

# MWP

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR)

### Ros an Mhíl Deep Water Quay

#### Chapter 1: Introduction

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

November 2025

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Project No.	Doc. No.	Rev.	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Approved By	Status
24984	6003	A	17/10/2025	CF	MT	CF	Final

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## 1. Introduction

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), the ‘Applicant’, intends to make an application to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) under Section 37L of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for permission to undertake works to complete a Deep Water Quay development at Ros an Mhíl Fishery Harbour Centre, Ros an Mhíl, Co. Galway. The DAFM has also made an application under the provisions of section 177E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for retrospective permission in relation to development works already undertaken for the Deep Water Quay between 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) has been engaged by the Applicant to prepare this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to accompany the Application in respect of the remaining development works to be undertaken to complete the construction of the Deep Water Quay development.

The EIAR consists of a systematic analysis and assessment of the potential effects of the proposed project on the receiving environment. The intended purpose of the EIAR is to:

- inform decision makers and the public of the possible environmental impact and effects associated with implementation of the proposed project,
- determine whether the identified impacts could be significant,
- suggest mitigation measures for potential impacts where feasible.

A detailed description of the development subject of permission is outlined in **Chapter 2** of this EIAR

This chapter of the EIAR sets out the background and terms of reference for the EIAR. It sets out the report structure, assessment topics, assessment authors and contributors, and their experience and qualifications, and assumptions which underlie the EIAR. It also sets out the legislative background to the project and details the consultation undertaken with relevant stakeholders.

### 1.1 The Applicant

The Applicant for this planning permission is **The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)**. DAFM’s mission is to lead the sustainable development of the agri-food, forestry and marine sector and to protect public health and optimise social, economic and environmental benefits.

The DAFM plays a pivotal role in advancing the development of deep water quays through targeted funding programmes, strategic policies, and infrastructure initiatives. These efforts are designed to bolster the fishing industry, enhance coastal infrastructure, and support sustainable economic growth in maritime communities.

This deep water quay construction is supported through key policies and programmes, such as:

The ‘*Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme*’ which is a key initiative aimed at developing and enhancing infrastructure at the country’s fishery harbours and coastal areas. A deep water quay

construction project like the Deep Water Quay at Ros an Mhíl, would align with the program’s objectives by enhancing infrastructure, promoting economic growth, and ensuring sustainability.

The ‘Food Vision 2030’ focuses on sustainable food systems and aims to make Ireland a world leader in this area. Modern landing infrastructure is crucial to this vision, ensuring efficient seafood processing and supporting the fishing fleet.

## 1.2 Application Site

The Application site is within Ros an Mhíl Fishery Harbour Centre located on the north-east shore of Cashla Bay near the village of Ros an Mhíl in Connemara approximately 40 kilometres to the west of Galway city. The lands for the application are located entirely within the functional area of Galway County Council (the “Council”) and/or the nearshore area of the Council, to the extent relevant as a coastal planning authority. Part of the development is located in the nearshore area of the maritime area, being seaward of the high-water mark of ordinary or medium tides, and within three nautical miles from shore. Refer to **Figure 1-1**.

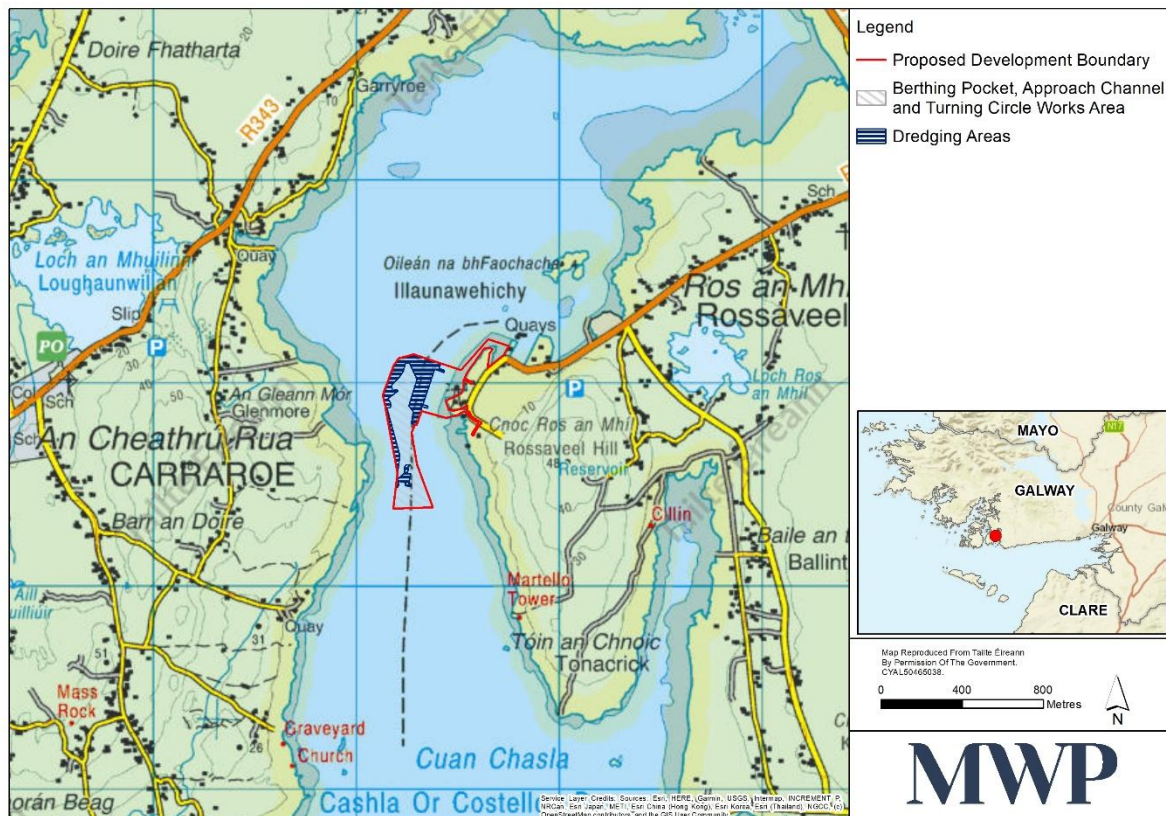


Figure 1-1: Site Location

## 1.3 Application Background

Planning permission for a new Deep Water Quay development at Ros an Mhíl was granted by Galway County Council on 2nd April 2018. (Planning Ref 17/967).

The permitted Deep Water Quay Development included the following main construction elements:

- Construction of a new 200m long quay wall structure, with a concrete slab finish
- Construction of reclamation area of circa 2.4 hectares behind the quay wall

- Low concrete sea walls and rock armour revetments along the northern and southern boundaries of the development
- Dredging of a 30m wide x 200m long berthing pocket adjacent to the new quay to a depth of -12.0m Chart Datum
- Dredging of a Navigation Channel and 200m diameter Turning Circle to a depth of -8.0m Chart Datum
- Provision of access road, lighting, drainage infrastructure, water & electrical services
- Ancillary security and access arrangements for Quay Facilities including palisade fencing, roadside guard rails, gates and traffic barrier.

Works on the development commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and were well advanced throughout 2023. The application for permission included a formal request for a specified “appropriate period” of ten years duration. This request was not expressly addressed by the Planning Authority of Galway County Council. That being so, the Department conservatively formed the view that the planning permission was for a 5-year period only. Having regard to sections 251 and 251A of the Planning Acts, on this basis, the expiry date was 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Prior to the assumed expiration date of 11<sup>th</sup> July, an application was made to the Planning Authority, Galway County Council, on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to extend the duration of the permission for a further 5-year period. Galway County Council issued a decision to extend the permission on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023. (Planning Ref 23/218 refers). (For completeness, two earlier applications to extend the duration of the permission were made, Planning Ref 22/460 was refused and Planning Ref 23/60548 was declared incomplete.)

With the benefit of the grant of the 5-year extension of duration, to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2028, the DAFM continued the works in the expectation to have same completed within approximately one year.

However, on or about 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023, legal proceedings were commenced to question the validity of the decision of the Council to extend the duration of the permission: *Wild Ireland Defence CLG v. Galway County Council*, High Court 2023 1007 JR.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024, the Council wrote to the solicitor representing *Wild Ireland Defence CLG* to state that the Council did not intend to defend the proceedings and would consent to an order quashing the decision to extend the duration of the planning permission. Thus, the DAFM ceased work on the lands on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The final order in the *Wild Ireland Defence CLG* proceedings was made on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and the decision to extend the duration of the permission was quashed by an order of certiorari of the High Court.

Therefore, the permission for the development under Planning Reg. Ref 17/967 expired on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

It thus follows that:

- Development up to and including 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 was carried out as lawful permitted development under and in accordance with Planning Reg. Ref. 17/967;
- Development carried out from 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024, which was presumed lawful permitted development under and in accordance with Planning Reg. Ref. 17/967 as extended by Planning Reg. Ref. 23/218, now substitute consent; and
- Development permitted under Planning Reg. Ref. 17/967, but not yet carried out, now requires new permission.

## **1.4 Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology**

### **1.4.1 Legislative Guidelines**

Article 5 of the 2014 EIA Directive sets down the minimum information to be supplied in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) including those matters at Annex IV as follows;

- (a) a description of the project comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the project;
- (b) a description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment;
- (c) a description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;
- (d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment;
- (e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in points (a) to (d); and
- (f) any additional information specified in Annex IV relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected.”

This EIAR has been prepared to satisfy the requirements set out above.

In accordance with Article 3 of the 2014 EIA Directive, the following attributes of the receiving environment and their interactions will be addressed within this EIAR:

- (a) population and human health;
- (b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive;
- (c) land, soil, water, air and climate;
- (d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape;
- (e) the interaction between the factors mentioned in clauses (a) to (d),

In preparing the EIAR, the following regulations and guidelines were considered:

- The requirements of EC Directives and Irish Regulations regarding Environmental Impact Assessment;
- European Commission’s Guidance on the preparation of the EIA Report (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) (2017)
- Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, (EPA, 2022).
- Advice Notes on Current Practice in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2003),
- ‘Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out EIA (August 2018) (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage [DHLGH];

In addition, specialist disciplines have also had regard to other relevant guidelines, as noted in the specific chapters of the EIAR.

### 1.4.2 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The EIAR focuses on significant effects, if any, on the environment which can reasonably be expected to occur as a result of the Development.

The impacts of the Development and associated effects on a sensitive receptor/existing environment are determined by assessing the character of effect (including magnitude, duration probability and quality) in comparison to baseline conditions using the relevant terminology outlined in the EPA’s 2022 Guidelines (EPA, 2022) (see **Table 1-1**).

The assessment of impacts for this EIA report takes into account any embedded mitigation measures that are an inherent part of the Development (and as included in the **EIAR Chapter 02 Project Description**). For this assessment, ‘embedded mitigation measures’ are those that have been incorporated into the design of the development.

Where it has not been possible to quantify effects, qualitative assessments are carried out, based on expert opinion and professional judgement. Where uncertainty exists, this is noted in the relevant **EIAR** chapter. Overall, a character of effect of High, Medium, Low or Negligible is then assigned to the impact being assessed.

**Table 1-1: EPA 2022 Criteria for Assessing Effects of developments**

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Quality of Effects</b>	Positive	A change which improves the quality of the environment
	Neutral	No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error
	Negative /adverse	A change which reduces the quality of the environment
<b>Significance of Effects</b>	Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequence
	Not significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences
	Slight	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
	Moderate	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
	Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment
	Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude duration or intensity alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment
<b>Extent of Effects</b>	Profound	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics
	Describe the size of the area, the number of sites and the proportion of a population affected by an effect.	
<b>Context</b>	Conform	Where the extent, duration or frequency conforms to established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Description</i>
	Contrast	Where the extent, duration or frequency contrasts to established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)
<b>Duration of Effect</b>	Momentary	Effects lasting from seconds to minutes
	Brief	Effects lasting less than a day
	Temporary	Effects lasting less than a year
	Short-term	Effects lasting one to seven years
	Medium-term	Effects lasting seven to fifteen years
	Long-term	Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years
	Permanent	Effects lasting over sixty years
	Reversible	Effects than can be undone e.g. through remediation or restoration
	Frequency	How often the effect will occur (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually)
<b>Likelihood of Effects</b>	Likely	Where the extent, duration or frequency conforms to established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)
	Unlikely	The effects that can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
<b>Types of Effects</b>	Indirect	Effects on the environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site or because of a complex pathway.
	Cumulative	The addition of many minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create a larger, more significant effect.
	‘Do Nothing’	The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.
	‘Worst case’	The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Indeterminable	When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.
	Irreversible	When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	Residual	The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
	Synergistic	Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents, (e.g. Combination of SO <sub>x</sub> and NO <sub>x</sub> to produce smog).

The matrix (**Figure 1-2**) adapted from the EPA’s 2022 Guidelines is then used to classify the significance of effect being assessed. This considers the overall character of effect with the sensitivity of the receptor/existing environment.

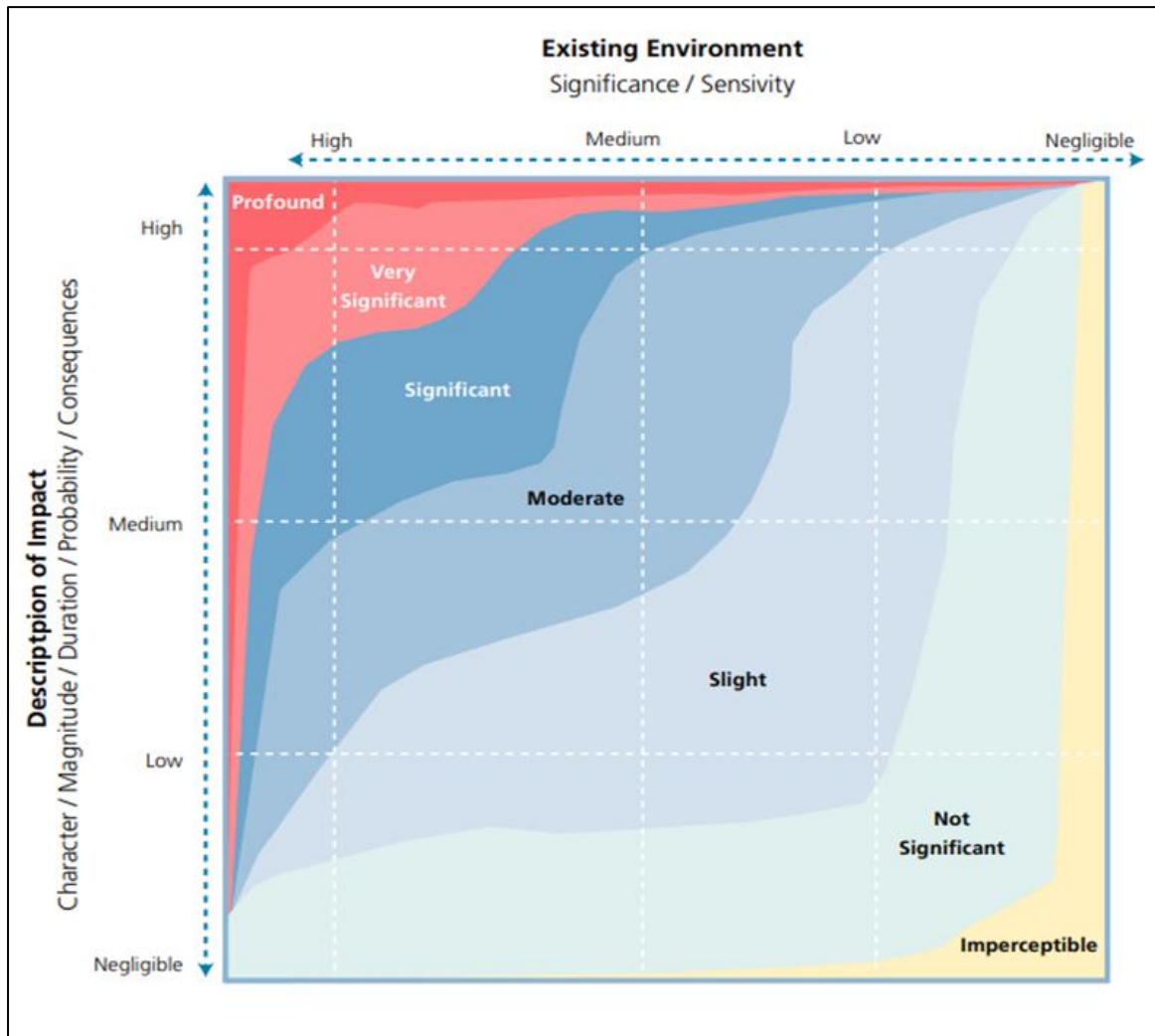


Figure 1-2 Determination of Significance Source: Figure 3.4, EPA Guidelines (EPA 2022)

### 1.4.3 Scoping for Potential Cumulative Effects

The requirement to consider cumulative effects is outlined in EU and national legislation. The EU Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive) (2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) states:

*'the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources',*

and,

*'The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in Article 3(1) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the project. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to the project.'*

A desk study was undertaken to identify other existing and proposed projects with which significant cumulative effects could plausibly occur with the development. Publicly available information on existing developments and landuses, and/or approved developments (collated from planning applications and relevant development plans)

were considered for each of the environmental topics included in the EIAR, to identify whether there was any potential for cumulative/in combination effects with the development. The key criteria for this scoping exercise included consideration of the types of potential impacts associated with the proposed development, common resources affected, receptors impacted, project timeframes (where available) and scale of development.

The search used publicly available data from Galway County Council planning application portal and ACP's online database for applications received over the previous 5 years.

**Table 1-2** sets out the types of projects identified and considered as part of the cumulative appraisal in this EIAR

**Table 1-2 Scope and Extent of other Existing/ approved developments considered in the EIAR**

Application No.	Applicant	Location	Proposed Development	Decision
2561595	Minister of Agriculture Food and the Marine	Ros an Mhíl Fishery Harbour Centre	which consists of the replacement of the existing shelters with new structures and public realm improvements	Received: 31/10/2025
2560439	Kevin (Caoimhín) Ó Flatharta	Ros a Mhíl Co. na Gaillimhe D02 A272	for the construction of a dwelling house, garage & sewerage system. Gross floor area of the proposed works: 207 sqm(H), 54.00 sqm(G)	Received: 17/04/2025
2560441	Oliver McDonagh	Ros an Mhíl Co na Gaillimhe	to construct a new dwelling house together with a new garage and sewerage system. Gross floor space of proposed works: 218.00 sqm(H), 67.20 sqm(G)	Received: 17/04/2025
2460887	Julia Quinn	Na Doiriú Theas Baile na hAbhainn Co. na Gaillimhe	for the erection of a dwelling house, garage/shed and sewerage service. A Natura Impact Statement forms part of this planning application. Gross floor area of the proposed works: 79.30 sqm (h) & 48.00 sqm (g)	Granted: 01/04/2025
2460370	Padraic O Briain	Ros a Mhíl, Co. na Gaillimhe	to Commercial Centre with: (a) Ticket sales unit, (b) Ferry Offices, (c) Restaurant, (d) five retail outlets with parking and ancillary works. Gross floor area of proposed works: 995 sqm	Granted: 28/03/2025
2460716	Padraic Ó Briain	Ros a Mhíl , Co. na Gaillimhe , H91 F5KC	to re-use a car park previously approved under pl ref 041483 and to carry out other ancillary works on the site. Gross floor area of proposed works: 10sqm	Granted: 22/11/2024
2460110	Áine and Seán O'Túathail	Ros an Mhíl, Ballynahown	Retention of: 1) existing dwelling house as constructed 2) attic conversion 3) existing garage as constructed 4) storage shed 5) all on revised site boundaries, all ancillary site works and site services. Gross floor space of work to be retained:	Granted: 06/05/24

Application No.	Applicant	Location	Proposed Development	Decision
			210.96 sqm (house) & 72.60 sqm (garage) & 19.04 sqm (shed)	
2460267	Eoin De Paor	Barr an Doire , An Cheathru Rua , Co. Na Gaillimhe	to build a single-storey residential house of 226.24m <sup>2</sup> with 4 bedrooms, sewerage system, a place for relaxation and for work and services	Granted: 07/05/2024
2360504	ESB (Electricity Supply Board)	Aran Islands – Carraroe South  Barraderry, Ballintleva, Carrowroe North, Derrynea and Carrowroe South in County Galway.	for the development consisting of the provision of 2 No. new single pole structures and refurbishment and upgrading works [including (where necessary) replacement of existing poles along the existing overhead electricity line, minor ground works e.g. replacement or installation of stays, and maintenance or improvement works]; and all associated ancillary works including the provision of temporary accessways. Replacement poles will be constructed at, or immediately adjacent to, the existing structures that they will replace. Replacement poles and the new poles will have a maximum height of 12m above ground; and be similar in appearance to existing poles. Planning permission is sought for a 10 year period. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application	Granted: 05/06/2024
2360373	Minister of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Rossaveel Fishery Harbour Centre	Development will consist of a 6 sqm wind lobby to the front of the existing Fishery Harbour Centre and modifications to the existing ramp access.	Granted: 03/07/23
2261326	Michael O Flaherty	Ros an Mhíl, Ballynahown	(a) First Floor Attic Conversion (75.08m <sup>2</sup> ) (b) Alteration to Front & Rear Elevation including Ground Floor Extension (25.57.m <sup>2</sup> ) (c) Partial Demolition to Rear of Dwelling (2.14m <sup>2</sup> ) & all associated site works.	Granted: 03/07/23
2260729	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Ros an Mhíl	For a new storage building and all ancillary works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 316.50.	Granted: 05/12/22
221076	Minister of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Rossaveel, Fishery Harbour Centre	The reclamation of a waterlogged area to the south of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's public car park.	Granted: 06/03/23

Application No.	Applicant	Location	Proposed Development	Decision
221001	Gearóid Mac Donnacha	Ros an Mhíl	For storage of fishing equipment and all other site work. Gross floor space of proposed work: 133.8 sqm.	Granted: 19/06/23
221000	Gearóid & Seosaimhín Mac Donnacha	Ros an Mhíl	Alteration to design of residential house permitted under Planning Applications 22/365 and 21/973. Gross floor space of proposed works: Extension 135 sqm. and Garage: 88 sqm.	Granted: 21/11/22
22985	Coláiste Chamuis Teoranta	Ros an Mhíl	Permission for 1) 1 no. new classroom, 1 no. new resource room, staff office, general office, 3 no. bathrooms, store room, first aid room, principal's office, hallway joining existing building, 2) provision of 2 no. signs on external walls of building extension, 3) services and all associated site works. Gross floor space: 347.93 sqm.	Granted: 21/11/22
22981	Bord Bainistíocht Scoil Cholmcille, Ros a Mhíl	Ros an Mhíl	a) Extension of Scoil Cholmcille, Ros a' Mhíl, b) Construction of pre-school, c) Upgrading of wastewater system, d) all other ancillary works. Gross floor space: 286 sqm.	Granted: 12/06/23
22448	Coláiste Chamuis Teoranta	Rossaveel Ballynahown	Permission to 1) Extend school building to create 4 No. new classrooms, a principal's office, a passage/circulation space, storage rooms, kitchen and dining room; 2) Alteration of toilet facilities to provide 10 No. unisex toilet cubicles and 2 No. staff toilet cubicles; 3) Addition of 8 No. staff bedrooms to existing on-site residential house; 4) Installation of photovoltaic panels on the roof of school building extension; and 5) Parking, services and all ancillary site works.	Granted: 11/07/22
22365	Gearóid and Seosaimhín Mac Donnacha	Ros an Mhíl	Alteration to the proposed layout of residential house and garage permitted under Planning Application 21/973. Gross floor space of proposed works is House: 98 sqm.; and Garage: 88 sqm.	Granted: 20/06/22
212255	Coláiste Chamuis Teoranta	Tealta na Hóige, Ros an Mhíl	Permission for 1) extension to existing Coláiste Chamuis building consisting of 2 no. new classrooms, 1 no. new resource room, alterations to 1 no. existing resource room, and a hallway adjoining existing building, 2) alterations to existing bathroom facilities to provide 16 no. unisex toilet cubicles, 1 no. wheelchair accessible	Granted: 14/03/22

Application No.	Applicant	Location	Proposed Development	Decision
			cubicle, 2 no. staff toilet cubicles and store room, 3) alterations to pedestrian and vehicular access ways, bus parking, parking, services, site landscaping and all associated site works, 4) replacement and upgrade of existing wastewater treatment plant on site.	
21300	Minister of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Rossaveel Ballynahown	Reclamation of foreshore and dredging of a new small craft harbour basin at Rossaveel Fishery Harbour Centre, Rossaveel, Co. Galway.	Granted: 29/11/21
201940	Bord Bainistíocht Scoil Cholm Cille	Ros an Mhíl	Extension of school and any related works. Gross floor space of proposed works: 44.81 sqm. Gross floor space of work to be retained 386.24 sqm and 27.8 sqm.	Granted: 25/10/21
201633	Bád Chlós Ros an Mhíl Teo	Ros an Mhíl	For 1) construction of boat maintenance and repair centre with offices and storage areas, and other ancillary works, 2) construction of new pier and mobile boat lift, 3) Installation of boat yard and car park 4) Construction of sewage treatment plant. Gross floor space of works: 1,268 sqm.	Granted: 12/07/21
GCC: 191378 ABP: 305960	Cumhacht an Tigh Sholais Teoranta	Ros an Mhíl (Rossaveel)	Construction, operation and decommissioning of one 10m high telecommunication mast, including a small concrete foundation and installation of underground ducting for power and communication cables to/from electrical substation building for wind turbine development. One no. telecommunication antenna and a lighting conductor will be attached to mast. The antenna is required for operation of grid connection for wind turbine granted under Planning Ref 2011/420.	GCC Grant: 25/10/19 Appealed: 26/11/19 ABP Grant: 25/03/20
GCC: 19746 ABP: 305079	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Ros an Mhíl (Rossaveel)	Construction of Amenity Facilities for the small Craft Harbour at Rossaveel Fishery Harbour Centre consisting of welfare facilities at ground floor level and an administration office at first floor level with associated ancillary services.	GCC Grant: 09/07/19 Appealed: 06/08/19 ABP Grant: 04/12/19
18547	Minister of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Rossaveel	Refurbishment of existing slipway to improve low tide access. Raising and widening of slipway deck and the addition of a berthing face. Extension of existing rubble mound breakwater and re-grading	Granted: 06/08/18

Application No.	Applicant	Location	Proposed Development	Decision
			of rock revetment to provide further protection of the small draft Harbour.	

#### 1.4.4 Structure of the EIAR (EIAR)

The EIAR is divided into 3 Volumes as follows:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary
- Volume 2: Main Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Volume 3: Appendices to the Main Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Volume 4: Photomontages

The detail of the three volumes of the EIAR is presented in the following table:

**Table 1-3: Structure of the Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report**

Volume	Content	Description
<b>Volume 1</b>	<b>Non-Technical Summary</b>	The Non-Technical Summary provides an overview of the unlawful works and the <b>EIAR</b> in non-technical terms. It is presented in a similar way to Volume 2 – Main EIAR, in the use of a ‘Grouped Format Structure’, which discusses each environmental topic separately.
<b>Volume 2</b>	<b>Main EIAR</b>	The Main <b>EIAR</b> provides a detailed description of the unauthorised works and contains specialist reports on each of the selected assessment topics. This document is prepared in the ‘Grouped Format Structure’ which examines each environmental topic area within an individual Chapter. This structure was selected for the Main <b>EIAR</b> as it facilitates straightforward investigation of individual topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 1 Introduction</li> <li>• Chapter 2 Project Description</li> <li>• Chapter 3 Alternatives Considered</li> <li>• Chapter 4 Population and Human Health</li> <li>• Chapter 5 Terrestrial Ecology</li> <li>• Chapter 6 Land and soil</li> <li>• Chapter 7 Water</li> <li>• Chapter 8 Marine</li> <li>• Chapter 9 Material Assets</li> <li>• Chapter 10 Archaeological and Cultural heritage Assessment</li> <li>• Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration</li> <li>• Chapter 12 Air and Climate</li> <li>• Chapter 13 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment</li> <li>• Chapter 14 Traffic</li> <li>• Chapter 15 Interaction of Effects</li> <li>• Chapter 16 Schedule of Mitigation</li> </ul>
<b>Volume 3</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	The Appendices volume contains supporting information and reference documents to Chapters of the Main <b>EIAR</b> Volume 2.

Volume	Content	Description
Volume 4	Photomontages	Computer Generated images of the Completed Development from selected viewpoints

## 1.5 Consultation

### 1.5.1.1 Meetings

One pre-application meeting was held with An Bord Pleanála (now An Coimisiún Pleanála) on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (Ref: ABP-320626-24), where the Applicant and MWP provided details on the Development and the requirement for an EIAR was discussed.

The Board indicated that only procedural matters could be discussed at the pre-application but advised that it is important that the three different parts of the development are clearly quantified.

### 1.5.1.2 Written Communication

Written notification setting out an overview of the development and the intention to make an application for retrospective permission in relation to the works undertaken between 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024, and a separate application for the proposed future works to complete the Deep Water Quay was circulated to the stakeholders identified in **Table 1-4**. The notification invited feedback from the Consultee on any key issues and concerns which they consider should be addressed in the rEIAR/EIAR and expressed that their input at this stage would be welcomed. Consultees were informed that participation at this stage of the project would not affect participation at a later stage in the planning process.

A list of the organisations/groups consulted, a copy of the consultation document and the responses received are provided in **Volume 3 Appendix 1A** of this EIAR. A summary of the responses and feedback received are provided in **Table 1-4**.

**Table 1-4 Consultees and Summary of Response to Consultation Letter**

Consultee	Summary of Response/Comments
Atlantic Towage	No Response
Cannon Rock Marine	Supportive of the Development
Coiste Tacaíochta Calafort Ros A Mhíl	Local businesses and community leaders in Ros an Mhíl have long advocated for a deep-water pier at the harbour, citing a 25-year decline in fish landings due to inadequate facilities. The new infrastructure is expected to boost fish landings from larger trawlers, create jobs in fish processing, and support Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) development along the west coast. The group views the environmental impact as positive and commends the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and its contractors for their work so far.

Consultee	Summary of Response/Comments
Comharchumann Fuinnimh Oileáin Árann Teoranta	Supportive of the Development. Satisfied that the works to date have been responsibly managed and that completion of the development is important for creating new opportunities
Commissioners of Irish Lights	Irish Lights emphasizes that construction and operational lighting must not disrupt existing navigation aids. Any new navigation aids for the pier will require statutory consent under the Merchant Shipping Act. If turbidity monitoring buoys are needed due to dredging, separate consent is also required. Additionally, any environmental assessments must consider the impact of deploying surface marking buoys and moorings associated with the project.
Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine - Aquaculture & Foreshore Management Division	No Response
Development Application Unit - Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage	Acknowledgment of receipt of notification. No further response received.
Department of Rural & Community Development	No Response
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht , Sports & Media	No Response
Galway & Aran Fishermans Co-Operative	Supportive of the Development
Galway County Council Heritage Officer	No Response
Galway County Council Roads Department	No Response
Galway County Council Galway County Council Planning Department Environmental Department	No Response
Health & Safety Authority	No Response
Iasc Mara	Supportive of the Development. The infrastructure will provide the opportunity to increase fish landings from bigger trawlers and would provide additional employment in fish processing.

Consultee	Summary of Response/Comments
Inland Fisheries Ireland	No Response
Irish Defence Forces	No Response
Island Ferries	No Response
Marine Institute	No Response
Northern & Western Regional Assembly	No Response
Ocean Crest Marine	No Response
Ros A Mhíl Quarries Ltd	Completing this development will enhance the area's infrastructure
Rossaveel Port Services	No Response
TII	No Response
Údarás na Gaeltachta	<p>Sought additional information namely a drawing showing the differences between the application made in 2017 (GCC reference 17967) and the proposed development.</p> <p>A subsequent letter included in Appendix 9B providing consent for the use of small portions of their land for the proposed development and providing consent for the discharge of 35m<sup>3</sup>/week of foul water to their WWTP for treatment.</p>
Uisce Éireann	<p>Due to the coastal location of the proposed and past works, no adverse impact to Uisce Éireann water sources can be envisaged. Request that any potential impact to Uisce Éireann's assets be acknowledged and addressed by the EIAR. The following aspects are to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure no negative impact to Uisce Éireann's drinking water resources</li> <li>• Ensure any backfilling materials are inert</li> <li>• potential impacts on the nearby reservoir as public water supply water source(s) to be assessed</li> <li>• mitigation to be proposed for any potential negative impacts on any water sources</li> <li>• Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services</li> <li>• identify any upgrading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the proposed development.</li> <li>• Identify any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an Uisce Éireann collection network</li> <li>• Management of surface water and measures to minimise and or / stop surface waters from combined sewers</li> </ul>

Consultee	Summary of Response/Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any physical impact on Uisce Éireann assets – reservoir, drinking water source, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets</li> <li>Potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to Uisce Éireann discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion / circulation characterises.</li> </ul> <p>The potential of the development to influence /present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by Uisce Éireann for public supply</p>

## 1.6 Project Team

The project assessment team is a combination of in-house specialists and sub-consultants.

Contributing authors to the EIAR are presented in **Table 1-5**. Qualifications and competencies of the contributing authors to the EIAR are presented in **Table 1-6**.

The final EIAR has been compiled by Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) on behalf of the applicant.

**Table 1-5: Contributors to the EIAR**

EIAR Chapter	Author/Contributor	Company
01 Introduction	Caitríona Fox	MWP
02 Project Description	Maura Talbot	MWP
03 Alternative Considered	Maura Talbot	MWP
04 Population and Human Health	Valerie Heffernan	MWP
05 Terrestrial Ecology	Salona Reddy Úna Williams	MWP MWP
06 Land and Soil	Serena O’ Donnell	MWP
07 Water	William Murphy	MWP
08 Marine	John Power William Murphy	Emerald Marine Environmental Consultancy MWP
09 Material Assets	Kieran Barry	MWP
10 Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment	Maura Talbot	MWP
11 Noise and Vibration	Kieran Barry Noel Carr	MWP NVM
12 Air and Climate	Claire Boylan	MWP

EIAR Chapter	Author/Contributor	Company
13 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Maura Talbot	MWP
14 Traffic	Seamus Quigley	MWP
	Caitríona Fox	MWP
15 Interaction of the Foregoing	Aileen O'Connor	MWP
	Serena O'Donnell	MWP
16 Schedule of Mitigation	Sally Kelly	MWP
	Serena O'Donnell	MWP

**Table 1-6 EIAR contributing authors and associated qualifications and competencies**

Author/Contributor	Qualifications	Competencies
Maura Talbot	B.A, M.A	Maura is a Chartered Environmentalist (IES/SocEnv) with 25+ years of experience working as a Senior Environmental and SocioEconomic Specialist Consultant and joined MWP in April 2022. She has managed and contributed to environmental impact assessments for a wide variety of development and infrastructure projects in Southern Africa and Ireland. She has experience facilitating stakeholder engagement processes and undertaking qualitative and quantitative socio-economic baseline and monitoring surveys, Project Evaluations, Due Diligence Assessments, Environmental Audits and Resettlement Action Plans (as per IFC & WB guidelines). She also has considerable environmental and socio-economic research and university teaching experience.
Caitríona Fox	B.A, M.Sc	Caitriona is a Senior Environmental Consultant with over 25 years environmental consultancy experience. She is an Environmental Impact Assessment practitioner and has taken on the role of EIA Project Manager for a variety of large scale EIA projects including wind farms, commercial, industrial and tourism developments. She has extensive experience in the management and compilation of environmental reports and has authored numerous specialist reports including: air and climate impact assessments, population and human health impact assessment, landscape impacts assessment, and material assets assessment for project EIAs
Salona Reddy	BSc, MSc	Salona Reddy is an Ecologist who has been working full-time with MWP since January 2024. She holds a Master's degree in Environmental Science and brings over nine years of consultancy experience in the preparation and delivery of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs) across a broad range of project types. She is proficient in a wide array of ecological survey methodologies, including habitat mapping and faunal surveys, and has contributed to research teams internationally. Her experience includes ecological assessments for diverse developments, and she has taken lead authorship roles in numerous technical reports, such as Stage 1 Screening Reports for Appropriate Assessment (AA), Stage

Author/ Contributor	Qualifications	Competencies
		<p>2 Natura Impact Statements (NIS), and Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA). Salona is an experienced field ecologist with a broad and diverse ecological survey portfolio, encompassing habitats and flora, mammals, bats, birds, and terrestrial invertebrates. She holds a National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Derogation Licence for the survey of otters at their resting and breeding places (Licence No. DER-OTTER-2025-10).</p>
<p>Úna Williams</p>	<p>BSc. MSc.</p>	<p>Úna Williams, is a Senior Ecologist and Environmental Scientist at MWP. Úna has worked at MWP for six years and is an experienced field ecologist and report writer. She has worked on research teams both in Ireland and abroad and has carried out various ecological surveys including habitat/survey mapping and zoological surveys. She has undertaken assessments for a wide variety of projects including renewable energy, infrastructural and coastal developments, and has designed and completed Avian Collision Risk Models for proposed wind farms. Úna has authored many ecological reports including Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Reports (Stage 1), Natura Impact Statements (NIS) (Stage 2), Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA), and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). She graduated from Queen’s University Belfast in 2018 with an MSc in Animal Behaviour and Welfare, and from Trinity College Dublin in 2008 with an Environmental Science degree.</p>
<p>Sally Kelly</p>	<p>BSc(Hons), MSc</p>	<p>Sally is an Environmental Scientist with over 20 years experience as a Project Manager in geo-environmental consultancy with significant involvement in the management of soil and groundwater remediation projects for both public and private sector clients. Sally has managed and compiled environmental reports for a variety of project types including wind energy, solar farms and commercial developments and has authored specialist land and soil reports for project EIAs.</p>
<p>William Murphy</p>	<p>MSC, BA. (Hon), HDip  Environmental Scientist</p>	<p>William Murphy is an Environmental Scientist at MWP. William has several years’ experience in EIAR Chapter writing and is an appropriately qualified, trained and competent professional. William has contribution to EIAR Chapters for a variety of projects, including onshore wind farms, solar farms and large-scale strategic infrastructure developments.</p>
<p>John Power</p>	<p>Marine Scientist</p>	<p><b>John Power</b> is a senior marine ecologist and director of Emerald Marine Environmental Consultancy Ltd. with over 12 years’ experience working in a variety of fields, in both public and private sectors. His core competencies are in the fields of commercial fisheries, fish and shellfish ecology, seabird ecology and marine mammal ecology.</p>
<p>Noel Carr</p>	<p>Environmental Management and Health &amp; Safety</p>	<p>Noel Carr is a founder and Managing Director with NVM Limited since 2004. Noel has a background in the service industry, and a BSc in environmental management and planning, a BSc in business management and in Health and Safety, with over 25 yrs working in the environmental monitoring instrumentation sector with a</p>

Author/ Contributor	Qualifications	Competencies
		specialist knowledge in environmental noise, vibration, and hydrometric monitoring instrumentation.
Kieran Barry	BEng, PG Dip, MIEEnvSc	Kieran is an experienced environmental consultant with 8 years experience working on environmental projects, including three years experience in the measurement, prediction, assessment, and control of environmental noise. He has completed the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) Certificate of Competence in Environmental Noise Measurement course and is currently undertaking the Institute of Acoustics' Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control.
Claire Boylan	BBS, BSc (Env Mgt), DipSci, Adv Dip Planning & Environmental Law	Claire is an experienced Environmental Scientist at Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP), having worked for 6 years in the environmental sector. Claire has written numerous air quality and climate assessment chapters for large scale planning applications such as LRD, quarries and commercial developments including EPA Licensed sites. Claire has worked on a variety of environmental licensing applications, conducted environmental assessments and supported the delivery of a number of environmental deliverables including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Reports, Appropriate Assessment (AA), Natura Impact Statements (NIS) and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR).
Seamus Quigley	BE CEng MIEI MCIHT	Seamus Quigley has over 33 years' experience in transport planning and traffic engineering projects, including EIS/EIAR traffic and transportation chapters, traffic impact assessments, traffic management studies, mobility management plans, traffic modelling studies, feasibility studies and road safety audits. He is a Chartered Engineer with Engineers Ireland, and also a member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation. He joined Malachy Walsh and Partners in 2007, having spent over sixteen years with Atkins.
Aileen O'Connor	BSc(Hons), PGDip	Aileen has over 13 years' experience in the environmental field both in industry and consultancy work. Aileen is a Senior Environmental Consultant and holds a BSc(Hons) in Environmental Science and PGDip in Energy Management. Aileen is an experienced and competent environmental professional with a background in contaminated land assessment, licence compliance and waste management. Aileen has prepared and peer reviewed chapters of EIARs and has coordinated and delivered many environmental assessment reports including the preparation of Resource Waste Management Plans RWMPs and contributed to Material Assets Impact Assessments on a wide variety of projects during her career to date including renewable energy, marine, quarries, industrial and commercial developments.
Serena O'Donnell	MSc, BA (Hons)	Serena holds a BA in Geography and a MSc in Applied Environmental Geoscience from University College Cork and is a graduate Environmental Scientist at MWP. Serena has worked on assisting with the preparation of EIAR chapters, including land, soils and geology, Environmental Impact Reports, Geotechnical Interpretative Reports, Geotechnical Assessment

Author/ Contributor	Qualifications	Competencies
	Graduate Environmental Scientist	Reports, Construction and Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) and Resource Waste Management Plans (RWMPs).
Valerie Heffernan	MSc, BSc (Hons) MIEnvSc	Valerie has worked as an environmental professional since graduating in 2015 and has been employed as an Environmental Scientist with MWP since 2018. She has considerable experience in renewable energy developments and has had input in a variety of project including solar farms, marine developments and wind energy. She is experienced in planning and environmental report input and in the preparation of Foreshore Licences

## 1.7 Difficulties Encountered

There were no difficulties encountered in the preparation of this EIAR.

## 1.8 Note on Quotation

This EIAR may contain statements describing the positive and negative aspects of the development. Selective quotation out of context is not advisable as a misinterpretation of the overall findings of the study may arise. Where possible, quotations should be taken from the conclusions of specialist reports.

## 1.9 Note on Drawings and Graphics

Details of the development are supported by the planning application drawings prepared by Malachy Walsh and Partners in compliance with our internal Quality Management System (accredited to ISO: 9001). A list of the planning application drawings are provided in the planning pack along with the drawings. These drawings accompany the planning application and are referenced as relevant throughout the EIAR. The 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 mapping that was used to generate many of the figures in the EIAR are the copyright of reproduced from Tailte Éireann by permission of the government (CYAL50465038).

## References

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