

12. Pre-Application Consultation

EIAR Consultation

In accordance with best practice guidelines, extensive non-statutory consultation was undertaken in the preparation of this EIAR.

A copy of the EIAR Consultation document was issued to stakeholders on 19th January 2023 via email.

Table 1 below lists the consultees notified about the Proposed Development, whether a response was received, and the topics of interest raised by the consultee where relevant.

Table 1: Consultees and Consultation Responses

Consultee	Response Date	Response Method	Topics Raised
Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage ('DHLGH')	15/03/2023	Email and Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An underwater archaeology impact assessment ('UAIA') be carried out by a competent and professionally accredited archaeologist; The findings of the UAIA should be incorporated into the Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP'); and, Archaeological monitoring should take place during groundworks or any impacts to the riverbed and riverbanks, including any site investigations / geotechnical works by a suitably qualified and experienced underwater archaeologist under licence.
Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage – National Parks and Wildlife Service ('NPWS')	10/05/2023	Meeting	<p>A meeting was held with the NPWS on the 10th May 2023. During this meeting the NPWS were satisfied with the comprehensive scope of survey work that has been completed, or is ongoing, in support of the planning application and provided complimentary comments on the scope of survey work. The NPWS did not have further comments on the scope of the survey work.</p> <p>The NPWS considered that the project will proceed under Article 6(3) due to the fact that there will be no loss of Annex I habitats for which the Lower River Suir SAC is designated.</p> <p>The scope of assessments included in the planning application and options for biodiversity enhancement were discussed with the NPWS.</p>
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine ('DAFM')	10/02/2023	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dunmore East Fishery Harbour Centre ('FHC') is not expected to have significant effects, but assessments should be cognisant of Dunmore East FHC location and operations. Licensed aquaculture sites should form part of the EIA study or consultation
Department of Transport ('DT')	25/01/2023	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We were requested to send consultation to Marine Survey Office (included as consultee). Not in a position to provide observation as Marine Survey Office are a prescribed body.
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications ('DCCE')	No response	N/A	N/A
Department of Rural and Community Development ('DRCD')	No response	N/A	N/A
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment ('DETE')	No response	N/A	N/A

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Kilkenny County Council ('KCC')	04/04/2023	Email and Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List the directives and legislation that must be complied with; • Consideration for the River Suir SAC in which the Site is located; • Detail the exact activities to be carried out at the Site; • Traffic Impact Assessment to be undertaken and make reference to operational phase activities on the public road network; • Parking assessment to be undertaken; • Outline CEMP to be considered; • Construction Traffic Management Plan ('CTMP') to form part of the considerations; • Flood impact assessment to be undertaken; • Noise impact assessment shall be undertaken; • Assessment of potential impacts from dredging and land reclamation to be undertaken; • Surface water drainage drawings to be prepared and include the necessary information; • Surface Water Management Plan to form part of the assessment; • Water monitoring to be undertaken on the River Suir during and after construction; • A Waste Management Plan shall form part of the planning documentation and shall be prepared in line with relevant guidelines; and, • Details on wastewater for the proposed development shall be provided.
Waterford City and County Council ('WCCC')	No response	N/A	N/A
Wexford County Council ('WCC')	No response	N/A	N/A

Consultee	Response Date	Response Method	Topics Raised
Health Service Executive ('HSE')	01/03/2023 & 02/03/2023	Email and Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of EIAR topics and key guidance provided; Assessment of noise and vibration for all sensitive locations; Airborne dust control and mitigation measures should be included in the CEMP; EIAR should include Public Consultation, Population and Human Health, Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology), Land and Soils, Air, Dust and Odour, Climate Change and Opportunity for Health Gain, Noise and Vibration, Waste Management, Ancillary Facilities, Cumulative Impacts Public Consultation, Traffic and Waste; and, HSE South Emergency Management Consultation Response recommended emergency response measures.
Fáilte Ireland	13/02/2023	Email and Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generic Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA.
Gas Networks Ireland	30/01/2023	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comment. The closest gas pipeline is ca. 1.3km from the Site.
Geological Survey of Ireland ('GSI')	28/02/2023	Email and Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSI encourage the use of their database for the consideration of geoheritage (there are no County Geological Sites within the vicinity of the Site), groundwater (there is one aquifer underlying the Site), geological mapping, geohazards, natural resources (minerals / aggregates), marine and coastal unit (INFOMAR), coastal vulnerability index and geotechnical database resources. GSI reference programmes and guidelines that issue advice and maps, particularly for the protection of groundwater. Requests a copy of reports detailing any site investigations to be carried out.

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Inland Fisheries Ireland ('IFI')	01/03/2023	Email, Letter and Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation meeting was held with the IFI on the 1st February 2023 to discuss the ongoing Port of Waterford projects, including the navigational maintenance dredging 2026-2033 application and the Proposed Development. • The IFI consultation response raised the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Baseline ecological assessments of freshwater, estuarine or marine habitats potentially affected by the Proposed Development; ◦ Assessment of potential adverse effects on all relevant aquatic species, including fish; • Assessment of impacts on the construction objectives of the Barrow - Nore SAC, including lamprey and Atlantic salmon; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Assessment of cumulative effects; • Proposed mitigation measures to prevent deleterious matter from adjacent waters; • No interference with the bed, gradient, profile or alignment of watercourses without the written agreement of IFI and a site-specific method statement provided to IFI; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Requested CEMP and Surface Water Management Plan ('SWMP') be included in the planning application; and, ◦ Referenced resources to be used for fish ecological status and data.
Irish Aviation Authority ('IAA')	31/01/2023	Letter	No comment. Recommended to get in contact with Waterford Airport.
Waterford Airport	25/04/2023	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new quay extension will have no material effect on aviation. • Consideration to be given if construction entails the use of cranes; otherwise, 30 days prior to crane operations, an assessment to ensure the height of the crane operations have no effect on flight paths will need to be issued to the Airport.
Transport Infrastructure Ireland ('TII')	10/02/2023	Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with Local Authority / National Roads Design Office with regards to future and existing road schemes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Concerned on the impacts to the National road network (and junctions with National Roads) M9, N25, N29; • Assess visual impacts from existing National Roads;

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regard any EIARs and all conditions and modifications imposed by ACP regarding road schemes in the area (cumulative impacts); • Consider TII Publications; • Consider Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines; • Consider the Environmental Noise Regulations; • Traffic & Transport Assessment should be carried out; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consult TII publications to determine whether Road Safety Audit is required; ○ EIAR should identify methods / techniques for work traversing / in proximity of the national road network; and, ○ Identify haul routes and fully assess the network traversed.
Uisce Éireann ('UÉ')	20/01/2023	Email and Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIA should consider potential impacts to drinking water sources, surface water and contributing catchment of water sources; • Backfilled materials should include a waste sampling strategy to ensure the material is inert; • Mitigation should be proposed to protect water sources; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Confirmation of Feasibility should be sought from UÉ; ○ Identify all upgrades to water service infrastructure and impacts UÉ assets; • Assess potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to UÉ discharge outfalls; and, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mitigation measures in relation to ensuring a zero risk to any Uisce Eireann drinking water sources (Surface water and groundwater).
Bord Iascaigh Mhara ('BIM')	No response to Consultation Document	Meeting	Consultation meeting was held with the BIM on the 1 st February 2023 to discuss the ongoing Port of Waterford projects including the navigational maintenance dredging 2026-2033 application and the Proposed Development.
Office of Public Works ('OPW')	No response	N/A	N/A
Electricity Supply Board ('ESB')	No response	N/A	N/A

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Environmental Protection Agency ('EPA')	No response	N/A	N/A
Iarnród Éireann	No response	N/A	N/A
Marine Institute	No response	N/A	N/A
Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	No response	N/A	N/A
Marine Survey Office	No response	N/A	N/A
Teagasc	No response	N/A	N/A
The Heritage Council	No response	N/A	N/A
Coastwatch Europe	No response	N/A	N/A
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland ('SEAI')	No response	N/A	N/A
Waterways Ireland	No response	N/A	N/A
An Taisce	No response	N/A	N/A
Irish Wildlife Trust	No response	N/A	N/A
BirdWatch Ireland	No response	N/A	N/A

Public Consultation Events and Meetings

Public Consultation Event

In addition to the non-statutory consultation undertaken with the prescribed bodies and groups listed in Table 1, a public consultation event was held at the Port of Waterford Offices at Marine Point, Belview, Waterford X91 W0XW on the 20th February 2023. This event was publicly advertised in the Munster Express on the 7th February 2023 in both English and Irish.

The public consultation event was attended by ca. 30 members of the public. Information posters were prepared in advance and set out to be reviewed by attendees. In addition, members of the design team were present to discuss the Proposed Development and answer queries.

The topics raised during the consultation event included:

- Recommended locations for additional viewpoint locations for photomontages;
- Requests for a lighting impact assessment to be undertaken;
- Requests for additional baseline noise surveying to be undertaken; and,
- Requests for a detailed traffic impact assessment to be undertaken.

These concerns were taken on board and incorporated into the scoping of the assessments undertaken in support of the Proposed Development.

Cheekpoint and Faithlegg Development Group Consultation Meeting

A meeting was held on the 3rd May 2023 with the Cheekpoint and Faithlegg Development Group, the Design Team and Port of Waterford Representatives. This meeting was held in order to discuss the Proposed Development. The topics raised during the consultation meeting included:

- Requests for a lighting plan; and,
- Requests for incorporation of biodiversity enhancements, where possible.

These concerns were taken on board and incorporated into the scoping of the assessments undertaken in support of the Proposed Development.

Cllr Jody Power Consultation Meeting

A meeting was held on the 3rd May 2023 with the Green Party Cllr Jody Power, the Design Team and Port of Waterford Representatives. This meeting was held in order to discuss the Proposed Development.

Chamber of Business After Hours Event

The Port of Waterford held the 'Chamber Business After Hours at Port of Waterford' on the 20th June 2024. This event invited the Waterford business community to tour the activity port side, gain insights into the latest success at the Port and discuss the Port's upcoming business developments, including the Proposed Development.

During this event, CEO David Sinnott outlined the need for the Proposed Development to the attendees, and the President of Waterford Chamber of Commerce, Niall Harrington, stated: *"Waterford Port is progressing with the expansion and development of the port and port-related activity...Waterford Chamber sees the business potential of the Port of Waterford, whereby off-shore wind production in the Celtic Seas could transform the Port into the equivalent of what Aberdeen is to North Sea oil."*