

Annual Environmental Report

2023



Ballymore Eustace

D0238-01

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0238-01, Ballymore Eustace, in Kildare 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 capital works, significant changes or operational changes undertaken in 2023.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- BALLYMORE EUSTACE NEW WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 2000, 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
TPEFF1400D0238SW001	BALLYMORE EUSTACE NEW WWTP	Treated	Non-Compliant	ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l

1.4 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTING

Assessment / Report

Small Stream Risk Score Assessment

2 TREATMENT PLANT PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT SUMMARY

2.1 BALLYMORE EUSTACE NEW WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - BALLYMORE EUSTACE NEW 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
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l	13	500	256
Suspended Solids mg/l	13	455	176
pH pH units	13	7.76	7.13
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	13	10	5.82
COD-Cr mg/l	13	914	561
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	13	90	57
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	13	6.55	2.44
Total Nitrogen mg/l	6	115	88
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	286	170

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 - TPEFF1400D0238SW000

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	13	N/A	N/A	39	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	35	87.5	N/A	13	N/A	N/A	8.66	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l	25	50	N/A	13	N/A	N/A	5.89	Pass
pH pH units	6	9	N/A	13	N/A	N/A	6.66	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	5	6	N/A	13	N/A	N/A	1.48	Pass
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	2	2.4	N/A	13	1	N/A	0.926	Pass
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	1	1.2	N/A	13	1	1	0.587	Fail

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)
Conductivity @20°C µS/cm	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	N/A	N/A	655	
Faecal coliforms cfu/100ml	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	35064	
Total Nitrogen mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	14	

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):

Inadequate Operational Procedures/Training

Significance of Results:

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

2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TPEFF1400D0238SW000

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	292660, 209723	RS09L010400	No	No	No	No	Good
Downstream	292478, 209783	RS09L010500	No	No	No	No	Good

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	RS09L010400	0.707	RS09L010500	0.855	1.50	9.9
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	RS09L010400	0.018	RS09L010500	0.016	0.065	-2.7
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	RS09L010400	0.009	RS09L010500	0.009	0.035	0
Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	RS09L010400	93	RS09L010500	95	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
Alkalinity-total (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS09L010400	56	RS09L010500	66	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	RS09L010400	10	RS09L010500	10	N/A	
Temperature °C	RS09L010400	11	RS09L010500	11	N/A	
Chloride mg/l	RS09L010400	9.64	RS09L010500	9.76	N/A	
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	RS09L010400	1.27	RS09L010500	1.31	N/A	
True Colour mg/litre Pt Co	RS09L010400	72	RS09L010500	73	N/A	
pH pH units	RS09L010400	7.62	RS09L010500	7.75	N/A	
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS09L010400	64	RS09L010500	72	N/A	
Conductivity @25°C µS/cm	RS09L010400	151	RS09L010500	164	N/A	

Significance of Results:

The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified 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 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.

As per the 3rd Cycle Draft Liffey and Dublin Bay Catchment Report (HA 09), the significant pressures on the At Risk Liffey_050 waterbody are Agriculture, Domestic Waste Water & Hydromorphology.

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 - BALLYMORE EUSTACE NEW WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - BALLYMORE EUSTACE NEW 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)
SS	9667	536	94
TN	3883	821	79
COD	30885	2389	92
cBOD	14115	364	97
TP	320	57	82

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - BALLYMORE EUSTACE NEW 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.

BALLYMORE EUSTACE NEW WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m ³ /day) - As Constructed	1350
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	450
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m ³ /day)	286
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	170
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	2000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) ^{Note1}	864
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	1136
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 - BALLYMORE EUSTACE NEW 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 2023.			

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	Inadequate Operational Procedures/Training	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	SWO exceptional rainfall and overflow expected	No	Yes
Abatement equipment off-line	Inadequate Operational Procedures/Training	No	Yes

Incident Type	Cause	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Uncontrolled release	SWO exceptional rainfall and overflow expected	No	Yes

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2023	4
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2023	4
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 2023 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2023 (m ³)	Monitoring Status
New SW2	292502,209683	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	0	0	Monitored

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 (m ³)?	0
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?	No

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/NAY)	Status of Works	Timeframe for Completing the Work	Comments
D0238-SIP:01	Discharges from SW1-P (existing WWTP discharge) to cease	A	31/12/2012	Yes	Works Completed		
D0238-SIP:02	SW2 - Upgrading of SWO to comply with the criteria outlined in the DoEHLG "Procedures and Criteria in relation to Storm Water Overflows, 1995".	C	31/12/2012	Yes	Works Completed		
D0238-SIP:03	SW3 - Upgrading of SWO to comply with the criteria outlined in the DoEHLG "Procedures and Criteria in relation to Storm Water Overflows, 1995".	C	31/12/2012	Yes	Works Completed		
D0238-SIP:04	Waste Water treatment plant and ancillary works	C	31/12/2012	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
D0238-01-Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	No
D0238-01-Small Stream Risk Score Assessment	Yes	Yes

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?	No
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	No
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	N/A

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

Date: 11/11/2024

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 - Small Stream Risk Score Assessment



Ballymore Eustace Small Stream Risk Score 2023

Produced by

AQUAFACT International Services Ltd

For

Kildare County Council

November 2023

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Report Approval Sheet

Client	Kildare County Council
Report Title	Ballymore Eustace Small Stream Risk Score 2023
Job Number	P13876
Report Status	Final
Issue Date	15/11/2023

Rev	Status	Issue Date	Document File Name	Author (s)	Approved by:
1	Draft	3/11/2023	Ballymore Eustace SSRS 2023 Draftv1	Aaron Skehan	E. McCormack
2	Final	15/11/2023	Ballymore Eustace SSRS 2023 Final	Aaron Skehan	E. McCormack



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Appendices

Appendix 1: Photo log

1. Introduction

AQUAFACT was contracted by Kildare County Council to carry out an SSRS assessment of the discharge belonging to Ballymore Eustace wastewater treatment plants. A sample was taken upstream and downstream of the discharge point. The sampling was carried out on the 15th of October 2023.

2. Methodology

2.1. Sampling

Two kick samples were taken (See Figure 2.1 and Table 2.1). The two-minute kick and one minute stone wash sampling method was employed to collect samples of macroinvertebrates for analysis. This involved placing a standard hand net of pore size 500µm in the river, facing upstream and disturbing the riverbed in front of the net mouth. The surveyor then moved in a diagonal direction upstream to ensure that different micro-habitats were included in the sample. The kick sample method dislodges macroinvertebrates from the substrates and submerged plant material. This was continued for approximately two minutes and followed by one minute of stone washing (Lucey *et al.*, 1999).

The macroinvertebrate assemblages of each sample were identified and counted on the riverbank. The details of the macroinvertebrate assemblages were recorded on data sheets. The resulting species list was then used to assign the SSRS score to the sampled streams.

The IFI's 2010 Biosecurity Protocol for Field Survey Work document was followed during sampling. Nets and all other equipment were thoroughly disinfected between stations.

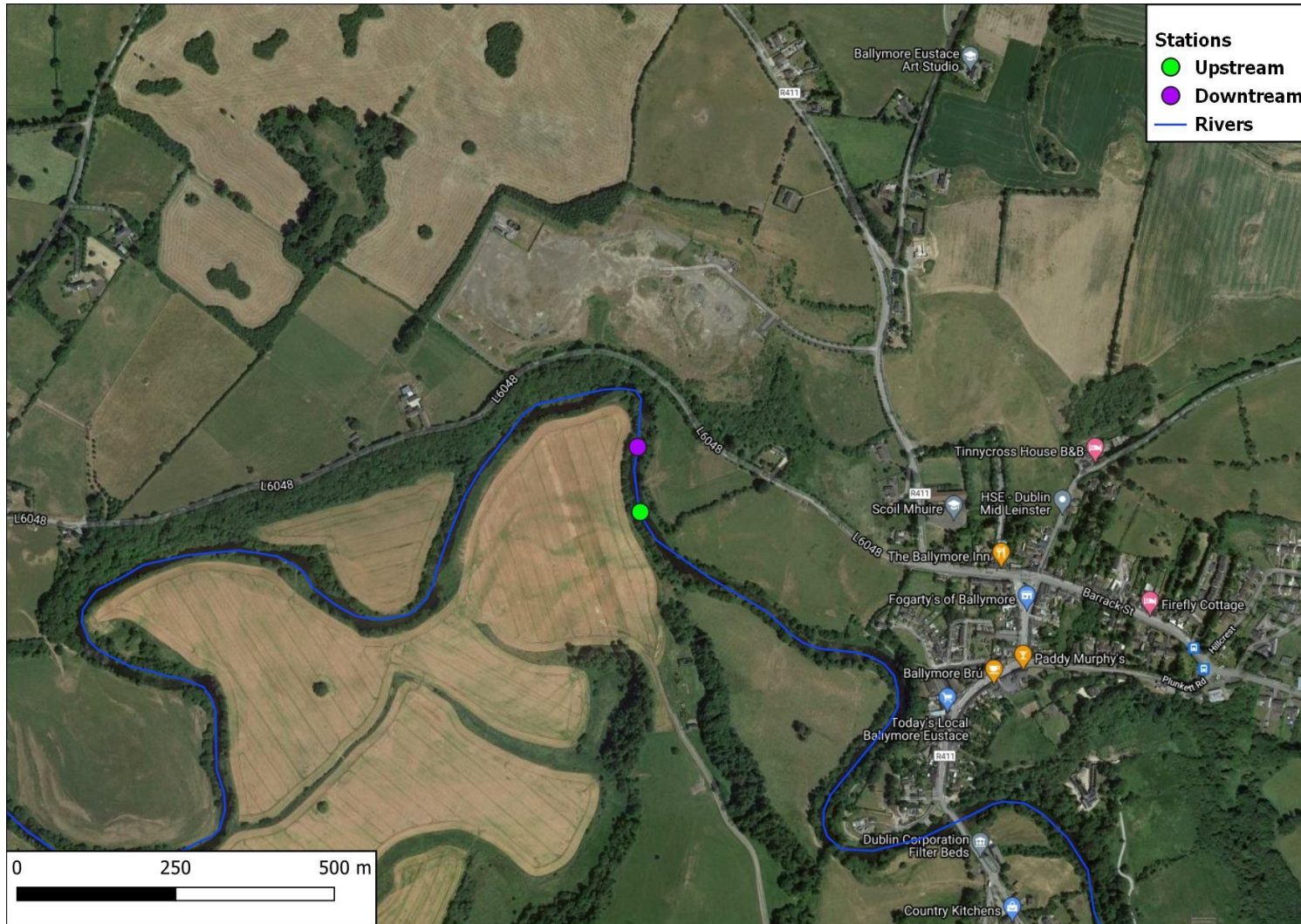


Figure 2.1: Ballymore Eustace SSRS sampling sites.

Table 2.1: Ballymore Eustace SSRS station coordinates.

Station	Latitude	Longitude
Ballymore Eustace Upstream	53.1346032	-6.6232350
Ballymore Eustace Downstream	53.135652	-6.623528

2.2. *Small Stream Risk Score*

The Small Streams Risk Score (SSRS) is a biological risk assessment system for identifying rivers that are 'at risk' of failing to achieve the 'good' water quality status goals of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). It was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in association with the Western River Basin District (WRBD) in 2006 and revised in 2009.

The SSRS method is a rapid field methodology for risk assessment that is based solely on macroinvertebrate indicators of water quality and their well-understood response to pollution. Importantly, the SSRS score indicates whether or not the stream is at risk from pollution and not the ecological health of the stream. The SSRS score ranges from 0-11.2.

Table 2.2: SSRS Categories.

SSRS range	Category
<6.5	Stream at Risk
>6.5-7.25	Indeterminate stream may be at risk
>7.25	Probably not at risk

3. Results

Both the upstream and downstream station were categorised as 'Probably not at Risk'. The river substrate was the same at both stations with a mix of boulders, cobbles, and gravel. The flow in the river was torrential and the water very clear. There was no siltation present. The habitat is suitable for white-clawed crayfish although none were captured during the course of sampling.

Table 3.1: Taxa list

Taxa	Upstream	Downstream
Ephemeroptera		
<i>Ecdyonurus</i>	2	2
<i>Heptagenia</i>	2	3
Plecoptera		
<i>Leuctra</i>	2	1
Trichoptera		
<i>Hydropsyche</i>	3	3
Glossomatidae	1	
Polycentropodidae		1
Other Trichoptera (Leptoceridae)	1	
Gastropods, Oligochaetes and Diptera (G.O.I.D)		
<i>Lymnaea</i>		1
<i>Potamopyrgus</i>	1	
<i>Ancylus</i>	2	
Chironimidae	1	1
Simuliidae		2
<i>Lumbriculus</i>		1
Tubificidae	2	1

Table 3.2: Biological sampling results.

Station	SSR Score	SSRS category
Ballymore Eustace Upstream	9.6	Probably not at Risk
Ballymore Eustace Downstream	8.8	Probably not at Risk

4. Ballymore Eustace WWTP comparison 2016 to 2023

Table 4.1 compares the SSRS results from 2016 to 2023 and Figure 4.1 displays the trend over time. The downstream station was categorised as ‘Probably not at risk’ in 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The upstream station was ‘Probably not at risk’ in 2018, 2022 and 2023. The upstream station is displaying an upward trend of improving water quality since it was categorised as ‘at risk’ in 2021.

Table 4.1: Ballymore Eustace WWTP- SSRS Comparison 2015 -2023 (AR: At Risk; PNAR: Probably not at Risk).

Site	SSRS							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Upstream	3.2	5.6	9.6	n/a	8.0	4	8.0	9.6
Downstream	4.8	8.8	8.0	n/a	8.8	8.0	8.0	8.8
Site	SSRS Risk Category							
Upstream	AR	AR	PNAR	n/a	PNAR	AR	PNAR	PNAR
Downstream	AR	PNAR	PNAR	n/a	PNAR	PNAR	PNAR	PNAR

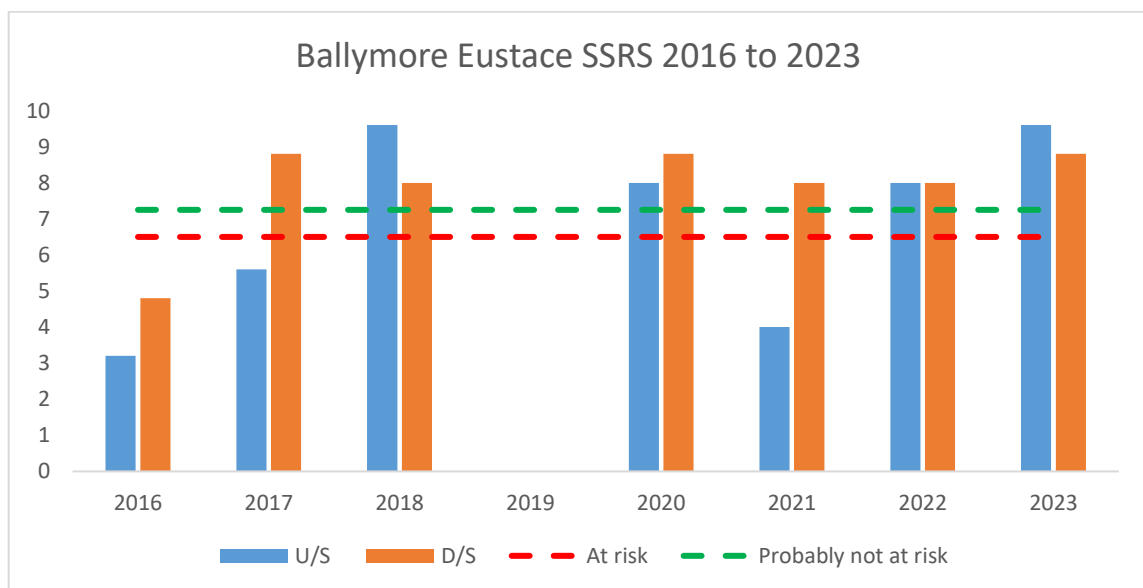


Figure 4.1: Ballymore Eustace WWTP SSRS scores 2016 to 2023

5. References

EPA. 2015. Guidance on Application and Use of the SSRS in Enforcement of Urban Waste Water Discharge Authorisations in Ireland.

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/waste-water/SSRS-in-Enforcement-of-UWWDAs.pdf> Accessed September 2021.

Lucey, J., Bowman, J.J., Klabby, K.J., Cunningham, P., Lehane, M., MacCarthaigh, M., McGarrigle, M.L. and Toner, P.F. 1999. Water Quality in Ireland, 1995 – 1997. EPA.

Appendix 1

Photo log



Ballymore Eustace upstream



Ballymore Eustace downstream 1



Ballymore Eustace downstream 2