, Air B&B, hostels (these hostels are permanently housing Ukrainian refugee families).
23. Sports, The Sligo Rugby Club and the soccer at Strand Celtic bring thousands of athletes and visitors to Strandhill, how are these catered for?
24. The new twice hourly bus service from Sligo to Strandhill brings thousands of day trip visitors, how are these factored into the WWTP capacity?
25. Sligo Airport rescue facility brings approximately a hundred visitors; employees, students and visitors daily to the village.
26. Pubs and Restaurants; how do the many visitors to these establishments get factored into the WWTP capacity?
27. Church goers, there are two churches in the village, both are full to capacity for Sunday service, how are these visitors catered for?
28. The school, St Patrick's NS, has an enrolment of over 230+ students and 30 staff, how is this factored in?

Contradiction

GROW? ?

<u>Response to Queries 13 – 27:</u>

The population equivalent of the Strandhill agglomeration was considered as part of the WWDL application process prior to the granting of a licence. In 2013, the population equivalent of the agglomeration was estimated as 1,887p.e. and it was estimated this would grow to 1,700p.e. by 2017. This is described in the Inspector's Report relating to the application for a wastewater discharge licence for the Strandhill agglomeration (Inspector's Report).

2013 = 1887 pe

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Uisce Éireann report on the remaining p.e. capacity of the works annually and the 2023 AER for WWDL Reg. No. D0107-01 states that the WWTP was constructed to service 3,700 p.e., that the collected load in the peak week in 2023 was 2,458 p.e. and that the remaining p.e. capacity at the plant is 1,242 p.e. The data provided by Uisce Eireann confirms that the plant has remaining p.e. capacity.

Condition 1.7 of the licence requires Uisce Éireann to monitor the remaining treatment capacity at the WWTP and where the capacity will be exceeded with the ensuing three-year period, Uisce Éireann shall seek a licence review from the EPA.

29. *The new plant exceeds the footprint mandated, what approval has this received given the existing habitat of Whorl Snail as clearly stated in the Engineers Report?*
30. *How has this plant been permitted to proceed when the part 8 was undertaken in 2008 and all of the residential and visitor data was outdated and irrelevant by that time?*
31. *The new Development Plan proper sea that there is capacity for in excess of 1200 PE, please advise how is the capacity possible?*

Response to Queries 29 and 31:

The WWDL authorises the discharge of wastewater from the wastewater works servicing the Strandhill agglomeration. You should contact the Planning Authority with regard to any concerns you may have the Sligo County Development Plan 2024 – 2030 and regarding Uisce Éireann's adherence to the conditions of any permission granted for the development of the wastewater works (Making a Complaint).

32. *The noxious odour at Killaspugbrone point where the pipe dumps to sea has been reported by myself on numerous occasions, has this been investigated?*
33. *What is the outcome of the investigation?*

Response to Queries 32 and 33:

The EPA provided responses to Complaint Ref. No. COM019342 on the 31/07/2024 and 20/08/2024 inclusive of a response from Uisce Éireann. Uisce Éireann did not detect odour issues at the plant or the network.

The WWDL requires that a grab sample from the primary discharge monitoring location is taken daily and a sample from Sligo Bay is taken weekly to provide for a visual inspection and part of this inspection includes an examination of odour. Should it be the case that odour is a concern Uisce Éireann should be contacted in the first instance. It may be the case that Uisce Éireann can report on the results of these examinations and whether odour has been noted on the network or plant at the time of the complaint.

If the response from Uisce Éireann is not to your satisfaction and the issue of odour remains the EPA should be contacted (inclusive of the Reference Number of the Uisce Éireann compliant, if possible).

34. *Can the EPA safeguard the health of the recreational users of the sea in Strandhill and the consumers of the oysters farmed here?*

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Uisce Éireann are required to notify the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) of any incident that could impact Sligo Bay Shellfish Area. The SFPA have classified the beds in this shellfish area as Class B (Shellfish Classified Areas | Sea Fisheries Protection Authority). The SFPA is the competent authority for the regulation of the seafood sector including aquaculture and oversees the implementation and compliance with food safety legislation. The SFPA also carries out a monthly shellfish sampling programme in all active shellfish production areas with the results determining the classification of each area for the sale or consumption of shellfish (Shellfish Safety | Sea Fisheries Safety Authority).

Details on bathing water quality are on Beaches.ie

35. *What concern does the EPA have for the proposal to increase residential settlement by 1200 for this WWTP?*

As highlighted in the response to queries numbers 13-27 above, Uisce Éireann have reported that the remaining p.e. capacity at the plant is 1,242 p.e.
Condition 1.7 of the licence requires Uisce Éireann to monitor the remaining treatment capacity at the WWTP and where the capacity will be exceeded with the ensuing three-year period, Uisce Éireann shall seek a licence review from the EPA.

I trust this is to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely

Kathleen Byrne

Water, Energy and Business Support Programme
Office of Environmental Sustainability, Wexford
Foireann Tacaíochta Gnó & Measúnaithe Comhshaoil
An Clár Tacaíochta maidir le hUisce, Fuinneamh agus Gnó
An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil, Loch Garman

Environmental Protection Agency

053 9160600 (Reception)

www.epa.ie

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Waste Water Calculations →

Uisce Éireann
Irish Water

Our Ref: FOIR1745

Date: 16 May 2024

Ann McKirdy

ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

! No incidents! shocking lies

Uisce Éireann
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Éire

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Ireland

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www.water.ie

Dear Ms. McKirdy,

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (the "**FOI Act**") for records held by Uisce Éireann.

The records you requested are:

- "*The Tankered Wastewater Agreement and Sludge Management Agreement with Irish Water and Wimsey Plant Hire (License No NWCPO-16-11816-01 for disposal of waste and removal of sludge in Strandhill WwTP, i.e. volume and frequency.*
- *Any information on the assessment for the population equivalent (PE) value for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant in Strandhill.*
- *Any EPA/Uisce Éireann notifications to Sligo Co. Council of sewage pollution or concern for performance from the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Strandhill.*
- *The Environmental Assessment report on Whorl Snails completed by Dr. Don Cotton, CREDCO on the SAC WWTW, Wastewater Treatment Works.*
- ➢ This is referred to on page 6 of the June 2007 Report from Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd which is contained within the 2013 Appropriate Assessment Report for the Tubbercurry, Grange, Strandhill Wastewater Treatment plants".

I made a final decision to grant your request on 16 May 2024. If you have any queries regarding this correspondence you can contact me by email at foi@water.ie

I will address each part of your request below:

- *The Tankered Wastewater Agreement and Sludge Management Agreement with Irish Water and Wimsey Plant Hire (License No NWCPO-16-11816-01 for disposal of waste and removal of sludge in Strandhill WwTP, i.e. volume and frequency.*

Stiúrthóirí / Directors: Tony Keohane (Cathaoirleach / Chairman), Niall Gleeson (POF / CEO), Christopher Banks, Gerard Britchfield, Liz Joyce, Michael Nolan, Patricia King, Eileen Maher, Cathy Mannion, Michael Walsh.
Oifig Chláraithe / Registered Office: Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86 / Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin, Ireland D01NP86
Is cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe atá faoi theorainn scaireanna é Uisce Éireann / Uisce Éireann is a designated activity company, limited by shares.
Clárúithe in Éirinn Uimh.: 530363 / **Registered in Ireland No.:** 530363.

Uisce Eireann
No Report Sewage
Pollution
Incidents
NOT TELLÉ
14/10/22 Dorrans
Strand

The FOI decision-maker processing this part of your request has advised that Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) is a DBO (Design, Build, Operate) plant, which is operated on behalf of Uisce Éireann by Coffey Water (Coffey Water in turn has a commercial agreement in place with Wimsey Plant Hire). In your query you specifically request details of volume and frequency, and the decision-maker has returned the table below containing the relevant information of total sludge movement and quantities from Strandhill WwTP (Wimsey Plant Hire is the only subcontractor engaged for the purposes of sludge movements out of the Strandhill Plant). I have been advised that the DBO operations commenced in 2019 and the data includes data from 2019 to end of March 2024.

Year	No Moves	Volume (as Dry T)	Volume (as wet T)
2019	191	14,792	1,649,980
2020	183	34,760	1,946,260
2021	129	35,422	2,208,220
2022	113	33,296	1,943,940
2023	84	21,081	1,522,720
2024 (Jan-Mar)	24	8,804	430,380
Total 2019- 2024)	**724**	**148,155**	**9,701,500**

- *Any information on the assessment for the population equivalent (PE) value for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant in Strandhill.*

The population assessment for the design of the upgrade to Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) was undertaken in 2016. The table below provides a breakdown of the current load at the time and the 10-year design capacity for the upgraded plant.

Item	Description	Load (PE)
Current (2016) Load (PE)		
Domestic	Current domestic p.e. calculated using 2014 geodirectory data – houses within drainage boundary, 2.7 PE per house	2,109
	34 house development under construction (pl. ref. 06/1317)	92
Commercial	Allowance for Non Domestic contribution; generally a figure of 16% of domestic is applied as per the Urban Wastewater Study. 30% allowed for to reflect busy tourist season. There are no industrial discharges in Strandhill	660
Institutional	Primary School in village; ~250 pupils/staff at 0.3PE per pupil/staff. Note that this figure is conservative as pupils / staff may be living in the agglomeration and included in the above domestic figures	80
Total Current (2016) Load (PE)		**2,941**
Future (10 year) Load (PE)		
10 year growth	Strandhill had a 2011 CSO pop of 1,596. ESRI growth rates for Co. Sligo (10 year horizon): - 0.02%pa for villages/towns > 1,500 pop - 0.225%pa for villages/towns < 1,500 pop. Conservative approach taken of 0.5%pa to reflect potential for increased housing demand (5.3% over 10 years)	156
Headroom	15% headroom allowance (Sligo is a gateway town under the NSS - Strandhill is <10km to Sligo centre and is both a commuter and tourism hub)	464
Total Future (10 year) Load (PE)		**3,561**
Rounded		**3,700**

Note that the current connected load is calculated as 2,401PE; this is reported in the Wastewater Capacity Register for 2022.

- *Any EPA/Uisce Éireann notifications to Sligo Co. Council of sewage pollution or concern for performance from the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Strandhill.*

I have been advised by the decision-maker processing this part of your request that there have been no reported sewage pollution incidents relating to the performance of the Strandhill WwTP during the period 2015 to date. In accordance with the Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL) attached are 11 No. incident reports notified to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding exceedances of the discharges, vis a vis the Emission Limit Values (ELV) set in the WWDL, none of which were assessed as impacting on the receiving waters.

A licence review application is required to remove the Ammonia and Total Oxidised Nitrogen ELV's and replace with a DIN limit which is more appropriate and in line with applicable legislation for the discharge. A marine model is required to confirm the appropriate DIN limit; this model is currently underway and will take a number of years to complete. On completion a licence review application will be submitted to the EPA.

- *The Environmental Assessment report on Whorl Snails completed by Dr. Don Cotton, CREDCO on the SAC WWTW, Wastewater Treatment Works.*
- ➢ This is referred to on page 6 of the June 2007 Report from Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd which is contained within the 2013 Appropriate Assessment Report for the Tubbercurry, Grange, Strandhill Wastewater Treatment plants".

I have been advised by the decision-maker processing this part of your request that the record requested pre-dates the establishment of Uisce Éireann. I have discussed this part of your request with the FOI Officer in Sligo Co. Council, which may hold the requested record in this instance.

RIGHT OF APPEAL
You may appeal this decision. In the event that you decide to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Uisce Éireann, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot St., Dublin 1 enclosing the appropriate fee of €30. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or cheque made payable to Uisce Éireann (FOI). You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification however the making of a late appeal may be permitted in exceptional circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of Uisce Éireann.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Shannon
Freedom of Information Officer

Uisce Éireann

14 October 2022

Sewage in Sea
do not swim
notice

Dorrins Strand
Strandhill




14th Oct 2022
DOONEENS STRAND
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
sligo.ie
WARNING
Water Quality Poor
ACTIONS TAKEN/PROPOSED:


WARNING
DO NOT ENTER

AIE June 24
Uisce Éireann

Our Ref: AIER189

Date: 12 June 2024

Ann McKirdy

ainenicmhlaidh@gmail.com

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Dear Ms. McKirdy,

I refer to your request dated 10 May 2024 and received by Uisce Éireann on 10 May 2024 under EU Directive 2003/4/EC (the **"Directive"**) (as transposed by the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007–2018 (the **"Regulations"**) for the following information relating to the new upgraded Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) in Strandhill Sligo.

- *Average daily volume of waste in cubic litres processed by the Strandhill WwTP per Month.*
- *The technical report carried out by Irish Water which determined the capacity for the Strandhill WwTP and the parameters taken into account for the measurement of the PE for this plant?*
- *Did Irish Water take into account the fluctuating volume of tourists visiting Strandhill Village? If so, what estimation was used? How many visitors per month during the peak holiday season?*
- *Did Irish Water take into consideration the seasonal increase in residents based on the number of people resident seasonally in the caravan park?*
- *What about factors such as the Warriors Run? The Air Show? The Vintage Car Show? The Strandhill People's Market? Were these visitor numbers factored in and if so, I am requesting the release of these visitor numbers used in forecasting the PE?*
- *Information on the Storm Water Storage System. Did Irish Water upgrade the Storm Water system?*
- *Also, did Irish Water Decommission the old storm water system?*
- *What happens to the overflow tank (which was not decommissioned and is presently filled with green water within the site of the WwTP) when it rains? Where does the over flow of this water go?*
- *How is this water released?*
- *Is it treated before release or simply released into the sea via a drain.*
- *How many litres of Waste Water that the new treatment plant receives from the Pumping Station in the Caravan Park.*
- *Information on how this water is treated.*
- *Information to confirm whether there is an outflow or a junction box close to the end of the Airport Runway at Killaspugbrone.*

Following consideration of the provisions of the AIE Regulations, Uisce Éireann has reached a decision to grant your request on 12 June 2024.

I have been advised that there is some repetition between this AIE request and the FOI request (Ref: FOIR1745) which Uisce Éireann responded to on 16 May 2024. As part of this response, I propose to provide information that has not previously been provided to you.
I will address each part of your request below:

- *Average daily volume of waste in cubic litres processed by the Strandhill WwTP per Month.*

The decision-maker processing your AIE request has returned most up-to-date inflow data as held by Uisce Éireann from 2023:

Month	Average Inflow (m3/d)
Jan	1,238
Feb	722
Mar	556
Apr	630
May	538
Jun	417
Jul	591
Aug	508
Sep	508
Oct	641
Nov	1,143
Dec	1,038
Annual Average	**710**

- *The technical report carried out by Irish Water which determined the capacity for the Strandhill WwTP and the parameters taken into account for the measurement of the PE for this plant?*

I have been advised that details of the assessment completed to determine the capacity of the recently upgraded wastewater treatment plant at Strandhill were provided in response your FOI request (Ref: FOIR1745) dated 16 May 2024.

- *Did Irish Water take into account the fluctuating volume of tourists visiting Strandhill Village? If so, what estimation was used? How many visitors per month during the peak holiday season?*

I have been advised that this information was provided in response to FOIR1745 as issued on 16 May 2024.

- *Did Irish Water take into consideration the seasonal increase in residents based on the number of people resident seasonally in the caravan park?*

I have been advised that this information was provided in response to FOIR1745 as issued on 16 May 2024.

- *What about factors such as the Warriors Run? The Air Show? The Vintage Car Show? The Strandhill People's Market? Were these visitor numbers factored in and if so, I am requesting the release of these visitor numbers used in forecasting the PE?*

I have been advised that this information was provided in response to FOIR1745 as issued on 16 May 2024.

- *Information on the Storm Water Storage System. Did Irish Water upgrade the Storm Water system?*

I have been advised that the only element associated with surface water collection or storm stage constructed was a Stormwater storage tank installed on site with a volume of 489m3. The purpose of this is to reduce the number and duration of storm water overflows from the treatment plant.

There were no foul or combined sewers upgraded or installed as part of the Strandhill WwTP Upgrade Project.

Where there are separate surface water collection systems these fall under the responsibility of the Sligo County Council Roads Section (Sligo Co. Council is the competent authority with responsibility for the stormwater network).

- *Also, did Irish Water Decommission the old storm water system?*

The decision-maker has advised that there were no foul or combined sewers decommissioned as part of the Strandhill WwTP Upgrade Project.

Where there are separate surface water collection systems these fall under the responsibility of the Sligo County Council Roads Section.

- *What happens to the overflow tank (which was not decommissioned and is presently filled with green water within the site of the WwTP) when it rains? Where does the over flow of this water go?*

The decision-maker has advised that as part of the WwTP upgrade the original aeration and settlement tanks were cleaned out and are now isolated from the newly upgraded treatment process. As such these tanks fill with rainwater. The tanks are isolated from the discharge so there is no overflow in place. The contents are pumped to the live treatment process for treatment and discharge periodically when conditions allow.

I have been advised further that these tanks may be brought back into operation in time should additional treatment capacity be required.

- *How is this water released?*

Refer to the response above.

- *Is it treated before release or simply released into the sea via a drain.*

Refer to the response above.

- *How many litres of wastewater that the new treatment plant receives from the Pumping Station in the Caravan Park.*

In relation to the Caravan Park Pumping Station (PS), I have been advised that this PS serves both the Caravan Park and a number of properties on the promenade and Main Street. I have been advised further that Uisce Éireann does not hold have a dataset for flow from this PS.

- *Information on how this water is treated.*

The decision-maker has advised that wastewater from the Caravan Park Pumping Station is pumped to the collection network, where it flows to the Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment.

- *Information to confirm whether there is an outflow or a junction box close to the end of the Airport Runway at Killaspugbrone.*

MUCH 

The decision-maker has advised that treated effluent is discharged from the Strandhill WwTP to the sea at a location some 300m from the shore line.

CLOSER

Review

Under Article 11 of the Regulations, you have a right to seek an internal review of our decision. An internal review must be requested within one month of receipt of our decision. There is no charge for requesting an internal review. If you would like to seek an internal review, you can do so by sending an email to foi@water.ie

Yours sincerely,

inspected on low tide

Noel Shannon
AIE Officer

Uisce Éireann

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

RE: WWTP for Strandhill Info Initial Assessment

OESAIEFOI <OESAIEFOI@epa.ie> Fri, May 16, 2025 at 9:06 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>, Licensing Staff <licensing@epa.ie>
Cc: OESAIEFOI <OESAIEFOI@epa.ie>

Dear Ms McKirdy

With regard to your further query raised below, I hope the following clarifies this matter for you:

"The correspondence that issued contained a reference to the Inspectors Report (IR) associated with the 2013 licence application. The pe is discussed in the IR and for fullness the relevant extract is attached here:

The village of Strandhill is located on the northern coast of County Sligo, approximately 8 km west of Sligo town. The town has historically benefitted from its coastal position in terms of tourism revenue and in recent times has attracted a lot of additional tourism with the rise in popularity of surfing and other watersports. Due to its proximity to Sligo town and its designation as a Key Satellite Village in the Sligo County Development Plan 2005 - 2011, the village of Strandhill has grown in population in recent years, with an existing population equivalent of 1,887 p.e. at the time the application was submitted. In the draft Sligo County Development Plan 2011 - 2017, Strandhill is designated as a Principal Gateway Satellite with a recommended population level of 1,700 persons by 2017.

WWTP Conflicting Capacity

Kind regards

Kathleen Byrne

Business Support & Environmental Assessment Team

Water, Energy and Business Support Programme

Office of Environmental Sustainability, Wexford

Foireann Tacaíochta Gnó & Measúnaithe Comhshaoil

An Clár Tacaíochta maidir le hUisce, Fuinneamh agus Gnó

An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil, Loch Garman

Environmental Protection Agency

053 9160600 (Reception)

www.epa.ie

WWTP Conflicting Capacity



[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Overflowing Sewage at WWTP Reported attached

23-153-12
1 message

OPR Info <info@opr.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Mon, May 26, 2025 at 12:02 PM

23-153-12-OPR

Dear Ms McKirdy,

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated 25th May 2025.

Your correspondence is under consideration and a reply will issue in due course.

Kindest regards,

Sarah

Sarah Leonard

Reviews and Examinations

Oifig an Rialaitheora Pleanála

Office of the Planning Regulator

Teach na Páirce, 191-193A An Cuarbhóthar Thuaidh, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 EWV4

Park House, Grangegorman, 191-193A North Circular Road, Dublin 7, D07 EWV4

T +353 (0)1 854 6700

www.opr.ie

WWTP May 25
Formal Complaints EPA
Overflowing Sewage May 25

From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday 25 May 2025 17:12
To: OESAIEFOI <OESAIEFOI@epa.ie>; Bathing Water <bathingwater@sligococo.ie>; Planning Emails <planning@sligococo.ie>; Development Planning Unit Sligo County Council <dpu@sligococo.ie>; planning@irishwater.ie; OPR Info <info@opr.ie>; FOI <FOI@water.ie>; info@water.ie
Cc: Licensing Staff <licensing@epa.ie>
Subject: Formal complaint - environment - WWTP- Wastewater plant spillage overflow Stramdhill

May 25th 2025

CAUTION: This eMail originated from outside your organisation and the BTS Managed Desktop service. Do not click on any links or open any attachments unless you recognise the sender or are expecting the email and know that the content is safe. If you are in any doubt, please contact the OGCIO IT Service Desk.

To whom it may concern,

This is an official report to alert you to the fact that the Waste water plant in Strandhill Sligo is overflowing and there is a ferociously suffocating smell in the Strandhill area. Currently there is a hazmat response team at the plant, Wimsey contractor is present also (25/5/2025).

This is another loud alarm bell raising serious concerns for significant deficits at this plant to treat the current load. This spillage poses a risk to human health and the environment. I have been reporting my concerns and documenting this for years.

The projected head room at this plant is seriously overstated. The WWTP is at capacity. This is a major incident. There is human excrement and waste spillage all over the road and the area.

I look forward to the formal response from the EPA, Uisce Eireann, the OPR and Sligo County Council, all of whom are addressed herein.

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

14 October 2022

Sewage in Sea
do not swim
notice

Dorrins Strand
Strandhill




14th Oct 2022
DOONEENS STRAND
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
sligo.ie
WARNING
Water Quality Poor
ACTIONS TAKEN/PROPOSED:


WARNING
DO NOT ENTER

AIE June 24
Uisce Éireann

Our Ref: AIER189

Date: 12 June 2024

Ann McKirdy

ainenicmhlaidh@gmail.com

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Éire

Uisce Éireann
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Dear Ms. McKirdy,

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- *Average daily volume of waste in cubic litres processed by the Strandhill WwTP per Month.*
- *The technical report carried out by Irish Water which determined the capacity for the Strandhill WwTP and the parameters taken into account for the measurement of the PE for this plant?*
- *Did Irish Water take into account the fluctuating volume of tourists visiting Strandhill Village? If so, what estimation was used? How many visitors per month during the peak holiday season?*
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- *How many litres of Waste Water that the new treatment plant receives from the Pumping Station in the Caravan Park.*
- *Information on how this water is treated.*
- *Information to confirm whether there is an outflow or a junction box close to the end of the Airport Runway at Killaspugbrone.*

Following consideration of the provisions of the AIE Regulations, Uisce Éireann has reached a decision to grant your request on 12 June 2024.

I have been advised that there is some repetition between this AIE request and the FOI request (Ref: FOIR1745) which Uisce Éireann responded to on 16 May 2024. As part of this response, I propose to provide information that has not previously been provided to you.
I will address each part of your request below:

- *Average daily volume of waste in cubic litres processed by the Strandhill WwTP per Month.*

The decision-maker processing your AIE request has returned most up-to-date inflow data as held by Uisce Éireann from 2023:

Month	Average Inflow (m3/d)
Jan	1,238
Feb	722
Mar	556
Apr	630
May	538
Jun	417
Jul	591
Aug	508
Sep	508
Oct	641
Nov	1,143
Dec	1,038
Annual Average	**710**

- *The technical report carried out by Irish Water which determined the capacity for the Strandhill WwTP and the parameters taken into account for the measurement of the PE for this plant?*

I have been advised that details of the assessment completed to determine the capacity of the recently upgraded wastewater treatment plant at Strandhill were provided in response your FOI request (Ref: FOIR1745) dated 16 May 2024.

- *Did Irish Water take into account the fluctuating volume of tourists visiting Strandhill Village? If so, what estimation was used? How many visitors per month during the peak holiday season?*

I have been advised that this information was provided in response to FOIR1745 as issued on 16 May 2024.

- *Did Irish Water take into consideration the seasonal increase in residents based on the number of people resident seasonally in the caravan park?*

I have been advised that this information was provided in response to FOIR1745 as issued on 16 May 2024.

- *What about factors such as the Warriors Run? The Air Show? The Vintage Car Show? The Strandhill People's Market? Were these visitor numbers factored in and if so, I am requesting the release of these visitor numbers used in forecasting the PE?*

I have been advised that this information was provided in response to FOIR1745 as issued on 16 May 2024.

- *Information on the Storm Water Storage System. Did Irish Water upgrade the Storm Water system?*

I have been advised that the only element associated with surface water collection or storm stage constructed was a Stormwater storage tank installed on site with a volume of 489m3. The purpose of this is to reduce the number and duration of storm water overflows from the treatment plant.

There were no foul or combined sewers upgraded or installed as part of the Strandhill WwTP Upgrade Project.

Where there are separate surface water collection systems these fall under the responsibility of the Sligo County Council Roads Section (Sligo Co. Council is the competent authority with responsibility for the stormwater network).

- *Also, did Irish Water Decommission the old storm water system?*

The decision-maker has advised that there were no foul or combined sewers decommissioned as part of the Strandhill WwTP Upgrade Project.

Where there are separate surface water collection systems these fall under the responsibility of the Sligo County Council Roads Section.

- *What happens to the overflow tank (which was not decommissioned and is presently filled with green water within the site of the WwTP) when it rains? Where does the over flow of this water go?*

The decision-maker has advised that as part of the WwTP upgrade the original aeration and settlement tanks were cleaned out and are now isolated from the newly upgraded treatment process. As such these tanks fill with rainwater. The tanks are isolated from the discharge so there is no overflow in place. The contents are pumped to the live treatment process for treatment and discharge periodically when conditions allow.

I have been advised further that these tanks may be brought back into operation in time should additional treatment capacity be required.

- *How is this water released?*

Refer to the response above.

- *Is it treated before release or simply released into the sea via a drain.*

Refer to the response above.

- *How many litres of wastewater that the new treatment plant receives from the Pumping Station in the Caravan Park.*

In relation to the Caravan Park Pumping Station (PS), I have been advised that this PS serves both the Caravan Park and a number of properties on the promenade and Main Street. I have been advised further that Uisce Éireann does not hold have a dataset for flow from this PS.

- *Information on how this water is treated.*

The decision-maker has advised that wastewater from the Caravan Park Pumping Station is pumped to the collection network, where it flows to the Strandhill Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) for treatment.

- *Information to confirm whether there is an outflow or a junction box close to the end of the Airport Runway at Killaspugbrone.*

MUCH 

The decision-maker has advised that treated effluent is discharged from the Strandhill WwTP to the sea at a location some 300m from the shore line.

CLOSER

Review

Under Article 11 of the Regulations, you have a right to seek an internal review of our decision. An internal review must be requested within one month of receipt of our decision. There is no charge for requesting an internal review. If you would like to seek an internal review, you can do so by sending an email to foi@water.ie

Yours sincerely,

inspected on low tide

Noel Shannon
AIE Officer

Uisce Éireann

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

RE: WWTP for Strandhill Info Initial Assessment

OESAIEFOI <OESAIEFOI@epa.ie> Fri, May 16, 2025 at 9:06 AM
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>, Licensing Staff <licensing@epa.ie>
Cc: OESAIEFOI <OESAIEFOI@epa.ie>

Dear Ms McKirdy

With regard to your further query raised below, I hope the following clarifies this matter for you:

"The correspondence that issued contained a reference to the Inspectors Report (IR) associated with the 2013 licence application. The pe is discussed in the IR and for fullness the relevant extract is attached here:

The village of Strandhill is located on the northern coast of County Sligo, approximately 8 km west of Sligo town. The town has historically benefitted from its coastal position in terms of tourism revenue and in recent times has attracted a lot of additional tourism with the rise in popularity of surfing and other watersports. Due to its proximity to Sligo town and its designation as a Key Satellite Village in the Sligo County Development Plan 2005 - 2011, the village of Strandhill has grown in population in recent years, with an existing population equivalent of 1,887 p.e. at the time the application was submitted. In the draft Sligo County Development Plan 2011 - 2017, Strandhill is designated as a Principal Gateway Satellite with a recommended population level of 1,700 persons by 2017.

WWTP Conflicting Capacity

Kind regards

Kathleen Byrne

Business Support & Environmental Assessment Team

Water, Energy and Business Support Programme

Office of Environmental Sustainability, Wexford

Foireann Tacaíochta Gnó & Measúnaithe Comhshaoil

An Clár Tacaíochta maidir le hUisce, Fuinneamh agus Gnó

An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil, Loch Garman

Environmental Protection Agency

053 9160600 (Reception)

www.epa.ie

WWTP Conflicting Capacity



[Quoted text hidden]

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Overflowing Sewage at WWTP Reported attached

23-153-12
1 message

OPR Info <info@opr.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

Mon, May 26, 2025 at 12:02 PM

23-153-12-OPR

Dear Ms McKirdy,

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) acknowledges receipt of your correspondence dated 25th May 2025.

Your correspondence is under consideration and a reply will issue in due course.

Kindest regards,

Sarah

Sarah Leonard

Reviews and Examinations

Oifig an Rialaitheora Pleanála

Office of the Planning Regulator

Teach na Páirce, 191-193A An Cuarbhóthar Thuaidh, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 EWV4

Park House, Grangegorman, 191-193A North Circular Road, Dublin 7, D07 EWV4

T +353 (0)1 854 6700

www.opr.ie

WWTP May 25
Formal Complaints EPA
Overflowing Sewage May 25

From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday 25 May 2025 17:12
To: OESAIEFOI <OESAIEFOI@epa.ie>; Bathing Water <bathingwater@sligococo.ie>; Planning Emails <planning@sligococo.ie>; Development Planning Unit Sligo County Council <dpu@sligococo.ie>; planning@irishwater.ie; OPR Info <info@opr.ie>; FOI <FOI@water.ie>; info@water.ie
Cc: Licensing Staff <licensing@epa.ie>
Subject: Formal complaint - environment - WWTP- Wastewater plant spillage overflow Stramdhill

May 25th 2025

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To whom it may concern,

This is an official report to alert you to the fact that the Waste water plant in Strandhill Sligo is overflowing and there is a ferociously suffocating smell in the Strandhill area. Currently there is a hazmat response team at the plant, Wimsey contractor is present also (25/5/2025).

This is another loud alarm bell raising serious concerns for significant deficits at this plant to treat the current load. This spillage poses a risk to human health and the environment. I have been reporting my concerns and documenting this for years.

The projected head room at this plant is seriously overstated. The WWTP is at capacity. This is a major incident. There is human excrement and waste spillage all over the road and the area.

I look forward to the formal response from the EPA, Uisce Eireann, the OPR and Sligo County Council, all of whom are addressed herein.

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Duplicate 23/5/26 EPA's formal Reply

RE: WWTP for Strandhill D0107-01.

Dear Ms McKirdy

Further to your query received on 31 March 2025, the following sets out the answers in this regard:

1. *How is the calculation for PE for the Waste Water Treatment plant in Strandhill, Sligo calculated?*
   The Glossary of Terms of Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL)) Register Number D0107-01 describes population equivalent as:
   A measurement of organic biodegradable load and a population equivalent of 1 (1 p.e.) means the organic biodegradable load having a five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) of 60g of oxygen per day; the load being calculated on the basis of the maximum average weekly load entering the waste water works during the year, excluding unusual situations such as those due to heavy rain.
   WWDL Register No. D0107-01 can be found at the following link: WWDL Register No. D0107-01

Contradiction

2. *What is the current PE rate?*
   The 2023 Annual Environmental Report (AER) for WWDL Reg. No. D0107-01 states that the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was constructed to service 3,700 p.e., that the collected load in the peak week in 2023 was 2,458 p.e. and that the remaining p.e. capacity at the plant is 1,242 p.e.
   The AER for 2024 will be submitted by Uisce Éireann to the EPA and this will be made available on Leap Online at the following link: Licence Profile | LEAP Online

3. *Why has the EPA sanctioned an unlicensed contractor, Wimsey to service this plant?*
   The EPA has not sanctioned any contractors to service the WWTP. The operation and maintenance of the WWTP is the responsibility of the licensee, Uisce Éireann.
   The EPA confirmed to you on the 31/07/2024 that Uisce Éireann had provided the following information on the 26/07/2024:
   "Sludge management at the wastewater treatment plant. Strandhill WwTP is a DBO (Design, Build, Operate) plant, which is operated on behalf of Uisce Éireann by Coffey Water. Coffey Water in turn has a commercial agreement in place with a contractor engaged for the purposes of sludge movements out of the Strandhill Plant. All sludge generated at the Strandhill WWTP is transported to the Sligo Sludge Hub Centre for treatment."
   Please contact Uisce Éireann with regard to any data sought regarding contractors that may operate at the works.

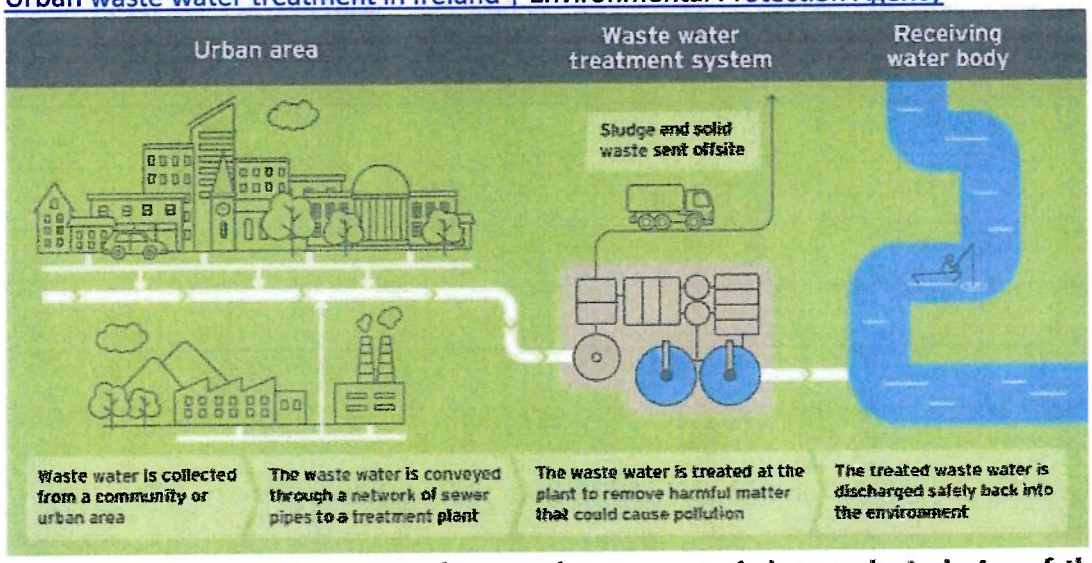
4. *Is the EPA aware that there are two truckloads of sludge/waste removed weekly?*

Formal Complaint
EPA

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Uisce Éireann report on the sludge accepted at any plant as part of their AER.
Uisce Éireann can remove sludge as part of the operation process to ensure excess sludge is removed from the treatment system. Please note the "Sludge and solid waste sent off-site" in the diagram below. Link to the diagram and supporting is at the following address: Urban waste water treatment in Ireland | Environmental Protection Agency



During an EPA site visit in 2024 (SV27333) it was noted that works inclusive of the construction of a sludge thickening facility were completed (Site Visit Report No. SV27333).

5. *Is this normal standard operating procedure for the efficient disposal of waste?*
Sludge removal is part of the operation of a WWTP. Please refer to the above flow chart. If sludge was not removed from a WWTP the system would contain excess sludge and the treatment process would be compromised. The volume and frequency of sludge removal varies at each plant as it is dependent on the inputs into the treatment system and the type of WWTP.

6. *What is the risk to human life of the high levels of Ammonia in the waste disposed to sea?*
Schedule A of the WWDL (WWDL Register No. D0107-01) states that the discharge from the WWTP shall be below the Ammonia Emission Limit Value (ELV) of 0.85mg/l (as N).
   - The 2023 AER states that out of 13 wastewater discharge samples were tested in 2023 and 2/13 samples failed the ELV for Ammonia. The annual mean of Ammonia of the 13 samples tested was reported as 0.410mg/l (as N).
   - The 2023 AER states that two ambient Strandhill coastal samples taken in July and November 2023 resulted in Ammonia levels of 0.44mg/l and 0.51mg/l respectively.
   - The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, as amended, does not provide a limit on the nutrient conditions relating to Total Ammonia (mg N/l) for coastal or transitional waters.

Fail

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

7. *Trace metals and chemicals, what are the pollutants which are dangerous to human health that are currently being monitored at this WWTP and in the waters around this plant?*

Condition 4.19 Priority Substances and Schedule B: Ambient Monitoring of the WWDL (WWDL Register No. D0107-01) describes the parameters that are required to be tested in the receiving waterbody, Sligo Bay.

8. *Who is the contractor monitoring this?*

Uisce Éireann are required to take samples in accordance with the licence and report on the results of these samples as part of the AER they submit annually. Where any exceedances of the ELV occur Uisce Éireann submit incidents to the EPA. Both AERs and Incidents are available online using the Leap Online portal: Licence Profile | LEAP Online

9. *At what point will the public be informed of the dangerous levels of toxins?*

All monitoring data required by the WWDL is reported to the EPA as part of the AER submitted annually by Uisce Éireann. All AERs submitted by Uisce Éireann are available to the public online using the LEAP Online portal.

Where an incident has occurred due to the breach of an ELV, Uisce Éireann are required to follow Condition 6.1 of their licence and report this incident to the EPA. These incidents are also available to the public via the Leap Online portal. Condition 6.1 requires Uisce Éireann to report incidents to other state bodies are also required to be notified inclusive of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Martine Institute, the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and an Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

10. *How is the results recorded, reported and monitored?*

As described above, results are reported via Uisce Éireann's submission of AERs which are available on LEAP Online and via incident reports where exceedances have occurred, also available on LEAP Online.

11. *How is the designation of SAC around the WWTP and the receiving sea water at Killaspugbrone impact the assessment of PE?*
12. *There was no Whorl Snail Assessment done on the SAC site in spite of the fact that this was clearly outlined, please explain how this was sanctioned without an Environmental Assessment?*

Response to Queries 11 and 12:

The p.e. relates to the of organic biodegradable load being collected and routed to the WWTP for treatment. The ELVs set out in Schedule A of the WWDL take into consideration the p.e. and the nature of the load during the application assessment process. The ELVs are put in place to project the receiving waters and any associated sensitive areas. Compliance with EU Directives is discussed as part of the Inspector's Report that accompanied the recommended licence. Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC,

inclusive of the narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail, and Cummeen Strand SPA formed part of this assessment.

13. *How is the tourism influence, daily visitors and overnight visitors factored in?*
14. *How is the most popular surfing site, 'Bluerock' 100 m from the new WWTP factored in?*
15. *How are the Shellfish Waters, for the Coney Island Shellfish farm 200m from the facility factored in?*
16. *Surfer visitors at the National Surf Centre particularly those from the four surf schools in Strandhill getting lessons at the seafront and directly in front of the WWTP (less than 100m) factored in?*
17. *The hugely popular Killaspugbrone Looped trail is bringing in excess of 500,000 visitors per year to Strandhill across the sensitive SAC and Salt-marshes, how are these visitor numbers factored or considered?*
18. *The Sligo Strandhill Golf club visitors, how are these visitors factored in? I'm excess of 70,000 visitors per year?*
19. *The very popular Strandhill Sunday Market at the Airport in Strandhill brings in excess of 200,000 visitors to the village each year, how are these visitors considered?*
20. *The Strandhill Caravan park caters for in excess of 100 caravans and approximately 50 tents, how are these seasonal visitors factored into the WWTP treatment capacity?*
21. *The Warriors Run Brings 50,000 +visitors to Strandhill in August each year, how is this catered for?*
22. *The hotels, B&B, Air B&B, hostels (these hostels are permanently housing Ukrainian refugee families).*
23. *Sports, The Sligo Rugby Club and the soccer at Strand Celtic bring thousands of athletes and visitors to Strandhill, how are these catered for?*
24. *The new twice hourly bus service from Sligo to Strandhill brings thousands of day trip visitors, how are these factored into the WWTP capacity?*
25. *Sligo Airport rescue facility brings approximately a hundred visitors; employees, students and visitors daily to the village.*
26. *Pubs and Restaurants; how do the many visitors to these establishments get factored into the WWTP capacity?*
27. *Church goers, there are two churches in the village, both are full to capacity for Sunday service, how are these visitors catered for?*
28. *The school, St Patrick's NS, has an enrolment of over 230+ students and 30 staff, how is this factored in?*

Response to Queries 13 – 27:

The population equivalent of the Strandhill agglomeration was considered as part of the WWDL application process prior to the granting of a licence. In 2013, the population equivalent of the agglomeration was estimated as 1,887p.e. and it was estimated this would grow to 1,700p.e. by 2017. This is described in the Inspector's Report relating to the application for a wastewater discharge licence for the Strandhill agglomeration (Inspector's Report).

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Uisce Éireann report on the remaining p.e. capacity of the works annually and the 2023 AER for WWDL Reg. No. D0107-01 states that the WWTP was constructed to service 3,700 p.e., that the collected load in the peak week in 2023 was 2,458 p.e. and that the remaining p.e. capacity at the plant is 1,242 p.e. The data provided by Uisce Eireann confirms that the plant has remaining p.e. capacity.
Condition 1.7 of the licence requires Uisce Éireann to monitor the remaining treatment capacity at the WWTP and where the capacity will be exceeded with the ensuing three-year period, Uisce Éireann shall seek a licence review from the EPA.

29. *The new plant exceeds the footprint mandated, what approval has this received given the existing habitat of Whorl Snail as clearly stated in the Engineers Report?*
30. *How has this plant been permitted to proceed when the part 8 was undertaken in 2008 and all of the residential and visitor data was outdated and irrelevant by that time?*
31. *The new Development Plan proper sea that there is capacity for in excess of 1200 PE, please advise how is the capacity possible?*

Response to Queries 29 and 31:
The WWDL authorises the discharge of wastewater from the wastewater works servicing the Strandhill agglomeration. You should contact the Planning Authority with regard to any concerns you may have the Sligo County Development Plan 2024 – 2030 and regarding Uisce Éireann's adherence to the conditions of any permission granted for the development of the wastewater works (Making a Complaint).

32. *The noxious odour at Killaspugbrone point where the pipe dumps to sea has been reported by myself on numerous occasions, has this been investigated?*
33. *What is the outcome of the investigation?*

Response to Queries 32 and 33:
The EPA provided responses to Complaint Ref. No. COM019342 on the 31/07/2024 and 20/08/2024 inclusive of a response from Uisce Éireann. Uisce Éireann did not detect odour issues at the plant or the network.
The WWDL requires that a grab sample from the primary discharge monitoring location is taken daily and a sample from Sligo Bay is taken weekly to provide for a visual inspection and part of this inspection includes an examination of odour. Should it be the case that odour is a concern Uisce Éireann should be contacted in the first instance. It may be the case that Uisce Éireann can report on the results of these examinations and whether odour has been noted on the network or plant at the time of the complaint.
If the response from Uisce Éireann is not to your satisfaction and the issue of odour remains the EPA should be contacted (inclusive of the Reference Number of the Uisce Éireann compliant, if possible).

34. *Can the EPA safeguard the health of the recreational users of the sea in Strandhill and the consumers of the oysters farmed here?*

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Uisce Éireann are required to notify the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) of any incident that could impact Sligo Bay Shellfish Area. The SFPA have classified the beds in this shellfish area as Class B (Shellfish Classified Areas | Sea Fisheries Protection Authority). The SFPA is the competent authority for the regulation of the seafood sector including aquaculture and oversees the implementation and compliance with food safety legislation. The SFPA also carries out a monthly shellfish sampling programme in all active shellfish production areas with the results determining the classification of each area for the sale or consumption of shellfish (Shellfish Safety | Sea Fisheries Safety Authority).

Details on bathing water quality are on Beaches.ie

35. *What concern does the EPA have for the proposal to increase residential settlement by 1200 for this WWTP?*

As highlighted in the response to queries numbers 13-27 above, Uisce Éireann have reported that the remaining p.e. capacity at the plant is 1,242 p.e.
Condition 1.7 of the licence requires Uisce Éireann to monitor the remaining treatment capacity at the WWTP and where the capacity will be exceeded with the ensuing three-year period, Uisce Éireann shall seek a licence review from the EPA.

I trust this is to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely

Kathleen Byrne

Water, Energy and Business Support Programme
Office of Environmental Sustainability, Wexford
Foireann Tacaíochta Gnó & Measúnaithe Comhshaoil
An Clár Tacaíochta maidir le hUisce, Fuinneamh agus Gnó
An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil, Loch Garman

Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

053 9160600 (Reception)

www.epa.ie

12/05/2025

BY EMAIL: ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com

Gmail

Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

RE: 23-153-12 - OPR further correspondence reply

1 message

Thu, Jan 25, 2024 at 2:51 PM

OPR Info <info@opr.ie>
To: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>

23-153-12-OPR

Dear Ms McKirdy,

Thank you for your recent further correspondence to the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), dated 25th January 2024.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will investigate certain types of complaints concerning environmental problems. Further information on can be found on their website. https://www.epa.ie/

Kind regards,

Liam

Liam Byrne

Executive Officer

Reviews and Examinations

Oifig an Rialaitheora Pleanála

Office of the Planning Regulator

An Ceathrú hUrlár, Teach na Páirce, 191-193A An Cuarbhóthar Thuaidh, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 EWV4

Fourth Floor, Park House, Grangegorman, 191-193A North Circular Road, Dublin 7, D07 EWV4

T +353 1 01 854 6700

www.opr.ie



From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday 25 January 2024 12:39
To: OPR Info <info@opr.ie>
Subject: Re: 23-153-12 - OPR case reply

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Good morning Liam,

Thank you for your reply, I understand the OPR's position.

To whom should this be addressed? Which statutory authority outside of the County Council oversees such matters?

Please advise,

Many thanks,

Kind regards,

Ann

On Thu, Jan 25, 2024 at 12:30 PM OPR Info <info@opr.ie> wrote:

> **23-153-12-OPR**
>
> Dear Ms McKirdy,
>
> Please see attached correspondence from the Office of the Planning Regulator, dated 25th January 2024.
>
> Kind regards,
>
> Liam
>
> ———
>
> **Liam Byrne**
>
> Executive Officer
>
> Reviews and Examinations
>
> ———
>
> **Oifig an Rialaitheora Pleanála**
>
> Office of the Planning Regulator
>
> **An Ceathrú hUrlár, Teach na Páirce, 191-193A An Cuarbhóthar Thuaidh, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 EWV4**

Fourth Floor, Park House, Grangegorman, 191-193A North Circular Road, Dublin 7, D07 EWV4

T +353 1 01 854 6700

www.opr.ie

From: Ann McKirdy <ainenicamhlaidh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday 24 January 2024 22:31
To: OPR Info <info@opr.ie>
Subject: 23-153-12-OPR- Attached is the Appropriate Assessment for the WWTP in Strandhill

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Dear Liam

I am attaching the Appropriate Assessment for Strandhill WWTP

I am appalled by the anomalies.

Pg 6 of Nicholas O'Swyer report June 2007 - In relation to environmental issues, the current www site is located in an SAC. The impact of plant expansion has already been assessed in an Environmental Assessment by Dr. Don Cotton, CREDCO, and as a result the new WWTW will be entirely within the existing WWTW boundary.

Pg 5 Alle buildings on the treatment works site will be restricted to a maximum height of 6.0 meters above the existing background level as shown in DRawing no 20391 PL SL 01

THIS DID NOT HAPPEN

THE NEW WWTP IS APPROX 6 TIMES THE FOOTPRINT OF THE OLD WWTP - ITS ALMOST THREE STOREY HIGH WITH HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICITY PYLONS

pg 4 - June 2007

The exact size and position of the units and the eact process will be decided by the Contractor at the design stage, however, the Contractor will be obliged to stay within the site boundary and its height restrictions and comply with the requirement of PART 8 PLANNING.

Only ONE site assessment was conducted for the Appropriate Assessment on the 12th of August 2013 by Dr. Evelyn Moorkens

pg 28 of Nicholas O'Dwyer report - All works will be undertaken within the existing site boundaries. NO protected habitats are located within the boundary of the existing wwtp.

pg 18 The Strandhill WWTW has been identified in the Action Plan as a 'pressure risk' in the Gravogue Water MAnagement unit. This pressure relates to the wrisk to water quality relating to insufficient WWTP cap;acity and insufficient assimilative capacity for BOD.

The maps attached are shocking - this is THE NATIONAL SURFING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE - The only one in Ireland, constructed at a cost of more than €4 Million - supported by Failte Ireland. This sewage dumps directly into BLUE ROCK - one of the top destinations for surfers in Ireland . This bathing water quality has been monitored in Dorrins Strand and Strandhill by Sligo. Co. Co. This area has a very popular surf destination for more than 40 years. It is 50 m from the WWTP. And always has been.

The mapping of the Whorl Snail by Dr. Moorkens shows that the new WWTP has been constructed on the identified Annex 11 site per her report in 2013.

pg 29 - Nicholas Dwyer report -

It will be a condition of the contract Documents that the design of the new system shall be **no bigger or deeper than the existing plant.**

The design, construction and operation of the new systems will be done in full knowledge of the sensitive SAC that surrounds the site and all aspects of the project will be carried out to ensure the protection of the structure and function of the surrounding habitats and species.

P-NH 4 Consulta with the relevant prescribed bodies and appropriate agencies wien undertaking approving or authorising development s which are likely to affect designated natural heritage sites or those proposed to be designated.

The Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage which oversees Marine environment, shellfish waters, marine protected areas, foreshore consenting, water safety, nature conservation - European Sites - biodiversity, landscape, national monuments - was not CONSULTED.

O-NH - 6 Support and cooperate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives and where available specific registered shall be made to conservation management plans and their conservation objectives.

O-NH- 2 Assess in accordance with the relevant legislation all proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect (directly or through indirect or cumulative impact) on designated natural heritage sites, sites proposed for designation and protected species

NOT done!

O-NH - 3 - When considering an y plan or project the planning authority must comply fully with Article 6 of the EU habitats Directive (as transposed into Irish Law by the EU Habitats Directive

not done

Aquafact - Hydrodynamic Dispersion Modelling - Nichoas O Dwyer June 2013 -

Please see report - Dr E. A Moorkens - polygons pg 2, map p 3 0 showing clearly - there are protected annex 1 1 VErtigo Angustior present in the area that HAS NOW been developed.

This development is illegal and Sligo Co, Co. has wilfully misled the planning authorities.

I look forward to your response.
I will be taking my complaint to the European Union if this is not addressed within the parameters of the EU Waste Water Planning Framework and Article 6.

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKirdy

Part 8 Standhill
2025

Find text or tools

REGULATION 20(1) - FURTHER INFORMATION, PARTICULARS AND EVIDENCE

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Question	Can you confirm if an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the proposed development works at the WWTP.
Associated Documents	
Response	Dear EPA, Further to correspondence dated 27th June 2013 which queries the requirement or otherwise for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed upgrade of Strandhill sewerage scheme. This matter was considered by our Consultants and it was recommended that an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive, is the appropriate mechanism to assess the potential environmental effects of this proposed scheme upgrade. This assessment process is ongoing at present in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Planning Authority. Regards, Noel
Associated Documents	

NB

AA

Please submit the above information by 04/07/2013.

Please direct any queries that you may have in relation to the above to the Inspector Simon Hussey or to OCLR Admin Team D.

MANDATED

Yours sincerely

Environmental Licensing Programme

Office of Climate, Licensing & Resource Use

Tel: 053-9160600