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EAST GALWAY ECO PARK

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

Prepared for:

Galway County Council

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Date: **April 2024**

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EAST GALWAY ECO PARK EIA SCREENING REPORT

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Abstract: This report comprises an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening of the East Galway Eco Park development.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Galway County Council (GCC) wishes to develop an amenity and biodiversity park at the site of the former East Galway landfill, Killagh More, Ballybaun (E.D. Killaan), Ballintober (E.D. Killaan), Ballinasloe, Galway.

GCC seeks to unlock the potential of this ecologically rich site and develop an amenity and biodiversity park which will act as a local and regional attraction, providing a range of amenity offerings to the public of all ages and abilities, local community and interest groups.

GCC have appointed Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) to prepare Part 8 Planning Application for this proposed development, which is to be known as 'East Galway Eco Park.' This comprises an EIA Screening Report produced for this planning application.

1.1 Description of Existing Site

The overall site is 58.3 hectares in extent and is located in the townlands of Killagh More, Ballybaun and Ballintober, approximately 2.5km southwest of Kilconnell village off the R348. The site is approximately 3.6 km north of M6 running from Athlone to Galway at its nearest point. The former landfill facility is accessible from the M6 through the L3416 road and the R348 road north from the site.

A list of major settlement situated in the wider region surrounding the site, and the distance and cardinal direction of this settlement from the site is provided below:

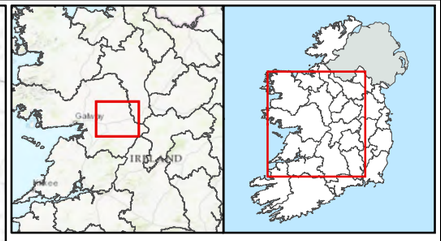
- Ballinasloe – 15.5km east of the site
- Aughrim – 10km southeast of the site
- Loughrea – 22km southwest of the site

The site was historically used as agricultural land, with some pockets of the being used for forestry. Greenstar constructed a landfill at the site in 2005. This landfill was operated from 2005 to 2012. GCC took over the operation of the site in 2015 at the request of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). GCC subsequently undertook an extensive programme of landfill cell development and remediation works at the site. This included the full capping of the landfill, the planting of approximately 9,000 native trees and the seeding of 20 ha of grassland, all of which were completed by 2019/2020.

The site currently contains the capped landfill, associated landfill infrastructure, extensive open areas and woodland, and a network of tracks that can be readily converted to amenity trails. The former landfill site is undergoing aftercare and is being managed by GCC in accordance with an Industrial Emissions (IE) licence enforced by the EPA (W0178-02).

A GIS Figure showing the Site Location is shown in Figure 1-1.

Path: R:\Map Production\2022\P22-032\Workspaces\P22-032_GIS_Former_East_Galway_Landfill_Site_Location_And_Contect_A3.mxd



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Site Boundary - 15km Buffer
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation
- Natural Heritage
- Approximate Location of Inter-Urban Cycle Connects Route
- Places of Interest

TITLE:	Former East Galway Landfill: Site Location and Context Map
PROJECT:	East Galway Eco Park Development
FIGURE NO:	1-1
CLIENT:	Galway County Council
SCALE:	1:130000
REVISION:	0
DATE:	25/01/2023
PAGE SIZE:	A3

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N W E S

0 2.5 5 10 Kilometers

1.2 Relevant Experience and Expertise of Assessor

Richard Deeney of Fehily Timoney and Company was responsible for completing the EIA Screening Assessment in this case. Richard is a Principal Environmental Scientist working as part of the Circular Economy and Environment Team in Fehily Timoney and Company. Richard holds a B.Sc. First Class Honours degree in Environmental Management from Dublin Institute of Technology. Richard is a Chartered Environmentalist with the Society for the Environment. Richard has 11 years' experience working in the area of environmental assessment/ management.

Richard is vastly experienced in project managing and coordinating Planning Applications, Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and Environmental Assessment.

Richard has a vast amount of experience coordinating and completing Environmental Impact Assessment Reports and EIA Screening Reports for a wide variety of development projects including landfill facilities, material recovery facilities, soil recovery facilities, healthcare waste management facilities, quarries, power generation facilities, metal processing facilities and tourism development. Richard has a wide and thorough understanding of the various environmental factors that need to be considered during the EIA process and has an in-depth understanding of the legislation and up-to-date case law governing EIA practice in Ireland and the EU. Richard has an in-depth understanding of every stage of the EIA process from the Screening Stage to the Scoping Stage, up to the EIAR completion stage.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Overview Description of the Proposed Development

Galway County Council (GCC) seek consent for the development of an amenity and biodiversity park to be known as 'East Galway Eco Park' at the former East Galway landfill site situated at Killagh More, Ballybaun (E.D. Killaan), Ballintober (E.D. Killaan), Ballinasloe, Galway. The footprint of the development site is 58.3 hectares.

The former landfill site is undergoing aftercare and is being managed by GCC in accordance with an Industrial Emissions (IE) licence enforced by the EPA (W0178-02).

The proposed development will consist of:

- The erection of park entrance signage (11.0 m x 2.1 m and 5.0 m x 2.1 m) at the main entrance to the site.
- The development of road-markings, signage and a traffic barrier arrangement at the point the existing site access road enters the main body of the site, to prevent and minimize conflict between amenity park users and occasional landfill maintenance and aftercare related traffic.
- The installation of fencing to restrict access to former landfill maintenance and operation areas (total length of fencing – 3,825 m).
- The development of an on-site parking areas at a central area at the main body of the site, with 88 no. of bicycle parking spaces, 57 no. of car parking spaces including six no. electric vehicle charging spaces, three no. of accessible parking spaces, one no. accessible electric vehicle charging space and 24 no. electric vehicle ready charging spaces.
- The development of a circulation area for a mobile café (335 m^2 in area), adjacent to the on-site parking area.
- The development of a toilet and changing room facility on-site (principle dimensions – 12.2m x 3.0m x 2.5 m high).
- The development of an amphitheatre on-site to the rear of the parking and circulation areas (principle dimensions – 18.0 m x 20.0 m)
- The development of a dedicated activity zone at a central area on-site for the carrying out of a variety of recreational activities (4,500 m2 in area)
- The development of a pump track at a central area on-site (principle dimensions – 60.0 m x 35.0 m, 2,100 m^2 in area.)
- The development of a fenced off dog park at a central area on-site (2,000 m^2 in area), with surrounding fencing and gated access 240 m in length
- The conversion of a network of existing tracks on-site to amenity trails. This network of amenity trails to be developed will interlink all of the proposed development components listed above. The following amenity trails will be developed on-site:
    - Adventure trail (Ca. 1.0 km in distance)
    - Picnic trail (Ca. 0.6 km in distance)
    - Small loop (Ca. 0.9 km in distance)
    - Main loop (Ca. 2.0 km in distance)
    - Perimeter loop (Ca. 3.6 km in distance)

- Dome trail (Ca. 0.5 km in distance). This dome path will traverse the area of the existing landfill cap on-site.

- The development of an adventure/sensory play path with nature play elements on-site.
- The use of the proposed development site as an amenity and biodiversity park to be known as 'East Galway Eco Park.'

2.2 Purpose of/Rationale for the Proposed Development

GCC seeks to unlock the potential of this ecologically rich site and develop an amenity and biodiversity park which will act as a local and regional attraction, providing a range of amenity offerings to the public of all ages and abilities, local community and interest groups.

The proposed development site will also serve as a green infrastructure asset in Co. Galway that will be managed to deliver ecosystem services, enhance biodiversity, provide recreational space and mitigate anthropogenic impacts on climate changes (by promoting Greenhouse Gas (GHG) sequestration).

2.3 Components of the Proposed Development

Main Entrance Signage

Refer to Drawings P22-032-0300-0001 and P22-032-0300-0001.

The main entrance features will comprise 2 no. entrance signs. The primary sign on the west of the entrance measures 11.0m in length by 2.1m high. The secondary sign on the east of the entrance measures 5.0m in length by 2.1m high. The entrance signs shall comprise Corten steel panels with extruded stainless steel lettering attached . The lettering will be backlit by LED lights. The corten panels will be mounted atop gabion stone baskets. The Gabion baskets will be filled using recovered stone.

Site Access

Refer to Drawing P22-032-0400-0003.

The existing site access area comprises the following landfill associated infrastructure:

- Weighbridge
- Administration building
- Wheel wash
- Staff car parking
- Waste quarantine area
- Generator compound
- Maintenance shed
- Leachate storage tank
- Leachate Lagoon

Works are required to the site access area to ensure minimal interaction between the public and landfill maintenance and aftercare related traffic at this intersection.

The works to the site access area at the point the existing site access road enters the main body of the site will comprise line painting and traffic control signage. Lane marking, directional arrows and "no entry" road markings shall be implemented. Cobble strips shall be installed to visually delineate between the public and landfill traffic lanes.

An access control barrier shall be installed to the administration building car park to restrict access to landfill maintenance staff only.

Fencing

Refer to Drawings within the P22-032-0500 series.

Safety infrastructure on-site shall comprise fencing and appropriate safety signage to restrict access to the dedicated exclusion zones on site.

The fencing shall comprise approximately 3,500m of 1.2m high timber post and wire mesh fencing to restrict access to the following areas:

- Landfill maintenance and aftercare areas.
- Steep slopes adjacent to on-site streams.

Additional security fencing shall comprise approximately 325m of 2.4m high V-mesh paladin fencing to restrict access to the following areas:

- Existing derelict dwelling.
- Leachate Storage Tank
- Maintenance Shed

Stock proof fencing on-site will incorporate mammal passes at regular intervals to minimize habitat fragmentation.

On Site Parking Areas

Refer to Drawings P22-032-0400-0001, P22-032-0400-0002 and P22-032-0400-0004.

The proposed car park is approximately 1,760m^2. The car park shall provide 57 no. car parking spaces including 3 no. accessible parking spaces, 6 no. EV charging spaces, 1 no. accessible EV charging space and 24 no. EV ready parking spaces (a landscaping strip can be reutilized for charging connections at these spaces in the future). The proposed car park shall be constructed of geo-grid infilled with decorative gravel atop the existing hardcore.

Bicycle parking is proposed at the main car park, mobile café and pump track. The three bicycle parking areas shall provide parking for 128 no. bicycles. The proposed bike parking shall be constructed of geo-grid infilled with gravel. The total area of bicycle parking is 170m^2.

A coach set down area and turning area shall be provided adjacent to the car park. The coach set down area provides parking for 3 no. large coaches. The coach set down area shall be constructed with asphalt surfacing. The coach set down area occupies an area of 87m^2.The coach turning area avails of an existing concrete hardstanding area adjacent to the set down area.

Circulation Area

Refer to Drawings P22-032-0400-0001.

The proposed circulation area adjacent to the parking facilities shall comprise a mobile café, seating, and toilet and changing facilities. The proposed circulation area is approximately 335m^2. The proposed circulation area shall be constructed of geo-grid infilled with decorative gravel.

Toilet and Changing Facilities

Refer to Drawing P22-032-0400-0006.

The toilet and changing facilities shall comprise a modular toilet block constructed within a modified 40ft container. The toilet block shall include male, female and accessible toilets. Unisex changing facilities will also be provided. The toilet block shall be clad with recovered timber cladding.

Foul water from the toilet facilities shall be discharged to a macerator pump prior to discharge to the on-site leachate system.

The Amphitheatre

Refer to Drawing P22-032-0400-0007.

The amphitheatre shall comprise a main stage measuring approximately 65m^2 and sloped seating terrace. The main stage shall contain a tensile canopy roof structure mounted to a concrete base. A stepped footpath shall connected the main stage to the seating terrace. The seating to the amphitheatre shall be constructed into the natural slope retained by gabion baskets topped with natural timber seating affixed atop.

A short trail shall connect the amphitheatre to the main car park.

The Trails

Refer to Drawings P22-032-0200-0001, P22-032-0201-0001 and P22-032-0201-0002.

A total of six no. trails are proposed at the site. The trails vary in length and degree of difficulty. The following trails are proposed:

- Adventure trail (1.0 km in distance)
- Picnic trail (0.6 km in distance)
- Small loop (0.9 km in distance)
- Main loop (2.0 km in distance)
- Perimeter loop (3.6 km in distance)
- Dome trail (0.5 km in distance).

The proposed trails overlap in sections, with the total length of developed trails being approximately 5.5 km. The trails shall be surfaced with a quarry dust finish with the exception of a steep section of trail which will be surface with asphalt. Tanalised timber edge support shall be placed to the edges of the trails.

The proposed trails mostly avail of the existing access maintenance tracks on site. The proposed dome trail and sections of the perimeter loop comprise the construction of new trails. The proposed perimeter trail will require the construction of a single stream crossing and pedestrian crossing. The stream crossing shall be a single span structure to minimise disturbance to the watercourse. Refer to Drawing P22-032-0200-0002.

A raised table pedestrian crossing shell be constructed where the perimeter loop crosses the main entrance road. Refer to Drawing P22-032-0200-0003.

The adventure trail shall contain a number of nature and sensory play elements placed adjacent to the trail.

Benches and information boards shall be installed at regular intervals along the proposed trails.

The Activity Zone

The activity zone shall comprise a large grass/reinforced safagrass/bark mulch surface area (approximately 4,500m^2). The area shall contain a low-level adventure/obstacle, twin trail course with gently-undulating earth mounding, planting and seeding.

The Pump Track

The pump track shall comprise of approximately 280 linear metres of asphalt cycle tracks over an area of approximately 1,200m^2. The asphalt cycle tracks shall contain undulating ground to achieve the required profile for the pump track.

The Dog Park

The dog park shall comprise of 2 no. grassed areas (approximately 2,000m^2) catering for both large and small dogs. The entire area shall be fenced securely fenced with 1.2m high paladin fencing. A "bell jar" dual gate-system shall be operated to the dog park entrance which allows dog owners to bring their dog into a confined space, on-leash, where the dog can be unleashed before entry to the park.

The park shall contain selected dog agility equipment, hardstanding area with benches, refuse bins and water drinking points.

2.3.1 Construction of the Proposed Development

Construction Duration and Programme

It is estimated that the construction phase of the proposed development will take 40-48 weeks to complete.

Construction Hours

The hours of construction activity will avoid unsociable hours and will be agreed with the planning authority in advance of site start. It is anticipated that this will restrict working hours at the site during the construction phase to between to 07:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday inclusive and to between 07:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays. Work on Sundays or public holidays will only be conducted in exceptional circumstances and subject to prior notification insofar as possible with the local community.

Overview of Proposed Construction Works

An overview of the principal works involved in construction is provided below:

Main Entrance Features

The construction on the main entrance feature will comprise the following:

- General clearance of shrub.
- Stripping of topsoil.
- Laying of base material – Clause 804 or similar.
- Installation of gabion baskets.
- Filling of gabion baskets with selected recovered stone.
- Mounting of Corten Panels and recovered timber atop gabion baskets.
- Trenching of electrical cabling from signs to existing power supply.

Site Access and Safety Infrastructure

The construction of the cobble strip lane delineators will comprise the following:

- Breaking out of existing asphalt surface.
- Excavation to formation level.
- Placement of concrete bedding.
- Installation of cobbles.
- Reinstatement of asphalt surfacing to tie into cobbles.

The installation of the access control barrier will comprise the following:

- Breaking out of existing asphalt surface.
- Trenching of electrical cabling from access control barrier to administration building.
- Reinstatement of asphalt surfacing.
- Placement of concrete foundation to access control barrier tower.
- Installation of access control barrier system.

The construction of the 3,500m of 1.2m timber post and tension wire mesh fencing will comprise the following:

- Driving of timber stakes.
- Installation of tension wire mesh.

The construction of the 2.4m high V-mesh paladin fencing will comprise the following:

- Excavation of ground for post foundations (300mm x 300mm x 600mm).
- Placement of paladin fence posts in concrete.
- Erection of 325m of paladin V-mesh panels.

Parking and Set Down Infrastructure

The construction of the car park will comprise the following:

- Excavation of existing gravel hardstanding to a depth of approximately 100mm.
- Installation of timber edging.
- Placement of bedding sand material.
- Placement of geo-grid.
- Infilling of geo-grid with gravel.
- Landscaping areas including shrubs, hedges, trees, and grasses.

The construction of the bike parking will comprise the following:

- Excavation of ground to a depth of approximately 200mm.
- Placement of sub-base material - Clause 804 or similar.
- Placement of bedding sand material.
- Placement of geo-grid.
- Infilling of geo-grid with gravel.

The construction of the coach set down area will comprise the following:

- Excavation of existing gravel hardstanding to a depth of approximately 100mm.
- Placement of base material – Clause 804 or similar.
- Placement of asphalt surfacing (base course and wearing course).

Sanitary Facilities

The construction of the sanitary facilities will comprise the following:

- Excavation of ground to a depth of approximately 300mm.
- Trenching for foul water and water supply.
- Placement of base material – Clause 804 or similar.
- Craneage of pre-fabricated toilet block.
- Reprofiling works to provide access to toilet block.

Amphitheatre

The construction of the amphitheatre will comprise the following:

- Excavation of ground to a depth of approximately 300mm.
- Slope reprofiling works to achieve required grade.
- Placement of geotextile separation membrane
- Placement of sub-base material - Clause 804 or similar.
- Placement of concrete stage and steps.
- Placement of concrete foundation to seating.
- Installation of gabion baskets.
- Filling of gabion baskets with decorative stone.
- Mounting of natural timber atop gabion baskets.
- Installation of handrails.
- Installation of tensile canopy structure.
- Placement of topsoil and grass seeding.

Trails

The construction of the trails will comprise the following:

- Clearance of existing shrub along existing tracks.
- Excavation of existing track to a depth of approximately 100mm.
- Placement of sub-base material - Clause 804 or similar.
- Placement of tanalised timber edge supports.
- Placement of surfacing (Quarry dust or asphalt).

The construction of the stream crossing will comprise the following:

- Excavation of ground.
- Placement of precast reinforced concrete foundations and abutments.
- Placement of pre-cast concrete slab.
- Backfilling with structural infill.

Activity Zone

The construction of the activity zone will comprise the following:

- Earthworks to achieve the required profile.
- Installation of obstacle course equipment.
- Grass seeding.

Pump Track

The construction of the pump track will comprise the following:

- Earthworks to achieve the required profile, including compacting, trimming and surface preparation.
- Placement of sub-base material - Clause 804 or similar.
- Placement of asphalt surfacing.
- Grass seeding.

Dog Park

The construction of the dog park track will comprise the following:

- Earthworks to achieve the required profile.
- Excavation of ground for post foundations (300mm x 300mm x 600mm).
- Placement of paladin fence posts in concrete.
- Placement of paladin V-mesh panels.
- Placement of sub-base material - Clause 804 or similar.
- Placement of quarry dust surfacing.
- Grass seeding.
- Installation of ancillary elements (benches, bins, water points).

Environmental Management during Construction

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed in order to manage, prevent and control potential environmental impacts associated with Construction Phase activities. This document accompanies the planning application. This document defines the environmental control and mitigation measures to be adopted during construction works to prevent adverse impacts on the environment due to these construction activities.

2.4 Operational Phase of the Proposed Development

Proposed Development Opening Times

East Galway Eco park will only be open during the year round daylight hours of 08:30 - 16:30 Monday to Sunday, inclusive of public holidays.

On-site Supervision

A permanent park supervisor will be provided on-site during park opening hours.

A system of Closed Circuit Television will be provided on-site.

Recreational Activities

A variety of social, recreational and educational activities will be undertaken at the operational East Galway Eco park, including potentially: recreational walking and exercise, sight-seeing, sporting events, cycling, school tours, cultural heritage and artistic events, environmental/ecology education and wildlife viewing.

Visitor Management

All activities on-site will be undertaken in accordance with a Visitor Management Plan. Visitor numbers, behaviour and activities will be managed under this plan to avoid significant effects on biodiversity and cultural heritage on-site, including habitats, identified sensitive flora and fauna species, and a protected monument situated on-site.

Health and Safety Management

Healthy and safety risk and constraints were a fundamental consideration during the concept design and option assessment process. The presence of landfill infrastructure that is subject to maintenance at the site and the potential for park users to interact with landfill related infrastructure and activities naturally creates a degree of health and safety risk on-site that needs to be carefully and appropriately managed and controlled.

A Preliminary Health and Safety Plan has been completed for the proposed development. This plan divided the site into the following three zones:

- Red Zone - Exclusion Zone
- Amber Zone - Shared Activity Zone
- Green Zone Park - Activity Zone

The Red zone shall comprise the former landfill maintenance and operation areas. Access to these areas by the public shall be prohibited. The Red zone shall be completely fenced off from the public with appropriate signage erected.

The Amber zone shall comprise the public access road from the R348 regional road to the public parking area to the west of the site. The entrance to the park off the R348 shall be the sole access point to the site, as such, landfill operation and maintenance activities will interact with park users in this area. Appropriate health and safety measures will be implemented at the Amber zone to manage health and safety risk (e.g., suitable speed limits and speed signage, pedestrian crossings and speed ramps).

The Green zone shall comprise the remainder of the site. The public shall have access to this zone during the opening hours of the East Galway Eco Park except for some areas containing hazards. The hazards in the Green zone shall comprise high-risk streams, steep slopes, wetlands, dense vegetation and derelict buildings. These hazards shall be completely fenced off from park users with appropriate signage erected.

A final, comprehensive health and Safety Management Plan will be developed for the site prior to the commencement of park operations.

Traffic Management

Traffic will enter and exit the site via an existing planning approved site entrance which was designed to have suitable visibility splays and sightlines. Traffic will access and exit the main body of the site via the use of a site access road running from the R348. Entrance gates will be used to control access to the site in accordance with the proposed opening hours for the park.

A raised table pedestrian crossing and signage will be developed where the proposed perimeter loop crosses the site access road to safely manage traffic and increase pedestrian safety (See Drawing Reference: P22-032-0200-0003).

A system of signs, road marking and bollards will be used to manage traffic entering the main body of the site (See Drawing Reference: P22-032-0400-0003). This system will serve to suitably segregate park visitor traffic and occasional landfill maintenance activity related traffic.

Traffic entering the main body of the site will be directed via signage along an access road leading to the proposed car park and proposed bicycle parking areas on-site. Access to landfill infrastructure components in the area surrounding the site entrance will be controlled through the use of proposed gates and fencing (Refer to Drawings within the P22-032-0500 series).

Waste Management

A moderate but appropriate number of waste receptacles will be provided at Sanitary facilities on-site and adjacent to the Mobile Café Set Down Area and Dog Park on-site.

A 'leave no trace' ethos will be promoted at all other areas on-site. This ethos will be promoted through the use of suitable posters and/or signage on-site, as appropriate.

Broadly, the park will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the Galway County Council Litter Management Plan 2023 – 2025 in order to prevent litter generation and dog fouling. An appropriate level of litter management will be implemented on-site to ensure litter accumulating on-site is collected. Collected litter will be transferred to a centralized waste receptacle contained situated adjacent to the existing Administrative Building present on-site.

Ongoing Park Maintenance

The following park maintenance activities will be undertaken on-site during the operational phase of the proposed development:

- Landscape maintenance
- Trail maintenance and re-surfacing (as required).
- Amenity feature maintenance and repair (e.g., play elements, pump track)
- Maintenance of signs, road markings, bollards etc.
- Toilet block cleaning and maintenance.
- Park administration, including inspections, auditing and management tasks.

Ongoing Landfill Maintenance

The following landfill maintenance activities will be undertaken on-site during the operational phase of the proposed development:

- Environmental monitoring - Monitoring staff will be required to access installed infrastructure to take samples and/or monitor gas quality during the aftercare period post construction.
- Management of Landfill Gas - There will be an on-going requirement to:
- Maintain landfill gas infrastructure on a periodic basis.
- Monitor landfill gas quality at dedicated monitoring locations.
- Ongoing maintenance of engineered cap on-site - The grass cover will require maintenance.
- Ongoing maintenance of drainage systems on-site - Sub surface drainage pipes may require periodic jetting of pipes if they become compromised with roots or silt.
- Leachate collection - Occasionally (2 - 3 times a year), a road tanker will access the site to collect leachate generated at the existing Leachate Storage tank on-site.

All landfill management and maintenance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Industrial Emissions (IE) licence for the former landfill enforced by the EPA (W0178-02).

3. EIA SCREENING

3.1 EIA Project Types

The European Union Directive 2014/52/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, requires member states to ensure that a competent authority carries out an assessment of the environmental impacts of certain types of project, as listed in the Directive, prior to development consent being given for the project.

The EIA Directive requires that, "*in order to ensure a high level of protection of the environment and human health, screening procedures and EIA assessments should take account of the impact of the whole project in question, including where relevant, its subsurface and underground, during the construction, operational and, where relevant demolition phases*".

The Requirement for the EIA of various types of development are transposed into Irish legislation under the Planning and Development Act and the Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2001-2023. Schedule 5, Part 1 of the Planning Regulations includes a list of projects which are subject to EIA based on their type. Part 2 of the same schedule includes a list of projects which by reason of scale also fall into the EIA category for example, wind farms with more than 5 no. turbines or having a total output greater than 5 megawatts or waste handling facilities that handle more than 25,000 tonnes of waste per annum all fall into Part 2. Schedule 5 also includes a section on extensions or changes to developments for example, any change or extension to existing projects which would result in the development being of a class listed in Schedule 5 or result in an increase in size greater than 25% or 50% of the appropriate thresholds would fall into Schedule 5 and thus require an EIA.

The EIA criteria above are quite clear and prescriptive however in addition to the above Schedule 5 also includes a section relating to 'sub threshold' (discretionary) EIA. This is where any project listed in Schedule 5 Part 2 which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in respect of the relevant class of development (e.g., waste facility handling 20,000 tonnes per year or two turbines having an output less than 5 megawatts) should be subject to EIA where the project would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Regulations.

The proposed development does not fall into a class of development set out in Schedule 5, Part 1 and therefore an EIA is not mandatory. Classes of development from Schedule 5, Part 2 which can be considered to be somewhat related to the proposed development and the subject site are as follows:

- 10(b)(iv) Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere.
- 11(b): '*Installations for the disposal of waste with an annual intake greater than 25,000 tonnes not included in Part 1 of this Schedule'*.
- 12(e) Theme parks occupying an area greater than 5 hectares.
- 15: '*Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7*.'

Class 10(b)(iv) is not applicable as the proposed development does not occur within an urban area. The area surrounding the site is distinctly rural in nature.

The proposed development will occur at the former East Galway Landfill site. The management and aftercare of the former landfill is controlled under an EPA Industrial Emission licence. The landfill facility is now closed and the landfill itself has been capped and remediated. The proposed development is for amenity parkland and does not involve or consolidate the carrying out of a waste management activity. No waste will be accepted on-site under the proposed development. Therefore, Class 11(b) is not applicable.

Class 12(e) requires EIA for theme park development occurring on sites greater than 5 hectares in size. The proposed development site is greater than 5 hectares in size, however it is an amenity park and does not constitute a 'theme park' considering the ordinary definition of a theme park (i.e. a high-octane, large permanent area for public entertainment, with entertaining activities and big machines to ride on or play games on, restaurants, etc., sometimes all connected with a single subject).

In the circumstances, although a mandatory EIA is not triggered for the proposed project, an assessment of the likelihood of the proposed works to have a significant effect on the environment having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 will be undertaken. If it is likely that the project will have a significant effect on the environment having regard to the criteria set out hereunder, an EIA will be required.

3.2 Sub-Threshold EIA Screening

This section of this report screens the project in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 7 and Annex III of the EIA Directive. The screening demonstrates that there will be no significant impacts associated with the proposed development on the receiving environment in isolation or cumulatively with other projects or proposals in the area. This EIA Screening considers the 'whole project' including all secondary ancillary/subsidiary elements essential to the construction and operation of the proposed development.

Annex III of the EIA Directive details the criteria to be used to determine whether a project should be subject to EIA and Schedule 7 of the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 implements this Directive in Ireland.

These criteria are as follows:

1. Characteristics of the proposed development

The characteristics of proposed development, in particular:

- *The size and design of the whole of the proposed development*
- *Cumulation with other existing and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment.*
- *The nature of any associated demolition works*
- *The use of natural resources in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity.*
- *The production of waste.*
- *Pollution and nuisances.*
- *The risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge; and*
- *The risks to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).*

2. Location of Projects

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by proposed development, having regard to:

- *The existing and approved land use.*
- *The relative abundance, quality and regeneration capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground.*
- *The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following area:*
    - *Wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths.*
    - *Coastal zones and marine environment.*
    - *Mountain and forest area.*
    - *Nature reserves and parks.*
    - *Areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive.*
    - *Areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards, laid down in legislation of the European Union and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure.*
    - *Densely populated areas.*
    - *Landscapes and sites of historical, cultural, or archaeological significance.*

3. Characteristics of potential impacts

The potential significant effects on the environments of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2, with regard to the impact of the project on the factors specified in the definition of 'environmental impact assessment report' and taking into account-

- *The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).*
- *The nature of the impact.*
- *The transboundary nature of the impact.*
- *The intensity and complexity of the impact.*
- *The probability of the impact.*
- *The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.*
- *The cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects.*
- *The possibility of effectively reducing the impact.*

This assessment utilises the Screening Checklist as detailed in the European Commission Guidance on EIA Screening, June 2001, to screen the proposed development with regard to EIA requirements and this checklist encompasses the details required under Annex III of the EIA Directive and in Schedule 7 of the 2018 EIA Regulations – refer to Table 3.1. Any potential impacts are then assessed with regard to their characteristics.

In completing this screening assessment regard has also been had to EIA Screening Guidelines contained in the Office of the Planning Regulator's Practice Note PN02 Environmental Impact Assessment Screening.

Table 3-1: EIA Screening Checklist

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
1. Will construction, operation, decommissioning, or demolition works of the Project involve actions that will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc.)?	No. The construction works to be undertaken are limited in nature and scale (e.g. trail surfacing, installation of fencing etc.) and will only generate temporary construction phase effects,	No.
2. Will construction or the operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	The construction phase of the proposed development will only use a moderate quantity of construction material inputs given the scale of the proposed development (e.g., timber for fencing, quarry dust surfacing, sub-case). The operational phase of the proposed development will not use significant levels of natural resources.	No.
3. Will the Project involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health, to the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	The project involves the development of an amenity park on a closed and remediated landfill site. Materials associated with the landfill site which create potential hazards include buried wastes, unknown waste, made ground, landfill gas and leachate. The footprint of the proposed works is away from landfill areas. Contact with possible waste materials cannot be completely eliminated however..	No, this is not likely to result in significant impacts on human health or the environment. The proposed construction works will be undertaken in accordance with Health and Safety standards and legislation/regulations. A comprehensive Safety and Health Management Plan will be adopted and adhered to by the Contractor to ensure minimal risk in terms of human health and the environment. This Plan will have suitable regard to pre-existing risks associated with the former landfill.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
	Fuel will be delivered to the site as necessary during the proposed works. Re-fuelling will be undertaken in a designated re-fuelling area within the proposed site compound. Potential exists for an accidental fuel leak or spill resulting in the occurrence of environmental pollution.	It is not likely that fuels on-site will be released to and have an effect on the environment given control measures in place to prevent such loss of containment and discharges, as defined in the CEMP for the proposed works.
4. Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	There will be minor levels of waste material generated due to the construction works. There will be minimal levels of waste generated during the operational phase of the proposed development.	No. The level of construction waste generated on-site will be relatively moderate in nature given the scale of construction works. The waste will be removed by an authorized waste collector and managed at an appropriately authorized waste management facility. All excavated soils will be utilised on-site during. All new and excavated materials will be reutilised on-site during the works where possible. No significant levels of waste will be produced during the operation of the park. Only a small number of waste receptacles will be provided on-site to manage litter.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
5. Will the Project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air or lead to exceeding Ambient Air Quality standards in Directives 2008/50/EC and 2004/107/EC?	Construction machinery will likely cause release of pollutants in the form of exhaust emissions. Similarly, vehicular transport associated with the facility will cause exhaust emissions. Landfill gas is generated on-site as a result of natural biodegradation of waste which was deposited in the landfill during its operation.	No. Only a moderate number of mobile plant will be used on-site during works given the scale of construction. Vehicular transport associated with the construction phase of the proposed development will have a negligible impact on air quality given the scale of the construction phase and anticipated traffic levels. Materials generated during works on-site will be reutilised on-site thereby minimizing traffic associated with the proposed development. All landfill gas generated at the body of the landfill is captured and managed through an existing landfill gas management system constructed in accordance with EPA requirements, and managed in accordance with the Industrial Emission licence for the former landfill. A dome trail will be constructed atop the landfill cap as part of the proposed development project. This route of this dome trail has been designed to be away from landfill infrastructure components. An LLDPE liner will be utilized at this trail to prevent accidental landfill gas migration in this area.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
6. Will the Project cause noise and vibration or the releasing of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Noise emissions will occur during construction works (e.g., as a result of mobile plant operation, material handling etc). Minimal levels of noise will be generated during the operational phase of the proposed development - given the intention to only carry low intensity activities on-site (e.g., walking, running, sight-seeing, cycling, small-scale cultural events). The project will not cause any vibration, light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation.	No. Noise emissions during construction will be temporary and it is unlikely that EPA prescribed noise limits will be exceeded at any Noise Sensitive Location in the surrounding area. A CEMP will be prepared to mitigate noise emissions during construction. The project is unlikely to cause significant noise impacts on the receiving environment.
7. Will the Project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	Construction activities have the potential to result in contamination of receiving environmental media (via silt run-off) The operational phase of the proposed will not result in any environmental contamination. Wastewater from proposed sanitary facilities will be directed to and collected in an existing leachate collection tank on-site. This tank will be desludged periodically, as is currently the case. This wastewater will be collected by an authorized waste collectors and sent for management at an authorized wastewater management facility.	No. All environmental risks associated with construction works will be managed under a CEMP.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
8. Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project that could affect human health or the environment?	Construction works create a risk to human health and safety (as with any construction activity). The operation of an amenity parkland at a remote countryside location and at a former landfill site creates to a number of health and safety risks at the site	No. Construction works will be conducted safely and in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act and associated Regulations. There is a low risk of accidents during the construction and operation of the Project. The park has been designed to ensure park users are unable to access landfill component areas (e.g., through the use of appropriate fencing and gating). The park will be operated in accordance with a Health and Safety Management Plan. This Plan will define various health and safety control measures to ensure healthy and safety at the park. The park will be open during year round day-time hours only. A dedicated, permanent park supervisor will be provided on-site. A CCTV system will be in operation at the park.
9. Will the Project result in environmentally related social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	The creation of an amenity and biodiversity park will promote eco-awareness, recreation and tourism in the region.	The project will not have a significant impact on demography or employment. Lifestyles will be positively impacted as people will have access to a green infrastructure asset which is interconnected with other attractions relating to tourism, recreation and amenity, and natural heritage.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
10. Are there any other factors that should be considered such as consequential development which could lead to environmental impacts or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	There is no intention to carry out any consequential development which could lead to environmental impacts. There are no other significant projects taking place in the vicinity of the proposed development site that have the potential to generate cumulative impacts in-combination with the proposed development.	No.
11. Is the Project located within or close to any areas which are protected under international, EU or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the Project?	There are no international, EU or nationally designated areas in the immediate vicinity of the Project. There is a hydrological connection between the subject site and two of the European Sites (Rahasane Turlough SAC and SPA) which are located ca. 22 km downstream.	The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report which accompanies this report, concludes beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there is no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of any European site identified either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with the adoption of the proposed mitigation measures.
12. Are there any other areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g., wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, that could be affected by the Project	There are a number of sensitive ecological features present and surrounding the on-site (e.g. streams, native woodland).	No. Several ecological mitigation measures have been defined to prevent the proposed development having an adverse impact on sensitive ecological features. A variety of ecological enhancement measures have been defined for the site. The proposed development is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna in the area.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
13. Are there any areas on or around the location that are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g., for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected by the Project?	There are no protected areas on or near to the proposed development site. There are a number of sensitive ecological features present and surrounding the on-site (e.g. streams, native woodland). A number of sensitive species have also been identified as using the site (e.g., badgers, potentially bats).	No. Several ecological mitigation measures have been defined to prevent the proposed development having an adverse impact on sensitive ecological features on-site. A variety of ecological enhancement measures have been defined for the site. The proposed development is likely to have a positive impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna in the area. The proposed development has been designed to avoid effects on sensitive species. Mammal passes will be incorporated into all fencing to be installed as part of the proposed development. A decision was made to make a derelict structure safe by the use of fencing (with mammal passes) rather than boarding up the structure - due to the potential for bat roosts in the structure.
14. Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters (or features of the marine environment) on or around the location that could be affected by the Project?	The Radford River Bog, Crit Island West and Callow Lough (proposed) Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) are located within 10 km from the site. The proposed development site is not hydrologically connected to these sites, however, and will not have any impact on them.	No. Proposed construction works will be carried out in accordance with a CEMP which defines various measures to prevent works having an impact on the water environment.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
	Rahasane Turlough SAC and SPA are located ca. 22 km from the subject site. The proposed development will have no impact on these sites given their distance from the proposed development site however and the limited scale, scope and extent of proposed construction and operational activity A number of small streams traverse the site itself. Construction activities may generate localized effects on these stream (e.g., via silt run-off)	
15. Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the Project?	The proposed development site is situated in the Castlegar Basin Unit of the North Galway Complex Landscape which has a Low landscape sensitivity. There are no designated protected views or scenic routes in the vicinity of the proposed development site. The site is mostly low lying in nature and is visually screened. There are minimal views into or out of the site from/to the wider area. The existing landfill cap (dome) at the site rises above other parts of the site and is more visually prominent.	No. The relatively small-moderate scale of the proposed development and lack of landscape/visual sensitivities in the study area will mean that it is unlikely to have a significant impact on landscape character or visual amenity. On-site construction works will be temporary in nature and only give rise to temporary and very limited and localized landscape or visual effects. The development of a dome trail on-site will enhance visual amenity associated with the site. Notwithstanding the above, it is noted that the proposed construction works will significantly improve the visual amenity of the immediately surrounding area given the nature of the proposed development.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
16. Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the Project?	There are no scenic routes or protected views in the immediate surroundings of the site.	No.
17. Are there any transport routes on or around the location that are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the Project?	The site is accessed via the R348 (Ballinasloe to New Inn road). The site entrance and access road have been designed and constructed to accommodate substantial levels of landfill related traffic (which now no longer exist). The site has sufficient visibility sightlines. The proposed development will generate only minor to moderate levels of construction and operational phase traffic. The surrounding road network and site entrance and access road can safely accommodate the predicted levels of traffic associated with the proposed development.	No. Construction phase traffic movements to and from the site will take place in accordance with a Construction Traffic Management Plan.
18. Is the Project in a location in which it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	The site is mostly low lying in nature and is visually screened. There are minimal views into or out of the site from/to the wider area. The existing landfill cap (dome) at the site rises above other parts of the site and is more visually prominent.	There will be no significant visual impacts associated with construction works given the scale and nature of the works, their temporary nature and the visual screening surrounding the site. Proposed development components will not generate any significant effect on landscape character or visual amenity. The development of a dome trail will enhance visual amenity at the site.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
19. Are there any areas or features or cultural importance on or around the location that could be affected by the Project?	A single protected monument is present on-site. An enclosure (GA086-165) is located to the south of the site. Several other protected are located within 1 km of the site boundary. The proposed development will have no impact on these features given its footprint and distance from the sites	No. The proposed development will not impinge on or adversely effect the setting of any protected monument. All proposed development components have been located away from the enclosure present on-site. Visitor behaviour and movements will be controlled and monitored under a Visitor Management Plan to ensure this features is not affected by park activity.
20. Is the Project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be a loss of greenfield land?	There will be no loss of greenfield land as a result of the proposed project. The site is a closed landfill.	No. There will be no permanent loss of greenfield land.
21. Are there existing land uses within or around the location e.g., homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying that could be affected by the Project?	Existing land uses around the proposed development site include grassland, pastures, wetlands, forest, and transitional woodland scrub. Multiple houses are located in various cardinal directions surrounding the site.	Existing land uses will not be affected by the proposed works given the environmental control and mitigation measures that will be in place during the construction and operational phases of the proposed development.
22. Are there any plans for future land uses within or around the location that could be affected by the Project?	There are no plans for future land uses within or around the location.	No.
23. Are there areas within or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, that could be affected by the Project?	The subject development is located approximately 2.5km southwest of Kilconnell village. The area surrounding the site is distinctly rural and is not built up.	No.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
24. Are there any areas within or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g., hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, that could be affected by the Project?	There are no areas occupied by sensitive land uses within 1 km of the subject site.	Given the limited nature and scale of the proposed development, given proposed mitigation measures, is not likely that the subject development will impact negatively on any sensitive land uses.
25. Are there any areas within or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g., groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, that could be Affected by the Project?	There are no areas of scarce natural resources within or in the vicinity of the site. The site is underlain by a Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones. The site is hydrologically connected to the Rahasane Turlough SAC and SPA (2 k south-west of the site). Radford River Bog, Crit Island West and Callow Lough (proposed) Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) are within c. 5 km from the site.	No. There will be no impacts on high quality or scarce natural resources. Mitigation measures will be in place to prevent polluting discharges to groundwater or surface waters as a consequence of construction works.
26. Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g., where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, that could be affected by the Project?	The site is a former landfill which is undergoing aftercare and is being managed by GCC in accordance with an Industrial Emissions (IE) licence enforced by the EPA (W0178-02). The site currently contains the capped landfill, associated landfill infrastructure, extensive open areas and woodland, and a network of tracks that can be readily converted to amenity trails. License aftercare obligations include environmental monitoring, gas and leachate management, associated maintenance and site security.	No. The proposed development will not interfere with former landfill maintenance and aftercare activities. The proposed development works and activities will not impinge on the waste body contained on-site. The proposed development will not result in additional emissions or discharges which could cause pollution.

Checklist Questions	Yes/No/Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant impact? Yes/No/Why?
	Water quality at the nearest EPA monitoring stream downstream of the proposed development (Old Road Bridge Craughwell monitoring station, 22 km south-west of the site) is recorded by the EPA as being 'Poor.' This is most likely due to agricultural and forestry activity in the catchment area and possibly due to improper maintenance of septic tank systems at one off houses.	
27. Is the Project location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g., temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the Project to present environmental problems?	The project is not susceptible to natural disasters.	No. No natural disasters are likely at the proposed development site The development site is not situated in a flood risk zone as designated in the OPW's flood risk maps (CFRAM Maps or National Indicative Fluvial Mapping).

3.3 Schedule 7A Sub- Threshold Development Screening

3.3.1 Information Required

Directive 2014/52/EU contains guidance for Member States on the information that should be provided by developers and applicants for the purposes of screening sub-threshold developments for EIA.

The guidance is provided by way of criteria set out in Annex III of the Directive and are included in Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended, under the heading: '*Information to be provided by the applicant or developer for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development for Environmental Impact assessment*' and are grouped under four headings.

The requirements are as follows:

1. A description of the proposed development, including in particular:
    a) A description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development, and, where relevant, of demolition works, and
    b) A description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.
2. A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.
3. A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from:
    a) The expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant, and
    b) The use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.
4. The compilation of the information at paragraphs (1) to (3) shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.

3.3.2 Sub-Threshold Development Screening Under Schedule 7A

The criteria for evaluating the significance of environmental impacts of the proposed development under Schedule 7A was used in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2: Schedule 7A Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Criteria

Schedule 7A Requirement	Description
A description of the proposed development, including in particular –	A detailed description of the proposed development is in Section 2 and has been assessed with regard to Schedule 7 criteria in Table 3.1.
A description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development, and, where relevant, of demolition works, and	A description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development is in Section 2 and has been assessed with regard to Schedule 7 criteria in Table 3.1.
A description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.	A description of the location of the proposed development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected is in Section 1.1 and has been assessed with regard to Schedule 7 criteria in Table 3.1.
A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.	A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development has been assessed with regard to Schedule 7 criteria in Table 3.1.
A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from: The expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant, and	A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from the expected residues and emissions associated with the proposed development has been assessed with regard to Schedule 7 criteria in Table 3.1.
The use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.	A description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on such effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity has been assessed with regard to Schedule 7 criteria in Table 3.1.
The compilation of the information at paragraphs (1) to (3) shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7.	The criteria as set out in Schedule 7 is addressed in Section 3.2 and compilation of information in paragraphs (1) to (3) is in Section 2. This information has been assessed with regard to Schedule 7 in Table 3.1 of this report.

When assessing the proposed development with relation to Schedule 7A criteria listed in Section 3.3.2 and Table 3.2, it was noted that all aspects were already covered in the information provided under Schedule 7 and as such no additional assessment under Schedule 7A was considered necessary.

3.4 Impact Characterization

The proposed development has the potential to generate a range of adverse impacts on health and safety, the water environment, the noise environment, traffic and transport, local biodiversity, flora and fauna, and heritage. A variety of potential effects have been avoided, prevented and minimized (as appropriate) through the implementation of avoidance/embedded mitigation measures during the proposed development design process. All other potential effects will be avoided, prevented and minimized (as appropriate) through the adoption of a variety of proposed environmental mitigation measures during the construction and operation of the proposed development.

The proposed development will not generate or contribute to any significant secondary, interacting or cumulative impacts.

The proposed development will not have an adverse impact on any European site or other protected site or feature.

The proposed development will generate potentially significant positive effects on population and human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, recreation and tourism, and the visual environment.

4. CONCLUSION

The Requirement for the EIA of various types of developments are transposed into Irish legislation under the Planning and Development Act and the Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2001-2023. Schedule 5 lists the different project types, and this is not a project type that mandatorily requires an EIA.

The proposed development does not individually or cumulatively fall into a class of development set out in Schedule 5, Part 1 and 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 - 20213(as amended)and therefore, the requirements for a mandatory EIA can be screened out.

However, sub-threshold EIA may be required where the project would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Criteria for the consideration of sub-threshold EIA is set out in Schedule 7 and Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 - 2023 (as amended). These criteria have been set out within this document with respect to the subject development.

It is concluded however that sub-threshold EIA is not required for the proposed development, due to the its minimal and limited impact on the receiving environment with respect to Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2023 (as amended), Annex II of the EIA Directive and the screening checklist provided in the EC guidance document for EIA Screening, as set out in this document.

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