

Annual Environmental Report

2024



Blessington

D0063-01

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0063-01, Blessington, in Wicklow in accordance with the requirements of the wastewater discharge licence for the agglomeration. Specified reports where relevant are included as an appendix to the AER.

1.1 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF MEASURES

A summary of any improvements undertaken is provided where applicable.

The Blessington WWTP upgrade project comprised of an upgrade to the plant to accommodate future loads, to 9,000 p.e., and ensure that the ELV for Ammonia can be met. An Bord Pleanála granted consent for the WwTP on the 26 February 2019. The proposed upgrade works (Phase 1) were carried out under Irish Water's 2020 – 2024 Investment Plan (Revenue Cycle 3). Construction works commenced in Q4 2021. The upgrade works were completed in Q4 2022, with commissioning works undertaken in December 2022, and final snagging undertaken in January 2023.

There were no capital works, significant changes or operational changes undertaken in 2024.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

The agglomeration is served by a wastewater treatment plant(s)

- Blessington WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 9000, the treatment type is 3P - Tertiary P removal.

1.3 ELV OVERVIEW

The overall compliance of the final effluent with the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) is shown below. More detailed information on the below ELV's can be found in Section 2.

Discharge Point Reference	Treatment Plant	Discharge Type	Compliance Status	Parameters failing if relevant
TPEFF3400D0063SW001	Blessington WWTP	Treated	Non-Compliant	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l

1.4 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTING

Assessment / Report
There are no Licence Specific Reports included in this AER.

2 TREATMENT PLANT PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT SUMMARY

2.1 BLESSINGTON WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - BLESSINGTON WWTP

A summary of influent monitoring for the treatment plant is presented below. This monitoring is primarily undertaken in order to determine the overall efficiency of the plant in removing pollutants from the raw wastewater.

Parameters	Number of Samples	Annual Max	Annual Mean
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	700	328
COD-Cr mg/l	12	1187	702
Total Nitrogen mg/l	12	204	73
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	12	437	276
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	12	20	9.23
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	2012	1022

If other inputs in the form of sludge / leachate are added to the WWTP then these are included in Section 2.1.5 if applicable.

Significance of Results:

The annual mean hydraulic loading is less than the peak Treatment Plant Capacity. The annual maximum hydraulic loading is less than the peak Treatment Plant Capacity. Further details on the plant capacity and efficiency can be found under the sectional 'Operational Performance Summary'.

2.1.2 EFFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - TPEFF3400D0063SW001

Parameter	WWDL ELV (Schedule A)	ELV with Condition 2 Interpretation included Note 1	Interim % reduction from influent concentration	Number of sample results	Number of exceedances	Number of exceedances with Condition 2 Interpretation included	Annual Mean	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)
COD-Cr mg/l	125	250	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	35	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	30	75	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	14	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	20	40	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	2.58	Pass
pH pH units	6	9	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.12	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	5	6	N/A	12	3	2	2.69	Fail
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	1	1.2	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.149	Pass
Conductivity @20°C µS/cm	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	554	
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.627	
Total Nitrogen mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	11	

Notes:

1 – This represents the Emission Limit Values after the Interpretation provided for under Condition 2 of the licence is applied

2 – For pH the WWDA specifies a range of pH 6 - 9

Cause of Exceedance(s):

Shock Load to the WWTP

Significance of Results:

The WWTP is non-compliant with the ELV's set in the Waste Water Discharge Licence. The impact in receiving waters is assessed further in Section 2.

2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TPEFF3400D0063SW001

A summary of monitoring from ambient monitoring points associated with the wastewater discharge is provided in the sections below. For discharges to rivers upstream (U/S) and downstream (D/S) location data is provided. For other ambient points in lakes, coastal or transitional waters, monitoring data from the most appropriate monitoring station is selected.

The table below provides details of ambient monitoring locations and details of any designations as sensitive areas.

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Irish Grid Reference	River Station Code	Bathing Water	Drinking Water	FWPM	Shellfish	WFD Ecological Status
Upstream	294714, 208463	RS09L010380	No	No	No	No	Good
Downstream	294164, 208292	RS09L010390	No	No	No	No	Good

The results for ambient results and / or additional monitoring data sets are included in the **Appendix 7.1 - Ambient monitoring summary**.

Significance of Results:

The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l.

The ambient monitoring results meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.

Based on ambient monitoring results a deterioration in BOD, Ortho-P (as P), Ammonia (as N) concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted.

A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it or is not caused by the WWTP.

Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are unknown.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.

2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - BLESSINGTON WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Blessington WWTP

Treatment efficiency is based on the removal of key pollutants from the influent wastewater by the treatment plant. In essence the calculation is based on the balance of load coming into the plant versus the load leaving the plant. The efficiency is presented as a percentage removal rate.

A summary presentation of the efficiency of the treatment process including information for all the parameters specified in the licence is included below:

Parameter	Influent mass loading (kg/year)	Effluent mass emission (kg/year)	Efficiency (% reduction of influent load)
cBOD	108104	892	99
COD	274397	11958	96
TN	28361	3796	87
TP	3608	216	94
SS	128157	4983	96

Note: The above data is based on sample results for the number of dates reported

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Blessington WWTP

Treatment capacity is an assessment of the hydraulic (flow) and organic (the amount of pollutants) load a treatment plant is designed to treat versus the current loading of that plant.

Blessington WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m ³ /day) - As Constructed	4050
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	1350
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m ³ /day)	2012
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	1022
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	9000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) ^{Note1}	6863
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	2137
Will the capacity be exceeded in the next three years? (Yes/No)	No

Nominal design capacities can be based on conservative design principles. In some cases assessment of existing plants has shown organic capacities significantly higher than the nominal design capacity. Accordingly plants that appear to be overloaded when comparing a collected peak load with the nominal design capacity can be fully compliant due to the safety factors in the original design.

2.1.5 SLUDGE / OTHER INPUTS - BLESSINGTON WWTP

'Other inputs' to the waste water treatment plant are summarised in table below

Input type	Quantity	Unit	P.E.	% of load to WWTP	Included in Influent Monitoring (Y/N)?	Is there a leachate/sludge acceptance procedure for the WWTP?	Is there a dedicated leachate/sludge acceptance facility for the WWTP? (Y/N)
There is no Sludge and Other Input data for the Treatment Plant included in the AER.							

3 COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

3.1 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

A summary of complaints of an environmental nature related to the discharge(s) to water from the WWTP and network is included below.

Number of Complaints	Nature of Complaint	Number Open Complaints	Number Closed Complaints
There were no relevant environmental complaints in 2024.			

3.2 REPORTED INCIDENTS SUMMARY

Environmental incidents that arise in an agglomeration are reported on an on-going basis in accordance with our waste water discharge licences. Where an incident occurs and it is reportable under the licence, it is reported to the Environmental Protection Agency through their Environmental Data Exchange Network, or in some instances by telephone. Some incidents which arise in the agglomeration are recorded by Uisce Éireann but may not be reportable under our licence for example where the incident does not have an impact on environmental performance.

A summary of reported incidents is included below.

3.2.1 SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS

Incident Type	Cause	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Breach of ELV	Shock load to the WWTP	Yes	No

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2024	1
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2024	1
Explanation of any discrepancies between the two numbers above	N/A

4 INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSESSMENTS AND PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS

4.1 STORM WATER OVERFLOW IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION REPORT

A summary of the operation of the storm water overflows and their significance where known is included below:

4.1.1 SWO IDENTIFICATION

WWDL Name / Code for Storm Water Overflow (chamber) where applicable	Irish Grid Ref. (outfall)	Included in Schedule of the WWDL	Significance of the overflow(High / Medium / Low)	Assessed against DoEHLG Criteria	No. of times activated in 2024 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2024 (m3)	Monitoring Status
There are no Storm Water Overflows in this Agglomeration.							

The contents presented in this table include the most up to date information available at the time of writing. Any TBC SWO(s) were identified as part of the on-going National SWO programme and will be updated in subsequent AER(s) once the information is confirmed.

SWO Summary	
How much wastewater discharge by metered SWOs during the year (m3)?	N/A
Is each SWO identified as not meeting DoEHLG Guidance included in the Programme of Improvements?	N/A
The SWO Assessment included the requirements of relevant of WWDL schedules?	N/A
Have the EPA been advised of any additional SWOs / changes to Schedule C3 and A4 under Condition 1.7?	N/A

4.2 REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE AND PROPOSALS BEING DEVELOPED TO MEET THE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

4.2.1 SPECIFIED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY

A wastewater discharge licence may require a number of reports on specific subject areas to be prepared for the agglomeration in question. These reports are submitted to the EPA as part of the Annual Environmental Report. This section provides a list of the various reports required for this agglomeration and a brief summary of their recommendations.

Specified Improvement Programmes (under Schedule A and C of WWDL)	Description	Licence Schedule	Licence Completion Date	Date Expired? (N/NA/Y)	Status of Works	Timeframe for Completing the Work	Comments
There are no Specified Improvement Programmes for this Agglomeration.							

A summary of the status of any other improvements identified by under Condition 5 assessments- is included below.

4.2.2 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Improvement Identifier	Improvement Description / or any Operational Improvements	Improvement Source	Expected Completion Date	Comments
No additional improvements planned at this time.				

4.2.3 SEWER INTEGRITY RISK ASSESSMENT

N/A

5 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTS

A wastewater discharge licence may require a number of reports on specific subject areas to be prepared for the agglomeration in question. These reports are submitted to the EPA as part of the Annual Environmental Report. This section provides a list of the various reports required for this agglomeration and a brief summary of their recommendations.

Licence Specific Report	Required by licence	Included in this AER
D0063-01-Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	No

6 CERTIFICATION AND SIGN OFF

6.1 SUMMARY OF AER CONTENTS

Parameter	Answer
Does the AER include an Executive Summary?	Yes
Does the AER include an assessment of the performance of the Waste Water Works (i.e. have the results of assessments been interpreted against WWDL requirements and or Environmental Quality Standards)?	Yes
Is there a need to advise the EPA for Consideration of a Technical Amendment/Review of the Licence?	Yes
List reason e.g. additional SWO identified	Increase in collected loading
Is there a need to request/advise the EPA of any modification to the existing WWDL with respect to condition 4 changes to monitoring location, frequency etc	No
List reason e.g. changes to monitoring requirements	N/A
Have these processes commenced?	Yes
Are all outstanding reports and assessments from previous AERs included as an appendix to this AER	N/A

I certify that the information given in this Annual Environmental Report is truthful, accurate and complete:

Date: 24/02/2025

This AER has been produced by Uisce Éireann's Environmental Information System (EIMS) and has been electronically signed off in that system for and on behalf of,

Eleanor Roche

Head of Environmental Regulation.

7 APPENDIX

Appendix

Appendix 7.1 - Ambient monitoring summary

Blessington 2024 Ambient Monitoring Summary

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Irish National Grid Reference (Easting, Northing)	EPA Feature Coding Tool code	Receiving Waters Designation (Yes/No)			
			Bathing Water	Drinking Water	FWPM	Shellfish
Upstream Monitoring Point	294714, 208463	RS09L010370	No	No	No	No
Downstream Monitoring Point	294165, 208292	RS09L010390	No	No	No	No

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Current WFD Status	cBOD (Mean mg/l)	o-Phosphate (as P) (Mean mg/l)	Ammonia (as N) (Mean mg/l)
Upstream Monitoring Point	Good	1.1536	0.0096	0.0161
Downstream Monitoring Point	Good	1.4863	0.0141	0.0187
<i>Difference</i>		<i>0.333</i>	<i>0.0045</i>	<i>0.0026</i>
EQS		1.500	0.035	0.065
% of EQS		22.183%	12.891%	4.066%

2024 Ambient Monitoring Data

StationName	Sample Date	Ammonium NH4-N	Biological Oxygen Demand	Chlorophyll	Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	Dissolved Oxygen	Ortho-Phosphate P	pH	Total Phosphorus P	Total Nitrogen N
		mg/l	mg/l	mg/m3	% Sat.	mg/l	mg/l	pH units	mg/l	mg/l
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	25/01/2024	< 0.02	< 1	< 1	102	12.6	< 0.02	7.9	< 0.02	1.01
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	12/02/2024	< 0.02	< 1	< 1	97	12.1	< 0.02	8	< 0.02	0.98
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	04/03/2024	< 0.02	< 1	< 1	97	11.8	< 0.02	8.2	< 0.02	1.45
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	11/04/2024	< 0.02	< 1	2	98	10.9	0.01	7.8	< 0.02	1.02
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	21/05/2024	0.01	1.7	6.6	96	9.9	0.01	7.9	0.06	0.83
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	20/06/2024	0.03	2.1	3.9	100	10.9	0.01	8.5	0.04	0.56
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	23/07/2024	0.01	1.7	8	100	9.6	< 0.01	7.7	0.02	0.81
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	26/08/2024	0.03	1.5	7.3	100	10.1	< 0.02	7.4	0.01	0.23
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	17/09/2024	< 0.02	< 1	3.7	98	10.2	< 0.02	7.9	< 0.02	1
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	29/10/2024	< 0.02	1.2	< 1	96	11.2	< 0.02	7.9	< 0.02	<0.5
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	14/11/2024	< 0.02	< 1	< 1	92	10.1	< 0.02	7.5	< 0.02	0.69
Site A8 (U/S Blessington WWTP)	05/12/2024	< 0.02	1.4	< 1	98	9.8	< 0.02	7.9	0.01	<0.5
	Mean	0.0161	1.1536	2.9786	97.8333	10.7667	0.0096	7.8833	0.0199	0.7739
	95%ile	0.0300	1.8800	7.6150	100.9000	12.3250	0.0141	8.3350	0.0490	1.2135
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	25/01/2024	< 0.02	< 1	< 1	103	12.6	< 0.02	7.9	< 0.02	1.02
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	12/02/2024	< 0.02	< 1	< 1	97	12.1	< 0.02	7.8	< 0.02	1.11
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	04/03/2024	< 0.02	< 1	< 1	96	11.7	< 0.02	8.2	< 0.02	1.47
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	11/04/2024	< 0.02	< 1	4.2	99	10.9	0.01	7.7	< 0.02	0.94
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	21/05/2024	0.03	2	27.2	98	10	0.01	7.9	0.05	0.79
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	20/06/2024	0.02	4.6	< 1	100	9.9	0.01	8.5	0.06	0.58
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	23/07/2024	0.02	2.6	4.5	100	9.6	< 0.02	7.6	0.02	0.79
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	26/08/2024	0.02	1	< 1	99	9.8	0.01	7.2	0.02	0.22
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	17/09/2024	< 0.02	< 1	2.9	98	10.3	< 0.02	7.9	< 0.02	1
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	29/10/2024	0.03	1	< 1	96	11.1	< 0.02	7.9	< 0.02	<0.5
ASW1D (D/S Blessington WWTP)	14/11/2024	0.02	1.5	< 1	92	10.1	< 0.02	7.5	< 0.02	0.65
	05/12/2024	< 0.02	1.6	< 1	98	9.9	0.03	7.9	< 0.02	<0.5
	Mean	0.0187	1.4863	3.7047	98.0000	10.6667	0.0141	7.8333	0.0219	0.7731
	95%ile	0.0300	3.5000	14.7150	101.3500	12.3250	0.0213	8.3350	0.0545	1.2720

Note: Where the concentration in the result is less than the limit of detection (LOD), a value of LOD/sqrt(2) was used in calculating the mean and 95%ile concentrations.