



Comhairle Chontae Laoise
Laois County Council

Explanatory Notes

Site Assessment in accordance with E.P.A. Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving Single Houses (p.e.≤ 10)

Items to be included with Site Suitability Assessment Application

- 1. Application form fully completed.**
- 2. 2 no. 6" Ordnance Survey Maps or 2 no. Discovery Series Maps.**
 - a. The proposed site must be outlined in red.
- 3. 2 no. Site Location Maps of the area to a scale of 1/2500.**
 - a. The proposed site must be outlined in red, the north point indicated and the relevant Ordnance Survey Sheet number should be included.
 - b. Access to the site and position of site notice should be clearly shown.
 - c. The site location map must show all up to date development on adjacent sites within **250m radius**. It should include buildings, wells, septic tanks, proprietary treatment systems and percolation areas, streams and water courses denoting distances to relevant site.
- 4. 2 no. Site Layout Plans to minimum scale of 1/500.**
 - a. The proposed site must be outlined in red, the north point indicated and it should show contours/levels.
 - b. All developments existing and proposed on site must be shown, including location of wells, septic tanks, proprietary treatment systems and percolation areas and existing and proposed buildings, streams, water courses and measurements

MAPS OR DRAWINGS THAT SHOW INACCURACIES OR CONFLICTING INFORMATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, AND YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED FOR CLARIFICATION. THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON WHO PREPARED ALL MAPS AND DRAWINGS SHOULD BE INDICATED ON THEM.

5. The Test Fee - €550 per test.

(Where a result has previously issued on the same site any subsequent test will incur a full fee.)

6. Written confirmation from the landowner to the effect that:

- a. Council Officials are permitted onto the lands for testing purposes.
- b. There are no livestock on the site or entry lands to the site for the duration of the site visits. (Refer to the attached consent form.)

7. Direct access to the site must be provided.

8. A Site Notice (enclosed) must be erected on site.

Following the completion of a desktop study on your application site, Laois County Council will **notify you of a date and time for the excavation of the test holes, under the supervision of Laois County Council personnel.**

This notice will also advise as to the required depth of the trial hole.

Requirement for "P. Test Holes" and "T. Test Holes" will be advised on site during excavation at the scheduled date and time.

If for exceptional reasons you wish to postpone or cancel the site suitability assessment or excavation of the trial holes, **a minimum of 4 working days notice is required** otherwise you will be liable for the re-visit fee of €250.

A message may be left on the following telephone no: 057 8664114 at anytime.

If a site has previously undergone the site suitability assessment, a retest of the site will not be carried out unless one of the following actions is undertaken:

- In the case of a site of 0.75 acres or more that has previously failed a site suitability assessment, the test area must be moved a minimum of 20m from the original test location within the site.
- In the case of a site of 0.5 acres that has previously failed a site suitability assessment, the site is extended by a minimum of 0.25 acres and the percolation area moved into additional area (a minimum of 20m from the original test location).
- Significant site improvement works are carried out on site and detail supplied to Laois County Council.

Failure to comply with any of the above will result in delays in processing the application and in carrying out the test.

TEST HOLES REQUIRED

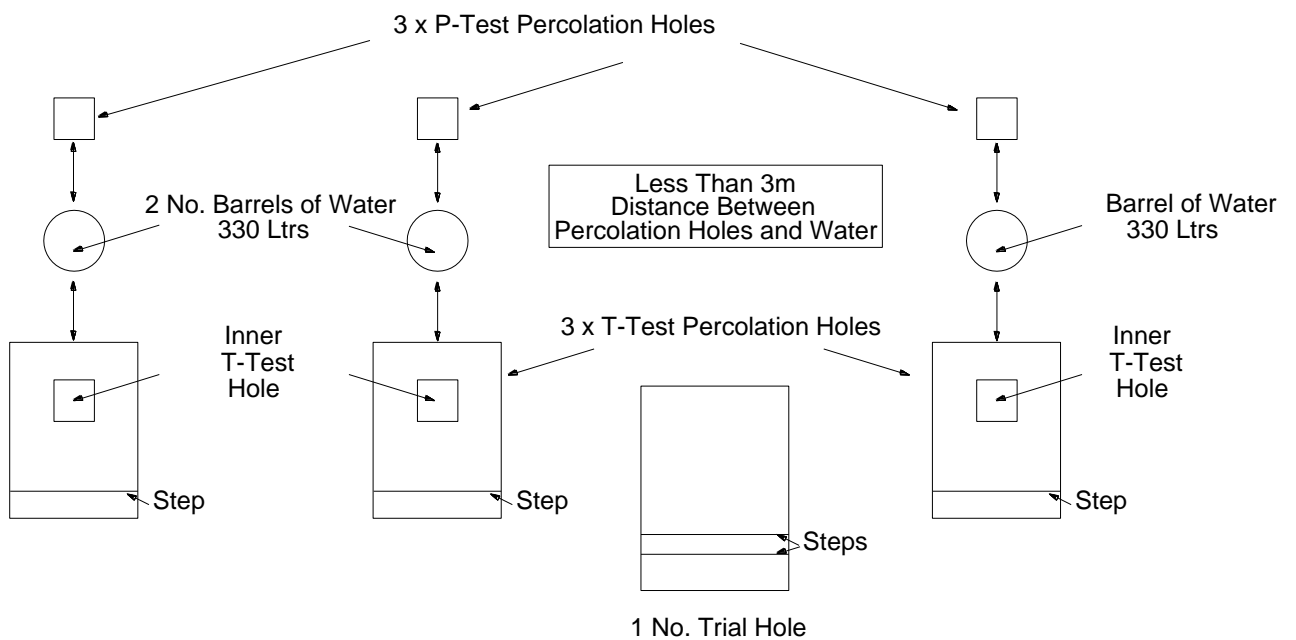
All 7 test holes must be excavated adjacent to the proposed percolation area of the site.

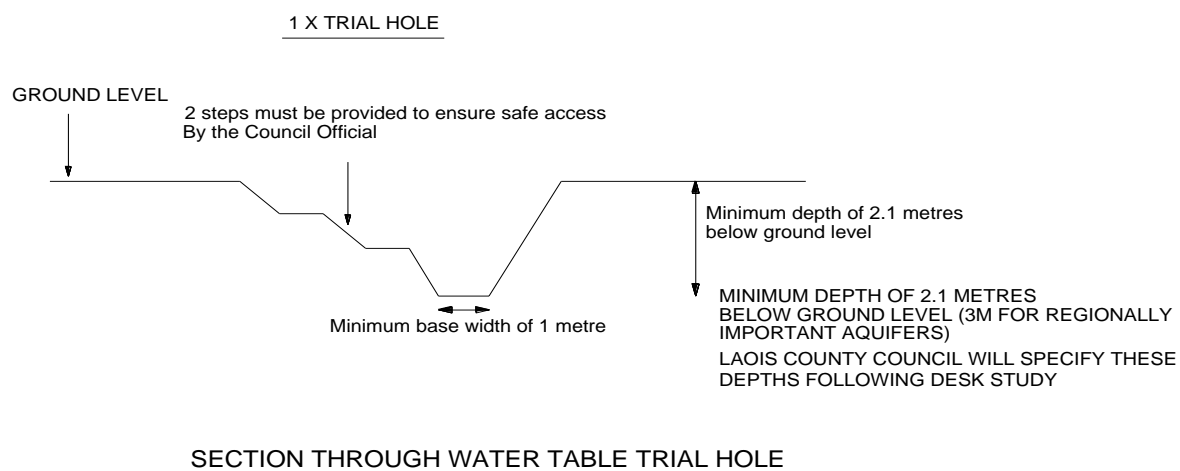
There must be a minimum of **1000 litres** of water and a bucket provided at the T and P test holes.

The 7 no. test holes should be excavated as follows:

- 1 x Trial Hole**
- 3 x T-Test Holes**
- 3 x P-Test Holes**

Below is a typical Plan view of a Site Ready for Site Suitability Testing

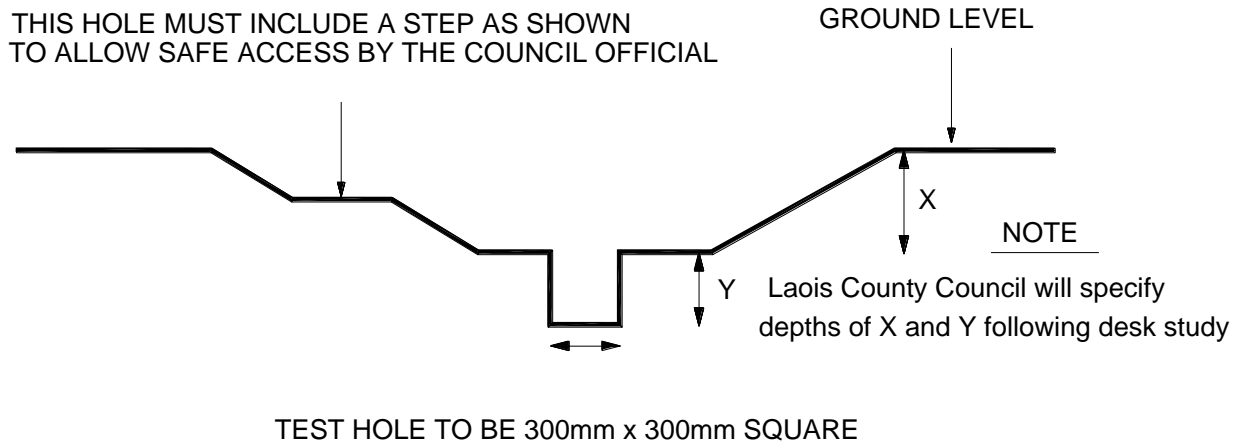




REQUIREMENTS:

- Number:** 1 water table trial hole per site.
- Location:** To be dug **ADJACENT** to the proposed percolation area.
- Size:** At least 1m square, by a minimum of 2m deep (or 3m for regionally important Aquifer). These depths will be specified by Laois County Council Official following desk study.
- Perimeter:** The area around the perimeter of any excavated hole should be clear of any soil for Health and Safety reasons, and to prevent the hole from collapsing. The clear distance should be greater than or equal to the depth of the excavated hole, i.e. if the trial hole depth is 2.1m, the excavated soil should not be placed within 2m of the hole perimeter.
- Shoring:** Temporary shoring may be necessary to prevent slippage and any shoring should not extend more than 1.4m below ground level. Shoring should not interfere with the flow of water into the hole.
- Steps:** 2 steps as shown above and a clear path around the hole perimeter must be provided to ensure safe access by the council official into the trial hole.
- Covers:** Each hole may be covered separately to prevent the ingress of surface or rainwater.
- Time:** Test holes must be dug at least 48 hours prior to testing.

3 x T-Test Holes



Section through the percolation T-Test Hole

Three T-Test holes at least 1.0m square shall be dug to the same depth as the invert of the proposed percolation pipes. A step as shown above and a clear path around the hole perimeter must be included to allow safe access by the council official. An inner percolation test hole measuring 300mm square x 400mm deep shall then be dug by hand in the base of these holes.

These test holes shall be dug **ADJACENT** to the proposed percolation area and at least 3m from the trial hole. The main hole may be dug by mechanical excavator but the inner percolation test holes shall be dug by hand as squarely as possible and to the exact dimensions as given above.

REQUIREMENTS:

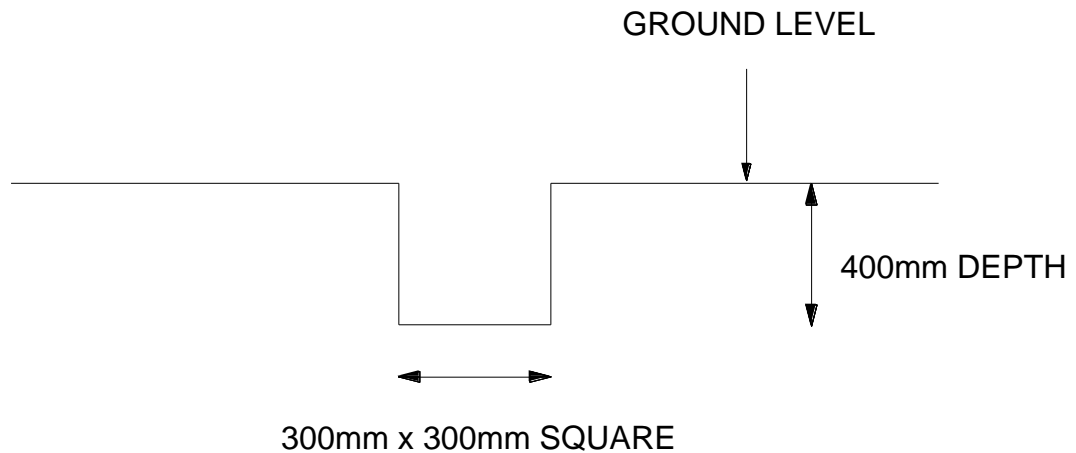
Number: 3 x T-Test holes per site.

Location: Adjacent to the percolation area, at least 3.0m from the trial hole and 3m from any other test hole.

Perimeter: The area around the perimeter of the excavated holes should be secured and clear of any soil for Health & Safety reasons, and to help prevent the hole from collapsing. The clear distance should be greater than or equal to the depth of the excavated hole i.e. if the T hole depth is 900mm, the excavated soil should not be placed within 900mm of the hole perimeter.

Steps: 1 Step must be provided to ensure safe access by the council official into each T hole.

3 x P-TEST HOLES



SECTION THROUGH PERCOLATION P-TEST HOLE

Three P Test holes 300mm square must be dug to a depth of 400mm below ground level.

These test holes shall be dug **ADJACENT** to the proposed percolation area and at least 3m from the trial hole. Both these test holes shall be dug by hand as squarely as possible and to the exact dimensions as given above.

REQUIREMENTS:

Number: 3 x P Test percolation holes per site.

Location: To be dug adjacent to the proposed percolation area, at least 3.0 m from the trial hole and at least 3.0 m from any other test hole.

Covers: Each hole may be covered separately to prevent the ingress of surface or rainwater.

Time: Test holes to be dug at least 48 hours prior to test being carried out.