

**REPORT OF THE MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)**

**on**

**FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION FOR MARINE SITE INVESTIGATION  
WORKS AT WHITE BAY, WHITEGATE, CO. CORK. (FS006835).**

**APPLICANT: IRISH WATER**

**Mr. Barry McDonald M.Eng.  
Marine Licence Vetting Committee  
30 October 2018**

**Irish Water – Foreshore Licence Application for Marine Site Investigation  
Works at White Bay, Whitegate, Co. Cork. (FS006835).**

**Project Description**

Irish Water has submitted an application for a foreshore licence to carry out marine site investigations on the foreshore at White Bay, Whitegate, Co. Cork. The purpose of the site investigations is to gather the necessary information and data to inform the design and construction of an outfall from the proposed new waste water treatment facilities in Whitegate– Aghada

It is proposed that the site investigations will include:

- Drilling 6 No. 150mm boreholes using cable percussion and rotary core drilling. This will be carried out from a jack-up barge, floating pontoon or similar.
- Collection of 5 No. Sediment samples using a Van Veen grab or similar.
- Sub bottom profiling of the entire site investigation area involving the use of seismic reflection and refraction methods.

Details of the proposed investigations are provided in the document entitled “UTAS – Whitegate – Aghada Site Investigation. Supporting Information for Foreshore Licence Application - Marine Based Ground Investigation”, dated 8 May 2018 submitted by the applicant.

The location of the proposed site investigations are shown in the following drawing submitted by the applicant:

- Drawing Number IW-10015229-03-04-001 “Foreshore Licence Map, Rev. 1, dated 4 April 2018.

The area of foreshore involved is circa 136.5Ha in total.

It is anticipated that the geotechnical survey (drilling of boreholes and collection of grab samples) will take 4 – 6 weeks to complete. It is anticipated that the geophysical survey will take 4 weeks to complete and will be carried out in advance of the geotechnical survey works.

The project is not of a class that requires the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed works are not located within a designated Natura 2000 site. The site of the proposed works is circa 1.8 Km from the nearest boundary of the Cork Harbour SPA (Site Code 004030) and circa 7.8Km from the nearest boundary of the Great Island Channel SAC (Site Code 001058).

A separate Screening for Appropriate Assessment and a finding of no significant effects report of the proposed works on the qualifying interests and the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites has been carried out.

### **Public Consultation**

A public notice concerning this application was published in the "East Cork Journal" on June 28<sup>th</sup> 2018. The public display documents were made available in Midleton Garda Station, Midleton, Co. Cork for the required period of twenty one (21) working days (June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup> 2018).

No public submissions were received on foot of the public consultation.

### **Prescribed Bodies Consultation:**

Observations on the project were received from this Department's Water and Marine Advisory Unit, the Development Applications Unit of DCHG (Nature Conservation and Underwater Archaeology), Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division of DAFM, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Marine Survey Office, and Cork County Council.

There were no objections in principle to the proposed site investigations.

### **Issues Considered**

The following documents were considered:

- Foreshore Licence Application and supporting documentation.
- Written submissions from the Water and Marine Advisory Unit of DHPLG, the Development Applications Unit of DCHG (Nature Conservation and Underwater Archaeology), Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division of DAFM, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Marine Survey Office and Cork County Council.
- The applicant's responses to the Prescribed Body submissions.

### **MLVC Conclusions**

On the basis of the information provided by the applicant and the observations provided by the State Bodies as listed above, the MLVC concludes that, subject to compliance with the specific conditions set out below the proposed works would not have a significant negative impact on navigation, fishing, the marine environment or protected species and habitats, would not impact on other legitimate uses or users of the foreshore area in question and would not have a

significant effect on the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the adjacent Natura 2000 sites. The MLVC, therefore, recommends that a licence be granted.

### **Proposed Licence Conditions**

1. The Licensee shall use that part of the Foreshore the subject matter of this Licence for the purposes as outlined in the application and for no other purposes whatsoever.
2. The Licensee shall notify the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government at least 14 days in advance of the commencement of the works on the foreshore.
3. The works shall be conducted in accordance with documents submitted with the application.
4. The works shall be conducted within the area marked in red on the drawing titled Foreshore Licence Map, Drawing number IW-10015229-03-04-001 Rev: 1, dated: 30/04/2018 and in accordance with the Schedule of Proposed Marine Ground Investigation Locations – Whitegate Aghada UTAS (copies attached)
5. The Licensee shall consult with local fishermen if there is going to be an exclusion zone put into effect for the duration of the drilling.
6. No refuelling of equipment, machinery or plant shall take place on the foreshore.
7. The timing of any seismic surveying shall be agreed in advance with IFI (Macroom) in the context of migratory fish species using the survey area for access to and from Cork Harbour and tributary rivers.
8. The Licensee shall use soft-start and ramp-up procedures for any sound-generating surveys undertaken – both on a day-to-day basis and on re-start after any stoppages within any day.
9. The duration of noise-generating surveys shall be reduced to the minimum necessary to collect results of sufficient quality.
10. No storage of machinery or plant shall take place on the foreshore.
11. The Licensee shall ensure that appropriate methods of operation are adopted in order to ensure that no spillages of fuel, hydrocarbons, cement or other leakages to the foreshore occur during the works.

12. The Licensee shall arrange the publication of a local marine notice. This local marine notice should give a general description of operations and approximate dates of commencement and completion. An advertisement in a locally read newspaper will suffice.
13. The Licensee shall ensure that all vessels/floating plant have appropriate certification from the Marine Survey Office.
14. The Licensee shall consult with the Port of Cork prior to the commencement of and during any works.
15. The results of the SI works (e.g. cores, grab samples, etc.) shall be included in an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) to be submitted to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht prior to any future proposed works being undertaken.