

4. EIS Structure and Content

The EIS will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of the planning application for the proposed development.

In summary, the EIS will comprise of a number of sections including the following:

- A background to the project and the EIA process.
- An appraisal of alternatives that were considered during the design of the proposed development and during the EIA process.
- A description of the proposed development, including information on its background, history and need, design principles, risk analysis, construction methodology and programme.
- The planning context for the proposed development, including national, regional and local policy will be detailed.
- A description of the baseline conditions at the abstraction site, the water treatment facility, the final route corridor, the break pressure tank location and the terminal reservoir site will be presented for each environmental topic.
- A description of the potential impacts that will occur during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development will be provided for each environmental topic. The likelihood, extent, magnitude, duration and significance of potential impacts will be described.
- Potential for cumulative impacts to arise will be addressed.
- The mitigation measures to be put in place to mitigate the likely significant impacts will be described and the residual impacts that will persist after mitigation has been put in place will be also be detailed. Mitigation measures will be provided in the form of avoidance, reduction or remedy. The level of significance of any residual impacts will be detailed.
- A section detailing the interactions between the various environmental topics will be provided. This will be provided in the overall context, area by area assessment and a matrix summarising the interactions will be provided.
- A non-technical summary will be condensed into an easily comprehensible version of the EIS document.

4.1 Contents of the EIS

Broadly the following key sections will form the content of the EIS document:

- Introduction
- The EIS Process
- The Need for the Proposed Development
- Description of the Proposed Development
- Planning Context and Legislation
- Consideration of Alternatives
- The Consultation Process
- The following Environmental Topics will be addressed:

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| <p>Air and Climate; Noise and Vibration; The Landscape; Cultural Heritage; Biodiversity; Land and Soils;</p> | <p>Water; Traffic and Transport; Population and Human Health; Agronomy; Waste; and Material Assets.</p> |
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- Environmental Interactions;
- Schedule of Environmental Commitments;
- Summary of Residual Impacts; and
- References.

4.1.1 Structure of the EIS

For each of the environmental aspects being assessed, the EIS chapter will be structured broadly as follows;

- Introduction to the topic area;
- Methodology;
- Baseline conditions including future evolution without the proposed development;
- Appraisal Method for the Assessment of Impacts;
- Predicted Impacts (construction and operational phases);
- Mitigation Measures;
- Residual Impacts;
- Difficulties Encountered in Compiling Information; and
- Cumulative Impacts and Impact Interrelations.

It is likely that the EIS will be presented in a number of volumes such as follows:

- Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary – description in accessible and non-technical language of the main findings of the EIS.
- Volume 2: Main Body EIS – Describing in detail the development, results of the assessment, mitigation measures and conclusions regarding impacts.
- Volume 3: Figures – Plans and illustrations representing the project and its impact on the surrounding environment.
- Volume 4: Appendices – Technical annexes including detailed specialist technical reports.