



BIRR WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS EXPANSION

Environmental Impact Statement

Client: Offaly County Council

SUMMARY:

Value: €85, 000

Status: Approved

Services Provided:

Air Quality Assessment

Noise and Vibration Assessment

Water Quality Assessment

Visual and Landscape Assessment

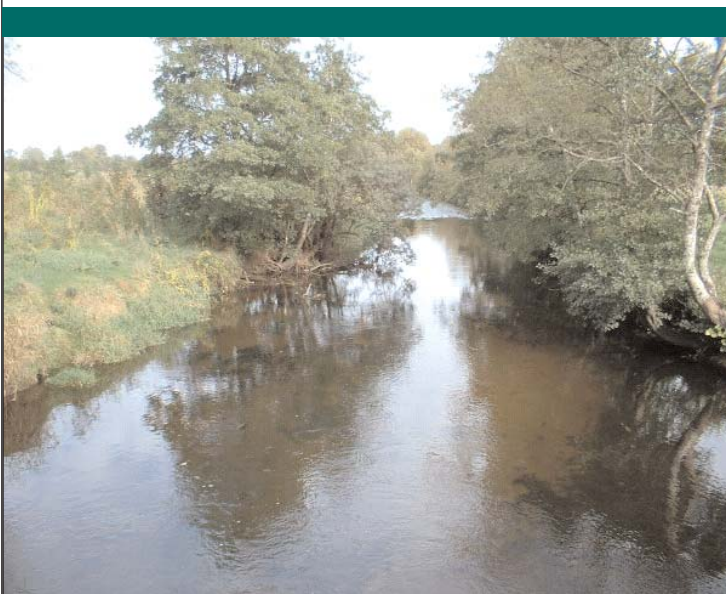
Traffic Assessment

Birr, a heritage town in the County of Offaly, is located to the east of Lough Derg, at the confluence of the Little Brosna and Camcor rivers, approximately 35km South West of Tullamore, County Offaly's largest town.

Nicholas O'Dwyer were appointed as consultants for the Birr Main Drainage Scheme. Part of this Scheme involved the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed works at the Birr Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW). These works involve increasing the plant capacity from 12,000 population equivalent (PE) to 25,000 PE. Entec UK Ltd. prepared the EIS under the close management and supervision of Nicholas O'Dwyer.

To evaluate and to protect the Aquatic Environment, there was extensive liaison with both the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board and also the Environmental Protection Agency, both to determine the existing baseline environmental conditions and also the effluent discharge standards required in order to protect the Little Brosna in the future. As part of this work a river model was constructed to assess the current hydraulic state of the watercourse and the likely impact of the increased discharge.

An air quality assessment was also carried out to analyse the current odour levels both at the boundary of the plant and at the nearest sensitive receptor and also to model the effect of future expansion. Following this assessment recommendations for future mitigation measures to be carried out at the expanded treatment plant were made.



A Noise / Vibration assessment was carried out to determine the baseline noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptor and to model the future potential noise impacts. Recommendations for mitigation measures were made on the basis of this assessment and model. A Visual and Landscape assessment was carried out to assess the likely visual impact at several receptors of the expansion of the plant. The planning of appropriate foliage and trees as screens to reduce the visual impact were part of mitigation measures proposed.

The EIS has been approved as of December 2005 with conditions which primarily are concerned with the nature of the plantings to take place at the WwTW as a mitigation measure against negative visual impact of the expansion of the WwTW in accordance with the EIS.



Nicholas O'Dwyer
CONSULTING ENGINEERS