

12.0 HUMAN BEINGS

12.1 Methodology

The proposed site is located in townland of Foxhole, Youghal in County Cork. This townland is in the District Electoral Division (DED) of Youghal Rural. The County Development Plan for Cork 2003 was referred to for demographic information on Cork County and specifically on Youghal Environs. Since most of Youghal is located within the Town Council jurisdiction, the Town Council Development Plan 2002 was also consulted to depict local population trends.

The *Census 2002 Preliminary Report*, which was prepared by the Central Statistics Office in July 2002, was consulted for specific demographic information on the Cork County District and also the DED of Youghal Rural. The *Report on the Socio-Economic, Environmental and Statistical Profile of Cork County (Excluding Cork City)* written for the Cork County Development Board by Peter Bacon and Associates (April 2001) was also referred to for demographic information on Cork County. Other documentation consulted included the Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP).

The main areas of concern with respect to the potential effects of the development on the human environment are highlighted and are discussed in detail in the relevant sections of the EIS.

12.2 Existing Environment

General Demographic Information on Cork County

The population of County Cork (excluding Cork City) was 324,843 as per the 2002 census. This figure represented 8.29% of the National Population, with 6,203 living in the Youghal Urban area and 3,816 living in the combined Youghal rural areas, where the proposed site is situated. A 10.7% increase in population for County Cork was experienced in the period 1996-2002. Using information from the 1996 Census, according to the report written by Peter Bacon and Associates (April 2001) a growth rate was also experienced in the 1991-1996 period however, this growth was uneven, with a number of areas in the County (concentrated in the north and northwest) experiencing population decline.

Youghal Urban and Rural Demographic Information

A summary of census data for the Cork County District and also the Youghal Urban and Rural DEDs is outlined in Table 12.1. As can be seen from the data, there has been an increase in population in Youghal Urban and Rural Districts from 1996-2002, of 10.2% and 6.1% respectively.

This increase is attributable to the overall trend outlined in the Peter Bacon and Associates Report and the Cork County Development Plan 2003, with the internal migration of the 20+ age group from the country to the towns. Youghal Town and Environs is affected by this internal migration. This is also reiterated in the Youghal Town Council Development Plan where it states that significant migration is due to the availability of housing land, at a time of shortage elsewhere. It is estimated that the town will accommodate a growth of approximately 600 households by 2011.

	Total Pop. 2002	Total Pop. 1996	Change in Pop. 1996- 2002	% Change +/-
Cork County	324,843	293,323	31,520	10.7
Youghal Urban ED	6,203	5,630	573	10.2
Youghal Rural ED	3,816	3,597	219	6.1

Table 12.1 Demographic Information for Cork County District, Youghal Urban and Rural DEs

Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO)

Existing Employment in Youghal and Environs

The 2002 Census contains the latest available employment statistics in the Town Council Area. The single largest employment sector in Youghal is the Manufacturing Industries. This sector has most likely decreased greatly since the census was compiled due to the closures of the Artesyn and Technicolour Home Entertainment factories with a combined loss of 403 jobs.

The Construction, Wholesale and Retail Trade Sectors are the next largest sectors according to the census and it is likely that these are currently the largest employers in the area. The sector which has exhibited the highest level of growth is the construction sector, a factor largely attributed to the 'Celtic Tiger' economic boom and tax-incentive urban renewal schemes.

Unemployment had been declining in Youghal and in June 2001, 605 people were unemployed. However, the recent factory closures have affected a large number of people since the census was compiled.

Within Youghal and its environs there is adequate land available and zoned for Industrial and Commercial type development. Therefore, the employment in the Manufacturing sector may recover once development is permitted to occur in these sectors.

Youghal historically was one of Ireland's major seaside resorts. However, due to increased mobility of people, the town's traditional tourism market has declined. Youghal has been designated a Heritage Town and it has also been chosen as a Seaside Resort in need of

renewal. This has led to an increased provision of accommodation due to tax advantages for tourism development.

Overall Youghal town needs employment opportunities.

12.3 Impact Assessment

The main areas of concern with respect to the potential effects of the development on the human environment are air quality impact, noise impact, ecological impact, visual impact traffic impact and impacts associated with decommissioning of the facility. Other potential impacts include: health and safety impacts to employees and locals, potential impacts on tourism and socio-economic impacts. These impacts are presented in detail in their relevant section of this EIS.

Air

Section 4 deals with impact of the proposed development on the air quality.

Noise

The impact of the proposed development on existing noise levels in the site vicinity is dealt with in Section 6.

Visual

Section 10 outlines the visual impact that the proposed development will have on the surrounding environment.

Traffic

Section 11 outlines the anticipated impacts that the proposed development will have on traffic volumes in the area.

Decommissioning

Section 13 outlines the impact of the decommissioning stage of the proposed development on the local area.

Health and Safety

Any development may give rise to both occupational and public accidents and waste management schemes are no exception. However, accidents to the public are extremely unlikely as the site is not a municipal facility.

The site will have an appointed Health and Safety Manager who will be responsible for implementing the on-site Health and Safety Plan.

Hazardous materials will not be stored on-site. Only diesel oil and waste will be stored on site. Both of which will be stored securely. The site does not fall under the SEVESO Directives (96/82/EC; 2003/105/EC).

Tourism and Socio-economic

Section 13 discusses the impacts of the proposed development on the tourism and socio-economic aspects of the area.

12.4 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures relating to particular environmental impacts are outlined in the relevant sections of this document.

Having regard to the potential Health and Safety impacts, safety signs will be erected at the site and all construction work will take place with regard to relevant legislation (Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Construction Regulations (1995), the Safety and Health and Welfare (General Application) Regulations 1993 (amended by SI No 188 of 2001).

Health and Safety considerations for employees were given merit at the design stage of this facility. These considerations include ventilation in the picking station at the Waste Recovery and Transfer building. Part of the design and scoping process for selection of the indirect method of sludge drying was the safety and environmental controls that could be put in place as preventative control measures rather than mitigation measures.

Operations during the lifespan of the facility will be conducted inline with the relevant legislation and implementation of the site Health and Safety Plan and will be overseen by the Health and Safety Manager.