

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>Port of Cork – Ringaskiddy Port Development</i>
Project Number:	20150383
Country:	<i>Ireland</i>
Project Description:	<i>The purpose of the project is to relocate the Port of Cork's main container terminal from a physically constrained location, Tivoli Docks, near the City of Cork to another existing port facility, Ringaskiddy, closer to the entrance of Cork Harbour. The marine access to the Ringaskiddy facility will be deepened to allow larger, deeper draft vessels to access the terminal and the landside areas enlarged increasing the port's container handling capacity.</i>
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environment Assessment² (SEA) was undertaken in accordance with EU Directive 2001/42/EC by Cork County Council in 2014 as part of the Cork County Development Plan. This SEA formed the basis for the development objectives for the Ringaskiddy project. The SEA recommended the Ringaskiddy site as the preferred location for relocation of port facilities from sites in the inner harbour near the City of Cork.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with EU Directive 2011/92/EC has been undertaken for the project by the Promoter, the Port of Cork Company (POCC). A Natura Impact Statement was prepared and an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/ECC and the Birds Directive 79/409/EEC. The proposed project works do not lie within any Natura 2000 designation area, but they are in close proximity to a number of sites.

The Appropriate Assessment concluded that the proposed project with the implementation of the prescribed mitigation measures would not give rise to significant impacts, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, in a manner which adversely affects the integrity of any designated site within the Natura 2000 network.

A large number of sites were assessed for the relocation of the Promoter's container terminal, both inside and outside Cork Harbour. The assessment considered physical, environmental and marine and land access criteria. From this a short list of the five most suitable sites was identified and these were studied in greater detail. This final study concluded that the primary site for the relocation of the container terminal from Tivoli Docks would be on port lands at Ringaskiddy adjacent to the existing ferry terminal.

The EIA considered the impact of the project on the natural, cultural and human environments during construction and operation of the project facilities. Significant impacts include:

- An impact on social considerations caused by the need to relocate a sculpture garden and loss of access to the Ringaskiddy pier and jetty, access to moorings and walking

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

² Cork County Development Plan 2014 Volume Three: SEA Statement and Natura Impact Report, adopted 8 December 2014.

areas. These are to be mitigated by the development of a new amenity area to the east of the site incorporating a pier and slipway allowing access to moorings.

- An impact on traffic congestion caused by increase in heavy goods vehicles and other traffic accessing the port, particularly during peak times. This is to be mitigated by restricting traffic flows during peak commuter times, improving roads and a delay to the development of part of the Ringaskiddy project before a major road upgrade is completed.
- An impact on a colony of breeding terns located on mooring dolphins in the project area. This will be mitigated by restricting access to the area during the breeding season. Also impact on marine life in the project area which will be mitigated by restricting construction activity to daylight hours and use of a marine mammal observer.

In its consent for the project³ given in May 2015, the Consenting Authority, An Bord Pleanála (ABP) considered that the environmental impact statement (provided by POCC) with supporting information identified and described adequately the direct and indirect effects of the proposed development on the environment. ABP's assessment also concluded that by itself and in combination with other developments in the vicinity that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

A significant level of consultation took place with statutory consultees and relevant bodies as part of the development of the Ringaskiddy Port Redevelopment proposals. Prior to the designation by An Bord Pleanála of the project as strategic infrastructure a scoping exercise was carried out with a wide range of prescribed bodies and organisations. These consultations have informed the nature of the development application.

A programme of public consultation concerning the Ringaskiddy Port Redevelopment project was undertaken in April 2013 and February 2014 to seek the views of the wider public on the proposal.

The consultation process involved;

- Briefings with local public representatives on the proposal;
- Provision of up to date project information on the Port of Cork website
- The publication of public notices in local newspapers

The purpose of the public consultation exercise was to inform people of the redevelopment proposals, record their views and ensure that they are aware of the opportunities available to them to participate in the development assessment process.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

In accordance with the requirements of the planning consent the development will be operated and managed in accordance with an environmental management system (EMS) to safeguard local amenities and protect the environment. The EMS is to be agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of the development and an audit report prepared annually to be made publically available.

Similarly, to safeguard local amenities and protect the environment, the construction of the development is to be managed in accordance with a construction management plan (CMP) to be agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to commencement of the development. The plan will include a comprehensive monitoring plan to include inter alia, noise, vibration and dust with regular reporting to the planning authority.

³ Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2014, ABP reference number: 04.PA0035, May 2015

Conclusions and Recommendations

Subject to the following undertakings being met, the project is acceptable for EIB financing.

- The Promoter shall ensure that the environmental and social mitigation measures required by the Project Planning Approval from An Bord Pleanála (ref no: 04.PA0035) are implemented in full.

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