

Site Visit Report

The site visit process is a sample on a particular day of an installation's compliance with some of its licence conditions. Where non-compliance against a particular condition has not been reported, this should not be construed to mean that there is full compliance with that condition of the licence.

Instructions and actions arising from the visit shall be addressed, or where applicable noted, by the licensee in order to ensure compliance, to improve the environmental performance of the installation and to provide clarification on certain issues.

The licensee shall take the actions specified to close out the non-compliances and observations raised in this Site Visit Report.

The licensee may also be requested to provide a response to the Environmental Protection Agency (hereafter referred to as the Agency) in relation to the site visit report findings.

Licensee	
Name of Installation	Roscrea
Licensee	Uisce Éireann
Licence Register No.	D0025-01
CRO Number	530363
Site Address	Monastery Road, Roscrea, Tipperary
Site Visit Reference No.	SV32333

Report Detail	
Issue Date	30/05/2025
Prepared By	Brian Flynn

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	17/04/2025		
Time In	13:00	Time Out	15:00
EPA Inspector(s)	Brian Flynn		
Additional Visitors			
Licensee Personnel and Role	Representing Uisce Éireann: Thomas Tarpey, Alan Guest, Tom O'Brien. Representing Tipperary County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Jerry O'Hara, Edward Treacy.		

> Summary

A site visit was completed to the Roscrea WWTP to review the sites compliance with its licence and to review its impact on the Little Brosna river and the Bunnow river. The Roscrea WWTP and network are listed as a significant pressures on the Little Brosna river and the Bunnow river.

The Roscrea WWTP requires an upgrade as stated under the Specified Improvement Programme in the Wastewater Discharge licence. The WWTP was not designed for ammonia removal. It is concerning to see that an upgrade of the Roscrea plant, which is required in the license for this agglomeration to be completed by January 2021 is on hold and currently has no planned start date.

The Roscrea sewer network requires an upgrade as stated under the Specified Improvement Programme in the Wastewater Discharge licence.

One of the four primary settlement tanks at this plant was found to have been offline for three weeks prior to this site visit and was not reported to the EPA as required by Condition 6.1 of the WWDL for this agglomeration.

Uisce Éireann shall revert with a plan to address all the recommendations in this site visit revert and confirm when all are addressed.

> Site Areas Inspected

- Wastewater treatment Plant,
- Benamore Pump station.

> Documents Inspected

- Annual maintenance plan,
- Final effluent results 2023- 2025 to-date,
- Ambient monitoring data 2023-2025 to-date,
- Sludge management records 2023 and 2024,
- List of pumping stations,
- S16 licensed premises and,
- A map of the agglomeration.

> 1. General

	Answer	Condition Number	Non Compliance	Observation
1.1	Have you had any emission limit value breaches in the past 12 months?	Yes		
Comment / Action Required				

The Roscrea Wastewater treatment plant is continuously non-compliant with the Emission Limit Value for Total Ammonia of 0.7 (mg/l). The WWTP is not designed to remove Ammonia and Uisce Éireann is required under the Specified Improvement Programme in the licence to upgrade this WWTP.

Non-compliant Compliance sample result's for **Total Ammonia** reported as incidents by Uisce Éireann:

03/04/2025: **13** mg/l vs ELV 0.7 mg/l

20/03/2025: **6.6** mg/l vs ELV 0.7 mg/l

06/02/2025: **5.3** mg/l vs ELV 0.7 mg/l

23/01/2025: **7** mg/l vs ELV 0.7 mg/l

A breach occurred on the 03/04/2025 for the parameter Total Phosphorous and Orthophosphate (as P). Uisce Éireann attributed this breach to poor quality wash water produced during desludging onsite.

Non-compliant Compliance sample result for **Total Phosphorous** reported by Uisce Éireann:

03/04/2025: **1.6** mg/l vs ELV 1 mg/l.

Non-compliant Compliance sample result for **Orthophosphate (as P)** reported by Uisce Éireann:

03/04/2025: **0.95** mg/l vs ELV 0.7 mg/l.

Uisce Éireann are required to:

- Prioritise the upgrade of this WWTP to comply with the Emission Limit Values as required by Condition 3.1 Schedule A.1 of the licence for this agglomeration.
- Optimise the desludging operation to prevent future breaches of the ELV for Total Phosphorous and Orthophosphate (as P).

1.2

	Answer	Condition Number	Non Compliance	Observation
Is there a significant discharge from industry into the plant?	Yes			

Comment / Action Required

Currently there are only 4 premises within the agglomeration that are licensed to discharge to the Uisce Éireann sewer network. There are a number of commercial premises within the town that may require an S16 licence or FOG licence. This issue was raised in the previous site visit report in 2022 and no progress appears to have been made.

Uisce Éireann are required to:

- Conduct a survey within the agglomeration to identify commercial premises that are currently discharging to the sewer that are unlicensed. Put a plan in place, including timeframes to licence such facilities.
- Ensure there is a sufficient communication protocol in place between the main industries that discharge to the sewer and the WWTP plant, to alert the plant operators if there is a discharge to the sewer that may be outside the expected/normal range, and submit a copy.



2. Primary Settling Tank

2.1

	Answer	Condition Number	Non Compliance	Observation
Is there any evidence of operational problems?	Yes			
Comment / Action Required				
<p>One of four primary settlement tanks at the Roscrea WWTP was not in operation as a result of a breakdown (see photograph No. 1). Uisce Éireann stated that the tank was taken off-line 3 weeks ago. This breakdown was not reported to the EPA as an incident as required by Condition 6.1.</p> <p>Uisce Éireann are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair the primary settlement tank without delay.• Report this incident to the EPA as required by Condition 6.1 of the licence for this agglomeration.• Review why this incident was not reported and submit actions that Uisce Éireann will undertake to prevent its reoccurrence.				



3. Water Framework Directive

3.1

	Answer	Condition Number	Non Compliance	Observation
Is the agglomeration categorised as a significant pressure under the Water Framework Directive?	Yes			

Comment / Action Required

The final effluent discharge from the Roscrea wastewater treatment plant and storm water overflows from the agglomeration was identified during the characterisation for the second and third cycles of Ireland's River Basin Management Plan as a significant pressure on the Little Brosna river (LITTLE BROSNA_020).

Storm water overflows were identified during the characterisation for the second and third cycles of Ireland's River Basin Management Plan as a significant pressure on the Bunnow river (BUNOW_020).

3.2

	Answer	Condition Number	Non Compliance	Observation
Are the issues that gave rise to the agglomeration been categorised as a significant pressure still ongoing?	Yes			

Comment / Action Required

The Roscrea WWTP discharges into the Little Brosna River river. The river is currently classified as poor ecological status. A Q value score of 3-4 was obtained downstream of the final emission point in 2023.

Downstream ambient monitoring results in 2023, 2024 and 2025 to-date do not achieve the mean good status environmental quality standard for Ammonia. Ambient monitoring results therefore indicate the the WWTP and SWO's in the agglomeration are adversely impacting the Little Brosna River.

Uisce Éireann stated that the network upgrade project is currently at the detailed design stage and that it is planned to submit an application for planning permission in 2025. Upgrade works required for the sewer network under the WWDL are overdue since 2021.

Upgrade works for the wastewater treatment plant required under the Specified Improvement programme are currently on hold and no timeline is currently available to complete the works. Upgrade works required at the treatment plant under the WWDL are overdue since 2021.



4. Site Specific Issues

	Answer	Condition Number	Non Compliance	Observation
4.1	WWTP plant refurbishment works.	Checked		Yes
Comment / Action Required				
<p>It was stated by Uisce Éireann that refurbishment works have been undertaken at the Wastewater treatment Plant. The trickling filters and the Humus tank were refurbished.</p> <p>It was noted that a new centrifuge unit and an effluent return pump will be constructed in the following weeks.</p> <p>Uisce Éireann are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that the new centrifuge and effluent return pump are completed in a timely manner.				



Photograph No. 1: Primary settlement tank not in operation as a result of a breakdown.



FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The licensee is required to complete the actions outlined in this site visit report within the specified timeframes. Where required, the licensee shall also respond to actions specified in Compliance Investigations and/or submit a response to this site visit report via the EDEN system. The licensee shall maintain a documentary evidence, for review by the Agency, that the prescribed actions were completed within the required timeframe.

(i) Compliance Investigations

The Agency may generate a Compliance Investigation through the EDEN system and issue instructions and actions to the licensee. The licensee will receive notification when an instruction or action is issued and the licensee must respond to the actions within the Compliance Investigation within the specified timeframe.

(ii) Response to Site Visit Report

Where the licensee is requested to (or wishes to) respond to the Agency in relation to this site visit report, the licensee may select the 'Make a Response' link on the Site Visits page in EDEN where a .pdf document containing the response can be attached and submitted. The response should include details of the actions taken by the licensee to address the issues raised in this site visit report and the target completion dates. This Licensee Public Response provides the licensee with an opportunity to inform both the Agency and the public about the implementing of actions set out in the Agency site visit report. The response must be submitted **within 21 calendar days** of the issue date of this site visit report.

(iii) Publication of Reports

This site visit report will be published on the EPA's website, www.epa.ie, 30 calendar days after the site visit report issue date.

Any licensee response to this site visit report will be published on the EPA's website simultaneously (i.e. 30 calendar days after the site visit report issue date).

Please note that licensees are required to comply with the conditions of the licence at all times, and where non-compliance occurs, compliance must be restored within the shortest possible time. These actions will be verified during subsequent Agency visits. Please quote the above Inspection Reference Number in any correspondence in relation this Report.