



Galway Untreated Agglomerations Study - Roundstone

EIA Screening Report

04 October 2019

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The Roundstone agglomeration is listed as an untreated agglomeration. Roundstone is a rural coastal village in Connemara, situated approximately 76km to the west of Galway City, and approximately 20km southeast of Clifden via the R341. The village is within a rural setting and is situated on the coast of Roundstone Bay which is to the east of the village.

The village is formed of a small cluster of linear development, with the main commercial and administrative areas of the village situated along High Street (R341). Much of the remaining linear development is predominantly residential in nature and is situated along the other roads which form part of the village.

At present, wastewater is collected in three separate gravity-fed sewer networks. The untreated wastewater is released from these existing sewer networks into the coastal environment at Roundstone Bay.

It is the objective of Irish Water to intercept the raw sewage from the existing networks and then pump it via three new pumping stations towards a new modern wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) prior to discharge into the sea. The WWTP will be designed to ensure that the water quality standards set down by regulatory bodies will be achieved, as outlined within European and National legislation. Furthermore, cleaner coastal waters will enhance the amenity value of Roundstone, while the investment in the sewage system will promote and facilitate socio-economic development.

1.2 EIA Legislative Background

The primary objective of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/EU is to ensure that projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment are subject to an assessment of those impacts.

Directive 2014/52/EU provides a definition of environmental impact assessment as being a process consisting of:

- The preparation of an environmental impact assessment report (EIAR);
- The carrying out of consultations required to inform the EIAR;
- The examination by the competent authority of the information presented in the EIAR and any supplementary information;
- The reasoned conclusion by the competent authority on the significant effects of the project on the environment; and
- The integration of the competent authority's reasoned conclusion into its decisions.

In determining the requirement for EIA, the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended (PDR) differentiates between projects where an EIA is mandatory as listed within Schedule 5 Part 1 and those for which an EIA may be required, listed within Schedule 5, Part 2.

1.2.1 Schedule 5 Part 1 Projects

The projects listed in Part 1 are considered to have significant effects on the environment and require a mandatory EIA. The most relevant project type to the proposed works is identified in paragraph (13) which states:

‘Waste water treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150 000 population equivalent as defined in point 6 of Article 2 of Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban wastewater treatment.’

As discussed above, there is currently no wastewater treatment within the Roundstone Agglomeration, therefore as a result of the proposal there is no increase in capacity but rather the existing wastewater will be treated in a new WWTP. The proposal will cater for the Population Equivalent (PE) of 1,000. This capacity falls significantly below the Part 1 threshold of 150,000 PE. As such, a mandatory EIA is not required.

1.2.2 Schedule 5 Part 2 Projects

Projects listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 of the PDR require a determination to be made about their likely significant environmental effects. The competent authority, in this case Galway County Council, make that determination through either a (i) case-by-case examination or (ii) set thresholds or criteria.

The relevant Schedule 5 Part 2 project type of relevance to the proposed Roundstone development is identified in paragraph 11(c) which states:

‘Waste water treatment plants with a capacity greater than 10,000 population equivalent as defined in Article 2, point (6), of Directive 91/271/EEC not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.’

As the proposed works do not meet the threshold set out in paragraph 11 (c), the proposed development is also exempt from the statutory obligation to prepare an EIA Report under Schedule 5, Part 2.

1.2.3 Schedule 7

Schedule 7 of the PDR sets out the criteria for determining whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

This information is as follows:

1. Characteristics of proposed development

The characteristics of proposed development, in particular:

- *the size of the proposed development,*
- *the cumulation with other proposed development,*
- *the use of natural resources,*
- *the production of waste,*
- *pollution and nuisances,*
- *the risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used.*

2. Location of proposed development

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

- *the existing land use,*

- *the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area,*
- *the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:*
 - a) *wetlands,*
 - b) *coastal zones,*
 - c) *mountain and forest areas,*
 - d) *nature reserves and parks,*
 - e) *areas classified or protected under legislation, including special protection areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC,*
 - f) *areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the EU have already been exceeded,*
 - g) *densely populated areas,*
 - h) *landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.*

3. Characteristics of potential impacts

The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to:

- *the extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population),*
- *the transfrontier nature of the impact,*
- *the magnitude and complexity of the impact,*
- *the probability of the impact,*
- *the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.*

Section 3 of this report provides a comprehensive analysis of the proposed works having regard to the above headings.

1.2.4 Other Relevant Guidance

In addition to Schedule 7, the following guidance was also considered in the preparation of this EIA Screening Report:

- Circular Letter PL 1/2017, Implementation of Directive 2014/52/EU on the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive), Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, May 2017;
- Key Issues Consultation Paper - Transposition of 2014 EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) in the Land Use Planning and EPA Licencing Systems, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, May 2017;
- The Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018, as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2019, as amended;
- Draft Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, EPA, Draft, August 2017
- Advice Notes for Preparing Environmental Impact Statements, EPA, Draft, September 2015
- Guidance on EIA Screening (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU), European Commission, 2017;

- EIA, Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2003;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2009; and
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works, 2009.

2 Description of the Development

The proposed works will include the construction of a new WWTP with associated works to provide wastewater treatment with capacity to serve a population equivalent of 1000. The proposals also include the installation of three new pumping stations with associated infrastructure to pump the wastewater from the existing sewer network to the proposed WWTP. The proposed works also include the installation of new rising mains and the repair of the existing network outfall. Key aspects of the associated works are summarised as follows:

- A terminal pumping station on the shoreline parallel to the R341 at the point of the existing network outfall No.1;
- A pumping station within the central pier which will include a new pump sump, along with a small rising main to transfer the flows from network 2 to network 1 and on to the terminal pumping station;
- A pumping station within an open area south of Marine Terrace. Approximately 60m of connecting pipework will be installed to connect adjacent properties and the flows from network 3 in to the pumping station;
- Approximately 415m of new rising mains will be installed within the road curtilage to transfer flows from the existing outfalls to the new WWTP. All flows will be conveyed by gravity from network 1 to the proposed terminal pumping station;
- Repair the existing outfall No.1, this will require a maximum of 70m of pipeline. Following the interception and diversion of the networks to the WWTP, the final effluent from the WWTP will be discharged at this outfall;
- The remaining two outfalls will be kept as emergency overflows for the new pumping stations.

There is currently no sewage treatment at Roundstone. The proposed WWTP will provide for primary level treatment, with a reduction of 20% BOD and 50% Suspended Solids, thereby improving the ultimate discharge to the sea. The treated wastewater will discharge to the receiving waters through the existing northern outfall. The remaining two outfalls will only be activated in the event of an emergency overflow. In the absence of the proposed development, the continued discharge of raw untreated wastewater has the potential for future significant cumulative impacts, in particular if additional housing or commercial development occurs.

To facilitate the construction of the WWTP, a new access track will be created from the adjoining road (R341). Site clearance will be required to prepare the lands for construction. A small section of stone wall will be removed to allow for the new access point, which will be gated. The permanent access road (which is anticipated to be 5m in width) and the proposed connecting rising main from the terminal pumping station, along with the effluent outfall pipe, will be located within the access road.

3 EIA Screening

3.1 Background

As the proposed works are not a type of project identified in either Part 1 or Part 2, there is no statutory requirement for it to be subject to EIA. Nevertheless, Irish Water is a responsible developer and is committed to demonstrating to Galway County Council and other planning stakeholders that the proposed works will not result in significant effects on the environment. As such, Irish Water has prepared this EIA Screening Report. In compiling this report, consideration was given to Schedule 7 of the PDR and as set out in the following sections.

3.2 Characteristics of Proposed development

The characteristics of proposed development, in particular:

Criterion	Discussion
the size of the proposed development,	<p>The project is not considered significant in terms of size. The proposed works are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a new WWTP providing treatment with a capacity to treat wastewater for a population equivalent (PE) of 1000 and associated works; • A terminal pumping station on the shoreline parallel to the R341 at the point of the existing network outfall No.1, and associated rising main within the R341 to the new WWTP; • A pumping station within the pier which will include a pump sump with pumps installed, along with a small rising main to transfer the flows from network 2 to network 1 and onward to the terminal pumping station; • A pumping station within an open area south of Marine Terrace. Approximately 60m of connecting pipework will be installed to connect adjacent properties and the flows from network 3 to the pumping station; • Approximately 415m of new rising mains will be installed within the road curtilage to transfer flows from the existing outfalls No.2 and No.3 to network No.1. All flows will be conveyed by gravity from network 1 to the proposed terminal pumping station; and • Repair the existing outfall No.1, this will require a maximum of 70m of pipeline. Following the connection of the networks to the WWTP all flow will be discharged at this outfall, with the remaining outfalls kept as emergency overflows, <p>As detailed, the various components included within the proposed development are all minor in scale within the context of their settings.</p> <p>The design capacity for the Population Equivalent of 1,000 is significantly below statutory the PDR Schedule 5 thresholds of significance which trigger mandatory EIA.</p>
the cumulation with other proposed development,	<p>The project has limited potential for a significant impact when considered with other proposed development.</p>

Criterion	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social housing development consisting of 14 units is under development by Galway County Council with an anticipated 12-month programme. As this development will be completed before the proposed Roundstone Sewerage Scheme works commence there will be no interaction between the developments, and this will not result in significant cumulative impacts. • A search of Galway County Council's online planning enquiry system did not identify any other projects, either existing or approved, which have potential to interact with the proposed development, and result in significant cumulative impacts.
the nature of any associated demolition works,	There are no significant demolition works required as part of the construction or operation of the proposed development.
the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity,	<p>The proposed development will not have a significant impact on natural resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land - In terms of land take, the proposed WWTP will be sited on vacant land to the north of the village and will be sensitively sited to reduce the land take as far as possible. The remaining proposals are sited on land close to existing outfalls, thus minimizing the land take required for the proposal as a whole. • Soil - Given the overall proposed development footprint is not considered to be significant the impact of the proposed development on soil is not significant. However, standard construction practises will be implemented to ensure there are no adverse impacts on soil as a result of the proposed development. • Water -The proposed development will improve the water quality within the area, therefore the proposed development will not have a significant impact on water. • Biodiversity - The proposed development will not have a significant impact on the surrounding biodiversity, this is considered fully within the Appropriate Assessment report. <p>As such, the use of these resources is not considered significant.</p>
the production of waste,	During construction, solid waste will be generated; specifically, it will be necessary to excavate areas of land. Excavation works can expose soils if left uncovered and can cause a short-term increase in dust and sedimentary run-off; however, volumes requiring off-site management will not be significant. Other non-soil wastes associated with the proposed development are not considered likely to be significant and can be readily disposed of/recycled through existing waste management infrastructure in the locality.
pollution and nuisance,	<p>The proposed development will not cause significant pollution or nuisance during operation.</p> <p>During construction, there is potential for water, noise, air and traffic pollution in the absence of standard best practice construction management. Further commentary on the potential for these impacts is described below</p>

Criterion	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water - The proposed development will improve the coastal water quality in the area, which is currently receiving untreated wastewater. During construction surface water runoff from the site is not likely to be significant with runoff to be discharged to the ground. Notwithstanding this, it should be noted that during construction the following best practice guidelines will be applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects, Technical Guidance (C648)" (CIRIA); – CIRIA Environmental Handbook for Building and Civil Engineering Projects: Part 2 Construction; and – Environmental good practice on site guide (C741). • Noise - Construction activities can cause a temporary localised increase in noise nuisance; however, given the size of the project this noise will not have a significant impact. BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 prescribes typical noise level data for various construction plant and activities and the proposed development during construction and operation will not exceed the noise levels described. In respect of the main construction activities which will be associated with the WWTP, it should be noted that the nearest residential receptor is greater than 50m away. • Air - The proposed development will not have a significant impact on air, apart from at intermittent periods during construction, however this will not have a significant impact on the quality of air within the proposed development area. The main impact will be associated with dust. In order to manage this impact, dust suppression measures such as wheel washes; minimising drop heights into haulage vehicles; driver speed limits; no substantial stockpiling of materials; use of sheeted loads on vehicles etc, will be implemented. • Traffic - The proposed development is not expected to have a significant impact in terms of traffic apart from some intermittent traffic during the construction phase, this is not likely to have a significant impact on the traffic in the area. • Odour – The proposed development will not have a significant impact from odour during construction. Furthermore, the proposed development due to its siting and design will not cause a significant impact on odour during operation. <p>At present, the discharges from the agglomeration are licensed by the EPA via its Certificate of Authorisation (Reg. No. A0115-01), which was granted in 2011. As the current peak Summer loading, and the proposed design capacity is in excess of 500PE, a replacement of the existing CoA is required with a WWDL. This process will be undertaken by Irish Water upon review of the existing CoA by the EPA and will ensure that during operation the appropriate authorisations are in place to ensure that there are no significant environmental effects on the receiving water environment.</p>
the risk of accidents, having regard to substances or technologies used,	The project is of a scale that is not likely to result in a major accident or disaster. There is significant industry experience in Ireland regarding the construction of

Criterion	Discussion
	WWTPs, water utility infrastructure, and pipelines. A risk register will be put in place at the commencement of construction and updated as the project commences. In addition, a HAZOP workshop will be carried out on the final design prior to the operation of the works.
	A pollution emergency contingency plan will also be put in place.
	Spill kits will be situated at designated areas within the sites, e.g. storage areas and construction compounds.

3.3 Location of Proposed Development

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

Criterion	Discussion
the existing land use,	The proposed WWTP and ancillary infrastructure will be located within the functional area of Galway County Council. The zoning maps contained within the Galway County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 do not indicate specific zoning for the project footprint. The proposed WWTP will be located on greenfield land, the remaining proposals are all sited as close as possible to existing outfall areas and on brownfield land where possible.
the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area (including soil, land and water) in the area,	<p>The project does not involve the significant use of natural resources and is not predicted to impact the regenerative capacity of natural resources. In particular in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil - The proposed development will not have a significant effect on the abundance, quality or regenerative capacity of soil given the scale and nature of the proposed development. • Land - The proposed development will not have a significant effect on the abundance, quality or regenerative capacity of land given the scale of the proposed development on greenfield land and the siting of the proposed development on brownfield land as far as possible. • Water - The proposed development will not have a significant effect on the abundance, quality or regenerative capacity of water given the scale of the proposed development and its function, which will improve the water quality in the area.
the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to wetlands,	The proposed development will not have an impact on wetlands given the location of the site, which is not in the vicinity of wetlands.
the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to coastal zones,	<p>The proposed WWTP will be sited approximately 0.3km from coast of Roundstone Bay and taking each pumping station (PS) in turn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed terminal PS is situated on the coast on the rocky foreshore close to the existing outfall; • The proposed PS No.2 is situated on the pier close to the existing outfall for Network No.2,

Criterion	Discussion
the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to mountain and forest areas,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed PS No.3 is situated on greenfield land approximately 0.5km from the coast. <p>The proposed development will not have an effect on the absorption capacity of the coastal zone. In terms of the WWTP this will be due to its siting away from the coast.</p> <p>The majority of the equipment for the proposed pumping stations No.2 and No.3 will be underground apart from the control kiosks, therefore these pumping stations will not have an effect on the absorption capacity of the coast given they will be sited on lands removed from the coastline.</p> <p>As with PS No.2 and PS No.3, the majority of the equipment for the terminal PS will be below ground. The terminal PS will be located on a small area of reclaimed foreshore. The proposed terminal PS will not have a significant impact on the absorption capacity of the coastal zone given the relatively small area of foreshore required to facilitate the PS and the scale of the proposed below-ground PS.</p> <p>Although the proposed emergency outfalls discharge in to Roundstone Bay, this is already the case and the proposal will improve the quality of water going through these outfalls. As previously described, the discharges from the agglomeration are licensed by the EPA.</p>
the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to nature reserves and parks,	<p>The project has no potential to impact on these features of the natural environment having regard to its location and the nature of the proposed development works.</p> <p>The project has no potential to impact on these features of the natural environment having regard to its location and the nature of the proposed development works.</p>
the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to areas classified or protected under legislation, including special protection areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC,	<p>A Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment was conducted which investigates the potential adverse effects on special protection areas, this assessment concludes that there will be no change in land use of any European site. The lands that will be affected by the proposed works comprise wet grassland and scrub, existing hard standing, grassland, and a small area of sea shore.</p>
the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the EU have already been exceeded,	<p>There are no areas which the environmental quality standards of the EU have already been exceeded.</p>
the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to densely populated areas,	<p>The project has no potential to impact on these features of the natural environment having regard to its location within Roundstone. Characterised as a rural population, there will be no impact, either directly or indirectly, on any densely populated areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of the WWTP the nearest residential receptor is greater than 50m. The proposed pumping stations are sited at the existing outfalls for operational necessity but will not have a significant impact on surrounding residential receptors, in particular pumping station No.3 is sited at a greenfield site to the south of Marine terrace, however this site has been chosen due to its relatively low impact on the nearby residential receptors and is greater than 15m from the nearest residential receptor.

Criterion	Discussion
the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance,	<p>The proposed development is not located within an Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) nor will it impact directly or indirectly on any listed ACAs or scenic viewpoints listed in the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following protected structures (RPS sites) or NIAH sites are recorded within or in the vicinity of the proposed development sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Terminal PS: The closest NIAH site (Ballagh House, Reg. No. 30328003) is approximately 8m east of the proposed terminal PS site. – PS No.2: The proposed location for this pumping station is within the pier which is an NIAH site, Reg. No. 30328007. – PS No.3: The closest NIAH site (Seaview House, Reg. No. 30328018) is approximately 40m southeast of the proposed PS No.3 site. • There are no recorded archaeological sites or monuments (RMP sites) recorded within or in the vicinity of the proposed development site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The closest RMP to the WWTP site is RMP No. GA050-016 (Kiln - corn-drying) which is located approximately 0.2km to the north-east of the site. – The closest RMP to the terminal PS is RMP No. GA050-024003 (graveyard) which is located approximately 0.3km to the southwest of the site. – The closest RMP to the PS No.2 is RMP No. GA050-024003 (graveyard) which is located approximately 0.1km to the west of the site. – The closest RMP to PS No.3 is RMP No. GA050-030 (inscribed stone) which is located approximately 62m to the northeast of the site and is due for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP. • None of the proposed works are located within the National Monuments Service Zone of Notification. Where works are carried out within a zone, notification to National Monuments and Services is required under Section 12 of the National Monuments Act (1930-2004). • The closest scenic viewpoints are views to Roundstone (99) and Roundstone itself (120). However, there will be no significant effect on these viewpoints given the scale and siting of the proposed development <p>The proposed development will therefore not directly or indirectly impact on any listed or scenic view or protected landscapes.</p>

3.4 Characteristics of Potential Impact

The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 (Characteristics of Proposed development) and 2 (Location of Proposed Development) of the PDR, and having regard in particular to:

Criteria	Discussion
The extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population),	<p>Roundstone is a rural coastal village in Connemara, situated approximately 76km to the west of Galway City, and approximately 20km south east of Clifden via the R341. The village is within a rural setting and is situated on the coast of Roundstone Bay which is to the east of the village. The proposed upgrade will serve a PE of 1000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closest structure to the proposed WWTP site is a residential dwelling approx. 50m to the southeast. • The proposed pumping stations are in areas close to the existing outfalls, on the pier, on the coast and one in a vacant area of land at Marine Terrace.
Outline the nature of the impact,	<p>The proposed development is a new wastewater treatment plant site, with new pumping stations and associated infrastructure. Where potential adverse impacts to the environment and nearby sensitive receptors have potential to occur due to the nature of the proposed works, preventative and safety measures will be provided within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This CEMP will include a selection of mitigation measures and established best practice from the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan and the PECR to be utilised in regard to monitoring, preventing, minimising, and mitigating the potentially adverse effects generated from said activities. Mitigation measures within the CEMP will target risks, as applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface Water; • Soils and Hydrogeology: Protect local soil and groundwater quality, integrity and function. • Dust, Air Emissions, and Odours: Prevent and/or offset impacts from works in terms of human health and local wildlife (disturbance and nuisance). • Noise and Vibration: Prevent and/or offset impacts from works on sensitive receptors. • Human Health and Wellbeing: Prevent and/or offset impacts from works in terms of disturbance or nuisance on sensitive receptors. • Ecology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Protect the existing flora, fauna and habitats; – Manage and control the spread of alien invasive species and avoid introducing new species; • Historic and Built Heritage: Protect the structural integrity of both known and undiscovered assets; and • Fuel/Chemical/Waste Storage: Prevent potential spillage through direct discharge or secondary linkages (drainage ditches). <p>These proposed measures aim to meet the requirements of CIRIA's guidance "Good Practice on Site (C741)" with additional measures to be employed as necessary to align with the intended environmental protection prescribed under C741.</p>

Criteria	Discussion
	<p>At present the discharges from the agglomeration are licensed by the EPA via its Certificate of Authorisation (Reg. No. A0115-01), which was granted in 2011. The agglomeration was below the 500PE threshold; thus, a Certificate of Authorisation was applied for in place of a Waste Water Discharge Licence (WWDL) which is required for agglomerations greater than 500PE. The existing loading is 473PE for Winter, with a peak Summer loading of 688PE. The proposed development will have capacity for the proposed 30-year design loading of 1,000PE. As the current peak Summer loading, and the proposed design capacity is in excess of 500PE, a replacement of the existing CoA is required with a WWDL. This process will be undertaken by Irish Water upon review of the existing CoA by the EPA and will ensure that during operation the appropriate authorisations are in place to ensure that there are no significant environmental effects on the receiving water environment.</p>
the transfrontier nature of the impact,	The project will not result in transfrontier impacts.
the magnitude and complexity of the impact,	<p>Potential construction impacts are not considered to be significantly complex nor intense due to the nature of the development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typical construction phase activities required will include site clearance and set-up, installation of site infrastructure, e.g. the execution of the works will involve the use of plant and machinery which may include excavators, dumpers, trucks, craneage, generators, compressors and other general construction vehicles and tools. To facilitate the placement of the underground tanks there is the potential for the requirement of rock breaking, and the pumping out of excess groundwater. There will also be a requirement for pouring of concrete. These construction activities will temporarily affect proximate environmental and human receptors. • The works will be undertaken over a 18-month construction period. The time for completion of the works is considered adequate to ensure there is no requirement on the Contractor to intensify activities at a particular location or within a particular timeframe. The works are not complex and can be constructed with normal construction methods and construction plant. • The construction methods likely to be employed will not result in significant adverse impacts on the environment, public health or create a public nuisance. <p>The Roundstone agglomeration currently has an active Certificate of Authorisation which is monitored by the EPA, however as a result of the increase in loading since the grant of the CoA, a new WWDL will be required which will ensure that emissions from the new WWTP are monitored by the EPA.</p>
the probability of the impact,	<p>The probability of this impact is likely to occur during the construction of the proposed development, in this context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventional activities and methods are carried out with the objective of preventing adverse impacts on the environment. Systems will be in place to control runoff and to prevent spills. Where such do occur a response plan and appropriate equipment will be on-site to minimise any possible impacts.

Criteria	Discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed CEMP will be produced and implemented by the Contractor during the construction phase of the project. The CEMP will provide a framework to identify possible impacts and to monitor the contractor's methods of construction to reduce the possibility of adverse impacts. • The Roundstone agglomeration currently has an active Certificate of Authorisation which is monitored by the EPA, however as a result of the increase in loading since the grant of the CoA, a new WWDL will be required which will ensure the new waste water infrastructure is monitored by the EPA. <p>The methods and measures in place during the construction and operation phases will result in a low probability that the construction and operational phases of the proposed development would result in significant environment impacts. In addition, it should be noted that the proposed development will result in a significant improvement on the existing discharge of untreated wastewater to Roundstone Bay.</p>
<p>the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact</p>	<p>The design life of the new wastewater treatment scheme is approximately 50 years (for buildings and underground structures). External pipework and mechanical works have a shorter life expectancy and will require replacement during the overall design life of the scheme; approximately, 40yrs for external pipework, 25yrs minimum for process mechanical works, electrical works, steel tanks, and 10yrs for Process Control, SCADA, Software and Instrumentation.</p> <p>Normal working hours during the construction period are expected to be Monday to Friday 08:00 to 20:00, and Saturday 08:00 to 14:00. During the project it may be necessary to carry out some work outside of normal working hours (excluding particularly invasive procedures such as excavation); however, this will be kept to a minimum and only undertaken following approval from the Employer.</p> <p>In terms of land take, the proposed WWTP will be sited on vacant land to the north of the village and will be sensitively sited to reduce the land take as far as possible. The remaining proposals are sited on land close to existing outfalls, thus minimizing the land take required for the proposal.</p> <p>Impacts associated with the construction phase will be temporary in nature and will only occur during the construction period. A detailed CEMP will provide a framework to ensure transparent and effective monitoring, prevention, minimisation, mitigation, compensation and off-setting measures. As such, there are no permanent adverse impacts associated with the proposed development; specifically, any impacts as a result of these works will be short term and limited by the CEMP, i.e. the prevention of sediment run-off into waterbodies and limitation of noise disturbance, and development design regarding utilisation of existing operation sites in limiting visual impacts.</p> <p>In terms of operational impact, the proposed WWTP will not have a significant impact in terms of the duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact. As previously described, the discharges from the agglomeration will be licensed by the EPA.</p>

Criteria	Discussion
Outline the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects	<p>A social housing development consisting of 14 units is currently under development by Galway County Council with an anticipated 12-month programme. As this development will be completed before the proposed Roundstone Sewerage Scheme works commence there will be no interaction between the developments, and this will not result in cumulative impacts</p> <p>A search of Galway County Council's online planning enquiry system did not identify any other projects, either existing or approved, which have potential to interact with the proposed development, and result in significant cumulative impacts.</p> <p>Where environmental and human health risks are present regarding construction, i.e. erosion and sediment, and the contamination of surface waters, construction methods will be employed to reduce the potential occurrence of these impacts.</p>
Outline the possibility of effectively reducing the impact	<p>The design of the project has been optimised to ensure that environmental impacts are minimised as much as possible. Furthermore, feasibility investigations regarding construction methodology are being conducted to determine the least invasive procedures in regard pollution and nuisance risk.</p> <p>Prior to operation a HAZOP will be undertaken to assess any possible threat to the environment or public health. The output of the HAZOP will further reduce any possible adverse impacts.</p> <p>During construction, a detailed CEMP will be produced and implemented by the Contractor during the construction phase of the project. The CEMP will provide a framework to identify possible impacts and to monitor the Contractor's methods of construction to reduce the possibility of adverse impacts.</p> <p>During operation, the proposed development will be regulated by the EPA through its WWDL.</p>

4 Conclusion

It is concluded that impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed development are not considered to be significant in the context of Directive 2014/52/EU nor Schedule 7 of the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2017*, as amended. This conclusion is based on the findings of the analysis provided in the preceding sections in relation to:

- Characteristics of the Proposed Development;
- Location of Proposed Development; and
- Characteristics of Potential Impacts.

The proposed Roundstone wastewater treatment plant and associated pumping stations (i.e. Roundstone Sewerage Scheme) are not considered significant in the context of Schedule 7 evaluation criteria to the extent that an EIA is required.

