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Appendix 10.1

Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment

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A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

WFD COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTHCARE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY AT BLARNEY BUSINESS PARK

Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment

Prepared for:

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Stericycle®

We protect what matters.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report comprises a Water Framework Directive (WFD) Compliance Assessment for a Planning Application for a Healthcare Waste Treatment and Transfer Facility. This report is included as Appendix 10.1 Water Framework Assessment Compliance Assessment in Volume 3 of the EIAR for the proposed development.

The proposed development is defined in Chapter 1 - Introduction and a detailed description of the proposed development is set out in Chapter 4 - Description of the Existing and Proposed Development, of Volume 2 of the EIAR.

The purpose of this WFD assessment is to determine if any specific components or activities associated with the proposed development will compromise WFD objectives, causes a deterioration in the status of any surface water or groundwater body, and/or jeopardises the achievement of good surface water or groundwater status. This assessment will scope for water bodies with the potential to be impacted and assess if the proposed development is in compliance with the objectives of the WFD.

1.2 The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

Directive 2000/60/EC[1] (WFD - Water Framework Directive) of the European Parliament and Council established a framework for community action in the field of water policy. The WFD requires EU member states to aim to reach good chemical and ecological status in inland and coastal waters. The WFD established a strategic framework for managing the water environment and requires a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) to be developed every six years.

The 1st Cycle RBMP covered the period 2010-2015 and under this cycle the Ireland of Ireland was broken into eight river basin districts. These districts are natural geographical areas that occur in the landscape. During the 2nd Cycle RBMP, which covered the period 2018-2021, the number of basins was reduced to six, one river basin district for the republic, two international river basin districts along the border with Northern Ireland, and three river basin districts within Northern Ireland. The Irish River Basin District is sub-divided into 46 catchment management units and covers a total area of 70,273km^2. The 3rd Cycle RBMP has enhanced integrated catchment planning, with each of the 46 hydrometric catchments within the Irish River Basin District required to develop Catchment Management Work Plans.

The current River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 (*The Water Action Plan 2024: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland*)[2] has been prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government which sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in waterbodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027.

[1] European Union (2000) Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), Available online here:resource.html (europa.eu) [Accessed August 2025].
[2] Government of Ireland (2024) The Water Action Plan 2024: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland, Available online at: water-action-plan-2024.pdf [Accessed August 2025].

The WFD has been transposed into Irish law following:

- European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003).
- European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 350 of 2014).
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations, 2009 (S.I. No. 272 of 2009).
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2012 (S.I. No. 9 of 2012).
- European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 612 of 2012).
- European Communities (Technical Specifications for the Chemical Analysis and Monitoring of Water Status) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 489 of 2011).
- The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations, 2009 (S.I. No. 296 of 2009).
- European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2014 (S.I. No. 122 of 2014).

1.2.1 The Water Framework Directive Assessment

The European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (2003) require the assessment of permanent impacts of a project on WFD water bodies. WFD water bodies include rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater. Permanent impacts will include all operational impacts and those construction related impacts which could be considered permanent in the absence of mitigation (i.e. duration and/or nature of works).

A WFD compliance assessment has been undertaken on the potential effects of the proposed development.

Article 4.1 of the WFD specifies the environmental objectives and obliges Member States, including Ireland, which must be complied with. The objectives are used for the WFD compliance assessment of the proposed development. The primary objectives of Article 4.1 of the WFD are to:

- Prevent deterioration of the status of both surface and groundwater bodies (Article 4(1)(a)(i), (b)(i) WFD);
- Achieve good status for both surface and groundwater bodies, except for artificial and heavily modified bodies of surface water (Article 4(1)(a)(ii), (b)(ii)).

For a surface water body to achieve a good status, the water body must have both good chemical status and good ecological status. An exception is for surface water bodies that are artificial and heavily modified require good chemical status and good ecological potential. A groundwater body is considered to be in good status when both its chemical and quantitative status is good.

The chemical status of a water body depends on the concentration of certain contaminants in it:

- In surface water this is listed in Annex X of the WFD with standards included in the Environmental Quality Standards Directive[3];
- In groundwater this is defined in Section 2.3.2 Annex V of the WFD and Article 4 of the Groundwater Directive[4].

Annex V of the WFD also specifies:

- The biological quality elements that are important for the classification of a body of surface water to be in good ecological status;
- The effect of abstractions on a groundwater body to classify the quantitative status.

1.2.2 Article 4.7 of the WFD

Member States must meet the conditions of the WFD unless they meet the criteria laid out in Article 4.7 of the WFD, which states:

> *Member States will not be in breach of this Directive when:*
> *failure to achieve good groundwater status, good ecological status or, where relevant, good ecological potential or to prevent deterioration in the status of a body of surface water or groundwater is the result of new modifications to the physical characteristics of a surface water body or alterations to the level of bodies of groundwater, or*
> *failure to prevent deterioration from high status to good status of a body of surface water is the result of new sustainable human development activities*
> *and all the following conditions are met:*
> *(a) all practicable steps are taken to mitigate the adverse impact on the status of the body of water;*
> *(b) the reasons for those modifications or alterations are specifically set out and explained in the river basin management plan required under Article 13 and the objectives are reviewed every six years;*
> *(c) the reasons for those modifications or alterations are of overriding public interest and/or the benefits to the environment and to society of achieving the objectives set out in paragraph 1 are outweighed by the benefits of the new modifications or alterations to human health, to the maintenance of human safety or to sustainable development, and*
> *(d) the beneficial objectives served by those modifications or alterations of the water body cannot for reasons of technical feasibility or disproportionate cost be achieved by other means, which are a significantly better environmental option.*

An assessment under Article 4.7 of the WFD will be undertaken if it determined through the assessment process that it meets all these conditions.

[3] Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC, 86/280/EEC and amending Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 348, 24.12.2008, p.84).
[4] Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration (OJ L 372, 27.12.2006, p.19).

1.3 Description of the Proposed Development

The proposed development is defined in Chapter 1 - Introduction and a detailed description of the proposed development is set out in Chapter 4 - Description of the Existing and Proposed Development, of Volume 2 of the EIAR.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Study Area

This WFD assessment covers the study area defined in Chapter 10 - Hydrology and Surface Water in Volume 2 of the EIAR, i.e. hydrology in the local environment of the proposed development.

The key hydrological receptors identified within this assessment were the hydrological features within the Manin watershed (SC_010). The proposed development site is connected to the Blarney River via the Blarney Business Park surface water drainage network. The culverted drainage network flows into the Shean Upper Stream which is located ca. 230 m south-west of the proposed development. This stream then flows in a southerly direction until draining into the Clogheenmilcon Fen located ca. 690 m to the south of the site. The Fen drains into the Blarney River at a point ca. 930 m to the south-west of the site. This surface water network eventually discharges into Lough Mahon, ca. 11 km east-south-east of the proposed development site. This transitional waterbody contains The Cork Harbour SPA and Great Island Channel SAC, protected Natura 2000 sites.

2.2 Data Collection

All information pertaining to the WFD assessment, including water bodies WFD ID numbers, designation and classification details, and Programme of Measures was obtained from www.catchments.ie.

2.3 Appraisal Method

There is no specific WFD assessment guidance in Ireland, therefore this assessment has been carried out using the UK Environment Agency's 'Water Framework Directive Assessment: Estuarine and Coastal Waters'[5]. It is noted that although no specific guidance exists for freshwater bodies, the UK's Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in Advisory Note 18 'Water Framework Directive' June 2017[6] recommended a similar format be followed for all WFD assessments.

The WFD Assessment can have up to three stages. All stages may not to be completed depending on what is found at each stage. The stages are:

- Stage 1 - Screening, to exclude any activities that do not need to go through the scoping or impact assessment stages;
- Stage 2 - Scoping, to identify receptors that are potentially at risk due to the proposed development and require a more detailed impact assessment;
- Stage 3 - Impact assessment, to consider the potential impacts from the proposed development, identify measures to avoid or minimise impacts and show if proposed development activity will cause deterioration or jeopardise the water body achieving good status.

[5] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-framework-directive-assessment-estuarine-and-coastal-waters#full-publication-update-history (Accessed August 2025).
[6] Available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-18/#The%20WFD%20process%20and%20the%20information%20required (Accessed August 2025).

3. STAGE 1 - SCREENING

3.1 Introduction

This section focuses on the screening exercise of the WFD assessment. According to PINS, the purpose of screening is

> *to determine if there are any activities associated with the Proposed Development that don't require further consideration, for example activities which have been ongoing since before the current RBMP plan cycle and which have thus formed part of the baseline.*

3.2 Screening

Table 3-1 lists the WFD water bodies within the study area and associated status. Based on a conservative approach, all identified WFD surface water bodies within the Sub-catchment Manin_SC_010[7] have been screened in and brought forward for the scoping stage. Groundwater bodies that intersect spatially with the river and lake waterbodies in the sub-catchment are also considered. Based on a conservative approach, all identified WFD water bodies are screened in and brought forward for the scoping stage.

In 2022, multiple water sector authorities in Ireland finalised the process of reviewing the Heavily Modified Water Body (HMWB) designation nationally in preparation for the then-draft WFD 3rd Cycle RBMP[8]. HMWBs are surface waterbodies that have had their physical characteristics or hydromorphological conditions modified by engineering works for drainage or development.

In compliance with the WFD, the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Ireland) reviewed the list of designated waterbodies that were previously designated as HMWBs to expand the list from 33 waterbodies to a total of 466 waterbodies[9].

[7] As assessed for WFD Cycle 3 - 19 Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay Catchment Summary WFD Cycle 3.pdf (Accessed August 2025).
[8] As captured within *Review of Ireland's Heavily Modified Water Body Designations for the Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan* (March 2022, EPA Catchments). Available at: https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/Technical-review-of-HMWB-designation_March-2022.pdf (Accessed August 2025). The
[9] Cycle 3 HMWB Designation Review (March 2022; EPA Ireland). Available at: https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/Cycle-3-HMWB-candidates_Final.xlsx (Accessed August 2025)

Table 3-1: WFD Water Bodies Within Study Area and Status

Water Body ID	Water Body Name	Current Status (2016-2021)	High Status Objective	Risk of Not Meeting WFD Objectives by 2027	HMWB
IE_SW_19B020500	BLARNEY_010	Moderate	No	At Risk	No
IE_SW_19M010200	MARTIN_010	Moderate	No	At Risk	No
IE_SW_19M010300	MARTIN_020	Good	No	Not at Risk	No
IE_SW_19M010400	MARTIN_030	Good	Yes	At Risk	No
IE_SW_19M010600	MARTIN_040	Moderate	No	At Risk	No
IE_SW_G_004	Ballinhassig East Groundwater Body	Good	-	Not at Risk	-
IE_SW_G_037	Glenville Groundwater Body	Good	-	Not at Risk	-

4. STAGE 2 - SCOPING

4.1 Introduction

This section focuses on the scoping stage of the WFD assessment. This stage identifies risks of the proposed development's activities to receptors based on the relevant water bodies identified in Section 3 and their water quality elements (including information on status, objectives, and the parameters for each water body).

The receptors are:

- Hydromorphology;
- Biology – habitats;
- Biology – fish;
- Water quality;
- Protected areas.

The UK EA scoping template[10] was used for scoping (Environment Agency, 2016).

4.2 Scoping

4.2.1 Hydromorphology

The known existing Hydromorphology risk issues for each of the waterbodies is summarised in Table 4-1.

[10] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-framework-directive-assessment-estuarine-and-coastal-waters#full-publication-update-history (Accessed August 2025).

Table 4-1: Hydromorphology Scoping Summary

Water Body Name	WFD Assessment Questions		
	Consider if your activity could impact on the hydromorphology (for example morphology or water flow) of a water body at High status?	Consider if your activity could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body?	Consider if your activity is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity?
BLARNEY_010	Not applicable; not a High Status Objective waterbody	No. The proposed development will not result in any change to surface water flows and volumes.	Not applicable. The waterbodies have not been identified as a HMWB.
MARTIN_010			
MARTIN_020			
MARTIN_030	No. Surface water from the proposed development will not flow into this waterbody. The proposed development will also not result in any change to surface water flows and volumes.	No. The proposed development will not result in any change to surface water flows and volumes.	Not applicable. The waterbody has not been identified as a HMWB.
MARTIN_040	Not applicable; not a High Status Objective waterbody	No. The proposed development will not result in any change to groundwater flows and volumes.	Not applicable. The waterbodies have not been identified as a HMWB.
Ballinhassig East Groundwater Body			
Glenville Groundwater Body			

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 10 – Hydrology and Surface Water, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the surface water environment.

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 9 – Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the groundwater environment.

Potential impacts on Hydromorphology can be scoped out for further assessment.

4.2.2 Biology (Habitats)

The known existing Biology (Habitats) risk issues for each of the water bodies is summarised in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: Biology (Habitats) Scoping Summary

Water Body Name	WFD Assessment Questions			
	Consider if the footprint of your activity is 0.5 km² or larger	Consider if the footprint of your activity is 1% or more of the water body's area	Consider if the footprint of your activity is within 500 m of any higher sensitivity habitat	Consider if the footprint of your activity is 1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat
BLARNEY_010	No. The proposed development footprint is 1.32 hectares or 0.013 km^2.	No. The proposed development footprint is less than 1% of the water body areas.	No higher sensitivity habitat within 500 m. No Annex I Habitat Directive habitat types (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) were identified within the study area.	No lower sensitivity habitat within zone of influence of the proposed development that could be impacted. No Annex I Habitat Directive habitat types (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) were identified within the study area.
MARTIN_010				
MARTIN_020				
MARTIN_030				
MARTIN_040				
Ballinhassig East Groundwater Body				
Glenville Groundwater Body				

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 10 – Hydrology and Surface Water, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the surface water environment.

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 9 – Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the groundwater environment.

An evaluation of potential impacts on biodiversity has been carried out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity, in Volume 2 of the EIAR. It has been concluded that the proposed development will have no impact on the aquatic environment.

Potential impacts on Biology (Habitats) can be scoped out for further assessment.

4.2.3 Biology (Fish)

The known existing biology (fish) risk issues for each of the water bodies is summarised in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3: Biology (Fish) Scoping Summary

Water Body Name	WFD Assessment Questions		
	Consider if your activity is in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary, outside the estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it or could affect fish migrating through the estuary?	Consider if your activity could impact on normal fish behaviour like movement, migration or spawning (for example creating a physical barrier, noise, chemical change or a change in depth or flow)?	Consider if your activity could cause entrainment or impingement of fish?
BLARNEY_010	No in-stream or near-stream works proposed. The proposed development will not result in any change to surface water flows and volumes. No polluting discharges will be released to the surface water environment. No potential for impacts.	No in-stream or near-stream works proposed. The proposed development will not result in any change to surface water flows and volumes. No polluting discharges will be released to the surface water environment. No potential for impacts.	No risk of this.
MARTIN_010			
MARTIN_020			
MARTIN_030			
MARTIN_040			
Ballinhassig East Groundwater Body	Not applicable.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.
Glenville Groundwater Body			

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 10 – Hydrology and Surface Water, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the surface water environment.

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 9 – Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the groundwater environment.

An evaluation of potential impacts on biodiversity has been carried out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity, in Volume 2 of the EIAR. It has been concluded that the proposed development will have no impact on the aquatic environment.

Potential impacts on Biology (Fish) can be scoped out for further assessment.

4.2.4 Water Quality

The known existing Water Quality risk issues for each of the water bodies is summarised in Tables 4-4 and 4-5.

Table 4-4: Water Quality Scoping Summary

Water Body Name	WFD Assessment Questions		
	Consider if your activity could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)	**Consider if your activity is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad**	**Consider if your activity is in a water body with a history of harmful algae**
BLARNEY_010	No in-stream or near-stream works proposed. The proposed development will not result in any change to surface water flows and volumes. No polluting discharges will be released to the surface water environment. No potential for impacts.	Not applicable. Monitoring for phytoplankton status is undertaken in estuaries and coastal waters and will not apply for any of these water bodies.	Not applicable. No history of harmful algae.
MARTIN_010			
MARTIN_020			
MARTIN_030			
MARTIN_040			
Ballinhassig East Groundwater Body	The proposed development will not result in any change to groundwater flows and volumes. No polluting discharges will be released to the groundwater environment. No potential for impacts.		
Glenville Groundwater Body			

Table 4-5: Water Quality Scoping Summary

Water Body Name	WFD Assessment Questions		
	If your activity uses or releases chemicals (for example through sediment disturbance or building works) consider if the chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list	If your activity uses or releases chemicals (for example through sediment disturbance or building works) consider if it disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1	If your activity has a mixing zone (like a discharge pipeline or outfall) consider if the chemicals released are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list
BLARNEY_010	The proposed development will not result in chemicals being released to the surface water or groundwater environments.	Not applicable. Standard is related to disposal of dredged material at sea.	Not applicable. There will be no discharges from the proposed development to the environment.
MARTIN_010			
MARTIN_020			
MARTIN_030			
MARTIN_040			
Ballinhassig East Groundwater Body			
Glenville Groundwater Body			

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 10 – Hydrology and Surface Water, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the surface water environment.

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 9 – Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the groundwater environment.

Potential impacts on Water Quality can be scoped out for further assessment.

4.2.5 Protected Areas

The UK EA requires any WFD protected area within 2 km of the proposed development to be scoped in for assessment.

WFD protected areas include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- Special Protection Areas (SPA);
- Shellfish waters;
- Bathing waters;
- Nutrient sensitive areas.

4.2.5.1 Nature Conservation Designations

Nature Conservation Designations are areas designated for the protection of habitats or species where maintaining or improving the status of water is important for their protection. They comprise the aquatic part of Natura 2000 sites; Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

There are no SACs or SPAs within 2 km of the proposed development. The nearest Designated Site is the Cork Harbour SPA located ca. 9.78 km to the south-east of the proposed development.

4.2.5.2 Bathing Waters

Bathing waters are those designated under the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC). In 2008, Ireland transposed the revised Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) into Irish legislation as S.I. No. 79 of 2008.

There are no designated bathing water sites within 2 km of the proposed development.

4.2.5.3 Nutrient Sensitive Areas

Nutrient sensitive areas are those water bodies listed in accordance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment (UWWT) Directive 91/271/EEC on Urban Waste Water Treatment and S.I. No. 254 of 2001, S.I. No. 440 of 2004 and S.I. No. 48 of 2010. The sensitive areas are water bodies affected by eutrophication associated with elevated nitrate concentrations and act as an indication that action is required to prevent further pollution caused by nutrients.

There are no nutrient sensitive sites within 2 km of the proposed development.

Specifically in relation to nutrient loading, there is no activity during construction or operation of the proposed development which will result in the discharge of nutrients to any surface water system or water body. There will therefore be no impact on the nutrient status of the nutrient sensitive areas.

4.2.5.4 Shellfish Waters

The Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) is designed to protect the aquatic habitat of bivalve and gastropod molluscs, which include oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams. The Directive requires Member States to designate waters that need protection in order to support shellfish life and growth. It is implemented in Ireland by the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (SI No 268 of 2006).

There are no designated shellfish waters within 2 km of the proposed development.

4.2.5.5 Summary of Protected Areas

Table 4-6 presents a summary of known protected areas and associated risks for the works.

Table 4-6: Protected Areas Scoping Summary

Consider if your activity is within 2 km of any WFD protected area?			
Nature Conservation	**Bathing Waters**	**Nutrient Sensitive Areas**	**Shellfish Waters**
There are no SACs or SPAs within 2 km of the proposed development.	There are no designated bathing water sites within 2 km of the proposed development.	There are no designated nutrient sensitive areas within 2 km of the proposed development.	There are no designated shellfish waters within 2 km of the proposed development.

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 10 – Hydrology and Surface Water, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the surface water environment.

An evaluation of potential impacts on the surface water environment has been carried out in Chapter 9 – Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology, in Volume 2 of the EIAR, and it has been concluded that the proposed development will have imperceptible impact on the groundwater environment.

An evaluation of potential impacts on biodiversity has been carried out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity, in Volume 2 of the EIAR. It has been concluded that the proposed development will have no impact on sites that are protected for ecology.

The proposed development will not pose a risk to protected areas. This receptor is scoped out of this assessment.

4.2.6 Invasive Non-Native Species

The risk of the proposed development introducing or spreading invasive non-native species (INNS) is considered in Table 4-7. These risks include:

- Materials or equipment that have come from, had use in or travelled through other water bodies;
- Activities that help spread existing INNS, either within the immediate water body or to other water bodies.

Table 4-7: Invasive Species Scoping Summary

Water Body Name	WFD Assessment Question
	Consider if your activity could Introduce or spread invasive non-native species (INNS)
BLARNEY_010	The proposed development does not have any potential to result in the introduction or spread of INNS.
MARTIN_010	
MARTIN_020	
MARTIN_030	
MARTIN_040	
Ballinhassig East Groundwater Body	
Glenville Groundwater Body	

An evaluation of potential impacts on biodiversity has been carried out in Chapter 8 – Biodiversity, in Volume 2 of the EIAR. There is no potential for the proposed development to introduce or spread invasive species.

This receptor is scoped out of this assessment.

4.3 Scoping Summary

The site-specific impacts of the proposed development on the biological, physico-chemical and hydromorphological receptors are summarised in Table 4-8.

Table 4-8: Scoping Summary

Receptor	Potential Risk to Receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Hydromorphology	No	The proposed development will not result in any change to surface water or groundwater flows and volumes.
Biology (habitats)	No	No higher sensitivity habitat within 500 m. No lower sensitivity habitat within zone of influence of the proposed development that could be impacted. No Annex I Habitat Directive habitat types (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) were identified within the study area
Biology (fish)	No	No in-stream or near-stream works proposed. The proposed development will not result in any change to surface water flows and volumes. No polluting discharges will be released to the surface water environment. No potential for impacts.

Receptor	Potential Risk to Receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Water quality	No	No in-stream or near-stream works proposed. The proposed development will not result in any change to surface water or ground flows and volumes. No polluting discharges will be released to the surface water or groundwater environment. No potential for impacts. The proposed development will not result in chemicals being released to the surface water or groundwater environments.
Protected areas	No	There are no protected areas within 2 km of the proposed development. The proposed development will not impact on any protected areas.
Invasive non-native species	No	The proposed development does not have any potential to result in the introduction or spread of INNS.

All receptors for the proposed development have been scoped out at Stage 2 and a Stage 3 impact assessment is not required.

5. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AGAINST WFD PROGRAMME OF MEASURES AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 Assessment of the Proposed Development against WFD Programme of Measures

The second cycle of the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP, 2018-2021) identified a list of measures, or environmental improvements know as Programme of Measures (PoMs). These are available online at catchments.ie and are the most recent version available. The PoMs for the waterbodies under the third cycle of the RBMP (2022-2027) are still in the process of being developed. Actions for individual water bodies will be outlined under the Catchment Management Work Plans.

Ireland is required to implement the PoMs by a certain date in order to improve the ecology of water bodies and meet the target date set by the WFD. The WFD assessment considers these PoMs to determine if the proposed development can contribute to their achievement or prevent them from being delivered.

Table 5-1 identifies the list of all applicable PoMs within the study area and assesses if the proposed development can or cannot contribute to their achievement.

Table 5-1: Programme of Measures and Assessment if the Proposed Development Will Contribute

Water Body ID	Water Body Name	PoM Action	Will the Proposed Development Contribute to Achievement of Programme of Measures
IE_SW_19B020500	BLARNEY_010	IA7 Multiple Sources in Multiple Areas	No. The proposed development will not reduce multiple source pressures in multiple areas. The proposed development will not impact on this water body.
IE_SW_19M010200	MARTIN_010	IA5 Multiple Sources in defined rural area (1km) or waterbody or rural town	No. The proposed development will not reduce multiple source pressures in in the stated areas. The proposed development will not impact on this water body.
IE_SW_19M010300	MARTIN_020	Unavailable	Not applicable.
IE_SW_19M010400	MARTIN_030	Unavailable	Not applicable.
IE_SW_19M010600	MARTIN_040	IA6 Multiple Sources in Large Urban Area	No. The proposed development will not reduce multiple source pressures in a large urban area. The proposed development will not impact on this water body.
IE_SW_G_004	Ballinhassig East Groundwater Body	Unavailable	Not applicable.
IE_SW_G_037	Glenville Groundwater Body	Unavailable	Not applicable.

The proposed development will not impede the achievement of the PoMs defined in Table 5-1 and will not impede any water body reaching good status.

5.1.1 Cumulative Assessment

The proposed development will have no impact on the receiving hydrology or surface water environment and does not have any potential to interact with other plans and projects to generate a cumulative impact on the receiving hydrology or surface water environment

5.2 Assessment of the Proposed Development Against WFD Objectives

The environmental objectives of the WFD are outlined in Section 1.2.1.

Section 4.2 of this WFD assessment has considered the anticipated effects of the proposed development on the biological, physico-chemical and hydromorphological quality receptors. Following the implementation of design and mitigation measures defined in the EIAR for the proposed development, it is concluded that the proposed development will not compromise the environmental objectives of the WFD. The proposed development complies with the environmental objectives of Article 4.1 of the WFD.

The WFD also requires consideration of how a new scheme might impact on other water bodies and other EU legislation. This is covered in Articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the WFD.

Article 4.8 of the WFD states:

> *…a Member State shall ensure that the application does not permanently exclude or compromise the achievement of the objectives of this Directive in other bodies of water within the same river basin district and is consistent with the implementation of other Community environmental legislation.*

This assessment, in combination with the EIAR have considered all direct, indirect and cumulative effects on the water bodies within the study area and determined the proposed development will not prevent the achievement of WFD objectives. The proposed development complies with Article 4.8 of the WFD.

Article 4.9 of the WFD requires that:

> *Member States shall ensure that the application of the new provisions guarantees at least the same level of protection as the existing Community legislation.*

This assessment and the EIAR have considered existing applicable legislation including the Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC), Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), Environmental Quality Standards Directive (2008/105/EC), Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC), Urban Waste Water Treatment (UWWT) Directive (91/271/EEC) and Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC). It is concluded the proposed development is compliant with each piece of legislation. Therefore, the proposed development complies with Article 4.9 of the WFD.

6. CONCLUSION

A WFD compliance assessment has been completed for the proposed development for all waters within the study area. The assessment considered the receptors defined under applicable guidance. All receptors for the proposed development have been scoped out at Stage 2 Scoping and a Stage 3 Impact Assessment is not required.

The assessment undertaken against the Programme of Measures concluded the proposed development will not cause a deterioration in the status of any water body and will have no cumulative effects with other plans or projects.

There are no elements of the proposed development which will compromise the environmental objectives of the WFD or compromise other relevant legislation.

As the proposed development is compliant with the WFD it does not require assessment under Article 4.7 of the WFD (Section 1.2.2).

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