

# SEA-PT Water Pollution Exercise – Outdoor Element – Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 Briefing and Safety Statement

Prepared by Paul O’Grady E.E., Limerick City & County Council

## 1. Venue

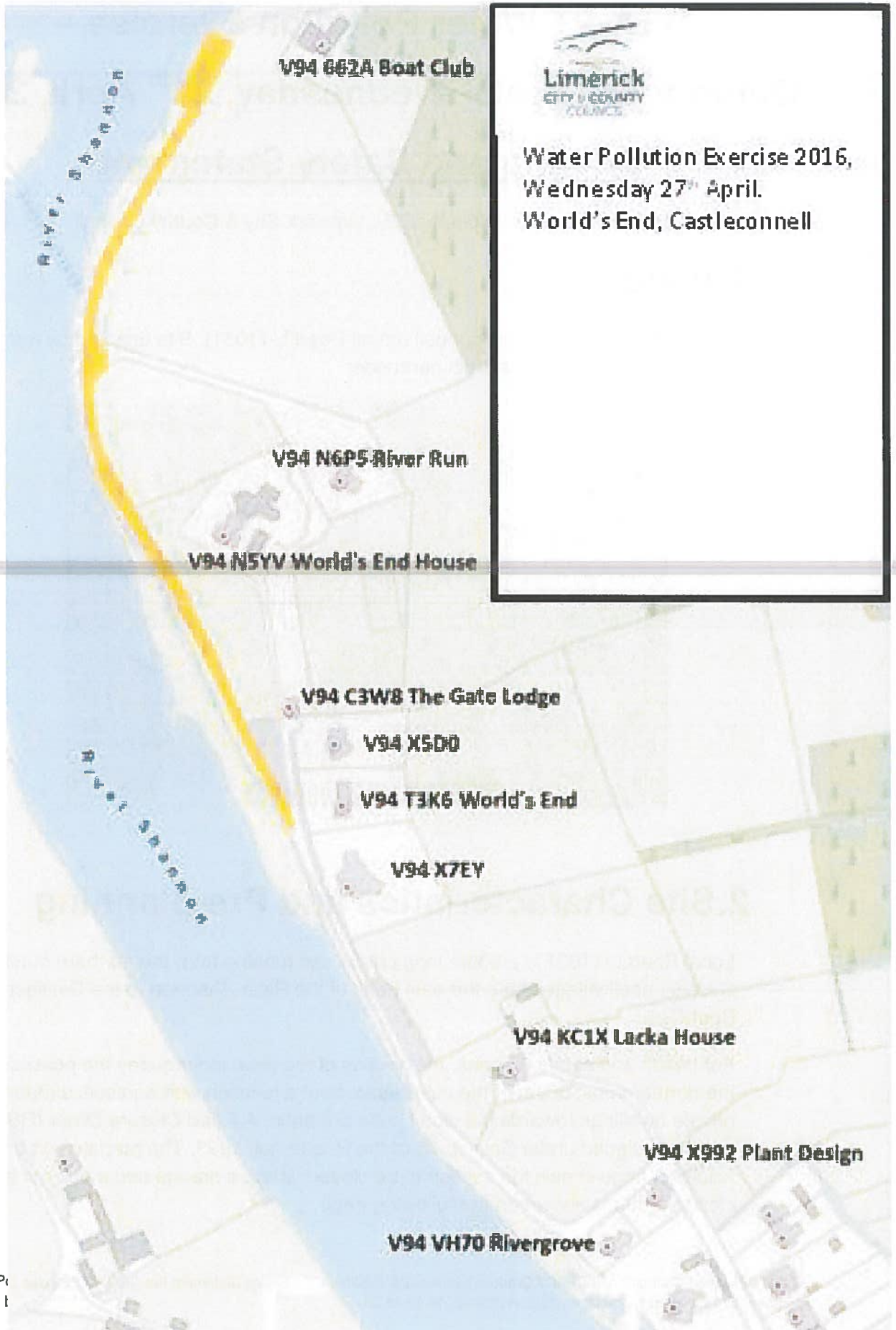
World’s End, Castleconnell (Local Road L-11031). Site denoted by red shading on map extract hereunder.



## 2. Site Characteristics and Pre-planning

Local Road L-11031 is a 930m long cul-de-sac running from the northern outskirts of Castleconnell village along the east bank of the River Shannon to the Castleconnell Boat Club.

For health and safety reasons, the holding of the exercise requires the possession of the northernmost 500m of the cul-de-sac, from a junction with an access road to private dwellings towards the club house entrance. A Road Closure Order (RS/23/16) has been signed under Section 75 of the Roads Act, 1993. The map extract on the following page shows the section to be closed, shaded orange and a copy of the road closure order is shown on the following page.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL  
Approved Officer's Order

FILE REF:SECTION 26

ORDER NO.: RS/23/16

**SUBJECT:** Temporary Road Closure – Local Road L11031 (cul-de-sac) at "World's End", Lacka, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

**ORDER:** Whereas by Chief Executive's Order No.HR 15/607(B) dated 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2015 Conn Murray, Limerick City & County Chief Executive, did, pursuant to the powers conferred on him by Section 154 of the Local Government Act, 2001, (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014) delegate unto me, the functions (as defined in the Local Government Act, 2001 & Local Government Reform Act 2014) as set out therein,

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to the delegation of the functions aforesaid, I, Vincent Murray, Senior Engineer, in accordance with the provisions of the ~~Roads Act 1993 and the Roads Regulations 1994~~, hereby order that the roads at the specified locations and times detailed hereunder be closed to facilitate the hosting of a water pollution exercise..

Road to be closed to Traffic and Parking	Periods of Road Closure
A 500m section of Local Road L11031 (cul-de-sac) at "World's End", Lacka, Castleconnell from a point at the junction with an access road to private dwellings (Irish Grid Reference R 65876 63596), north-west, north and north-east to the entrance gate at the Castleconnell Boat Club premises (Irish Grid Reference R 65842 64039).	From 9.00am on Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April until 12.00 noon, Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

Signed:   
APPROVED OFFICER

DATED THIS

DAY OF April, 2016

Within this 500m section, there is an entrance to one private dwelling: "River Run", Folio No. LK57936F, shown as being owned by a Derry and Fiona Corbett of "River Run", Lacka, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick V94 N6P5.

As previously mentioned, the entrance to the boat club's premises is at the northern end of the cul-de-sac.

It was necessary to consult with all affected parties at the earliest stage and letters were sent out in late 2015. The affected parties were agreeable in principle.

Approximately 10m north from the southern end of the section, the roadway widens as a de-facto parking area has been provided for a length of about 90m as shown in the photograph below. There is also a low wall alongside that this area will be used for the parking of c. 20 - 25 vehicles.



Nearer the boat club there is an older parking area (c.10 vehicles), doubling as a turning circle as shown in the picture below. This will be used as the main demonstration area for the exercise.



The boat club premises are as shown in the photograph below. There is a gated entrance, short access track and the clubhouse itself. There is also a small slipway for canoes etc. This is private property and must be treated as such.



At this location, the River Shannon is generally quite fast-flowing and the area is popular for bathing. As the river runs parallel to the head race built as part of the hydro-electric project at Ardnacrusha in the 1920s, water levels are still controlled by the ESB and the riverside is patrolled on a regular basis to monitor flow and depth.

There is a small slipway 20m south of the parking area by the boat club as shown in the photographs overleaf. The minimum clear width is 2.7m though the turning room of any towing vehicle with a trailer will be restricted by the narrow road width at the top of the slipway.



### 3. Exercise Format

The exercise on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April will in the main, consist of demonstrations of equipment used in pollution response such as skimmers, booms, fast tanks etc., most of which is designed to be portable and ergonomic.

As stated, the main demonstration area will be at the car park adjacent to the entrance to the boat club. The equipment will be delivered in a 20-foot container on Tuesday afternoon, 26<sup>th</sup> April and it will be unloaded and supervised by operatives from Pollution & Waste Services Ltd (PWS): the equipment maintenance contractors retained by SEA-PT. As has been the case for past exercises, small groups of 6 – 8 people will be rotated through the demonstration area where competent personnel from PWS and SEA-PT will provide an introduction to each item of equipment.

There will also be some input from attendees, for example, in assembling a “fast tank” which is a flexible PVC container mounted on an aluminium frame, or rolling out and inflating booms with a portable air fan. In all instances, equipment will be lightweight.

Subject to weather conditions, it is possible that staff from PWS will demonstrate how to deploy a boom on the water as attendees watch from the demonstration area

### 4. Hazard Identification

The majority of the expected attendees will have had some water pollution response experience whether in an industrial or local authority context. Moreover, they will have received manual handling training from their employers.

However, only a small minority will be familiar with this site which could be classed as being an unprotected rural quayside no more than 1.5m above the water line of a fast flowing river.

Some of the attendees will be from an administrative background with no practical pollution response or manual handling experience. They will be observers.

The following hazards have been identified:

❖ Physical Hazards

- Manual Handling
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Falling Into Water
- Collision or Allision with vehicles or equipment
- Injury from animals
- Injury from equipment and tools etc.
- Poor housekeeping
- Poor traffic management

❖ Health Hazards

- Allergic Reaction
- Hypothermia from immersion in water
- Noise

❖ Chemical Hazards

- No chemicals will be used

❖ Biological Agent Hazards

- Stings from vegetation
- Hepatitis or Weil's Disease

❖ Human Factor Hazards

- Attendees who are unfamiliar with the site or equipment
- Confusion attributable to the unusual operational circumstances as on the day, attendees will be drawn from different organisations
- Incompetence (i.e. lacking the necessary training, knowledge and experience)
- Language difficulties for those whose first language is not English
- Strained relationships between members of a group or different groups on site on the day

## 5. Personal Protective Equipment

The minimum level of personal protective equipment for all attendees to bring to site and wear is as follows:

Observers	Active Participants
Personal Flotation Device (either a serviceable life jacket or a buoyancy aid).	Personal Flotation Device (either a serviceable life jacket or a buoyancy aid)
High Visibility clothing covering at least the trunk of the wearer's body	High Visibility clothing covering at least the trunk of the wearer's body
	Safety helmet
	Safety footwear
	Safety gloves

## 6. First Aid

The following qualified Emergency First Responders will be present on site:

- Ian Behan (PWS) – (087) 222 3284
- Paul O'Grady (Limerick City & County Council) – (087) 911 5000

In the event of an emergency, an attendee should contact the HSE Ambulance Service by dialling 999 and 112 and quoting the location as being World's End, Castleconnell. Mobile phone coverage in the area is good. One of the available Emergency First Responders should then be contacted.

## 7. Risk Assessment

The "risk" is the likelihood that someone will be harmed by a "hazard" together with the severity of the harm, caused by that "hazard".

The day of the exercise will not be risk free but the organisers will strive to identify, control and minimise all risks.

All attendees are requested to study the risk assessment table on the following pages very carefully and familiarise themselves with its contents.

All attendees are advised, "If in doubt, opt out!"



**Risk Assessment Table – Updated, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 (this and next page)**

Exercise Organiser – Limerick City &amp; County Council on behalf of SEA-PT Ltd.

Activity – Demonstration of water pollution response equipment at World's End, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick

Signed Off By – **Paul O'Grady** Paul O'Grady, Executive Engineer **22/4/16**

Note 1: Reporting Relationships – All attendees are attending on behalf of their respective employers and normal work-related reporting structures apply for the duration of the exercise. Notwithstanding this, site supervisory staff may on occasion issue instructions for safety or traffic management reasons etc and attendees are expected to comply accordingly.

Note 2: Employer's Liability – Normal employers' liability insurance arrangements will apply for the day. Neither Limerick City & County Council nor SEA-PT shall accept liability for any loss, injury or workplace absence etc sustained by any employee of another entity.

Hazard (H) and Risk (R)	Who is at risk?	Required Controls	Responsible Persons
<b>H: Manual Handling</b> <b>R: Personal injury</b>	All attendees	Only those attendees with valid manual handling certification may participate in demonstration activities.	All Active Participants
<b>H: Uneven surfaces</b> <b>R: Slips, Trips and Falls</b>	All attendees	The carriageway has recently been resurfaced and all attendees shall remain on the carriageway.	Site supervisors
<b>H: Falling Into Water</b> <b>R: Drowning, Shock etc.</b>	All attendees	All attendees must wear serviceable personal flotation devices (life jacket or buoyancy aid) and remain within clear sight of at least two other attendees.	All Active Participants and Observers
<b>H: Collision or Allision with vehicles or equipment</b> <b>R: Personal injury</b>	All attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicles to be parked in designated areas only and facing in direction of exit. Speed limit of 10 km/h.</li> <li>Equipment to be laid out neatly in demonstration area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic stewards and drivers</li> <li>PWS personnel</li> </ul>
<b>H: Injury from animals</b> <b>R: Personal injury (bites, kicks, goring etc.)</b>	All attendees	All attendees to remain within site boundary i.e. carriageway only, with no venturing onto adjacent land.	All Active Participants and Observers
<b>H: Unfamiliarity with equipment and tools etc.</b> <b>R: Personal injury</b>	All attendees	During demonstration exercises, all tasks for attendees will be straightforward and intuitive. No attendee shall participate in any task for which he or she does not feel competent.	All Active Participants
<b>H: Poor housekeeping</b> <b>R: Slips, trips and falls</b>	All attendees	All equipment to be kept tidy.	Site supervisors
<b>H: Poor traffic management</b> <b>R: Congestion and personal injury</b>	All attendees	Vehicles to be parked neatly and driven at a max speed of 10 km/h within the site confines.	Drivers and Site supervisors

Hazard (H) and Risk (R)	Who is at risk?	Required Controls	Responsible Persons
<b>H:</b> Chemical Agents  <b>R:</b> Allergic Reaction or injury (burns etc.)	All attendees	No chemicals will be used.	Site supervisors
<b>H:</b> Cold and/or wet weather  <b>R:</b> Hypothermia	All attendees	Appropriate clothing to be worn. Temperature forecast to be in the range 9 – 14 degrees centigrade.	All Active Participants and Observers
<b>H:</b> Noise  <b>R:</b> Damage to Ear drums and inability to hear advice or instructions	All attendees	Most equipment is relatively quiet but pumps and air fans will have higher sound output levels, albeit well below 80 dB.	All Active Participants and Observers
<b>H:</b> Aggressive vegetation  <b>R:</b> Stings etc.	All attendees	All attendees (with the exception of personnel wearing dry suits) are to remain within the confines of the site i.e. the surfaced carriageway.	All Active Participants and Observers
<b>H:</b> Stagnant Water  <b>R:</b> Hepatitis or Weil's Disease	All attendees	All attendees (with the exception of personnel wearing dry suits) are to remain within the confines of the site i.e. the surfaced carriageway.  Any suspected contamination is to be reported immediately to site supervisors.	All Active Participants and Observers
<b>H:</b> Attendees who are unfamiliar with equipment  <b>R:</b> Personal Injury or fright	All attendees	No attendee shall operate or handle equipment unless satisfied to do so and under the supervision of demonstrators.	All Active Participants
<b>H1:</b> Confusion attributable to the unusual operational circumstances as on the day, attendees will be drawn from different organisations  <b>H2:</b> Incompetence (i.e. lacking the necessary training, knowledge and experience)  <b>R:</b> Accident, error or injury	All attendees	Attendees should pay particular heed to any instructions or announcements.  <b>If in doubt, opt out!!!</b>	All Active Participants and Observers
<b>H:</b> Language difficulties for those whose first language is not English  <b>R:</b> Accident, error or injury	Attendees whose first language is not English	Such attendees should seek clarification.	All Active Participants and Observers whose first language is not English
<b>H:</b> Strained relationships between members of a group or different groups on site on the day  <b>R:</b> Accident, error or injury	All attendees	All attendees should display goodwill towards others on site	All Active Participants and Observers

## 8. Site Layout Plans (this and next page)

