

Annual Environmental Report

2024



Ardfert

D0282-01

CONTENTS

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 AER

- 1.1 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF MEASURES
- 1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY
- 1.3 ELV OVERVIEW
- 1.4 LICENSE SPECIFIC REPORT INCLUDED IN AER

2 TREATMENT PLANT PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT SUMMARY

- 2.1 ARDFERT WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE
 - 2.1.1 INFLUENT SUMMARY - ARDFERT WWTP
 - 2.1.2 EFFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - ARDFERT WWTP -
 - 2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE -
 - 2.1.4 OPERATIONAL REPORTS SUMMARY FOR ARDFERT WWTP
 - 2.1.5 SLUDGE/OTHER INPUTS TO ARDFERT WWTP

3 COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

- 3.1 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY
- 3.2 REPORTED INCIDENTS SUMMARY
 - 3.2.1 SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS
 - 3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

4 INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS

- 4.1 STORM WATER OVERFLOW IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION REPORT
 - 4.1.1 SWO IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION SUMMARY REPORT
- 4.2 REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE AND PROPOSALS BEING DEVELOPED TO MEET THE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS
 - 4.2.1 SPECIFIED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY
 - 4.2.2 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY
 - 4.2.3 SEWER INTEGRITY RISK ASSESSMENT

5 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTS

- 5.1 PRIORITY SUBSTANCES ASSESSMENT
- 5.2 SHELLFISH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6 CERTIFICATION AND SIGN OFF

- 6.1 SUMMARY OF AER CONTENTS

7 APPENDIX

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0282-01, Ardfert, in Kerry 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.

There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- Ardfert WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 1200, the treatment type is 2 - Secondary treatment .

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
TPEFF1300D0282SW001	Ardfert WWTP	Treated	Compliant	N/A

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 ARDFERT WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - ARDFERT 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
COD-Cr mg/l	6	516	196
Suspended Solids mg/l	6	198	134
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	6	316	90
pH pH units	6	7.90	7.75
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	659	452

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'. The design of the wastewater treatment plant allows for peak values and therefore the peak loads have not impacted on compliance with Emission Limit Values.

2.1.2 EFFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - TPEFF1300D0282SW001

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)
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	25	50	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	2.79	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	10	12	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	0.573	Pass
pH pH units	9	9	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	7.79	Pass
ortho- Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	8	9.6	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	0.681	Pass
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	1.70	
Visual Inspection Descriptive	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	
E. Coli no./100mls	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	21303	

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)
Faecal coliforms no./100mls	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	10370	
Suspended Solids mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	6.94	
Enterococci (Intestinal) no./100mls	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	9697	
COD-Cr mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	25	

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):

Not applicable

Significance of Results:

The WWTP is compliant with the ELV's set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence.

2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE

TPEFF1300D0282SW001

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	79037,121329	RS23T020400	No	No	No	No	Bad
Downstream	76005, 122427	RS23T020500	No	No	No	No	Poor

The table below provides a summary of monitoring results for designated ambient monitoring points. The upstream and downstream annual mean values are shown (mg/l), and the difference between both monitoring stations is given as a percentage of the Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) where relevant.

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
BOD - 5 days (Total) mg/l	RS23T020400	3.42	RS23T020500	1.59	1.50	-122.2
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	RS23T020400	0.383	RS23T020500	0.128	0.065	-392.3
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	RS23T020400	0.118	RS23T020500	0.087	0.035	-88.6
Temperature °C	RS23T020400	12	RS23T020500	11	N/A	

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
E. Coli no./100mls	RS23T020400	124	RS23T020500	165	N/A	
Alkalinity-total (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS23T020400	140	RS23T020500	266	N/A	
pH pH units	RS23T020400	7.74	RS23T020500	7.72	N/A	
Chloride mg/l	RS23T020400	43	RS23T020500	61	N/A	
True Colour mg/litre Pt Co	RS23T020400	50	RS23T020500	14	N/A	
Conductivity @25°C µS/cm	RS23T020400	456	RS23T020500	718	N/A	
Faecal coliforms no./100mls	RS23T020400	322	RS23T020500	394	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	RS23T020400	79	RS23T020500	85	N/A	
Suspended Solids mg/l	RS23T020400	4.10	RS23T020500	5.46	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	RS23T020400	8.26	RS23T020500	9.08	N/A	
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS23T020400	166	RS23T020500	298	N/A	
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	RS23T020400	3.18	RS23T020500	3.07	N/A	

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
Conductivity @20°C µS/cm	RS23T020400	565	RS23T020500	637	N/A	
Enterococci (Intestinal) no./100mls	RS23T020400	51	RS23T020500	31	N/A	

Significance of Results:

The WWTP discharge was compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.

The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS at the upstream and the downstream monitoring locations. 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 Alkalinity, Chlorine, Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen, E.Coli, Faecal Coliforms, suspended solids, total hardness., 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 - ARDFERT WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Ardfert 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)
COD	34938	4190	88
TP	N/A	N/A	N/A
TN	N/A	N/A	N/A
cBOD	16054	461	97
SS	23787	1145	95

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Ardfert 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.

Ardfert WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m³/day) - As Constructed	810
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m³/day)	270
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m³/day)	659
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m³/day)	451.67
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	1200
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)^{Note1}	959
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	241
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 - ARDFERT 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)
There were no reportable incidents in 2024.			

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2024	0
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2024	0
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
SW004	76612, 121650	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
TBC	78656, 121221	No	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored

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)?	Unknown
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?	Yes
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
D0282-SIP:01	Build and commission a new wastewater treatment plant to ensure compliance with the ELVs specified in Schedule A: Discharges and Discharge Monitoring of this licence.	C	01/05/2018	Yes	Works Completed		
D0282-SIP:02	Improvement works to ensure compliance with Condition 1.7	C	01/05/2018	Yes	Works Completed		
D0282-SIP:03	Primary Discharge Point SW001 to be Discontinued	C	01/05/2018	Yes	Works Completed		
D0282-SIP:04	Storm Water Overflow SW002 to be discontinued	C	01/05/2018	Yes	Works Completed		

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

The utilisation of multiple capital maintenance programmes and the outputs of the workshops with the Local Authority Operations Staff held under the programme can be used to satisfy the requirements of Condition 5 regarding network integrity. Improvement works identified by way of these programmes and workshops will be included in the Improvements Summary Tables 4.2.1 and 4.2.2.

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
D0282-01-Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	No
D0282-01-Shellfish Impact 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?	N/A
List reason e.g. additional SWO identified	N/A
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	N/A
List reason e.g. changes to monitoring requirements	N/A
Have these processes commenced?	N/A
Are all outstanding reports and assessments from previous AERs included as an appendix to this AER	No

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

Signed: Date: 26/05/2025

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

There are no Appendices included