

Appendix 1.2. Scoping Consultation Correspondence

Re: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

IL

To: [REDACTED]@antaisce.org>
[REDACTED]

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

[REDACTED]

your message noted

we will revert if issues arise

[REDACTED]

On Tue, 20 Jul 2021 at 09:12, [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@atkinsglobal.com> wrote:

Dear Sir / Madam,

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

We would appreciate a response (if relevant) in relation to any issues you may have regarding the receiving environment in writing by 10th August or earlier if possible. If you require any further information regarding Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade project or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01 810 8082 / 087 1340481. We would greatly appreciate it if you could revert back at your earliest convenience or by 10th August 2021 by email julie.larkin@atkinsglobal.com.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

+353 1 810 0082

Thank you for your query Re: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

PD

[REDACTED]@antaisce.org>
[REDACTED]@atkinsglobal.com

We removed extra line breaks from this message.

Thank you for your email. Our planning office is currently receiving a very high volume of queries. If your message is a statutory referral to us per our role as a prescribed body, it will be processed as normal. If your query relates to a specific planning application or issue, please provide full details of the site, building or issue of concern (with photos if possible), as well as the relevant local Council reference number if applicable.

We do have to tell you that resources are very limited and queries from An Taisce members are prioritised. If you wish to become a member please click here
<[https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://membership.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_Jr8k5hAY\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://membership.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_Jr8k5hAY$)>. Otherwise, we will reply when we can.

Thank you very much.

[REDACTED]

Planning and Environmental Policy Officer *An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland* *The Tailors' Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8, Ireland*
*Phone: **01 454 1786*
[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_J-cemm8c\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_J-cemm8c$)
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*Company Reg. No. 12469 | Charity Ref. No. CHY4741 | Charity Regulator No. 20006358
An Taisce is a membership-based charity in at [https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_JNGdn1S0\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_JNGdn1S0$)
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An Taisce
-The National Trust for Ireland | [https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_J-cemm8c\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_J-cemm8c$)
<[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_J7DTKGWQ\\$>](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_J7DTKGWQ$>)> The Tailors' Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8, Ireland Company Reg. No. 12469 | Charity Ref. No. CHY4741 | Charity Regulator No. 20006358
An Taisce is a membership-based charity
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<[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_JNGdn1S0\\$>](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.antaisce.org/_!1OepY26QluqELydcWba710nirJhX9IP64qeufWNmYmNWNH4X_CCbioxS98OgrZnAlnMNHYO_JNGdn1S0$>)>

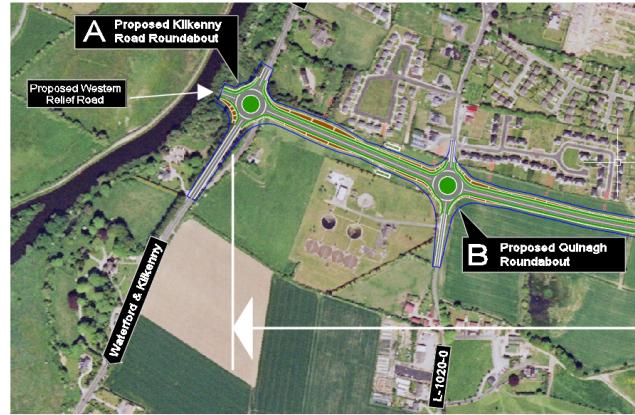
RE: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

ND

To: [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@carlowcoco.ie>
Cc: [REDACTED]

You forwarded this message on 03/08/2021 09:19.
Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Further to my previous email, see below extract from a previous Part 8 scheme drawing which shows the potential encroachment of a roundabout junction on the proposed inlet works at Mortarstown. Furthermore, the road design below does not have footpath or cycle facilities on the southern side of the road, this design was done in 2004 so it is highly likely future proposals here will have to incorporate footpath and cycle facilities, requiring additional land take. This could have an impact on the location of the proposed inlet works.



Please contact me if you require any further information.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Ser: [redacted]
 To: [redacted]
 Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@carlowcoco.ie>
 Subject: RE: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

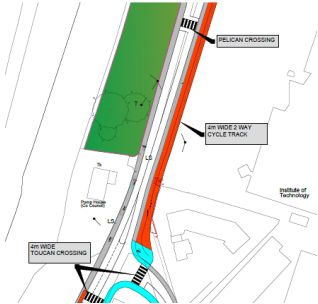
Julie,

I can deal with the traffic/roads elements, you will have to refer to staff in the Environment Section for further consideration. If you require contact details please let me know.

You have listed the County Development Plan 2015-2021 which, as the date implies, will expire and be replaced within the lifetime of this project. The Draft version of the next County Development Plan will go on display tomorrow.

There is also a Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018, this has been extended to 2022 which should be included in your assessment. The map (<http://www.carlow.ie/wp-content/documents/uploads/2-%20ISP%20Mag%20-Variation%20No.3.pdf>) shows the current land uses and also shows a line (dashed blue and white) of the proposed Carlow Southern Relief Road (CSRR) which borders Mortarstown WWTP to the north. That scheme is currently at Strategic Appraisal Stage with the Department of Transport, a decision is expected within the next 6-8 weeks to hopefully proceed. While the route has yet to be determined, the land to the north of Mortarstown WWTP is the only gap the road can traverse without moving significantly further south (beyond the Woodford Dolmen Hotel). If the route immediately north of Mortarstown emerges as the preferred route, the introduction of the inlet works in the north east corner of the site could have implications for the junction where the CSRR would cross the local road if a roundabout was proposed here. It is possible some land acquisition may be required to facilitate a roundabout junction.

We also have plans for junction improvement works to the Kilkenny Road / Slip Road Junction opposite the pump station (below is a draft extract). We are in the process of acquiring lands to turn this mini-roundabout junction into a traffic light controlled junction with cycle and pedestrian facilities including toucan crossings. There is an existing ESB pole in the vicinity of the proposed pump station which presumably will have to be relocated, we plan to fully utilise the space on the roadside of the Pump Station boundary wall so no new ESB poles can be placed within this space as that would encroach on our proposals. I don't know if that will have implications for your assessment?



The report mentions significant temporary works at the pump station, will additional space beyond that outlined on Drawing 5161805_EWE_DR_MOR_2003 be required for construction purposes? Is there likely to be a separate construction entrance required or will the existing site access suffice for both normal operation and new construction?

Regards,

[redacted signature]

Ardoifigeach Innealtóir Sinsreach Feidhmiticháin, Seirbhísí Iompar
 A/Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation

T: [redacted]
 E: [redacted]
 W: [carlow.ie](http://www.carlow.ie)



Oifigi an Chontae, Bóthar Átha Í, Ceatharlach, R93E7R7
 County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow, R93E7R7

From: [redacted]
 Sent: [redacted]
 To: [redacted]
 Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

Good morning

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

We would appreciate a response (if relevant) in relation to any issues you may have regarding the receiving environment in writing by 10th August or earlier if possible. If you require any further information regarding Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade project or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01 810 8082 / 087 1340481. We would greatly appreciate it if you could revert back at your earliest convenience or by 10th August 2021 by email julie.larkin@atkinsglobal.com.

Kind regards,

[redacted signature]

Environmental Consultant
 Ireland



RE: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - Environment Department Comments

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@carlowcoco.ie>
 Cc: [redacted]

Follow up. Completed on 05 August 2021.
 You forwarded this message on 22/07/2021 10:42.

5161805DG0201 rev 3 - EIAR Scoping Report.pdf
 pdf File

Please find herewith report and recommendation of Pat Connolly, SEE Environment.

Kindest regards

[redacted signature]

Is mise, le meas

[redacted signature]

Innealtóir Sinsreach | Senior Engineer

Comhairle Chontae Cheatharlach | Carlow County Council
 Na Seomraí Tiondla, Lána Mhac an Chóiligh, Ceatharlach, R93 X3T5 | Assembly Rooms, Cox's Lane, Carlow, R93 X3T5

Fón | Phone
 R-Phoist | Email

An Idirlíon | Web: www.carlow.ie



From: [redacted] <[redacted]@carlowcoco.ie>

Sent: Tuesday 20 July 2021 09:57

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@carlowcoco.ie>

Subject: FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

[redacted signature]

One suggestion only, that the Biodiversity section includes a formal Ecological Impact Assessment (in accordance with CIEEM guidelines) in addition to the NIS.

The towpath is on the other side of the river and should not be impacted.

[redacted signature]

Environment Section
 Carlow County Council

[redacted] Reply [redacted] Reply All [redacted] Forward [redacted]
 Wed 21/07/2021 17:15

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday 20 July 2021 09:20
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@carlowcoco.ie>
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAI Scoping Report

Good morning

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAI. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAI which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAI.

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Kind regards,

[redacted]

Environmental Consultant
Ireland

+353 1 810 8082

150 Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin

[redacted]

[redacted]

Company [redacted]

RE: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - Environment Department Comments

PlanningDevMan <[redacted]@carlowcoco.ie>

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Follow up: [redacted]

Response to Atkins Ireland Ltd.pdf.pdf File

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Reply

Reply All

Forward

Thu 12/08/2021 12:12

Please find attached response with regard to above.

Regards

[redacted]

Oifigeach Riaracháin, An Roinn Pleanála
Administrative Officer, Planning Department



Oifigi an Chontae, Bóthar Átha Í, Ceatharlach, R93E7R7
County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow, R93E7R7

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday 20 July 2021 09:20
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@carlowcoco.ie>
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAI Scoping Report

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Kind regards,

[redacted]

Environmental Consultant
Ireland

+353 1 810 8082

150 Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin

[redacted]

[redacted]

Company [redacted]



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Oifigí an Chontae,
Bóthar Átha Í,
Ceatharlach, R93E7R7

County Buildings,
Athy Road,
Carlow, R93E7R7

T: 059 9170300

E: See carlow.ie/contact-us

W: carlow.ie

12th August 2021

Atkins Ireland Ltd.
150 Airside Business Park,
Swords,
Co. Dublin

**RE: Pre-Application Scoping Request: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment
Plant Upgrade on behalf of Ervis**

A Chara,

I refer to your correspondence received by email on the 20th July 2021 on the above matter.

Following a review of the content of the scoping document, a planning appraisal of the site, and having regard to the observations received from the Council's Environment Section, the Planning Department wish to make the following comments:

Consideration of Alternatives in the EIAR

As set out in the EIA Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála (2018) there is a requirement in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU for an EIAR report to include a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer. These are reasonable alternatives which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics. The developer must also indicate the main reasons for the option chosen taking into account the effects of the project on the environment. Reasonable alternatives may relate to matters such as project design, technology, location, size and scale. The developer is advised to set out a clear rationale and the reasons for the chosen option put forward, and why other options considered were not pursued referencing key environmental issues.

County Planning Policy

- The Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 includes policies and related requirements and provisions for public wastewater treatment developments.

Section 10.3.7 of the Plan indicates that 'in accordance with the county's settlement hierarchy, wastewater treatment plants and the provision of public wastewater schemes are provided within the county's towns and villages as resources permit. Currently, (August 2015), the county's villages have no public wastewater schemes and are therefore serviced by individual septic tanks / effluent treatment systems. Future development is contingent on the provision of adequate wastewater treatment facilities which also includes individual treatment facilities, as deemed appropriate and in accordance with the Water Services Act 2014.'

- ENV Policy 6 states it is the policy of Carlow County Council to;
 - Implement relevant recommendations set out in the EPA (2012) publication 'Focus on Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland (and any subsequent update)'.
 - Comply with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007.

Draft Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Chapter 6 Infrastructure and Environmental Management;

Public Wastewater Collection and Treatment Objective PW.01:

'Facilitate the required upgrade of wastewater projects that may arise during the lifetime of this Plan subject to compliance with all relevant EU and national legislation and normal planning and environmental criteria including upgrade and improvement works on current and planned IW schemes for Tullow WTP, Bagenalstown/Leighlinbridge WTP, Mortarstown WTP, and Borris WTP'.

Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow-Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018 (as extended).

Land Use Zoning : The Mortarstown WWTP site is located on land zoned Utilities and Strategic Infrastructure' in the current JSP.

The Kilkenny Road Pumping Station is located on land zoned Amenity & Open Space.

Section 4 Environmental Management

'The Waste Water Treatment Plan (WWTP) in Mortarstown is not overloaded. The waste water catchment network extends from the northern extent of Carlow town and includes sections of Graiguecullen with the catchment draining in a mainly southerly direction to the WWTP. The WWTP has secondary treatment with nutrient reduction and treatment includes anoxic, aerobic and anaerobic zones within the aeration basins. The waste water treatment plant was licensed by the EPA in 2009 (Ref D0028-01).'

Policy

ENV P06 *'Undertake the programme of infrastructural improvements set out in the Mortarstown Waste Water Treatment Plant License to upgrade the efficiency of wastewater treatment'.*

ENV P05 *'Ensure that the functioning of Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area does not cumulatively adversely effect water quality and seek to improve the water quality of the Barrow and Burrin watercourses in liaison with adjoining local authorities and in consultation with other competent authorities with responsibility for environmental management'.*

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

- The assessment of landscape and visual impacts should take account of Carlow County Landscape Character Assessment and Schedule of Protected Views, included as Appendix 6 to the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021. On the basis of the landscape character assessment and associated mapping, the site is located in the Central Lowlands landscape character area. The landscape type in which the site is located is identified as a Built Up Area, where the least level of visibility can occur, and for which a landscape sensitivity of 1 (from 1 to 5) is listed.
- The assessment of landscape and visual impacts should consider cumulative effects with regard to existing and permitted developments in the area.
- Consideration should be given to landscaping and replanting proposals to mitigate potential visual impacts.
- The proposed siting and design must be able to demonstrate that the integrity of the landscape character area will be maintained.

Natural Heritage

The assessment of the existing and proposed development, in respect of the content of both EIA and Appropriate Assessment, needs to consider the following:

- The proximity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC boundary which directly adjoins both sites to the west (Mortarstown WWTP and Kilkenny Road Pumping Station).
- Field studies should be carried out at optimal survey times and be supported by an Ecological Report.
- Fields studies should examine the potential for biodiversity within the proposed site, including habitats for protected species.
- Information should be provided regarding the protection of any retained ecological features, in particular the protection of trees and hedgerows during on-site construction activities.

In relation to the Appropriate Assessment, you are advised to have regard to the following:

- Must clearly identify all European Sites potentially impacted by the proposed development and explain the basis on which these have been identified in a way that makes it clear that there is no scientific doubt that there could be adverse effects on the integrity of any other European sites (ecological or hydrological corridors).
- Must clearly explain why each of the identified European sites have been designated.
- Must clearly identify the conservation objectives for each European site (by reference to NPWS published data).
- Must clearly set out all relevant and available data in relation to each qualifying interest including all documentary sources available.
- Must set out all investigations and examinations that have been carried out.
- Must be apparent that regard has been had to the best scientific knowledge.
- Must contain a detailed analysis and evaluation of all available data with no lacunae or gaps.
- Must identify and analyse, in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field, all aspects of the proposed development which can, by itself or in combination with other projects or plans, affect the European Sites in the light of its conservation objectives. That analysis should distinguish between temporary and permanent impacts and has to address the impacts on the flora, fauna and habitats for which the site was designated and the impacts on the conservation objectives for the site.
- Must identify mitigation measures which will reduce impacts on the European Site and specify precisely how they will be implemented and why they will be effective. There cannot be any scientific doubt about the effectiveness of the mitigation measures and it will not be acceptable to say that these will be developed post-consent.
- Must contain clear, precise and definitive findings as to what the residual impacts will be on the European Site.
- Complete project details including a construction environmental management plans (CEMP) needs to be provided in order to allow an adequate appropriate assessment to be undertaken. It should be demonstrated that the CEMP and other such plans are adequate and effective mitigation, supported by scientific information and analysis, and that they are feasible within the physical constraints of the proposed site. The CEMP should also include methods to ensure invasive alien species are not introduced or spread.

- The positions, locations and sizes of construction infrastructure and mitigation, may significantly affect European sites, designated sites, habitats, and species in their own right and could have an effect for example on drainage, water quality, habitat loss, and disturbance. If these are undetermined at time of the assessment, all potential effects of the development on the site are not being considered. If applicants are not in a position to decide the exact location and details of these at time of application, then they need to consider the range of options that may be used in their assessment so that all issues are covered.

Archaeological Heritage

- There are no known archaeological sites/recorded monuments noted within or adjoining the existing Mortarstown WWTP or the Kilkenny Road Pumping Station sites.

Nonetheless, it is advisable to consult with the Development Applications Unit, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to determine whether an Archaeological Impact Assessment or other archaeological investigations are required given the nature and location of the proposed development adjacent to the River Barrow.

Built Heritage

The nearest protected structure is Erindale House (RPS Code: CW066, NIAH Reg. 10300702) which is a dwelling house circa 200m southwest of the Mortarstown WWTP site. This structure has a national rating in the record of protected structures in the current Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area with the following description noted;

A very interesting, small house of circa 1800 having a mixture of classical and gothick-revival features. The seven-bay, two-storey façade is built of brick with large, full-height, three-bay bows, a string course over the ground floor and raised coigns. The doorcase has a wide, leaded fanlight which is original and covers the sidelights. Over the doorcase, on the first floor, is a Venetian window with a pointed window in the centre. The windows on the ground floor are all pointed with sashes and switch-track tracery in the heads. The windows on the first floor are all pointed and all windows have painted architraves and retain much of the original glass. The low-pitched, sprocketed roof has small slates, exceptionally wide eaves and a pair of stacks. The house is flanked by screen walls with niches. To the rear of the house is a two-storey wing which appears to be a later addition.

In addition, Erindale Stables is also listed on the record of protected structures under RPS Code CW395.

The cultural heritage chapter in the EIAR should investigate the potential direct or indirect impact, if any, on the visual setting of such protected structures in the area.

Impacts on Residential Amenity and Adjoining Land Uses

- Potential impacts on residential properties and on existing adjoining land uses should be examined and assessed.

- The assessment of impacts on residential amenity and other sensitive land uses in the area should be accompanied by accurate mapping of all such properties clearly identifying the distance to same.

Noise, Vibration and Dust

- The EIAR should provide commentary on the construction and post construction period and assess the direct and indirect impacts in relation to noise, dust and vibration effects.

Air Quality

The EIAR should include baseline data in relation to odour sampling in the study area for the existing facilities. The EIAR should also include modelling predictions on the potential odour impacts (direct and indirect) from the upgraded facilities.

Flora and Fauna

The existing site and proposed site should be surveyed for invasive species and recommendations for control measures made as part of EIAR, and in an invasive species management plan.

Water Quality

Geological Survey and EPA mapping should be referred to regarding potential surface water and groundwater vulnerability in the area.

Surface Water Drainage

- A detailed survey of all existing and proposed on site drainage should be provided, clearly identifying where all on site water drains will discharge to and how drainage will be maintained.
- Detailed drainage design must be shown on the submitted plans.

Traffic and Transportation

The assessment of traffic and transportation issues should take account of the following:

- The provision of a traffic impact assessment for the construction phase.
- Details of the anticipated traffic types and volumes for the development should be provided and assessed, and broken down in daily, weekly and monthly figures. Details should also include expected peak site traffic, day to day hours and duration.
- Potential traffic impacts from HGVs negotiating built up areas should be considered, as well as the feasibility of avoiding routing HGV traffic through such locations.

- Full design details for the entrance(s) to the site should be provided to demonstrate adequate turning movements for HGVs and sightlines. Any accommodation works on third party lands must have written agreement of third party landowners.

Environment Department Comments

The applicant is advised that the Council's Environment Department have requested the following to be considered in the preparation of the EIAR Report;

- The Biodiversity section should include a formal Ecological Impact Assessment (in accordance with CIEEM guidelines) in addition to the Natura Impact Statement (NIS).
- The towpath is on the other side of the river and should not be impacted.

If you have any further queries in relation to this matter, please contact us at (059) [REDACTED] planningdevman@carlowcoco.ie.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Planning Department

Company

Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.



Our Ref: **G Pre0099/2021**

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

2nd September 2021

Atkins
Atkins House
150-155 Airside Business Park
Swords
Co Dublin

Via email: [REDACTED]

Re: Preplanning consultation for Ervia: upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow

A chara

I refer to email of 21st July 2021 in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings

Underwater Archaeology

As part of the Cultural Heritage Assessment in the proposed EIA, all impacts into the River Barrow should be archaeologically assessed, by way an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) in advance. The assessment should assess both river bank and in-river impacts.

The UAIA should be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced underwater archaeologist and should be carried out under licence (Dive Survey Licence and Detection Device Licence), with a detailed method statement submitted to the National Monuments Service's Licencing Section.

The UAIA should fully record river bank and river bed topography via detail survey that includes descriptive and photographic, including the carrying out of a metal detection survey. The UAIA should also address ingress and egress locations in the river by plant and machinery and assess the proposed methodology for placement of rock ramp and large stonework in the river, should they be needed for any outfall works.



The UAIA Report, once submitted, will be reviewed by the Underwater Archaeology Unit and a response will issued when the results of the UAIA have been considered.

The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority/ies, in the role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

You are requested to send further communications to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@housing.gov.ie, or to the address below.

Is mise le meas,



Development Applications Unit

RE: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

CS

Customer Service <Customer.Service@decc.gov.ie>

Translate message to: English

Never translate from: Irish

Translation preferences

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Tue 20/07/2021 09:28

Go raibh maith agat as teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide. Déanfaidh an fhoireann Seirbhís do Chustaiméirí d'fhiosú a athbhreithniú agus cuirfidh siad ar aghaidh chuig an Rannóg chuí é. Beidh siadsan ansin ábalta freagra cuimsitheach a thabhairt duit.

Ba chóir go bhfaighfeá an freagra sin laistigh de 20 lá oibre mar atá luaite inár gCairt um Sheirbhís do Chustaiméirí. Mura mbeidh freagra faighte agat laistigh den tréimhe sin, nó má tá tuilleadh fiosruithe agat, ná bíodh aon drogall ort teagmháil a dhéanamh linn.

De bhall na mbeart a glacadh le gaird i ndáil leis an víreas COVID-19, d'fhéadfaid sé go nglacfaid sé níos faide orainn ná mar is gnáth le d'fhiosú a fhreagairt. Gabhaimid buíochas leat as do chuid foighne.

Thank you for contacting the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Our Customer Service team will review your query and forward it to the relevant Division who can provide you with a comprehensive answer.

You should receive this response within 20 working days as stated in our Customer Service Charter. If you do not receive a response within this time, or if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Due to measures taken recently in relation to the COVID-19 virus, it may take longer than usual for us to answer your query. We thank you for your patience.

Disclaimer:

This electronic message contains information (and may contain files), which may be privileged or confidential. The information is intended to be for the sole use of the individual(s) or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this information and or files is prohibited. If you have received this electronic message in error, please notify the sender immediately. This is also to certify that this mail has been scanned for viruses.

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

Automatic reply: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

HQ

Housing Qcsofficer <qcsofficer@housing.gov.ie>

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Tue 20/07/2021 09:29

A Chara

Thank you for your email to the Quality Customer Service mailbox of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. We will examine your query and endeavour to resolve it within 15 working days, in accordance with our Customer Charter.

We will use the information and details you have provided to us to examine and respond to your query. Your email will be kept in the QCS mailbox which is password protected and accessible only to those officials working on the QCS account. Emails to this account are retained for no longer than one year, unless it is necessary to retain them for a longer period in the context of the ongoing resolution of an issue.

Go raibh maith agat as ucht do ríomphoist chuig Seirbhís Ardchailgheáin do Chustaiméirí na Roinne Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht. Bíonn sé d'aidhm againn do cheist a fhreagairt faoi cheann15 lá oibre.

Kind regards

Quality Customer Service Office

RE: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

HM

Housing Minister Of State <ministerofstate@housing.gov.ie>

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Reply

Reply All

Forward

Tue 20/07/2021 17:19

Dear

On behalf of Mr. Peter Burke TD, Minister for Planning and Local Government, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence.

Kind Regards,

Minister of State Peter Burke's Office

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Churaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0

www.tithiocht.gov.ie
www.housing.gov.ie



From: <atkinsglobal.com>
Sent: Tuesday 20 July 2021 09:28
To: Housing Qcsofficer <qcsofficer@housing.gov.ie>; Housing Minister Of State <ministerofstate@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

Dear Sir / Madam,

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

We would appreciate a response (if relevant) in relation to any issues you may have regarding the receiving environment in writing by 10th August or earlier if possible. If you require any further information regarding Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade project or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me or . We would greatly appreciate it if you could revert back at your earliest convenience or by 10th August 2021 by email .

Kind regards,

RE: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

MD

Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@housing.gov.ie>

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Wed 21/07/2021 11:31

I acknowledge receipt of your recent consultation.

In the event of observations, you will receive a co-ordinated heritage-related response by email from Development Applications Unit (DAU).

The normal target turnaround for pre-planning and other general consultations is six weeks from date of receipt. In relation to general consultations from public bodies under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 to 2011, the Department endeavours to meet deadline dates, where requested.

If you have not heard from DAU and wish to receive an update, please email manager.dau@chg.gov.ie.

Regards

Executive Officer

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit
Oifigi an Rialtais
Government Offices
Bóthar an tSáile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford Y35 AP90

From: <atkinsglobal.com>
Sent: Tuesday 20 July 2021 09:34
To: biodiversitypolicy <biodiversitypolicy@housing.gov.ie>; Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

Dear Sir / Madam,

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

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Automatic reply: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

EA Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly <info@emra.ie>
To [REDACTED]

Reply Reply All Forward ...
Tue 20/07/2021 09:31

Thank you for your message.

In keeping with government guidelines and to protect our staff, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly team is working from home until further notice.
We will respond to you as soon as possible.

For any further query, please contact [REDACTED] EMRA Director at [REDACTED]

Kind regards,
EMRA team

RE: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

E EIAPlanning <eiaplanning@epa.ie>
To [REDACTED]

Follow up - Start by 23 July 2021. Due by 23 July 2021.
You forwarded this message on 10/08/2021 09:52.

EPA Request for a Scoping Opinion form WWD.docx
.docx File

Reply Reply All Forward ...
Fri 23/07/2021 09:51

We acknowledge receipt of your email and EIAR Scoping Report for the respect of the proposed upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow.
If you are requesting a Scoping Opinion (on the scope and level of detail to be included in an EIAR) under the provisions of the European Union (Waste Water Discharge) Regulations 2007 to 2020, please complete the attached Scoping request form and send it to eiaplanning@epa.ie with any relevant information (e.g. EIAR Scoping Report) attached.

Kind regards,

Environmental Licensing Programme

Environmental Licensing Programme
Office of Environmental Sustainability
An Clár um Cheadúnú Comhshaoil
Oifig um Inbhuanaítheacht Comhshaoil



From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hobal.com>
Sent: 20 July 2021 09:30
To: EIAPlanning <eiaplanning@epa.ie>
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

Dear Sir / Madam,

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

We would appreciate a response (if relevant) in relation to any issues you may have regarding the receiving environment in writing by 10th August or earlier if possible. If you require any further information regarding Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade project or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] would greatly appreciate it if you could revert back at your earliest convenience or by 10th August 2021 by email [REDACTED]

Kind regards,



Environmental Consultant
Ireland

Re: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report [#299030]

E esbnetworks@esb.ie
To [REDACTED]

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.



Bhain do rphost ESB Networks amach. Cuirfear freagra chugat a luaithe agus is féidir.

Chun éigeandáil a thuairisc nò eolas a thabhairt faoi idirbhrisí soláthair glaoigh le do thoil ar 1800 372 999 nó +35321 238 2410 láithreach.
Go Raibh Maith Agat.

Your email has reached ESB Networks. We will reply as soon as possible.

To report a dangerous situation or for information on supply interruptions please call 1800 372 999 or +353 21 238 2410 immediately.
Thank You.

ESB Networks Customer Care | T: 1800372757 | +353 21 2386555 | F: +353 21 4844261 | www.esbnetworks.ie

Reply Reply All Forward ...
Tue 20/07/2021 15:22

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender. If you are unsure about any links or attachments, please forward it to ESB Cybersecurity Operations at spammonitor@esb.ie

Dear Sir / Madam,

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

We would appreciate a response (if relevant) in relation to any issues you may have regarding the receiving environment in writing by 10th August or earlier if possible. If you require any further information regarding Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade project or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED] We would greatly appreciate it if you could revert back at your earliest convenience or by 10th August 2021 by email [REDACTED]

Kind regards,



Environmental Consultant
Ireland

RE: Fáilte Ireland:: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report Email No .0100169012949

PA planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
To [REDACTED]

Follow up - Start by 04 August 2021. Due by 04 August 2021.
Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines.pdf
.pdf File

Reply Reply All Forward ...
Wed 04/08/2021 15:22

Thank you for your email regarding the EIAR Scoping Report for the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant upgrade, it was sent on to me by a member of our Customer Support Team.

Please see attached the updated copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA, which you may find informative for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed project. The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

Just for your information, Fáilte Ireland has a dedicated mailbox for all planning notifications/applications etc. email address planning.applications@failteireland.ie
By using this email address it will ensure the information/notifications will get to the Manager of the Environment & Planning (Mr Shane Dineen) and will be reviewed and actioned in a timely manner by the Manager and the Environment & Planning Team.

Regards & thanks,



Product Development-Planning and Environmental Support | Fáilte Ireland
Áras Fáilte, 88/95 Armaré Street, Dublin 1, D01WR86
www.failteireland.ie



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Received: Tue Jul 20 2021 09:31:01 GMT+0100 (Irish Standard Time)
To: customersupport@failteireland.ie
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

[ATTENTION] This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

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Kind regards,



Request for a written Scoping Opinion from the Environmental Protection Agency on the scope and level of detail of information to be contained in an EIAR

Where a request for a Scoping Opinion is received by the Agency which meets the requirements of the relevant legislation¹, the Agency will, in preparing their opinion, consult with the relevant bodies in accordance with the legislation.

Name, address, telephone number and email address (if any), of the water services authority:	
Contact Name & details for correspondence:	
Date:	
Licence Type: Where Licence Review Application, state Reg. No.:	
Nature of Project:	Briefly describe the proposed project:
Location:	State the location, townland or postal address of the land or structure to which the request relates (as may be appropriate):
Provide the following information as part of a request for a Scoping Opinion:	Include a location map marked so as to clearly identify— i. the land or structure to which the request relates and the boundaries thereof in red, ii. any land which adjoins, abuts or is adjacent to the land to be developed and which is under the control of the water services authority in blue, and iii. any wayleaves in yellow Include a description of— i. the nature of the proposed development, ii. the development's specific characteristics, including its location and technical capacity, and iii. the development's likely impact on the environment. (Note: this information should be attached with this form as part of a request for a Scoping Opinion; the information can be provided in the form of a Scoping Report).
Confirm that the information is attached (Yes/No):	
EPA email address for Scoping correspondence	eiaplanning@epa.ie

¹ Regulation 17C of the European Union (Waste Water Discharge) Regulations 2007 to 2020.

EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects



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1. Introduction

Tourism is a growing sector and substantial part of the Irish Economy. It contributes to both urban and rural economies in every part of the country. The impact and interaction of tourism with the environment is complex and the assessment of environmental impacts is of utmost importance to creating a sustainable tourism economy and protecting the natural resources that are so often a tourism attraction.

The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

This guidance document has been prepared by Cunnane Stratton Reynolds on behalf of Fáilte Ireland to update their EIA guidelines in line with changes in legislative requirements.

2. Background to this Document

Tourism is one of the largest and most important sectors of the economy, providing employment for approximately **260,000 people**, an economic contribution of **€8.4 billion**, and exchequer revenue of **€1.78 billion** in 2018, which helps fund other key public services.

In 2018 Ireland welcomed **10.6 million overseas visitors**.

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority. Fáilte Irelands role is to support the tourism industry and work to sustain Ireland as a high-quality and competitive tourism destination. They provide a range of practical business supports to help tourism businesses better manage and market their products and services.

Fáilte Ireland also work with other state agencies and representative bodies, at local and national levels, to implement and champion positive and practical strategies that will benefit Irish tourism and the Irish economy.

Fáilte Ireland promotes Ireland as a holiday destination through a domestic marketing campaign (DiscoverIreland.ie) and manage a network of nationwide tourist information centres that provide help and advice for visitors to Ireland.

Tourism related projects cover a broad range of plans, programmes and developments, from the Wild Atlantic Way to a single hotel conversion. These guidelines apply to projects involving or impacting upon tourism. A tourism plan, strategy or programme where it is part of the statutory plan making process under the Planning and Development Acts (as amended), may be more appropriately assessed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as discussed in the next section.

It should be borne in mind that EIA is required where there is anticipated to be a significant impact on the environment, where tourism projects are of a prescribed type or meet thresholds identified below.

Where Natura 2000 Designated Sites are potentially affected by tourism development Appropriate Assessment must be carried out by the appropriate authority in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

Environmental Impact Assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before planning based decisions are made. The assessment results in a report, called an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Legislation

These guidelines are produced under current EIAR legislative requirements, having regard to Directive 2011/92/EU (known as 'Environmental Impact Assessment' – EIA Directive), as amended by Directive EU 2014/52 which came into effect in May of 2017. These requirements were transposed into Irish Law on 1 September 2018 as most of the provisions of the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) came into effect. The principle of both Directives is to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.

Statutory Guidance

In response to the changes to the EIAR requirements under Directive EU 2014/52, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed Draft guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports in August 2017. At the time of this document the guidelines have not been adopted from draft.

In addition to the EPA statutory guidance, the Department of Housing has produced Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment in August 2018.

The process of EIA is set out in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, which this document should be read in conjunction with and used as supplementary guidance to. The process for ascertaining whether an EIAR is required is known as 'screening' and the process to determine the breadth and scope of an EIAR is known as 'scoping'. Guidance on this can be found in Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines.

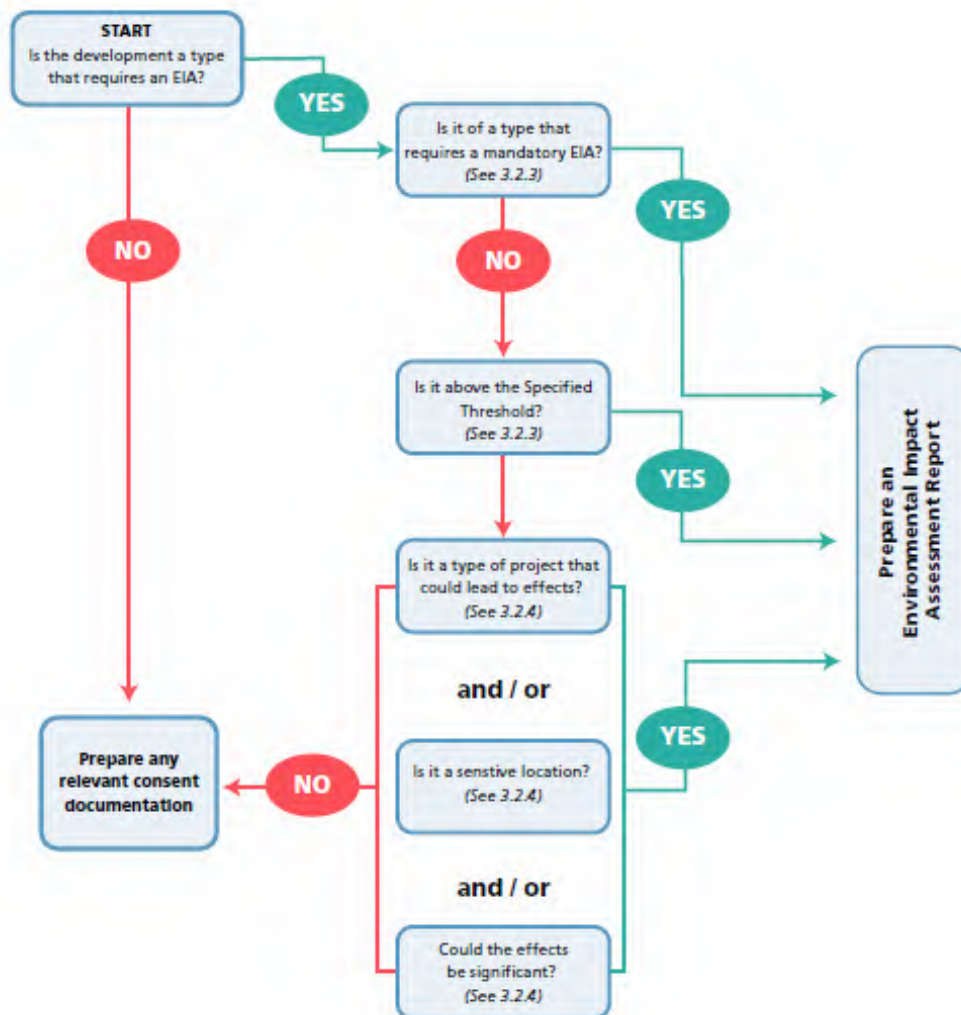
Screening

Through EIAR Screening, developments are either considered as requiring an EIAR due to the project type or because they exceed a threshold level. The screening process begins by establishing whether the proposal is a 'project' as understood by the Directive (as amended).

The prescribed development types and thresholds are set out in Annex I and II of the EIA Directive as transposed into Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2010-2018 (as amended). Development which do not exceed these thresholds but may require an EIAR are called sub threshold. Sub-Threshold considerations are outlined in Schedule 7 of European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) as transposed from Annex III of the Directive. The Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports note that projects at first glance may not appear to come under the Schedule

but on closer examination when the process is further examined, they may do so because of the sensitivity or significance of the receiving environment etc. Sub threshold developments require an EIAR if they are likely to have significant environmental impacts and must undergo assessment for likely significant impacts through an EIAR screening report. The contents of a screening report for subthreshold development are contained in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Figure 1: EIAR Screening Process



(Taken from Fig 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines)

Tourism locations should be identified as sensitive receptors in screening assessments for particular impacts, depending on scale and sensitivity, as they would in a full EIAR. Section 6 below can act as guidance for Screening Reports as well as for full EIAR.

The screening process for considering where an EIAR is necessary, is summarised below in Figure 1 (excerpted from Figure 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines).

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a more strategic level of environmental assessment that examines plans, policies, objectives and programmes specifically rather than projects. For some tourism developments it may be more appropriate that they be examined through SEA, while individual projects or specific proposals are likely to be more assessed through EIAR. If a project is part of a plan, programme or policy/objective assessed by SEA there will still be a requirement for an EIAR for that development.

EIAR Scoping

Scoping an EIAR is an opportunity to look at the breadth of issues and ensure that any areas of possible significant impact are assessed. Identifying sensitivities and stakeholders should take account of tourism facilities and consider Fáilte Ireland in scoping requests where necessary.

4. Assessing Tourism

There is no legal definition of 'tourism' in Irish legislation. The UNWTO definition of sustainable tourism is *"Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities"*. This is widely accepted as a key definition of tourism as we move to a more sustainable future.

Tourism assessments are frequently carried out by economic consultants and by specific tourism consultants. It is always advisable, particular for tourism projects, that suitably qualified and experienced personnel are used to determine the impact of tourism related projects or to assess the impact of more general proposals on a tourism asset identified in a particular location. There is a requirement for EIAR under current legislation to contain a statement of competency within all EIAR documents, including screening and scoping reports.

Projects which involve a tourism element

Tourism projects are wide ranging and diverse. While there are some projects which cater to tourism and are easily identified as such - Hotels, Museums, etc. there are other projects where tourism is a key service or element, but which may not be immediately obvious - forest trails, community facilities and others. EIAR conducted for developments containing tourist elements should be completed in accordance with the current guidance from the EPA.

Projects which include a tourism element have potential particular environmental effects which differ from a non-tourism development. These impacts can be intermittent, event related, inconsistent, dependent on weather, temporal, temporary or seasonal. This is considered within the prescribed environmental topics for EIAR outlined in Section 7 below.

Projects which may have an impact upon tourism

While tourism projects may be diverse, the projects which can impact tourism are considerably more wide ranging, from large infrastructural developments to local energy developments. Disruption to or suppression of a tourist resource or amenity can have very local or more strategic impacts, directly or indirectly- for example energy projects in a rural area can have both a negative and positive impact in different regards. There can be temporary, periodic or even seasonal impacts occurring during construction or operational periods.

According to the Fáilte Ireland Tourism Facts 2018 Report, the most important factors in determining the attractiveness of tourism destinations for visitors to Ireland are;

- Beautiful Scenery and Unspoiled Environment
- Hospitality
- Safety
- Nature, Wildlife and Natural Attractions
- History and Culture
- Pace of Life

These factors used for the promotion of tourism in Ireland are also barometers of sensitivity to change in tourism sensitive or dominant locations where development may have an impact upon the tourism asset. The potential for development to impact these sensitivities, and the environmental criteria under which they can be considered, are identified in section 7 of the guidelines.

5. Guiding Principles of EIAR

As outlined in the EPA Draft EIAR Guidelines, the fundamental principles to be followed when preparing an EIAR, including screening and scoping, are:

- Anticipating, avoiding and reducing significant effects
- Assessing and mitigating effects
- Maintaining objectivity
- Ensuring clarity and quality
- Providing relevant information to decision makers
- Facilitating better consultation.

Environmental assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications

As per Section 2.5 of the EPA Guidelines, EIAR is required to be completed by 'competent experts'.

Contributors to the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, including screening and scoping assessments, should be qualified and competent. Sufficient expertise, in the relevant field of the project concerned, is required for the purpose of its examination by the competent authorities in order to ensure that the information provided by the developer is complete and of a high level of quality so that a full and proper assessment can be undertaken.

For tourism related projects, or projects likely to affect tourism assets, competent experts in the area of tourism should be utilised in the environmental assessment.

The competency of all involved in the production of an EIAR or any related report (eg. Screening and scoping) is required to be stated at the beginning of the EIAR report with further details as necessary in each following chapter.

Where tourism projects involve for example heritage or cultural components, input from heritage consultants, conservation architects, or historians may be required.

7. EIAR Requirements

The following are the key requirements for an EIAR under the current guidance. This is not a definitive list and should be read in conjunction with regulations.

- project description;
- assessment of alternatives considered;

- baseline assessment;
- impact assessment;
- cumulative impact
- interaction of impacts
- mitigation.

Project Description

Project descriptions are required to describe the whole project including site, scale, design and key factors. It is important that the EIAR and design team have a consistent understanding of the development description in full. The key requirements are outlined in section 3.5 of the EPA Guidelines however they identify the following;

- the location of the project
- the physical characteristics of the whole project
- the main characteristics of the operational phase of the project
- an estimate, by type and quantity, of the expected residues and emissions

The location of the project should include identifying key sensitive receptors (including tourism receptors). In the operational phase of the project any tourism based, or potentially tourism related activity, should be identified.

Assessment of Alternatives

The assessment of alternatives is a requirement of EIAR

Where tourism projects are location dependent the assessment of alternatives should consider alternative methods and technologies, detail the key considerations culminating in the selection of the design, the reasoning for these and the environmental effect of these decisions. This is particularly important for tourism projects which are often location tied. The developer is expected to consider reasonable alternatives. What is considered reasonable may vary from case to case.

Baseline Assessment

Baseline descriptions are evidence based, current descriptions of environmental characteristics with consideration of likely changes to the baseline environment evidenced in planning histories, unimplemented permissions, and applications pending determination. Baseline assessments should identify any tourism sensitivities in the zone of influence of a development. This zone of influence of a development is highly dependant on its **Context, Character, Significance, and Sensitivity**, as outlined in the Draft Guidelines. These characteristics apply to both the development and the environment.

For example, in a tourism context;

The location of sensitive tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected should be highlighted, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of in combination impacts such as alteration of traffic flows or increased urban development.

The character of an area from a tourism perspective should be described and the principal types of tourism in the area. Where relevant, the specific environmental resources or attributes in the existing environment which each group uses or values should be stated and where relevant, indicate the time, duration or seasonality of any of those activities.

The significance of the tourism assets or activities likely to be affected should be highlighted. Reference to any existing formal or published designation or

recognition of such significance should be. Where possible the value of the contribution of such tourism assets and activities to the local economy should be provided.

If there are any significant concerns or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism stakeholders and interest groups, this should be highlighted. Identify, where possible, the particular aspect of the development which is of concern, together with the part of the existing tourism resource which may be threatened or impacted.

In addition, the baseline should include any methodologies employed in the study to obtain information, if particular databases are used to locate sensitive receptors they should be acknowledged. In relation to tourism information, the suggested information sources at the end of this document are a non-exhaustive list which may be of assistance in identifying tourism receptors.

Impact Assessment

The topics for consideration of impact are prescribed in the EIA Directive and transcribed into Irish law by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018). Impact assessment should contain the likely significant effects of a development arising from both construction and operation of a development. Advice on describing the effects is contained within the Draft Guidelines and includes the **quality, significance, extent, probability, type** and **duration** of the effect, with particular descriptors for each. In describing effects upon tourism receptors these descriptors should take account of the particular aspects and sensitivities of tourism, for example a temporary annual effect from a development may have different impacts upon tourism if it falls at peak season rather than off-peak.

Impact assessment should be carried out as per EPA guidelines and the best practice for that prescribed topic. It may be considered appropriate to consider impact on tourism assets under the 'material assets' topic below.

Population and Human Health

The consideration of tourism projects within the Population and Human Health is extensive, with impacts ranging from rural employment population impacts of seasonal tourism, to the health impact of air pollution from increased traffic in urban areas.

The impact upon tourism can be considered within this section through the sensitivities of Hospitality, Safety and Pace of Life. Changes in population can impact the perception of pace of life or safety in a particular location. Impacts upon these issues in areas which rely heavily on tourism or have a particular sensitive tourism generator should be considered in this section.

Biodiversity

Particular tourist activities can have a significant impact upon biodiversity. Landscapes which are 'unspoiled' can be attractors of tourism. However, the disturbance to ecology must be managed to minimise impact. Biodiversity is also a tourism asset and should be protected as such from other development and should be provided for in proposals where possible.

Land, Soils and Geology

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however particular activities or facilities which use geological features may have an impact upon soils and geology, such as mountain biking trails, recreational uses of old quarries etc. Indirect impacts such as material use for extensive landscaping and public realm should also be considered.

Water

Tourism uses can be water intense, depending on development type. Recreational use of a surface water feature, water-based leisure centres etc have different impacts to standard development.

Air Quality and Climate

Tourism impact upon air quality is dependent on activity proposed and sensitivity of the location.

Noise and Vibration

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however the impact upon tourism of issues of noise and vibration can be significant. Construction adjoining hotels for example should consider the sensitivity of the development and ensure mitigation is in place.

Material Assets; Traffic and Transport

The different transport patterns associated with tourism activities is a key impact of tourism and should be considered especially for tourism projects. These produce temporal and seasonal changes on the norm and specialist consideration and interpretation should be given. Tourism proposals should, where possible, be well served by public transport and should be accessible by modes other than the car. The impact of traffic on tourism assets can be substantial and can vary in severity according to season, the weather, etc. The impact of construction traffic can be a particular concern in tourism sensitive areas in terms of noise pollution and visual impact. The construction programme of developments should work to avoid peak tourism periods in tourism areas and should consider planned or anticipated tourism events and festivals.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage can be a key component of tourism projects and the impact of tourism on the maintenance of cultural heritage should be given the utmost consideration, whether positive or negative. As a tourism attraction, cultural heritage should be strongly considered in non-tourism developments and the impact upon tourism considered as a potential impact.

Archaeology

Archaeology can be of tourism interest and can be an attractive or key component of tourism projects. Archaeology can be a tourism attractor but is generally not kept in situ except in key cases which could also be considered under cultural heritage.

Material Assets; Waste Management

Tourism is a resource heavy activity and can impact waste streams and waste segregation. Impacts here should be considered strongly and with knowledge of the variation that arises from the particular tourist activity. Waste and Waste disposal issues can also impact the perception of an unspoiled environment, effecting tourism, which should be considered.

Material Assets

Material assets are utilities and infrastructure. Tourism itself could be considered a material asset as its impact upon the economy and the infrastructure in place to support it is a material consideration in assessing economic impact.

Landscape

The visual impact of a tourism development, especially in locations which are visually sensitive or renowned for their scenic or landscape beauty, should be considered carefully. A

development intended to utilise or enjoy a particular vista or environment should minimise impact upon that environment.

Major Accident and Natural Disaster

There is a requirement for tourist developments to describe expected significant effects on the environment of the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents and/or natural disasters relevant to it. Where appropriate measures should be identified to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such accidents or disasters, including resulting from climate change, on the environment and detail the preparedness for the proposed response.

Interaction of Effects

Where two or more environmental impacts combine or interact they should be considered under the prescribed topics. It is best practice to provide a table of interactions within an EIAR or EIAR Screening Report.

Mitigation

Mitigation should follow the hierarchy of minimisation in descending order of preference- Avoid, Reduce, Remedy

Avoid sensitive tourism resources- such as views, access and amenity areas including habitats as well as historical or cultural sites and structures.

Reduce the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental impact

Reduce the adverse effects to tourism land uses and patterns of activities, especially through interactions arising from significant changes in the intensity of use or contrasts of character or appearance.

Remedy any unavoidable significant residual adverse effects on tourism resources or activities.

Mitigation measures must be measurable and achievable within the bounds of the project.

Cumulative Impact

The cumulative impact is that of the project combined with any known likely project which will interact or compound an environmental impact.

Transboundary Impact

Transboundary impacts should be included in EIAR. In the case of tourism, especially international travel, the transboundary impacts may not be proximate to the EIAR site.

8. Sources of information on Tourism

Information available online

Fáilte Ireland

Fáilte Ireland offers detailed research analysis and insights into the Irish Tourism Industry. The National Tourism Development Authority has a portfolio of research across a number of areas including facts and figures, briefing papers and reports and visitor feedback. The Fáilte Ireland website has a dedicated research library which can be accessed [here](#)

Tourism Ireland

Tourism Ireland is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a holiday and business tourism destination. Tourism Ireland publishes a range of research documents including; visitor facts and figures, seasonal updates and industry insights which are accessible [here](#)

Local Authorities

Local Authorities are an invaluable source of information. They produce tourism strategies and audits of tourism assets within their jurisdiction. Local authorities will also produce landscape and seascape studies. Protected views and prospects as well as the record of protected structures and other designated protected buildings are contained within the Statutory Development Plans.

Regional Authorities

Regional Authorities can also be consulted on high level strategic tourism and potential Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) should be consulted.

Central Statistics Office

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is Ireland's national statistical office and their purpose is to impartially collect, analyse and make available statistics about Ireland's people, society and economy. The Tourism and Travel Section of the Central Statistics Office is the major source for tourism statistics in Ireland and is updated regularly.

GP

GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>

To

Cc

Follow up

Start by 10 August 2021

Due by 10 August 2021

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

21_265 Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade.pdf

.pdf File

GSI datasets relevant to EIA & SEA_20210421.pdf

.pdf File

Dear [REDACTED]

With reference to your email received on the 20 July 2021, concerning the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant upgrade - EIA Scoping Report, please find attached response and dataset sheet from Geological Survey Ireland.

If you have any further queries or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me Trish Smullen, or my colleague Clare Glanville at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]
Geological Survey Ireland

From: GSI Planning
Sent: 20 July 2021 14:10
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: GSI Planning
Subject: EIS 21/265 Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

EIS 21/265
Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade, Co.Carlow - EIA Scoping Report.
Request for observations by Atkins Ireland Ltd. for return before Tuesday 10 August.
EIA Scoping report attached.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: Duty Geologist
Sent: 20 July 2021 12:22
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

Hi Trish,
Can you take the enquiry below please?
Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: Duty Geologist
Sent: 20 July 2021 12:22
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

Hi Trish,
Can you take the enquiry below please?
Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <atkinsglobal.com>
Sent: 20 July 2021 09:31
To: Duty Geologist
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIA. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIA which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIA.

We would appreciate a response (if relevant) in relation to any issues you may have regarding the receiving environment in writing by 10th August or earlier if possible. If you require any further information regarding Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade project or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED]. We would greatly appreciate it if you could revert back at your earliest convenience or by 10th August 2021 by email [REDACTED].

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]
Environmental Consultant
Ireland

+353 1 810 8882

Right-click or tap and hold here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.
150 Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin

Right-click or tap and hold here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download

Thank you for your Email.

W

WCU <wcu@hsa.ie>

To

Translate message to English

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Translation preferences

This is an automated message, please do not respond.

Dear Customer,

Thank you for your email. As we are currently experiencing a large volume of queries, our response time may take longer than usual. In the meantime, please note that we have lots of useful information on our website, including guidance in relation to managing COVID-19 in the workplace. See here<https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.hsa.ie/eng/topics/covid-19/covid-19_coronavirus.html> for more details.

If your email is in relation to when a business can reopen, please see <https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.gov.ie/roadmap> ;!OepY26Qlrz1BzimTuago8S97Jhut0WXdv-BI2TUFT1hAwdGj1L8Z6Xlb9rCPL6YvMtsLn01e 5Y8cS<<https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.gov.ie/roadmap> ;!OepY26Qlrz1BzimTuago8S97Jhut0WXdv-BI2TUFT1hAwdGj1L8Z6Xlb9rCPL6YvMtsLn01e 5Y8cS> for the latest information.

If your email is in relation to a general COVID-19 health matter, please contact the Health Service Executive (HSE) on 1850 24 1850.

Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.

Kind regards

Workplace Contact Unit
Health and Safety Authority
Email: wcu@hsa.ie or wcu@hsa.ie

This is an automated message, please do not respond.

Is teachtaireacht uathoilbroch í seo, ná freagair í le do thoil.

A chustaiméir, a chara,

Go raibh maith agat as ríomhphost a sheoladh chugainn. Toisc go bhfuil líon mór ceisteanna á gcur orainn faoi láthair, d'fhéadfadh sé go mbeadh móil orainn freagra a chur chugat. Idir an dá linn, ba mhaith linn a chur in iúl duit go bhfuil go leor eolas úsáideach ar ár suíomh gréasáin, treoir faoin gcaoi le dul i ngleic le COVID-19 san ionad oibre ina measc. Tá níos mó eolais anseo<https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.hsa.ie/eng/topics/covid-19/covid-19_coronavirus.html> .

Má bhaineann do ríomhphost le ceist faoin uair is féidir le gnó athoscailt, tá an t-eolas is deirneanál le fáil ar <https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.gov.ie/roadmap> ;!OepY26Qlrz1BzimTuago8S97Jhut0WXdv-BI2TUFT1hAwdGj1L8Z6Xlb9rCPL6YvMtsLn01e 5Y8cS<<https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.gov.ie/roadmap> ;!OepY26Qlrz1BzimTuago8S97Jhut0WXdv-BI2TUFT1hAwdGj1L8Z6Xlb9rCPL6YvMtsLn01e 5Y8cS> .

Má bhaineann do ríomhphost le ceist ghinearálta sláinte faoi COVID-19, téigh i dteagmháil le do thoil le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte (HSE) ar 1850 24 1850.

Is mór againn do chuid foighne agus tuiscena faoi láthair.

Le gach dea-ghuí

An tAonad Teagmhála leis an Ionad Oibre
An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Ríomhphost: wcu@hsa.ie or wcu@hsa.ie

Is teachtaireacht uathoilbroch í seo, ná freagair í le do thoil.

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Tue 10/08/2021 15:5

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Tue 20/07/2021 09:36



Julie Larkin
WS Atkins Ireland Limited
Atkins House
150 Airside Business Park
Swords
Co. Dublin

10 August 2021

Re: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

Your Ref: 5161805

Our Ref: 21/265

Dear Julie,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your email received on the 20 July 2021, concerning the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

Geoheritage

Geological Survey Ireland is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.

County Geological Sites (CGSs), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include additional sites that may also be of national importance, but which were not selected as the very best examples for NHA designation. All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS. CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit for Co. Carlow was completed out in 2004. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinities of the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow.**

Groundwater

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems.

Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#), which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps.



For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.

The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates two aquifers classed as a ‘Regionally important gravel aquifer’ and a ‘Regionally Important Aquifer - Karstified (diffuse)’, underlie the both the WwTP and Pump Station. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the area covered is classified as ‘High’ Vulnerability.

[GWClimate](#) is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GWFlood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Maps and data are available on the [Map viewer](#).

The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main report is here: <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx>.

Geological Mapping

Geological Survey Ireland maintains online datasets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that are reliable and accessible. We would encourage you to use these data which can be found [here](#), in your future assessments.

Geotechnical Database Resources

Geological Survey Ireland continues to populate and develop our national geotechnical database and viewer with site investigation data submitted voluntarily by industry. The current database holding is over 7500 reports with 134,000 boreholes; 31,000 of which are digitised which can be accessed through downloads from our [Geotechnical Map Viewer](#). We would encourage the use of this database as part of any baseline geological assessment of the proposed development as it can provide invaluable baseline data for the region or vicinity of proposed development areas. This information may be beneficial and cost saving for any site-specific investigations that may be designed as part of the project.

Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)

Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our [Minerals section](#) of the website. The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our [Map Viewer](#).

We would recommend use of the Aggregate Potential Mapping viewer to identify areas of High to Very High source aggregate potential within the area. In keeping with a sustainable approach we would recommend use of our data and mapping viewers to identify and ensure that natural resources used in the proposed upgrade are sustainably sourced from properly recognised and licensed facilities, and that consideration of future resource sterilization is considered.

Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments

Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx>. This page also hosts Geochemical Mapping of Agricultural and Grazing Land Soil of Europe (GEMAS) and lithogeochemistry (rock geochemistry) from southeast Ireland datasets. Geological Survey Ireland and partners are undertaking applied geochemistry projects to provide data for agriculture ([Terra Soil](#)), waste soil characterisation ([Geochemically Appropriate Levels for Soil Recovery Facilities](#)) and mineral exploration ([Mineral Prospectivity Mapping](#)).



Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to Beatriz Mozo, Geological Mapping Unit, at Beatriz.Mozo@gsi.ie, 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geological Survey Ireland

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.

Re: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

IWT Info <info@iwt.ie>

To: [REDACTED]

Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Tue 20/07/2021 13:24

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting the Irish Wildlife Trust regarding the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant - EIAR Scoping Report.

We do not have the capacity to consider or respond to all scoping requests at the moment. We will endeavour to respond if possible.

Regards,

The Irish Wildlife Trust

On Tue, 20 Jul 2021 at 04:32, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@atkinsglobal.com> wrote:

Dear Sir / Madam,

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

We would appreciate a response (if relevant) in relation to any issues you may have regarding the receiving environment in writing by 10th August or earlier if possible. If you require any further information regarding Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade project or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]. We would greatly appreciate it if you could revert back at your earliest convenience or by 10th August 2021 by email to [REDACTED].

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Environmental Consultant
Ireland

+353 1 810 8882

FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

N [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@housing.gov.ie>

on behalf of nationalmonuments <nationalmonuments@housing.gov.ie>

5161805D60201 rev 3 - EIAR Scoping Report.pdf

.pdf File

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Wed 25/08/2021 14:35

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

I have forwarded to our Development Applications Unit (DAU) who coordinate the Department's comments on planning applications.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

National Monuments Service

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áimhí agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01W6X0
Custom House, Dublin 1, D01W6X0
www.archaeology.ie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday 25 August 2021 11:56
To: qcsofficer@housing.gov.ie; nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie; nationalmonuments <nationalmonuments@housing.gov.ie>
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

Dear Sir / Madam,

Atkins Ireland Ltd. (Atkins) on behalf of Ervia are currently delivering engineering and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

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Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Environmental Consultant
Ireland

+353 1 810 8882

Automatic reply: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

Info Opw <info@opw.ie>

Translate message to: English

Never translate from Irish

Translation preferences

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Tue 20/07/2021 09:35

Thank you for your email to the Office of Public Works.

Your query has been forwarded to the relevant section within the OPW for direct reply.

If you do not receive a response within 20 working days, please email this address again for further assistance.

All Media queries should be emailed to pressoffice@opw.ie

This is an automated response. Please do not respond to this email.

Go raibh maith agat as an ríomhphost uait chuig Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí. Seoladh do cheist chuig an rannóg chui taobh istigh den OPW a thabharfaidh freagra díreach duit. Sa chás nach bhfaighfeann tú freagra taobh istigh de 20 lá oibre, seol ríomhphost chuig an seoladh seo arís le do thoil, chun cúnamh breise a fháil.

Ba chóir ceisteanna meán a sheoladh trí ríomhphost chuig pressoffice@opw.ie

Is freagra uathoibríthe é seo. Ná seol freagra ar an ríomhphost seo le do thoil.

Communications

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Sráid Jonathan Swift, Baile Átha Troim, Co na Mí, C15 NX36
Jonathan Swift Street, Trim, Co Meath, C15 NX36

T +353 46 942 6000
<https://www.opw.ie>

Email Disclaimer: <https://www.opw.ie/en/disclaimer/>

Email Disclaimer: <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/439daf-email-disclaimer/>

INFO <Information@tii.ie>

To [REDACTED]

You forwarded this message on 04/08/2021 10:51.

transport infrastructure Ireland (TII) wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants in respect to proposed developments. It will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consenter under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines, as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.TII.ie.

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Wed 04/08/2021 10:49

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals, following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

With respect to EIAR/Environmental Constraints Scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road network.

The developer should have regard, inter alia, to the following:

- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to the locations of existing and future national road schemes in the area.
- TII would be specifically concerned regarding potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in proximity to the proposed development.
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads.
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Assessment Report/Statement and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.
- The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the 'Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works').
- The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes' (National Roads Authority (NRA), 2006).
- The EIAR should consider the 'Environmental Noise Regulations 2006' (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes' (1st Rev., NRA, 2004)).
- Where new structures may be proposed on national roads, the developer is reminded of the requirements of TII Publications, in particular 'Technical Acceptance of Road Structures on Motorways and Other National Roads' (DN-STR-03001). This Standard specifies the procedures to be followed in order to obtain Technical Acceptance for structures on motorway and other national road schemes and for the submission of as built records. The procedures cover the design of all road structures, including bridges, tunnels, subways, culverts, buried corrugated steel structures, retaining walls, reinforced earth structures, gantries, environmental noise barriers and temporary structures under or over motorways or other roads carrying public traffic.
- The developer should also be aware that there is Technical Acceptance requirements relating to the assessment, alteration, modification, strengthening and repair of all existing road structures (national roads) and same shall be agreed with the Bridge Management Section of TII.
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. TII's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development, with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of TII's TTA Guidelines, which address requirements for sub-threshold TTA.
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.
- In relation to haul route identification, the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal loads are a feature of the proposed development, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route and all structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load.

Notwithstanding, any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Senior Regulatory and Administration Executive

TII

transport infrastructure Ireland

www.tii.ie

info@tii.ie

+353 (0)1 646 3000



Your Ref: Mortarstown Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

Our Ref: G Pre00199/2021

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

22 May 2023

Atkins
Atkins House
150-155 Airside Business Park
Swords
Co. Dublin

Via email: julie.larkin@atkinsglobal.com

Re: upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kilkenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated heading(s).

Underwater Archaeology

The submission documentation, including the submitted 'Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) Proposed Outfall Mortarstown WWTP River Barrow, Mortarstown Upper Carlow Town 22D0069, 22R0225' (ADCO April 2023) has been reviewed by the Underwater Archaeology Unit of this Department, who are charged, as statutory consultees in the planning process, on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with the protection, preservation and promotion of underwater cultural heritage in Ireland.

It is noted that the UAIA concludes that 'No archaeologically significant features, structures, or deposits were observed for either the immediate impact location or the wider assessment area'. As mitigation, it is recommend that construction phase archaeological monitoring of the outfall installation works takes place. Without prejudice to any further



iterations of the proposed development design and planning submission, we concur with the recommendations for archaeological mitigation as outlined in the archaeological assessment report and recommend, the following mitigation measures be implemented.

Archaeological Recommendations

- 1.** Archaeological monitoring is to take place of all works that involve groundworks or an impact to the river bed/banks and their environs, including any geotechnical site investigations, as below:
 - a.** The services of a suitably qualified and suitably experienced underwater archaeologist shall be engaged to carry out the archaeological monitoring.
 - b.** The archaeological monitoring shall be licensed by this Department and a detailed method statement that sets out the monitoring strategy is to accompany a licence application.
 - c.** A Finds Retrieval Strategy shall be included in the methodology and all excavated deposits shall be spread and metal detected (under licence) to recover any archaeological objects that they may contain.
 - d.** The monitoring archaeologist shall obtain a dive/survey licence in order to facilitate investigation of underwater archaeological materials should they be uncovered/identified.
 - e.** Please note vetting of licence applications by the Department takes 3-4 weeks.
 - f.** A communication strategy is to form part of the monitoring strategy to ensure full communication is in place between the monitoring archaeologist and the plant operator(s) at all times during works. The archaeological personnel undertaking the monitoring will be in a position to monitor directly all elements of the works, to ensure they have unobstructed views of the excavations, and the plant and machinery operators shall be prepared to

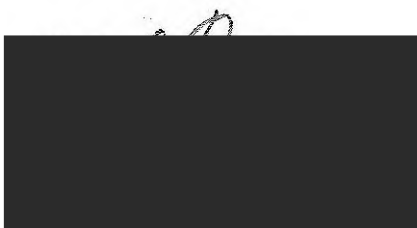


facilitate the archaeological personnel in the undertaking of their monitoring work.

- g.** Should archaeological materials be found during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist shall have work on the affected area of the site stopped pending further archaeological investigation and a decision by the Department regarding appropriate mitigation. The developer shall be prepared to be advised by this Department with regard to any mitigating action (preservation in-situ and/or excavation). The developer shall facilitate the archaeologist in recording any material found.
- h.** The planning authority and this Department shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of the monitoring and any subsequent required archaeological investigative work/excavation required, following the completion of all archaeological work on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the developer.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie.

Is mise, le meas



Development Applications Unit
Administration

Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

DC

To

planning@artaisce.ie

Cc

heritage@artaisce.org

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Thu 10/04/2025 13:37

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Senior Environmental Consultant

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FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

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To

info@artaisce.org

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Tue 15/04/2025 14:36

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Senior Environmental Consultant

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To

reception@artscouncil.ie

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Thu 10/04/2025 13:38

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vlowth@birdwatchireland.ie

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Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Senior Environmental Consultant

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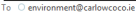
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To  environment@carlowccco.ie

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Thu 17/04/2025 17:27

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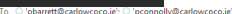
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To  cbarrett@carlowccco.ie;  jpcconnolly@carlowccco.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 15:40

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Dear Sir / Madam,

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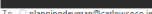
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To  planningdevman@carlowccco.ie

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Thu 17/04/2025 17:26

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Dear Sir / Madam,

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Thu 17/04/2025 17:28

Dear Sir / Madam,

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To ndillon@carlowcoco.ie; kcullinane@carlowcoco.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 15:45

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To wateradmin@carlowcoco.ie

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Thu 17/04/2025 17:29

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To [REDACTED]@water.ie; [REDACTED]@carlowcoco.ie

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Tue 15/04/2025 13:59

Dear Sir / Madam,

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To [REDACTED]@carlowcoco.ie; [REDACTED]@carlowcoco.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 15:41

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Kind regards,

Senior Environmental Consultant

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FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

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To: info@csu.ie

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Mon 14/04/2023 15:49

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Mon 14/04/2023 15:50

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Kind regards,

Senior Environmental Consultant

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FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

DC

To: customer.service@decc.gov.ie

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Mon 14/04/2023 15:51

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FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

DC

To: qccofficer@housing.gov.ie; ministersofstate@housing.gov.ie; manager.dau@chg.gov.ie

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Mon 14/04/2023 15:52

Dear Sir / Madam,

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To: info@transport.gov.ie; FreedomInformation@transport.gov.ie

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To [foi@tcagim.gov.ie](#); [manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](#)

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Kind regards,

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To [customersupport@faileireland.ie](#)

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To: duty.geologist@gsi.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 16:03

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Kind regards,

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To: email@heritagecouncil.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 16:15

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To: wcu@hsa.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 16:14

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[REDACTED]

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Wed 30/04/2025 23:30

Hi [REDACTED]

See below response from HSA regarding scoping report. Would be able to reply to detail here regarding fuel storage please?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

AtkinsRéalis

From: [REDACTED] <noreen.quinn@hsa.ie>
Sent: 28 April 2025 17:24
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@atkinsrealis.com)>
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

Good evening Cormac, regarding your recent email to the Authority notifying of the above proposed WTP and EIAR scoping report. The Authority does not make observations unless requested by a Planning Authority on a specific application. However, in this case it is noted in the scoping document [sc. 2.1.3] reference is made to 'fuel storage', but no details on the inventory is given. Please respond and set out clearly what dangerous substances [in tonnes] are proposed to be stored and used in process at the WTP including fuel storage. The Authority can then determine if the site will come under the COMAH Regulations, 2015, kind regards

Noreen Quinn

Inspector

COMAH, Chemical Production & Storage

Chemicals & Industrial Products Division

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

LandUsePlanning@hsa.ie

Web: www.hsa.ie

Health and Safety Authority,

Metropolitan Building,

James Joyce Street,

FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

DC

To: PublicHealth.AreaC@hse.ie

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Tue 15/04/2025 14:50

Dear Sir / Madam,

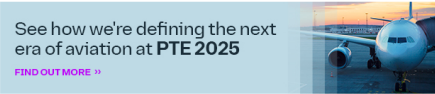
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Senior Environmental Consultant

AtkinsRéalis



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Re: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

VN

To: [REDACTED]@hse.ie

Cc: [REDACTED]

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Tue 06/05/2025 10:10

if there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

Please see response below to your query regarding fuel storage:

Schedule 1 of the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) Regulations specifies threshold limits for which the COMAH regulations apply. The Fuel Stored at Mortarstown WWTP will be diesel. Amount of the stored fuel is not certain at the current stage of the project and possibly will not exceed 5,000 litres.

The amount of Diesel stored (as per Schedule 1 Part 2 Named Dangerous Substances) to reach the lower tier threshold value is 2,500 tonnes which roughly equals 3,000,000 litres.

PART 2 Named Dangerous Substances			
Column 1	CAS number (see note 20)	Column 2	Column 3
Dangerous substances		Qualifying quantity in tonnes of dangerous substances for the application of	
34. Petroleum products and alternative fuels (a) gasoline and naphtha; (b) kerosenes (including jet fuels); (c) gas oils (including diesel fuels, home heating oils and gas oil blending streams); (d) heavy fuel oils; (e) alternative fuels serving the same purposes and with similar properties as regards flammability and environmental hazards as the products referred to in points (a) to (d)	-	2,500	25,000

Therefore, it is not expected that the COMAH regulations apply at Mortarstown.

Kind regards

EIA Consultant

Unit 2B, 2200 Cork Airport Business Park
Cork, T12 R279, Ireland

AtkinsRéalis

From: [REDACTED]@hse.ie>
Sent: 28 April 2025 17:24
To: [REDACTED]@atkinsrealis.com>
Subject: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

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Inspector
COMAH, Chemical Production & Storage
Chemicals & Industrial Products Division

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: LandUsePlanning@hse.ie
Web: www.hsa.ie

Health and Safety Authority,
Metropolitan Building,
James Joyce Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 K0Y8

An tÚdaráis Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta,
An Foirgneamh Uirbeach,
Sráid James Joyce,
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 K0Y8

HSA

An tÚdaráis Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

Ar bhfís: Saolta agus fiontair shláintiúla, shábháilte agus thairgiúla

Our Vision: Healthy, safe and productive lives and enterprises

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FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

DC

To: clonmel@fisheriesireland.ie; [REDACTED]@fisheriesireland.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 16:05

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Kind regards,

Senior Environmental Consultant

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info@mrk.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 16:06

Dear Sir / Madam,

AtkinsRéalis Ireland Ltd. (on behalf of Uisce Éireann) are currently delivering environmental and environmental services in respect of the upgrade of the existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) and existing Kikenny Road Pump Station at Mortarstown, Co. Carlow which is currently the subject of an EIAR. Please see attached a scoping report for the EIAR which provides further detail on the proposed development and includes an indicative layout of the EIAR.

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Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Senior Environmental Consultant

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 To: planning@laoiscoco.ie

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 To: biodiversitypolicy@housing.gov.ie; manager.dau@housing.gov.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 16:11

Dear Sir / Madam,

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Kind regards,

Senior Environmental Consultant

AtkinsRéalis



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FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

 To: natureconservation@npws.gov.ie

 5161805DG0201 rev 6_EIA Scoping Report.pdf
.pdf File

 Reply  Reply All  Forward 

Tue 15/04/2025 14:52

Dear Sir / Madam,

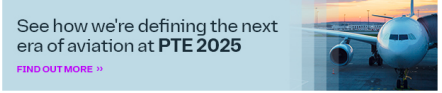
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FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIAR Scoping Report

 To: info@nationaltransport.ie

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 Reply  Reply All  Forward 

Tue 15/04/2025 14:55

Dear Sir / Madam,

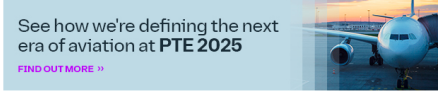
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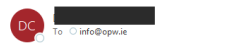


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FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

 To: info@opw.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 16:12

Dear Sir / Madam,

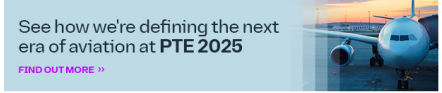
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FW: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade - EIA Scoping Report

 To: Information@bi.ie

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Mon 14/04/2025 16:16

Dear Sir / Madam,

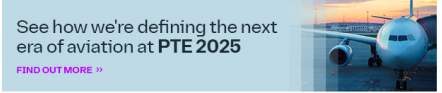
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To

@waterwaysireland.org

@waterwaysireland.org

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[REDACTED]
Senior Environmental Consultant

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