



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT - CHAPTER 5

VOLUME 2: MAIN REPORT

For the proposed development at:

Powersknock,

Kilmeaden,

County Waterford.

NEALON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.

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Rathgar,

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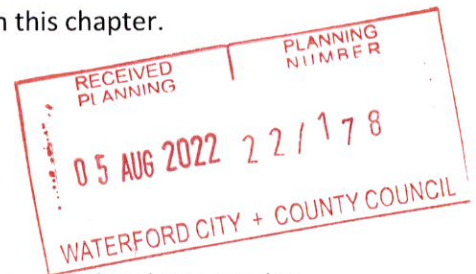
5.0 POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the identification of potential impacts of the proposed development in the context of population, human health, settlements, land use, employment and other impacts of an economic and social nature. While some discussion may be made on topics such as traffic, noise and dust and their interaction with humans, these topics have been explored in greater detail in other chapters of this EIAR, the detail of which has not been repeated in this chapter.

This chapter relies on data from the following sources:

- site visit information,
- discussions with the landowner, and
- public data from state agencies.



The information gathered describes the environmental 'baseline scenario' and was used to determine the condition, sensitivity and significance of the area in which the proposed development is sited in the context of population and human health, and to determine the likely future receiving environment if the proposed development were not to proceed. The accurate description of the baseline scenario is vital as it is against it that impacts of the proposed development will be considered. The consideration of the proposed development in this chapter allows for a thorough understanding of the project. The establishment of the baseline scenario and the proposed development description forms the two factual foundations of this consideration; the analysis of which results in the identification of the impacts on the environment. The assessment of the impacts posed by the proposed development is the primary function of the environmental impact assessment process. By identifying impacts, the design of the proposed development can be adjusted to eliminate the impacts. Alternatively, the impacts can be avoided, reduced or remedied by way of mitigation.

5.2 METHODOLOGY

5.2.1 LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

The identification of the potential impacts of the proposed development was carried out according to the methodology specified in the following guidance documents:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), (2017).

5.2.2 CONSULTATION

A pre-application form was submitted to Waterford County Council and a response issued on 03 September 2021, reference, Ref. No. 2021/206.

5.2.3 DESK-BASED STUDY

Information used for baseline environmental data was mostly sourced from internet/public databases and documents making it easier for the information to be reviewed and verified. Sources used in this chapter include:

- The Waterford County Council Development Plan and associated documents,
- CSO – Census Data,
- Aerial/ Satellite imagery.



5.2.4 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

A thorough description of the proposed development is available in Chapter Three.

5.2.5 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT ANALYSIS

To accurately describe the receiving environment the information used must be sufficient in both quality and quantity; this has been informed by the scoping process. The data has been sourced from published sources and appropriate methods used in its collection. Much of the data has been sourced from state agencies and other bodies and is available through the internet; this has contributed towards the transparency of the assessment. The information used has been analysed to ensure it can be used to accurately provide the description of the baseline scenario. The receiving environment is described in terms of:

- context (e.g.: location),
- character (e.g.: land use, infrastructure),
- significance (e.g.: proximity to sensitive receptors); and
- sensitivity (e.g.: Receptor type – residential, commercial, heavy industry).

Information from the studies carried out in the production of this EIAR has also been relied upon. The surrounding land use in the area was surveyed by accessing aerial imagery from the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI). The transport impacts of the proposed development have been assessed in greater detail in Chapter 8 of this EIAR.

5.2.6 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The identification of impacts is based on the study of the two foundational factors namely the baseline scenario and the proposed development. This EIAR has focused on the identification of likely and significant effects of the proposed development. To ensure that the process is consistent, the impacts identified have been described using the descriptive terminology provided in the EPA Draft Guidelines. The significance of impacts has been gauged by assessing the sensitivity and significance of the existing environment and the description of the impact. In terms of land use, the potential impacts of the proposed development were identified by examining the receiving environment and the characteristics of the proposed development. Specifically, the assessment focused on the potential for the proposed development to stimulate or inhibit the potential for development on surrounding lands and therefore encourage or prevent social or economic development.



5.3 RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

5.3.1 LAND USE

The surrounding areas are characterised by farmland with some residential properties.

5.3.2 POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The surrounding area has a relatively low population density with the exception of the village of Kilmeaden which is located some 0.75km to the northwest of the proposed development.

5.3.3 AMENITY AND TOURISM

There are no recreational lands or lands of high amenity adjacent to the proposed development. The lands to the immediate east of the proposed development site are zoned Tourism. However, the proposed development site is bounded by trees which will ensure that the proposed development does not impact on the adjoining lands.

5.3.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

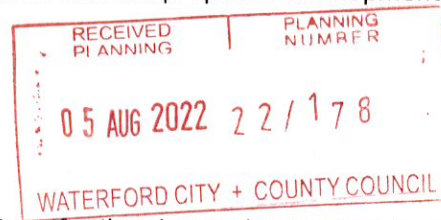
The facility does not pose any health and safety risk to the general public as members of the public are not permitted access to these agricultural lands.

5.3.5 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Road access is considered adequate and suitable for the purposes of the proposed development, see Chapter 8 and the report on traffic and transportation.

5.3.6 DO NOTHING SCENARIO

Should the development not be carried out, there will be no direct or indirect impacts on the population, settlements, land use, employment, economic activity or amenities of the local area. However, the agricultural and economic benefits associated with the proposed development will not be realised.



5.4 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development will consist of the importation of soil and stone by-product to restore the quarry and improve the lands for agricultural purposes. A more detailed description of the proposed development is outlined in Chapter 3 of this EIAR.

5.5 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

5.5.1 LAND USE

The proposed development will improve the land for agricultural purposes. It will not have a significant adverse impact on surrounding residential, agricultural or commercial land uses. The activity will not adversely influence existing economic activities in the region or the potential for the creation of commercial development on surrounding lands. The proposed development will have a positive impact in improving the usability of the land.

5.5.2 EMPLOYMENT AND POPULATION

The proposed development will have little or no impact on employment and population in the area.

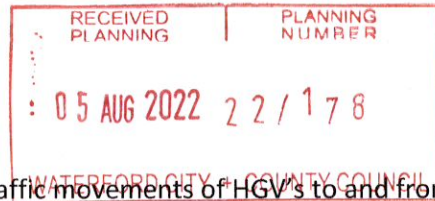
5.5.3 AMENITY AND TOURISM

No designated recreational areas or tourist attractions are located in the proposed development site and, therefore, it will have no significant impacts on amenity or tourism potential. The lands to the east of the proposed development site are zoned Tourism but the proposed development site is

screened from those lands by trees which are protected and therefore the proposed development will have no significant impacts on amenity or tourism potential of the surrounding areas.

5.5.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The proposed development poses no health and safety risk to the general public as public access to the lands is prevented. All work taking place during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development will take place in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare Act 2005 (No. 10 of 2005) and all relevant statutory instruments made under the act. Health and Safety impacts will be neutral.



5.5.5 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The proposed development will result in an increase in traffic movements of HGV's to and from the facility. The traffic impacts and mitigation measures are assessed in greater Chapter 8 and the standalone report of this EIAR.

5.5.6 EMISSIONS

There is a potential that the proposed development may create additional dust emissions in the event of extended dry periods of weather. In such cases, dust minimisation methods, such as the use of a bowser and sprinkling system will be employed to ensure that environmental nuisance is avoided. Noise emissions, including those on the residential dwellings located across the road from the entrance of the site, i.e., the closest noise sensitive locations to the proposed development, are considered in Chapter 8.0 NOISE AND VIBRATION, and specifically Section 8.4 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT, which notes that the proposed development will result in noise from vehicles delivering soil and stone to the development lands and the placement of those materials on the land using mechanical equipment. However, the noise will be similar to existing noise from ongoing farm operations and, as such, is considered to be unlikely to impact the local receiving noise environment or on local residential properties or on human health.

5.6 MITIGATION MEASURE

In addition to the use of dust suppression methods, the proposal also includes the use of a wheel cleaner on the site to ensure that mud is not trafficked onto the public road. These mitigation measures will adequately prevent and minimise impacts. It is deemed that no further mitigation measures are required.

5.7 CONCLUSION

The proposed development will have no significant adverse impacts on population or human health, owing to the nature of the proposed development design, the location of the lands and the mitigation measures outlined. The proposed development will have a permanent positive impact of creating additional improved agricultural land in this rural area.

