

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

This Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) provides supporting information to accompany an Application for Strategic Infrastructure Development to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP), and a Waste Licence Application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by Kilmartin Junction 14 Limited to:

- Develop and operate a Soil Recovery Facility at its lands in Kilmartin, Coynes Cross, Co. Wicklow to raise land within a natural valley to levels that tie in with the wider ground levels at the site using imported inert soil and stone waste;
- Progressively restore the filled valley to long-term grassland / hedgerow habitat, similar to that which existed prior to the development of the soil recovery facility. The long term use of the land will be a return to agriculture.

It is anticipated that the inert soil and stone waste¹ to be imported, managed and handled at the facility will largely be generated by construction projects in Counties Co. Wicklow, Dublin and Wexford.

The operation of this facility will provide additional waste capacity within the State. It will also improve drainage of parts of the site by raising and altering the topography which is expected to have a beneficial effect on the land's agricultural quality.

1.1.1 CONTEXT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Subject to the granting of a waste licence by the EPA, the wastes to be accepted at this facility will include:

- Construction and demolition (C&D) materials consisting of inert soil and stone. This material will be used in the filling operation.
- Pre-segregated hardcore C&D materials consisting of concrete, blocks and bricks. This material will be used in the construction of site haul roads and hardstanding areas, as required. This material will meet end of waste criteria prior to use, where applicable.

For the purposes of the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application it is envisaged that soil recovery activities will continue for the duration of the waste disposal operations and follow-on restoration works. Planning permission for the activity is expected to expire thereafter, unless otherwise renewed by the company / Planning Authority.

The Proposed Development will require the following structures be installed and maintained for the works phase² of the Soil Recovery Facility:

- Office and welfare facilities;
- 6 no. parking bays for private vehicles;
- Weighbridge and associated weighbridge cabin;
- 1 no. wheel wash;

¹ Also referred to within this EIAR as clean soil and stone.

² See terminology explanation in Section 3.7.1 of Chapter 3.0 of this EIAR.

- 1 no. spray system wheel wash;
- 2 no. waste inspection bays and 1 no. bunded waste quarantine area;
- Hardstanding area (vehicle movement and storage);
- Surface water drainage infrastructure from hard standing and discharge to ground (including 2 no. interceptors and 2 no. soakaways);
- An internal access road;
- Internal haul roads (constructed from recycled aggregates where available);
- Security features including security gates and fencing; and
- Power supply. It is intended that approval will be sought for a connection to the ESB Network for the site office and welfare facilities. Diesel generators will be used to power mobile lighting, if required.

The existing land entrance located on R772 will be upgraded and will be retained following the completion of the Proposed Development.

A groundwater abstraction borehole will be installed and will be retained for groundwater monitoring purposes following the completion of the Proposed Development.

A full description of the Site and Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 3.0: Project Description.

1.1.2 NEED FOR AN EIAR AND WASTE LICENCE

It is proposed to carry out the infilling of the land with clean soil and stone via waste authorisation. The proposed rate of infilling exceeds the upper limit of 25,000 tonnes per annum under Class 11b of Part 2, Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended and Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The size and scale of the proposed activity is such that it will also require a waste licence from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The overall tonnage of soil and stone proposed to be accepted at the Site exceeds the upper threshold of 200,000 tonnes for activity under Class 5 which provides for the:

'Recovery of excavation or dredge spoil, comprising natural materials of clay, silt, sand, gravel or stone and which comes within the meaning of inert waste, through deposition for the purposes of the improvement or development of land, where the total quantity of waste recovered at the facility is less than 200,000 tonnes'.

An application for a waste licence to the EPA is required for tonnages greater than 200,000 tonnes for the purposes of improvement or development of land. The SID application is made in accordance with the requirements of Section 37 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and its attendant regulations. The associated waste licence application is made in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, and its attendant regulations.

The proposed development will be carried out in accordance with any waste licence issued by the EPA or in accordance with by-product regulations, Article 27 of the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (see Section 3.5 in Chapter 3:0 Project Description of this EIAR for further detail).

1.2 APPLICANT

The SID Application and accompanying supporting documentation has been prepared by WSP Ireland Consulting ('WSP') on behalf of Kilmartin Junction 14 Limited.

Details about the Applicant are set out in Section 3.1.1 of Chapter 3.0: Project Description.

1.3 RELATIONSHIP OF THE EIAR TO THE PLANNING APPLICATION

This EIAR accompanies an SID Application for the Soil Recovery Facility at Kilmartin, Co. Wicklow, that will be made to ACP. It includes a separate Non-Technical Summary (NTS), which consists of an easily accessible summary of the EIAR, using non-technical language. The NTS is intended to be understandable to those without a background to the development or the relevant technical disciplines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018).

The overall SID application documentation also includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- Application forms, drawings, notices and covering letter;
- Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment; and
- Pre-Consultation Report.

1.4 EIAR DOCUMENT AND CHAPTER STRUCTURE

The assessment of the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Development are set out in this EIAR and comprises the following chapters as set out in Table 1-1. This table also sets out the parties responsible for examining the respective disciplines and the relevant competent persons leading each discipline.

1.5 EIA PROJECT TEAM

The choice of team members for each study has been informed by the experience of the relevant lead specialist in their area of technical interest.

In accordance with Article 5(3)(a) of the EIA Directive, ('the developer shall ensure that the environmental impact assessment report is prepared by competent experts'), an EIA project team has been chosen that are sufficiently qualified and experienced to be deemed "competent experts" in the preparation of the required inputs into the EIAR.

The team of EIA technical specialists is presented in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1 – EIA Project Team

EIAR Chapter	Discipline	Lead Specialist (Responsible Organisation)	Qualifications	Accreditations	Years of Professional Experience
1	Introduction	Dr Rhian Llewellyn (WSP)	PhD (Earth Science)	Practitioner Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and	10+
2	Scope and Methodology		M Geol (Hons)		
3	Project Description		Masters of Geology		
4	Alternatives				

EIAR Chapter	Discipline	Lead Specialist (Responsible Organisation)	Qualifications	Accreditations	Years of Professional Experience
5	Population and Human Health		(Integrated Masters) IEMA Certificate In Environmental Management Adv. Dip. Environmental and Planning Law (Kings Inns)	Assessment ³ (PIEMA)	
14	Material Assets				
6	Ecology and Biodiversity	Steven Tooher (WSP)	BSc (Hons) Zoology MSc (Agr) Environmental Resource Management	ACIEEM (Associate Member – Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management)	10
7	Land, Soils and Geology	Anna Goodwin (WSP)	MSc Geology MSc Hydrogeology	Chartered Geologist (Geological Society of London) and European Geologist.	18+
8	Water				
9	Air Quality and Climate	Rachel Lansley (WSP)	MSc Environmental Monitoring and Analysis, BSc Physical Geography	Chartered Scientist (CSci), Member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM)	15+
10	Noise and Vibration	Simon Waddell (ITPEnergised)	BSc (Hons.) Environmental Geoscience PG Dip Acoustics and Noise Control	MIOA	12+
11	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Conor Ryan	BA (Joint Honours) Archaeology and Geography	Associate of the Chartered Institute for	8+

³ Recently relaunched as The Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP).

EIAR Chapter	Discipline	Lead Specialist (Responsible Organisation)	Qualifications	Accreditations	Years of Professional Experience
				Archaeologists (ACIfA)	
12	Traffic and Transport	Alan O'Reilly (PMCE)	CEng MIEI (Chartered Engineer) P.Grad.Dip. MSc BAI BA	Approved RSA Team Leader (Ireland & UK) Qualified PSDP	10+
13	Landscape and Visual	Richard Barker (Macro Works)	MLA, PG Dip Forestry, BA Env	Corporate Member Irish Landscape Institute	17+
15	Interactions, Cumulative and Combined Effects	All appropriate discipline leads	-	-	-
16	Mitigation and Monitoring Measures				
-	EIAR Senior Review	Ruth Treacy	Adv Dip. Planning & Env Law M.Agr Sc B. Agr Sc PGDIP Circular Economy Leadership for the Built Environment	Chartered Resource and Waste Manager Member of Engineers Ireland Member of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management	20+

1.6 TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACTS

Transboundary project impacts are those which are likely to cause significant effects on the environment or significant adverse impact across at least two countries' administrative areas. These 'transboundary' projects are likely to have significant environmental effects in each, and involve many stakeholders (national, regional and local authorities, NGOs, the public).

Given the nature and scale of the Proposed Development, located in the townland of Kilmartin, within the Wicklow County Council administrative area, it is considered that there will be no transboundary environmental impacts.

1.7 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PREPARING THE EIA

There were no significant difficulties in the preparation of the EIAR.

1.8 PRE-CONSULTATION PROCESS

ACP advised that prescribed bodies must be notified of the SID application for the Proposed Development⁴. To this end a non-statutory pre-consultation process was carried out with the bodies set out in below between 25 May and 26 June 2023 to seek their comments and observations about the Proposed Development. This process is fully documented in the Pre-Consultation Report accompanying the SID application submission and addressed in the EIAR chapters where relevant. The consultees⁵ comprise:

- An Chomhairle Ealaíon (Arts Council)*;
- An Taisce*;
- Failte Ireland*;
- Health and Safety Authority*;
- Inland Fisheries Ireland*;
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine*;
- Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications*;
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (contacted via the Development Applications Unit (DAU⁶))*;
- Geological Survey of Ireland (a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications)*;
- The Heritage Council*;
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland*;
- Eastern-Midlands Waste Regional Authority;
- Electricity Supply Board (ESB);
- Health Service Executive;
- Irish Water;
- Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht Sport and Media, and
- Wicklow County Council (including National Roads Office and N11/M11 Scheme project liaison officer).

1.9 REFERENCES

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, (2018), 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment'. Available at: <https://www.opr.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2018-Environmental-Impact-Assessment-1.pdf>.

European Union, (1985), 'Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment'. OPOCE. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu>

⁴ ACP (as An Bord Pleanála) letter dated 7 March 2022 (Case Number:ABP-311426-21). This letter was missing an attachment that was provided by ACP via email to WSP on 2nd May 2023.

⁵ Asterisk (*) denotes prescribed bodies stipulated by ACP in their communications with WSP.

⁶ DAU refers to Development Applications Unit who centrally manage the department's role in relation to development proposals.

lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:31985L0337&from=EN (Accessed: 10 July 2025).

European Union, (2011), 'Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment'. Official Journal of the European Union. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0092&from=EN> (Accessed: 11 July 2025).

European Union, (2014), 'Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment'. Official Journal of the European Union. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014L0052&from=EN> (Accessed: 10 July 2025).

Irish Statute Book, (2018), 'S.I. No. 296 of 2018 - European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations'. Office of the Attorney General. Available at: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/si/296/made/en/print> (Accessed: 09 July 2025).