



Greater Dublin Drainage Project Addendum

**Environmental Impact Assessment Report Addendum: Volume 2A
Part A of 6**

Chapter 1A Introduction

Uisce Éireann

October 2023

Greater Dublin Drainage Project Addendum

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

An Bord Pleanála (ABP) previously made a decision to grant the planning application for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Project) by Order dated 11 November 2019 under reference number ABP-301908-18. That decision was quashed by Order of the High Court and the case was remitted by that Court to ABP for a fresh determination. Following the remittal Order, ABP decided that given the passage of time since the submission of the original planning application, and in accordance with Section 37F(1)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Uisce Éireann should have the opportunity to update, where appropriate, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and any other information submitted. This Addendum Report has been prepared in response to that request from ABP to provide a full update in an Addendum Report. In the preparation of this Addendum Report, Uisce Éireann and its technical advisors have considered the extent to which each of the technical chapters of the EIAR and the NIS are required to be updated, having particular regard to:

- Changes to the baseline environment;
- The requirement for updated surveys; and
- Changes to the law, policy, and industry standards and guidance in the intervening period.

In so far as relevant to this Addendum Report, Uisce Éireann has also had regard to the information presented at the Oral Hearing for application ABP-301908-18 and the High Court proceedings in respect of that application, including the addition of ultraviolet (UV) treatment and the extension to the River Mayne Culvert, such that the Proposed Project description has been updated.

This Addendum Report presents any changes or updates to the Planning Report, EIAR and NIS, where appropriate. Where Uisce Éireann and its technical advisors have confirmed that no update is required, that is confirmed within the relevant Chapter.

1.2 The Proposed Project

1.2.1 Project Overview

Table 1.1 includes a summary of the Proposed Project elements which were incorporated into the planning design for the Proposed Project following direction at the Oral Hearing in 2019 and the subsequent planning conditions applied to the 2018 planning application submission. A full description is included in Chapter 4A (Description of the Proposed Project) in Volume 2A Part A of the EIAR Addendum (please refer to Section 1.7 for an outline of the full structure of this EIAR Addendum). The remaining elements of the Proposed Project included in the 2018 planning application remain unchanged.

Table 1.1: Updated Proposed Project Elements

Updated Element	Outline Description of Updated Element
UV Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UV Treatment is to be included in the treatment process at the proposed wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) in the northern section of the WwTP site; • The UV treatment system will be designed for the expected flows at the plant and will be installed on the final effluent line. UV treatment will be in operation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; and • The UV system will consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of four treatment units located below or partially below ground level with an above-ground Motor Control Centre (MCC) (in a kiosk) along with minor maintenance and control equipment (e.g. shut-off button, frame for supporting, retracting and cleaning of UV lamps etc.).
River Mayne Culvert Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of the River Mayne Culvert on the proposed access road to the WwTP by 4m (from 21m to 25m) to cater for the full width of the future north-south link road.

The Proposed Project is a significant component of a wider strategy to meet the need for additional wastewater treatment within the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), as identified in a number of national, regional and local planning policy documents, as referenced in the Planning Report submitted as part of the 2018 planning

application. The Proposed Project continues to be a significant component of a wider strategy, and the Addendum Planning Report, which is included as part of the Addendum to the planning application, identifies the updated national, regional and local planning policy documents which have been published since the original 2018 planning application.

1.2.2 Project History

The origins of the Proposed Project within the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS) (Dublin Drainage Consultancy 2005) have not changed, and as such, the project history outlined in this Section of the EIAR in the 2018 planning application remains unchanged.

[Water Service Strategic Plan](#)

There have been no updates to the Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) (Uisce Éireann 2015) since the submission of the 2018 planning application. Therefore, there are no changes to the information presented in this Section of the EIAR in the 2018 planning application.

[National Sludge Management Plan](#)

There have been no updates to the National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (NWSMP) (Uisce Éireann 2016) since the submission of the 2018 planning application. Therefore, there are no changes to the information presented in this Section of the EIAR in the 2018 planning application.

1.2.3 Alternative Site Assessment Process

The site and route selection process has been considered against the most recent Uisce Éireann Guidance, A Guide to Route and Site Selection (IW-AD-PD-GL-008) (Uisce Éireann 2021), and the alternative site assessment process completed for the Proposed Project follows the recommended site / route selection process in this Guidance. Therefore, as the process is compliant with the most recent Guidance, there are no changes to the information presented in this Section of the EIAR as submitted with the 2018 planning application.

1.2.4 Final Preferred Site Option (Clonshagh Option)

Following a review of the Final Preferred Option determination, there are no changes to the information presented in this Section of the EIAR as submitted with the 2018 planning application.

1.2.5 Regional Biosolids Storage Facility

There are no changes to the proposed design of the Regional Biosolids Storage Facility (RBSF) since the submission of the 2018 planning application. This Section therefore remains unchanged. The main Addendum to the RBSF assessment is contained in Volume 4A Part A of this EIAR Addendum.

1.3 Planning Process

The planning process commenced with the lodging of the 2018 planning application and this application was granted permission by ABP under reference ABP-301908-18. That permission was subsequently quashed by the High Court and remitted to ABP for a fresh decision. This Addendum Report is submitted to update the 2018 planning application and associated environmental reports, to allow ABP make a fresh decision.

1.4 Environmental Impact Assessment

The EIAR has been updated in an Addendum format to ensure that any new or altered impacts arising as a result of the changes to the Proposed Project (as outlined in Section 1.2.1 and detailed in Chapter 4A (Description of the Proposed Project) in Volume 2A Part A of the EIAR Addendum) have been considered, together with any changes in the baseline environment, applicable law, guidance or standards since the 2018 planning application, with updated survey data collected and utilised to ensure it is up-to-date.

The responsible competent expert(s) that have prepared this EIAR Addendum, and details of their expertise, are provided in Appendix A1.1 in Volume 2A Part B of this EIAR Addendum.

1.5 Appropriate Assessment

The NIS has been updated in an Addendum format to ensure that any new or altered impacts arising as a result of the changes to the Proposed Project (as outlined in Section 1.2.1 and detailed in Chapter 4A (Description of the Proposed Project) in Volume 2A Part A of the EIAR Addendum) have been considered, together with any changes in the baseline environment and designations, applicable law, guidance or standards since the 2018 planning application, with updated survey data collected and utilised to ensure it is up-to-date.

1.6 Separate Consent Processes

1.6.1 The Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007

As outlined in this Section of the EIAR in the 2018 planning application, a system for the licensing or certification of wastewater discharges from areas served by local authority sewer networks was brought into effect on 27 September 2007 with the introduction of S.I. No. 684/2007 - Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007. The last amendment, S.I. No. 652 of 2016 – Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2016, referenced in this Section of the EIAR in the 2018 planning application has been amended by S.I. No. 214/2020 – European Union (Waste Water Discharge) Regulations 2020. The Proposed Project will require a wastewater discharge licence to be granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the latest regulations prior to commissioning. Wastewater discharges from the proposed WwTP must comply with this licence.

1.6.2 Foreshore Act 1933 (as amended)

Uisce Éireann will ensure that it obtains and complies with all necessary authorisations as are required relative to construction on the foreshore. It is currently not certain if this will involve securing a foreshore licence under the Foreshore Acts or, as provided for under Number 50 of 2021 - Maritime Area Planning Act 2021, a Maritime Area Consent.

1.6.3 Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014

S.I. No. 9/2014 – Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 has been updated since the 2018 planning application. The Certifier and any Assigned Certifiers to be appointed by Uisce Éireann will ensure full compliance with S.I. No. 229/2021 - Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2021, which came into effect on 1 July 2021, and any associated design and construction controls.

1.6.4 Waste Management (Registration of Sewage Sludge Facility) Regulations 2010 (as amended)

There have been no further amendments to these regulations since the submission of the EIAR in the 2018 planning application and the requirement for the RBSF to register with the local authority under the 2010 regulations remains. This Section of the EIAR in the 2018 planning application therefore remains unchanged.

1.7 Structure of this Report

As outlined in Section 1.4, this Addendum Report is supplementary to the original EIAR submitted as part of the 2018 planning application, and therefore, each Addendum Chapter must be read in conjunction with the original corresponding Chapter of the EIAR in the 2018 planning application. Table 1.2 sets out the structure of the original EIAR in the 2018 planning application, alongside the structure of this EIAR Addendum, for ease of reference.

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Table 1.2: Structure of the Original EIA and this EIA Addendum

Original EIA	Addendum EIA
Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary	Volume 1A: Non-Technical Summary
Summary of the original EIA in non-technical language	Summary of the EIA Addendum in non-technical language
Volume 2 Part A: Introduction	Volume 2A Part A: Introduction
Chapter 1 Introduction	Chapter 1A Introduction
Chapter 2 The Environmental Impact Assessment Process	Chapter 2A The Environmental Impact Assessment Process
Chapter 3 The Need for the Proposed Project	Chapter 3A The Need for the Proposed Project
Chapter 4 Description of the Proposed Project	Chapter 4A Description of the Proposed Project
Chapter 5 Consideration of Alternatives	Chapter 5A Consideration of Alternatives
Volume 2 Part B: Appendices	Volume 2A Part B: Appendices
Appendices relevant to Volume 2 Part A of the original EIA	Appendices relevant to Volume 2A Part A of the EIA Addendum
Volume 3 Part A: Main Report for the Proposed Project	Volume 3A Part A: Main Report for the Proposed Project
Chapter 6 Population and Human Health: Population	Chapter 6A Population and Human Health: Population
Chapter 7 Population and Human Health: Human Health	Chapter 7A Population and Human Health: Human Health
Chapter 8 Marine Water Quality	Chapter 8A Marine Water Quality
Chapter 9 Biodiversity (Marine)	Chapter 9A Biodiversity (Marine)
Chapter 10 Biodiversity (Marine Ornithology)	Chapter 10A Biodiversity (Marine Ornithology)
Chapter 11 Biodiversity (Terrestrial and Freshwater Aquatic)	Chapter 11A Biodiversity (Terrestrial and Freshwater Aquatic)
Chapter 12 Landscape and Visual	Chapter 12A Landscape and Visual
Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	Chapter 13A Traffic and Transport
Chapter 14 Air Quality, Odour and Climate	Chapter 14A Air Quality, Odour and Climate
Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	Chapter 15A Noise and Vibration
Chapter 16 Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	Chapter 16A Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
Chapter 17 Hydrology and Hydrogeology	Chapter 17A Hydrology and Hydrogeology
Chapter 18 Soils and Geology	Chapter 18A Soils and Geology
Chapter 19 Agronomy	Chapter 19A Agronomy
Chapter 20 Waste	Chapter 20A Waste
Chapter 21 Material Assets	Chapter 21A Material Assets
Chapter 22 Risk of Major Accidents and / or Disasters	Chapter 22A Risk of Major Accidents and / or Disasters
Chapter 23 Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Interactions	Chapter 23A Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Interactions
Chapter 24 Summary of Mitigation Measures	Chapter 24A Summary of Mitigation Measures
Chapter 25 Summary of Residual Impacts	Chapter 25A Summary of Residual Impacts
Volume 3 Part B: Appendices	Volume 3A Part B: Appendices
Appendices relevant to Volume 3 Part A of the original EIA	Appendices relevant to Volume 3A Part A of the EIA Addendum
Volume 4 Part A: Main Report for the RBSF	Volume 4A Part A: Main Report for the RBSF
Section 1 Existing Environment	Section 1A Existing Environment
Section 2 Planning and Policy Context	Section 2A Planning and Policy Context
Section 3 Population and Human Health	Section 3A Population and Human Health
Section 4 Water	Section 4A Water
Section 5 Biodiversity - Marine	Section 5A Biodiversity - Marine
Section 6 Biodiversity - Terrestrial	Section 6A Biodiversity - Terrestrial
Section 7 Land and Soils	Section 7A Land and Soils
Section 8 Air and Climate	Section 8A Air and Climate
Section 9 Noise and Vibration	Section 9A Noise and Vibration
Section 10 Odour	Section 10A Odour
Section 11 Cultural Heritage	Section 11A Cultural Heritage
Section 12 Material Assets	Section 12A Material Assets
Section 13 Traffic	Section 13A Traffic

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Original EIAR	Addendum EIAR
Section 14 Landscape	Section 14A Landscape
Section 15 Risk Management	Section 15A Risk Management
Section 16 Environmental Interactions	Section 16A Environmental Interactions
Section 17 Summary of Mitigation	Section 17A Summary of Mitigation
Section 18 Summary of Residual Impacts	Section 18A Summary of Residual Impacts
Section 19 Cumulative Impacts	Section 19A Cumulative Impacts
Volume 4 Part B: Appendices for the RBSF	Volume 4A Part B: Appendices for the RBSF
Appendices relevant to Volume 4 Part A of the original EIAR	Appendices relevant to Volume 4A Part A of the EIAR Addendum
Volume 5 Part A: Proposed Project Figures	Volume 5A: Proposed Project Figures
Figures relevant to Volume 2 and Volume 3 of the original EIAR for the Proposed Project	Figures relevant to Volume 2A and Volume 3A of the EIAR Addendum
Volume 5 Part B: Proposed RBSF Figures	N/A
Figures relevant to Volume 4 Part A of the original EIAR	N/A
Volume 6: Proposed Project Photomontages	Volume 6A: Proposed Project Photomontages
Photomontages relevant to the Proposed Project	Updated Photomontages relevant to the Proposed Project

The Addendum Report chapters in Volume 2A Part A and Volume 3A Part A follow the same heading structure as included in the chapters in the original 2018 planning application. These technical chapters have been updated accordingly, as outlined in Section 1.1 and Section 1.4.

1.8 References

Dublin Drainage Consultancy (2005). Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study

Uisce Éireann (2015). Water Services Strategic Plan

Uisce Éireann (2016). National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan

Uisce Éireann (2021). A Guide to Route and Site Selection (IW-AD-PD-GL-008)

Directives and Legislation

Foreshore Act 1933 (as amended)

Number 50 of 2021 - Maritime Area Planning Act 2021

Number 29 of 2022 – Planning and Development, Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

S.I. No. 684/2007 - Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007

S.I. No. 9/2014 – Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014

S.I. No. 652 of 2016 – Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2016

S.I. No. 214/2020 – European Union (Waste Water Discharge) Regulations 2020

S.I. No. 229/2021 - Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2021