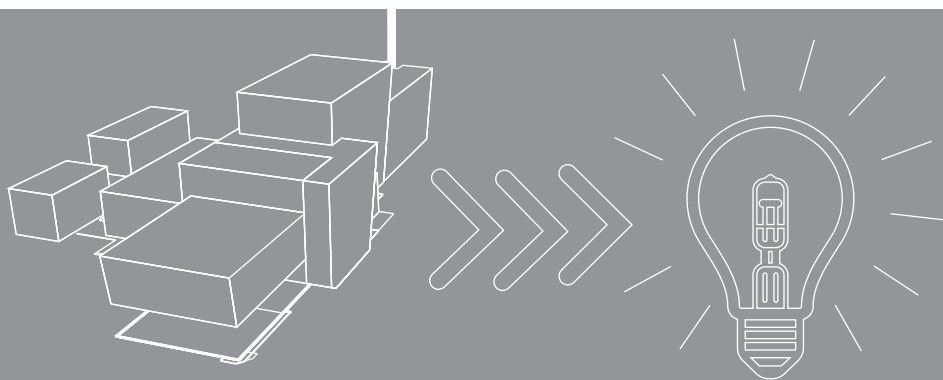




# RINGASKIDDY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

Issue 2 | 2025



**VOL 2**

**Environmental  
Impact Statement  
Main Text**

# Structure of the EIS

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Ringaskiddy Resource Recovery Centre consists of four volumes, of which this is the second:

Volume 1 – Non Technical Summary

**Volume 2 - EIS (Main Text)**

Volume 3 - Figures

Volume 4 – Appendices

In addition to Volume 2, the contents of Volume 3 and Volume 4 are also outlined in this document.

# Volume 2 – Environmental Impact Statement

## Contents – Volume 2

### Preface

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1.1</b>
1.1	Project Overview	1.1
1.2	Background	1.3
1.3	Structure of Environmental Impact Statement	1.5
1.4	Duration of Planning Permission	1.6
1.5	Planning Procedure for the Proposed Development	1.6
1.6	Environmental Impact Statement Methodology	1.7
1.7	Project Team and Details of Competent Experts	1.8
1.8	Guidance and Legislation	1.18
1.9	Consultation Undertaken	1.18
1.10	Difficulties Encountered During the Assessment	1.19
<b>2</b>	<b>Policy and Planning Framework and Need for the Scheme</b>	<b>2.1</b>
2.1	Introduction	2.1
2.2	Waste Policy	2.2
2.3	Energy and Climate Change Policies	2.18
2.4	Planning Policy	2.25
2.5	Need for the Proposed Development	2.32
2.6	Summary	2.36
2.7	References	2.38
<b>3</b>	<b>Alternatives</b>	<b>3.1</b>
3.1	Introduction	3.1
3.2	Methodology	3.1
3.3	Alternative Site Locations	3.2
3.4	Additional Project Alternatives Considered	3.11
3.5	Alternative Thermal Treatment Technologies	3.16

3.6	Rationale for Technology Selection	3.19
3.7	Alternative Energy Recovery and Gas Cleaning Systems	3.19
3.8	Conclusion	3.23
3.9	References	3.24
<b>4</b>	<b>Description of the Proposed Development</b>	<b>4.1</b>
4.1	Introduction	4.1
4.2	Site Location and Neighbouring Land Uses	4.1
4.3	Principal Design Objectives	4.3
4.4	Design Constraints	4.4
4.5	Main Features of the Ringaskiddy Resource Recovery Centre	4.5
4.6	General Operations of the Waste-to-Energy Facility	4.14
4.7	Processes	4.15
4.8	Energy Recovery	4.21
4.9	Flue Gas Treatment	4.23
4.10	Waste-to-Energy Facility Control System	4.25
4.11	Emissions Monitoring	4.26
4.12	Process Inputs	4.27
4.13	Process Outputs	4.29
4.14	Description of Secondary Process/Activities	4.32
4.15	General Site Services	4.34
4.16	Site Management	4.35
4.17	Health & Safety	4.36
4.18	Description of Decommissioning	4.39
4.19	Regulatory Control	4.40
4.20	Best Available Techniques (BAT)	4.41
4.21	References	4.42
<b>5</b>	<b>Construction Activities</b>	<b>5.1</b>
5.1	Introduction	5.1
5.2	Geotechnical Investigation	5.1
5.3	Duration and Activities	5.1

5.4	Site Preparation Works	5.5
5.5	Material Imports and Export and Transportation	5.7
5.6	Services and Utilities Requirements for Construction	5.8
5.7	Employment and Welfare	5.9
5.8	Commissioning Phase	5.9
5.9	Construction Site Decommissioning	5.10
5.10	Potential Construction Effects	5.10
5.11	Construction Mitigation Measures	5.12
5.12	Construction Traffic	5.14
5.13	Construction Health and Safety	5.15
5.14	Residual Effects	5.16
5.15	References	5.16
<b>6</b>	<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>6.1</b>
6.1	Introduction	6.1
6.2	Assessment Methodology	6.2
6.3	Baseline Environment	6.27
6.4	Characteristics of Proposed Development	6.46
6.5	Potential Effects	6.47
6.6	Mitigation and Monitoring	6.65
6.7	Residual Effects	6.70
6.8	Cumulative Impacts	6.71
6.9	References	6.73
<b>7</b>	<b>Roads and Traffic</b>	<b>7.1</b>
7.1	Introduction	7.1
7.2	Assessment Methodology	7.2
7.3	Baseline Environment	7.4
7.4	Proposed / Recently Completed Road Infrastructure Upgrades	7.7
7.5	Base Year Traffic Flows	7.8
7.6	Other Developments in the Vicinity	7.13
7.7	Characteristics of Proposed Development	7.14
7.8	Potential Effects	7.23

7.9	Evaluation of Impacts	7.26
7.10	Mitigation and Monitoring Measures	7.37
7.11	Residual Effects	7.40
7.12	Cumulative Effects	7.40
7.13	References	7.41
<b>8</b>	<b>Air Quality</b>	<b>8.1</b>
8.1	Introduction	8.1
8.2	Assessment Methodology	8.2
8.3	Baseline Environment	8.5
8.4	Characteristics of the Proposed Development	8.6
8.5	Potential Effects	8.11
8.6	Mitigation and Monitoring Measures	8.14
8.7	Residual Effects	8.15
8.8	Cumulative Effects	8.16
8.9	References	8.17
<b>9</b>	<b>Climate</b>	<b>9.1</b>
9.1	Introduction	9.1
9.2	Assessment Methodology	9.1
9.3	Baseline Environment	9.15
9.4	Characteristics of the Proposed Development	9.21
9.5	Potential Effects	9.24
9.6	Mitigation and Monitoring Measures	9.32
9.7	Residual Effects	9.33
9.8	Cumulative Effects	9.34
9.9	References	9.34
<b>10</b>	<b>Noise and Vibration</b>	<b>10.1</b>
10.1	Introduction	10.1
10.2	Assessment Methodology	10.1
10.3	Standards and Guidelines	10.1

10.4	Baseline Environment	10.8
10.5	Characteristics of the Proposed Development	10.17
10.6	Potential Effects	10.17
10.7	Mitigation and Monitoring Measures	10.33
10.8	Cumulative Effects	10.36
10.9	Residual Effects	10.39
10.10	References	10.40

<b>11</b>	<b>Landscape and Visual Assessment</b>	<b>11.1</b>
11.1	Introduction	11.1
11.2	Assessment Methodology	11.1
11.3	Baseline Environment	11.4
11.4	Characteristics of the Proposed Development	11.11
11.5	Potential Effects	11.12
11.6	Mitigation and Monitoring Measures	11.38
11.7	Residual Effects	11.40
11.8	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects	11.41
11.9	References	11.42

<b>12</b>	<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>12.1</b>
12.1	Introduction	12.1
12.2	Assessment Methodology	12.1
12.3	Baseline Environment	12.7
12.4	Characteristics of the Proposed Development	12.29
12.5	Potential Effects	12.29
12.6	Mitigation and Monitoring Measures	12.39
12.7	Residual Effects	12.45
12.8	Cumulative Effects	12.47
12.9	References	12.49

<b>13</b>	<b>Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology and Coastal Recession</b>	<b>13.1</b>
13.1	Introduction	13.1
13.2	Methodology	13.1
13.3	Baseline Environment	13.11
13.4	Characteristics of the proposed development	13.41
13.5	Potential Effects	13.48
13.6	Mitigation Measures	13.63
13.7	Residual Effects	13.67
13.8	Cumulative Effects	13.73
13.9	References	13.73
<b>14</b>	<b>Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>14.1</b>
14.1	Introduction	14.1
14.2	Assessment Methodology	14.2
14.3	Baseline Environment	14.7
14.4	Characteristics of the Proposed Development	14.18
14.5	Potential Effects	14.20
14.6	Mitigation and Monitoring Measures	14.25
14.7	Residual Effects	14.27
14.8	Cumulative Effects	14.28
14.9	References	14.29
<b>15</b>	<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>15.1</b>
15.1	Introduction	15.1
15.2	Assessment Methodology	15.1
15.3	Baseline Environment	15.2
15.4	Characteristics of the Proposed Development	15.5
15.5	Potential Effects	15.6
15.6	Mitigation and Monitoring	15.19
15.7	Residual Impacts	15.2
15.8	Cumulative Impacts	15.21
15.9	References	15.21



<b>16</b>	<b>Cumulative Impacts, Other Impacts and Interactions</b>	<b>16.1</b>
16.1	Introduction	16.1
16.2	General	16.1
16.3	Assessment Methodology	16.2
16.4	Interaction of Effects in Different Environmental Media	16.5
16.5	Description of Cumulative Effects	16.11
16.6	Secondary Effects	16.18
16.7	Transboundary Effects	16.19
16.8	‘Do-Nothing’ Scenario	16.22
16.9	References	16.23
<b>17</b>	<b>Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>17.1</b>
17.1	Introduction	17.1
17.2	Summary of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures	17.1
17.3	Residual Effects	17.26

## List of Contributors

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is based on an appraisal, undertaken by Arup, of the environmental effects of the proposed Ringaskiddy Resource Recovery Centre. The Arup team drew on in-house resources including environmental and earth sciences, coastal engineering and flood assessment, traffic and civil engineering and graphics.

Indaver contributed to the preparation of the EIS. The design strategy for the process engineering, architecture and landscape was undertaken by Indaver, Wilson Architecture and Brady Shipman Martin respectively.

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The following sub consultants, working in accordance with specifications prepared by Arup contributed to the preparation of the EIS:

- AWN Consulting: Air Quality, Climate, Noise and Vibration, and Soil Dioxin Assessment;
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- Brady Shipman Martin: Landscape and Visual, including photomontages;
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- Corporate Health Ireland – Human Health Impact Assessment;
- Dixon.Brosnan Environmental Consultants: Biodiversity and Natura Impact Statement;
- Lane Purcell Archaeology – Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage;
- Wilsons Architecture – Architectural Design

## Glossary of Terms

µg	microgram ( $10^{-6}$ gram)
AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
ACP	An Coimisún Pleanála
AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds
AGI	Above Ground Installation
Alluvium	Sediment deposited by flowing water
Anticline	A fold in rocks with strata sloping downward on both sides from a common crest
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AQS	Air Quality Standards
Aquifer	A geological unit that stores and transmits significant quantities of groundwater under normal hydraulic conditions
As	Arsenic
B(a)P	Benzo[a]pyrene
barg	A unit used for the measurement of pressure (referred to as gauge pressure)
BAT	Best Available Techniques
Berm	Raised bank, artificial embankment
BGE	Bord Gáis Éireann, the Irish gas board (now called Gas Networks Ireland GNI)
bgl	Below ground level
BMW	Biodegradable municipal waste
BOD	Biochemical oxygen demand
BTEX	Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylene
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BREF	BAT reference document published by the European Commission under the Industrial Emissions Directive IED, 2010/75/EU)
Carboniferous	The geological period between 355 and 290 million years ago
CCDP	Cork County Development Plan

CCGT	Combined Cycle Gas Turbine
CCTV	Close Circuit TV
Cd	Cadmium
CD	Chart Datum
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEALAP	Carrigaline Electoral Area Local Area Plan
CEDAS	Coastal Engineering and Design Analysis System
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CH <sub>4</sub>	Methane
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
CITES	Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CLHEG	Cork Lower Harbour Energy Group
CO	Carbon Monoxide
Co	Cobalt
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
COP21	Conference of the Parties to the Convention (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
Cr	Chromium
cSAC	Candidate Special Areas of Conservation
CRTN	Calculation of Road Traffic Noise
CSO	Central Statistics Office
Cu	Copper
CV	Calorific Value
dB	decibel
dB <sub>(A)</sub>	The “A” suffix denotes the fact that the sound levels have been “A-weighted” in order to account for the non-linear nature of human hearing
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht
DEFRA	Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (UK)

DeNO <sub>x</sub>	Removal of nitrogen oxides
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport & the Regions (UK)
DHI	Danish Hydraulic Institute
Dioxins	A collective term for the category of 75 polychlorinated dibenzo-para-dioxin compounds (PCDDs) and 135 polychlorinated dibenzofuran compounds (PCDFs). Seventeen PCDD and PCDF compounds are considered to be of toxicological significance. The most toxic of these is 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzop-dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD) (EPA 2016). <a href="http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/other/dioxinresults/Dioxin%20Report%202013_web.pdf">www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/other/dioxinresults/Dioxin%20Report%202013_web.pdf</a>
DOC	Dissolved Organic Carbon
DOEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
EHS	Environmental Health and Safety
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ELV	Emission Limit Value
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPPP	Environmental Persistent Pharmaceutical Pollutants
ESB	Electricity Supply Board
ETS	Emission Trading Scheme
EU	European Union
EWC	European Waste Catalogue
Excavation (Archaeology)	For archaeology, excavation means the manual and mechanical excavation by an archaeologist-led team with specific objectives as regards information, preservation, recording, etc. of archaeological information. Its purpose is to fully investigate archaeological deposits and features
Ferrous metals	Term for a group of metals that contain iron and share similar properties e.g. aluminium
fg	femtogram (10 <sup>-15</sup> gram)
Flue Gas	Combustion exhaust gas produced during the incineration process
Fluorinated Gases	Gases containing fluoride that are classed as a greenhouse gas
Furans	See <i>Dioxins</i>

Gasification	Gasification is the conversion of a solid or liquid feedstock into combustible gas by partial oxidation under the application of heat and water
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHS	Geological Heritage Site
GIA	Glacial Isostatic Adjustment
GLC	Ground Level Concentration
Groundwater	Water that occupies pores and crevices in rock and soil, below the surface and above a layer of impermeable material
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
GWP	Global Warming Potential
Ha	Hectares
Habitat	The dwelling place of a species or community which provides a particular set of environmental conditions
HAT	Highest Astronomic Tide
HAZID	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
HAZOP	Hazard and operability study
HCl	Hydrogen chloride
HEFS	High End Future Scenarios
HEPA	High Efficiency Particulate Air (filter)
HF	Hydrogen fluoride
Hg	Mercury
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HSA	Health and Safety Authority
HVL	High Value Landscape
HWM	High Water Mark
ICPSS	Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study
ID	Induced Draught
IED	Council Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions Directive
IEEM	Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

IGI	Institute of Geologists of Ireland
IGV	Interim Guideline Values
IMERC	Irish Maritime and Energy Research Cluster
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
In-situ	In its original place, for archaeology it refers to the preservation of archaeological sites/features without disturbance
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
IRP	Incident Response Plan
ISO	International Standards Organisation
I-TEQ	International Toxic Equivalents
I-WeBS	Irish Wetland Bird Survey
JI	Joint Implementation
kph	Kilometres per hour
$L_{A90}$	Sound level that is exceeded for 90% of the sample period (A-weighted). It is typically used to describe background noise
$L_{Aeq}$	The equivalent continuous sound level, used to describe a fluctuating noise in terms of a single noise level over the sample period (A-weighted)
$L_{Aeq T}$	The equivalent continuous sound level, used to describe a fluctuating noise in terms of a single noise level over a particular time period (A-weighted)
$L_{Amax}$	The instantaneous maximum sound level measured during the sample period
$L_{Ar, T}$	The equivalent continuous sound level at a particular residential location, used to describe a fluctuating noise in terms of a single noise level over a particular time period (A-weighted)
LAP	Local Area Plan
LAT	Lowest Astronomic Tide
$L_{AX}$	The “A-weighted” Sound Exposure Level of the event considered (dB)
Leachate	Water that has percolated through soil or other material and contains soluble or suspended solids, or any other component of the material through which it has passed
LEL	Lower explosive limit
LGV	Light Good Vehicles

Limit value	Specified in European Union directives or Irish regulation as a concentration of a pollutant which must not be exceeded in order to protect health or the environment
Lithology	Of a rock unit that describes its physical characteristics such as colour, texture, grain size or composition
LOAEL	Lowest Observed Abnormal Effect Levels
LoLo	Lift-on, Lift-of
$L_{w(A)}$	Combined Sound Power
Made Ground	Deposits which have accumulated through human activity and may consist of natural materials, e.g. clay and/or man made materials, e.g. refuse
MARI	Maximum At Risk Individual
MBT	Mechanical Biological Treatment
Methodology	The specific approach or techniques use to analyse impacts or describe environments
$mg/Nm^3$	Milli grams per Newton metres cubed
MHWN	Mean High Water Neap
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MJ/Kg	Mega Joules per kilogram
MLWN	Mean Low Water Neap
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MMP	Mobility Management Plan
Mn	Manganese
mOD	Metres above Ordnance Datum
MRFS	Mid-range future scenarios
MSL	Mean Sea Level
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
Mt	Million tonnes
MTCE	Metric tonnes of carbon equivalent
MW	Mega Watts
MWh	Mega Watts per Hour
$Na_3PO_4$	Sodium phosphate



NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide
NCDWC	National Construction and Demolition Waste Council
NDP	National Development Plan
ng	Nanogram ( $10^{-9}$ gram)
NG4	Guidance Note for Noise: Licence Applications, Surveys and Assessments in Relation to Schedules Activities, Environmental Protection Agency (2012)
NH <sub>3</sub>	Ammonia
NH <sub>4</sub> OH	Ammonium hydroxide
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NHWMP	National Hazardous Waste Management Plan
Ni	Nicke
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
Nm <sup>3</sup>	Cubic Metres (Normalised)
NMCI	National Maritime College of Ireland
NMI	National Museum of Ireland
NMS	National Monuments Service
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrous Oxides
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRA	National Roads Authority
NSL	Noise Sensitive Locations
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
O <sub>2</sub>	Oxygen
O <sub>3</sub>	Ozone
OD	Ordnance Datum
ODM	Ordnance Datum Malin
OEL	Occupational Exposure Limit

OPW	Office of Public Works
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
Orogeny	The process of mountain formation
Outcrop	An exposure of bedrock
PAH	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
pNHA	Proposed natural heritage area
Pb	Lead
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenols
PCDD	See <i>Dioxins</i>
PCDF	See <i>Furans</i>
pcSAC	proposed candidate Special Area of Conservation
PCU	Passenger Car Units
PEC	Predicted environmental concentration
PEL	Probable effect level
pg	Pictogram ( $10^{-12}$ gram)
pH	Potential of Hydrogen, measure of acidity or alkalinity of solution
PM <sub>10</sub>	Particulate matter less than 10µg (dust)
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Particulate matter less than 2.5µg (dust)
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
Pollution	The direct or indirect alteration of the physical, chemical, thermal, biological, or radioactive properties of any part of the environment in such a way as to create a hazard or potential hazard to the health, safety or welfare of living species
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PPE	Personal Protection Equipment
PSCP	Project Supervisor Construction Stage
PSD	Prevention of significant deterioration
PSDP	Project Supervisor Design Process
Pyrolysis	Pyrolysis is the thermal degradation of a material in the complete absence of an oxidising agent (typically air)

QESH	Quality, Environmental, Health & Safety
QNHS	Quarterly National Household Survey
Quaternary	The most recent Period of geological time (the last two million years)
Red List	In relation to protected species of birds
REFIT	Renewable Feed-In Tariff
RES-E	Renewable Energy in Electricity
RES-H	Renewable Energy in Cooling
RES-T	Renewable Energy in Transpor
Rhizome	Underground stem of plants, laterally growing and capable of producing the root and shoot system of a new plant
River Basin District (RBD)	The area of land from which all surface run-off flows through a sequence of streams rivers, and possibly lakes into the sea at a single river, mouth, estuary or delta
RMP	Record of monuments and places
RoRo	Roll-on, Roll-off
RPGs	Regional planning guidelines
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
Run-off	The flow of water under gravity in open channels
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAP	Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing Ltd
Sb	Antimony
SBEACH	Storm-induced BEAch CHange computer model
SCR	Selective Catalytic Reduction
SI	Statutory Instrument
SMR	Sites and Monuments Records
SNCR	Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulphur Dioxide
SO <sub>x</sub>	Sulphur Oxides expressed as Sulphur Dioxide
SPA	Special Protection Area

SRTM	Shuttle Radar Topography Mission
STEL	Short Term Exposure Limit
Subsoils	Soil lying immediately under the surface soil
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
SWDS	Solid Waste Disposal Sites
SWL	Still water level
SWRBD	South Western River Basin District
SWRPG	South West Regional Planning Guidelines
t/a	tonnes/annum
TA Luft	Technical Instructions on Air Quality Control – TA Luft. In accordance with article 48 of the Federal Emission Control Law (BimSchG) dated 15 March 1974 (BGBl. Ip. 721) Federal Ministry for Environment, Bonn 1986
TCDD	See <i>Dioxins</i>
TDI	Tolerable Daily Intake
TEF	Toxic Equivalence Factor
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Networks
TEL	Threshold Effect Level
TEQ	Toxic Equivalent
Test trenching	A form of archaeological excavation where the purpose is to establish the nature and extend of archaeological deposits and features present in a location that is proposed for development. Its purpose is not to fully investigate those deposits or features
TFL	Traffic Modelling Guidelines
TFS	Transfrontier Shipment
TI	Thallium
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TOMS	Toxic Organic Micropollutants Network
TP	Trial pit
tpa	Tonnes per annum

TWI	Tolerable Weekly Intake
TRL	Transport Research Laboratory
UCC	University College Cork
UN	United Nations
UPS	Un-interruptible Power Supply
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
V	Vandium
VRP	Viewshed Reference Points
Visual envelope	The extent of potential visibility of the proposed development to or from a specific area or feature in the landscape - defined by topography and vegetation
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMP	Waste Management Plan
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
ZAP	Zone of Archaeological Protection
ZTVI	Zone of Theoretical Visual Influence

## Glossary of Effects

Reference is made in this EIS to environmental impacts of various qualities, significance, duration and types. Unless defined elsewhere, these follow the relevant Environmental Protection Agency guidance the subject (Revised guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements, 2022).

### Description of effects as per Table 3.4 EPA Guidelines (Source: EPA, 2022)

Nature	Description	Definition
<b>Quality of Effects</b> It is important to inform the non-specialist reader whether an effect is positive, negative or neutral.	Positive Effects	A change which improves the quality of the environment (for example, by increasing species diversity, or improving the reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or by removing nuisances or improving amenities).
	Neutral Effects	No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
	Negative/Adverse Effects	A change which reduces the quality of the environment (for example, lessening species diversity or diminishing the reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or damaging health or property or by causing nuisance).
<b>Describing the Significance of Effects</b> ‘Significance’ is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics – in the absence of specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful.	Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.
	Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
	Slight Effects	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
	Moderate Effects	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
	Significant Effects	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, significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Profound Effects	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.
<b>Describing the Extent and Context of Effects</b> Context can affect the perception of significance. It is important to establish if the effect is unique or, perhaps, commonly or increasingly experienced.	Extent	Describe the size of the area, the number of sites and the proportion of a population affected by an effect.
	Context	Describe whether the extent, duration or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?).
<b>Describing the Probability of Effects</b> Descriptions of effects should establish how likely it is that the predicted effects will occur so that the CA can take a view of the balance of	Likely Effects	The effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	Unlikely Effects	The effects that can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.

Nature	Description	Definition
risk over advantage when making a decision.		
<b>Describing the Duration and Frequency of Effects</b>  ‘Duration’ is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics – in the absence of specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful.	Momentary Effects	Effects lasting from seconds to minutes.
	Brief Effects	Effects lasting less than a day.
	Temporary Effects	Effects lasting less than a year.
	Short-term Effects	Effects lasting one to seven years.
	Medium-term Effects	Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.
	Long-term Effects	Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
	Permanent Effects	Effects lasting over sixty years.
	Reversible Effects	Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration.
	Frequency of Effects	Describe how often the effect will occur (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually).
<b>Describing the Types of Effects</b>	Indirect Effects (a.k.a. Secondary or Off-site Effects)	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 Effects	The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.
	‘Do-nothing Effects’	The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.
	‘Worst-case’ Effects	The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Indeterminable Effects	When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.
	Irreversible Effects	When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	Residual Effects	The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
	Synergistic Effects	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).

## List of Figures – Volume 3

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Site Location
- 1.2 Existing Site Layout
- 1.3 Proposed Site Layout
- 1.4 Process Building, Aero-Condenser and Turbine – Footprint Comparison

### 2. Policy and Planning Framework and Need for the Scheme

- 2.1 The EU Waste Hierarchy
- 2.2 Map of Ringaskiddy (Source: Cork County Development Plan 2022)

### 3. Alternatives

- 3.1 National map showing the locations of existing thermal treatment facilities
- 3.2 Map of 5 Strategic Employment Areas & Bottlehill | not to scale

### 4. Description of the Proposed Development

- 4.1 Existing Site Layout
- 4.2 Existing Site Layout (Aerial)
- 4.3 Site in Context (Aerial)
- 4.4 Site in Context (Aerial) Looking West
- 4.5 Site in Context (Aerial) Looking South
- 4.6 Site in Context (Aerial) Looking East
- 4.7 Proposed Site Layout
- 4.8 Proposed Layout Plan – Main Site
- 4.9 Floor Plan Level 0 of Process Building
- 4.10 Cross-section of Process Building (Section C-C)
- 4.11 Overall Process Flow Diagram of Waste-to-Energy Process
- 4.12 Schematic of Moving Grate Furnace
- 4.13 Schematic of Boiler
- 4.14 Schematic of Steam Turbine
- 4.15 Schematic of Steam Turbine
- 4.16 Schematic of Heat Balance
- 4.17 Schematic of Cooling Section/Flue Gas Cleaning
- 4.18 Schematic of Stormwater Management System



#### 4.19 Schematic of Firewater Management System

### 6. Population and Human Health

- 6.1 Human Risk Assessment (Source: US EPA)
- 6.2 Safety Zones (PSZ) for Cork Airport (ERM)
- 6.3 Mean and maximum wind speeds (Met Éireann)
- 6.4 Lightning mean stroke density (strokes/km<sup>2</sup>)

### 7. Roads and Traffic

- 7.1 Ringaskiddy Predominant Land Use
- 7.2 Locations of the Junctions Included in Assessment
- 7.3 Two-way Link Flow Assessment Locations
- 7.4 18-Hour Traffic Flow Profile on Local Road Network including assessment Peak Periods
- 7.5 18-Hour Traffic Flow Profile including Proposed Traffic Restriction Periods
- 7.6 Traffic Planning Tool – Indaver, Co. Meath
- 7.7 Cumulative Construction Considerations

### 8. Air Quality

- 8.1 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Locations – Ringaskiddy
- 8.2 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Locations – Monkstown and Cobh
- 8.3 Terrain Near Ringaskiddy RCC, Ringaskiddy, County Cork
- 8.4 Cork Airport Windrose 2020 - 2024

### 9. Climate

- 9.1 1900-2024 Temperature (°C) Temperature Anomalies (Differences from 1961-1990)
- 9.2 Representative Concentration Pathways associated emission levels
- 9.3 Change of climate variables for Ireland for different global warming thresholds

### 10. Noise and Vibration

- 10.1 Baseline Noise Monitoring Locations
- 10.2 Noise Assessment Locations
- 10.3 Construction Activity 1a – Calculated Noise Contours
- 10.4 Construction Activity 1b – Calculated Noise Contours
- 10.5 Construction Activities 2, 3 & 4 – Calculated Noise Contours
- 10.6 Construction Activities 5 – Calculated Noise Contours

- 10.7 Construction Activities 6 – Calculated Noise Contours
- 10.8 Construction Activities 7 – Calculated Noise Contours
- 10.9 Operational Modelled Scenario 1 – Calculated Noise Contours
- 10.10 Operational Modelled Scenario 2 – Calculated Noise Contours
- 10.11 Operational Modelled Scenario 3 – Calculated Noise Contours
- 10.12 Operational Modelled Scenario 4 – Calculated Noise Contours

## 11. Landscape and Visual

- 11.0.A Extent of Visibility of the Top of Building Map
- 11.0.B Extent of Visibility of Top of Stack Map
- 11.0.C View Location Map
- 11.1.0 View from Ringaskiddy Village (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2025
- 11.1.1 View from Ringaskiddy Village (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2019
- 11.1.2 View from Ringaskiddy Village (also Scenic Route S54) As Proposed
- 11.1.3 View from Ringaskiddy Village (also Scenic Route S54) As Proposed including representation of occasional steam plume
- 11.2.0 View from N28 approaching Ringaskiddy Village (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2025
- 11.2.1 View from N28 approaching Ringaskiddy Village (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2019
- 11.2.2 View from N28 approaching Ringaskiddy Village (also Scenic Route S54) As Proposed
- 11.2.3 View from N28 approaching Ringaskiddy Village (also Scenic Route S54) Cumulative Impact
- 11.3.0 View from North of Ringaskiddy Martello Tower As Existing 2025
- 11.3.1 View from North of Ringaskiddy Martello Tower As Existing 2019
- 11.3.2 View from North of Ringaskiddy Martello Tower As Proposed
- 11.4.0 View from View from Ringaskiddy Martello Tower (at entrance door) As Existing 2025
- 11.4.1 View from View from Ringaskiddy Martello Tower (at entrance door) As Existing 2019
- 11.4.2 View from View from Ringaskiddy Martello Tower (at entrance door) As Proposed
- 11.5.0 View from Local access road close to NMCI entrance As Existing 2025
- 11.5.1 View from Local access road close to NMCI entrance As Existing 2019
- 11.5.2 View from Local access road close to NMCI entrance As Proposed
- 11.6.0 View from Gobby Strand towards Golden Rock As Existing 2025

11.6.1	View from Gobby Strand towards Golden Rock As Existing 2019
11.6.2	View from Gobby Strand towards Golden Rock As Proposed
11.7.0	View from Gobby Strand towards site As Existing 2025
11.7.1	View from Gobby Strand towards site As Existing 2019
11.7.2	View from Gobby Strand towards site As Proposed
11.8.0	View from Haulbowline local access road As Existing 2025
11.8.1	View from Haulbowline local access road As Existing 2019
11.8.2	View from Haulbowline local access road As Proposed
11.9.0	View from Haulbowline bridge close to Rocky Island As Existing 2025
11.9.1	View from Haulbowline bridge close to Rocky Island As Existing 2019
11.9.2	View from Haulbowline bridge close to Rocky Island As Proposed
11.9.3	View from Haulbowline bridge close to Rocky Island Cumulative Impact
11.10.0	View from Haulbowline Island west pier As Existing 2025
11.10.1	View from Haulbowline Island west pier As Existing 2019
11.10.2	View from Haulbowline Island west pier As Proposed
11.11.0	View from Haulbowline Island east tip shoreline As Existing 2025
11.11.1	View from Haulbowline Island east tip shoreline As Existing 2019
11.11.2	View from Haulbowline Island east tip shoreline As Proposed
11.11.3	View from Haulbowline Island east tip shoreline Cumulative Impact
11.12.0	View from Cork Harbour at Spit Bank Lighthouse As Existing 2025
11.12.1	View from Cork Harbour at Spit Bank Lighthouse As Existing 2019
11.12.2	View from Cork Harbour at Spit Bank Lighthouse As Proposed
11.12.3	View from Cork Harbour at Spit Bank Lighthouse Cumulative Impact
11.13.0	View from Cobh on Whitepoint Drive As Existing 2025
11.13.1	View from Cobh on Whitepoint Drive As Existing 2019
11.13.2	View from Cobh on Whitepoint Drive As Proposed
11.14.0	View from Cobh at White Point As Existing 2025
11.14.1	View from Cobh at White Point As Existing 2019
11.14.2	View from Cobh at White Point As Proposed
11.15.0	View from Cobh at Russell Heights As Existing 2025
11.15.1	View from Cobh at Russell Heights As Existing 2019
11.15.2	View from Cobh at Russell Heights As Proposed

- 11.15.3 View from Cobh at Russell Heights Cumulative Impact
- 11.16.0 View from Cobh at West Beach Pier As Existing 2025
- 11.16.1 View from Cobh at West Beach Pier As Existing 2019
- 11.16.2 View from Cobh at West Beach Pier As Proposed
- 11.16.3 View from Cobh at West Beach Pier Cumulative Impact
- 11.17A.0 View from Cobh at St Coleman's Cathedral As Existing 2025
- 11.17A.1 View from Cobh at St Coleman's Cathedral As Existing 2019
- 11.17A.2 View from Cobh at St Coleman's Cathedral As Proposed
- 11.17A.3 View from Cobh at St Coleman's Cathedral Cumulative Impact
- 11.17B.0 View from Cobh at St Coleman's Cathedral at night As Existing 2025
- 11.17B.1 View from Cobh at St Coleman's Cathedral at night As Existing 2019
- 11.17B.2 View from Cobh at St Coleman's Cathedral at night As Proposed
- 11.17B.3 View from Cobh at St Coleman's Cathedral at night Cumulative Impact
- 11.18.0 View from Cobh on High Road (also Scenic Route S53) As Existing 2025
- 11.18.1 View from Cobh on High Road (also Scenic Route S53) As Existing 2019
- 11.18.2 View from Cobh on High Road (also Scenic Route S53) As Proposed
- 11.18.3 View from Cobh on High Road (also Scenic Route S53) As Proposed including representation of occasional steam plume
- 11.18.4 View from Cobh on High Road (also Scenic Route S53) Cumulative Impact
- 11.19.0 View from East Ferry local access road (also Scenic Route S51) As Existing 2025
- 11.19.1 View from East Ferry local access road (also Scenic Route S51) As Existing 2025
- 11.19.2 View from East Ferry local access road (also Scenic Route S51) As Proposed
- 11.19.3 View from East Ferry local access road (also Scenic Route S51) Cumulative Impact
- 11.20.0 View from Whitegate village (also Scenic Route S51) As Existing 2025
- 11.20.1 View from Whitegate village (also Scenic Route S51) As Existing 2019
- 11.20.2 View from Whitegate village (also Scenic Route S51) As Proposed
- 11.20.3 View from Whitegate village (also Scenic Route S51) Cumulative Impact
- 11.21.0 View from Fort Davis (Carlisle Fort) As Existing 2025
- 11.21.1 View from Fort Davis (Carlisle Fort) As Existing 2019
- 11.21.2 View from Fort Davis (Carlisle Fort) As Proposed
- 11.21.3 View from Fort Davis (Carlisle Fort) Cumulative Impact
- 11.22.0 View from Cork Harbour between Carlisle and Camden Forts As Existing 2025
- 11.22.1 View from Cork Harbour between Carlisle and Camden Forts As Existing 2019

- 11.22.2 View from Cork Harbour between Carlisle and Camden Forts As Proposed
- 11.22.3 View from Cork Harbour between Carlisle and Camden Forts Cumulative Impact
- 11.23.0 View from Roche's Point (also Scenic Route S51) As Existing 2025
- 11.23.1 View from Roche's Point (also Scenic Route S51) As Existing 2019
- 11.23.2 View from Roche's Point (also Scenic Route S51) As Proposed
- 11.24.0 View from R610 Road at Rafeen (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2025
- 11.24.1 View from R610 Road at Rafeen (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2019
- 11.24.2 View from R610 Road at Rafeen (also Scenic Route S54) As Proposed
- 11.24.3 View from R610 Road at Rafeen (also Scenic Route S54) Cumulative Impact
- 11.25A.0 View from R610 Road at Public Car in Monkstown (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2025
- 11.25A.1 View from R610 Road at Public Car in Monkstown (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2019
- 11.25A.2 View from R610 Road at Public Car in Monkstown (also Scenic Route S54) As Proposed
- 11.25A.3 View from R610 Road at Public Car in Monkstown (also Scenic Route S54) As Proposed including representation of occasional steam plume
- 11.25A.4 View from R610 Road at Public Car in Monkstown (also Scenic Route S54) Cumulative Impact
- 11.25B.0 View from R610 Road at Public Car in Monkstown at night (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2025
- 11.25B.1 View from R610 Road at Public Car in Monkstown at night (also Scenic Route S54) As Existing 2019
- 11.25B.2 View from R610 Road at Public Car in Monkstown at night (also Scenic Route S54) As Proposed
- 11.25B.3 View from R610 Road at Public Car in Monkstown at night (also Scenic Route S54) Cumulative Impact
- 11.26.0 View from Monkstown on Diamond Road As Existing 2025
- 11.26.1 View from Monkstown on Diamond Road As Existing 2019
- 11.26.2 View from Monkstown on Diamond Road As Proposed
- 11.26.3 View from Monkstown on Diamond Road Cumulative Impact
- 11.27.0 View from Monkstown Golf Course As Existing 2025
- 11.27.1 View from Monkstown Golf Course As Existing 2019
- 11.27.2 View from Monkstown Golf Course As Proposed
- 11.27.3 View from Monkstown Golf Course Cumulative Impact
- 11.28.0 View from R613 road at Barnahely Cemetery As Existing 2025

- 11.28.1 View from R613 road at Barnahely Cemetery As Existing 2019
- 11.28.2 View from R613 road at Barnahely Cemetery As Proposed
- 11.29.0 View from Curraghbinny As Existing 2025
- 11.29.1 View from Curraghbinny As Existing 2019
- 11.29.2 View from Curraghbinny As Proposed
- 11.29.3 View from Curraghbinny Cumulative Impact
- 11.30.0 View from Curraghbinny road at Loughbeg As Existing 2025
- 11.30.1 View from Curraghbinny road at Loughbeg As Existing 2019
- 11.30.2 View from Curraghbinny road at Loughbeg As Proposed
- 11.31.0 View from Curraghbinny Woods shoreline As Existing 2025
- 11.31.1 View from Curraghbinny Woods shoreline As Existing 2019
- 11.31.2 View from Curraghbinny Woods shoreline As Proposed
- 11.31.3 View from Curraghbinny Woods shoreline As Proposed including representation of occasional stream plume
- 11.31.4 View from Curraghbinny Woods shoreline Cumulative Impact
- 11.32.0 View from Camden Fort Car Park, Crosshaven (also Scenic Route S58) As Existing 2025
- 11.32.1 View from Camden Fort Car Park, Crosshaven (also Scenic Route S58) As Existing 2019
- 11.32.2 View from Camden Fort Car Park, Crosshaven (also Scenic Route S58) As Proposed
- 11.32.3 View from Camden Fort Car Park, Crosshaven (also Scenic Route S58) Cumulative Impact
- 11.33.0 View from Crosshaven (Ardcross Court) As Existing 2025
- 11.33.1 View from Crosshaven (Ardcross Court) As Existing 2019
- 11.33.2 View from Crosshaven (Ardcross Court) As Proposed
- 11.34.0 View from Crosshaven on Point Road As Existing 2025
- 11.34.1 View from Crosshaven on Point Road As Existing 2019
- 11.34.2 View from Crosshaven on Point Road As Proposed
- 11.34.3 View from Crosshaven on Point Road Cumulative Impact
- 11.35.0 View from Spike Island (Fort Mitchell 2nd Bastion) As Existing 2025
- 11.35.1 View from Spike Island (Fort Mitchell 2nd Bastion) As Existing 2019
- 11.35.2 View from Spike Island (Fort Mitchell 2nd Bastion) As Proposed
- 11.35.3 View from Spike Island (Fort Mitchell 2nd Bastion) Cumulative Impact
- 11.36A.0 View from Spike Island at landing pier As Existing 2025

- 11.36A.1 View from Spike Island at landing pier As Existing 2019
- 11.36A.2 View from Spike Island at landing pier As Proposed
- 11.36A.3 View from Spike Island at landing pier As Proposed including representation of occasional steam plume
- 11.36A.4 View from Spike Island at landing pier Cumulative Impact
- 11.36B.0 View from Spike Island at landing pier at night As Existing 2025
- 11.36B.1 View from Spike Island at landing pier at night As Existing 2019
- 11.36B.2 View from Spike Island at landing pier at night As Proposed
- 11.36B.3 View from Spike Island at landing pier at night Cumulative Impact
- 11.37.0 View from Spike Island (Fort Mitchell Square at Library) As Existing 2025
- 11.37.1 View from Spike Island (Fort Mitchell Square at Library) As Existing 2019
- 11.37.2 View from Spike Island (Fort Mitchell Square at Library) As Proposed
- 11.37.3 View from Spike Island (Fort Mitchell Square at Library) Cumulative Impact
- 11.38.1 View From Loughbeg Beach As Existing 2019
- 11.38.2 View From Loughbeg Beach As Proposed
- 11.39 View From Loughbeg Beach As Proposed
- 11.40 View From Loughbeg Beach As Proposed
- 11.41 View From Loughbeg Beach As Proposed
- 11.42 View From Loughbeg Beach As Proposed
- 11.43 Significance of Effects Terminology

## 12. Biodiversity

- 12.1 Designated site within 20km radius of proposed development site
- 12.2 Habitat map

## 13. Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology and Coastal Recession

- 13.1a Geology of Cork Harbour and the Proposed Development
- 13.1b Site Observations – Bedrock
- 13.2 Soils within the Study Area
- 13.3a Site Observations – Subsoils
- 13.3b Site Observations – Subsoils
- 13.4 Geological Heritage Areas within the Study Area
- 13.5 Granular Aggregate Potential within the Study Area
- 13.6 Crushed Rock Aggregate Potential within the Study Area

- 13.7 Industrial Emissions Licence within the Study Area
- 13.8 Landslide Susceptibility within the Study Area
- 13.9 Karst Features within the Study Area
- 13.10 Site Investigations
- 13.11a Cross Section A1 and Cross Section A2
- 13.11b Cross Section B
- 13.11c Cross Section C
- 13.12 Aquifer Type and Classification
- 13.13 Groundwater Vulnerability
- 13.14 Groundwater Recharge
- 13.15 Groundwater Abstractions
- 13.16 Regionally Groundwater Independent Ecosystems
- 13.17 Groundwater Contamination Sites
- 13.18 Groundwater Installations of the Proposed Development
- 13.19 Hydrograph displaying groundwater level data loggers and manual dips from site visits
- 13.20a Groundwater Contours – Subsoil Strata
- 13.20b Groundwater Contours – Bedrock Aquifer
- 13.21 Surrounding surface WFD waterbodies for the proposed development
- 13.22 Hydrologically Connected Protected Areas – Groundwater – Drinking Water
- 13.23 Hydrologically Connected Protected Areas - Surface Water – SPA (Birds Directive)
- 13.24 Hydrologically Connected Protected Areas –Surface Water - Urban Waste Water Directive Sensitive Area
- 13.25 National Water Monitoring Stations in the vicinity of the proposed development site
- 13.26 Estimated cliff retreat lines

#### 14. Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

- 14.1 Proposed development site with RMP and SMR sites within a 2 km radius
- 14.2 Proposed development site with PS's and NIAH-listed sites within a 1.5 km radius
- 14.3 Proposed development site outlined on OS 6-inch map of 1841
- 14.4 Proposed development site outlined on OS 25-inch map of 1902
- 14.5 Proposed development site outlined on OS 6-inch map of 1934
- 14.6 Candells Map of Cork Harbour 1587
- 14.7 Down Survey Map of 1654-1659



- 14.8 Plate 1: Areas 1-6 within the proposed development site
- 14.9 Plate 2: Aerial image 2006-2012. Sections of original path arrowed red
- 14.10 Plate 3: Painting (c.1870) of Cork's lower harbour depicts the Martello tower on the Ringaskiddy Peninsula
- 14.11 Plates 4 and 5: Area 1
- 14.12 Plates 6 and 7: Area 2
- 14.13 Plates 8 and 9: Area 2
- 14.14 Plates 10 and 11: Area 3
- 14.15 Plates 12 and 13: Area 4
- 14.16 Plates 14 and 15: Area 5
- 14.17 Plates 16 and 17: Area 6
- 14.18 Plate 18: Martello Tower
- 14.19 Plate 19: Views from top of Martello Tower, looking North
- 14.20 Plate 20: Views from top of Martello Tower, looking Northeast

## List of Appendices – Volume 4

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Letter from An Bord Pleanála
- 1.2 Consultation
- 1.3 Compulsory Purchase Order Letter, Notice to Treat & Land Parcel Schedule and Map

### 3. Alternatives

- 3.1 Planning Report, in Relation to Industrial Lands Within Metropolitan Cork
- 3.2 Heat Network Feasibility Study
- 3.3 Comparison of Environmental Effects for Reasonable Alternative Sites
- 3.4 ESB Networks Feasibility Study (D/47/6043/1064)

### 4. Description of the Proposed Development

- 4.1 List of Waste (LoW) Codes Proposed by Indaver for Acceptance
- 4.2 Furnace Start Up and Shut Down Procedures
- 4.3 Interlock System
- 4.4 Compliance with Best Available Techniques (BAT)

### 5. Construction Activities

- 5.1 Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

### 6. Population and Human Health

- 6.1 Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment for Ringaskiddy Resource Recovery Centre
- 6.2 Sampling and Analysis of Soils and Sediment Samples for PCDDs, PCDSs and PCBs at Various Locations around Cork Harbour
- 6.3 Modelling of PCDD/F Intake for Ringaskiddy Resource Recovery Centre

### 7. Roads and Traffic

- 7.1 Junction Operation Results
- 7.2 Indaver Mobility Management Plan
- 7.3 HGV MMP Flowchart

### 8. Air Quality

- 8.1 Air Quality Study
- 8.2 Description of AERMOD Model
- 8.3 Air Quality Effect from Traffic Sources

- 8.4 Cumulative Impact Assessment
- 8.5 Sensitivity Assessment of Modelling Input Parameters
- 8.6 Process Information
- 8.7 Wind Turbine Interactions
- 8.8 Air Quality Helicopter Risk Assessment

## 9. Climate

- 9.1 Compliance with Section 15 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act (Amended) 2021

## 10. Noise and Vibration

- 10.1 Baseline Noise Monitoring

## 12. Biodiversity

- 12.1 Flora Species List 2025
- 12.2 Winter and Breeding Bird Surveys 2024 and 2025
- 12.3 Mammal Surveys
- 12.4 Intertidal Survey
- 12.5 Site Synopses - Natura 2000 Sites
- 12.6 NRA Guidelines for Assessment of Habitat Values

## 13. Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology and Coastal Recession

- 13.1 Soil and Hydrogeological Investigation (KT Cullen & Co. Ltd) & Hydrogeological Assessment for Hammond Lane Metal Company
- 13.2 Coastal Recession Mechanisms Investigation (2012) & Site Investigation – Factual Report by Priority Geotechnical Ltd 2019
- 13.3 Coastal Erosion Study
- 13.4 Flood Risk Assessment
- 13.5 Coastal Expert Review of Arup Coastal Erosion Study (2015)
- 13.6 Groundwater Analysis
- 13.7 Water Framework Directive (WFD) Compliance

## 14. Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

- 14.1 Correspondence
- 14.2 Excavations
- 14.3 Local Cultural Heritage of Study Area

## 15. Material Assets

- 15.1 Helicopter Navigation Report
- 15.2 Aviation Safety Report
- 15.3 Letter from Department of Defence to An Bord Pleanála