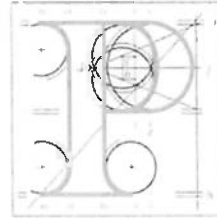


Our Case Number: ACP-324447-26



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Carlow Kilkenny EHS
c/o Robbie Doyle
HSE St. Dymphna's Hospital
Athy Road
Carlow
Co. Carlow

Date: 06 August 2026

Re: Proposed Upgrades to the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant and Kilkenny Road Pumping Station
Carlow, County Carlow

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Commission will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

Please be advised that a copy of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for inspection on the Commission's website at the following link:

<https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/324447>.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Commission's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission. Please quote the above-mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Muirín Gowen
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8049323

PA09

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Dublin 1
D01 V902

Muirin Gowen

From: Robbie Doyle <robbie.doyle@hse.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 4 August 2026 17:41
To: LAPS
Subject: Application containing an EIAR for the proposed upgrades to the Mortarstown WWTP & Kilkenny Road Pumping Station, Carlow, Co. Carlow - Case reference: PA01.324447
Attachments: NEHS submission SID EIAR Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant EHIS ref 6168.pdf

You don't often get email from robbie.doyle@hse.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached submission from the HSE regarding case reference: PA01.324447.

Best wishes,

Robbie

Roibeárd O'Dúill | Oifigeach Sláinte Comhshaoil, Príomhaí | Seirbhís Sláinte Comhshaoil Cheatharlach-Cill Chainnigh | HSE | Ospidéal Naomh Dymphna | Bóthar Bhaile Átha Í | Ceatharlach | R93 DE62

Robbie Doyle | Principal Environmental Health Officer | Carlow-Kilkenny Environmental Health Service | HSE | St. Dymphna's Hospital | Athy Road | Co. Carlow | R93 DE62

Office: 059-9136574 | Mobile: 087-9580134 | E-Mail: Robbie.doyle@hse.ie



Seirbhís Sláinte Comhshaoil Náisiúnta FSS | National Environmental Health Service HSE

"Tá an fhaisnéis sa ríomhphost seo (ceangaltáin san áireamh) faoi rún. Baineann sé leis an té ar seoladh chuige amháin agus tá sé ar intinn go bhfaighfidh siadsan amháin é agus gurb iadsan amháin a dhéanfaidh breithniú air. Más rud é nach tusa an duine ar leis é, tá cosc iomlán ar aon fhaisnéis atá ann, a úsáid, a chraobhscaoileadh, a scaipeadh, a nochtadh, a fhoilsiú, ná a chóipeáil. Seains gurb iad tuairimí pearsanta an údar atá san ríomhphost agus nach tuairimí FSS iad.

Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí dhearmad, bheadh muid buíoch dá gcuirfeá in iúl don Deasc Seirbhísí ECT ar an nguthán ag [+353 818 300300](tel:+353818300300) nó ar an ríomhphost chuig service_desk@hse.ie agus ansin glan an ríomhphost seo ded' chóras."

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Environmental Health Service Consultation Report

(As a Statutory Consultee under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) & Regulations made thereunder)

National Environmental Health Service Submission Report

(As a Statutory Consultee under Article 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) & Regulations made thereunder)

Report to: An Coimisiún Pleanála

EHIS reference: 6168

Applicant: Uisce Éireann, Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, D01 NP86

Location: Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant

Type of consultation: SID EIAR

Planning reference: Case reference: PA01.324447

Dear Sir/Madam

The National Environmental Health Service has reviewed the above planning application and have made the following observations regarding the proposed development. This report refers only to those sections of the planning documents which are relevant to the HSE and have an Environmental Health impact.

If you have any queries regarding this consultation report, please contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert Doyle'.

Robert Doyle
Principal Environmental Health Officer
Date: 04/08/2026



General Comments:

Details of the application were circulated to HSE stakeholders on the 23rd of July 2026:

- HSE South Emergency Management
- National Capital Estates Office – Regional AND
- Director of National Health Protection
- REO Dublin and South East

This report only comments on Environmental Health impacts of the license application. All commitments to future actions, including mitigation and further testing have been taken as read, and all data has been accepted as accurate.

No additional investigations/measurements were undertaken in the review of the application.

In respect of this application, the areas reviewed were those of concern to The National Environmental Health service and which are:

- Any potential contamination of surface water and ground water
- Emissions to air including noise and process emissions

Proposed Development:

Uisce Éireann (UE) intends to apply for permission to upgrade the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP), located 2.2km south of Carlow Town on the eastern bank of the River Barrow in the townland of Mortarstown Upper. The WwTP serves Carlow Town and its environs. The Proposed Development boundary is presented in Figure 1-1. Refer also to Chapter 1 – Introduction, Volume 2 of the EIAR.

The existing WwTP, with 1no. Outfall, currently operates under Wastewater Discharge License (EPA Ref: D0028-01, which was granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2009, with technical Amendments granted in October 2011, December 2016 and December 2021.

The existing WTP site covers approximately 3.79 hectares (ha), and following completion of the upgrade works, the WwTP site will increase in area to approximately 5.53 ha. The total Proposed Development area (red-line boundary) is approximately 10.766 ha.

The current WwTP has a treatment capacity of 36,000 Population Equivalent (PE). In order to sustainably support future residential, commercial and industrial



development, and to ensure continued compliance with environmental legislation, an upgrade and expansion of the WwTP to a capacity of 58,500 PE is required.

The proposed works comprise the following components:

1. Micro tunnel Gravity Sewer connecting the decommissioned Pumping Station (PS) to new Pumping Station
2. New inlet Pumping station
3. Decommissioning of Existing Kilkenny Road Pumping Station
4. New Outfall chamber, Outfall Pipe including a micro tunnel for the section crossing under the R448
5. Provision of various new structures at the existing Mortarstown WWTP
6. Refurbishment of a number of structures at the WWTP
7. Demolition of a number of structures at the WWTP
8. Decommissioning of the Kilkenny Road Pumping Station, existing rising main and existing settlement tanks

Assessment of Principle & Description of the Project:

Principle: The principle of the project is considered satisfactory.

Description: The description of the project is considered to be satisfactory.

Assessment of Description of Physical Environment:

The Proposed Development is located in Mortarstown within the administrative area of Carlow County Council.

The existing site comprises 3.79 hectares and the proposed site will comprise approximately 10.766 hectares of predominantly developed land, currently used for the existing Mortarstown WwTP and associated infrastructure. The Proposed Development will include the developing the vacant area to the west of the existing WwTP. The existing Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) is located approximately 2.2 km south of Carlow Town Centre, within the townland of Mortarstown Upper, off Green Road, Co. Carlow (approximate grid reference: 52°49'09.2"N, 6°56'19.1"W).

The site is generally flat, at an elevation of approximately 50 m AOD. The WwTP is predominantly bounded by agricultural lands, with a number of nearby sensitive receptors. The South East Technological University (SETU) campus is located to the north, with Tyndall College situated further to the south. To the west, the site is bounded by the Kilkenny Road (R488), a grazing field, and two existing dwellings. Lands to the east comprise agricultural fields, established residential properties, and a residential development currently under construction.



Construction

The construction phase of the development creates the potential for temporary emissions which may have a negative impact on the environment and on the health of local residents.

The applicant should assess the impacts of construction works having particular regard to:

- Waste Management,
- Pest Control Management,
- Dust Impacts,
- Excessive Noise
- Emissions to Surface/Groundwater

All sensitive receptors in the vicinity of construction works should be identified and measures implemented to ensure they are protected.

Construction and Environmental Management Plan

The NEHS has considered the Construction and Environmental Management Plan and is of the opinion that there will be adequate protection of Public and Environmental Health during the construction phase providing:

- I. the mitigation and controls are implemented in full,
- II. there is a dedicated person to deal with complaints and liaise with members of the public,
- III. the effectiveness of environmental controls are monitored and reviewed and increased mitigation/corrective action is taken where required.

Air

There is the potential for a number of emissions to the atmosphere during the construction phase of the proposed development. In particular, the construction and demolition activities may generate quantities of dust and classical air pollutants in the immediate region of the construction activities and along the route of the haulage trucks.

The most likely impact on air quality is from potential foul odour arising from wastewater treatment and, in particular, dewatering of wastewater sludge on-site. Odour – could potentially impact on air quality from potential foul odour arising from the treatment process.

With regards to process-based emissions namely odours during the operational phase, detailed dispersion modelling in accordance with EPA Guidance AG4 was utilised in conjunction with specified emission limit value for the existing and proposed facility design. This was utilised to assess the potential air quality impacts associated with process operation for odours at the facility.



In the operational phase this facility should monitor emissions in accordance with the license.

Water /Hydrology/hydrogeology:

The Kilkenny Road Pumping Station is located in the north of the Proposed Development Site, to the south of Carlow Town center and on the eastern banks of the

River Barrow. During the site walkover survey completed by HES, the site of the existing Mortarstown WwTP was noted to be well drained with no areas of surface water ponding. No surface water drains were recorded within or in the vicinity of the existing WwTP.

The existing drainage regime is characterised by a lack of surface water features. This is due to the permeable nature of the underlying subsoils, which comprise of sands and gravels. Therefore, the hydrogeological regime of the Proposed Development Site is characterised by low rates of surface water runoff and high rates of groundwater recharge. To the west of the R448, where the topographic gradient increases higher rates of surface water runoff are likely to occur, with this runoff discharging into the River Barrow.

The location of the Proposed Development Site does not coincide with the location of any mapped Public Water Supply (PWS), Group Water supply (GWS) or National Federation Groundwater Schemes (NFGWS). The closest mapped Group Water Scheme (GWS) is the Ballinabranna GWS, located ~3.1km southwest of the Proposed Development Site and to the west of the River Barrow. The River Barrow acts as a hydraulic barrier between the Proposed Development Site and this GWS.

Noise and Vibration

The nearest noise sensitive locations to the site are highlighted In the EIAR Chapter 9-Figure 9-1, all of which are residential houses except for R22 thru R24, which are educational buildings within Carlow Institute of Technology. Once effects are assessed and mitigated at these locations, there is no significant impact any location at greater distances

The largest noise and vibration impact of the proposed development will occur during the construction phase due to the operation of various plant machinery and HGV movement to, from and around the site. However, the construction phase can be classed as a short-term phase; it is proposed that the construction activities for the proposed development are anticipated to run for 18-20 months between Quarter 4 2027 and Quarter 2 2029.

In relation to noise the measures will include, but are not limited to:

Monitoring is also undertaken outside of 'daytime' hours.

Noise monitoring will continue to be undertaken around the application site. Noise monitoring locations will be reviewed and revised where and as/when necessary.



Corrective action should be included in the Environmental Management Plan if exceedances of permitted limits are recorded

Selection of quiet plant/location of plant; plant which will have the least impact in term of noise will be selected and will be positioned as far away as practical from noise sensitive receptors i.e. private residences.

- Plant will only be left running during works and will be switched off at all other times. Plant will not be left idling. No maintenance or repair to plant or machinery will be permitted outside of the permitted construction works hours.
- Hours of work - all construction related works, other than emergency works and security will be carried out during normal construction working hours.

The most effective way of controlling noise during construction is to limit the hours of operation.

The EIAR proposes hours of operation for any high noise level activities to be limited to between:

Monday to Friday 08.00 to 18.00 Saturday 08.00 to 14.00 No work on Sunday or Bank Holidays.

The EIAR and CEMP outline mitigation and monitoring measures for the control of noise and vibration during the construction phase of the development. A good relationship between the contractor and local residents/businesses who may be impacted by noise from the construction works is crucial. The applicant refers to public relations, information dissemination and a complaints handling procedure in the EIAR and CEMP.

It is recommended that the planning authority include the mitigation and monitoring measures together with community liaison and complaints procedures as a condition of planning permission should it be granted to protect residents from a noise nuisance and in turn, protect public health.

The NEHS would concur that this, together with the other mitigation measures identified in the EIAR, is adequate protection of Public Health with regard to noise during the construction phase.

Climate

The predicted impact to climate during the construction phase is short-term, negative but overall, not significant. The applicant should assess the vulnerability of the proposed development against the predicted impacts of a warming climate. The applicant should outline proactive adaption measures to ensure the long term resilience of the proposed infrastructure to the impacts climate change.



Cumulative impacts

Interrelationships between various environmental aspects must be considered when assessing the impact of the proposed development, as well as individual significant impacts.

The significant impacts of the proposed development and the proposed mitigation measures have been detailed in the relevant chapters of the EIAR. However, as with all developments that poses potential environmental impacts, there also exists potential for interactions/interrelationships between the impacts of different environmental aspects.

The results may exacerbate or ameliorate the magnitude of impacts. When considering interactions, the assessor needs to be vigilant in assessing pathways – direct and indirect – that can magnify effects through the interaction and in turn have a cumulative effect.

In practice many impacts have slight or subtle interactions with other disciplines. However, the EIAR concludes that most inter-relationships are neutral in impact when the mitigation measures proposed are incorporated into the operation of the proposed development.

Pest Control

The applicant should implement mitigation measures to control vermin and pests on the site and should continue to monitor/bait for rodent and pest activity where deemed necessary throughout the site.

Conclusions

The License stage will specify the monitoring requirements in the operational stage, which may include:

1. Surface water quality
2. Groundwater quality
3. Emissions to air,
4. Noise

The National Environmental Health Service recommends that Operators must comply with best practice, legislation and guidelines current at that time so that effects are not significant for local residents.

The NEHS recommends that all noise mitigation measures, including monitoring and corrective actions are included as conditions if granted. This measure is for the protection of public health.

The condition of the access roads to the site is monitored and that any defects identified e.g. potholes or surface cracking are repaired within 24 hours. This is in order to minimise the generation of dust and noise from vehicles and is a health protection measure.

All mitigation measures identified to protect surface and ground water should be implemented in full.



That a complaints procedure is implemented and that a member of staff is designated as a point of contact to deal with any complaints or queries received from members of the public in relation to the proposed/current activity.

That an Odour Management Plan is implemented and that regular unannounced odour audits of the plant are undertaken to ensure

Compliance:

1. It is recommended that the routine monitoring, maintenance and repair of all plant, equipment and pipework is included as a condition. This should include the discharge pipe and the non- return flap valve.
2. Mitigation measures proposed for the protection of surface and groundwater are implemented in full and are monitored on an on-going basis (as part of an Environmental Management Plan) in order to mitigate any potentially significant effects.
3. Dust mitigation measures outlined above are included as conditions (if granted); are implemented in full and are monitored to ensure the effectiveness of the mitigation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Eve Smith', is positioned above the printed name.

Eve Smith
Environmental Health Officer
Environment Network Support Unit (NSU)

* All correspondence or any queries with regard to this report including acknowledgement of this report should be forwarded to:
Robbie Doyle, Carlow Kilkenny EHS, HSE, St. Dymphna's Hospital, Athy Road,
Carlow, Co. Carlow