# 5.0 POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

## 5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Proposed Development will comprise the establishment and operation of a soil recovery facility at the Applicant's lands in Kilmartin, Coynes Cross, Co. Wicklow. Full details of the Proposed Development are provided in Chapter 3.0: Project Description, and a summary is provided in Section 5.3 below. The Application Site ('the Site)' is shown in Figure 5-1 below (as defined therein by the 'application boundary').

This Chapter describes the human environment and identifies the potential impacts from the Proposed Development and potential effects on population and human health receptors. The human environment and potential impacts on the 'quality of life' as a consequence of the Proposed Development are discussed under the following headings:

- Population;
- Economic patterns (activity and employment);
- Amenity; and
- Land-use.

Interactions between human health and other facets of the environment are considered in other relevant chapters, including:

- Land, Geology and Soils (Chapter 7.0);
- Water (Chapter 8.0);
- Air Quality and Climate (Chapter 9.0);
- Noise and Vibration (Chapter 10.0);
- Traffic and Transport (Chapter 12.0);
- Landscape and Visual (Chapter 13.0); and
- Material Assets (Chapter 14.0).

This assessment has been undertaken by Dr Rhian Llewellyn. Rhian has over ten years' experience in environmental assessment and management. She is an Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment Practitioner.

## 5.2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

### 5.2.1 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

There is no specific legislation relevant to this Chapter of the EIAR. However, the information provided within the chapter is informed by:

- Section 37D and 171A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended),
- Article 94 and Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), and,
- European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 2018.

## 5.2.2 POLICY CONTEXT

The Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028 was adopted on 12 September 2022 and contains various policies in relation to the protection of population, health and amenity from planned projects. In particular, 'Appendix 1: Development and Design Standards' (therein), sets out measures to ensure a healthy environment, including measures relating to water quality, air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, contaminated land and construction management.

### 5.2.2.1 Waste management

Waste policy and legislation are implemented largely by the Environmental Protection Agency and the local authorities. The current waste management policy is set out in the September 2020 publication by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications of 'A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy' (DECC, 2020).

**Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework**

Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework (NPF), published in February 2018, acts as a guide for high-level strategic planning and development for Ireland over the next 20 years. The vision set out under this Framework is based on a set of values that will ensure Ireland's long term economic, environmental and social progress for all parts of the country. The NPF sets 10 National Strategic Outcomes and 75 National Policy Objectives, there is objective which recognises the importance of the Extractive Industry in supplying aggregates and construction materials and minerals to a variety of sectors, both domestically and internationally. This is set out in policy as follows:

- *NPO 56 Sustainably manage waste generation, invest in different types of waste treatment and support circular economy principles, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, to support a healthy environment, economy and society.*

**Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028**

The Wicklow CDP 2022 – 2028 supports the NPF and sets out the application of the NPF objectives through regional policies and objectives at the local level. The most relevant objectives of the CDP in relation to the Proposed Development at Kilmartin and solid waste management include:

- CPO 15.1 *To require all developments likely to give rise to significant quantities of waste, either by virtue of the scale of the development or the nature of the development (e.g. one that involves demolition) to submit a construction management plan, which will outline, amongst other things, the plan to minimise waste generation and the plan to protect the environment with the safe and efficient disposal of waste from the site.*
- CPO 15.3 *To facilitate the development of existing and new waste prevention and recovery facilities and in particular, to facilitate the development of 'green waste' recovery sites.*
- CPO 15.6 *To facilitate the development of sites, services and facilities necessary to achieve implementation of the objectives of the Regional Waste Management Plan.*

## 5.2.3 PRE-CONSULTATION

A non-statutory consultation process was carried out with prescribed bodies and other parties over the period from 25 May- 26 June 2023 to seek comments and observations about the Proposed Development. This process is fully documented in the Pre-Consultation Report accompanying the

SID application submission and a summary is provided in Section 1.8 (Chapter 1.0: Introduction) of this EIAR. Pre-consultation opinions/comments received have been considered in the preparation of this EIAR chapter, where relevant.

## 5.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A full project description is provided in Chapter 3.0 (Project Description). A project description summary is provided below:

The Proposed Development is the establishment and operation of a soil recovery facility within a 17.08 hectare site at Kilmartin, Co. Wicklow (approximately 4 km north-east of Ashford). The soil recovery facility will import up to 2,160,000 tonnes of inert waste, primarily clean soils and stones from construction and development sites. Clean soil and stone will be used to progressively infill a steep-sided natural valley within the Site and raise ground levels to approximately 57mOD, tying in with the surrounding landscape. The infill area covers approximately 14 hectares.

The soil recovery facility will accept up to 100 loads per day on average (maximum 150 in exceptional circumstances) with a projected operational lifespan of up to 10 years depending on market conditions within the construction sector, followed by one year for final restoration and aftercare of the lands.

The Proposed Development will require the following structures be installed and maintained for the operational life of the Soil Recovery Facility: office and welfare facilities, six parking bays for private vehicles, weighbridge and associated weighbridge cabin, one wheel wash and one spray-system wheel wash, two waste inspection bays and one bunded waste quarantine area, hardstanding area (for vehicle movement and storage), surface water drainage infrastructure from hard standing and discharge to ground (including two interceptors and two soakaways), an internal access road, internal haul roads (constructed from recycled aggregates where available), security features including security gates and fencing, and power supply. These structures will be removed from the Site at the end of life point of the soil recovery facility.

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. Temporary lighting, if required, will be cowled to prevent light spillage.

The temporary relocation of ESB poles within the fill area will be required. This will be subject to prior agreement with ESB.

Wastewater from office and welfare facilities will be managed by a third-party provider, with no connection to foul water mains.

All truck deliveries will access the site via the N11/M11 and Coynes Cross Road, with internal queuing space provided within the Site and no parking on public roads.

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 to supply water for wheel washes, dust suppression, and welfare facilities, and will be retained for monitoring after restoration.

Restoration will return the site to grassland and hedgerow habitat, similar to its pre-development state. Approximately 140 m of fence and hedgerow opposite the entrance will be temporarily removed to improve sightlines during the life of the soil recovery facility and this will be subsequently

reinstated. Native species will be used in hedgerow planting. The restored land will revert to agricultural management.

Permission is sought from An Coimisiún Pleanála for a period of up to 10 years, with an additional year for restoration. The Proposed Development will require a waste licence[1] from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and aligns with national and regional policy objectives to provide adequate licensed soil recovery capacity for the Dublin and Wicklow regions.

## 5.4 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

### 5.4.1 TECHNICAL SCOPE

This assessment has been made following guidance from the EPA's (2022) 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in environmental impact assessment reports'. These guidelines were prepared by the EPA with a view to facilitating compliance with the EIA Directive (2014/52/EU).

### 5.4.2 PREDICTION OF IMPACTS AND EFFECTS PRIOR TO MITIGATION

This chapter of the EIAR describes the likely significant direct effects of the Proposed Development on the human environment. The potential indirect/secondary, cumulative, do-nothing, worst case, indeterminable, irreversible, residual, and synergistic effects of the Proposed Development are also described, where appropriate. The extent, context and frequency of effects have also been considered in the assessment process.

Prediction methods are required to identify and assess the significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment. The predictive method used for this assessment is a common framework of assessment criteria and terminology based on the EPA's 2022 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in environmental impact assessment reports', with some adjustments to improve clarity.

This common framework follows a 'matrix approach' to environmental assessment which is based on the characteristics of the impact (magnitude and nature) and the value (sensitivity) of the receptor. The terms used in the common framework are described below. Details of how these specifically relate to the human environment are based on the National Highways (UK)'s Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (Volume 11, Section 3, LA112, Revision 1, Sustainability and environment. Appraisal. Population and human health). The sensitivity of communities and populations have been included and have been conservatively attributed a 'High' sensitivity. These descriptions for value (sensitivity) of receptors are provided in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2.

**Table 5-1 - Environmental Value (sensitivity) and Descriptions**

| Value (sensitivity) of Receptor / Resource | Typical Description |
|---|---|
| High | High importance and rarity, national scale, and limited potential for substitution. |

[1] The proposed development will be carried out in accordance with a waste licence from 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).

| Value (sensitivity) of Receptor / Resource | Typical Description |
|---|---|
| Medium | Medium or high importance and rarity, regional scale, limited potential for substitution. |
| Low | Low or medium importance and rarity, local scale. |
| Negligible | Very low importance and rarity, local scale. |

The environmental sensitivity descriptions have been assigned to receptor groups as appropriate for the assessment on the human environment. These descriptions and rankings have been provided below in Table 5-2.

**Table 5-2 - Environmental Value (Sensitivity) and Descriptions for Assessment Groups**

| Group | Receptor / Resource | Designated Value (sensitivity) of Receptor / Resource |
|---|---|---|
| Populations / Communities | All individuals located in a particular location (this can be local, regional or at a national scale), and groups of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. | High |
| Private Dwellings | Residential property. | High |
| Community land and facilities, and other lands | Designated local green space / valued community facility. | High |
| | Undesignated local green space / non-essential community facility. | Low |
| | Derelict or unoccupied buildings or lands. | Low |
| Local Businesses | Businesses where viability is likely to be permanently jeopardised by a short disruption to access or worsening of trading conditions. | High |
| | Businesses where profitability may be harmed by a short or medium-term disruption to access or worsening of trading conditions. | Medium |
| | Businesses that could continue to operate without substantial harm if affected by a disruption to access or worsening of trading conditions. | Low |
| | Businesses that could continue to operate relatively unharmed if affected by a disruption to access or worsening of trading conditions. | Negligible |
| Non-motorised users | All non-motorised users utilising roads and networks, including pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riding, etc. | High |
| Human health | Health receptor that would be likely or expected to be directly affected. Receptor is well placed to take advantage of beneficial impacts, and/or is not well placed to deal with any adverse impacts. | High |
| | Health receptor that would be likely to be indirectly affected. Average ability to maximise beneficial impacts or cope with adverse impacts. | Medium |

| Group | Receptor / Resource | Designated Value (sensitivity) of Receptor / Resource |
|---|---|---|
| | Health receptor that would be unlikely to be affected. Receptor is not well placed to take advantage of beneficial impacts, and/or is well placed to deal with any adverse impacts. | Low |
| | Health receptor that would be unlikely to be affected or effects would be temporary in nature, or which would be anticipated to have a slight or no effect on human health. | Negligible |
| Vehicle travellers | Public transport, motor vehicles. | Low |

The descriptions for magnitude of impact are provided in Table 5-3. The numerous descriptions for both the adverse and beneficial magnitudes of impact provided below reflect the diverse range of receptor groups which may be impacted.

**Table 5-3 - Magnitude of Impact and Typical Descriptions**

| Magnitude of Impact (change) | | Typical Description |
|---|---|---|
| High | Adverse | ▪ Loss of resource and/or quality and integrity of resource; severe damage to key characteristics, features or elements;<br>▪ An impact that is expected to have considerable adverse socioeconomic effects. Such impacts will typically affect large numbers of businesses, workers or residents;<br>▪ Very large damage to local business which may compromise its viability;<br>▪ Adverse health impact to a large number of people and adverse impact affecting sensitive population groups. |
| | Beneficial | ▪ Large scale or major improvement of resource quality; extensive restoration; major improvement of attribute quality;<br>▪ An impact that is expected to have considerable beneficial socioeconomic effects. Such impacts will typically affect large numbers of businesses, workers or residents;<br>▪ Very large direct or indirect benefits for local business;<br>▪ Beneficial health impact to a large number of people and beneficial impact affecting sensitive population groups. |
| Medium | Adverse | ▪ Loss of resource, but not adversely affecting the integrity; partial loss of/damage to key characteristics, features or elements;<br>▪ Moderate magnitude impacts will typically be long-term in nature, resulting in the permanent change of the study area's baseline socio-economic conditions;<br>▪ Moderate to large damage to local business, but with changes to management it should remain viable;<br>▪ Adverse impact affecting moderate number of people. Adverse impact affecting some sensitive population group(s). |

| Magnitude of Impact (change) | | Typical Description |
|---|---|---|
| | Beneficial | ▪ Benefit to, or addition of, key characteristics, features or elements; improvement of attribute quality;<br>▪ Moderate magnitude impacts will typically be long-term in nature, resulting in the permanent change of the study area's baseline socio-economic conditions;<br>▪ Moderate to large benefits for local business;<br>▪ Beneficial impact affecting moderate number of people. Beneficial impact affecting some sensitive population group(s). |
| Low | Adverse | ▪ Some measurable change in attributes, quality or vulnerability; minor loss of, or alteration to, one (maybe more) key characteristics, features or elements;<br>▪ An impact that is expected to have a minor socio-economic effect. Such impacts will typically have a noticeable effect on a limited number of businesses, workers or residents, and will lead to a permanent (but not drastic) change to the study area's baseline socio-economic conditions;<br>▪ Slight to moderate damage to local business, but with minor changes to management it should remain viable;<br>▪ Adverse impact affecting low-moderate number of people. Adverse impact affecting few sensitive population groups. |
| | Beneficial | ▪ Minor benefit to, or addition of, one (maybe more) key characteristics, features or elements; some beneficial impact on attribute or a reduced risk of negative impact occurring;<br>▪ An impact that is expected to have a minor socio-economic effect. Such impacts will typically have a noticeable effect on a limited number of businesses, workers or residents, and will lead to a permanent (but not drastic) change to the study area's baseline socio-economic conditions;<br>▪ Slight to moderate benefits for local business;<br>▪ Beneficial impact affecting low-moderate number of people. Beneficial impact affecting few sensitive population groups. |
| Negligible | Adverse | ▪ Very minor loss or alteration to one or more characteristics, features or elements;<br>▪ An impact that is expected to affect a small number of businesses, workers or residents. Or an impact that may affect a larger number of receptors but without materially changing the study area's baseline socio-economic conditions. Such impacts are likely to be temporary in nature;<br>▪ The identified impacts are predicted to have little or no damage to local business;<br>▪ No or non-perceptible impact to health, population or sensitive groups. |
| | Beneficial | ▪ Very minor benefit to or positive addition of one or more characteristics, features or elements;<br>▪ An impact that is expected to affect a small number of businesses, workers or residents. Or an impact that may affect a larger number of receptors but |

| Magnitude of Impact (change) | | Typical Description |
|---|---|---|
| | | without materially changing the study area's baseline socio-economic conditions. Such impacts are likely to be temporary in nature;<br>■ The identified impacts are predicted to have little or no benefit to local business;<br>■ No or non-perceptible impact to health, population or sensitive groups. |

The approach followed to derive effects significance from receptor value and magnitude of impacts is shown in Table 5-4. Where Table 5-4 includes two significance categories, evidence is provided in the topic chapters to support the reporting of a single significance category.

**Table 5-4 - Significance Matrix**

| | Magnitude of Impact (Degree of Change) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Environmental Value (Sensitivity) | | **Negligible** | **Low** | **Medium** | **High** |
| | **High** | Slight | Slight or moderate | Moderate or large | Profound |
| | **Medium** | Imperceptible or slight | Slight or moderate | Moderate | Large or profound |
| | **Low** | Imperceptible | Slight | Slight | Slight or moderate |
| | **Negligible** | Imperceptible | Imperceptible or slight | Imperceptible or slight | Slight |

A description of the significance categories used is provided in Table 5-5. The criteria and terminology in the table have been based on and is consistent with the EPA's 2022 EIAR Guidelines. The EPA's '*Significant Effects'* and '*Very Significant'* categories have been combined into one '*Large*' category. Furthermore, the EPA's '*Not Significant*' category has been combined with the '*Slight Effects*' category. These substitutions provide conservatism by attributing a higher effects category to adverse effects. The removal of the '*significant'* and '*not significant'* terminology from the matrix stage of the method avoids confusion when an overall significance is attributed to the particular impact.

**Table 5-5 - Significance Categories and Typical Descriptions.**

| Significance Category | Typical Description |
|---|---|
| Profound | An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.<br>Only adverse effects are usually assigned this level of significance. These factors are key issues in the decision-making and consent process. These effects are generally, but not exclusively, associated with sites or features of international, national or regional importance which are likely to suffer a most damaging impact and loss of resource integrity. However, a major change in a site or feature of local importance may also be included in this significance category. |

| Significance Category | Typical Description |
|---|---|
| Large | An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a significant proportion of a sensitive aspect of the environment.<br>These can be beneficial or adverse effects and are considered to be very important issues which are likely to be substantial in the decision-making process. |
| Moderate | An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.<br>These are beneficial or adverse effects which may be important but are not likely to be central to decision-making or consent. The cumulative effects of these factors may influence consent or decision-making if they should lead to an increase in the overall adverse effect on a particular resource or receptor. |
| Slight | An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.<br>These beneficial or adverse effects may be raised as local factors. They are unlikely to be critical in the decision-making process but are important in enhancing the subsequent design of the project. |
| Imperceptible | An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.<br>No effects or those that are beneath levels of perception, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error. |

The approach to assigning significance of effect included reasoned argument and the professional judgement of competent experts. The assessment of the significance of environmental effects covered the following factors:

- The receptors/resources (natural and human) which would have been affected and the pathways for such effects;
- The geographic importance, sensitivity or value of receptors/resources;
- The duration (long or short term); permanence (permanent or temporary) and changes in significance (increase or decrease);
- Reversibility - e.g. is the change reversible or irreversible, permanent or temporary;
- Environmental and health standards (e.g. local air quality standards) being threatened; and
- Feasibility and mechanisms for delivering mitigating measures, e.g. Is there evidence of the ability to legally deliver the environmental assumptions which are the basis for the assessment?

Effects that are either *Large* or *Profound* alter environmental sensitivities and are therefore considered to be *Significant* based on professional judgement. Effects considered to be *Moderate*, *Slight*, or *Imperceptible* are those which at their highest effect are consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends and are considered to be *Not Significant*.

### 5.4.3 INFORMATION SOURCES

Information for the assessment of potential impacts on population and human health was obtained by means of a desk-based review of Census data for 2016 and 2022 for electoral divisions present in the study area. All calculations and data are taken from this CSO data (CSO 2023).

### 5.4.4 TEMPORAL SCOPE

Under the current programme, it is expected that the duration of operation of the soil recovery facility may last for between approximately 4 -10 years depending on availability of clean soil and stone to complete the Proposed Development. A restoration and aftercare phase for the Proposed Development has been considered along with the phasing of activities which is described in Chapter 3.0: Project Description.

For the purpose of clarity, this assessment uses the term ‘works phase’ to describe the period of time comprising the following construction activities:

- Enabling works to provide facilities required for the operation of the soil recovery facility (I.e., entrance upgrades, establishment of office and welfare facilities, etc); and
- The operation of the soil recovery facility (i.e. acceptance of clean soil and stone to Site and its subsequent emplacement within the fill area).

A restoration phase, broadly following the work phase (with some temporal overlap), will comprise the shaping on the final landform in the fill level, restoration of stored topsoil, seeding (where necessary), and planting with subsequent aftercare and maintenance.

### 5.4.5 GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The geographical study area for the assessment covers the physical extent of the Site (shown by the application boundary provided in the Figure 5-1) and a buffer zone of 500 m from that boundary. The buffer area has been identified based on the UK’s Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (Volume 11, Section 3, LA112, Revision 1, Sustainability and environment. Appraisal. Population and human health) and is considered to be sufficient for the purpose of this assessment considering the nature and scale of the Proposed Development and the nature of the surrounding environment.

The study area defined for the population and demographic trends is the Electoral Division (ED) of Newcastle Lower. The Site in context to the boundary of the Newcastle Lower ED has been illustrated in Figure 5-2 (overleaf).


**Figure 5-1 - Application Boundary for the Proposed Development (shown in red).**

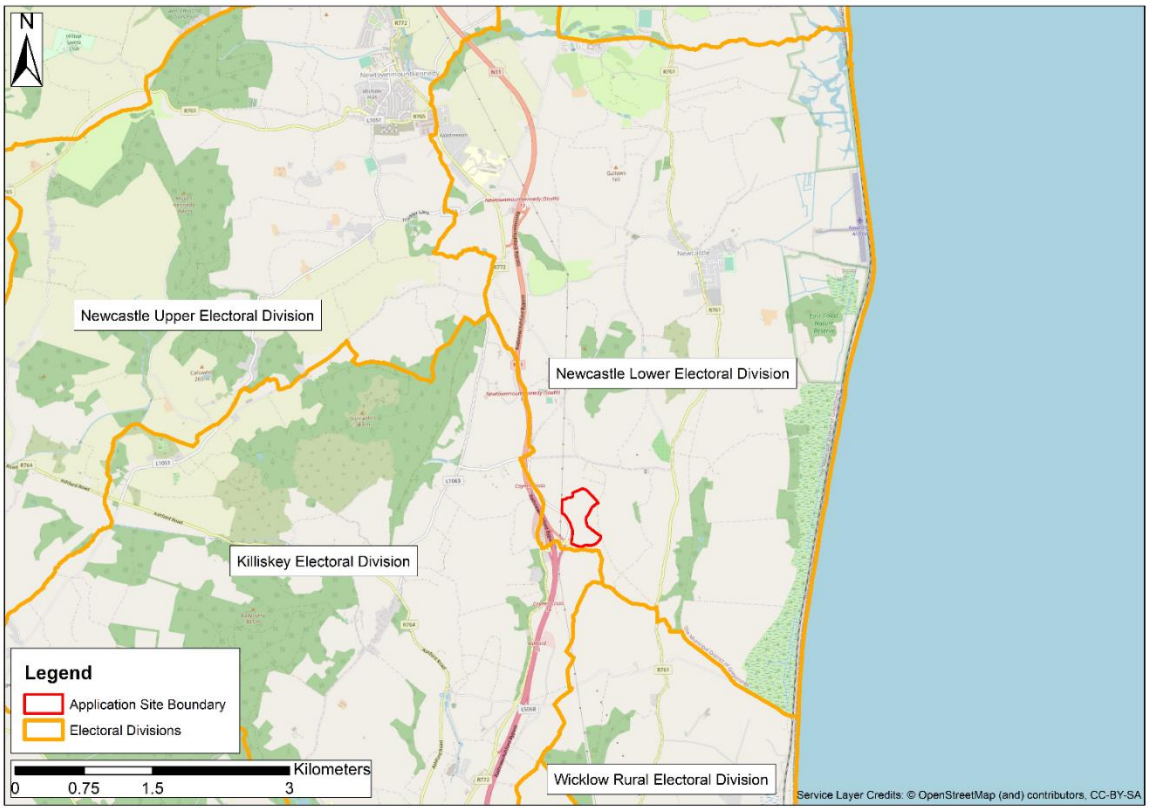


**Figure 5-2 - Location of the Site within the Newcastle Lower ED**

## 5.5 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

### 5.5.1 SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

The Site is located in the townland of Kilmartin, Coynes Cross, Newcastle, County Wicklow, approximately midway between Newtown Mount Kennedy (5 km) and Ashford (4 km), within the administrative area of Wicklow County Council. The Site is bounded to the south and north by agricultural land (some coniferous forestry to the south); to the west by the Coynes Cross road and to the east by a small lane that links the L-5064 to the R761 Coast Road. The land further to the east is agricultural land.

There are no residential properties on the Site. There are 27 residential properties within 500 m of the Site.

There are agricultural business (farms) in the wider areas beyond the study area. A petrol station is located on the opposite side of the M11 motorway.

### 5.5.2 POPULATION

Table 5-6 summarises population statistics for the State, Leinster, Wicklow and the Newcastle Lower ED. The percentage population increase has been calculated between the Census periods of 2016 to 2022.

**Table 5-6 - Population Dynamics from 2016 to 2022, (Central Statistics Office)**

| Area | 2016 | 2022 | 2011 to 2016 % Increase |
|---|---|---|---|
| State | 4,761,865 | 5,149,139 | 8.1% |
| Leinster | 2,634,403 | 2,870,354 | 9.0% |
| Wicklow | 142,425 | 155,851 | 9.4% |
| Newcastle Lower Electoral Division | 2,354 | 2,472 | 5.0% |

### 5.5.3 ECONOMIC PATTERNS

The closest Social Welfare Office to the Proposed Development is located in Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.

Table 5-7 summarises the employment status of the persons aged 15 years or older in Wicklow and the Newcastle Lower ED. Between the periods of 2016 and 2022 it is evident that the percentage of those ‘Unemployed having lost or given up previous job’ has decreased within the respective populations (Table 5-7).

**Table 5-7 - Principal Status of Persons 15 years and older in Wicklow and Newcastle Lower ED, 2016 and 2022 (Central Statistics Office).**

| Status | Wicklow | Wicklow | Newcastle Lower ED | Newcastle Lower ED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 (%) | 2022 (%) | 2016 (%) | 2022 (%) |
| At work | 53.7 | 44.3 | 55.7 | 45.7 |
| Looking for first regular job | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Unemployed having lost or given up previous job | 7.1 | 3.4 | 6.3 | 2.5 |
| Student | 10.8 | 8.4 | 9.7 | 8.9 |
| Looking after home/family | 9.2 | 5.9 | 8.0 | 5.4 |
| Retired | 14.3 | 12.7 | 14.5 | 13.5 |
| Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability | 3.9 | 3.4 | 5.1 | 3.6 |
| Other | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.5 |

Table 5-8 summarises the percentage of persons aged 15 years or older per employment industry in the State, County Wicklow and the Newcastle Lower ED.

Employment industries where the percentage of persons in Newcastle Lower ED are above the county average include agriculture, forestry and fishing, building and construction, commerce and trade, and professional services.

The percentage of persons in Newcastle Lower ED building and construction industry is higher than for the county which is of itself higher than the national average.

Manufacturing industries and public administration industries are deemed to be below the national average. Other identified employment industries are considered to be similar to the national average.

**Table 5-8 - Percentage Persons in Work by Industry, 2022 (Central Statistics Office)**

| Industry | State (%) | Wicklow (%) | Newcastle Lower ED (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 3.6 | 3.03 | 4.07 |
| Building and construction | 5.8 | 6.46 | 6.47 |
| Manufacturing industries | 10.6 | 9.13 | 8.24 |
| Commerce and trade | 4.6 | 26.42 | 26.75 |
| Transport and communications | 3.8 | 9.74 | 9.48 |
| Public administration | 0.06 | 4.76 | 3.37 |
| Professional services | 6.9 | 24.71 | 25.07 |
| Other | 64.64 | 15.75 | 7.56 |

### 5.5.4 AMENITY

There are limited local services and amenities in proximity to the Site and it is anticipated that people would typically travel to the towns of Newtown Mount Kennedy (5 km) and Ashford (4 km) to access local services (such as shops, schools, health centres and libraries) or to the larger County Town of Wicklow (9 km). Local roads connect the Site to the N11/M11 national road/motorway which is located to the west of the Site.

On a regional scale there are several tourism and leisure amenities located in the region including the Wicklow Way, Wicklow Black Castle, Wicklow Head Old Lighthouse and Brittas Bay Beach among many others, however, there are no significant tourist attractions in the locality.

### 5.5.5 LAND USE

The Site consists of lands measuring approximately 17.08 ha and occupies a relatively deep valley running north to south with steep sides to the east and west. Land use in the wider area is mostly agricultural with ribbon type development along public roads to the north of the Site.

## 5.6 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The Proposed Development is described in Section 5.3 and Chapter 3.0, Project Description. Key elements that could present sources of impact to population and human health receptors primarily comprise noise, dust, traffic and visual impacts arising from the importation of materials for soil recovery and the construction and use of welfare facilities.

### 5.6.1 PROJECT DESIGN AND GOOD PRACTICE

The initial assessment of the significance of potential effects resulting from the Proposed Development takes into consideration embedded design, proposed construction and soil waste management methods, and commonly undertaken good practice mitigation (e.g. regarding site management).

## 5.7 POTENTIAL EFFECTS

This section considers the potential impacts that may occur on population and human health as a result of the Proposed Development and their potential effects on population and human health receptors.

### 5.7.1 POPULATION AND SOCIAL PATTERNS

There are 27 residential properties located within 500 m of the Site and these are mostly located to the north of the Site. Potential effects on these local residents and the local community in general, during both the works and restoration phases phase include the following:

- Noise;
- Dust;
- Traffic increase; and
- Visual intrusion.

The potential extent of these will have a limited zone of influence surrounding the Site.

These potential impacts to population and human health receptors have been assessed in the following EIAR chapters: Land, Geology and Soils (Chapter 7.0), Water (Chapter 8.0), Air Quality and Climate (Chapter 9.0), Noise (Chapter 10.0); Traffic and Transport (Chapter 12.0), and Landscape and Visual (Chapter 13.0). Residual impacts in those chapters are considered to be **Not Significant**.

### 5.7.2 ECONOMIC PATTERNS

The works and restoration phases of the Proposed Development will provide medium term, beneficial effects in local economic activity through the creation of direct employment in the waste sector. The construction of the Proposed Development will also service indirect employment in the local construction industry, transport sector, and local community.

The local businesses which may be affected are considered to have a 'Low' sensitivity due to the limited number of (largely agricultural) business in the study area and wider locality. It is considered that the magnitude of impact is also 'Low' as there will be minor socio-economic effects, and such impacts will only have an effect on a limited number of businesses or workers. This results in a 'Slight' short-term beneficial effect for the local economy (noticeable short-term change in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities; and will have beneficial local effects) which is **Not Significant**.

During the works phase it is anticipated that there will be a minimum requirement for three full time workers on Site. This is considered to be 'Low' sensitivity and a 'negligible beneficial' magnitude for the local economy, due to the scale and nature of the Proposed Development and medium-term employment opportunities. On a local level this is considered to be an 'Imperceptible' effect and is therefore **Not Significant**.

### 5.7.3 AMENITIES

Due to the distance between the Site and local amenities, no significant impacts on local amenities are anticipated during works or restoration phases.

### 5.7.4 LAND USE

Construction activities in the works phase have the potential to create medium-term (in the worst case) adverse impacts to population and human health receptors from dust, noise, traffic increase and visual intrusion. These potential impacts have been assessed in the respective chapters of this EIAR (see Section 5.7.1). With the implementation of the mitigation measures set out in those chapters, it is considered that the Proposed Development **will not give rise to significant effects** relating to land use during works or restoration phase.

Upon end of life of the soil recovery facility, there will be the local benefits associated with the land raising. It is anticipated that raising the land will increase the agricultural potential of the lands permanently.

### 5.7.5 DO NOTHING SCENARIO

In the absence of any development, the lands will continue to be used for low quality agricultural purposes, and the use will continue to be mainly for sheep grazing. Therefore, the long-term land-use would continue to have relatively low agricultural potential.

Job creation associated with the staffing required to operate the soil recovery facility would not occur if the Proposed Development did not proceed.

## 5.8 MITIGATION AND MONITORING

Relevant mitigation measures and monitoring relating to Population and Human Health in the context of environmental factors have been presented, where required, in the relevant chapters in this EIAR; Land, Geology and Soils (Chapter 7.0), Water (Chapter 8.0), Air Quality and Climate

(Chapter 9.0), Noise (Chapter 10.0); Landscape and Visual (Chapter 11.0); and Traffic and Transport (Chapter 12.0). Residual impacts in those chapters are considered to be **Not Significant**.

The potential impacts arising during the works phase can be addressed by good construction and site management practices and implementation of the mitigation and monitoring measures set out in this EIAR.

No additional mitigation measures or monitoring are deemed necessary to protect local populations, economic patterns, amenity or land use.

## 5.9 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

With the adoption of construction best practices and the mitigation measures outlined within this EIAR, it is anticipated that residual effects on the population and human health receptors (i.e. local populations, local businesses and workers) during the works phase and restoration phase will be no greater than Slight and therefore **Not Significant**.

## 5.10 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The cumulative effects associated with other permitted / under construction third-party developments have been considered in Chapter 15.0 of this EIAR. Assuming that other permitted / under construction developments identified in Chapter 15.0 will incorporate adequate design and widely adopted good practice construction measures, it is considered that there will be no predictable cumulative effects (i.e. effects are considered to be unlikely) on local populations, local businesses and workers during the works and restoration phases.

## 5.11 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

There were no particular difficulties encountered during the production of the Population and Human Health chapter of the EIAR.

## 5.12 REFERENCES

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